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>> GX HERO

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TO ULTIMATE HONOR**  
SOLDIER SAVES  
FISHERMEN IN PERIL

>> BACK TO BASIC

**GX GOES  
TO FORT SILL**

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GX: The Guard Experience (ISSN # 1559-9922, November/December 2010) is published bimonthly by Iostudio, LLC, 565 Marriott Dr., Ste. 700, Nashville, TN 37214-5040. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, TN, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to: GX: The Guard Experience, 565 Marriott Dr., Ste. 700, Nashville, TN 37214-5040.



## Dear Friends,

As governor, I am tremendously proud and honored to serve as commander-in-chief of the New Hampshire National Guard. It is a responsibility I do not take lightly.

New Hampshire's National Guard, like Guard units across the country, is an integral part of our state's and nation's defense and emergency response efforts.

In recent years, the role of the National Guard has increased and expanded, and our brave men and women in the Guard have been asked to take on more responsibility for our nation's defense, for securing the homeland and for assisting the communities and the people of their respective states.

That is because our National Guard possesses a crucial set of skills and expertise that can be deployed anywhere in the state or abroad with short notice. Our Guard, like Guard units across the country, consists of highly trained professionals who are committed to serving the people, their state and the nation.

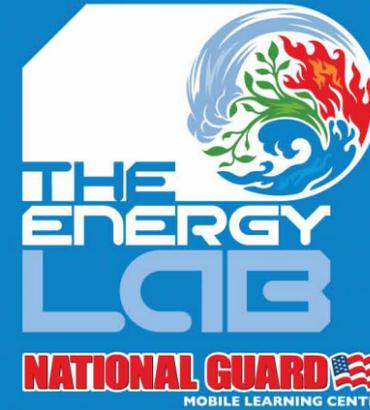
Throughout our nation's history the Guard has been called to service here at home and to battlefields abroad. Our Guard has always been there for us, and I want to ensure that we are always there for them and their families.

The New Hampshire National Guard has a long, proud tradition of defending our state and our nation, and that tradition is as strong today as it has ever been.

I want to thank all of the men and women who serve in the National Guard here in New Hampshire and across the nation—as well as their families—for their dedication, their service and their sacrifice.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch  
Governor, New Hampshire



## Nationwide Tour to Inspire America's Students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

The National Guard is launching its Mobile Learning Center (MLC) Program to provide a unique hands-on experience with math and science utilizing the theme of the four elements: earth, water, wind and fire.

This unique, engaging and highly interactive experience leads participants through a technological exploration of using energy and developing alternative energy sources.

The MLC focuses on the exploration of energy efficiencies, and the math and science behind the technology that makes them work, inspiring America's youth to continue their pursuit of innovation, imagination and ingenuity to advance these technologies.

The vehicle, known as the "Energy Lab" is a self-contained example of these technologies at work. With a framework constructed using 80% recycled materials, it also contains solar energy panels and uses exhaust gas recirculation technology, which reduces nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas, to almost zero.

On-board, the students enjoy a state-of-the-art 24-seat theater where these sciences are brought to life in relevant and impactful ways. Off-board, four interactive experimentation stations allow students to become part of, and contributors to, future energy management and engineering.

The Energy Lab will engage, educate and innovate America's youth, our future leaders, through its unique look at math and science.



### SCHEDULE\*

**2010**  
Washington, DC Oct. 4–15  
Georgia Oct. 18–29  
Alabama Nov. 1–5  
Tennessee Nov. 8–19  
Arkansas Nov. 22–Dec. 3  
Louisiana Dec. 6–17

**2011**  
Texas Jan. 3–14  
New Mexico Jan. 17–21  
Arizona Jan. 24–28  
Nevada Jan. 31–Feb. 4  
California Feb. 7–18

[NATIONALGUARD.com/energylab](http://NATIONALGUARD.com/energylab)

\*Schedule subject to change



**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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GX magazine is **not** an official publication of the Army National Guard. All military employees are traditional Guard members.

We're well into the busy season for care packages. In homes across the country, family members are boxing up gifts for their Soldiers and feeling the long-distance ache. While many Soldiers have in fact left the Iraq theater, a number still remain in support and security roles—and the efforts in Afghanistan and Kosovo continue. We know our National Guard is a key player in these efforts and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

By and large, Guard Soldiers may not be chasing the enemy so much as educating the people, but their role is no less important. As Major General R. Martin Umbarger of Indiana said at the 2/19th Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) deployment ceremony, he feels the road to success in Afghanistan will be found in the ADTs and “soft power,” not “knocking down doors.” These teams are literally changing the landscape. With every successful mission, the people of Afghanistan are less influenced by the Taliban and more readily embracing self-sufficiency.

So, another holiday season and the Guard is hard at work. As our cover notes, it's not the first time our Soldiers have been engaged during November and December, for combat, support and humanitarian missions. Someone's got to get out there and do it. Thank God we have the kind of patriotic Americans in the National Guard who are willing to stand up and take control.

To all our Soldiers and to all the families—and the employers—thank you for your commitment.

Thanks!

Keith Kawasaki, Editor-in-Chief  
Keith@GXonline.com



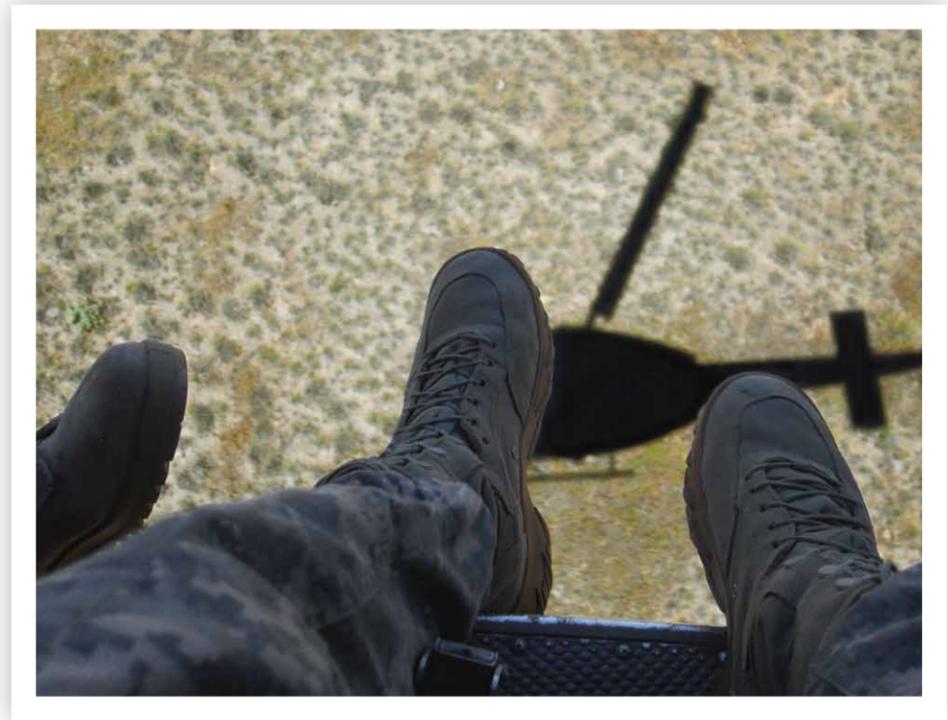
I'm sharing this adorable picture of my son, Staff Sergeant Abram Carman, and my grandson, Grady Carman, with you. I think Grady wants to be just like daddy when he grows up. Abram has been in the Indiana National Guard since he was 17. He went to Gulf Shores, MS, in 2005 to help with Hurricane Katrina relief and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2008.

**Sandy Caldwell**  
Indiana National Guard



Last issue's Hero article on Major Nathlon Jackson, written by Stephanie Inman, was the best article I have read in a while. The cover rocked, too! It was one of the best covers you have ever published. Keep up the good work.

**CPT Darrin Haas**  
Tennessee National Guard



I am currently deployed with the 2/123rd Field Artillery, Illinois National Guard, to Egypt. During my training at the Yakima Training Center in Washington, I was able to get a photo that I think you'll really enjoy. The photo is of my boots hanging from the open door of one of the last Huey helicopters in the Army. Below my boots, you can see the shadow of the helicopter as we travel.

**SPC Thomas Parquette**  
Illinois National Guard

I just finished reading GX 7.4. Reading the stories about our Soldiers who have re-enlisted made me want to share my story. Currently, I'm a proud recruiter for Pennsylvania, in Carlisle. I have been a recruiter for more than 14 years. I really enjoy my job because I have the opportunity to give young Americans a direction for their future. Whether their goal is college, trade school or entering the workforce, the Army National Guard has something to offer. I enjoy going into the high schools and talking to the students about their options with the Army National Guard.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story.

**SFC Theodore H. Lloyd**  
Pennsylvania National Guard

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Send your photos and letters to  
Editor@GXonline.com

## Vermont Writes From Afghanistan

**I HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TWICE WITH THE** Vermont Army National Guard. I started off my career as a private in the Active Army. I enjoyed my experiences in the Army and am thankful for the training I received.

I had outstanding NCOs (noncommissioned officers) who trained me well and set the standard for what a noncommissioned officer should be.

After my initial enlistment, I decided that it was time to move on. I ETS'd from Active Duty, hoping to find a job in law enforcement. I enrolled in college at Norwich University, but I missed the structure and camaraderie of the Army. I didn't want to serve full time, so I enlisted in the Guard. It was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

I was deployed to Kuwait while in college.

Until then, I wasn't sure if Guard Soldiers could function at the same level as an Active Duty Soldier, because I hadn't seen the Guard in action. But, on this deployment, I witnessed how versatile the National Guard Soldier can be. Most Guard Soldiers have many additional skill sets that they learned in their civilian occupations. It isn't uncommon to find a Guard Soldier who is also an electrician or a carpenter.

The additional skills of the Guard Soldier give commanders many additional resources that most Active Duty units cannot leverage. This is especially true in a counterinsurgency operation.

I am now deployed with the Vermont Guard to Afghanistan for a second time. I received my commission from Norwich University (the birthplace of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps)

and am deployed with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain). This deployment has left no doubt in my mind that the Guard Soldier is versatile and mature, and one of the most valuable assets that any commander has at their disposal.

**>> Second Lieutenant Llewelyn Hughes**  
Force Protection Officer  
86th Brigade Special Troops Battalion  
86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain)  
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

**THIS IS MY SECOND TOUR** to Afghanistan. My first was in 2005-2006, when I was stationed in the Herat, in the western part of Afghanistan.

I am incredibly honored to be a part of this tour, as it is the largest for the Vermont National

Guard since WWII. As with my first deployment, I am on an embedded training team. This time, I am stationed in central Afghanistan in Bamyan province. Both of these tours have afforded me the opportunity to see the similarities and differences of Afghanistan and its people.

I still believe the majority of Afghans want peace, a chance for education and prosperity. I feel this sometimes gets lost in the "sensationalism" of war from the perspective of the press corps. Positive stories could fill daily newspaper articles, television shows and radio programs. Recently, I was at small base in northern Bamyan province after a patrol had been ambushed the day before. Two local men came to the base to offer information on who had done it. I asked them why they were offering this information and they told me they wanted peace in their village and felt that we (the International Security Assistance Force) could provide this for them.

As with my first tour, this tour has helped me understand more about a culture that is in many ways vastly different from ours, but in many ways the same. This is also true with the Coalition Forces I work and live with.

This deployment, like the first one, has been full of sacrifices, by my family and by me. Having their support has been incredibly important. The dividends of these sacrifices will be well worth it when I can bring my family to Afghanistan so they can reap the fruits of our labor and discover the beauty of Afghanistan and its people.

**>> Staff Sergeant Peter Ladensack**  
Embedded Training Team Member  
Bamyan Embedded Training Team  
86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain)

**WHILE ON TOUR IN AFGHANISTAN FROM** March 2010 through November 2010, my military police (MP) platoon has been attached to the B Troop, 1/172nd Cavalry Unit.

I started my tour in Ghazni province at a tiny FOB (forward operating base) called Vulcan. While stationed there for two months, we traveled to two different districts to mentor the Afghan National Police (ANP). We would conduct foot patrols with them and train them in basic police tasks at their compounds. Our two districts were Qarabagh and Waghez.

My first tour was in Kirkush, Iraq, where my MP platoon was attached to another cavalry



SSG Peter Ladensack renders a salute to one of the 21 graduates of the Afghan National Police's Crime Scene Investigation program at the ANP Regional Training Center on May 28, 2010.



2LT Llewelyn Hughes provides security during a patrol in the village of Qal'eh ye Gelay in Afghanistan's Parwan province, April 4, 2010.

SSG WHITNEY HUGHES

TOP: PFC ROY MERCOR; BOTTOM: COURTESY OF THE 86TH IBCT

regiment out of Tennessee. We ran the detention facility and escorted convoys.

While in Afghanistan, I became the first female in Task Force Wolverine to receive a Combat Action Badge. On April 11, out at the ANP headquarters in Waghez, we received two indirect fire attacks. That was my wake-up call that morning. I had worked a guard shift the night before and decided to just sleep on the roof of my MRAP Cougar. Later that day, while my platoon was providing overwatch security for a road survey team in the area of Waghez, we received small-arms fire from within the village. We flanked the enemy and quickly diffused the situation with the help of Afghan Police dismounts.

While in Ghazni province, indirect fire attacks and small-arms fire were common for us. Luckily, no one was seriously injured.

Our mission changed in May. We were moved out to the provincial headquarters of Charikar city in the Parwan province. Here, we provide daily security for the embedded training teams and conduct foot patrols with the local



SGT Nicole M. Seitz, a military police officer for Troop B, 1st Regiment, 172nd Squadron, is the first Task Force Wolverine female Soldier to earn a Combat Action Badge.

police. We also oversee the conditions of four ANP precincts. The compound we live on is extremely small and we live with ANP and United Arab Emirates Soldiers.

This tour has been an eye-opener for me in many ways. I am proud to be an American Soldier, and I serve my country with great honor.

**>> Sergeant Nicole Seitz**  
Military Police Member  
Provincial Headquarters  
B Troop, 1/172nd Cavalry  
Charikar, Afghanistan

Be sure to read *GX 8.1* to find out how CPT Isaacson trained for his adventure.



## >> KING OF THE MOUNTAIN

[ **Torreys Peak, CO** ]

CPT Aaron Isaacson climbed the 14,267-foot Torreys Peak on Sept. 17, 2010, in preparation for his trip to Nepal in mid-October, where he will climb Lobuche East.

Photo by Adam Livingston





## » PIERCING THE NIGHT

[ Port Clinton, OH ]

SPC Christopher Breeze of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, fires the M240B machine gun with a PVS-14 night vision scope at the Camp Perry Joint Training Center, Port Clinton, OH, Saturday, Aug. 14, 2010, as part of an Annual Training night-fire exercise.

Photo by SGT Sean Mathis





## » SMOKING SECTION

[ **Camp Ravenna, OH** ]

Emerging from a cloud of obscurity and smoke, SPC Andrew Deeds of E Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, moves to provide security during individual movement technique training at Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center, Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2010.

Photo by CPT Matt Molinski, Ohio National Guard





» **TAKING COVER**

[ **Camp Atterbury, IN** ]

PFC Andrew Williams engages targets on the "Stress Fire" range at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in central Indiana at dawn Aug. 24, 2010.

Photo by John Crosby





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**"IF THE TALIBAN REALLY DO BELIEVE THAT AMERICA IS HEADING FOR THE EXITS NEXT SUMMER IN LARGE NUMBERS, THEY WILL BE DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND SURPRISED TO FIND US VERY MUCH IN THE FIGHT."**

>> U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT GATES



**ONLY A SOLDIER** would consider it "a blessing" to fly into an Afghanistan hot zone under heavy enemy fire. But that's what pilot Chief Warrant Officer Four Brandon Erdmann and the rest of his flight crew, Dustoff 24, did to rescue five wounded Soldiers. For his bravery, Erdmann, a UH-60 Black Hawk medevac pilot in the Wyoming National Guard, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on June 13.

"It is an honor to not only receive this recognition, but to have done the mission."

**FLYING INTO HEAVY COMBAT**

While deployed to Afghanistan with the California National Guard, Erdmann and his crew received a radio request for medevac assistance. An infantry squad had been ambushed while traversing the country's rugged mountains.

"My thought was that we would go do this quick mission, then go on with our day. It didn't seem out of the ordinary for the types of calls that we had in that area," Erdmann said.

But the stakes were raised when the crew learned that one of the injured Soldiers was suffering from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Dustoff 24 had to decide if they could risk putting the aircraft and themselves in such a hostile environment.

"Based on the proximity of the enemy and the weapon systems being employed, we knew the aircraft would be at great risk during the hoist extraction. But it didn't take us long. When we got the information that it was a life-threatening injury, we opted to go in and execute the mission," Erdmann said.

The only way to reach the engagement area was through a narrow valley. A scout weapons team provided support. Yet, as the Black Hawk approached the area, Erdmann looked out the left door to see the enemy a mere 200 feet away. Their guns were pointed at the helicopter, unloading round after round.

"You could see the rocks chipped up where the bullets were impacting the area around the aircraft," he described.

This upset Erdmann. "I was angry that the anti-Afghan forces were actively trying to prevent us from doing our job. Their engagement with the aircraft galvanized my will to complete the mission. I was thinking, 'We are going to get this done.'"

The Black Hawk lowered Staff Sergeant Emmett Spraktes, a combat medic, to the ground and extracted the wounded Soldier. Spraktes knew the Soldier's condition was getting worse by the minute and time was precious. So he radioed for the chopper to leave him behind so he could stabilize the other injured Soldiers.

When the Dustoff 24 crew returned, they learned that two more Soldiers needed to be extracted. One suffered from a broken ankle, and the other had sustained injuries to the hip from shrapnel.

"The thing about the patient with the broken ankle is that although the injury wasn't life-threatening, an infantry squad is completely immobilized if they have personnel with that type of injury," Erdmann said. The crew planned a combat hoist to extract the two Soldiers and Spraktes.

Theoretically, the crew was more than ready for the hoist. They had taken advantage of every opportunity to practice combat hoists during training in the past. So if they happened to encounter a situation like this, it should've been second nature. But no amount of practice could have prepared them for the events that unfolded.

Because of the deafening noise from the gunfire, Spraktes could hardly hear anything over the radio. So all three Soldiers got on the jungle pene-



CW4 Brandon Erdmann (right) and his copilot, CW4 Gary Heyne, spent a yearlong tour in Afghanistan flying missions in support of combat units in the mountains.

trator. But the hoist couldn't lift all the weight. So halfway up, it stopped. The three Soldiers began dangling from the helicopter, which was 70 feet off the ground. Luckily, Staff Sergeant Thomas Gifford was able to lower the hoist for Spraktes to get off. The crew flew the two Soldiers to the nearest combat outpost, leaving Spraktes behind for the second time. Dustoff 24 loaded up on water and ammunition to fly back to the site.

It was the crew's third trip into the area, with no end in sight. Two more Soldiers were suffering from heat stroke and needed to be extracted.

At this point, about 30 percent of the combat power had been taken from the unit. So Spraktes requested to remain behind for support.

"I absolutely commend him. But he didn't understand that there was another operation to provide relief for the infantry squad," Erdmann said. "And part of my thought was that by not having our medic on board, we were combat-ineffective. So I made the decision that we would return to the engagement area for a sixth time to extract Sergeant Spraktes."

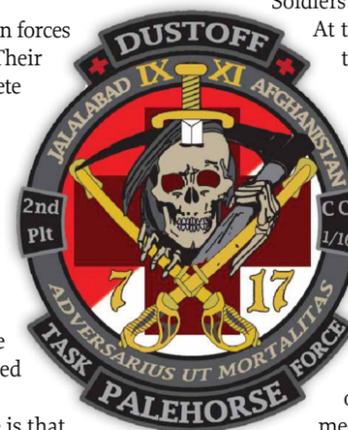
**HONORING THEIR BRAVERY**

Erdmann and his crew spent three hours flying in and out of oncoming fire to perform their duties. Each man in the medevac unit was committed to completing the mission.

"They're an absolutely phenomenal group of guys. No doubt about it," Erdmann said.

Erdmann, Gifford and Chief Warrant Officer Two Scott St. Aubin were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with "V" Device. Spraktes was awarded the Silver Star Medal. "I am certainly appreciative of the accolades. But my thought is, what we did that day is really no different than what our other aircrews in the platoon would have done," Erdmann said.

Erdmann joined the National Guard and became a medevac pilot to perform these types of missions. He said his greatest honor was having the opportunity to aid his fellow Soldiers. "It is very gratifying to know that you are helping someone who really needs help." **GX**



# Daring Rescue

## Medevac pilot earns medal for risky mission

By Stephanie Inman, photos courtesy of CW4 Brandon Erdmann / WYOMING



# Afghan Flood Victims Receive Aid

Story and photo by CPT Anthony Deiss, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade / KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

IT WAS A PARTNERSHIP TO provide hope for flood victims in the Musahi District, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 15, as Afghan and Coalition Forces delivered humanitarian aid to displaced families.

"We lost everything in the flood," said one local man. "With the help of the government and military, we have hope for our future and can begin to rebuild."

Members of the Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP), U.S. military and Turkish forces participated in the relief effort to procure and deliver food, clothing, tents, blankets and stoves to 150 families. The supplies were delivered in response to recent flooding caused by heavy rains that breached the banks of a local river, affecting more than 600 people.

"We are here to help the displaced families who are in need," said Sergeant Walirahman Rahmani, ANA Soldier. "It's a joint event. We have American and other forces from NATO here helping the Afghans."

"This humanitarian relief effort was a true partnership between the Afghan Security Forces, the U.S. and Turkish forces," said Captain Benjamin Mailhot, civil military operations officer from 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery Regiment (1/101st FAR), Massachusetts Army National Guard. "I think it's outstanding, the level of cooperation we have with our Afghan partners to put this relief package together."

The Kabul Provincial Governor, Zebiullah Mucaddidi, was also on hand to meet with local village elders and assisted in passing out relief supplies. The Afghan government, along with the village elders, helped to identify the families that were the most in need of receiving aid.

## HELPING HAND

"We are making sure the humanitarian aid goes to the needy families," said Khawani Hussainkhil, a local village elder.

According to Mailhot, of Belmont, MA, the 1/101st FAR was able to use Commanders Emergency Response Program funds, or CERP, to quickly procure aid for the families affected by the flood. The CERP gives U.S. military commanders the ability to quickly buy needed supplies for emergencies or projects that benefit the Afghan people.

After the request for support came from the Turkish military, which provides oversight for the Regional Command – Capital area, the 1/101st FAR was able to

**"IT FEELS GOOD TO BE OUT HERE HELPING THE PEOPLE."**

>> SSG Anthony Farese, Massachusetts Army National Guard

procure and deliver the supplies within several days of the flooding.

The Musahi humanitarian aid drop is the largest the 1/101st FAR has supported since being in Afghanistan, and they hope they will be able to provide future support for the people of this area.

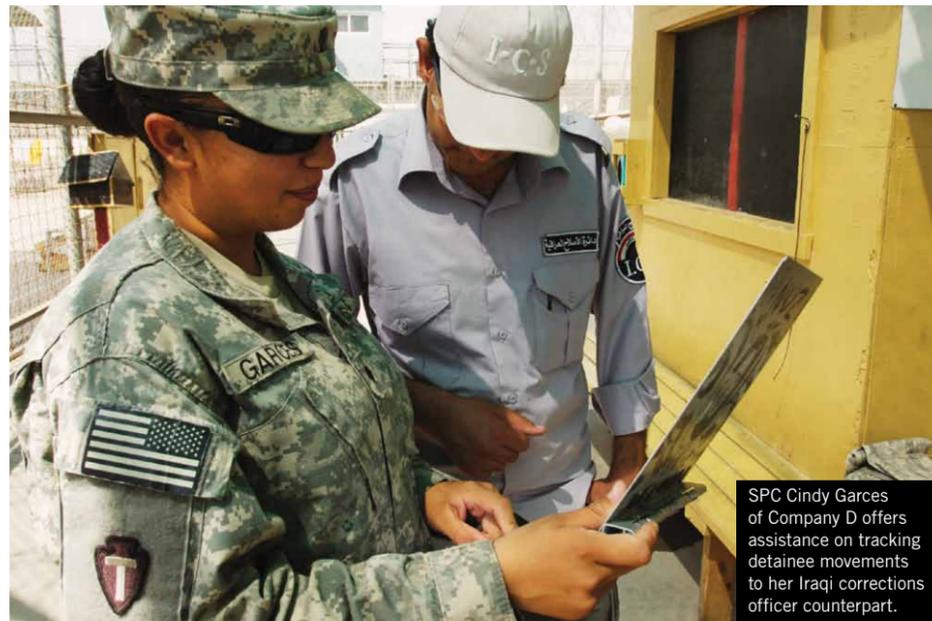
"We are hoping to have a continued presence in this region and provide future projects that support the people," said Mailhot. "Wells and bridges are just a few examples of things the people need."

"It feels good to be out here working with the ANA, ANP and Turkish military, helping the people," said Staff Sergeant Anthony Farese, Peabody, MA, of A Battery, 1/101st FAR. "That's why we are here—to help the people."

"We are thankful for their cooperation with the Afghan people," said Hussainkhil of the coalition. "I, as a representative of the villagers, am personally thankful for the assistance, and the people—who this support goes to—are also thankful." **GX**



Assisted by an Afghan National Army Soldier, SSG Albert Price, Massachusetts Army National Guard, helps load supplies for flood victims during a humanitarian aid drop.



SPC Cindy Garces of Company D offers assistance on tracking detainee movements to her Iraqi corrections officer counterpart.

# Texas Helps Transition

## Soldiers prepare for detention center turnover

Story and photo by 1LT Maria Mengrone / CAMP CROPPER, IRAQ

U.S. FORCES are continually making great strides in the responsible drawdown of U.S. troops across Iraq. Perhaps the most delicate task rests in the hands of the Soldiers assigned as guard force in the historical transfer of detainees to the Iraqi government at the Cropper Theater Internment Facility (Cropper TIF).

"This turnover marks the last major detention facility to be turned over to the government of Iraq," said Lieutenant Colonel Warren R. Wintrode, Cropper TIF commander and 105th Military Police (MP) Battalion commander from the North Carolina National Guard.

Along with the Cropper facility, the ceremonial transfer held July 15 signified the transition of approximately 1,500 detainees to inmate status within the Iraqi corrections system.

### THE FRUITS OF COMMITMENT

Final completion of the detainee operations mission in Iraq has fallen primarily on guard force Soldiers of the Texas National Guard's 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

"Working with detainees on a daily basis is demanding work," said Major Diana E. Stumpf, Cropper TIF operations officer, 105th MP Battalion. "The Soldiers stand 12-hour shifts in

the facility every day and work face-to-face with the detainees."

### BALANCING ACT

Aside from dealing with the day-to-day demands, Soldiers have to remain vigilant and compliant with all standard operating procedures.

"Consistency is the most important element in detainee operations—consistency in conduct, enforcing the rules, and the treatment of detainees," said Master Sergeant Mark Provost, Cropper TIF noncommissioned officer-in-charge, individual augmentee and native of San Diego.

Provost added that the Soldiers mentoring and advising Iraqi guards play a vital role that will serve as a model for how Iraq could operate a successful prison system.

The transfer of the Cropper TIF has taken a more symbolic meaning to Soldiers who believe detention operations have served a greater purpose.

"I hope Iraq continues to move forward to where the whole country is happy," said Sergeant David A. Franco, Company D, 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry, 72nd IBCT, from Fort Worth, TX. "It's not glorifying. But, at the end of the day, we follow our orders and serve our purpose as a professional guard force for the future of Iraq." **GX**

# Hawaii Recognized as Top Employer by Department of Defense

Courtesy of the Hawaii National Guard / WASHINGTON, DC

The State of Hawaii received the Freedom Award, the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their support of their National Guard and Reserve employees.

Gov. Linda Lingle accepted the award on behalf of the state at a ceremony in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on Sept. 23, 2010.

"We're proud of our members of the Hawaii National Guard and Reserves, and we have instituted a number of programs and tax breaks as a way of thanking our men and women in uniform for their service," Lingle said.

Joining the celebration were U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono, U.S. Rep. Charles Djou, Major General Robert G. F. Lee and state Rep. K. Mark Takai. Takai submitted the nomination.

Hawaii was selected as one of only 15 employers from across the nation to receive the 2010 Freedom Award. Hawaii is the seventh state to receive this award. A national selection board comprised of senior defense officials and business leaders selects the award recipients.

The Hawaii government provides credit to government employment retirement for deployed years, and preferential hiring for members of the National Guard and military Reserves who have been deployed. In addition, the state held a welcome-home parade and celebration upon the return of the 29th Brigade through Waikiki. Hawaii received the ESGR Pro Patria Award in 2009 and 2010.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. Its mission is to develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members. Since 1996, only 130 companies have been presented with the prestigious Freedom Award. Coastal Windows, an Oahu company, won the award in 2008.

"The state of Hawaii has a very strong and unique partnership with our U.S. military," Takai said. "We provide exceptional benefits to employees who serve in the National Guard or military Reserves." **GX**

# Utah Leaps Into History

By CPT Choll Ence, 128th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment / KAMPONG SPEU, CAMBODIA

FOR AIRBORNE SOLDIERS, getting the chance to jump with airborne forces from other countries is a highly coveted and sought-after event. Such was the case for 49 Utah Army National Guard Soldiers of the 197th Special Troops Company (Airborne), 97th Troop Command, and 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group.

These Soldiers participated in a friendship jump with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces during Angkor Sentinel 2010, the Global Peace Operation Initiative capstone event, held at the newly built Training School for Multinational Peacekeeping Forces, July 12–30.

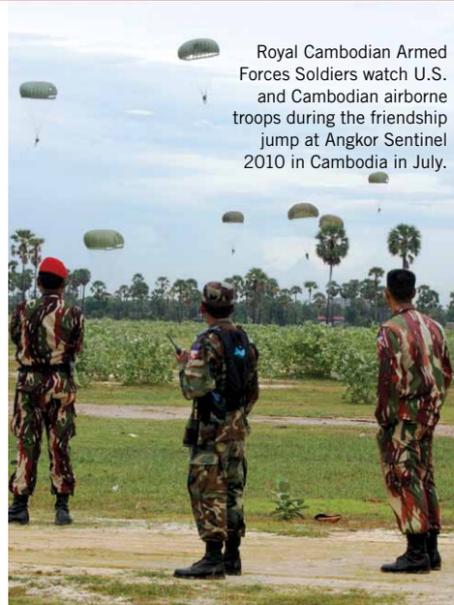
The Global Peace Operation Initiative is a State Department-led initiative to address gaps in international peacekeeping operations and normally doesn't include a friendship jump.

According to Sergeant Major Gary Barnes, operations noncommissioned officer for Headquarters, 97th Troop Command, the idea to include a friendship jump in the exercise was

first conceptualized during the initial planning conference in October 2009. However, obtaining actual approval to include the friendship jump in the exercise proved more difficult.

In fact, Barnes said the approval for the jump came only after Colonel Edward Gunderson, co-exercise support group director for Angkor Sentinel and commander of the 97th, met with defense and Army attaché, Colonel Mark Gillette, during the exercise rehearsal. Once approval for the friendship jump was granted by the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, U.S. Pacific Command, and U.S. Army Pacific, the task of coordinating for the necessary equipment and support personnel began.

The KC-130J aircraft used during the friendship jump was supplied by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing out of Okinawa, Japan, and the jumpmaster, safeties, parachute riggers and parachutes were all supplied by the U.S. Army's 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, also based in



Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Soldiers watch U.S. and Cambodian airborne troops during the friendship jump at Angkor Sentinel 2010 in Cambodia in July.

Okinawa. Prior to this jump, according to Barnes, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces, had never worked together. Despite these challenges, the friendship jump was deemed a success as 66 U.S. and 30 Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Soldiers carried out a perfectly executed jump. **GX**

# New York Trains With New Simulator

Soldiers hone skills on .50 cal machine gun

Courtesy of the New York Army National Guard / SYRACUSE, NY



SSG Anthony Burgess (center), a master gunner instructor with C Company, Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, GA, instructs SGT Peter Hyland on the individual gunnery trainer.

NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS can now hone their M2 machine gun skills in the classroom before heading out for the range, thanks to a new training system called Individual Gunnery Training, or IGT.

The new system brings the range to the Soldier instead of requiring the Soldier to go to the range. It's similar to systems that have successfully trained tank and Bradley gunners for their armored vehicles.

## VIRTUAL WORLD

The IGT is a computer training console with a simulated .50 cal machine gun mounted on a stand. The gunner has to use a complex but efficient system of switches and controls to maneuver the weapon, sight in using the head mounted display, and send massive amounts of cyber-rounds downrange with precision.

"We are Combat Service Support and do not have the range time that other units have," said Master Sergeant Michael Molgaard, the operations sergeant for the 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "This training system will help make up for that in a great way. This trainer will prepare the Soldier and get the Soldier in the right mind-set for actual hands-on of the .50 cal."

The computer recognizes key words and acts accordingly—bringing up visual displays, changing to night vision or thermal sight or even stopping the vehicle, to name a few.

