

VOLUME FOUR ISSUE TWO
MARCH 2007



THE GUARD EXPERIENCE

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In service of God
and country.

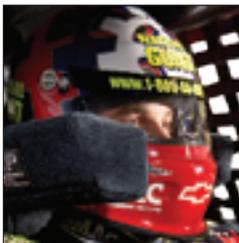
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Letters from Leadership

Dear Soldiers,

As President of Texas A&M University, I had many opportunities to interact with young men and women preparing to serve in the National Guard after graduation. During our early morning runs together, or in conversation between classes, I always felt that they carried an extra sense of pride with their title “Citizen-Soldier.” There was always a certain look in their eyes: one of looking forward to taking on the challenges for our nation at home and abroad during a time of war.

In January, I traveled to Afghanistan and Iraq, where I had the opportunity to meet with members of the National Guard. Combat boots long ago replaced their spit-shine shoes of barracks life, but the look in their eyes was still there. Each day, Guard members overseas are facing the tasks of combat. They are helping rebuild societies with roots stretching back to the beginning of recorded history. And they are doing it all with a single-minded focus on their duty. Their passion is an inspiration to all who meet them.

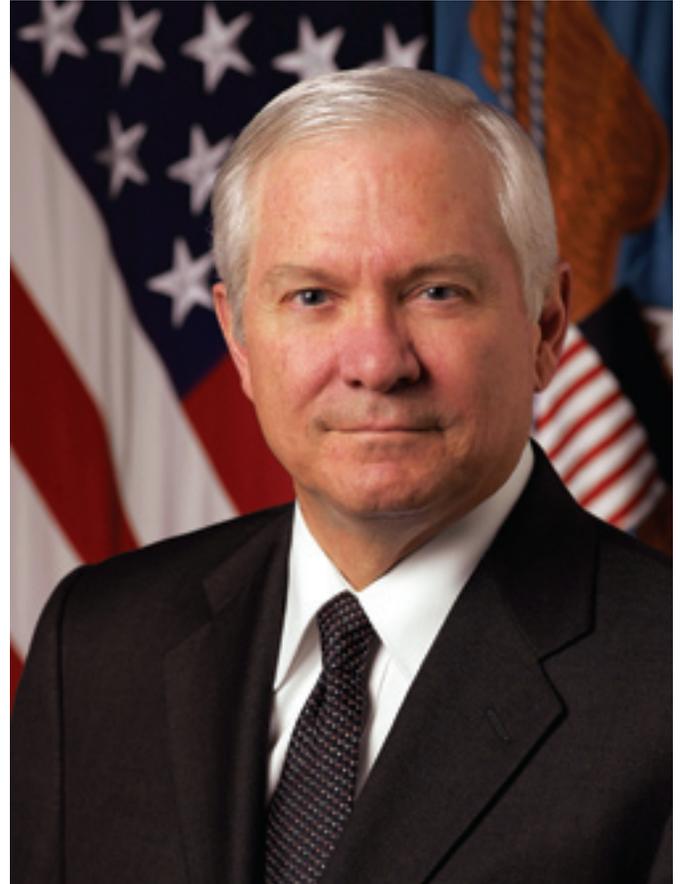
In Iraq, I spoke with a unit from the Minnesota National Guard—a unit that recently had their tour of duty extended. Despite the difficult circumstances, the Soldiers were positive. They were proud of what they had accomplished in a region that had once been one of Iraq’s most dangerous. I was thankful to be able to tell them in person how much I appreciated everything they are doing for our country.

That members of the Guard are making such a positive impact is no surprise to me. In recent years, I, like many Americans, have seen the remarkable fortitude of those who serve in the Guard. There were the Guard members returning home from Iraq who volunteered to remain on active duty to help rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; other Guard members volunteered for additional tours in combat areas so they could, in their words, “make a difference.” Again and again, members of the Guard have proved their total dedication to our nation by their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

It has been especially pleasing to see the recent recognition given to members of the Guard and the vital role they play in our nation’s defense. When I first entered government service in the Air Force and the CIA during the 1960s, the Guard was largely considered a strategic reserve, standing by in case of a mass mobilization. For a long time, the Guard was not a priority for funding and equipment, even though members of the Guard had fought in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to that era’s major conflict in Vietnam, through to Desert Storm in 1991.

Five years after 9/11, there is no mistaking the role of the National Guard—now an integral part of an operational reserve. From the mountains of Afghanistan to the shores of the Gulf Coast, Guard members are improving the lives of millions, and protecting the lives of millions more. As Secretary of Defense, I plan to continue bringing attention to the outstanding work of the Guard. More importantly, I am dedicated to helping the Guard achieve the level of resources and training it needs to undertake its missions at home and abroad.

I am honored to work with members of the National Guard, who during this critical time in history are taking on the challenges of



our nation on our behalf. They have my deepest gratitude for their unwavering service and sacrifice.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the families of Guard members: the many thousands of husbands and wives, and sons and daughters who are giving for our country as well. While their loved ones are away serving at some distant post, Guard families remain at home, dealing with day-to-day issues. They mow the lawn, shovel the snow and pay the bills. The husbands and wives who remain at home make sure the kids get to soccer practice. And they perform the thousands of other tasks that keep their family going in the absence of their loved ones. Their quiet, but heroic, efforts deserve our attention and support.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gates
United States Secretary of Defense



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Dear Soldiers,

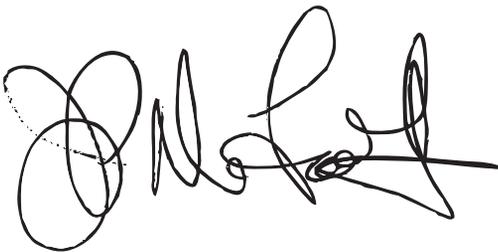
I am extremely proud of the Army National Guard's performance over the past year. The Guard has done great work, whether it is assisting with recent national disasters due to weather or fighting the war in Iraq or Afghanistan. Especially noteworthy has been the Army National Guard's recruiting and retention efforts. Congratulations on your ability to increase your ranks while performing missions all over the world.

The Army National Guard increased accessions during fiscal year 2006 by over 18,000 Soldiers as compared to fiscal year 2005. This performance is due to implementing a variety of innovative programs and hard work by recruiters. This effort is due in no small part to your Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). You have led the way by having Soldiers recruiting in their communities. You have set a high standard for future efforts in that this past year, you surpassed the previous best recruiting year by 10 percent and enlisted 10,000 more non-prior service Soldiers than any year since 1994. This is a great indicator of how Guard members feel about their missions and their units. I am confident that the Army National Guard will make their recruiting mission this year. Keep up the good work.

The Army National Guard's retention rate is another indicator of the morale and spirit of Guard members. High retention rates are sending a positive message to the Army leadership about the patriotism and loyalty of Guard Soldiers. Your communities can take pride in the fact that Guard members are doing their duty in an exemplary manner and Soldiers' decisions to stay in the Guard are just one indicator of how they feel about service to their country.

The lines between Active and Reserve service are melting away as deployments continue. Your country has asked you to leave your families and friends and risk your lives to fight the Global War on Terror. The country will continue to ask you to do difficult and dangerous missions. I know you are up to the task and my support for the Army National Guard will continue. Your Army appreciates your selfless service and the sacrifices made by your families and your employers. I offer my personal thanks for your service and a sincere job well done.

Sincerely,



John P. McLaurin III
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Human Resources)



The Guard has done great work, whether it is assisting with recent national disasters due to weather or fighting the war in Iraq or Afghanistan.

My Fellow Citizen-Soldiers,

On behalf of our Governor and all Louisianans, I want to thank all of you who proudly serve our nation and her states as members of the National Guard.

National Guard Citizen-Soldiers have been at the heart of our military tradition since before our nation was founded. The spirit of the National Guard is as alive today as it was when our founding fathers took up arms and defended our fledgling nation.

Since 9/11, the Louisiana National Guard has mobilized over 10,000 Soldiers and Airmen in the Global War on Terrorism. Citizen-Soldiers are answering their nation's call to defend freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Over the last 16 months, all of Louisiana, and the rest of the nation, got an up-close look at their National Guard in action. The National Guard response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was as monumental as it was unprecedented. This call to action has come to be the largest mobilization of forces EVER in the United States and one of the proudest moments for the National Guard.

During the early hours of Hurricane Katrina, with disregard for their own safety, and many knowing their own homes were probably destroyed, Louisiana National Guard Soldiers and Airmen began to venture out into the storm, by helicopter, boat and vehicle (where it was possible to drive) to begin the massive search and rescue operation.

Pulling residents from rooftops, out of attics and directly from the water, the men and women of the Louisiana National Guard were out there, saving thousands of lives and bringing hope and compassion to every person they rescued.

In short order, these Louisiana Guard members would be joined by over 25,000 fellow National Guard members from all states and territories. It was a deployment of tremendous proportions and an airlift operation bigger than any ever mounted, eventually resulting in over 30,000 National Guard members in Louisiana.

Many of you reading these words were part of that relief force. Thank you. Never before in my National Guard career have I witnessed such an outpouring of support. I am so very proud to be a member of an organization who has members with such character and conviction. I am certain that it will go down in the National Guard history books as one of our greatest moments.

In the months that followed, the National Guard remained engaged in the hurricane recovery operations for each parish—and would remain on duty until the parish was back on its feet again. Today, over 300 Louisiana Guard members currently remain on duty in New Orleans, assisting the New Orleans Police Department and helping to restore order and security.

Here in Louisiana in the wake of Katrina and Rita, it remains a time of rebuilding. We continue to support the efforts of the state as we, the National Guard, embark on the largest military construction operation ever while simultaneously undergoing a significant transformation of our forces. From force structure transformation to the brick and mortar of new readiness facilities, the Louisiana National Guard has embarked on a journey that will ensure the future of our National Guard remains strong. Always ready, always there.



As we consider the role that Citizen-Soldiers play in today's global environment, there is one thing that won't change—as a community-based force, the National Guard is an essential link to our communities and the grass roots support of our nation.

It is imperative that the link remains strong. As well-respected members of your communities, and in your civilian and other civic positions, you are in a unique position. Your friends and neighbors know you well. They know what you stand for. I ask you to tell them the story of the National Guard, the saga of the Citizen-Soldier.

We must remind them that their support is important to us. Because without their support, we will not have the military force our great nation deserves.

In closing, let me say simply that we, the National Guard, are now poised for a new millennium. We are turning a new page. Working together, as one team, we can ensure that our Guard remains strong and ready to answer the nation's call.

Thank you. God Bless each of you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

MG Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of Louisiana

[T]he National Guard is an essential link to our communities and the grass roots support of our nation. It is imperative that the link remains strong.



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GX Is Goin' Monthly!

That's right, folks! This is the first monthly installment of *GX: The Guard Experience*. If you don't have a subscription, go to www.gxonline.com and sign up today. It's free for all Soldiers—so you don't have any excuses!

We are honored this issue to publish a genuine letter of appreciation and encouragement from Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, written exclusively for you, our *GX* readers. Within the first few weeks of his service to our nation, Mr. Gates chose *GX* to deliver his message to you. That is no small thing and we are truly moved by this tremendous compliment.

Our feature this time was a long time comin'. We had in our mind to do a tribute piece honoring our Guard Chaplains back in '05. Thanks to BG Dan Robinson, that idea has finally come to fruition. Drawing from his own experience as the chaplain for the renowned 42nd Infantry Division and a wealth of historical knowledge, the recently-retired general pens a remarkably informative—and heartfelt—look at the chaplaincy.

We're also featuring two On the Road pieces. Both are centered on every Soldier's fine love for blasting live fire down range. Chris hit Puerto Rico to check out a national competition, pitting Soldiers against civilians. And CPT Tim shot down to Arkansas to run along with the new Combined Arms Team Match.

If that's not enough HOOAH, be sure to check out the new and improved At Ease section, which will now feature our maniacal Brothers West goin' "Mythbusters" on the Army's hottest gear. We call the section "Prove It!" and, well, gear manufacturers beware. This issue, the Brothers test the leaders in eye protection . . . by blasting 'em with a shotgun. Another new item is our Combatives section. This is being put together by the New Mexico Army National Guard's Combat Arms Training Company—a hardcore group of guys I'm sure glad to have on OUR side.

Things are heating up fast 'round here. Be sure to get your subscription goin' so you don't miss an issue.

*Thank you,
The GX Team*



ON THE COVER

SGT Eric C. Cannon, B Co., 1-118th IN BN, 218th BDE, during train-up for the deployment of his SCARNG unit to Afghanistan this spring. You can read more about the deployment of the 218th on page 20.

PHOTO BY PV2 ROBERTO DI GIOVINE, B CO., 1-118TH IN BN, 218TH BDE, SCARNG

MISSION: To celebrate and support the Soldiers and families of the National Guard. To provide today's Army National Guard members with information for becoming a better Soldier and better citizen. To encourage and assist Guard Soldiers in maximizing the benefits of their military career as well as their personal and family goals.

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A LETTER HOME

Dear America,

I write this letter in appreciation. Since I have been in the United States military, I have been amazed by the amount of support offered to the American Soldier. Just the simple gestures like taking a few seconds from your day to stop and thank a man or woman in uniform, or the thought every time a “Support our Troops” magnet is purchased and proudly placed on the outside of an automobile, or some of the small things that make us proud to wake up every day and reach for our uniform.

Everyone knows that the military and its Soldiers have high standards for the uniforms we wear. It is not an issue of looking professional, nor is it just an issue of uniformity. It is because we are proud of it and what it represents.

The fight for our Freedom began a long time ago and has been fought in many different ways. The military only represents one of our struggles. The teachers and parents who instill in the next generation’s minds and hearts the importance of our country’s past, and the price at which luxury and freedom are obtained are the front line of maintaining our country’s values. The friends and families that hold each other to these standards are the backbone of our unity. The men and women of the police force, the fire department, the medical industry and the first responders who enforce our laws and ensure our safety are the mortal version of guardian angels who watch over us as we sleep and carry out our daily lives. The preachers and Sunday school teachers who teach the next generation the meaning of “In God We Trust” are the mentors who help sustain the very foundation on which our country stands. The battle for Freedom is fought every day by every American. Together, we stand and divided, we shall fall.

As Soldiers, we stand tall and with heads held high in representation of you, America. The fire that has burned in the hearts of our Soldiers throughout history would surely die without you. America says, “Support our troops,” but we say, “We support you.” War is a terrible thing, but not as terrible as thinking there is nothing worth fighting for. You, America, are worth fighting for. Our way of life is worth fighting for. The ability for another nation to enjoy the freedoms that you have fought to maintain is worth fighting for. Tom Petty put it into good perspective when he sang, “You can stand up at the gates of hell and we’ll stand our ground / We won’t back down.”

It is an honor to be an American and to wear the American flag on my arm every day.



PROUD PAPA Mark H. Hendricks pins a promotion on his son, Rich, just before Rich had to leave for Iraq in November of 2005. Hendricks’ son is with the Illinois Guard’s 2/123rd F/A.

It is not just an honor to represent you—it is my duty. Thank you, America. Thank you for who you are, and what you do. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. God bless America, my Home Sweet Home!

SPC Adam Williamson
875th Engineer Battalion
Courtesy of ARARNG PAO

SPC Adam Williamson is a member of the Arkansas National Guard’s 875th Engineer Battalion, which is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 500-Soldier, Jonesboro, AR-based unit was mobilized in March 2006 and departed for Iraq in late September.

INSPIRATION

“I read my first GX magazine when I was still considering joining the Guard. The cover showed a Soldier holding a child who had lost (or misplaced) her parents in Katrina. That issue told stories of how Soldiers in the Guard were helping the victims of Katrina pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. If I had any doubt then about joining, that issue helped me decide that the Guard is where I wanted to be.

I wanted to be part of this organization that was helping so many people around the world, and now I am a proud member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Thank you, GX, for your stories of inspiration and

triumph over adversity and hardship. They certainly inspired me to step up.”

Army National Guard Soldier

STARTING YOUNG

This is a picture (below) of my three-month-old son, Jayvyn Alexander, and myself reading this month’s issue of GX. This issue ROCKS! I think he likes your magazine.

Respectfully,
SPC Erik Lee Conley
HHS 1/103rd Field Artillery, RIARNG



COURTESY OF SPC ERIK LEE CONLEY / COURTESY OF MARK H. HENDRICKS



NATIONAL GUARD EFFORTS “PRICELESS”

By MSG Deb Smith, COARNG

COLORADO—“Absolutely priceless.” That’s how local first responders and incident management teams are characterizing National Guard troops deployed to Colorado communities, where more than 36 inches of snow fell and 40-knot winds left drifts as high as 15 feet in some communities.

The late December storm forced Colorado Governor Bill Owens to declare not one, but two disasters in less than a week.

This bizarre winter double whammy closed major highways, stranded motorists, cleared grocery store shelves and left an estimated 30,000 head of livestock at risk.

The air operation was led by State Aviation Officer COL Joel Best. “We met the mission head-on because lives were at risk,” said COL Best. “The rapid response

is attributed to the commitment of our recently returned aviators from Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Guard helicopters dropped military MREs to isolated residences while Humvees and SUSVs, or “snow utility sustainment vehicles”—a military version of the snowcat—were used to clear roads, rescue stranded motorists, and transport food, water and medical supplies to those unable to leave their homes.

National Guard personnel deployed on the ground are credited with rescuing more than 100 citizens trapped in the wintry surprise. The ground operation was led by LTCs

Michael Stowell and Robert Howland. “They quickly deployed the right personnel and equipment to support our local emergency responders in the communities that were the

They quickly deployed the right personnel and equipment to support our local emergency responders in the communities that were the hardest hit.

—MG Mason C. Whitney

hardest hit,” said MG Mason C. Whitney, the adjutant general of Colorado.

“Although my troops are tired and cold, they know there are families that need us now,” said MAJ John Snodgrass, Task

Force South Operations Officer. “That is the driving force behind these dedicated men and women who left the comfort of their own homes to assist those in need.”

More than 200 Guard members have been activated to support this mission.

FEED TIME (left) TSGT Marlin Duncan, MSGT Jeffery Hollomon of the 187th Airlift Squadron, part of the 153rd AW Cheyenne MAP, WY, drop bales of hay for stranded cattle as part of a joint Air and Army Guard mission to provide relief for residents following a severe winter storm this past December. (below) National Guard troops unload hay to be distributed to stranded livestock.

In the wake of the blizzard, worried ranchers suddenly found themselves surveying the range not only from the ground, but also from the air in a desperate search for livestock trapped by heavy snow and high drifts.

Local ranchers, flown by Guard pilots from three states—Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma—using 10 helicopters, and a C-130 Talon conducted aerial searches for missing herds and subsequently dropped more than 100 tons of hay to stranded animals across an eight-county area.

“We are taking a very aggressive approach to this operation,” said Dr. John Maulsby, State Veterinarian, in a recent statement. “Many animals across

the southeast region of the state have now gone for almost a week without food and water. Our goal is to minimize the number of deaths caused by this storm.”

In general, cattle in good condition can live five to ten days without food and water; the recent snowfall is a significant factor in that timeline. Cattle need more calories to produce body heat, so extra food and water is important for survival during cold temperatures.

“Without the Guard, we know the situation would definitely have been a lot worse,” said Laura McConnell, spokesperson for the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team, which is coordinating the winter relief efforts in southern Colorado. “They have been just priceless.”

Volunteers with four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles also helped direct aid to citizens and animals in need.

“The aviation support we received in particular, really made all the difference in the world,” explained McConnell. “The Guard was able to get to us when there was no other

way to get people and supplies in and out of the area. Literally, everything we needed, the National Guard was able to deliver.”

And deliver they did.

“Within just a matter of hours of notification, we were up and in the air,” said LTC Wade Tvetter of the Wyoming Air National Guard’s 187th Airlift Squadron, the C-130 Talon unit that delivered more than 40 bundles of hay, each weighing between 1,700 and 1,800 pounds.

Air National Guard C-130s have often been used for similar missions.

LTC Tvetter added that the 187th

relief efforts led by LTC Howland.

“Now that the weather has cleared, the aerial drop missions are not as critical and ground crews can now take over,” said McConnell. “Guard personnel working in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Transportation, as well as statewide volunteer efforts, are making progress in clearing the roads, enabling ranchers to begin to sustain their own herds.”

McConnell added that the relief operation’s primary goal continues to focus on saving human lives first and animals second.

“The National Guard helped us accomplish just that,” she concluded. “And the community is so thankful.”

MG Whitney estimated that at one time, more than 30,000 head of cattle were at risk, but thanks to a combined partnership with local farmers and ranchers, close to 10,000 have been located and fed.

The Guard units employed ten helicopters, including a UH-1 Huey, UH-60 Blackhawk, OH-58 Kiowa, and a CH-47 Chinook from Oklahoma. A

C-130 Hercules from Wyoming was also used to drop 2-ton hay bales. **GX**



participated in a New Mexico hay drop in December 1997 and January 1998. The 187th also served in Afghanistan and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

While some animals have already succumbed to the bitter cold and lack of food, locals say the initial efforts between farmers and the Guard have helped.

“Really, the only reason some of these animals are alive today is because they [troops] came to the rescue,” said Frank Will, a local Las Animas County resident. “There are some folks who couldn’t even dig themselves out, much less dig out and track down a herd.”

“There are so many variables right now. The National Guard and state and local law enforcement officers are working to save as many animals as possible. We know the cattle are out there, we just need to get food and water to them,” added Maulsby.

Although the Guard’s emergency aerial relief operation currently remains on stand-by, McConnell said the Guard would continue to sustain aggressive local ground

GUARD BY THE NUMBERS

200+
Number of personnel

600+
Number of missions completed
(ground and air)

300
Number of ground emergency
medical support missions

3,150+
Number of hay bales delivered
[large bales=1,800 pounds each]



SILVER STAR RECIPIENT LEAVES BEHIND LEGACY

By SGT Les Newport
INARNG PAO

INDIANA—For any Soldier that has served in the National Guard, the concept of family legacies is familiar. Some family names stretch across unit rosters as far back as anyone can remember. At any given time, that name will appear over and over on current rosters of units across the state. Prominent among those family names in the state of Indiana is one that has become synonymous with honor—the name is Proctor.

Family members, friends and fellow Soldiers gathered in the atrium of the Indiana

State House to recognize that name, one that belongs to one of Indiana's fallen, SGT Joseph Proctor of Whiteland, IN. The Indiana National Guard Soldier was lost on May 3, 2006 at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

Governor Mitch Daniels and Indiana National Guard adjutant general R. Martin Umbarger presented SGT Proctor's family with the Silver Star Medal, the third highest award for gallantry. Among the ranks of Soldiers were three of SGT Proctor's immediate family members: his son Joseph Jr., his brother Eddie and his nephew Bradlee. Another nephew, Eddie Jr., is still in training and was unable to attend. All enlisted in the

months following the loss of SGT Proctor.

Many years have passed since SGT Proctor's older brother Eddie served, but soon after his brother's death, Eddie re-enlisted in SGT Proctor's unit as a Motor Transport Operator. It is a skill he brings after years as a civilian long-haul driver.

"I heard they needed truck drivers [in Iraq], and that's something I know about," said Eddie. "And if I can continue what Joey started, I want to do that."

SGT Proctor was an aviation fueller, but volunteered for a Military Transition Team in Iraq. The job is a dangerous one, embedding one or two American Soldiers into an Iraqi

unit to train and mentor the fledgling troops. A group of Soldiers that served with SGT Proctor and shared that danger traveled from New England to be with the family during the ceremony.

“We’ve never met, but have talked on the phone,” said SGT Ben Hannur of Watertown, CT. “Now to actually meet them brings it into perspective. It’s a big family, and they’re close, close like we were in Iraq.”

SGT Hannur said the loss of SGT Proctor was felt heavily, particularly among the Iraqi Soldiers SGT Proctor trained.

“Everybody knew him and he knew everybody. He made a huge impression on the Iraqis and they mourned him along with us,” said SGT Hannur. “He was the one you went to when you needed something, needed anything.”

The most telling evidence of SGT Proctor’s mettle and character can be found in the narrative of the incident that accompanied the presentation of the Silver Star:

SGT Joseph E. Proctor, United States Army, distinguished himself by exhibiting exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of an enemy attack as Military Transition Team Trainer for 1st Battalion, 172nd Armor, Camp Ramadi, Iraq on 3 May 2006 during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SGT Proctor served with 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Division as a Military Transition Team Trainer in the Anbar Province of Iraq. This is one of the most dangerous and challenging jobs a Soldier

can perform. Previously, SGT Proctor was a petroleum supply specialist who volunteered for the task force support platoon. He was in almost constant danger, patrolling the most violent areas of the 5 Kilo District of Tammim, often with only one other Coalition Force member present.

He would spend several consecutive days at Observation Post 293, one of the most isolated areas in Ramadi. This observation post had been a target for insurgents in the Tammim area and routinely came under attack. SGT Proctor was on duty the afternoon of May 3 when Observation Post 293 came under one of the fiercest attacks since its establishment.

At approximately 1415 hours on May 3, Observation Post 293 began receiving indirect fire. At least four rounds landed, some within extremely close proximity and some directly on the observation post. SGT Proctor was in a relatively safe location at the time, inside the barracks, which was a cement structure.

Cognizant of the hazards outside the barracks and without any official order to leave the safety of the building, SGT Proctor quickly donned his protective equipment and secured his weapon. He developed an expedient plan, left the safety of the building to assess the situation and render aid to those on security who were under attack. Shortly after he entered the compound, the obser-

vation post was attacked with small-arms fire. It appeared they were under a complex attack. The severity of the attack ultimately was a diversion by the enemy in its attempt to destroy the observation post with a large, powerful and deadly vehicular suicide bomb.

A large dump truck penetrated the west gate during the complex attack and continued moving toward the center of the observation post. SGT Proctor immediately and aggressively stood his ground in the compound, firing over 25 rounds from his

M-16 into the cab of the vehicular suicide bomb. He did not waver or flinch, engaging the vehicle head-on as it was moving toward him and the remaining Soldiers in the building. He

killed the driver of the dump truck before the truck could enter farther into the interior of the compound. The vehicular suicide bomb detonated, causing significant destruction from the point of the explosion. SGT Proctor was mortally wounded where he made his stand against the attack.

SGT Joseph Proctor saved countless lives that fateful day by stopping the driver before he could reach his objective. His actions were nothing less than heroic and embodied the Warrior Ethos by his selfless courage. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself, the Indiana National Guard and the United States Army. **GX**

... if I can continue what Joey started, I want to do that.

—Eddie Proctor, brother



HONORING THE MEMORY (previous page) Beth Proctor and son, PVT Joseph Proctor, receiving the Silver Star for SGT Joseph Proctor during a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse on December 20, 2006. (left) MG R. Martin Umbarger, adjutant general of Indiana, presents Beth Proctor with the Silver Star, as Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels meets the Proctor family.



