



THE ON GUARD

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Newspaper of the National Guard



Chief testifies on the Hill to Guard's historic impact

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The nation's top National Guard and Reserve officers testified May 14 to the monumental and historic response by their forces in the nation's defense since the 9/11 terrorist attacks against the United States.

The seven were called before the defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee to answer questions about the National Guard and Reserves' 2009 budget. The senators thanked the chiefs for their service and that of their troops and asked what more Congress could do to help better prepare the services for future needs.

Each chief laid before the committee pages-long opening statements detailing their services' efforts in the war on terror. The chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air and Marine Corps reserves led the first hour-long panel, with the Army and Air National Guard and National Guard Bureau chiefs following for about the same amount of time. Questions to the group ranged from equipment shortfalls to post-deployment health concerns and family readiness.

Chief of the National Guard Bureau, LTG H Steven Blum, called 2007 a year of "historic proportions" for the National Guard.

At one point in the war on terror, National Guard members made up almost half of the ground forces in Iraq. He called the numbers of Guardsmen supporting the war overseas "staggering." Since 9/11, more than 400,000 Guardmembers have been mobilized in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

This is in addition to the Guard's response to state emergencies. "Each day, an average of 17 governors call on their National Guard for everything from weather-related assistance to suspected anthrax contamination," Blum said in his submitted opening remarks.

Blum said that readiness for his force boils down to three things: people, equipment and training.

He said there needs to be an increase in the number of full-time personnel to help ready part-time units for deployment.

Regarding equipping the National Guard, Blum said recent commitments by Congress and DoD have boosted the Guard's readiness. "Equipment status is much better today than it was a year ago and will get better this year," he said.

CHIEF ON THE HILL *continued on:*
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Photo by Spc. William E. Henry

Indiana Guard Soldiers of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 150th Field Artillery help residents in Martinsville, Ind., evacuate their home June 7 after flash flooding.

Guard floods states with assistance as waters rise

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Governors in four of six Midwestern states affected by heavy rains and subsequent flooding called out more than 2,000 National Guard members in June as flood waters forced residents from their homes, left thousands without power and damaged infrastructure.

The severe weather began in the region June 4 with flood waters continuing to rise

June 12. It included heavy rains, tornados, hail, severe lightning and, in one instance, nearly 11 inches of rain near the Indianapolis area within a matter of hours.

Many officials were comparing the floods to the Midwest's historic "Great Flood of 1993" that caused an estimated \$15 billion in damages.

National Guard members in Indiana, West

WATERS RISE *continued on:*
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Soldiers receive battlefield promotions

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Five Army National Guard Soldiers have received battlefield promotions while serving in Iraq.

They are the first Minutemen to benefit from a new Army experimental program reintroducing battlefield promotions for the first time since World War II.

"They were recognized on a level playing field alongside the other components, the Active Army and the Reserve," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Lawrence, senior enlisted advisor, National Guard Affairs, Multinational Corps-Iraq (MNC-I). "They are performing at the same standards as all of their contemporaries."

An April 1 military personnel message announced a one-year pilot program making Active Army, Guard and Reserve Soldiers in the grades of E-1 through E-5 eligible for battlefield promotions, *Stars and Stripes* reported.

"In 2007, Gen. David Petraeus asked the Army to authorize battlefield promotions for Soldiers serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom," Lawrence explained. "The battlefield promotion program is to recognize and promote Soldiers for extraordinary performance of duties while serving in combat or under combat conditions."

No additional requirements are incurred by the Guardmember as a result of the promotion. Normally, Soldiers are required to remain in service for at least six months after making sergeant and for at least a year after achieving staff sergeant.

The five:

- From the California National Guard, Cpl. Jeffrey Johanson, infantryman, promoted to sergeant.

- From Rhode Island, Spc. Billy Hannah, health care specialist, promoted to sergeant, and Sgt. James Shenk, unit supply specialist, to staff sergeant.

- From Virginia, Pfc. Frederic Newton, combat engineer, promoted to specialist.

- From Washington, Spc. Jacob Lancaster, military policeman, promoted to sergeant.

A squad leader at Forward Operating Base Future in Baghdad, Shenk has served for 12 years with the Rhode Island Guard. He's a full-

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Texas civil engineers at Guantanamo Bay: Page 6

ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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SUBMISSION

E-mail your stories by the first day of each month for possible inclusion in next month's issue. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (300 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

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Fighting words and the men who fought for them

You've got to hand it to Thomas Jefferson, the principal author, and the other members of the Continental Congress who were influential in writing our Declaration of Independence whose 232nd birthday we celebrate on this month's first Friday. They did not mince their words.

King George III may not have been the sharpest pencil in the Monarchy box, but he didn't have to read between too many of the lines to figure out why these Americans were fed up with British rule and, therefore, why they believed "That these United Colonies ... are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is, and ought to be totally dissolved."

Never mind the fact that the ideas "that all Men are created equal," and that God himself had endowed mankind with "certain unalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" were not exactly conventional wisdom among the royals and most of their subjects during the 18th century.

These Americans were downright nasty.

"He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People," was one of the most blatant accusations levied against the English king in the daring



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Senior Editor

document. The charge that "He has affected to render the Military independent of, and superior to the Civil Power" would still rub everyone who has been in the National Guard, or any other military service, beyond basic training the wrong way. But if that wasn't enough, the observation that "A Prince whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People," probably set the Court of Saint James' on its ear.

Those were fighting words. The British army was already over here, ready to make sure that the colonial upstarts ate those words; and help, in the form of "foreign Mercenaries," was on the way, so the Declaration pointed out.

Oh, brother. Those words meant war – against the most formidable military power on the planet.

The idea that King George would not take them lying down apparently did not surprise the men who penned them or endorsed

them with their signatures. They seemed to subscribe to the idea that if you're going to pick a fight, pick a good one. And a lot of those guys demonstrated that they themselves were willing to fight for those fighting words.

Fifty-six men signed the Declaration of Independence on and after Aug. 2, 1776, after the Continental Congress had adopted it on July 4. They had to wait for it to be engrossed, or printed as a public document, on parchment before they could sign. The notion, therefore, that John Hancock and the other members of Congress lined up in Philadelphia on July 4 to sign the Declaration is wrong. More than 20 of them took up arms in one way or another to show that they meant it. This is according to the *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution* (Stackpole Books) written by Mark Boatner III, a retired U.S. Army colonel, which was first published in 1966.

What does this have to do with the National Guard? Most of them were officers in the militia in which the National Guard's heritage and traditions are grounded. Some of them, to be sure, did little more than accept commissions as high-ranking officers without ever getting a whiff of gunpowder. Others, however, put it all on the line.

