

GX[®]

THE GUARD EXPERIENCE

>> GEAR

RAPID FIRE
LAYING IT DOWN
WITH THE
MK 19 GRENADE
LAUNCHER

>> ON THE ROAD

POWER SCHOOL
HAATS PREPS PILOTS
FOR HIGH-ALTITUDE FLIGHT

>> GX HERO

TRAINED INSTINCT
SOLDIER WAS READY AND
THERE WHEN DUTY CALLED

MASTERS OF THE BATTLEFIELD

ARTILLERY BRINGS THE BIG BANG

>> BACK TO BASIC

**GX GOES TO
FORT JACKSON**



Shoulder to Shoulder, No Soldier Stands Alone.

This year remember your loved ones with this beautiful keepsake ornament. Inscription on the back reads "NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE." Order now while supplies last!



Qty.	Price	Item	Total
	x \$15.00/each	"NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE" Keepsake Ornament	

Name

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

Please make checks or money orders payable to MWR. Send order form along with payment (cash, check or money order) to:

Army National Guard Readiness Center
Attention: Cindy Kadin
111 South George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22204

.....
 "A Story Set" of ornaments are also available, for more information call directly Ms. Cindy Kadin at (703) 607-7056 or Ms. Renee Greer at (703) 601-6940.

There are two **PRIMARY** choices in life:

Accept conditions as they exist,
or accept the responsibility
for changing them.



*Now accepting applications for Traditional and
Accelerated Officer Candidate School!
Classes are beginning now!*

Contact your State Officer Strength Manager to apply.

VOL 8 : ISSUE 1

FEATURES

Masters of the Battlefield 40
Artillery brings the big bang

>> HONOR AND COURAGE

More Than Duty 56
Citizen-Soldier fights many kinds of enemies

>> GUARD LEGACY

Mission Focused—Warrior Ready 66
The Iowa National Guard



>> ON THE ROAD

Power School 76
HAATS preps pilots for high-altitude flight

>> GX HERO

Trained Instinct 102
Soldier was ready and there when duty called



>> FEATURE

40



>> ON THE ROAD

76

DEPARTMENTS

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP 6
Brigadier General Donald P. Dunbar, Wisconsin National Guard

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR 8

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT 10

RECON 12
See inspirational images from Fort Lee, VA; Kabul, Afghanistan; Green Bay, WI; and Ferizaj, Kosovo

INTEL 20
Counterdrug team makes an "underground" bust; Alaska Soldiers go Airborne; Pennsylvania upgrades its Apaches; Soldiers patrol the Sinai Peninsula; Wyoming trains for IEDs

STRENGTH MAINTENANCE 48
Go Air Assault with ROTC; hear from Guard families stationed in Kandahar; Guard pilots step up to the plate; GED celebrates new building

HOME BASE 58
Soldier brings uniform to the classroom; Find the car that fits; Nominate your employer to ESGR

BACK TO BASIC 72
GX gets roped at Fort Jackson

FIGHTING SPIRIT 86
>> SPORTS
Soldiers hit the dunes; Soldier punches out; Tackling the ultimate obstacle course

>> FITNESS
Peak performance: Training with a Wounded Warrior

>> GEAR
Rapid fire: Laying it down with the Mk 19 grenade launcher

GUARD TALES 106
Trench Sweeper with 2LT Robert Hancock



96



100

GX: The Guard Experience (ISSN # 1559-9922, January/February 2011) 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.



What a privilege it is to serve in the National Guard.

Wisconsin's militia heritage dates to 1839—before we attained statehood. Wisconsin's National Guard Soldiers have served in every major conflict since then, including the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and, of course, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have answered our nation's call in this post-9/11 era of persistent conflict in ways unanticipated but not surprising.

Starting with Desert Storm, our National Guard began an evolutionary transformation from a “cold war” strategic reserve to an operational force capable of performing across the full spectrum of conflict. In 1990, when National Guard units were mobilized, there were some who questioned whether or not they would show. Today, no one harbors such doubts. The National Guard is no longer theoretical—it is a

proven capability that is essential to our national defense and incredibly accessible for both our state and federal missions.

Today, we consistently deploy more than 50,000 Soldiers and Airmen for the overseas contingency fight, we maintain our peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and in the Sinai, and we are the backbone of America's air defense. More than 630 Wisconsin Soldiers and Airmen are currently deployed in support of Operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom—many of whom are deployed for the second, third and even fourth time. Earlier this year, Wisconsin welcomed home more than 3,700 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from the war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, we have a four-star Chief of the National Guard Bureau representing the National Guard in Washington, DC. The elevation of the chief's rank to four-star general is a direct result of what you, our Soldiers and Airmen, have accomplished. The American people and the U.S. Congress have taken notice of your incredible commitment and the importance of the National Guard to our nation's defense. Like the “Minutemen” who answered the call of revolution and broke the chains of tyranny, we stand today for something bigger than ourselves.

Thank you for all that you do. It is an honor to serve with you in today's National Guard. Together, we provide enduring value for our communities, state and nation.

*Brigadier General Donald P. Dunbar
Adjutant General, Wisconsin*



Great Soldiers stand out ... **THE BEST ONES BLEND IN**

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! GXONLINE.COM
click > subscribe

IF YOU'D LIKE A LITTLE ADVENTURE IN YOUR LIFE, START ADDING A LITTLE EXCITEMENT TO YOUR MAILBOX.

COURTESY OF BG DONALD P. DUNBAR



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.

Publisher: iostudio

Editor-in-Chief: Keith Kawasaki
Design Director: Andrew Nixon

Managing Editor: Fred McGhee II
Editor: Christian Anderson
Field Editor: Clint Wood
News Editor: Stephanie Inman
Senior Copy Editor: Julie Zeitlin
Proofreader: Greg Ottarski

Contributing Writers: CDT Sarah Viau, SSG Joe Cashion, SGT Darron Salzer, Scott J. Farrell, SFC John Soucy, LTC Perry Jones, CPT Kyle Key, PFC Jonathan Wood, Johanna Altland, Jennifer Chappell Smith, LTC Matt Leonard, Jason Hall, SSG Joshua Doodley, Camille Breland, Sharon Watson, SGT Joshua Dodds, Tim Hipps, SFC Aaron C. Thacker

Art Director: Laurel Petty
Editorial Designers: Dustin McNeal, Lizzie Moore
Illustrator: Dan Panosian

Mail: GX: The Guard Experience
c/o iostudio
565 Marriott Dr., Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214
Voice: (866) 596-4558
Fax: (615) 256-6860

Email the Editor: editor@GXonline.com

Editorial Inquiry and Submissions:
editor@GXonline.com or voice:
(866) 596-4558, fax: (615) 256-6860

Mailing Address Changes: GXonline.com
Sign Up for GX: GXonline.com

No responsibility can be accepted for manuscripts or photographs, solicited or unsolicited. All postal submissions should be accompanied by an SASE. Copyright © 2004-2011, iostudio, LLC. All rights reserved. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the publisher or of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau. No endorsement of any advertised service or product is intended by the publisher, the Army National Guard or any government agency, and none should be inferred. GX is published six times a year by iostudio, LLC, Nashville, TN.

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

A new year brings new opportunities, and I'm honored to be writing my first letter as editor of GX magazine.

Growing up, I listened to my father, who served in the Kansas National Guard, talk about the heroism of the Guard Soldiers who fought in WWII and Korea. From them, he learned the meaning of patriotism, and he passed that down to me.

During my three years at GX, from my first beat as intern, to my latest article as deputy editor, I've witnessed incredible acts by the men and women of the Guard.

I remember Sept. 11, 2001, like it was yesterday—watching in horror with the rest of the world as two terrorist planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City. By the end of the day, two more planes would crash and life would be put on hold. Not since Pearl Harbor had our nation experienced such a vicious attack on home soil.

This year is important for the Army National Guard. September will mark 10 years that you have been deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq for OEF and OIF. Those of you already serving on 9/11 stayed the course. Those who enlisted after 9/11 did so knowing you would almost certainly deploy. But you did it anyway. I salute you.

The Guard will experience other milestones in 2011. February will be 20 years since the Gulf War. On Dec. 7, some of America's last WWII Veterans will gather for the 60th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. April marks 150 years since the Civil War began.

These dates signify your dedication and sacrifice to our nation. This year, you'll see special GX features celebrating you and the obstacles you've overcome to become an unstoppable, unmatched fighting force. We're deeply honored to tell your story.

Stay safe, and thank you for your service!

Christian Anderson, Editor
Christian.Anderson@GXonline.com



ON THE COVER

Soldiers from B Battery, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery, 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania National Guard, fire the M777A2 howitzer in Iraq in 2009.

COVER PHOTO BY
SSG NICK STERNER

To Our Greatest Heroes:
Past, Present and Future

Because of what you do for us, I want to say thank you. Thank you for what you do to protect us. Thank you for caring about us as we so honorably care about you. Thank you for fighting to keep the sights and horrors of war out of our eyes. Thank you for dedicating your life to showing your patriotism, loyalty, dedication and heroism. Most important, thank you for being who you are—real heroes who understand your people, listen to their voices, and care about them, as well as our country and our freedom. We will always love you.

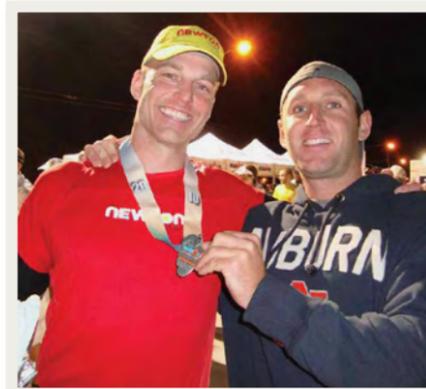
Marrisha Nichole Jedrzejek



SFC Joe Hulscher of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, salutes the American flag during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 11, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Dear GX,
Thank you for publishing such a great magazine. From the simple explanation of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s engine to an in-depth article on the 442nd Military Police Company, the work of GX, and specifically Clint Wood, is outstanding. Keep it up!

Carl Madsen



TOP PHOTO: CPT ANTHONY DEISS

Congratulations to Major Brendan Murphy (left), South Dakota National Guard, for finishing the 2010 Florida Ironman in 12 hours and 14 minutes. After tackling the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run, Murphy officially became an Ironman on Nov. 6, 2010.

Have you done something you're especially proud of? Maybe you've run a marathon. Completed an Ironman. Climbed a mountain. Anything you've accomplished that took a lot of energy and commitment counts. Email us a photo and a few sentences about your journey, and you might see yourself on this page in a future issue of GX.

Send your photos and letters to Editor@GXonline.com.



SGT Rebecca Linder, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, poses with children from the Mehrabuddin School near the Walayatee village outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, June 27, 2010.

Letters From South Dakota National Guard 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

IN MAY OF 2010, Soldiers from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade mobilized to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since being in country they have tackled any mission asked of them, including assisting Afghan locals by organizing humanitarian assistance for schools, orphanages and families. In accordance with the strong traditions of the South Dakota National Guard, the Soldiers of the 196th tackle every day with enthusiasm and confidence. Here are their letters.”

I WAS WITH THE 196TH MANEUVER Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, for about two years when we were deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan.

This is my first deployment. My time here has opened my eyes to the Afghan culture and has helped me understand the purpose and necessity of COIN (counterinsurgency) operations in Afghanistan—working hand-in-hand with the Afghan people to win their hearts and minds.

I believe the work we’re doing here is paying dividends. One way that I’m able to help firsthand is through Operation

Outreach—Afghanistan. Operation Outreach was founded more than four years ago by a Soldier stationed at Camp Phoenix in Kabul. It’s a volunteer organization in which Soldiers donate their time to organize humanitarian aid from the U.S. for delivery to Afghans. Our goal is to empower the Afghan people through humanitarian assistance.

By working and coordinating with the Afghan Army and police, the organization has given thousands of shoes, clothes, toys, school supplies, blankets and medical supplies to the Afghan people.

I also had the privilege of going on a humanitarian drop-mission to a local orphanage. It was a very surreal and humbling experience. I saw the smiling faces of dozens of children firsthand. They were so grateful and happy to receive the donations.

I’m very proud to serve in Operation Outreach and believe our program is making a difference.

>> First Lieutenant Joelle Mulder
Medical Service Officer
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

COURTESY OF THE 196TH MEB

I JOINED THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY National Guard almost six years ago. The opportunities the Guard has provided me have been life-changing. The Guard has taken me on a journey to success, providing me with training and skills I couldn’t have received elsewhere. So far I’ve trained in logistics and photojournalism, and when I’m not deployed, I work full time as a prevention specialist for the National Guard Counterdrug Program. In that position, I work with middle-school-age students, providing them with education about drug and alcohol prevention.

Working with children back home has led me to want to help the children of Afghanistan. Right after arriving in Afghanistan in June, I started volunteering my time to the Operation Outreach program at Camp Phoenix in Kabul. Friends, family, local businesses and churches from back home have all donated clothes, shoes, toys, blankets, school and medical supplies to help these children.

After weeks of sorting the donations and putting them into care packages, I participated in a mission to deliver them to a local orphanage. The children are at the orphanage because their parents are unable to provide for them or perished in the war.

Upon our arrival, the children were looking out their windows with hopeful smiles because they knew the American people were there to help. Being able to present these children with simple and needed gifts is an experience I won’t forget. I am so thankful for the opportunity the Guard has given me to impact the lives of children at home and across the world.

>> Sergeant Rebecca Linder
Journalist
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

SERVING IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY National Guard for the past 14 years has afforded me many opportunities and experiences I had never imagined. I’ve traveled from Europe to South America to Iraq, and now Afghanistan, and have been exposed to a variety of people, cultures and conflicts. This has given me a deeper appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy in America. As a public affairs professional, it’s my mission to ensure that communities, states and nations are reminded of the service and sacrifice Guard Soldiers make in defending these freedoms.

The Guard is leading the charge to help Afghans know some of the same freedoms. Since arriving in Afghanistan, I have reported on and worked with National Guard units from South Carolina, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, Alaska, Indiana, Kentucky and of

COURTESY OF THE 196TH MEB

course, South Dakota. Every day, these brave Citizen-Soldiers are performing a variety of tough, important missions, and are sacrificing their blood, sweat and some their lives, so Afghans can one day stand on their own and provide their people with the same freedoms and basic human rights.

The appreciation of U.S. troops is evident on the faces of the Afghan citizens. The effort of the National Guard to bring needed food, clothing, shelter, school supplies and medical aid to needy Afghans is winning their hearts and minds, day by day.

The Guard, along with all U.S. and Coalition Forces, is demonstrating to Afghans that people a half a world away are willing to sacrifice a lot for those who have very little. I have never been more proud than to serve in the National Guard.

>> Captain Anthony Deiss
Public Affairs Officer
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan

I HAVE BEEN SERVING in the South Dakota Army National Guard for nine years. Since serving in the National Guard I have grown as a professional. The Guard has given me the opportunity to see things and go places that I normally would not be able to. I am currently serving on my second tour overseas.

I was first deployed to Baqubah, Iraq, in 2003–2004, with the 200th Engineer Company. There we constructed a 300-meter

floating bridge across the Tigris River. After the construction of the bridge was complete, we maintained security around the bridge and the camp we were staying at. We also consulted with some of the local leaders within Baqubah on a number of different engineering projects.

Now on tour in Afghanistan, serving with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, I am stationed at Camp Phoenix in Kabul. I am working as a team leader for the movement team; this job has given me the opportunity to see many parts of Kabul. We provide transportation and security for Soldiers from camp to camp. Constantly moving from camp to camp has given me the chance to interact with the locals, and truly experience the culture of Afghanistan. Some days I am able to interact and hand out candy to the children on the streets. Seeing how these children are able to keep their spirits so high with so little is something that will continue to amaze me for the rest of my life.

After seeing the different cultures of Iraq and now Afghanistan it has given me a brand new appreciation for what we, as Americans, have back home. In the short nine years that I have been a member of the Guard I have been able to travel the world and encounter a way of living that I never thought possible.

>> Sergeant Thomas Asher
Team Leader, Movement Team
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan



CPT Anthony Deiss, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, poses with an Afghan citizen during a humanitarian aid drop Sept. 23, 2010, in Kabul.



» RIOT CONTROL

[Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kosovo]

Puerto Rico Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry Regiment, MNBG-E, train on riot control procedures during an exercise with the Kosovo Police at the Bill Clinton Sports Complex in Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kosovo, July 28, 2010.

Photo by PFC Sarah Cummings



San Juan, PR, to Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kosovo, 4,706 miles



» CHOOSE WISELY

[Fort Lee, VA]

SGT Larry J. Isbell, Oklahoma National Guard, watches his firing lane for targets during the M4 Range Qualification event during the Department of the Army's 10th Annual Best Warrior Competition held at Fort Lee, VA, on Oct. 21, 2010.

Photo by SPC Vanessa Hernandez



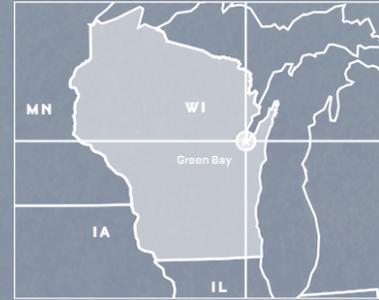


» HONORING SOLDIERS

[Green Bay, WI]

Wisconsin Army National Guard CPT Brian Barth and more than 100 Soldiers of the 951st "Sapper" Engineer Company stand at attention during a halftime ceremony at Lambeau Field, Green Bay, WI, Nov. 7, 2010. The Green Bay Packers hosted the 951st as part of a Veterans Day celebration which included more than 75,000 fans, several wounded Warriors, and some of Wisconsin's most recent combat Veterans.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue





>> **SMILING FACES**

[**Kabul, Afghanistan**]

CSM Samuel McKenzie, 1/178th Field Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, takes a moment to laugh with Afghan children at the Sar Asyab School in Kabul province.

Photo by CPT Christopher Neeley



Columbia, SC, to Kabul, Afghanistan: 7,331 miles



RAPID RESPONSE
Civil Support Teams react to danger

24



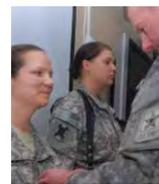
WINTER JUMP
Alaska Soldiers earn their wings

26



HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY
Celebrating 20 years since Operation Desert Storm

32



FIELD PROMOTION
Soldiers recognized for their service

34



IED ALLEY
Wyoming builds cutting-edge training facility

36

"I REALLY HOPE WE CAN GET TO A SOLID MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH [CHINA]. A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WOULD ALLOW THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA TO DISCUSS AREAS THEY AGREE ON, AND TRY TO BRIDGE THE GAPS IN AREAS THEY DON'T."

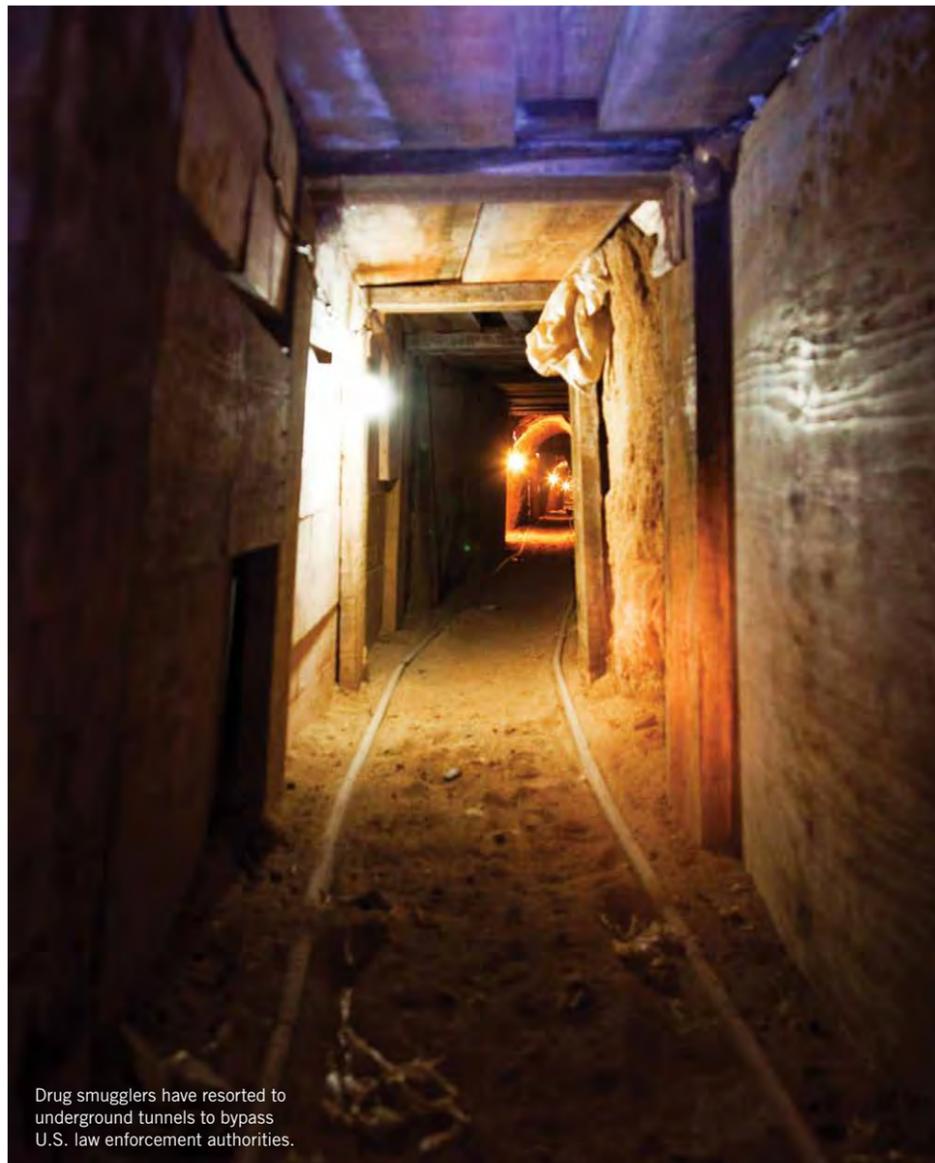
>> ADM. MIKE MULLEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF



Gov. Schwarzenegger rallies the troops on the border, congratulating them for a job well done.



The California National Guard has been working with the Border Patrol to increase security on the U.S.-Mexico border.



Drug smugglers have resorted to underground tunnels to bypass U.S. law enforcement authorities.

BUSTED! Guard Counterdrug helps nab smugglers

By SSG Jessica Inigo,
California National Guard Public Affairs /
SAN DIEGO, CA

■ CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD assisted civilian law enforcement agencies of the San Diego Tunnel Task Force in the discovery of a drug-smuggling tunnel, and eventually capturing 30 tons of marijuana Nov. 2.

The seizure was the single largest drug bust associated with a tunnel and the second largest in the nation, officials said.

With the addition of this tunnel, there have been 124 tunnels discovered that lead into the United States since 1990. This tunnel is unique in that it is one of very few tunnels that were fully operational at the time of the bust. Authorities estimate the tunnel had been in service for about one month.

Initially, military criminal analysts assisted in case support and link analysis for the investigation. Now, with a wealth of information to sift through, these analysts are focusing their attention on continued investigative support, freeing up civilian agents to capture further information from the crime scene.

"They're definitely an asset to the team—something that we need," said Tim Durst, assistant special agent in charge, ICE Homeland Security Investigation in San Diego, about the California National Guard members working with ICE. "I oversee several groups within the task force, and I've seen the assistance [California

AP PHOTO/GUILLEMO ARIAS

National Guard members] have given us in targeting specific locations."

Master Sergeant Laura Dzubin is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the criminal investigative analysts for Joint Task Force Sierra. Being part of such a significant seizure is huge, according to Dzubin, both as a San Diego native and as an analyst.

"Growing up only eight miles from the border kept me right on the forefront of the drugs and violence that comes across the border every day," she said a few days after the bust. "I've seen how drugs negatively affect many people's lives."

"Being in the National Guard has provided me with many opportunities to work on successful counterdrug operations, but this drug-tunnel seizure has been the highlight of my work on the border mission," added Dzubin. "People sometimes forget that we are fighting a war right here at home. I served in Iraq in 2003, but serving in my home state of California and helping to make a difference in the war on drugs has been so much more rewarding."

According to Lauren Mack, spokeswoman for ICE, the bust began when the Tunnels Task Force deemed the Otay Mesa warehouse to be suspicious.

Upon surveillance, agents noticed the sudden appearance of semi-trailer truck. The truck left the scene and was stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint in Temecula, CA, approximately 75 miles from the warehouse. A K-9 inspection of the truck and trailer yielded a positive alert.

Agents discovered about 10 tons of marijuana inside. The driver, a U.S. citizen, and his wife, a Mexican citizen, were immediately arrested.

PHOTOS BY SSG JESSICA INIGO

Authorities obtained a federal search warrant to go inside the warehouse, where they discovered another 15 tons of marijuana. The total value of the seized marijuana is an estimated \$20 million, said ICE officials.

The tunnel has about a four-foot opening on the American entrance at the Otay Mesa warehouse, and is estimated to be the length of about six football fields underground. It originates inside a gutted warehouse in the eastern portion of Tijuana, Mexico. The tunnel was equipped with a rail system, ventilation and lighting.

Inside the Mexican warehouse, Mexican officials found an additional 9,000 pounds of marijuana and numerous packages of marijuana located inside the tunnel along the way.

Tunneling has become a primary mode of

drug and human smuggling over the past 10 years. Border infrastructure, manpower and technology have improved, forcing criminals to seek new methods. There have been 87 tunnels discovered within the last six years of the 124 discovered since 1990, said ICE officials.

The San Diego Tunnel Task Force, which is made up of U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents, Border Patrol agents and Drug Enforcement Agency agents, called the bust a huge win in the war on drugs.

California National Guard criminal analysts with Joint Task Force Sierra are assisting ICE Homeland Security Investigations in the areas of linguistic translation support, case support and link analysis, report writing, and trend analysis. **GX**

COUNTERDRUG 101

The National Guard Counterdrug Program conducts a full-spectrum campaign that bridges the gap between Department of Defense (DoD) and non-DoD institutions in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational threats to the Homeland. The program contributes military support for local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations as well as combatant commanders.

The Counterdrug program's goal is to provide the nation with a drug-free, mission-ready force to defend the interests of its citizens at home and abroad.

The unique military skills of roughly 2,500 Soldiers and Airmen are the key to providing this vital support.

Soldiers and Airmen work at all levels of government to anticipate, deter and defeat these threats in order to enhance national security and protect our society.

The National Guard Counterdrug Program personnel are woven into the fabric of our communities all across America, operating in 54 States and Territories.

Courtesy of National Guard Bureau



MG Bunting shares a laugh with Soldiers while visiting them in Kosovo.

Seven Years of Exemplary Service

MG Bunting retires as adjutant general

By Sharon Watson

ON OCTOBER 12, 2010, Major General Tod Bunting announced his retirement as Kansas adjutant general after seven years in the position, all during wartime. The retirement is set for January, effective at the end of Gov. Mark Parkinson's term.

"I'm honored to have been called upon to serve in these challenging times in our nation's history," Bunting said. "The Soldiers, Airmen, and federal and state employees are truly the finest people I have ever served with. These have been the most rewarding years of my career."

Bunting was appointed in January 2004 under then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. He has served 32 years in the military, beginning with joining the Kansas National Guard in 1978.

"General Bunting has been a remarkable adjutant general for Kansas and a dedicated servant to his country," said Parkinson. "While facing two wars and an economic recession, General

Bunting has been a deliberate and decisive leader, devoted to the safety and welfare of all Kansans. I have cherished his trusted counsel and, on behalf of Kansans, I thank him for his service and wish him all the best in his retirement."

As adjutant general, Bunting oversaw the Kansas National Guard's 5,500 Soldiers and 2,200 Airmen, was the director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and was the director of Kansas Homeland Security. For the past two years, Bunting also served as the chair of the National Guard Association of the United States, an organization which advocates for the needs of the National Guard.

"I'm considering some future opportunities and truly looking forward to spending more time with my family," Bunting said. "I could not have done this job without the support of family, especially my wife."

Bunting has faced many challenges as adjutant general, including the deployment of more than 6,000 Soldiers and Airmen to Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, the Horn of Africa and Egypt, deployments which sadly included the loss of 10 Kansas Guard members in combat. Additionally, he faced the impact to the Air National Guard resulting from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, and the state's worst year ever for storms in 2007, with the near-total destruction of Greensburg from an EF-5 tornado, devastating flooding and destructive winter storms. In 2009, more challenges came with significant budget cuts, which resulted in the closure of 18 armories.

Bunting implemented several new initiatives for Kansas, including the development of the Great Plains Joint Training Center (GPJTC) and Crisis City in Salina, and the Kansas Safe

COURTESY OF THE KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD



MG Bunting enlisted in the Kansas Air National Guard in 1978 and was named adjutant general in 2004.

and Prepared Schools Program. GPJTC provides new training capabilities for the state, including allowing Guard members to do pre-mobilization training locally rather than traveling out of state. Crisis City is a one-of-a-kind training site for civilian and military emergency responders to prepare and train together for large-scale disasters or terrorist threats. The Safe and Prepared Schools Program assists schools across the state with the development of emergency plans.

Additional initiatives Bunting spearheaded include the opening of the Resiliency Center, the Eisenhower Center for Homeland Security Studies and the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. The Resiliency Center trains Guard Soldiers to prepare for the mental challenges of being a Citizen-Soldier. The Eisenhower Center provides multi-discipline education to Kansans involved with homeland security, emergency management and public safety. The Fusion Center is a state-based team of analysts focused on helping homeland security professionals make the best decisions for Kansas.

"In my remaining time as adjutant general, I'll be as dedicated to this job as I have been from the beginning," Bunting said. **GX**

COURTESY OF THE KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

Q&A

By Christian Anderson

GX: What inspired you to join the Air National Guard?

TB: I actually came from a Guard family. While in college, I was working at an Air Guard wing as a janitor and maintenance guy. The men and women in the wing were really good to me and supportive, and I really liked working there because of them. As I was finishing college, I had a chance to get my commission. My father was in the Guard, but he never pushed me. The Guard appealed to me because it was a fine organization. I joined enlisted for a year and then went to officer's school.

GX: Will you still be working with the National Guard after you retire?

TB: Oh, absolutely! The National Guard is in my very DNA. I may not be wearing a uniform or getting paid, but I will be doing something.

GX: What was your concept of service when you first enlisted?

TB: I was always a big believer in the military. I saw the dedication and professionalism of the people. When I was in college, we were absolutely potentially engaged in Armageddon with the Soviets and Chinese. I had a desire to serve. I respected my father more than anybody, and he served. My older brother served. The connection between what the Guard was and the people I got to meet made it an easy decision for me.

GX: Did you ever imagine being adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard?

TB: I really didn't. I just worked really hard at every job and prepared myself. Through that hard-work ethic I have been blessed with a lot of opportunities. I had no aspirations to ultimately be the adjutant general. A couple of things happened and the opportunity came up. Even when I applied, I told my wife, Barbara, "I am sure there are others they will select for a variety of reasons." So when I got the call, I was ecstatic—and shocked at the same time. It's been a high honor for me, and I have enjoyed it thoroughly.

GX: I imagine being an adjutant general can be stressful at times?

TB: It can be, but all of that is part of the job and you know that going into it. Everybody else works hard and has their challenges these days, so there is nothing special about me.

GX: Are there any lessons you have learned in the Guard that potential recruits could benefit from?

TB: Obviously, I'm a little biased. It will be the most important, rewarding and hardest job you will ever have. You will never be around better people, besides your family. The rewards will far outweigh the sacrifice, and you will belong to something that has dignity, respect and is hugely important.

GX: You took command when the Global War on Terror was in full swing.

TB: From the first day I signed on until my last in January, I have always had Soldiers or Airmen in harm's way. That can't be my singular focus, but it has always been my primary focus. As you enter my office, there is a small Afghan rug. It's nothing fancy. I put it there to remind me, every moment of every day, that there are men and women over there in tough circumstances. The minor inconvenience of a rug in the doorway is a reminder of the giant inconveniences for our service members overseas.

GX: Was there ever a singular moment when you realized that you commanded incredibly fine people?

