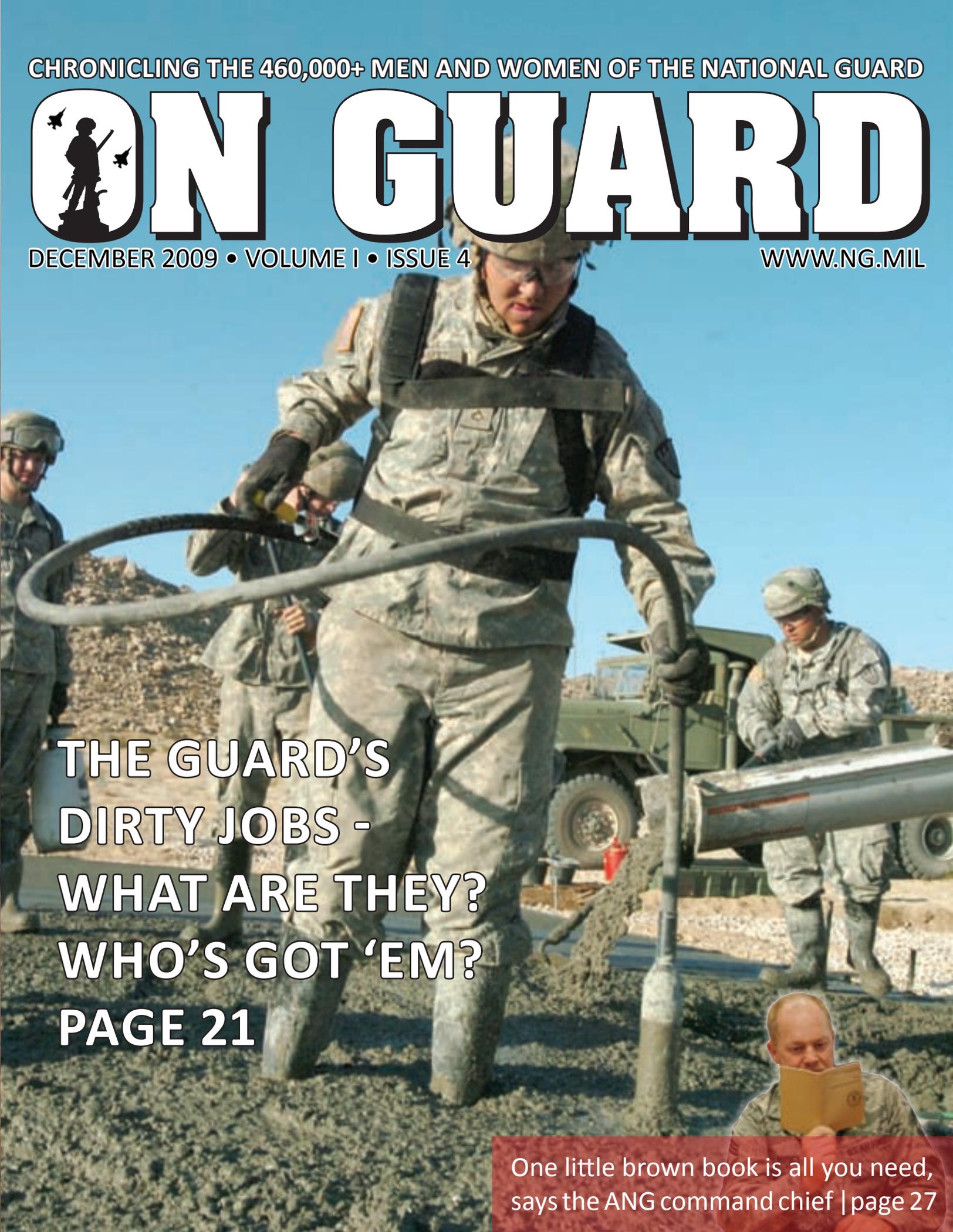


CHRONICLING THE 460,000+ MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

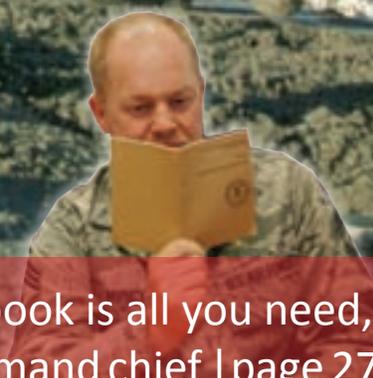
# ON GUARD

DECEMBER 2009 • VOLUME I • ISSUE 4

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WHAT ARE THEY?  
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One little brown book is all you need,  
says the ANG command chief | page 27

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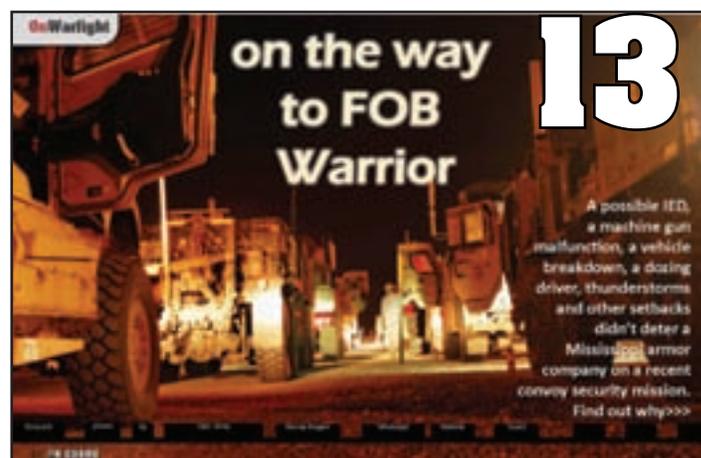
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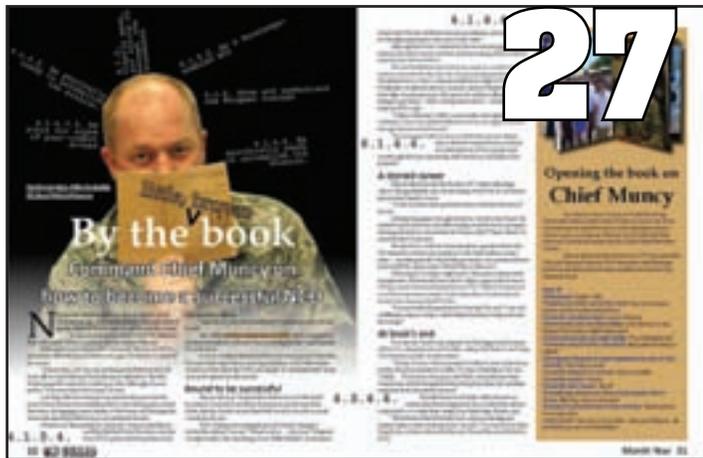
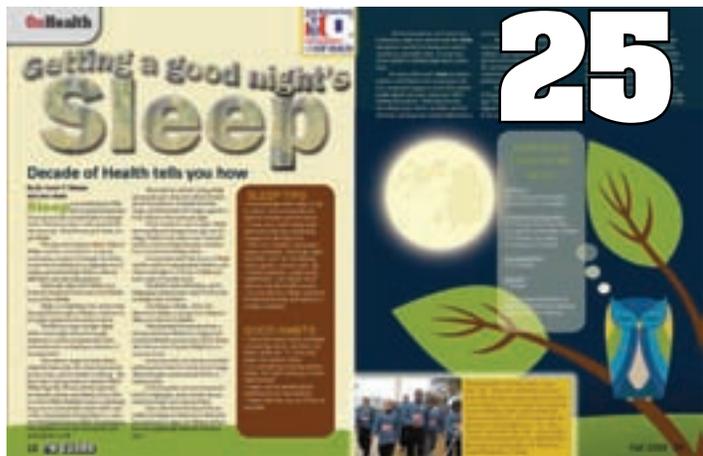
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# ON GUARD

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**ABOUT**

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E-mail your stories and photos for possible inclusion. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (300 dpi or more) and e-mailed to: [Editor.OnGuard@ng.army.mil](mailto:Editor.OnGuard@ng.army.mil)

A big Hooah to all who took part in the

# 25th Army 10-Miler



## Army National Guard

More than 1,400 runners



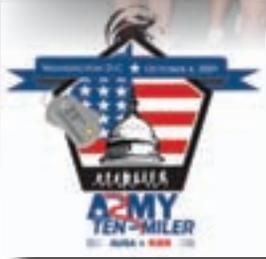
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***fastest***  
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Formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting a 460,000-member force is no small task, just ask Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau. After swearing in last November, the chief has spent countless hours in meetings, speaking at conferences and visiting troops at installations here and overseas. Wherever he goes, he stresses the three 'C's — communication, collaboration and coordination.

# A YEAR ON

**Swears** in as the 26th chief of the National Guard Bureau and promoted to the rank of general by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, with Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, present:

*"I will give it every bit of energy, every bit of heart and soul that I can possess to make sure that our National Guard and our Soldiers and Airmen are well taken care of."*

**Attends** the Region III Adjutant's General conference in Florida. There he visits the Florida National Guard's Joint Operations Center at Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine and receives briefing on mobile communications systems and state's emergency operations capabilities; celebrates the birthday of the Guard on Dec. 13:

*"Today's Guard men and women continue the commitment and selfless service of the first militiamen who banded together at a moment's notice to defend their towns and colonies."*

**Visits** Guard-members on duty around the nation's capital on the eve of the presidential inauguration:

*"My takeaways today are the professionalism, the breadth and depth of our organization, the fact that we have multiple states involved."*

**Travels** to the Balkans. There he conducts town hall meeting with Missouri Army National Guard Soldiers deployed in support of Multi-national Task Force East at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo:

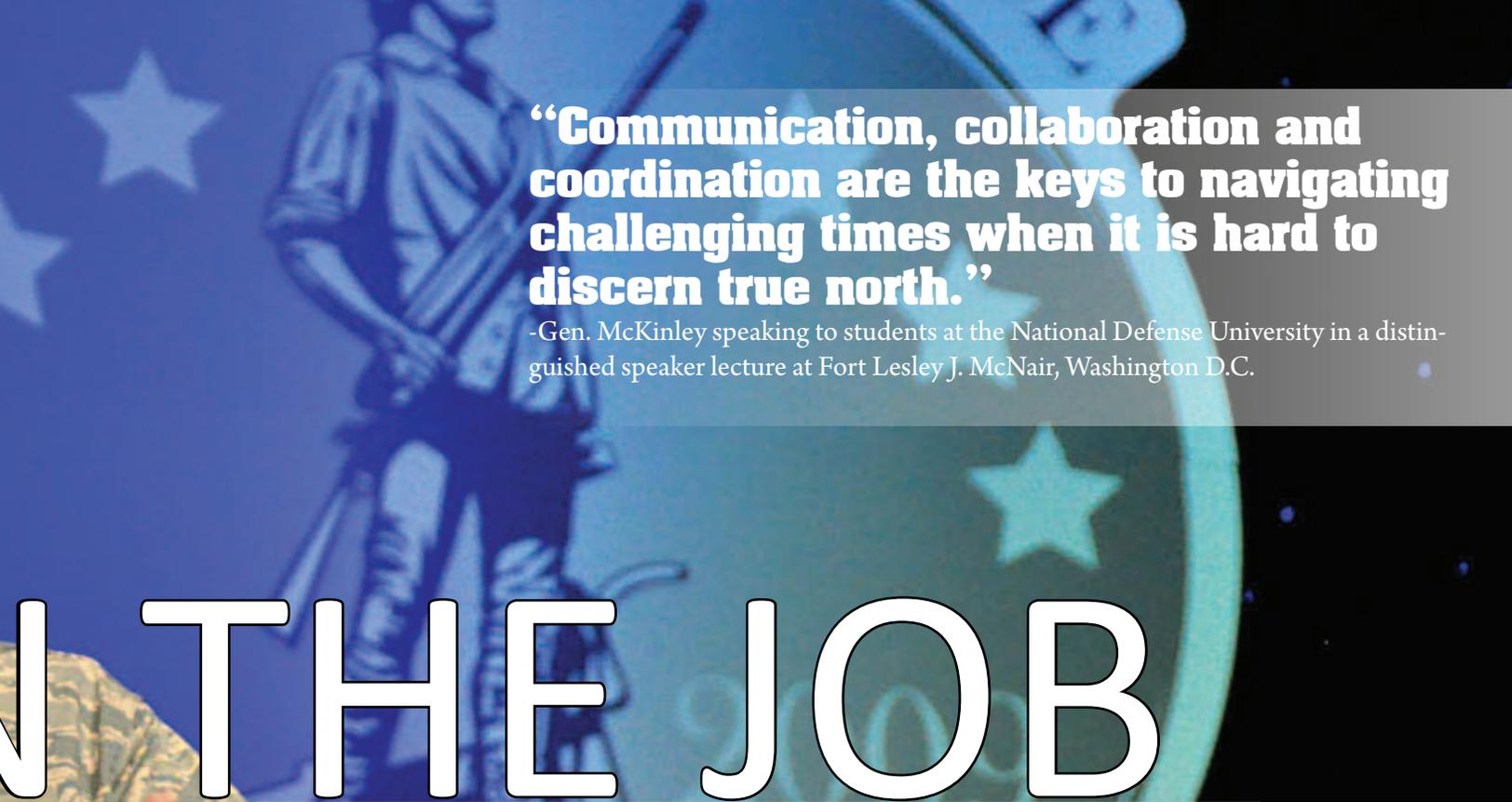
*"I can't tell you how impressed I was walking through those streets and seeing the faces of the men and women of Kosovo, who appreciate what you are doing here."*

**Meets** with Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. Attends dozens of formal briefings, town hall meetings and tours to gauge their thoughts:

*"Your questions and concerns are important to me. I will take them back to Washington."*

**Attends** the U.S. Transportation Command's Reserve Component Chiefs and Adjutants General Conference at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.:

*Guard and Reserve personnel make up more than 55 percent of USTRANSCOM's workforce*



**“Communication, collaboration and coordination are the keys to navigating challenging times when it is hard to discern true north.”**

-Gen. McKinley speaking to students at the National Defense University in a distinguished speaker lecture at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington D.C.