## TOTAL TRAINING

Three interactive programs of instruction are included with the .50 cal IGT system. The first is the basic .50 cal for new users. The second and third take the Soldier through a matrix progression, designed for sustainment in the Combat Service Support and Heavy Brigade Combat Team gunnery tables.

"This system teaches the Soldier everything there is to know in order to fire live rounds," said William Evans, a training specialist with Raydon. **GX**

COURTESY OF NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, COURTESY OF UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

# New Alabama Unit Jumps Into Rare Air

Courtesy of Alabama Army National Guard Public Affairs / MONTGOMERY, AL

FROM THE CORNER OF HIS EYE, Sergeant Chad Edwards watched as three of his buddies scooted themselves out the broad doors of the humming UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Seconds later, it was Edwards' turn. With one tap on the head from the jumpmaster, Edwards was airborne. Minutes later, he and 13 of his fellow Soldiers were safe on the ground, celebrating their unit's first official jump.

The unit is the Alabama Army National Guard's high-speed Long Range Surveillance (LRS) unit, C Company, 1st Squadron, 131st Cavalry. June 19, the company was christened when 14 Soldiers from the unit jumped from the belly of a UH-60 Black Hawk some 1,500 feet above the ground into the Keystone Short Drop Zone just outside Camp Blanding, FL. It was the company's first jump as a unit, recognizing it as one of only two airborne units in the Alabama National Guard.

The jump took place during the company's annual training at Camp Blanding. According to C Company commander Captain Patrick Ladner, many long hours of grueling training went into making this historic event possible. "This annual training has been one of the biggest milestones we've had as a company. This jump is a big mark on our calendar," said Ladner.

## FUTURE IS UP IN THE AIR

For one C Company Soldier, the day was full of excitement and pride. Specialist Adam Kelley re-enlisted for six years while in the air. He was the first Soldier in the unit to re-enlist while airborne. Ladner performed the oath of enlistment while fellow Soldier Sergeant James Winters held up an American flag patch—giving Kelley a tangible symbol to recite the oath to.

"It was a great feeling to be able to re-enlist in the air," said Kelley. "I hope it will inspire and motivate other Soldiers to do the same thing."

Immediately after the jump, a formation was held in which C Company troops donned their maroon berets. Only airborne units are authorized to wear the maroon beret. This special headgear makes C Company Soldiers stand out wherever they go.

It was a proud moment for C Company, said Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Mitchell, squadron commanding officer for 1st Squadron, 131st Cavalry. "Today's successful jump is an important milestone for C Company, but it represents only a small part of the unit's overall

capabilities. The LRS Company is an elite unit that is expected to conduct specialized missions deep in enemy territory with little support from higher [headquarters]," said Mitchell. "The airborne capability is just the start of the many challenges C Company will face in the near term."

Since the unit's designation in September 2009, its Soldiers have been continuously gearing up for this event and any future real-world missions. "A typical drill weekend consists of endurance physical training events like a 14-mile road march and field training. We usually stay in the field every drill weekend. Members of this or any LRS unit are the most physically fit, mentally tough and highly trained infantry Soldiers there are," said Ladner.

The standards and qualifications are high for an LRS Soldier. This is due to their unique mission of going where no one else wants to go... behind enemy lines. "Our Soldiers are expected to go as far behind enemy lines as needed to gather intelligence for higher headquarters. Missions could last for as long as seven days under the worst weather conditions," explained Ladner.

"We're able to get into those areas where a typical cavalry scout cannot—dropping in by static line parachute, high altitude low opening jumps, small boats, scuba divers and fast rope insertions from helicopters," said Ladner.

Because of their special mission, Soldiers assigned to the LRS are given training opportunities most Guard Soldiers never receive. Training such as HALO (high altitude low opening) School, Scuba School, Ranger School, Pathfinder School, Jumpmaster School, and the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course at Fort Benning are offered to these elite Soldiers. Soldiers in the company are expected to acquire all of these special skill identifiers before they become Team Leaders. Officers and NCOs in the company are expected to be, at a minimum, Airborne Ranger qualified.

"By necessity, the maturity level we require of our Soldiers is higher than that of a typical unit," said Ladner. "Missions are typically conducted as six-man teams operating independently behind enemy lines. This requires very responsible, mature noncommissioned officers and Soldiers." **GX**



1LT Joseph Sparks pushes himself out the doors of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter some 1,500 feet above the Keystone Short Drop Zone just outside of Camp Blanding, FL, June 19, 2010. Sparks is a member of C Company, 1st Squadron, 131st Cavalry. It was the company's first official jump as a unit.

COURTESY OF ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD

# Sharp Eye

## Missouri marksman hits hard target

By Bill Phelan, Missouri National Guard Public Affairs / FORT LEONARD WOOD, MO

**A MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER,** Staff Sergeant James T. Phelps, of Holts Summit, is the winner of two of the U.S. Army's top awards for marksmanship—a rare feat.

After winning the Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge six months ago, Phelps was recently awarded the Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in a ceremony at Fort Leonard Wood.

Since its creation in 1903, only 1,709 Distinguished Pistol Shot Badges have been awarded, which amounts to only 2 percent of the Soldiers who have attempted to achieve it. General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, commander of all U.S. Forces during WWI, is among those who have won the badge.

Even more impressive is the fact that Phelps is one of only 375 Soldiers to win both the pistol and rifleman badges in the past 107 years, the period in

which both awards have existed.

"This is a rare honor for the U.S. Army's top marksman," said Colonel Wendul G. Hagler, Missouri National Guard chief of staff, who presented the pistol badge to Phelps. "The Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge is the most coveted shooting award in the United States for individual excellence in marksmanship. This is an outstanding accomplishment by Sergeant Phelps."

Soldiers are awarded the pistol shot badge after earning 30 Excellence in Competition points, or "legs" in a series of specific marksmanship competitions conducted throughout the year. In each competition, Soldiers fire the standard Army issue M9 pistol.

While Phelps loves to compete, he is not above learning from other competitors and passing that knowledge along.



COL Wendul G. Hagler, Missouri National Guard chief of staff, congratulates SSG James Phelps after presenting him with the U.S. Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

"Ultimately, it's not about the competition," he said. "It's about battlefield survival. The better marksman you are, the better Soldier you are."

Phelps is a military police officer with the 3175th Military Police Company, headquartered in Warrenton. He has served in the Missouri National Guard for 12 years. **GX**

# Indiana Retires Howitzers

By MAJ Gordon Campbell and SFC Tina R. Eichenour / CAMP ATTERBURY, IN

**THE 2ND BATTALION,** 150th Field Artillery Regiment (2/150th), fired the final rounds using the M198 155 mm towed howitzer on Saturday, Sept. 18, here.

The last round fired from the M198 brought to a close an era that spans 18 years for the battalion.

The Indiana National Guard's field artillery community came to participate in the ceremonious event with a direct fire of the M198. The

The 150th Field Artillery fires the final round on Sept. 18, 2010, at Camp Atterbury, IN.



38th Infantry Division commanding general, Major General Tod Carmony, was in attendance along with many field artillery senior leaders. This firing brought members of the battalion, current and retired, from all over Indiana and surrounding states to mark the historic event.

"This is an opportunity to bring them out and be part of the turning to the next page of this book," said Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Thibodeau, commander of the 2/150th.

In a rare direct-fire mode, attendees were able to see firsthand the power of the M198 as the cannon fired 155 mm rounds, destroying the intended target a few thousand meters downrange. With the final rounds, attendees and senior leaders were given the opportunity to be a part of the firing team by pulling a 25-foot ceremonial lanyard to initiate the firing of the cannon.

In the early 1990s, the 2/150th received the M198, which replaced the M114 towed howitzer that had been used since the 1940s.

"The M114 was an excellent weapon that had been around since WWII," said Master Sergeant Therron Thomas, operations noncommissioned officer for Indiana Joint Forces Headquarters. "When we saw these [M198s] come in, all the specifications said they were going to be a more accurate and timely weapon. They proved to be." **GX**

COURTESY OF MAJ GORDON CAMPBELL, MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

# Troop D Celebrates Change of Command

By CW2 Marc Acton / SMYRNA, TN

**ON SEPT. 11, 2010,** a day set aside by many as a day of reflection, one Tennessee National Guard unit was moving on. Their change of command ceremony was a nod to traditions of the past, but this unit looked more like the future of the National Guard, as did both the outgoing and incoming commanders.

As part of last year's National Guard "Unit of the Year," Troop D, 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, is one of the leading Black Hawk helicopter units in all of Army aviation.

So why do they look so different from what some would think of as a traditional Army unit?

### AT EASE

The Soldiers of Troop D are typical in many ways of today's National Guard Soldier. But, as a unit, they also stand apart.

The Army Aviation Association of America named them "Unit of the Year" based on their completion of one of the most successful deployments in recent Guard aviation history. Called the "Moonshine Troop," they returned from Iraq in March of 2010 after having helped the 1/230th fly more hours over the course of the previous 12 months than any unit in the entire Army—5,500

combat hours. Maybe even more impressive, they did it flying primarily in the Nineveh province, one of the most dangerous areas of operation in Iraq. Transporting over 8,000 passengers and 4 million pounds of cargo, Troop D maintained a 75 percent Operational Readiness Rate during their deployment.

With this kind of military street cred, you might expect Moonshine to be comprised of hard-charging hooah types. You couldn't be more wrong. As the current commander left the unit and the incoming commander took over, both personalities revealed why this unit is the future of the National Guard.

The outgoing commander, Captain John Rigdon, is a former road manager of a Christian band. He speaks softly and with a country twang, and mentions his family frequently and fondly. He seems comfortable with who he is. His troops respond well when he gives orders.

The incoming commander, Captain Bradley Pray, is also not cut from the mold. He fits in easily both with high-ranking Army officials and young enlisted personnel. He's equally comfortable discussing the relative merits of Russian Cold War antiaircraft tactics and quoting the

last Will Ferrell movie. He's a potential bridge between the old-school leadership paradigm and the new-school thinking needed to attract video-game-playing, web-surfing youngsters. The fact that he was handpicked to command Troop D—to serve in one of the most sought-after positions in the Tennessee Guard—indicates that his higher command has recognized his potential.

### NEW DAY

As the National Guard's mission continues to evolve—and reacts to the changing stresses placed upon it—so must its members. Old strategies must be set aside. New management styles must be adopted.

Since their return home from Iraq in early 2010, Troop D has spent at least part of each drill engaging in some sort of "welcome home" festivities. This ceremony was the last of the series, culminating in the change of command ceremony.

Moments before the ceremony started, it began to rain on the troops, who had just formed outside a large hangar. While normally a burly first sergeant might have barked out something about sucking it up, common sense prevailed that day. One of the troop's platoon leaders had the troops take 10 steps forward into the hangar.

Authority appropriately delegated, leaders taking responsibility for the well-being of their troops, and a willingness to let common sense prevail are just a few reasons why Troop D represents where the National Guard needs to go. **GX**



CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

On Sept. 11, 2010, Tennessee's 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron held a change of command ceremony after a successful deployment to Iraq from March 2009 to March 2010.

# California Counterdrug Force

## Soldiers defeat marijuana growers

By Tech. Sgt. David J. Loeffler / CALIFORNIA

**THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD'S** Joint Task Force Domestic Support-Counterdrug (JTFDS-CD) joined with more than 21 federal, state and local agencies in July for an operation focusing on the eradication of illegally grown marijuana on public land, restoration of the grow sites, and education of local youth about making positive life choices and living drug-free in Central California.

Drug growing and trafficking operations in Fresno, Tulare and Madera counties were the focus of Operation Trident.

"Drug traffickers who operate large marijuana grows on public lands in the Sierra foothills despoil the environment and pose a safety threat to hikers, campers and others who use our parks and national forests," U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner said.

The plants, which can be more than six feet tall, are watered through elaborate drip systems running through the grow sites like complex spider webs.

### METHODS AND MEANS

"The water is often stolen from local streams and diverted to the gardens via miles of black irrigation line. At many sites, large water reservoirs are dug in and sealed with tarps," said a Fresno County sheriff on the reclamation team. The drug trafficking organizations cultivate the marijuana plants using growth stimulants, insecticides and concentrated fertilizer.

"They decimated the land," said a Special Event Tactical Team leader from the National Park Service. "The growers clear-cut the underbrush and dug large holes for the plants. They surrounded the gardens with barbed wire to keep the animals out. We've seen large amounts of fertilizer, pesticides and evidence of poaching. In today's eradication we even rescued an emaciated dog."

"It's necessary to tear down the illegal growers' infrastructure to deter drug trafficking organizations from re-establishing their operations. The process also restores the land to its natural state," said a member of JTFDS-CD's ground tactical team.

The multi-agency teams work to clear the marijuana plants and remove thousands of pounds of toxic fertilizers, trash and miles of makeshift irrigation systems. But the danger posed is not only to

California's watershed and wildlife.

"The growers are dangerous. They pollute our waters, they pollute our national forests," said the ground tactical team member. "Any day we can accomplish a mission like this for the people of California is a success."

"Operation Trident is focused on armed drug smugglers who bring with them the dangers and violence associated with drug trafficking," said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. "We must work with our state and federal partners because these organized crime organizations don't just grow marijuana on our public lands. They continue their criminal conduct during the off-season with other illegal drug and violent activities in our local communities."

### REDUCE FIRST-TIME USE

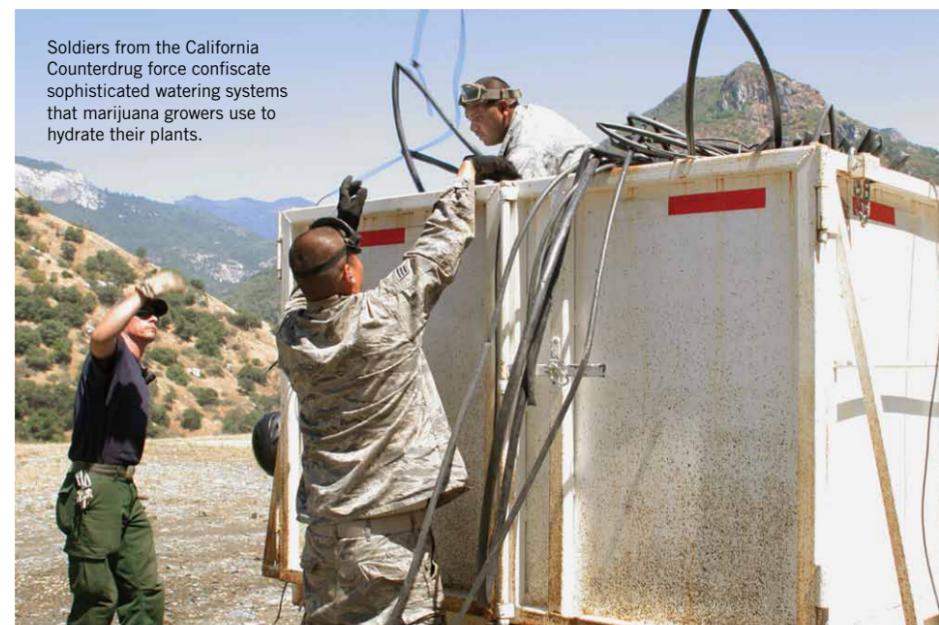
To combat the pervasive effect illegal drugs have on Californians, the California National Guard's role extends beyond the mountain terrain and reaches to the nearby communities. JTFDS-CD's Drug Demand Reduction team spent the month interacting with local youth and providing them with education, opportunity and guidance in the tri-county area.

A primary focus of the JTFDS-CD is the prevention of illicit drug use.

"Our program complements the Office of National Drug Control Policy's prevention strategy by providing youth-based educational activities designed to reduce 'first-time use' of illicit drugs," said Chief Warrant Officer Michael Payne, Drug Demand Reduction officer in charge. "We provide education to parents, teachers and community leaders."

"I am proud of the men and women of the California National Guard," said Brigadier General Mary J. Kight, California National Guard adjutant general. "The efforts they have made during Operation Trident have again proved the ability of the California National Guard to work hand-in-hand with other agencies throughout the state, to rid our national forest of illegal marijuana, restore the damaged forestland and, perhaps most importantly, to educate and positively influence the youth of our great state."

Operation Trident resulted in more than 100 arrests and the seizure of nearly 500,000 marijuana plants, with a street value of approximately \$1.7 billion. **GX**



Soldiers from the California Counterdrug force confiscate sophisticated watering systems that marijuana growers use to hydrate their plants.

FRED MCGHEE

# Alaska Provides Medical Support at Khaan Quest 2010

By CPT Amy B. Slinker, Alaska National Guard, photo by SPC Jill King / ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

**THREE ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS** provided medical support for U.S. and Mongolian troops during Khaan Quest 2010, a bilateral peacekeeping operations training exercise in Ulaanbaatar and Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia, Aug. 8–29.

Lieutenant Colonel Rebecca Young, a nurse practitioner from the Alaska Army National Guard Medical Detachment, served as the Medical Officer for Khaan Quest 2010. She led a team of two medics: Sergeant Tara Gardner, also a member of the Medical Detachment at Camp Denali, Fort Richardson, AK, and Sergeant Edward Antonio of the 297th Military Police Company in Juneau.

Gardner was assigned to the command post exercise at Five Hills Training Area outside of Ulaanbaatar, while Antonio provided medical support at the humanitarian and civic assistance (HCA) project site in the Songinokhairkhan District 22nd Horoo.

Young traveled between the two sites, guiding and supervising the medics while also providing a training environment to further develop their skills. The team primarily supported U.S. Soldiers, but has also treated U.S. exercise instructors and support staff, Mongolian Armed Forces Service Members, and Mongolian civilian support staff. They are working in conjunction with a Mongolian civilian doctor and a psychiatrist from Singapore.

Upon arrival in Mongolia, the team established urgent-care protocol and a sick-call area at each site. They evaluated each environment and conducted health and welfare checks of U.S. and Mongolian personnel.

"We got an idea of who is here and identified any chronic conditions," said Young. "We watch [U.S. and Mongolian personnel] in all of their environments—we observe work areas, eat in the same dining hall and sleep in the same quarters so that we continuously assess for any risks."



SGT Edward Antonio treats SGT Galbadrehk Galae during a humanitarian mission in Mongolia in August.

Antonio expressed that the most fulfilling aspect of his mission has been the opportunity to treat Mongolian Armed Forces Soldiers. He conducted a prenatal counseling through a translator, and identified a cataract in a 54-year-old Mongolian Soldier's eye.

"It's an honor to have the Mongolian Armed Forces trust us," said Antonio. "We built a rapport so that if any of their Soldiers need attention, they come to us. The experience of treating Soldiers from other countries is a unique opportunity." **GX**

# Massachusetts in Largest Deployment Since WWII

## Soldiers prepare to conduct security operations in Afghanistan

By John Crosby, Camp Atterbury Public Affairs / CAMP ATTERBURY, IN

**MORE THAN 600 SOLDIERS** of the Massachusetts National Guard are training at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in central Indiana in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

It will be the state's largest single deployment of troops since WWII.

The 181st Infantry Battalion Soldiers are providing a key security element to more than 10 different Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) spread out across Afghanistan. Their mission is to provide security and continue with the rebuilding and stabilization of Afghanistan infrastructure.

### READY AND ABLE

This generation of security forces and rebuilding units is deploying while violence there is at an all-time high, with one recent month being the worst for U.S. forces since the war began in 2001. This does not deter the unit's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Couture, who said he feels prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

"The Counter Improvised Explosives Device training heightens everyone's awareness to the threat," said Couture. "Our training here at Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center is critical to honing our skills and adjusting to the counter-insurgency operations in the Afghanistan environment."

Couture's Infantry Soldiers make up roughly 50 percent of the PRTs.

The PRTs are filled with subject matter experts from several military branches in various fields, from engineering to agriculture, who will train Afghan villages to become self-sustaining. The combat Soldiers pass their tactical knowledge on to the support service members of other branches.

### JOINT EFFORT

"Everyone comes together with a variety of capabilities, knowledge and skills," said Couture. "The infantry Warriors assist the Air Force and Navy personnel in some basic combat skills and assist in weapons familiarization, facilitating the effort to break down barriers between joint services."

As the Soldiers of the 181st move forward, preparing themselves to deploy and make history, Couture reflects back on the heritage of his unit, which is older than the U.S. itself.

"The 181st has battle streamers from Lexington and Concord, engagements in the Civil War, WWI, WWII and many other conflicts the U.S. has engaged in throughout our 370-plus years of service," said Couture.

Elements of the 181st have deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, but this will be the battalion's first deployment together post-9/11. **GX**

## Florida Celebrates First Muster

Story and photo by MSG Thomas Kielbasa



Historical re-enactors John Cipriane (right) and Allen Hilburn join a Spanish-period color guard at the historic Florida National Guard headquarters in St. Augustine, FL, Sept. 16, 2010, in recognition of the 445th anniversary of the "first muster" of Citizen-Soldiers in Spanish-controlled Florida.

**NEARLY FOUR** and a half centuries ago, in 1565, a tiny band of Citizen-Soldiers stood on a rainy shoreline in what is now north-east Florida. They rallied together to defend their homes from attacks in the fledgling Spanish settlement of St. Augustine.

They were laying down the roots of what would become the Florida National Guard.

On Sept. 16, 2010, the Florida celebrated the 445th anniversary of an event some historians recognize as the first known muster of Citizen-Soldiers. More than 100 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians gathered at the historic St. Francis Barracks in downtown St. Augustine for the event.

"This is the first recorded militia muster

in what is now the [continental] United States—Sept. 16, 1565," explained Florida Living History president Mark Schmitt. "They were tasked with defending the settlement here in St. Augustine, and defending the people and property."

Adjutant general of Florida Major General Emmett Titshaw urged the celebrants to be "true to our history and our heritage."

"It is extremely important to know where we came from and who we are," Titshaw said.

The event coincided with the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month in Florida. The governor of Florida noted that Hispanic culture and history have "enriched our communities, economy and way of life" since the founding of Florida by Spanish explorers in the mid-16th century. **GX**

## Guard Presence on Border Deters Threats

Story and photo by SFC Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau / SAN DIEGO, CA

**THE PRESENCE OF NATIONAL GUARD** troops along the Southwest border has provided U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents with an additional resource to counter drug-smuggling, human trafficking and other threats along the border, senior Guard officials said this week.

"Our colleagues at Customs and Border Protection couldn't praise them enough with ... providing an incredible capability that gives [CBP] the operational flexibility they need," said Major General Peter Aylward, special assistant to the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Additional flexibility also gives CBP agents a greater ability to focus on specific areas within their sectors.

"What that does is it helps us alleviate high-traffic areas," said Mario Escalante, a supervisory agent with CBP. "More than anything else, they will be ... giving not just situational awareness of what is going on, but also acting as a deterrence."

### FEWER ARRESTS

The deterrence factor can be readily seen in the number of arrests made by CBP agents. In the Tucson sector, daily arrests have been on a steady decline, said CBP officials, who attributed the drop in numbers to the Guard troops on duty in the area.

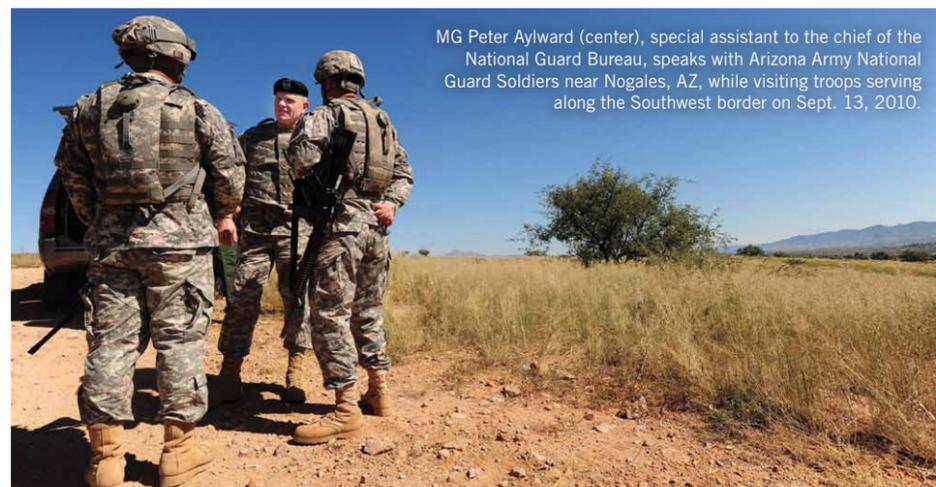
Because of that, the mission along the border isn't quite what some troops imagined it would be like.

"When I volunteered for this mission, I expected it to be mass amounts of people always crossing over," said Specialist Joseph Syed of the Arizona Army National Guard. Still, he said, illegal activity along the border remains constant, with smugglers searching for new ways to take people and illicit substances across the border.

On average, Guard members will go through four weeks of additional training prior to working on the border. They began to arrive there in late August and early September. As of mid-September, there

were slightly more than 1,200 Guard members in training or already deployed to the border.

The additional time allowed the states to ensure that things ran smoothly, said Air Force Brigadier General Jose Salinas, commander of the Arizona joint task force Operation Copper Cactus. "With the ramp-up, it's given us the time to train people, make sure our orders are in place and make sure we get our chain of command up to speed," he said. "[The troops] feel like they've been properly prepared for the situations they might see." **GX**

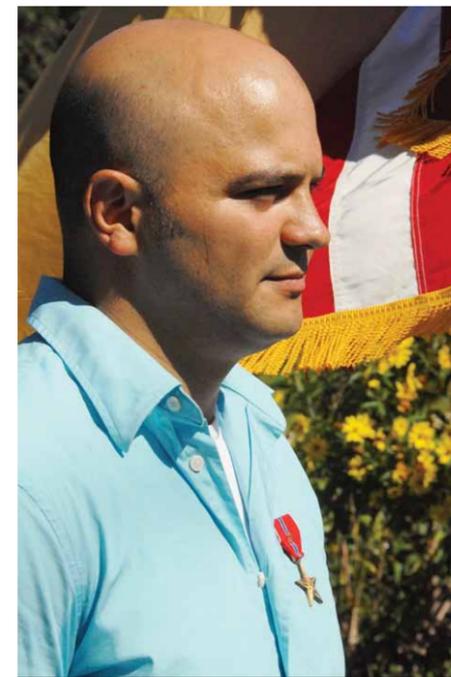


MG Peter Aylward (center), special assistant to the chief of the National Guard Bureau, speaks with Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers near Nogales, AZ, while visiting troops serving along the Southwest border on Sept. 13, 2010.

# Automatic Actions

## Wisconsin Soldier awarded Bronze Star Medal with 'V' Device

Story and photo courtesy of the Wisconsin National Guard / MADISON, WI



Michael Olivas of Sun Prairie, WI, is awarded a Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor Sept. 14, 2010. Olivas was a staff sergeant with the 1158th Transportation Company when he completed his term of service earlier this year.

**MORE THAN FIVE YEARS** after a fierce fire-fight on his first solo mission in Iraq, a former Wisconsin National Guard Soldier was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor.

Michael Olivas of Sun Prairie—a staff sergeant with the 1158th Transportation Company when he completed his term of service earlier this year—accepted the award during a quiet ceremony at Stricker Pond Park in Middleton, a completely different setting from the night his heroism was called upon.

### THE VITAL "V"

"To receive a Bronze Star Medal is a significant event," Brigadier General Mark Anderson, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, said during the ceremony. "The 'V' device—they don't just give those away. That's not candy."

The 1158th Transportation Company was conducting its first convoy security missions on Jan. 30, 2005, without the benefit of riders from the outgoing unit that trained them.

The convoy Olivas was traveling in experienced a series of tire problems with various vehicles, due in part to road spikes placed just north of Safwan, a city on Iraq's border with Kuwait. During a stoppage on a main convoy route, the convoy was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Olivas' crewmembers, Specialist (now Staff Sergeant) Mike Bennett and Specialist Aaron Ingham, were outside their gun truck assisting disabled vehicles when the ambush began.

"It was dark," Bennett recalled. "There was no moon out."

"He just kept engaging muzzle flashes," Ingham added.

Olivas overcame malfunctions in the rotating turret, and with his M2 .50 cal machine gun, to engage the enemy, which was estimated to be as close as 50 meters from the convoy.

"He definitely did lay down a lot of cover fire," Bennett said. "Once he got it going, he saved a lot of people."

Another convoy south of Olivas' convoy also engaged the enemy in that firefight. Eight members of that convoy were wounded, but Olivas' convoy sustained no injuries as they regrouped and moved out of harm's way.

### REFLECTING ON REFLEX

Olivas, who recently returned from a deployment with the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and now works in accounting with the Veterans Administration in Madison, said his actions were "pretty automatic."

"The ground started flying, [insurgents] were moving in and we had to fight them off," he explained. "It's what we were trained for—not a whole lot of thinking required. I was just doing what we were supposed to do."

Olivas said the award means a lot and was excited to receive it, but wished his fellow crewmembers Bennett and Ingham could have also received Bronze Stars for their actions that night.

"We had a good unit—everyone worked hard," he said. "Everyone came back alive." **GX**

**"TO RECEIVE A BRONZE STAR MEDAL IS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT. THE 'V' DEVICE—THEY DON'T JUST GIVE THOSE AWAY."**

>> BG Mark Anderson



### THE BRONZE STAR

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

# Top Honors

## North Dakota Guard names 'Best Warriors'

By SGT Eric W. Jensen / DEVILS LAKE, ND

**THE "BEST WARRIORS"** in the North Dakota Army National Guard were named after a three-day competition tested the military skill and knowledge of 18 of the state's top Soldiers at Camp Grafton Training Center, Devils Lake, ND, Sept. 17-19.

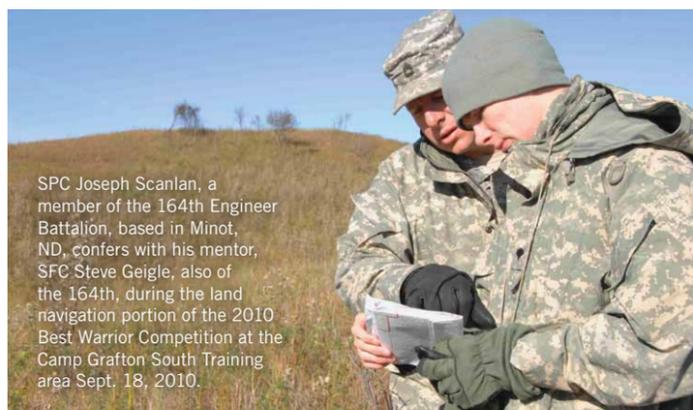
Sergeant Joel Erickson of West Fargo, ND, a member of Detachment 1, 188th Engineer Company (Vertical), based out of Oakes, was the winner of the 2010 Best Warrior Competition in the noncommissioned officer category. In the enlisted-level competition, Specialist Ryan Lindberg, of Fargo, ND, a member of the 817th Engineer Company (Sapper), based out of Jamestown, took top honors.

Soldiers representing units in the North Dakota Army National Guard battled to earn the "Best Warrior" title during the state-level competition after distinguishing themselves as the top competitors within the Guard's major commands. During the competition at Camp Grafton, they contended with a range of events designed to gauge their competence and performances in Army tasks and evaluations.

### BEST TEST

"A lot of them have smiles on their faces," said state Command Sergeant Major Gerald Miller. "This is the kind of stuff they signed up to be a Soldier for—to test their mettle and to test their skills."

The competition begins at 4:30 a.m. on the first day, with Guard members



SPC Joseph Scanlan, a member of the 164th Engineer Battalion, based in Minot, ND, confers with his mentor, SFC Steve Geigle, also of the 164th, during the land navigation portion of the 2010 Best Warrior Competition at the Camp Grafton South Training area Sept. 18, 2010.

awakened to an Army Physical Fitness Test. From there, they're tested on the military knowledge by a board of sergeants major.

### READY, AIM

The competition continues with a day and night land navigation course, as well as marksmanship, Warrior Tasks and a Modern Army Combatives tournament.

Upon winning the state competition, the Best Warriors begin preparing for the next level—the regional competition. The Guard members will be aided in training by sergeants major within the various battalions, as well as last year's winners.

North Dakota will host the regional competition for Best Warrior in June 2010. The region consists of eight states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming and North Dakota.

Regional winners go on to compete in the All-Guard Competition and, if they win there, they compete in the All-Army Competition. **GX**

# Full-Time, Federal and Influential

## Title 10 is the gateway to a unique Guard experience

Courtesy of CACI / WASHINGTON, DC

**MOST NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS** are traditional M-Day Soldiers who serve one weekend a month, two weeks a year, and respond when called upon by the state or nation.

But, what if there was a way to combine your military experience and your civilian expertise into one rewarding full-time National Guard career?

Active Guard Reserve Title-10 (AGR T-10) status provides incredible full-time career opportunities to the right Soldier. Whatever your civilian job, the National Guard Bureau needs the best of the best from all backgrounds to support our States and Territories at the national level.

### WHAT IS AGR T-10?

AGR T-10 Soldiers fall under Title 10 United States Code just like members of the Active components of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force. That means that

AGR T-10 Guard members are Active Duty, but not as you might typically think of it.