TB: Many, many times. There are [two] things that come to mind. One, during deployment ceremonies, when we wish the troops well and they say goodbye to their loved ones for a year or more. In Kansas, we provide a flag to every commander and command sergeant major to fly while they're deployed. The second is, when you stand at the steps of an airplane and welcome home Soldiers and Airmen. You give a speech and try to keep it short because they want to see their families. Then you run and duck for cover because everybody is so happy to see each other. People always ask me how many troops I have. I tell them I don't have any troops, but 7,500 troops have me.

GX: What do you see in the modern-day Soldier and Airman that differs from when you enlisted?

TB: I always have the highest regard for anyone who ever served. But the fact that the military is an all-volunteer service now is very impressive. The maximum enlistment is six years. We actually began combat operations nine years ago, so no one in uniform today didn't join or choose to stay in uniform while a war was going on. We have a war on two fronts plus the Balkans. Our men and women are wearing the uniform by choice and they know that they will most likely deploy. These people are going to make a lot of sacrifices today to serve.

MG Bunting's Assignments

NOV 1979 – JUN 1984:
Chief, Personnel Utilization, Training Officer, 190th Air Refueling Group, Forbes Field, KS.

JUN 1984 – SEP 1984:
Services Officer, 184th Tactical Fighter Group, McConnell Air Force Base, KS.

SEP 1984 – JUL 1987:
Executive Support Officer, 184th Fighter Group, McConnell Air Force Base, KS.

JUL 1987 – MAY 1993:
Deputy Commander Support, 184th Fighter Group, McConnell Air Force Base, KS.

MAY 1993 – NOV 1997:
Executive Support Staff Officer, Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Air National Guard, Topeka, KS.

NOV 1997 – APR 1999:
Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, CO.

APR 1999 – OCT 2002:
Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander, Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, TX.

OCT 2002 – JAN 2004:
Director of Diversity, Personnel and Training, Air National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, VA.

JAN 2004 – FEB 2004:
Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Kansas Air National Guard, Topeka, KS.

FEB 2004 – PRESENT:
Adjutant General, Joint Forces Headquarters, Kansas National Guard, Topeka, KS.

ALL CLEAR

Michigan Civil Support Team gears up for training

Story and photo by Stephanie Inman

THE 51ST WEAPONS OF MASS Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST) braced themselves as they entered the Tennessee State Prison. They knew hazardous agents lay waiting behind the doors, but not exactly what kind. It could have been a chemical weapon engineered by a terrorist group. Or perhaps a biological threat—one that could infect the local population.

The police had tried going in and failed. The officers had been brought to their knees instantly.

Sergeant Justin Johnson and Sergeant Lucas Montalvo, who comprised the B Survey Team of the 51st WMD CST, Michigan National Guard, went in. Their mission was to photograph the contamination area and describe every detail to the rest of the unit as they went along. The two Soldiers passed through the yellow caution tape to the rickety doors of the prison, which creaked as they opened. Onlookers just gazed in silence.

Luckily for Johnson and Montalvo, the threat was only fictional. The scenario was part of the 51st CST's recertification training.

Civil Support Teams are National Guard units created to support local first responders in identifying Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) agents. They're on call 24/7 and go through training regularly to keep their skills current and sharp.

Even though the prison scene was only an exercise, Johnson and Montalvo were suited up in personal protective equipment (PPE). The "bubble suits," as they are often called, protect Soldiers from hazardous materials. However, the suits are so restrictive that a Soldier's movements are extremely slow and deliberate.

STEAM TIME

"We practice with the suits enough that it becomes second nature," said Johnson. "But it's still a devel-

oped habit. The suit is confined and steams up inside, so your visibility drops down to almost 10 or 20 percent. Then you have to try and manipulate small objects with hands that have three layers of gloves."

Once the two Soldiers had on all their essential gear, they entered the prison to examine and describe the hot zone. After they accomplished this task, they headed back through the decontamination line. The A Survey Team was next. Their job—to gather samples of the substance and bring it back to the analytical laboratory system vehicle for testing.

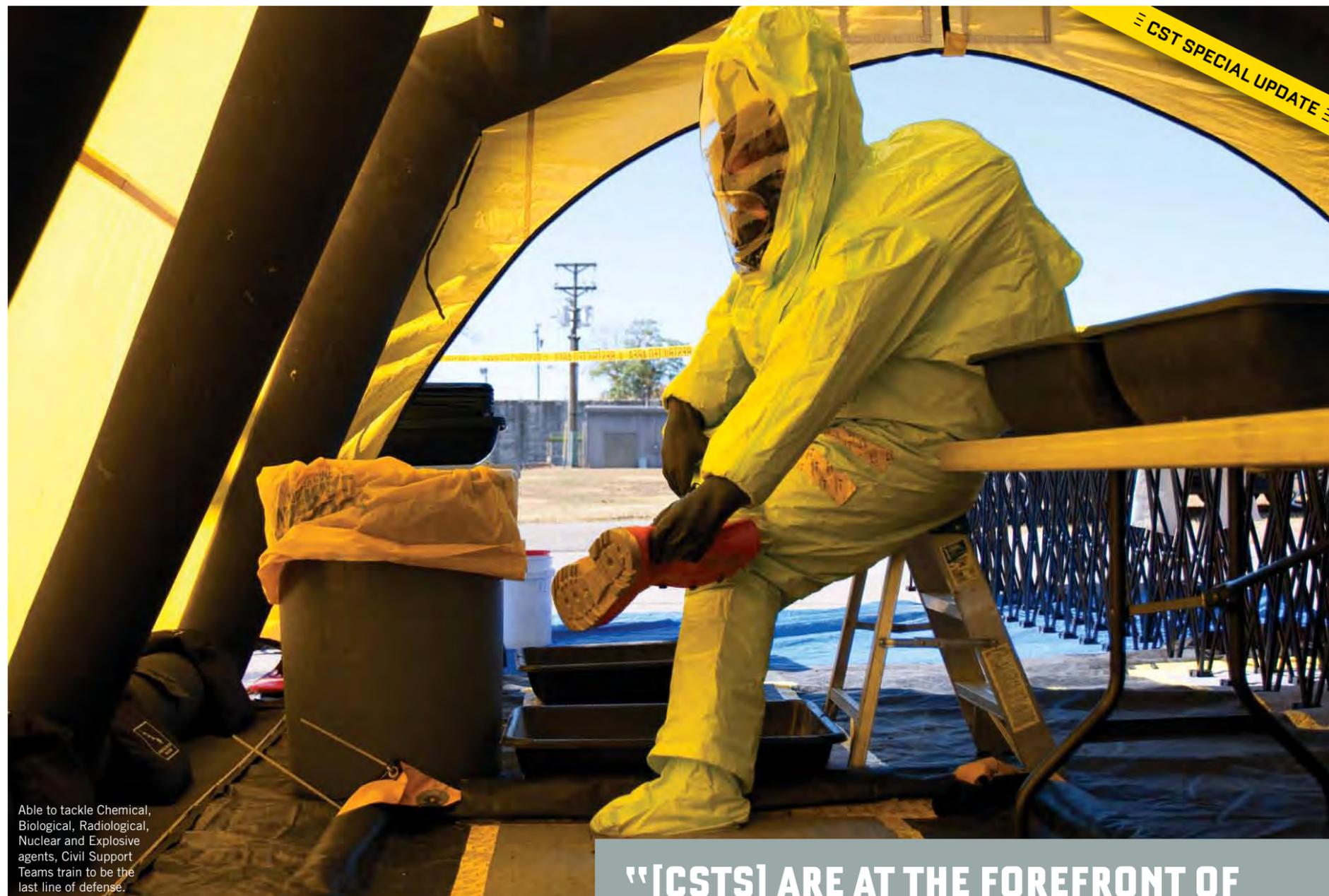
"We take ... what was found in the lab ... [and] bring it all together, and say, 'This is what we think is going on'—that there is anthrax or a nerve agent," said Captain Matthew Garno, physician assistant with the 51st CST.

Their expertise can be applied to a wide range of scenarios. It's not limited to harmful chemical agents.

DEVASTATING LEAK

In August 2010, an underground pipeline transporting crude oil from the United States to Canada malfunctioned and leaked about 90,000 barrels of oil into the Kalamazoo River in Marshall, MI. This put the local population in grave danger. Benzene and Xylene are by-products of crude oil and are extremely toxic. So the 51st CST was called in to monitor the situation.

"That was a unique mission because it was an environmental response. But the instrumentation that we normally use in CBRNE response could be utilized for that mission as well," said Lieutenant



Able to tackle Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive agents, Civil Support Teams train to be the last line of defense.

CSTs at a Glance

The adjutant general employs the WMD CST either to support the state response under the direction of the governor or to support another state's response under a supported governor.

The WMD CST is comprised of 22 full-time, Title 32 AGR Army and Air National Guard personnel. The structure of the unit is divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical, and survey.

Each WMD CST deploys, within three hours of notification, to an incident site using its organic assigned vehicles which include a command vehicle, an operations trailer, a communications platform called the Unified Command Suite (which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities), an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle (containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the characterization of the hazard) and several general-purpose vehicles. The WMD CST can also be moved by air, rail, commercial line haul or ship.

Colonel Jason Awadi. "The standards and setup are the same—you send personnel downrange to collect samples and then analyze the samples in the mobile laboratory."

CSTs are re-evaluated and recertified every 18 months to ensure proficiency on all assigned tasks.

"There are twelve essential tasks that the team must perform and, within those twelve, there are dozens of performance measures,"

explained Awadi, commander of the 51st CST. "So you are looking at hundreds of measures that have to be accomplished. You receive one of three ratings: trained, needs practice or untrained. And we would obviously like to receive all 'T's.'"

For their recertification, the 51st CST traveled to Tennessee. They arrived in the town of Millington on October 17 to perform a joint training exercise with the 45th

"[CSTS] ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF DOMESTIC OPERATIONS. SO IT'S IMPORTANT TO BRING OUR A-GAME ..."

>> LTC Jason Awadi, commander of the 51st CST

WMD CST, Tennessee National Guard. "We did a day of training in preparation for our external evaluation," said Awadi. A few days later, they headed to Nashville for recertification drills at the prison.

The team didn't treat the exercise lightly. They believe constant training is necessary to help them maintain their edge.

"[CSTS] are at the forefront of domestic operations," said Awadi.

"They are rapid response organizations and have responded to everything from hurricanes to white powder to support for 9/11. So it's important to bring our A-game each time we are asked to respond." **GX**

Alaska Guard Makes Airborne History

Story and photo by SPC Michelle Nash, 134th Public Affairs Detachment / BETHEL, AK

APPROXIMATELY 20 NATIONAL GUARD Soldiers and Active Army Soldiers made history Nov. 4 during a joint airborne operation in Bethel, AK.

Eleven Alaska National Guard Soldiers from B Company, 1/143rd Infantry Airborne, were the first to jump into the Bethel Flats Rotary Wing Drop Zone from a UH-60 Black Hawk.

"This was one of the milestones for building this company," said First Lieutenant Jason Caldwell, Commander, B Company, 1/143rd Infantry Airborne.

This unit became the newest airborne unit in the Alaska Army National Guard May 2, when they officially stood up.

Caldwell said this training event was critical to keeping his Soldiers proficient in airborne operations, which in turn would help them better serve the state of Alaska.

ORGANIZED SUPPORT

He said it was humbling to see all the support he

received from numerous state and local organizations, including the FAA, the Department of Transportation, the Bethel Native Corporation, Bethel Utilities Corp. and the Bethel Fire Department.

"There were a lot of people working very hard to make this operation a success, both military and civilian," said Caldwell.

Soldiers assigned to the 4th Quartermaster Detachment stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK, provided riggers and supplied parachutes.

A jumpmaster team with the Texas National Guard also traveled to Bethel to participate in the operation.

"I'm really happy for my Soldiers," said Caldwell. "This was a big deal for them."

Specialist David Smart, an Alaska native from Hooper Bay assigned to the 1/143rd, said his family—specifically his mom, Elvena Smart, and father, Earl Atchak—were excited about his participation in the jump.

GIFT OF WINGS

"They were all excited, but my mom was nervous," said Smart. "I gave her my airborne wings and she wears them every day."

His parents weren't able to attend the jump, but said they were proud of their son for serving his country and Alaska.

"A lot of people that know him and our family are very proud of him," said Elvena.

Smart's family history with the military traces back to before Alaska was a state, when both of his grandfathers served in the Alaska Territorial Guard. Several of his brothers and sisters are currently serving or have served in the military as well.

Smart said he joined the Alaska Army National Guard to continue the family tradition of serving his country.

"I wanted to keep it in the family," he said.

Atchak said his son found his place when he joined the Guard. "It was like he was born to be in the National Guard." **GX**

History Made in Georgia

BG Britt promoted to major general

By LTC (Ret.) Ken Baldowski

HISTORY WAS MADE IN THE GEORGIA National Guard on Nov. 7, 2010, when Brigadier General Maria L. Britt was promoted to the rank of major general at a ceremony at Fort McPherson near Atlanta. Britt received her second star in the company of more than 200 family, friends and colleagues.

Britt, the commanding general of Georgia's Army National Guard, is the only woman to hold the rank of major general in the 360-year history of the Georgia National Guard. She also serves as assistant adjutant general for the Georgia Department of Defense.

Selected as commanding general for the Georgia Army National Guard in 2007, she has the responsibility for manning, training and equipping its 11,200 Soldiers.

"I look forward to continuing my vision of creating readiness and posturing our organization to support any Homeland Defense mission, while continuing to support the war fight in this era of persistent conflict," said Britt.

Britt's pinning is another "first" among the many that mark her distinguished military career since graduating from West Point 27 years ago. Earlier in her career, she was the first female battalion commander in the Georgia Army National Guard and the first woman to hold the position of Georgia Army Guard commander. She is one of only three female major generals currently serving in the Army National Guard.

QUEST TO BE THE BEST

"I realize that I am a female leader in a predominantly male organization, but I prefer to focus on the fact that I am a leader and a Soldier first," said Britt. "I will strive to be the best leader that I can be, and to prepare our Soldiers and organization to accomplish our mission."

According to Major General William T. Nesbitt, Georgia's adjutant general, Britt's promotion comes as a reflection of an officer who "seeks out the hard jobs and does them extremely well."

"In these times of high operational tempo



BG Britt was promoted to major general on Nov. 7, 2010.

for our organization," said Nesbitt, "she is the right leader at the right time to command the largest component of the Georgia Department of Defense."

"Georgia is a very patriotic state, with kids who are motivated to serve their country," stated Britt, "so it's my role to continue growing our force structure, creating readiness and positioning the Georgia Army Guard for future success." **GX**



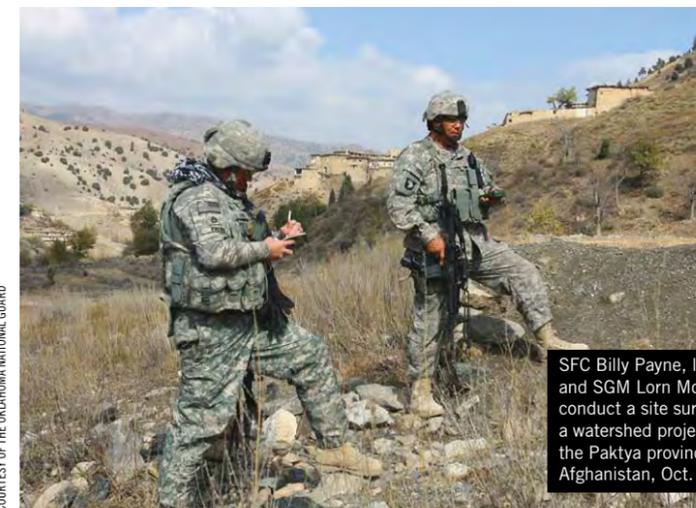
SPC Joe Pete, B Co. 1/143rd Infantry Airborne, Alaska Army National Guard, jumps from a UH-60 Black Hawk at 1,500 feet during a joint airborne operation Nov. 4, 2010, in Bethel, AK.

Boots in the Hills

Oklahomans perform ADT mission

By SGT John P. Sklaney III, Oklahoma National Guard

/ PAKTYA PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN



SFC Billy Payne, left, and SGM Lorn McKinzie conduct a site survey of a watershed project in the Paktya province of Afghanistan, Oct. 30, 2010.

THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL Guard's 2/45th Agribusiness Development Team (ADT) conducted its first mission to the eastern part of the Paktya province to meet with a sub-governor and to look over a future watershed project.

The mission, which took place in October, started early in the morning with getting the vehicles and equipment ready for what would be the longest trip that the ADT had taken in Afghanistan. Captain Kale Rogers, security force commander of the ADT, led the mission.

The terrain in the eastern part of the province is different from that of Gardez, which is generally a flat plateau with an elevation of around 8,000 feet. The eastern side has mountain peaks of over 14,000 feet.

The meeting with the sub-governor took place at an Afghan National Army station, located next to the district center.

"The discussion was about the needs of the district and what the U.S. could provide in the way of help," said Colonel Robert Roshell, the commander of the ADT. Building personal relationships with Afghan leaders is the way that the U.S. military will be able to strengthen the bond between the government and the people.

Sergeant Major Lorn McKinzie, senior noncommissioned officer for the ADT, and Sergeant First Class Billy Payne, the project manager for the ADT, conducted a site assessment of the upcoming watershed project.

"The watershed project will help with reducing water erosion and [aid] local Afghan farmers in capturing some of the runoff for use in farming or personal needs," said McKinzie.

The last stop of the mission was a Gardez demonstration farm, where McKinzie and Payne observed project completions since the last visit. **GX**



In With the New

Pennsylvania gets the modern Apache AH-64D

Story and photo by Christian Anderson / FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA

FOR A SECOND, I THOUGHT I was in a war zone. The Humvee I was riding in was bouncing all over the road, and the radio was squawking constantly. Every so often I could hear the buzz of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) high above in the sky. And just as I made one last equipment check before we pulled up to a predetermined forward arming and refueling point (FARP), an Apache gunship buzzed overhead.

A few seconds later, the Apache let off a long rip with its 30 mm cannon

and a salvo of Hydra rockets, which ripped through the hulls of several vehicles 300 yards downrange.

I felt like I was in Afghanistan. But there were no enemy combatants near us and we weren't taking any fire. I was on the aerial gunnery range in Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, capturing the Pennsylvania National Guard firing the first rounds of their brand new Apache AH-64D.

Lieutenant Colonel John D. Kovac, commander of the 1-104th Attack Recon Battalion, 28th Combat

Aviation Brigade (CAB), ushered in a new era of Army aviation for the Pennsylvania Guard by firing the newly arrived Apache AH-64D's weapon system and putting the airframe through maneuvers.

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE GUARD

"It's a pleasure as commander to see the Pennsylvania Guard get the AH-64D," Kovac said. "A lot of people helped make this happen, from Major General Jessica Wright, the former adjutant general of Pennsylvania, to our Soldiers on the ground.

"It's a good feeling because we've never been in the position of getting new airframes, especially Apaches," Kovac continued. "This is not just good news for the Pennsylvania National Guard... this is good news for the United States National Guard."

One of the reasons the 28th was selected to get the modernized D model was because of the proficiency and efficiency the pilots and ground crews have displayed on a routine basis to keep the helicopters operational.

"We started preparing for this a long time ago," Kovac explained. "Even before we got the A models back in 2003, we got our maintenance crews and ground crews trained up, and we are doing the same thing with the D models.

"We invest a lot of time and training into our people, from the Soldiers on the ground to the Soldiers in the air," he added. "Without question, our greatest asset is our people."

SWITCHING GEARS

The primary difference between the AH-64A and the AH-64D is an

avionics upgrade. Although the two helicopters share the same airframes, the AH-64A pilots use gauges, dials and levers to fly and engage targets. The AH-64D pilots have two huge multi-purpose display (MPD) screens that resemble computers. This simple upgrade brings the Apache platform, which was initially introduced to the military in 1986, into the modern age of digital computer hardware.

"It is very relevant to have the same platforms as the Active Army because we often find ourselves deployed with Active Army aviation units," explained Colonel Larie Wilson, state aviation officer for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. "We have historically been a very strong unit, but the key for our continued success is that our units are full strength

and have the same equipment as the Active Duty units."

Wilson received word on April 9, 2009, that the 28th would be turning in the Apache AH-64As for the AH-64Ds, a unit-wide upgrade based on the Department of the Army's decision to cease deploying the A models. Wilson hung the document on his door from April until the arrival of the first D model on Oct. 15, 2010. He did this to remind everyone that Pennsylvania was making a huge jump into modernizing their fleet.

ABOVE AND BEYOND, LITERALLY

Generally, the process of integrating newer technology slows down a unit's operational tempo for a period of time, regardless of whether the unit is armor, artillery, infantry or aviation. The

28th Combat Aviation Brigade is welcoming this challenge, since they are very familiar with change. After retiring their AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters in September of 2001, the aviators of the 28th flew OH-58s until they received their AH-64As in 2003. In less than six months, the unit was operating in Kosovo and had conducted one of the fastest trainups on a new airframe in Army aviation history.

"The pilots of the 28th have always pushed hard, and gone above and beyond what an aviator is supposed to do," Wilson proudly remarked. "No one else has picked up Apaches and deployed in less than six months."

Although the 28th already received their first Apache AH-64D, it will be June of 2011 before the unit replaces all of the remaining A models.

"The first big step has been getting all of our pilots qualified in the AH-64D, which the Battalion has been very successful at leaning forward to complete," said Captain Jeremy Smith, B Company Commander in the 1-104th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion.

"As we transform to the new D model aircraft and prepare for a pending deployment, our operational tempo will increase greatly," he added. "Our goal is to train and become proficient in all of our war-fighting tasks in the new aircraft."

"The most rewarding part about being an Apache pilot is that we know we can and will support the Soldiers on the ground in battle," Smith said. "Employing this new aircraft will ultimately assist with saving our Soldiers' lives." **GX**

Fighting the Great War

The 372nd Infantry Regiment; Western Front experience

By Jonathan Bernstein

OVER THE PAST 90 YEARS, a great deal has been written on the National Guard participation in WWI (also known as “The Great War”). In the year leading up to the U.S. involvement on the Western Front, the entire 185,000-strong National Guard was mobilized for service on the Mexican border.

With hostilities on the horizon, the states were provided additional federal funding and authorized to bring their units up to wartime strength. By the time the first U.S. troops of the American Expeditionary Forces arrived on French soil, nearly half a million men wore the “US NG” collar insignia on their U.S. Army uniforms. In all, 19 Guard divisions were mobilized, and the majority saw intense combat in the closing months of the war.

WILLING AND ABLE

One division was set apart from the other 18 due to U.S. segregation laws. Three of the 93rd Division (Provisional)’s four regiments were comprised of African-American Guard members from eight different states, while the fourth regiment (the 371st) was manned entirely by draftees. This provisional division arrived in France in late 1917 and instead of training for combat, its regiments were set to work unloading ships and working as labor units instead of performing their duties as infantrymen.

Segregation in the U.S. military was not abolished until 1948 and therefore the 369th, 370th, 371st and 372nd regiments were unable to serve adjacent to white U.S. units on the frontlines. This effectively left a full division of combat troops in limbo when every available infantryman was desperately needed. Furthermore, these men had volunteered to do their part to “make the world safe for democracy.” After some debate at the highest command levels, the solution came from the French army. The 93rd would be divided into its component regiments and assigned to the French who, after four years of war, were nearly out of replacements.

The 369th Regiment, formerly the 15th New York Infantry, was the first

of the regiments to see combat, and holds the distinction of being the first National Guard unit in combat during WWI. The 369th quickly earned the respect of both French allies and German foes, earning the nickname the “Harlem Hellfighters” in the process. Since they were assigned to the

French, the 369th and the other 93rd regiments were forced to relinquish their American M1903 Springfield rifles and field gear in favor of the French Lebel rifles and famous dark blue-painted “Adrian” helmets.

While all four regiments would eventually amass an impressive combat record, very little has been written about the 372nd Infantry due to its origins. Unlike the 369th and 370th, which were complete regiments when they were incorporated into the division, the 372nd was hastily organized and included many dissimilar units from four separate geographic areas of the eastern seaboard. The regiment’s first battalion originated as the 1st Separate Battalion (Colored), DC Infantry. Ohio’s 9th Separate Battalion formed the second battalion, and the third included separate companies from Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Tennessee.

FRENCH ALLIANCE

With the successes of the 369th in May 1917, the remaining three regiments were assigned to French commands, with the 371st and 372nd falling under the 157th Division Infanterie, moved up to the front in late summer and were in attack positions by the end of September. They were to serve as

one of several key elements in the Allied Meuse-Argonne offensive, and almost immediately upon moving into their positions, the 372nd spearheaded the division’s attack toward the town of Sechault, with the 3rd Battalion leading the way.

Assigned to the 1st Battalion, Company B, Private Alfred Palmer saw some of the most intense fighting as the regiment pushed on through Bussy Farms and gained speed as they moved toward Gratueil. Palmer’s company,

along with the rest of the DC Guard members, fought savagely, taking heavy casualties, but eventually overwhelming the German defenders and forcing them out of their strong points within the small towns on the road to Sechault.

The 372nd continued its lightning advance and fought intensely. Despite heavy casualties, “a number of nery and brave non-commissioned officers reorganized their platoons and charged yet again”—which ultimately led to the capture of Gratueil and Sechault.

For their bravery and daring during the regiment’s first assault, the 372nd was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, indicating that the unit was specifically cited in an Army-level dispatch for performance under fire. The 372nd sustained over 800 casualties during their initial 10 days in combat, and the remainder of the regiment, relieved by fresh U.S. troops, moved into the sector.

The 372nd, along with its sister regiments, had participated in the most intense action of the war for U.S. forces and had performed exceptionally well. After a few days’ rest and with fresh replacements to bring the line companies up to full strength, the 372nd was reassigned to the Vosges sector, where it would remain until the end of the war.

THE 93RD GETS ITS PATCH

As the 372nd prepared to return to the U.S. after the cessation of hostilities, clean U.S. uniforms, M1917 Enfield rifles and American equipment were issued to the 93rd’s regiments. During their time overseas, the 93rd had never had a unit patch assigned, but the 371st and 372nd adopted the “bloody hand” insignia of the French 157th Division. When new uniforms were issued, those units serving under the 93rd Division were authorized to wear a division patch comprised of a blue Adrian helmet over a black circle to symbolize their service with the French. The uniform issued to the 372nd’s Palmer in early 1919 is now on display in the National Guard Memorial Museum, along with several letters home written by another member of B Company, 372nd Infantry.

The 93rd Division never fought as a division during the war, but its component regiments amassed a significant combat record that never lost a man captured or gave up a foot of ground to the enemy. The performance of these African-American Guard members under fire opened a path that their sons followed 25 years later in WWII, and led to the repeal of segregation laws in the military and eventually throughout American society. **GX**

The National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF), located in Washington, DC, was established in 1975 with the mission to educate the public and foster awareness about the contributions of the National Guard of the United States. In short, we tell the Guard’s story.

As the educational element of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), the foundation achieves its mission through a portfolio that includes the National Guard Memorial Museum and the National Guard Memorial Library in Washington, DC; the Guard Muster, a permanent register of Guard men and women, preserving individual legacies of service; and educational programs, forums and seminars for students and the general public.

Please visit us at:

National Guard Memorial Museum
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Hours:
Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The National Guard Memorial Museum is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the museum, go to www.ngef.org.

Breakout for Success

RSP workshop focuses on issues at hand

By Christian Anderson

THE NATIONAL GUARD’S Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) took a giant step forward in late October by holding a cutting-edge conference in Orlando, FL. The goal was for the 387 attendees to share ideas about the struggles and demands of running an RSP unit at the state level.

WORKING SMARTER, NOT HARDER

“Normally, we hold a group workshop conference where there are 1,000 people from recruiting and retention all in one spot,” said Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Saracco, Chief, Attrition Management, National Guard Bureau, ARNG Strength Maintenance Division, Attrition Management Branch. “The problem is the MEPS guidance counselors, recruiting and retention commanders, sergeant majors and RSP cadre all go in separate directions, so there is no direct communication link.”

Working to improve communication between the states and the National Guard Bureau, it was decided to keep all the conference attendees together to keep the discussions on track and make sure all the necessary material was covered.

“The conference itself is the first time in the past three years [we’ve brought] everyone together to conduct specific RSP training,” Saracco said. “This is really groundbreaking because we put [everybody] ... in one room for three days [to] put their brains together, and solve problems.”

Another primary difference between this conference and prior conferences was the agenda. This year, leadership gave the States and Territories the opportunity to select the topics of discussion. RSP accreditation was the number one choice.

ACCREDITATION

In Saracco’s opinion, one of the biggest initiatives for RSP is getting all the 54 States and Territories accredited. RSP was created in 2004, and an accreditation program was not put into place until the spring of 2010. Prior to the accreditation, the Guard has used RSP Metrics, which is basically an RSP report card. The accreditation process will dig much deeper and give all the Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for success. Getting all the States and Territories accredited will help minimize pipeline losses, which have been drastically reduced since the program’s launch in 2004.

RESILIENCY

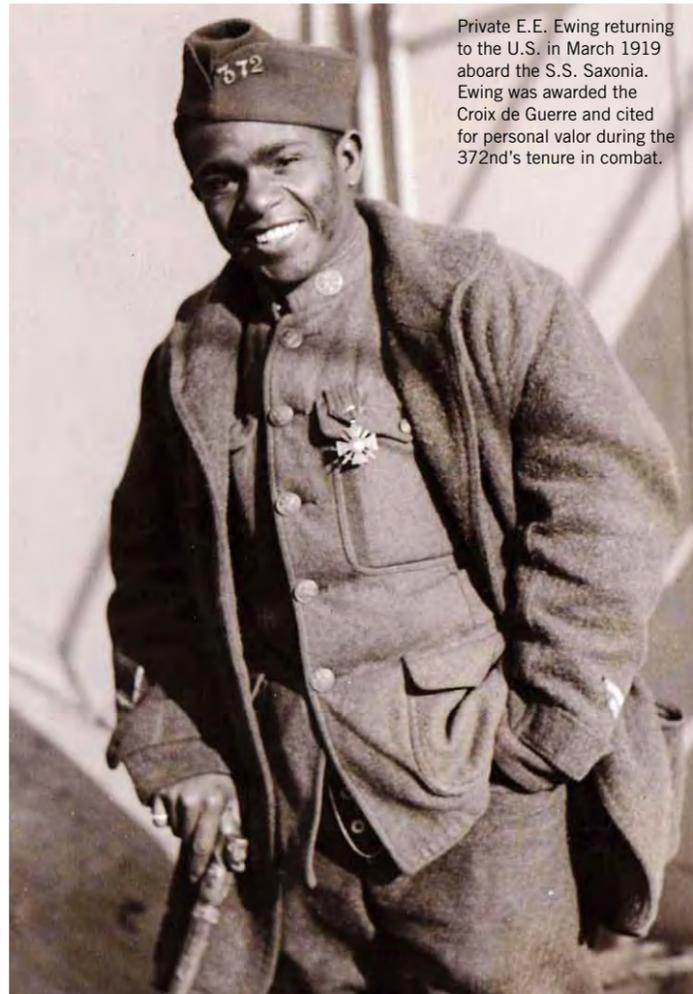
Another one of the big pushes in RSP is resiliency, which has come from General George W. Casey Jr., Chief of Staff for the United States Army. The National Guard Bureau, following Casey’s lead, mandated that each state would have two master resiliency trainers, with a long-term goal of one per battalion-sized element.

“We sent Major Jeff Nichols to the Master Resilience Training Course and got him certified,” Saracco explained. “He put together a great Soldier Training Readiness Modules (STRM) package program so that during a Soldier’s first drill with RSP, they will have a one-hour block on resiliency.”

“They will also have some online tools that they utilize throughout the months [before] they ship,” he added. “In the final month before they ship, they get one more block of instruction on resiliency. Our goal is to make sure they are educated on resiliency before they get to Basic Combat Training.”

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

Overall, with 387 Soldiers attending from all the States and Territories, the conference was a great success. **GX**



Private E.E. Ewing returning to the U.S. in March 1919 aboard the S.S. Saxonia. Ewing was awarded the Croix de Guerre and cited for personal valor during the 372nd’s tenure in combat.