Thomas Heyward Jr. from South Carolina, for example, was a signer who served as a captain in a militia artillery battalion in Charleston, Boatner wrote. Heyward was wounded on Port Royal Island on Feb. 4, 1779. He was captured in Charleston and paroled on the same day, May 12, 1780.

The pardon was recalled, however, and Heyward was held prisoner until he was exchanged in July 1781.

George Walton, one of three signers from Georgia, endured a similar fate. He was named a militia colonel in January 1778, and he was severely wounded in the thigh and captured during the unsuccessful defense of Savannah on Dec. 29. He was exchanged in September 1779.

This is not to put down those who signed but didn't take up arms. Consider some of the more famous signers: Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was 70 when the Declaration was adopted. Future president John Adams from Massachusetts, who was credited with persuading Congress to approve the document, served his colony and country more capably as a legislator than he probably could have as a soldier. The great Virginian Thomas Jefferson "was not a man of arms, dreaded the duties of a soldier, had no stomach for physical combat," one historian has written. Yet he also served his colony as governor and his country as a congressman, statesman and president. And merchant Robert Morris of Pennsylvania made his mark as the "Financier of the Revolution" even though he thought the push for independence in 1776 was premature and voted against the Declaration that July. He nonetheless signed it in August.

At least one signer had higher military aspirations than, history records, his peers or his capabilities supported. Millionaire John Hancock of Massachusetts, the president of Congress who signed the Declaration first with a bold

WORDS continued on: Page 5

Corrections

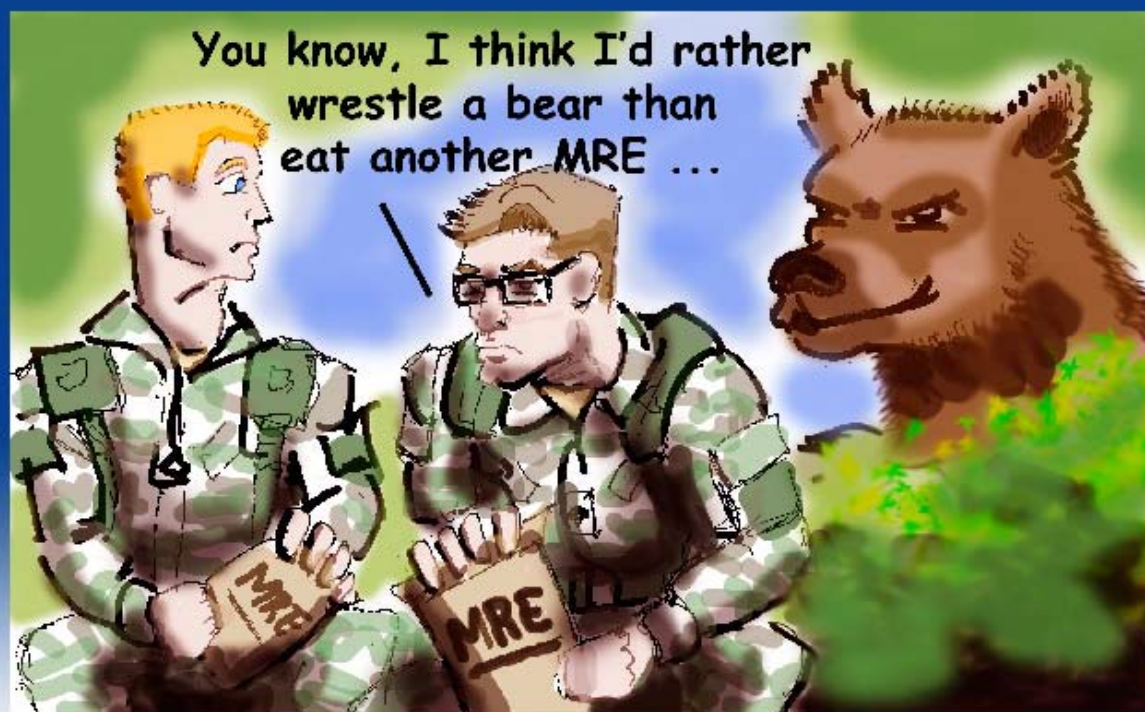
In our center spread for the May issue, "In Memoriam" (pages 8-9), we misidentified the states of two Soldiers killed in the Global War on Terrorism. Lt. Col. Canfield Boone was a member of the Indiana Army National Guard and Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Ruth was a member of the Maryland Army National Guard.

We mistakenly credited a photo on page 6 of the May issue. It was actually taken by Spc. Margaret J. Moonin, 134th Public Affairs Detachment, Alaska National Guard.



Offline

By SSG W. Michael Houk



Air Guard security forces deploying over 500

By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Over 500 Air National Guard security forces personnel have deployed to Southwest Asia or will be in the coming weeks to support the Global War on Terrorism, according to an official at the National Guard Bureau.

Chief Master Sgt. David Obetz, the ANG's security forces career field manager, said in late May that members from units in over 20 states and territories are affected.

Obetz said that once this recent wave of deployments takes place, roughly 1,110 ANG security forces out of about 6,800 in the entire career field will be in Southwest Asia in fiscal year 2008.

The security forces will mainly protect personnel and equipment at Baghdad International Airport, Iraq; Eskan Village near Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq; and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

Security forces are typically mobilized for nine months, which includes training and the 179-day deployment overseas. Most other career fields in the Air Force generally deploy for 120 days, said Obetz.

"Packages" of security forces deploying overseas include:

- Members from squadrons in Utah, Georgia, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa and Guam who mobilized April 20 deployed to Eskan Village.

- About 200 troops from Nevada, Virginia,

Illinois, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New York and Alabama will head to Manas and most likely Bagram in July

- A group from Wisconsin and New Hampshire will deploy to Bagram in early July.

- Troops from Texas, West Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Illinois and Indiana will deploy to Baghdad in mid-July.

The first package included 25 troops from Utah's 151st Security Forces Squadron that left for Saudi Arabia May 16. They will provide convoy security, base defense and law enforcement. They recently completed predeployment training at Creech Air Force Base, Indian Springs, Nevada.

This rotation of troops will relieve ANG members already in-theater, including members of the 168th Security Forces Squadron from Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, who were mobilized in mid-2007 and served at Manas.

Before deploying, security forces drawn from squadrons around the country gather and train stateside. This "teaming concept," according to Obetz, is a benefit for both the troops and their commander. "So the first time [a commander] sees their troop isn't in Iraq or Saudi Arabia. They've had them in training for two weeks so they can identify strengths and weaknesses."