# IN THE JOB

**Meets** with Department of Homeland Security officials and discusses working together on issues of partnership and hurricane preparedness; maintains that the Guard's number one priority is the security and defense of the homeland; speaks at the Heritage Foundation, saying the Guard can expect peacekeeping roles in Afghanistan and Iraq into the future:

*“In many cases, the National Guard – primarily the Army National Guard – stays behind, and they are the people who finish the job.”*

**Travels** to Stuttgart, Germany, for a State Partnership Program conference; tours the 186th Air Refueling Wing at Key Field Air National Guard Base in Meridian, Miss., and meets with media to discuss the unit's transition to the C-27J Spartan Joint Cargo Aircraft:

*“We are working hard to eliminate or at least drastically minimize the time between missions [for ANG units].”*

**Visits** Gowen Field in Idaho to see Soldiers and Airmen from Idaho, Oregon and Montana in action; flies aboard a Black Hawk helicopter; sees Guardmembers upgrading warfighting capabilities of roughly one-third of the Air Force's A-10 Thunderbolt II fleet at new facility there:

*“I'm constantly amazed at the ingenuity, creativity and adaptability of our Airmen. They do great work.”*

**Speaks** at the State Partnership Program workshop in Chapel Hill, N.C.; speaks to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and Sexual Assault Response coordinators in San Antonio, Texas, says sexual assault and substance abuse impacts unit readiness:

*“We're fighting a two-front war.”*

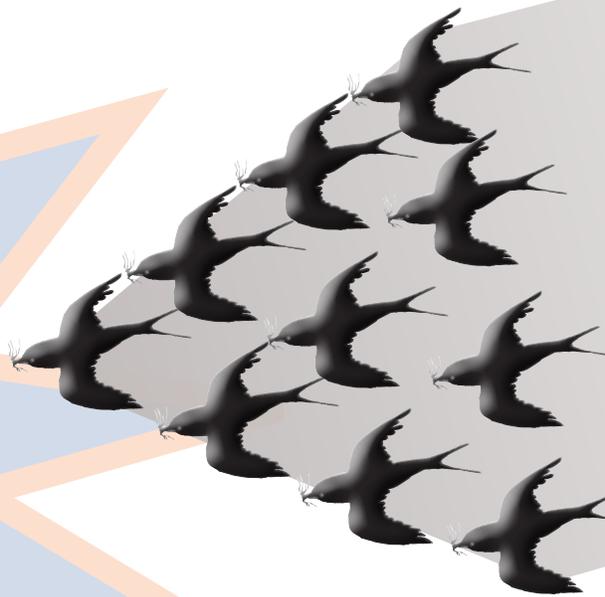
**Meets** with State Department officials and discusses National Guard Agribusiness Development Teams at work in Afghanistan and Guard's training of civilian advisors for Afghanistan at the Indiana Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center; speaks at the National Guard Association's General Conference meeting:

*“The budget will be a No. 1 issue [for DoD leaders]. We're going to go through a period of time of contracting resources. ...”*

**Tells** a Military Leadership Diversity Commission meeting that diversity is critical to the success of the National Guard; Travels to Jordan for the Falcon Air Meet, an annual exercise between the U.S. Air Force, the Royal Jordanian Air Force and other regional countries who fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon; returns to his home state of Florida to help dedicate a static display of an F-16 at the entrance to the 125th Fighter Wing's base at the Jacksonville International Airport:

*“It is a great airplane and it's a very agile aircraft. It's one that served this unit and our nation very well.”*

# Bird strike



## One Air Guard base's efforts to deal with the flying FOD pay off

**By Capt. Mary Harrington  
Massachusetts National Guard**

**E**very day around the country bird strikes threaten aircraft at Air and Army Guard bases. Collisions between of our fine feathered friends and our fine-tuned airborne weapon systems have cost the Guard more than \$10 million in the past five years.

Barnes Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts is no exception, but they have a plan. They're mitigating the risks of bird strikes through a variety of efforts that include frightening birds with noise, cutting tall grass, and minimizing open water areas, to collecting data on bird behaviors to help other airports. The challenge they face is typical of

most Air Guard bases: balancing flight safety with a respect for the environment.

Bird strikes have caused minor and major incidences since 1905, dating back to the Wright Brothers diaries:

"Orville ... flew 4,751 meters in 4 minutes 45 seconds, four complete circles. Twice passed over a fence into Beard's cornfield. Chased flock of birds for two rounds, and killed one which fell on top of the upper surface and after a time, fell off when swinging a sharp curve."

According to the Bird Strike Committee USA, the first person to successfully fly across the continental United States, Calbraith Rodgers, was also the first to die as a result of a collision with a bird. On April 3,

1912, Rodgers' Wright Pusher struck a gull causing the aircraft to crash into the surf at Long Beach, Calif. He was pinned under the wreckage and drowned.

More recently, a bird strike at New York's LaGuardia Airport made the news when several geese were sucked into an Airbus A320, disabling both engines. Capt. Chesley Sullenberger, pilot of the US Airways Flight 1549, ditched the aircraft into the Hudson River, a heroic decision that resulted in no loss of life and minimal injuries. Sullenberger is a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, former fighter pilot, an aviation safety expert, and an accident investigator.

Aircraft bird strike data maintained by the FAA reveal that airports near wetlands or

fields have higher incidents of strikes. Overall, in 2007, there were about 8,500 bird strikes reported in the United States.

The Air Force Safety Center's most recent data shows that there were almost 4,800 strikes by U.S. Air Force aircraft in 2007, with one Class A mishap. The fiscal year 2007 cost to the USAF for all incidents combined was over \$25 million.

"At Barnes, we have an average number of bird strikes," said Senior Master Sgt. Tom Dumais, ground safety manager for the 104th Fighter Wing there, "usually between one and five annually." In the last few years, the 104th converted from A-10 Warthogs to F-15 Eagles.

## Eastern Meadowlark vs. F-15 Eagle

In July 8, an Eastern Meadowlark collided with the windshield of a 104th F-15 during a landing. "There were about a dozen birds that scattered in front of the plane, but this one couldn't get out of the way," said pilot Maj. David Halasi-Kun, who estimated his aircraft speed at 160 mph.

The bird perished, but fortunately there was no damage to the aircraft. "Our biggest concern with a strike is the bird breaking the canopy and incapacitating the pilot, especially in a single-seat aircraft. This bird was small ... but even a small bird can do significant damage to our engines," said Halasi-Kun. The bird weighed about eight ounces; The F-15 weighs 31,700 pounds.

Dumais, said that "obviously, larger birds will cause more damage to the aircraft. When we flew the A-10, it seems like we hit more birds, perhaps because we flew lower and slower, but damage at times was minimal. This wasn't the case in September 2005 when one of our A-10 aircraft sustained over \$82,000 in damage from a large bird striking the engine cowling."

Dumais said "with the F-15s, we will hopefully see fewer strikes due to the new aircraft being faster, but more damage per strike because the aircraft fly faster and the engines



This Eastern Meadowlark was a casualty of a collision with an F-15 Eagle from the 104th FW at Barnes. (Photo by Capt. Mary Harrington.)

have larger, more aggressive intakes. With a multimillion dollar engine package in the F-15, the related damage costs can really skyrocket."

## BASH

To minimize bird hazards at Barnes, the 104th FW employs BASH, or the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard Plan. Among its multifaceted approach, BASH requires daily surveys of the airfield for dead birds and notations in a daily log for sightings.

"When one of our jets strikes a bird, there's a formal process that we follow," explained Dumais. "First, of course, we assess the damage to the aircraft. Then we capture whatever we can for bird remains, submit reports and send the bird remains to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History for identification. Even if it's just a blood smear, the Smithsonian can identify the remains."

The Smithsonian takes DNA from the bird for species identification and records the data for migratory data and research. "We are sometimes tasked with sending the whole bird, which we have to freeze and ship frozen

overnight delivery, but most times we are only tasked with sending parts of the bird such as tail feathers, a foot, wing and the head/beak in a Ziploc baggie. This is all to assist in the identification of the bird to help in determining bird avoidance models for future aviators," said Dumais.

Birds that have collided with Massachusetts Air Guard aircraft have included Barn Swallows, Tree Swallows, Bank Swallows, Red-tailed Hawks, a Ring-billed Gull, Horned Lark, Golden Plover, and several small passerines. Migratory birds such as ducks, geese, gulls, shorebirds, raptors, crows, doves, swallows, starlings, and blackbirds pose problems as well.

## Minimizing the risk

"There are several ways to minimize bird strikes," said John Richardson, Barnes' base environmental coordinator. "The methods range from frightening the birds with noise, to cutting grass and minimizing open water areas. We are considerate of the environment in this way, for example, the Grasshopper Sparrow, a bird not indigenous to this area, has established itself in the Common-

## The cost of ANG birdstrikes

| FY     | # of Damaging Mishaps | Class A | Class B | Class C | Non-Damaging Class E | Total Cost   |
|--------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|--------------|
| 2009   | 16                    | 0       | 3       | 13      | 722                  | \$2,057,498  |
| 2008   | 17                    | 0       | 2       | 15      | 729                  | \$1,173,281  |
| 2007   | 12                    | 1       | 3       | 9       | 699                  | \$2,885,437  |
| 2006   | 21                    | 0       | 4       | 17      | 811                  | \$2,822,833  |
| 2005   | 12                    | 0       | 2       | 10      | 650                  | \$1,304,932  |
| TOTALS | 78                    | 1       | 14      | 64      | 3,611                | \$10,243,981 |

wealth of Massachusetts. As a result, Barnes Municipal Airport is required to maintain grass adjacent to the runways and taxiways at certain times of year, for their habitat, so that they can nest and lay eggs. This can cause challenges for the airfield, especially during air shows, but we just work around it for the sake of the environment.”

One of the authors of the 104th FW’s BASH plan, Dr. Russell P. DeFusco, said that Barnes ANGB was the impetus for the FAA Cert Alert 06-07, an advisory to provide guidance on “responding to requests by state wildlife agencies to facilitate and encourage habitats for state-listed ‘threatened’ and ‘endangered species’ or ‘species of special concern’ that occur on airports and may pose a threat to aviation safety.”

Essentially, the advisory said that “airport operators should exercise great caution in adopting new management techniques; new techniques may increase wildlife hazards and be inconsistent with safe airport operations.

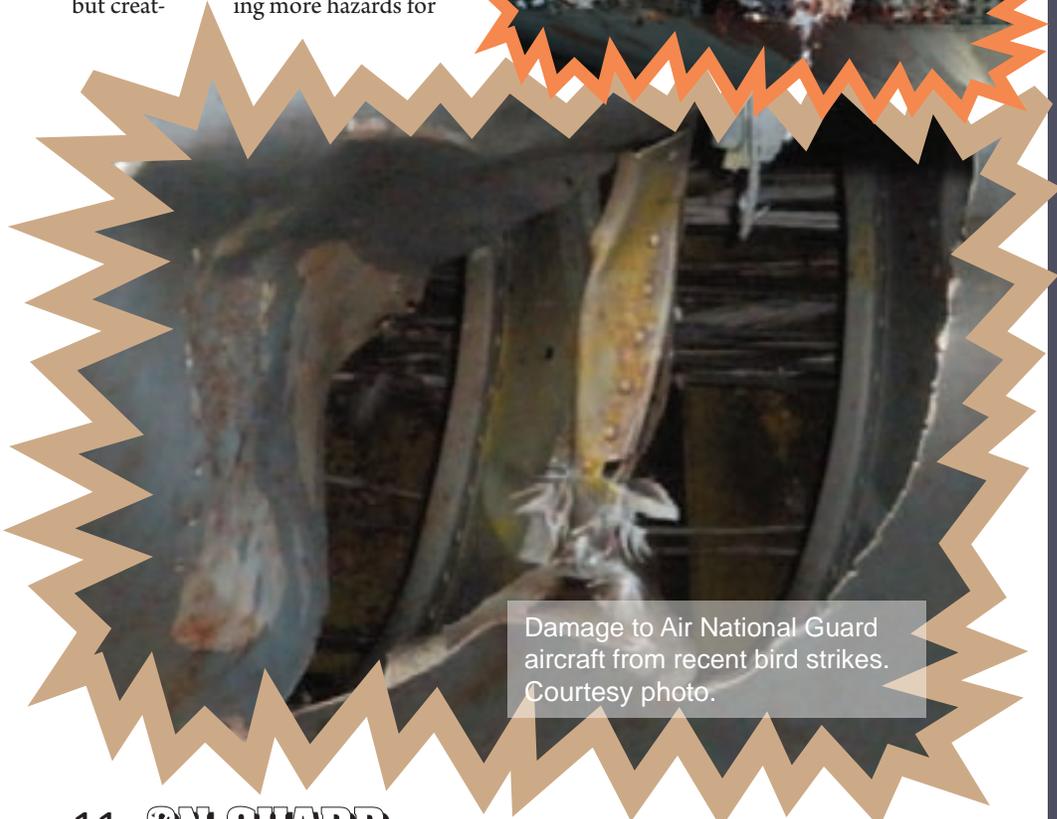
Managing the on-airport environment to facilitate or encourage the presence of hazardous wildlife species can create conditions that are incompatible with, or pose a threat to, aviation safety.”

“Some states have required the development of habitats which were not naturally occurring, which promote wildlife species near airfields, hence creating more of a hazard in the long run,” said DeFusco. “I am a huge advocate of wildlife protection, but creating more hazards for

them, and for people and aircraft, is absurd,” said DeFusco.

DeFusco is well qualified to speak on the subject, with a B.S. in Biology from the USAF Academy; an M.S. in Wildlife Biology, and a Ph.D. in Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology. His company specializes in Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard abatement for civil and military flight safety. He wrote the BASH plan for Barnes as part of a nationwide contract with the National Guard Bureau through their safety and environmental offices. He has visited almost all the flying units in the Air National Guard, including Combat Readiness Training Centers and several ranges.

“The bottom line is that birds DO cause a significant threat to safety,” said Dumais. “We are doing what we can to minimize damage, while contributing to research and being respectful of the environment. If we can effectively capture data and assist in determining bird habits, we can help reduce future mishaps.”



Damage to Air National Guard aircraft from recent bird strikes. Courtesy photo.

## BIRD STRIKES AT ANG BASES



An **F-16D** assigned to the 150th Fighter Wing, **Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.**, experienced a bird strike Nov. 13 to the radome canopy during landing roll on a local training mission. No damage was discovered.



A **KC-135** air refueling tanker with the 134th Air Refueling Wing at **McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn.**, experienced a bird strike Aug. 6 that caused substantial damage. The aircraft commander declared an in-flight emergency and returned back to home station without incident. An investigation revealed a major dent on the intake valve of the #3 engine, a dent on the right side of the fuselage and a dent on the landing gear.



A **C-130H** assigned to the 130th Airlift Wing at **Yeager Airport, W.V.**, experienced a bird strike Oct. 29 while conducting a local night tactical training mission. The aircraft landed safely at home station and upon post-flight inspection, damage was discovered to the leading edge of the left wing. The Bird/wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) condition was moderate at the time of the incident. No injuries were reported.