COURTESY OF NGAUS

Celebrating Victory 20 Years On The National Guard in the Gulf

By Bob Haskell

▶ TWENTY YEARS HAVE HARDLY ERASED the memories of tracers arcing across the sky and bombs exploding in the January night for those who witnessed the start of the Persian Gulf War. It seems like yesterday, despite all that has happened since the anxious autumn and winter of 1990–91, when the United States and the United Kingdom led an allied coalition's drive to force the Iraqi army out of Kuwait.

In the context of longer and deadlier conflicts like WWII, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, it may not seem like much of a war. But warfare is never benign to those who experience it firsthand or to many who watch it from afar. And the impact that the Gulf War—Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm—had on the Army National Guard is still being felt two decades later.

It lives in the memories of those who were there, including retired Command Sergeant Major John Leonard. It lives on in the lessons that have since been applied in places like Bosnia and Kosovo, and again in Southwest Asia. It did much to make the Guard a fitter force.

GLOBAL LESSONS

It all happened so quickly in that volatile yet distant part of the world that many Americans, including Guard members, did not know much about.

Saddam Hussein sent his army of over 100,000 men and 1,000 tanks into Kuwait on Aug. 2. President George Bush initiated Desert Shield, the massive buildup, five days later. Suddenly, the problems over there came home to roost over here. Members of the Guard and Reserves who wondered if they'd really ever go to war were going. Bush authorized a Reserve Component mobilization Aug. 22.

"It was a rude awakening," said Leonard, a former Marine and Vietnam Veteran who went as the command sergeant major for the Maine Guard's 286th Supply and Service Battalion headquarters that supported the 1st Infantry Division.

The Guard had not been mobilized for Active Duty of any kind since March 1970—to deal with a postal workers' strike in New York, wrote historian Michael Doubler, author of *I Am the Guard*. It had been 22 years since nearly 20,000 Guard and Reserve members had been called up for Vietnam. And this war was focused on an entirely different part of the world from Europe, where many Guard Soldiers had trained during the Cold War—extensively during the Reagan years.

Suddenly, however, the Army needed its transportation, medical and military police units that had been allocated to the Reserve forces for Active Duty in the desert.

So Guard Soldiers geared up to go. "Most people said this may not be the best time, but this is what we've trained for, so let's go do this," recalled Leonard, who

would later spend nearly 10 years as an Army Guard senior enlisted advisor in Washington.

All told, 62,411 Soldiers in 398 units served. They included 37,484 Guard members in 297 units who deployed to the Gulf, where the air war commenced on Jan. 17, and the ground war, which lasted 100 hours, began early on Feb. 24. The rest remained in this country or went to Europe to backfill Active Duty units that were sent to the Gulf.

Most of the Guard troops belonged to combat support and combat service support units because Defense Secretary Richard Cheney initially decided not to send the Guard's roundout combat brigades with Regular Army divisions. Still, those who did go to the Gulf did remarkably well. They helped validate the Total Force Policy.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED IN *I AM THE GUARD*:

TENNESSEE'S 212TH ENGINEER COMPANY got credit for being the first American unit to breach the Iraqi defense zone in Kuwait.

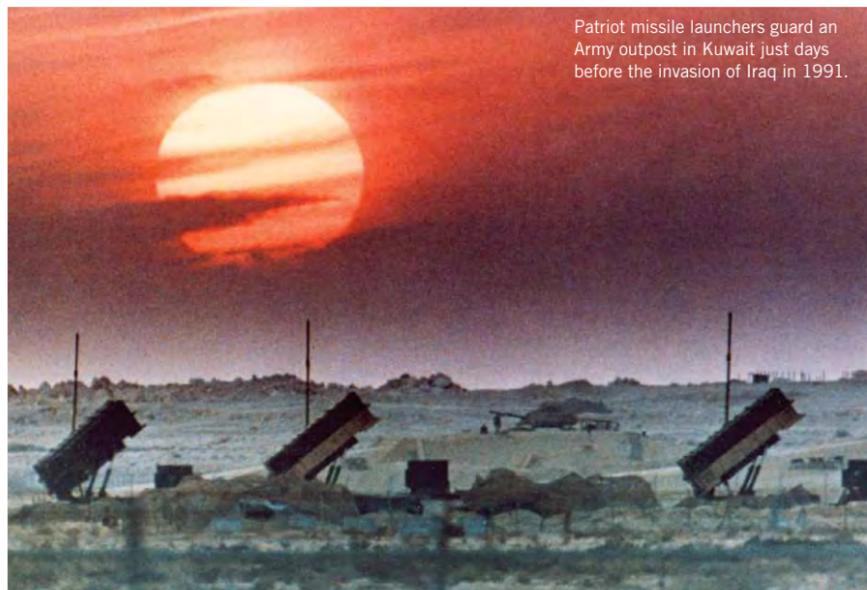
ARKANSAS'S 142ND FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE fired over 1,000 rounds of 8-inch and multiple launch rocket system munitions. The brigade's MLRS battalion, the 1/158th from Oklahoma, devastated the Iraqis with "steel rain."

IOWA'S 1133RD TRANSPORTATION COMPANY of 162 Soldiers with about 60 vehicles hauled 112,000 tons of material over 2.1 million miles during 207 days of operations in four Arabic countries. At one time it also guarded and transported nearly 4,000 Iraqi prisoners to the rear.

IDAHO'S 148TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT became the most forward deployed PAD in the theater while attached to the 3rd Armored Division.

Sadly, Doubler added, 34 Guard members, including eight women, died during the operations. Eighteen died in Southwest Asia—none because of direct enemy action. It was the first time that Army National Guard women died while serving during a war, he said.

How did the Guard benefit from its overall good showing in the long run? "Achievements in the Persian Gulf set the stage for the continuous deployment of Citizen-Soldier peacekeepers, including combat forces, worldwide for the rest of the 1990s," Doubler recently stated. "Those deployments in turn increased operational effectiveness, enabling the Army National Guard to participate immediately after 9/11 in homeland security missions and in subsequent combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq." **GX**



Patriot missile launchers guard an Army outpost in Kuwait just days before the invasion of Iraq in 1991.

COURTESY OF US ARMY

Arkansas Plants Seeds for Success Agriculture Development Team helps Afghans

By LTC Keith Moore, Arkansas National Guard / TARNAK WA JALDEK DISTRICT, AFGHANISTAN

▶ MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL Guard's Agriculture Development Team (ADT) initiated farming operations on the team's demonstration farm plot at the district center in September.

The four-member contingent of agriculture specialists spent two days erecting a fence around the farm, and plowed and leveled the nearly 2.5-acre site in preparation for fall planting.

"We arrived in-country after most of the spring planting was complete, so our focus was on developing an agriculture education program for farmers and schools," said Lieutenant Colonel Keith Moore, team leader for the ADT's farm in southern Afghanistan. "Now that fall planting

season is approaching, we wanted to till some dirt and show the locals a number of different aspects of farming to aid their productivity."

"The Afghans have a little different concept of working a farm than we have back in the States," said Sergeant David Hafer, an agronomy specialist and large-scale farmer from Helena, AR. "They till the ground, plant some crops, and basically watch the calendar for when harvest time aligns with the phase of the moon. They really don't tend to a crop. It's kind of an all-or-nothing approach here."

The provincial agriculture department has a full-time agriculture extension agent working in the Tarnak wa Jaldek district, and the ADT hopes

to work with and train the extension agent on the farm using new techniques, technology and attention.

"Our intention is to demonstrate farming as a profession, not just a means to survive," Moore said.

"Composting, crop rotation and soil nutrient value are concepts that most Afghans don't understand," Hafer said. "When they grow a crop here, the entire plant is used. Nothing gets plowed back into the soil as organic matter. The crop is harvested, the plant is cut or pulled, and it's used as an animal feed source or burned as fuel. It is a one-way process that sucks every bit of nutrient value out of the soil." **GX**



Ukrainian Staff Sgt. Urii Boudarchuk, Ukraine COY, Multinational Battle Group East, is carried to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a Quick Reaction Force training exercise in Crep/Crepana, Kosovo, Sept. 18, 2010.

Quick Reaction Force Guard Soldiers work with Armenians

Story and photo by PFC Brian Holloran, Connecticut National Guard / KOSOVO

▶ A VEHICLE CARRYING TROOPS FROM Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) loses control and strikes a telephone pole. A radio transmission requesting aid is sent. With a spray of dust and dirt, two UH-60 Black Hawks touch down in an empty field, and Armenian Soldiers pour out.

The Quick Reaction Force (QRF), Task Force Girffin, has arrived.

Armenian and Ukrainian Soldiers sharpened their QRF skills during a training exercise in Crep/Crepana, Kosovo, on Sept. 18, with Soldiers from C Company, 2/147th Aviation Battalion, Iowa National Guard, and F Company,

2/238th Medical Ambulance Battalion, Arkansas National Guard. Each company in MNBG E practices QRF drills regularly in order to remain sharp and effective, said Captain Alex Mercado, battle captain, 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Multinational Battle Group East.

"Once the QRF arrives, they will assess the situation and see what needs to be done," said Mercado, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard. "The medic will evaluate the injuries, and if a medevac is warranted, then they will call one in."

After the QRF arrives and evaluates the situation, they are responsible for securing the area and deciding what happens next.

"When we saw that it was a car accident with injuries, I immediately started treating and evaluating the injured Soldiers," said Armenian Sergeant Hrachik Mirzoyan, medic, Hellas COY. "Once I realized some of the people were seriously hurt, I called in for a medevac and treated the injuries to the best of my ability."

The training is designed to test the Soldiers and their leadership, and to ensure the Soldiers have an understanding of what their tasks are if they are ever called in for a QRF mission.

"Not many people can say they work with Soldiers from as many different nations as I have on this deployment," said Ukrainian Captain Aleksandr Maliarchuk, Ukraine COY. "We learn a lot from each other; it makes all of us better Soldiers." **GX**



Soldiers from C Company prepare the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to escort supply trucks to another installation in Iraq.

Hitting the Road

Louisiana Guard provides safety for supply trucks in Iraq

Story and photo by SGT Tresa L. Allemang / IRAQ

AFTER MORE THAN 100 MISSIONS, the Louisiana Army National Guard's C Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, of Crowley, LA, known as "Hard Rock," has a pretty good idea of what to look for as they make their way through the Iraqi desert, providing security for contractors hauling essentials to installations throughout the country.

NO REST

Sergeant Adam W. Langley, part of the route assessment team for Convoy Escort Team (CET) 2-1, is responsible for clearing routes for the following vehicles in the convoy. With the threat of roadside bombs still lingering, and the responsibility of providing safety for not only his team, but sometimes 50 civilian contractors, he does not relax until their mission is complete.

"It's mentally exhausting, but we can't afford to get complacent," the Laccassine, LA, resident said. "I have learned to pick out strange things, and I remember where everything is. If it's a route I've been on before and something is different, I will notice it. If it's a new route, I will memorize everything on it."

"I've passed suspicious markings or activity that I really believed was nothing, but couldn't be positive. I made the truck turn around to go back

and check it out ... I just can't stand the idea of not investigating something that could turn out to be hazardous," he stressed.

ROCKS AND SAND

A gunner with B Company, 3/156th, during the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's 2004-2005 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Staff Sergeant Nick J. Deshotels is familiar with the dangers that can occur at any time.

"We have to stay prepared for the worst possible situation," he explained. Deshotels said before every mission he gathers his team and rehearses the same drill, usually using rocks in the sand as a demonstration of what is expected of each vehicle, as they go through various scenarios.

"Everyone gets tired of hearing and seeing it, but we have to build the memory into everyone's mind because we never know when we are going to need to use what we've rehearsed ... we have to keep it fresh."

In fact, he said his team has been hit twice. "Fortunately, everyone was OK, but after having to implement what we rehearse, everyone starts to realize how important these drills are."

LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL

Composed of seven companies, 3/156th, headquartered in Lake Charles, LA, is spread throughout the country conducting various missions that include a personal security detachment, convoy security, special operations, and command and control.

"All of our Soldiers have been working extremely hard to help accomplish the responsible drawdown of forces in Iraq," Lieutenant Colonel David B. Gooch said. "While our mission is far from over, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and I could not be more proud of how our Soldiers have handled themselves during this difficult time." **GX**

THREE LOUISIANA NATIONAL Guard Soldiers, currently deployed to Iraq, not only earned a battlefield promotion to join the noncommissioned officers corps, but were "pinned" their sergeant stripes by the Army's top NCO, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, during his recent visit to the Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq.

Jessica N. Clements of Dry Prong, Kasi K. Miller of Lafayette, and Cody M. Mclean of New Iberia, LA, all of

the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, gathered in the 199th Garrison Command conference room and anxiously awaited the arrival of Preston and their new rank, distinguishing them as part of the Army's backbone: a noncommissioned officer.

"It's such an honor just to be promoted to an NCO, but to be pinned by the sergeant major of the Army was the ultimate privilege and something I will never forget," Miller, a logistics specialist for the Tiger Brigade, said.

Patrolling the Sinai Peninsula

Illinois keeps peace in historic region

By Mike Chrisman / SINAI PENINSULA, EGYPT

THOUSANDS OF ILLINOIS ARMY NATIONAL Guard Soldiers have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, and now, approximately 440 Soldiers are taking on a mission unlike any other Illinois National Guard unit has done this decade. Members of 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery Regiment, mobilized for an international peacekeeping mission in Egypt.

"This is an exciting mission," said Lieutenant Colonel Maurice Rochelle, 123rd commander. "Our Soldiers are always training for the next mission, and for the last nine years, the next mission usually meant Kuwait, Iraq or Afghanistan. Now we have a chance to not only represent Illinois, but our nation, as part of this mission."

The battalion is part of Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), a

peacekeeping force overseeing the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

"Our mission is to observe, report and verify treaty compliance between Egypt and Israel," said Rochelle, a 27-year Veteran of the Illinois National Guard who will deploy for the first time. "Our Soldiers will perform the duties of observation and reporting at outposts, while patrolling and during base defense."

The unit is comprised of Forward Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in Milan; Headquarters, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in Milan; Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in Milan; Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in Macomb; and Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery in Galesburg.

UNIT UNITED

This is the first time the battalion has deployed as a single unit. While the mobilization includes units from northwest Illinois, Soldiers from all areas of the state are part of this deployment.

"This is a great opportunity for our battalion and the Soldiers of the Illinois Army National Guard," Rochelle said. "This unique opportunity is something many Soldiers are looking forward to and a chance for the Illinois National Guard to help keep peace in a historic region."

The multinational force was created following the 1978 Camp David peace accords, creating an agreement between two former enemies in 1979. When the United Nations failed to provide a peace force to enforce the agreement, the MFO was established as an alternative in 1981. This peacekeeping force included nearly a dozen foreign countries.

"After deploying, it's expected our battalion will be split into smaller groups to provide force protection to observers in the Sinai and along the Straits of Tiran," Rochelle said. "For the most part, we do expect to maintain unit integrity throughout the mission." **GX**



COURTESY OF THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD

Soldiers perform force protection drills with multinational forces while deployed to the Sinai Peninsula.

COURTESY OF THE LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Preston said he was honored to be part of the ceremony. He pinned on each Soldier's new rank, and then gave them some guidance on their new role.

"What makes a great NCO is one who teaches, and most importantly one who teaches from experience," he said as he encouraged them to learn everything they could about the Army.

Preston's guidance was an eye-opener to the new NCOs. "After

listening to him speak, I realized that I wasn't just becoming a sergeant, but I was becoming an NCO, and I started to realize what an important role a noncommissioned officer actually takes on."

Preston, who has held his position as the Army's top NCO for seven years, spent approximately four days in Iraq, circulating through the theater to help identify the needs, wants and morale levels of deployed troops. **GX**



SPC Kasi K. Miller receives her new rank of sergeant from SMA Kenneth O. Preston during a promotion ceremony at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.

Pinning Stripes

Sergeant major promotes three Louisiana Soldiers

By SGT Tresa L. Allemang / BAGHDAD, IRAQ



PVT Matt Tetzlaff works on construction of the Counter Improvised Explosive Device Village, at the Wyoming National Guard's Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, in Guernsey, WY.

Wyoming Employs Unique Training for IED Detection

Story and photo by 2LT Christian Venhuizen, Wyoming National Guard / CAMP GUERNSEY, WY

DEEP WITHIN THE TRAINING GROUNDS of the Wyoming National Guard's Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center sits a village filled with marketplaces, single-family dwellings, three-story structures and a prison.

It's also filled with trap doors, fake walls, weapons caches, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and an underground tunnel system, allowing the small band of opposing forces that operate in the area to more than challenge any company-sized unit trying to clear the community of "insurgents."

MULTI-PURPOSE

The \$1.5 million counter-IED training facility is intended to help train troops from any branch of service on the detection of IEDs while operating in a variety of environments and scenarios, according to Captain Eric Will, Camp Guernsey's range officer and developer of the village's design.

"[The National Guard Bureau] let the training sites build their IED lanes based on their customer base," he said. "We didn't want to build solely an IED lane. We wanted it to have different functions."

The entire counter-IED project spans 7 kilometers and incorporates an additional village along the camp's convoy live fire lane, an IED

identification center, a walking lane, driving lanes and the main village.

Will said the facility is expandable to 15 kilometers and will incorporate IED simulators, role players and pop-up targets that fire back.

SET FOR ASSESSMENT

There are 24 counter-IED projects like Camp Guernsey's going up around the nation, said Eric Fiedler, with the U.S. Army's Counter IED Integration Cell. He said that previously, most of the IED training that deploying troops received came within 30 days before the Soldiers mobilized. The new sites allow training to occur earlier and more often.

Fiedler said the ultimate goal is to save lives by training Soldiers to better handle IED threats, as well as those along roadways and walking paths.

"This is something that's here to stay. It's not just part of the Global War on Terror," said Fiedler. He said 73 percent of casualties from enemy operations are attributed to IEDs. "It's pretty much a persistent threat."

Will said the camp already has four military units requesting reservations for the site, which won't be fully operational until spring 2011.

FUNCTION OVER FORM

Even when the facility is green-lighted, users

still won't see asphalt-paved streets and façades decorating the buildings, which are actually modified shipping containers. Not adding the asphalt and façades in Afghanistan and Iraq saved \$100,000, said Will. That savings was then spent on more containers to increase the complexity of the village.

"[The National Guard Bureau] didn't necessarily want it to be theater-specific," the captain said. "That's why we chose to not spend a lot of money on façade to make it look pretty."

Much of the war fighting that Camp Guernsey will train Soldiers for does not specifically relate to conflicts in Afghanistan or Iraq. Will said the village was designed to allow troops and civilian law enforcement to prepare for battles anywhere that involves buildings and complex urban environments—all of which are expected to have IEDs.

"They've essentially created something nearly as sophisticated as what you would find at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California," he said. "I would hold Camp Guernsey up as one of the more innovative and creative projects."

SMART MONEY

With more than 140 shipping containers, the counter-IED village includes three-story apartment complexes, walking bridges and single-story dwellings, all complete with furniture.

Additional cost savings were found when nearby F.E. Warren Air Force Base was getting rid of old furniture in its enlisted dormitories.

More money was saved through the competitive bidding process. Second Lieutenant Charles Mesko, assisting Will with the project, found the lowest competitive bid for containers from a shipping container company in Cheyenne, WY. The company, Alco Mobile Storage Trailers and Containers, voluntarily kept costs down when more containers were requested. As the orders were being placed, shipping container costs rose nationally by \$500 per container, Mesko said.

A similar operation at Fort Carson, CO, provided another \$150,000 in equipment and training aides to Camp Guernsey. The use of Wyoming Army National Guard Soldiers to complete the construction of the facility not only employed Guard members during tough economic times, but provided some savings to the camp.

"We couldn't construct it again at this price," Will said of the \$1.5 million price tag. "A lot of things fell into place to make this happen." **GX**

Operation Phoenix Fury

Story and photo by Lisa Wilcox Brooke / FORT LEAVENWORTH, KS



Personnel from the Department of Defense and 96 Soldiers participated in Operation Phoenix Fury.

THE MISSOURI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, based in Kansas City, MO, participated in a 14-day staff exercise and master event scenario exercise, known as Operation Phoenix Fury. It was held at the Battle Command Training Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS, Sept. 11–25, 2010.

The event involved 96 service members from the 110th Headquarters, assisted by Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

Phoenix Fury was in support of the Train/Ready Year 1 phase of the ARFORGEN model as the unit prepared for Full Spectrum Operations (FSO) during Annual Training. Utilizing the expertise of the battle staff training team and Army battle command systems (ABCS) training teams from the Battle Command Training Center, the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and their own Brigade personnel, the desired end state was to imbed the latest tactics, techniques and procedures into the 110th's standard operating procedures. Another desired goal was to build a firm foundation of staff and command group skill sets for the 35th Infantry Division's warfighter exercise in 2011 and the Vigilant Guard Exercise (Cracked Earth Scenario) in 2012. The 110th staff trained extensively on ABCS and FSO/MEB concepts, conducting the operations process, and initially validating their TACSOP, PSOP and battle drills, including TOC setup.

Phoenix Fury was named in reference to the

phoenix on the 110th insignia as well as task organization for Operation "Iron Horse Fury." In this training scenario, the 110th was mobilized in May, assigned to the 52nd Infantry Division (ID) and deployed as a part of Joint Task Force Caspian Sea. They completed reception, staging, onward movement and integration operations

"THE 110TH IS A MAGNIFICENT TEAM MADE UP OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS READY TO ANSWER THE CALL IF NEEDED."

>> COL William A. Ward, commander, 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

in early September and then completed the intra-theater move to assembly area CROUCH (in the fictional country of Atropia).

SLICK MANEUVERS

The country of Atropia had recently been invaded by Ariana, which attacked and seized the rich oil fields in Western Atropia. The conflict was centered on economic, ethnic and religious differences. The 110th mission was to conduct maneuver support, support area operations, and stability operations in AO SPRUCE in support of the 52nd ID. The 110th also established a movement corridor along MSR Red to ensure freedom of movement for the division

forward attack to re-establish the international boundary between Atropia and Ariana. The exercise came to an end as the 110th prepared to conduct stability operations within their assigned area of operations.

The 110th commander, Colonel William A. Ward, stated, "Maneuver enhancement brigades

bridge the gap between the more capable and robust brigade combat teams and the more streamlined functional brigades. [Maneuver enhancement brigades] provide support area operations, freeing up the brigade combat teams to focus on named operations or specific assigned missions, and are the perfect unit to manage the battle space for division or corps support areas.

"Since this is a relatively new concept, it is imperative that we get the word out on what we are capable of and what we bring to the fight. The 110th is a magnificent team made up of professional Soldiers ready to answer the call if needed." **GX**

Making Sorrow Disappear

Oregon warrant officer uses magic to help injured kids

By Kimberly Lippert, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs / CANBY, OR

▶ WHILE HOLDING HIS NEWBORN DAUGHTER at his home in Canby, OR, Oregon Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Two Scott Anderson recalled the children he helped in Afghanistan eight years ago.

“My most intense stuff as a medic was dealing with wounded girls,” said Anderson.

“When I found out I was having a girl [of my own], I struggled a little bit with [the memories],” he said.

In 2002, Anderson arrived in Bagram, Afghanistan, for a six-month assignment with the Oregon Guard’s 1042nd Medical Company. As a 24-year-old flight medic, he expected that the majority of his patients would be wounded Soldiers, Airmen and Marines. What he found, however, was quite the contrary.

SURPRISING PATIENTS

“My first real patients were kids,” Anderson said. “Talk about getting thrown—I was having a really difficult time with that.”

With 70–80 percent of the incoming casualties and wounded being children, Anderson quickly realized the best way to deal with his emotional reaction to this was to throw himself into the work. He spent every spare moment of his off-duty time volunteering at the hospital, treating injured children.

After a while, he realized the best form of medicine he could provide didn’t come in a first-aid kit.

“I had this little boy around 5 years old who

had third-degree burns on his face and 100 percent of his back,” Anderson said. “I took a napkin and made it disappear. The look on his face was priceless—he just broke out in a big smile.”

Anderson started doing magic tricks in Basic Combat Training after joining the military in 1996. At the time, he was an Active Duty Soldier in a military police unit in Korea. He transferred to the Oregon National Guard in July 2001 and became a medic. He soon realized his abilities as an amateur magician could bring laughter to Afghani kids who otherwise had little to smile about.

“Magic broke down language barriers and brought smiles to their faces,” he said.

Soon after returning from the deployment, he got married and had his first child. He kept magic as a hobby, entertaining friends and doing small shows on the side. But like any good Soldier, he used these opportunities to hone his skills.

LIKE MAGIC

In 2009, Anderson deployed again. This time he went to Iraq with C Company, 7/158th Regiment, as a medevac pilot.

This deployment was different from the previous one. He found himself sleeping on a bed, in a room with Internet access, instead of in a dusty tent on the hard ground. But one thing hadn’t changed: Innocent victims—children—were being loaded onto his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and flooding into the hospital.

“I could make them smile,” he said. “Even

if they had just lost a leg or an arm, [my tricks] made them feel good.”

He remembers a particular incident where he did a magic trick for a severely burned Iraqi child who had been showing no emotion—laughing or crying.

“When I did tricks for her, she would smile. The nurse said it was the only time she would ever show any emotion,” Anderson said. “It made me feel really good.”

“MAGIC BROKE DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND BROUGHT SMILES TO THEIR FACES.”

>> CW2 Scott Anderson, Oregon Army National Guard

Anderson explained that one of the most difficult things to grapple with is how much these kids go through on a daily basis. Just by picking up a piece of scrap metal on the side of the road, they could set off an IED and sustain life-threatening injuries.

“The looks on their faces was no look any child should have,” Anderson said. “When something [bad] happens to one kid in America, it’s national news. Over there, it happens all the time.”

Since returning from Iraq in January, Anderson has performed magic on stages across the country. He was featured on “NBC Nightly News With Brian Williams” and the hit TV show “America’s Got Talent.”

Anderson explained that his audiences often want to know about his experiences on deployment. So his shows are based on real-life events from Iraq and Afghanistan, weaving in stories and photos of the kids he has entertained.

“I think my experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have made me a much better parent ... and also, a very emotional one,” he said. “Seeing what happened to all those kids over there showed me how fragile life can be.” **GX**

COURTESY OF CW2 SCOTT ANDERSON



CW2 Scott Anderson performed magic tricks for wounded children during both of his deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.



A Soldier from the 285th embraces his wife after ending a yearlong deployment to Iraq.

Aviation Unit Touches Down in North Dakota

Courtesy of North Dakota National Guard / BISMARCK, ND

▶ AFTER A YEAR OF SERVING in Iraq and completing thousands of flight hours, 45 Soldiers of the North Dakota National Guard’s Bismarck-based Company C, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment (C/2/285th AVN), are back in North Dakota.

More than 200 family members and friends welcomed them home shortly after 2 p.m. Sept. 28, when their charter flight arrived at the Bismarck Airport’s main terminal. Two of the Soldiers live out of state and traveled separately to Minnesota. The 47 Soldiers have been on Active Duty since last October and served in Iraq since December.

“These aviation Soldiers have done an outstanding job serving in Iraq and have proudly represented our state and nation,” said Gov. John Hoeven, who was on hand to greet the Soldiers. “Today, we welcome them home with our heartfelt gratitude for their service and sacrifice, and we thank their families, who also served their country throughout this deployment.”

Before returning home, the Soldiers arrived at Fort Sill, OK, to complete their demobilization process. Major General David Sprynczynatyk, North Dakota adjutant general, and other senior leaders traveled to Oklahoma to welcome

the Soldiers there, and also greeted the regiment upon their arrival in Bismarck.

“These Soldiers have been away from their families, friends and communities, performing outstanding aviation tasks throughout Iraq for a year,” Sprynczynatyk said. “They’re highly commended for their professionalism by their command. I am proud of all they have accomplished during this deployment and happy to be among the family and friends welcoming them home.”

AIR TIME

The unit flew more than 750 combat missions totaling more than 6,200 flight hours. Assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, they were responsible for transporting senior officials, Soldiers, medical supplies and other cargo in Iraq. The unit is commanded by Captain Douglas Larsen, of Granville, ND. The senior enlisted Soldier is First Sergeant Daniel Marquart of Bismarck.

“The experience gained in Iraq will definitely improve the North Dakota Army National Guard aviation program. Put it all together and we will have strong, knowledgeable and experienced crews available for any future homeland defense or state emergency missions,” Larsen said. **GX**

High Honor for Guam

Adjutant general receives Outstanding Achievement Medal

Story and photo by Guam National Guard / MANILA, PHILIPPINES

▶ MAJOR GENERAL DONALD J. GOLDHORN, the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, was awarded the Republic of the Philippines’ Outstanding Achievement Medal by the country’s secretary of defense at a ceremony recently.

The award was given to Goldhorn during the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command 31st anniversary celebration at Camp Aguinaldo, Manila, Philippines. RP Secretary of Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin presented the medal to Goldhorn.

The award citation stated that the medal was granted “for extraordinary and valuable achievement in support of socio-economic development and other non-combat activities conducted by the members of the Guam National Guard ... and organic personnel of the AFP under the State Partnership Program (SPP).”

STANDING UNITED

The SPP is a program under the National Guard Bureau that partners states with foreign nations to promote and enhance bilateral relations. The program supports homeland defense by nurturing dependable collaborative partners for coalition operations during this era of persistent conflict. The program links 59 countries to 48 states, two territories (Puerto Rico and Guam), and Washington, DC.

The award citation also noted how Goldhorn had made the partnership between Philippines and Guam an effective joint venture, supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the priority programs of the Philippine national government.

“This award is a reflection of the great initiative and hard work of the Soldiers and Airmen of the Guam National Guard, who have been an integral part of all these community outreach programs and various training exercises in the Philippines with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command,” Goldhorn said.

“It has been a tremendous honor working with the leadership of the AFP Reserve Command over the last several years,” he continued. “There is no doubt this work has helped forge an even stronger partnership between our two countries, and specifically our organizations—the Guam National Guard and the AFP Reserve Command.” **GX**



MG Donald J. Goldhorn has been the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard since 2005.



MASTERS OF THE BATTLEFIELD

ARTILLERY BRINGS THE BIG BANG

PHOTO BY SGT JOHN CROSSBY

The United States Artillery branch was founded on Nov. 17, 1775, by the Continental Congress.



“A BATTERY OF FIELD ARTILLERY IS WORTH A THOUSAND MUSKETS.”

>> GEN William Tecumseh Sherman

National Guard artillery units found themselves hard at work in WWII, being requested for fire missions virtually around the clock.

COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

COURTESY OF U.S. ARMY

By Christian Anderson

The insurgents' machine gun fire and RPGs ripped through the silent Afghan air toward the small American outpost on the side of the mountain. The outpost offered a limited view, and the insurgents knew it. So they launched a full-out attack.

An American noncommissioned officer called for a fire mission by radio. He yelled for his Soldiers to hang just a little longer. Seconds felt like minutes. Where was the artillery?

Just as the insurgents made a final push toward the outpost, the ground in front of them shook as if an earthquake had hit. Explosions loud enough to break eardrums resonated. The blue sky turned orange.

The valley fell silent again. The Soldiers waited for a counterattack, but none came. Once again, field artillery saved the day.

This fictitious story is a composite of a seemingly endless line of actual battles in Operation Enduring Freedom. And in many of them, it's artillery that rescues the infantry Soldier from a bind.