The troops appreciate it as well. Just ask Staff Sgt. Rick Lunsford, 37, from Arkansas' 188th Fighter Wing, who will be in the group of about 200 deploying in July.

"You take a different group of people and put them together—it's always good to see where you're at and where you could be," said Lunsford.

This full-time Guardsman has been to the front lines before. This will be his fourth tour to Southwest Asia. He has been in the Guard since 1997 and spent eight years on active duty.

He says the two-week training will get the security forces on the same page.

"If I get teamed up with someone from



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tabitha Kuykendall

Reaching out

Staff Sgt. Ryan McNamara of South Dakota's 114th Security Forces Squadron gives a Oktyabrskoye, Kyrgyzstan villager a gift bag May 30 as part of the village's recognition of International Protection Day. He and other security forces members delivered the bags, which included T-shirts, toys, towels, candy, and coloring books, to the less fortunate in the village. The items were purchased with money allocated from the private organizations on base and with donations from home units of the security forces members. The 114th is currently deployed to Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, providing security for all personnel and resources on base while also volunteering and improving the lives of local people.

Colorado, let's say, there might be some things that are different in our standard operating procedures from base to base," Lunsford said. "But as cops we are always going to be able to deploy the same way, whether we're securing a building or taking down a bad guy. Handcuffing and searching are always going to be the same wherever you go."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Terry Fitzgerald

Nevada Air Guard members of the 152nd Security Forces Squadron fire the M-60 machine gun in northern Nevada in preparation for their deployment.

New voice of Air Guard advertises debuts song

By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — "You all allow me to live this dream," said Nashville country music recording artist Laura Bryna, the new voice of Air National Guard advertising, May 30 to a crowd at the Crowne Plaza Hotel here.

Bryna was in town to debut her new Air National Guard-commissioned single, "Hometown Heroes."

The appreciation went both ways as attendees cheered after hearing a recording of the song, and Guard leaders sang her praises.

"She's not pretentious, she is who she is, she's one of us," said Lt. Col. Randy Johnson, director of ANG Recruiting and Retention,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Russer

Brig. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III presents Laura Bryna with a flight suit.

adding that the petite Bryna "epitomizes the Air Guard warrior spirit. We really are excited about the opportunity she brings to the table in telling our story."

Johnson said he got the idea to sign Bryna after attending one of her concerts when she performed songs from her new CD, "Trying To Be

Me," in January.

Johnson said that she will appear in radio, TV and print ads, theater spots, public service announcements and perform the song at a series of concerts throughout the summer. A music video of "Hometown Heroes" is in the works.

"We like the positive energy in

your songs," said Brig. Gen. Stanley E. Clarke III, ANG deputy director, and he gave "the small woman with a big voice" a flight suit.

Col. Joseph Lengyel, commander of the ANG Readiness Center at Andrews Air Force Base, gave the singer a coin for excellence, saying that, "she will be helping to bring great Americans into the Air Guard."

Bryna was selected after the Air Guard conducted an exhaustive search for a voice and personality officials felt would support their branding goals.

According to her manager, Roger Sarchet, the song came about during a business dinner with him, Johnson and Master Sgt. Robert Hall, superintendent of ANG advertising. When Hall and Johnson mentioned that ANG members are, in a sense, hometown heroes, something clicked for Sarchet.

"A friend of mine about four to five years ago had written a song named 'Hometown Heroes,' so I jumped from the table and called him on the phone and said, 'Do you

still have that song? We may have to rewrite some of the words, but I think we got a place for it."

Though the song mentions the Air Guard at the end, it mainly pays homage to everyone in the military. It talks about high school football and coming through when it counts, during a game and when disaster strikes, like a tornado: "as flood lights shined throughout the night, miracles began," the lyrics go. Part of its chorus, "Ready for the moment, always there to save the day," echoes the National Guard's motto, "Always Ready, Always There."

According to her Web site, this Maryland native spent hours listening to the likes of Patsy Cline on the radio; unfortunately, while driving to visit her 13-year-old brother in a Washington hospital after he suffered a brain aneurysm that left him in a coma for six months.

"Country music really got us through some very tough times," says Bryna. "They were songs about real life experiences, similar to what my family was going through."



Guarding America

Alaska

The Last Frontier State Gov. Sarah Palin signed Senate Bill 214 June 2, which allows Guardmembers to receive free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses effective Jan 1. She also signed House Bill 326 which adds wild land fires to the list of emergencies under which the governor may call up the Guard into active state service and mandates they are paid in a manner commensurate with others on the fire line. The new law takes effect in 90 days.

Arkansas

The Natural State's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William Wofford visited the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team while it's deployed in Baghdad, Iraq, in May. The brigade's one-year deployment will be complete in January 2009.

California

More than 650 Soldiers of the Golden State's 1st Battalion, 160th Infantry returned from a 12-month combat tour in Iraq in May. During their deployment, the Soldiers conducted more than 900 convoy escort missions, during which they provided security for 50 civilian and military vehicles from Camp Virginia, Kuwait, into all areas of Iraq as far north as Mosul and as far west as Al Asad.

Colorado

The Centennial State's 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment is the Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year. The 2-135th, a general support aviation battalion that just turned 25 years old, deployed as Task Force Blackjack with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade as part of the theater aviation brigade in support of the Multinational Corps in Iraq. The unit distinguished itself by not only deploying and transforming to a new force structure simultaneously, but effectively assembled a diverse team of assets from Colorado, Arkansas, Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska and Utah that consisted of over 670 Soldiers and 46 helicopters.

Delaware

One hundred fifty Soldiers from the First State's 153rd Military Police Company returned after a year in Baghdad June 4. The Citizen-Soldiers come from every part of the state and many left jobs in law enforcement and corrections to serve. It was the state's largest unit deployed for Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and the largest troop deployment from the state since World War II.

Hawaii

A C-17 Globemaster III flown by a crew from the Aloha State Air National Guard's 204th Airlift Squadron landed in the People's Republic of China May 18 carrying nearly 100,000 pounds of relief supplies in the wake of a devastating earthquake that struck the region on May 12. The supplies from the United States

were unloaded at the Shuangliu International Airport in Chengdu and included food, water containers, blankets, generators, lanterns and various hand tools.

Maryland

The Free State's Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins took over for Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bruce F. Tuxill June 7. Adkins will be the 28th adjutant general for the state and responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting more than 9,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

Minnesota

The North Star State's 148th Fighter Wing Explosive Ordinance Disposal team was called out May 26 by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office. They assisted at the Duluth International Airport in disposing of a 10- to 12-inch object wrapped in black tape with two protruding wires. The object turned out to be harmless.

