VolState Guard

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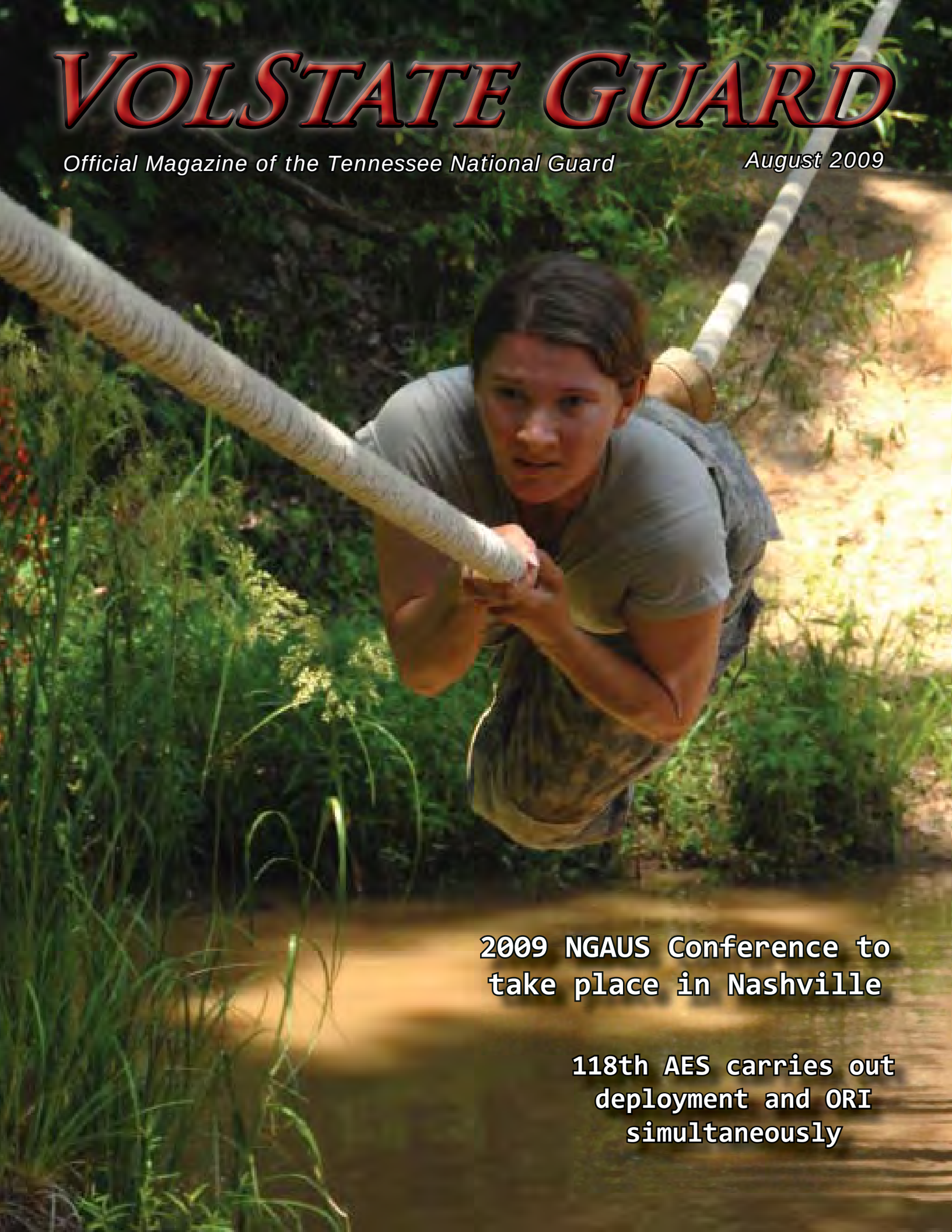

2009 NGAUS Conference to take place in Nashville

118th AES carries out deployment and ORI simultaneously

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On the Cover:

Second Lt. Carrie Lauderdale, a platoon leader with the 130th MP Company out of Memphis, pulls herself across a rope bridge. This part of an obstacle course during her annual training at Camp McCain.
(Photo by Capt. Darrin Haas.)

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For more information, the staff can be reached by telephone (615) 313-0633, or by email to robin.olsen@us.army.mil.

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The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett, Jr.

Asst. Adjutant General, Air
Maj. Gen. William R. Cotney

Asst. Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Terry M. "Max" Haston

Director Joint Public Affairs
Sgt. 1st Class Randy Harris (Army)

Deputy Director Joint Public Affairs
Capt. Darrin Haas (Army)

Editor
Staff Sgt. Robin Olsen (Air)

Contributors
Nate Crawford (Army Ret.)
John Evans (Army Ret.)

Mail: Tennessee National Guard
c/oVolState Guard
3041 Sidco Dr, Attn: TNPAO
Nashville, TN 37204

Maj. Gen.
William R. Cotney
The Assistant Adjutant General, Air

A few years ago when you thought of the Air National Guard, airplanes came to mind. Today we see a revamping of the way we do business in the Air National Guard. Air Control, Combat Communications, Engineering and Installation units now are poised to join Air Force Space Command converting to new mission sets. Airplanes still dominate the force, but fewer aircraft are available to repopulate our flying units. Cyber, network warfare, Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR), & Global Strike are our new buzz words.