NVARNG CURBS TRAFFICKING IN TURKMENISTAN



By SFC Erick Studenicka
NVARNG PAO

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN—Mild daytime temperatures combined with cool nights and seasonal rains created an agricultural bumper crop this autumn from the western coast of the Caspian Sea into Central Asia. There is a surplus of pomegranates in Turkmenistan, an excess of melons in Kazakhstan and a record tonnage of pears in Iran.

And to the vexation of counter-drug officials in the United States and Central Asia, the perfect fall weather has led to an all-time high in poppy production in Afghanistan, with this year's total expected to top 6,100 tons. Poppies are the primary ingredient in the production of opiate drugs, including heroin.

In an ongoing effort to curb the flow of opium and other narcotics in and out of its country, the government of Turkmenistan and the Nevada National Guard are working to build seven state-of-the-art border-crossing facilities. The first crossing was completed Nov. 11 at Altyn Asyr, near Iran, with the completion of the second crossing expected within a few months at the Turkmenistan/Afghanistan border.

The Nevada National Guard and Turkmenistan are cooperating on this long-

term project under the auspices of the Guard's State Partnership Program with funding from the military's U.S. Central Command. The Nevada National Guard and Turkmenistan have been linked through the program for more than 11 years.

Nevada adjutant general BG Cindy Kirkland flew more than 8,000 miles across 13 time zones to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$2.5 million border-crossing facility.

"This border crossing station is a great example of what two countries can accomplish when working together in the fight against international narcotics trafficking," she said. "This building stands as a testament to the close cooperation and mutual respect that exists between the Nevada National Guard and the government of Turkmenistan."

"The completion of the border crossing marks another significant achievement in the partnership program that has now seen more than a decade of

cooperation. The facility will allow efficient international commerce while providing a deterrent to illegal trafficking, not only in narcotics, but in weapons of mass destruction, illegal immigration and contraband."

The border crossing building cost \$2.5 million and sits on a 25,000-square-meter site complete with a weigh station, a radiation detector and space for drug dogs. The main 1,000-square-meter building houses customs, immigration and passport control offices in addition to medical and agricultural stations.

The Nevada National Guard had three people who devoted nearly 1,000 hours of time to see the building come to fruition. COL (ret.) Jon Morrow, now a civilian analyst, was the project manager for the Altyn Asyr construction and spends about six months a year in Turkmenistan.

"It's really the front line over there in the war on drugs," said international affairs officer MAJ Eric Wade, one of six Nevada Guard members who made the trek to witness the grand opening. "The new crossing will assist both in controlling immigration and

controlling narcotic traffic that's coming through those borders."

Autumn's ideal weather in the region hasn't been the only reason for a bumper crop of poppies. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported in September that the significant increase in the poppy production could be traced to the resurgence of Taliban rebels in Southern Afghanistan who encourage and profit from the drug trade and promise protection to growers if they expand opium operations.

The U.N. estimates this year's opium production will increase by 49 percent from 2005, and easily outpace the previous record of 4,600 metric tons set in 1999, when the Taliban governed the country. Put in perspective, 6,100 metric tons of opium would surpass the 2005 global consumption of the drug by 30 percent.

Poppy production isn't currently a problem in Turkmenistan, and the government intends to keep the status quo. The seven border crossings are strategically placed to prevent Afghanistan's opium from entering Turkmenistan, where it could subsequently enter Western or Russian markets via the country's international terminals.

"The majority of the border of Turkmenistan is fenced with armed guards and patrolled with canines," MAJ Wade said. "This forces everyone to cross through one

of the bottlenecks between countries. And those locations were where we placed the state-of-the-art facilities."

The Nevada National Guard assists Turkmenistan in several other arenas by arranging knowledge-sharing trips between Nevada civilian organizations and the government of Turkmenistan.

Recently, professors from the University of Nevada, Reno, traveled to Ashgabat to provide expertise on advances in agricultural and veterinary science. Nevada Highway Patrol went to Turkmenistan to show authorities how to properly search and uncover contraband and drugs in personal and commercial vehicles.

The National Guard State Partnership Program, established in 1993, links U.S. states with partner countries using the civil-military nature of the Guard to support security cooperation objectives.

State partners participate in civil-military activities and exchanges, from familiarization exercises to knowledge exchanges to civic leader visits. **GX**

The new crossing will assist in both controlling immigration and controlling narcotic traffic that's coming through those borders.

—MAJ Eric Wade, International Affairs Officer

JAMIE O'NEAL TOURS SOUTHWEST ASIA

HOLIDAY CHEER Jamie O'Neal performs in Qatar as part of Operation Seasons Greetings this past holiday season.



By Keith Kawasaki

SW ASIA—This past fall, country music singer/songwriter Jamie O'Neal, along with radio DJ Delilah, John Popper of rock/blues group Blues Traveler and the New England Patriots cheerleaders traveled from the States to perform for military personnel stationed in Turkey, Germany and locations throughout Southwest Asia. Dubbed Operation Seasons Greetings, the tour was organized by the USO and sponsored by the Air Force Reserve.

Operation Seasons Greetings is designed to "reach out and touch the troops and say, 'You know what? We're thinking about you. We wish you the best.' Particularly over the holidays," explained Dave Ballengee,

producer of Operation Seasons Greetings and Deputy Director of the Air Force Reserve Band, to SGT Shannon Crane of the 129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, a unit comprised of North and South Dakota National Guard Soldiers stationed in Qatar. SGT Crane spoke with Ballengee when the tour arrived in Qatar in late November.

The recent trip was O'Neal's second Operation Seasons Greetings tour. While most artists take a break for the holidays after intense summer and fall touring, O'Neal seizes this opportunity to give back to those who give their lives for Freedom.

"We went over in 2002 . . . it was really moving and emotional, but nothing compared to this trip," said O'Neal in a recent

GX interview.

The 2002 Operation Seasons Greetings tour covered Germany, Turkey, Spain and England. The 2006 tour added Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Qatar in place of Spain and England.

"For me, it was hard to leave my daughter for two weeks," O'Neal told GX. "I'd never left her for that long. But then, I thought of the troops who leave their kids for months at a time."

Jamie O'Neal burst onto the popular country music scene with her #1 hit, "There is No Arizona," in 2001. "Arizona" was quickly followed by another #1 with "When I Think About Angels." Both songs were off her debut album, *Shiver*. In 2005, she found success again with her sophomore effort, *Brave*. Among the three charting songs on the album, "Somebody's Hero" climbed to #3. Though packed with great music including powerful ballads and rock-inspired anthems, it is the title track that stands out to us. In the album's liner notes, O'Neal dedicates the moving song "Brave" to our nation's men and women in service.

"Well, I think nobody's braver than them," said O'Neal, referring to the dedication. "Putting their lives on the line every day, I thought that song was perfect for them. Ultimately, I think the bravest people are the people fighting for our Freedom every day."

O'Neal spent Thanksgiving performing in Balad, Iraq. While there, she visited a military hospital.

"It's a wonderful hospital over there. They're doing a great job," said O'Neal. "I just feel so proud of the military and the difference they're making every day."

O'Neal visited another military hospital in Germany as the tour was winding down. During the visit, an ambulance raced in with several Soldiers direct from Balad.

"Knowing that they were at our show and then seeing them there was just really, really difficult to get through," she shared.

Regardless of coming face-to-face with the realities of war, O'Neal remains committed to supporting our Soldiers. In fact, she's written a new song, once again dedicated to our service men and women.

"I have a song called 'Soldier Coming Home' that I performed at my shows and I'm really hoping it's going to be on my next album," O'Neal told GX. "It's about the respect and the love that the husbands and wives of the military have for each other. And they wait and pray for their loved ones to come home and they don't take each other for granted. You can learn a lot by looking at the Soldiers. We should treat each other like we're all Soldiers coming home." **GX**

TN'S 45TH CST RESPONDS TO "EMERGENCY" AT NASHVILLE MALL

By CPT Tim W. Irvin

NASHVILLE, TN—It's a late November night at Opry Mills Mall, with Christmas right around the corner—but the sprawling megacenters is deserted.

There should be a multitude of busy shoppers rushing from store to store. Instead, the mall's empty. All that remains are scattered shopping bags and an empty baby stroller sitting at the entrance, tossed aside during the chaotic exodus that emptied shoppers into the parking lot. Fire rescue personnel work to calm the terrified masses. Many shoppers complain of difficulty breathing, wheezing and headaches. A few are unconscious; others have seizures.

Then, *they* appear. Approaching in their shadowy, government vehicles, they arrive in a long convoy more reminiscent of a funeral procession than a group of heroes. But these men in their dark vehicles with their serious faces are here to save lives, not to end them. They are the Soldiers of Tennessee's 45th Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) and they are called when the things get messy. And things are definitely messy tonight.

Fortunately, it's just a drill. But don't tell anyone in the 45th. These Soldiers train as they fight and there's no such thing as "just a drill."

The 45th doesn't waste any time on pleasantries. They go right to work and quickly size up the situation. They meet with the Incident Commander and with the local rescue personnel to gather as much information as possible. The first responders have performed their duties extremely well. But they are not equipped to identify Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) such as chemical weapons or radioactive agents. They rely on the 45th to identify agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures, and assist with requests for additional military support. Likewise, the 45th depends on the first responders to control the site, contain the incident, provide medical support and handle any injured civilians.

The 45th command is briefed on the events that lead up to their arrival. Whatever



"evil" awaits them in the mall is confined for now and the civilians are evacuated. There is no reason to rush into the contaminated area. The 45th plan their entry carefully. Going into an incident site uninformed and unprepared would not only be foolish, but could also be deadly.

The symptoms of some of the shoppers indicated a possible radioactive hazard. Depending on the type of radioactivity, the 45th's level-A suits will offer little or no protection from the destructive effects of radiation. The 45th uses Environmental Protection Agency level-A chemical protective suits. It protects the wearer from almost all airborne and liquid forms of contamination, but not against gamma radiation, which can penetrate even the densest materials. To reduce their exposure to radioactive hazards, the 45th carefully lays out a scanning pattern using their radioactivity detector as they move toward the entrance.

The suit of the 45th is a fully encapsulating, vapor-proof suit with a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) inside the suit with the wearer. There's a large backpack inside the suit, which contains a "re-breathing" system that is cooled with ice, which allows the 45th recon teams to work inside their suits for up to four hours. At all times, a back-up two-person

JUST IN CASE A member of the 45th CSTs recon team cautiously inspects a suspicious package during an exercise in Nashville, TN.

team stands by to continue the mission if the initial team runs out of air or becomes fatigued. The back-up team suits up with the initial team, but only partially. The result is a team of four-armed extraterrestrials waiting with their suits hanging from their waists, and the arms dangling down their back.

Once a team member is fully suited, they look as if they are ready for their starring roles in *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

"The 45th Civil Support Team has proven time and again how valuable it is to the State of Tennessee, both in training local responders and in their response to actual events," MG Gus Hargett, adjutant general of Tennessee, told GX. "This exercise was another example of how the 45th can integrate with and assist our local officials to protect the citizens of Tennessee."

The 45th is operational twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Their primary responsibility is to Tennessee, but they can be deployed anywhere within the United States or its territories. To learn more about the WMD-CST in your state, talk to your chain of command. **GX**



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SHIPPING OUT Members of SCARNG's 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade stand in formation at their January send-off in Columbia.

SC GUARD DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN IN LARGEST DEPLOYMENT SINCE WWII

By SSG Joe Cashion
108th Public Affairs Detachment NCOIC

COLUMBIA, SC—Embarking on the state's largest deployment since World War II, nearly 2,000 South Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers of the 218th Enhanced Separate Brigade received a triumphant sendoff in front of several thousand friends and family members on Jan. 6 from the University of South Carolina's Williams-Brice Stadium.

The event was highlighted by the participation of many Palmetto State local and national political leaders and punctuated by the comments of LTG Russel L. Honoré, who will lead the 218th as commander of Combined Joint TF Phoenix VI.

"To be born free is an accident, to live free is a privilege and to die free is a responsibility," said LTG Honoré, commander of 1st U.S. Army at Fort Gillem, GA. "In most places in America today, you can't tell there's a war going on. But in this stadium, until these Soldiers return, you'll know there's a war going on," he said.

South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford offered words of admiration for those who volunteered to wear the uniform. "Every one of you, including your families, makes



sacrifices that are real, whether on weekends or during a deployment like this one," said Sanford. "And in doing so, you challenge us and set an example for us in that old-

fashioned notion of simply walking the walk," he said.

"It's certainly a privilege to lead a group of elite Soldiers from the state of South Carolina," said BG Robert Livingston, commander of the 218th. "They will form the core of the more than 4,300 multinational Soldiers who have the mission to train the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police."

The 218th is currently preparing for their 18-month mission at Camp Shelby, MS. Once on the ground in Afghanistan, the Coalition Forces will assume the continuing NATO-led mission of helping to build the Afghan government.

In addition, TF Phoenix is charged with training the Afghan National Army with embedded training teams, as well as training the Afghan National Police to provide security for the nation with limited coalition help.

Shortly following the 9/11 attacks on the United States, the War on Terror began in Afghanistan in an effort to eliminate the Taliban—those who were responsible for the nearly 3,000 deaths on American soil.

COMMANDING PRESENCE LTG Russell Honoré, commander of 1st U.S. Army, addresses troops during send-off ceremony.

“This was the place from where our country was attacked on 9/11,” said U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham. “A young democracy is emerging in Afghanistan and these Soldiers of the 218th are going in order to ensure we’re never hurt again by neglecting them. Hopefully one day, through our efforts, Afghanistan will be an ally and not a place to fear,” Graham said.

With this mission for the 218th, the South Carolina Army National Guard’s contribution to support the War on Terror has now grown to nearly 7,000 Soldiers since 9/11.

Obviously from a morale and welfare standpoint, family assistance and community help is crucial for a unit as large as the 218th to successfully complete what will still be a dangerous mission. BG Livingston had high praise for those working behind the scenes in support.

“I can’t say enough about the Family Readiness Group in South Carolina,” he said. “Not only did they pull together readiness groups from throughout the state, but they also pulled together organizations such as Blue Star Moms, the Red Cross, the 4-H club and many others. The large crowd of people that turned out for the ceremony is a testament to the support we’re getting from them and from the state.”

CPT Roland Bethea of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 163rd Support Battalion, echoed BG Livingston’s sentiments. “My biggest concern is leaving my family, but everyone is giving me support and saying they’ll help look after them while I’m away,” CPT Bethea said. “So I feel pretty good about (the deployment) right now.”

As you might expect, transporting Soldiers and equipment in a unit as large as

the 218th to both Camp Shelby, and eventually Afghanistan, was quite an undertaking as well. More than 70 railcars moved 254 vehicles, while commercial trucks were used to transport the remaining 31 vehicles. Loading and transporting the equipment took nearly 11 days.

Any questions about the 218th’s ability to accomplish the mission were put to rest by the military and civilian leaders in attendance as Senator Graham asserted that the 218th is certainly prepared for this assignment. “The reason this unit has been chosen is because they’re ready for [the] fight,” said Graham.

“Forty percent of the combat capability in Afghanistan and Iraq comes from the reserve component,” Graham added. “We could not fight this war without the Guard and Reserves. It is a compliment to the men and women of the Guard and Reserves to be relied upon so heavily.”

BG Livingston agreed with Graham’s assessment. “I think you can tell by looking at our Soldiers that after hearing LTG Honoré, they’re ready,” he said. “They have committed themselves to this deployment as true National Guard Soldiers while they’re leaving behind their families and livelihoods in order to serve that higher cause.”

LTG Honoré summed up the 218th’s impending mission best. “You often hear talk about the greatest generation and our hats are off to them,” he said. “I think the next greatest generation is on this field—the 218th.” **GX**

MEETING OF MINDS (l to r) 218th BDE Commander BG Robert E. Livingston Jr, LTC Braddock (BDE Chief of Staff), TAG MG (r) Stanhope Spears. SC Gov. Mark Sanford, and the Commander of the 1st Army Division LTG Honoré.



Distinguished 218th Lineage

As the state’s largest major subordinate command, the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade, headquartered in Newberry, has units located throughout the Palmetto State and is one of the 15 Enhanced Readiness Brigades in the Army National Guard.

The direct ancestor of the 218th Brigade is the 118th Infantry Regiment, which is widely known as the “Palmetto Regiment,” whose proud heritage began with the Revolutionary War, when colonial militia units defended Charleston against a British invasion force in June 1776.

Under the command of COL William Moultrie, an 800-man garrison defending an unfinished fort of palmetto logs on Sullivan’s Island successfully repelled an attack from a British fleet and amphibious force of nearly 3,000 marines.

Later, the unit played a significant role during the Mexican-American War according to MAJ Scott Bell, South Carolina National Guard Historian. “The unit led the state’s expeditionary mission and fought General Santa Anna’s army in 1846, resulting in the ‘Palmetto Regiment’ being the first to raise their flag above the walls of Mexico City.”

MAJ Bell also mentioned that during WWI, several of the unit’s Soldiers received the nation’s highest honor for their contributions during the battle, which ultimately proved to be a key turning point. “Six Soldiers received the Medal of Honor for their actions during the breaking of the Hindenburg Line,” MAJ Bell said.

More recently, the 218th played a large part in helping to liberate Kuwait during the first Gulf War. Since 9/11, various units belonging to the 218th have been deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. They have also been called upon to support the SFOR (Bosnia) and KFOR (Kosovo) missions.

And now, the “Palmetto Regiment” has been called upon once again to help restore peace and security in Afghanistan.



LINE OF FIRE SGT Mijung Kim, 1st BN, 294th INF, GUARNG, lines up a target 300 meters away during joint training with the U.S. Marine Corps' 5th Provisional Security Company in Arta, Djibouti.

GUARNG TO GO FOURTH TIME AROUND IN DJBOUTI

By Senior Airman Christine Rosalin-Martinez
GUARNG PAO

DJBOUTI—The Guam Army National Guard (GUARNG) Soldiers have maintained a presence in the Horn of Africa since June 2004: first rotation, Alpha Company, into the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA).

Since then, Guam's Soldiers continue to work on improving their combat skills by executing refresher and proficiency training every month, according to LTC George Charfauros, battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment.

Initially, the participants were only members of the GUARNG. As time passed, the Soldiers invited members of other U.S. Armed Forces to partake in weapons training at firing ranges in HOA. To date, Guam's Soldiers have trained with members of the U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines. Training with other

U.S. military personnel allows them to become more familiar with each other's weapons, commented LTC Charfauros.

Currently, there are over 150 members of Team Charlie in HOA. They are scheduled to return home in May. A fourth rotation of GUARNG's Soldiers, Delta Company, is scheduled to arrive in HOA this April.

The Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa is a unit of United States Central Command that conducts operations and training to assist host nations in combating terrorism in order to establish a secure environment and enable regional stability. The mission is focused on detecting, disrupting and ultimately defeating transnational terrorist groups operating in the region—

denying safe havens, external support and material assistance for terrorist activity. CJTF-HOA counters the re-emergence of transnational terrorism in the region through civil-military operations and support of non-governmental organization operations, enhancing the long-term stability of the region.

CJTF-HOA provides short-term assistance by providing clean water, functional schools, improved roadways and improved medical

The mission is focused on detecting, disrupting and ultimately defeating transnational terrorist groups operating in the region.

facilities. Long-term goals include working with host nations to improve national security. Regional stability is built through capacity building operations such as civil affairs and military-to-military training; engineering and humanitarian support; medical, dental and veterinarian civil action programs (MEDCAP, DENCAP, VETCAP); security training for border and coastal areas; and maritime training with host nations.

GX

MO'S 203RD ASSISTS COMMUNITIES WITH STORM RELIEF

By 1LT James Vaughn
Public Affairs Representative, MOARNG PAO

MISSOURI—An ice-covered landscape in many parts of Missouri resulted in the continued service of the 203rd Engineer Battalion. Soldiers of the battalion, with home bases located along the western side of the state, supported the needs of Missouri residents in a dozen counties.

More than 100 volunteers out of an available 500 Citizen-Soldiers in the 203rd were called to duty initially. The battalion more than doubled the amount of troops working to assist ice-covered communities. They were responsible for providing generators, food and water, door-to-door health and wellness checks and route clearing missions for Missouri residents impacted by storm damage.

Mechanics, logisticians, medical specialists and fuel handlers worked continuously to support on-going operations. Guard members around the state normally employed full-time with the Guard were also working to fulfill equipment requests and to organize storm relief efforts.

The Forward Support Company, of Joplin, worked 15- to 16-hour days helping the American Red Cross deliver supplies to fire departments and shelters.

"We've had to deliver cots, blankets, food, water—you name it. I don't know how many miles we've put on this. I know it's been a lot," said SPC Billy Witt of the Forward Support Company in Joplin.

The 276th Engineer Company of Monett and Det.-1 of the 276th and 117th Asphalt Team of Pierce City provided troops to assist in route clearance to make way for utility crews struggling to piece together battered power lines in the city of Springfield. Over 65,000 residents were affected by the loss of electrical power. The 276th deployed

approximately 40 Soldiers to their hometown to fulfill the requests of local emergency operations managers.

The 294th Engineer Company, of Carthage and Anderson, was also involved in route clearing and delivered generators to Missouri communities. Headquarters Company coordinated work efforts, managed incoming requests and provided logistical support to line companies and other units from around the state, including Air Guard units that worked with the 203rd.

Despite long work hours and extreme temperatures, Soldiers of the 203rd maintained high morale. Troops of the 203rd had many of the same troubles in their own homes that citizens across the state have to deal with. They are essentially residents of the area and had to postpone their civilian lives to work toward the greater good of their state.

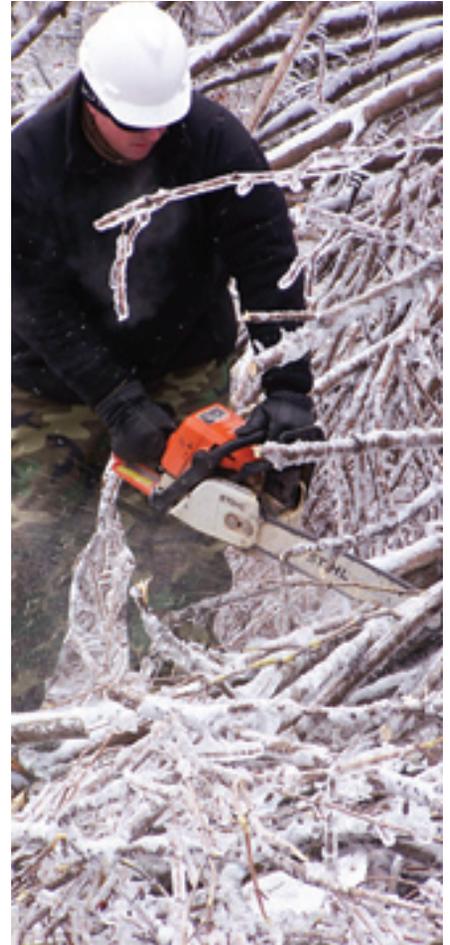
"It's sometimes an inconvenience, but it's also a privilege," SPC Jamie Bridges said of his obligation to serve in the National Guard. "When you are out there and you get applause from civilians for what you are doing it makes it all worthwhile."

SPC Bridges had power at his house in Highlandville, MO, but many of his friends and family living around him did not. He opened his home to a dozen people without electricity in their own homes.

"Several people came up and personally thanked me," said PFC Jason Affholter. "That makes my whole military career worth it."

"I think it is worth it," PFC Christopher Edwards agreed. "We're cleaning up the town and helping people out. We're doing our job. This is what we went to training for—to do this right here. I've had civilians thank me, too. There were roads out there you couldn't even walk down. We did a number on this place. We did pretty well."

When not clearing roads, Soldiers helped with other missions, such as delivering



SHAVED ICE SSG Gary Wallain of the 294th Engineer Company, clears a Springfield street in the aftermath of MO's winter storms.

generators and loading life support supplies to be hauled around the state.

"I've been extremely impressed with their performance," 2LT Bill Hardwick, platoon leader in charge of a road-clearing team, said at the time. "They are tired and they have been working out in the cold all day. Many of them have wives and families whom they left at home—some without power. And, with all these factors, they still go out and work as hard as they can."

"There are a lot of Soldiers out here who are without heat at home and are out here helping other people get heat," said 1SG David Rohlfing of the 276th.

"Nobody is out here complaining, saying 'Why are we doing this,'" 2LT Hardwick added. "They are just out there having fun and working away. I think everyone is realizing this is what they signed up for."

The 203rd also worked in St. Louis in the aftermath of storms in the area in August of 2006. **GX**

ALASKA GUARD SUPPORTS BORDER PATROL MISSION



By Kalei Brooks
AKARNG PAO

CAMP DENALI, AK—Aviators from the Alaska Army National Guard are heading south to support a presidential mission on homeland security. Eight Soldiers from the 1/207th Aviation Battalion left Anchorage Jan. 17 in two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters on their way to Arizona, where the unit will be participating in Operation Jump Start, the Southwest border patrol mission.

Additional Soldiers traveled to Arizona throughout the following week. After travel was completed, the 1/207th Aviation Battalion became officially engaged in the operation from Jan. 27 through June 2. Individual Alaska Guard members from the unit will be cycling through Arizona on 21-day rotations, fulfilling their annual training requirements.

In addition, one company of approximately 60 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, also headed to Arizona to support Operation Jump Start. The Soldiers were in Arizona from Jan. 27 until Feb. 18 as part of their annual training. A few Airmen from the Alaska Air National

Guard have also volunteered to individually augment operations on the Southwest border and have been supporting the mission since Fall 2006.

"This training mission presents the Soldiers and Airmen of the Alaska National Guard with an opportunity to hone their skills while defending the homeland during such a critical mission," said MG Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "I am proud of our Guardsmen for stepping up and volunteering for an important national security operation."

I am proud of our Guardsmen for stepping up and volunteering for an important national security operation.

—MG Craig Campbell, adjutant general of Alaska

Alaska National Guard members have expressed their excitement about the mission and their readiness to take on this presidential task.

"It's an excellent training opportunity to get experience in night-vision goggle operations, as well as support the President's mission to secure the Southwest border," said LTC Tim Dehaas, state Army aviation officer.

During the summer of 2006, President Bush called on the National Guard to support the Border Patrol in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, with the goal of deterring illegal immigration and increasing border security in the Southwest. **GX**



FLYING SOUTH (Left) Members of the 1/207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, gather and gear up Jan. 17 for Operation Jump Start, the Southwest border patrol mission. Some unit members left Jan. 17 for Arizona, where the unit will be officially supporting the mission from Jan. 27 through June 2.

PACKING UP (Top) SFC Art Honea, of the 1/207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, packs some last minute items into the cargo area of a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter before leaving en route to Arizona Jan. 17. The Alaska Army National Guard is participating in Operation Jump Start.