New York

The Empire State's 27th Infantry Brigade

Combat Team is currently training and mentoring Afghan national security forces. The 27th IBCT is part of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix 12 which consists of about 8,500 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen. More than one-third of 27th ICBT's Soldiers have served in Iraq, and some also served at Ground Zero following the attacks of 9/11.

North Dakota

About 100 Peace Garden State Soldiers worked the U.S.-Mexico border in June for Operation Jump Start, a mission to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Fifty Soldiers with the 818th Engineer Company (EC) and 50 from the 816th EC pulled 20-day rotations, each building and improving roads used by the Border Patrol.

Ohio

The Buckeye State Guard dedicated a monument at Beightler Armory in Columbus May 23 to their 11 Guardmembers killed in the Global War on Terrorism. The monument consists of several components including a 10-foot sculpture of a colonial Minuteman. The Guardmembers who fell will be remembered

with a granite sculpture consisting of boots standing in front of a rifle, bayonet down, with a helmet set on the rifle.

Oregon

The Beaver State broke ground for a new readiness center to house C Company, 3rd Squadron, 116th Cavalry in Ontario May 23. The center will replace an armory dedicated in 1950, giving Ontario a new structure that supports both Guard and community activities. The facility will be 36,600 square feet and cost \$11.6 million.

South Dakota

The Mount Rushmore State hosted its annual Golden Coyote Exercise June 7 – 21 in the southern Black Hills. More than 4,000 servicemembers from 92 units representing 27 states and four foreign nations participated in Golden Coyote, which has been conducted for the past 24 years. The exercise provides training to support the war on terror and homeland defense.

Texas

As of June 6, two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Lone Star State had flown 3.4 hours and had dropped 18,600 gallons of water on wildfires in Brady. The Black Hawks came from aviation support facilities in Austin and San Antonio.

Utah

One of only two remaining KC-135 "E" model Stratotanker aircraft in the Beehive State was delivered to its final resting place at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, April 24. Tail number 60-0327 rolled off the Boeing assembly plant in 1960, originally serving the active Air Force and later the 191st Air Refueling Squadron.

Virginia

Old Dominion's adjutant general announced June 3 that its Guard has received mobilization orders to form two units for training the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police. The orders call for the state to form two embedded training teams, each consisting of 16 Soldiers. One team will work with an army brigade of about 1,500 soldiers; the other will work with a battalion of about 500 soldiers.

Wyoming

A group of Cowboy State Soldiers from the 133rd Engineer Company in Laramie assisted Laramie and Albany County residents coping with tornado and storm damage on May 22. The Soldiers operated three dump trucks and one front-end loader. It was the second call for the 133rd to respond to natural disasters in one week. The unit also had 33 Soldiers filling and stacking sandbags in the town of Baggs.

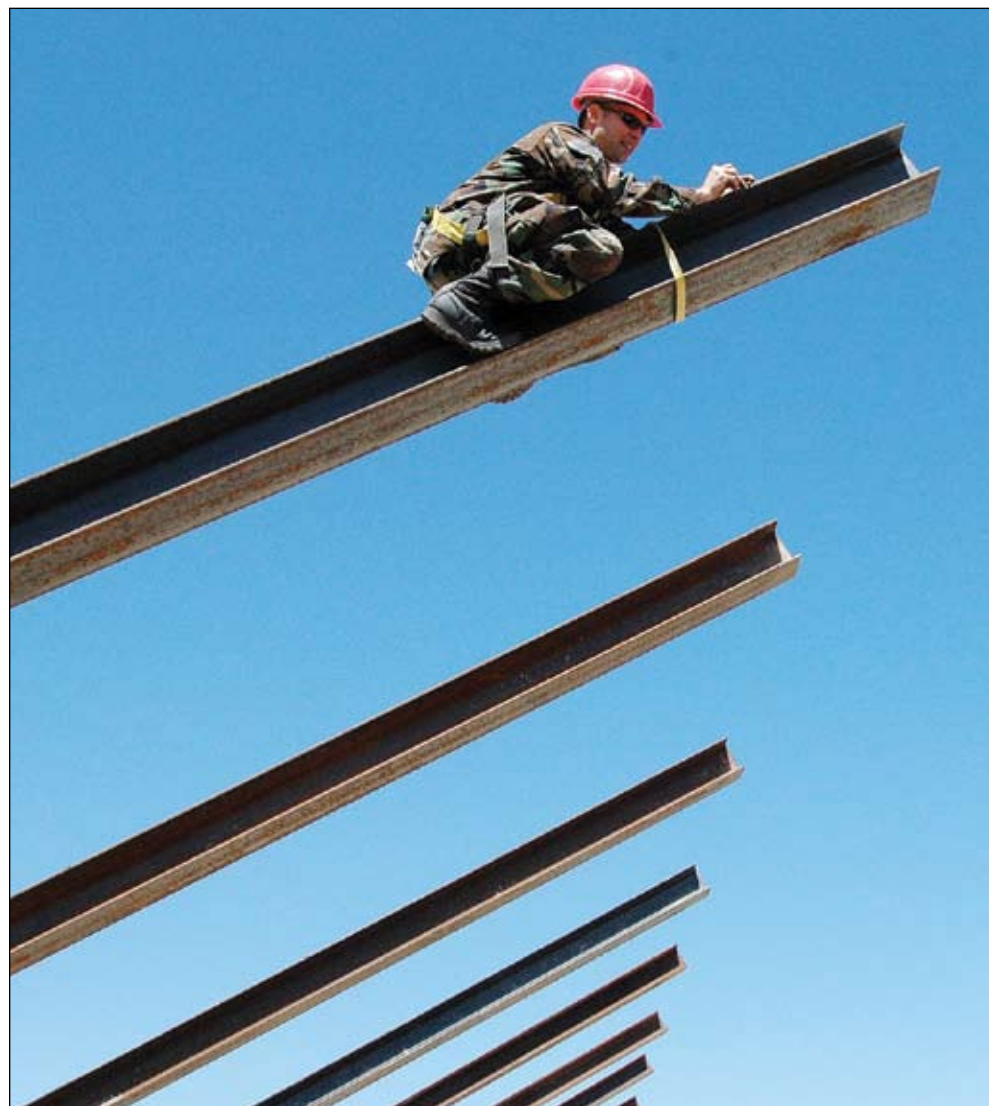


Photo by 1st Lt. Jay Ostrich

Balance beam

Pennsylvania Air Guard Staff Sgt. George Thompson marks a steel beam with chalk so it can be cut to its proper length May 1 near Campo, Calif. The beams will be used to finish off an "eyebrow" to a firing range that will allow Border Patrol officers to practice their weapons skills. Thompson is an engineering assistant for the 201st RED HORSE Squadron from Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., working on the border.