The Tennessee National Guard now has the premier Space Unit in the USAF, ANG & Air Force Reserves. The 119th Command & Control Squadron leads the charge in space for the Air Reserve Corp. The 228th Combat Communications Squadron is in the process of migrating to space as well. The 241st Engineering & Installation Squadron will be relocating to new facilities in late summer or early fall of 2010, courtesy of a Military Construction Project from Congress. Newcomer, the 236th Intelligence Production Squadron, will support the war fighters with an Intelligence mission as dictated by current world and future operations. The 164th Airlift Wing has completed its move to a new 250 million dollar base at the Memphis International Airport operating C-5A Galaxy Transport aircraft. The 134th Air Refueling Wing has completed a transition to the KC-135R model aircraft and is close to breaking ground on a new Air Operations Building that will house flying operations and the Command Post. Last but not least the 118th Airlift Wing has completed a mission change to the Air Education & Training Command. They have the responsibility to train Foreign Aviators and support personnel flying the C-130E Aircraft.

Hats off to our Recruiters. The future of the Tennessee National Guard is bright!

Command CMSgt.
Doug Smelcer
Cmd. Chief, Air

One of the most significant pieces of information I can share with all of our Soldiers and Airmen is the importance of being prepared throughout your military career. One important aspect of being prepared relates to physical fitness.

As Guardsmen in Tennessee, many of you are either preparing to deploy, may have deployed one or more times in past years, or will deploy in the future. The importance of being physically prepared prior to deploying is one of the key factors that will help you rise to meet the challenges you will confront and many of those that have deployed can validate this.

I was recently briefed on the changes to the AF fitness program and how these will impact the ANG. While a number of the changes continue to be debated, the most important information I can share with you at this time is to be prepared and be physically fit. If you are not currently engaged in a regular fitness program, there is no time like now to start. Failure to meet the fitness standards can have adverse effects on you and your career to include the inability to attend formal schools or be promoted. The positive aspects related to being physically fit are numerous and will lead to be a better quality of life. You can search the internet and will find numerous articles that share information on these advantages and I encourage you to establish fitness goals and develop an ongoing routine that will allow you to improve your fitness.

One other area where we all need to be prepared relates to Professional Military Education (PME). I have witnessed more than once throughout my career where an opportunity for promotion was available and some of the NCOs being considered for the position were lacking their PME. We all need to ensure that we are ready and waiting on that next promotion opportunity, not waiting on the opportunity before we prepare.

131st NGAUS General Conference & Exhibition Nashville, Tennessee September 11-13, 2009

In September, more than 4,000 active and retired National Guard members will convene in Nashville for the 131st NGAUS General Conference and Exhibition, hosted by the Tennessee National Guard. The conference will include military and political leaders from all 54 United States and territories.

Participants will discuss current events and their impact on the National Guard during business sessions, and they will have the opportunity for camaraderie and networking during special events and receptions.

Golf Tournament

A golf tournament is scheduled during the conference on Thursday, Sept. 10, at hermitage Golf Course. There is an $85.00 entry fee. All entry forms must be submitted by Aug. 31, and entry is limited to the first 240 paid golfers.

Point of contact for the tournament is Lt. Col. John Church. (615) 399-5821, dsn 778-6421, or email to john.church@tnnash.ang.af.mil

It is asked that all participants bring their own clubs as rental clubs are extremely limited. Participants are scheduled to be picked up at 6:00 a.m. Thursday morning at the Opryland Cascades Lobby Area.

The tournament is expected to begin at 7:30 a.m.

Conference Location and Details

Guestrooms and business sessions will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. The resort boasts nine acres of indoor gardens, cascading waterfalls and an indoor river with its own Delta flatboat. Within this lush landscape, guests will have access to a variety of restaurants, shops, and a spa and fitness center.

NGAUS 2009 Nashville 5K Fun Run

The run will be held on the grounds of the Convention Hotel (Gaylord Opryland Hotel) in Nashville in order to facilitate participation and then enable the runners to return to their rooms to change for early Meetings and the Conference Opening Session on Friday, 11 September 2009.

The good news is that it is a flat course! It will be a timed course, but since it is a “Fun Run” there will be no ceremony following the run. Water will be available on the course, and there will be limited fruit, water, etc available at the end of the run. The run will begin promptly at 7 a.m. which means that we need to have runners on site for packet pickup or registration by 6:30 a.m.

118th AES takes on simultaneous deployment and ORI

Story By: Staff Sgt. Robin Olsen

From left: Master Sgt. Melvin Anderson, 2nd Lt. Bryan Little, and Captain Stacey Calton, load medical equipment onto an aircraft in preparation for their next evacuation mission at Andrews.
(Photo by Master Sgt. Kelly McClinktock and Master Sgt. Wesley Greer, 118th AES.)

Members of the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron are scheduled to finish a deployment to Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., in August, as well as complete an Operational Readiness Inspection while they are deployed, to take place in late July.

"We will be the first AES to complete an ORI during a deployment," said Col. Scott McCullough, 118th AES Squadron Commander. "The inspectors have made it a point to ensure that the ORI activities will not interfere with our deployment tasks. "

Working with the 775th Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Flight from Washington D.C., their deployed mission has involved moving over 1500 patients from Germany to units throughout the United States began in April. These patients will either be released or will remain with these units for further care. "We are facilitating the care and movement of sick and wounded members returning to the U.S. primarily from Iraq and Afghanistan," said McCullough.

"Andrews Air Force Base is the first port of entry to the United States for all medically evacuated patients coming from overseas," said Lt. Col. Julia Moretti, on-sight commander at Andrews AFB for the 775th and 118th.