LOADING UP (Bottom) SGT Tom Semmens, left, and SFC Art Honea, right, both members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 1/207th Aviation Battalion, load up one of two UH-60 Blackhawks the unit is taking to Arizona in support of Operation Jump Start.

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HERO'S WELCOME (l to r) Jackson Hewitt CEO Mike Lister, SSG Quinton Martin, and Mayor Brent Warr of Gulfport, MS, at the December ceremony at Gulfport City Hall, which honored SSG Martin as a monthly honoree.

MSARNG SOLDIER NAMED “HERO OF THE YEAR”

Courtesy of Jackson Hewitt Tax Service®

Mississippi National Guard SSG Quinton D. Martin has been chosen as the grand-prize winner of the Jackson Hewitt National Guard “Heroes of the Year” campaign. Sponsored by Jackson Hewitt Tax Service®, an industry leader providing full-service individual federal and state income tax preparation, the year-long campaign honored National Guard Soldiers, families and even employers around the country who have made a difference in their states or on foreign shores.

“Two things stand out in the profile for SSG Martin, his dedication and his love of country. It takes a lot of character on his part

to volunteer to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom and serve our country, while also worrying about the devastation in his home state during Hurricane Katrina,” said Michael Lister, President and Chief Executive Officer for Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Inc., in a Jackson Hewitt press release. “He is a true role model to fellow Soldiers and someone that they can count on for advice and support at all times. Mississippi is fortunate to have such a fine Citizen-Soldier in Quinton Martin.”

“To be named Hero of the Year feels incredible,” SSG Martin told *GX* in February. “[H]owever, the fellow Soldiers in the running were also heroes in my book.”

SSG Martin began serving with the Mississippi Army National Guard 24 years

ago, and has participated in several projects in his state, from assisting with hurricane relief to handing out food with the Salvation Army. He has also been stationed abroad in Germany, South Korea, Panama, Honduras and Costa Rica. For the past four years, he has been on active duty, stationed out of Mississippi’s Keesler Air Force Base as part of the Contingency Operation Noble Eagle (Homeland Security) program and later Camp Shelby, where he trained Soldiers for overseas missions.

SSG Martin’s unit was called up in late August 2005, on the day that Hurricane Katrina struck the area. Although his unit was shortly released from duty abroad to deal with the impact of the storm at home,

SSG Martin volunteered to continue with his assigned mission and left shortly thereafter for Kuwait as a member of the 1108th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD), working as a machinist.

SSG Martin has recently returned home to his family in Seminary and is based out of Camp Shelby with the 3rd Brigade 87th division on Operation Warrior Training. He lives with his wife, Pat, who nominated him, and his son, Shawn, and daughter, Kimberly.

The Jackson Hewitt National Guard "Heroes of the Year" campaign provided a unique opportunity for people to nominate a loved one, friend or neighbor who serves in the Army National Guard. Throughout 2006, monthly honorees were named with the chance to participate in an opportunity of a lifetime—to have his or her image featured on a NASCAR race car to be raced at a 2007 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Race (Auto Club 500 in Fontana, CA). The honor now goes to SSG Martin, who was an honoree for the month of October. This is the first time that a non-celebrity's image will be featured on a NASCAR race car.

SSG Martin will also enjoy a memorable VIP experience as he and guests cheer on their car trackside at a race.

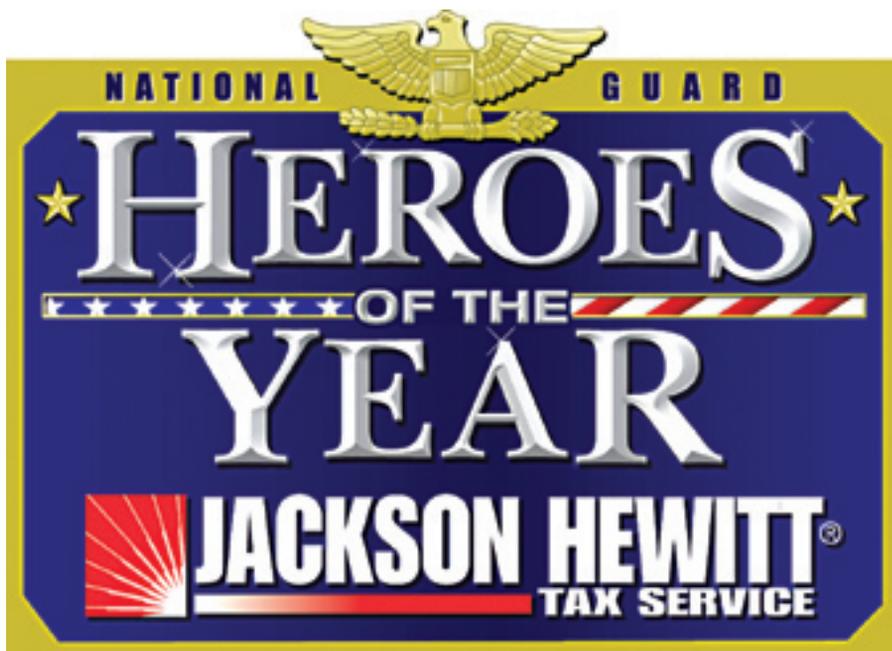
"The most important person I would like to thank is my wife, Patricia Martin, for her essay that she submitted into Jackson Hewitt's 'Hero of the Year' nomination," stated SSG Martin. "Also, I would like to thank Jackson Hewitt for offering such a rewarding opportunity for the American Soldiers who are often pushed to the side in today's world!"

"We've been working with the Army National Guard for the past few years to find ways to support our troops," stated Lister in a GX interview. "We have held family bowling events on Army posts, held book drives and had banner signing campaigns in our stores to invite messages to our troops and more, all with the intention of creating awareness for the dedication and service of these men and women. Last year, we decided to do something different to truly focus on all of the Citizen-Soldiers, families and even employers who are all quietly contributing in their own ways to the work the Army National Guard is doing both here and abroad, and to recognize the changing roles of the Guard."

To view the Soldiers, families and employers who have been honored for their dedication to and support of the National Guard's mission, visit www.SupportTheGuard.com. In each case, monthly nominees were selected based on service to their community, their support of the values of the National Guard and the unique ways they have enhanced their lives and the lives of those around them through their affiliation with the Guard. **GX**

Check out all the honorees at
SupportTheGuard.com

For more on Jackson Hewitt Tax Service®, check out
JacksonHewitt.com



AWARD WINNERS

Soldier Honorees

March

SSG Robert Smette, NDARNG

April

SSG Benjie R. Wells, MSARNG

May

SSG Brent D. Cobb, SCARNG

June

SGT Corey Breist, SDARNG

July

MAJ Terry McPherson, NGB

August

CSM David G. Collins, OHARNG

September

SGT Robert Dollaway, NJARNG

October

SSG Quinton Martin, MSARNG

November

SFC Todd M. Tilkins, WIARNG

December

SFC Jody C. Hayes, IAARNG

Family of the Year Winner

Signa Kyle Lord, PA

Family Honorees

March

Whipple Family, PA

April

Signa Kyle Lord and the Keystone Soldiers, PA

May

Kurtz Family, VA

June

Patricia, Bryan and Ryan Montgomery, KY

July

Teresa Huguenin, IA

August

Dixie Clark and Family, PA

September

Virgil and Jane Bertke, OH

October

Candy Stephenson, OH

Employer of the Year Winner

Beach Manufacturing

Employer Honorees

April

UPS

September

Beach Manufacturing

Courtesy of SupportTheGuard.com



According to fourth-century legend, a Roman soldier named Martin of Tours came upon a beggar shivering in the cold, and out of pity, gave him part of his own military cloak. In his dreams that night, Martin saw Christ dressed in that very cloak. He was immediately converted to the Christian faith, devoted his life to the church and eventually inspired the creation of the Chaplaincy.

Taken from a fresco depicting the legend of Martin of Tours by Simone Martini 1322-1326. Courtesy of The Yorck Project.



in service of

God

and

country

for centuries, civilizations have sent Soldiers to wage war. for centuries, those Soldiers have looked to their spiritual leaders for a path of hope and guidance in the face of war. Today is no different, as Chaplains continue to act as a beacon of light in the darkness of war. By CH (BG) Lionel D. Robinson, IDARNG, Retired



proud bumper sticker declares, “The National Guard, Americans at their best!”

Recent events at home and abroad underscore that statement. Since 9/11, our nation has asked our Citizen-Soldiers to step to the plate, and by the thousands, they have.

Not since WWII, has our nation leaned so heavily on the National

Guard to come to its aid and defense. The New York Guard and others responded immediately to the World Trade Center attack. Guard members have been in continuous service since then, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Katrina support and border patrol. These men and women are our next-door neighbors across America who go for long stretches of time away from job, family and school. The National Guard career of one weekend a month and two weeks annual training does not exist anymore. These Soldiers, like their historic forebears, balance civilian lives and responsibilities with service to their state and nation.

All Soldiers know when they put on the uniform that they take the hopes, dreams and faith of their families and loved ones with them. They also take something else: one of their local clergy. In American history, it has consistently been that way.

Soldiers have always looked to their ministers in uniform for spiritual guidance and blessing. In times of service, they recognize the need for the respective religious ministrations and rites enjoyed at home. Servicemen and women call their pastors, priests and rabbis by the revered title “chaplain.” The concept has its roots in medieval Catholic tradition dated to the Council of Ratisbon of 742 A.D. This is the first known authorization of chaplains for armies. They were recognized as servants of God and forbidden to bear arms.

origins of the chaplaincy

Fourth-century legend recounts that a certain Roman soldier named Martin of Tours came upon a beggar shivering in the cold. In pity, he gave him part of his own military cloak. In his dreams that night, Martin saw Christ dressed in that very cloak. He was immediately converted to the Christian faith and devoted his life to the church. Canonized after his death, Martin later became the patron saint of France. His cloak became a holy relic and was carried into battle by Frankish kings. The cloak was called by its Latin term “cappa” and was carried in a shrine called the “cappella.” The caretaker priest was called the “cappellanus.” All military clergy came to be called “cappellani,” or the French term, “chapelains.” From this is derived the English title “chaplain.”

The American military chaplaincy has its roots among local pastors who served with the colonial militias prior to the Revolutionary War. For all of its 370 years, the National Guard has enjoyed the inspiration and dedicated service of its local “parsons.” When the Minutemen picked up their muskets, these pastors picked up their respective scriptures and went to battle with them. When the Pequot War broke out in 1637, the Reverend Samuel Stone of the Church of Christ in Hartford, CT, became the first military chaplain to serve on the field of battle in the British colonies of America. Chaplain Stone’s commander called upon him to seek guidance from the Almighty about which route of attack to pursue. He prayed into the night and the next morning, rendered his advice. The commander took his advice and defeated the Pequots.

By the time of the American Revolution, chaplains from various denominations had distinguished themselves with the colonial militias. Chaplains were present for duty when George Washington

assumed command of the Continental Army. Among his 23 regiments gathered around Boston, he could count 15 chaplains. Chaplains received their first official recognition on July 29, 1775—the birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps.

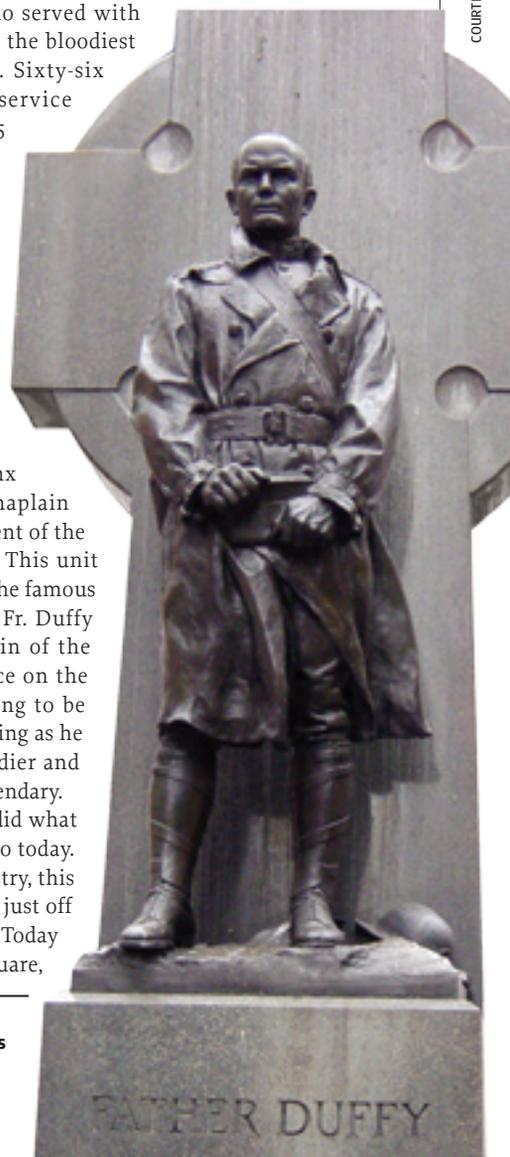
General George Washington issued the following on July 9, 1776:

The Honorable Continental Congress having been pleased to allow a Chaplain to each Regiment, with the pay of thirty-three dollars and one-third dollars per month / The Colonels or commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure Chaplains accordingly; persons of good characters and exemplary lives / To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon religious exercises. The blessing and protection of Heaven are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger / The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavor so to live, and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country.

Following the Revolutionary War, chaplains continued to serve with state militias, the forerunners of the National Guard. The Civil War became the next big crucible for our nation. It was thus for the Citizen-Soldiers who fought it, and the ministers, priests and rabbis who served with them. The Civil War is still the bloodiest fought on this continent. Sixty-six Union chaplains fell in service to their country, as did 25 Confederate chaplains. The Civil War also produced the first female chaplain: Ella Gibson Hobart of the Wisconsin Regiment of Heavy Artillery.

Perhaps the most storied chaplain of American history is Father Francis P. Duffy. Fr. Duffy was pastor of Our Savior Catholic parish in the Bronx when he was appointed chaplain of the 69th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard. This unit became an integral part of the famous Rainbow (42nd) Division. Fr. Duffy became the senior chaplain of the 42nd Division. His presence on the battlefield of WWI, seeming to be always in the heaviest fighting as he moved from Soldier to Soldier and unit to unit, was almost legendary.

After the war, Fr. Duffy did what National Guard chaplains do today. He returned to parish ministry, this time to Holy Cross Church, just off Broadway in New York City. Today at the north end of Times Square,



FATHER FIGURE Statue of Father Francis P. Duffy in New York City’s Times Square. Fr. Francis is best known for his heroics in WWI, serving with 42nd ID, NYARNG.

COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA



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visitors can see a massive statue honoring Fr. Duffy. The statue was unveiled in 1937, just a few years after his death.

the scene today

National Guard chaplains have been serving their respective states and our nation continuously since those early days of the state militias. The scene is much different today. Each state has a Joint Forces State Chaplain. He or she is usually a full colonel in the Army or Air Guard. Ministers from a variety of church and denominational backgrounds now serve in each of our states. They are integral parts of the various battalions, brigades, divisions and separate units within the states. They serve their parishes or other institutions full time. Most of them have families to nurture and care for. They make room in their already burdened schedules to look after the religious and spiritual needs of the hundreds of Soldiers and Airmen in their units.

Since 9/11, our nation has called upon our Guard men and women like never before. New York Guard members were among the first on the scene after the attack on the World Trade Center. Chaplain (COL) Jacob Goldstein, an orthodox Jewish rabbi, quickly responded and supervised the round-the-clock work of numerous other military chaplains responding to the emergency.

Since that time, as National Guard units have been called up, they have taken their local chaplains with them. Thus, a time-honored tradition has found new expression on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Rev. David McLemore, a Southern Baptist chaplain, responded when the 39th Infantry Brigade of Arkansas was called up for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF II). He left behind his family and a flourishing parish ministry in the beautiful Ozark Mountains for the deserts of Iraq. Rev. McLemore spent his days among Soldiers: counseling, preaching, and offering the rites of baptism and communion. Like all chaplains, he was always ready to advise his commander on the morale and spiritual well-being of the troops. His own commander, MG Chiarelli, 1st Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, said

I found it challenging to lift the morale of my Soldiers in the face of death and to reconstitute them for the mission. Freedom isn't free.

—CH (CPT) Maury Millican, NDARNG

he was often drawn to Rev. McLemore for good advice. This scenario could be repeated over and over among other commands.

Early in 2004, planners began to take a look at which units—Active Duty, Guard and Reserve—would make the next rotation of troops into Iraq later that year. It would become the third major deployment since the fall of the Saddam regime, hence its designation OIF III. The nation had not seen the mobilization of a National Guard Division since WWII. The 42nd Infantry Division, headquartered in New York State, was tapped. Units from this division had been among the first responders to the Twin Towers attack on 9/11.

This storied division had its beginning in World War I. A proud history earned it the moniker “Rainbow Division.” COL Douglas MacArthur was the first Chief of Staff. He led in the creation of this division, which ultimately saw action in European battlefields. It was made up of National Guard units and Soldiers from all across America. When speaking with reporters, COL MacArthur described the division as stretching “like a rainbow from the Atlantic to the Pacific.”



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS CH Joanne Martindale (second from left)—mother, wife, minister and chaplain—and SSG Anthony Mauro (far right) hanging out with fellow staff members (DISCOM 42nd ID, NJNG), OIF III.

From that point onward, the 42nd came to be known as the “Rainbow Division.” Its Soldiers proudly wear the rainbow on their uniforms.

True to its name and heritage, the division began to collect units and Soldiers from all across America. In the final analysis, most states had a National Guard Soldier or Soldiers deployed with the 42nd in OIF III. Of the eight brigades, two were maneuver brigades from the 3rd Infantry Division of the Regular Army. This was the first time since WWII that a National Guard Division Commander had both Active and Guard units under his command. Chaplains from both components saw this as an opportunity to learn from and strengthen one another. One chaplain recalled and affirmed the truth of scripture that “iron sharpens iron.”

Collegiality is more than a slogan among chaplains. It is a way of life. The active component chaplains had also left active parishes to give full time to the religious needs of Soldiers. They were more than happy to be joined with National Guard clergy in the battle. Each brought his or her own uniqueness to the battlefield. The “we/them” mentality quickly faded in the light of the enormous needs of Soldiers for spiritual guidance and religious support.

Forward Operating Base (FOB) Speicher in north central Iraq is a hub of air traffic and ground patrols. It is located just outside of Saddam’s hometown of Tikrit. This is a Sunni Arab city with a large population of folks not too friendly to Americans, and even less friendly to fellow Iraqis who work with the Americans. CH (MAJ) Joanne Martindale of the New Jersey National Guard discovered this soon after arriving there. Her first week in the country, she went to the PX for some tooth-paste and saw an Iraqi woman sitting on a rock, crying, in front of the hair salon. In broken English, the woman related that her mother and six other women had been beheaded a few days before. Their crime: cutting hair for American Soldiers. CH Martindale spoke with the woman. This Muslim woman was surprised at this encounter with CH Martindale, finding empathy from a Christian. In true chaplain fashion, CH Martindale said, “Care for the person is more important than what religion they are.”

In civilian life, CH Martindale is a mom to two kids, a pastor’s wife, and a parish minister herself. In her “spare time,” she offers training in pastoral care through the University of Pennsylvania Hospital. Her pastoral skills and mental health training often came in handy. One day, a homicidal/suicidal Soldier came into her office. It became clear to her that he had a plan for killing his first sergeant, sergeant major and himself. CH Martindale and her assistant, SSG Anthony Mauro,

(BOTH PAGES) COURTESY OF CH (SG) LIONEL D. ROBINSON



acted quickly and calmed the situation. The attending psychiatrist said, "Congratulations, chaplain. You and your assistant saved three lives today . . . good job."

Days of anguish, Days of hope

At the outset of WWII, a young Army chaplain named Preston Taylor found himself a prisoner of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death March and POW camps. His story is told in the book *Days of Anguish, Days of Hope*. So far in this war (as of January 2007), none of our chaplains have been killed or taken prisoner. They do have their days of anguish, however, and their days of hope.

CH (CPT) Maury Millican, a Reformed Church clergyman from Bismarck, ND, deployed with the 141st Combat Engineer Battalion of the North Dakota Army National Guard. Positioned in the Sunni Triangle area of operations and attached to the 1st Infantry Division (ID), the unit was assigned the dangerous task of clearing routes for the Iraqi people and the Soldiers of 1st ID. The roads were infested with improvised explosive devices (IEDs). During operations, four Soldiers were killed and 28 others were seriously wounded. CH Millican described his ministry: "I found it challenging to lift the morale of my Soldiers in the face of death and to reconstitute them for the mission. Freedom isn't free."

There were light-hearted times as well. CH Millican tells that he was giving the benediction in a religious service at FOB Warhorse when it was attacked by mortar fire. All the Soldiers jumped up and ran for concrete bunkers. At the "all clear" signal, the chaplain went to company headquarters thinking the service was finished. A Soldier came in and said, "Chaplain, we're waiting in the tent for the benediction!" The chaplain was in for some good-natured teasing for weeks afterward.

the heroes' mission

Most Americans are aware of the honor that we bestow upon our fellow Soldiers as their flag-draped caskets are flown into Dover Air Force Base. It is hard for tears not to flow as we see the solemn services that are rendered at Arlington and other Veteran Cemeteries across the country. Most citizens are not aware, however, of the dignity and honor given to these heroes, beginning at the place where they fall on the battlefield.

CH (LTC) Doug Ferry of the Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division, was the lead chaplain at FOB Speicher during OIF III. He and his team of chaplains and chaplain assistants had what came to be known as the "Heroes' Mission."

When Soldiers went down in sector, two Blackhawk helicopters were launched to bring in the fallen. Those choppers did not lift off without a Unit Ministry Team (chaplain and chaplain assistant) on board. The sight of the chaplain always brought comfort to the surviving Soldiers. Their religious ministrations and "ministry of presence" gave everyone new hope in those darkest of times. Soldiers would come out in the middle of the night and odd hours in the mornings, form up, offer their salutes as the chaplains led the details that loaded the fallen aboard aircraft. Usually nothing

could be heard inside the cabin but the chop of the blades and roar of the engine as the chaplain and assistant sat next to these heroes and made their way to mortuary affairs, then on to the States.

CH (CPT) J.D. Moore, a Baptist minister with the New Jersey National Guard, understood as well as anyone the value of this kind of ministry. He flew more than 25 of these missions. Two fine young officers were killed in what we now know was a "fragging" incident. CH Moore read scripture, said Christian prayers and offered the sign of the cross over the fallen, not realizing at the time what great comfort and solace these simple acts would later bring to the grieving families of these Catholic Soldiers.

winning hearts and minds

Chaplain (LTC) John Worster is most at home with his pickup truck and dogs as he travels the back roads of Idaho in search of good fishing and hunting. He has spent the majority of his life, however, ministering to several Catholic parishes in the small towns of eastern Idaho. In the fall of 2004, he deployed with the 116th Brigade Combat Team of the Idaho Army National Guard. They manned several FOBs in and around the east central Iraq city of Kirkuk. This region is known for its rich cultural and religious diversity. There are Shiite and Sunni Muslims. There are Syrian, Assyrian and Chaldean Catholics. Surprisingly, there are also Presbyterian Christians, as well as Arab, Kurd and Turkomen ethnic groups.

Employing his buoyant spirit, outgoing personality and tremendous organizing skills, CH Worster formed the Kirkuk Religious Unity Council made up of leaders from all of the various communities. They met weekly to discuss ways of cooperating in order to present a united voice to the community at large.

These local religious leaders expressed their deep gratitude to CH Worster for his work in bringing them together. At meetings, all of them greeted him with the traditional cheek-to-cheek embrace so common in that culture. CH Worster even offered a "Making Your Voice Heard" media-training event. Here, the local imams, sheiks and Christian pastors were trained in how to use print and broadcast media

to promote safe and secure elections. "We would not be here today," one imam rose to say, "if it were not for CH Worster."

Distinguished contacts

Because they come from the fabric of America, it is not surprising that some National Guard chaplains find themselves with distinguished connections, high expectations and big shoes to fill. The 278th Regimental Combat Team of Tennessee offered that opportunity to its Soldiers and chaplains. The state of Tennessee prides itself in being The Volunteer State. This heritage goes back to the early days of our nation when former Tennessee Congressman and frontiersman David Crockett led in the defense of the Alamo during Texas' fight for independence from Mexico. Every mobilization since has seen its fair share of Tennesseans.



MOMENT OF REFLECTION CH David McLemore (39th Infantry Brigade, ARANG) preaching from a makeshift pulpit, OIF II.



During WWI, a young farm boy named Alvin York volunteered for service. He became a national hero of the Great War when he single-handedly took out a German machine gun nest, killed scores of the enemy and took several others captive. In doing so, he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. A deeply religious person, he returned to the soil of his native state and quietly raised his family. 278th Brigade Chaplain (LTC) Sam Wood is privileged to pastor SGT York's son in a small Nazarene church in eastern Tennessee. His old-fashioned, country-style Southern Gospel services always proved to be the highlight of the week at FOB Caldwell in north central Iraq.

During the deployment, an engineer battalion out of Texas "volunteered" to serve with the Tennesseans. Their chaplain was CH (MAJ) John Berry, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Crawford, TX. Like so many other Americans, President and Mrs. George W. Bush gave up their own local pastor to a term of service in Iraq.

special role of the chaplain assistant

Most chaplains are quick to say that they never work alone. Teamwork is a way of life. Chaplains depend heavily upon the enlisted member of their team: the chaplain assistant. Since the chaplain—by calling and by doctrine—is a non-combatant, each is assigned a specially trained assistant. This Soldier has the dual responsibility in combat of covering for himself or herself, as well as the unarmed chaplain.

Chaplain assistants take their role very seriously. They have their historical counterparts, such as PVT Calvin P. Titus. While serving as company bugler and chaplain assistant during the Boxer Rebellion in China, PVT Titus scaled the Peking Wall under withering enemy fire. His "I'll try, Sir" example is heralded on paintings in headquarter buildings across the Army.

Like their chaplains, the assistants give up flourishing civilian lives when called upon to serve. MSG Landon

Marlor, a high school counselor, just happened to be at a small armory in Hailey, ID, when he got a call that the 42nd Division Chaplain out of New York needed a lead assistant. He immediately said, "I will go." For over a year, he worked tirelessly to mentor and lead younger chaplain assistants. His work was so appreciated that the division chief of staff met him at the tarmac on his last day at FOB Danger to present him the coveted Coin of Excellence.

MSG Marlor's immediate subordinate was a former military police officer, SSG Colleen Grzelewski. She seemed to relish her role as the chaplain's extra set of eyes and ears whenever they left the FOB to visit Soldiers and other unit ministry teams. To her, it was a personal as well as a professional obligation. She once said to her boss, "Sir, I promised your son that I would take care of you, and I mean to do it." This kind of commitment from chaplain assistants has kept many chaplains afloat on the sea of chaos that is modern warfare.