Work=stability

Indiana unit develops host nation work force program in Balad, Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Les Newport
Indiana National Guard

BALAD, Iraq – Hundreds of local Iraqis arrive each work morning at the pedestrian gate of Logistical Support Area Anaconda, bustle through security inspections and then are bussed to the directorate of public works' local national work force program center.

Some of the workers have spent years, since shortly after the coalition invasion, helping to establish and sustain Anaconda as a model for a counterinsurgency logistical hub. They have also learned a lot about Americans, their culture, their language and their motivations.

As units cycle through deployments, the Iraqi workers support Soldiers from across America; the most recent, Soldiers of the Indiana National Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Sgt. 1st Class James Sarson coordinates the host nation work force and military escort duties that enable the Iraqis to work on Anaconda. After several weeks of sending Iraqi workers on typical details of grounds keeping and unskilled labor assignments, Sarson began to wonder what untapped resources were passing through the gate each morning.

The Citizen-Soldier, a food service manager at a college near Terre Haute, sensed that the Iraqi work force had a lot more to offer and, more importantly, wanted to contribute more.

"They see what's happening here on Anaconda," and they want to be a part of it, Sarson said.

Sarson began cautiously documenting skills in which workers claimed to have training or experience. He wanted to be confident they could deliver and had not overstated abilities in order to secure more stable employment. So far, he has not been disappointed.

"What we're doing is documenting identifiable trade skills that the Iraqi work

force has," said Sarson. He has identified plumbers, electricians, carpenters and painters through the local national work force program.

Sarson says the next step is to let Anaconda know the talent that is available: "We're working to build an awareness of skills."

Spc. Ean Blakley works for Sarson and spends more time with the workers than any other Soldier on Anaconda. Blakley says there are so many advantages to identifying the special skills and talents of the work force, that it is probably difficult to gauge all the long-term effects.

"Anytime we send a skilled worker on a project, he takes at least one or two helpers," said Blakley. "I don't know if I can call it an apprentice program, but if I had to put a label on it, that's exactly what I'd call it."

Blakley said that identifying skills also gives the workers the opportunity to advance

and earn higher wages. Blakley was looking for someone with carpentry skills to help temporarily in his work area. He was so impressed with his volunteer's work, he recommended him to the Anaconda carpentry shop. He was hired, given a raise and is now guaranteed full-time work.

"He was pleased with that," said Blakley, adding there is a lot of satisfaction for workers who have an opportunity to work in an area in which they have experience and even formal training in some cases.

Interest in the local national work force program has come from the Iraqi-based Industrial Zones initiative, a program to build industrial, retail, wholesale and service support facilities on the perimeters of coalition installations. IBIZ also includes plans for a vocational training program.

If the initiative has a readily available pool of workers with developed skills, or workers with an interest in developing skills, the prospect for success is increased, according to Lt. Col. Patrick Thibodeau, the 76th's operations officer.

Sarson and Blakley hope the program can not only make a difference in the efforts of coalition forces and the Iraqi government to bring greater stability to the region, but that the local workers can find encouragement in the prospects for brighter futures.

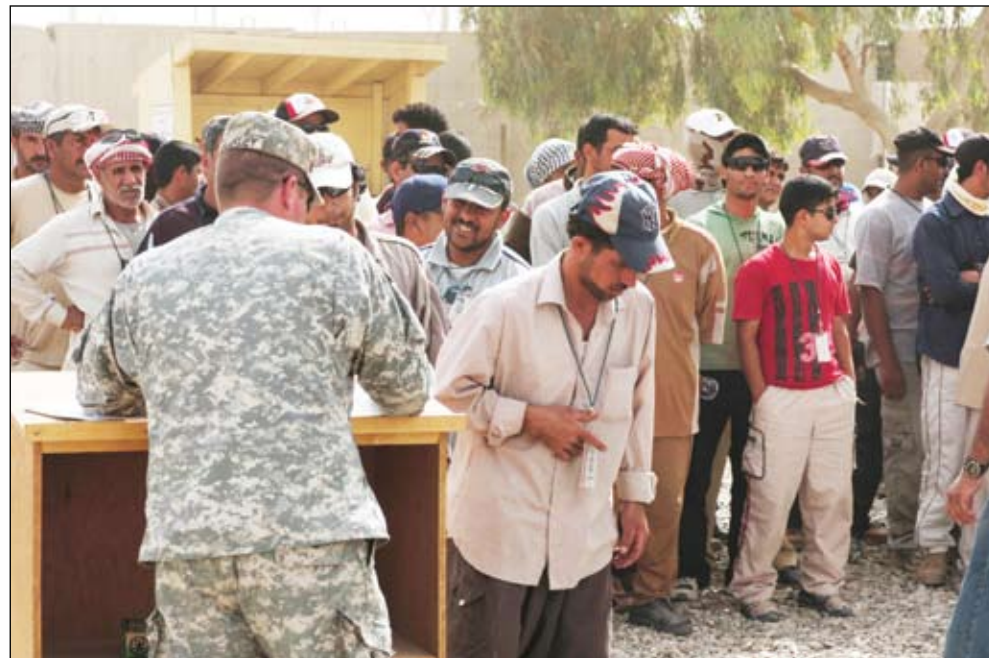


Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Indiana Spc. Ean Blakley registers Iraqi workers at the host nation work force program center at Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq.

GWOT briefs

Missouri engineering support

The Missouri's 35th Engineer Brigade is working in Baghdad and providing engineering support throughout the Multi-National Division-Baghdad operational environment. The brigade's mission is specialized, encompassing route-clearance patrols and horizontal and vertical construction.

New York F-16s depart

F-16C fighters and crews from the 174th Fighter Wing left for a combat deployment in support of Air Expeditionary Force cycle 3-4 in June from Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, N.Y. It's the wing's final F-16 combat deployment. It recently deployed more than 190 personnel.

Idaho helping Afghan police

Deployed Idaho National Guardmembers are working as a police mentoring team travelling throughout Afghanistan's Parwan province to train and advise the Afghan National Police. They taught at the Parwan province's police headquarters June 3 and conducted a traffic-control-point and vehicle-search class.

Arkansas mechanics learn

Deployed mechanics with Arkansas' 1038th Transportation Company, which is attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade at Camp Taji, Iraq, are learning to maintain the Armored Security Vehicle with the help of a six-day class. The ASV has accompanied many of the brigade's combat logistics patrols on convoys because it can provide security, fire power and IED protection.