"Our location is manned currently by all Air National Guard members who are working hand-and-hand with our active duty counterparts as well as mission crews from the Guard and Reserves," said Maj. Jimmy "Joey" Jackson, Senior Aeromedical Evacuation Operations Officer for the 775th and 118th.

An ORI assesses a unit's ability to perform its mission in a deployed environment. "This includes not only the ability to carry out the mission in that setting, but also the ability to survive, respond and continue to operate under attack," said McCullough. "The inspectors act as observers to our daily activities as they see us respond to real-world challenges since the purpose of the ORI is to measure our performance of these same tasks."

"We have been practicing our ability-to-survive-and-operate skills every Friday since we've been here and we are ready," said Jackson.

"We are very experienced and work well together as a team. In additions, we have established the networking with our active duty counterparts to achieve the successful outcome we expect," said Moretti.

ORIs are necessary because 28 of the 32 Air Force AE units are Air Guard and Reserve. "This has meant the bulk of the mission is to evacuate sick and wounded personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan has been accomplished by Guardsmen and Reservists since 2002," said McCullough. "Performing an ORI during deployment not only makes sense, but it also acknowledges the reality of the deployment demands on AE units."

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AES Cont. from Page 5

There are many similarities between the unit's deployed mission and what they are being inspected on during the ORI. Doing both at the same time, however, is very unique.

"Having the opportunity to receive an ORI in such an environment is rare and this will be the first time the inspectors have inspected an Aeromedical Evacuation unit in this setting," said McCullough. "Units give the best indication of their deployment capabilities when the inspectors can observe them actually performing these tasks in the deployed environment."

Before the ORI, 25 members of the 118th AES were deployed to Andrews to support the 775th EAEF and 35 more guardsmen from various sections of the 118th AES were brought to D.C. for the inspection.

"During this deployment, our personnel will actually be caring for patients during air transport and coordinating aerovac missions while responding to inspectors and even working in chemical warfare gear," said McCullough. It is a typical scenario during the inspection to don chem-gear and wear it while performing regular duty, however, during deployments the gear is not normally worn unless it is really necessary.

Part of the ORI is in-processing those who will be replacing the 118th for their mission with the 775th. Guard members from units in Mississippi, Maryland, and Pennsylvania will be replacing the Tennessee unit. "We will be handing off flights that we are very proud of," said Jackson.

"Additionally, this will be near the end of our 4-month deployment cycle, so our personnel will be receiving and training their replacements during the week of the inspection," McCullough said. Adding, that while stress levels would be increased, "I anticipate that they will excel under those conditions."

One of five ratings is given to units after the ORI is completed. In order: outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal and unsatisfactory. The 118th AES received an excellent rating for their last inspection, which took place in 2004.

230th ACS takes charge in Iraq Province

Story By: Nate Crawford

The 1/230th Air Calvary Squadron, with troops from Tennessee and Mississippi, took command of the skies over Ninawa Province in Northern Iraq as part of Task Force Lightning, MND-North and the 25th Infantry Division, July 11.

Lt. Col. Kris Durham, commander of the 1/230th, took authority for the air mission from Lt. Col. Nicholas Snelson, whose 6th Squadron, 17th Calvary Regiment, now returns to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, after a 12-month tour of duty.

Although this is the 1/230th's first deployment together as a squadron in support of the War on Terror, they have deployed individually as part of other Combat Aviation Brigades for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

During change of command ceremonies outside squadron headquarters, Durham and 1/230th Command Sergeant Major Steve Burnette completed the transfer of authority by unfurling the Squadron colors.

"I'm confident in your skills and abilities and wish you good luck. I'll be thinking of you and hope to read about your accomplishments," said Snelson.

He also thanked his Guardsmen and said they should be "immensely proud "of their efforts during the deployment, adding that the squadron's success was due "to the herculean efforts of so many unsung heroes," from the pilots with over 35,000 flight hours to the wrench-turners and refuelers who "made it happen and kept them in the fight."

Durham thanked the 6-17th for helping make the transition a smooth one, and issued challenges to his squadron to "continue the excellent full-spectrum aviation support that the ground forces in the area have become accustomed to."

"I challenge you to remain focused on our task at hand as we provide aviation support in this increasingly complex battle-space," Durham said. "I challenge you to work diligently to provide innovative aviation mission solutions for our supported units, and I challenge you to always keep safety at the forefront of all air and ground operations."

Tennessee Airman recognized as 2009 Air National Guard Outstanding 1st Sgt

Story By: Staff Sgt. Robin Olsen

NASHVILLE – Master Sgt. Lorene Kitzmiller, was selected as the 2009 1st Sergeant of the Year for the Air National Guard and was recognized during an awards ceremony for Outstanding Airmen of the Year that was held June 8 at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

She is a 1st sergeant assigned to the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Berry Field Air National Guard Base in Nashville.

Each year, the states and territories select and submit their top performers from the Air Guard's 88 flying units and 579 mission support units. Five other Airmen were also selected for OAY 2009 for different categories.

"They are the cream-of-the-crop of the Air Guard's 93,000-plus enlisted Airmen," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air National Guard.

"They are the best of the best," said Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director of the Air National Guard during the ceremony. "All nominees can be extremely proud of being selected to represent the states and of their service and contributions to the Air National Guard and the communities in which they serve."

Winning for the Air Guard is only one step. Next Kitzmiller will compete with her active duty Air Force counterparts for the Air Force's Top 12 Outstanding Airmen recognition.