A **C-130E** assigned to the 189 Airlift Wing, **Little Rock AFB, Ark.**, struck several large migratory birds Nov. 2 while conducting a local training mission. The crew returned to base but did not declare an in-flight emergency. Damage to the leading edge of the right wing was discovered during post flight inspection.



An **F-16C** assigned to the 180th Fighter Wing, **Toledo Express Airport, Ohio**, sustained a bird strike Nov. 5 while conducting a practice alert force scramble. The aircraft landed safely at home station and upon post-flight inspection, damage was discovered to the right ram-air intake duct. No personnel injuries were reported.



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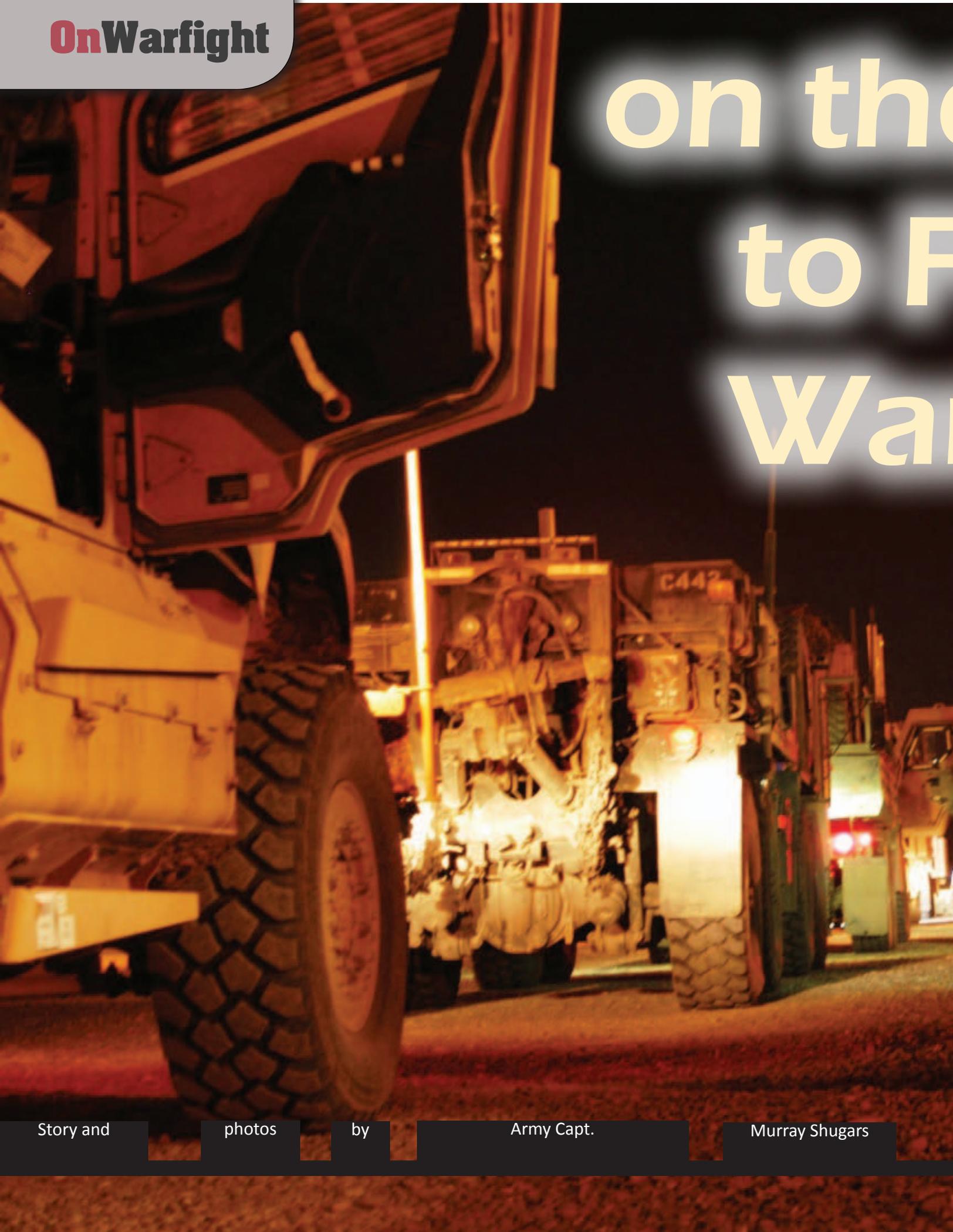
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# on the to F War



Story and

photos

by

Army Capt.

Murray Shugars

# The way FOB Warrior

A possible IED, a machine gun malfunction, a vehicle breakdown, a dozing driver, thunderstorms and other setbacks didn't deter a Mississippi armor company on a recent convoy security mission.

Find out why>>>

Mississippi

National

Guard

“My first sergeant wanted to make me a convoy commander. I said, ‘All due respect, first sergeant, but I think I can do more to protect the vehicles behind me by being up here in the front scouting.’”

-Sgt. Ryan Lee



A member of 1st Platoon stands behind the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit of his Caiman version of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected truck, preparing to warn off oncoming traffic during a convoy security mission.

When some tired Mississippi National Guard members reached Forward Operating Base Warrior, all that was on their minds was securing their vehicles and getting a good night’s sleep. The armor unit from Oxford, Miss., was providing convoy security and had just experienced more than their share of problems on the first leg of a mission from Contingency Operating Location Q-West to FOB Warrior in late October. Unfortunately, much-needed rest would prove elusive, especially for the convoy commander.

“When we finally got in our tents and everyone was mostly asleep, we had a hell of a storm,” said Army Staff Sgt. Michael Hammons. “The rain and wind shook the tent all night. I kept thinking, ‘Here I am eight to 10 days from taking leave to see my child born, and I might die in a tent at the FOB Warrior Convoy Support Center. I couldn’t sleep.’”

Hammons recounted the problematic mission and its numerous setbacks. First was a machine gun that malfunctioned before leaving, requiring maintenance. On the return trip, a gun truck broke down and had to be towed. Then, with lights of Q-West on the horizon, when Soldiers began talking of hot showers and warm beds, a civilian truck driver fell asleep at the wheel, barreling his semi-tractor trailer 500 meters into the desert, injuring no one but causing another delay while the platoon secured the area and winched the truck from axle-deep mud.

Issues like this are common, especially when the platoon runs a mission to Forward Operating Base Warrior, said Hammons.

The Mississippians from the 1st Platoon, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 198th Combined Arms generally agree that their trips to Warrior are jinxed.

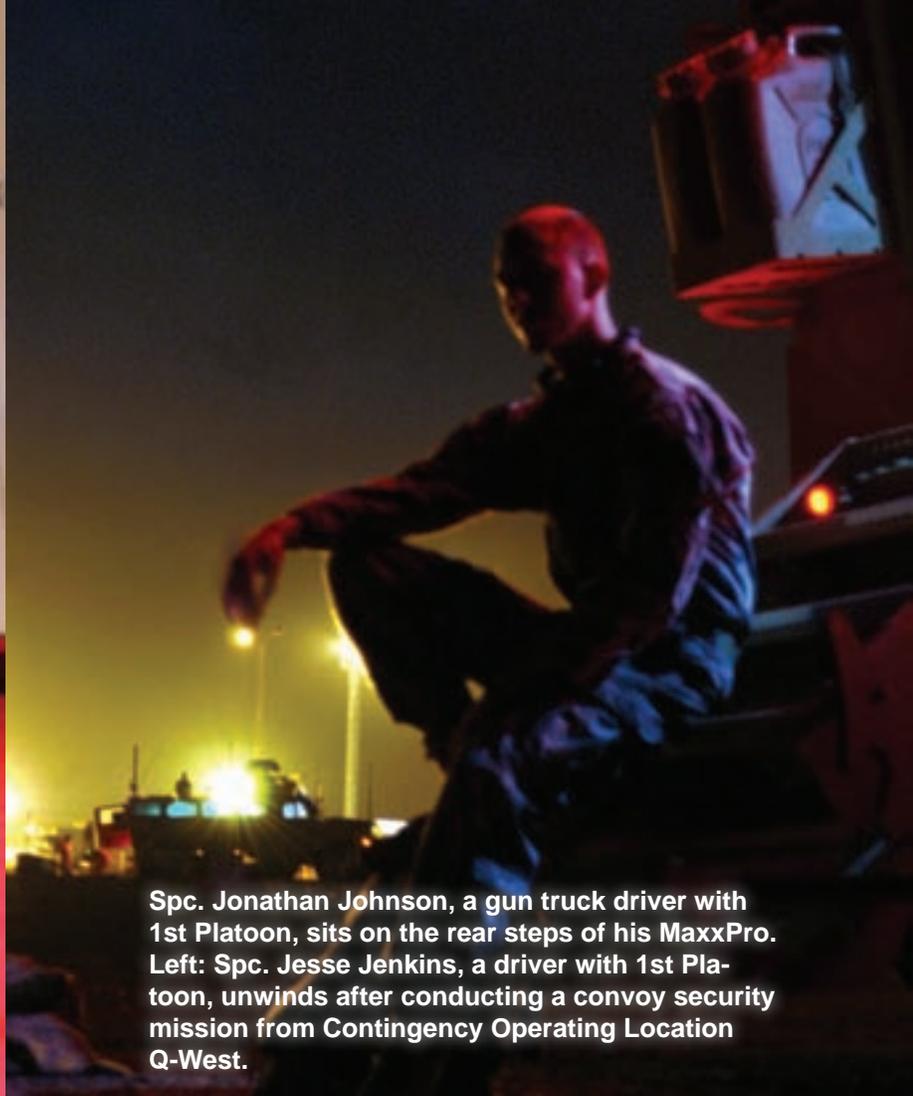
“Things always seem to go wrong when we come here,” said Spc. Kyle B. Shoffner, a driver. “Last time we came here, one vehicle had a flat tire and another broke down.”

## Good tactical patience

However, the incident that tested the Soldiers’ training most happened on the way to Warrior, when the platoon encountered what appeared to be an IED near a small, riverside village, said 2nd Lt. Thomas McLeskey, 1st Platoon leader.

Just after the scouts crossed a bridge, all the village lights went out, said Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Ramseur, a scout truck commander whose job is to clear the route ahead of the convoy’s main body. While blackouts are common with Iraq’s unreliable power grid, Ramseur said it was an unsettling coincidence.

“The blackout could have been a sign of enemy activity,” said Ramseur. “Also, we didn’t see any people, and that was our first time through there without seeing anyone. When we spotted a concrete



**Spc. Jonathan Johnson, a gun truck driver with 1st Platoon, sits on the rear steps of his MaxxPro. Left: Spc. Jesse Jenkins, a driver with 1st Platoon, unwinds after conducting a convoy security mission from Contingency Operating Location Q-West.**

mound beside the road, we halted the convoy to investigate.”

All the signs pointed to it being an IED, said Ramsey. There were nearby dwellings, a traffic signpost across the road that could have been a marker, foot paths leading off into the desert and what looked like a wire covered with dirt. Viewing it with thermal sights, the scouts verified that the cement mound radiated heat, another sign of an explosive device.

After marking the site with chemical lights, the platoon secured the area and radioed battalion headquarters at Q-West to request an explosives ordinance disposal team, said McLeskey.

The EOD team, which was busy with another mission, eventually arrived to investigate the site, concluding that the concrete mound was the base of a traffic sign recently removed, said McLeskey.

“Even though this turned out to be a false alarm, the scouts and convoy commander made the right decisions,” said McLeskey. “They dealt with a possible IED exactly as they were trained, and they showed good tactical patience.”

## Battle skills honed

The platoon has honed its battle drills during many missions that have taken them through much of northern Iraq, said McCleskey.

They have convoyed to Habur Gate on the Turkish border, a

favorite destination, and to other bases, such as Taji, Sykes, Spieker, Victory, Nespa, Sinjar and Marez, said Sgt. Kyle R. Stegall, a vehicle commander.

“A big challenge is making sure that the civilian drivers, especially the [third-country-nationals] who don’t speak English, understand what they’re supposed to do,” said Stegall.

Another challenge for the platoon is that vehicle crews constantly change because of Soldiers rotating home on leave, said Staff Sgt. Tim Mooney, assistant convoy commander. To accommodate this, the platoon has adjusted its staffing and training procedures.

“We cross-train gunners and drivers so we have more flexibility in filling crews,” said Mooney. “We never have a problem filling crews because we get so many volunteers. In fact, we have to turn people away. Going on missions breaks the monotony of being at Q-West.”

## Plentiful volunteers

Among those eager for missions is Sgt. Ryan Lee, a scout vehicle commander.

“I love this. I’m one of those people who says, ‘I’m the best at what I do, and what I do is command a scout vehicle,’” said Lee. “My first sergeant wanted to make me a convoy commander. I said, ‘All due respect, first sergeant, but I think I can do more to protect the vehicles



behind me by being up here in the front scouting.”

Lee’s gunner, Spc. Robert A. Reeves, said he enjoyed the missions too. He said he had a 10-year break in service and joined just for the deployment. Formerly serving with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Reeves said he joined C Company, 2/198th CAB, because it was the closest tank unit to his home.

“I wanted to do my part, and one day I might actually get back on a tank. Even so, I’ve had a lot of fun and enjoyed myself thoroughly since we deployed,” said Reeves. “This has been a great adventure, and I’ve lost 35 pounds. I don’t have a hope of going far in rank. I’m just here to enjoy the trip.”

Another 1st Platoon Soldier who looks forward to missions is Spc. Michael A. Pettit, a gunner.

“Going on missions is better than being stuck on the base,” said Pettit. “You can get out and see the country, see what life’s like on other bases.”

The many volunteers offer a pool from which to pick crews, but the leave policy also affects the availability of NCOs qualified to be convoy and assistant convoy commanders. Therefore, the NCOs rotate in these positions as well, said McLeskey.

“We have a tracker of whose turn it is to be CC or ACC,” said McLeskey. “I brief them on the mission, tell them to pick their crews, but I don’t micro-manage them. They’ve mastered the process.”

Mastering that process began during pre-deployment training, said McLeskey.

## ‘Stay alert, stay alive’

“When we were at Camp Shelby, we trained a lot at night,” he said. “We set up training lanes and had our own opposing forces attack. We practiced procedures for evacuating wounded and reporting unexploded ordinance. We also practiced self-recovery methods. For instance, say you have a vehicle breakdown, hooking up a tow-bar in the dark is totally different from doing it during the day.”

Most of the Soldiers prefer to run convoy security missions at night, for they encounter fewer vehicles and people, said Mooney.