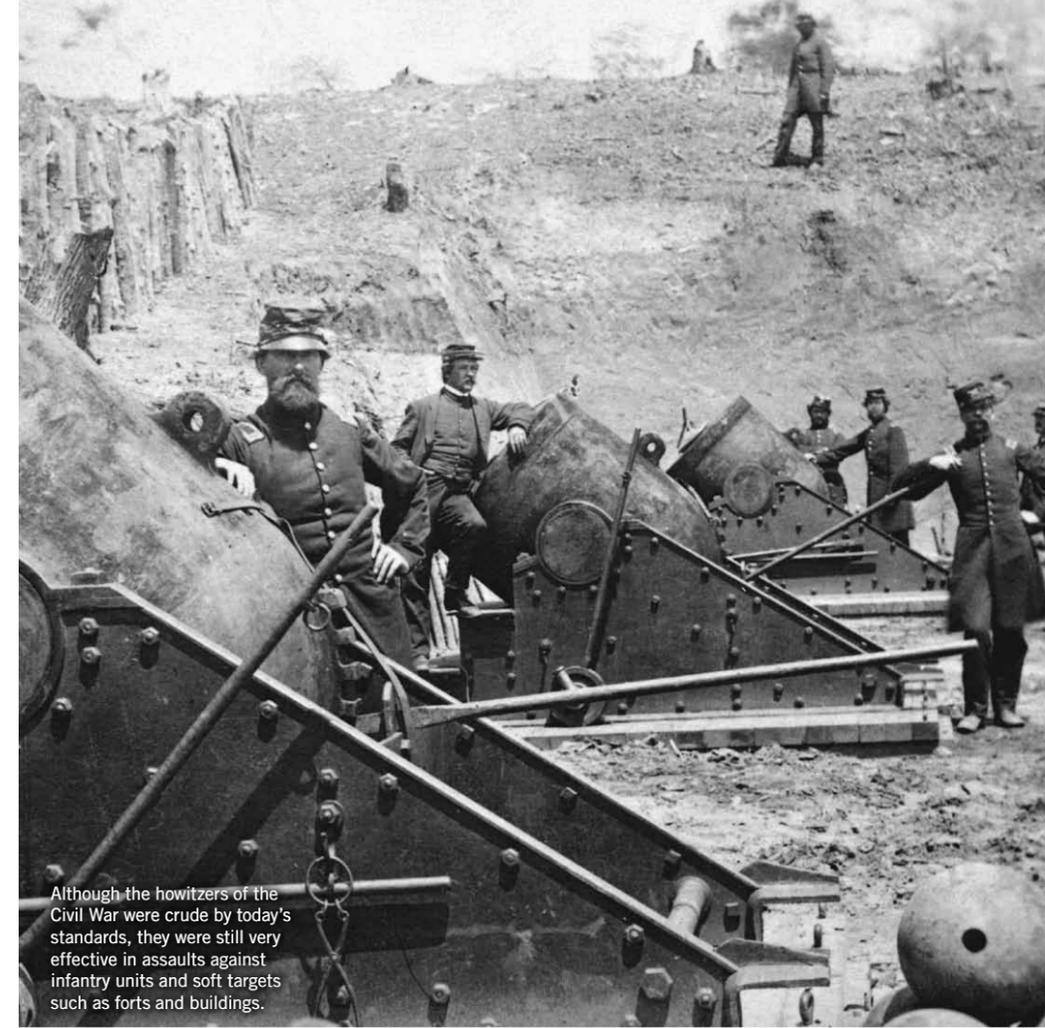
ARTILLERY OF THE AGES

Artillery is one of the National Guard's oldest and most reliable branches, first seeing service during the Revolutionary War. The minutemen who aimed the artillery pieces back then dominated the battlefield just as they do now. The only difference is technology.

The first artillery pieces can be traced back to the Middle Ages. The Chinese had discovered gunpowder, and realized that a pewter ball could be flung through the air at high speeds after a lot of gunpowder was packed into a bronze tube. Several Chinese generals achieved great success with these wicked weapons, and shortly after, history tells of the artillery piece reaching the battlefields of Europe.

Great naval battles, sieges and conquests centered on the versatility and dominating firepower of the artillery piece. The basic artillery piece, or cannon, saw several minor improvements over the next couple of centuries, but it was not until the 18th century that the cannon was effectively utilized as a tactical weapon.

By the time American militiamen defeated the British at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, the cannon was quickly becoming a mobile tool and was mounted on a carriage, much resembling a modern artillery piece. Able to be pulled by horse, the cannon could engage the British Redcoats at distances of up to 1,000 yards. The Americans produced as many cannons as possible—usually by melting



Although the howitzers of the Civil War were crude by today's standards, they were still very effective in assaults against infantry units and soft targets such as forts and buildings.

church bells or other metals—but still had trouble matching the more proficient, highly trained British artillery brigades that were well equipped.

SURPRISE ATTACK

The Americans made up for the lack of equipment with ingenuity, and would often move their lighter, more agile cannon onto the battlefield at the last possible moment. This allowed them to catch the enemy by surprise on certain occasions. The Americans increased their momentum and arsenal of artillery pieces, usually by capturing British field pieces. They eventually reveled in victory during the siege of Yorktown as they pounded the British troops for close to a month, ringing in the fact that America was here to stay.

Napoleon Bonaparte made the comment to his general: “With artillery, war is made.” Famous for his rapid conquests across Western Europe in the mid-19th century, Napoleon relied on his artillery units heavily to smash his opposing forces' lines before advancing with infantry and artillery.

Rifling, a process of cutting grooves in a barrel, makes the round spin as it leaves the bore of the cannon, thereby stabilizing the round. Stabilization means accuracy.

Although rifling had been invented more than 100 years before the Civil War, the technology wasn't perfected for artillery until just before the siege of Fort Sumter in April of 1861. This meant that artillerymen could shoot farther and more precisely, and—most importantly—they could shoot larger rounds. Making a big impression on the generals of both sides, artillery batteries on both sides found themselves highly sought-after throughout the duration of the conflict.

Although the concepts of artillery haven't changed much since the Civil War, the technology has. Granted, artillery units still revolve around an artillery piece and a group of Soldiers, but modern advancements have allowed artillery units to shoot larger rounds faster and more accurately than ever before. Gone are the days of the “point and shoot” method. Today, math and physics play just as important a role as the Soldiers on the ground who work hard to load and fire the rounds.

CREATION OF THE FIRES BRIGADE

With the increased mobility of the U.S. military since 9/11, specifically the Army National Guard, the mission for field artillery units has morphed from a stationary force into a modern, mobile and more diverse unit.



The howitzer still has a huge role for the Guard overseas.

This transition meant that entire Army artillery divisions were transformed into fires brigades, which are basically self-sustained artillery brigades that also offer support units designed to allow the brigade to operate with attached air or ground units. A modern-day fires brigade is able to handle a lot more than just the usual artillery missions and is also less dependent on outside units for help to maintain and operate.

Under the structure of the fires brigade, artillery units are independently deployable and capable of absorbing outside units into their structure for the needs of the mission, either permanently or temporarily.

According to the Department of the Army, fires brigades focus less on close fire support, instead tackling precision strikes, counter-strikes and shaping. They do this by utilizing lethal and nonlethal means to influence the enemy and make it easier for the supported forces to accomplish the mission at hand.

Colonel Gregory Miller, commander of the 169th Fires Brigade, Colorado National Guard, joined the Guard in 1984 as a radio mechanic in the same brigade he now commands. He became MOS-qualified after he graduated from officer candidate school in 1986. He has fired everything from the M110 to the MLRS. As a graduate student at U.S. Army War College, he wrote his master's degree thesis paper on the organization of the fires brigade.

Miller rejoined the unit upon receiving his commission and became the commander of an 8-inch howitzer battery, which is 203 mm and the rounds 200 pounds.

TRAINED UP

"The 8-inch howitzers had a tremendous recoil, and we actually had the capability to fire a nuclear warhead," he explained. "We trained to fire a tactical nuclear warhead in case we needed to."

Since joining the Guard, Miller has risen from section leader to the unit's personnel officer to commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion. That's when the unit switched out the 8-inch with the M109A5 Self-Propelled Howitzer.

"As I progressed and worked up to the brigade level, we converted from the M109A5 to the MLRS," he explained. "We are once again converting, from the MLRS to the HIMARS. So we have switched weapons several times in the past two decades, keeping up with the latest and greatest technology."

According to Miller, the fires brigade

allows Soldiers to adapt to the environment and the mission. The 169th has lethal and nonlethal operation capabilities and is now considered a multifunctional brigade.

"We have numerous specialties within the brigade that we did not have in the past," he explained. "We have information operations officers, psyops officers and other capabilities that make us more unique. We now have a cell that actually does the nonlethal and lethal effects to figure out how to perform certain missions the best."

There are seven fires brigades in the Army National Guard, and the commanders meet on a semiannual basis to make sure they synchronize their functions with their capabilities. Since the fires brigades have so many different specialties and are more mission-capable, they have to work a little harder to keep people qualified.

"We continue to change and adapt and match the challenges that are out there, because our Soldiers are always up to the mission," Miller explained. "We are an enabler, and we have to enable our combat maneuvers so they can execute on the battlefield."

The 1st Battalion, 157th Field Artillery deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2003 and the 169th Fires Brigade deployed in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, so Miller knows firsthand how important it is for his Soldiers to be ready for battle. Part of that preparation is a competitive training environment, and Miller encourages friendly rivalries among his ranks. With rivalries in between the MRLS, HIMARS and M198 sections, the 169th has a competition called "Top Gun." Basically, each year, the most proficient, efficient and capable unit in the 169th is awarded bragging rights as the best section in the fires brigade.

"Today, the artilleryman is more responsive than ever," he added. "We can deliver more amounts of firepower in a shorter period of time than ever before, and we are now getting ready to field the M777. We will continue to prepare for future deployments."

DESIRE TO FIRE

Specialist Shawn Coe of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, 115th Fires Brigade, Wyoming Army National Guard, enlisted when he was 17. He initially signed up as a 45B, or small arms repairman. His unit deployed with the 300th, and he immediately found himself working with the artillery Soldiers.



"IMAGINE A TELEPHONE POLE FLYING THROUGH THE AIR."

>> SPC Shawn Coe, 115th Fires Brigade, on a HIMARS firing its rockets

The HIMARS can shoot six rockets in less than a minute and then move to rearm without being spotted by the enemy.

"I immediately knew I wanted to be in artillery because they were so good at what they were doing," Coe explained. "Just being around them was awesome."

So when he got back, he reclassified as a 13M so he could operate the HIMARS.

Coe is very enthusiastic about his new role and looks forward to becoming section chief of the powerful weapons system. According to Coe, a HIMARS is basically set up so that a Soldier starts off as the driver at the rank of specialist, then becomes the gunner when they're promoted to sergeant, and then up to section chief as a staff sergeant.

"They set up the system so that as you advance, you will have knowledge of the whole system," he explained.

ROCKET MEN

Currently, Coe is working with the ammo trucks, which support the HIMARS system. His vehicle has a crane, which he uses to lay the rocket pods on the ground. Once the HIMARS comes to the rearmament point, Coe and his crew pick up the pod with the crane and place it into the back of the HIMARS. This can be dangerous, because with six rockets in a pod, each pod weighs a little over a ton. But it's worth the risk, as there's nothing like witnessing a HIMARS fire its payload.

The process is repeated until the Soldiers can practically perform the task with their eyes closed. Coe feels the hard work is worth the effort, as it doesn't get much more exciting than seeing a HIMARS fire its rockets.

"Imagine a telephone pole flying through the air," Coe said ecstatically. "It's pretty impressive!"

FROM CANNON TO ROCKET LAUNCHERS

One individual who knows the ins and outs of both towed and mobile artillery pieces is Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Phipps, commander of the 2/300th Field Artillery, Wyoming National Guard. A career artilleryman, Phipps has operated on both the M198 155 mm howitzer and the new, more modern HIMARS rocket system. Although he has basically shot everything in the Guard artillery arsenal, Phipps remarked that pulling the lanyard to fire an artillery piece for the first time was a highlight of his career.

"It is an experience, because there's a lot of power when that thing goes off," he said. "It shakes the ground, the whole piece will move, and you feel the blast all the way through your body."

"You definitely want to have your earplugs in, but it's not so bad if you are behind the breach," he added. "You just want to stay out of the way because of the recoil."

According to Phipps, the area about 300 meters in front of the howitzer is called the "danger area echo," and is off limits because of the hazards of the shockwave resulting from the large rounds. There are also standards concerning safety, and the Soldiers wear helmets, gloves, and protection for their ears and eyes.

Regardless of the weapons system being fired, most artillery units, including Phipps', reorganize based on the number of weapons a unit has.

"In artillery, you have sections, then platoons, then batteries. From there on up, it is just like any other unit," he explained. "A section is one piece, then a platoon is generally three pieces, and then six pieces is a battery."

Although the Paladin appears similar to a tank, it has one advantage over its tracked cousins: a 155 mm main gun that can shoot a round 18 miles.



"I DO NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU WHO WON THE WAR. YOU KNOW, THE ARTILLERY DID."

>> GEN George S. Patton

STEP BY STEP

So, since the 2/300th started upgrading from the older M198 155 mm howitzer to the newer HIMARS in 2008, Phipps has been conducting the train-up by sections to ease the transition.

"We take a section, which is 10–12 Soldiers, take away their cannon, give them a HIMARS and train them up from a 13B to 13M, which is a lengthy process," he explained. "Plus, a lot of the Soldiers had been around a long time, so there was a strong unit identity. They were used to working guns, and the HIMARS piece is a lot different. It is a gem of technology. The firepower it has is exponentially beyond that of an M198, and is head and shoulders above the M198 system."

The HIMARS gives the Soldiers of the 2/300th a major capability that they did not have before. According to Phipps, the firepower of one rocket from the HIMARS is the equivalent of six M198s shooting at the same time. Also, it takes at least four minutes to pull an M198 howitzer in, dig the spades and prepare to shoot. With the HIMARS piece, you can prepare to shoot in under a minute.

The HIMARS is delivered to the battlefield more easily than the M198 as well, since it can be loaded onto a C-130 Hercules for transport.

It takes about 15–20 minutes from offloading the HIMARS from a C-130 to receiving a fire mission, which includes

inflating the tires, attaching the antenna and establishing communications. Additional time is needed to move the launcher to the firing point, which is a safe distance from the plane.

ROLE-PLAY

Although Phipps is a huge fan of the HIMARS, he cautioned that the HIMARS and the standard artillery piece both have a place in today's artillery units overseas.

"There is specific a role for cannon and there is a role for HIMARS," he stated. "A lot of the cannons are for the direct support battalions in the maneuver enhancement brigades, but the role of the HIMARS is to provide a very lethal punch at a great distance for counter-battery and counter-firefights."

"If they shoot at us, we can shoot back and probably take them out before their rounds can hit us," he added. "We can fire over 300 kilometers, which is much farther than a traditional artillery piece."

But instead of pulling a lanyard, the HIMARS crew operates a more technologically advanced system to send the rockets downrange. Much like a computer system, the crew pushes a series of buttons on a digital screen to enter the appropriate information, such as grid coordinates, and a computer sorts out all the other information, such as trajectory.

After running through a series of safety

checks, the rockets are launched and the rest is history.

Sitting inside the truck, the crew is protected in the cabin, so they do not have to expose themselves to enemy fire or the elements. This enables them to continue on the missions without any distractions. They're armed with M4s and pistols, and usually an M249 SAW for suppressive fire.

"The likelihood of the HIMARS crew taking fire is slim, since they can launch their rockets far away from the enemy," Phipps explained. "But the standard protocol is to hide, shoot and move, all from concealed positions."

CANNON COCKER

"I had been interested in artillery since I was a kid," said Staff Sergeant Daniel Fortmann, 113th Field Artillery Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. "I like the action with the gun, the teamwork and the constant motion of our section working to get rounds downrange."

A former Marine, Fortmann is now the section chief of an M109A6 Paladin, which is a self-propelled artillery piece. He supervises all maintenance and safety requirements for the Paladin, and ensures it's ready to deploy if needed. One of his greatest responsibilities is to supervise the firing of the Paladin's 155 mm main gun.

PHOTO BY ADAM LIVINGSTON

ARTILLERY SLANG

Although the concept seems crude and simple, placing artillery rounds on targets several miles away is actually quite complicated.

Here is a list of commonly used terms by the Guard's cannon cockers:

AIRBURST: Anti-personnel rounds that explode in the air to maximize their effective radius

ARTY: Slang for "artillery"

BATTERY: A basic artillery unit consisting of 3–6 cannons, all of the same caliber

BATTERY-ONE: When all pieces in a battery fire in unison

FIRE-FOR-EFFECT: The continuous firing of a battery's cannon, sustained until a cease-fire or check-fire is called

"SHOT!": Slang to let the forward observer know his fire mission is on the way

"SPLASH!": Slang that signals incoming shells are 10 seconds away

TREEBURST: When a shell explodes

above the ground, usually because it strikes a tree or other object

VOLLEY: The firing of each artillery piece in a battery

WALKING BARRAGE: Firing between friendly forces and the enemy to provide protection while moving the impact point toward the enemy in order to drive him back



The M107 155 mm projectile is the standard high-explosive projectile for the National Guard and can be used for virtually any mission.

"I have a computer screen in front of me that has all the information I need to make sure the round gets on target," Fortmann explains. "My gunner and I communicate constantly, and he verifies what I see on my screen before we fire the first round."

HECTIC HULL

If any of Fortmann's crewmembers aren't on the same page, disaster can strike. With the cannoner loading rounds in the chamber, a gunner loading the powder, and the driver making sure they are in the right position, life can get really hectic inside the Paladin's hull.

"We have to be very cohesive," Fortmann said.

Fortmann and his crew undergo a lot of training and certification each year to keep them on their A-game for deployment.

"When we were in Iraq ... our missions were important because we would illuminate random roads and fields to deter insurgents from placing IEDs on the road or setting up ambushes," Fortmann explained. "This is called terrain denial. It basically lets the insurgents know we're watching them. When we light up the sky, it's almost like daylight, so they really can't operate if they are in the vicinity."

If there's a target, Fortmann's crew can shoot it. Everything from high-explosive to

white phosphorus to the high-tech Excalibur round, they can shoot it and shoot it fast.

"You name it, we can probably send it downrange," Fortmann affirmed. "We can fire rounds with GPS in them, so they can change direction midflight and land within a meter of their target. Even if it's a meter off, it will destroy anything in the area."

"And our maximum sustained fire is four rounds a minute, so we can saturate an area," he added. "That is really moving, though, because the shells weigh close to 98 pounds, with some of them over 100 pounds. Four rounds a minute for five minutes—that's several thousand pounds of ammo being lifted by the crew. That will wear them out."

OVERCOME AND ADAPT

One of the trademarks of the artilleryman is the ability to perform any mission.

In conflicts then and now, the artilleryman has been asked to put down the lanyard, pick up a rifle and perform as a foot Soldier. Never before has the artilleryman been called upon to perform in this foreign role so often as now, in the Global War on Terror. As the need for indirect fire has decreased with the stabilization of Iraq and Afghanistan, the need for Soldiers to conduct security patrols, convoy security and other infantry-style operations has increased.

Specialist Mark Thompson of the 147th Field Artillery, South Dakota National Guard, experienced this firsthand.

Joining because of his deep-rooted patriotism and family history of service in the military, Thompson graduated from AIT in January of 2009 and deployed to Kuwait three months later.

"We spent a year in Kuwait, basically performing convoy security and operating as an Area Reaction Force (ARF)," Thompson said. "We would ride escort for supply convoys into Iraq, and then make sure they got back safely."

"Sometimes the missions were really long," he added. "But we had to keep alert all the time because [they were] important."

Thompson feels proud of what he and his unit did, and that he's part of the history of artillerymen.

"Now that I've been overseas, I'm more inclined to stay in the Guard until I retire," he added. "Who knows ... maybe I'll pursue a career as an officer before our next deployment."

"That's been one of the traditions of the field artillery ... we lose our guns, we lose our trucks, we are ready to go in as infantry," Phipps said. "We pride ourselves in being master innovators. So we tackle any mission that is required of us with the same motivation we'd have if we were going into an artillery mission."

"We've had three deployments in the past five or six years. None of those missions allowed us to deploy with our artillery equipment," he added. It's really a testament to the can-do attitude and the flexibility of our artillery Soldiers.

"The modern artillery Soldier ... maintains steadfast mastery of their Soldier abilities at all times. There's no task they can't master. They carry an unmatched work ethic and move forward with confidence. They always push to achieve or exceed their standards in peace so their team will succeed in combat." **GX**

For more on National Guard artillery, go to www.NATIONALGUARD.com/shootingfromafar.

Cultural Understanding Leadership Program

Cadets Travel to Botswana to Gain Experience

By CDT Sarah Viau



ROTC teaches Cadets the skills they need to succeed as officers in the Army National Guard.

ROTC CADETS from across the country, in coordination with the North Carolina Army National Guard and Cadet Command's Cultural Understanding Leadership Program (CULP), visited Botswana, Africa, this summer for the trip of a lifetime.

Cadet Command asked to try a partnership with the Guard because they were having trouble coordinating trips across the world and realized that the Guard already had liaisons in many countries due to its State Partnership program.

ACT GLOBALLY

Cadet Command's CULP is designed for top Guard and non-Guard Cadets to experience other cultures and languages across the globe, to better prepare them for future assignments.

The Cadets met in Raleigh, NC, for safety briefings and details of the trip, which included a day of classroom training with Dr. Marilyn Grider. Grider had spent 15 years in Botswana teaching and working as a missionary.

On the morning of their departure, the group toured the 1/130th Air Reconnaissance Battalion flight facility and climbed onto the AH-64 Apache and UH-72 Lakota helicopters. They also toured Joint Forces Headquarters, where Major Joel Eberly, the officer in charge of the Botswana trip, conducted an in-ranks inspection outside before they could enter.

They met with the North Carolina adjutant general, Major General William E. Ingram Jr., who gave them an idea of what to expect in Botswana and what was expected of them as representatives of the North Carolina Army National Guard.

WILD LIFE

During the first four days in country, the Cadets worked closely with the Botswana Defense Force (BDF). To ensure that the Soldiers are properly trained, the BDF maintains an animal park at the headquarters base in Gaborone, the capital city. The BDF Soldiers use the animal park to study the animals' characteristics under varying situations, especially when humans are involved.

The Cadets also watched BDF Soldiers compete in an obstacle course without nets as part of the BDF's training. The Cadets were allowed to do most obstacles themselves, and loved it.

The group then flew in a C-130—formerly owned by the North Carolina Guard—to Kasane, and set up camp at Kazungula. There, the BDF controls poaching from three of the bordering countries: Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Cadets took a game drive through Chobe National Park, where elephants, zebras, buffalo,

giraffes, warhogs and hippos stood a mere 10 feet away. They also accompanied the BDF on an anti-poaching patrol, which consisted of a 5K walk through the Chobe Forest Reserve on the border of the Zambezi River.

The following day, the Cadets paid their respects to the 15 fallen Soldiers who died during the Lesoma ambush in 1978. The memorial site is located at the scene of the ambush on the border of Botswana and Zimbabwe.

CADETS ON SAFARI

At the end of their time with the BDF, the Cadets participated in a 9 mm range and practiced their sharpshooting from the standing, kneeling, sitting and lying position.

For the second week in Botswana, the group participated in a seven-day camping safari through the northern part of the country. Under the guidance of Mike Main (author, businessman, consultant, entrepreneur and amateur archaeologist), the Cadets spent the first two days at the Khama Rhino Sanctuary, located right outside the town of Serowe, and saw loads of animals, including cheetahs. They then made a day trip into town and visited the burial site of Sir Seretse Khama, the first president of Botswana. The town also holds the traditional tribal court of the Ngwato tribe.

The next stop of the trip was Sowa Pan, a former lakebed that led to a secret spot for exploring buried pottery and ostrich eggshell jewelry pieces.

Their next stop was Khubu Island, where hill after hill of rocks to climb awaited the group.

Their final stop was the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. There, it was mandatory to sleep in tents due to the possibility of wildlife coming into the camp. They eventually stopped counting all of the different types of animals they saw.

The group took a day to explore the different

salt pans and game drives before finally heading back to Gaborone for a hot shower.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Accompanying the group was Steven J. Nolan, U.S. Ambassador to Botswana. The week was designed to be run by the Cadets. They cooked their own food, started every fire, set up and broke down camp, and even ate off the land.

Each day, a Cadet was put in charge of the group, carried out the tasks of the day, and got critiqued by Main at the end of the night. Not only was it a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, but the Cadets got experience leading a group of people in an unfamiliar environment—a skill that these future officers will need.

In the third and final week in country, Captain Sara Day, who ran the Army 10-Miler in 60 minutes, conducted PT every morning by running the Cadets hard.

Then they headed to the village of Mmanoko. There, they met Peace Corps volunteer Annie Ramos, who helped them begin building a playground for the school. The school is home to 240 children ranging in age from 7 to 16. Not knowing what to expect, the Cadets were anxious for the arrival of the playground kit promised to them. Two hours later, a man in a truck dropped off 30 logs and a hand-drawn picture to use as directions.

PLAY TIME

With a timeline of four days, the Cadets worked together to put together a playground equipped with a slide, two swings and a ladder. The group was able to also build a bookcase for the school's library and some soccer goals.

On the third day, the Cadets learned that the kids did not eat lunch because their food rations had run out. Unable to accept hungry children, the Cadets went to a local store and purchased

Top 16 Schools for Sophomore SMPs on an ROTC scholarship:

NO. 1 WITH 7 CADETS

Southern Oregon University

TIED FOR NO. 2 & 3

WITH 6 CADETS EACH

Pennsylvania State University

University of Oregon

TIED FOR NO. 4 & 5

WITH 5 CADETS EACH

University of Central Florida

University of Iowa

TIED FOR NO. 6-16

WITH 4 CADETS EACH

Carson-Newman College

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Ithaca College

North Dakota State University

Oregon State University

Saint John's University New York

Truman State University

University of Dayton

University of Pittsburgh

University of Portland

Utah State University

enough bread, peanut butter, apples and juice for the children.

The Cadets will never forget what they learned about the National Guard and Africa. They showed up as strangers and left as friends. They worked very hard and stayed dirty most of the time because they were not afraid to experience Africa to its fullest. Chalk up another success to the National Guard and ROTC. **GX**



ROTC Cadet Air Assault 2011

By MSG Ken Suratt, COARNG ROTC Coordinator

It's that time of year again, to request a slot in this summer's Air Assault School. Cadets from all ROTC programs around the country are encouraged to apply early, because training seats are limited. The following list of items must accompany your request through your state officer strength manager (OSM).

> OSM recommendation letter.

> APFT of 210 points or better (minimum of 70 points in each event); APFT performance will fall into three tiers: T1 270+ pts, T2 269-240 pts and T3 239-210 pts.

> Current physical.

> Meet height/weight standards (AR 600-9) and DA 5500/5501 if applicable.

> DA 7349 Medical Certificate.

> Completion of 12-mile road march with all equipment in three hours or less.

> Completion of obstacle course training with emphasis on rope climbing, log maneuvering and physical endurance.

> Priority given to Guard SMP Cadets on GRFD scholarship.

> All applications must be received by January 31, 2011.

2011 Air Assault School Dates

Camp Rilea, OR,

June 6-17, 117 slots

Camp Rilea, OR,

June 20-July 1, 116 slots

For further information, contact MSG Ken Suratt at (303) 810-0522 or at kenneth.suratt@us.army.mil.



It's All Relative Siblings Deploy Together

By SSG Joe Cashion

Identical twins SGT Shaderia Harris and SGT Chandra Brooks deployed to Afghanistan in early 2010, along with LTC Greg Estes and his brother CPT Floyd Estes.

WHEN THINKING ABOUT deployments, we usually think about service members being away from their families for long periods of time.

However, several Soldiers from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) from Birmingham, AL, are exceptions to this rule. They deployed to Afghanistan with their siblings.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Ricky Medley, the 135th ESC Maintenance Assistance Officer, and his identical-twin brother, Lieutenant Colonel Nicky Medley, Mobility Officer in Charge for the 135th ESC, are two out of eight sibling pairs from the unit that had the opportunity to serve together here.

BROTHERS IN AFGHANISTAN

"I just came off a deployment before this one," said CW4 Medley. "This is my second back-to-back tour with no breaks in between deployments. Kuwait was my only stop before arriving in Afghanistan. I wanted to serve with my brother—that's the only reason I did it."

"Now I get to see what my brother does," said LTC Medley. "On this deployment, we've shared some first-time experiences as far as sustainment operations in Afghanistan. We are in the forefront of servicing our combat Soldiers and making sure they get what they need."

Both brothers get a kick out of

the confused faces after Soldiers working in their unit mix them up.

"I might walk out of the office and my brother will walk in, and people will get that confused look of someone who has just met us for the first time," said CW4 Medley.

"We like to play around with them a little bit. Their reaction usually is, 'I thought you were the chief.' Those are moments we enjoy."

SIBLING SQUABBLE

Specialist Tyrone Gardner and his sister, Sergeant Davinna Harris, are from Birmingham, AL. They're also among the group of siblings that had an opportunity to serve together.

"We didn't find out on the same day we would be deploying together," said Gardner. "So when we did find out, we kind of got excited."

Gardner says he and his sister had a minor debate on the reason each was here. "My sister seems to think she was here to watch me. But really, I was here to watch her," he said, laughing.

Both Gardner and Harris are ammunition specialists and work in the same office.

"Working with a sibling is great," Gardner added. "You get that mixture of both work force and family training. Plus you have someone coaching, giving you advice and lifting you up the whole time."

After serving a few months together, Harris had to redeploy back to Alabama to get treatment for a noncombat-related injury.

"The time we shared deployed together made us grow to love each other even more," said Gardner. "We actually got to see what our faults and strengths were, and we were able to help each other out."

SISTER ACT

Like the Medleys, identical twin sisters Sergeant Shaderia Harris, a human resources specialist, and Sergeant Chandra Brooks, an admin specialist in support operations contracting, say they enjoy being deployed together, though this isn't the first time for the pair. The first time was a deployment to Germany. This time, it's Afghanistan.

"Serving and being deployed with my sister has made life a lot easier," Harris said. "When we go through training and deployments, we always seem to amuse each other."

Both sisters say they really enjoy working together and having the opportunity to spend their free time together working out, watching movies or sharing their daily issues.

"I'm comfortable and wouldn't want it any other way than being deployed with my sister," said Harris. "She makes me not miss home as much."

"I know one day we will go our

separate ways and that she will not always be with me," Harris said. "But until that day, she's my comedian. She keeps me in high spirits."

THICKER THAN WATER

For the Estes brothers, it was one phone call that brought Lieutenant Colonel Greg Estes, civil affairs officer, and his brother Captain Floyd Estes, ground mobility officer, together to serve in Afghanistan.

"When I was providing support for them, I heard that 135th had some open slots to deploy to Afghanistan," said LTC Estes.

"So I informed them that my brother and I would go. Then I called my brother and told him I just volunteered him to deploy to Afghanistan. And he said, 'OK. When do we leave?' It makes it better with him here. You have someone with common blood you can talk to."

The Estes brothers say that their family members support them and are very proud of what they're doing.

"They know this mission is bigger than anything at home, and it has to be done. There are only a selective few that will do it," said CPT Estes. "I think it should be everyone's civic duty to step up for our freedom. It should be in our nature as Americans to live up to the expectations of our forefathers." **GX**

AFORGEN Provides Predictability

Story and photo by SGT Darron Salzer, National Guard Bureau

PREDICTABILITY IS THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S KEY TO SUCCESS as it continues to meet the needs of the Active Army, the deputy director of the Army Guard said in October 2010.

"The Army force generation model has truly been the tool in which the Army Guard can provide that predictability to its Soldiers," said Brigadier General Timothy Kadavy. "It has also provided that precision needed to manage and ensure that those units have the equipment and the training that they needed to support the war fight."

"That predictability is key for not only our Soldiers, but also for their families and employers," he continued.

READY SOLDIERS

Kadavy said that without the Army force generation model (ARFORGEN), "It would have been almost impossible to provide Forces Command with Soldiers and units that are ready at their mobilization date."

It's this predictability that Kadavy said has allowed units to collectively receive the training they need and to also create the unit cohesiveness that is important when deployed overseas.

"In some cases, it allows for a unit to know what the mission is 18 months to sometimes 24 months beforehand," he said.

"It really is the synchronizing tool between personnel, training and equipment, not only ensuring our ability to have readiness for the mission to support the war fight, but also to maintain readiness to meet whatever requirements we may have here at home," Kadavy emphasized.

He added that as the Army National Guard has moved from a strategic reserve to an operational force, officials have had to adjust how they manage resources, such as training and equipment.

REASSESSMENT

Kadavy said to "spread the wealth," people were pulled from units that were capable of performing the mission and not going, and placing them in units that needed manpower and were going. Equipment was also moved around from those who had it to those who were going next.

"This not only created issues with Soldier morale, but also training issues as units lost equipment to train on," he said. **GX**



BG Timothy Kadavy speaks to the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army, in Washington, DC, Oct. 25, 2010.