The highly decorated master sergeant is currently a senior at Austin Peay State University, working towards her Bachelor's degree with a concentration in Public Management.

Transferring to the Tennessee Air National Guard in September 1996, she retrained as a Medical Administrative Specialist, assigned to the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. In December 2005, she was appointed to the 1st sergeant's position.

Kitzmiller has participated in multiple overseas deployments including Operation Northern Watch (Macedonia), Operation Southern Watch (Saudi Arabia), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Kuwait, Baghdad, and twice in Balad), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Andrews Air Force Base).

The Air National Guard's Outstanding Airmen of the Year art Fort McNair during a reception dinner June 9. Master Sgt. Lorene D. Kitzmiller is fourth from the left. (Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith, National Guard Bureau)

The Kitzmiller was born in Illinois and attended Dickson County High School. She went to Navy basic training 10 days after graduation, following which she was stationed at Norfolk Naval Ship Yard for four years.

She joined the Army Reserves six months later and was assigned to several units before transferring to the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Kitzmiller was actively involved in Operation Stand Down for three years and volunteered with the Tennessee Drug Task Force Team and YMCA as a drill instructor during summer camps from troubled youth.

She has volunteered with military kids support programs and helped homeless veterans find shelter and employment. "My father was in Vietnam, so veterans hold a special place for me. I would not feel fulfilled if I was not doing something to help others," she said.

278th ACR improves digital communication

Story and Photo By: Officer Candidate Lisa Berry, Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Soldiers of the Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment participated in a full rehearsal of satellite communications training July 6-12 at the Guard's Volunteer Training Site in Smyrna.

The purpose of the exercise was to develop and hone communications skills and provide hands-on training to prepare the 278th for successful satellite communication in future theater operations anywhere in the world.

Regimental Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Frank McCauler explained that the vast majority of all communications now are digitally based. "This equipment is actually considered a weapons system because it is so critical to our mission," he added.

"The 'digital warriors' are our unsung heroes," McCauler said, "and they're crucial to the 278th ACR's overall success."

Soldiers last week made a thorough inspection of all systems before the initial set-up of the satellites to ensure that the latest revisions of software were in the "go-to-war configuration." The remainder of the week-long operation involved training on all of the systems to ensure they work together to establish communications stateside and overseas.

Working in unison, the systems provide internet, telephone, and cable TV while in the theater of operations. The network benefits the unit by enhancing battle readiness and providing Soldiers and their families the ability to communicate.

A portion of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment's satellite systems.

Notes from the Warrant Officer Symposium

The Warrant Officer Corps Symposium was held July 11 at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville and had more 55 enlisted Soldiers in attendance who will be filling Warrant Officer vacancies throughout the Tennessee Army National Guard.

Col. Bill Wenzler, Chief of the Joint Staff for the Tennessee National Guard, opened the session with a welcome and short history of the Warrant Officer CORPS.

Col. Mark Jones, Commandant of the Warrant Officer Career College, was the guest speaker and spoke of his experience with National Guard units early in his career, leadership and the importance of the Warrant Officer CORPS.

Col. Frank McCauley, Deputy Commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, made an unexpected visit to talk with the Soldiers. He urged them to take on additional responsibility in their units and praised the Warrant Officer CORPS for what it is doing in the state.

Nine current Warrant Officers held sessions with those who were interested in their same career field. Soldiers signed up to learn more about the program and start the application process to become Warrant Officers, closing the Symposium.

After the Symposium, Col. Jones talked with 22 of Tennessee's current Warrant Officers, over lunch, about the restructuring of the Warrant Officer Education System, to bring it in line with the Officer and Enlisted Education System. He also talked about the future of the Warrant Officer Career College Campus. The campus will feature state of the art classrooms, barracks, headquarters buildings, orderly rooms and training facilities.

He concluded that the Warrant Officer CORPS needs a Warrant Officer of the Army, like the Sergeant Major of the Army. This person would be the "one voice" that represents the Warrant Officer CORPS.

If you are interested in learning more about the Tennessee Warrant Officer CORPS, contact Command Chief Warrant Officer Gary Ensminger at (615) 313-3011.

Memphis unit returns from mission in Italy

Story By: Capt. Darrin Haas

Less than a year since the 130th Military Police Company in Memphis came back from Kosovo, the National Guard Soldiers got the chance to use that experience in a different part of the world.

The unit conducted training at the Caserma Ederle military complex in Vicenza, Italy, 25 miles from Venice, May 19-June 13. Their primary mission was to assist the U.S. Provost Marshal's Office in law and order operations on the main post and the Villagio base-housing areas.

"After a year-long deployment at Camp Bondsteel, we already had some good law enforcement experience," said Spc. David Parrish, from Cordova, a Military Policemen with the 130th. "This was a great opportunity to work with the Italian Police and learn the differences in Italian law enforcement procedures."

The Guardsmen worked side by side with the Carabinieri (Italian National Police) and Italian Security Guards. "We shared skills and taught each other the different techniques our countries use," Parrish said.

Working hand-in-hand with their active-duty counterparts, they were first responders for emergencies. Additionally the Soldiers conducted 24-hour operations to secure the post.

"This mission was valuable to us," said Sgt. Gitanja Williams, from Memphis, a Military Police Officer in the 130th and a full-time policeman with the Memphis PD. "We honed our law enforcement skills by doing a real-world assignment keeping service members and their families safe."