The gun trucks operate at night with an array of lights, creating unique challenges, especially for the gunner who maintains all-around surveillance, said Reeves.

“Running missions at night, you work in a bubble of light that you can’t see beyond,” said Reeves. “You have to deal with what enters the bubble. You learn to assess and react quickly.”

The longstanding catch-phrase, “stay alert, stay alive,” is not a cliché to these Soldiers.

“You’ve got to be alert and look for anything unusual,” said Sgt. Bradley D. Thomas, a truck commander and sometime turret gunner. “It’s tiring, but I love gunning because you get to see a lot more.”



Spc. Corderal Fane, a gunner with 1st Platoon, makes room in the storage area of his truck. Top left: Staff Sgt. Michael D. Hammons (left), a convoy commander, and others admire a sign at the dining court at FOB Warrior. Bottom left: Soldiers try to sleep at FOB Warrior as thunderstorms rage.

Sgt. Anthony Porter, a gunner, echoed this sentiment.

“When I’m up there in the gun turret, I’m always thinking about my situation,” said Porter. “I’m always alert because I’m the eyes of the vehicle.”

## Mine-resistant, ambush-protected

Spc. Brian E. Price said that as a driver he must remain focused, especially when his mine-resistant, ambush-protected truck is equipped with the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit. The SPARKs is a set of roller banks attached to the truck’s front, absorbing the damage of IEDs and shielding the vehicle and crew.

“When I get behind the wheel, I have a lot to think about, the crew, the mission,” said Price. “I got a lot on my mind, so I always try to get enough rest between missions. I can’t mess around when I’m driving, especially when I’m rolling with SPARKs.”

The platoon operates three variants of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected truck — the rugged MaxxPro, the smooth-riding Caiman and the bus-like RG-33, said McLeskey.

“Most of us prefer the Caiman,” said McLeskey. “It has such a smooth ride, we call it the Cadillac. The roughest ride is the MaxxPro, which is my vehicle. It’s rugged, but when it hits rough terrain it’ll jar your teeth.”

Another standard vehicle during missions is the repair truck, a

5-ton Medium Tactical Vehicle with a Low Signature Armored Cab. The Soldiers call it the “tire truck,” because the MTV-LSAC carries extra tires, spare parts, oil, tools and other maintenance items that assist the convoy with self-recovery, said Sgt. Roy G. Chapman, commander of a tire truck.

“I don’t think about comfort or protection when I get my truck,” said Chapman. “I think of all the vehicles as the same vehicle, going in the same direction. Somebody has to do it, and anyway all the vehicles protect each other.”

Chapman’s attitude calls to mind a definition of discipline that Lee and Ramseur learned from the same high school history teacher.

“I’ll never forget my history teacher at Independence High School, Mr. Ronnie Cusher, making us memorize the definition of discipline,” said Lee. “He wrote it on the board, but not all at once. He wrote a little each week, and throughout the semester we memorized it a little at a time.”

Lee recited the definition, but to fact-check his recitation he radioed Ramseur in the second scout truck.

“You want to know what?” said Ramseur.

“The definition of discipline,” said Lee.

“That’s easy,” said Ramseur. “Learn to do what you have to do, when you have to do it, whether you like it or not, whether you have time or not, without being told.”

**sand**

### Pack'em & stack'em

It doesn't matter if you're a Soldier or an Airman, enlisted or commissioned, push paper or give orders – when your community is about to be flooded, you form a line and start filling and stacking sandbags.

There's no official MOS or AFSC for this dirty job, but it's a critical one when rising water threatens homes, business and key infrastructure. The backs of South Dakota and Minnesota National Guard members may still be sore after they helped fill and place millions of sandbags in March and April as the Red River swelled from rain and snow melt. They worked alongside fellow citizens in freezing temperatures, scooping sand into bags, closing and stacking one after another to form levees. (Hopefully, the conversation was good because the work was long and tiring.)



For the Soldiers of 259th Quarry Platoon, of the 253rd Engineer Battalion, Arizona National Guard, getting dirty is a way of life whether deployed overseas or serving state-side. Courtesy photo.

**dirty jobs**

**Keep getting dirty — America needs you**

# bagging

"They're a little sore out there today, but I don't think any of them are sorry they signed up for this," said 1st Lt. John W. Peyerl, a volunteer from the 136th Combat Service Support Battalion as the response was at a feverish pitch. "It feels great to be here and help out our neighbors in need," said another Guardsman. Luckily for them, the 1-ton sandbags were filled with tractors and placed by helicopter.

A dirty and difficult job can sour an attitude and undermine commitment, but Guardsmembers stayed selfless and dutiful: "We're running so ragged we don't even think about it," said Spc. Dustin Kirschenmann of the 817th Engineer Company in the heat of battle. "We're just doing what we need to do." In the end, the hard work paid off. The efforts of thousands of Guardsmembers minimized damage of the Red River flood of 2009.



# rock crusher

"We crush rocks! That's what we do!"

Some may consider crushing boulders in 100 plus-degree heat doing hard time, but Soldiers of the Arizona National Guard's 259th Quarry Platoon, of the 253rd Engineer Battalion enjoy being "in between a rock and a hard place." Just ask Sgt. Christie Estrada, a heavy equipment operator with the 259th: "We make big rocks into little rocks and any different size you may need," he said. "We crush rocks! That's what we do!"

They don't use sledge hammers or have a guard with a shotgun standing nearby, but opt instead for hydraulic excavators, dump trucks and the infamous rock crusher. The finished product is used in roadways, building foundations, Forward Operating Base improvements,

pathways, barrier fillings and for a helipad landing site.

Over the summer they showed off their quarrying skills at the National Training Center in the California desert during Operation Sand Castle 2009. They, along with over 20 other engineer units, took on construction projects and training in a tactical environment.

Getting dirty comes with the job for Estrada and his gang – whether deployed overseas or stateside. When the rock crusher is crushing, clouds of dust and debris cover Soldiers with dirt and debris so bad that they can only see through a peep hole on their goggles.



**No offense** to the pencil-pushers, desk jockeys, cubicle commandos or those other administrative-types working in a tidy office environment – but to qualify for this dubious distinction, your MOS or AFSC demands that you get your back into it, get your hands dirty, get your uniform filthy and do something that most others would pass on.

Just consider all the dirty jobs Guardsmembers do here and overseas: cutting firebreaks in the choking smoke of a rapidly advancing wildfire; battling high winds in a helicopter while pulling flood survivors from the roofs of their submerged homes; sandbagging levees at 2 a.m. in a freezing rain; helping law enforcement protect lives and property from looters; managing the logistics of large-scale food distribution to those suddenly left homeless by earthquakes; or the brave souls who leave their families behind for the Middle East's 120-degree heat to fight bad guys for a year or more.

To those who have dirty jobs, we salute you (and those who do your laundry). Keep getting dirty, because America is counting on you.



# fire line worker

Tough, tedious and dangerous  
Last year's wild fires in California got so bad that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called up the Guard. Nothing new – the Guard normally brings their fire-retardant-carrying helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to the fire fight, along with troops and equipment for road blocks, cleanup and more. But this call-up was different; it was the first time in 30 years that Guardmembers were tasked as fire line workers – the brave souls who fight wildfires on the ground with ax and shovel.

The Soldiers and Airmen were trained in fire behavior, fire safety and how to create fire containment lines using hand tools. They learned how and where to dig, and how to unravel a fire hose. Upon graduation, one California Guard official said, "It will be tough work, tedious and dangerous." He was right.

As wildfires raged, Guardmembers did the back-breaking

work of hacking away at tangles of brush down to bare dirt to prevent a wildfire from spreading. They did it in temperatures as high as 110 degrees and normally worked 24-hour shifts. As they toiled, soot from smoke covered them. It was not only a dirty job, but a dangerous one as flames can double back, leap over trenches and surprise even experienced firefighters.

In the end, wildfires in California last year scorched over a million acres. But without the Guard, it may have been worse. The newly-minted fire line workers even saved the nation's tallest Ponderosa Pine tree in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. When a team of about 20 Guard firefighters reached the 240.5 feet high, 700-year-old pine, they spent an entire day cutting down neighboring trees and stacking flammable piles of wood a safe distance away. They also set up a water sprinkler system that kept the cleared area moist.

# tank recovery

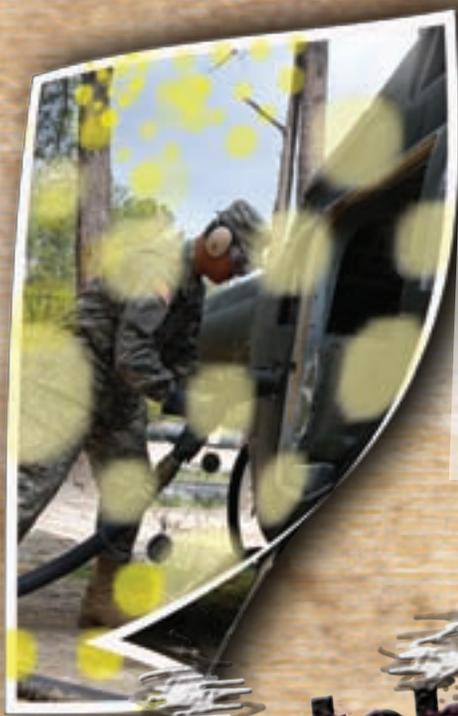


Turret tidiness

You've spent the better part of a day moving and firing your M1A1 Abrams tank around the range at Fort Campbell, Ky., engaging targets near and far while stopped and rolling at 40 mph. Inside the tank, the jarring, noise, smoke and stuffy air have taken their toll on your body and your nerves. The exercise is over and you roll your 61-ton behemoth back to the parking lot. It's Miller time – right? Wrong. It's cleanup time, and you're the low man on the totem pole that has to clean the inside of the tank, or the turret.

Tankers call it recovering. It's where they replenish their stockpiles of ammo, fuel and clean the sub-turret (inside) floor. After a day of maneuvers, it becomes littered with "hydraulic fluid, MRE stuff, dirt, water, bugs, funk, groh-mus and God knows what else collects down there," said Sgt. 1st Class W. Mich Houk of National Guard Bureau, a former tanker who should know. "The lowest ranking guy on the track usually has the job of cleaning it out during recovery."





## fuels specialist

The smell of petroleum  
Capt. Adam Burrirt, an education services officer with the New Hampshire Guard, wrote "11Bs (Infantry) [will] show you what it means to get dirty." But based on personal experience, petroleum supply specialist tops his list.

"Generally speaking, you'll end up reeking of petroleum on a daily basis. I remember going home, getting in the shower and coming back to my room to the pungent scent of JP8 from my BDUs. I didn't even realize that they were impregnated so badly with that smell."

## patch a fuel bladder

Not for claustrophobics

If you don't like small spaces and the stench of jet fuel, then don't sign up to work in Fuel Cell at one of the Guard's 20 air refueling wings.

Fuel Cell techs at the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus, Ohio, are called when the giant fuel bladders inside the KC-135 Stratotanker spring a leak. It may be the most physically demanding job in the wing. Why? Because in order to find and plug these pesky leaks, Fuel Cell workers often must crawl inside the wings and fuselage through tiny access panels that can barely fit your 8-year-old nephew.

It's difficult because you have to crawl around sharp pieces of metallic angle bracing and safety wire, said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Boyles of the 121st, who *used to* work Fuel Cell. "You have to be a little bit of a contortionist," he said.

There are approximately 15 of these rubber bladders located throughout the fuselage and wings holding thousands of gallons of JP-8, or jet fuel, that is both explosive and caustic to the skin and lungs. They are laced into place with string similar to parachute cord. When a leak can't be sealed internally, the bladder must be drained, unlaced, removed and patched on the floor of the Fuel Cell facility, with state-of-art exhaust fans running and static electricity mitigated. Once repaired, it's put back in reverse order. There aren't too many smokers in this career field.



## field sanitation

And from the cyber world ...

"California Major" from NationalGuard.com's forum thinks that emptying the Porto potty qualifies. He remembers a porta-pottie "misfire" at an (AT) annual training at Camp Roberts, Calif., several years back: "We have these porta-poopers on wheels, and it used to be that we had to empty them ourselves. Hook it up to the hummer, drive it to the disposal site, and let-r-rip. One poor fellow (he thinks an E-6) was wrestling with the valve and he really had to put his weight into it. Got a "firehose" blast of second-hand MREs to the chest."

Pfc. Kyle Swatzell of the Tennessee Army National Guard simply says, "being a private." Another person said Field Sanitation met the requirements, adding that "use your imagination on what the duties may be."

## Being a private

# erty jobs

## Mapping our success

In addition to the thousands of Soldiers and Airmen currently activated for ongoing federal missions, the Guard provides significant response to unexpected contingencies. On average, on any given day, 17 governors call out their Guard to help citizens in need. Here were some of the biggest and most memorable call-outs of 2009.