This designation enables Soldiers to combine their military affiliation with their civilian credentials to build a successful, rewarding career.

In essence, AGR T-10 mobilizes a full-time team of professional Army National Guard members into federal service. This team provides the high-level support necessary at the national level to enhance the mobilization and readiness of the National Guard.

### WHY WOULD I CHOOSE AGR T-10 SERVICE?

It's the best of both worlds—a career and a service. AGR T-10 puts highly skilled people in respected positions. They develop national programs and policies ranging from organizational and administrative duties to recruitment and training.

But, you don't choose AGR T-10—you qualify

for it. Positions are highly competitive.

### WHERE WOULD I SERVE?

Locations include the Pentagon, in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff and with the Secretary of Defense. Positions are highly concentrated in and around Washington, DC. But if the nation's capital isn't your thing, don't despair—there are more than 200 duty locations worldwide for AGR T-10 Soldiers.

Also, no matter where you're located, there are additional opportunities to participate in exciting overseas assignments and deployments that will enhance your military experience.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

If you're ready to expand your sphere of influence, represent your state at the highest levels and step up to national service, call (703) 601-7500. **GX**

# Vermont Guard Sustains Troops in Kabul

By SGT Rebecca Linder, Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs / CAMP PHOENIX, AFGHANISTAN

**KNOWN AS TASK FORCE LONG TRAIL**, the 186th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) of the Vermont Army National Guard is providing support to the 9,000 American and Coalition troops in the capital known as the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC), and is doing so in a variety of ways.

"Task Force Long Trail supports the KBC with transportation, medical, maintenance and supply, to fully enable U.S. and Coalition Forces to accomplish their mission," said Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Harris, battalion commander.

Based out of Camp Phoenix, the 186th has about 270 Soldiers divided among its Headquarters, A, B and C Companies, all with a common goal to provide quality-sustainment support.

### SPECIAL DELIVERY: A COMPANY

"You call, we haul" is the motto of A Company, which provides the transportation, supply, fuel and water elements for the battalion.

The truck platoon is responsible for transporting personnel using their Rhino Runners—uparmored buses, used to move service members and civilians to different camps around the KBC. To date, the unit has moved more than 14,000 troops.

"We function as a secure 'taxi' for the KBC," said First Lieutenant Laura Cook, company

executive officer. "By providing Rhino-bus transportation, personnel are able to travel more safely around Kabul."

"Our Soldiers are out on the road at least once, if not twice, a day," said Captain Christopher Day, company commander. "Even with the increase in recent enemy threats, we have conducted these moves driving respectfully and courteously among Afghan motorists in order to support the counterinsurgency mission."

### SHIPSHAPE: B COMPANY

With more than 2,000 job orders completed in five months, B Company provides vehicle maintenance and equipment repair, as well as support for electronics, fabrication, armament and recovery operations for the KBC.

"We have a lot of experienced experts that get the job done right," said First Lieutenant Dustin Sigler, company commander. "As maintenance for the entire KBC, we need to get the job done quickly in order to get them back on the road."

The maintenance unit also installs electronic force protection and communication equipment into tactical vehicles, keeping Soldiers safer while operating them.

### MEDICAL MISSION: C COMPANY

C Company operates the troop medical clinic (TMC) at Camp Phoenix and is responsible for a

range of services, from routine sick-call appointments to providing mission support for personal security details and convoy movement requests. Personnel here also help coordinate medical evacuation support of injured troops and offer 24-hour emergency treatment.

"C [Company] is more specific to medical support for the camps," said First Lieutenant Leo Spahr, executive officer.

The company has a treatment platoon that consists of medics, physician assistants, pharmacy and dental technicians, who are responsible for operating the Camp Phoenix TMC. This level-two clinic has laboratory and X-ray access and is able to provide additional services including physical therapy and optometry.

### SUPPORT OPERATIONS AND HHC

With all the transportation, maintenance and medical assets the 186th provides for troops, making sure all of the services are coordinated throughout KBC falls to the battalion's support operations (SPO) section from Northfield, VT.

"It's all about support," said Master Sergeant Michael Sanchez, SPO noncommissioned officer in charge. "As a BSB, we normally support just a brigade, but here we think of the KBC as one big brigade to support. Without the SPO, all 11 camps would be responsible for their own supplies."

Each class of supply—food, fuel, ammo—has its own manager that coordinates with contacts at camps throughout the KBC to verify numbers of supplies each camp needs. Once numbers are verified, personnel in the SPO shop complete the ordering process, arrange transportation for the commodities and track the arrival of the supplies.

Since arriving in Afghanistan in March, Task Force Long Trail has had a dramatic impact on the KBC and the service members, who live and work throughout it, streamlining transportation, supply and maintenance operations. The maintenance backlog alone has been reduced from more than five days to less than two, and a web-based, coordinated movement route process has been developed and implemented, said Harris.

"This act alone has increased our ability to serve more clients within the KBC and to do so more safely, with better command and control, and at less cost than previous methods," said Harris. "After five months on the job, I couldn't be more pleased with the effort and the results achieved by our Soldiers." **GX**

SST Peter Rawling, second from right, convoy commander for the 186th Brigade Support Battalion, provides a brief before the movement team heads out on a mission in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug. 10, 2010.



COURTESY OF SGT ERIC W. JENSEN



BG Timothy Kadavy, originally from Nebraska, is happy with the Guard's recruiting efforts for FY10.

## Successful First Year Guard ahead of schedule for recruiting goals

By Clint Wood

**IN LESS THAN A YEAR** as the deputy director of the Army National Guard, Brigadier General Timothy Kadavy has seen the Army National Guard accomplish two noteworthy achievements, due to the efforts of the states, territories, the District of Columbia and the Army National Guard staff.

He has informed the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense of the Guard's commitment and capabilities in overseas contingency operations, while the Guard's recruiting and retention numbers continue to climb.

### SET IN STONE

"We are working toward making the 'operational reserve' more than just a [concept]," said Kadavy from his office in the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, VA, in May. "Soldiers have made it something—now we are trying to institutionalize it."

Kadavy noted that the Guard has surpassed the congressionally mandated recruiting and retention end-strength goal of 358,200.

"Not only are we happy with our recruiting, but our retention is at 105 percent," he said. "So we have more Soldiers seeing the value and importance of our organization."

He said Guard leaders were concerned early in FY2010 of the slow recruiting and retention numbers. Recommendations were made to Major General Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Guard.

"He pulled some levers on recruiting that have really impacted our numbers, [including] recruiting prior service Soldiers," noted Kadavy. "Just being able to increase that population has meant a lot to our organization."

Former Soldiers joining the Guard means additional experienced personnel for possible overseas deployment. This is important

because more than 60,000 Guard Soldiers are currently mobilized.

In an earlier *GX* article, Kadavy noted that one of the Army National Guard's goals was to continue to maintain strong pre-mobilization training for deploying Soldiers. Achieving this goal has several facets, he said. The first is working with Forces Command and the First United States Army to obtain early notification of units that will be deploying. Once these units are known, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) coordinates the training plan with the states and the First Army, including pre- and post-mobilization training.

"I really believe that our pre-mobilization training assistance elements have energized pre-mobilization training," he said.

### BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Previously the operations officer for the Army National Guard Directorate, Kadavy introduced the pre-mobilization training assistance elements (PTAE) in the spring of 2007. He said it was in response to Dr. Robert Gates assuming his duties as the U.S. Secretary of Defense. One of the first plans Gates implemented was the return of combat tours to 12-month mobilizations for Reservists.

This plan made pre-mob training extremely important, in order to get maximum "boots on the ground" time, said Kadavy.

Currently, pre-mobilization training takes between 15 and 45 days, depending on the unit's size and mission.

Kadavy said the PTAE teams are a big factor in reducing the Soldiers' time at their post-mob stations.

Another factor is that 51 percent of the force are combat Veterans, noted Kadavy. Combined with this, most of these combat Veterans are in modified table of organization and equipment (MTOE) units—or, "go to war" units.

"So we see MTOE units with anywhere from 50 to 75 percent combat Veterans," added Kadavy. "And having done it once makes it easier the second time."

He commented that combat Veterans understand the expectations, the timeline and the importance of what their unit is doing.

"So not only do you keep your head up and eyes open, and have your aperture widened as you go through the pre-mob process, but you're also communicating it with those that haven't deployed before," he explained.

### RAISING THE BAR

He added that combat Veterans are always looking for ways to improve training because they know what worked and what didn't.

COURTESY OF SGT KATHERINE SALE

This knowledge increases the ability to finish pre-mob training faster and at a higher standard.

Kadavy has toured several training sites, including Camp Shelby, MS; Camp Atterbury, IN; Camp Ripley, MN; and Camp Guernsey, WY.

"Everywhere I've been, I've seen nothing but top-quality training," he said. "Most of our facilities have the requisite infrastructure to do the things we need to do."

This wasn't always true. Kadavy reminisced about when his cavalry unit transitioned to a newer tank in the 1980s. His unit didn't yet have the new tanks to train on. Instead, he was told to use the large rolls that carpet came on, paint them black and fasten them on top of the M113 Armored Personnel Carriers.

"And we called those tanks for a year," stated Kadavy.

Kadavy said this was a good example of when the Guard was "deep in the strategic reserve" or deployed only in a conflict.

"That's why it's important that we keep this Operational Reserve at the forefront," he commented. "We don't want to go back to that."

### FAMILY SUPPORT

Another important piece of this deployment cycle is the support of the Citizen-Soldiers' families and employers. Kadavy said deployments and natural disaster responses could not be accomplished without this support.

"I think we've taken significant steps in supporting families and keeping both them and employers advised ... about our [Army Force Generation] process and the programs we've put out there," he explained. "And [the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve] has done a great job as well, with their 'Boss Lifts.'" These ESGR "Boss Lifts," where employers are transported to training areas by air, were one of Kadavy's highlights as Nebraska's adjutant general. He noted that once employers witnessed the training, they developed increased appreciation for the Soldiers.

Kadavy really appreciates Family Readiness Groups (FRGs), especially after attending an annual conference in Detroit that hosted thousands of volunteers. The mission of the event was to improve family programs.

He said he could remember when FRGs were run by untrained volunteers.

"It was really not much more than just a bunch of phone numbers," he stated. "Now it just brings sheer pride when you see this type of commitment with our FamilyReadiness Groups."

Just as families of Soldiers should be confident that they'll receive support during deployments, so too should Soldiers feel confident that the Guard is doing everything in its power to guarantee their deployments will be a success.

Kadavy listed several reasons: the units have several combat Veteran leaders who understand the missions and how to achieve them; the Guard continues to recruit "the best that America has to offer"; and the Army takes training Guard Soldiers very seriously.

"Between the pre-mobilization training and the post-mobilization training, I'm confident that there is no better training by any other military or army in the world," he commented. "We are the best-trained, the best-prepared Army. Every Soldier [goes] overseas trained and ready for the mission." **GX**

## Adjutant General Leads by Example

### Missouri commander excels at PT

Courtesy of the Missouri National Guard / JEFFERSON CITY, MO

**BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN L. DANNER**, the adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard, believes in leading by example and recently proved that during a physical fitness test.

Danner was one of 17 within the Missouri National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) to earn the Physical Training Badge. The detachment is comprised of approximately 170 Soldiers and Airmen.

"I'm proud to be included in the group that was awarded the PT Badge; it is one measure of overall fitness," said Danner. "It may sound like a cliché, but I believe you have to practice what you preach."

This is not the first time that Danner has been awarded the PT Badge. It has been awarded to him several times, including while he was deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the 35th Area Support Group.

The PT Badge is presented to individuals who score 90 points (out of 100) on each individual portion of the physical fitness test, including push-ups, sit-ups and a 2-mile run.

"Danner set the standard for physical fitness in his own life. He is living the policy," said Captain Eric Spencer, administrative officer for HHD.

Danner has made overall fitness a priority for the Missouri National Guard since he took command in early 2009. Overall fitness encompasses five pillars of health: spiritual, physical, social, emotional and family. Danner established the Resiliency program, designed to help Guard members balance



BG Stephen L. Danner, right, receives the Physical Training Badge from MAJ William Kleffner.

and improve all areas of their health.

With the hectic schedule associated with being the adjutant general, Danner still keeps his personal physical fitness as a priority.

"Physical fitness has been a strong focus of mine during my entire career. One of the best ways to take care of your buddies is for you to be able to take care of yourself," said Danner. **GX**



SECRETS AND SPECIAL CLEARANCE:

# MILITARY INTELLIGENCE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

By Camille Breland

In a skillful game of chess, the key to winning isn't to blindly dominate the opponent by taking as many pieces as possible, but to know what moves the opponent will make next. All great chess players have this ability—to calculate every move, anticipate possible outcomes and outsmart their opponent. They win because they have better intelligence about their opponent than their opponent has about them.

This same principle applies in war. Knowing how the enemy will act, and react, has been crucial to the success of battles throughout history.

Some degree of intelligence in the U.S. military has been around since its inception during the War of Independence. But it wasn't until 1962 that the field was officially established in the Army as the Intelligence and Security Branch. In 1967, the branch was redesignated to its current operating name: military intelligence (MI).

SSS MANUEL MARTINEZ

## MOS MYSTIQUE

Since the Cold War, intelligence in the military has had an allure of mystery and power. From spy novels to blockbuster movies, American culture has been fascinated by the technology, training and personalities of intelligence Soldiers.

“Let’s face it, the whole Jason Bourne or James Bond thing always crosses your mind,” admitted First Sergeant Jennifer Butler, a 35X, intelligence senior sergeant, about her initial attraction to MI.

Today, there are about 9,000 National Guard Soldiers in the 13 career fields of military intelligence (see sidebar, pg. 41). These Soldiers go through rigorous preparation and training—not to mention extensive background checks—before they can claim the coat of arms. Many of the Soldiers are fluent in a second language, and the training and secret clearances they receive set the stage for a possible career in the government or private sector if they so choose.

Military intelligence is one of seven integral operating systems used in combat, including: intelligence, maneuver, fire support, air defense, mobility/counter-mobility/survivability, combat service support, and command and control. Its goal is to produce and distribute relevant intelligence and critical information “to those who need it, when they need it,” according to the Army Field Manual (FM) 2-22.3, human intelligence collector operations, released in 2006.

In short, intelligence is crucial to the success of operations overseas, defense of our nation at home and preparation for any man-made or natural disasters.

“Military intelligence is about processing information, and a lot of it,” Butler wrote in an email. “The quicker you can go through the information and analyze it, the more useful it is to the units on the ground needing that information.”

# “ WE THINK LIKE [THE ENEMY]. WE TRY AND PREDICT WHAT THEY’RE GOING TO DO NEXT. ”

>> SPC Jacob McLemore, Tennessee National Guard

In fact, ground units like infantry and artillery depend on the right intel from Soldiers to successfully complete their missions. Intel troops gather and deliver an operational picture to help commanders understand enemy activities and make a combat decision, said Colonel James Taylor, G2 for the Army National Guard.

“Intelligence drives operations,” he stated. “Once we have this understanding of the operating environment, we provide it to the

teams and individuals that are engaged with the enemy.”

“Without military intelligence, [the troops on the ground] wouldn’t know where to go next,” said Specialist Jacob McLemore, a 35F, intelligence analyst, with the Tennessee National Guard. “Intel is what helped us find Saddam, and the intel we received helped us locate key members of the Iraqi party. Without intel, [ground troops] can know where the

firefight is, but they won’t know where to look for key people or where the attacks are most likely to happen.”

## MOS 35M: HUMAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTOR

One of the largest and most controversial segments of military intelligence is the collection of human intelligence (HUMINT). The FM states, “HUMINT provides a capability to the supported commander in achieving information superiority on the battlefield.” It’s this information superiority that saves lives, helps civilians and wins wars.

The role of a human intelligence collector is to gather information from select sources, interrogate detainees, conduct source operations, work with host nation officials and counterparts, and debrief leadership about their findings. To become a 35M, a Soldier must go through four months of rigorous training and analysis, usually at Fort Huachuca, AZ.

Soldiers begin every day at the fort with strenuous physical training (PT)—much tougher than Basic Combat Training, according to some Soldiers.

“The training has been extremely challenging,” said Sergeant Sarah Hernandez, who had been at Fort Huachuca for two and a half months at the time of the interview with GX. “The PT is more intense. The running is much farther, and it’s every day. But it builds you up, and it’s good for you. I’ve had the highest PT score I’ve ever had in my career.”

Hernandez decided to train as a human intelligence collector and change her military

occupational specialty (MOS) for the third time, adding to her previous qualifications as an automated logistical specialist (92A) and an ammunition specialist (89B). But she quickly found out that training in intelligence was much different from her past experience.

“I never thought the training would be this hard,” she admitted. “Having been to two different MOS schools, I was always able to pass everything without studying, but for the first time in my life I’ve found myself studying every single night. It’s been a lot more challenging, but so far I’ve maxed everything 100 percent.”

As a member of the 260th Military Intelligence Battalion (linguist), Florida Army National Guard, Hernandez said she was going through a lot of the 35M training before she decided to switch her MOS. Plus, she’s fluent in Spanish, so adding the MI training would only make her more of an asset to her linguist battalion.

“I knew 35M was an MOS that would definitely challenge me, and the skills that were involved had a lot to do with my personality,” she said.

Her favorite part of the training so far? Interrogation.

“The interrogation skills are some of the hardest skills to acquire,” she told GX. “You either have the personality for it or you don’t. It’s something that you’re either born with, or not.”

In the war in Afghanistan, human intelligence collectors are needed more than ever.

“There’s so much intelligence to collect because there are so many activities going on,” Hernandez said.

## MOS 35F: INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

The primary role of an intelligence analyst is to analyze, process and distribute all of the intelligence gathered by other specialists. They work as a team to interpret maps, images, human observation and electronic signals to determine the appropriate courses of action in the battlefield.

These Soldiers go through five months of training, with class instruction from about 7 a.m.–4 p.m. There they’ll learn everything from weapons systems to the weather, to have a comprehensive understanding of, and ability to prepare for, any situation on the battlefield.

In class, intel analysts learn about the different jobs and MOSs in the military so they can properly task out assignments. They also learn about the capabilities of weapons systems—U.S. and foreign—to know what kind of armament can handle different enemy situations.

While the majority of the intelligence field is computer-based, a large portion of the training is learning to use conventional maps and overlays, in case computer systems fail. Intel Soldiers learn to read and draw maps that depict friendly and enemy forces, weapons systems, different types of patrols and more, all using symbols and colors. The overlays represent troop movement and can be easily added or removed when troops shift.

Intelligence analysts must also know how to speak and deliver reports to an audience. Once they’ve gathered the intelligence needed in the field, the Soldiers prepare an intelligence summary (INTSUM) and brief it to commanders and other Soldiers who are going into the field. These reports tell where the enemy is likely to attack, where they’ve been attacking and certain routes that are hot. The report concludes with recommendations and different courses of action the commanders can take.

Another tool MI Soldiers use overseas is called the wheel. Each ring on the wheel represents a different day, and spots on the wheel represent each hour. Analysts denote certain occurrences and events that happen during a day on the wheel, such as an IED explosion or firefight. Over time, Soldiers can track patterns if they notice a certain mark occurring at the same time every day.

But intelligence Soldiers can’t learn everything through training—much of the work involves specific personality traits, strategic thinking and instinct.

“We think like [the enemy]. We try and predict what they’re going to do next,” McLemore said. “When they change, we’ve got to change our thought process. When they come out with a new weapon, we’ve got to start thinking, ‘What are they going to come up with next?’ It’s ever-changing.”

Change is a term with which intelligence Soldiers are familiar. Sometimes what is actually happening out on the battlefield isn’t exactly what the intel had projected. But these Soldiers adjust fire and continue moving forward.

“If someone comes back from the field and says, ‘This isn’t happening,’ all we can do is take it, realize what we did wrong and change what we’re going to use for the next situation,” McLemore explained.

## INTELLIGENCE OVERSEAS, AND THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

In combat, the task of MI is constantly being re-evaluated, analyzed and updated. The war in Afghanistan is a completely different opera-

## DISTRIBUTED COMMON GROUND SYSTEM

As with all other aspects of the military—and business, education and commerce for that matter—the role of military intelligence has changed drastically with the technological advances of the past 20 years. In today’s unconventional warfare, the U.S. faces an enemy that can adapt and change as quickly as commercial technology.

“If we’re going to outpace that kind of a threat, our intelligence has to be very agile and has to be an adaptable enterprise where we can link all capabilities at all levels and reinforce each other,” Colonel James Taylor said.

One answer to that threat was the Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A). Introduced in 2008, the DCGS-A is a fully integrated intelligence system that processes and publishes information received from multiple sources across different levels of warfare—tactical, theater and national. The system can securely distribute intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance data worldwide, giving the U.S. an information advantage on the battlefield. The system is installed on seven fully armored Humvees and two tents.

One useful function the DCGS-A performs is the ability to track moving targets, such as enemy vehicles, in near real time, regardless of weather, using radar technology.

“Advances in technology have resulted in an explosion of information that’s available to us, and it also enables us to portray that information in a concise manner so that it can be used by a commander or decision maker,” Taylor said.

In addition to its improved capabilities, the DCGS-A combines 12 previous intelligence and tactical programs:

- All Source Analysis System-Light (ASAS-L)
- Analysis and Control Team-Enclave (ACT-E)
- Block II Analysis and Control Element (ACE)
- Common Ground Station (CGS)
- Counter-and Human-Intelligence Management System (CHIMS)
- Prophet Control
- Integrated Meteorological and Environmental Terrain System Light (IMETS-L)
- Digital Topographic Support System-Light (DTSS-L)
- Guardrail/Guardrail Information Node (GRIFN)
- Tactical Exploitation System (TES)
- Ground Control System (GCS)
- Enhanced Trackwolf

—Information taken from General Dynamics



**THE LOCAL BEAT:** A Soldier from Task Force Wasatch, 142nd Military Intelligence Battalion, and his interpreter speak with Afghan villagers to gather intel and build trust.

MAI JOSEPH W. GREEN

tion from what the U.S. has ever dealt with in the past. The same was true of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Instead of a traditional army, American Soldiers found themselves fighting insurgents from numerous different groups and organizations, all with their own agendas. And, with these changing operations, the tactics on the field, in the sky and behind the scenes have been adjusted to fit these new requirements.

With the announcement from President Obama on August 31 that the U.S. is pulling out of Iraq and handing over power to the Iraqi government and military, the role of intelligence there has shifted from combat operations to assisting and advising. The new



**TEAM PHOTO:** Soldiers from Task Force Wasatch gather for a photo op before a mission in Afghanistan. They deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2008–2009.

mission, renamed Operation New Dawn, brought the total U.S. troops deployed to about 50,000, with a plan to remove all American troops by the end of 2011.

“[In Iraq], we are still providing timely information to the ground commanders, but it’s not for them to conduct combat operations any more. It is for them to understand what the people of Iraq need in order to better sustain themselves and their government,” Butler said.

Guard intel Soldiers may still be used there to assist and support the Iraqi forces in collecting data to find and eliminate terrorists.

“It’s a much different fight with many different faces today, compared to 10 years ago,” Butler said. “The technology has

allowed us to better identify and track past events and what is currently happening, but ultimately it’s still up to the MI Soldier to understand the enemies and determine what they may do next.”

#### KOSOVO

In Kosovo, Guard Soldiers are still providing peacekeeping operations in the NATO-led mission.

Kosovo declared its independence in February 2008. Afterward, NATO decided to continue the Kosovo Force (KFOR) operations to help the country stabilize its multi-ethnic democratic and professional structures. There, Guard intel Soldiers are conducting

joint source operations with Soldiers from around the world.

“The main role there is to protect the Coalition partners—to make sure that none of the bases get attacked,” said Staff Sergeant Michael Spoor, a human intelligence collector with the Michigan National Guard, who conducted intel missions in Kosovo from August 2009 to July 2010.

Spoor said that area of the Balkans around Kosovo is weak in terms of structure and border control, and that the KFOR troops are trying to prevent it from becoming a hub for insurgency.

“We’re trying to build the institutions in Kosovo to be prepared for [terrorist] activity and to prevent it,” he said. “We

figure out what [Kosovo’s military] weak spots are, and provide them with ways to improve or positive reinforcement for what they’re doing right.”

Spoor said during his deployment, the American troops were split up into four teams, with one American working with four Romanian Soldiers: one officer and three senior enlisted. Each morning, the teams were briefed with the day’s missions and administrative issues before they headed out to conduct their mission—usually, source operations. At the end of the day, the teams would come back to the base, write reports and prepare for upcoming missions, since they were planned several days in advance.

The Guard MI Soldiers are doing what intel troops do best: getting information. Intelligence troops are interviewing the local populace in the hope of attaining important information that could impact the mission and the safety of the Soldiers. To help the locals feel more at ease, the intel teams travel in civilian vehicles and dress in civilian clothes.

“You go out, talk to people and find ways to build their confidence in you so that they’ll tell you things that they normally wouldn’t feel comfortable telling to police forces or uniformed military people,” Spoor revealed. “[The training] teaches you ways to make people more comfortable with talking to you and how to get information out of them without them necessarily knowing they’re providing it to you.”

Since the KFOR mission is in its 10th rotation, it is likely that National Guard Soldiers will continue to support the operations until Kosovo’s government, military and infrastructures are stable.

Intelligence Soldiers are still being heavily used to support troops in Afghanistan’s combat zones. MI troops are focusing on individuals, instead of one group, who are networked in an insurgency. Compared to the conventional warfare of the past, when intel troops could literally fly over and locate a formation of tanks or artillery on the battlefield to identify the enemy, locating ever-adapting insurgents is like “looking for a needle in a stack of needles,” Taylor said.

“The enemy is employing a form of hybrid warfare that really requires more information in order for us to successfully conduct operations,” he said.

To stay ahead of the enemy, the Army and the Guard are redesigning and rebalancing

the intelligence force. The training institutions are creating a training environment that’s indistinguishable from the missions overseas, and using the latest technologies and capabilities. The Defense Department is investing resources in military intelligence programs and its Soldiers because it is so vital to the success of missions and security of our nation.

#### “ALWAYS OUT FRONT”

Although the bulk of military intelligence is used for combat operations and overseas missions, its technologies and training can still be effective within our nation’s borders. While the role of MI is limited on American soil because of laws preventing the military from collecting information from U.S. citizens, the Soldiers can always provide support and assistance for stateside missions. From controlling riots to counterdrug missions, Guard intel Soldiers can use their knowledge to maintain peace at home.

The Guard’s MI Soldiers are used in three types of stateside missions: Domestic Operations (DomOps), Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) and Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA). During DomOps and DSCA missions, the Guard uses its intelligence to identify the “worst-case” and “most likely” scenarios for man-made and natural disasters, said Taylor. Basically, MI Soldiers help military and civilian authorities to plan and prepare for any emergencies at home.

IAA missions help identify a situational awareness to commanders or the leaders making decisions during emergencies. For example, Guard intel may be called upon to use imaging technology—like cameras on an Unmanned Aerial Device—to determine the scope of a wildfire or flood.

“[These missions] help authorities respond to disasters to help save lives, mitigate suffering, minimize property damage or protect vital infrastructure,” Taylor said.

Today, Guard intel Soldiers are assisting local authorities along the U.S.-Mexico border to



**STREET TALK:** CWO Zack Scarborough attempts to develop connections with locals in Ramadi, Iraq, sometime in 2008.

help analyze information and determine what routes illegal immigrants and drug traffickers are taking and who is assisting them. They’re collecting information from foreign sources to combat the drug lords and prevent more cartel violence from reaching American soil.

In September, President Obama approved the mobilization of 532 National Guard Soldiers to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in Arizona. While the Soldiers are not on law enforcement duty, they are using electronic detection systems and imaging capabilities to help identify smugglers and illegal immigrants trying to cross the border.

“We’re almost like the FBI of the military because we investigate and try to predict threats,” McLemore said.

During crisis and emergency situations, intelligence tactics can keep civilians safe and order in place. Intelligence Soldiers study the events of Hurricane Katrina during their training, learning how intelligence could have been utilized to determine if troops were needed in New Orleans, and if so, how many. Intel could have also helped find and stop loiterers and predict if another storm or natural disaster was going to happen.

“There are always contingencies out there where it could be extremely helpful to have people with these skill sets and experience to restore order or regain control of what’s going on in a given situation,” Spoor asserted.

Guard intelligence Soldiers are even contributing to missions overseas from home. By performing “tactical overwatch,” MI Soldiers assist in analyzing and processing intel from forward deployed units overseas. Not only does this mission greatly aid and reinforce the deployed units, Taylor said, but it also helps Guard Soldiers to retain technical skills, increase their readiness and contribute to the combat operation stateside.

The military intelligence field is growing in the National Guard. The Guard is constantly looking for intelligent, creative leaders who portray the highest standards of moral and personal integrity, Taylor said.

“[Military intelligence] is expanding and growing, and we’re making an investment into military intelligence so that we truly can have an operational National Guard that can perform both its stateside mission as well as be able to deploy with the Army for national security purposes,” he concluded. **GX**

## NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CAREER FIELDS:

- >> Intelligence Analyst (35F)
- >> Imagery Analyst (35G)
- >> Common Ground Station Operator (35H)
- >> Ground Surveillance Systems Operator (35J)
- >> Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator (35K)
- >> Counterintelligence Agent (35L)
- >> Human Intelligence Collector (35M)
- >> Signals Intelligence Analyst (35N)
- >> Cryptologic Communications Interceptor/Locator (35P)
- >> Signals Collector/Analyst (35S)
- >> Military Intelligence Systems Maintainer/Integrator (35T)
- >> Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Senior Sergeant (35Y)
- >> Intelligence Senior Sergeant (35X)

For more on Military Intelligence, go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/secretsandspecialclearance](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/secretsandspecialclearance).



# FAST TRACK

The Path to Honor Support Team cuts time for both recruiters and applicants

By Christian Anderson

**LISA FIALLO DESPERATELY NEEDED A CHANGE IN HER LIFE.**

Working in a fast-food chain, she didn't feel like there was any future. She knew she wanted something bigger, better and more meaningful. She wanted her three-year-old daughter, Julie, to be proud of her. She wanted to be proud of herself.

And then, it finally clicked. Lisa's co-worker Erin was talking about her boyfriend, John, who had just graduated from Basic Combat Training. He had joined the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

Lisa's mind slammed into overdrive as she listened to Erin describe John's enlistment bonuses, money for college and—most importantly—a meaningful career and sense of purpose. The National Guard seemed like the perfect ticket out of that fast-food chain—the perfect ticket to a new start.

ADAM LIVINGSTON

### NO TIME TO LOSE

One phone call to John's recruiter and Lisa was on [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com) the next day during her 30-minute lunch break. After submitting a prequalification form, she started her enlistment packet online using Path to Honor (PTH), the Guard's web-based enlistment processing system. The PTH application features automated processes that expedite the enlistment process.

Lisa entered her information through the online enlistment application on the advice of John's recruiter, Sergeant First Class Dave Williams. It was a breeze.

As a single mom, Lisa had little free time to herself, so she was able to use the precious few moments of spare time to complete her application. After a couple 30-minute stints, she was one huge step closer to becoming a Soldier.

"It was very easy," she told *GX*. "I didn't know how far back into my past I should go, because I had moved around a lot. But other than that, it was easy to figure out. Basically, just filling in the blanks, really."

"When I had questions about my background, such as what to answer about moving around a lot and information about my daughter, I could get them answered right away by a PTH Support Team operator," she shared.

Today, Lisa's a private first class and an automated logistic specialist with the Wisconsin National Guard.

"While I was gone at Basic," Lisa beamed, "[Julie]

would tell [people] that her mommy was off being a Soldier."

She's holding her head up high now and even found a new full-time job, at a local radio station in her hometown of Burlington, WI. She's just one of many Soldiers gaining new ground through the National Guard—and by using the online Path to Honor application along with the help of its Support Team, it's easier and faster than ever.

### THE RECRUITING SIDE

PTH and the Support Team have become equally helpful to recruiters, greatly contributing to the National Guard's Accession Process Redesign initiative in their effort to increase recruiting efficiency.

"The Accession Process Redesign revolutionizes the accession process currently in place by most recruiting services," said Lieutenant Colonel Monie Ullis, National Guard Bureau Operations Officer, in an interview with *GX*. Ullis is spearheading the entire Accessions Process Redesign.

"The Accession Process Redesign concept will allow applicants to apply for National Guard military service through a web-based application, complete an accession physical with a local physician, and possibly ship to Basic [Combat] Training or AIT from a local Guard armory. Gone are the days when applicants made multiple trips to Military Entrance Processing Stations to complete [these procedures]."

Basically, PTH and the Support Team are intended to prequalify leads for recruiters and

## The 5 Most Common Questions for the SUPPORT TEAM

### Is it true that the Guard will help me get a GED?

Yes, the Army National Guard can help you get a GED. To be eligible for this, you must be at least 18, have completed 9th grade and have been withdrawn from school for at least six months. You must also meet the basic requirements to enlist in the Guard.

### Do you have to leave your home state to join the Guard?

Yes, you will most likely end up leaving your state for training, and for any possible deployment you are required to go through.