The Soldiers also got the opportunity to conduct patrols unlike those they were accustomed to. "For two weeks, we roamed the Villagio housing areas on bikes," Williams said. "It was different. It was my first time trying to patrol on mountain bikes and it took a little getting used to."

"We never know when our skills will be needed or what our next mission will be," Williams said. "We have to stay sharp, well trained, and get as much experience as possible."

McGhee-Tyson Units Receive Outstanding Unit Award

Story By: Capt. Gary Taft, 134th Air Refueling Wing, Public Affairs

The 134th Air Refueling Wing, the 119th Command and Control Squadron, and the 228th Combat Communications Squadron based at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, all received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award June 7.

The units received the awards for being instrumental in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Members of all three units were in formation on the parade grounds of the Guard Base as Maj. Gen Hargett, Tennessee National Guard Adjutant General, as well as the commanders from each squadron addressed everyone. The unit members were thanked for the hard work and dedication that it took to receive the recognition and were encouraged to continue working toward the next award.

Maj. Gen. Gus Hargett attaches the award ribbons to the Air Force Flag during the ceremony.
(Photo by Tech. Sgt. David Knable.)

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award was first created in 1954 and is awarded as a ribbon to any command of the US Air Force which performs exceptionally meritorious service, accomplishes specific acts of outstanding achievement, excels in combat operations against an armed enemy of the US, or conducts with distinction military operations involving conflict with, or exposure to a hostile action by an opposing foreign force.

This is the first time all three units were awarded the decoration during the same time period.

Staff Sgt. Angela Harbula, 168th MP Battalion, Dyersburg, volunteered to assist K-9 handlers while deployed to Camp Bucca, Iraq, June 12. Volunteers were also able to tour the kennels and meet the many dogs that were part of the K-9 Exhibition. "I slipped on the 'arm toy', braced myself, took a deep breath, and held on for the ride," said Harbula. The dogs are trained in various areas including drug and explosive detection, as well as human trafficking.
(Photo provided by Staff Sgt. Angela Harbula.)

Tennessee Guardsmen dig into Gitmo projects

By Army Spc. David McLean, JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - The 118th Civil Engineering Squadron of the Tennessee Air National Guard has made a difference in June on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

The new playground equipment at Cooper Field and the refurbished bathrooms in Camp America are just two examples of the work that these 36 Guard members have completed during the past two weeks.

The squadron helped improve the quality of life for the Guantanamo Bay community as they polished their skills in preparation for future deployments.

Airman 1st Class Christina Yates, a member of the 118th Civil Engineering Squadron, fills the grade around a range project conducted by the unit at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, June 19, 2009. The 118th squadron participated in a two-week Deployment for Training exercise along with Joint Task Force Guantanamo service members to practice skills for a deployed environment. (Photo by Army Spc. David McLean)

The 118CES is based in Nashville, Tenn., and they have finished their annual "Deployment for Training" requirement. This training takes them away from their home area and places them in situations that closely resemble deployment environments and missions. Their mission here was to complete tasks around the naval station while training junior members of the squadron.

Air Force Lt. Col. Craig Bradford, the squadron commander, said the mission was successful, because of the information shared between his experienced Airmen and his younger members.

"This has been an extraordinary training opportunity for our younger Airmen," he said. "There is only so much you can do in the classroom and on computer simulations. Now it is time to train the younger members of the unit so no information is lost over the next few years."

This training included work on plumbing and electrical systems, basic carpentry and masonry and being resourceful in getting help from other groups to complete work.

"I've learned how to install water lines, toilets and sinks, and how to put up tile."
- A1C Christine Yates

"We're a construction outfit, so we've had to use the services of the engineers," said Air Force 1st Sgt. David Freeland, 118th CES. "They have gone out and sighted in some projects for the Joint Task Force folks for upcoming teams that will be coming out here. We've done a huge amount of utility work in plumbing and electrical, but all the skills of our Airmen have been tested.

"All the trades within the Air Force construction outfit have benefited greatly, not only from getting work done, but being able to use the DFT concept to train our younger people to come in and get their hands dirty."

The younger Airmen in the squadron had a lot to learn in a short amount of time.

"I've learned how to install water lines, toilets, sinks and urinals, and learned a few other things like how to put up tile," said Airmen 1st Class

(See Guantanamo Page 12)

Guantanamo Cont. from Page 11

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - The 118th Civil stuff that will be useful back in the civilian world as well. I think we've done a good job of accomplishing our tasks that we were assigned, and we picked up a couple of other ones and completed them the best we can."

The 118th CES had to complete the assigned tasks of renovating a bathroom facility at Camp America, to site and construct a Morale, Welfare and Recreation playground complex, build an interior wall at a naval station facility and construct a target storage structure at a firing range.

In addition to these tasks, they were able to complete a concrete supply ramp for a naval station dining facility, provide power production personnel support for generator maintenance for 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, repair a wall at the Radio Guantanamo office, begin plans for an observation deck on the leeward side of the naval station for Migrant Operations and provide engineering personnel support for survey work at leeward for 474th ECES.

The much-needed improvements to existing facilities used by service members here were appreciated, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Guillermo Santiago, Camp America commandant, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Military Police Battalion.

"I am pleased about the way they conducted business," Santiago said. "They have demonstrated a high degree of professionalism. The way they came in here and constructed and renovated the latrines; they did it in a record time of two weeks. You have to remember that we don't have a lumber store here on the island, and they did an outstanding job."