### Snow and rain

**WHERE:** Washington state

**WHEN:** January

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** 400+

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Washington National Guard members cleared snow, staffed traffic control points, used high-water vehicles to evacuate people, moved supplies and conducted door-to-door health and welfare checks

**AND:** Previous heavy snowfall combined with on-going heavy rainfall caused flooding conditions throughout the state; according to reports, they helped deliver 30,000+ sandbags to affected areas

### Runaway balloon

**WHERE:** Colorado Springs, Co.

**WHEN:** October

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** 10-20

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Colorado Citizen-Soldiers used UH-60 Black Hawk and OH-58 Kiowa helicopters to provide assistance to civilian authorities tracking a silver Mylar balloon adrift over the northern Colorado plains

**AND:** CNN reported that the 20-foot-long, 5-foot-high balloon, which crashed gently in Weld County some 50 miles from where it started, had reached 7,000 feet above the ground during the two hours it drifted; the balloon was found to be empty

### Tornados

**WHERE:** Mena, Ark

**WHEN:** April

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** At least 30 members

Brigade Combat Team

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Soon after a powerful tornado

April 10, the troops entered Mena and began providing relief

**AND:** More troops poured in the next morning to help with cleanup

### Tsunami response

**WHERE:** American Samoa

**WHEN:** September

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** Hundreds from the Hawaii Air National Guard

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Flew thousands of miles to provide medical care to residents of American Samoa after a tsunami struck the island

**AND:** On the first day they arrived in the capital, a medical team processed 117 patients and treated more than 70 injuries; other troops convoyed to a local village to support search and rescue operations as well

### Border security

**WHERE:** Texas

**WHEN:** August to ?

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** up to 200 Soldiers and Airmen

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Texas Guard members were asked by the governor to support a special group of Texas Rangers at high-traffic and high-crime areas along the border with Mexico

**AND:** The task force can provide aviation, communications, security, medical, logistics, observation and planning support; Guard's been doing a similar mission for nearly 20 years

## Red River flooding

**WHERE:** Mainly South Dakota and Minnesota

**WHEN:** March and April

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** 2,000-3,000

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Helped fill and place millions of sandbags as the Red River swelled from rain and snow melt; also did snow removal, worked at traffic control checkpoints, helped in evacuations and assisted local law enforcement in dike and shelter security

**AND:** Guardmembers from Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Wisconsin, Missouri and South Dakota took part in the operation



## Presidential inauguration

**WHERE:** Washington D.C.

**WHEN:** Jan. 20

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** roughly 10,000 from several states

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** You name it - security, traffic and crowd control, crises response, basic first aid, medical evacuation, communications, civil disturbance response, drill and ceremony

**AND:** Some Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen joined servicemembers from all components and marched in the inaugural parade



## G-20 Summit

**WHERE:** Pittsburgh, Pa.

**WHEN:** Sept. 24-25

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** More than 2,500 Pennsylvania National Guard members

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Supported local, state and federal authorities to keep Pittsburgh safe as demonstrators took to the streets

**AND:** Operation Steel Kickoff was a National Security Special Event; Joint task force servicemembers practiced movement techniques, formations and crowd and riot control in the days leading up to the event

## Hurricane Ida flooding

**WHERE:** Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey

**WHEN:** November

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** More than 160

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Evacuated residents in high water areas as well as provide cots, sandbags and potable water

**AND:** Soldiers from the Virginia Guard assisted emergency response personnel with the rescue of nine people overnight, including a mother and her young daughter with a high fever



## Ice storms

**WHERE:** Though the western part of Kentucky was hardest hit, a major ice storm that stretched from the Ozarks through Appalachia paralyzed several states, including Arkansas and Missouri

**WHEN:** January-February

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** Over 4,000 were called up in Kentucky alone - its largest in history

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** clear debris, provide communications support, engineering capability, power generation, security and aviation recovery missions as well as distribute food and water

**AND:** 700,000 residents were without power, according to the governor; the Guard's door-to-door wellness checks were credited with saving numerous lives



## Oil refinery fire

**WHERE:** Puerto Rico

**WHEN:** October

**HOW MANY TROOPS:** More than 300

**WHAT DID THEY DO:** Responded to a massive fire that burned a refinery near San Juan

**AND:** Puerto Rico's adjutant general was appointed by the governor to serve as the incident commander; the Army Guard's 215th Firefighting Team and the Puerto Rico Air National Guard worked with local firefighters to contain the blaze

# Getting a good night's Sleep

## Decade of Health tells you how

By Dr. Kevin T. Mason  
and Ann Stark

**Sleep** is an essential part of life that is regulated internally by hormone cycles and externally by daylight cycles. We have an urge to wake up when the sun comes up. When the sun goes down, we get **sleepy**.

We cannot live without **sleep**. Without **sleep**, we retain our instinct to escape by maintaining our physical strength and ability to run, but we develop poor judgment, mood swings, gastrointestinal problems, memory difficulties and even hallucinations.

Eventually, deprived of **sleep**, your body will simply shut down and you'll fall flat on your face **asleep**.

Sleep is a complex process, and moving through the five stages of **sleep** is, believe it or not, quite a physical and mental workout.

The first two stages are light **sleep** where sounds, light and motion might awaken you, and you are physically active with restlessness and jerking movements of the extremities.

The next two stages are deep **sleep** when the brain waves slow down and muscle motion stops, and it is harder to wake up. The final stage is the rapid eye movement (REM) **sleep** stage, full of brain activity, rapid eye movements, dreams and talking. It's possible to observe REM **sleep** first-hand as the family dog snoozes and mentally chases rabbits and woofs. Some people solve problems or come up with brilliant ideas in REM. Body temperature regulation stops and one may feel cold and reach for a cover.

The metabolic rate falls during **sleep** and muscles get a chance to rebuild. It takes about 90 minutes to complete these five stages, and then the process begins again for a total of three to five cycles per night.

What constitutes a good night's **sleep** varies widely and changes as we age. An old adage, "Early to bed, early to rise" may hold true for some, but there are many combinations of individual **sleep** patterns.

Some people need a few hours of **sleep** and few cycles to recharge their batteries, and others need eight to 12 hours of **sleep** and more cycles to face the dawn.

Variability, while interesting, can be challenging when trying to adjust to the natural **sleep** cycles of others.

One thing is certain – if you are deprived of **sleep**, or disrupt your **sleep** too often, you will not be healthy.

Unfortunately, the transition from a slow-paced farmer lifestyle to a high-paced, industrial lifestyle increases the risk for **sleep** debt, the amount of quality **sleep** that you owe your body.

In the near term, you have poor mental performance at school or work, mood swings, altered thoughts, and increased risk for accidental injury.

In the long term, you are at increased risk for weight gain, cardiovascular disease, mental disorders and social problems.

Data collected by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center shows that visits by male troops to clinics for **sleep** problems has risen significantly within the last three years.

### SLEEP TIPS

- Acknowledge that sleep is not a choice, but a necessity for optimal mission performance
- Know your unit's sleep plan and work with the command surgeon to develop one
- Stick to a healthy, allowable sleep schedule. Limit late night activities such as socializing, video games, phone calls, etc.
- Sleep problems, particularly nightmares, can signal more serious mental health issues
- Do not dismiss sleep concerns. Professional help and advice is readily available

### GOOD HABITS

- Keep the same sleep schedule
- Avoid big meals, alcohol, caffeine, exercise, TV, and computer use before sleep
- Do something relaxing before sleep, like light reading or warm bath/shower
- Naps can be beneficial for restoring focus and energy
- Wake with the sun as much as possible

All servicemembers must learn how to function, adapt and operate with the **sleep** disruptions caused by training and combat operations, especially when crossing time zones rapidly or entering high tempo operations.

Be aware of the unit's **sleep** discipline policies, and if there is not one in place, ask your command surgeon to work with subject matter experts and your command staff to develop the policies. Following the policies reduces your risk for accidents and bad decisions, and improves combat effectiveness,

mission completion and well-being.

Sleep should be regarded as one of the most important elements in overall health and wellness, and requiring eight hours of **sleep** should not be viewed as a sign of weakness. For servicemembers, **sleep** deprivation can contribute to a wide array of operational performance problems.

According to the Walter Reed Institute of Research's Department of Behavioral Biology, "Sleep deprivation, both partial and total, degrades cognitive performance. The ability to do useful mental work declines by 25 per-

cent for every successive 24 hours awake."

Sleep and restoration must be a team effort with leaders reinforcing the need for rest, and Soldiers becoming more aware that **sleep** is an equal player along with good nutrition and regular exercise to maintain overall physical and mental well-being. Assess your **sleep** intelligence by visiting the Sleeping Better section of [www.afterdeployment.org](http://www.afterdeployment.org) and learn more from peers and experts to help you get the good night's **sleep** we all need and deserve.

## HOW MUCH SLEEP DO WE NEED?

### INFANTS

10.5–18 hours (0–2 months)

14–15 hours (2–12 months)

### TODDLERS/CHILDREN

13–15 hours (12–18 months)

12–14 hours (18 months–3 years)

11–13 hours (3–5 years)

9–11 hours (5–12 years)

### ADOLESCENTS

8.5–9.5 hours

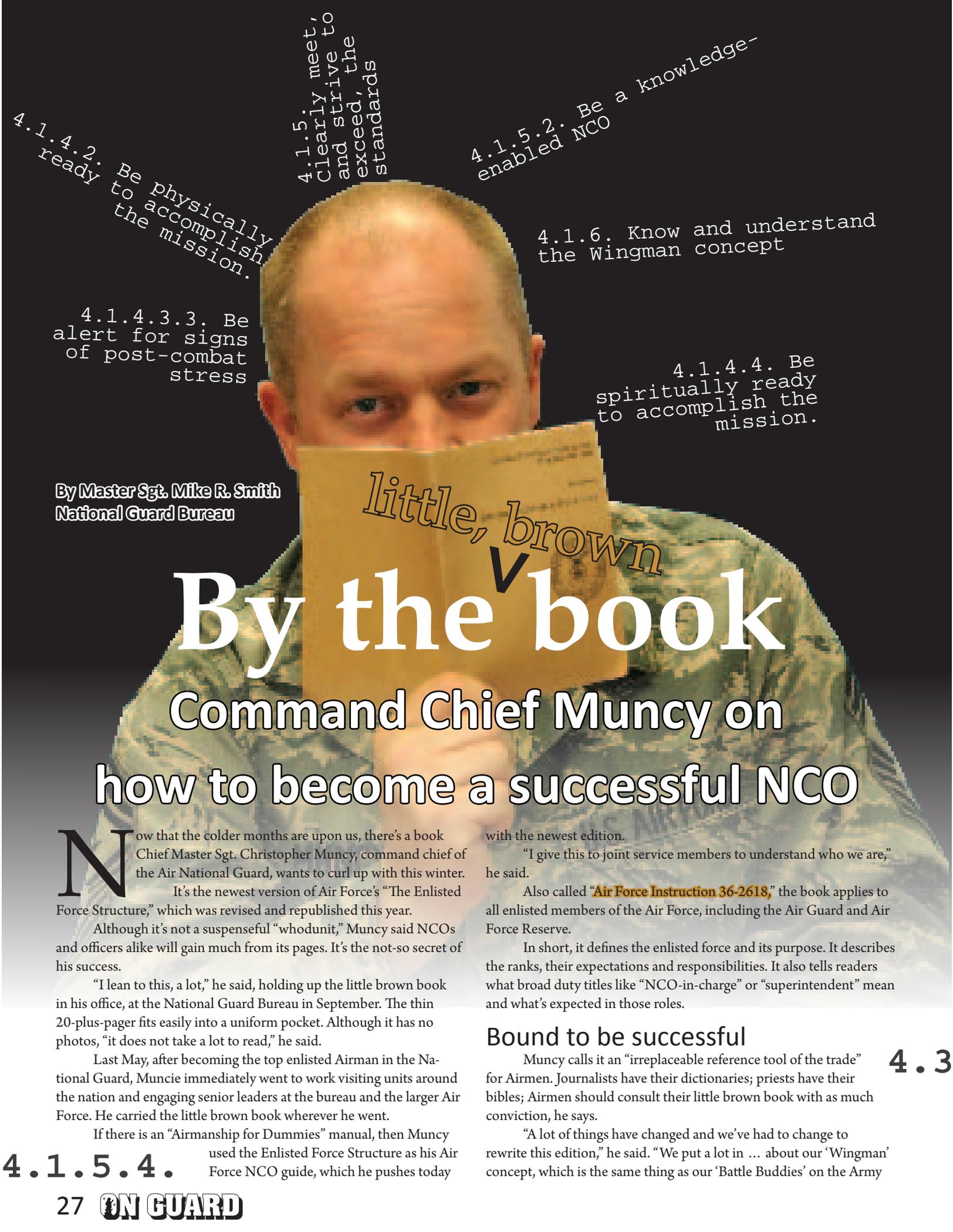
### ADULTS

7–9 hours

Source: National Institutes of Mental Health from the National Sleep Foundation Web Site.



**FROM SLEEP TO WALKING:** Army Maj. Gen. Deborah Wheeling (second from left), deputy surgeon general of the Army National Guard, leads the National Guard Walking Team at the American Heart Association's 2009 Heart Walk at the Mall in Washington Nov. 14. Army Guard Command Sgt. Maj. (acting) Victor Angry (center) joined the team to celebrate the third year of participation for the Army Guard Readiness Center.



4.1.5. Clearly meet, and strive to exceed, the standards

4.1.5.2. Be a knowledgeable-enabled NCO

4.1.6. Know and understand the Wingman concept

4.1.4.4. Be spiritually ready to accomplish the mission.

4.1.4.3.3. Be alert for signs of post-combat stress

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

little, brown

# By the book

## Command Chief Muncy on

### how to become a successful NCO

**N**ow that the colder months are upon us, there's a book Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy, command chief of the Air National Guard, wants to curl up with this winter.

It's the newest version of Air Force's "The Enlisted Force Structure," which was revised and republished this year.

Although it's not a suspenseful "whodunit," Muncy said NCOs and officers alike will gain much from its pages. It's the not-so secret of his success.

"I lean to this, a lot," he said, holding up the little brown book in his office, at the National Guard Bureau in September. The thin 20-plus-pager fits easily into a uniform pocket. Although it has no photos, "it does not take a lot to read," he said.

Last May, after becoming the top enlisted Airman in the National Guard, Muncy immediately went to work visiting units around the nation and engaging senior leaders at the bureau and the larger Air Force. He carried the little brown book wherever he went.

If there is an "Airmanship for Dummies" manual, then Muncy used the Enlisted Force Structure as his Air Force NCO guide, which he pushes today

with the newest edition.

"I give this to joint service members to understand who we are," he said.

Also called "**Air Force Instruction 36-2618**," the book applies to all enlisted members of the Air Force, including the Air Guard and Air Force Reserve.

In short, it defines the enlisted force and its purpose. It describes the ranks, their expectations and responsibilities. It also tells readers what broad duty titles like "NCO-in-charge" or "superintendent" mean and what's expected in those roles.

### Bound to be successful

Muncy calls it an "irreplaceable reference tool of the trade" for Airmen. Journalists have their dictionaries; priests have their bibles; Airmen should consult their little brown book with as much conviction, he says.

"A lot of things have changed and we've had to change to rewrite this edition," he said. "We put a lot in ... about our 'Wingman' concept, which is the same thing as our 'Battle Buddies' on the Army

4.3

4.1.5.4.

## 4.1.4.4.

Guard-side. We talk a little bit more about resiliency, about preparing for the fight, preparing to take care of each other.”

Although the book is studied Air Force-wide during professional military education courses and basic military training, Muncy said too many Airmen leave it behind.

He used the little brown book in his career as a combat communications specialist for the Ohio Air Guard and deployments overseas. He referenced it as Ohio’s command chief, he brought it to Washington to help him on enlisted advisory councils, and now thumbs through it for help on national issues. He’s given it to military officials from Hungary and Serbia – Ohio’s state partner nations – as they work to build an NCO corps.

“I talk to [Airmen], I talk to commanders and supervisors, and I tell them, ‘if you can take this little brown book and apply it and roll through, the rest should be easy.’”

“It’s not going to tell you how to be the best avionics technician or the best security forces or tactical air control person, but it is going to get you through the basic airmanship stuff, enroll you, and help you be prepared.”