When asked for hero stories, most chaplains will mention their chaplain assistant. CH (CPT) Rob Repenning of the 250th Signal Battalion, New Jersey National Guard, found himself regularly on logistical patrols in his efforts to bring the Eucharist to Catholic Soldiers in remote locations. His assistant, SSG Jerry Swain, a Protestant, was always there, just a "step and a reach away," helping CH Repenning minister to and encourage Soldiers of every faith. For their cool-headedness under fire in an IED attack, they were awarded the Combat Action Badge. CH Repenning now serves with New York's "Fighting 69th," the newest in the long line of Father Duffy's successors.

a final word

Surely there ought to be an honor roll of chaplains and chaplain assistants of the National Guard who have sacrificed so much in recent days to "bring Soldiers to God and God to Soldiers." It would include:

CH (MAJ) Tim Panula of the Minnesota National Guard. A big, teddy bear of a man with a quick smile and infectious laugh who was always ready, day or night, to counsel a Soldier or share his encouraging words with commanders and staff.

CH (CPT) Alex Knowles, a Lutheran pastor who grieved because he could not be the last of his Soldiers lifted out of country. Sometimes travel manifests are no respecters of person. "Who will take care of my Soldiers when I have to leave?" he lamented, even as he arranged pastoral coverage for them.

MSG Jim Lewis, a deputy sheriff back home in Idaho who became the "go-to guy" for his chaplain at FOB Warrior. Many dysfunctional situations became functional simply because MSG Lewis showed up. His outbursts of laughter when the Division Chaplain opened the wrong latrine door will not be forgotten.

CH (MAJ) Brian G. Donahue of the North Dakota National Guard who, even when mortar rounds were exploding, never missed a beat when it came to touching the lives of Soldiers for God.

The National Guard is America

at its best. The Citizen-Soldier clergy who serve the Guard come home with a deep sense of privilege at having been counted among them. **GX**

In memoriam: This article is dedicated to Chaplain Gary Malone, who served with the 42nd Infantry Division during OIF III, but suffered a fatal heart attack after returning to the States. His commander, COL Glenn Marchi, presented the Combat Action Badge to CH Malone's mother at his funeral. He is still missed by all who served with him.

About the author: Chaplain Dan Robinson served as 42nd Infantry Division Chaplain during OIF III. He retired from the Idaho National Guard in June 2006 at the rank of brigadier general after 24 years of military service. CH Robinson is in his 11th year as senior pastor of Pierce Park Baptist Church, Boise, ID.



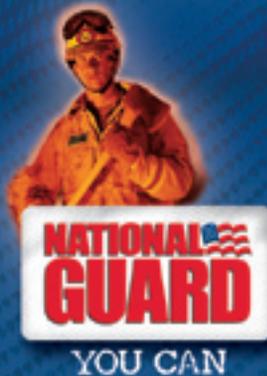
CLEANSING WATERS CH Sam Wood (278th RCT, TNNG) baptizes a new believer, OIF III.



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War College

Army's top school produces tomorrow's leaders

By Chris West
Additional information courtesy of United States Army War College

"The Army War College was the highlight of my military career. Not only was it a great learning experience, but more importantly, the network of professional friends has proven invaluable. They are always available for guidance and counsel. It is an unbelievable experience!"—MG Gus L. Hargett, adjutant general of the state of Tennessee

General of the Armies John Pershing, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, General George Patton, General of the Army Omar Bradley, General William Westmoreland, General Norman Schwarzkopf and General Tommy Franks are all recognized as important military leaders of the 20th century. They, along with many other eminent commanders, share one important and formative experience: they have all passed through the hallowed halls of the Army's top leadership school, the United States Army War College (USAWC).

The War College was established by General Order 155 on November 27, 1901 under President Theodore Roosevelt and his Secretary of War (a position roughly equivalent to today's Secretary of Defense) Elihu Root. The purpose of the college, as defined by Secretary Root, is "Not to promote war, but to preserve peace by intelligent and adequate preparation to repel aggression . . . to study and confer on the great problems of national defense, of military science, and of responsible command." The staff and students of the USAWC continue this proud tradition to this day.

The students who attend this college are hand-selected by the Army from among senior military, civilian and international leaders from all military services and government agencies. Their purpose is simple and clear: to study and confer on the strategic application of land power. Whether they're high-ranking Army officers, civilians from the state department or even officers from foreign-allied military

course. Regardless of which program they attend, all graduates are awarded a masters of strategic studies.

The College is not only an educational institution, but is responsible for ongoing strategic thinking and research in several different fields. For example, the Center for Strategic Leadership (CSL) serves as an education center and laboratory that utilizes simulations and wargaming to help leaders prepare for a wide variety of possible conflict scenarios. Another group, the Strategic Studies Institute,

publishes security and strategic reports and publications that serve to inform and educate senior policy makers. The Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute is a newer component of the CSL that focuses, as the name suggests, on peace-keeping operations such as the KFOR mission in Kosovo.

The research and publications of these groups, as well as several others not listed here, are available online to anyone interested in furthering their education. It is an invaluable resource for up-and-coming officers, Soldiers and anyone else who has a desire to learn more about the Army and its worldwide operations. To access these papers visit the USAWC Web site at www.carlisle.army.mil/index.shtml.

Whether the staff and students of the War College are conducting classes, research, symposiums, historical education, working to support the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) or playing key roles in developing our country's strategic plans, you can rest assured that they are some of the best-educated military minds of our age.

The Army War College mission extends well beyond the classroom, and USAWC leadership and faculty coordinated recently with leaders and alumni in the Afghanistan and Iraq theaters to ensure the relevance of the Army War College education.

"If you look at the make-up of this year's class alone, you'll see that 69 percent of our students have operational experience in Iraq or Afghanistan," said MG David Huntoon USAWC Commandant. "So we owe it to our students to make sure we have a curriculum and faculty that is current. I know the faculty is equal to the task." A recent



The Army War College was the highlight of my military career. Not only was it a great learning experience . . . the network of professional friends has proven invaluable. —MG Gus L. Hargett, TNARNG adjutant general

units, they all come together to identify, develop and address current and future strategic issues that are critical to the ongoing success of the U.S. Army.

Approximately 600 students are admitted to the USAWC each year. A little more than half of them attend the 10-month on-campus course at the historic 500-acre Carlisle Barracks in Carlisle, PA. The remainder conduct their studies through a two-year correspondence

six-day trip to Kuwait and Afghanistan gave MG Huntoon, and COL James Helis, chairman of the National Security and Strategy teaching department, an opportunity to see how well the college is doing by assessing how its graduates are applying the USAWC mission. "It's our mission to communicate continuously with senior leaders in the field to make sure we remain relevant to their challenges, and are properly educating our students for the demands of the 21st century."

“By meeting directly with recent graduates who are now serving in key positions, we see for ourselves if the education they received here properly prepared them for the challenges they currently face,” said MG Huntoon. “This was a small aspect of what we do to make sure that we are remaining relevant and responsive to the needs of the senior leaders of our nation’s military,” said MG Huntoon. “The trip was part of a larger, continuing evaluation of the War College curriculum. The college measures and evaluates every aspect of the curriculum, responding student surveys, alumni surveys and feedback from the field. Feedback throughout the trip suggested that the college staff and faculty are doing very well in preparing students for the future, according to MG Huntoon.

At the headquarters of U.S. Army Central Command in Kuwait, the USAWC delegation met with the USARCENT chief of staff, COL Bruce Hain, who served as president of the USAWC class of 2006. Coordination at the operations center gave a sense of what’s going on across the theater of operations. “It was a great opportunity to see how our former students and faculty are executing their strategic-level missions,” said MG Huntoon.

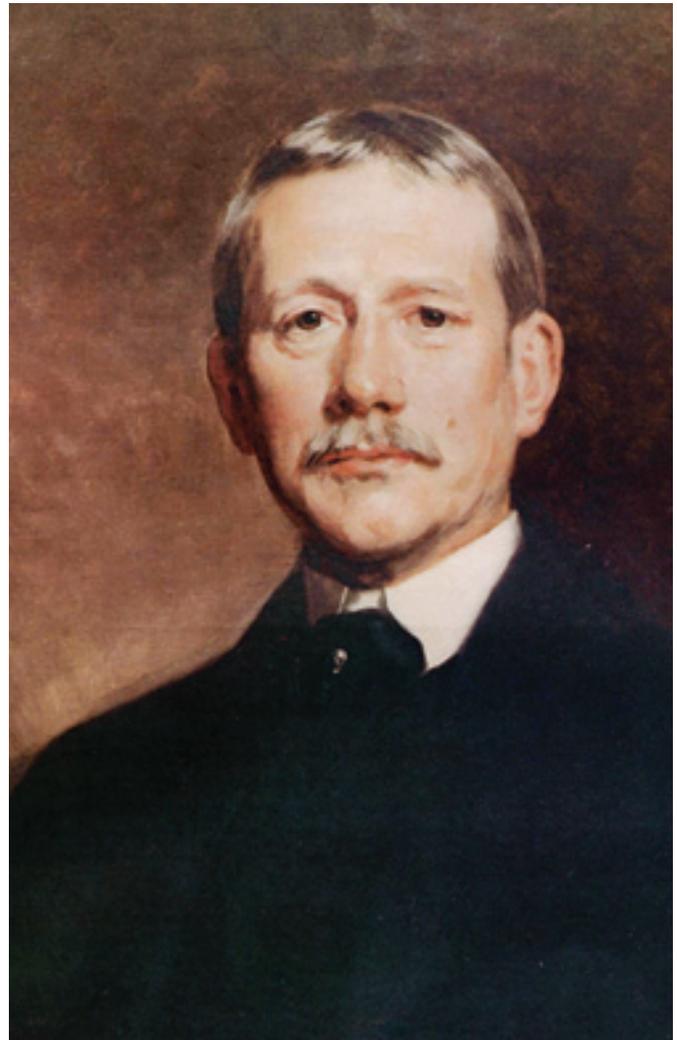
“The students were very positive in their views of how well their U.S. Army War College experience helped prepare them for their duties,” said COL Helis. “The students cited our focus on senior leadership skills, including creative and critical thinking, negotiating and consensus-building, as well as strategy and dealing with interagency and multinational environments.”

At Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, the leadership team visited many War College graduates serving in key command and staff positions. A side trip to visit a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Sharona, Paktika Province, Afghanistan, profiled the significance of the interagency coordination element of the USAWC education. A PRT is traditionally under State Department lead and includes a military component, aid agencies, civilian contractors and civilian police advisors. From small operating bases, a group of 60 to more than 1,000 civilian and military specialists work throughout the province to perform small reconstruction projects or provide security for those involved in aid and reconstruction work.

In Kabul, Afghanistan, they met with LTG Karl Eikenberry, the commanding general of Combined Forces Command in Afghanistan. “We had an opportunity to talk to him about the role of his command, and also to discuss the quality of War College graduates he had on his staff,” said MG Huntoon. “He expressed strong support for the professional competence of Army War College graduates.”

One such graduate serves now as the deputy director of the Afghanistan Command and General Staff College. The first Afghan graduate of the USAWC, LTC Abdul Ghias, welcomed MG Huntoon and COL Helis to the SCSC, which, in October, initiated its first six-month education program for senior colonels and general officers. MG Huntoon joined Dr. Yusuf Nuristani, first deputy minister of defense, in signing a partnership agreement between the USAWC and the Afghan SCSC. “This is a very important moment for us,” said Nuristani. “We welcome General Huntoon here and appreciate his validation of our course,” he said, referring to the U.S. commandant’s address to the Afghan class. “In time, this will be one of the most elite in Afghanistan.”

“The trip confirmed for us that we need to continue to focus on the development of senior leaders who can think and operate at the strategic level in complex and ambiguous situations,” said COL Helis. “The trip allowed us to interact directly with recent graduates so we could hear from them how well the curriculum prepared them for their assignments. I think we also gained a somewhat better understanding of our students’ experiences in theater, having been there, however briefly. I became much, much more knowledgeable about the war in



FOUNDING FATHER Elihu Root, Secretary of War under President Theodore Roosevelt, established the United States Army War College under General Order 155 on November 27, 1901.

Afghanistan, as well as the role of 3d Army as the CENTCOM Army component command. All of this will shape how we look at future curriculum development.

“We have to keep in the front of our minds that our work here at the Army War College is a critical component of the preparation of the senior officers who are challenged with leading our Armed Forces in a time of war,” said COL Helis. “How well we at the Army War College perform our duties ultimately contributes to winning and helps save lives.” **GX**



Up-and-coming officers, Soldiers and anyone else who has a desire to learn more about the Army and its worldwide operations can go to the following Web site to access more information: www.carlisle.army.mil/index.shtml.

EDGE OF THE WORLD

Dingak, Afghanistan

U.S. Army SGT Munraj Singh, of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, ILARNG, looks out over the village of Dingak, Afghanistan, Jan. 3, 2007, while Soldiers with his unit search for possible enemy observation posts and weapons caches.

DoD photo by SSG Michael L. Casteel, U.S. Army (Released)



Distance from Illinois to Afghanistan: 6,974 miles



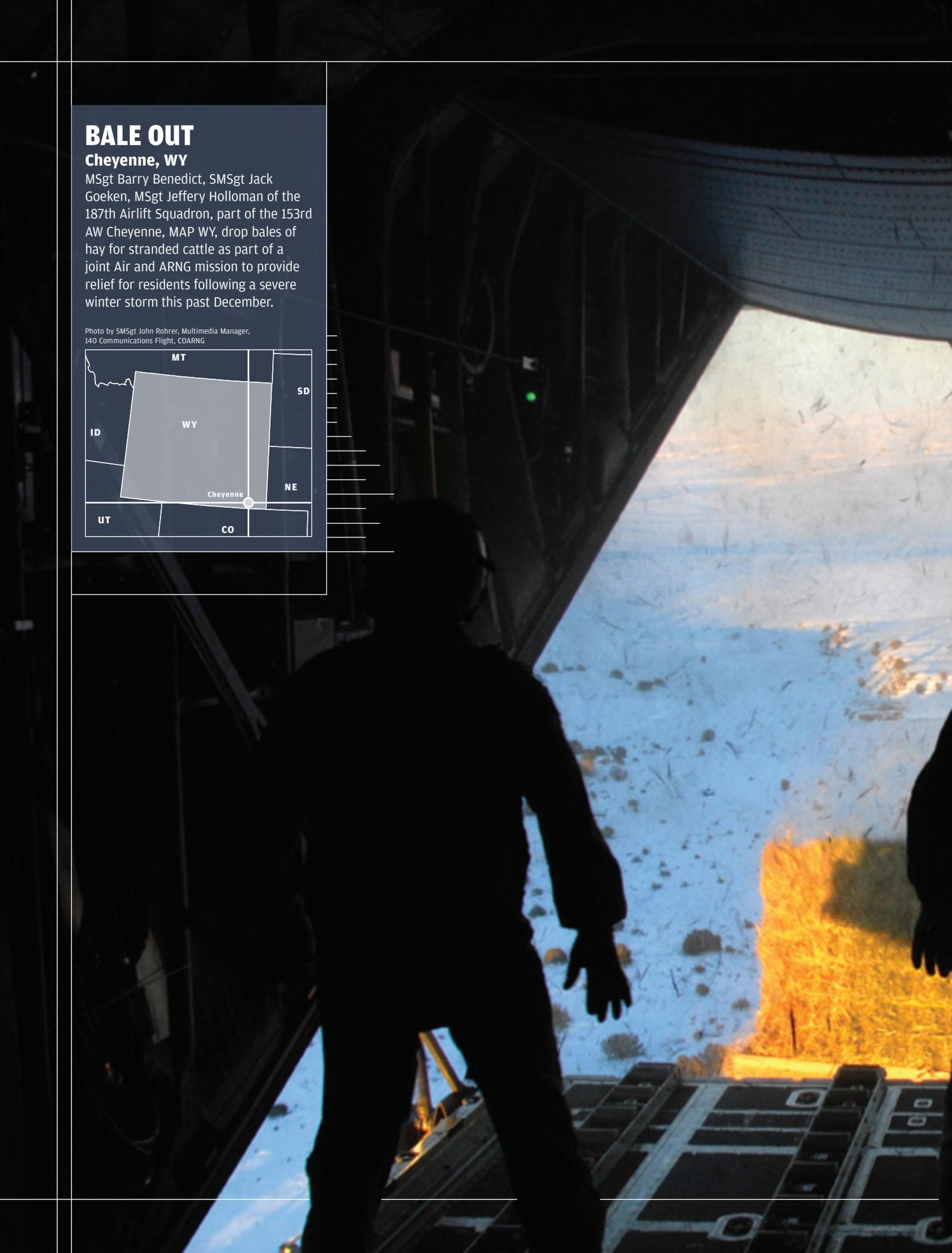


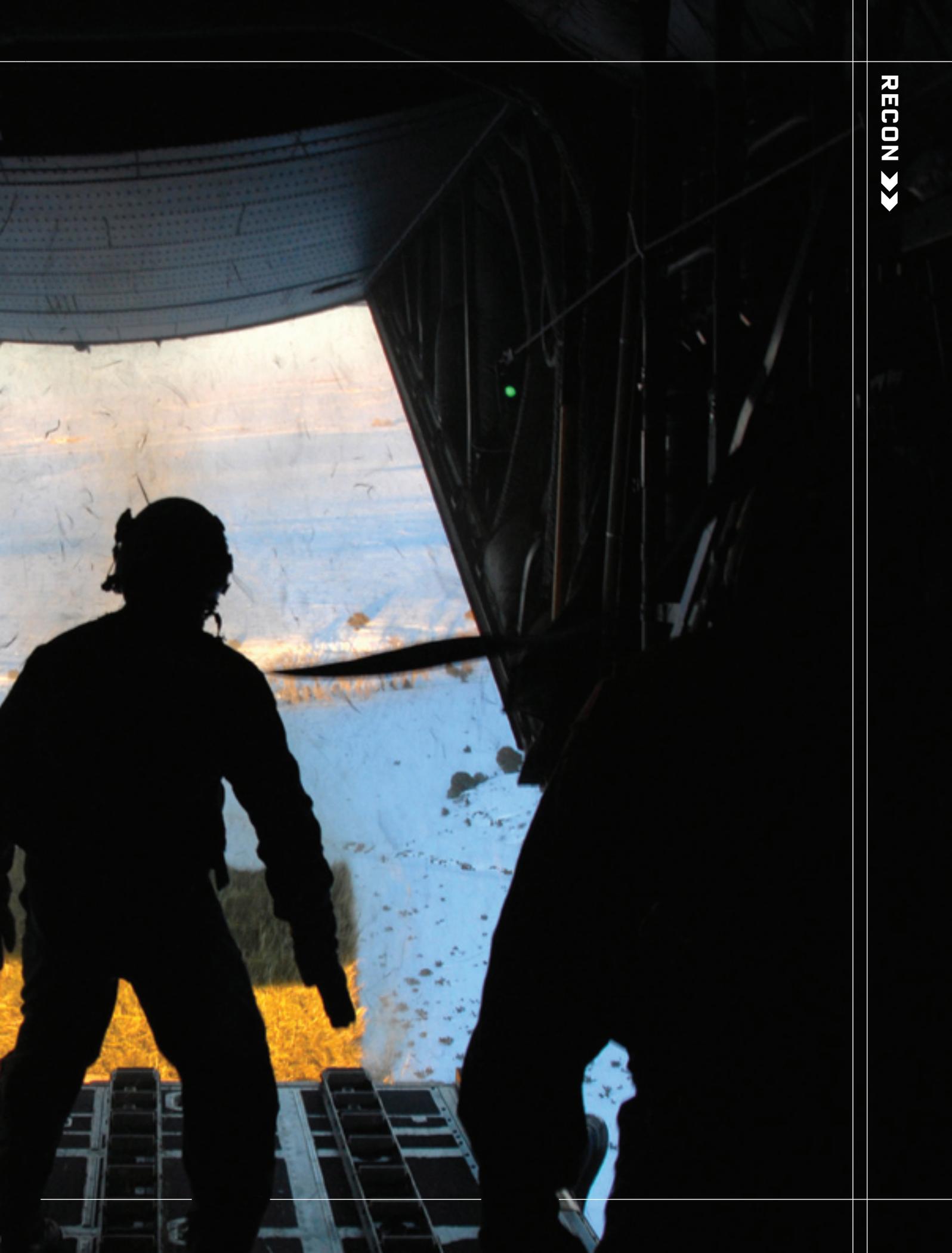
BALE OUT

Cheyenne, WY

MSgt Barry Benedict, SMSgt Jack Goeken, MSgt Jeffery Holloman of the 187th Airlift Squadron, part of the 153rd AW Cheyenne, MAP WY, drop bales of hay for stranded cattle as part of a joint Air and ARNG mission to provide relief for residents following a severe winter storm this past December.

Photo by SMSgt John Rohrer, Multimedia Manager, 140 Communications Flight, COARNG





RECON >>





JOINT TRAINING

In Arta, Djibouti

SGT Mijung Kim, left, observes U.S. Marine Corps SGT John Rheuby fire an M-24 rifle during joint training with the Marines from 5th Provisional Security Company. SGT Kim is deployed with the Guam Army National Guard's Team Charlie, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment and SGT Rheuby is assigned to 5th PSC.

Photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Eric A. Clement



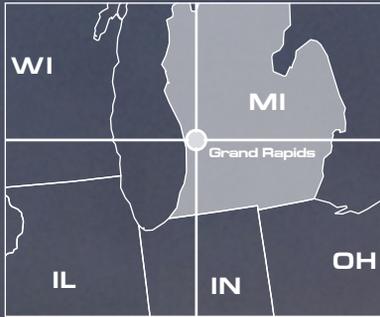
Distance from Guam to Djibouti: 7,910 miles

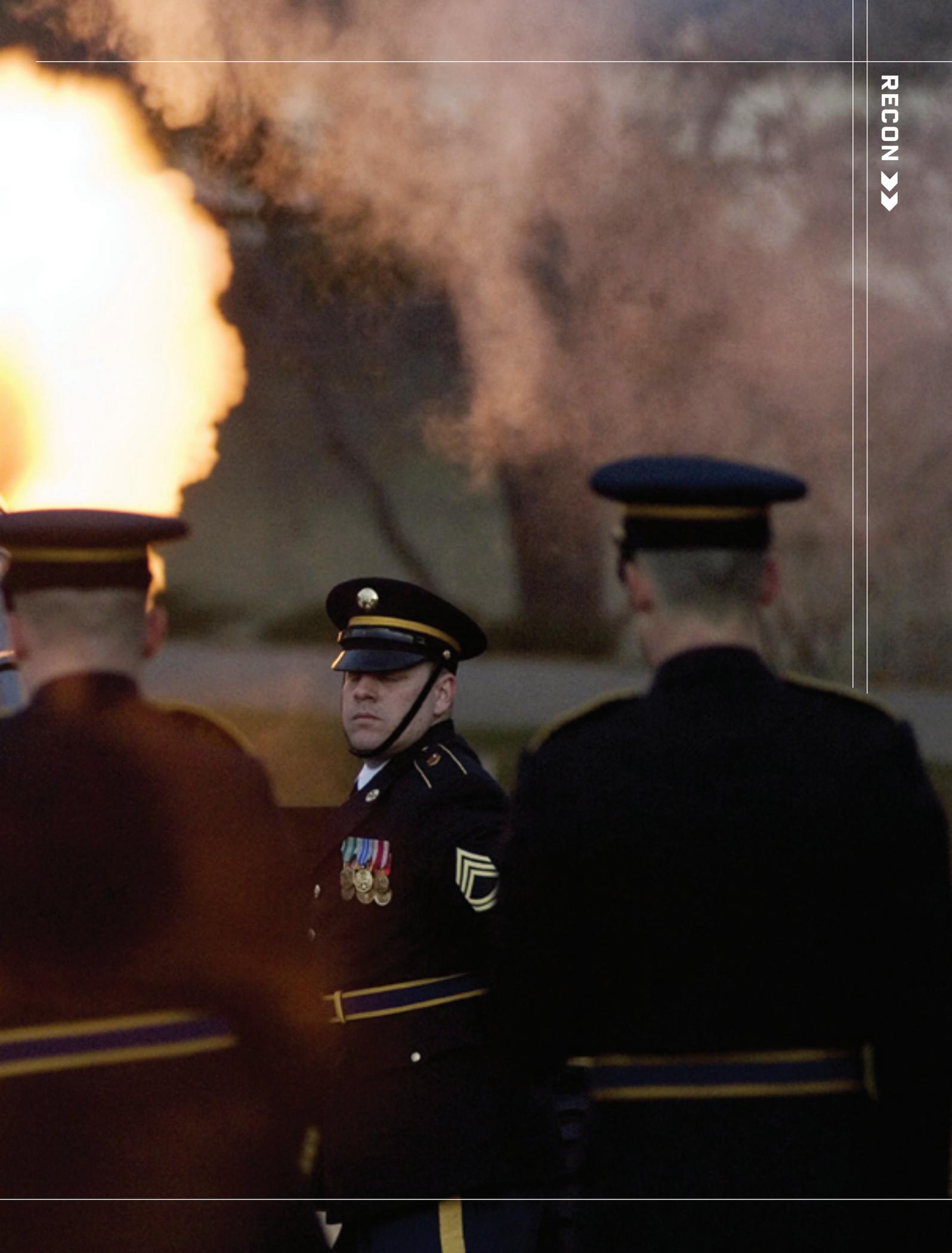
FINAL SALUTE

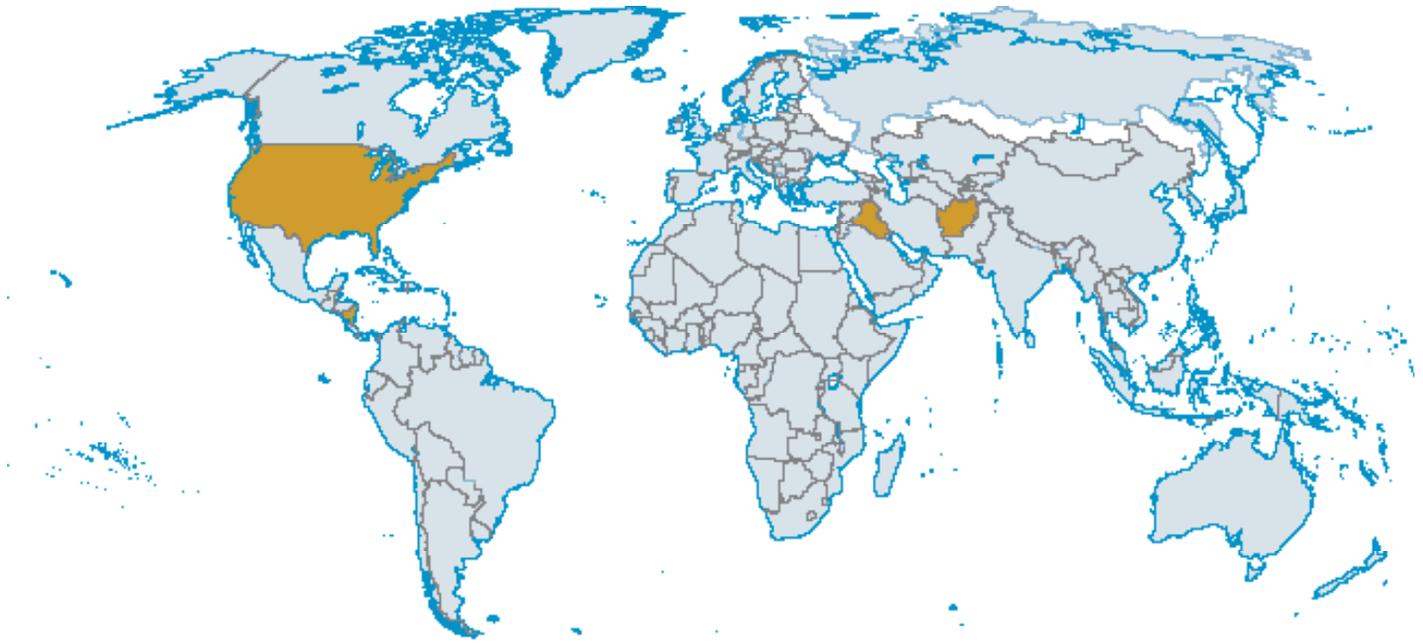
Grand Rapids, MI

U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 119th Field Artillery Regiment, MIARNG fire off a cannon during a 21-gun salute honoring former President Gerald R. Ford at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, MI, Jan. 3, 2007.