### How long is Basic Combat Training?

Basic Combat Training lasts for 10 weeks. This time is actually 9 weeks of training and 1 week of reception.

### Is it OK to be worried about Basic Combat Training?

It's perfectly natural to be worried before going to Basic. When you go there, you'll pretty much be plunged into the military life, and it's an adjustment. Just keep your head up, put forth as much effort as you can, and stay positive throughout your training, and you'll be successful.

### Can the National Guard help me get money for college?

Yes, you can receive money for college by joining the Guard. First, you might be eligible for an enlistment bonus depending on your state and the MOS you choose. You will also receive monthly drill pay, as well as money for your two-week annual training period. There are other educational benefits that your recruiter can help you identify.



With the assistance of PTH and the Support Team, SGT Erik Conley, a recruiter for the Rhode Island National Guard, is able to spend more time meeting with leads to discuss their future in the Guard.



PFC Lisa Fiallo was able to enlist in the Wisconsin National Guard during her breaks at work using Path to Honor at [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/PathToHonor](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/PathToHonor).

provide the opportunity for proactive leads to knock out their paperwork through online forms (PTH), with the prequalification happening through the Support Team.

Think about it this way. A visitor to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com) cruises the site, either self-initiated or directed by a recruiter. If the visitor has a question, they click to “Talk to a Soldier.” This action connects them with the Support Team, which answers preliminary questions, such as “How do I become an infantry Soldier?” The Team helps that visitor find the prequalification form to begin the PTH process.

After the visitor completes the form, they get a call from the Support Team, which digs deeper, asking key qualification questions. The Team runs through a few options at that point:

1. If the lead’s information is sound, the Support Team operator can direct the lead to the PTH portal, so they can finish their online enlistment process.
2. The Team operator can use the “Direct Connect” option to schedule a teleconference between the lead, the recruiter and the Team operator to discuss any issues the prospect may have.
3. The Team operator can schedule an appointment for the lead with their recruiter so the two can meet face-to-face.
4. The Team operator can also terminate the lead’s record if they are not qualified for enlistment. Obviously this is not the ideal option, but it helps keep a recruiter from spending several hours with someone who is not qualified to serve.

After a prospect dives into PTH, and completes the online application process, their application information will be sent to the recruiter in their area. Now that the prospect is considered an official applicant, the recruiter can follow up with a phone call to schedule them for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test date and appointment at Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). From this point on, the recruiter is

**385,365**  
NUMBER OF  
**PREQUALIFICATION  
FORMS**  
FILLED OUT IN FY10

**141,834**  
NUMBER OF  
**SUPPORT TEAM**  
CHATS IN FY10

Basically, this seamless relay can be initiated when recruiters tell potential applicants to go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com) and encourage them to hit the fast lane through PTH. The automated processes in place pick it up from there. This means that the recruiter can keep moving, hitting the schools, malls, community events, etc. The days of sitting in the office reviewing paperwork can be left behind.

Before the PTH process was implemented in 2007, recruiters did not have an easy way to screen leads for their initial qualification for service. An interested individual would walk into their office, chat and hopefully start an enlistment packet. Comprised of 20 total pages, this process took two to four hours on average, depending on each individual.

The flaw with the old system is that the recruiter would not know if the candidate was fully qualified to join the Guard until their packet was complete. It was common for a recruiter to spend two or three hours with

focused solely on getting the applicant through the final processes and sworn in, because they can be confident the applicant is ready to enlist.

The self-motivated lead may choose to jump into PTH directly from the Prequalification Form. In that scenario, the PTH Support Team is there to help them along—just like they did with Lisa when she had questions regarding her prior residences.

“The vision for PTH is for recruiters to find leads and send them to PTH,” said Alagie Barrow, Deputy Director of Path to Honor. “Our specific mission is to make sure the lead meets the National Guard’s enlistment requirements, and then we give them back to the recruiter.”

Alagie and his staff take their jobs very seriously, because they have walked in a recruiter’s shoes.

“I know what it’s like to knock on doors, and then have someone ignore you because they changed their mind. I know what it’s like to get an unqualified lead, and wonder why and how this person got through the cracks. With PTH, that’s not going to happen any more.”



**Sergeant Erik Conley**

**“The Guard’s online application and prequalifying process has now become the model for all other branches of service to follow, and this is a natural fit.”**

– SGT Erik Conley  
Rhode Island National Guard

Sergeant Erik Conley, a recruiter with the Rhode Island Army National Guard, is a committed believer in the Path to Honor (PTH) online screening process. Becoming qualified as a recruiter shortly before the concept was introduced, he has worked with the program since its inception.

“I will admit, it wasn’t so perfect from the beginning,” he confessed. “But they have ironed out the problems, the system is working great and I couldn’t imagine not having the system to use.”

“I know that as long as we have paper and a pencil, we can enlist Soldiers into the Guard, but I couldn’t imagine the process without PTH.”

But Conley was quick to stress that the online application process has not sent his annual recruiting numbers skyward. He feels that the automated concept was designed to increase the Guard’s strength not through numbers, but through quality.

“We aren’t solely focused on sending more people to Basic,” he explained. “We are focused on finding the best-qualified individuals out there and getting them to enlist.”

### DISTANT ENLISTMENT

One of Conley’s favorite PTH success stories is the enlistment of Specialist Constantinos Dafoulas, who, at the time, was residing in a different state.

“I post ads on military forums, including [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/forums](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/forums), where I list my services and my contact info,” Conley said. “This doesn’t bring in the bulk of my leads, but it pays off every once in a while, and brings me wonderful applicants like Dafoulas.”

Dafoulas contacted Conley after seeing his ad in the Guard Forums. Conley encouraged Dafoulas to visit [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com), then initiate the online PTH application.

Dafoulas immediately saw the value of the online system.

“I was working with an environmental consulting company in Baltimore, MD, from 2006 until 2008,” Dafoulas explained. “There really wasn’t much of an opportunity for me to make the long drive back to Rhode Island [to apply with the Rhode Island National Guard].”

“Getting the process started online with Path to Honor was not only convenient, but necessary in my case,” he added.

### SENSE OF SERVICE

He wanted the opportunity to perform the dual state and federal missions, so the National Guard was an easy choice for Dafoulas.

“As a proud native of Rhode Island, I didn’t want to spend three years on Active Duty at Fort Knox, for example, away from my family and friends. So, the National Guard was really the only option,” Dafoulas told *GX*. “The opportunity to serve the president of the United States and governor of Rhode Island was an easy one to take advantage of.”

“With Sergeant Conley’s help, I arranged to take the ASVAB in Maryland. All other trips to MEPS were in Boston when I would travel home periodically.”

None of this would have been possible without Path to Honor and the Support Team in Conley’s eyes, and he is proud that Dafoulas could get enlisted in a timely manner while living so far away.

“I can’t speak for other recruiters, but I feel that by using PTH, the National Guard has definitely moved into the 21st century concerning recruiting efforts,” Conley explained. “The Guard’s online application and prequalifying process has now become the model for all other branches of service to follow, and this is a natural fit.” **GX**

## 4 Myths about PATH TO HONOR

**Myth 1:** Path to Honor is meant to take the place of recruiters.

**Fact:** PTH is not intended to replace the recruiter, or minimize the recruiting field. It is an online screening system that is intended to alleviate the issues related to verifying leads for enlistment.

**Myth 2:** Applicants will never go on to Path to Honor and complete applications on their own.

**Fact:** With over 18,000 contracts since its inception in 2007, almost 1 in 6 applicants become a contract in the Guard through Path to Honor.

**Myth 3:** Path to Honor is managed by civilians who don’t understand how recruiting works in the field.

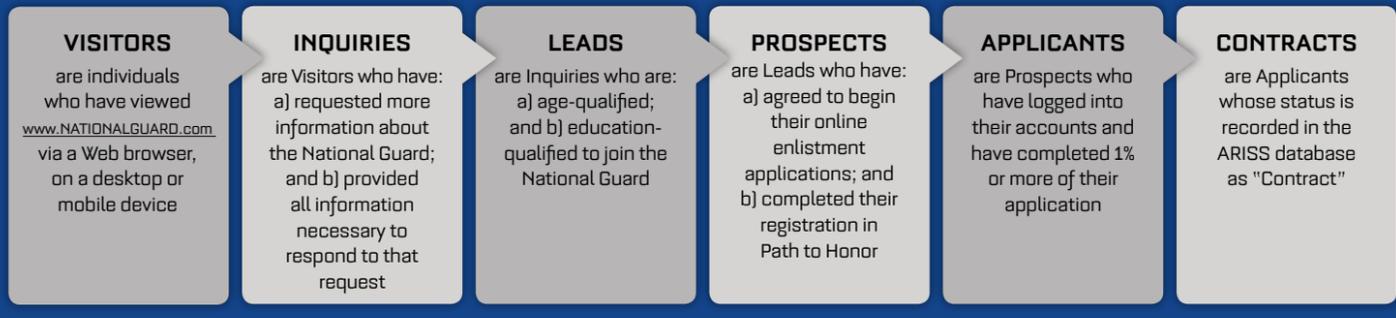
**Fact:** The bulk of the PTH staff is made up of experienced Soldiers who are 79T-qualified. All M-day, retired and civilian staff continue to receive training on enlistment criteria.

**Myth 4:** Path to Honor is not compatible with ARISS.

**Fact:** Although PTH was not fully compatible with ARISS in 2007, the two programs are now completely synchronized.

## VILPAC: FROM VISITOR TO CONTRACT

VILPAC—the Guard’s term for its multi-stage enlistment process. Every civilian progresses through six stages on the way to becoming a Soldier, and VILPAC allows Support Team personnel to easily identify the individual’s place in the process:



(continued from page 46)

a lead, only to get halfway through a packet and find out they would need too many waivers because of medical or legal issues. Or even worse, after a series of background checks, to find out the lead had not been honest about past legal or medical issues.

“Basically, the process was long, cumbersome and inefficient in terms of identifying qualified applicants,” said Sergeant First Class Dave Williams, Lisa’s recruiter with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Williams started recruiting four years before PTH was established and has become a huge fan. “I typically spend around eight hours total with each lead from our first contact to swearing in, and the initial enlistment packet is a big chunk of that time.

“Now, I can use that time to pursue other leads and take care of issues that might arise during the enlistment process, such as waivers.”

When Williams took Lisa to MEPS, they found out she had a rare retina condition that disqualified her from her first MOS pick, which was 88M.

“I was enlisting as an 88M, but my eyes don’t adjust to light very well. Williams was right on the ball and immediately started searching for new jobs for me,” Lisa explained. “He found me another job and I became a 92A. He had to do a ton of work for me, but I really believe that it would have been much more without PTH.”

Williams was able to focus on Lisa’s situation 100 percent. He was able to spend his time getting Lisa the waiver because he wasn’t bogged down with enlistment paperwork from other applicants, or making addendums to her packet.

“The Support Team allowed me to jump-start the enlistment process, so I could spend the bulk of my time with her getting that waiver instead of chasing unqualified leads.”

### SUPPORTING THE RECRUITERS

When word first hit the recruiting force about PTH, recruiters were worried that the online tool was trying to “steal” their job, potentially eliminating their profession. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“The overall goal of the Support Team is to use PTH to provide qualified applicants to the recruiting force,” according to Lisa Menck-Shock, Support Team Program Manager. “The Support Team attempts to mirror the traditional recruiting process in an online environment.

“The internet is a primary source for information-gathering for the current generation. This causes millions of interested leads to visit [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com) each year. The Support Team supports these visitors by providing them information and a method for online enlistment,” added Menck-Shock. “While it isn’t a foolproof system, it offers an immense amount of efficiency to the current recruiting force in a time where budgets are tight and missions remain. If we can save recruiters time and provide them with leads they wouldn’t have otherwise met, we have done our job.”

Initially implemented just to support PTH, the cutting-edge PTH Support Team concept was designed to make initial contact with potential applicants via [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com).

All Support Team operators are 79T-qualified, and visitors can ask them as many questions as they want. Generally, once the Support Team operator determines if the lead is qualified, they can help them continue the process

**9,472**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
PTH CONTRACTS  
IN FY10

**60,010**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
PATH TO HONOR  
APPLICANTS IN FY10

**177,238**  
TOTAL NUMBER OF  
CONTACT RESPONSE  
TEAM LEADS  
IN FY10

of enlistment. If there are issues medically or legally, the Support Team operator can direct the individual to the appropriate authorities.

“Basically, we are the first line of communication for a visitor to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com),” said Jason Harsem, Deputy Program Manager of the Support Team. “Through our operators, a visitor can ask any questions that they can imagine in order to decide if they want to continue the process of enlisting in the Guard.

“And at the same time, we do the job of initially screening the visitor to determine what path we need to send them on next.”

The Support Team really is the tip of the spear and acts as the mouth to the “funnel” that filters qualified inquiries to recruiters. The Support Team screens qualified candidates through to PTH, funneling them into the enlistment process.

“We prequalify the leads for the recruiter in an attempt to make their job more efficient,” Brad Pray, Program Manager for the Support Team, said. “We do all the prequalifications for the recruiter so that when we pass along the info, he or she will have the most up-to-date info on the lead.”

Interestingly enough, recruiters and Support Team operators hardly have any contact with each other. But their common goal is to strengthen the Guard by filtering out all but the most solid applicants.

“Recruiters don’t really interact with us much, but they send us the leads by telling people to go [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com) and to complete the prequalification form, and by telling the lead to also include their own Recruiter Station Identification Number (RSID),” Pray continued. “That’s why the system is so easy for the recruiter—all they have to do is give the lead their business card with the RSID, and the system will take care of the rest.”

### INCREASING EFFICIENCY

With PTH assisting with over 18,000 contracts since 2007, it’s obvious that the automated lead screening systems in place with PTH are creating efficiency in the recruiting process. Recruiters can use their time out in the community meeting with potential leads. When they find an interested individual, recruiters pass their business card with RSID to the individual, encouraging them to visit [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com).

As FY10 closed, not all PTH initiatives hit every state and territory. With FY11, the leadership at the National Guard Bureau is planning to integrate the entire concept across 100 percent of the nation.

“The Accession Process Redesign, which includes Path to Honor, has the potential to bring numerous efficiencies to the current accession process. The leadership is committed to challenging the status quo and making improvements to the current process,” Colonel Rob Porter, Chief, Guard Strength Directorate, told GX. “The involvement and support of the states during the pilot phase is critical to the program’s success.” **GX**

To learn more about the Support Team and PTH,  
email us at [supportteam@GXonline](mailto:supportteam@GXonline)  
or go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/PathToHonor](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/PathToHonor)

## Get to Know the SUPPORT TEAM

### Operator Nora Robles



**GX:** Do you handle each applicant as if they are a customer? Is it important to treat them with a special sense of importance?

**NR:** I treat every inquiry as a future NCO, or a future officer, not just as a customer. By treating everyone with a sense of importance, it gives them the ability to confide in me, and express what their needs are regarding information and support.

### Operator Narda Betancourt



**GX:** What are some of the day-to-day responsibilities of your job?

**NB:** I identify eligible candidates to enlist in the Army National Guard. I also help potential Soldiers in the initial process of enlisting in the Guard.

**GX:** Do you notice a common theme between the applicants you talk to, like patriotism or a sense of service?

**NB:** Absolutely; the applicants often state that they just want to serve their country. Many of them are well-established members of society and just want to serve and help the country to be safe. The Guard provides that sense of service while still letting them do their civilian careers. For several of them, it’s been a family tradition of enlisting in the military.

### Operator Nathan Carden



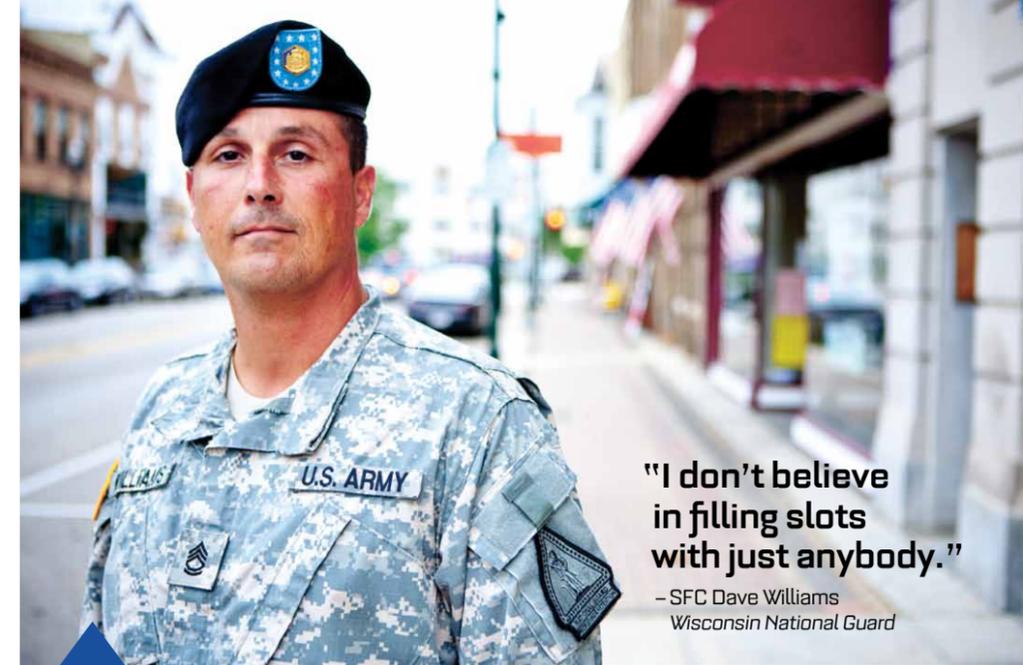
**GX:** Do you feel satisfaction at the end of each day after helping individuals enlist in the Guard?

**NC:** I have a great sense of satisfaction knowing that somebody just got off the phone or chat with me and is talking to their loved ones about all the [cool] things the National Guard can do for them. It makes me think of the time prior to my enlistment.

**GX:** What is the most popular topic you find yourself discussing with potential applicants?

**NC:** The most common theme that comes from the individuals we talk to is a college education. A lot of the people we talk to either want to know what they can do to go to college or how they can pay for college.

ADAM LIVINGSTON



**“I don’t believe in filling slots with just anybody.”**

– SFC Dave Williams  
Wisconsin National Guard

### Sergeant First Class Dave Williams

Sergeant First Class Dave Williams prides himself in being known as a recruiter who works hard to support his applicants. With almost four years experience in recruiting, he doesn’t believe in throwing just any lead into the enlistment process. And, he feels that honesty on the front end from both parties is the key to a successful relationship between recruiter and applicant.

Now that he has been using Path to Honor, he has more time to discover leads in high schools, around town and through his daily travels. Formerly in the 82nd Airborne, Williams stresses quality before quantity. “I don’t believe in filling slots with just anybody,” Williams stated. “I fill those open slots with motivated, qualified Soldiers like Private Joshua Mullaly.”

### CHANCE FOR CHANGE

Joshua Mullaly knew he was headed down the wrong path. He was expelled from school for disciplinary problems, hanging with the wrong crowd, and his parents were worried about him. In a bold move to turn his life around, Mullaly enrolled in the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. Six months later, he graduated from the academy and knew that serving in the military was his destiny. Instructors at the Youth ChalleNGe gave Mullaly a recruiter’s name near his hometown.

One week later, Mullaly and Williams were talking, and Williams directed him to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com), and then to PTH. Joshua found himself applying for the National Guard from a computer in his bedroom. Since he didn’t have a car and his recruiter was stationed 20 minutes away, it was the logical and convenient way to go.

Mullaly dove right in, completing his paperwork in two hours. The best part of the whole process was the ease and comfort of completing it right when he wanted to, and from home. Mullaly was proactive and ready, and the Guard was too.

“I thought the online recruiting tools were very easy,” Mullaly explained. “I never had to contact an operator to ask for help, and I was able to finish it in my own room.”

### MEET THE PARENTS

After his application was complete and Williams had everything approved, Mullaly’s parents wanted to discuss his decision with Williams.

“My recruiter came to my house one night, and we went over the details of my enlistment,” Mullaly said. “It was great because he was able to answer their questions face-to-face. After four hours of drilling him with questions, my parents felt comfortable with my decision and they felt comfortable with my recruiter.”

“I was able to spend time with Mullaly’s parents because I wasn’t bogged down with paperwork at the office,” shared Williams.

“By using the online recruiting tools, I am not necessarily enlisting more Soldiers into the Guard, but I am recruiting better Soldiers into the Guard,” Williams added.

Two weeks after completing PTH, Mullaly was swearing in at MEPS and allotted a spot in the Wisconsin National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program. With his brother serving in Afghanistan with the Marines, Joshua was excited to get his military process started. The National Guard’s Support Team paired perfectly with Williams, the driven recruiter. Together, they not only helped Mullaly accomplish his goals, but also turn his life around. **GX**

# Town of Service

## Two Command Chief Warrant Officers, One Town

By Stephanie Inman

**COMMAND CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER** (CCWO) Delynn Gibson is a Soldier who acquired his sense of patriotism at an early age. While growing up in Monticello, KY, Gibson was surrounded by Veterans and military members. One of them was Gibson's father, who served in the Air Force for 21 years. Gibson remembers listening as a child to his father's stories of daring missions and the military's tight camaraderie.

"He traveled quite a bit, which got him out of his hometown," Gibson said. "He was able to do a lot of different jobs in the military." So when he turned 17, Gibson was determined to enlist in the Active Duty Army.

After Gibson finished serving on Active Duty in 1983, he joined the

National Guard as a medic. Then in 1987, Gibson entered flight school and graduated as a medevac pilot. He flew in missions to Guantanamo Bay, transporting interpreters between there and the District of Columbia. In addition to federal missions, he performed state Active Duty missions like locating marijuana for counterdrug operations.

"If it hadn't been for the National Guard sending me to flight school and helping my career, I really don't know where I would be today," Gibson confessed.

The Guard gave Gibson the excitement he had desired as a child. But it also allowed him to meet fellow Soldiers who had the same patriotic pride.

One friend in particular, Command Chief Warrant Officer

Frank Vaughn, is a dear companion to Gibson. The two met at an annual command chief warrant officers' meeting. They bonded over a similar upbringing and an interesting coincidence.

### COMMON GROUND

"I had heard Vaughn's name through acquaintances in my hometown," Gibson said. "When I met him up there, we got to talking and realized we were from the same hometown."

Vaughn, born just outside of Monticello, largely credits his hometown and childhood experiences as among the reasons he joined the military.

"A big influence was that I came from humble beginnings and had a strong sense of values instilled early on," Vaughn said. His family

consisted of simple, hardworking people who taught him the importance of believing in his country.

Gibson and Vaughn became close friends after their first meeting. When Gibson took over as the command chief warrant officer for Kentucky in March 2009, he often asked Vaughn for military advice. Vaughn, who became the Indiana Army National Guard command chief warrant officer in April 2004, had a few more years of experience than Gibson.

"Vaughn is somewhat of a mentor to me," Gibson said. "He has been doing this a lot longer than me, so I still go to him today when I have some questions about this position. I know that he has probably come across a similar situation in his career."

The two Soldiers figured it was pretty rare that two command chief warrant officers happened to be from the same small town in Kentucky. "We just thought it was a one-time event that two guys from the same hometown are command chief warrant officers at the same time."

### MEN WITH A MISSION

These two men have banded together, spurred on by a common goal—to expand the warrant officer candidate school (WOCS) in Kentucky.

"We didn't have a WOCS here, but when I became command chief, that was one thing I looked into. I've worked with [Vaughn] closely on that," Gibson said. "I am trying to get a WOCS Phase 2 here."

Currently, the Phase 2 and 3 candidates are sent up to Indiana to Vaughn to finish out their schooling there. But Gibson is hoping to change that, with Vaughn's help. **GX**

COURTESY OF CCWO FRANK VAUGHN



CCWO Delynn Gibson (right) meets with his mentor and friend, CCWO Frank Vaughn (left).

# Coming to America

## Interpreter Becomes Guard Soldier

Story and photo by SGT Wayne Woolley, New Jersey Army National Guard

**THE ROOM FULL OF RECRUITS** preparing to ship to Basic Combat Training sat motionless as Sergeant Patricia Beecher asked the question one more time.

"Come on, people—who knows the Soldier's Creed?" the New Jersey Army National Guard recruiter asked.

Silence.

Finally, Private First Class Saif Odah's hand shot up. Again.

With precise, swift motions, the reed-thin recruit strode to the front of the classroom at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt, NJ.

"I am an American Soldier," he began.

After Odah finished without missing a word, Beecher smiled. "You all should talk to Private First Class Odah a lot to get your heads ready for Basic Combat Training."

They probably should.

### A WORLD AWAY

One year ago, Odah, 25, was living in Iraq as a man with huge problems. He spent nights sleeping with an AK-47 to fend off the insurgents who vowed to kill him, and days on dismounted patrols with American Soldiers, serving as an interpreter for the troops, who called him Sonny.

Odah's journey to America and his decision to enlist in the National Guard are a testament to his will to survive and his enduring bond with Sergeant Edgardo Torres, a New Jersey Guard member who spent \$17,000 of his own money to help his friend make a perilous journey to safety.

The work by Torres, 36, and several other Soldiers allowed Odah to become one of only 28 former interpreters to earn a Special Immigrant Visa for Iraqi and Afghan translators and interpreters in 2009, the last year of the program's existence.

Only six former interpreters have joined the Active Army over the past few years, and Odah is believed to be the first to enlist in the Army National Guard.

Torres said he felt obligated to help Odah come to America.

"I love the guy," Torres said. "He is one of the smartest, most loyal, hardest-working guys I've ever met. No matter how bad things get, Sonny smiles."

### PERSONAL COURAGE

By the time Torres' unit, C Company of the 102nd Cavalry, arrived at Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in August 2008, Odah had already been working for American forces for more than five years.

Torres was drawn to Odah by his infectious smile and the fact he was one of the few interpreters who wore no mask to protect his identity outside the wire. When Torres asked why, Odah replied: "It doesn't matter. They already know who I am and where I live."

Within a few weeks, Torres started talking to Odah about coming to America.

"I was like, 'That's a nice dream, but I didn't think there's any way he can be serious,'" Odah said.

Odah realized his friend wasn't joking a short time later, when Torres and another Soldier from the unit, Sergeant David Brimmer, began the massive paperwork involved in obtaining the visa.

Back in Iraq, life grew more dangerous for Odah. He received death threats nearly every day.

### TRAGEDY AND INSPIRATION

He was in Baghdad for a visa interview on May 29, 2009, when he learned that his brother, Khalid al-Saad, who was working with the United Nations, had been killed by a roadside bomb that hit his convoy.

Al-Saad, a published poet, had been Odah's role model and best friend.

"I decided that day that if I ever got out, I needed to do something good for America in honor of the honorable life my brother lived," Odah said.

Odah's visa arrived in October 2009, and his plane landed at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport on Nov. 28, 2009. In April 2010, he enlisted in the National Guard.

At first, Torres tried to talk Odah out of enlisting.

"I was like 'Sonny, you've done more than enough already for the cause of Freedom,'" Torres told him.

Odah's reply: "I haven't even started. You guys have given me everything I have. I owe everything I have in exchange."

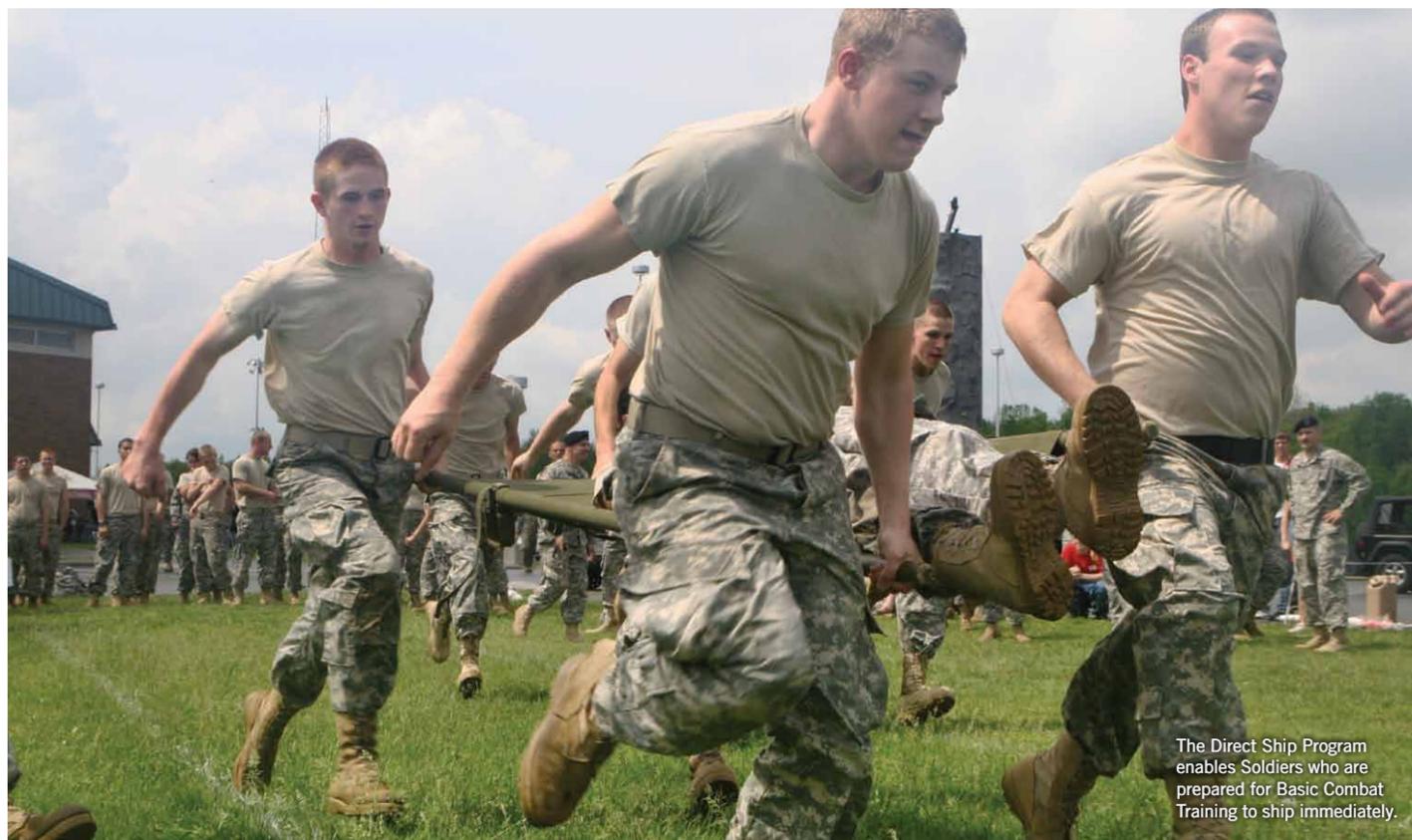
### AMAZING SPIRIT

Odah's recruiter, Sergeant First Class Jose Malave, calls him the best accession he's ever made.

Odah's thrilled with his new life. "Iraq is silence. America is beautiful, orchestral music that is played every day. I am at peace here," he said. **GX**



PFC Saif Odah decided to enlist in the New Jersey National Guard after coming to America in 2009.



The Direct Ship Program enables Soldiers who are prepared for Basic Combat Training to ship immediately.

# RSP's Direct Ship Option

## Program Aligns Resources for Optimum Success

By NGB-ASM

**ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES**, through their respective RRACs, have completed the Attrition Management Branch's (AMB) Direct Ship training.

This accomplishment, as a result of careful study, scrutiny and teamwork, was officially capped off through a Memorandum of Agreement dated July 20, 2009, between the commander, Guard Strength Command, and the commander, USMEPCOM.

The purpose of such an integrated process is best described in the Direct Ship Mission: "To align resources and shipping alternatives in a manner that positions the Soldier for optimum success and the best possible transition to Initial Entry Training (IET)/Advanced Individual Training (AIT)."

### READY FOR BASIC

From the date of the Memorandum of Agreement, a concentrated effort to develop, design, instruct, provision and staff a Direct Ship Program was initiated to provide an alternative method to make ready previously assessed Warriors for Basic Combat Training (BCT) as well as Phase II AIT. This alternative permits individual states, through their Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), to conduct inspect physicals without MEPS assistance. This direct ship inspect eliminates any return trip to MEPS prior to shipping, allowing the Soldier to ship to IET/AIT directly from the RSP's Direct Ship Site (DSS).

Since there is no Department of Defense requirement to ship a Soldier from a MEPS site, a number of states have conceptualized various direct ship alternatives, to have greater quality control over their Soldiers.

As early as the 1980s, the state of New York was able to generate enough enlistments and provide support (to include bus and airline charter) to formulate a version of Direct Ship. With the advent of the RSP's capability of verifying prerequisites for new recruits, Direct Ship became a viable and cost-effective method for many RSP training sites.

### STATES IN WAITING

Still in its infancy, the Direct Ship Program numbers are very promising. Many states are waiting for the beginning of the fiscal year to fully incorporate it into their program, while others are already developing their personnel and logistics strategies.