Post 9/11 GI Bill update

The Department of Veterans Affairs has updated their website with additional information on the post-9/11 GI Bill. There is a blue widget in the upper right corner of the website with links to learn more about the program, apply for the program, or get information for schools. You can also sign up for e-mail updates or subscribe to a RSS feed.

Homeowners Assistance Program

The Deputy Secretary of Defense signed guidance that uses stimulus package funds to provide monetary relief to service members and federal employee homeowners who suffer financial loss on the sale of their primary residence.

The Army is the executive agent for implementing the program and uses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to implement the program. Basic implementation rules are posted by USACE on their website. http://hap.usace.army.mil/

National Guard Agribusiness Team Sets Up Shop in Afghanistan

Story By: Sgt. 1st Class George Winters, Tennessee National Guard Agribusiness Development Team public affairs office

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Tennessee National Guard's agribusiness development team is up and running as the first of its kind in Afghanistan's Paktia and Paktika provinces.

Team officials said their primary mission is to set the stage for the success of the teams that come after them.

The Tennessee team includes security forces members, a headquarters element and about 15 technical experts with vast knowledge and experience in agriculture and livestock.

"Agribusiness teams assist the Afghan people to improve their quality of life."
- Staff Sgt. Roger Broach

Army Staff Sgt. Roger B. Broach, one of the team's agricultural experts, has a bachelor's degree in agriculture and years of experience in vegetable production, having grown up on a small farm. Broach's civilian experience of initiating contracts as part of his job with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development has proven beneficial to the team's work. Negotiations with Afghan businessmen and contractors is critical.

"If we can show the people the potential of their own capabilities to provide food and income for themselves, they will accomplish it," Broach said. "Agribusiness development teams have the potential of assisting the Afghan people to improve their overall quality of life through more modern agricultural technology and time-proven techniques of successful farming. Another key aspect will be to merge the minds of the Afghan people with Western water management techniques such as irrigation, flood control and water retention."

One of the team's responsibilities is to include the various levels of the Afghan government in every activity from the national level down through the provincial, district and village levels. The team deals primarily with the provincial director of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, who provides the Guardsmen with the province's priority list and coordinates with other provincial directors. He incorporates the use of his extension workers and a training facility recently built by a provincial reconstruction team.

Army Col. Jim D. Moore, the team's commander, is responsible for everything the unit does and does not accomplish, as well as the health and welfare of the Tennessee Guardsmen.

"I believe that the overall mission of the Tennessee Agribusiness Development Team is to assist in renovating the agricultural economy by providing U.S. agricultural and engineer

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Army Col. Jim D. Moore, commander of the Tennessee Agribusiness Development Team, visits with village elders in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province to evaluate a proposed project site, June 1, 2009. (Photo by Spc. Todd Steffen.)

ADT Cont. from Page 12

specialists to work with their Afghan counterparts in Paktia province," said Moore, who has a bachelor's degree in agriculture and, as a civilian, is an executive in commercial lending at a community bank in central Georgia.

"Successful business owners, and agriculture as a business, spend as much time on marketing and gross sales opportunities as maximizing production yields," he explained. "Also, a growing business must have access to loans and/or banking institutions."

The farmers in eastern Afghanistan have more than 3 million potential customers for their agricultural products living nearby. Understanding of central Asian buyers' desires and needs is required to make the Afghan farmers successful, team officials said.

The Tennessee Guard team has been on the ground for about 90 days and has made at least two visits to the 14 districts within its province, working with local leaders to assess the agricultural situation. So far, nearly a dozen projects for funding through the Commander's Emergency Response Program have been created and submitted.

Several of these projects are in conjunction with the Paktia University's School of Agriculture. The local university depends on national funding, but lacks the resources to teach the current influx of students. The Tennessee Guard agribusiness team has agreed to assist the School of Agriculture in meeting its critical needs.

The team intends to implement up to 50 projects before the duty tour ends and they are relieved by a team from Oklahoma.

Some of the projects will be completed, some will be under way, and some will be waiting for the Oklahoma Guard to begin as soon as they hit the ground. Since the focus is on education and agriculture infrastructure development, most of the projects have a training focus or component.

The projects the Tennessee Guard team has developed or implemented include a furniture manufacturing training course, a livestock association course, a beehive construction course and a para-veterinary training program with the Afghan Veterinary Association. With all the courses, the Afghans will be given tools to keep and use to start a business that will help the farmer's increase revenue and their marketing strength. The para-veterinary program will also provide updated equipment for clinics throughout the province.

Another project is training on poultry, sheep and goat husbandry for disadvantaged women and youth at the village level. The courses will provide the knowledge and resources for the students to take home their own livestock or chickens, and will include health, feeding, breeding, and marketing components.

"Living at 7,600 feet elevation with average annual rainfall of 12 inches isn't like the South-eastern United States."

- Col. Jim Moore

Many agricultural projects can take a minimum of three to five years to begin producing quantitative results, as evidenced by America's forefathers as they painstakingly improved their plant and animal genetics. The common factor, is to be a steward of the land and enhance it through training and technology. It is vital to educate the Afghans on the conservation value of their natural resources.

"Living at 7,600 feet elevation with average annual rainfall of 12 inches isn't like anything in the southeastern United States," Moore said. "But the farmers in Afghanistan are similar to U.S. farmers -- interested in production quality and quantities and producing enough to feed, clothe and educate their family."

Thirty years ago, Afghanistan was known as a leading agricultural exporter. Agriculture accounted for nearly 80 percent of their economy, but the Russian invasion and the Taliban's fight for control have taken their toll on the country's farming capabilities. Much technology and knowledge has been lost, but various agribusiness development teams, in coordination with national and international officials, hope to overcome those losses allow the Afghanistan economy to thrive again.