Medevac 101

Maine's Company C, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment is currently deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq, and training units on Medevac procedures to ensure the safety of patients they transport at Camp Striker, Iraq. The training teaches everything from calling in Medevac support to selecting, preparing, marking and securing the landing zone for helicopters. The training also covers litter loading and movement procedures.

-Based on unit news releases

From page 1: CHIEF ON THE HILL

Blum said the objective is to modernize the Guard force equal to that of its active-duty counterparts. Even now, though, Guard units deploy with the same equipment as active-duty units. It is the non-deployed units that still suffer from equipment shortages.

In 2006, the Army National Guard had about 40 percent of its equipment available domestically. As of Sept. 30, 2007, that rose to about 61 percent. By the end of 2009, it will be close to 70 percent, and by 2013, it will be 77 percent, Blum said.

From page 2: WORDS

flourish, was upset that he was not named commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775. "He never forgave what he considered this slight to his ability and pretensions," Boatner reported. Hancock was still ready to serve, however, and he commanded

6,000 Massachusetts troops during operations around Newport, R.I., in 1778. But his role was minor, as was the quality of his performance, according to the Dictionary of American Biography.

You could argue that the Declaration of Independence was the first famous truly American document. New Englanders and southerners stood side-by-side in telling their countrymen and the world of their intent to shake off British tyranny. Signing the Declaration was considered an act of treason. They would have been considered war criminals "had the war turned out differently," Boatner wrote. They were hunted like rabid dogs after their names were made public in January 1777. The homes of 15 signers were destroyed.

Yet they stuck by their guns. Some lost their fortunes, but most of them never lost their faith in this country's future as a free and independent nation. Furthermore, some 20 of them went so far as to strive for military service, with the militia, as one way of standing by their commitment to "mutually

pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

From page 1: PROMOTIONS

time technician at Joint Forces Headquarters. He served as a military policeman during a previous Iraq deployment.

Hannah, also on his second tour in Iraq, volunteered to return out of loyalty to his unit. A civilian X-ray and computerized tomography technician, Hannah has a son in the Marine Corps who has been wounded in action during one of two Iraq rotations.

The other Soldiers who were promoted could not be reached for comment.

To qualify for a battlefield promotion, Soldiers must be serving within Iraq or Afghanistan in operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. There have not yet been any battlefield promotions involving National Guard troops in Afghanistan, Lawrence said.

The program waives time-in-service and

time-in-grade requirements for corporals or specialists being promoted to sergeant. It also postpones minimum military education requirements and waives promotion boards for sergeants being promoted to staff sergeant.

A Soldier given a battlefield promotion to staff sergeant has 270 days from redeployment to graduate from the Warrior Leader Course, according to Lawrence. Returning Soldiers will be given priority for the course, he said.

The program makes allowances for the unique structure of the National Guard.

"Each adjutant general retains promotion authority over their Soldiers," Lawrence said. "Their wartime commander, recognizing their extraordinary performance, recommends them for promotion which in turn gets authorized by MNC-I. Then the states cut the orders. There's a link between the battlefield and the states."

Only one battlefield promotion is allowed, so a Soldier who gets a battlefield promotion to sergeant must achieve staff sergeant by the normal route.

The pilot program ends April 9, 2009.

Texas civil engineers upgrade Guantanamo Bay legal complex

By Petty Officer 2nd Class
Nat Moger
JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba – The Expeditionary Legal Complex on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is sure to be the site of history-making and ground-breaking events. The ongoing military commissions of detained enemy combatants is a lightning rod of controversy, polarizing people into camps of ardent supporters and fierce opponents.

The sensitive process of conducting these trials requires far more than a room, a couple of benches and a place to bang a gavel. It also requires more than attorneys, a defendant and a judge.

For every one of these major players there are dozens of others in support roles, from the guards guaranteeing the safety of detainees and those around them to the external security specialists providing logistical support.

But before any of them can do their jobs, they need a state-of-the-art facility. Air National Guard engineering units have been upgrading the existing facilities at McCalla Airfield to accommodate the commissions, and the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron from the Texas Air Guard is continuing that mission.

"You could say we took the baton from our predecessors," said Air Guard Lt. Col. Frederick Olison, 474th commander. "Our primary mission going in was the sustainment, operations support



Photo by Donna Miles

Above: Air Guard members construct a commission building in November at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. A courtroom sketch by Janet Hamlin, pool sketch artist, of Khalid Shiekh Mohammed and four other alleged Sept. 11 co-conspirators hangs outside the Expeditionary Legal Complex at Guantanamo Bay.



and maintenance of the facilities. Once we got here we realized, due to the increased security requirements, we had a bit of construction left to do."

The ELC needs to not only accommodate the physical security concerns of the commissions process, but also the information security concerns. Due to the classified nature of much of the evidence in the cases, the ELC became a sensitive compartmented information facility, or SCIF.

"Originally, it was a normal courtroom, but now we've transformed it," said Olison. "They'll be dealing with a lot of classified information so it's important to make sure that information is not leaked out."

Due to the fact that some of the documents being handled will be heavily classified, the 474th needed to take extra measures in information security.

"There were issues in the way the facilities were constructed," said Texas Air Guard Maj. Kevin McKinney, 474th deputy commander and project engineer. "We made changes to the electrical systems so they're much different than the way they were originally constructed. Now you're not getting any of the RF (radio frequency) -type radiation going outside."

Transforming the ELC into a facility capable of handling top secret/SCI documents wasn't the only thing the 474th did. The commissions process requires a lot of manpower, and all those bodies need a room and a bed. The 474th was more than willing to take on this task by installing double-wide

trailer-style living units, similar to the Cuzco barracks, for the attorneys and their staff.

"The prosecution and defense teams have Cuzcos now, and they can stay there when court is in session," said McKinney. "The purpose of those, instead of an open-bay tent, is to provide them some extra privacy, so they can get some work done at night."


All of this extra construction on a previously fallow airfield meant the installation and maintenance of the unseen support structures needed to sustain modern human life that most take for granted: electricity, sewage and phone lines.

"We've got the Cuzcos and a gigantic tent city," said McKinney while pointing at the sprawling mass of tents. "There are six miles of wires and a couple miles of sewer lines."

Given the wide variety of responsibilities given to the 474th, the squadron draws much of their technical expertise from their military and civilian training.

"You'd be surprised with the level of expertise that our people have gotten from their civilian jobs," said Olison. "It's a force multiplier. For instance, one of our guys who works on our environmental control units works for Johnson Controls for his civilian job. He could probably build you one from the ground up."