Colonel Robert Porter has set an FY11 goal of 50 percent Direct Ship Soldiers. So, how's it going thus far? Just to mention a few states might have an opinion, ask Virginia, Arkansas, North Dakota and Oklahoma. In Virginia, for instance, during July, 87 percent of their 88 shippers were direct shipped. Virginia was bold enough to direct ship over 78 percent of their Warriors at the beginning of June's Summer Surge.

Or, how about Arkansas, who had 227 total shippers in June. Over

90 percent were shipped through the Direct Ship Program.

Additionally, 88 percent of their July shippers direct shipped. North Dakota and Oklahoma both shipped an incredible 100 percent direct ship in June, and then followed that up with another 100 percent month in July.

So what exactly does it take to capitalize on the Direct Ship Program?

First, a successful ship program of any kind requires proactive monitoring of shipping prerequisites and Soldier preparation beginning on the day of enlistment. This entails administrative accuracy for shipper packets, ensuring proper training seat management and maintaining a shipper roster database.

Equally important is a specialist assigned to the RSP/Direct Ship Program to conduct Soldier outreach on a systematic basis to determine if there are any changes affecting the Soldiers' shipping packets.

### FIT TO SHIP

Additionally, the recruit will be subjected to training similar to that received in BCT to familiarize the Soldier with the rigors of BCT/AIT and determine their level of fitness. Direct Ship, ideally set up over a three-day period, can identify the individual needs of each Soldier by providing an administratively correct packet, transportation to BCT/AIT and an easier adjustment to Guard life.

This is accomplished through the efforts of logistical personnel providing billeting, transportation and supplies; RSP cadre/instructors serving as primary training instructors and advisors; and MEPS guidance counselors to verify data, serve as a liaison between Operations and Command, verify security clearances, and ensure GCR input. The last group is physical inspection personnel, who ensure all Soldiers are medically screened and interviewed by all Guard RSP personnel.

As with all new programs, there are some issues to work out. However, the leaders of the Arkansas National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion feel strongly that the program is relevant.

Sergeant Major Larry Rankin of the Arkansas National Guard stated, "If the focus on RSP is strong, you will have a strong Direct Ship Program."

He went on to praise the Direct Ship Program by pointing out, "We have our

Warriors for two days at our direct ship location. This face-to-face time with the Warriors allows final quality control to ensure the Warriors are administratively correct. Our process is still young, and we are getting better each week."

Rankin said, "It's the motivation of the Warrior that determines if the Soldier will be successful, and it is lack of motivation that produces undesirable results. Weekly, we see the Warriors that are shipping to IADT, and it is a good feeling to see that we are sending motivated individuals to their training."

With the advent of the Direct Ship Program, states have the opportunity to review each Soldier 90 days out so that a training seat will not be lost. That is to say, a Soldier with the potential for a shipping problem may be reviewed to determine if a discharge is in order, or may be reintegrated into the National Guard at a future date.

All of the Direct Ship states interviewed for this article were strong proponents of the program and anxious to do their part in achieving the FY11 50 percent direct ship goal. Each expressed support for making the program even better by offering suggestions.

### TOES IN THE WATER

Lieutenant Colonel Caruso, Virginia National Guard Recruiting and Retention Commander, stated, "We have been conducting a partial Direct Ship Program at Fort Pickett since 2004. Conducting the inspection at our Direct Ship Operations Center saves time and

resources, and provides additional time for training and rescreening.

"This process has significantly increased our ship rate," he continued. "Having Soldiers process at our Direct Ship Operations Center enhances our flexibility and provides my staff with the opportunity to quickly fix any last-minute issues that otherwise might delay or prohibit a young Soldier from shipping. Conducting direct ship allows us to be proactive and not reactive, and to send a much better prepared Soldier downrange."

Lieutenant Colonel Boettcher, Montana National Guard Recruiting and Retention Commander, said, "Direct Ship has greatly improved overall training seat management in Montana. This is evident in our overall ship rate going from 74.6 percent at the end of FY09 to 85 percent. We are looking forward to expanding our program to other cities in Montana in FY11."

Chief Warrant Officer Two Jammy Ryckman, North Dakota National Guard Commander, shared, "The direct ship process enabled North Dakota to maintain a 97 percent ship rate since implementation. Direct Ship has also allowed us to reduce inefficiencies while providing better customer service to our new Soldiers. The direct ship process is a success story for the Soldier and the North Dakota RSP."

The Attrition Management Branch fully expects this initiative to grow, and for all States and Territories to realize the value of this program over the course of the next few months. **GX**



Soldiers participate in RSP until they go to Basic Combat Training during the Direct Ship Program.

For more on RSP, go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/directship](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/directship).

# The Road and the Sky

## Guard Soldier Protects Citizens by Land and Air

By Camille Breland

**IT'S NO SURPRISE** that, consciously or not, Captain Kyle O'Connell centers his life around one of the seven Army values. As a Black Hawk pilot for a Nevada National Guard medevac unit and a state trooper with the Nevada Highway Patrol, O'Connell is always selflessly serving his country and community.

It's this selfless service that weaves its way into all facets of his life.

O'Connell grew up in what he calls "the biggest little city" of Reno, NV, and learned from an early age what it meant to protect his community. His father, a deputy sheriff there, eventually became the chief of police, and his uncle retired with more than 35 years in the FBI and marshal service.

The military was never far from his mind. His father and grandfather served in Vietnam and WWII, respectively, and his older brother

**"WE'RE IN A HELICOPTER. WE CAN GO WHEREVER WE WANT. WE DON'T NEED A LANDING STRIP."**

>> CPT Kyle O'Connell, Nevada National Guard

joined the National Guard when Kyle was 13. So when O'Connell's parents suggested he join the National Guard at 17, he jumped at the idea.

O'Connell initially enlisted as a medic with a cavalry regiment before tackling air defense artillery

and airborne schools. He eventually decided to commission as an officer, and enrolled at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, NM.

O'Connell says graduating from the institute and receiving his commission in 2001 is one of the best memories of his military career. Because his father passed away before graduation, his best friend's father, a retired lieutenant colonel, gave him his commission, while his uncle pinned his bars as he became a second lieutenant.

### LEARNING TO FLY

After commissioning as an officer, O'Connell joined a Chinook company while he finished his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Nevada-Reno. He spent four years maintaining the aircraft and as a flight operations officer before he was offered another great opportunity—flight school. O'Connell went through 18 months of initial training at Fort Rucker, AL, and earned his wings as a Black Hawk pilot in 2006.

"The training was academically tough," he remembered. "There was so much we had to memorize and retain. There were long nights of study groups, training on weekends, and endless classes and flying tests."

O'Connell acquired experience and hours in the air by flying missions all over the state for the Nevada National Guard, but his combat and medical training was put to the test in 2008 when he deployed to Afghanistan.

O'Connell deployed with C Company, 1/168th AA (Air Ambulance) in a southern province of Afghanistan as one of the only medevac companies in theater. They were attached to the

159th Aviation Combat Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, from Fort Campbell, KY. He and his crew supported all of the NATO and ISAF forces on the battlefield, working in 48-hour shifts.

"We picked up Afghan National Army, Canadians, British, Polish, Romanians—everybody," he said.

While each day in country was different, with a new location and new details, the mission remained the same: to treat and rescue injured troops from combat. And their mission was a success.

"We brought back everybody—we never lost a Soldier on any of our aircraft or out in the theater," O'Connell proudly recalled.

Medevac missions are versatile and can affect anyone in theater, so O'Connell and his crew had to be prepared for any situation. Often, missions would take them into rugged terrain away from established roads. But, O'Connell said, it was never a problem.

"We're in a helicopter. We can go wherever we want. We don't need a landing strip—we can just pick up and go," he said.

### PROTECTING HIS HOMELAND

Back at home, O'Connell and his Black Hawk unit are constantly called upon to assist the state in all sorts of missions, from transporting congressmen and other VIPs, to search and rescue, and responding to natural disasters. Nevada—like all the states in the U.S.—also depends on the skills of National Guard pilots like O'Connell to assist and support its local law enforcement and civilian agencies during emergency situations.

On September 3, 2007, famous adventurer and pilot Steve Fossett went missing after he took off

in a single-engine plane from a small airstrip in western Nevada. Authorities thought his plane may have crashed in Nevada, and called on the National Guard, including O'Connell's unit, to help with the search. O'Connell and his crew searched for several days, but Fossett's plane wasn't found until a year later.

O'Connell also flies to control and combat wildfires across the state. During the fire season, his unit uses pilot-controlled Bambi buckets to drop up to 600 gallons of water in a concentrated area. It's missions like these, he says, that make the National Guard so important and distinctive from other branches of the military.



CPT Kyle O'Connell enlisted in the National Guard when he was 17 and has been a Black Hawk pilot since 2006.

SGT MIKE GETTEN, NEVADA JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

"You get to do actual missions—real-world missions," he asserted. "It's not just train up to go to war. We come and do search and rescues, and we get sent to help support local governments during natural disasters."

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Making the transition from full-time training and school in the National Guard to his civilian career as a state trooper was fairly easy, O'Connell said, because the jobs have similar qualities. Both careers have a rank structure, and troops or officers can specialize in a specific job area. Plus, O'Connell says the qualities of great Soldiers are the same qualities that make great police officers.

"It's all about how dedicated and committed you are," he noted.

O'Connell works daily to protect the motorists of Reno by enforcing traffic laws, assisting stranded motorists and performing accident investigations after a collision—not to mention getting to arrest the occasional "bad guy." His medical training as a combat lifesaver with the National Guard and registered Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) helps save lives on the road.

"Sometimes you go to these big accidents, and you've got a lot of hurt people, so you just keep a cool head about you and do what needs to be done by treating people," he responded.

O'Connell says he also stays

physically fit to be in top shape for his Guard duties and police work. Besides running and doing push-ups and sit-ups, he enjoys boating, water-skiing, wakeboarding and racquetball. Another reason he stays constantly prepared? His family. He and his wife have a daughter and newborn son.

"I just like to go home at the end of the day so I can be with my family," he admits. "This is where I'm from—born and raised—and it's my way of giving back and making it better for my family and everybody else."

O'Connell plans to stay in the National Guard and on the police force until he retires. He hopes to fly a helicopter for Nevada law enforce-

ment some day, but until then, he'll continue to enjoy the "organized chaos" of his days on the force and in the Guard.

"Every day is different, and that's why being a state trooper is so fun," he said. "You have that front-row seat to life."

"Being a Guard Soldier, you get to help out with a variety of things. You get a lot of opportunities to do things that most citizens don't get to do." **EX**

Do you know a Soldier who serves as a firefighter, law enforcement officer or medical professional? If so, email us at [editor@GXonline.com](mailto:editor@GXonline.com) today.

# Success Through JCEP

## Job Connection Education Program Preps Soldiers for Work

Story and photos by Christian Anderson

**SPECIALIST KEVIN WILLIAMS** was looking for work after he was laid off. Specialist Jasmine Wills wanted to become a sheriff's deputy but didn't know where to begin. Sergeant Eriquia Clayborn was still searching for her dream job.

These three individuals had something in common: they went to their National Guard armory and asked for help. Thanks to the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP), they are pursuing their dream jobs.

Just several months after seeking help, Williams owns a pressure washing business. Wills is a jailer for the Dallas Sheriff's Department. Clayborn is pursuing her dream job with the Texas State Troopers.

### SUCCESS FROM DAY ONE

With a staff of eight, the JCEP opened its doors in the Dallas/Fort Worth area on March 1, 2010. Its mission was to support the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Texas Army National Guard. The 56th had returned from deployment in August 2009, and countless Soldiers found themselves jobless due to the prevailing economic crisis. The JCEP was created to help these Soldiers find work.

"This is not a job placement program," cautioned Dinetha Thompson, program manager for JCEP in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "We give Soldiers the skills they need to find the right job and get hired."

JCEP program manager Major Scott Gibbs of the National Guard Bureau knows exactly what these unemployed Soldiers are going through. He lost his own job during a deployment to Kosovo, when the company he worked for collapsed.

"It was devastating," said Gibbs. "I had a college degree, great leadership experience, and a ton of desire and ambition. But, I didn't know where to start."

Gibbs got a job at National Guard Bureau and was assigned to the JCEP.

"I don't want other Soldiers to have to go through what I went through," Gibbs explained. "We owe our Soldiers much more than that."

The staff at JCEP feels the same way. Their hours can be long, and the work is hard, but they know that what they do is extremely important. A Soldier without a job is under tremendous stress, making it difficult to perform well at drill, Annual Training or a deployment. Stressors can lead to personal problems that in turn can weaken a Guard unit. So the JCEP keeps the 56th strong and ready for the mission.

"It's about the Soldiers and the families," Thompson emphasized. "We don't want to fail

them. This program can be an amazing benefit to the men and women of the Army National Guard nationwide."

### THIS IS HOW WE DO IT

The JCEP staff focuses on three main aspects of the employment process: resumes, interviews and personal appearance.

"The main thing we do here is help these individuals build their skills," explained Annette Robinson, a personnel specialist for the JCEP. "We do not create their resume for them—we show them how to do it and how to stand out."

Many of the Soldiers had never created a resume. Of those who had, many had made various errors.



SPC Jasmine Wills (left), SGT Eriquia Clayborn (center) and SPC Kevin Williams (right) all have been given the chance to pursue their dream jobs through JCEP.

"Most of the Soldiers have a skill set or attribute that civilians might not have," Robinson went on to explain. "So we take that skill set and make it stand out on the resume. We want to show their value as a potential employee."

After the resume is completed, the JCEP helps the Soldier apply for a job. As simple as it sounds, there are a few things Soldiers must know about this process.

"For starters, it helps to have a cover letter," Robinson explained. "Also, we try to make sure that the Soldier has a professional and appropriate email address. Not something funny or cute, but an email address that a company might take seriously."

Once a Soldier is asked to interview for a company, the next challenge begins.

Efren Villanueva, business advisor for the JCEP, has three decades of experience working for labor boards across Texas, so he understands the interviewing process.

"The key to interviewing is to look and act professional," Villanueva explained. "First, we look at the Soldier's appearance. We tell them to come to the armory for a mock interview."

Often, the Soldier shows up wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Villanueva tells them that first impressions count, and that they should be wearing slacks and a tie.

### SUIT UP

"If they don't have the proper clothes, we [help them shop for them]," Villanueva said.

Once the Soldier is in professional attire, the JCEP conducts a mock interview, asking the Soldier questions that might be posed in a real interview. This helps Soldiers in two important ways: it helps them develop prepared answers, and it builds their confidence.

After the mock interview, the JCEP sends the Soldier on their way.

"We have to let them follow through with it on their own," said Mary Weaver, training specialist at the JCEP. "After our training, we have to trust that they'll follow through."

Most of the time, JCEP "graduates" do land jobs. But, there are always more Soldiers looking for work.

"For every Soldier we help, there is another one to fill their place," Thompson said. "It's a great feeling that, one by one, we are making an impact in their lives."

One company that has benefited from the JCEP is Allied Barton, a security service company in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

"The Soldiers from JCEP had tons of ambition and an amazing work ethic," said Amy Lewis, a recruiting manager at Allied Barton. "They seemed like a natural fit us. We are excited about

that and want to help them achieve their goals in the civilian world."

### JOB SEEKER TO DRIVER'S SEAT

After Williams, of the 143rd Airborne Battalion, lost his job of 13 years, he felt lost.

"I felt like I was doing land navigation without a map or compass," he said. "I had not been in that position since I graduated from high school, and I had no idea what to do next."

But the JCEP offered a helping hand and some sound advice.

Williams was so impressed with the program, he decided to take it a step further and be his own boss.

"I wanted to open my own business, and JCEP can help you with that," he said. "They gave me the tools to succeed, and I hit the ground running."

Two months later, Williams was using his new skills to approach potential clients and promote his new business, Texas Pride Power Washing.

"The people at the JCEP are simply amazing," he said. "If you use their resources, you can be successful."

### NEXT STEP

Clayborn worked full time as a human resource sergeant for the 36th Infantry Division. Although on ADOS (Active Duty Operational Support) status for the Texas Army National Guard, she knew in the back of her mind she wanted to be a law enforcement officer one day. She spoke with the JCEP crew, and they

assured her this was possible. They offered her assistance with her resume and cover letters, job referrals and mock interviews. Clayborn feels the mock interview was by far the most beneficial tool.

Lastly, they gave her something that she lacked before she walked through the front door: self-assurance.

"I feel confident that I can sell myself in any interview," she explained. "I feel extremely lucky to have worked with the JCEP staff and am excited about the program."

### FIRST-TIMER

Wills had never held a civilian job and had no idea where to start looking. The aviation operation specialist knew there were many resources out there, but wasn't sure which avenue was the best approach.

"It was overwhelming figuring out what to do first," Wills admitted. "That's why I went to the JCEP. It was shocking to meet someone that wanted to help you and train you."

Wills told the folks at JCEP she wanted to work in law enforcement. They worked with her to build a resume and cover letter, and boosted her confidence. It paid off—Wills got a job.

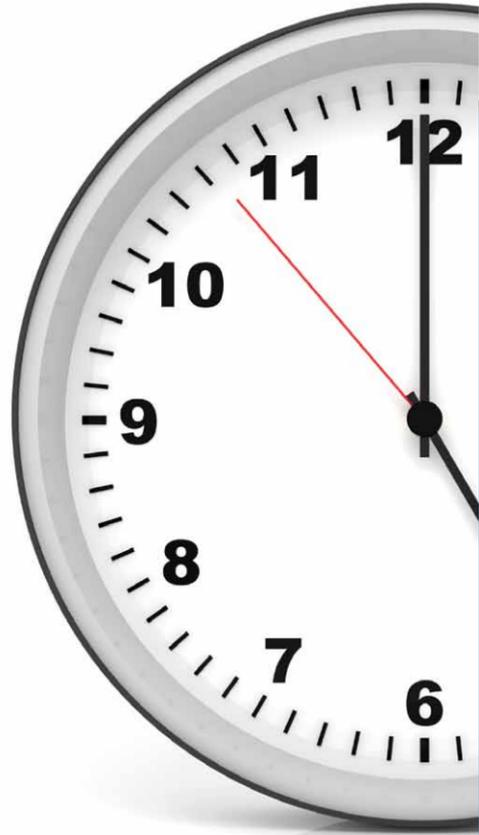
"I am now a jailer with the Dallas Sheriff's Department," she said. "My initial probation lasts for a year, and then I see myself becoming a deputy. I recommend the JCEP to other Soldiers, because they help with everything it takes to prepare you to get a job," she said. **GX**



# Take for Holiday Health

## Quick Tips for Greater Well-Being

By Kevin Mason, M.D., and Ann Stark, BA, Health Information Correspondents



Taking just a **few** minutes out of the 1440-minute day can bring you the benefits of a healthier, safer life, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This particularly applies during the holiday season, when time seems to fly and stressors rise. Reserving a few minutes to improve health and safety may be the best gift to give and receive.



**In five minutes**—the amount of time it takes to microwave popcorn—you can perform these simple preventive actions:

- Make a healthy brown-bag lunch
- Make a wellness appointment
- Review home preparedness plan
- Check and test smoke detectors
- Salt sidewalks and walkways
- Learn the warning signs of heart attack and stroke
- Walk the dog
- Disinfect food preparation surfaces
- Bend and stretch
- Fight the urge to use tobacco products

In less than **one minute** you can:

- Buckle up
- Walk a flight of stairs
- Apply sunscreen
- Calculate body mass index
- Read food labels
- Prepare a raw fruit or vegetable snack
- Count to 10 and breathe deeply
- Hug or compliment someone
- Check in with a buddy via email
- Wash your hands



# Don't let the flu get to you!

Be a germ  
stopper!



# hand hygiene saves lives

[www.influenza.gov](http://www.influenza.gov)

## Healthy habits help everyone.



Always Ready, Always There...  
**Always Healthy.**

# Buying a Home

## How to Decide if the Time Is Right

Courtesy of USAA

**BUYING A HOME** is one of the largest financial decisions you will make in your lifetime, and it shouldn't be spontaneous. It's wise to consider the costs, the benefits and your lifestyle before you take the first steps to becoming a homeowner.

### COSTS

There are costs associated with getting the deal done. Generally, it's a good idea to have a cash down payment of at least 5 percent, although 100 percent financing is available in some cases. You may pay fees for appraisal, home inspection, the real estate agent and a lawyer. The number

of closing costs varies from state to state and can add up very quickly.

Once you've become a homeowner, you'll have many new expenses—utilities, pest control, homeowners insurance, property taxes, maintenance and other obligatory fees—that you never had to worry about with renting.

Ensure you are in a good financial space before proceeding with home ownership. To properly assess your readiness, obtain your credit report. If you have too much debt, consider delaying your home purchase or consult a financial advisor for assistance.

### BENEFITS

Not only does home ownership give you a sense of pride and stability, it also provides newfound freedom and privacy. Knowing you are not restricted when it comes to things like decor, pets or noise is a new luxury you may enjoy.

Buying a home and obtaining a mortgage also allows you to build equity, making your home a financial investment. Unlike renting, a fixed mortgage payment will never increase unexpectedly.

The interest on your mortgage and property taxes may be tax-deductible, which means that owning a home can help reduce your overall tax load. Since you generally pay more toward interest in the first years of your mortgage, this becomes a significant savings benefit.

### YOUR LIFESTYLE

It is important to consider your current and future lifestyle when buying a home. If you don't have a steady job or think you may relocate in the next few years, renting may be a more feasible option for you right now.

On the other hand, if you're ready to settle down or start a family, it may be the right time to buy a home. Even if your situation changes and you decide to move after a few years, the purchase you've made could prove to be a good financial step toward the future. **CX**

## 5 THINGS EVERY HOME BUYER SHOULD KNOW

If you're thinking about buying a house now that the market has cooled, ask yourself these questions first.

### 1 How much of a monthly mortgage payment can I afford?

As a rule of thumb, your total debt payments, including your home, should be less than 36 percent of your gross monthly income. But factors such as your credit score, monthly income and assets may allow you to afford a mortgage with a higher debt-to-income ratio.

Before you take the plunge, consider other ongoing expenses, such as homeowners insurance, maintenance, taxes and utilities, to make sure you'll have enough to cover the house payment.

### 2 How long do I plan to stay in the home?

Most financial planners agree that if it's less than five years, you should think twice. Why? The shorter your length of stay, the less time you have to digest closing costs, real estate commissions and other fees. But you can find mortgages tailored to homeowners who move often.

### 3 How much should I save for a down payment?

Down payments are generally a good idea because they can help lower your monthly payment. If you put down 20 percent or more of the purchase price, you'll avoid paying costly private mortgage insurance. Some mortgages, such as those guaranteed by the Veterans Administration, don't require down payments.

### 4 Do I expect my income to rise?

Getting a raise or bonus can make you more confident about taking on a mortgage, but don't be overly optimistic. Consider, too, the possibility of lifestyle changes—like new additions to the family or a switch from two incomes to one.

### 5 How much money should I commit to points and fees?

Mortgages come with a variety of up-front expenses. When evaluating lenders, compare their good-faith estimates of closing costs before applying.

# The Hidden Benefits of a College Degree

By Johanna Altland, Grantham University

### THE HIDDEN BENEFITS OF A COLLEGE DEGREE

Over the years, a lot of research has been done about the benefits of earning a college degree, and many articles have been published about the higher wages and lower risk of unemployment for college graduates. I have written about this topic several times, but I came across some interesting information about the intrinsic value of a college degree that goes beyond compensation and unemployment rates.

Did you know that college graduates have a better quality of life? Research conducted by the College Board, "Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society," found that as a college graduate you are more likely to vote and volunteer, understand the importance of other's opinions, have better health, and have employer-sponsored health benefits and pension plans.

### BETTER HEALTH

The College Board study also found that there is a relationship between educational attainment and better health at every age and income level. Of four-year college graduates with incomes between \$55,000 and \$74,999, 83 percent reported being in excellent or very good health, compared to 75 percent of associate degree recipients and 73 percent of high school graduates.

**Smoking:** College graduates are less likely to smoke. Of the 20 percent of adults who smoke, only 9 percent are college graduates and 69 percent of those with a bachelor's degree or higher have never smoked.

**Exercise:** No matter your age, college graduates at all levels are more likely to exercise. The greatest difference in numbers occurred in the 25–34 age group. In that group, 78 percent of college graduates exercised moderately at least once a week, whereas only 49 percent of high school graduates indicated the same.

**Health Benefits and Pension Plans:** Despite the decline in employer-paid healthcare, college graduates are still more likely to receive employer-paid health insurance and pension plans. Sixty-nine percent of four-year college graduates who work full time were offered

pension plans by their employers, and 89 percent participate in these plans.

### BETTER PARENTS

Perhaps the biggest benefit of all is for parents who have a college degree. Children of college graduates are 30 percent more likely to participate in scouting and art-related activities than children of high school graduates, and 44 percent participated in sports activities, compared to 18 percent of children of high school graduates.

Additionally, children of college graduates are much more likely to graduate from high school and go to college, and, like their parents, they are more likely to have better health.

### DO I NEED A COLLEGE DEGREE?

The simple answer to this question is: Yes. With an increasing number of job seekers, and a decreasing number of jobs, many employers have been forced to create cutoffs or bench-

marks for candidates they are willing to interview, like only interviewing candidates with a college degree.

The amount of education it takes to succeed in the current business environment has increased dramatically compared to just five or 10 years ago. A high school education no longer guarantees you employment or a "living wage." Research from many firms, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shows that an advanced degree and ongoing career training are the best ways to increase your earning potential and job security.

The proportion of adults in the United States who have completed a four-year college degree has doubled over the past 30 years. According to "Education Pays: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society," today, the percentage of adults 25 and older with a college degree is 28 percent and in 1970, it was just 11 percent. Competition in the job market is fierce, but a college degree combined with work experience just might give you the edge over another qualified applicant.

The bottom line is that in today's job market, a college degree opens doors. Even if your degree is not related to your career field of choice, it serves as a way for employers to pre-screen for qualified applicants and can get you that coveted interview. **CX**



**COLLEGE GRADUATES ARE MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE EMPLOYER-PAID HEALTH INSURANCE.**



# WE DARE TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS

THE ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



On July 21, 1861, the Union Army, in an effort to cripple the newly assembled Confederate Army at Manassas, Virginia, fired the opening shots of the first major battle of the Civil War.

THE ROOTS OF THE ALABAMA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD LIE IN THE SMALL GROUPS OF CIVILIANS WHO FORMED MILITIA UNITS IN 1807. FIGHTING IN THE WAR OF 1812, THESE ALABAMANS AIDED GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON IN 1814 AS HE CAPTURED MOBILE, WHICH RESULTED IN THE AREA BEING CLAIMED BY THE UNITED STATES. A MERE FIVE YEARS LATER, ALABAMA WAS ADMITTED AS THE 22ND STATE. *By Jason Hall*

**DURING THE YEARS** following the War of 1812, militia units were mostly engaged in social and ceremonial events. However, many did focus on furthering their military prowess. Units would participate in weekly drill sessions in which they would practice intricate maneuvers and engage in target practice.

A highlight for both the individual units and the local populations was when a unit would invite another Guard unit from a different state to visit and compete in drill competitions. One of the more unusual of such competitions occurred in Alabama

in 1843, when the Alabama State Artillery of Mobile challenged the Native American Artillery of New Orleans to an artillery match. Each unit, in turn, fired 50 rounds from their 6-pound smoothbore (non-rifled) cannons. With 32 hits, the Alabamans won and received a Silver Medal. Unfortunately, the fun and games of antebellum America were to be short-lived, as a war was approaching that would pit Americans against Americans.

#### DIVIDED STATES

The American Civil War began on April 12, 1861, with the bombardment of Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, SC. However, the war had been brewing for quite some time, and hostil-

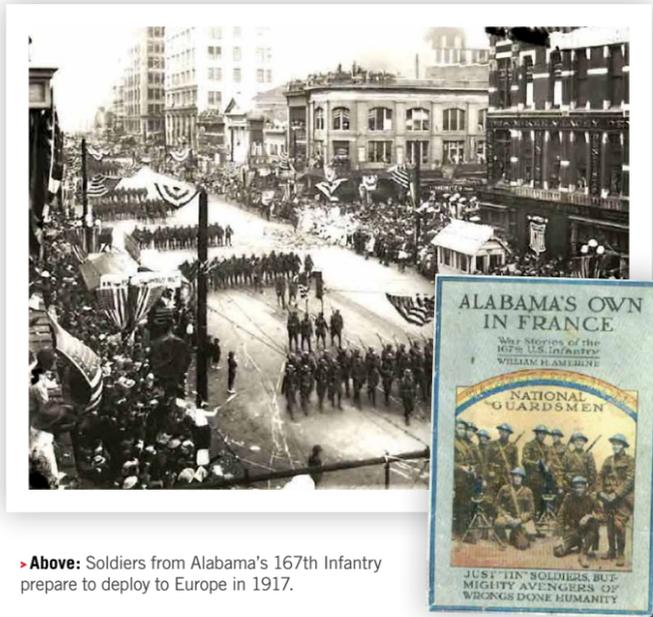
ities were only a matter of time, following several southern states seceding from the Union. Alabama seceded on January 11, 1861.

Under the orders of Gov. Andrew Barry Moore, Alabama militia forces captured the federal installations Forts Morgan and Gaines, located at the entrance to Mobile Bay. These actions incurred no casualties and instilled a false sense of hope in many that a war with the North would “not amount to much.” Alabamans would be among the first to realize the error in this thinking.

The first major land battle of the Civil War would see Alabama militiamen right in the thick of the fighting. Native sons would

launch the immortality of one of the South’s greatest heroes. On the morning of July 21, 1861, a Union force attacked the Confederate forces assembled in Manassas, VA. The Union attack smashed into the Confederate left flank. Seeing a gap in the line form, Confederate Brigadier General Bernard Bee, in command of the Alabama Brigade, ordered his 4th Alabama Infantry regiment forward to plug the gap. Under withering fire, the men of the 4th Alabama held their ground, buying precious time for other Confederate units to arrive on the field.

One of the newly arrived units was the Virginia Brigade, under the command of Thomas J. Jackson. Watching from a distance,



> Above: Soldiers from Alabama's 167th Infantry prepare to deploy to Europe in 1917.

Jackson clearly saw that the Alabama Brigade would soon be enveloped by Union regiments. Therefore, he positioned his men along the tree line on Henry House Hill.

### LIKE A STONE WALL

General Bee saw that Jackson was not moving forward to assist them, and uttered the famous words, "There stands Jackson like a stone wall! Rally behind the Virginians!" It is still debated today by historians as to Bee's intentions. Some believe he was hailing Jackson for creating an anchor for the Confederate line; others state that Bee was admonishing Jackson for not coming to his aid. Either way, from that moment on Jackson would be immortalized as "Stonewall Jackson."

The carnage of the Battle of First Manassas, later overshadowed by the massive casualties of such places as Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, proved to both the North and South that the war would be long and costly. Fighting in every major battle of the war, the 4th Alabama never surrendered its colors. Today, the legacy of the regiment is carried on by the 1st Battalion, 167th Infantry, Alabama Army National Guard.

In the end, approximately 100,000 Alabamans would serve during the war. Not all of these men served for the Confederacy. In the northern counties of the state there was a fervent pro-Union sentiment that helped to produce the 1st Alabama Union Cavalry. Thus, even in a Deep South state such as Alabama, the Civil War was still brother against brother.

Though many believed that the wounds of the Civil War could never fully be healed, in little over 30 years the men of the Alabama Militia were once again answering the call of the United States. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Alabama Militia mobilized for deployment to Cuba. Unfortunately, due to logistical and organizational problems, Alabama's units were never sent out of the country and spent most of their time training in Miami, FL.

### CHANGING TIMES

In the wake of the Spanish-American War, many changes occurred that affected the Alabama Militia. One of the more prominent was the change in its name to the Alabama National Guard.

A new standard of training was created where Soldiers attended regular bi-monthly drills and an annual two-week training camp alongside Regular Army Soldiers.

During the time between the Spanish-American War and the outbreak of WWI, the Alabama National Guard was utilized for two specific duties. The first was the protection of prisoners from lynch mobs. Whenever local sheriffs were threatened with mob violence against a prisoner, they requested the support of National Guard troops.

The other responsibility for Guard members during this time was responding to coal miner strikes. The many coal strikes of this era peaked in 1908, when Gov. B. B. Comer dispatched 900 Alabama Guard members to counter a massive, violent, statewide strike by miners.

### STANDING UP AGAINST VILLA

In 1916, the threat of incursions into the United States from Mexico by the bandit Pancho Villa was becoming extremely problematic for the federal government. In response, President Woodrow Wilson called up the National Guard of each state to deploy troops to the Mexican border. On June 18, 1916, Secretary of War Newton D. Baker wired a telegram to Gov. Charles Henderson of Alabama:

*Having in view the possibility of further aggression upon the territory of the United States from Mexico and the necessity for the proper protection of that frontier, the President has thought proper to exercise the authority vested in him by the Constitution and Laws and call out the Organized Militia and the National Guard necessary for that purpose. I am in consequence instructed by the President to call into the service of the United States forthwith through you the following units of the Organized Militia and the National Guard of the State of Alabama which the President directs shall be assembled at the State Mobilization Camp at Montgomery for muster into the Service of the United States of America:*

- One Brigade of three Regiments of Infantry,**
- Two Batteries of Field Artillery,**
- One Signal Corps Company.**

The men of Alabama gained critical experience and training serving in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Their deployment came to an end in 1917, but there was little time to rest—the order to demobilize was canceled in response to the entry of the United States into WWI.