CW5 Gary R. Nisker speaks to fellow chief warrant officers in Washington, DC, Oct. 26, 2010.

Strengthening the Ranks Guard Looks to Increase Warrant Officer Numbers

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. John Orrell, National Guard Bureau

THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S warrant officer program is currently under its desired end strength and more are expected to leave in the near future, the command warrant officer of the Army National Guard told an audience at the 2010 Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting in October.

"We are at 78.6 percent full when it comes to chief warrant officers, but we are still looking for about 2,000 more," said Chief Warrant Officer Five Gary R. Nisker.

"As of today, we have 45.7 percent, or about 3,600 retirement-eligible warrant officers that could move on," he said. "They have not done that yet, but if we don't start recruiting our own Soldiers ... we could be hurting for a while."

Nisker suggested that new warrant officers might come from the prior service ranks.

WIN-WIN

"We need to find those Soldiers that may be contemplating moving on and show them that they may have the potential to be a warrant officer," he said.

"If we can build off of their experience and not let them walk away

... then it becomes a win-win."

The warrant officer corps has started to get the word out that they are looking to build up the ranks and replace the officers lost in a possible turnover.

"We will be bringing about 500 former noncommissioned officers who are sitting on the fence as to whether they want to make this career change [to an upcoming workshop]," Nisker said. "And we hope to convince them that there are plenty of opportunities in the program."

He also stressed the importance of leading by example and grooming those troops with potential in their particular military occupational specialty code.

"All warrant officers need to be involved in the troop development of their unit as well," he said. "You need to make sure that you're there and that they know it."

As for the future of the Guard's warrant officer program, Nisker is optimistic.

"I'm hoping for the near future, that for most MOSs, there will be people standing in line ... for the opportunity to become the next warrant officer," he said. **GX**



Local television channel News 12 tapes a segment at the Guard Fit Challenge on the boardwalk.

Guard Fit Challenge Meets the Jersey Shore

School Program Finds Success on the Boardwalk

By Scott J. Farrell

"PUT DOWN THE FUNNEL CAKE, DROP AND GIVE ME TWENTY!"

The New Jersey Army National Guard took Guard Fit Challenge to the Seaside Heights boardwalk over the summer, challenging passers-by to find out if they are as fit as a Citizen-Soldier.

After seeing how successful the fitness program has been in New Jersey high schools, the New Jersey Guard decided to test it out on the boardwalk to keep raising awareness of the National Guard during the typically slower summer months. The leads poured in.

With as many as 300 people taking the challenge on some days, the program drew more than 3,900 participants in 61 days and garnered local TV, radio and web-based media coverage, raising the National Guard's profile in the community.

BEACH REACH-OUT

"With the excitement surrounding our presence on the beach, Guard Fit Challenge has been a lead-generating machine," said Staff Sergeant Mike Biggins. As the marketing NCO at the time,

he helped coordinate across organizations and teams to pull the summer program together.

The program launched on June 14, Flag Day, and continued through the summer, promoting fitness, and educating residents and visitors about the National Guard mission.

"Guard Fit Challenge has taken fitness from an inherent characteristic of the National Guard and encapsulated the important elements of conditioning and nutrition into one comprehensive and easy-to-understand program," said Biggins. "We expanded the already popular school program to the summer months by using the challenge at camps and, on a grander scale, on the Seaside Heights boardwalk."

The boardwalk version of Guard Fit Challenge gave participants the chance to test their push-up and sit-up skills during a two-minute drill and earn prizes like National Guard hats and towels, depending on their level of achievement.

BOARDWALK FUN

The summer program was a motivating and

exciting way to show the community what the National Guard is about, said New Jersey marketing NCOIC Sergeant First Class Melanie Rowton. "We're the Guard. We're fit. We're here to show you something new, challenge you and have a good time."

The Guard Fit Challenge booth was the first military promotion to be held on the boardwalk over an entire summer, said Rowton.

Seaside Heights welcomed the Guard Fit Challenge boardwalk promotion as part of its military-friendly initiative, the first of its kind in the state of New Jersey, according to Maria Maruca, executive director of the Seaside Heights Business Improvement District.

"Guard Fit Challenge really engaged a lot of the visitors to come over and take the challenge, and then gave them the opportunity to get some information about the National Guard and its mission," said Maruca. And those who chose not to take the challenge stopped to watch the people who did, she added, generating more attention for the National Guard.

As the school year picked back up, educators took advantage of Guard Fit Challenge to kick-start their students' commitment to fitness. In Lyndhurst, OH, the Ohio Army National Guard partnered with the Charles F. Brush High School physical education department to introduce the challenge to 120 incoming students.

Physical education teacher Kevin Flewellen invited the Ohio Guard to conduct the fitness challenge in conjunction with the President's Challenge for his incoming freshman students. Sergeant First Class David Sollberger, Specialist Brian Laws and Private First Class Devon Porter conducted the three-day event, coordinated with assistance from Education Liaison Representative Jackie Dodge. Students participated in body composition and flexibility assessments, push-ups, sit-ups and a timed run.

FITNESS FIRST

"Guard Fit Challenge opened the school's eyes to the fitness level of their students," said Sollberger. "It also opened the eyes of the students themselves. Some performed the events for the very first time in their lives."

"Our department wanted to start the year out with a fitness assessment and form a partnership with the Ohio Army National Guard," said Flewellen. "The President's Challenge was the perfect choice to align national physical education standards with the Army National Guard's Guard Fit Challenge program."

The Ohio Guard will conduct end-of-school-year testing in April 2011 to measure students' progress on the events. **GX**

COURTESY OF KRYN P. WESTHOVEN

Prevention and Response

Keeping the Force Healthy and Ready

Story and photo by SFC Jon Soucy, National Guard Bureau

PROVIDING A SUPPORT mechanism for victims of sexual assault within the National Guard is one of the most important programs the Guard offers, the Guard's senior officer told attendees at the 2010 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Leadership Summit.

"I look at the SAPR program not as a stand-alone program, but as a pillar under the capstone of support programs that keep our force healthy, safe, vibrant and in a position to answer the call to arms when our nation is in need," said Air Force General Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

GREAT THINGS AHEAD

However, said McKinley, while there have been great successes, improvements can also be made.

"We've made great strides in the past years in all of these programs," he said. "But, based on the briefing that I had last week as I prepared for today, I think we can do better."

"The metrics of success show me that the work is still in front of us."

McKinley said sexual assault is one of the most detrimental issues facing the Guard today.

"All of these ills of society detract from our force," he said, adding that suicide and substance abuse are other issues facing the Guard. "They impact our readiness to provide the kind of security and safety for the country and our states that we all strive to provide."

Sexual assault is not only devastating to those who have been a victim, but to the family, friends and unit.

"We bring with us a sense of family and community everywhere we go, and it makes us a stronger and more valuable force," he said. "Unfortunately, [since the Guard draws from the greater society], we also bring with us the



Gen. Craig R. McKinley addressed attendees at the 2010 NGB Sexual Assault Prevention Summit in Washington, DC, on Nov. 1, 2010.

"I CHALLENGE ALL OF US HERE TODAY TO TAKE ALL OF OUR EFFORTS TO THE NEXT LEVEL ..."

>> Gen. Craig R. McKinley

McKinley added that a solid support program is already in place, and he is committed to strengthening that structure.

"We have a good foundation from which to work," he said. "We have a good state and national structure in place."

"I'm fully committed to ... give you all of the support, resources and acceleration that you need," he said. "I challenge all of us here today to take all of our efforts to the next level and use this conference as a springboard to accelerate our efforts." **GX**

problems that are present in our greater society."

In FY2010, there were 186 reported cases of sexual assault within the Guard, said McKinley, who added that there may be many other unreported instances.

MORE AWARENESS, BETTER EDUCATION

Reducing those numbers, while providing an atmosphere of support for those who have been victims, means ensuring Soldiers and Airmen have the skills and training to minimize the possibility of a sexual assault, and that they know how to respond when a report is filed. Making sure those educational and awareness goals are met is a challenge for a part-time force.

"We're going to have to use innovative thinking ... to make sure that we get the training done and [that] you get the time with the Soldiers and Airmen [as needed]," he said.

The SAPR program is one of the key items that McKinley plans to discuss with the adjutants general when he meets with them later in the month.

"I think ... all of you in this room ... deserve to have access to the senior leadership in your state," he said. "Whether it's the senior enlisted leadership, our officer leadership, or the adjutant general himself or herself."

Guard Aviators Answer the Call

Soldiers Fill Gap in Fort Rucker's Flightline

By LTC Perry Jones

IN THE SPRING OF 2008, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visited Fort Rucker, AL, including the commanding general and his staff. His message was multifaceted, but one of the key imperatives was that Fort Rucker, as the hub of the Aviation Enterprise, had to figure out how to train more pilots faster.

"Today, the primary limitation on helicopter capacity is not airframes, but shortages of maintenance crews and pilots," Gates explained. "So our focus will be on recruiting and training more Army helicopter crews."

As a training institution that is part of the generating force, the contribution of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) to the war is the training and delivery of highly qualified aviation professionals to rapidly meet the demands of commanders worldwide.

CAPABILITY OF CHOICE

Aviation has become the capability of choice for ground maneuver commanders. Our challenge is to ensure that we have the right balance of aviation to support their missions while remaining synchronized within all of the combat functions. Analysis showed that the USAACE needed to

"TODAY, THE PRIMARY LIMITATION ON HELICOPTER CAPACITY IS NOT AIRFRAMES, BUT SHORTAGES OF MAINTENANCE CREWS AND PILOTS."

>>Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

increase its throughput by at least 19 percent. That need is based upon the increased demand for aviators in support of the overseas contingency operations and domestic operations, and the increased Flight School XXI training requirements.

Increasing throughput was already a focus of the USAACE team. Due to the OPTEMPO over the past nine years, USAACE found itself with a backlog of flight school students.

"The delays are due to various seen and unforeseen reasons," said Colonel Todd Conyers, USAACE G3. "Aircraft availability based on

maintenance, numbers of training aircraft at Fort Rucker, weather, instructor pilot availability, classroom scheduling, and even student availability—to name a few—have impacted or still impact the flow of students through the pipeline. The good news is, we're seeing very positive results based on solutions we began applying more than a year ago."

SOME OF THOSE SOLUTIONS WERE:

- Transferring a battalion each of AH-64D and UH-60A/L helicopters from the Active Component to Fort Rucker
- Increasing funding by 48%
- Via expanded POIs, increasing the breadth and capacity of the WAATS and EAATS to include the addition of AH-64D POIs and UH-60A/L and CH-47 MTP POIs respectively
- End-to-end review and modification of common core flight training and reorganization of the UH-60 POI

Since July 2009, the training backlog—the delay a flight student experiences between completion of Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) common core training and advanced aircraft track—has been reduced by 46 percent. These gains are significant but are not significant enough to meet the desired end state, and additional resources must be committed.

PILOT DEFICIT

The 110th Aviation Brigade remains critically short of flightline instructor pilots, and

that critical shortage is having adverse impacts Army-wide. The effects can be felt on the Active Component, Army National Guard aviation mobilizing formations, and states' capacity to support domestic operations.

Mobilizing Army National Guard or USAR instructor pilots to improve the throughput of quality aviators directly supports contingency operations overseas by increasing the pool of available aviators and increasing the capacity of the states to support their domestic operations. Simply stated, training more pilots faster will greatly benefit all components.

UP AND RUNNING

Since the fall of 2009, the program has gained both awareness in the field and true momentum. To date, there are 19 Army National Guard instructor pilots serving tours as flightline instructors. The program already has an additional 18 National Guard members programmed to begin their tours through the fall of 2011.

The State Aviation Officers are the quality control for the program. They ensure that anyone who is accepted into the program is their best and brightest. The Soldiers are individually mobilized and receive PCS orders. Their packets are first routed through their state chain of command and must ultimately be approved by the state adjutant general (TAG). Once TAG approval is granted, the packet is routed through the TRADOC chain of command, and final approval rests with DA. The period from the mobilization packet being submitted to the orders being produced is 60–90 days.

The program provides many direct benefits to the National Guard and the Army as a whole. We improve Guard readiness by expanding the depth and experience of our instructor pilot corps. Unit readiness increases Army-wide by helping to increase the throughput of new aviators and getting our Soldiers back to their formations faster.

Every instructor pilot brought to the flightline results in an additional four to six new Army aviators produced each year. Precious training dollars are better utilized, and the total time it takes to produce an Army aviator from the pedestrian ranks is reduced.

Eliminating the current flight-training backlog is the USAACE commander's highest priority. The training delays will not go away quickly, but this initiative exemplifies the concept of "One team: the Aviation Enterprise—Active Component Aviation partnered with the Army Reserve and Army National Guard teammates."

The multiplicative results will have significant impacts over time, and once again the Citizen-Soldiers will have answered the call of both their states and their nation. **GX**

To become a Guard aviator, go to www.NATIONALGUARD.com/pilottheguard.

GED Celebrates Opening of New Facility

Program Gives New Soldiers a Second Chance

Story and photo by CPT Kyle Key

OCTOBER 21 WAS A DAY for celebrating new beginnings and remembering those who gave all. The occasion was the dedication ceremony for the military's GED program and the program's new state-of-the-art building complex.

Lacey Jordan spoke to a crowd of more than 400 about her late husband, Sergeant Jeffrey W. Jordan. Sergeant Jordan graduated from the GED Plus Program after joining the Georgia Army National Guard on Sept. 11, 2006.

"Jeffrey was young, strong, intelligent and extremely determined to build a good life for his family," said Lacey. "The GED Plus Program was a chance for him to make a new start. It was an opportunity for him to be picked up and placed on a level playing field."

Jeffrey attended the National Guard GED Plus Program from Nov. 28 through Dec. 13, 2006. He later graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. With Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, GA, he became qualified as a radio operator maintainer and multichannel transmission system operator.

Jeffrey deployed to Afghanistan on April 10, 2009, and was assigned to Task Force Phoenix at Camp Blackhorse with the Georgia Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 108th Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition Squadron, 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, from Calhoun, GA.

Jeffrey, along with two of his crewmembers, was killed when Taliban militants detonated an improvised explosive device under his Humvee. His team was conducting a patrol in the Kapisa province of Afghanistan.

INTELLIGENT LIFE

Standing at parade rest with hands

locked behind their backs, 311 Warriors stood in the rear of the audience during the dedication ceremony. Army National Guard acting director Major General Raymond W. Carpenter hosted the event. He stated that the program is mutually beneficial to the new recruits and to the nation, and that it's greatly needed in today's military.

"The purpose of this program is to give Soldiers like [these] a second chance," said Carpenter. "This is not just for the individuals that we have in the back. We are also vitally concerned that these men and women have the opportunity to contribute to our organization [and] to apply their talents to service in this nation's military to protect the citizens of this country. We are looking for bright, intelligent, young patriots to serve in this nation's military."

Retired Lieutenant General Clyde A. Vaughn, former director of the Army National Guard, was honored as the program was dedicated in his name: The Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn GED Plus Program. In fact, the program was Vaughn's vision—a concept he considered to be part of a larger educational initiative to help solve America's critical issues.

The GED Plus Program was established in September 2005. This allowed the Guard to recruit, train and retain quality applicants who would otherwise be ineligible for service. This was a new and untapped recruiting source that would contribute to American society by putting Citizen-Soldiers back in the community with a GED, military training and a job skill.

"It's not all a social program because, at the end of the day, you ask these people to do what is the most solemn of all things—



to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic," said Vaughn. "And then we will honor all those and their families who make the supreme sacrifice."

NUMBERS DON'T LIE

"Our throughput continues to increase," said Maguire. "We tested 2,791 Warriors, with 2,752 passing, which is the most for one year in the history of the program. During this last year, we maintained an astonishing 98.5 percent pass rate."

Since it began, the GED Plus Program has tested 10,182 Warriors, and 9,217 passed. The overall program success rate is 90.5 percent, while the national average is 71 percent.

Maguire said the success of the program has helped to foster a partnership with the U.S. Army Accessions Command, which recently closed the U.S. Army Preparatory School for GED students at Fort Jackson, SC. The school was a pilot program that

began in 2008. Army Accessions Command is scheduled to send recruits to the GED Plus Program during FY 2011.

"This year will bring a new challenge when we increase the throughput to 3,000 [Guard] Warriors and incorporate 500 Active Army Warriors within our ranks," Maguire said.

The SGT Jeffrey W. Jordan GED Plus Complex was completed in June 2010 at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, AR. The 90,000-square-foot complex was designed to ensure efficiency in time, money and Warrior movements. As a "green building," it features efficient building materials, smart lighting, computer-regulated temperatures and water-conserving appliances.

The complex contains 22 classrooms, 12 barracks, faculty and staff offices, and a dining facility that converts to an auditorium. It also houses a small medical clinic.

Maguire said they will break ground soon on the addition of a physical training dome. **GX**

For more on GED Plus, go to www.NATIONALGUARD.com/GEDPlus.

More Than Duty

Citizen-Soldier Fights Many Kinds of Enemies

By Stephanie Inman

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001. It was the day two planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, NY, redefining the meaning of freedom. And for a young boy sitting in a seventh-grade classroom that day, the date redefined his purpose in life.

“That day, I decided I wanted to become a Soldier and firefighter,” said Louisiana Army National Guard Specialist Nathan Vanya. “They were running up the stairs while everyone else was running down. I thought those were pretty awesome dudes.”

Now, at 21 years old, Vanya has joined the ranks of those heroes. Three days a week, in 24-hour shifts, he puts on the firefighter’s hard hat and gloves to fight fires. Then, one weekend a month and two weeks a year, he trades in the fire hose for a rifle and trains with the Guard. Vanya considers having fulfilled these two dreams his greatest accomplishment so far.

“IT DOESN’T JUST BENEFIT ME. WHAT I DO IS GOING TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.”

>> SPC Nathan Vanya, on firefighting and being a Soldier

“I’m doing something that makes a difference. It doesn’t just benefit me. What I do is going to help other people,” he said.

A GREAT START

Vanya began his career in the military at Louisiana State University with an ROTC scholarship. But after his first semester at school, he decided to enlist. He joined the Guard as a combat engineer with the 769th Engineer Battalion. “I wanted to go ahead and enlist before I possibly became an officer, so I would get experience,” he explained.

In January 2008, Vanya shipped to Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Sill, OK. BCT marked the beginning of Vanya’s self-proclaimed “passion”—serving as a Soldier.

The physical challenges weren’t difficult for the former high school football and baseball player. But BCT wasn’t a complete walk in the park, either. “My least favorite part was being

yelled at,” he smiled. “But you have to put up with it.” Yet, he still was one of the Honor Graduates.

Vanya’s training didn’t stop with BCT, though. On Aug. 27, 2010, he began sniper school. “I got a call saying they had a slot open and asked if I wanted to go. I said, ‘Absolutely.’ It’s something I’ve wanted to do for a long time.”

In sniper training, he learned everything from basic camouflage and land navigation to target detection. “I learned more in those four weeks, due to the intensity, than I have almost anywhere else,” Vanya explained. “It was fun and exciting. The instructors were awesome. They made it interesting and applicable.”

Each day in sniper school, students face a new challenge and learn a new skill, and are tested on it. If they don’t pass, they’re out. No second chances. No room for error. “It’s a pretty high-stress environment,” Vanya relayed. “It makes you focus and brings out the best in you.”

On graduation day, he was among the 13 out of 26 Soldiers who lasted all four weeks. The highlight of Vanya’s military career, he says, was standing beside those 12 other Soldiers.

FULFILLING A DREAM

Now that Vanya had embarked on the first part of his dream, he was ready to begin the second. In July 2009, he had begun St. George Fire Department Rookie Academy in Baton Rouge, LA. Vanya fit right in. He discovered many similarities between the Guard and his fire crew. “You have your leaders and then your second leaders. It’s a chain of command,” Vanya said. Another parallel he noticed was the buddy system. “You are always working in teams. You never go off by yourself.”

One obstacle in training, though, threatened to end his firefighting career: claustrophobia—the fear of confined spaces. It’s a condition that plagues many Americans.

But Vanya had come too far to let such a condition stop him from achieving his dream. To overcome it, he reminded himself that in a real situation, he couldn’t worry about enclosed spaces—someone’s life would be on the line. “If you aren’t going to do a job because you are afraid, then you’ve made that person’s decision for them.”

Vanya began working at St. George Fire Department, Station 66, in January 2010. Fire crews often become like families, so it’s not a surprise that his fellow firefighters, like older brothers, gave Vanya a hard time. “You have to earn your spot,” he said. “They aren’t going to let me slide as far as that goes.”

For instance, one night at the station, when Vanya was in his sleeping bag, he felt something moving around at the bottom. He thought it was a string and disregarded it. The squirming down by his feet continued. “So I jumped out of my sleeping bag, turned it upside down and shook it. They had put a toad down at the end of it.”

That was only the beginning of the pranks at Station 66. “We have one of those sprayers to wash dishes. Every once in awhile, if you don’t check, that thing will be tightened down with a rubber band, so when you go to turn on the water, it gets everywhere.”

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

All jokes aside, Vanya has developed a deep connection with his fellow firefighters. When someone risks their life every day with the same people, the group is bound to grow close, whether it’s as a firefighter or Soldier, Vanya explained.

“You realize that what you’re doing affects everybody there. Everything you do on a fire call affects your entire crew,” Vanya told GX. “Whenever you’re at war, everything you do affects you and your fellow Soldiers. You have to know what’s going on with everybody, and not just think about yourself.”

The importance of teamwork is especially top of mind for Vanya during a raging fire. After serving at the station for nine months, he has seen his fair share of blazes, but the first one was highly memorable.

“You get calls, and most of the time, it’s nothing. But this one—it was definitely a fire. So I’m in the back of the truck, all excited, getting my gear on. When we’re at the fire, I jump out and start running around way faster than I should’ve been and expending all my energy,” Vanya said. “I wasn’t useful for very long. It was 110 degrees outside. Wearing all that gear, I didn’t last very long.”

That excitement about helping others is



SPC Nathan Vanya believes his greatest accomplishment is becoming a Soldier and firefighter.

PHOTO BY MISS TOBY M. VALADIE, LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

what fuels him to achieve as a Soldier and firefighter. When asked what he likes the most about his careers, Vanya replied, “Knowing that what you’re doing makes a lasting impression on people. Sometimes the fire department will go out to lunch, and people will approach our table and tell us stories, saying, ‘I remember when you guys came to help me.’ They will sit there and tell you, ‘Thank you, thank you and thank you.’ People remember, and it means a lot to hear them say that.”

NEXT STEP

Currently, Vanya is preparing for his deployment to Afghanistan in April 2011. “I am excited. It’s a chance for me to go do my part—my job. You

have to know what’s going on with everybody, and not just think about yourself.”

As part of his preparation, Vanya has received a few tips on how to handle the stress of his first deployment. “Leave your problems at home,” he shared. “You can’t be thinking about that stuff when you are over there. Too many times, you see problems with relationships, and that can affect a Soldier overseas.”

Vanya’s family seems ready to step up to that responsibility. His parents, Thomas and Charmane, are proud of their son’s selfless service to this country. Although Vanya swears his mom dreams of him becoming an orthodontist, Charmane understands that her son’s true calling is to serve.

“Nathan just always seemed to have a patriotic spirit,” she shared. “The attacks of 9/11 had a big impact on his life. Seeing the devastation and watching the heroic first responders run into danger to help others resonated with him.”

“When Nathan said that he wanted to join the National Guard, I couldn’t help bringing up all the ‘buts’ and ‘what ifs’ that flooded my mind. But after patiently listening to my laundry list of concerns, Nathan simply said, ‘But mom, someone has to do it.’” **GX**

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

A WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

Soldier-Teacher Walks Students Through Guard Life

Story and photos by PFC Jonathan Wood, Alabama National Guard



It was a school day in late spring, and 20 high school students from Richmond, CA, walked determinedly, weapons in hand. They were from a community that is no stranger to guns and violence. This type of crime is so common, in fact, that it often earns nary a mention in the news. However, this group of teens got plenty of attention this day.

UNLIKELY WARRIORS

The students were from Richmond-based Leadership Public Schools (LPS), and they toted the M16A2s under the supervision of their teacher, Rich Stowell. On this day, Mr. Stowell was Specialist Stowell, a National Guard Soldier.

A native of Salt Lake City, UT, Stowell moved to his current town of Oakland, CA, in 2000. He attended California State University—Hayward, where he met the woman who would become his wife. A few months after their wedding, Stowell felt a calling to take on a new challenge—he decided to join the military.

Stowell's father—a former Army Reserve officer—and brother suggested that he focus on finishing college first. But the military calling is persistent in his family, and Stowell enlisted in the Army National Guard. Since then, his brother-in-law joined the officer corps and his sister became an officer candidate in the Active component.

Stowell represents the essence of the Guard in that as a civilian, he teaches youth who need quality education, and as a Soldier, he stands ready to defend his country. At the time he joined, he was a high school math teacher in his civilian life. He relished the idea that he could simultaneously enrich himself with lessons learned through military training, and enrich his students' lives by passing along some of those lessons.

A WEEK WITHOUT WALLS

Recently, Stowell seized an opportunity to bring together his two worlds—teaching and Soldiering—for a group of his students.

The opportunity was presented in the form of Week Without Walls, a cornerstone feature of LPS. Week Without Walls is an annual program in which for one week, the schools offer various courses outside the normal curriculum. The idea is for students and teachers to cross traditional-education boundaries. Courses offered have included nutrition, yoga, Puerto Rican culture, mural art and improv.

Stowell had recently returned from a deployment to the Balkans, so the school principal, Shawn Benjamin, suggested

SPC Rich Stowell, a Soldier with the California National Guard, wants to give at-risk teens a second option in life.



While Stowell handles the classroom instruction, Diaz handles the exercises outside, such as parade marching and formation.

that he teach a course related to the military. He came up with “The Way of the Warrior,” a five-day boot-camp-style Army experience.

“[We called the course] The Way of the Warrior because we realized that a true Warrior attacks life and all its challenges,” explained Stowell. “It’s a state of mind that goes well beyond the battlefield.”

“I really enjoy teaching,” he continued. “I wanted to show my students the positive influence military training could have, and [explain a few things about] what Soldiers actually do.”

Comparing and contrasting Army training and civilian education is a hobby for Stowell, who went to Basic Combat Training (BCT) after he’d earned his master’s degree. After BCT, he wrote a book called *Nine Weeks: A Teacher’s Education in Army Basic Training*, chronicling his experience as a student in what he calls “schooling of the most important kind.”

HEAD OF THE CLASS

“I thought I’d offer the kids a bit of my Army training experience, and my reflections of teaching and training methods, so that they could compare their own education and military training for themselves,” he said.

Stowell’s course saw the most students signing up, and Benjamin asked Stowell if he could take on more students than originally planned.

“Feeling a little overwhelmed at the task I had given myself, I contacted Sergeant First Class Yvonne Diaz, who works for the state’s Accession Task Force,” relayed Stowell.

Diaz and Stowell met in 2008, when Diaz was the company first sergeant and Stowell was in the Recruit Sustainment Program. “I remember talking with her at RSP and getting the sense that she really understood kids, how they learn and what motivates them,” said Stowell. “Plus, it didn’t hurt that she’s a former drill sergeant.”

As Diaz and Stowell worked on the course plan, it became clear that it would align well with both Benjamin’s expectations and the school’s mission to get students academically prepared for college.

“As a high school principal, my focus is on preparing 100 percent of our students for college,” said Benjamin. “This is not an easy task in our community, where the high school dropout rate is exceptionally high. I thought that the intensity, focus, discipline, leadership and team-building that our students would learn over the course of the week would be worth it.”

The educational relevance of “The Way of the Warrior” was hard to deny. The course covered the seven Army values—loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage—which can be considered an important foundation in all aspects of life.

“It was really uplifting to see how my students took hold of the Warrior Ethos,” Stowell shared. “They owned it and lived it for those few days. I know it will continue to be a positive force in their lives.”

SERIOUS BUSINESS

On day one, students arrived at the classroom

with the necessary equipment and uniforms for training. Stowell, usually in a dress shirt and tie, was in his ACUs.

“I was surprised to see him in that uniform, because I never realized that one of my teachers might be a Soldier,” said Janet Cisneros, a sophomore who participated in the course.

Other students said they were a little bit nervous to be in a class taught by a Soldier. Stowell said he acted a little bit stricter and smiled a little less that first day.

“It was serious business,” said Stowell. “I told them that they were going to work hard.”

The students, now called “Warriors,” were led outside and into a formation. There, they met drill instructor Diaz. After giving them a briefing, the course began, with an inspection, assignment of squad leaders and the issuing of gear. The Warriors all got water bottles, ID tags, journals and a copy of Stowell’s book, *Nine Weeks*.

“Mr. Stowell’s experiences were really helpful to read about,” said Cristal Rocha, a sophomore. “He went to Basic [Combat] Training when he was older, and it was hard for him physically and emotionally. It gave me an idea of what [Basic Combat Training] is really like and helped me understand how to manage stress.”

Stowell’s book *Nine Weeks* compares the methods of military drill sergeants with those he learned for teaching high school:

“Armies have been around for a long time, and their training methods are time-tested. Perhaps they serve to bridge the gap between generations, and differences should be ignored for a time. It is certainly not without value to learn in new ways, even if those ways run against the natural grain...”

IN WITH BOTH FEET

The cohesion exemplified by Army units was one of the first lessons for the week. Drill and ceremony and condition drills made up most of the day’s training. Warriors learned how to march, how to address NCOs, and the importance of staying fit and hydrated. They studied the Army values and the Warrior Ethos, and began to learn the importance of communicating through a chain of command and relaying important information.

“It was exhausting, but fun,” said Barbara Mejia, a senior and a squad leader, at the end of the first day. “But I’m really looking forward to tomorrow.”

On day two, the group marched to the BART (commuter rail line) station and headed for Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area (RFTA), an hour-long ride. There, they met up with a Level 4 Combatives instructor.

“I learned that the Army is not just about war. It’s about DISCIPLINE and RESPECT.”

>> Margarita Carothers, student

“It was tough for me,” admitted Stowell. “This is probably more than most of these kids have ever worked out in their lives.”

While two squads were practicing some hand-to-hand combat skills and doing an intense core workout, the other half of the group was with Diaz at the weapons simulator, the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST).

“We actually read about the EST in *Nine Weeks*, so I felt like I was prepared for it,” said Mejia, “but it was even cooler than I expected.”

Everybody at RFTA Parks got the chance to fire simulated M14s. At lunch they ate MREs.

Throughout the week, the students engaged in basic Army tasks—marching, singing cadence, map reading, PT, and drill and ceremony. Additionally, they learned about Army history, how to wear the ACU and equipment, and met many Soldiers with a variety of experiences.

“For these kids, seeing the military up close and personal like this was huge,” said Stowell. “In our [school] curriculum, they don’t often get the chance to learn about the Army, its Soldiers or its purpose.”

Margarita Carothers, a freshman, said her perception of the Army changed a lot over the course of the week. “I learned that the Army is not just about war. It’s about living the Army values and the Warrior Ethos. It’s about discipline and respect.”

ETHOS EMBRACED

The Warrior Ethos, in fact, was a centerpiece of the training. Warriors were given “values” cards, along with the task to memorize the Ethos by the end of the week. They all had done it by the end of the first day.

“‘Mission first’ is something that every teacher tries to instill in students, though they use different words,” noted Stowell. “We hope that our kids will prioritize academics, stay focused on lessons during class, and get all their work done before hanging out after school. ‘I will always place the mission first’ is just a succinct way of putting it.”

“The lessons that The Way of the Warrior taught them are ones that will guide them throughout their schooling,” added Stowell.

Kids in the Richmond area need all the help they can get. High school graduation rates are

well below the state average, and for many kids, college hasn’t been considered a viable option in the past.

LPS was founded specifically to serve these kids. The students whose families enroll them at LPS have made a conscious decision to work toward something better. Of this year’s graduating class, all but one are college-bound.

“I emphasized to the student-Warriors that the National Guard offers them skills that will enhance whatever they choose to do. I reiterated to them that college was important, and that today, military service doesn’t have to get in the way of their college goals.”

Mejia was accepted on a scholarship to Colby College in Maine, where she hopes to study medicine. She acted as the group’s medic for the week.