While being activated and pulled from their civilian lives can be demoralizing, these Air Guard members have jumped into this job with the best of attitudes.

"I challenge any other unit to show higher morale. Happy people work harder," said the 474th's First Sgt. Scott Clarkson. "There are a lot of people here with degrees and high paying jobs back home that come out here and enjoy what they do. They just like to swing a hammer." 



SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS TERRORISTS ARE DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO BAY




IF GUANTANAMO BAY IS "SHUT DOWN," WHERE WILL THEY GO?

Noted Wisconsin political cartoonist deployed to Gitmo

Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn R. Larson, a professional editorial cartoonist, arrived at U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in April as one of 20 members from the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Larson is the editor of *The Wire*, the official weekly publication for the Joint Task Force Guantanamo that handles detainee operations.

This mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom provides an opportunity for Larson to use experience gained as a newspaper editor, chief page designer and professional editorial cartoonist back home.

"This is my third deployment in 19 and a half years of service with the National Guard," stated Larson. In 1990, he deployed to Saudi Arabia as the NCO-in-charge of the three-man 132nd Military History Detachment in support of operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 2006, he deployed as a platoon sergeant with a field artillery unit tasked with convoy security operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 



Larson

From page 1:
WATERS RISE

Virginia, Wisconsin and Iowa continued their support to civil authorities with manpower and equipment. Helping them were additional Guardmembers from neighboring states.

In Indiana, Gov. Mitch Daniels called out more than 1,300 Guardmembers to assist in evacuations, search and rescue, security, road blocks, sandbagging and other emergency assistance missions. President George W. Bush declared much of central Indiana a major disaster area.

National Guard Bureau officials reported that a slew of Guard equipment was used to assist emergency responders in Indiana and its affected communities, including 35 five-ton trucks, 37 Humvees, five UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, 26 potable water trailers, 17 light-medium tactile vehicles and five buses. Still other special equipment and personnel were used to include members of the West Virginia's 53rd Civil Support Team as well as an RC-26B reconnaissance aircraft.

"We are here for the citizens of Indiana," said Army Guard Capt. Andy Weaver in an Indiana National Guard news report. Weaver and other Guardmembers helped evacuate at least 256 patients from a flooded hospital June 8 in Columbus. "Even though some of our Soldiers have been affected by the flooding, they are here helping out the community. This is where they feel they should be," he added.

Indiana Guard members also delivered Red Cross supplies, equipment and personnel to the town of Worthington. They delivered 7,200 gallons of water to the Shelby County Emergency Management Agency and provided self-contained shower units to the town of Hope in Bartholomew County.

In Iowa, Guard officials reported many lakes, rivers and streams were at near record levels, flooding communities and forcing many Iowans out of their towns and homes.

Gov. Chet Culver mobilized at least 640 Guard Soldiers and Airmen to assist in the state's disaster response. The governor declared 40 counties as disaster areas.

The Guardmembers partnered with federal, state, county and local officials in at least 11 counties and provided generator support and emergency drinking water. Other Guardmembers were involved in sandbagging and transportation as well as securing bridges.

A band of storms that moved across West Virginia June 5 caused severe flooding that forced Gov. Joe Manchin to declare a state of emergency for at least 15 counties.

At least 97 West Virginia Guard members responded to affected areas with military dump trucks, Humvees, water supplies, backhoes and other equipment to assist residents and local responders as river levels climbed. The Guardmembers removed debris with their equipment in at least five counties.

The Wisconsin National Guard mobilized at least 80 Soldiers. They provided potable water and sandbagging to flooded counties. Officials reported that Soldiers of the 32nd Brigade were tasked to deliver 20,000 sandbags to Dodge County and the village of Mukwonago. Guard Soldiers from the 147th Aviation assisted in aerial damage assessment missions for military and state leaders. The other states flew similar aerial assessment missions for their leaders.

Spc. Cassandra Groce from the Kentucky Guard reported June 12 that an RC-26B from the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, Miss., arrived in Wisconsin June 11 to fly over dozens of affected areas to provide live video. A similar Guard aircraft from West Virginia flew missions over flooded areas of Indiana.

Iowans called up after tornado

Town of Parkersburg virtually flattened

PARKERSBURG, Iowa – Approximately 175 Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supported tornado relief and recovery missions in northeast Iowa as of May 29, following tornadoes and severe storms in the Butler County area May 25.

With numerous power lines down, leakage from damaged vehicles, severed natural gas lines, debris, rubble and unstable structures, approximately 160 Soldiers from the 1st Bat-

talion, 133rd Infantry were providing security and aiding local officials in recovery efforts at Parkersburg. The servicemembers were activated May 26-27.

"I'm no stranger to tornado damage, but I've never seen anything like this," said Spc. Erik A. Borseth, a medic with the 1st Battalion's Headquarters Company. He has been treating Guard Soldiers for blisters and minor cuts and he's been going out on night patrols with other members of the 133rd. "It feels good to be here," Borseth said, "like we're accomplishing something for these Parkersburg people. That's our job. That's what we're here

to do. That's how Iowans are."

The southern half of Parkersburg, a farming community of about 1,700, has been virtually flattened, but the northern half remains largely intact with some damage to the infrastructure, reported Rick Breitenfeldt of the National Guard Bureau.

Most National Guard personnel are performing security missions, primarily during the curfew hours of 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., Breitenfeldt added. Other duties include providing power to the incident command center at a badly damaged fire station in the town and staffing a communications center for emergency personnel.

"If I could do more, I would. The damage is overwhelming and surreal," said Iowa Army Guard Maj. Jay W. Lohmann, team chief for the Guard's communications center. "Private citizens keep approaching me, asking for permission to do things. I can't give them that permission, because the Guard is supporting civilian agencies. But it tells me that the public respects and appreciates the job that the National Guard is doing."

Approximately 15 additional Soldiers and Airmen from the 67th Troop Command, Joint Forces Headquarters, 734th Regional Support Group, 133rd Test Squadron, 132nd Fighter Wing and Iowa Air National Guard Headquarters provided communications support, transported water, created emergency electrical power and provided operational support. Additionally, the Iowa National Guard armory in Waterloo was used as an operations center for American Red Cross relief efforts.

Many of the Guard Soldiers are veterans of the war in Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Duff McFadden

Iowa Soldiers patrol the streets of Parkersburg May 28, three days after a tornado ravaged the town, destroying homes and businesses and decimating infrastructure.