New Air Force uniform regulation changes went into effect in June

Story By: Staff Sgt. Robin Olsen

New uniform regulations for Air Force personnel became effective in June after the completion of the Air Force Uniform Board meeting which originally convened in 2008. Voting members included Airmen from all Major Commands and most functional communities. Board recommendations were forwarded to the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, who made the final decisions.

Effective immediately, BDU and ACU uniforms must now have the pants tucked into the boots, no longer bloused just above, and boot laces must be tucked in.

Airmen can also no longer attach their organizational cap to their uniform trouser. Some would do this with the button on the side pocket of the pants, but it is now considered out of uniform.

Another change is the elimination of wearing the metal rank by enlisted Airmen on the light weight blue jacket. It is now mandatory that enlisted personnel have their rank sewn on the sleeves, similar to the BDU and ABU uniforms. This change becomes mandatory January 1, 2010.

Badges that are now authorized to wear on the Air Force uniform are the U.S. Army Parachute Riggers badge, (the subdued version must be blue, not black and on the DCU it will be brown), the U.S. Army Air Assault badge on the BDU uniform, and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations duty badge.

Cell phones are now authorized for use while walking in uniform.

Another change to the regulations is now personal cellular phones are authorized for use while walking in uniform; however, military customs and courtesies still apply and take precedence. The phones must be conservative in color. Hands free devices are still prohibited. The cell phone may be worn on either side of the uniform.

Changes to actual uniform wear guidelines include that Airmen should add a small ABU name tape with their last name to the pocket flap on the All-purpose Environmental Clothing System (APECS) left sleeve. In the future, the pen pocket on the ABU will be increased to prevent breaking writing utensils or punctures when bending the arm, and an increase in the length of the lower leg pockets. PT gear guidance will all be changed to reflect a more professional image to make the standards more in line with the intent of the uniform. No action for these changes is required at this time.

The board deferred some items from approval at this time because they require further research and/or development. If any of these items are later approved by the CSAF, wear guidance and effective dates will be provided in supplemental messages.

There were also many initiatives that were not approved. Such as optional flight cap with venting; looser fitting service dress trousers; wear of an additional occupational badge below the pocket; wear of all, some or none for ribbons (Airman must still wear all ribbons they have been awarded); wear of the American flag on the ABU,DCU, or BDU uniform; wear of a six-point utility cap; Velcro in place of buttons on the ABU; slanted pockets on the ABU; and permanent wear of the tan boots versus the sage green boots.

The approved changes will be updated in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance instruction manual. Any questions should be addressed through your local chain of command/MAJCOM points of contact.

Thankful words from the "Outside"

Story from "letter to the Editor" section of Milan's Mirror-Exchange, May 26th issue, Local Guardsmen Commended

On May 14th, threatening inclement weather forced us to move the outdoor home wedding reception for our children, Sid Crocker and Lindsay Tucker, to Plan B--the Tennessee National Guard Armory at Milan. We "invaded" the armory with a "battery" of tables, chairs, damask table cloths, ferns, food, tents, tulle, flowers, a band and much, much more. Over the course of the next three days our disappointment turned to delight as the armory was transformed.

Together with our families, we want to publicly thank Sergeant Bain and his men at the Tennessee National Guard Armory at Milan and Sergeant Robert Hopper (and his wife Jackie). They went above and beyond the call of duty with their hospitality, generosity and hard work. Every request we made was executed with respect, expediency and a smile.

If you need a big dose of courage, class and character, you need only travel a short distance south on 45 to the Armory and spend a few minutes with these men. They sacrifice daily to protect our rights, freedoms and our very lives and at the same time used their impeccable skills to make sure a young couple had the wedding reception of their dreams.

The pride in our military personnel and our country was confirmed and multiplied during this experience. We will always remember their help and kindness...We offer our prayers for their safety and wish them Godspeed.

Rosemary Crocker (mother of the Groom) and Stacy Hale (mother of the Bride)