## 6.1.4.4.

### A storied career

Muncy enlisted in the Air Force in 1977 while still in high school. His grandfather, who served during World War II, was the last person in his family to serve.

“I went on active duty and did not know what the Guard was,” he said.

A family emergency brought about his switch to the Guard. He needed to get back home, and after reading an article about a program allowing members to serve in the Air Guard, called “Palace Chase,” he joined his first Guard unit.

He served on a combat communications squadron that in the ‘80s leaned forward in joint operations with other military components – something the Air Guard fully practiced as an operational force in the Gulf War and in today’s Global War on Terrorism.

Following 9/11, Muncy deployed to Germany in theatre-level management. He returned home only to deploy again in the invasion of Iraq as an Air Force-in-Europe liaison to U.S. Central Command at a combined operations center. On his return from Saudi Arabia, he became the command chief of Ohio.

“It was probably the greatest job I ever had,” he said. “I saw a lot of different weapon systems, which helped build my background and knowledge.”

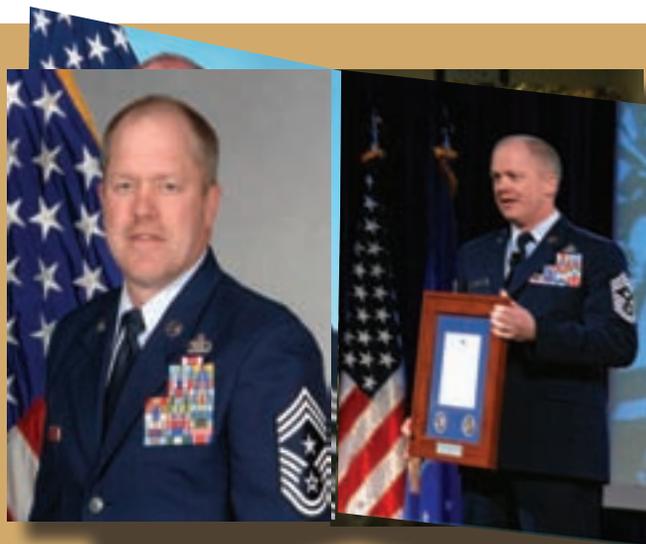
### At book’s end

Now the Air Guard’s top sergeant says the biggest and best part of the job is seeing Airmen and Soldiers, seeing what they do and being “absolutely fascinated” by their talents.

“The Air Guard is still misunderstood after 62 years of existence, but the Guard’s misunderstood after 373 years of existence,” he said. “I think ... it’s because we’re good. And that’s our traditional-status Guardsmen, all that strength that they bring from their jobs and their employers from hometown America.”

The little brown book helps define Airmen, no matter what their backgrounds are, or what their service component is, or where their careers have taken them, Muncy said.

“At the back of that [revised] book, we put in the Airman’s Creed, which is what we are all about,” he said. “To be an NCO in [the Guard], Air or Army side, you’re the core. You are the core of what we do.”



## Opening the book on Chief Muncy

Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncy spent nearly 26 years in various Air Force communications and information, and leadership positions. He also serves as chairman of the Air Guard’s Enlisted Field Advisory Council and teaches the Air Guard Chiefs Executive Course.

Muncy enlisted in the Air Force in 1977 and joined the Ohio Air National Guard in 1979. He and his wife, Monique, have four children, three of which currently serve in the Ohio National Guard.

**Age:** 49

**Hometown:** Dayton, Ohio

**People you look up to the most:** Any one serving in uniform and the families behind them

**Favorite vacation spot:** Louisa, Kentucky

**Good book you’ve read lately:** Lone Survivor, or any Richard Paul Evans or Mitch Albom book

**Good movie you’ve seen lately:** “It’s a Wonderful Life”

**Favorite leisure time activities:** Being with the family or softball

**Strangest thing that ever happened to you in the military:** Too many to count

**Favorite subject in school:** History and Math

**Favorite music:** Country

**Favorite new music:** Top 40

**Something about you that most people don’t know:** Billy Ray Cyrus is my cousin

**Greatest achievement in the military:** Watching three of our kids enlist

**Last words:** Take care of each other. Help your Wingman. Be proud that you are a Guardmember!

# Off the coast of Long Island, Dec. 27, 1979

Atlantic Ocean Rescue,  
by Don Millsap





The John F. Leavitt, the first American commercial sailing vessel built in 40 years, was on its maiden voyage to Haiti with a cargo of lumber when it encountered heavy seas some 280 miles off the coast of Long Island, N.Y.

Battered by 20-foot waves, the cargo broke loose and damaged the hull of the ship. The crew managed to keep the ship afloat for 24 hours until the morning of Dec. 27, 1979, when the captain radioed for assistance.

Two HH-3E Jolly Green Giant helicopters and an HC-130 Hercules from the 106th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, New York Air National Guard, were dispatched for this mission.

Preceded by the HC-130, the helicopters arrived to find that the ship's 80-foot masts precluded hoisting the crew from the deck.

Two pararescuemen, Tech. Sgts. Jay Junks and Paul Bellissimo, jumped from the helicopters into the water and boarded the ship to direct the rescue operation.

In the last few minutes of daylight, the nine crewmen and the two Guardsmen boarded life rafts and were then hoisted aboard the waiting helicopters.

The Air National Guardsmen of the 106th added yet another chapter to the annals of peacetime heroism by performing a service to their fellow citizens.



**FROM THE GROUND**

# FROM THE AIR

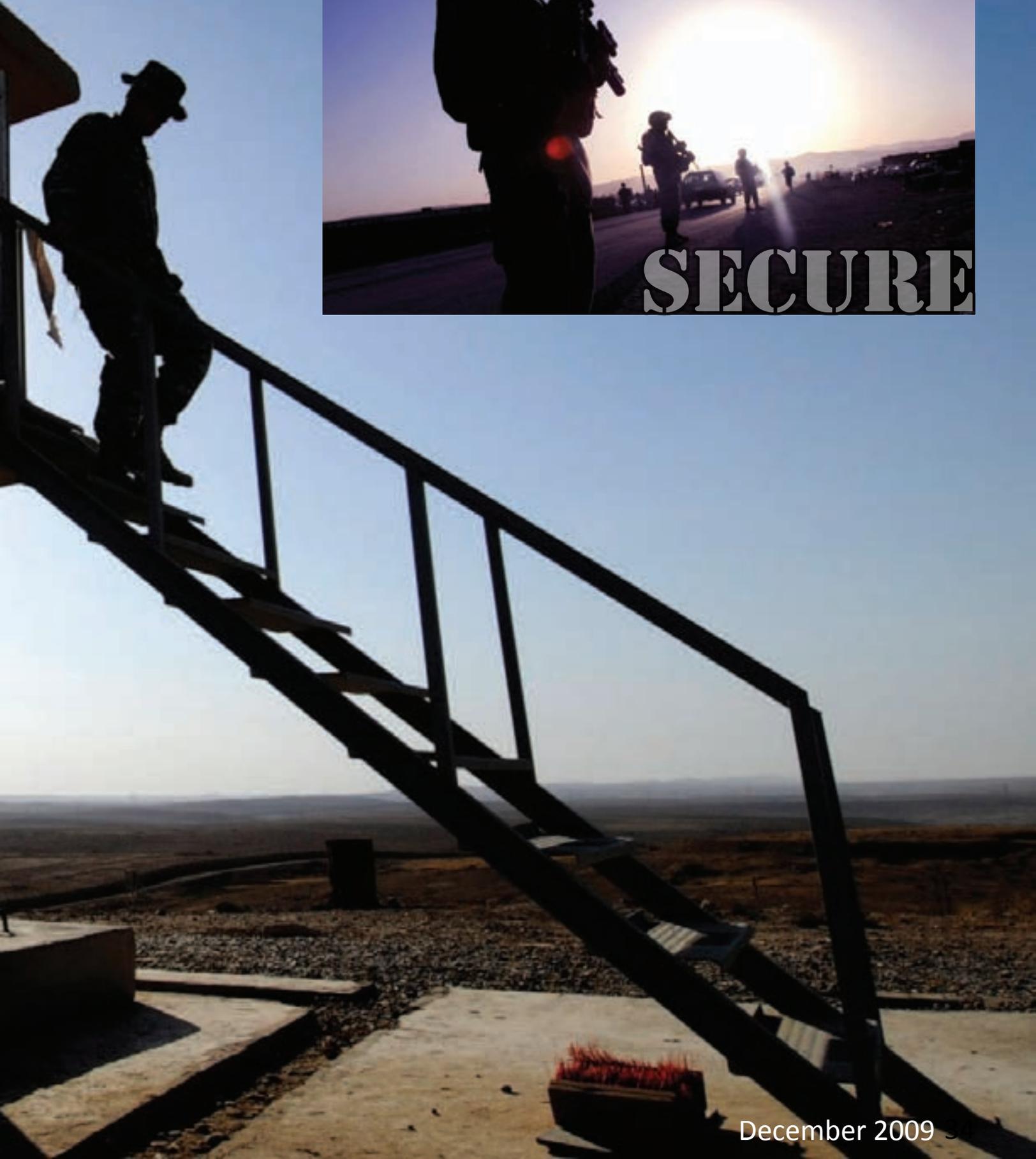


A South Carolina National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk hovers during the explosive finale of the 2009 Air-Ground Expo held at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, S.C., Oct. 10. About 30,000 people visited the expo, which featured a combined arms demonstration utilizing both Air and Army Guard assets in a simulated downed-pilot scenario. (Photo by Army Maj. Scott Bell). Inset photo: A Bradley Fighting Vehicle ready for action at the expo. (Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Tracci Dorgan)

# NEWS



Army Maj. Julian Padgett, a chaplain with the 2nd Battalion, 114th Strike Field Artillery Regiment, Mississippi National Guard, exits a security tower after paying a visit to security guards at Forward Operating Base Marez, Mosul, Iraq, Sept. 24. Padgett often makes rounds along the base perimeter to visit Ugandan security guards and U.S. Soldiers to see how they are doing and offer prayers. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Carmichael Yepez). Inset photo: Arizona National Guard Soldiers secure a street in Sharana, Afghanistan, during a mission with the provincial reconstruction team from Paktika Oct. 1. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Dallas Edwards)



REUNION



Sgt. Kale Burgdorf of the Illinois National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) team gets hoisted up a tree to rescue victims of a downed helicopter Oct. 21 Camp Gruber, Okla. Members of the CERFP participated in an exercise that required them to assess the crash site and then begin the rescue process. (Photo by Army Sgt. Cassidy Snyder). Below: A contingent of servicemembers that included Hawaii Air National Guard takes off for American Samoa with relief supplies and equipment to assist in the region in late September. (Photo Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares)



REUNION



An F-16 Fighting Falcon stands ready for departure at Truax Field in Madison, Wis., in the early morning. The 115th Fighter Wing there launched 14 F-16s Sept. 22 as part of the wing's scheduled Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Paul Gorman)

# LAUNCH



Army Guard Sgt. Joe Minoie, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team located in Clinton, N.C., welds a security door at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Iraq, Sept. 19. (Courtesy photo)

# SPARKS

# HOMEFRONT



# DOWN HEROES



More than 900 Airmen were recognized during a ceremony Sept. 13 at Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, Calif., home of the 146th Airlift Wing. The ceremony was part of an Air Guard-wide Hometown Heroes Salute campaign to honor the Airmen, their families and others who have supported them as they answered their call to duty. (Photo courtesy of the 146th Airlift Wing)

# Making their final push for the 2010 Winter

# WORLD CUP

## By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka Nevada National Guard

In 2002, the U.S. Olympic team included five National Guard biathletes. In February, Sgt. Jesse Downs of the Vermont Guard has a legitimate chance to make the 2010 team.

But who will represent the United States and the National Guard in future Olympic Games?

To seek out future high-caliber athletes, the Guard's biathlon program sent a team to West Yellowstone, Mont., during the Yellowstone Ski Festival in November to showcase its program to top youth skiers.

In addition to sending some of its top biathletes to the festival, recruiting and public affairs specialists were on hand to explain the many opportunities of being a Guard biathlete.

"It's my goal to get the word out about the National Guard's biathlon program, especially to the thousands of young skiers throughout the nation," said Maj. Andrew Parsons, the new biathlon program coordinator. "In addition to the many individual benefits these young men and women will receive as Airmen and Soldiers and as athletes in a fully-funded and supported program, these future biathletes will improve the combat ability of the Guard with their high level of fitness and rifle marksmanship.

"And, of course, they will have the potential to represent the National Guard and the U.S. in future national and international competitions such as the World Cup and the



Utah Guard Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Blanke teaches proper biathlon shooting technique to a youth at a clinic during the Yellowstone Ski Festival. He also competed in the 10-km biathlon race. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka)

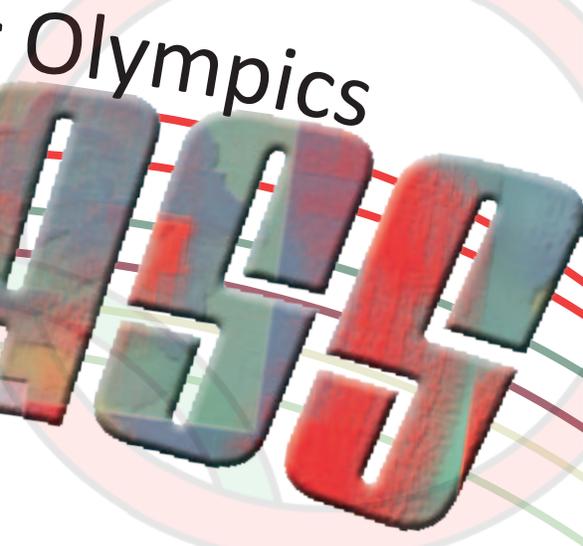
Olympics."

The Yellowstone Ski Festival drew about 3,000 Nordic skiers to the town referred to by the locals as "West" located just outside Yellowstone National Park. The week's activities included a sprint biathlon, a novice biathlon and a biathlon clinic in addition to traditional cross country races and clinics.

About 50 people participated in the biathlon clinic, co-hosted by the National Guard and the U.S. Biathlon Association.

"I really appreciate the opportunity for my skiers to shoot real biathlon rifles on a safe, regulation range – we don't often get that chance," said Jeff Schloss, a Nordic ski coach at a local school. "Some of our skiers enjoy the extra aspect of marksmanship included in the biathlon and may choose to specialize in biathlon in the future."

Members of team didn't have much time to relax during the festival. On Nov.



25, Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Blanke of the Utah National Guard competed in the 10-kilometer biathlon race at noon, taught a biathlon clinic at 2 p.m., and then manned the National Guard biathlon exhibit booth at the ski festival from 7-9 p.m.