DoD photo by TSGT Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr., USAF (Released)







VICTORY MAP

Sharing the good news from Guard units around the world.

Send your news to editor@gxonline.com.



UNITED STATES

North Carolina

With the assistance of an America Supports You (www.americasupportsyou.com) member organization, Charlotte, NC, will observe its second annual "I Love America Day" on March 19. Flags Across the Nation, which promotes patriotism through the arts, is a member of America Supports You, a Defense Department program highlighting the ways Americans are supporting the nation's service members. Eileen Schwartz, Flags Across the Nation's founder, said she started the "I Love America Day" movement because more than two months pass before

Memorial Day without a patriotic holiday and to start a tradition of honoring America and its troops in that period.

Wyoming

The WYNG Counterdrug Program, with the support of Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Jim McBride, kicked off a six-city tour of a new video called "Freedom Calls" in Cheyenne late January, aimed at helping teens make the right life choices. "You are free to make the right choices, and sometimes one wrong choice can cost you everything," McBride said to the 523 students in the Cheyenne Civic Center. He told the story of how the valedictorian of his high school class experimented with drugs and has been in a mental institution since 1967. "Freedom Calls" interweaves a story line about a son whose father is deployed overseas through the National Guard with testimonials of how choices can change individual lives. The three-screen presentation also incorporates popular rock music videos

and graphics to deliver the message of choosing what's best when dealing with negative situations.

Virginia

The National Military Family Association (www.NMFA.org) announced a new partnership with The Military Channel to expand the association's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program. The Military Channel is sponsoring the initiative this year, allowing NMFA to provide additional scholarships to a larger number of deserving military spouses and bringing added exposure and visibility to the program. Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships normally range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board. Spouses of Uniformed Service members (Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees and survivors) of any branch or rank are eligible to apply. Scholarship applications are accepted online through March 15, 2007.

Arizona

Dave Liniger, chairman of the board and co-founder of RE/MAX International Inc., in January at the Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Event in Scotts-

dale, AZ, bid \$1 million to win "Warrior One," a refurbished Hummer that CNN employed during the Iraq War. All proceeds from this auction go to benefit the Fisher House Foundation, an organization that builds "comfort homes" for families of hospitalized military personnel. In addition to Liniger's successful \$1 million bid, Dave Ressler, a Corvette car dealer and another bidder in the auction, donated \$250,000 to Fisher House.

Florida

The FLNG joined forces with MaxPreps—a high school sports Web site—to congratulate Lakeland High School in Lakeland, FL, on their outstanding football season. The Lakeland High "Dreadnaughts" were honored as one of the 25 top-ranked high school football teams in the country on the "MaxPreps Tour of Champions."

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, deployed from Orlando to help Central Floridians recover from Feb. 2 tornadoes that left widespread devastation in several Florida counties and killed 19 people. Thousands were left without power, and FL Gov. Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency in Lake, Sumter, Seminole and Volusia counties. Guard officials report that initially, around 50 Soldiers helped distribute water and ice and provided support as

needed. FLNG aircraft flew Crist, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and Florida National Guard Adjutant General MG Douglas Burnett over the area just hours after the storms cut through the heart of the state during the early morning hours of Feb. 2. The National Weather Service estimates the F3 tornado had winds of 140 to 160 mph.

Rhode Island

On Feb. 3, a change of command ceremony was held at Camp Fogarty, RI. CPT Charles R. Mulcahy assumed command of the 115th Military Police Company.

Virginia

Family members and friends were on hand to welcome home more than 150 Soldiers from the 654th Military Police Company following more than a year in Iraq during a ceremony Jan. 7 at the Virginia War Memorial.

Georgia

Atlanta businessman, Sunny K. Park, was presented the National Guard Youth Challenge Lifetime Achievement Award during the National Guard Youth Challenge Program Annual Workshop 2007 held in Carefree, AZ, in Jan. Park was again recognized for this achievement on Feb. 27, at the National Guard Youth Challenge Foundation “Champions” Dinner in Washington. Since first visiting the GANG’s Youth Challenge campus at Fort Stewart in 2000, Park has become one of the program’s strongest and most supportive advocates. In an effort to expand the learning experience and to provide his own personal success formula, Park initiated and funded the Good Neighboring Campaign’s “Korea Day.” This program brings a group of native Koreans to GA’s Youth Challenge campuses to present Korea’s culture including its history, the preparation of a traditional Korean meal and a demonstration of the ancient Korean martial art of Tae-Kwon-Do.

North Dakota

ND Guard hosted a special training session to help educators and other persons that work with children recognize and deal with issues and problems facing the children of deployed servicemen and women. The Military Child Education Coalition conducted the two-day session “Supporting Children and Families of the Guard and Reserve Institute” at the Bismarck Best Western-

Doublewood Inn Jan. 25 and 26. Over 90 educators and other professionals from across the state registered for the event.

Texas

Thanks to the generosity of 600,000 Americans, wounded warriors now have a \$50 million state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation facility. The Center for the Intrepid, designed for service members wounded in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, opened at Fort Sam Houston Jan. 29, along with two new Fisher Houses during a ceremony that included speeches from Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine GEN Peter Pace, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey. R. James Nicholson, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, also spoke at the ceremony.



NICARAGUA

Soldiers and Airmen loaded three SDARNG UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters aboard a C-5A Galaxy aircraft on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Ellsworth Air Force Base in preparation for a humanitarian assistance exercise in Nicaragua. This joint operation between the U.S. Air Force and the SDARNG is in support of a humanitarian assistance exercises in Nicaragua known as New Horizons, which involves construction of schools, clinics and water wells in countries throughout the U.S. Southern Command region. These humanitarian assistance exercises, which last several months each, provide much needed services and infrastructure, while providing critical training for deployed U.S. military forces. These exercises generally take place in rural, underprivileged areas. The helicopters loaded belong to Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation, which is an SDARNG air-ambulance unit based in Rapid City. Approximately 125 Soldiers from the Guard unit will be providing general aviation and casualty evacua-

tion from Feb. 4 to May 6 in support of the exercise in Nicaragua.



AFGHANISTAN

After five months of traveling up and down Udh Keyl Power Plant Street in Afghanistan, the 180th Infantry’s Commander, LTC Bobby Yandell and the 41st Brigade Combat Team’s Commander, BG Douglas Pritt, decided a change was needed for the people of Udh Kehyl village. In late November, the 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry began making repairs to the badly neglected road using the Commanders Emergency Relief Projects (C.E.R.P.) program. This is the first road construction project the battalion has undertaken. The highly-traveled road was chosen for repair because it is crucial to the development of the heavy-populated section of Kabul in which it is located. And, now repaired, the road has improved the area’s ability to be self-sufficient. The project took about two months at a cost of \$98,500. During the road construction project, the battalion continued working on other infrastructure repair projects, including building schools and drilling water wells.



IRAQ

Three Soldiers from the 129th MPAD, a Guard unit with headquarters in South Dakota and a detachment in North Dakota, recently traveled to Iraq to work with the MN Guard’s 1/34th Brigade Combat Team. SFC Kenneth Baer, Garrison, ND, SPC Eric Jungels, St. Cloud, MN, and SPC Patrick Ziegler, Mitchell, SD, traveled to Tallil Air Base/Logistical Support Area Adder in south central Iraq to complete their mission. During their eight days on

the ground in Iraq, the 129th Soldiers worked closely with members of the 1/34th Red Bulls facilitating more than 40 interviews with the Red Bulls and their hometown media outlets. They participated in five missions “outside the wire” in order to gather photographs and video and to learn what daily life was like for the 1/34th.

The 130th Field Artillery Brigade initiated the rebuilding of the Makasib Water Plant, a facility that has been suffering since before the U.S. presence in Iraq. The small farming community on the outskirts of Baghdad celebrated the dedication of its new water plant in early December 2006. After several years of sub-standard living conditions, the citizens of Makasib, Iraq, were given the tools required to enjoy a clean glass of drinking water, free from the contaminants and pollutants previously affecting them. The 130th Field Artillery Brigade Non-Lethal Effects section, led by MAJ Kirk Pederson, was instrumental in accomplishing this task. Guard Soldiers provide a diverse array of civilian job skills that aid in mission accomplishment. MAJ Pederson, a financial advisor in the civilian sector, used his organizational, interpersonal and planning capabilities to help facilitate project management.

After a meeting between a Coalition commander and an Imam of an Iraqi village, the 1-149th “Mountain Warriors,” KYARNG, delivered enough food to feed 300 people for a week—within 48 hours of the request.

On November 3, 2006, Task Force WOLVERINE (1/34th BCT) delivered medical supplies to the Al Batha clinic in southern Iraq. The medical supplies for the Al Batha clinic included orthopedic braces, crutches, an electrocardiogram (EKG) machine and additional supplies. The supplies, valued at over \$30,000, were donated by organizations from Little Falls, MN, including Little Falls Family Medical Center, Little Falls Orthopedics and St. Gabriel’s Hospital to help increase the capabilities of the clinic, which serves a city of more than 100,000 Iraqis. The mission into Al Batha was the culmination of months of planning and coordination between Soldiers in Iraq, the WOLVERINE rear detachment and the Little Falls Medical Group. **GX**

Instincts Help Convoy Security Team Neutralize Threat



GRINDING HALT Semi trucks stretch for several miles during a security halt, under the watch of the 2-136th, in western Iraq.

By SPC Dustin Perry, 1/34th BCT PAO

Thirty seconds.

Within a short sliver of time, a dozen U.S. Soldiers, conducting a routine convoy operation, endured an engagement with the enemy under the Baghdad twilight, quickly and safely quashed the threat with a textbook reaction, and came away with a war story they will be able to take home and tell to their grandkids one day.

Answering to the radio call sign “Earthpig 66,” the 12 members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment convoy logistics patrol team regularly escort supply trucks and other vehicles to and from countless locations all throughout Iraq.

During the evening hours of Jan. 7, the team hit the road from Camp Taji for a convoy that would take them about 200 miles in the southeast direction. Only a few hours into an otherwise routine mission, they encountered the first of many obstacles the night had in store for them.

“At approximately 10 p.m., we came up on an improvised explosive device in the middle of the road,” said SSG Steven Davis, convoy commander.

After securing the area, they heard a loud explosion to the west of their position, according to SSG Davis.

“[Then], we had an Iraqi Army convoy come up that had stopped about 50 meters behind us, roughly,” said SSG Davis, a native of Owatonna, MN. “Our rear gunner could see people running around their vehicles, and he called me up to let me know what was going on.”

The gunner, SPC Alexander Jimenez of Tacoma, WA, said the Iraqi Soldiers were telling him they had at least two of their own Soldiers who were dead and an unknown amount of wounded after being hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) and coming under rifle fire. SSG Davis sent his No. 3 vehicle to the rear to assess the scene.

“They had a lot of guys with gunshot and shrapnel wounds,” said SGT Josh Day, of Belview, MN, and non-commissioned officer in charge of the convoy. “I told them to bring their wounded up to us because we weren’t going to run around to the back of their convoy; we needed to secure our own.”

SGT Day instructed an Iraqi Army captain to split the injured Soldiers into two groups, “which ones were worse or better.” He then told his medic, PFC Joshua Livingston of Minneapolis, they were going to have to call in a few helicopters and execute a small-scale medical evacuation for what they thought was only a few people.

“From there, it just escalated into a mass casualty evacuation—like that,” said SGT Day, with a quick snap of his fingers. “They just kept coming. They had wounded that were being carried by other Iraqi Army. They were bringing trucks up that had even more wounded in them and a lot more who were dead.”

With the increasingly complex situation, the rear Humvee in the convoy was immediately called to provide assistance. The driver, SPC Steven Rockwell, a second medic in the Earthpig 66 patrol and a native of Cookville, TN, began administering medical care and helping with the evacuation.

Less than an hour after the convoy stopped, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team destroyed both the IED and an additional explosive device. Establishing a landing zone (LZ) for the incoming aircraft and



KINGS OF THE ROAD Members of the 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment's "Earthpig 66" convoy logistics patrol team, just weeks after enduring a Jan. 7 fire fight against enemy combatants near Baghdad.

continuing the medical evacuation were the next priorities, according to SGT Day.

"We had already triaged all the patients who were getting ready to be medically evacuated," said PFC Livingston. "The first two helicopters were on the ground, so we immediately started loading the injured. At that time, I think one of the Iraqi Soldiers was yelling that a truck pulled up. He

yelled, 'Enemy!' and he notified us that we had an unidentified vehicle in the area."

The vehicle had been creeping up from the side of the road. Shortly after being spotted, someone exited the truck and began running toward the convoy and firing, according to CPL Aaron Glasscock, a gunner from Opelousas, LA.

"I started popping flares in the vicinity of where they had seen the truck," said CPL Glasscock. "We started taking fire, and bullets were impacting all around the truck. I saw one guy, an insurgent, moving about 75 meters in front of me. He was firing and moving up closer to our position. That's when I opened up with my M-240 machine gun. I fired maybe a 40-round burst. As soon as I did that, I noticed a building about 25 meters in front of where I engaged the first enemy," continued CPL Glasscock. "Small-arms fire and muzzle flashes were coming out of the windows, so I immediately turned my weapon and started engaging the building. At about the same time, the Iraqi Army guys on the ground saw where our tracer rounds were flying and about 30 or 40 of them started opening fire on the same building."

CPL Glasscock fired a single shot from his M-203 grenade launcher, which ended the enemy's engagement after about half a minute, and a cease-fire was called. One Iraqi Soldier was slightly wounded during the fire fight.

"In a matter of seconds, the threat was completely neutralized," said SGT Day. "At that point, we started right back up with our medical evacuation sequence. We advised the medevac team that we were not receiving any more fire. The LZ was clear for them to return."

A total of 12 Iraqi casualties were evacuated to a nearby medical treatment facility, according to PFC Livingston. Communication with

the Iraqi Army went really smooth throughout the ordeal. Everyone involved was organized and coordinated, he added.

Many of the 2-136th Soldiers also lauded their Iraqi counterparts for the quick and decisive way they reacted during the fire fight, despite the fact that several of them were already injured from the previous attack.

"The Iraqi Soldiers were tough," said CPL Glasscock. "They had one truck that rolled up with bullet holes in the doors. The guy who was sitting on that side, he got out and he had matching bullet holes all up and down his body. He got out of the truck and stood up. He lifted his shirt to show us he had been hit, but he said he was okay."

Asked how his Soldiers handled the attack, rSG Joseph Persing, the TC in the scout truck, said it "was kind of a remarkable deal."

"It was a basic situation when it first started and it turned into a complex situation, which they handled very well," said rSG Persing, a native of Heron Lake, MN. "It was something that you only train on a little bit, but when we were put in the actual situation, it appeared to me that it was like second nature."

SGT Day echoed the remark, saying he was "highly impressed" with the way the other Soldiers in his company reacted.

"It was instinct over feelings," said SGT Day. "We had a situation, we had a lot of wounded, we needed security, but we still had our primary mission to complete."

Close to 11:30 p.m., the convoy was back on the road. The remainder of the trip was without incident. SGT Day said the attack hasn't done anything to set his team back or slow them down. He said they are being totally proactive and taking the event as a learning experience.

"We had a traumatic event, but it goes on all over theater," said SGT Day. "Everybody who runs missions outside the wire will eventually have to deal with something similar to what we experienced. We're part of the big plan in this country, so we can't just say, 'Hey, we did our good deed.' We've still got an important piece of the puzzle to finish. We have just got to keep going." **GX**

Extended Stay

Courtesy of JAG: Notes from the Command
Judge Advocate and 1/34th BCT PAO

The 1/34th BCT, along with many other Soldiers currently deployed in Iraq, have had their mission extended as part of the current surge in troop strength. Even with the additional time in country, morale among the Soldiers of the 1/34th remains high. The current plan calls for the Bulls to continue with the mission that they have accomplished so well. As LTC Larry Herke, the 1/34th's Executive Officer said; "The Red Bulls can honestly say they are the best in the world at the theater security mission. We have all the cutting-edge training, equipment and vehicles. We certainly are disappointed by the delayed homecoming, but there is no doubt, we are the best Soldiers for this mission."

In order to assist Soldiers and their families with any questions they might have, we have pulled together a list of some commonly asked questions.



EXTENSION FAQs

📍 Do I need to update my power of attorney?

Many Soldiers prepared powers of attorney naming someone as attorney-in-fact to assist them while deployed. Most of those powers of attorney expire on a specific date you selected. If that date is prior to August of 2007, you may need to sign a new power of attorney to cover the additional time we will be in Iraq.

📍 Do I still get the benefit of a 6% interest rate on debts acquired prior to activation?

Yes, but your creditors most likely expected your return from active duty based on the expiration date of your mobilization orders. If your orders are extended as part of the extension, you should send a new copy of your orders with a letter telling your creditors that you remain on active duty. If you do not follow up with your creditors, they will most likely assume you returned as scheduled, and raise your interest rate to the contract interest rate effective the date your orders expired.

📍 I deferred my student loans when I left. Do I need to take any additional action?

If you deferred student loan payments, you will need to update the deferral period based on your extended orders.

📍 My civilian employer expected me to return in the spring of 2007, what about my job?

Due to the very long time since 1/34 BCT Soldiers left their jobs for active duty, it is more likely than not the exact position you left will be filled. You are entitled, however, to a job with your old employer equivalent in pay, responsibility, chance of advancement and seniority as if you had not left. Your re-employment rights apply for up to 60 months of cumulative active-duty service while working for a particular employer.

📍 My spouse wants to file our taxes to get a tax refund, can she do so with me in Iraq?

You are entitled to an extension of time to file your taxes because of your service in Iraq. The revenue service states they will accept a tax filing from your spouse with an attached statement that you are serving in a qualified

combat zone. To give someone the authority to file your taxes for you, they will need an IRS form 2848, tax power of attorney. The form is available at www.irs.gov, and can be easily completed by your tax preparer or legal assistance attorney. The legal office does not offer tax filing services.

📍 How do I offer help to the families?

The first and best response is to simply be there for them. If you know a family of a deployed Soldier, ask them if they need help finding information or forming questions to ask the military, or help them find an established assistance resource. These are great things any friend or neighbor can do. Watch their kids, shovel their driveway, or just call and say hello. Communities can certainly band together and help with reaching out to children. Serve as role models and help those children remember they are still a child. They carry a heavy load when mom or dad is gone and need reassurance, love and support.

📍 Are counseling services available to help my children/family cope with the stresses of our Soldier's deployment and/or extension?

There are several sources of counseling services provided for you and your family. **Military One Source**, (800) 342-9647, is a free 24/7 service for military families. The number is answered immediately by a professional who can help you. **Troop and Family Counseling Services for National Guard and Reserves**, (888) 755-9355, is another free 24/7 service for families. The phone number is answered 24/7 by a professional who can help you. Your TRICARE insurance will cover behavioral mental health counseling for you and your family. You can also go to www.triwest.com, click on the "find a provider" tab, enter your ZIP code and behavioral mental health providers in your area will be listed on the screen. These providers accept TRICARE. If you don't have internet access, you can call (888) 874-9378. Additionally, unit chaplains can be one of the best sources of help available.

For more information, visit the "Redeployment" page at www.redbullweb.com



Red Bulls History

Part VI: Italy and Home

By MAJ Jack Johnson, MNARNG (retired)

ITALY

In the brutal winter fighting of 1943-1944, the Red Bull lost thousands of its men. Finally relieved in mid-February and given a month's rest, the 34th was sent into action again in March—this time to Anzio. Allied commanders had decided to bypass the Gustav Line and establish a narrow beachhead at Anzio, but powerful German attacks were preventing Allied forces from moving inland.

The division's breakout finally came May 23, followed by the drive on Rome. Men of the 135th Regiment were among the first to enter the city on June 4, 1944, and mopped up snipers that evening in the vicinity of the Coliseum. The 133rd Regiment, in the meantime, was taking the vital port of Civitavecchia northwest of Rome. Elsewhere, off the coast of Normandy, Allies were about to invade France. Germany was now defending itself on three fronts.

After Rome, the division continued its drive up the boot of Italy through heavily entrenched German positions. Resistance was dogged, but declining in strength as the 34th rooted Germans out of Belvedere, San Vincenzo, Cecina, Rosignano, Leghorn, and Pisa, among others. Then came the Arno River, the Gothic Line along the Apennines, and finally a bold campaign for the Po River Valley, which contained 80 percent of Italy's war industries.

The final offensive came in April 1945. The German retreat became a rout as their supplies ran out, and on May 2, 1945, the remnants of the LXXV German Corps, totaling over 40,000 men, surrendered to the Red Bulls near Milan (ironically, the surrendered troops included the 34th German Division). The war in Europe came

to an end a few days later, with some elements of the division on the borders of France and Switzerland.

HOME

After occupation duty, the victorious division sailed from Naples in October for the USA. Its men were mustered out and the division deactivated on November 3, 1945, at Camp Patrick Henry, VA.

"Attack, attack, attack," had become the division's slogan early in its fighting career. With that battle cry, it had gone on to complete a

record that included: 517 days of frontline combat in five major campaigns (more combat days than any other American division in any theater of the war, with some elements of the division credited with over 600 days); 21,362 casualties (3,737 killed, 14,165 wounded, 3,460 missing in action); 11 Medals of Honor; 98 Distinguished Service Crosses; and 1,072 Silver Stars.

In addition to the personal awards and decorations, the division garnered three Presidential Unit Citations, 15 Unit Commendations and 525 separate division citations. The French government awarded the 34th the Croix de Guerre With Palms for gallantry in action alongside French troops. The 100th "Nisei" Infantry Battalion, composed of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent and attached to

the 34th for much of the Italian Campaign, became the most highly decorated battalion in the US Army.

But for men of the 34th, the victory over Germany was bittersweet. Not only had the price of their victory come high, it was their unfortunate lot that once the Allies hit the beaches at Normandy, Italy became a forgotten front. Even when the division returned to the U.S, it was inactivated in obscurity and its men dismissed without fanfare or so much as a final parade. **GX**



EASTER SOLACE An American soldier, part of the Red Bull Regiment, in Italy on Easter Sunday, 1945.

Stick With It—The Reward Will be Worth It

By Johanna Altland
Grantham University

Have you considered dropping out of college or taking a leave of absence? You certainly aren't the only one. Sometimes life's responsibilities and commitments can be overwhelming, especially for adult students juggling work and family. But sticking with your plan and earning your degree will be well worth it in the end.

You may have decided to earn your degree to fulfill a lifelong goal, to increase your salary potential or to increase your opportunity for promotion. Whatever the case may be, your decision was a step in the right direction.

Research shows that the amount of education it takes to succeed in today's business environment has increased dramatically compared to just five or 10 years ago. A high school education no longer guarantees you a "living wage." Now, an advanced degree and ongoing career training are the best ways to increase your earning potential and job security.

A recent article in *The Occupational Outlook Quarterly – Fall 2006* by the Bureau of Labor Statistics states: "Data consistently shows that, on average, college graduates earn more money, experience less unemployment, and have a wider variety of career options than other workers do. A college degree also makes it easier for job seekers to enter many of the fastest-growing, highest-paying occupations."

So, if you are in school right now, that is good news! And, if you plan to graduate in the next three to six months, that is even better news!

There is a great deal of opportunity waiting for you when you graduate from college. The important thing to remember is to stay motivated and on target because the road to life is easier to travel with a college education. The decision is clear—stay in school and finish what you started.

WAYS TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Military service members have many options when it comes to paying for college. From military tuition assistance to scholarships and grants, you can find a way to make earning your degree an affordable option. Below, you will find a little bit of information

about some of your financial aid choices. For more detailed information, please talk with representatives at your base Education Center.

Military Tuition Assistance

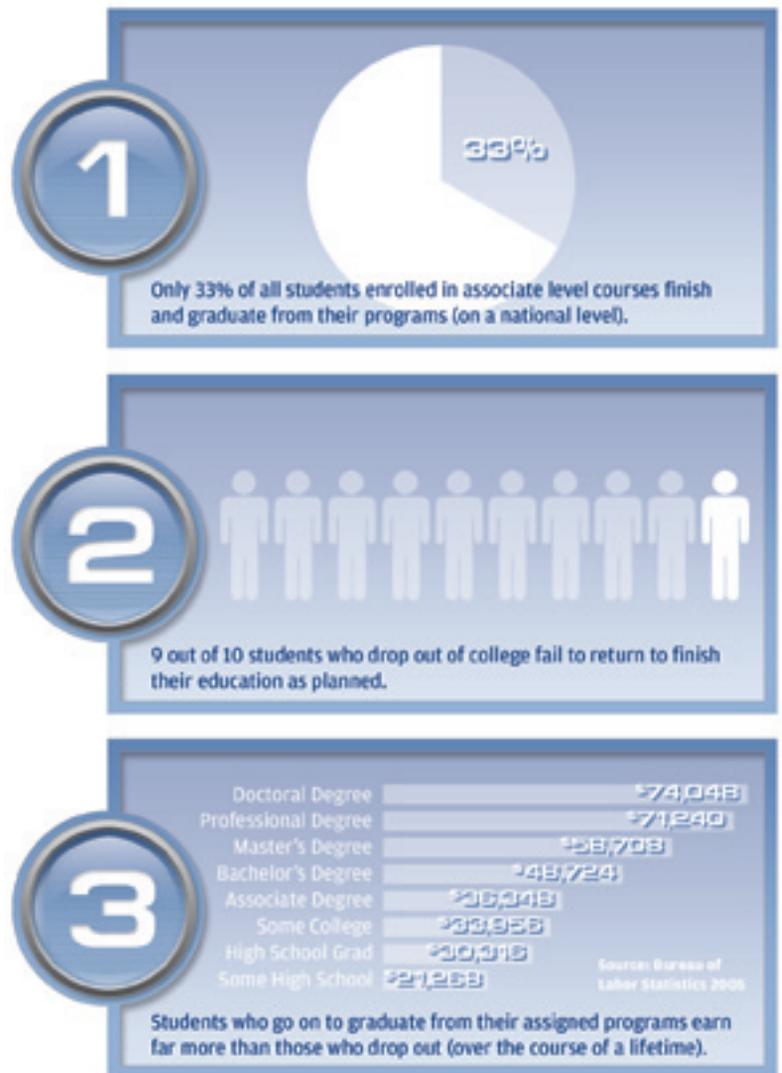
The Tuition Assistance program provides funding for service members continuing education and is available to all eligible Soldiers (officers, warrant officers, enlisted) on active duty, as well as Army National Guard and Army Reserve members on active duty. Tuition Assistance pays up to \$250 per credit hour not to exceed the fiscal year cap. Army National Guard and Reserve members

who are not currently on active duty should check with their education office to determine availability of tuition assistance funds. Each military branch has its own eligibility requirements, application process, and fiscal year caps.

Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB)

The Montgomery G.I. Bill provides up to 36 months of educational assistance for a variety of training, including an undergraduate or graduate degree at a college or university, or a cooperative training program. Active-duty service members can use MGIB benefits up to 10 years from the date of your last discharge

Three Critical Reasons You Should Stay in School



or release from active duty; and for Selected Reserve, your benefits end 14 years from the date of your eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. More information on eligibility requirements is available at: www.gibill.com

G.I. Bill “Top-Up”

If you are eligible for the Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) and are using Tuition Assistance, you may qualify for “Top-up.” If tuition and expenses exceed \$250 per credit hour, a service member eligible for MGIB can elect to receive MGIB benefits for all or part of the remaining expenses. For more information on this program and eligibility, visit: www.gibill.com/topup.cfm

Scholarships and Grants

Many scholarships and grants are available for military service members through local service organizations like the American Legion, or you can use sites like Scholarship Gateway, Scholarship Resource Network Express or Scholarships.com to find thousands of ways to fund your education.

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

In addition to the resources below, check with the college or university that you plan to attend. Many of them offer tuition grants and scholarships for military service members, Veterans, and military family members.

Military Spouse Resource Center

The Military Spouse Resource Center offers a variety of resources designed for military service members and their families. Using a search engine, you can look for scholarship opportunities and find out more information about military-friendly schools. For more information, visit: www.milspouse.org

Peterson’s Scholarship Search

Start planning early to secure financial aid for college. Peterson’s Scholarship Search connects you with more than 1.8 million scholarships, grants, and awards valued at \$7.9 billion. For more information, visit: www.petersons.com

Scholarship Resource Network Express

Scholarship Resource Network Express contains a database of over 8,000 programs with over 150,000 awards for undergraduate and postgraduate students. This database also includes student loan forgiveness programs for those who have graduated from college and need alternatives for repayment. For more information, visit: www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm

CollegeBoard.com

CollegeBoard.com created this online tool to help you locate scholarships, internships, grants and loans that match your education level, talents and background. Complete the brief questionnaire and Scholarship Search will find potential opportunities from our database of more than 2,300 sources of college funding. For more information, visit: apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_ss/welcome.jsp

Scholarships.com

Scholarships.com is a free resource for college scholarships and financial aid information. The expansive scholarship database is updated regularly—every visit to Scholarships.com provides new opportunities. You can sort scholarships by deadline, dollar amount and relevancy. For more information, visit: www.scholarships.com **GX**

To learn more about a special **GX**® magazine scholarship announcement for members of the Army National Guard, visit:

www.grantham.edu/promo/educatetheguard.php

MOTIVATIONAL TIPS

-  **Make a personal commitment**
-  **Set goals and chart progress**
-  **Talk about what you are learning**
-  **Get active**
-  **Stay positive**
-  **Reward yourself**
-  **Set aside “me” time**
-  **Acknowledge your achievements**

National Guard Family Assistance Centers

Serving Our Military Families

By Tom Mylin
NGB Family Program Marketing Coordinator

Over 300 years have passed since settlers in each of the colonies formed militias for their own defense. These colonial militias protected their fellow citizens from tribal attack, foreign invaders and later helped to win the Revolutionary War. Following our independence, Congress provided for organizing and arming the militia, thus the National Guard for each state was set in motion.

From that humble beginning, the men and women of our states' National Guards have served with dedication to support our country's beliefs, but they have not done this alone. Supporting our Guard members and their families both when they are home and deployed is the reason for the existence of the National Guard Family Program. The National Guard Family Program supports Guard members and their families by leveraging resources and training, and capitalizing on new capabilities through education, outreach service and partnerships.

At some time during a service member's duty, he or she could potentially be deployed. It is during a deployment that families deal with increased responsibilities, which can increase stress. The National Guard Family Program provides resources and referrals during deployment through Family Assistance Center (FAC) Specialists who are available 24/7 to support and sustain families.

These FAC Specialists are available in each state and territory to overcome the geographic isolation of both Active and Reserve Component families from the services normally provided by Active Duty installations. As of May 2006, 353 FACs are employed in all 50 states and four territories. The FAC Specialists not only offer support to families during deployment, but also provide services to help service members and families throughout the pre-deployment and



ALL IN THE FAMILY CSM Albert Whatmough of HHC 1-107th Cavalry with wife Diana, daughter Tarah and son Jeffery. One of hundreds of families that have been helped by NGB FACs.

reintegration processes.

The FAC Specialists are more than just workers in support of the family of deployed service members. They are dedicated, understanding and willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that families are cared for and supported at all times and in every way.

There are numerous examples of how FAC Specialists have resolved family issues during deployment. One example involves a young wife and her 10-month-old son, whose service member deployed to Iraq. Soon after his deployment, she discovered that the service member's pay was not being deposited into the family account. She was unable to contact her husband, had no other family to contact and was unaware of whom to contact to get

the situation remedied. The only resource of which she was aware was the FAC Specialist associated with her husband's unit.

When the call came in, the first thing the FAC Specialist did was listen. As she and the young woman developed a rapport, the FAC Specialist began to gather the information she would need to solve the pay issue. It became evident very quickly that there were more immediate concerns. The young woman's food and baby necessities were in short supply and the landlord was threatening to evict.

The FAC Specialist provided the contact information for the United Way who supplied food, diapers and other necessities for her and the baby. She then contacted the local Unit Rear Detachment Office (RDO) to get the

The FAC personnel are more than just workers in support of the family of deployed service members. They are dedicated, understanding and willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that these families are taken care of and supported at all times and in every way.

pay issue resolved and invested much time educating the landlord regarding tenant rights during deployment. Through the dedicated efforts, the FAC Specialists, execution of the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and involvement of the JAG and a local judge, the mother and son were returned to their home and the service member's pay was routed to the appropriate account.

Another example of this extraordinary effort by an FAC Specialist was the arrangement of a video teleconference for Valentine's Day and Mother's Day with the U.S. Army Material Command in Fort Monmouth, NJ. A service member serving in Balad, Iraq had the opportunity to visit with his wife and three daughters. "It was cool. We saw dad and he saw us dance and sing for him," proclaimed one of the daughters.

In another case, the FAC Specialist arranged a live video of a baby's birth for a service member stationed in Iraq.

While these stories provide an example of how FACs take care of service members and their families, there are the six essential services they are required to provide (see sidebar).

As long as our service members are deployed, ongoing support for families is provided through the efforts of the FAC Specialists and through the Army and Air National Guard's Family Readiness Program. Who do they help? Family Assistance provides help to all service members and their families regardless of their branch of service. **GX**

To find a Family Assistance Center near you, visit the Web site, click on the "Local Community Resource Finder" and select Family Assistance Center from the category list.

www.guardfamily.org



NEW FAMILY SGT Joseph Morgan of HHC 1-107th Cavalry with wife Julie and child.

SIX ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Crisis Intervention and Referral provides assistance with domestic and child abuse. It also includes the abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult.

Legal Resource and Referral provides assistance with power of attorney and wills. It also includes information and assistance with Service Members Civil Relief Act, as well as assistance with referral for the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve.

Financial Resource and Referral covers help in understanding military pay, budgeting, and assistance with financial aid, grants and loan applications through such organizations as the Red Cross.

Tricare Resource and Referral includes general information on insurance benefits along with assisting with Tricare and Dental applications. Assists with finding local participating providers and with writing letters to challenge claim denials.

ID Cards and DEERS can provide understanding of what a family needs and thus assistance and information is given on the DEERS Rapids Centers, as well as assistance with obtaining ID cards.

Community Information and Outreach provides the resources for the FAC to accomplish what needs to be done to support the service members and their families. It is the list of community resources, the FAC's relationship with the community and the knowledge of those resources that the FACs can pull from to get the job done.



Looking for a Civilian Career?

By Sarah Hayes

Courtesy of Helmets to Hardhats and Hire A Hero

If you're on the job hunt, there are two great resources that you've got to check out. And they're free! Hire A Hero and Helmets to Hardhats both work to recognize the value of your military service by providing you with a good career that you can count on.

Helmets to Hardhats (www.helmetstohardhats.org) is a non-profit program that helps transitioning military personnel, National Guard members and Reservists find quality apprenticeship programs in the construction industry.

Hire A Hero (www.hireahero.com) is a non-profit program that helps transitioning military personnel, National Guard members, Reservists and their family members find careers across all industries.

Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a national program started in 2002 that connects National Guard, Reserve and transitioning Active Duty military members with quality career training and employment opportunities within the construction industry. The program is administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment and headquartered in Carlsbad, CA.

The program has experienced tremendous success in a short amount of time and has over 157,000 candidates registered. Through the proactive support and registrations of the building and construction trade unions, quality employers and JATCs, more than 86,000 careers are listed on the Helmets to Hardhats Web site and more than 38,000 candidates have applied for positions.

Every day, calls, letters and emails from successfully placed candidates pour into the Helmets to Hardhats headquarters, expressing

thanks and appreciation for what has been done for them. There is unbelievable emotion in the things that they tell us. Here are two perfect examples:

★ *Ricardo De Jesus transitioned from the U.S. Marine Corps and Army National Guard to a position as Second-Year PCC Apprentice, BAC Union 1 in New York, NY.*

My experiences while serving for the Marines and the Army National Guard helped me to start my life on a positive note. My uncle inspired me to join the Armed Services, and I am very thankful for his influence. I served overseas during Desert Storm and my family is very proud of me for that. The military taught me self-reliance and integrity, which I knew would help me throughout the rest of my life.

Separating from the military was not a smooth transition for me. Two days after I was informed that I would be separating, I was out. On top of that, the Transition



GRATEFUL RECIPIENT David Tucker (right) experienced great success with the Hire a Hero program.

Assistance Centers were too flooded with other transitioning men and women, so I was unable to utilize that program. I had no time to plan for my new life, and I was basically left with no resources. There is a huge difference between military and civilian life, and I was not prepared. I finally found employment with the United States Postal Service. It was a good job, but it just wasn't my cup of tea. I soon realized that this job would only be temporary.

My brilliant wife was helping me search for new jobs when she came across the Helmets to Hardhats program on the Internet. She got me registered, and I was rapidly on my way to a new career. The Union actually contacted me when they found my profile on the Helmets to Hardhats Web site. I guess they liked what they saw, and soon thereafter I interviewed and got the job.

I never knew that being in the military was such a big deal to potential employers. They like to hire us because we make up a quality workforce with experience, patience and endurance. I'm very happy to be working in a field where I can work with my hands, and maintain my good physical condition that I worked so hard for in the military. The union has a great pay scale, and when I graduate from the Apprenticeship School, I will be making even more money. I'm so thankful to my wife for helping me get started with Helmets to Hardhats. The program was exactly what I needed to help me find an amazing new career.

★ *Robert Hilton transitioned from the Army National Guard to Auto Technician at Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL.*



SUCCESS STORY Robert Hilton hard at work at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, thanks to Helmets to Hardhats.

It is tradition in my family to join the military once you graduate from high school. In order to follow in my forefather's footsteps, I, too, enlisted with pride and joined the Army National Guard. The job training provided by the Guard was another factor that led me to join. While serving for 15 years, I was trained as a Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic, but this military occupation turned out to be more than just a job. Due to the expert training I received in the Guard, I have been able to turn this exciting trade into a lifelong career.

While in the military, I not only learned to be a skilled vehicle mechanic, I also attended college classes and am very close to earning my degree. The Guard taught me how to be responsible, how to work together with my team, and the discipline to be a good Soldier on and off the battlefield. When it came time

tered and they are specifically looking to hire those who have military backgrounds.

Hire A Hero originated with two pilot programs, one in Georgia and the other in Florida. Funded by the National Guard in each respective state, the program provided Guard members and their families with civilian job search assistance. Today, Hire A Hero is sponsored by the 501(c)(3) non-profit AFSF and it serves military personnel and their families in every state.

Technology sits at the core of the Hire A Hero program. It provides the military community, as well as employers who want to support them, with a steady stream of useful information and services. Although technology is important, alone it does not make the effort a success; the real key is a linking of high tech with high touch. Hire A

HIRE A HERO WORKING FOR A CANDIDATE
It's really like having a personal assistant. Hire A Hero helped me find a great part time job. Honestly, I think if I work with them more, they can and will eventually get me the job of my dreams.—*David Tucker, Vitamin Shoppe*

HIRE A HERO WORKING FOR A RECRUITER
I just wanted to drop you a line to let you know that my Hire A Hero presentation went very well. It was given to a group of 45 recruiters, and I had many, many compliments. The out-of-state recruiters loved the program. I appreciate everything you have done for me and the material and support that you have given.—*SSG Michael Vasseur, Florida Army National Guard, Recruiting and Retention NCO. GX*

The program was exactly what I needed to help me find an amazing new career. —Ricardo De Jesus

for me to find a civilian job, the process was very quick and easy. I enrolled in the Helmets to Hardhats program, which I found while researching on the Internet. The Customer Service Representatives were constantly sending me email notices for hot jobs in my area. Some of them interested me, but there was one job that I was amazed to find was available near my home.

The Walt Disney Company was looking for vehicle mechanics, and I knew I was the perfect person for the job. Because I had 15 years of experience with this type of work, and because I was a military Veteran, the hiring manager at Walt Disney World was eager to speak with me. My interview went well and I was working within the week. I am very glad I have been able to continue my Guard career in the civilian job market. Being in this career has earned me a decent living, and I feel a sense of accomplishment whenever I see a truck or bus that I have fixed roll out and run perfectly. Thank you Helmets to Hardhats for connecting me with a career that I'm sure makes my forefathers proud.

Hire A Hero

It's official. The Hire A Hero program is up and running again and it's better than ever! Now sponsored by the non-profit Armed Forces Support Foundation (AFSF), Hire A Hero works to help Soldiers as well as their family members find great civilian jobs. As before, the program is free for job seekers and employers to use providing a variety of opportunities across all major industries. Thousands of employers have already regis-

tered and they are specifically looking to hire those who have military backgrounds.

Hire A Hero is more than a job board. In addition to the online services, account representatives provide one-on-one attention to candidates. Field representatives provide the face of the program by attending hundreds of military recruiting events. Also, a variety of marketing and public relations campaigns are conducted to spread the word about the program's success.

Recently, the AFSF – Hire A Hero program and the New York National Guard signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The formal partnership allows both the NY Guard leadership and the AAFSF to coordinate their efforts in helping Soldiers and their families find supportive civilian careers in their state. The MOU also outlines ways in which Hire A Hero can provide thousands of qualified leads to the NY Guard to help with their recruiting efforts.

The Hire A Hero program is looking to sign similar MOUs in every state. Once the MOU is signed, a representative from Hire A Hero provides free one-on-one training to key staff members in the National Guard. Training highlights career placement communication plans, as well as recruiting tools that are available.

The AFSF was officially noticed in Senate Bill S3833 and its Hire A Hero program has been made a legislative priority for the National Guard Association of the United States. Currently, the Hire A Hero program relies on donations to keep it up and running.

To learn more about the Hire A Hero program or to register for FREE visit:

www.hireahero.com

www.ArmedForcesSupportFoundation.org

Visit Helmets to Hardhats online at:

www.helmetstohardhats.org



New Tech for Families

Technology Opens New Lines of Communication for Military Families

By Jeff Stibel and Ofer Gneezy

In the past, those deployed overseas—particularly in remote locations and hotspots—frequently found it difficult to keep in touch with loved ones back home due to issues ranging from mail delays to the cost of long-distance calling. Thankfully, military personnel in today’s technically savvy world are able to communicate easily and more consistently with loved ones.

Military families are discovering that technology has opened new, cost-effective lines of communication to overcome previous challenges. Examples of this include offerings by two companies, Web.com and Pingo®, who recently showed their gratitude to U.S. Armed Forces personnel by donating their services.

WEB.COM

Web.com (www.web.com), a leading destination for Web sites and Web services, saluted our troops this holiday season with a free Web site promotion for a year and continues to cater to military personnel with discounted services. Web.com’s Site Builder Web site publishing tool requires little or no technical skill and makes it easy for military families to create and manage personal, multi-page Web sites, with the ability to add photo albums, multimedia and blogs. These secure sites provide a “virtually home” experience and a communication portal through which families can easily stay in touch, view and post pictures and short videos and share daily experiences. Web.com Web sites come complete with a Web address, personal email accounts and more.

PINGO

Pingo® (www.pingo.com), an online prepaid calling service, recently provided over \$100,000 in free international calling to service personnel deployed abroad. Pingo® utilizes Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to offer low-priced phone service to hundreds of worldwide destinations, including calls from the U.S. to Iraq at just 13.5 cents a minute. Pingo® works with traditional fixed-line and mobile phones. It also offers features such as automatic account recharge and the ability to bypass PIN sign-in from up to 10 phones. Pingo® is a service of iBasis, a leading wholesale carrier of international calls and operator of one of the largest VoIP networks in existence.

Lieutenant Duane Whitmer is an HS-4 helicopter pilot for the U.S. Navy. He uses his Web.com site to stay in touch with friends and family, including his wife, Jenn. The Whitmers were married in August 2003, and since that time LT Whitmer has been away on work-ups or deployment more than he’s been home. Using the Web site, the newlyweds have been able stay in touch in a way that would not be possible without the Site Builder technology.

“Having the ability to securely send emails and post images online provides a tremendously easy medium through which my wife and I can keep the lines of communication open,” said Lt. Whitmer. “We’re

expecting our first child soon—a boy. It’s a good thing our Web site can grow as we do to support thousands of photos!”

David Prowell, a pilot in the Georgia Air National Guard with more 15 years of service, spends a good deal of time in the desert while on deployment and uses his secure Web site to keep friends and family up-to-date on how life is going.

“I’m a single parent of a precious little girl, Katey,” said Prowell. “She’s a second-grader and has already started her first year of honors classes. Being able to share moments in our lives at times when we can’t be together means so much to us. Our Web site is so easy to use, we can both post photos anytime we like, and I can keep up with her latest cheerleading routines and action shots from soccer practice.”

Evelyn Manzueta, whose fiancée is currently serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq, swears by the service. While she knows very little about the technology behind making calls over the Internet, and would never claim to be an expert, she is an expert on recognizing low prices and demands reliable, convenient phone service. After all, nothing is going to keep her from speaking with her fiancée.

“I discovered Pingo® shortly after my fiancée arrived in Baghdad,” said Manzueta, who uses the VoIP calling service to speak with Joel Reyes, a Specialist with the 210th Battalion Support Brigade, Alpha Company. “I tried calling cards, and even though the rates were



A couple of Web sites that have been created by Soldiers to help stay in touch with family and friends.

Having the ability to securely send emails and post images online provides a tremendously easy medium through which my wife and I can keep the lines of communication open.

—LT Duane Whitmer



STAYING CLOSE SPC Joel Reyes, 210th Battalion Support Brigade, Alpha Company, with his son. SPC Reyes' fiancée, Evelyn Manzueta, praises Pingo® for its simplicity and reliability when communicating with SPC Reyes overseas.

low, it was frustrating to constantly punch in PIN and access numbers, especially when a call would suddenly cutout during a conversation. With Pingo, I pick up my phone, dial my fiancée's phone number and we're talking—it's simple and reliable."

No matter how great the distance or remote the location, technology advancements are helping to illuminate the world for today's troops, with immediate access to a comforting voice or image, even in the darkest of places. **GX**

About the Authors:

Jeff Stibel is president and CEO of Web.com, Inc. (NASDAQ: WWWW), a leading provider of Web sites and Web services that has built more than 4 million Web sites for small businesses and consumers through its patented technologies. Ofer Gneezy is president and CEO of iBasis (NASDAQ: IBAS), one of the world's leading wholesale carriers of international long distance telephone calls and a provider of retail prepaid calling services including Pingo®.

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Another Day in Paradise

Soldiers and Civilians Take Aim in Puerto Rico Competition



AT THE READY SGT Joey Rodriguez, PRARNG, waits for instructions from the range officer prior to commencing fire from a seated posture.

Story and photos by Chris West

A stiff wind whipped across the firing range at Camp Santiago. The ever-present American and Puerto Rican flags snapped back and forth on their poles, graphically demonstrating the current challenge faced by the competitors who had assembled here. Sixty-four elite shooters from all over the country had come to this lovely Caribbean island to test their marksmanship in the Puerto Rico National Guard State Championship.

It was a beautiful January day with the temperature hovering in the 80s and the wind keeping things nice and comfortable. The shooters could have cared less. The conditions were making their competition that much more difficult. Gusting winds made shot placement less predictable and the racing clouds kept changing the lighting conditions from moment to moment. The targets would be well lit by the tropical sun one second and then covered by a passing shadow the next. For precision marksmen like these men and women, it was a frustrating complication. These conditions seem like a small matter until you realize the level of precision demanded by these dedicated competitors. They are all marksmen who insist on putting every shot in the black.

A quick look at their gear tells the tale. Their firearms span the gamut from what appear to be standard issue M-16A2 rifles to what the judges affectionately term “Space Guns”—precision weighted and balanced bolt-action rifles that look like they belong in the Olympics. The pistols were just as varied. Everything was available, from off-the-shelf Rugers with iron sights to custom contraptions with high-tech optics that would have been right at home in Han Solo’s hands.

The reason for this variety was straightforward. This competition, which has been conducted for many years as a Guard event, was for the first time being held in conjunction with the National Rifle Association (NRA) and was now open to civilians as well as Soldiers. Guard teams from Puerto Rico, South Carolina, North Carolina and Kentucky were present, along with an assortment of civilian teams who had shown up to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of their fellow shooters. The Guard teams, by and large, were using service-issue weapons (although several seemed to have been retro-fitted with match-grade barrels), while the civilians had brought most of the specialized gear.

The event was hosted by the Puerto Rico Army National Guard (PRARNG) at Camp Santiago Training Center, on the south side of Puerto Rico, just outside the beautiful coastal city of Ponce. The ranges and billeting for the event were provided by the staff of Camp Santiago. Support personnel and equipment were provided by the 92nd Infantry Brigade of the PRARNG and medical support was provided by the Puerto Rico State Guard (State Defense Forces is under the control of the governor, but regulated by the National Guard Bureau).

GX had the opportunity to speak with the newly appointed Puerto Rico TAG, COL David Baralt about this competition. When asked why he felt it was important to devote resources to this type of event, he told us that it served several purposes.

“We have people coming from around the southeast region and essentially we have a small-arms competition . . . In addition to the

SEEING SPOTS This time around, SGT Rodriguez takes the role of spotter for his team-mate, SFC Jose Feliciano, who takes aim downrange. The partnership between shooter and spotter is critical to success in these competitions.

fact that it is good training for our troops, we have a selection of our best people competing with a selection of the best people from South Carolina, North Carolina and several other states . . . it provides the opportunity to build esprit de corps between the different Guard units. One day, we may have to go to combat . . . with these units. This provides the Soldiers with the opportunity to create bonds with other Guard units.”

The competition itself is conducted under NRA rules and regulations and features a variety of rifle and pistol events for individuals as well as teams. The competitors are divided into different classifications based on a point system. This allows competition to take place between shooters of similar skill levels. The classifications are, in ascending order: marksman, sharpshooter, expert, master and high master. The Guard units shot very well overall. Their rankings are listed below:

PISTOL GRAND AGGREGATE INDIVIDUAL

Master 1st place: MSG John Pou, SCARNG
Expert 2nd place: SPC Paul Shelton, NCARNG

PISTOL GRAND AGGREGATE TEAM CHAMPION

Expert: NCARNG
Marksman: SCARNG

RIFLE TOTAL AGGREGATE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION

Expert 1st place: SGT Joel Ortega, PRARNG
Expert 3rd place: CPT Victor Ramos, PRARG
Sharpshooter 2nd place: SFC Jose A. Feliciano, PRARNG
Marksman 1st place: CPT Miguel Reys, PRARNG
Marksman 2nd place: SGT Joey Rodriguez, PRARNG

RIFLE TEAM CHAMPION

Expert 1st place: PRARNG Team Gold
Marksman 1st place: PRARNG
Marksman 2nd place: PRARNG Team Silver

The match is held annually during the same weekend as Martin Luther King Day. Billeting is available for active or M-day Soldiers at Camp Santiago. **GX**

If you are interested in competing in this event, contact SFC Jose Feliciano at

jose.a.feliciano1@us.army.mil



On the Mark with the Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU)



STEEL ON TARGET SSG Tommy McGee of Louisiana National Guard engages targets during the CATM at MTU.

Story and photos by CPT Tim W. Irvin

In the early morning fog, the open field is quiet and still as I wait. In the distance, I can barely make out a rhythmic sound over the rustling of the fallen leaves. Scanning the treetops, I look for the source of the noise, which now seems to be coming from all directions. Without warning, the treetops above me explode in a shower of wood shrapnel and dirt. Duck and cover. “Thank the Lord for Oakleys,” I whisper to myself as sticks and rocks pummel my lenses.

I look up and see a Blackhawk zipping down over the trees, descending rapidly toward the ground. Just as the bird touches down, warriors leap from the aircraft and dash into the tree line. As soon as the last Soldier exits, the pilot jerks the bird up and away, back over the trees and out of sight. On the ground, as the forest drops back dead silent, the squad leader is assembling his men and beginning their move with a few simple motions of his hand.

The pop of small-arms fire can be heard in the distance as the squad advances. They move out toward the origin of the gunfire.

Welcome to the Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) at Camp Robinson, AR. This squad of Army National Guard Soldiers is participating in the new Combined Arms Team Match (CATM), where trainees are dropped into “enemy territory” and tasked with seven obstacles before reaching a multiple-challenge firing range. But we’re getting ahead of ourselves.