She said she’s considering joining the National Guard through an officer candidate program. “Way of the Warrior was one of those experiences that I will hold dear, even years from now,” she said.

During one of the classroom sessions, a state education liaison for the California National Guard gave a class on preparing for college and the work force.

For many of the Warriors, the Warrior Ethos

became a tool they intend to use to help them accomplish their goals.

“We have improved our leadership skills, learned the importance of commitment to the group, and most importantly, developed the [ability] to prepare ourselves physically and mentally for whatever the future holds,” a squad wrote in an essay about what they had learned.

MATH TEACHER SUMS IT UP

“The life of a Soldier and that of a teacher are so different for me,” said Stowell. “[But] after three and half years in the National Guard, I am coming to see how similar [they] are. It was fun to share my experiences with these students, who were so eager to learn about the Army.”

He hopes his book will be used by other Soldier-teachers who want to know more about how they can bring their Guard skills to their students.

Benjamin, who also read *Nine Weeks*, considers the course a big success.

“It was amazing to see all the students who participated hold themselves high in honor and pride,” she said. “They had experienced a discipline and a training they had not encountered elsewhere.” **GX**



SPC Stowell and SFC Diaz make a winning combination and have provided life lessons to the at-risk teens in Oakland, CA.

The Rising Price of a College Degree

By Johanna Altan, Grantham University

\$10,359.00—that's the price difference between a year of college in 1980 and a year of college today.

Colleges and universities across the United States are facing a lot of scrutiny in the media for high tuition costs, which many say impedes access to higher education for a large portion of the population.

Public opinion is that college costs are getting out of control. In a December 2009 survey conducted by Public Agenda for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, 60 percent of the Americans surveyed felt that "colleges today are like most businesses and care mainly about the bottom line." This is up 8 percent since 2007.

So, how much has the cost of college increased over the last decade? According to a report issued by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Measuring Up 2008, college tuition and fees increased by 439 percent from 1982 to 2007, while median family income rose by only 147 percent. This report also indicates

that the number of students borrowing money for college has doubled over the last decade. Also, students are borrowing more money than ever before. As you can see from the inset chart ("College Pricing—Two Decades of Change"), tuition costs have more than tripled since 1980.

But, despite the reports about rising tuition and the increased amount of money students are borrowing to pay for college, there is a bright

spot in all of this. There are more higher-education options available than ever before. Students can choose from a wide variety of career schools, community colleges, online universities, public universities and private universities. The average tuition costs for each of these types of schools vary, and because of this, students at all income levels can find an affordable option that meets their educational goals. **GX**

COLLEGE PRICING—TWO DECADES OF CHANGE			
Academic Year	Private Not-for-Profit Four-Year	Public Four-Year	Public Two-Year
2009-10	\$26,273	\$7,020	\$2,544
2004-05	\$20,045	\$5,126	\$2,079
1999-2000	\$15,518	\$3,362	\$1,649
1994-95	\$11,719	\$2,705	\$1,310
1989-90	\$8,663	\$1,696	\$841

Source: Average Published Tuition and Fees in Current Dollars, Trends in College Pricing 2009, The College Board



Financing Options for Service Members

AS A MILITARY SERVICE member, you have more college funding options available than the average student. From military tuition assistance to scholarships and grants, you can find a way to make earning your degree affordable.

Below is information about some of your financing options. For more detailed information, please talk with the education officer at your base/unit education center.

MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE: The Tuition Assistance (TA) program provides funding for continuing education and is available to all eligible service members on Active Duty, as well as Army National Guard and Army Reserve members. For most service members, TA pays up to \$250 per credit hour,

not to exceed the fiscal year cap. Army National Guard and Reserve members who are not currently on Active Duty should check with their education office to determine availability of TA funds. Each military branch has its own eligibility requirements, application process and fiscal year caps.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL: The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides up to 36 months of educational assistance for a variety of training, including an undergraduate or graduate degree at a college or university or a cooperative training program. Veterans can use their MGIB benefits up to 10 years from the date of their last discharge or release from Active Duty; benefits for the Selected Reserve end 14 years from the

date of eligibility or on the day the service member leaves the Selected Reserve. More information on eligibility requirements is available at GIBill.com.

POST-9/11 GI BILL: The new Post-9/11 GI Bill pays tuition and fees, not to exceed the maximum in-state undergraduate tuition and fees at a public institution of higher learning in the state where the service member's school is located. For those who qualify, it also provides a monthly housing allowance; a books and supplies stipend; and a one-time rural benefit of \$500. Like the Montgomery GI Bill, eligible service members will generally receive up to 36 months of benefits. More information on eligibility requirements is available at GIBill.com

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS: Many scholarships and grants are available for military service members through service organizations like the American Legion and the Imagine America Foundation. You should also check with the college or university that you plan to attend, because they may offer tuition grants and scholarships for service members and Veterans. For example, Grantham University offers a military scholarship that reduces its tuition rate to \$250 per credit hour and includes a "textbook and software" grant. If a National Guard member or Reservist receives only 75 percent of TA benefits, or \$187.50 per credit hour, Grantham's Military Scholarship covers the remaining tuition, up to \$250 per credit hour. **GX**



Finding the Car That Fits

By Jennifer Chappell Smith, USAA

LIKE TRYING ON A PAIR OF SHOES, slipping into your new car should be a perfect fit. But many factors, from your budget to your desire for safety, might require a few alterations to your dream car, says Lauren Fix, aka "the Car Coach." Fix, who appears frequently on "Oprah," "Today," CNN, Fox and other TV outlets, is the spokeswoman for USAA's new Auto Circle™. This program helps you research, find, finance and insure a car online or from an iPhone.

The daughter of an automotive engineer, Fix learned about cars at an early age.

"Most girls were playing with dolls, but I was helping my dad replace clutches and bleed brakes," she says. "I was a jeans, baseball cap, T-shirt kind of girl."

Today, she touts the importance of auto safety, maintenance and smart car-buying decisions.

WHAT PEOPLE WANT

In her third book, *Lauren Fix's Guide to Loving Your Car*, the former racecar driver confesses she could never own a minivan or station wagon. She prefers sporty rides and says "arrest-me red" is her color of choice. But she hasn't always gotten exactly what she wanted. She learned early that compromising to balance what you want, need and can afford is key to finding the perfect fit.

"What you want and what you need will always be two different things," she says.

Many people consider only whether they can afford the monthly payments, and don't calculate the true cost of ownership, which includes insurance, depreciation and maintenance, she

says. They also don't prioritize what they value in a car, whether it's sporty lines, performance, environmental impact or safety.

"The buying decision should really be about what you value," Fix says.

A PERFECT FIT: SAFE AND COMFORTABLE

When you're searching for a car that fits your budget, lifestyle and personal taste, don't overlook physical comfort. Get in the car and drive it.

"We're all built differently," she says. "There are different cars that will fit you better than others." Here are her top three items to check for: **1 Seating position.** No matter what your height, the airbag in the center of the steering wheel should be at least 12 inches away from the center of your chest to avoid injury if it deploys.

2 Visibility. You need to be able to see where you are on the road. "If you can't see out the window and you can't align the mirrors to get an all-around view, look for something else," Fix says.

3 Easy-to-use controls. Can you reach and operate all the controls safely? Can you turn on the radio without leaning? Is the dashboard display distracting? Can you reach the pedals easily? Some carmakers offer adjustable pedals for shorter people.

Crash test ratings, vehicle performance and fuel economy should be key factors in your decision, she adds. Check websites such as SaferCar.gov and iihs.org. Or visit autocircle.com and look for cars with the USAA Preferred designation, which indicates they meet USAA standards for value, safety and more. **GX**

TIPS From the Car Coach

HYBRID

Buyer claims: "I want to help the environment."

The Car Coach says: "Without driving in rush-hour traffic, you might not use the electric mode often enough to save the emissions you're hoping to save. Also, can you afford to pay a premium on the car to be a model environmental citizen?"

"Yes to all of the above. I really want to buy a hybrid."

Be realistic about how much you'll save on gas. The difference may not be as much as you think, Fix warns. You may pay \$3,000 to \$6,000 more for the car, and it could take 5-7 years to make that up at the pump, she says.

ECONOMY CARS AND CLUNKERS

Buyer claims: "I just need something to get me from here to there."

The Car Coach says: "Really? Can you truly be happy with no frills or a car that lacks modern safety features?"

Perhaps your budget demands you seek the cheapest car possible. Don't trade safety for price. Forgo power locks, power windows and other options on an economy car. Or, buy a quality used car, checking for previous flooding, major accident damage and more through a CARFAX Vehicle History Report. USAA members get 20 percent off CARFAX reports for used cars. Log on to usaa.com and search for CARFAX.

SPORTS CAR

Buyer claims: "Speed and style are my top priorities."

The Car Coach says: "I can relate! But make sure you don't have a family that has to squeeze inside."

Have fun test-driving. Find technicians in your area who specialize in the make and model you're looking at so you're not stuck with a great-looking ride that doesn't run well. Even buying used sports and luxury cars can mean high repair, maintenance and insurance costs. So double-check your math.



Army Reserve Launches Job Search Tool for Guard

By LTC Matt Leonard, Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces

THE EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP OF THE ARMED FORCES launched its new, state-of-the-art web portal on Veterans Day.

The new tools offer Reserve component personnel, their family members, wounded Warriors and Veterans increased capabilities when seeking employment opportunities. The portal also vastly improves our employer partners' access to skilled candidates.

No longer does a job seeker have to re-enter basic personal information every time a search is launched. Instead, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity.

A user may now set up a personal profile so they are able to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own "dashboard."

By activating the alert option, seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers other useful features as well. The résumé builder allows users to create and keep their résumé available within the system.

Service members have an additional feature available to them: access to the program support manager network for career counseling and résumé assistance.

The new portal's functionality improvements make the search and application process much more efficient, saving service members and other job seekers time.

But the improvements don't stop there. Employers will find the new portal more useful as well. They are now able to enter position vacancies directly into the system and track those jobs, applications and views through their company dashboard.

Employers may also reach in to the system and locate the résumés of qualified candidates who may not have had the chance to apply themselves. So just by posting your résumé, you may be contacted by one of our military-friendly employer partners who need your skills.

If you had used the old job search engine, you should definitely check out the new portal, Army Reserve officials said. **GX**

Although the web link, www.EmployerPartnership.org, is the same, you are now in the driver's seat.

Open Season for Nominations Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Courtesy of ESGR

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE (ESGR), a Department of Defense agency, recently announced the opening of the nomination season for the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Guard and Reserve service members and their families are encouraged to nominate employers who have provided exceptional support of military employees above federal law requirements. Nominations are being accepted at FreedomAward.mil through January 17, 2011. The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for the outstanding support of their employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

The 2011 recipients will be announced in the spring and honored in Washington, DC, at the 16th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony on September 22, 2011. Recipients of the 2010 Freedom Award met privately with Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates while in Washington, DC. Under Secretary of Defense, Chief Financial Officer Robert Hale, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Dennis McCarthy presented the awards at a ceremony attended by members of Congress, senior military officials, business leaders, and the Guard and Reserve service members who nominated the award recipients.

FACILITATING FREEDOM

Almost one half of the U.S. military is comprised of the Guard and Reserve. The Department of Defense shares these Citizen-Warriors with their

civilian employers, many of whom provide significant support to these employees. The 2010 recipients included CEOs from seven large American corporations, a governor, a mayor, a state police director, the chancellor of a university, and four small-business owners. These and past recipients of the Freedom Award provide an outstanding range of support to these shared employees, including maintaining their full salary, continuation of benefits, providing care packages, and family assistance to employees fulfilling their military obligation.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 under the auspices of ESGR to recognize exceptional support from the employer community. "Every day we hear of employers providing outstanding support to the men and women serving in our Guard and Reserve and to their families," noted ESGR National Chairman Jim Rebholz. "Now, more than ever, we encourage these service members to show their appreciation by formally nominating their employers for this most prestigious award."

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. **GX**

For questions regarding the Freedom Award nomination process, please visit www.FreedomAward.mil or contact Beth Sherman, ESGR Public Affairs, at (703) 696-1171, ext. 539, or by email at esgr-pa@osd.mil.



Nominate Your Supportive Employer

2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award

Attention Guard and Reserve
service members and your Families

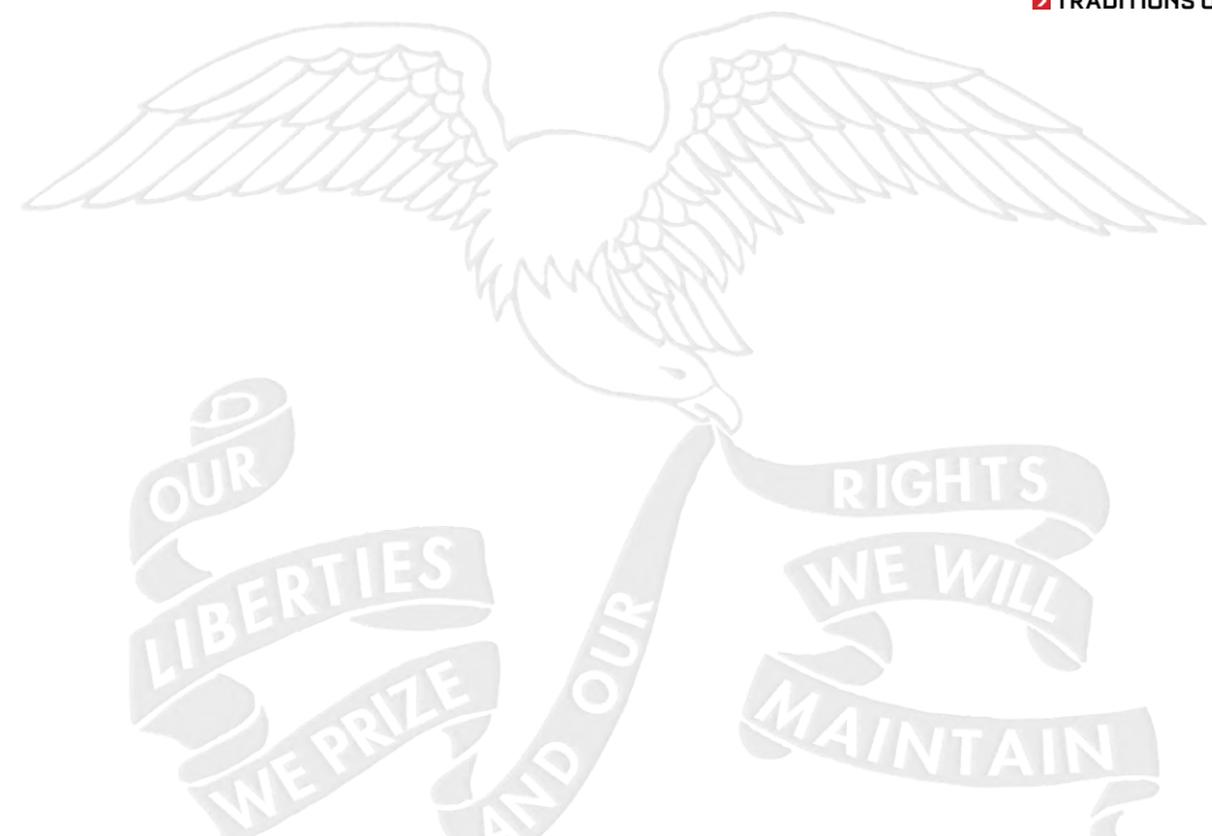
Nominate your supportive employer for the
Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award,
the highest award given by the U.S. Government to employers
for exceptional support of Guard and Reserve employees.

Accepting Nominations
November 1, 2010 - January 17, 2011
at www.FreedomAward.mil



ESGR, a Department of Defense agency established in 1972, develops and promotes 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.

www.ESGR.mil ★ 1-800-336-4590



MISSION FOCUSED WARRIOR READY

THE IOWA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

By Jason Hall

THE TERRITORY OF IOWA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1838, and a year later the Iowa Territorial Militia was born. On Jan. 7, 1839, Der Plauck Antwerp of Des Moines was appointed major general and became the first adjutant general of Iowa. As with many militia units of this time period, the newly formed Iowa Militia units were given colorful names such as the Wapello Cavalry Guards, the Kossuth Rangers and the Mounted Dragoons. Though the origins of the Iowa Militia were to protect its citizens from Native American war parties, their first mobilization was in the same year of their formation—to possibly go to war with Missouri.

THE HONEY WAR

The potential conflict with Missouri grew out of the contested location of Iowa's southern border. The counties along the southern part of Iowa were known for their many honeybee hives. Thus, the conflict became known as the Honey War.

Over 1,200 men of the Iowa Militia reported for duty to serve in the Honey War. Their equipment and training were far from anything one would call military, as noted by one such volunteer in Davenport:

"In the ranks were to be found men armed with blunderbusses, flintlocks, and quaint old ancestral swords that had probably adorned the walls for many generations. One private carried a plough coulter over his shoulder by means of a log chain, another had an old-fashioned sausage stuffer for a weapon, while a third shouldered a sheet iron sword about six feet long."

➤ Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, march to Camp Shelby's parade field for their Operation Iraqi Freedom departure ceremony in March 2006.

CHRIS WEST

However, these men never had to fight their Missouri neighbors. Delegates from each side negotiated, resulting in a joint decision to let the U.S. Supreme Court resolve the matter.

In 1846, Iowa became a state, and the Territorial Militia became the Iowa State Militia. The force would not wait long to be mobilized. The United States went to war with Mexico in 1846. In

response, Iowa raised a regiment consisting of two companies each from the counties of Des Moines, Lee and Van Buren, and one each from the counties of Dubuque, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington, for a total of 12 companies.

Unfortunately, the secretary of war notified the governor of Iowa that the regiment was not needed, and it was disbanded. However, Iowans did fight in the Mexican War, with Benjamin S. Roberts being the most decorated. As an officer of mounted troops, Roberts led the American advance into Mexico City, where he personally hauled down the Mexican flag and hoisted aloft the American colors in triumph.

In 1849, for his service, the Iowa legislature presented Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin S. Roberts with a sword in recognition of his courage and fortitude.

FORMING THE MORMON

One of the more unique American military units of the war hailed from Iowa. The War Department had sent Captain James Allen of the First Dragoons to Iowa to enlist the help of the members of the Mormon church who were migrating through Iowa on their way to Utah. Thanks to Allen's initiative, the "Mormon Battalion" was formed and marched more than 1,500 miles with Brigadier General S. W. Kearny's "Army of the West" in helping to secure victory over Mexico on Feb. 2, 1848.

Things remained quiet for the Iowa Militia for most of the 1850s. The exception was the Spirit Lake Massacre of 1857, in which Soldiers of Iowa pursued members of the Native American Sioux tribe to push them out of Iowa into Minnesota.

The relative calm of the 1850s would give way to turmoil on a national scale with the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861. Iowa regiments would fight in battles across the country. In all, Iowa provided 48 infantry regiments—including the all-African-American First Iowa Colored Regiment—nine cavalry regiments, and four

artillery batteries, to put down the southern rebellion. Approximately 76,000 Soldiers from Iowa served in the war, 27 of whom received the Medal of Honor. Over 13,000 Iowans died in the conflict.

**MAJOR GENERAL
GRENVILLE DODGE**

One of the most noted figures from Iowa to emerge during the Civil War was Major General Grenville Dodge. Born in Massachusetts on April 12, 1831, Dodge worked in Iowa as a railroad surveyor.

When war came, Dodge turned down an offer to serve in the Regular Army, requesting instead to serve in the Iowa Militia. As such, he was commissioned as colonel and placed in command of the 4th Iowa Infantry in June 1861.

Dodge performed brilliantly during the Missouri Campaigns of 1861 and 1862, and was wounded twice leading his men to victory at Springfield and the Battle of Pea Ridge. For his exploits in Missouri, Dodge was promoted to brigadier general and given command of the Central Division of the Army of Tennessee.

In the fall of 1863, General Ulysses S. Grant tasked Dodge with the critical task of repairing and protecting the Nashville and Decatur Railway. This railway was crucial in providing transportation of troops and supplies for Grant's campaign. Grant wrote of Dodge:

"General Dodge, besides being a most capable officer, was an experienced railroad builder. He had no tools to work with other than those of the pioneers—axes, picks and spades. With these, he was able to entrench his men and protect them against [enemy attack] ... General Dodge had the work assigned to him finished within forty days of receiving his orders. The number of bridges to rebuild was 182, many of them over wide and deep chasms; the length of the road repaired was 102 miles."

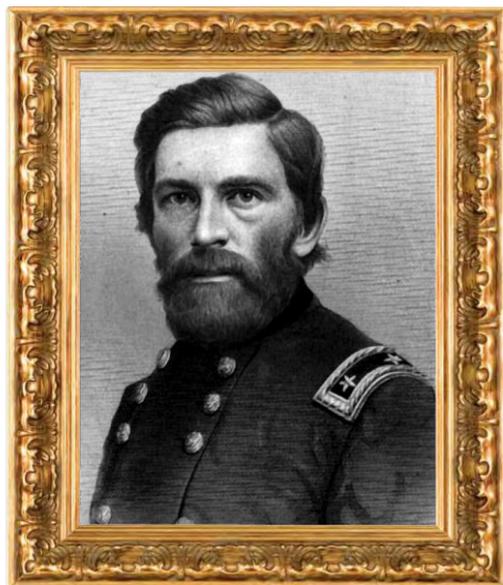
Thanks to his successes, Dodge was put in command of the 16th Army Corps during the Atlanta Campaign of 1864. In the 16th Corps were the 2nd, 7th and 39th Iowa Infantry Regiments. He and his men fought gallantly during the Atlanta Campaign, forcing Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston to abandon his position. This opened the way for General William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea."

For his actions, Dodge was promoted to major general and spent the remainder of

the war as commander of the Departments of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Utah. Following the war, he was headquartered in St. Louis, MO, in charge of protecting settlers on their way to California from attacks by Native American tribes.

DODGE ON TRACK

Dodge retired from the Army in May 1866 and served one term in Congress. Once out of office, he served as chief engineer of the Union Pacific



► MG Grenville Dodge, one of GEN Ulysses S. Grant's most trusted generals, served in the Iowa Militia during the Civil War.

Railway and committed himself to seeing the completion of the transcontinental railroad.

Dodge died in Council Bluffs, IA, on Jan. 3, 1916. In his honor, the state Militia Training Camp, located just north of Des Moines, was named Camp Dodge in 1910. Today, Camp Dodge remains as the headquarters of the Iowa National Guard.

Post-war Iowa saw the regiments raised during the war disbanded and the Iowa Militia brought back down to pre-war strength. In 1876, the separate companies of the Iowa Militia were formed into three regiments, and a year later the Iowa Militia was redesignated as the Iowa National Guard. Also in 1877, the "Looby Guards," an all-African-American company, was formed, and served as Company E, 3rd Regiment, until 1888.

The men of the Iowa National Guard would spend the 1880s and most of the 1890s in relative quiet. The Spanish-American War of 1898

would shatter that calm. Four Iowa regiments were mobilized, though the Iowa units sent to Cuba were relegated to garrison duty. The 51st Iowa Regiment, however, saw combat in the Philippines, fighting the Spanish, and were later engaged in the Philippine Insurrection, 1898–1901. Though casualties were light, two men of Iowa were killed in action, and an additional 41 never went home due to death from disease.

ACT NATIONALLY

The dawn of the 20th century would bring with it many changes to the National Guard. In 1916, the president of the United States now had authorization to mobilize the Guard in response to a national emergency. Within weeks of having this new power, President Woodrow Wilson mobilized the entire National Guard of the country in response to the raids conducted by Mexican bandit Pancho Villa.

After 30 days of training at Camp Dodge, the Iowa Guard Soldiers, known as the Iowa Brigade, proceeded to Texas. Most of the men were stationed near Brownsville to patrol the border. Though they never saw combat, they gained valuable training and experience. The actions of the Iowa Brigade during this time were applauded by Brigadier General James Parker:

"It came here well-trained as far as marksmanship was concerned, and it has added to its record since being here by the high scores of its teams at the Jacksonville competition. In respect to other training, no troops in this district have performed more faithful service than the Iowa Brigade. Its camp has always been a model of precision and cleanliness. The discipline and subordination of the Iowa troops has been excellent. The appearance of the regiments of the Iowa Brigade, on review or on parade, always shows precision, steadiness and neatness of uniform. For these results, we are indebted to the spirit of pride which has animated the men and the intelligent supervision of the officers, especially their commander, Brigadier General H.A. Allen. It has been a great pleasure to command such troops."

While the Iowa Soldiers were training along the Mexican border, war had been raging in Europe since 1914. The United States would not be pulled into the fray until 1917. When it was, National Guard Soldiers were among the first to deploy overseas.

The 168th Infantry was the first Iowa National Guard unit sent to France. Attached to

the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, the 168th participated in several actions. In particular, there was the Champagne-Marne Campaign, July 15–18, 1918. This campaign was a desperate effort by the Germans to mount an offensive with hopes of cutting between the French and British forces, which hopefully would result in a victorious end to the war. The 42nd Division, along with other American units, proved vital in thwarting this German attack. A Soldier of the 168th later noted:

"By noon of July 15, the German offensive had been halted, but both sides maintained a terrific artillery duel until the 18th. Life around our part of the country was an inferno, with earth quaking from the shock of artillery, and the sun blotted out by the dense clouds of gray-black smoke."

Chief of Staff of the 42nd Division Brigadier General Douglas MacArthur commented of the 168th, "Is it any wonder that my father was proud of this regiment?" During their service in the Philippines, the 168th, then designated the 51st Iowa, was under the command of MacArthur's father, Lieutenant General Arthur MacArthur Jr.

BIRTH OF THE BULL

The other Iowa units mobilized were attached to the 34th Division. The Iowans had spent months training in the desert along the Mexican border and drew from their experience in creating their new insignia. They devised a patch with a black Mexican jug with a white skull of a steer superimposed on it. The white steer was later changed to red, and this would become the official insignia of the 34th "Red Bull" Division. Though the men had thought they were going to fight as one cohesive unit, when they arrived in France, the 34th Division was broken up and its Soldiers were utilized as replacements for other divisions.

The "war to end all wars" ended in 1918. However, it failed to end all wars. Just over 20 years later, in 1939, war again swept across Europe. To prepare for the possibility of the U.S. entering the war, President Franklin D. Roosevelt mobilized the entire National Guard for one year of training. Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor, HI, on Dec. 7, 1941, thrusting the U.S. into WWII.

The 34th Division, with its Iowa regiments, was one of the first American divisions deployed overseas. Following amphibious training in Ireland, the division participated in the landings in North Africa as part of "Operation Torch." From this initial beachhead, the men fought in the battles at Kasserine Pass, Fondouk Pass and Faïd Pass,

"I think when you look at this generation, it's the next 'Greatest Generation.'"

►► BG Timothy E. Orr, adjutant general, Iowa National Guard



and landed troops at Algiers and Tunis, helping to bring about the surrender of the German forces in North Africa in May 1943.

INVASION OF ITALY

From North Africa, the men of the 34th turned their attention toward Italy. The invasion of Italy occurred in September 1943 when American Soldiers splashed ashore at Salerno. Three weeks after the initial landing, the 34th Division's 168th Infantry, Iowa National Guard, arrived at Salerno and immediately went into action fighting their way up the Italian Peninsula at such places as Naples, Anzio, Cassino and Rome. In the Po Valley, a unique thing occurred—the American 34th Division captured the German 34th Division, ending the major fighting in Italy. The 168th Regiment spent 611 days in actual combat during the war, helping to credit the 34th Division with the most combat days of any

American division in Europe during the war.

But the men of the 168th weren't the only Iowans in the war. The 113th Cavalry Group landed their tanks at Omaha Beach on June 29, 1944, though advance elements of the unit went ashore on D-Day, June 6, 1944. As the lead reconnaissance force for the 30th Infantry Division, the 113th helped liberate France, Belgium and Holland. Advancing into Germany in April 1945, the 125th Squadron, of the 113th, had penetrated farther east than any other Allied unit. Making contact with elements of Russia's 121st Division near Apollensdorf, Germany, on April 30, 1945, the 113th came to the end of the over 800-mile journey that started at Omaha Beach.

After WWII, the Soldiers of Iowa would be involved in a new type of warfare called the "Cold War." There were "hot spots" during this war, with the first major one being the Korean War. Several Iowa Guard units were mobilized



► MAJ Steve Boesen with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Embedded Training Team, Iowa Army National Guard, at an observation post in Afghanistan with Afghan National Army Soldiers.

in 1950 for this conflict, with most coming from the new Iowa Air National Guard, created in 1947. One of the only units federally mobilized of the Iowa Army National Guard was the 194th Field Artillery Battalion. After spending the winter of 1950–1951 at Fort McCoy, WI, the 194th deployed to Germany, where it stayed until returning home in 1953.

Another time the Cold War heated up was the Vietnam conflict. Iowa Air National Guard units deployed to Vietnam and served as whole units, though none of the Iowa Army National Guard units deployed as such. However, the 2nd Battalion, 133rd Infantry (Mechanized), Iowa Army National Guard, was federally mobilized on May 13, 1968, and assigned to the 69th Infantry Brigade, Kansas Army National Guard. Although the 2nd Battalion was not deployed, 264 officers and men of the unit served in combat in Vietnam, earning over 2,600 awards and commendations, with 12 killed and 76 wounded.

SCHULTZ RISES

One of the former members of the 2nd Battalion, 133rd Infantry, would go on to make quite a name for himself. After the 2nd Battalion joined the 69th Brigade, Second

“In respect to other training, no troops in this district have performed more faithful service than the Iowa Brigade.”

>> BG James Parker



Lieutenant Roger C. Schultz volunteered for service in Vietnam. As a platoon leader in the 22nd Infantry Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schultz served proudly, earning the Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After returning home from Vietnam, Schultz served in a variety of roles, leading to him becoming deputy adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard. Promoted to lieutenant general, Schultz served as Deputy Director for Military Support and ultimately held the position of Director of the Army National Guard from 1998 to 2005.

Schultz is the only National Guard Soldier mobilized for Vietnam to obtain the rank of lieutenant general.

It would not be until the Persian Gulf War, 1990–1991, that National Guard units would once again be sent into harm’s way overseas. For the first time since 1968, Iowa Guard Soldiers were mobilized in September 1990 in response to Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.

On Veterans Day 1990, Iowa’s 1133rd Transportation Company flew to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where it would log over 2.1 million miles transporting cargo, personnel and prisoners of war. Several other Iowa

units were mobilized, with a total of 1,886 Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers called to Active Duty for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Thousands of patients, including prisoners of war, were treated by the medics of the 209th Medical Company. Having operated in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq, Iowa’s 209th Clearing Company holds the distinction of being the only U.S. Army unit of any kind to serve in three nations during the war. The men and women of Iowa helped to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait. Unfortunately, it would not be long before the men and women of the Iowa Army National Guard would once again find themselves in the Middle East.

TROUBLED TOWERS

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Iowa Guard experienced its largest mobilization since WWII. Fighting in the Global War on Terror, Soldiers of Iowa have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, while continuing their participation in Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo.

The 1034th Quartermaster Supply Company was the first Iowa unit sent to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Other units would follow the

1034th, and in 2003, several units began preparing for deployment to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Over 10,000 Iowa National Guard men and women have been mobilized since 2001.

On August 9, 2010, approximately 3,000 Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers, part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, left home to train in Mississippi and California in anticipation of deploying to Afghanistan in October. This marks the largest deployment of Iowa Guard Soldiers since WWII. Comparing the Iowa Soldiers deploying overseas today to the Americans who served in WWII, Brigadier General Timothy E. Orr, adjutant general, Iowa National Guard, proclaimed, “I think when you look at this generation, it’s the next ‘Greatest Generation.’”

Orr continued by stating, “The men and women we have today are volunteers. We’ve been at war for over eight years, and yet every day we continue to get more and more men and women who want to serve.”

As the Soldiers of the Iowa Army National Guard continue to serve their state and their country, they will continue, in Orr’s words, to be “role models for society and for young people today.” **GX**



Soldiers from the Iowa National Guard traveled to Washington, DC, to support the inauguration ceremonies for President Barack Obama in January of 2009.



A Humvee from the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, encounters a simulated car bomb during a convoy live-fire exercise in February 2006 at Peason Ridge north of Fort Polk, LA.