Army publishes first National Guard retirement guide

Story By: Laura Paul,Human Resources Policy Directorate, G-1

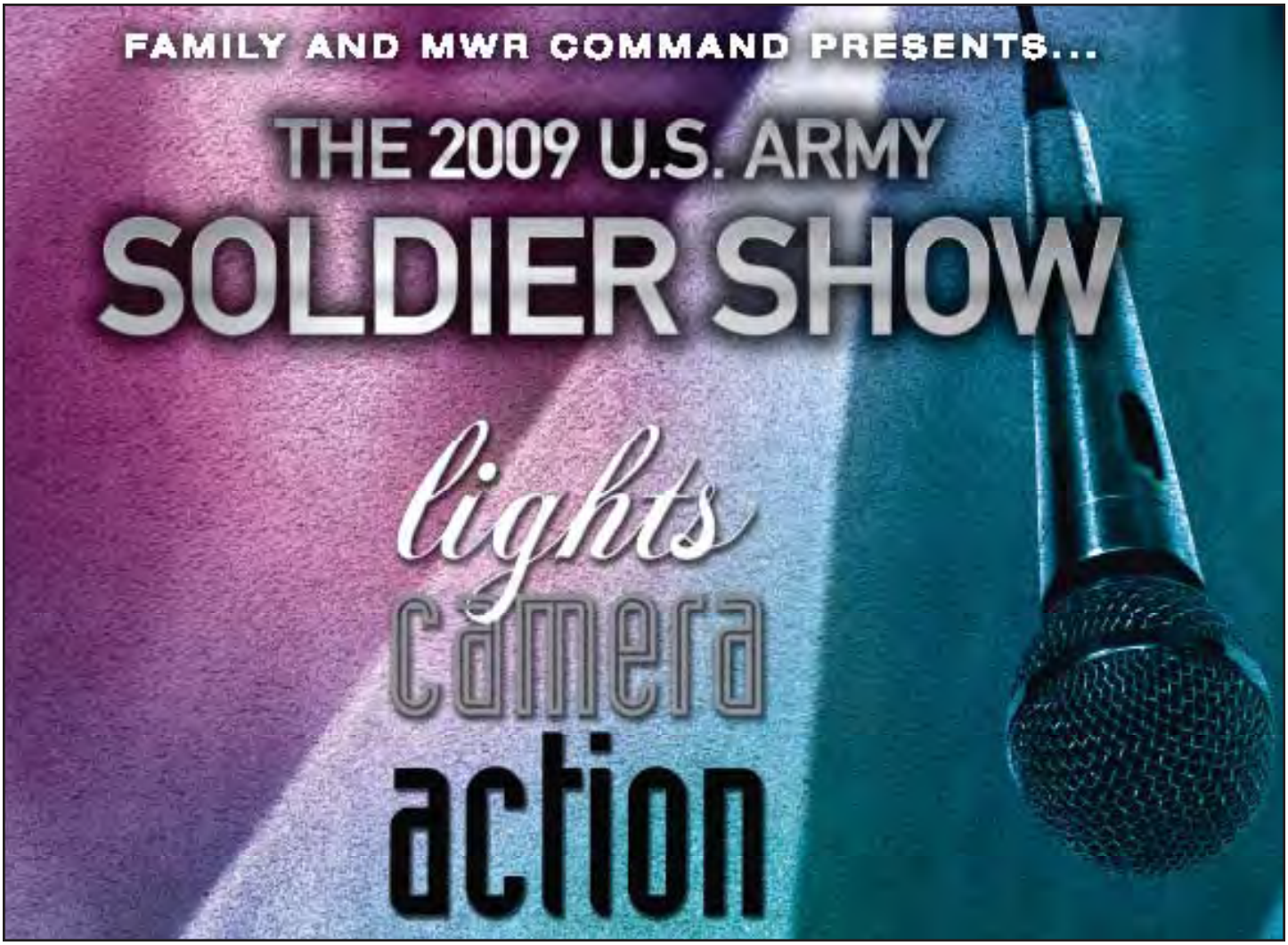
The Army has published a 56-page retirement guide for National Guard Soldiers and their families which covers subjects ranging from retirement point credits to how to apply for retirement pay.

The Army National Guard Information Guide on Non-Regular Retirement was a collaboration between the Army G-1 retirement services division and the National Guard.

"We published this guide as part of our efforts to ensure that National Guard Soldiers and their families receive the Army's full support before and after retirement," said John Radke, chief of Army G-1 retirement services.

"We see the commitment of National Guard Soldiers at home as they respond to disasters like Hurricane Katrina and abroad as they help fight those who seek to destabilize and destroy countries like Iraq and Afghanistan," Radke added. "We respond to their commitment by providing them with this retirement guide as they begin to plan for retirement from our great Army."

The guide is currently being distributed throughout the Guard. It is also available online at: http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire



Special Invitations: Army National Guard Members - Bring your Families and your Civilian Employer!

***Schedule subject to change. Go to armymwr.com for the latest details.**

Fort Sill	July 31 - 7:30 p.m.
Fort Sill	Aug. 1 - 2 & 7:30 p.m.
Fort Sill	Aug. 2 - 2 p.m.
Fort Carson	Aug. 6 - 7 p.m.
Fort Carson	Aug. 7 - 7 p.m.
White Sands	Aug. 11 - 7 p.m.
White Sands	Aug. 12 - 1 & 6 p.m.
Fort Bliss	Aug. 14 - 7 p.m.
Fort Bliss	Aug. 15 - 2 p.m.
Fort Huachuca	Aug. 18 - 7 p.m.
Fort Huachuca	Aug. 19 - 2 & 7 p.m.
Fort Irwin	Aug. 22 - 7 p.m.
Fort Lewis	Aug. 28 - 2 & 7 p.m.
Fort Rucker	Sept. 30 - 7:30 p.m.
Fort Rucker	Oct. 1 - 11 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Fort Benning	Oct. 3 - 7 p.m.
Fort Stewart	Oct. 6 - 7 p.m.
Fort Stewart	Oct. 7 - 7 p.m.
Fort Bragg	Oct. 9 - 7 p.m.
Fort Bragg	Oct. 10 - 12 Noon
Fort Drum	Oct. 14 - 6:30 p.m.
Fort Drum	Oct. 15 - 6:30 p.m.
Fort Hamilton	Oct. 16 - 8 p.m.
Fort Hamilton	Oct. 17 - 3 p.m.
USMA, West point	Oct. 20 - 7 p.m.
Fort Monmouth	Oct. 22 - 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Fort Lee	Oct. 27 - 7 p.m.
Fort Lee	Oct. 28 - 2 & 7 p.m.
Aberdeen Proving Ground	Nov. 1 - 2 & 7 p.m.
Fort Monroe	Nov. 4 - 2:30 p.m.
Fort Belvoir	Nov. 8 - 2 p.m.