The squad is racing toward the sound of enemy fire. The terrain is anything but hospitable. Rain from the past three days has combined with the dirt, forming a thick, cold mess that sticks to everything. The treads on their boots are rendered useless as they pack full of sopping-wet Arkansas mud. Their bodies are hunched by the weight of their gear. Still, they carry on. They have trained for this and will not be deterred easily. Midway into their road march, they are faced with several barriers. A collective, audible sigh is heard from the squad, but the squad leader signals to move forward.

MUD AND MUCK A Soldier emerges from a low-clearance tunnel—one of the seven obstacles of the CATM course.

The troops move to the urban terrain—with just a few grumbling. They scale walls and speed through narrow alleys and tunnels. Finally, the squad exits the urban zone—only to return to the muddy trails.

These troops are well-equipped. Fitted with latest weapons and gear, they have all the ammunition they need to host their own private war. But, there is one thing that no supply sergeant can issue them—time. And they are quickly running out of it. They must reach their objective at the exact time as planned by higher headquarters. If the squad is not in place to defend the line as scheduled, headquarters will be vulnerable to an enemy attack. Knowing this, the squad leader pushes his Soldiers harder.

The troops’ pace quickens with the realization that they are almost there. The squad leader barks orders as they reach the line and their fighting positions.

“Alpha Team, take the right! Bravo, you’re on the left!” No need for stealth now. The enemy is just beyond the far ridge and closing fast. The squad breaks into pairs and mans their assigned foxhole. Each gunner focuses intently at their sector, scanning for any sign of the enemy as the assistant gunners stage additional ammunition within arms reach.

Just then, the first units of the enemy are spotted in distinctive green uniforms with AK assault rifles. The squad leader waits as



the enemy approaches within small-arms range. A tense moment later, the command is given: "OPEN FIRE!" Enemy soldiers fall under unrelenting fire. Each man burns round after round, magazine after magazine, enemy after enemy hits the ground. Still, they advance, refusing to let this small band of Soldiers hold the key terrain.

Over the sounds of battle, commands are given by assistant gunners, "11 o'clock, 200 meters!" Another enemy falls. "2 o'clock, 150 meters!" Another enemy falls. There are more now as the enemy's main body reaches the squad's line. "12 o'clock, 100 meters!" "12 o'clock, 50 meters!" The squad is running low on ammunition. One of their machine guns clanks loudly as it explodes its last round into an exposed enemy—and then goes dead silent. The gunner is already reaching for his sidearm. Bringing it up, he places the front-sight post on the green figure's chest no more than 25 meters in front of him and squeezes, sending the enemy back into the trench. The Soldier empties his magazine into the next pair of foes and slams a fresh magazine into the weapon before the expended one has time to hit the ground. The firing continues and it seems as if there are just too many of them.

Without warning, it stops. The enemy is gone. All that remains is piles of spent brass and the eerie clicking of over-heated weapons.

"Cease fire, cease fire. Lock and clear all weapons," booms the command from an observation tower.

The squad has just completed the CATM. Rigorous training stretched over a two-mile course and several intense hours.

"The matches are combat-oriented, but at the same time, they include some precision slow-fire shooting. So, these matches are different from your standard bulls-eye shooting because of the combat orientation, physical intensity [shoot and move], and utilization of standard-issued weapon systems," said SSG Micah Marchand, a Squad Designated Marksman instructor, double-distinguished marksman, and OIF Combat Vet.

SSG Marchand is right about the physical intensity. This competition is no joke. Each Soldier must carry their individual basic load of ammunition and additional ammunition for the squad's crew-served weapons.

SSG Marchand continued, "Shooters are able to enroll in our schools to better know how to operate and maintain all types of weapon systems, and some of the best shooters are offered a chance to try out for the All Guard team and invited back as instructors."

One of the best is SSG Tommy McGee from the Louisiana Army National Guard. SSG McGee has been an instructor and made the All Guard Shooting Team for the past three years, and won the Combat Rifle Close Quarter Battle Match. SSG McGee is also on his state shooting team. This means he did the CATM twice in one day.

SSG McGee has been competing at MTU for six years and been competitive shooting for 14 years. He's a graduate of MTU's Small Arms Instruction and Range Operations course (SAIROC) and Small Arms Master Gunner. He has also been an instructor for the Squad Designated Marksman (SDM) course and worked closely with his State Marksmanship Coordinator to train Soldiers on current military weapons. And, he's been deployed twice in support of OIF.

The SDM course gave SSG McGee invaluable experience with the M-14 and Barret XM-107 .50cal sniper rifles.

"My experiences shooting on the All Guard team helped me immensely in this training, as I was the only non-combat arms Soldier training on this weapon system," said SSG McGee. "The competitions have changed quite a bit since I have been competing . . . matches have been moving more toward multi-weapon system training like we use in combat."

And that's what the CATM match is all about. With its helicopter-assault phase, the grueling run and obstacle course, firing the M-249

or M-240B, the M-16 and the M-9, the CATM is more combat-focused than any other match offered at MTU.

MTU is designed to promote marksmanship and develop qualified Soldiers to go back to their states and train the units for combat. The All Guard team members are a very good example for this. Most of the team members, if not all, play a big part in the marksmanship training of their units, MACOMs and states. They also help train the courses at MTU, help develop new TTPs and help write the guidelines for future marksmanship training.

"Since I have been competing for MTU, I have learned a lot about shooting and I have brought this knowledge back to my state and helped train our troops to the newest, latest and greatest techniques," said SSG McGee. And that's the reason MTU exists: to train Soldiers on "lessons learned" so they can survive in a firefight. **GX**

MTU

Courtesy of the National Guard
Marksmanship Training Unit

The National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit (NGMTU or MTU) was established in Nashville, TN, at the National Guard Armory in February of 1968. It later moved to Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, AR in 1990.

The MTU has two divisions, schools and competitive training events. The schoolhouse offers world-class instruction in the proper use of the various small-arms weapon systems available to the Guard through a variety of Small Arms Firing Schools and marksmanship-oriented classes. The MTU trains thousands of Soldiers each year from all components. All courses are "Train the Trainer" courses designed to increase individual weapons proficiency, while at the same time giving individual units the means to increase weapons proficiency. All MTU schoolhouse courses are listed in ATRRS at School Code 1029.

The competitive training events held at the MTU include the Winston P. Wilson (WPW) Rifle, Pistol, Sniper and Light Machine Gun championships for the top shooters in all states and the U.S. territories.

The Annual Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting (AFSAM), credited with being the world's largest international combat rifle and pistol shooting event, runs simultaneously with the WPW. The U.S. fields teams from the Active Army, Marine, Army Reserve, and members of the All Guard Team composed of both Army and Air National Guard.

The following schools are offered at MTU:

- CPEC: Close Precision Engagement Course
- SAMGC: Small Arms Master Gunner Course
- SAFS: Small Arms Firing Schools
- SASC: Small Arms Simulations Course
- SDMC: Squad Designated Marksman Course
- SMCTC: State Marksmanship Coordinators Trainers Course
- SNIPER: Sniper Course Total Army Training System

DOD currently recognizes four sniper schools, two of which are located at Camp Robinson and run by the NGMTU.

MTU online:

www.arguard.org/mtu/index.htm



First Muster and the Roots of Our National Guard



By Jason Hall
 Director of the National Guard Educational Foundation

FIRST MUSTER The Citizen-Soldiers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony assembled for the first time in 1636 in order to provide for the defense of their homes and families against hostile Native American tribes.

As the Director of the National Guard Educational Foundation, which operates the National Guard Memorial Museum, I have a passion for sharing the history of the Guard with everyone I come in contact with. However, people usually have the misconception that history is dull, boring and irrelevant to today's issues. I strongly disagree with this position, of course. I don't have to tell you, the members of the National Guard, the importance that you are playing in today's ever-changing world. But, I wonder if you all realize that you have been at the forefront of our national history since its early beginnings. This organization that you may simply call "The Guard" helped give birth to this country we call the United States and has always stood up to defend it whenever and wherever called. Thus, I hope to utilize this continuing column as an opportunity to have a conversation with you about the history of, well, you.

So when was the Guard born, when and where did it all begin? The National Guard Bureau (NGB) marks the "official" birth of the National Guard as December 13, 1636. But what happened on that date and why is it so important? On that date, the Massachusetts Bay Colony called for the establishment of the first militia regiments. At that time, there were 10 independent militia companies in the colony. They took these pre-existing militia companies, plus five new ones, and formed them into three regiments. Since Massachusetts was the first government in North America to raise militia regiments, the date December 13, 1636 is recognized as the birthday of the modern National Guard.

The three new regiments, known as the North, South and East Regiments, increased the efficiency and responsiveness of the militia.

We officially recognize the start of the National Guard with the first English settlers in America. However, England was not the first country to bring military institutions to the New World.

THE FIRST MUSTER BY DON TROIANI

The first regiment to muster was the East Regiment, in Salem, MA sometime in the spring of 1637. This “First Muster” has been honored with a National Guard Heritage Print illustrating the first militia regiment. Today, the 101st Engineer Battalion, Massachusetts Army National Guard, continues the East Regiment’s proud heritage of over 350 years of service. A truly remarkable sight was when I watched members of this unit re-enlist in 2004, standing on the Salem Green, the same place where the first muster of the East regiment took place.

The raising and mustering of these regiments in the 1600s was not a coincidence. There was a pressing threat that needed to be dealt with. In the summer of 1637, a few months after the first muster of the East Regiment, the Massachusetts Colony went to war with the Pequot Tribe. Though the colonists were victorious, this small war sparked a larger conflict that would last almost 250 years, which we know as The Indian Wars. The next year, in 1638, the first document to outline the requirements of militia service was written. This document stated that all free, white males, ages 16 to 60, were required to report for scheduled militia drills. However, there were Citizen-Soldiers in America prior to the establishment of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Not long after the English colonists arrived in Jamestown, VA in early 1607, the local Native Americans decided that these trespassers were a threat and needed to be forcefully removed. On May 26, 1607, around 200 braves attacked the settlement. In the melee that followed, two settlers were killed, the first English Citizen-Soldiers to die in America. Due to the threat of further attacks, the colonists continually carried arms, fortified their settlement, and organized training commenced. So, as Virginia prepares to celebrate its 400th Birthday this year, the argument could be made that the roots of the National Guard are just as old. However, it would be an incorrect assumption, since the roots of the Guard are actually even older than 1607.

We officially recognize the start of the National Guard with the first English settlers in America. However, England was not the first country to bring military institutions to the New World. Spanish settlers founded the town of San Juan, on the island of Puerto Rico, in 1509. They organized militia units, and were successful in conquering the Caribbean Indians located on the island. In 1565, the Spanish founded the town of St. Augustine, FL, making it the oldest permanent European settlement in North America.

St. Augustine became the headquarters of the Spanish military might in Florida. The local citizens of the town were designated as militia by the Spanish military commander, and made them responsible to defend the town while the Spanish Regulars were campaigning against the French.

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS was constructed in 1588 to house Spanish Missionaries. Throughout its life, it has provided shelters for troops serving under four different flags; Spanish, British, Confederate States and United States of America. Today, this historic building serves as the headquarters of the Florida National Guard.

Thus, it was the Spanish who brought the word “militia” to North America from Europe. The word “militia” comes from the Latin term miles, meaning “soldier.”

The members of today’s National Guard—all of you—are the descendents of the first “Soldiers” in North America. Though they were indeed “Citizen-Soldiers,” the first reference to that term was not until 1758. The first militia training manual was produced that year, in which it stated, “Every man who wished to secure his own freedom should think it his truest honor to be a Citizen-Soldier.” Those words ring true today as the brave men and women of today’s National Guard secure their own freedom, the freedom of their fellow countrymen, and the freedom of oppressed people in regions around the world, as they have done for nearly 500 years. **GX**



Old San Juan A guard tower and high walls still stand watch over San Juan, PR, one of the oldest European settlements in the New World.



Critical Training for that 1% Chance

By SFC Donnie Moseley, CATC, NMNG

Welcome to *GX's* new combatives column. First, we have to thank the people who have helped us make the Combat Arms Training Company (CATC) combatives program what it is today: everyone at the Modern Army Combatives Program (MACP) schoolhouse (Ft. Benning and Ft. Bliss), SFC Eric Pence and Pence Martial Arts, Rorion Gracie and the Gracie Academy, and Alberto Crane and the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy. Thank you all very much!

It is our belief that every Soldier in the Army needs MACP training. There are a few problems standing in the way of that though: 1) disbelief in the techniques, 2) fear, and 3) lack of confidence.

Easy solution! For the non-believer, watch SGT Aaron Cooper (MACP, Fort Benning) fight, then tell me the techniques don't work.

For the fear factor, just remember this: 99 percent of the time we spend training is only for the 1 percent chance we'll need it. Imagine you needed to use your weapon in a really bad situation, but you never practiced getting it out of the holster. Same philosophy applies for hand-to-hand combat. Let's face it—a lot of us haven't been in a fight since grade school. It is a good idea to condition yourself so your body and mind don't "freak out" the moment something happens and you need to fight.

Lastly, some folks "think" they can't do it. Bologna! Try it; we've seen it firsthand. Privates, generals—you name the rank. They try it and they're hooked. They want to increase cardio, build strength, lose weight, eat healthier; the list goes on and on. The confidence, skill sets and sense of accomplishment are invaluable factors to building warriors, young and old.

Our intentions here are to keep it simple, while explaining as thoroughly as we can. We want to give something to both our novice and experienced Soldiers, and do our part in giving some tools for the toolbox.

We will be showing multiple techniques from the same position—giving lots of food for thought for the "what if" scenarios. Keep in mind, some answers, I just don't have, but the idea is to practice each month's techniques until you are blue in the face. All right, enough of all that. Lets train!

*Practice these moves all month. Be ready for next month. There won't be as much talking, I promise. Train hard. **GX***

Standing up in Base ("BASE" = A STRONG FIGHTING STANCE)

This strategy allows you to get to your feet near an opponent without getting knocked down or compromising your position.

All moves begin seated. Notice the positioning of feet and arms. Be conscious of which side you are set up on. Base your position on your opponent's dominant side. This helps avoid kicks to the face. If you need to turn, spin on your rear-end.



RISING TO STAND IN BASE

Step 1: From seated position, keeping your eyes on your opponent, use the foot that's flat and your posted hand (the hand behind you) to lift your body. Pivot your hips and swing your back leg behind your posted arm's elbow. This is important, as it will assist with that solid base under you.



Step 2: Rise into a solid base—a fighting stance. Practice this a lot. Commit it to muscle memory. From now on, when you're sitting down watching ducks or whatever, this is how you should stand up. Let's look at two attack moves incorporating standing up in base.



SWEEP FROM THE GROUND, THEN STAND IN BASE (OPTION 1)

The opponent is pressing the fight. Let's knock him down.

Step 1: You're in seated position. Your opponent is close with a wide stance.

Step 2: From seated position, extend your feet between opponent's legs, toes pointed out, hooking your feet back around his calves or ankles. Kick your feet out to widen his stance, while reaching and giving a stiff shove to the thighs. He should fall backward.

Step 3: Recover seated position and, if safe, finish by standing up in base.



SWEEP FROM THE GROUND, THEN STAND IN BASE (OPTION 2)

Now the threat is right on top, looking for that big punch!

Step 1: You're in seated position. Your opponent is close with a wide stance.

Step 2: Place one foot in the crease of your opponent's hip; grab that leg's ankle. Place the other foot behind his other knee, toes pointed out.

Step 3: Push out on his hip and hold his ankle in place. Can you say, "SWEEEP!"

Step 4: Recover seated position and, if safe, finish by standing up in base.



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RACE VIEW

Watch Every Race this Season from the Driver's Seat

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Units Featured on #24 Car

By CPT Tim W. Irvin

Look for the #24 car to be featuring Guard unit paint schemes at upcoming Busch Series races. The 53rd INF BDE was honored at Daytona on Feb. 17 and the 40th INF Division was honored at the California Speedway on Feb. 24.



53rd Infantry (INF) Brigade (BDE)

Nickname: "Gator BDE"

Location: Pinellas Park, FL

Two INF battalions (BN's) of the 53rd INF were activated in late December 2002. They served in 2003-2004 in OIF and were some of the first National Guard (NG) Soldiers inside Iraq during the initial hours of the operation. In 2005, the 53rd BDE Headquarters deployed to Afghanistan to train the Afghan National Army.

40th INF Division (DIV)

Nickname: Sunshine Division

Location: Los Alamitos, CA



The 40th has deployed units and individuals in support of Operation Noble Eagle, OEF and OIF. In November '97, Battery F represented CA in Bosnia. In November '00, again, Battery F was called to duty for its expertise in the Kosovo region and then again in '03 to Afghanistan.



Look for the 41st INF BDE to be honored on March 10 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway and the 48th INF BDE to be honored on March 17 at Atlanta Motor Speedway. See GX issue 4.1 for a complete list of honored units.

Rather Be Fishing



2007 Season Casts Off

The boats are coming out of dry-dock, the rods are leaving their racks and the guys are getting cranked up for another great season of Guard Fishing. Check out the schedule below to make plans to go see the team in action and look for continuing coverage in upcoming pages of GX.

2007 FLW SERIES SCHEDULE

BP EASTERN DIVISION

1/24-27	Lake Okeechobee	Clewiston, FL
5/9-1	Lake Dardanelle	Russellville, AR
9/5-8	Lake Champlain	Plattsburgh, NY
10/10-13	Pickwick Lake	Florence, AL

NATIONAL GUARD WESTERN DIVISION

1/31-2/3	Lake Havasu	Lake Havasu City AR
3/14-17	California Delta	Bethel Island, CA
9/19-22	Columbia River	Tri-Cities, WA
10/24-27	Clear Lake	Kelseyville, CA

FLW SERIES (CONT.)

11/8-11	Stren Series Championship	Mobile, AL
5/30-6/2	BFL All-American	Louisville, KY
9/27-30	Walleye Tour Championship	Cleveland, OH
10/10-13	Redfish Tour Championship	Orange Beach, AL
10/17-20	Kingfish Tour Championship	Pensacola, FL

2007 FLW TOUR SCHEDULE

2/15-18	Lake Travis	Austin, TX
3/29-4/1	Fort Loudoun & Tellico Lakes	Knoxville, TN
4/26-29	Lake Norman	Charlotte, NC
5/17-20	Beaver Lake	Rogers, AR
6/14-17	Potomac River	Washington, DC
7/12-15	Detroit River	Detroit MI

8/2-5	FLW Tour Championship	Hot Springs, AR
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For full schedules, photo galleries and more, go to

www.1-800-Go-Guard.com

The Joy of Shootin'

A Close Look at the All Guard Shooting Teams

By CPT Tim W. Irvin

I love to shoot. I love the feel of a fine weapon in my hands and the power it carries. So obviously, one of my favorite parts of Basic Training was Basic Rifle Marksmanship. They actually gave me a weapon and bullets and let me fire it! Plus, they paid me. Gotta love the Army!

My joy for shooting is common among Soldiers in the Guard, but some of us are better than others. In the Guard, our best shooters usually end up on one of the All Guard Shooting Teams.

There are four different All Guard Shooting Teams: Service Pistol Team, Service Rifle Team, Sniper Team and the Combat Team.

Both the service pistol and rifle teams compete in National Rifle Association or Olympic-style shooting matches. Combat and sniper teams focus on combat scenarios.

All teams are very competitive. Similar to other Guard Sports, shooting has its own "rites of passage" a Soldier must go through to prove they deserve a spot on the team.

If you have the desire to compete on the All Guard Shooting team, you first have to demonstrate your shooting ability. The best way to prove your worth is through either your state match, MAC Region match or by placing well in the Winston P. Wilson Matches. One word of caution, the Wilson matches are tough.

"The Winston P. Wilson Matches are, for the most part, a chance for younger shooters to learn from more experienced shooters the advanced marksmanship skills needed to compete against the caliber of competitors present at the Wilson matches," said SSG Micah Marchand, who has been competitively shooting for over a decade and is a past member of the All Guard Combat team. "These skills cannot be obtained from reading a training manual or a field manual, but through realistic battle focused competitive marksmanship training events."

Be warned: the All Guard Shooting Team demands a level of commitment that many are unwilling or unable to give. You must be intensely focused and driven to be the best. One Soldier drove from Indiana to Florida just to compete for three days. These Soldiers are true warriors and give all they have for the sport they love.

You may be wondering if this is for you. Is all of this work and time worth it? Well, you have to have the desire and drive to be the best.

Secondly, you must realize the experience gained by competing is invaluable. SSG Marchand knows firsthand the benefits. As a member of the combat team, he competed at Camp Bisley, England. There, he gained tactical knowledge and valuable information regarding British weapons and ammunition and how compatible they are to ours.

"This was a big thing for us when we shipped to Iraq. Our brigade was given all British ammo," said SSG Marchand. "The knowledge that [we] received from being on the All Guard team allowed us to pass on very vital information to our command staff about the issues with the British ammo firing in American weapons."

SSG Marchand is a double distinguished marksman, Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and has been an instructor for the National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit's Squad Designated Marksman course—so he knows about shooting.

Also see page 62 of this issue for a look at the new Combined Arms Team Match! Talk about HOOAH! **GX**

For more information, contact your unit administrator or National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit (NGMTU) at:

(DSN) **962-4500**

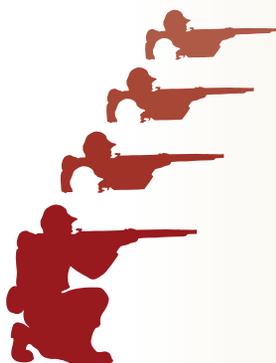
(comm.) **501-212-4500**

www.arguard.org/mtu



A HARD TARGET

Okay, so you know what it takes to make it on an All Guard Shooting Team. The question now is how do you get there? Here's what you need to do. Compete and place well in the following:



The Top 50 to 75 shooters from the Wilson's may be asked to try out for All Guard Teams.

START
FITNESS™

THE MONSTER IN YOU!

By Stephanie and SSG Ken Weichert
Photos by Jonathan Miller



“What do you mean he’s disqualified?” I asked. I was at MEPS checking on the status of the blood tests on a Prior Service applicant, just over 40 years of age. My guidance counselor explained, “He was disqualified for high blood pressure.” I refuted, “Doesn’t that seem odd? You saw his VA blood work from six months ago. He did not have high blood pressure six months ago.” “I know SSG,” she continued. “Find out what he is doing differently since his VA lab work. If it can be fixed, you can submit a NGB Medical Waiver.”

I called my applicant after leaving MEPS. After routine salutations, I told Ted about his blood test results. “Ted, I don’t get it,” I exclaimed. “You’re in great shape. You workout regularly and your diet is good. You’ve got a great family and you seem to like your job. In six months, what about your life has changed?” “Nothing,” he replied. “Have you changed your diet at all?” I asked. “Not really,” he responded. “What about coffee?” I asked. This was the moment of truth. “Yeah, a couple of cups in the morning,” he confessed.

Now we were getting somewhere. I continued, “What about water, alcohol, or other liquids?” He paused. He admitted to me that he had been substituting energy drinks for bottled water. This was alarming news. Basically, he determined that he had been consuming an average of two to three energy drinks a day for the last six months. I laid it on the line for my applicant. “Ted, if you don’t your change your diet drastically, you may wind up diabetic or worse.”

START Fitness™ has had clients ranging in age, background and socioeconomic status. One common theme with all of our clients seems to be “get more done in less time.” Our clients are sleeping less and working longer hours. The recent trend is to get more out of the day by increasing productivity. Many of our clients and some of SGT Ken’s™ Army National Guard applicants are turning to energy drinks as a source of fuel. We couldn’t be more alarmed.

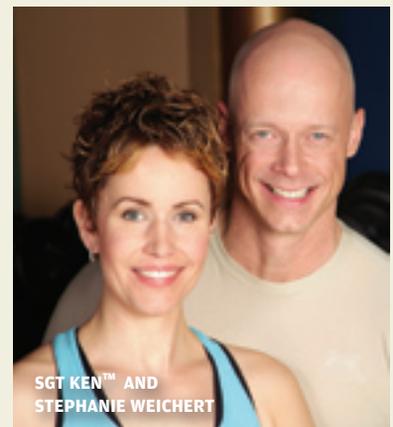
Although we do not claim to replace the advice of a doctor, we will say that the facts are out there, but energy drinks are so new to the market place, the long-term health effects have yet to be studied. Although cigarettes were once a fashionable trend in the mid-

1900s, they were later found to be unhealthy. Along that line, we propose that energy drinks may be an unstudied, unhealthy caffeinated-drink alternative.

EXCESSIVE CAFFEINE CONSUMPTION

Research suggests that the overload of caffeine can cause a variety of dangerous side effects. Overload of caffeine may lead to heart problems in some cases, heart palpitations, increased heart rate and increased blood pressure. “The Food and Drug Administration recommends a maximum caffeine concentration of 65 milligrams per 12 ounces of cola beverages, though it does not regulate the caffeine content of these drinks,” states Bruce Goldberger, director

of the University of Florida’s William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine (www.csrees.usda.gov). The problem is that energy drinks are known for and marketed as having excess caffeine in each drink. It is marketed as a lifestyle, as the buzzed way you should get through your busy day. Many energy drinks have 80 milligrams or more per serving. The drink called Cocaine has 280 milligrams of caffeine—over three times the recommended per serving amount. Many



SGT KEN™ AND
STEPHANIE WEICHERT

SSG Ken Weichert, six-time Soldier of the Year and veteran of both Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm, began the START Fitness™ program in 1997. Now partnered with his wife Stephanie, Strategic Director of START Fitness™ and a certified personal trainer, the Weicherts are conquering the fitness industry.

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAMAS GALLAGHER, NICOLE SYLVESTER



energy drinks have between 80 and 200 milligrams of caffeine per serving. Because there is no regulation, the product is not required to carry a warning label.

What happens when multiple servings of energy drinks are consumed? Some studies show that too much of a good thing can prove to be toxic. According to the Nutrition and Health Info Sheet produced by Ph.D.s at the University of Davis in November 2006, caffeine consumption in excess of 400 milligrams may lead to nervousness, irritability, sleeplessness, increased urination (dehydration), abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmia), decreased bone levels and stomach upset. An article posted by Brown University (www.brown.edu) on January 7, 2005 states that “energy drinks’ stimulating properties can boost the heart rate and blood pressure (sometimes to the point of palpitations), dehydrate the body, and, like other stimulants, prevent sleep.”

It seems that the prevention of sleep is generally why people are drinking energy drinks in the first place. However, would you knowingly drink a drink that might potentially elevate your heart rate, blood

pressure, give you heart palpitations, leave you dehydrated and tired, and may lead to diabetes?