“There were some busy days for sure, but it was rewarding to teach so many children – and adults too – about the sport of biathlon,” Blanke said. “I think having a National Guard presence at these huge ski festivals is a great idea and I believe these young skiers will be, in addition to potential Olympians, high quality Soldiers and Airmen.”

The top National Guard athlete in the 10-kilometer biathlon at Yellowstone was Vermont’s Sgt. Brian Letourneau, who finished seventh. He missed only one target and was tied for the top marksman in the field.

The Guard biathlon program has opportunities and events for every Soldier and Airman in the National Guard, not just elite skiers.

“For newcomers to the sport, we offer regional races that focus on participation and the development of state teams,” Parsons said. Regional races this season include: the West regional in Montana Dec. 9-13; the Midwest regional in Minnesota Jan. 13-17, 2010; and the East regional in Vermont Feb. 3-7. The Chief, National Guard Bureau championships are set for Minnesota Feb. 27 through March 10. Those championships culminate the domestic military biathlon calendar.

Parsons said 35 of the 54 National Guard states and territories annually participate in biathlon.

For information on the National Guard biathlon program, contact Parsons at Andrew.F.Parsons@us.army.mil or call (802) 899-7120. 

# Sgt. Shauna Rohbock takes gold in Italy

By Amanda Bird  
U.S. Bobsled & Skeleton Federation

Shauna Rohbock, a sergeant in the Utah Army National Guard, teamed with Michelle Rzepka to win gold at the two-man bobsled competition in Cesana, Italy’s World Cup competition Dec. 5. The two dominated the field of 21 sleds by 0.34 seconds with a combined time of 1:56.09 in a sport that’s won by hundredths of a second.

She has been chasing the elusive gold medal on this, the 2006 Olympic track, and finally sunk her teeth into victory.

“It only took me four years to finally get it,” said Rohbock. “Beating the Germans by this much just doesn’t happen, so it definitely feels good.”

Rohbock’s sliding resume on the Cesana track includes three silver medals, including the 2006 Olympic silver medal. The gold escaped her until now.

“I’ve been waiting for this,” said Ro-



Rohbock, left, and her teammate, Michelle Rzepka, teamed up to win the two-man bobsled competition. (Photo by Amanda Bird)

hbock. “My first run felt good, but I knew I finally won during my second run. It felt pretty awesome.”

The Olympian navigated her Boday sled down the course in 57.96 and 58.13 seconds for the fastest runs of the competition. Rohbock and Rzepka teamed together to give the sled momentum at the start, pushing times of 5.22 and 5.21 seconds.

## Meet Shauna Rohbock

- Home: Orem, Utah
- Birthday: April 4, 1977
- Height: 5’8” Weight: 150 lbs

### CAREER

**Shauna Rohbock** began the sport of bobsled in 1999 as a brakewoman before moving into the driver’s seat in 2002. She was named to the 2006 Olympic team and capped off a successful season by winning a silver medal with brakewoman Valerie Fleming. She finished the 2006-2007 season with seven World Cup medals and ranked second overall in World Cup standings. She continued to slide well, earning a silver and two bronze medals during the 2007-2008 season. During the 2008-2009 season, she won a medal of each color and claimed gold at the World Cup race in Whistler, Canada, site of the 2010 Olympic Games. She won silver at the 2009 World Championships and is ranked 3rd overall in FIBT women’s bobsled rankings.

### ABOUT HER

Rohbock graduated from Brigham Young University in 1999 with a degree in recreation management. While at BYU, she was a two-time All-American athlete in track and field and soccer. Rohbock also played professional soccer for the San Diego Spirit. In 2000, she joined the Utah Army



MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING  
GROUND RANGE, IND. | CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO  
ORE. | OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MASS. | CAMP SHELBY, MISS. |  
BASE, MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING CENTER-HARDWO



# Need a place to t

**Are you a Soldier deploying to Afghanistan and want to know what to expect when you get there? Are you an aircraft maintainer who wants to overcome the challenge of pre-flighting a KC-135 Stratotanker in full chemical protective gear? Have you always wanted to fast rope from a helicopter hovering 100 feet off the ground? Or shoot an M-240H machine gun from the door of one traveling at 110 knots? Will you be ready to pull a casualty from a rubble pile minutes after a catastrophe? Do you want to get better at swooping your A-10 Thunderbolt II from the clouds and opening up its 30 mm Gatling gun on targets on the range? Guardmembers routinely do all this when they train at one of the many National Guard training sites throughout the country. From Camp Grayling in the north, to Camp Blanding in the south, to Camp Edwards in the east, to Camp Rilea in the west, the Guard has special facilities geared at making you a better Soldier or Airman. We feature some here.**

CAMP RILEA, ORE. | OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MASS. | CAMP S  
SELFRIIDGE ANG BASE, MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING  
JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND RANGE, IND. | CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO,

CENTER-HARDWOOD RANGE, WIS. | SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE, KAN. | CALIF. | CAMP ROBERTS, CALIF. | CAMP BLANDING, FLA. | CAMP RILEA, WARREN ANG RANGE, N.J. | MCENTIRE ANG BASE, S.C. | SELFRIDGE ANG DOD RANGE, WIS. | SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE, KAN. | JEFFERSON PROV-



# Train? The Guard has you covered



**Camp Shelby**



**Muscatatuck/  
Camp Atterbury**



**ANG CRTCs**



**Camp Grayling**



**Camp Blanding**



**Locations**

SHELBY, MISS. | WARREN ANG RANGE, N.J. | MCENTIRE ANG BASE, S.C. | CENTER-HARDWOOD RANGE, WIS. | SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE, KAN. | CALIF. | CAMP ROBERTS, CALIF. | CAMP BLANDING, FLA. | CAMP RILEA,

# training sites

U.S. Air Force photo by Cpl. Alex C. Guerra

## Muscatatuck

Smoke billowing from buildings, the beating of helicopter blades and constant radio chatter echo over ground-zero of a nuclear weapon detonation. Few other places can simulate such a horrific scene and teach how to react to it than the 1,000 acre-Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville, Ind.

“Some would say it’s not a question of if but when there’s going to be another large scale catastrophic attack on our nation,” said Lt. Gen. Tom Turner, U.S. Army North commander.

As the nation’s first military responders, the Army and Air National Guard would answer the call. So to prepare, several hundred trained on such a scenario in November at Exercise Vibrant Response at Muscatatuck.

Over the years, the tragedies of the tsunami in Indonesia, Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 attacks make training for an event of this magnitude necessary.

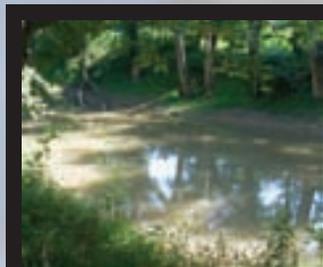
The training event, commanded by Army North, involved more than 4,000 people. Muscatatuck’s layout of 120-plus buildings, nine miles of roads and underground tunnel systems proved an excellent venue.

“It hits all of the major training venues that you would find in an urban area,” said Lt. Col. Chris Kelsey, Muscatatuck commander. “It should really task all of these units to really use their full spectrum of tools to get the job done.”

Casualties, rubble piles and emergency sirens at Muscatatuck added to the event’s realism.

“It was exciting the second we got in the gate,” said Army Sgt. Mathew Morgan with the 379th Chemical Company, because of the simulated town, wreckage everywhere and role players with simulated injuries.

MUTC also offers a place to train to all branches of the military, as well other governmental and multi-national partners.



*The Muscatatuck River is in south-central Indiana and drains 1,000 square miles. Some believe the name comes from the Munsee Indian words for “swamp” and “river.”*

Recently, more than 500 Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit shared space with civilians from the U.S. State Department’s Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

The PRT training focuses on teaching civilian employees from the U.S. State Department, Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Agency for International Development how to live and work in Afghanistan. They spend four weeks training for their Afghanistan assignments with the final week of the training taking place at Muscatatuck.

—Spc. John Crosby, Camp Atterbury Public Affairs; By Sgt. Brad Staggs, MUTC Public Affairs

## Camp Atterbury

Putting up nearly 5,000 Soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan may make some training base personnel a bit nervous—“Do we have the room? The facilities? Is our chow hall big enough?”

But not the staff of 700 or so at the Indiana National Guard’s Camp Atterbury, they’re used to it. More than 50,000 troops have trained there for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars since 2003. Though the post will see its largest use since it became an Army training site six years ago, they’re confident that they can handle the influx.

Why is Camp Atterbury, located about 25 miles south of Indianapolis, in such demand? One of the reasons may be its many one-of-a-kind ranges. Troops can hone their shooting skills and combat tactics at many of its live-fire ranges, from small arms to A-10 Thunderbolt aerial gunnery tables, along with more than 33,000 acres of maneuver training area and dozens of artillery and mortar firing points. From computerized small arms, squad and



*William Wallace Atterbury (1866 – 1935) was a brigadier general during World War I. He was instrumental in reorganizing railroad traffic during the war for more efficient transportation of troops and supplies for the Allied forces.*

CAMP RILEA, ORE. | OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MASS. | CAMP SELFRIDGE ANG BASE, MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING, JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND RANGE, IND. | CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO,

# training sites

platoon maneuver courses, to a 1,200-acre Bradley and tank range, its state-of-the-art range complexes are among the best in the nation. Coupled with a new, multi-building Joint Simulation Training and Exercise Center and numerous other high-tech training aids and simulation equipment, as well as housing and headquarters facilities, it can support full spectrum, integrated live, virtual, and constructive training events for brigade combat teams.

The post will be near its full capacity through March while

an infantry brigade and 13 reconstruction units undergo training, said the camp's Public Affairs Officer Maj. Lisa Kopczynski. Almost every barrack bed will be occupied at the base as well as at nearby Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, she said.

Along with providing facilities, Atterbury will support the training units this winter by handling tasks, such as arranging for interpreters or war game actors. 🇺🇸

SHELBY, MISS. | WARREN ANG RANGE, N.J. | MCENTIRE ANG BASE, S.C. |  
CENTER-HARDWOOD RANGE, WIS. | SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE, KAN. |  
CALIF. | CAMP ROBERTS, CALIF. | CAMP BLANDING, FLA. | CAMP RILEA,

# History

◆ The rapid development of Fort Pickett became a top priority after United States entry in World War II. By the end of 1942, more than 1,400 buildings were completed and in use across Fort Pickett, including about 1,000 enlisted barracks and 70 officers quarters.

◆ During August 1984, Camp San Luis Obispo in California hosted the Army's Exercise Gallant Eagle, considered at that time as the largest military exercise in the United States.

◆ Camp Perry in Ohio served as a prisoner of war camp during World War II. The small white huts scattered over much of the camp housed Italian and German POWs. The huts now serve as quarters for unit members training or conducting firing practice there.

◆ Camp Edwards on Cape Cod, Mass., had one of the larger Temporary Separation Centers for discharging World War II Soldiers—more than 12,900 men were discharged from there in 1945-46.

◆ Camp Ethan Allen, located about an hour east of Burlington, Vermont, is named for the American revolutionary and guerrilla leader Ethan Allen, who is probably most widely known for his participation in the 1775 capture of Fort Ticonderoga, N.Y., and for later political and military activities leading first to the formation of the Republic of Vermont and then to Vermont's statehood.

◆ Construction for Camp Gruber in Oklahoma began in February 1942 and was completed in May 1942. It was named after Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Gruber, the composer of "The Caisson Song."

◆ In 1958, Elvis Presley began basic training in the U.S. Army at Fort Chaffee, Ark. Because it retains its WWII look, several motion pictures were filmed there, including "Biloxi Blues" and "A Soldier's Story."

◆ The Nevada Army Guard's Stead Training Site began in 1942 as the Reno Army Air Base where it was assigned to the 2nd Air Force and used to train signal companies. In 1948, the Nevada Air Guard took over the vacant base for its activities and on Jan. 1, 1951, the installation was renamed the Stead Air Force Base.

# The Army Guard's training sites

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| CAMP EDWARDS              | MA |
| CAMP ETHAN ALLEN          | VT |
| STONES' RANCH             | CT |
| CAMP SMITH                | NY |
| CAMP CURTIS GUIL          | MA |
| CAMP FOGARTY TS           | RI |
| BOG BROOK RILEY           | ME |
| DEEPWOODS                 | ME |
| LIMESTONE                 | ME |
| FORT PICKETT              | VA |
| CAMP DAWSON-KINGWOOD      | WV |
| CAMP BLANDING             | FL |
| CAMP SHELBY               | MS |
| FORT MCCLELLAN            | AL |
| FORT STEWART ENCLAVE      | GA |
| W.H. FORD WESTERN KY      | KY |
| CAMP MC CAIN              | MS |
| CAMP SANTIAGO RQ 577      | RO |
| MCCRADY TS                | SC |
| CAMP BUTNER               | NC |
| CAMP RAPID                | SD |
| CATOOSA                   | TN |
| CAMP MILAN                | TN |
| TULLAHOMA                 | TN |
| FORT FISHER AFS           | NC |
| SMYRNA/GRUBBS-KYLE        | TN |
| JOHN SEVIER               | TN |
| CAMP ATTERBURY            | IN |
| CAMP GRAYLING             | MI |
| FORT INDIANTOWN GAP       | PA |
| CAMP DODGE                | IA |
| RAVENNA TNG AND LOG SITE  | OH |
| CAMP MARSEILLES           | IL |
| FORT CUSTER               | MI |
| CAMP PERRY                | OH |
| CAMP SHERMAN TNG SITE     | OH |
| FORT CHAFFEE              | AR |
| CAMP ROBINSON             | AR |
| CAMP GRUBER               | OK |
| CAMP BEAUREGARD           | LA |
| CAMP BOWIE                | TX |
| CAMP SWIFT                | TX |
| SALINA SMOKY HILL         | KS |
| CAMP MINDEN               | LA |
| CAMP CROWDER              | MO |
| CAMP CLARK NEVADA         | MO |
| FORT LEONARD WOOD ENCLAVE | MO |
| CAMP ASHLAND              | NE |
| GREENLIEF                 | NE |
| CAMP MAXEY                | TX |
| CAMP VILLERE              | LA |
| BEAUREGARD TNG RG         | LA |
| ORCHARD RANGE             | ID |
| CAMP RIPLEY               | MN |
| CAMP GUERNSEY             | WY |
| FORT WM HENRY HARRISON    | MT |
| CAMP GRAFTON              | ND |
| CAMP RILEA                | OR |
| STEWART RIVER TS          | AK |
| CAMP ADAIR CORVALLIS      | OR |
| CAMP ROBERTS              | CA |
| CAMP NAVAJO               | AZ |
| CAMP WILLIAMS             | UT |
| CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO      | CA |
| FORT CARSON Enclave       | CO |
| STEAD TRAINING SITE       | NV |
| AFRC LOS ALAMITOS         | CA |

# Training Centers



## Guard training sites ... did you know?

- MUSCATATUCK URBAN TRAINING CENTER is in the process of receiving \$97.3 million toward operation and enhancement from till 2012. When it's fully operational, officials expect 40,000 active and reserve Soldiers to train at the facility each year.
- CAMP SHELBY is the largest state-owned and operated field training center in the United States, established in 1917.
- FORT INDIANTOWN GAP in Pennsylvania operates the National Guard's Eastern Aviation Training Site. They are the military's sole trainers of the new UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopter.
- The Michigan Army National Guard was the first to test "Army green energy" July 24 at CAMP GRAYLING, a demonstration of new technology that converts garbage into electrical power.
- The National Guard maintains a 2,800-foot long highway tunnel near Standard, W.V., that provides an exercise facility for weapons of mass destruction consequence management and counterterrorism training. The CENTER FOR NATIONAL RESPONSE located there is an operational component of the Joint Interagency Training & Education Center, which is a National Guard training activity operated by the chief of the Na-

tional Guard Bureau and the adjutant general of West Virginia.

- CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO in California just opened a new dining facility that is open seven days-a-week for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- CAMP PERRY in Ohio holds several marksmanship competitions annually, including the National Trophy Rifle Matches. The All Guard service rifle team won several team and individual honors in the last matches there in August.
- CAMP DODGE in Iowa operates the National Maintenance Training Center, which focuses on military occupations that fall under a field maintenance shop. The Virginia National Guard's 3647th Maintenance Company recently trained there for two weeks where they had to setup their own shop, handling work orders just as they would on a deployment.
- The 138,581-acre ORCHARD RANGE TRAINING SITE near Boise, Idaho, was where the chief of the National Guard Bureau watched the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers performed annual training maneuvers.
- When Col. Gary L. Ebben took command of VOLK FIELD in April, it was the first time since 2001 that the CRTC has had a new commander. Ebben is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, including 275 combat hours in U.S. Air Force Aircraft.

# training sites

## Camp Shelby

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, encompassing over 525 square kilometers, is located in south Mississippi. The training center was established during World War I and it has served almost continuously since then as a training site, not only for the reserve components of the Army, but also for the active components of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

Encompassing more than 134,820 acres, Camp Shelby is the largest state-owned and operated field training center in the United States. It is a training ground for the Abrams M1 Tank, Paladin Howitzers and home to the 3rd Brigade, 87th Division Training Support. It serves as a training site for Guardmembers and Reservists from throughout the country, hosting as many as 100,000 personnel annually.

During wartime, the camp's mission is to serve as a major, independent mobilization station of the U.S. Army Forces Command. Shelby is the normal annual training location for National Guard and Reserve units located in Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee.

In 1934, Mississippi acquired the site for use as a summer camp by the National Guard. Because of Camp Shelby's natural advantages of climate, terrain and location, it was reopened in 1940 as a federal installation. Some of the divisions that have trained in Mississippi include the 31st, 37th, 38th, 43rd, 63rd, 65th, 69th, 85th, 94th, and the 99th Divisions.

The famous Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion trained here in preparation for World War II. Women's Army Corps units also trained here. The post contained a large convalescent hospital and had a prisoner of war camp which housed members of the German Afrika Corps.

The post closed shortly after the end of World War II. During the Korean Conflict, Shelby was established as an

Emergency Railhead Facility.

In the summer of 1954, non-divisional National Guard units trained there. In 1956, it was designated a permanent training site by Continental Army Command, which is now FORSCOM. Over 5,000 troops were processed through Camp Shelby during Operation Desert Storm.

The 199th Light Infantry Brigade trained at Shelby from September to November 1966 in preparation for deployment to Vietnam from Fort Benning, Ga. The 199th was the only combat unit to train at Camp Shelby during the Vietnam War.

Camp Shelby was federalized as a FORSCOM mobilization center on June 6, 2004. Since then, several regimental or brigade combat teams have mobilized through Camp Shelby, including the 278th RCT, the 155 BCT, the 2/28 BCT, the 53rd BCT, the 1/34th BCT, and the 41st BCT.

Camp Shelby is also one of two training locations used by the specialized U.S. Navy Seabees. They endure 10 days of building training as well as simulated real-life combat situations known as Building/Fighting 101, or more popularly known as FEX, Field Exercise.

Camp Shelby is also home to the Youth Challenge Program—a boot camp for military-minded youths—and the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum.

In mid-2007, the Air National Guard opened a new combat training runway there. The 210-acre Shelby Auxiliary Field 1 is one of only two facilities in the world designed for C-17 Globemaster III short-field landing operations. It was constructed to meet Air Force C-17 training requirements.

-Camp Shelby Public Affairs



*Isaac Shelby (1750-1826) was an Indian fighter, Revolutionary War hero and first governor of Kentucky.*

CAMP RILEA, ORE. | OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MASS. | CAMP SELFRIDGE ANG BASE, MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND RANGE, IND. | CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO,

## Camp Grayling

Does firing an M-240H machine gun from the door of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter flying at 110 knots get your adrenaline pumping? Then Camp Grayling in northern Michigan is your place to train to become a qualified aerial gunner.

Soldiers of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment venture there once a year to see how well they can turn barrels and tanks on the range into Swiss cheese. They do it on the largest state-owned and operated field-training site in the United States.

"This is something fun and out of the ordinary," said Sgt. Shannon Massie, a field engineer with the unit.

Grayling serves as the MTC for National Guard Soldiers as well as other reserves and active duty of the U.S. military, along with components of military units from other countries.

The original tract of land for Camp Grayling was donated to the state by a local lumber baron, Rasmus Hanson in 1913. Troops first trained on the new military installation in 1914, and have been training there ever since.

Last summer, 1,500 Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers trained with high-tech eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC). The Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Simula-



*Camp Grayling gets its name from small fish called Grayling. The trout-like fish is prominent in the crisp, clean waters of the AuSable and Manistee Rivers, both with headwaters near Camp Grayling.*

tion 2000 is part of it, as is an Integrated GPS Radio System carried by each Soldier. This technology digitally tracks and records Soldier-movement creating 2D and 3D video for use during critiques and after-action reviews.

Soldiers underwent a variety of scenarios at Grayling, from a simulated IED explosion to fruit stands with Arabic-speaking civilians peddling their goods, some shouting and singing, adding to the real-world backdrop and confusion that

Soldiers encounter in deployed environments.

XCTC is an exclusive National Guard training package. Prior to 9/11, active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve units could only get this type of training at three other facilities and then sometimes not as the facilities couldn't keep up with the training demand due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But that's not the case any longer now that Camp Grayling has XCTC.



## Camp Ripley

The state-owned 53,000-acre Camp Ripley is a multi-faceted training center that balances the needs of the military, state agencies and communities statewide. Camp Ripley serves as a world-class military training center for all branches and components of service. Minnesota state agencies also rely on its exceptional facilities for training.

Community interests across the spectrum of Minnesota life utilize Camp Ripley for its resources, expertise and commitment to environmental stewardship. It has numerous ranges and state-of-the-art training facilities to support unit

*Brig. Gen. Eleazar W. Ripley (1782-1839) was a Maine congressman who distinguished himself in the War of 1812.*

training requirements. The ranges are open 24/7 and 365 days a year. The post's biathlon range hosts several competitions, including the Chief of the National Guard Bureau biathlon championship.

Camp Ripley is a closed post with no major highways or roadways located through the camp, which provides all-season training during summer, fall, winter and spring with no restrictions on firing.

Camp Ripley by the numbers:

- 2,646,487 square feet
- 52,831 acres of land
- 20 miles of paved roads
- 148 miles of primary gravel roads
- 86 miles of secondary gravel roads
- 6,100 feet of bituminous runway
- 3,500 feet of tactical assault runway
- 2,500 feet of bituminous runway
- two miles of railway

# training sites

## Camp Blanding

Located in north-central Florida near Jacksonville and measuring about 73,000 square acres, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center serves as Florida Army National Guard's primary training area.

Camp Blanding added the 159th Weather Readiness Training Center and Weather Flight on Dec. 15, 1992, which billets and trains Air Guard members as well as active duty Airmen in their career field of weather predictions.

In 1985, the FANG added a non-flying unit with the formation of the 202nd Red Horse Civil Engineering Squadron (RHS). The 202nd was formed to provide a rapidly deployable, highly trained force to accomplish heavy damage repairs to runways, facilities, and utilities of the Air Force worldwide. That unit is located at Camp Blanding, near Starke, Florida. The 202nd RHS is actively involved in hurricane relief, construction projects for Air Force and Army National Guard units, training for other Air National Guard and Air Force units, and community service

Recently, the Florida Army National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained there for a 2010 deployment to Kuwait and Iraq. Nearly 50 role-players added authenticity to exercises during the 53rd's preparations at Camp Blanding in October and November. The team of role-players – mostly Iraqi nationals and expatriates – gave color to the tactical portions of the Soldiers' training by wearing typical Iraqi garb, speaking Arabic and portraying average Iraqis when meeting U.S. troops.

Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment experienced a mock-up of an Iraqi village on Camp



**Albert Hazan Blanding (1876 – 1970) was commissioned as a captain in the Florida National Guard in 1899 and was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross. He served as chief of the National Guard Bureau.**

Blanding. Except for being surrounded by longleaf pines and saw palmettos, the village could have been located in rural Iraq: women in dark hijab head coverings sold fruit and household goods from outdoor stalls; men played soccer in the street; and worried faces peered from doorways of weather-beaten buildings at the approaching Soldiers.

During the exercise, a translator stayed close to the platoon leader as he met with the village sheik. A few hours of training there – explaining cultural differences and translating phrases – could prevent miscommunication and disaster when the unit is actually in Iraq. Battlefield effects for training including IED simulators and scaled-

down versions of Iraqi villages and live Arabic-speaking role-players are what make the training so effective at Camp Blanding.

*-By Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa, Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

CAMP RILEA, ORE. | OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, MASS. | CAMP S  
SELERIDGE ANG BASE, MICH. | VOLK COMBAT READINESS TRAINING  
IMPROVING GROUND RANGE, IND. | CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO

# training sites

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Grant Saylor

## The ANG's Combat Readiness Training Centers

The CRTCs mission is to provide an integrated, year-round, realistic training environment of supersonic airspace, gunnery ranges, systems, facilities and equipment for deployed units to enhance their capabilities and combat readiness. The CRTCs fully support the "Total Force" concept by supporting units from all branches of the DoD, as well as the National Guard and Reserve.

The CRTCs offer bare-base deployment sites, air-to-air ranges, air-to-ground ranges, rifle ranges, firefighting facilities and joint combat training environments. Visiting units can fly simulated combat missions and bombing scenarios including laser and strafing practice. They can also provide computer-generated depictions of aircraft engaged in combat.

### Gulfport

The Air National Guard Field Training Site, Gulfport, Miss., was established at the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport in 1954. Redesignated as a CRTC in 1990, military training actually began with the Army Air Corps in 1941. The CRTC has about 160 full-time military and civilian employees. It has bed space for approximately 1,000 personnel and can accommodate up to three separate flying units simultaneously. Flight line ramp space can support up to nine C-5s, 22 KC-135s or 100 fighters.

### Volk Field

Many Air Guard members remember Volk Field fondly: laying under heavy desks in austere buildings near the flight line, waiting for a SCUD attack to end, sweating profusely and breathing heavily dressed in full chemical protective gear. While the training was rigorous and real – can you do your job during a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive event? – most would admit it made them a better Airman.

That's what a place like Volk Field and the other CRTCs pride themselves on – providing a place where units can enhance their combat capabilities and readiness.

Kentucky's 123rd Airlift Wing deployed more than 290 Airmen and four C-130 aircraft to Volk in June for a six-day Operational Readiness Exercise. They wanted to prepare for an upcoming

inspection conducted by the Air Mobility Command Inspector General next May.

Together with neighboring Fort McCoy, the base hosted roughly 3,000 Guard troops from 45 different states and six different coalition nations for two weeks in July for the Army and Air National Guard's annual international Operation Global Patriot exercise.

### Alpena

The Alpena CRTC, located just north of the 45th parallel, six miles west of Alpena, Mich., offers an ANG Medical Readiness Training School and Security Forces Training and Regional Fire Training sites.

A unit that recently trained was challenged to launch and recover their aircraft during simulated attacks made realistic by the use of ground-burst simulators, smoke grenades and air cannons. Inspectors dressed up as enemy special forces units and attempted to infiltrate the base on several occasions, testing the capabilities of the wing's air base ground defense skills.

### Savannah

The Savannah CRTC with its team of over 100 Airmen and civilian employees play host to numerous training events and thousands of servicemembers each year. It offers a cost-saving, one-stop joint training center for a busy Air National Guard and the rest of the U.S. military. Since 2004, together with its neighboring Townsend Bombing Range 40 miles south have added facilities and services.

#### CRTCs—did you know?

- Volk Field's Barrier Arrestment Kit-12 is used only as a last resort when pilots are unable to stop an aircraft on their own
- Savannah supported President George W. Bush during his 2004 G-8 Summit
- The origin of Volk Field CRTC can be traced back to 1888 when the state adjutant general purchased a site for a rifle range and offered it to the state for a camp. In 1889, the state legislature authorized the governor to purchase land near the site for a permanent campground and rifle range for the Wisconsin Guard

SHELBY, MISS. | WARREN ANG RANGE, N.J. | MCENTIRE ANG BASE, S.C. | CENTER-HARDWOOD RANGE, WIS. | SMOKEY HILL ANG RANGE, KAN. | CALIF. | CAMP ROBERTS, CALIF. | CAMP BLANDING, FLA. | CAMP RILEY,

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# OUR VEHICLES OUR SUPPLIES OUR COURAGE YOUR GUARD

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Your Guard can be counted on when called to respond to wildfire or other natural disasters that threaten your community's safety and property. The Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen of the National Guard fight fires on the ground and from the skies, while providing food, water and shelter to victims, and evacuating those in harm's way. Striking back at wildfire is just one way that the more than 459,000 men and women of your Guard protect our homeland in times of need, demonstrating their commitment to be *always ready, always there.*

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When wildfire strikes, your National Guard  
is always ready to strike back.



*Always Ready, Always There.*  
**THE NATIONAL GUARD**  
[www.nsgb.array.mil](http://www.nsgb.array.mil)