CLINT WOOD



Soldiers build a levy in preparation for a major flood in June of 2008.

COURTESY OF THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

A National Guard Soldier takes a moment to collect his thoughts as he prepares to rappel down Victory Tower for the first time.

Story and photos by Clint Wood

THE NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER clicked the button on his M16 rifle to push the bolt forward. If the magazine had been loaded, this action would have moved a round into the chamber, making the weapon ready to send a bullet downrange.

But this was just practice for the live-fire Buddy Team Movement exercise during week eight of Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, SC, in October. At 52,000 acres, this site is the largest and most active of the Army's BCT training centers.

ON THE MOVE

"Can I get some 'pows' and 'bangs?'" shouted a drill sergeant.

The Soldier, kneeling behind a wooden barrier, responded with "Pow" and "Bang, bang." Seconds later, he shouted "Set!" informing his battle buddy, who was a few feet away, that he could now move to the next obstacle. The battle buddy replied, "Moving!" as he sprinted to a large junkyard car.

The teams would take turns providing cover for each other as each bounded to several hard plastic, waist-high obstacles (concrete barriers like these are used at the front gates of bases as security measures). Once the Soldiers reached a barrier, they had to assume a standing, kneeling or prone firing position. Battle buddies were selected randomly for the exercise.

Private Michael Deboda of Maryland, whose father is a retired Army National Guard major, said firing live rounds was "fun and a challenging experience."

To make it even more challenging, Deboda, whose knees and thighs were plastered with South Carolina mud that looked like rust, said it started to rain hard as he waited his turn.

"It is what it is—I'm going to get through it," said Deboda, of his mind-set during the wait.

DON'T LOOK DOWN

The next morning, Soldiers stood on top of the 40-foot-high Victory Tower, looking down at a wide cargo net. There was a huge airbag on the ground below, the kind people jump into out of burning buildings. On the tower, Soldiers crawled on their hands and knees a few feet from the edge. A drill sergeant, sitting on top of the tower with her legs dangling over the side, told them to face her, grab a bar near the edge, and slowly slide down the tower until their feet touched the rungs of the net.

"Put your feet down where they are comfortable to you," she said.

Fear was etched on the female Soldier's face. It was her first week of BCT, not counting the reception portion.



A National Guard Soldier looks down the sights of his M16 rifle during the Buddy Team Movement exercise at Fort Jackson.

"Private, I'm not going to let you fall," comforted the drill sergeant. "Relax. Feel that security under you. Take a deep breath. Say the Soldier's Creed, and look up while you're going down. Try and lower yourself down one at a time." The Soldier did this.

Private Darryl Harris from Guam, a health-care specialist (68W), said climbing down the cargo net did not bother him. Actually, his long flight from Guam to the United States concerned him more.

Private Amanda Richey of Georgia, an unmanned aerial vehicle operator (15W), said that the instruction to not look down calmed her fear of heights.

"It feels free. It's fun," said the married mother of a 3-year-old daughter. Her husband is a specialist in the Guard.

CONFIDENT JUMP

The Soldiers had even more fun when it came to the 40-foot rappel tower. Similar to the cargo net, the Soldiers approached the top of the tower crawling on all fours. Once it was their turn, a drill sergeant instructed them to crawl to him, pointing out that a fellow Soldier on the ground below was holding their rope.

Private Jermaine Walker of Illinois said it was amazing to look over the edge of the tower for the first time.

"Usually, I'm afraid of heights," said the

31-year-old Walker, whose several college degrees include an MBA. "I looked over. It wasn't so bad."

After glancing down, the Soldiers were hooked to the belay (climbing rope). "Put your dominant hand behind your back," said the drill sergeant. "Look down, and yell down lane three on rappel."

The Soldiers holding the rope replied, "On belay."

The drill sergeant instructed each Soldier to step down on the ledge a few inches down the tower that he was standing on.

"Now lean back," coaxed the drill sergeant. "Keep going. Now, take a step. As you go down, throw your right hand out so you can go down more easily," continued the drill sergeant. "Jump."

"I put my feet down, planted my feet like plants and went down," noted Walker, who joined the Guard with the Officer Candidate School Option, also known as o9S. "It was a thrill. It felt wonderful, twisting off and letting all my worries go. I'm ready for more."

That's something this base is known for. More than 50 percent of all Soldiers and about 80 percent of women entering the Army are trained this way. **GX**

For more about Basic Combat Training, visit www.NATIONALGUARD.com/fortjacksonexperience.

SWEAT+STRENGTH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Soldiers Take On Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson

The Real Fort Jackson

Inside the Nation's Largest and Most Active Army Training Center

Story and photos by Clint Wood

STANDING ON TOP OF THE 40-FOOT VICTORY Tower at Fort Jackson, SC, in October, watching future Soldiers show their courage as they rappelled down it for the first time, I couldn't help but think of an Andrew Jackson quote.

During his first presidential inauguration speech, he said, "One man with courage makes a majority."

How fitting that this fort, which trains more than 50 percent of all Army Soldiers, is named after South Carolina native Jackson.

ACTION JACKSON

Jackson joined the Continental Army at age 13. He was the seventh president of the United States and is credited with winning the Battle of New Orleans as a major general in the U.S. Army.

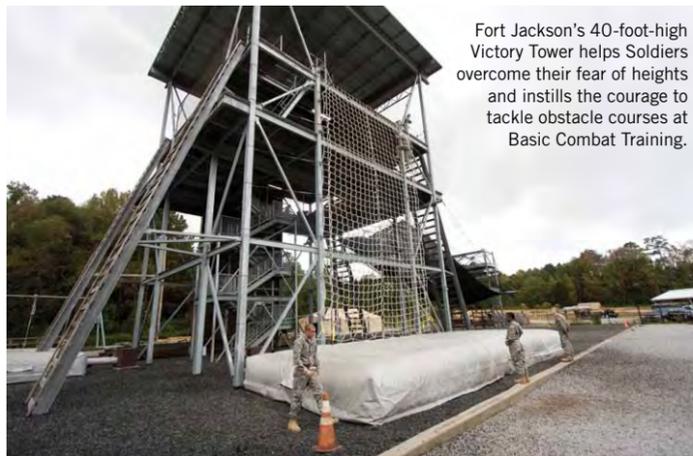
The site is the largest and most active Basic Combat Training (BCT) center in the U.S. Army. The 52,000-acre facility boasts direct access to three interstate highways, and the post's main gate has its own exit off I-77.

Fort Jackson's many missions include the Army's only Drill Sergeant School, the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute, the Chaplain Center and School, the Department of Defense Academy for Creditability Assessment, and the 81st Regional Reserve Command.

More than 55,000 BCT and Advanced Individual Training Soldiers are trained there annually. The 165th, 171st and 193rd Infantry Brigades provide the training.

In 1917, Major Douglas MacArthur—later to become a general—was head of the Bureau of Information at the office of the Secretary of War. On May 19 of that year, he announced that one of 16 national cantonments would be constructed near Columbia, SC. This was 43 days after the U.S. declared war on Germany. Camp Jackson, as the project was originally called, opened in 1917, answering the call to train Americans for war—WWI.

The center was deactivated Oct. 4, 1921, and reactivated in October 1939—one month after Britain declared war on Germany. More than 500,000 Americans underwent a portion of their training at Fort Jackson during WWII.



Fort Jackson's 40-foot-high Victory Tower helps Soldiers overcome their fear of heights and instills the courage to tackle obstacle courses at Basic Combat Training.

AMAZING RAID

Several Army divisions that trained there during that time made history. There was the 4th Division, one of the first to land in Normandy, France, in WWII, and the 6th Division, whose Rangers were involved in rescuing about 500 prisoners of war at the Cabanatuan Prison Camp on the Philippines during WWII. The operation was portrayed in the movie *The Great Raid*.

American and foreign dignitaries have also visited the site. In the summer of 1942, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived by train. Watching thousands of recruits training, he said, "They're just like money in the bank." President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited twice during his presidency, between 1933 and 1945.

The fort has come a long way since that cold, rainy January day when a group of planners, military and civilian, stood on top of a sandy knoll overlooking vast acres of forest six miles east of Columbia. Their mission: to evaluate a site for a U.S. Army training center.

Now, it's one of the best in the Army. **EX**



This is one of the Basic Combat Training barracks at Fort Jackson, the nation's largest Army Training Center.

FAST FACTS

Armored personnel carrier training started at Fort Jackson June 20, 1966.

40

The number of miles Andrew Jackson was forced to march to a prisoner of war camp without food or water after being captured by the British during the Revolutionary War.



Fort Jackson is midway between New York and Miami.



19 17

The year the 81st "Wildcat" Division, which trained near the fort's Wildcat Creek, began to wear make-shift cloth emblems of wildcat heads on their sleeves. This was the first division unit patch in the Army.

Stephen Colbert, comic talk show host, rappelled down Victory Tower.

ANNIVERSARY GIFT

Columbia citizens presented Fort Jackson a large statue of Andrew Jackson in recognition of the fort's 50th anniversary in 1967.

The bronze piece is near Gate No. 1 and in the center of a traffic circle. The statue is in memory of former President and U.S. Army General Andrew Jackson.



POWER SCHOOL

HAATS PREPS PILOTS FOR HIGH-ALTITUDE FLIGHT

Story and photos by Clint Wood



On a cloudy October morning, more than 10,000 feet above sea level, I was sitting in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter's gunner's seat. The window was open as the twin-engine helicopter flew through the southern Rocky Mountains near Gypsum, CO, elevation 6,223 feet. I leaned out of the seat and felt the cold mountain air on my face. Off in the distance was a mesa that sat several hundred yards below a ridgeline.

MARGIN OF ERROR

The pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Four Glenn Ballard, told his copilot, Chief Warrant Officer Two Chris Griego, “You see the cliff just above that cliff area? There is going to be a flat spot, and that’s where the LZ is.” “LZ” stands for “landing zone.”

Several minutes later, with Griego at the controls, the Black Hawk landed perpendicular to the mesa, the tail section a few feet from the 2,000-foot drop-off.

Griego admitted to Ballard that he over-shot the LZ because he was “fixated on the front of the mesa.”

“That’s a very common tendency, because you’re looking at where you want to go,” Ballard told Griego. “You’ve got all this helicopter behind you, and that makes you short and shallow. You can’t do that on these types of LZs. You have to get the whole helicopter onto [it].”

“Sixty-four feet, 10 inches of helicopter is what are you’re looking at, and you’re making a really good training point for us this morning,” continued Ballard. “If you look at your LZ and see [it] on short final, you’re wrong.”

Better to be “wrong” here than in Afghanistan, where the average elevation is between 6,000 and 8,000 feet. Griego was being deployed to Afghanistan.

POSITIVE ALTITUDE

Ballard is an instructor pilot (IP), and his “classroom” is the jaw-dropping peaks and valleys of the Rocky Mountains.

Welcome to High-Altitude Army Aviation Training Site (HAATS). It’s the only Department of Defense (DoD) aviation school designed to train pilots of Black Hawks, CH-47 Chinook helicopters and OH-58 helicopters how to fly in high elevations, how wind affects the helicopters and how to recognize the different mountain terrains. Pilots from all over the world attend the five-day school.

The school opened in 1985 and teaches pilots how to land on several types of landing zones, including pinnacles and valleys, with less power than they’re used to. Air is thinner in high elevations, so a helicopter’s air-cooled engines don’t take in as much air. This causes the engines to produce less power than at lower elevations.

Master Sergeant Greg Clancy, the school’s senior noncommissioned officer in charge, said that HAATS is a graduate-level school.

“This is the high point of an individual training,” he noted.

AIR HEADS

The school’s facility, located across from the airport in Eagle, CO, is operated by the Colorado Army National Guard and staffed by full-time Guard Soldiers.

The training area covers about 1 million acres—a combination of Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service land. This area of Colorado has the largest elk population in world, and the school closes for several weeks in late fall for elk-hunting season.

The school offers four Black Hawks and four Kiowa helicopters for training. The staff jokes that it primarily operates as a “Bring Your Own Helicopter” school.

The first eight-hour day is spent in the classroom. For the next three days, students fly with their instructor pilots. The last day entails a written test and a check-ride.

Clancy said the training area can support 13 helicopters at a time. IPs average 450 flight hours annually. In 2010, HAATS graduated its largest class to date: 424.

The Rocky Mountains are considered the continental United States’ closest cousin to the Hindu Kush Mountains in Afghanistan, so Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan have priority in being accepted to HAATS.

HIGH, HOT AND HEAVY

Major Tony Somogyi, executive officer of HAATS, stressed that mountain flying is not the school’s only curriculum. “High, hot and heavy” is a popular term: “High” is for the altitude; “hot” is for warm temperatures; and “heavy” refers to carrying the maximum gross weight.

“That’s how the environmental enemy presents itself,” said Somogyi, who was a Kiowa pilot in an early Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment.

Ballard, who has more than 10,000 hours of flying military and civilian helicopters, was deployed to Afghanistan in 2003 as a medevac Black Hawk pilot.

“[My deployment] helps make this relevant to what these guys are doing, and I try to incorporate that stuff into [our training here],” noted Ballard.

He pointed out that Afghanistan has more rugged mountains than the training area does. “We routinely saw 14,000 feet down there, traveling between Bagram and Salerno,” he said. “In the summertime, we had 120 days of wind.”

He elaborated that HAATS is an ideal place for pilots to learn how such conditions affect a helicopter’s power. “They need to change some of their habits,” he said.

Chief Warrant Officer Two Daniel Reyna,



A New Mexico National Guard pilot flies his UH-60 Black Hawk through the Rocky Mountains through the Rocky Mountains during HAATS training.



Pictured Above: CPT Kevin Doo, center, feels that HAATS training will assist him as a medevac pilot in Afghanistan. During the training course, SGT Albino Griego, left, was his crew chief, and CW2 Chris Griego was his fellow pilot. **Far Left:** The role of the National Guard crew chief is to help the helicopter pilot land the machine safely.

a California Chinook pilot, said the Rocky Mountains were similar to the mountains in Afghanistan, but that Afghanistan's ranges "give way to either lowlands or desert."

"Mountain flying in that theater was the real deal," Reyna said. "[We were] always flying at near max gross weight of the helicopter and having to figure out how the winds will affect the route of flight."

His fellow student pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Two Jose Mendez, deployed with him to Afghanistan. They both had just graduated from flight school before their deployment and had minimal time in the States to prepare for the deployment.

SLOW GOING

After being in Afghanistan, what was the most

challenging aspect of HAATS?

Reyna, who has been in the Guard for 12 years, said for him, it was the slow landing approaches. "In combat, slow approaches are your enemy," he explained. "With good reason—crews get nervous when you take a long time on an approach to a Forward Operating Base."

Captain Kevin Doo of New Mexico thinks precision landings are one of HAATS' intents.

Griego, who has 900 flight hours, agreed. He said New Mexico pilots do practice some of the same power management techniques. He also said that his landing on the mesa would have been easier if there had been more wind, because wind would have pushed his Black Hawk up.

Wind that strikes the terrain is called an

updraft. Wind that moves down the terrain is called a downdraft.

Doo, who has been in the Guard for more than eight years and has racked up 600 flight hours, said he has flown in the New Mexico mountains. He explained that the landing zones in the training area are more challenging.

He went on to say that LZs like these affect a pilot's perception. As an example, he cited being able to determine your speed while driving a car after passing other motorists.

"With hills going up and down, you can't predict speed," said Doo of the training area. "You have to pick multiple references to judge your speed, plan your approach and pay attention to your power."

He explained that the school is very important to him because as a medevac pilot in Afghanistan, he will not be able to always choose an LZ. He pointed out that LZs that might have been intimidating to him prior to HAATS may be easier to land in now.

His crew chief during the school, Sergeant Albino Griego, added that training in precision landings would assist in landing and

taking off from search and rescue LZs in New Mexico.

HAPPY LANDING

Crew chiefs play a huge role in ensuring Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters land safely.

There is one crew chief aboard a Black Hawk at all times and three aboard a Chinook. On a Chinook, one crew chief sits on the left side, one sits on the right side and one sits near the ramp. During combat, the crew chief who sits near the ramp mans a machine gun, and in peacetime they're responsible for loading and unloading passengers and gear, and monitoring gauges.

Albino Griego (no relation to Chris Griego), the crew chief aboard Chris Griego and Doo's vehicle, noted that pilots can't see their helicopter's tail.

For example, if they had landed on that mesa LZ, the Black Hawk's tail would have been off the edge. "I was looking at it and said, 'That is tight—that is very tight.'"

Albino said he had to tell Chris to move the helicopter forward.

Crew chiefs are also responsible for ensuring that the tail wheel doesn't get ripped off during landings, seeing that rocks don't puncture the tires, and telling the pilots what kind of slope they're landing on.

Albino said Black Hawks are very top-heavy, which makes precision landings important.

For Chinook crew chief Sergeant Greg Webb of Mississippi, this was his second time at the school. He flew with another group of Mississippi pilots in January 2010.

Webb, who has been in the Guard for four years, said snow was four feet deep on the runway, and temperatures dipped to 18 degrees below zero.

He noted that during the winter, it's hard to judge the distance to a landing zone because of the lack of contrast. Also, the helicopter's rotor wash can break off trees because the snow weighs them down. Crew chiefs must constantly watch for debris or clouds created by sand or snow kicked up by a helicopter's rotor wash.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Wesley Skinner, one of the pilots on Webb's Chinook, said good crew coordination between the pilots and crew chiefs is very important during pinnacle two-wheel landings.

"It may be 300 or 400 feet down before there is something we can see," said Skinner, who has been in the same Guard unit for the past 25 years.

He explained that the crew chiefs sit on each side of the Chinook and guide the pilots in. "We couldn't do it without them," stated Skinner.

PINNACLE OF PERFORMANCE

Chief Warrant Officer Four Cecil Crawford, Skinner's fellow pilot, noted that he was familiar with pinnacle landings during field training exercises to Fort Bliss, TX, and Boise, ID.

But unlike having to make pinnacle landings during the school, he said he aborted pinnacle landings at these two training areas if he didn't feel comfortable.

Reyna, a former California Army National Guard Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, admitted that he had "a certain element of apprehension" during high-altitude pinnacle landings.

"But that was part of the training," he stated. "Knowing how to come in on a final approach path. Being proficient gives you confidence, which in turn eases your nerves."

MAXED OUT

Students have to land with simulated maximum available power, or torque, and attempt not to exceed this torque. This simulates that their helicopters are carrying their maximum gross weight.

IPs sometimes guard the helicopter's controls to ensure that students don't crash. Reyna said this power restriction was a big challenge at first.

"We kept going two to three percent over, which in reality would have killed us," he said. "During our end-of-course check-rides, we both remained well within our simulated maximum torques."

Crawford, a former crime scene investigator, noted that his prior practice landings at high elevations were not at maximum gross weight, and there was no simulated maximum torque. He said HAATS has really helped him gain knowledge on flying "high and heavy."

Captain Tom Renfroe, a Chinook IP who was deployed to Iraq 2006–2007, said he stresses to the students to not exceed their maximum torque, but understands that some situations will require more power.

"Armed with that knowledge and skill, they should be able keep themselves out of situations where they run out of power and crash," said Renfroe, who has flown Hueys, Black Hawks and Chinooks. "I like training [people]. It's a good feeling when you open somebody's eyes to something they haven't seen before. It makes them a more capable and safer pilot, and I feel good about that." **GX**



A CH-47 Chinook creates a dust storm in a confined landing zone during HAATS training.



Live Fire

Shooting Competition
Lets Troops Hone Skills

WHEN THE ENEMY FIRES HUNDREDS OF 7.62X39 MM ROUNDS AT YOU, chewing up the ground and the vehicles around you and your squad, they don't care who you are. They don't care how much weapons training you have. So, how do you prevent this, or how do you respond? You eliminate the threat. And, where can you hone that skill? The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC), on Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, AR.

Story and photos by SSG Joshua Dooley, NGMTC Public Affairs

This past October, NGNGMTC held its annual Winston P. Wilson (WPW) shooting competition, drawing more than 370 shooters from 44 states and territories. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen competed at the local level to earn the right to represent their state or territory before heading to WPW.

Unit commanders incur no cost to send their service members to the competition, according to NGMTC commander Colonel Karen Gattis.

“We pay for eight people per state to come here for this competition. So, in addition to receiving invaluable training, it comes at no cost to the states or territories for those eight people,” Gattis said.

The competition gives troops the chance to shoot more than 650 rounds of ammo through pistols, rifles, shotguns and machine guns through a variety of challenging scenarios.

“The training they receive here in the



competition is advanced marksmanship training. The events we put them through are not replicated at the local level,” explained Gattis.

Colonel Wendul Hagler oversaw 12 of his fellow Missouri National Guard Soldiers compete. According to Hagler, the training is “invaluable,” and shooting once per year for qualification is inadequate as Soldiers deploy to combat zones.

“The great thing about this competition is that these Soldiers come back to the state with great skill sets that are a tremendous asset,” Hagler cheered.

Specialist David Benson, Montana National Guard, unfortunately had few opportunities

to fire back home. As a first-time competitor, Benson loved it.

“I’ve learned a lot while I’ve been here. The moving and shooting, transitioning from target to target, moving targets, changing weapons—it’s definitely been a learning experience. I’ve become a better shooter just over the course of this week,” Benson shared.

Missouri State Command Sergeant Major James Schulte first competed in WPW back in 1975, and only recently retired from competition.

“We went from precision bull’s-eye shooting when I first came here to what you see today, which is more gunfighting oriented. When you add stress to the events,

you better prepare Soldiers for combat,” described Schulte.

An added bonus to honing marksmanship, troops make valuable connections across the country, sharing tactics, Gattis noted.

“I try to talk to everyone while I’m here,” agreed Staff Sergeant Ken Lathrop, Iowa National Guard. “I see what they’re doing and see if it’s something that might work for me. Even if it doesn’t, I try it and learn it. Maybe it’s something I teach to someone else, and it works great for them.”

Gattis threw down the challenge: “Just come once. The people who were here for the first time this year will be the first ones to sign up for next year.” **GX**

OPPOSITE PAGE:

► **From Left:** A Soldier demonstrates his mastery of the shotgun during a tactical competition; With plenty of weapons and ammo, the shooting competition proved to be an action-packed event.

THIS PAGE:

► **Clockwise From Top:** For several of the events, Soldiers had to sprint to their weapons before they could begin to shoot; Several of the team events required Soldiers to navigate obstacles while being timed against the clock; Shooting the M9 pistol was a requires masterful trigger and sight alignment to do well during the competition.



GET THE DETAILS ON NGMTC AND WPW.

Hit up CPT Barry Eason by emailing barry.eason@us.army.mil. Also visit www.arguard.org/mtc.

Buzzing the Crowd

Dale Jr. rides the wall during the AAA 400 at the Dover International Speedway on September 26, 2010.

SPORTS	FITNESS	GEAR
Check in with the National Guard's dune buggy drivers; go deep with Guard anglers; get fit with Guard Urbanathletes.	Get vertical in Nepal with CPT Aaron Isaacson.	Rapid fire: Laying it down with the Mk 19 grenade launcher.
88	96	100





The 1600 cc National Guard buggy can tackle all but the roughest terrain at full speed.

Soldiers Hit the Dunes

Arizona Sponsors Off-Road Racing Team *Story and photos by SFC Aaron C. Thacker, 123rd MPAD*

WHEN DEPLOYED SOLDIERS aren't performing their duties, they often escape into thoughts of what they'll do when they return home.

That's how two majors in the Arizona National Guard turned their downrange vision of a racing team into an off-road reality.

"Off-road racing isn't as much about winning as finishing," said Major Erik Schroeder, administrative officer for the 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Tucson, AZ, as he made last-minute adjustments to his car the night before his race. "These courses can tear up a car."

ROADS LESS TRAVELED

Off-road racing is a competitive motor sport where various classes of modified cars, trucks, motorcycles and buggies race through unpaved terrain.

Schroeder is half of a two-man Javelina Racing Team (JRT) that participated in just such an event—called The Race—in Northern Arizona between Heber and Snowflake Sept. 4–6.

This was the second time JRT has been on this 27.7-mile course. It would be the sixth race for this car and its third in the desert.

Schroeder has been racing with his teammate, Major Carl Westphal, communications officer for the 198th Regional Support Group out of Phoenix, for about four years.

Although Westphal served as the co-driver in their 1600 cc-class car, his primary focus is on the motorcycles that first got them into team racing.

"The idea of racing grew up in the middle of the desert in Kuwait when I was deployed with Major Westphal," Schroeder said.

"We were tent-mates and were reading a bunch of off-road magazines in our spare time," Westphal said. "One day I said, 'I'd really like to race in this Baja 1000.' And he said, 'I'd do it if you'd do it.' So we came back and bought a couple of motorcycles and trained up for the 2007 Baja 1000, which was the first race we competed in together."

DRIVEN BY THE GUARD

JRT has come a long way since its Baja days. Not only have they added a car to their arsenal, but The Race is the event where JRT unveiled

their new sponsor: the Arizona National Guard. The car is covered in an Army Combat Uniform pattern on the sides and the words "National Guard" in big, bold lettering on the black hood with orange highlights. The motorcycles have similar patterns.

What's most notable about this sponsorship is that this is the first National Guard-sponsored race team where the racers are not professional racers, but active Guard members.

"It's great that the National Guard is sponsoring us and being a part of this community," Westphal said. "Off-road racing is a very community-based activity, and it's great to see the Guard getting in at a grassroots level."

JRT continues to race the bikes in addition to the 1600 cc buggy in Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Baja, Mexico.

Back at The Race, Schroeder registers his 1600 class vehicle. His car is one of roughly 50 cars

entered into this particular event, which also includes Trophy Trucks—which are an unlimited class—and a few smaller four-wheeled vehicles.

"1600 class is considered the drivers' class. Those guys have to have brute force and power to win," he said of a nearby Trophy Truck, "whereas 1600s are designed—and the rules are designed—to keep them all within the same structure, so that my car shouldn't be any faster than the guy's car next to me. If I beat him, I should beat him because I'm a better driver."

Every off-road owner makes a sizable investment in his craft, in terms of both energy as well as time. "The car is constantly a work in progress in terms of tweak this and fix that, and make something just a little bit better, a little bit more bulletproof," Schroeder said as he completed adjustments in preparation for the actual Labor Day weekend race. "It takes six to eight months to get it to the point where you see it here." **GX**



Major Erik Schroeder (left) and Major Carl Westphal (kneeling) make up the Javelina Racing Team.

Learning From the Best

Dale Jr. Adopts Guard's Professionalism *By Clint Wood*

"LESSONS LEARNED" is a common phrase in the Army National Guard. Soldiers always learn something from their missions that will stay with them forever. To assist in this process, all their actions are reviewed.

So how fitting that Dale Earnhardt Jr. would emulate this concept after three years of being behind the wheel of the No. 88 National Guard/AMP Energy Chevrolet Impala.

In a Team Chevy driver press conference before the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Brickyard 400 at

the Indianapolis Motor Speedway last July, Dale Jr. discussed this, along with the difference between racing for the Guard and racing for other sponsors.

Dale Jr. said that overall, he enjoys observing the professionalism of the Guard.

"It's pretty fun to see all of that," he said. "That stuff kind of rubs off on you. If you're like me, being an owner in the Nationwide Series, a lot of the things that I learned from how [the Guard] does business rubs off on how I do business. So it helps me."

Dale Jr. is co-owner of the JR Motorsports Nationwide Series program.

GX asked Dale Jr. what he has gotten out of his time with the National Guard that he might not get from another sponsor.

"Meeting the different personalities in the military and hearing unique stories about them is interesting. For some reason, with the military, you really get to understand the chain of command, how they work and how they're



HENDRICK MOTORSPORTS

organized. Whether it's an appearance or a project we're involved in together, I get to see the infrastructure a little bit. And it's a little more understandable than it is with a corporate company." **GX**

For more on Dale Jr., go to www.NATIONALGUARD.com/lessonsfromdale.

Pennsylvania Punch

Soldier Advances in Global Boxing Competition

Story and photo by Tim Hipps



FOR SIX MONTHS, the anticipation mounted. One of the biggest events of the year was about to take Marines and civilians alike by storm. Everyone knew that in October, Warriors from all corners of the earth would congregate in a single building, preparing for battle.

These Warriors—81 boxers from 15 countries—came together aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune for the 53rd Conseil International du Sport Militaire's (CISM) World Military Boxing Championship, Oct. 10–16.

Commencing with an opening ceremony at Liversedge Field aboard the base, the participating boxers marched onto the field in companies of their respective countries. The U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division band provided the music, and the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Drill Team performed a drill exposition.

GLOBAL PRESENCE

"We're hosting 15 different countries from Europe and Asia, so it's a very big deal for our base," said Colonel Daniel J. Lecce, commanding

officer of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. "With sports, we as Marines understand that it builds camaraderie, especially a contact sport like this."

As the opening ceremony concluded, boxers returned to their lodging to prepare for the first session of the week, to take place later that evening.

The second night of the matches contained more than double that of the first, pitting country against country in 12 bouts with weight ranges from 115 pounds (Fly) to 200-plus pounds (Super Heavy).

Of these 12 bouts, Team USA had one boxer, Specialist Samuel Vasquez Jr., of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, who defeated Sergeant Carsten Sorensen of Denmark.

Any who laid witness to the matches witnessed the heart and passion each of these boxers shares inside the ring.

No matter what individual countries or militaries these fighters hail from, they were brought together under one banner: "CISM—Friendship Through Sport." **GX**

Tackling the Ultimate Obstacle Course

Soldiers Race in the Men's Health Urbanathlon *By Stephanie Inman*

ON OCT. 16, THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN spent the day climbing over parked cars and buses in the streets of Chicago, IL. It wasn't a scene from an action movie—it was part of the Men's Health Urbanathlon, a nine-mile race.

Dispersed throughout the race were "urban" obstacles that each competitor had to overcome, including a rope wall over a bus that they had to scale and a stair-climb through Soldier Field.

GX interviewed three National Guard Soldiers who competed in this event—Sergeant First Class Andrea Bell, Specialist Dan Behrens and Specialist Michael Rattanasavanh. These Soldiers all serve in the Illinois National Guard. We asked them their thoughts about the race.

GX: Why did you decide to enter into the Urbanathlon?

RATTANASAVANH: When I was in Basic Training, I had a blast running through the obstacle course.

So when I found out about this race, I didn't hesitate to register.

BELL: I needed a little competition. I compete throughout the year in CrossFit events, but this is our off-season. So I needed some competition blood running through me to get ready for my upcoming season.

BEHRENS: I saw an advertisement for last year's race in a Men's Health magazine while I was deployed in 2009. I returned home just in time to get a team together and compete. I decided that this year I was going to do the Urbanathlon solo. I'm extremely competitive, so anything like this appeals to me.

GX: How did you prepare or train for the race?

RATTANASAVANH: I trained for a month. I'd run two miles a day for the first two weeks. On the third week, I would alternate—three miles one day and four miles the next. After each run, I would do 15 pull-ups, 75 push-ups and a two-minute abs workout.

BELL: I didn't. I do CrossFit religiously. So that alone will prepare me for anything that I need to do.

BEHRENS: I didn't train for the race specifically. The race happened to fall in the middle of a "cardio-free" training cycle for my bodybuilding competition. Also, I sprained my knee one week before the race and it kept me from doing any "crunch time" cardio in the days leading up to the Urbanathlon.

GX: What makes the Urbanathlon unique among races?

BELL: I would say the obstacles. Also, you almost need a cross-trained athlete to do the race. I would assume that many runners had a hard time with the obstacles. Then on the other hand, you saw a lot of muscular men who had a difficult time running. So the Urbanathlon is unique because it takes a well-trained, all-around athlete to win it.

BEHRENS: The most obvious answer is the urban-themed obstacles sprinkled throughout the race. But even more so, the city of Chicago made this race unique. The course covered or ran adjacent to all the lakeside landmarks. The Art Institute, Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Soldier Field and McCormick Place are just a few of the local sites. Whether you live in this city or you were just visiting for the race weekend, it truly was an experience.

GX: Why do you think it's important for Soldiers to participate in events like this?

RATTANASAVANH: It helps you keep in shape, stay mentally sharp, and you get to meet a lot of nice people with the same interest.