EXCESSIVE SUGAR CONSUMPTION

Unfortunately, energy drinks have more than just caffeine. Many of them are also packed with sugar. The sugar overload may cause sleepiness instead of energy and may lead to symptoms of diabetes.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Web site (www.fda.gov) states that based on a 2,000-calorie-per-day diet for adults, a healthy diet should not include more than 300 grams of carbohydrates. The level of carbohydrates is based on 60 percent of total calories consumed. Sugar falls under this category. The web site www.health.gov lists 18 grams of refined sugars as a discretionary calorie allowance for a healthy diet based on consuming 2,000 calories per day.

Because of the perception that bigger is better, people often consume more than the serving size of eight ounces. However, even adhering to the recommended serving size doesn’t necessarily provide a good benchmark from which to start. Many of the energy

drinks boast over 50 grams of sugar packed into one serving size. This is more than twice the discretionary calorie allowance set by the USDA Food Guide. The worst part is, people are drinking multiple energy drinks.

According to the Harvard School of Public Health (www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutrition-source/diabetes.html), more than 18 million Americans have diabetes. The article states that if Americans continue on the same growth trend, 22 million people will have diabetes in 2025. While some people are born with a predisposition for diabetes, it is becoming more common for adults to develop type-two diabetes as a result their lifestyles.

In an article from *Harvard Health Letter* printed by Newstarget.com on November 6, 2006 entitled “Sugary Beverages Fuel the Obesity Epidemic,” researchers issued a warning to people who believe sugar-sweetened drinks to be healthy. The article went on to state, “Harvard researchers recently reported that women who drank one or more sugar-sweetened soft drinks per day were 83 percent more likely to develop type-two diabetes than women who drank less than one a month. Not surprisingly, they were also more likely to gain weight.”

Excessive sugars may actually lead to slower reaction times and sleepiness. The quick fix of consuming the added refined sugars causes the blood sugar to spike and then drop to an unnaturally low level. Low blood sugar can lead to low energy levels.

EFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE* CAFFEINE CONSUMPTION INCLUDE:

- nervousness
- irritability
- sleeplessness
- increased urination (dehydration)
- abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmia)
- decreased bone levels
- stomach upset

* 400 milligrams or more a day



HOOAH! askthetrainer@startfitness.com
Let us hear from you.

NOT WORTH THE RUSH

So, consider this article to be a warning. Energy drinks look really cool. The marketing is genius. However, with all of the health risks associated with consuming unhealthy levels of sugar and caffeine, we suggest that drinking energy drinks is not worth the momentary rush.

Ted agreed to stop drinking energy drinks as well as all other forms of caffeine. After two weeks of consuming nothing but water, nutritious foods and exercising regularly, he went for a third round of blood tests. His results came back normal. With his first set of test results from the VA from six months ago and his second from two weeks ago while at MEPS, and now with the new results, I had Ted write a letter to explain the cause of his temporary high blood pressure.

One week later, we received his waiver and enlisted him in the California Army National Guard. He was very happy about his opportunity to serve his state and country. He was even happier about his newfound health. However, we are especially fortunate that we noticed his problem before it became irreversible. **GX**

WARNING: Always seek the advice and guidance of a qualified health provider with any questions or concerns you may have prior to commencing a fitness program. This article should not be relied on or substituted for professional medical diagnosis or treatment. The exercises presented are for suggestion only. Participate at your own risk. Stop if you feel faint or short of breath.

SPECIAL REMARKS: We encourage you to request additional information by emailing us at askthetrainer@startfitness.com and to exercise with us while watching our FIT TO FIGHT™ DVD series. If you are ever in San Francisco, come to our studio where military and family members are always FREE. Our new military line of tubing by SPRI Products is now available at www.startfitness.com.



Introducing START eFitness™

A sneak peek at the newest feature seen in *GX Intel* and *GXonline.com*

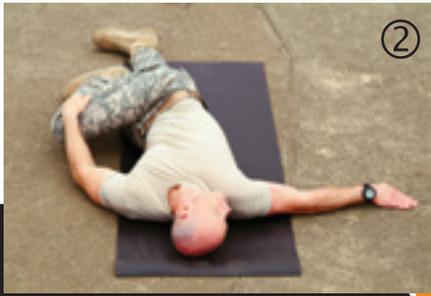
By SSG Ken Weichert

WHAT IS START eFITNESS™?

Stephanie and I receive emails daily from Soldiers and family members living all over the world that include some very important health questions or concerns. With the launch of START eFitness™, we will be able to provide *GX Intel* and *GXonline.com* subscribers quick and simple health and fitness tips not covered anywhere else.

The three main components of physical fitness are strength, stamina and flexibility. Many of our fitness programs published in *GX* magazine do not include details concerning the third main component of physical fitness: flexibility.

To promote maximum flexibility, my absolute favorite stretching exercise is . . .



THE TRUNK STRETCH

- **START POSITION:** Lay flat on the ground, beginning with your entire body forming a straight line.
- **ACTION:** First, bend your left leg at the knee until it forms a 90-degree angle. Then, slowly twist the trunk of your body by letting your knee fall directly to your right. Use your right hand and arm to assist you in holding your leg as close to the ground as possible. Bring your left arm out until your left underarm forms a 90-degree angle. Look to your left and hold (1). Slowly return to the Start Position and switch directions (2). Warning: Do not bounce during any stretching exercises. Remember to breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.
- **TIME TO HOLD:** 20-30 seconds

All right *GX* readers, now is your chance to get it all! Go now and subscribe to *GX Intel* at GXonline.com! HOOAH!

gxonline.com/subscribe_intel.php



THE ONE PREDICTABLE THING ABOUT A DISASTER.

Whether it be hurricanes or wildfires, earthquakes or a terrorist attack, one thing will always remain the same – the people of our nation count on the Army National Guard in times of crisis. Well-equipped and quick to respond, the sight of our Soldiers has given

comfort, time and again, to those in desperate need. You, too, can join the men and women with the skills and courage to take on the toughest of challenges. Find out more by visiting our web site today.

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[PROVE IT!]

TESTING TO THE EXTREME WITH THE BROTHERS WEST

By Chris and Jason West

Welcome to the new Brothers West product reviews. In the coming months we will be reviewing everything from flashlights to cold weather gear. Think we got a review wrong? Want to add your own input? Know of a product you'd like to see tested in our own "special" way? Send us an email at BrothersWest@GXonline.com and you might end up in a future issue of *GX*.

TEST #1: Stare Down with Shrapnel

"You'll put your eye out." If we heard it once, we heard it a thousand times growing up. Well, mom, you can rest easy now—our eyes have NEVER been this safe. Saying that we were reviewing sunglasses would be a serious insult to these high-tech ballistic eye-protection systems. In everything from performance and comfort to price tag, these products are about as far as you can get from those cheap drugstore things you buy to keep the sun out of your eyes.

We set out to test three high-end products: The Oakley M-Frame Strike Array (approx. \$150), WileyX PT3 (approx. \$100), and the ESS ICE 2.4 Kit (approx. \$50). Each system

Slightly offended at the way the glasses shrugged off our heat tests, we decided to up the ante by adding in a hurricane-force sandstorm.

included multiple lenses and a carrying case.

We put our victims . . . er . . . subjects through a series of rigorous tests intended to simulate worst-case usage scenarios and test manufacturers' claims.

DESKTOP SANDSTORM

We began by testing to see how well these high-tech shades would hold up to the environmental challenges posed by Iraq and Afghanistan.

All three products were sealed in a modified terrarium that we have come to refer to as our "Desktop Sandstorm." We repeatedly heated and cooled the environment, hitting temperatures as high as 135-degrees Fahrenheit and as low as 50 to little result. Although the softer bits on the frames would get, well . . . softer, there were no long-term detrimental effects (with the possible excep-

tion of a burn on the bridge of the Younger Brother's nose—Safety Tip: Do NOT put on a pair of 135-degree sunglasses).

Slightly offended at the way the glasses shrugged off our heat tests, we decided to up the ante by adding in a hurricane-force sandstorm. We ran the system up to 110 degrees for three hours, then to 135 degrees for an additional three hours. Just when we thought our subjects would be most vulnerable, we threw the switch and kicked in 80+ mph winds kicking around 50 pounds of gritty sand and small rocks. Despite some initial difficulties (burying the products, losing sight of the products in the hail of sand), we were

able to subject them to an extended torrent of grit, again to no visible effect. Not a single lens scratch.

COOLEST SAFETY "GOGGLES" EVER

Seeking to emulate some of their favorite TV Chop-Shop shows, more and more weekend mechanics and carpenters are adopting the use of eye protection like Oakleys, Wiley X and ESS so they don't look quite as goofy as we all did wearing those cheesy goggles in high school shop. What better way to test this application of the products than with some steel and an angle grinder?

For this round, each pair of glasses was subjected to a prolonged, intense shower of sparks and glowing hot steel particles focused directly onto the lenses. Wanting to be thorough in our methods, we tried to talk our publisher into wearing the glasses during

the test. Not being the kind of team players we are, he declined. Tragically, he forbade us from coercing an intern or contractor into the job either. They would have been fine . . . or at least their eyes would have. Again, none of the glasses showed a single mark, scratch or pit.

MIL SPEC MIL-PRF-31013

This was what really sparked our desire to conduct this particular review. What's that? Don't know that particular spec off the top of your head? It's the one that says that these "sunglasses" must be able to prevent penetration by a 375-mg projectile traveling at 660 ft/sec. As the folks at Oakley put it, "Our idea of visual impact is a 12-gauge at 15 yards. Because the ultimate way to test a lens is to take the shotgun approach." Now, THAT's a marketing claim we just had to test out.

As it turns out, 660 ft/sec is about half the speed of the average shotgun shell.

Fortunately being geeks from way back, we were able to break out the old slide-rule and come up with a standard shell that would meet our needs. In the end, we subjected each pair of glasses to a blast at 15 feet, which represented 115% of the force level that the spec called for.

Wow. That's all we could say. Wow. We would have lost money betting against the glasses standing up to this test. Make no mistake, the frames were reduced to component pieces, the lenses were flattened. But not one, not a single pellet managed to penetrate the lenses. No fragments were ejected as a result of the shot. All three brands did exactly as they claimed.

BUT WOULD WE BUY THEM?

Given that all three systems performed equally well in the more hardcore testing, it's





Oakley M-Frame Strike Array



WileyX PT3



ESS ICE 2.4 Kit

Note: The chunk taken out of the ESS lens (at left) was caused by a collision with the backdrop after being thrown from its mount.

time to get down to the detail nit-picking that we do so well.

Over the course of our testing, the Younger Brother developed a serious attachment to the Oakleys. Out of the box, they fit well and could hold a grip on his enormous melon. The lenses were the easiest of the three systems to change out. Each lens has its own nosepiece, further speeding changes. The case is very solid and does an excellent job of protecting all components.

Since his trip to Iraq (see *GX* 3.4, available at www.gxonline.com), the Elder Brother has been a die-hard WileyX man. He swears by

the comfort and reliability of the brand. The case provided with this system was rigid and came with belt loops, which make carrying the spare components more convenient than the large Oakley case.

Finally, we have to admit, we felt like the ESS wasn't quite as snazzy right out of the box. The frames require some shaping of the earpieces and we fear the case wouldn't hold up to much wear and tear. On the other hand, coming in at one third to one half of the price of the other systems, it's hard to argue with the value and quality of the product.

In the end, these are all excellent products

that easily withstood everything we had to throw (shoot) at them. As to what we recommend... it's down to splitting hairs. Try on all three pairs, because if they don't feel good on you, then they aren't for you. Given the wide range of pricing, pick the features that best fit your budget and you're sure to end up with truly high-quality ballistic eye protection. **GX**

Send your ideas, comments or general chatter to BrothersWest@GXonline.com

WARNING: Do not try ANY of these tests yourself! These tests could result in severe injury or even death.

Book and Game Reviews

the Brothers West

Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae

By Steven Pressfield

By Chris West

“Go tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that here obedient to their laws we lie.”

—*Epitaph at the Spartan burial mound at Thermopylae*

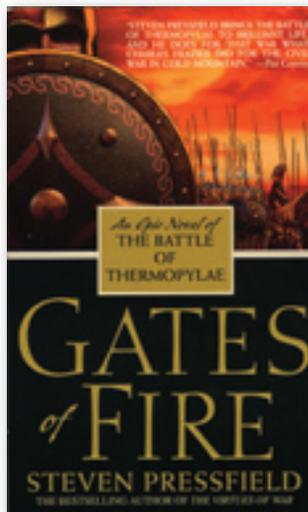
What is the opposite of fear? What is the nature of courage? Duty? Honor? Discipline? Sacrifice? What are the noble virtues that carry warriors and their families through the horrors of battle? These are some of the questions that Steven Pressfield addresses in his master work: *Gates of Fire*.

This book is the story of the Spartan stand at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C., but it is also much more. It is, in many ways, a philosophical work that examines what it means to make the ultimate sacrifice for your country, your way of life—for Freedom.

Pressfield’s tight prose sweeps the reader along on an epic journey that traces the story of the fictional sole survivor of the battle as he tells it to Xerxes, the king of Persia. Even though the tragic end is a forgone conclusion, this tale possesses an immediacy that places you squarely on the battlefield, standing shield by shield with Leonidas and the knights of Sparta.

This book has been recommended to me by almost every Soldier I have known. When I finally picked it up, I understood why. I couldn’t set it down. I read it twice in as many weeks and even now, a month later I re-read sections of it on a regular basis. The book is included in various curriculums at Annapolis and West Point and should, in my opinion, be required reading for every Soldier. It is a truly remarkable work that has shot to the top of my list of all-time favorites.

This book has been recommended to me by almost every Soldier I have known. When I finally picked it up, I understood why.



Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin

By Jason West

Ah, side-scrolling platform games, we’ve loved them since we first hop-scotched Pitfall Harry over endless ponds of crocodiles back on our Atari 2600 (yes, we’re old . . . so what?). It had been years since we had taken on anything from this old-school genre, so we were excited to find *Castlevania: Portrait of Ruin* (Nintendo DS) in a care package that arrived from the good folks at Konami. Although the basic controls and mechanics of the game are instantly recognizable and easy to master, the addictive play, massive amount of content and impressive visuals blew us away. The game makes excellent use of both of the Nintendo DS’s screens with an always-visible map. The RPG elements add an involving depth of play. The only complaint we could think of was that the new two-character system wasn’t as fully utilized as we might have hoped . . . but that’s just nit-picking. We have to recommend this latest installment in the *Castlevania* series to anyone who enjoys smiting evil.

300 Film Adaption Coming to Theaters and IMAX in March

If you’re familiar with the story of the Battle of Thermopylae or if you’re a fan of Frank Miller’s graphic novels, be sure to catch the upcoming movie production of *300*. We reviewed the original comic back in issue 3.6 (available at www.gxonline.com) and ever since, we’ve been waiting anxiously for the release of this movie. The movie opens in theaters and IMAX on March 9, 2007.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF KONAMI

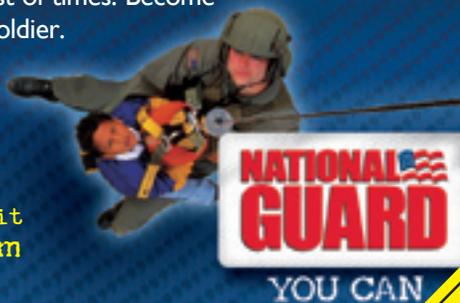


THE REASONS FOR A STRONG NATIONAL GUARD ARE GETTING MORE POWERFUL.

You don't know when, or even if, a natural disaster will strike your community. But you can be sure of the National Guard. In cities, towns and in rural communities, the Guard is trained, equipped and ready to serve whenever nature delivers a devastating punch.

A strong, successful Guard is built on dedication and courage. Have you got it? If you think so, visit us online or call us. Be one of the people your community can rely on at the worst of times. Become a Citizen-Soldier.

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GX Hero: SGT Kristi Artigue

From the Sandbox to the Constitution State, a True American Hero

By Keith Kawasaki

“He was in the water for about 40 minutes, completely frozen. He went down once and back up. He kept kind of bobbling . . . [I thought] ‘Oh God, I’m goin’ in.’”—SGT Kristi Artigue, a combat medic with the Army National Guard, describing the valiant rescue she performed this past winter when a civilian fell into a Connecticut river.

SGT Kristi Artigue hates the cold. She hates everything about it and wants nothing to do with it. In fact, at the time of our interview in January, she had just packed up and split to California. Despite this aversion to the cold, SGT Artigue dove full into a borderline-freezing West Haven, CT waterway this past November to save a man from drowning.

“It was hypothermic,” described SGT Artigue, 23, in a GX interview. “When I jumped in, I completely lost my breath. It almost crushed my chest.”

Add to this, the almost 6-foot, middle-aged man immediately took hold of the 5-foot-2 sergeant as she landed in the water. All the while, three men were on the shoreline, including two police officers, yet SGT Artigue was the one in the water.

What happened?

Apparently the drowning man, named Tom, had a seizure and fell into a section of the West River—40 minutes earlier. Initially, Tom fell unconscious from the shock, but came to, screaming for help. Two police officers arrived on the scene, as well as SGT Artigue’s boyfriend, Dawud Hanif, who just happened to be passing by.

SGT Artigue, a nurse at a local hospital, was on her way to the gym after work when she noticed Hanif’s car on the side of the road and called his cell phone. Hanif urged her to pull over and lend a hand, anxiously telling her of the man in the water. SGT Artigue was initially hesitant because first responders were on the scene and an ambulance was on the way. One major problem though—it was rush hour and the ambulance was held up in traffic. SGT Artigue zipped her car around and headed back to the scene.

“If some dude drowns and it’s because I didn’t go back, I’d feel really bad,” admitted SGT Artigue. “So . . . I hooked a U-y in traffic.”

As she arrived on the scene, SGT Artigue instinctively prepared herself for diving into the water—kicking off her shoes, pulling her hair back and tossing her glasses aside. “I’m blind as a bat,” said SGT Artigue.

You never know when previous experience is going to come in handy, let alone save a life. Back in high school, the sergeant was a lifeguard. Though that experience was a few years back, suddenly that

The drop from the land into the water was approximately 12 feet. When SGT Artigue had arrived, one of the officers had climbed down by the water and Tom had a hold of one of his feet. However, when another officer arrived, he mistook the officer helping Tom for the one in peril and pulled the officer up. This caused Tom to lose a grip on the officer’s boot. At that point, Tom, nearly frozen, couldn’t move quickly and began to sink under, popping up briefly thanks to his down vest. That’s when SGT Artigue jumped in. And in a panic, Tom grabbed onto SGT Artigue.

The sergeant immediately ripped Tom’s hands from her and spun him around. She grabbed his vest, careful to keep him at a distance and his back turned to her so he couldn’t pull her under. Then, she told him to kick. They had to get back to the side of the waterway; there was a ledge 15 feet away. When they got to the ledge, SGT Artigue had to maintain position while Tom was pulled up to street level. Using just her toe on an inch-piece of rock, she held on.

“Then, I put my [other] foot on my thigh . . . and pushed him as hard as I could. You have so much adrenaline. You don’t know your strength,” she said.

A human chain of officers then pulled Tom to safety and helped the sergeant as she climbed out of the water.

SGT Artigue serves as a combat medic with the Army National Guard. Combining those skills with her nursing and lifeguard skills, she raced back to Tom.

She wanted to get the wet clothes off of him, and looked for blankets and towels to wrap around his body. Unfortunately, no blankets could be found. So, thinking fast, SGT Artigue kept Tom dressed and had him curl into a fetal position, while holding his head (just in case he suffered any head injuries during the fall). She talked to him to keep him coherent. And finally, the ambulance arrived.

“He had a full recovery,” said SGT Artigue. “I was absolutely frozen (laughs)! I hate the cold.”

“Being in the military has given me the confidence to do things

Being in the military has given me the confidence to do things I wouldn’t have as a civilian. —SGT Kristi Artigue

knowledge flooded her mind. SGT Artigue sprang into action.

The water, the sergeant estimates, was 15 to 20 feet deep with a current moving toward a tunnel that ran under the street about 50 yards from the scene. Had Tom been swept away, he would have been lost under the street with a slim-to-none chance of rescue, especially with the near-freezing temperature of the water.

I wouldn’t have as a civilian,” SGT Artigue told SGT Jordan Werme of the *Connecticut Guardian*, the official newspaper of the Connecticut National Guard, in their December issue.

SGT Artigue joined the service when she was 17, while still in high school. “I’m a firm believer that the military should be mandatory after high school, at least one or two years,” SGT Artigue told GX. “I





INSPIRATION Now a combat medic for the Guard, SGT Kristi Artigue began a life of service in the eighth grade, when she volunteered for the American Red Cross.

think everyone needs to see what they take for granted.”

SGT Artigue first volunteered for service, though, in the eighth grade, working for the American Red Cross. The medical field had always fascinated her and led to her to choose the 91W MOS (combat medic). “I chose the National Guard because there was a unit down the street that was medical,” she said.

The then-teenager’s decision also was influenced by the education benefits offered by the National Guard and the fact that she could stay in her home state. “I didn’t want to be shipped all over just yet. I wanted to see whether or not military life was for me.”

By 2004, SGT Artigue was still in the Guard and heading to Iraq with the 141st Medical Company.

“Our basic mission was area support,” described SGT Artigue. “I was at Camp Anaconda in Balad. We were 911 response, patient transfer and worked in the ER. It was intense. Every day—someone died; someone lived. I was running on adrenaline. I kind of live off of unpredictability. But, I really just got through it because I had to. It was either that or make yourself go crazy.”

Other than adrenaline, SGT Artigue credits her mother as her chief motivator, carrying her through life’s challenges.

“My mother is my hero; because she had to raise us with a low-paying job and everything. It was tough for her to deal with three kids. She pulled it off and I figure, if she could do that, I could do anything,” said SGT Artigue, leading her to share a few of the life lessons she learned while serving in Iraq.

“You can’t depend on anyone but yourself. Life is short. It’s very short. And if you’re going to succeed, you really have to pour all your heart and determination into everything, otherwise you won’t make it out your front door.”

SGT Artigue now resides in California, and plans on making the military a 20-year career. No doubt, she will be missed on the East Coast, and welcomed on the West. Her service to our country, her proactive determination to persevere and her willingness to drop everything at any time to save her fellow man marks SGT Kristi Artigue as a real-life superhero and lasting inspiration for us all. **GX**

SGT JORDAN E. WERME, 130TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT, CTARNG

BAQUBAH AMBUSH



EMBROILED IN AN EXTENSIVE AMBUSH, EARLY MORNING JUNE 24, 2004, IN BAQUBAH, IRAQ, ALPHA COMPANY, 120TH INF FACED AN ESTIMATED 100 INSURGENTS ATTACKING FROM SEVERAL AMBUSH SITES. RPGs RAINED DOWN FROM THE ROOF-TOPS ONTO THE "WOLVERINES" BRADLEYS. AS THE BLASTS HIT HIS VEHICLE, SFC CHAD STEPHENS DIRECTED FIRE, KILLING SIX TO EIGHT INSURGENTS.



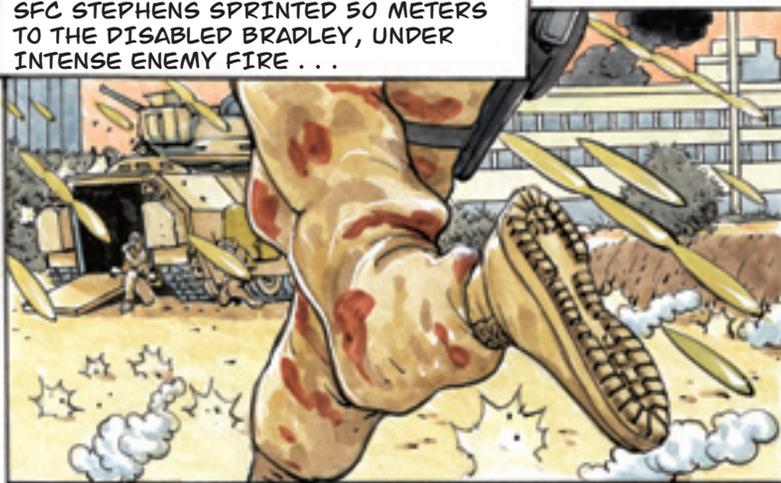
HQ WITHDREW NORTH TO EVACUATE THEIR MORTALLY WOUNDED COMMANDER. 1ST PLATOON, INCLUDING SFC STEPHENS' BRADLEY, CONTINUED A RUNNING GUN BATTLE EAST TOWARD THE DIYALA RIVER, WHERE OTHER UNITS WERE ENGAGED WITH A LARGE ENEMY CONCENTRATION.

THE PLATOON SET UP A HASTY DEFENSIVE POSITION AT THEIR CASUALTY COLLECTION POINT WHILE THE MEDICS WENT TO WORK. IT CAME TO SFC STEPHENS' ATTENTION THAT HIS WINGMAN'S WOUNDED GUNNER, SFC DAN DESENS, WAS TRAPPED IN THE TURRET OF HIS DAMAGED BRADLEY.



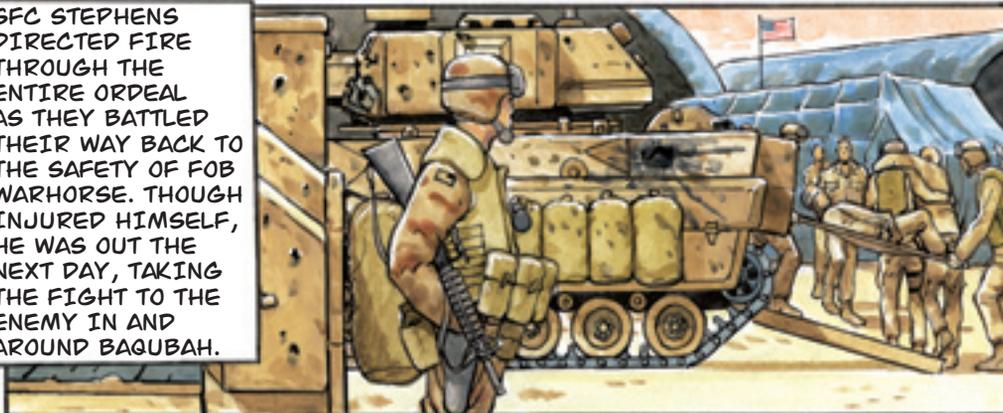
SFC STEPHENS SPURTED 50 METERS TO THE DISABLED BRADLEY, UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE . . .

. . . AND EXTRACTED THE WOUNDED GUNNER.



SFC STEPHENS DIRECTED FIRE THROUGH THE ENTIRE ORDEAL AS THEY BATTLED THEIR WAY BACK TO THE SAFETY OF FOB WARHORSE. THOUGH INJURED HIMSELF, HE WAS OUT THE NEXT DAY, TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY IN AND AROUND BAQUBAH.

FOR HIS GALLANTRY IN ACTION THAT DAY, SFC CHAD STEPHENS WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR.





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