### LINGERING HOSTILITIES

In August, the 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment was redesignated as the 167th Infantry Regiment and assigned to the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. The remaining Alabama Guard members were assigned to units in the 31st "Dixie" Division. Evidence that not all the wounds of the Civil War had yet fully healed, a huge brawl erupted between the 4th Alabama and the 69th New York at the 42nd Division's training camp on Long Island, NY.

While the men of the 31st were utilized as replacements for other divisions, the 42nd was one of the first American divisions deployed to France. The regiment served a record 110 days in combat, earning many medals and awards. One of the awards earned by a member of the 167th was the Medal of Honor. Corporal Sidney E. Manning received this award for actions near the town of Breuvannes, France, on July 28, 1918. The citation accompanying his award reads as follows:

*When his platoon commander and platoon sergeant had both become casualties soon after the beginning of an assault on strongly fortified*

*heights overlooking the Ourcq River, Corporal Manning took command of his platoon, which was near the center of the attacking line. Though himself severely wounded, he led forward the 35 men remaining in the platoon and finally succeeded in gaining a foothold on the enemy's position, during which time he had received more wounds and all but seven of his men had fallen. Directing the consolidation of the position, he held off a large body of the enemy only 50 yards away by fire from his automatic rifle. He declined to take cover until his line had been entirely consolidated with the line of the platoon on the front when he dragged himself to shelter, suffering from nine wounds in all parts of the body.*

Manning was just one of the Soldiers from Alabama who were referred to as being "just 'tin' soldiers, but mighty avengers of wrongs done humanity."

After WWI, all members of the Alabama National Guard returned home to resume various state duties.

### NEW DAYS, NEW DIVISIONS

Major reorganization of the Guard occurred, including the 167th becoming part of the 31st "Dixie" Division and Alabama's air unit becoming the 106th Observation Squadron. As the recession gripped the nation in 1935, the Federal Works Progress Administration provided the work force that built the many armories that continue to be used today throughout the state.

In 1939, war once again loomed over Europe. In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt mobilized the entire National Guard in anticipation of America entering the conflict. The 31st Division, with an estimated 4,000 Alabama National Guard members, along with Guard Soldiers from Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, received new supplies and underwent rigorous training during the 1940 mobilization.

The days of training ended with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Sent to the Pacific, the 31st Division fought valiantly as part of General Douglas MacArthur's force, intent on liber-

ating the Philippine Islands. The Alabamans saw action at Hollandia, Wakde and Biak. Pushing forward against stubborn Japanese resistance, the men of the 31st captured Morotai in September 1944, helping to move MacArthur's army closer to its goal of total liberation of the Philippines.

### ALABAMA AND THE ALLIES

In addition to the Soldiers of the 31st, Alabama also provided the 106th Observation Squadron, which, flying from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, fought throughout the southwestern Pacific. The Alabamans of the 106th and 31st helped secure victory for the Allies in 1945.

The post-war Alabama National Guard would see a major change in 1947. Due to the creation of the Air Force that year, the Army National Guard was also born. In 1948, with over 12,000 Soldiers, the Alabama Army National Guard was the third largest National Guard in the nation.

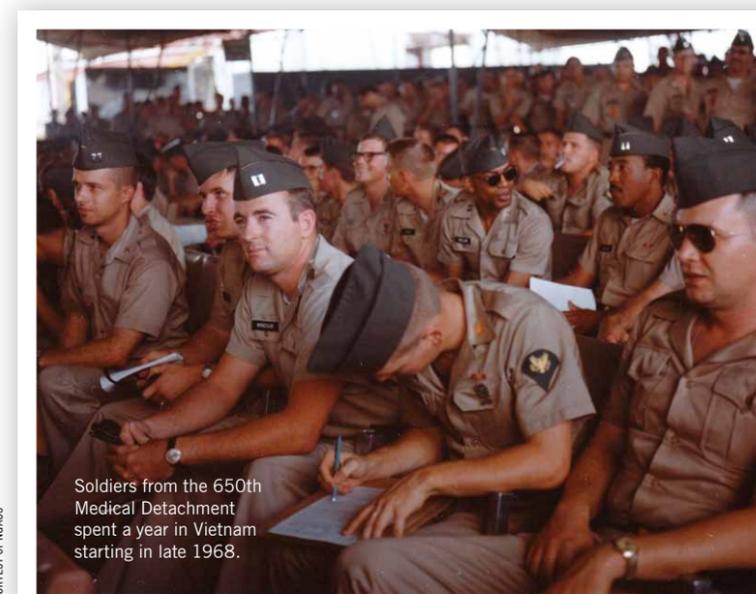
In 1951, the Alabama Guard was activated for the Korean War. Though most of the state's Guard members served primarily stateside, there were a few Alabama units that were deployed and saw service in Korea.

A major change occurred in 1956, when Congress passed legislation that permitted females to become officers in the



**THERE STANDS JACKSON LIKE A STONE WALL! RALLY BEHIND THE VIRGINIANS!**

>> Confederate BG Bernard Bee



COURTESY OF NGMIS

National Guard. The first woman to be granted federal recognition as an officer in the entire Army National Guard was Alabama's First Lieutenant Sylvia Marie St. Charles Law. After completing the Army's six-week course at Fort Sam Houston, TX, she joined the 190th Evacuation Hospital.

### JUSTICE FOR ALL

Equal rights for women were on the rise across the country. The dawn of the 1960s saw the escalation of the civil rights movement, which was created to end racial discrimination against African-Americans.

The Alabama Guard would find that the eyes of the world were upon them, as protests and civil rights marches occurred across the state. In 1961, Alabama Guard members escorted the bus of the "Freedom Riders" through the state and to the Mississippi border to ensure their safety.

The most dramatic event during the civil rights movement to occur in Alabama happened in the summer of 1963. The episode clearly illustrates that the dual role of the National Guard—state service versus federal service—



**THAT UNIT IS FILLED WITH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

>> SGT Sophia Malone,  
Alabama Army National Guard

can change in an instant. With the Brown vs. Board of Education case of Topeka, KS, the U.S. Supreme Court desegregated public schools, including public universities. The governor of Alabama, George Wallace, defied the court order and personally prevented African-American students from entering the University of Alabama. Gov. Wallace ordered 700 Guard members to be ready to “maintain law and order” at the campus. Two days later, African-American students were escorted by senior Department of Justice officials to

the administration building of the university. Wallace physically stood in the doorway, blocking the entry of the students.

President John F. Kennedy quickly responded to the situation by overriding the governor’s authority and federalized the entire Alabama National Guard that same day. Kennedy ordered them to assist the officials from the Department of Justice in carrying out the court-ordered integration of the school. In a matter of days, the Alabama Guard went from supporting the governor’s actions to being ordered to prevent him from interfering in the very action he was trying to prevent.

The Department of Justice officials wasted

no time. They returned to the university grounds at around 3:00 p.m. the same day under President Kennedy’s order. This time, they had about 100 Alabama Guard Soldiers by their side to escort them.

**CIVIL RIGHTS SUCCESS**

As television cameras filmed the momentous event, Brigadier General Henry V. Graham, assistant commander of the 31st Infantry Division and former adjutant general of Alabama (1959–1963), marched up the steps of the administration building and confronted Gov. Wallace. After saluting the governor, Graham asked the governor to step aside, which Wallace did following delivering a small address to the gathered reporters.

Thanks to Graham and the other members of the Alabama Guard present that day, history was made as two African-Americans walked through the door and matriculated as students at the University of Alabama.

Throughout the 1960s the Alabama Guard would continue to protect civil rights activists, including participants in the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March.

The 1960s, in addition to being associated with the civil rights movement, are also remembered for the Vietnam War. Though many people believe that the National Guard played no role in this war, in fact, eight Guard units were deployed, including one from Alabama. The first Army National Guard unit of any kind to be deployed to Vietnam was Alabama’s 650th Medical Detachment, which arrived in Vietnam on August 27, 1968, and served in combat for one year.

The 1970s and 1980s witnessed the Alabama National Guard grow in numbers, with an increase in recruiting a diverse membership including women, African-Americans, Native Americans and other minorities. In 1989, Alabama held the distinction of having the largest National Guard in the nation, with over 21,500 Soldiers and Airmen.

**HEADS OR TAILS**

More than 5,000 Soldiers of the Alabama Guard served in the Persian Gulf War (1990–1991), also known as Operation Desert Shield.

The first Army National Guard unit deployed for the war came from Alabama, though it was chosen in a most unique way. In the early-morning hours of August 27, 1990, mobilization orders for two different units arrived at the Alabama Guard head-



Soldiers from C Company, 1st Squadron, 131st Cavalry, Alabama’s only long-range surveillance unit, prepare to parachute jump during an exercise in 2010.



Soldiers from the Alabama National Guard build Hesco barriers in support of Operation Deepwater Horizon in May of 2010.

quarters at the same time. Grasping the historical significance of being the first Army National Guard unit to be federally mobilized in decades, the officers on duty in the headquarters had to come up with a fair way to choose which of the two units being mobilized to alert first. Thus, they flipped a coin; the 1207th Quartermaster Detachment lost the toss to the 1241st Adjutant General Company.

Unfortunately, the men and women of the Alabama Guard would have to return to the Persian Gulf following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. In fact, since then, more than 10,000 Alabama Guard Soldiers have been deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world.

One such Alabaman, Sergeant Sophia Malone, enlisted in the Regular Army in 1989 at the age of 19. She served for four years, including deploying overseas for Operation Desert Storm. Following 9/11, she felt she needed to serve her country once again. This time, she joined the Alabama National Guard.

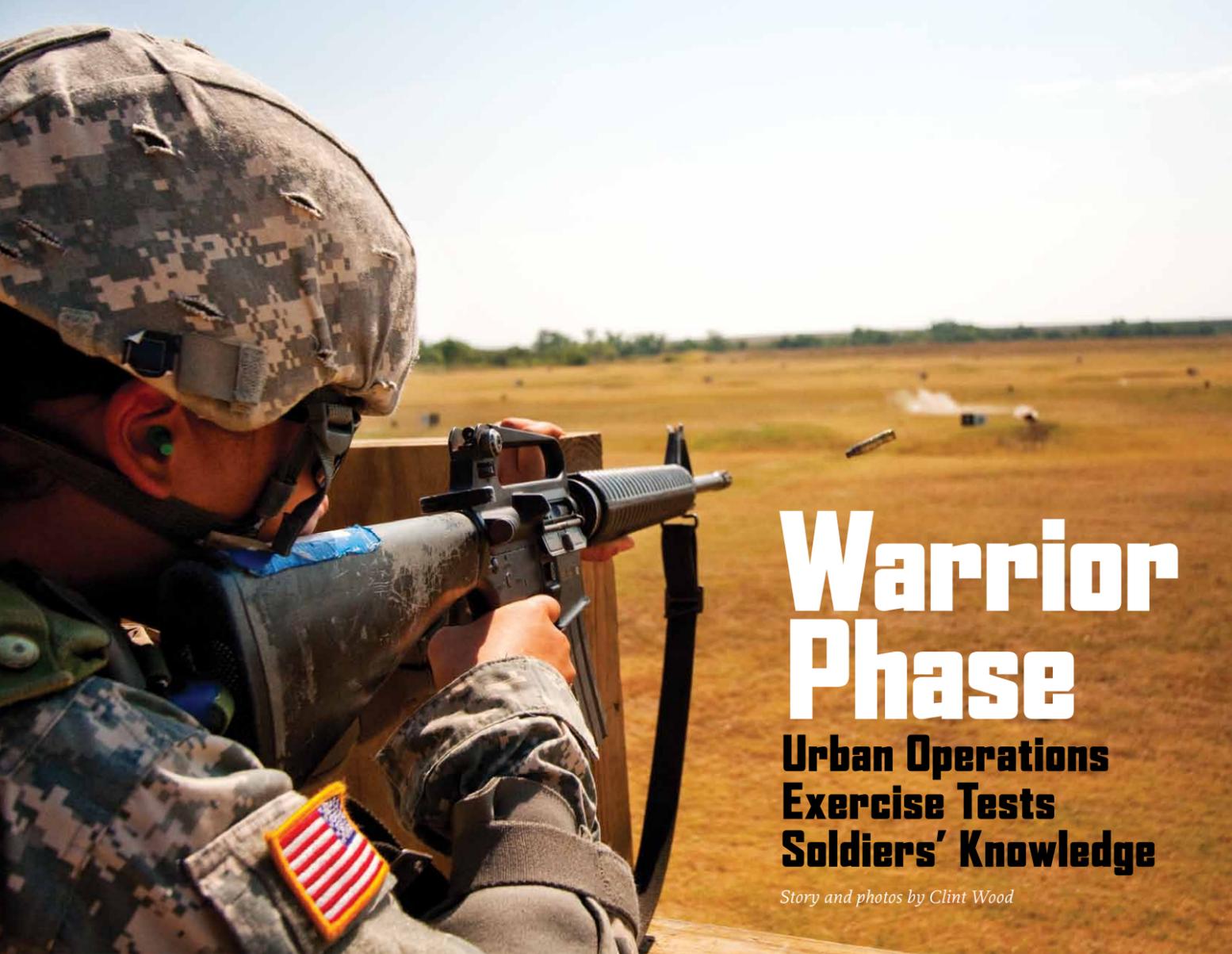
**STEADFAST COMMITMENT**

“I had to do something. I had to get back in,” she said. “I joined the National Guard so that I could be a part-time Soldier and a mom at the

same time. But I’ve been on Active Duty orders since 2005 as a battalion career counselor with the 203rd Battalion out of Athens. I’ve done more with the National Guard than I did while on Active Duty.”

Malone has served as a full-time Guard Soldier and participated in the relief efforts in response to Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina and Rita. In October 2006, she deployed to Iraq for a year as a member of the 128th Military Police Company. Even after injuries sustained in two separate explosions caused by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), Malone continued to protect convoys, and Iraqi civilians, from insurgent attacks. One incident involved a mosque that had been blown up by an IED. Malone and other Soldiers of the 128th provided medical support and first aid to the Iraqi civilians wounded in the attack.

In speaking of her fellow Guard Soldiers, Malone’s words could be used to describe all of the members of the Alabama Army National Guard, past and present, when she stated, “That unit is filled with my brothers and sisters. We went through hell together. We have a very close camaraderie. We all signed up. We knew what we were doing, what we were getting into. You do your job and keep going.” **GX**



# Warrior Phase

## Urban Operations Exercise Tests Soldiers' Knowledge

Story and photos by Clint Wood

**ON A BRIGHT, SUNNY** August day at Fort Sill, OK, National Guard Soldiers waited to enter a building—a metal shipping container—on the Liberty City range. A loud “kaboom” sounded, followed by a shrill whistle from a simulated bomb that had been tossed into a barrel a few feet away from them. Debris flew out of the barrel, followed by a smoke ring.

### SOLDIERS IN TRAINING

This was all part of a field training exercise (FTX) during Basic Combat Training (BCT). The Soldiers were a week away from graduating. The 94,000-acre, 145-square-mile facility is one of four sites where BCT is held. The other three are Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Benning, GA; and Fort Jackson, SC.

The Soldiers were attempting to capture “insurgents” with valuable information or “high value targets.” They were dressed in full battle gear on this 91-degree day, including an advanced combat helmet, interceptor body armor, and

elbowpads and kneepads. The “insurgents” were hiding in one of the shipping containers. The containers were stacked on each other and connected by steep stairwells.

This FTX was the culmination of several combat tasks that these Soldiers had learned earlier, including the proper way to enter a room

**“I LOVE KNOWING THAT I’M GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT SOMEONE BESIDES MYSELF.”**

>> PVT Tara Gutierrez

where “insurgents” might be, and how to engage the “enemy” in small teams.

The teams, which had designated squad leaders and team leaders, were bombarded with

simulated explosives and gunfire from weapons firing blank rounds. This included the continuous firing of the M240B machine gun. The 7.62 mm rounds fired by the M240B were loud, despite the Soldiers’ mandated earplugs.

### PRIVATE CHAOS

Private Rigvid Mehta, a combat medic from Kansas, said the chaos confused him.

“You really don’t know what to do,” he described. “You try and communicate, and try and use your training. Your heart starts to pump really, really fast, and then your natural instinct takes over.”

Mehta and his platoon were “hit” hard by gunfire as they entered the compound. Later, they learned why: They didn’t look up for danger. An instructor in tan combat boots demonstrated to the Soldiers how to high-step while walking in order to stay alert for danger.

“You’ve got to look up and let your legs do the walking,” he explained.

Private First Class Chandra Rojero of Virginia had to react to the chaos and lead about 12 Soldiers at the same time. In other words, she was a squad leader. This was good experience for her. Because of her numerous college credits, she joined the Guard with the Officer Candidate School option, also known as 09S.

Rojero, 21, admitted that being in a leadership position stressed her out. She learned in this particular engagement that nothing goes as planned in “combat.” Her detailed plan had three teams of four Soldiers, each assaulting each building. A and C teams were supposed to clear the bottom floor, and B team’s mission was to clear the top floor.

“We got there and heard all the noise,” she described. “Everybody was rushing. Smoke was in the air. Everybody kind of freaked out and just ran in there. We kind of split up [from each other] and it was crazy.”

### NORMAL PANIC

Later, a drill sergeant told the Soldiers that panicking is a normal reaction.

“That’s why we practice what we do,” he noted. He continued by telling the Soldiers about the Army method of training—the crawl, walk and run phases. Basically, Soldiers are shown the drill, then they “walk” through it, and last, they execute it in real time.

“So pay attention in each phase,” urged the drill sergeant. “That’s why we stay on you about paying attention. This is real life, people—you are going to combat.”

Company commander First Lieutenant Titamus Howard expanded on the latter statement to about 100 Soldiers as they sat under a net awning. He asked if any of them were under the impression that they would not go into combat. No one raised their hand.

“This is the reason your drill sergeants are passionate about training you,” said Howard. He explained that most of the drill sergeants had been in combat and wanted to pass on their knowledge about how to survive.

Next, Howard asked the Soldiers to raise their hands if they were in non-combat military occupational specialties. More than half raised their hands. Howard told them to remember what they learned in this exercise, because they would not receive this type of training often.



Soldiers clearing buildings learn to work in teams, which provides them better protection from potential enemy forces.

### BEST SHOT

A less stressful training took place the next day for a different group of Soldiers. They sent rounds from their M16A2 rifles downrange, in an advanced rifle marksmanship (ARM) exercise. They fired 10 rounds each from kneeling, standing and prone positions.

But it wasn’t that simple. Each 10-round magazine had a dummy round in it, forcing the Soldiers to perform immediate action. Most just pulled the weapon’s charging handle back to eject the dummy round. The exercise was intended for them to utilize the “SPORTS” method (see sidebar).

The ARM was designed to familiarize Soldiers with firing their weapons from a safe area, like a Humvee. The barrier was a piece of plywood shaped like steps. Pop-up targets ranged from 50 to 150 meters away.

Private Tara Gutierrez of Indiana was very focused on this training. As a chaplain assistant, she will be responsible for the safety of another Soldier’s life—the military chaplain.

“Being able to be proficient in shooting and protecting somebody who isn’t allowed to carry a weapon is awesome,” said the 22-year-old, whose grandfather served in the Marines. “I love knowing that I’m going to be able to protect someone besides myself.” **GX**

## SPORTS Method

- S** - Slap gently upward on the magazine.
- P** - Pull the charging handle fully to the rear.
- O** - Observe the chamber for the ejection of a live round.
- R** - Release the charging handle.
- T** - Tap Forward Assist.
- S** - Squeeze the trigger.

Want to read past GX stories about Basic Combat Training? You’ll find our Fort Benning article in GX Vol. 7, Issue 5, and read all about Fort Leonard Wood in GX Vol. 7, Issue 4.

For more about Basic Combat Training, visit [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/FortSillExperience](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/FortSillExperience)



Fort Sill trains Guard Soldiers up on the latest and greatest weaponry, including the HIMARS rocket platform.

# Thunder Rolls

## Fort Sill Trains Guard's Artillerymen

By Clint Wood

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS attending Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Sill, OK, have big boots to fill. It's here that Soldiers like the ones at fire support bases during the Vietnam War were trained how to pour "steel rain" on the enemy from their howitzers miles away.

Since then, thousands of "cannon cockers" trained at Fort Sill have been firing artillery weapons across the flat deserts of Iraq and throughout the mountains of Afghanistan.

The fort trains field artillery Soldiers, Marines and international Soldiers, who fire artillery shells from howitzers, the 155 mm M109A6 Paladin and everything in between. More than 20,000 Soldiers are trained there annually.

On my most recent trip to Fort Sill, I arrived in the middle of a multi-day field training exercise (FTX) and noticed how realistic it was. The Soldiers' ears were bombarded with simulated explosives and blanks—including the thundering of an M240B machine gun—while actual artillery fire could be heard in the distance. This group was a week away from BCT graduation.

### LONG STORY

This fort is the U.S. Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill. Service members who

train here are training on the same lands where U.S. cavalry Soldiers patrolled the prairies on horseback for hostile Native Americans.

I couldn't help but think about this history as I stood in the knee-high prairie grass that surrounded a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). The MOUT was made from several steel shipping containers stacked on each other and connected by stairwells. Remember the scene near the end of *Lethal Weapon 2*, when "Martin Riggs" (Mel Gibson) and "Sergeant Roger Murtaugh" (Danny Glover) used a Mercedes to bust their way out of one of these cargo containers suspended from cranes?

### COMFORT ZONE

When the Soldiers return from training to the cantonment area, they have very nice accommodations. They are housed on the west side of the 94,000-acre, 145-square-mile fort. The units, which can accommodate up to 1,200 Soldiers, are unique in that, unlike normal military barracks, the bottom floor is a breezeway.

The buildings also have classrooms, latrines and detached dining facilities, allowing the Soldiers to live, eat, train and work together

within the complex. The male and female Soldiers' living quarters are across the breezeway from each other.

On a recent Family Day—the day before graduation from BCT—the breezeway walls reverberated with the sound of Soldiers saying "good morning" to their drill sergeants and staff.

### LIKE A ROCK

The seven Army values—Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage—are painted on rocks in a rock garden near one of the complexes, so that Soldiers are reminded of them daily.

Fort Sill is not the only fort that has this style of barracks. They also are at three of the other four BCT training sites—Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Benning, GA; and Fort Jackson, SC.

But Fort Sill probably has the most storied history. It has come a long way from January 1869, when the 10th United States Cavalry commander rode to the site and studied its potential. He dismounted, took the saddle from his horse and threw the harness to the ground, saying, "We will build the post here."

It's a fortress that has trained Soldiers to become the best of the best artillerymen. **GX**

ADAM LIVINGSTON



## Geronimo's Grave

Located in the Apache Indian Prisoner of War Cemetery at Fort Sill is a grave made of stones shaped like a square-sided teepee with a spread-winged stone eagle on top of it.

During my visit, bird feathers were stuck into the rocks' cracks. A small American flag was stuck into the ground near the grave.

This is the grave of Geronimo, the infamous Apache warrior known to the Apache people as "Power." He was given this name because of his reputation as a person of special spiritual insights and abilities. These included the ability to walk without leaving tracks and being able to survive gunshots.

He and 341 members of his tribe were brought from the prisons in Florida and Alabama to Fort Sill, where they lived in scattered villages on the post ranges. Geronimo, who was born in what is now New Mexico, was buried in Fort Sill in 1909. He died a day after falling off his horse and catching pneumonia.

Today, Native American visitors of various tribes often leave items such as tobacco, sage, flutes, whistles, beadwork and jewelry on the grave to symbolize their connection with Geronimo's history. The gifts are often accompanied by prayers or songs.

TOP: CLINT WOOD; BOTTOM: ADAM LIVINGSTON

## FROM BULLETS TO BOMBS

Fort Sill's ranges operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This allows Fort Sill, National Guard and Army Reserve units to train anytime. The Fort Sill range and training areas consist of 70 range facilities, including two convoy live-fire courses and more than 125 firing points. The ranges are supported by more than 30,500 acres for small-arms and artillery-impact areas. Ranges at Fort Sill run the gamut in weapons that can be fired, from a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol at a small-arms range to 2,000-lb. bombs dropped from F-16 Fighting Falcons and F-18 Hornet fighting jets (Fort Sill has restricted airspace). Helicopter crews can practice aerial gunnery training on the live-fire range too. Air Force AC-130 Spectre Gunships have also unleashed their 105 mm howitzers from 3,000 feet on one of these ranges. Adjoining the ranges are 84 maneuver training areas. Two airborne drop zones and a tactical airstrip are embedded in three of these areas.



While at Fort Sill, Soldiers learn how to shoot the Guard's artillery pieces, including the M109A6 Paladin.

Story by Christian Anderson // Illustration by Tom Milner

# DANGER CLOSE

## THE BATTLE OF PUMP HOUSE FLANDERS

ON THE EVENING OF AUG. 12, 2006, a platoon from the 1/34th Red Bulls, Minnesota National Guard, were manning their positions at combat outpost Flanders, just south of Camp Fallujah in Iraq.

**1** From one of the towers, Specialist Billy Feragen spotted several dump trucks approaching, with their occupants waving and smiling. As the trucks got closer, he knew something was wrong.

His instincts proved right. Shots pierced the silence. The enemy combatants emerged from their trucks firing AK-47s and throwing grenades.

**2** Simultaneously, an enemy force about 400 meters to the east began attacking. The 1/34th were taking small-arms fire from their front-left flank and from behind. Also, the enemy began walking mortars onto the outpost.

The Soldiers had to fight back. The enemy trucks were the first targets, since they were the immediate threats. Feragen fired with his .50 cal, and several others used rifles. Still others took on the enemy to the east.

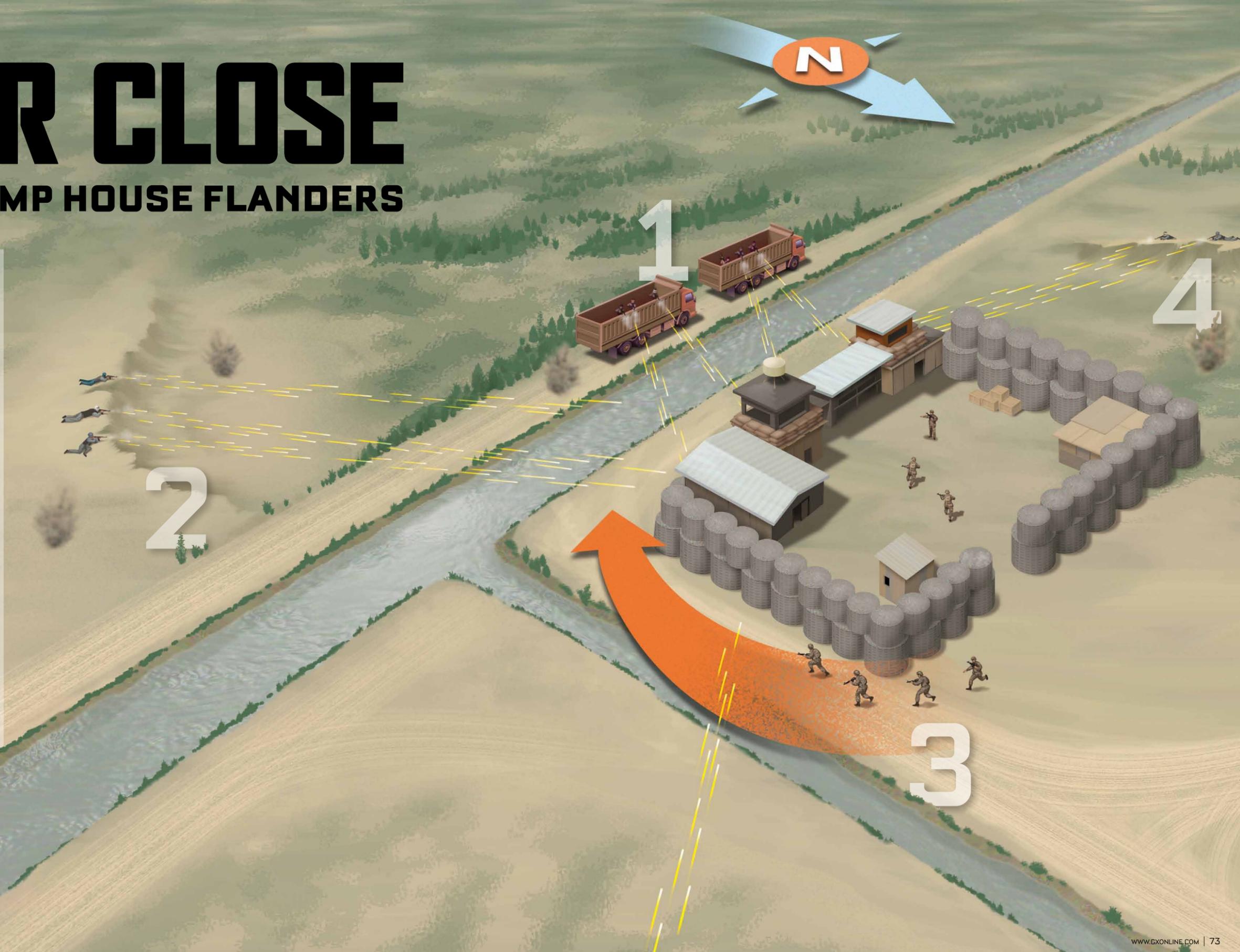
**3** As the Americans began to overwhelm the enemy, the battle turned to a stalemate. To prevail, the Guard members had to eliminate the insurgents in and around the dump trucks. So, several Soldiers jumped over the rear walls of the outpost, moved to the east walls for cover, and sprung out firing. Several insurgents were eliminated.

This action played a critical role in keeping the threat to a minimum for the rest of the firefight.

**4** About 25 minutes into the battle, a Soldier called in mortars "danger close." Danger close meant the rounds—intended to quickly destroy the enemy—would also land extremely close to the U.S. Soldiers. It was risky—but essential.

The enemy fire subsided. The Soldiers reloaded and waited for a counterattack. It never came.

In the end, over 20 insurgents were eliminated, with only one U.S. Soldier wounded. For their bravery, five Soldiers were awarded the Bronze Star with Valor: Staff Sergeant David Hammac, Sergeant David Olson, Specialist Jasen Klimek, Specialist Charles Knetter and Specialist John Olson. **GX**



# WILL TO PREVAIL

## GUARD'S BEST WARRIORS COMPETE FOR TOP HONORS

By Christian Anderson and Clint Wood

Photos by Clint Wood



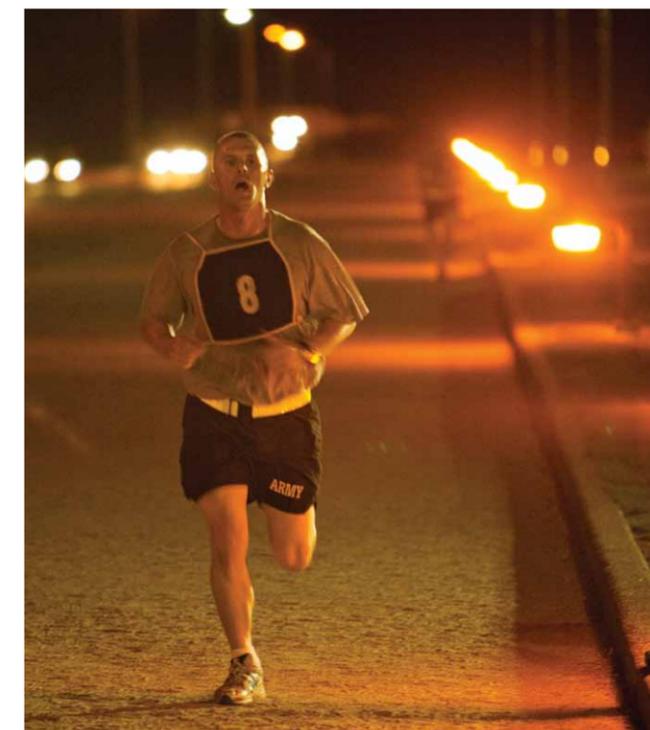
**Left:** The first station in the Stryker Stress Shoot saw competitors like SGT Robert Krause assume a good prone firing position.

**Right:** SGT Jordan Jones steps out of a Stryker armored combat vehicle that had just been hit by a "roadside bomb" during the early stages of the Stryker Stress Shoot.

**FROM JULY 29 TO AUGUST 1, 14 SOLDIERS PUSHED THEMSELVES TO THE LIMIT** in the National Guard's Best Warrior Competition at Fort Benning, GA. Seven were fighting for the title of "Soldier of the Year." The other seven competed for the title "NCO of the Year."

The event is a kind of playoff to the ultimate Army competition: Soldier of the Year. The two winners of Best Warrior will go on to compete in this ultimate challenge, in which all Army branches are represented. Best Warrior is no walk in the park. It's designed to weed out all but the toughest. A 12-mile ruck march pushes even extreme athletes to the limit under the hot Georgia sun. The Stryker Stress Shoot puts reaction skills to the test as participants dismount a Stryker vehicle and engage several targets within a few minutes. The Soldiers negotiate Combat Warrior skills such as throwing practice grenades, clearing rooms and extracting mock-wounded Soldiers from battle.