BELL: It's just a challenge. Especially as a Soldier, you should always challenge yourself. Go out and take that risk. It's one of the Army values—personal courage. People don't try because they are terrified of failing. If you never fail, then you never get better.

BEHRENS: Events like this are great opportunities for Guard Soldiers. It seems [some] have forgotten the [meaning of the] title "Citizen-Soldiers." That title doesn't mean a civilian who plays Army one weekend per month; it means you're a Soldier capable of balancing military and civilian lifestyles. That includes keeping true to your fitness goals and anything else that will help your performance when it really matters. Guard Soldiers should constantly be pushing themselves to make strides that exceed physical and mental standards. **GX**



Specialist Dan Behrens trained for the Men's Health Urbanathlon while deployed to Iraq in early 2010.

COURTESY OF ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Long Drive

Florida Soldier Places Second in Military Golf Competition

Story and photo by Tim Hipps, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command

U.S. COAST GUARD ENSIGN RYAN HIXSON won his fourth consecutive Military Long Drive Championship with a winning drive of 358 yards Nov. 3 at Mesquite Regional Park.

Hixson put the winning ball on the grid with his first drive in the final round of the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command event against challenger Chief Warrant Officer Two Rocky Alumbaugh of the Florida Army National Guard at Cecil Field, FL. It was the only swing Hixson needed in the final round to maintain his crown.

"I told myself when I hit my first three, it was going to be my last three," Hixson said. "Once I hit it 358, I didn't think Rocky had 358 in him."

PINS, NEEDLES AND TEES

Alumbaugh was not sure, either.

"He hit a low burner—wow, he killed it," Alumbaugh said of Hixson's winning drive. "He put a big number up there and just made me try harder to get a hold of one. It was nerve-racking, I could barely tee up the ball."

Hixson's second and third shots of the final showdown were out of bounds, but his 358-yarder topped Alumbaugh's six-ball, final-round best of 328 yards, which allowed Hixson to forgo his final three swings of the night.

"They were climbers," Alumbaugh said of his drives of 315, 325, 298 and 328 yards in the finale against Hixson. His other two shots were out of bounds. "The wind picked up, I got too much spin on it, and they just started climbing into the wind.

"I wasn't hitting them as good as I was earlier, but I had my chance. I'm happy. I can't complain."

Hixson was atop his game from the outset, posting marks of 376, a tournament-best 387, 354, 378, 365 and another 387 in the first round of competition.

DANCING DRIVE CHAMP

"I was really focused this year and determined to win," explained Hixson, whose post-victory interview was briefly interrupted by reigning Australian Long Drive champion Mark Bylsma, who stopped by to belly dance for the four-time U.S. military champion. "He told me earlier today, 'Captain America, if you win tonight, I might do a special dance for you.'"

Hixson also received a trophy, \$10,000 and an exemption into the 2011 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championships powered by Dick's Sporting Goods.

Hixson was the only Military Long Drive competitor who kept six balls on the grid in the first round. He followed

with four more—319, 354, 355, 344—in the second round before hitting back-to-back out-of-bounds shots.

After two rounds, Air Force Captain Mikael DuBois, 28, of Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, was in second place with a longest drive of 367 yards. He was eliminated in the semifinals by Alumbaugh, who outdrove DuBois, 346–327, for a shot at Hixson in the finale.

In the other semifinal pairing, Hixson escaped by one yard. His 363-yard drive nipped a 362-yarder by Staff Sergeant Kelsey Steiner, 31, of Camp Hovey, Korea. Hixson, however, did not need his final three swings to advance.

"I was like, shoot, I've got to go up against Ryan now," Alumbaugh said. "I've got to focus."

SHOUT-OUTS

Alumbaugh, whose stocky build and tee-box demeanor resembles that of big-screen boxer Rocky Balboa, elicited several classic one-liners from the crowd, such as 'C'mon, Rocky, do it for Adrian.'"

Alumbaugh blocked everything out and heard nothing but "silence" in the early rounds, but he appreciated the verbal support in the finals.

"The crowd out there supporting me, that was awesome," Alumbaugh said. "I've never had anybody scream for me like that. That truly was a once in a lifetime experience and I really appreciate it.

"This experience probably ranks top two in my life, behind marrying my beautiful wife, Jessica," added Alumbaugh, a maintenance test pilot for CH-47 Delta helicopters. "She's an IS1 in the Navy. She works in intelligence. You know how they say opposites attract? It's true in our case."

Alumbaugh, whose game plan was to "tee it up high, swing hard, and see what happens," was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support throughout his week in Mesquite.

"I can't get enough of people coming up and saying, 'Thank you for what you do,'" he said. "That's the best feeling."

LITTLE PATRIOT

"Last weekend, I was at an air show in Jacksonville, Florida, and a little girl came up to me with these little coins that said, 'I salute you. Thank you for your service,'" he continued. "She popped to attention, cut me a salute and handed me a coin. If that doesn't put a tear in your eye, I don't know what will."

Conditions were almost perfect for the event, with temperatures in the upper 70s to low 80s and a headwind of about 15 miles per hour. **CX**

1,000 Miles and Counting

Soldier Hits Mark in Shadow Army Ten-Miler

Story and photos by SGT Joshua Dodds, 130th Public Affairs Detachment

PHYSICAL TRAINING has been the backbone of the Army Fitness Program for decades, and with the evolution of the Army Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program, focus is given to not only physical, but mental fitness.

A Multi-National Battle Group-East and North Dakota National Guard Soldier has embraced fitness for the last 30 years, and has been keeping track.

When Major Robert Lundgren, Task Force Falcon Medical preventive medicine officer in charge, crossed the finish line of the Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 24, it was his 1,000th mile of running at Camp Bondsteel.

ON THE RUN

Lundgren has been running in Kosovo since arriving with KFOR 12 in October 2009, and his logged miles include a marathon and numerous Morale, Welfare and Recreation five- and 10-kilometer fun runs at Camp Bondsteel, usually held on holidays.

Lundgren said he started actively running in 1980 during high school, and to keep track of his accomplishments he has kept a logbook noting every mile run. Since 1980 he has consistently averaged 800 miles a year.

"I have been logging my runs since I started, and have about three or four journals filled back home," he said.

Lundgren, of Bismarck, ND, spent 12 years in the Air Force expanding his love of running before joining the North Dakota Army National Guard in 2002, where he works in preventive medicine for the state medical detachment.

"I completed numerous five [km] and ten [km] runs, and slowly evolved to marathons," he said.

"Then I got into triathlons—which is something I really enjoyed—but Desert Storm hit and put an end to my training, so I went back to strictly running."

TO YOUR HEALTH

"I extended with KFOR 13 to gain more experience in my job and get better at it," he said. "Deployments are a great learning environment to apply training in a real-world situation."

Lundgren said that, as a member of preventive medicine, he is responsible for the force health protection of all personnel on Camp Bondsteel by checking water and air quality, conducting food facility inspections, and ensuring healthy living conditions.

His duty mirrors his outlook

on his own health and well-being. His dedication to his own health bodes well for those who live and work here.

"I run to stay healthy and to keep in shape. I hope to lead by

example to promote health and fitness," Lundgren said.

The Army Ten-Miler is an annual event held at the Pentagon and other locations where U.S. service members are stationed. **CX**



MAJ Robert Lundgren logs his 1,000th mile of running on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, in his logbook.



"DEPLOYMENTS ARE A GREAT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO APPLY TRAINING IN A REAL-WORLD SITUATION."

>> MAJ Robert Lundgren

MAJ Robert Lundgren nears the five-mile mark while running the hilly course for the Army Ten-Miler on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.



CW2 Alumbaugh's long drive for the competition was 328 yards.

Anchored in Honor

FLW Tournament Puts Soldiers in Boats

Story and photos by Clint Wood

THE WATERS OF LEECH LAKE—Minnesota's third-largest lake, located near the town of Walker—lapped against the hull of the Ranger boat on a cold September morning. It was minutes after sunrise. The boat glided slowly from the docks toward open water.

The occasion was the Soldiers Appreciation Tournament, held in conjunction with the four-day FLW Walleye Tour Championship. It was the final day of the tournament, and in this event, each angler hosted at least one National Guard Soldier in their boat—on their “team”—for a six-hour fishing competition. The goal was to honor and celebrate the Army National Guard.

SETTING SAIL

“Let’s go fishing,” announced Troy Morris as he slammed the throttle. Morris, from North Dakota, is a professional angler who has been fishing for walleye competitively for about 20 years. He and more than 20 fellow pros headed out, giving Army National Guard Soldiers a rare opportunity: to fish with them. Soon Morris, who was known for his speed, hit 66 mph.

“It’s an honor ... to be able to do this and for everybody to get together, and show our appreciation for what the Soldiers do for us,” said Morris. “It’s a phenomenal experience.”

The Soldiers had come from Minnesota, West Virginia, New Hampshire and Indiana. Morris hosted Sergeant First Class Donald Nosko, a recruiter for East St. Paul, MN. It was his third time fishing with a professional angler.

“I love this—you learn something new every time you go out,” he said. “I love fishing.”

When the teams were done

fishing, a weigh-in would be conducted, with the fish being weighed on a digital scale on the FLW stage. The anglers held up their largest fish for photographs.

WIN-WIN

Sonny Reynolds, the tournament director, understands what serving in the military is like. He told the Soldiers during their pre-tournament briefing that he has two sons

missioned officer in charge of the battalion, commented that Stier was a “great guy and very knowledgeable about walleye fishing.”

The latter is an understatement. Stier has won one tournament and finished among the top 10 nine times. He has fished in 58 professional walleye tournaments since 2001.

“He made the whole day enjoyable,” Garretson added. “I really

has been absolutely awesome.”

Courts said his goal in this event was to represent the Guard to the best of his ability.

“Every opportunity given to me I take with pride,” he said. Courts became a full-time Guard fishing team member in 2010. “The Soldiers I get to meet ... that means so much to me. Just to give back a little bit to the Soldiers that do so much for us.”

As a youth, Courts had wanted to join the military, but couldn’t because of his asthma. His dream had been to train military dogs. Instead, after high school he became a hunting guide, a job he held for five years. Then in 1999, at age 23, he became a pro angler—despite being allergic to fish. Although he’s not supposed to eat or touch them, he can handle them during the summer because of the fresh air.

PATH OF FREEDOM

That same year, he earned money in six out of seven tournaments. Since then, his accolades include being named the 2007 Professional Walleye Tour Champion, finishing 13 times in the top 10, and winning two tournaments.

“I couldn’t have chosen this life path without the freedom that we have in this country, and that is due to the Soldiers,” said Courts. “The kids are true to heart, and the state is dedicated to its country. It’s a pretty strong hunting and fishing community, and it really goes hand in hand with Guard members.”

“I don’t think there are many who don’t hunt and fish,” he continued.

And if they decide to become Soldiers, he pointed out, a “chance of a lifetime fishing trip” is waiting for them. **CX**



Guard angler Mark Courts and his observer leave the launch site of the 2010 FLW Walleye Championship on Leech Lake, Walker, MN.

serving in the Marines. His younger son was on his second deployment to Afghanistan.

“We have a deep appreciation for you and what you do,” he said.

Two New Hampshire Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion Soldiers won the appreciation tournament—Master Sergeant Galen Garretson and Sergeant First Class Dwayne Hinxman. They were fishing with Dan Stier of South Dakota.

This was the first time that the pair fished for walleye, which is Minnesota’s state fish. The walleye can be a very finicky eater. Garretson, operations noncom-

can’t thank FLW and the National Guard enough for putting together this event. Every Soldier was treated incredibly well and the once-in-a-lifetime experience was great.”

TOTAL GRATITUDE

Minnesotan Mark Courts, a National Guard FLW Walleye Fishing team member, wished he could give this experience to every Soldier. He considered this a great way to repay the Soldiers for serving their country.

“I wish I could do more,” said Courts, who finished fifth in the tournament and earned \$5,500. “Being able to do this for Soldiers



Guard angler Troy Morris poses with a walleye he caught during the Soldiers Appreciation Tournament on Leech Lake.



Peak Performance

Mountain Climbing With CPT Aaron Isaacson

Story by Sharon Watson, Kansas National Guard // Exercises by Ken Weichert

“I need a challenge in life,” says Kansas National Guard Captain Aaron “Ike” Isaacson, who grew up in Concordia and lives in Topeka.

Isaacson has already seen plenty of challenges, including deployments to Iraq in 2004, 2005 and 2006, followed by a tour in Afghanistan in 2008.

But those challenges did not keep him from taking on a new one—climbing to the top of a mountain in Nepal. Isaacson, a member of the Kansas National Guard’s 69th Troop Command, joined a team of Wounded Warriors from other branches of the U.S. military for a “Soldiers to the Summit” expedition Oct. 2–21, 2010, that took them to the top of Mount Lobuche, a 20,075-foot peak located just 8.7 miles from Mount Everest.

The expedition was organized by World T.E.A.M. Sports, a nonprofit organization that showcases what disabled athletes can achieve through the power of an inclusive and diverse team.



AGAINST ALL ODDS

“I’ve always been impressed by the spirit of our fighting men and women,” said Major General Tod Bunting, the adjutant general of Kansas. They deserve our honor and respect, every one of them.”

Isaacson spent a little over a year training hard for the climb in Nepal. Finding motivation in the sacrifices of his fellow Soldiers, he hopes to leave a lasting impression with his summit.

“I want this climb to remind everyone that troops are still fighting and dying for our freedom today. We can’t forget that, not for a minute,” said Isaacson.

When the call came about the expedition, Isaacson immediately accepted. He wanted the opportunity to test himself again. He and other team members trained with the Outward Bound organization in Colorado to prepare themselves for the arduous task.

From the airstrip in Lukla, it took the group seven days of hiking through the Khumbu region to reach their advance base camp—

altitude 18,212 feet. But Isaacson was looking forward to the experience.

“I had been ramping up and getting ready for something exciting,” he said. “I was really pumped for it.”

FITNESS TRAINING DAY

GX was extremely eager to find out how Isaacson trains when he’s not on mountains of rock and ice. When we got the chance to witness one of his fitness sessions in Colorado, we were very impressed.

After a short warm-up, he performed several difficult exercises, 10 repetitions each, and completed three full sets of the entire fitness circuit before ending with a cool-down routine. I noticed that many of the exercises were perfect for preparing the body for advanced climbing.

Of Isaacson’s exercises, we selected six that we felt would work well for anyone preparing for mountaineering or backpacking. Following is an excerpt from his training program. **GX**

Mountain-eer-ing:
The climbing of mountains for sport, usually incorporating the skills of rock climbing and climbing on ice.

DURK JORNIC



1 ELEVATED PRONE HIP ROTATION AND STABILITY DRILL

Balance your body with the top of your ankles on a stability ball and your hands on the ground with your legs and back forming a straight line, arms extended and fingers pointing forward. Shift your balance to your right leg and slowly move your left leg around the stability ball and under your body toward your right without letting it touch the ground. Return to the start position and continue until you have reached 10 repetitions. Switch legs and repeat. Exhale through your mouth as you rotate your hips, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position.

2 HANGING HIP RAISES

While hanging from a pull-up bar, bend your knees and raise your hips until your back is nearly parallel to the floor. Return to the start position and continue until you have reached 10 repetitions. Exhale through your mouth as you raise your hips, and inhale through your nose as you return to the start position.

3 GYMNASTIC RINGS JUMPING SWITCH LUNGES

Set a pair of gymnastic rings approximately three feet from the ground. Grasp the rings for balance and lower your body into a lunge position. Push upward with your arms and quickly switch leg positions and land in a lunge. Performing the lunge with both legs once is one repetition. Continue until you have reached 10 repetitions. Breathe naturally.



4 STABILITY BALL HANDSTAND DRILL

Balance your body with your abdomen on a stability ball and your hands on the ground, arms extended and fingers pointing forward. Tighten your leg and lower back muscles and slowly extend your legs until they are in line with your back. Bend your elbows and increase the angle of your legs away from the ground. Return to the start position and continue until you have reached 10 repetitions. Inhale through your nose as you raise your legs, and exhale through your mouth as you return to the start position.

5 SIDE PLANK WITH LEG ABDUCTION

Balance your body on your right forearm and right leg, left leg on top of your right, left arm at your side. Feet flexed and right hand made into a fist. Tighten your abdominal and gluteal muscles and raise your hips until your back and legs are straight. Slowly raise your left leg to approximately a 45-degree angle from the ground. Return to the start position and continue until you have reached 10 repetitions. Switch positions and repeat. Breathe naturally.

6 BACKPACK STAIR CLIMBING DRILL

Evenly insert as many of the items that you would take with you on a hiking expedition into a large backpack (Isaacson trained with approximately 65 pounds). Tighten all straps and secure all clips. Set a StairMaster machine to level 6-8 on a manual program and perform stair climbing for 60 minutes. Breathe naturally.



World T.E.A.M. Sports

World T.E.A.M. Sports is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating soul-stirring opportunities for individuals of all abilities through the power of sports.

By bringing athletes of all cultures, with and without disabilities, together as one TEAM, World T.E.A.M. enables fully inclusive TEAMS to accomplish goals beyond what is thought possible.

World T.E.A.M. Sports recognizes sports as the true global commonality and believes that through such activities, the world can grow stronger and unite as powerful communities. World T.E.A.M. Sports is more than an organization; it is a movement to change the way the world perceives athletes.

PHOTOS BY ADAM LIVINGSTON

RAPID FIRE

Laying It Down With the
Mk 19 Grenade Launcher

By Christian Anderson

FAST FACTS

CALIBER

40 mm

WEIGHT

72.5 lbs

RANGE

2200 m

MUZZLE VELOCITY

790 ft

ENTERED SERVICE

1983

AMMUNITION

M383

HIGH-EXPLOSIVE
GRENADE

M384

HIGH-EXPLOSIVE
GRENADE

M430

HIGH-EXPLOSIVE
DUAL PURPOSE

THE MK 19 ISA

SELF-POWERED,
AIR-COOLED,
BELT-FED,
BLOWBACK-OPERATED

★ WEAPON ★

firing the
40 mm grenade

AT ABOUT 300 ROUNDS PER MINUTE, the Mk 19 grenade launcher might not sound like the Guard's fastest-shooting weapon by today's standards. But what this high-tech weapon lacks in speed, it makes up for in punch.

Chosen by Guard Soldiers as a top-notch solution in combat, the Mk 19 was more or less developed as an alternative to the big-barking M2 .50 cal heavy machine gun that the Guard had relied upon since WWII. Not that there is anything wrong with the M2, but the Mk 19 seems to provide Guard Soldiers with a second option for specific missions.

Shooting the 40 x 53 mm grenade, the Mk 19 can be used in both the offensive and defensive mode. Able to lay down a lot of hurt in a short period of time, it's the perfect tool to engage enemy personnel and light armored vehicles.

Primarily used on vehicles such as the Humvee and armored vehicles, the Mk 19 has become a sought-after weapon for combat support and combat service support units who may need to rely on a heavy weapon.

The Mk 19 was originally developed by the Navy in 1966 and started to see "field testing" in Vietnam by patrol-boat teams and special operations units. Although highly effective against soft targets and fortified positions, the Mk 19 proved to be highly volatile and dangerous to the user, so the weapon went through a series of tests and redesigns in the 1970s.

Reaching fighting units by 1983, the new and improved Mk 19 first saw wide-scale action in Desert Storm. There, it immediately proved a worthy weapon, when special operations units were able to engage the much larger Iraqi infantry. **GX**

SOLDIER WAS READY AND THERE WHEN DUTY CALLED

By Camille Breland

Trained



LTC Peeples tries to live by his personal motto: "It's not my job to place the blame; it's my job to fix the problem."

Instinct

It was a muggy Tuesday morning in September of 2009. The place was South Carolina—"hot as the devil," as Lieutenant Colonel Larry Peeples described. The day began just like any other. Peeples, commander of the 218th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), was driving to his office at the battalion headquarters in Varnville, SC, preparing for another busy day. As the senior logistician for the battalion, he was scheduled to conduct a maintenance check at one of his units.

Peeples was cruising in his civilian Mitsubishi Eclipse down Highway 278 in Hampton, SC, thinking about the day ahead, when he passed a local logging company. He continued through an intersection and noticed an 18-wheel tractor-trailer hauling logs, trying unsuccessfully to cross a set of railroad tracks. He glanced in his rearview mirror and saw a train approaching the intersection. The truck's driver seemed to be struggling to shift the big rig into reverse. Peeples locked eyes with the truck's driver, Herman Breeland of Allendale, SC. The truck had stalled on the tracks. "He's not going to make it," Peeples thought.

SGT JOSHUA EDWARDS, SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

Seconds later, the train began blaring its horn, but the truck didn't move. The train struck the truck with a force so strong, it looked like an explosion. Pieces of white cab, sheet metal, fiberglass and other parts of the truck were propelled in every direction. According to a news report, the axle landed in a ditch far from the tracks, while part of the fender landed by the front of the train. Peeples saw the entire accident and believed there was no way anyone could survive.

But without hesitation, he responded. He pulled over, dialed 9-1-1, explained the situation and gave his location to the operator. Then he rushed to the scene. By that time, the train had stopped, and part of the truck was wrapped around its front car. He scanned the area for the truck's cab and driver, but they were nowhere to be seen.

Peeples climbed through one of the junctions in the train and began searching for the driver. His swift recon showed pieces of the cab near a chain-link fence to the side. All that was left of the cab body were the seats. Finally, in a ditch by the fence, he saw feet peeking out from under layers of metal and debris. It was the driver. The steering wheel was near him. Not knowing how seriously the man was injured—or if he was even alive—Peeples contemplated what to do. Then he heard a moan—a sign of life.

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Peeples is determined, and he doesn't do things halfway. As commander of the 218th BSB, he has a big role to fill: The brigade is the operations task force for the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Explosive Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF) comprised of National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve and Active Duty Air Force personnel from six states and one protectorate. It's part of only two CCMRF units in the country.

When the 218th attended CCMRF task force training this summer at Camp Atterbury, IN, Peeples led his battalion—14 march units totaling 294 vehicles and 526 personnel—on a two-day, 800-mile cross-country convoy to reach the training site, just to prove they can self-deploy. They returned home with every Soldier, vehicle and piece of equipment unharmed.



“EVERYTHING WE DO IS ABOUT SAVING LIVES.”

>> LTC Larry Peeples

He's also an extreme proponent of safety and preparation. Before his deployment to Iraq, he wanted all of his Soldiers to go through an emergency first-aid course and combat lifesaver training. But instead of simply giving a directive, he set an example by taking the courses as well, which he said turned out to be some of the best training he has ever received.

Peeples' leadership and determination trace back to his youth, when he decided to go through ROTC at the Citadel, a prestigious military university in Charleston, SC. Peeples enlisted in the National Guard through the Simultaneous Membership Program in his junior year. The next year, he attended school

and ROTC while serving in the Guard. He graduated from the Citadel in 1989, received his officer commission and became a maintenance ordnance officer for a headquarters company in South Carolina—a unit that he commands today.

“It's kind of neat to come full circle from being the lowest guy on the pole to the biggest,” he joked.

Beginning in the early '90s, Peeples began deploying to Central America with a joint task force to perform humanitarian missions. As an engineer logistics officer, he planned and executed projects like building clinics and schools for local populations in Honduras and Panama. He traveled there every year until 1999, spending a total of about two and a half years on the ground. When Hurricane Mitch destroyed parts of Central America in 1998, he returned to Honduras and assisted in cleanup and recovery efforts. He worked for 90 days in the Sula Valley with an engineer and medical response team as part of New Horizons, or “Nuevos Horizontes.” The American troops also brought schoolbooks and supplies to help the country get back on track.

Peeples deployed to Iraq from 2006 to 2007 as the director of logistics and G-4 for Forward Operating Base Bucca, a camp that housed about 20,000 detainees captured during the initial Iraq surge. While he had originally been sent into theater to oversee engineering for air damage control, he found himself rolling up his sleeves on the ground with Soldiers from every rank.

“We all pitched in and did our part,” he said. “It was a unit [with 27 Soldiers], and it wasn't unusual to see captains and E-8s lifting boxes.”

Each hot, long day that passed in Iraq began to shape Peeples into the man he is today. He admits the deployment gave him the opportunity to use his skills and job training to the fullest, and helped him to become a better leader by seeing how others led. He even had a conversation with General David Petraeus, then-commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, who came to visit the detention facility.

Peeples coined his own personal motto: “It's not my job to place the blame; it's my job

to fix the problem.” Throughout his career, he has led Soldiers to prevent—and overcome—challenges when the occasion arose. And Sept. 22, 2009, was no different.

“IT WAS JUST ME AND HIM”

Once Peeples realized the truck driver was still alive, he rushed over, uncovered him from the rubble and began to assess his awareness and injuries.

“Can you hear me? Are you OK?” he bellowed. The driver began mumbling and shaking, and slipped into a seizure-like state. Peeples gripped the man's head and body, holding tightly to keep him from injuring himself even more. The colonel knew the man's leg was broken, since it was slumped at nearly a 45-degree angle. There was also a large gash in his thigh as well as multiple cuts on his head, arms and elbows.

The driver's body calmed, and he looked directly at Peeples. The colonel asked if the driver could understand him. The driver nodded. Peeples looked at his watch: It was about 7:40 a.m. For nearly the next hour, Peeples wrestled the man to keep him still as he disjointedly attempted to stand up. He applied pressure to the man's worst wounds and continued to check his vital signs. All the while, Peeples remained calm and fixated on the mission: to keep the man alive.

Once paramedics, police and other emergency responders arrived at the scene, they took over the care of the driver and began to assess Peeples' own health. When they began questioning him about what had happened, he could barely remember. It was a blur. And he was weak. He said responding to the accident was instinct. He didn't think about it—he just acted. The paramedics began to clean Peeples—his ACUs were soaked with blood and sweat—while the driver was airlifted to Augusta, GA, and placed in a trauma unit.

“It was an emotional roller coaster,” Peeples told *GX* about the experience. “I was busy, busy, busy, and the adrenaline had kicked in.”

The responders eventually released Peeples, and he made his way to work, picking up the day where he had left it, but constantly thinking about the truck driver and praying for his life. He washed up in the bathroom at the armory and completed the inspection he had scheduled in damp, soiled ACUs. Then he got the call: The driver was in critical condition, but alive.

Peeples said his combat lifesaving and other medical training he received through the National Guard were the reasons he was

able not only to quickly respond to the near-fatal accident, but also to work efficiently and effectively during the crucial first moments.

“Everything we do is about saving lives,” he said about being a National Guard Soldier. “We have to have [medical] training when there [are] not enough medics or doctors around.”

A MAN OF VALOR

News traveled fast throughout the region about the catastrophic collision, and newspapers and TV stations interviewed Peeples about his role in event.

In the weeks and months following, friends and strangers congratulated him for his heroic actions, but he didn't want the attention. “I didn't do it for that,” he said. “I just did it because that's what we do. When you put on the uniform you've got responsibility—just like a police officer, just like a firefighter—to set a standard, an example for everybody.”

“I just felt like I'm doing this because this is what I'm trained to do, and I hope somebody would help me if I was in that situation,” he added.

Though he considered his actions that day a normal part of his Guard duties, others saw it as something extraordinary. On June 19, 2010, in a surprise ceremony, Peeples was awarded the South Carolina National Guard Medal of Valor. He had no idea he was receiving the prestigious award until his friend and colleague, Colonel Waymon Storey, called his name at a military dinner event. “I felt surprised and honored that my actions were deemed worthy of such praise,” Peeples replied.

Storey, who has known Peeples for more than 20 years, said he wasn't surprised at all when he heard about Peeples' actions after the accident. “Larry takes the initiative in anything he does,” Storey, commander of the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, acknowledged. “He truly is a good leader, a good Soldier and a good person—and that's what makes the first two work.”

Since the crash, Peeples now keeps a fire extinguisher, medical kit and combat lifesaver bag in the backseat of both of his vehicles.

He's still driving the same route to work each day and calls Breeland, the truck driver with whom he spent a life-changing hour, every so often to chat.

Most of all, he gets to do what he loves every day: be a Citizen-Soldier. As a husband and father of two, Peeples enjoys the fact that the National Guard is based in his community, where he grew up.

“[In] the National Guard, we've got to do it all,” he asserted. “We've got to take care of the state, we've got to take care of our families, and when the Army—the A-team—gets tired, we have to go in and back those guys up.”

Sound like a challenge? Perhaps it is. But Peeples is up to the task. Even though he has been in the Guard for more than 20 years, he said there are still positive changes and plans he'd like to see come to fruition.

“I'd like to stick around a little while until I can make a difference,” he shared. “I haven't finished doing all that I want to do.” **GX**



LTC Peeples was awarded the Guardsman Medal of Valor on June 19, 2010, for his actions that saved Herman Breeland's life.

The Guardsman Medal of Valor is awarded to recognize a South Carolina Guard member, active or retired, for an act of heroism despite danger or risk of his own life under justifiable circumstances demonstrating praiseworthy fortitude and exemplary courage. The award is not based solely on the basis of a person having saved another's life. The medal symbolizes the ultimate in valorous achievement.

TRENCH SWEEPER

BALAD RUZ, IRAQ, APRIL 4, 2005 - A COMBINED PLATOON OF AMERICAN SPECIAL FORCES AND IRAQI ARMY, HUNTING FOR A REPORTED CAVE FULL OF WEAPONS SOUTH OF BALAD RUZ, IRAQ, INSTEAD FOUND A CELL OF INSURGENTS. IMMEDIATELY, THE UNIT WAS PINNED DOWN BY WAVES OF EXPLODING MORTARS, SMALL-ARMS FIRE, MACHINE-GUN FIRE AND ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADES.



A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, ZLT ROBERT HANCOCK, 278TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT, TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD, HEARD HIS CALL SIGN ON THE RADIO: "TIMBERWOLF 2!" HE AND HIS MEN RUSHED TO THE BATTLE.



BUT THE ENEMY, HIDING IN IRRIGATION TRENCHES, GAINED AN INITIAL ADVANTAGE. ONE OF THE INSURGENTS POPPED UP LONG ENOUGH TO FIRE AN RPG IN HANCOCK'S DIRECTION. THE MISSILE SAILED OVER HIS HUMVEE, AND THE AMERICANS RETURNED FIRE, TAKING OUT THE INSURGENT.

AFTER AN F-16 JET BOMBED AN INSURGENT MORTAR POSITION, THINGS QUIETED DOWN... BRIEFLY.



THE ENEMY WAS PREPARED FOR SUCH AN INCURSION, AND INSURGENTS QUICKLY IMMOBILIZED TWO IRAQI ARMY GUN TRUCKS. MORTARS WERE LANDING AROUND HANCOCK'S HUMVEE, AND HIS TURRET GUNNER WAS SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER THE WHOLE TIME. THE AMERICANS MOVED IN, SHOOTING EVERYTHING THEY COULD SEE.



AS THE IRAQI SOLDIERS FANNED OUT TO SWEEP FOR STRAGGLERS, A NEW BARRAGE OF FIREPOWER KILLED SEVERAL OF THEM AND INJURED OTHERS. HANCOCK, UNDER GUNFIRE, WORKED TO CLEAR THE TRENCHES WHERE INSURGENTS WERE HIDING. HE ALSO RETRIEVED DOWNED SOLDIERS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.



HANCOCK SAVED THE LIFE OF A FELLOW 278TH SOLDIER WHILE CONTINUING TO DRAW FIRE. ON DEC. 1, 2007, HE WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR WITH VALOR FOR HIS ACTIONS AT BALAD RUZ.





EXPERTS NEEDED

BETTER PAY
HIGHER GRADE
BE A LEADER

PROMOTE YOURSELF
Become A Warrant Officer

To continue your Path to Honor, talk to your Warrant Officer Recruiter
or visit us online at www.NATIONALGUARD.com/warrantofficer

NATIONAL 
GUARD
NATIONALGUARD.com



NATIONAL GUARD 

guardspecialforces.com

JOIN THE SPECIAL FORCES

In the Special Forces, you will receive exceptional training and find strength you never knew you had. Your most critical tool is your mind. We will train you to think quickly and to react to any situation presented to you. The path to becoming a Special Forces Soldier will be tough and challenging. When your training is completed, you will have earned something only the elite can claim – the Green Beret.