Along with these drills, the Guard Soldiers undertake Combatives, obstacle courses and land navigation, day and night, with a sergeant major review board watching. Although only two Soldiers can win Best Warrior, all 14 celebrated the astounding achievement of having participated.



THIS PAGE

► **Right:** Competitors were pushed off a 10-foot diving board in full Army Combat Uniforms, holding rubber M16 rifles, during the Combat Water Survival Test. "It's pretty high, once you're up there," SPC Kyle Grandmont described. "It's like a ride. You can't see what's going on. It's a little rush when you hit the water." He added that it was difficult swimming in boots because they created no friction.

► **Lower Right:** SGT Larry Isbell, who won Soldier of the Year, masters the "Tarzan," one of the toughest obstacles on the course. The ladder rungs are 10 feet up, and the ground must be covered with material such as sawdust, sand or shredded tires, in case of a fall. Competitors removed their belts, nametapes and patches to keep from losing them during the obstacle course.



THIS PAGE

► **Above:** Competitors like SPC Kyle Grandmont completed their Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) 2-mile run before sunrise. He said it was muggy during the APFT but nicer than the first days of the competition. "I'm not used to a heat index of 110," he commented.

► **Left:** SPC Ryan Teter, who is attached to a National Guard Special Forces battalion, moves under the wires of the "Belly Crawl" obstacle. Each wire is 16 inches above ground. "I take a lot of pride in my unit," he said. "I feel that, because of the nature of the unit that I'm in, I should be on the forefront and have a good attitude."



► **Above:** SGT Robert Krause, who joined the military because he wanted to serve his country, said the obstacle course was incredibly tough. "It tested my body to the limit," said Krause, an infantryman who is airborne qualified.

► **Right:** SGT Jordan Jones, who was on a Personnel Security Detachment team while deployed to Iraq, jumps down the "Inclining Wall." Soldiers had to approach the underside of the wall, jump up, grasp the top and pull themselves over. The top of the wall was 6 feet, 6 inches above the ground.

► **Opposite Page:** SSG Brian Turner makes his way down the "Reverse Climb." It is 13 feet above ground, and the wooden bars are 20 inches apart.



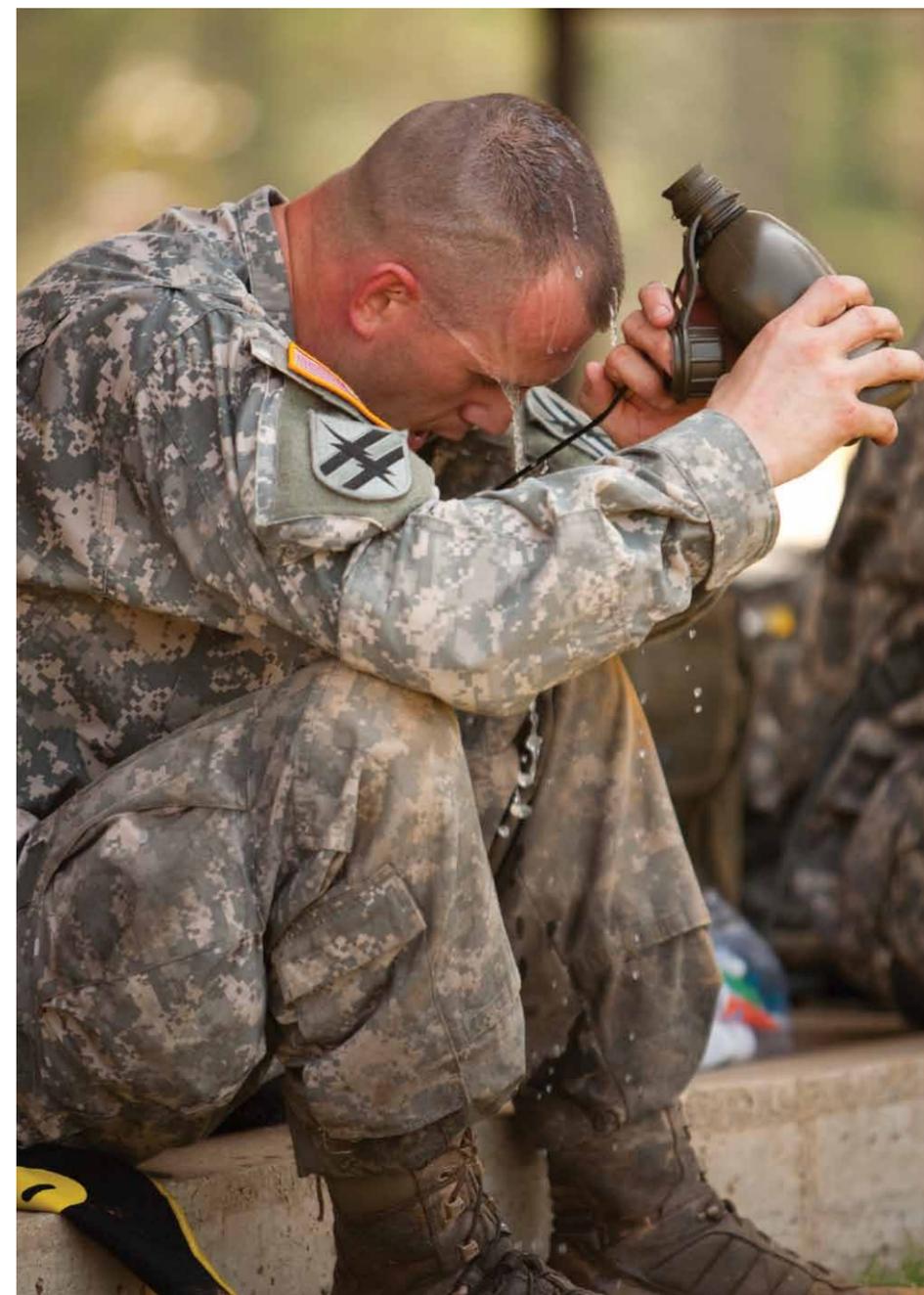


CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP

► SSG Adam Little, right, prepares to pass SPC Kyle Grandmont, center, and SGT Jordan Jones in the early miles of the ruck march. "It was great," said Little of the Best Warrior competition. Little won NCO of the Year. "It was challenging, but I wouldn't expect anything less for the top 14 Soldiers and NCOs in the country."

► SSG Kevin McMakin found a way to cool off after the grueling Urban Operations event. SPC Matthew Sotiroguou said the obstacle course was the toughest event for him because he was "worn out" from the previous events.

► Combatives was the final physical activity of the competition.



# Fighting Spirit

SHARP AND STRONG



## Full-Service Stop

Dale Jr. gets a full-service pit stop during the Sylvania 300 at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon on Sept. 19, 2010.

### SPORTS

Read about Dale Jr.'s muscle cars; check one Soldier's journey as he runs 100 miles; learn some new Combat-ives moves.

84

### FITNESS

Fight winter weight gain with SGT Ken's Operation Tread and Shed.

94

### GEAR

Menacing Mortars: The Infantryman's mobile artillery.

100



When Dale Jr. isn't pushing his car to the limits on the oval, he is riding in style in one of his many muscle cars.

# American Muscle

## Dale Jr.'s Need for Speed Continues Off-Track

By Clint Wood

**DALE EARNHARDT JR.**, driver of the National Guard/Amp Chevrolet Impala in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races, has raced in Chevrolets since he began racing stock cars in 1994. In fact, his first race car was a 1979 Monte Carlo.

His love for Chevrolet and its “muscle cars” continues when it comes to cruising the streets of his home state of North Carolina.

In an exclusive interview with *GX*, Dale Jr. talked about some of his personal vehicles. They include two of Chevrolet's icons—the Camaro and the Corvette.

**GX:** How many personal cars do you own?

**DJ:** About 12. I've got two or three Camaros—a '67, a '72 and a 2004 (see sidebar). I've got a few Corvettes, mostly all within the last four or five years. No old 'vettes. And, a couple of pickups.

**GX:** What kind of pickups?

**DJ:** Just regular old [Chevrolet] Silverados. A 2004 and a 2007.

**GX:** What color are the Camaros?

**DJ:** The '67 is silver, the '72 is orange and the 2004 is black.

**GX:** Which Camaro is your favorite?

**DJ:** The '67 or the '72. It's hard to choose between the two. They're both real cool to me for different reasons. It just depends on the day, I guess.

**GX:** Do you drive them a lot?

**DJ:** I drive the '72 a lot. I haven't driven the '67 much in the last year.

**GX:** What engines do they have?

**DJ:** The '67 is a 350 [cubic inch] with aluminum [cylinder] heads. The '72 has a 350 [cubic inch] crate engine.\*

\**Editor's note:* A crate engine is an aftermarket engine complete with an intake manifold, carburetor or fuel injection system, and could include an alternator. **GX**

For more on Dale Jr., go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/needforspeed](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/needforspeed)

## LONG DRIVE THE CAMARO!

**1966-1969** The first generation of Camaros came in only two styles—a coupe and a convertible. The Camaro was produced to compete with the ever-popular Ford Mustang.

**1970-1981** Gone was the convertible for the second-generation Camaros, but the big, bad, 1970 Z-28 could blow the doors off most other sports cars. The cool T-top was introduced in 1978.

**1982-1992** A year after the third-generation Camaro was introduced, a brand new rock group called Bon Jovi began blaring from its cassette decks nationwide.

**1993-2002** Two years after the fourth-generation Camaro came out, states were allowed to set their own speed limits.

**2010-PRESENT** The fifth-generation Camaro resurrects the styling of the 1969 version. The Super Sport Model is faster than any Camaro that came before it (13 seconds flat in the quarter mile).

HENRICK MOTORSPORTS



# Hooked on Racing

By Clint Wood

Jake Zemke wanted to race motorcycles since he was nine years old.

**IN HIS INAUGURAL SEASON** twisting the throttle of the No. 54 National Guard 2010 Suzuki GSX-R1000 Superbike, Jake Zemke finished third in the 2010 AMA Pro Racing National Guard Superbike Championship series points.

This strong finish and his winning the season doubleheader at Daytona should come as no surprise. The 34-year-old Zemke, who races for Michael Jordan Motorsports, has been racing motorcycles for several years.

In a recent exclusive interview with *GX*, Zemke discussed his racing history and explained how it felt to become a professional racer.

**GX:** What was your very first race like?

**JZ:** I actually started racing before I was nine—just here and there, for fun.

When I was nine, my family moved back to California from Michigan. I won my first race in California. From then on, I was hooked. I couldn't race enough. I used to come home from school and just ride every day until it was dark. That was kind of my program from the time I started.

It was a lot of hard work, but I was also enjoying myself. I was just being a kid and having fun. Those results—to keep winning and winning—cause you to just keep enjoying it more and more. It just kind of builds from there.

Even when I was nine years old, I said I wanted to race motorcycles for a living. Not too many people that can say that. I can't imagine having a better life or doing anything else. It is something I love to do—just going out and riding a motorcycle as hard as I can and trying to get the most out of the bike.

**GX:** You turned pro in 1992. How did that feel?

**JZ:** I was still racing flat track back then. When you turn 16, you can get a professional license, and that's what I did.

In 1993, I got hurt. I tore ligaments in my knee and had to take a step away from racing. Racing on flat track and dirt track is a very tough way to make a living. Those guys are beating up their bodies week in and week out. I just kind of took a step away from it and became a normal kid for a while. I finished high school and played football.

After a year and a half of doing that, I raced on a speedway for a couple of years in Southern California.

My heart just kept me bringing me back to racing. I decided that is what I wanted to do for a living. To do that, I figured I had to be out there road-racing. So that's what I decided to do. **GX**

For more on Jake Zemke, go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/fullthrottle](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/fullthrottle).

MICHAEL JORDAN MOTORSPORTS

# Island-Bound

## Colorado Soldier Nails Army Slot for Ironman in Kona, HI

Story and photo by CPT Michael Odgers

**IN AUGUST**, in Boulder, CO, Captain Robert Killian, 28, from 2nd Battalion, 135th General Support Aviation Battalion, finished Ironman 70.3 Boulder in four hours and 10 minutes. He was 18th overall and the 7th amateur to finish.

The half-Ironman, which was held at the Boulder Reservoir, is exactly half of a full Ironman, with a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run, for a total of 70.3 miles.

### ON THEIR MARKS

The race began at 6:30 a.m. with the swim. Killian finished 10 full minutes behind the winner and explained that the swim is his weakest event.

"I start out as far in front as possible, and then I try to draft in the water and stay as close to the buoys as I can," said Killian. Drafting is a swimming technique that reduces drag and also lets the swimmer know where they are without looking. "Also, I try to use just my arms, to save my legs for the run and the bike."

After the swim, the athletes headed to the event transition point. There, they took off their wetsuits, put on their biking shoes, downed a snack, and searched for their bike from among the other 1,600. The frantic mass of runners and riders crisscrossing each other resembled big-city rush-hour traffic. The 56-mile ride began.

### PASSED PERFECT

Once on the road, Killian did a lot of passing, and no one ever passed him.

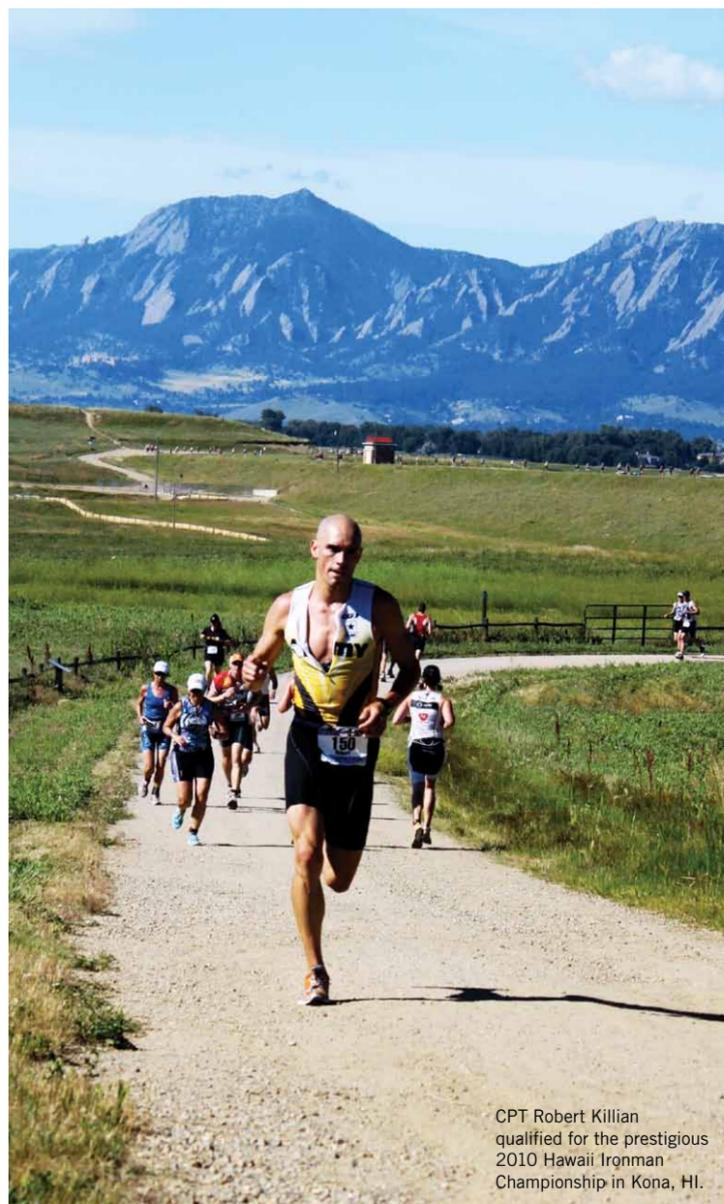
With races that start in waves, as this one did, an athlete can never be sure if the competitor at his heels is behind him in time, or ahead. So they must race their own race, maintaining the best pace they can. They must also find a balance between exerting the most energy possible and avoiding over-fatigue of the muscles. Killian entered the transition area with his best bike time—eight minutes faster than his previous best.

"Anything can go wrong on the bike ride," said Killian. "When I finished the bike ride, I knew I was going to Kona [for the world championship]."

The last event was the run. By this time it was 75 degrees. Refreshment stations along the way offered damp sponges, water, Gatorade and Coke. Coke can settle the stomach and provides the sugar rush needed to keep competitors going.

### THE YELLOW BLUR

"You're fast," remarked a female racer to Killian at the finish. "I heard you coming up behind me, and then you blew past me. All I saw was a yellow blur." And he was indeed fast. He finished the 13.1-mile run in one hour and 22 minutes. His time made him the top competitor for the male Army slot at the world championship Ironman in Kona, HI. **GX**



CPT Robert Killian qualified for the prestigious 2010 Hawaii Ironman Championship in Kona, HI.

## VICTORY IN KONA

By Tech. Sgt. Cohen Young

On Oct. 9, 2010, Captain Robert Killian followed up his impressive performance at Ironman 70.3 Boulder with a first-place victory in the military division of the 2010 Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, HI. His time was nine hours, 30 minutes and 50 seconds.

"This course is so much different than other courses due to the heat, and you just have to battle through it," said Killian. "When you're out there on the lava rock, you're all alone with your bike, and it can be hard because if something goes wrong with the bike, you have to fix it on your own, or you may not finish."

This was Killian's fourth Ironman competition and his second time at the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii.

# Tennessee Soldier Goes the Extra 100 Miles

## Pushes His Mind and Body to the Limit

Story and photo by CPT Darrin Haas

**IN THE PREDAWN DARKNESS**, Sergeant Richard Easter made a final equipment check. He was about to attempt something most sane people wouldn't even consider: running 100 miles. For the next 30 hours, he would put his body through the most rigorous challenge of his life. Nearly 40 percent of those around him wouldn't make it.

At 4:59 a.m., a shrill whistle screamed, and the 100-mile, ultra-marathon endurance race began.

It was the 4th annual Burning River 100-mile endurance run in Cuyahoga Falls, OH, and it would push his stamina further than he ever thought possible. Lasting from 5 a.m. July 31 to 11 a.m. August 1, the run would take them through several parks, including the hilly, wooded trails of Cuyahoga Valley National Parks.

### EASY DOES IT

The 6-foot, 212-pound Easter, a Tennessee Army National Guard Soldier from the Memphis-based 130th Military Police Company, started the race a little slower than his normal pace, reminding himself that he had to conserve his energy and strength if he was going to cover the distance.

"I'd never run that length before," Easter said. "The longest distances I'd competed in were 50-mile races. You have to move quickly. It has to be completed in less than 30 hours."

Along the course were aid stations where runners could eat, change shoes and socks, and replenish their water. Restrooms were available at most sites, and some locations had podiatrists ready to work on blisters and other foot problems. Many of the runners also had a support crew at each station to help them.

"I was glad my family and my running partner from college were there," Easter said. "They motivated me through the tough spots and were at every station, ready to help."

Easter moved quickly through the first 30 miles, making good time in spite of the darkness.

At about 33 miles, he encountered his first problem—a massive blister on his right foot. Also, the balls of his feet had begun to crack.

For some, this would have been enough reason to quit. But not for Easter.

"I was only a third of the way done and my foot was killing me," he said. "I was worried that this was the end the race for me if I couldn't get it fixed."

But an aid station volunteer drained and bandaged it, and he kept going. The foot felt better but still hurt with every step.

### ROCKY ROAD

For the next 30 miles he held a strong pace. Then, the elevations increased and so did the difficulty of the trail. Many runners started to hit "the wall," where the runner experiences massive fatigue and loss of energy.

Easter kept going.

"I was using up so much energy out there that I had to make myself eat and drink every chance I got," he said. "Later in the race, I got sick to my stomach and had to force-feed myself. I had learned to eat and run at the same time while I was training for the race. It's not an easy thing to do."

By 8 p.m., it was too dark to see without a

headlamp, and the course had become more technical and dangerous. Easter was exhausted. "I had a hard time following the trail," he said. Still, at the hours when most people were sleeping, Easter kept running.

At around mile 80, his feet got worse. "I went into an aid station, and they discovered that the balls of my feet were beginning to split open. I started to doubt if I had enough left in me to finish the race."

It took volunteers 20 minutes to clean and bandage his feet. He put his shoes on and headed back out. "I'd come too far to quit," he explained.

The last 25 miles were the most challenging. "My energy was gone. I started to hallucinate. [But] I wasn't about to give up. I couldn't go that far and not see it through."

At 9 a.m. on August 1, Easter finally spotted the finish line. He completed the grueling course in 28 hours and one minute. Out of the 278 runners that started, only 166 finished.

"It was the most exhausting thing I've ever put myself through," he said. "I've never had my mind or body tested to those limits." **GX**



SGT Richard Easter had never run more than 50 miles at a time before the Burning River 100. He finished the race in 30 hours.

# Cool Ride

## Notes From Iowa's Bicycle Marathon

By SSG Vladimir Kazberouk

**THE REGISTER'S ANNUAL** Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) is a weeklong bicycle event that is 472 miles long. Participants come not just from across the U.S., but from all over the world. I have completed it several times.

The communities and towns along the way support the event by providing drinking water, and making their lawns and driveways available for massive festivals with tents, food, drinks and live music.

Participants range from serious, ambitious athletes to wacky teams in costumes. This year, I saw a bride and groom and their wedding party dressed in cutoff dresses and tuxedos.

### EASY RIDERS

After RAGBRAI 2009, I talked to several of my old Army buddies about riding with me next time. They were into it.

Not big fans of spandex, we decided to ride in ACUs and to put National Guard decals on our bicycle rigs. We would wear our Kevlar helmets to meet RAGBRAI safety requirements.

We'd all lost battle buddies overseas, so we wanted to dedicate our ride to some of them. I dedicated mine to a fellow Iowa Guard member and electrician from my local, Sergeant Paul Fisher. Fisher was a crew chief and a door gunner on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter that went down on Nov. 2, 2003, between Fallujah and Baghdad. He belonged to Iowa's 106th Aviation out of Davenport.

Unfortunately, prior to the ride, all four of my teammates got activated, with a deployment date set for August. We were still hoping to make it happen, but due to risks and liability associated with the ride, their commander couldn't sign off on it. Federal duty always trumps a bike ride.

But, after all the training and a year's worth of trash-talking, I decided to still go for it.

### MEETING GI JOE

People's response and support were great motivators. Both riders and spectators enjoyed my "getup." A lot of people wanted to get their picture taken with me. Kids especially enjoyed getting their picture taken with "GI Joe."



After five days and 472 miles of RAGBRAI, SSG Vladimir Kazberouk enjoys a feeling of accomplishment.

The first two days made me realize that few riders go at "Lance Armstrong" pace. As long as you make it to the scheduled overnight stops—showers, food, entertainment—you're doing all right. I was actually "hot dogging" a little bit toward the end—as our group's intervals would increase going up the steep hills, I would go back down the hill I'd just climbed and ride back up alongside the stragglers.

Day three was relatively easy despite my being a little overdressed and weighed down. The route was very forgiving, with just a few major uphills. Temperature-wise, mornings were almost comfortable. Middays were bearable as long as I drank ample amounts of water.

On day four, riders were treated to pouring rain well into the afternoon. Being soaking wet actually felt good and kept me cool—although I must say, Under Armour socks and underwear are a must for this type of ride.

### THE BIG PUSH

Day five was definitely the toughest. Not so much for fatigue and muscle aches, but because of the sheer number of steep hills throughout the day. One in particular—Potter's Hill—was a solid 1.4 miles of continuous climb. It broke a lot of riders. My chain popped off my bike while I was shifting gears about halfway up, and I joined the ranks of other riders who were pushing their



bikes up the hill. After Potter's Hill, the rest of the climbs seemed pretty mild.

The mandatory dip of a bicycle wheel into the Mississippi River was the culmination of the RAGBRAI. But, some riders didn't stop at just a wheel—entire teams jumped in, bikes and all.

This ride was exhausting, but fun and doable. I was glad I did it—and glad it was over.

Will I do it again? Heck yes! Anything less would be a step backward. Hopefully I'll have a bigger team next time. **GX**

COURTESY OF SSG VLADIMIR KAZBEROUK

# Breaking Free Get out of a Hold

Story and photos by MSG Donnie Moseley

**HOW IS EVERYONE?** Hope you're all staying healthy and injury-free.

Before we get to this month's techniques, I want to talk about position work. People ask me all the time about ways to get out of "bad positions."

Let's take the mount, for instance. In Combatives, we learn techniques like the "trap and roll" or "shrimp to guard." But, we need to remember that there's no such thing as a fool-proof technique. The idea is to have as many tools in your toolbox as possible, for any given situation. That's why your training shouldn't stop when you're done with a particular level of Combatives.

We also have to know when and where to use these techniques. That knowledge will only come through training and repetition. There's no way around this.

How "bad" can a position be? Really, really bad! But, it might not be so bad if we know what to do.

### POSITION BEFORE SUBMISSION

The rule of thumb is "position before submission," right? If my opponent can't maintain his "dominant" position, that gives me more time to try to improve my position to the point where I have the "dominant" position.

One good practice to help accomplish this is to keep moving. Make your opponent work just as hard to maintain his position as you're working to maintain yours. Too often, I see fighters just lie there, because there's no immediate threat. For example, with a guard pass into side control, your immediate reaction should be to better your position. Not lie there and see what the guy is going to do to you. The longer you give him to establish himself, the more time he has to plan attacks that can finish the fight.

Are there times when there may be "lulls" in the action? Of course. Sometimes you may need to just rest. But, before you do, ask yourself these questions: *Is my airway OK? Which limbs are exposed? Are my weapons exposed to enemy access? Can I get to and use a secondary weapon from here?* If you don't like the answers to these questions, there's no time to rest. **Let's train. GX**

Tell us what moves you would like to learn at [editor@GXonline.com](mailto:editor@GXonline.com)

## TRAP AND ROLL/ SHRIMP COMBO MOUNT ESCAPE

1

I've found myself stuck. I'm going to trap a wrist and buck my opponent toward his free side.

2

Once I've got him to post on that hand, I'm going to shrimp my same-side knee up to my elbow.

3

Now I'm going to pass my free hand under his far-side leg and step my foot into the space just below his ribs, while passing my grip from one hand to another.

4

If he sits on his haunches to maintain base, I sit into him like I'm standing in base, pushing him over with my foot. Pass to side control.

5

If he stands, I transition to X-Guard and utilize one of many sweeps from there.



# All-American Hook

## FLW Outdoors Is Guard's Perfect Catch

By Clint Wood

**FIVE YEARS AGO**, the National Guard formed a sponsorship with FLW Outdoors, the world's largest fishing tournament organization. The organization's initials are taken from Forrest L. Wood, founder of Ranger Boats and developer of the Ranger bass fishing boat.

Included in this sponsorship was the fielding of several National Guard fishing teams and National Guard FLW College Fishing (Guard FLW College), the country's largest tournament circuit for college bass clubs.

The National Guard fishing bass and walleye teams, including 2006 FLW Tour champion Brent Ehrler, compete in FLW fishing tournaments and events across the country. Ehrler has won more than \$1.5 million in career earnings and nabbed 19 top-10 tournament finishes. The

teams cast for hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash prizes.

### RED WING WATERS

The first tournament was held in Red Wing, MN, in 2009, in conjunction with an FLW Walleye Tour tournament. Twenty Soldiers formed two-man teams, and each team fished with a professional angler. The Soldiers' tournament followed the normal tournament format—the five biggest fish were weighed on the professional stage.

Lieutenant Colonel Jake Kulzer, commander of the Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, said the professional anglers enjoyed fishing with the Soldiers and vice versa. Remember, these Soldiers are fishing from \$60,000 boats and using rods and reels that cost up to \$300. Combined with that, more walleye is eaten in Minnesota than any other jurisdiction, and the annual Governor's Fishing Opener for walleye and northern pike is practically a holiday for Minnesotans.

"The professional anglers get an opportunity to give back, and it's fun," said Kulzer.

For Irwin L. Jacobs, Chairman of FLW Outdoors, the parent organization of the Wal-Mart FLW Tour, learning about what the National Guard offers has been incredible.

"They give their commitment and time to our country," he noted. "I think the National Guard is still the best-kept secret out there today. What they do for their communities is unimaginable.

"We're doing everything we can to expose them in the most positive way possible and to get the story across," he continued.

### A WIDE NET

The possibilities seem endless. Next year, the FLW will host Soldier Appreciation Tournaments nationwide. Kulzer worked alongside the National Guard Outdoors program staff in organizing them.

He also assisted the Georgia Army National Guard in their Appreciation Tournament held during the 2010 Forrest Wood Cup FLW Bass Tour Series finale on Lake Lanier in Atlanta, GA, in August.

Kulzer is a friend of the commander of the Georgia Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. They met when the Minnesota Guard's First Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the 34th Infantry Division replaced Georgia Army National Guard's 48th BCT in Iraq in the spring of 2006.

Kulzer noted that during this tournament, the Soldiers and their families fished together on the boats of the professional anglers.

"It was a phenomenal hit," commented Kulzer.

When Ehrler learned of the new tournament, he replied, "That would be a lot of fun for everybody involved."

### REELING IN RECRUITS

Jacobs said staff members of Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, former director of the Army National Guard, originally suggested the sponsorship. All military branches were struggling in their recruiting efforts at the time.

Vaughn's staff wouldn't have had to look far to see that young men and women interested in fishing would be good potential recruits. The fact that more than 65 million U.S. residents purchase individual fishing licenses annually was impressive.

Jacobs also noted that generally, people interested in fishing love the outdoors.

Jacobs said Vaughn attended several FLW Bass Tour tournaments in further research.

"He immediately had the foresight to see that this was a huge opportunity to put our two organizations together and make this thing happen," explained Jacobs, whose company, Genmar Holdings Inc., is the world's largest boat-building company. It was launched in 1978 with the purchase of Lund Boat Company.

Vaughn proceeded to research the ins and outs of fishing, including the history and how much interest fishing garners.

"He found that we were one of those unusual resources—a gold mine that was sitting there not being used by anybody," said Jacobs.

Jacobs offered the Guard the largest tournament organization in the world—it runs 200 tournaments. Currently, there are eight FLW Bass Tour National Guard professional anglers, one FLW Walleye Tour professional angler and

### FISHING FOR AMERICA

Brent Ehrler has competed in 66 bass tournaments since 2003 and was the 2009 FLW Series Western Division Angler of the Year. He knew it was time to become a pro angler after winning the 2006 Forrest Wood Cup.

That same year, he was asked by the National Guard to become a member of the Guard team.

"That was one team I really wanted to fish for," said Ehrler, who has a business degree in marketing. "They are a neat team, and it's something that I really wanted to be a part of."

He said he wanted to not only be a part of the Guard team, but also wear the National Guard colors and be a Guard spokesman.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform when I'm wearing the Guard colors," he commented. "It's about more than myself and a sponsor—I'm representing a lot of people out there. I honestly get goose bumps thinking about it. But, it's the only thing that I feel I can do to get out there and help the people who are helping me."

Brent Ehrler lands a nice largemouth bass during a recent tournament. He said he always wanted to be a member of the National Guard fishing team.

National Guard FLW Walleye Tour co-angler SSG Nathan Gazelka of Bemidji, MN, casts his line during a recent tournament.



"I THINK THE NATIONAL GUARD IS STILL THE BEST-KEPT SECRET OUT THERE TODAY. WHAT THEY DO FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES IS UNIMAGINABLE."

>> Irwin L. Jacobs, chairman, FLW Outdoors



The National Guard FLW bass fishing team, from left: Michael Murphy, Scott Martin, Jonathan Newton, Brent Ehrler, Adam Lock (co-angler), Justin Lucas, Ramie Colson Jr., Tim Klinger and Clifford Pirch.

seven FLW Bass Tour National Guard co-anglers. There are separate tournaments for anglers and co-anglers.

First Lieutenant Benjamin Bullington, program manager for the National Guard Outdoors program, said the National Guard professional anglers and co-anglers are great representatives of the Guard. Their boat is painted like an American flag with "NATIONAL GUARD" wrapped on each side, and team members wear colorful National Guard shirts.

"They are great advocates of what the Guard stands for. They do very well at communicating the values and the extraordinary accomplishments of our Soldiers as they perform their duties every day all over the world," said Bullington.

These tournaments are the favorite outdoor activity in these communities, added Jacobs.

"So it was a natural tie-in, and that's how it came together. And, it's only gotten better," said Jacobs.

He said he and his employees also learned how important the Guard is to each state.

"Everyone who works for this organization has a love and respect for it," he commented. "There is nothing we wouldn't do for them. We do things to help whatever little bit we can in fulfilling the dreams and expectations of these people.

"From our standpoint, they are like family to us," Jacobs continued. "We don't ever want them to go away. They bring so much inspiration and spirit to our environment, it would be a pretty empty feeling [if they weren't there]."

**HOOK, LINE AND SINKER**

The question is, how is the Guard's sponsorship with FLW Outdoors assisting in recruiting and retention?

Kulzer listed a few ways. One was the popularity of fishing throughout the United States.

"It's still one of the most popular things in America," he noted. "We find that young men and women who participate in outdoor activities—hunting, fishing, hiking and camping—are much more prone to military service than the general populace. Further, fishing is a healthy, positive, family-based activity."

The Soldiers Appreciation Tournaments will assist in retention, but also in recruiting, said Kulzer.

How? By having these Soldiers who fished with the professional anglers tell young people who are interested in the Guard how much fun they had. For example, who else but a Soldier is able to fish with the FLW Walleye Tour Angler of the Year Paul Meleen.

Kulzer noted that 80 percent of the leads come from Soldiers who are in the Guard.

"By doing more for Soldiers, and recognizing them and their families, there is goodness in that, and those actions cause referrals," he said.

Bullington added his thoughts on the partnership assisting in retention.

"For sure, in retention, I think the opportunity for a Soldier to get out there and fish—and for us to provide that opportunity—is great," he remarked. "It is very important to get a Soldier out there and show our appreciation for what they do every day.

"We do our best, but sometimes, Soldiers don't get the thanks that they really deserve. This is one way to really give that thanks," continued Bullington, who was deployed to Iraq as a platoon leader.

As far as the partnership assisting in recruiting, Bullington agreed with Kulzer.

"We are reaching out to these people who are already very intuitive and outgoing," he explained. "They want to get outside. They are very proactive and are problem-solvers."

As he stated, "Whose dad and grandfather hasn't taken them fishing? I guarantee you everyone has gone fishing." **GX**

**SOLDIERS APPRECIATION**

Teams competing in Guard FLW College have the ultimate goal of competing in the annual Forrest Wood Cup. (See "Guard Fishing 101" at right for more details.) But what do National Guard Soldiers receive from this sponsorship? The envy of every fishing enthusiast, due in part to a suggestion from Lieutenant Colonel Jake Kulzer, commander of the Minnesota Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

Kulzer, along with battalion Command Sergeant Major Corey Stigen, suggested to Irwin L. Jacobs, Chairman of FLW Outdoors, the parent organization of the Wal-Mart FLW Tour, to host a Soldiers Appreciation Tournament.

Kulzer said his reasoning was that the Guard was already sponsoring the tournaments and the professional anglers are already in the communities. So why not create an opportunity for Soldiers and their families to participate in the tournament? Soldiers are chosen strictly on a volunteer basis. Jacobs said yes, and the rest is history.



Teams competing in National Guard FLW College Fishing have the ultimate goal of competing in the annual Forrest Wood Cup.

**GUARD FISHING 101**

The National Guard FLW College Fishing teams begin their season with qualifying events. Each division has four qualifying events, with a maximum of 40 teams in each event. The top five teams from each of the four qualifying events in a division (a total of 20 teams) will advance to a three-day, televised National Guard FLW College Fishing Regional Championship. The top five teams from each of the five National Guard Regional Championships (a total of 25 teams) will compete in the three-day, televised FLW College Championship. The winning team in the FLW College Championship will qualify for the 2011 Forrest Wood Cup. The winning team member with the heaviest total weight in the FLW College National Championship will compete in the Pro Division, and the other member of the winning team will compete in the Co-angler Division.



National Guard FLW bass and walleye fishing team members fish from \$60,000 boats and use top-of-the-line equipment.

For more information on National Guard Fishing, go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/guardfishing](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/guardfishing)

# OPERATION Tread and Shed

## FIGHT WINTER WEIGHT GAIN



By Ken and Stephanie Weichert • Photos by Adam Livingston

FROM: SGT Miller  
TO: SGT Ken

Your program ROCKS! I used your 30-day APFT improvement program, Operation Pushing for Points, and climbed 77 points. Best of all, I lost 14 pounds.

I don't have to take another APFT for several months. With winter weather coming, I obtained a membership at the local gym. I realize that I could have gone to my armory for a workout, but the gym I signed up with is very close to my house.

I don't want to get caught up in the trap of simple weight training and socializing between each set. I want to keep up with this intense training that you have been producing for us. Can you provide me a workout for the gym that will help me stay sharp?

Thanks for all you two do! Hooah!  
SGT Miller, Alaska Army National Guard

FROM: SGT Ken  
TO: SGT Miller

We are glad that Operation Pushing for Points was successful for you. Additionally, congratulations on your weight loss!

With regard to staying sharp while working out in the gym, we think we have just the right combination of aerobic versus weighted and bodyweight exercises for you. Operation Tread and Shed is a good workout to take with you to the gym or to do in your own home. This combination of exercises will help you build lean muscle tissue and can also help you lose body fat.

Because you will be constantly on the move with this program, there will be little time for someone to snag your attention in order to get caught up in conversation. You'll have to stay focused and plan ahead in order not to fall into a rut. This program will help you mix it up and achieve your goals all in under an hour. You can use our workout calendar to help develop your weekly fitness plan.

We admire your determination to stay the course. Let us know how you progress.

Best regards,  
SGT Ken



### WARM-UP PHASE

#### 1 AEROBICS

Perform 6-8 minutes of aerobics exercises, such as Running in Place, Side-Straddle-Hops (Jumping Jacks) or High Steps/Knees.

#### 2 STRETCHING

Perform 4-6 minutes of flexibility exercises and foam rolling.

### FITNESS CIRCUIT ONE

TARGET: AEROBIC CONDITIONING AND LOWER BODY MUSCULAR ENDURANCE TRAINING

Repeat exercises 3-5 two additional times (three sets total) prior to beginning the next fitness circuit.

#### 3 SQUAT WITH DUMBBELLS

**START:** Stand with a neutral spine, toes pointing forward, feet hip-width apart and arms at your sides holding a set of dumbbells. **Alternate position:** Hold the end of one dumbbell with both hands and position it in front of your waist.

**No dumbbells?** Put on a backpack weighted with the equivalent of 10-15 percent of your total body weight.

**ACTIONS:** Lower your body by bending both knees until you achieve approximately 90 degrees of knee flexion, with your hips moving back as if sitting on a chair. Maintain your weight directly over the heels or mid-foot. Return to the start position and continue until you reach your goal. Inhale through your nose as you lower your body, and exhale through your mouth as you return to the start position.

#### 4 SQUAT KICK DRILL

**START:** Stand with a neutral spine, toes pointing forward, feet hip-width apart and arms slightly in front of you. Clench your fists and position them slightly lower than eye-level so you can see over them without blocking your vision. Keep your wrists straight.

**ACTIONS:** Lower your body by bending both knees until you achieve approximately 90 degrees of knee flexion, with your hips moving back as if sitting on a chair. Return to the start position, shift your balance to your right leg, and lift your left leg by bending your knee and tucking it into your chest. Quickly extend your left leg out and upward with your toes curling back (aiming as high as you can). Return to the start position and continue by switching sides. Kicking with each leg once is considered one repetition. Inhale through your nose as you lower your body, and exhale through your mouth as your kick.

>> **Self-defense note:** Although this is an aerobic exercise, the standard front kick is where you would strike your target using the ball of your foot and not your toes. **Warning:** Do not snap your kicking knee while performing this version of the front kick.

### How This Works:

There are 3 short fitness circuits in this workout. Complete each circuit 3 times prior to starting the next circuit. We recommend that you take little or no break in between exercises.

#### EQUIPMENT NEEDED

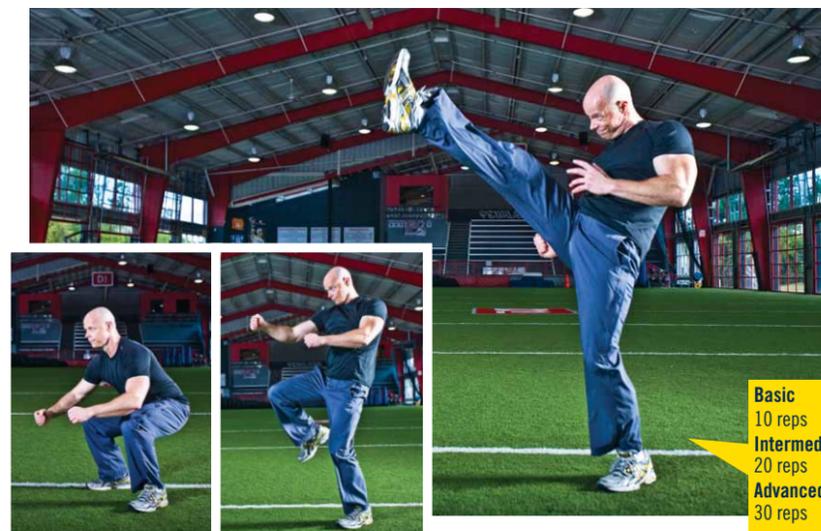
1. Dumbbells
2. Tubing
3. Treadmill or outdoor running route

#### ALTERNATE EQUIPMENT

1. One-gallon milk or water containers
2. Half-gallon containers or large water bottles
3. Suitcase or duffel bag



Basic  
10 reps  
Intermediate  
20 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps



Basic  
10 reps  
Intermediate  
20 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps

## FITNESS CIRCUIT ONE

CONTINUED

### 5 INTERVAL RUNNING DRILL ON A TREADMILL

**START:** Set the treadmill for a 3 percent incline and a moderate (jogging) pace at a manual program setting.

**ACTIONS:** Run at a moderate pace for 30 seconds. Immediately increase the treadmill speed until you are at a full sprint and continue for 30 seconds. Performing the 30-second moderate pace run and the 30-second sprint once each is one set of this exercise. Continue until you reach your goal. Breathe naturally.

## FITNESS CIRCUIT TWO

TARGET: AEROBIC CONDITIONING AND LOWER BODY MUSCULAR ENDURANCE TRAINING

Repeat exercises 6–8 two additional times (three sets total) prior to beginning the next fitness circuit.

### 6 CHEST PRESS WITH TUBING

**START:** Grasp a piece of moderate to heavy strength tubing and fold it in half. Hold the ends and position the tubing behind your upper back and under your shoulder blades, arms in front and level with your shoulders, elbows bent

and palms facing downward. Stand with your feet hip-width apart, knees slightly bent, and toes pointing forward.

**No tubing?** Use a set of dumbbells and press upward while lying on a bench. No dumbbells? Try a fully packed suitcase or duffel bag while lying on your back (supine position).

**ACTIONS:** Press your arms in front of you until fully extended. Keep wrists firm and elbows slightly bent. Return to the start position and continue until your goal is reached. Exhale through your mouth as you extend, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position.

>> **Note:** There are smaller tubes, like the SPRI Ultratoner, that are designed for exercises like this.



Basic  
2 sets  
Intermediate  
4 sets  
Advanced  
6 sets



Basic  
10 reps  
Intermediate  
20 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps



## FITNESS CIRCUIT TWO

CONTINUED

### 7 TUBING PUSH-UP

**START:** Grasp a piece of moderate to heavy strength tubing and fold it in half. Hold the ends and position the tubing behind your upper back and under your shoulder blades. Balance your body on your hands and feet with your back and legs forming a straight line. Maintain a neutral spine, feet together or

**No tubing?** Put on a backpack weighted with the equivalent of 10-15 percent of your total body weight.

up to 12 inches apart, hands shoulder-width apart and legs and arms straight.

**ACTIONS:** While keeping your abdominal muscles tight, lower your body by bending both elbows until the upper parts of your arms become parallel with the ground. Return to the start position and continue until your goal is reached. Inhale through your nose as you lower your body, and exhale through your mouth as you return to the start position.

>> **Note:** You can challenge yourself by pausing for a few seconds at the halfway and low positions during each repetition.



MALE STANDARDS:  
Basic  
15 reps (no tubing or added weight)  
Intermediate  
30 reps  
Advanced  
60 reps  
FEMALE STANDARDS:  
Basic  
5 reps (no tubing or added weight, or with tubing and balancing on your knees instead of feet)  
Intermediate  
15 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps

### 8 INTERVAL RUNNING DRILL ON A TREADMILL

**START:** Repeat exercise #5, this time setting the incline grade at 6 percent.



Basic  
10 reps  
Intermediate  
20 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps



## FITNESS CIRCUIT THREE

TARGET: AEROBIC CONDITIONING AND UPPER BODY MUSCULAR ENDURANCE (ANTAGONIST MUSCLES)

Repeat exercises 9–12 two additional times (three sets total) prior to beginning the next fitness circuit.

### 9 TUBING REVERSE FLY

**START:** Grasp a piece of moderate to heavy strength tubing and wrap it around a vertical pole or post. Walk backward until the tubing is stretched a bit. Squat down until you reach 90 degrees of knee flexion. Position your arms in front of you, level with your shoulders, with your palms facing inward.

**No tubing?** Lie face down on a bench and use a set of dumbbells. No dumbbells? Try one-gallon milk or water containers.

**ACTIONS:** While squeezing your shoulder blades together, pull your arms out and back

until aligned with your back. Your body will form a "T" when extended. Keep wrists firm and elbows slightly bent and maintain a squat while performing this exercise. Return to the start position and continue until you reach your goal. Exhale through your mouth as you pull back, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position.

## FITNESS CIRCUIT THREE CONTINUED

### 10 JUMPING PULL-UP DRILL

**START:** Stand with a neutral spine, arms at your sides, and feet hip-width apart.

**ACTIONS:** Squat down until you reach 90 degrees of knee flexion. Jump up and grasp the horizontal bar or hand grips and perform a pull-up, pausing in the "up" position for a few seconds and lowering your body at a very slow rate. Release your hand-grip and return to the start position. Immediately jump up again, and continue until your goal is reached. Exhale through your mouth as you jump and pull up, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position.

>> **Note:** Use the jumping effort to help you reach the bar, and lower your body as slowly as you can.

### 11 PRONE BACK EXTENSION WITH DUMBBELLS

**START:** Assume a prone position with your arms in front of you and elbows bent. Grasp a set of light dumbbells and position your hands on the ground aligned with your head.

**No dumbbells?** Try half-gallon milk containers or large water bottles.

**ACTIONS:** Tighten your back and rear end muscles and slowly arch your back until your chest comes off

the ground. Simultaneously, lift your arms until aligned with your shoulders. Return to the start position and continue until you reach your goal. Exhale through your mouth as you pull back, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position. **Warning:** Do not jerk your body during this exercise. Perform the actions slowly.

### 12 INTERVAL RUNNING DRILL ON A TREADMILL

**START:** Repeat exercise #5, this time setting the incline grade at 1 percent.

## COOL DOWN PHASE

**13 STRETCHING**  
Perform 4-6 minutes of flexibility exercises.



**MALE STANDARDS:**  
Basic  
6 reps or hang on the bar for 60 seconds  
Intermediate  
9 reps  
Advanced  
12 reps  
**FEMALE STANDARDS:**  
Basic  
2 reps or hang on the bar for 30 seconds  
Intermediate  
4 reps  
Advanced  
6 reps



Basic  
10 reps (no dumbbells)  
Intermediate  
20 reps  
Advanced  
30 reps

**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.

## STAMINA STOPWATCH



The Stamina Stopwatch includes the estimated time it will take to complete each set of the fitness program.

### Quick Fix:

1 full set =  
approximately 30 minutes

### Fast and Furious:

2 full sets =  
approximately 45 minutes

### Combat Ready:

3 full sets =  
approximately 60 minutes

## IMPACT REPORT

I just wanted to say how much you have inspired me to get into the best shape that I can over the last couple of years. I'm looking forward to joining the Guard this fall.

> **Mason,**  
Facebook Fan

I have been using the National Guard fitness videos and GX workouts to get back in shape and stay there. Good stuff! Keep them coming!

> **Joseph,**  
Facebook Fan

I went from admiring your work in GX magazine to having the privilege of attending one of your fitness and nutrition workshops! It was such an honor meeting you! Over the years I've saved all your articles. I hope to take your positive energy and inspiration to help my unit, ultimately increasing fitness test scores.

Hooah!

> **SPC Lea Gennett,**  
West Virginia Army National Guard

## NUTRITION ADVICE



1. To lose additional body fat, try reducing your intake of breads, pastas and sugar. Try to incorporate additional colorful vegetables such as spinach, cucumbers and bell peppers. Cut out soda and sugary drinks. Eat "good" fat such as almonds, olive oil and avocado instead of fried foods.

2. Consult your physician before making any changes to your diet or exercise plan.

3. Want to read more diet advice? Go to [www.NATIONALGUARD.com/fitness/healthy](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/fitness/healthy), and download our Savory Survival Guide.

## OPERATION TREAD AND SHED 7-DAY WORKOUT CALENDAR

Perform a thorough warm-up prior to each workout and a cool-down at the end of each workout.

### MONDAY

>> Perform the entire program at your designated level

### TUESDAY

>> Treadmill Interval Running Drill x 2-3 miles  
>> Crunches x 2-3 minutes

### WEDNESDAY

>> Perform the entire program at your designated level

### THURSDAY

>> Rest

### FRIDAY

>> Treadmill Interval Running Drill x 2-3 miles  
>> Crunches x 2-3 minutes

### SATURDAY

>> Perform the entire program at your designated level

### SUNDAY

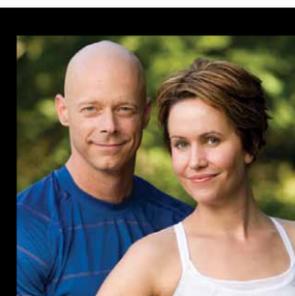
>> Rest

1. Repeat 7-day schedule x 4 sets to complete the month.

2. Rest periods may be adjusted as needed. However, be certain to include 1-2 rest days per week for recovery. Never perform more than two consecutive rest days at any time

Watch fitness videos and download workouts at

[www.NATIONALGUARD.com/GX/Fitness](http://www.NATIONALGUARD.com/GX/Fitness)  
or email [SGTken@GXonline.com](mailto:SGTken@GXonline.com).



### KEN AND STEPHANIE WEICHERT

A six-time Soldier of the Year and Veteran of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm, Ken Weichert and his wife, Stephanie, a certified personal trainer, founded the START Fitness® program, a San Francisco-based group exercise and hiking business that delivers military-inspired, boot-camp style workouts to Soldiers and civilians. The program now trains and certifies basic, senior and master instructors. Ken is currently a staff sergeant in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

# Menacing Mortars

## The Infantryman's Mobile Artillery

By CPT Mark McGee and CPT Tim Irvin, photos by John Crosby



**60 MM MORTAR ROUND:** Weighing about 4 pounds, the 60 mm mortar round can be fired effectively up to 3,490 meters. Depending on the ammunition used, between 18–30 rounds can be fired a minute for four minutes, with a sustained fire of 8–20 rounds thereafter.

**MORTARS HAVE BEEN USED FOR CENTURIES** and are an important asset to military missions during combat.

We can trace the history of the modern mortar to the 1600's, when portable mortar systems were used in siege warfare. The high-arc trajectory of mortars allowed early commanders to send explosive projectiles over fortifications and walls with deadly effect. Unfortunately, mortars were heavy then, and required the use of animals and carts to move them into position.

Those portable systems were the precursor to the systems we use today. Modern-day, heavy mortars are carried into battle by wheeled vehicles and track vehicles.

### CHANGING TIMES

The current asymmetrical battlefield has caused many commanders to change the way they would deploy their mortars in a conventional force-on-force battle. Missions in Afghanistan and Iraq are often led by smaller companies or platoon-sized units. These missions are usually scattered across great distances and over rugged terrain. A single mortar can increase the unit's lethality on patrols and can disrupt ambushes. Depending on the mission, battalion or company, different sizes of mortar are used.

Today, the National Guard uses three different mortar systems: 60 mm, 81 mm and 120 mm. Different calibers are available to company- and battalion-level airborne, air assault, light infantry and special operations units.

In 1915, the portable mortar system was

developed as a result of the trench warfare of WWI. The high-angle fire and portability of the mortar allowed rounds to be dropped into enemy trenches where artillery rounds couldn't effectively land. The light weight of the smaller tubes allowed infantry Soldiers to carry indirect fire support with them and move with the fight. This portable mortar developed into the 60 mm mortar currently used by airborne, air assault, light infantry and special operations units.

### THE M224

Specifically, the Guard uses the M224 60 mm mortar in a light infantry company. It is the smallest of the three systems and is used to provide long-range indirect fire support. It has a range of almost 3,500 meters and weighs about 48 lbs.

For dismounted operations, the M224 can be carried without a base plate to reduce its weight to 18 lbs., but the loss of the base plate reduces its range to slightly over 1,300 meters.

The M224 can be set in a position prior to conducting operations, or carried by crewmembers for a hasty deployment if the unit comes in contact with the enemy.

Company-level airborne, air assault, light infantry and special operations units use smaller mortars. Within a light infantry company, the mortar crew typically has two 60 mm mortars and six crewmembers. The crew consists of three personnel per mortar system—gunner, assistant gunner and ammunition bearer. In these small-unit configurations, the gunners also serve as the squad leader and section sergeant. **CX**



### UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

A mortar is made up of four major components: the tube, the gunner's sight, the base plate and the bipod.

U.S. mortars fire three types of ammunition, with many variations of each. The basic types are high explosive (HE), smoke and illumination rounds. HE rounds are used against enemy personnel, fortifications and vehicles. Smoke rounds are used to mark enemy positions, or to obscure the enemy's view and enable friendly forces to maneuver more safely. Illumination rounds can be used to provide light in the night, in either white or infrared light.

These rounds assist friendly forces when moving at night and expose enemy activity.

# FROM DEADLY WATER TO ULTIMATE HONOR

CW3 Cliff Bauman Saves Fishermen in Peril

*Story and photos by SSG Andrew Owen, Virginia National Guard*

In front of his family, friends and colleagues at Fort Monroe, VA, in a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) building, Virginia Army National Guard's Chief Warrant Officer Three Cliff Bauman received the Soldier's Medal July 23, 2010. He was presented the medal for acts of heroism in 2009, when he risked his life to save three fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay.

**W**ith his wife and father by his side, Bauman was presented the Army's highest medal for non-combat-related actions by Lieutenant General John E. Sterling, Deputy Chief of Staff for TRADOC. During the award presentation ceremony, Bauman, currently assigned to TRADOC, fought back tears as he recounted the series of events that led to his receipt of the prestigious award.

At the ceremony, Sterling highlighted the rarity with which the medal is awarded and how Bauman's actions were paramount in saving three people in the bay, just miles from where the event was being held.

"This is a very auspicious occasion. This is my first-ever opportunity to participate in an award ceremony for the Soldier's Medal," said Sterling. It's a very significant event, and we need to take notice of it."

The Army has several awards and medals it bestows upon Soldiers for heroism during battle, and many for recognizing Soldiers for outstanding work performed in the field and in garrison. But, the Soldier's Medal is the highest award a Soldier can receive for heroism not directly related to combat.

"We have lots of awards and recognitions that we [present] for valor in the face of the enemy, but from time to time there is an opportunity for a Soldier to use the skills that he has ... in a lifesaving event that doesn't necessarily involve actions in front of the enemy," Sterling added.

### EMERGENCY AT SEA

In the early afternoon of Oct. 3, 2009, in the shipping lanes of the Chesapeake, Bauman, his five-year-old son Cliff Jr., and Sergeant Major Rick Marquis were fishing from Bauman's boat when they witnessed a collision between a barge and a 17-foot boat. In the boat were four men from North Carolina, on a leisurely fishing trip. After bumping into the monstrous barge several times, the smaller vessel capsized and sent the four men into the bay—with no life vests.

Without hesitation, Bauman steered his own 23-foot boat 300 yards toward the dangerous water where debris and gas from the collision littered the area, creating a volatile environment. Another boat in Bauman's party joined him, carrying several of his acquaintances.

When they arrived on the scene, they realized that three of the men had clung to the side of the capsized boat and that one man was attempting to swim.

Bauman realized the man attempting to swim had stopped moving and was lying face down in the water. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, he quickly stripped down and donned a life jacket. Securing four more life jackets on his arms, Bauman dove in to the water to begin closing the 20 yards between himself and the man.

### HEROIC EFFORTS

When Bauman reached the man, he tried desperately to resuscitate him in the water for several minutes. Realizing resuscitation wasn't working in the choppy water, Bauman swam the man to the fishing partner's boat, where they pulled him from the water and continued to

attempt CPR as they raced to shore. There, they were met by local first responders, who were unable to revive the man.

After getting the first man out of the water, Bauman set his sights on getting the other three men to safety as quickly as possible.

"I was trying to keep my five-year-old son calm because he was screaming for [me] to 'get back in the boat,'" Bauman said. "I did swim over to the other guys that were capsized, pulled myself onto their boat, and got them vested. All of the men were in their 60s and 70s, and over 220 pounds. I mean they were big guys.

"I chose the biggest one, who was almost 300 pounds, to put him on the boat first," recalls Bauman. "He was panicking and I told him, 'If you don't calm down, I won't be able to get you on the boat.'"

Once Bauman calmed the man down and had all three men secured in their life vests, Marquis backed the boat against the capsized vessel, and Bauman and Marquis began helping the men out of the water and into the safe haven of Bauman's craft, which was no easy feat. From between the two boats, Bauman placed the men one at a time

on his lap, braced his back against the overturned craft, his feet on the bottom rung of his own ladder, and pushed the men up with all his strength as Marquis pulled the men upward and into the dry boat.

### TOTAL EXHAUSTION

"They were exhausted," he said. "The water temperature was 66 degrees, and there were two- to three-foot waves. They were dead weight. It's amazing that nothing happened to me, and also that nothing happened to Marquis, because when we finally got the guy on the boat, he fell on top of Rick. Rick had to throw him off and it ripped the back panel off my boat."

"Everybody took seven to 10 tries to get them on the boat because we were all getting pretty tired."

With everyone safely in the boat, Marquis gave the survivors quick medical assessments while Bauman attempted to calm his son, who had been worrying for his father's safety for over 40 minutes. Marquis then quickly piloted the boat to a harbor, where they offloaded the men into the care of emergency personnel.

While one man died on the scene, Bauman and his fishing companions successfully saved three men from what could have easily become a catastrophe and a greater toll on human life. By making safety a priority and having such equipment as life jackets, GPS and emergency radios aboard his rig, and through his determination, selfless service and willingness to put himself in harm's way to save others, Bauman proved himself to be a true hero.

### ROUGH START

Growing up in rural Missouri, Bauman was rough around the edges. He got into fights, raced cars on the streets and was a self-described troublemaker. He wasn't yet sure of what he wanted to make of his life.

Following a fight that left another boy in the hospital, young Bauman followed his older brother's lead and enlisted in the Army National Guard. He joined as an escape from the road he was headed down. He wanted to carve a new path for himself, and restore discipline and order in his life.

Still not old enough to vote, Bauman shipped off for his initial training between his junior and senior years of high school. Following Basic Combat Training and his Advanced Individual Training to become an aircraft armament repairman—the same military occupational specialty as his older brother—Bauman returned to Missouri, where he served for several years, side-by-side with his brother.

Bauman jokes that, at one point in his career, there were two Sergeant Baumans in the same section within the same unit. That was before his brother sought his commission through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and Cliff decided to transition to the warrant officer career path.

### LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL

During his first few years as an enlisted Soldier, from skills taught during Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training and the mentorship and the camaraderie of Guard life, Bauman acquired the discipline and focus he'd been seeking. He found himself setting goals, personally and professionally, and within a few years had gone from a private to a noncommissioned officer. Soon, he would become a warrant officer.

"The [Missouri] unit I was in had a really good program in grooming young Soldiers," Bauman pointed out. "I had laid out specific goals toward what I wanted to achieve. I wanted to be a sergeant by a certain time—I made that goal. I wanted to be a master fitness trainer—I was. I wanted to become a staff sergeant—I became a staff sergeant. My next goal was to become a warrant officer—so I became a warrant officer."

"If it wasn't for the mentors I had when I was enlisted and also as a warrant officer, I don't think I would have met those goals," Bauman said.

Bauman acknowledges that without the Guard's influence and his military training, things could have turned out very different for him. He doubts he would have had the physical strength and stamina to rescue the fishermen, and credits his Guard training with his knowing how to handle the dramatic events of that day.

"The Guard's always been a positive influence on me," he said. "Joining the Guard helped set me back on track."

Also, without his Guard experience, Bauman would not have been serving at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, VA, on 9/11. That day, he rushed to the Pentagon and spent more than 18 hours searching in the rubble for survivors.

### SAFETY LESSON

When asked how he feels today about the Chesapeake Bay rescue, he said, "It still affects me. You question whether you could have done



CW3 Cliff Bauman was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his actions of Oct. 3, 2009.



CW3 Cliff Bauman and his wife, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Krystal Turner, are avid boaters in their spare time.

more. Anyone who has been in that situation wonders that. I know I couldn't have done anything any differently, but there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about it. I live right on the water, and I'm out here all the time.

"When I tell people the story, I stress the importance of safety. I think once they hear my story, it resonates with them. Getting the Soldier's Medal was humbling for me because I'm not big on all the attention that goes along with it. But, it's important to use the attention as a positive—to tell people about water safety and to realize that things can happen, and you need to be prepared for them."

Also, Bauman has realized that being in the right place at the right time is not always enough. He has been taking additional precautions to be better prepared, so that if he finds himself in a similar predicament in the future, he'll be ready to rise to the call again.

"Since that day, I have taken extra measures to be in better shape and to have more safety equipment on my boat," he explained. "If one important lesson can come out of this, it's the importance of learning how to swim. And, if you don't know how to swim, wear a life vest. If they had been wearing life vests, we would have saved four lives instead of three." **GX**

# STRONGHOLD!

PHILIPPINES, MAY 23, 1945  
 - STAFF SERGEANT JOHN C. SJOGREN, COMPANY I, 160TH INFANTRY DIVISION, CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, LED AN ATTACK AGAINST A RIDGE DEFENDED BY A COMPANY OF JAPANESE RIFLEMEN, WHO WERE ENTRENCHED IN SPIDER HOLES AND SUPPORTED BY PILLBOXES WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

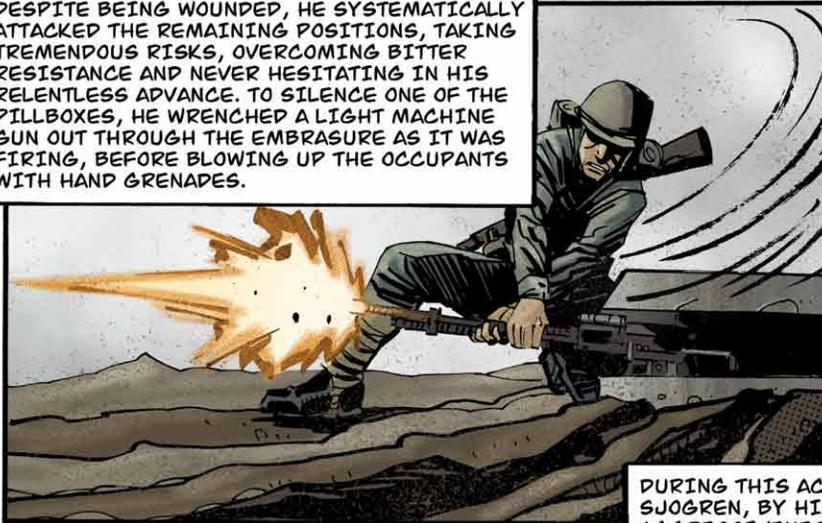


DEPLOYING HIS MEN, HE MOVED FORWARD AND WAS HURLING GRENADES WHEN HE SAW THAT HIS NEXT IN COMMAND WAS GRAVELY WOUNDED. WITHOUT HESITATION, HE CROSSED 20 YARDS OF EXPOSED TERRAIN IN THE FACE OF ENEMY FIRE, MOVED THE MAN TO COVER AND ADMINISTERED FIRST AID.



HE ADVANCED, ELIMINATING EIGHT JAPANESE SOLDIERS GUARDING THE APPROACH TO THE PILLBOX. CRAWLING TO THE PILLBOX WHILE HIS MEN CONCENTRATED THEIR BULLETS ON THE FIRE PORT, HE DROPPED GRENADES THROUGH THE FIRING SLIT. BY HURLING GRENADES FASTER THAN THE ENEMY COULD RETURN THEM, HE SUCCEEDED IN DESTROYING THE OCCUPANTS.

DESPITE BEING WOUNDED, HE SYSTEMATICALLY ATTACKED THE REMAINING POSITIONS, TAKING TREMENDOUS RISKS, OVERCOMING BITTER RESISTANCE AND NEVER HESITATING IN HIS RELENTLESS ADVANCE. TO SILENCE ONE OF THE PILLBOXES, HE WRENCHED A LIGHT MACHINE GUN OUT THROUGH THE EMBRASURE AS IT WAS FIRING, BEFORE BLOWING UP THE OCCUPANTS WITH HAND GRENADES.



DURING THIS ACTION, STAFF SERGEANT SJOGREN, BY HIS HEROIC BRAVERY, AGGRESSIVENESS AND SKILL AS A SOLDIER, SINGLE-HANDEDLY TERMINATED 43 ENEMY SOLDIERS AND DESTROYED NINE PILLBOXES, THEREBY PAVING THE WAY FOR HIS COMPANY'S SUCCESSFUL ADVANCE. HE WAS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR ON NOV. 1, 1945.