Camp Atterbury damaged by storm

EDINBURGH, Ind. – A June 3 tornado moved through the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center causing significant damage. No injuries were reported.

In addition to 50 buildings damaged to varying degrees, military and civilian vehicles, power lines, fences and other infrastructure sustained heavy damage.

Utility companies worked to restore or stabilize services to the site. Soldiers, contractors and other personnel at the post assessed damage and stabilized where necessary.

The quick implementation of standard safety procedures was key in preventing injuries as well as allowing training to resume as quickly as possible, according to Maj. Mike Brady, the Camp Atterbury public affairs officer.

Early damage estimates were at approximately \$19 million.

-INDIANA GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Photo by Spec. Tim Sproles

Tornado damage at Camp Atterbury from a June 3rd storm.

'Hurricane Herb' gives Florida Guard disaster-response test

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Just days into the 2008 hurricane season, the Florida Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and Florida National Guard participated in a statewide hurricane exercise June 2-5.

In the exercise scenario a Category 3 hurricane – "Hurricane Herb" – makes landfall near Cedar Key on Florida's west coast, and moves across the state and into Georgia. As in previous hurricanes, the storm tears through the state causing massive power outages, extensive flooding and affecting more than one-half million Florida citizens.

In a real-life emergency the National Guard would move equipment and forces as requested by state officials, but the Hurricane Herb exercise involved only simulated military emergency operations across the state coordinated from the Florida Guard's Joint Operations Center at the Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine.

"We test all of our different systems and make sure everything is in order," said Col. William Beiswenger, director of operations for the Florida Guard. "This is being done throughout the state from the local first responders and local city levels, all the way up through the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee. We also have participants from National Guard Bureau.

"We train as though we're going to have the worst hurricane tomorrow," said Beiswenger. "We've got to train that way ... we can't be too complacent."

On the exercise's first day, most activity at



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Training for the worst at the Joint Operations Center at the Robert Ensslin Armory in St. Augustine, Fla.

the Guard's Joint Operations Center included reviewing operations plans, briefings on storm damage and determining how the Guard would deploy in an actual catastrophe.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted the 2008 hurricane season could be slightly "above normal," with a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including six to nine hurricanes and two to five major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson Scale).

"Our citizens of Florida need to take heed to that because all it takes is one storm to come in that folks aren't prepared for and we could have a lot of loss out there – both people and infrastructure," said Beiswenger.

-FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In the spirit Minutemen



1



2



4



5



3

Photos:

1 Officer candidates do flutter kicks during phase 1 of Officer Candidate School June 1 at Fort Meade, S.D. (Sgt. Theanne Tangen)

2 Spc. Jeremiah Allen (T-shirt) and other Indiana Soldiers load sandbags onto a pallet for flood relief in southern Indiana. (Sgt. Kimberly Calkins)

3 A Utah Soldier hugs his daughter after arriving home May 28 after a one-year deployment in Iraq. (2nd Lt. Ryan Sutherland)

4 Sgt. 1st Class James Sarson is working to help local Iraqis find work on Logistical Support Area Anaconda in Iraq. (Staff Sgt. Les Newport)

5 Michigan Sgt. Steven Sparks performs jump-master duties during a parachute jump from a CH-47 helicopter over Camp Grayling, Mich. (Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen)

6 A Virginia Air National Guard crew chief prepares to launch an F-22 Raptor. (Virginia National Guard photo)

7 New York Staff Sgt. Arthur Curcione conducts joint training with Iraqi firefighters at Baghdad International Airport. (Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)

8 Hawaii Air Guard Maj. Troy Cullen and Anthony Davis land a C-17 Globemaster III at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport in China May 17. (Tech. Sgt. Chris Vadnais)

9 North Carolina Master Sgt. Andrew Odom and Sgt. 1st Class Harold Presley try out a newly-completed well that provides clean potable drinking water to Ad Bouya, Djibouti. (Master Sgt. Eric Kreps)

Just as Minutemen in revolutionary
grabbed their muskets to win our
Soldiers and Airmen follow in the
dom with their swift response and

Spirit of the Minuteman



6



7



8



9

Every time they dropped their plows and
for freedom, today's National Guard
follows in their footsteps, preserving that free-
dom and skillful action here and abroad.

'Rolling Thunder'

Patriot Chopper makes debut ride during big event

By Staff Sgt. Rebecca Doucette
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Although “Rolling Thunder” may be the name of a stirring circus march, for many, those two words bring to mind the revving of a half-million motorcycle engines.

Every Memorial Day weekend for the past 21 years, bikers from across the country have traveled to the nation’s capital for a one-mile trip from the Pentagon to the National Mall. Event organizers call it Rolling Thunder because of the sound made by thousands of motorcycles crossing Memorial Bridge into the District of Columbia.

The event draws attention to American servicemembers who are prisoners of war and those still listed as missing in action. MIAs total 93,214, including three from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This year, the National Guard’s Patriot Chopper made its maiden voyage, ridden by Maj. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, at the front of the Rolling Thunder ride. The bike was built for the Guard by Orange County Choppers of the famed TV show “American Chopper.”

Although Patriot Chopper plays mainly a recruiting and publicity role, Nuttall pointed out its equally important purpose: “We use it to demonstrate that you can ride a cool motorcycle and still be safe,” he said.

As the senior leader present, Nuttall set a visible example and took the opportunity to convey his message about motorcycle safety to a few dozen Guard riders in attendance. “We ask our Soldiers to ride safely, to wear all the proper protective equipment and hopefully we won’t continue to lose Soldiers at the rate we’re losing them. We’ve lost 15 Soldiers this year—killed in motorcycle accidents,” he said.

Sport bikes continue to be the number one killer among Guard Soldiers for those primarily 26 years old or younger.

The Memorial Day event was also a chance to remember the 515 Guard Soldiers killed since 9/11. “Those numbers are fairly representative of our participation in the war,” Nuttall said. “That doesn’t sound like a lot of people, unless it’s someone close to you. We really want to do what we can to bring attention to those who are missing and certainly those who have died for our country.”

Event organizers expected 500,000



Photo by Brandon Oursler

Maj. Gen. James Nuttall rides the Patriot Chopper during the 21st annual Rolling Thunder ride from the Pentagon to the National Mall over Memorial Day weekend.

people. “If you want an event to be successful, invite two motorcyclists and they will bring all their friends,” Nuttall said.

Watch a video of this story at www.ngb.army.mil

Before you ride...

According to military protocol, proper protective equipment for motorcycle riders includes a Department of Transportation certified helmet, safety eye-wear, gloves that cover the wrists, a long-sleeved shirt, ankle-high boots, and some type of reflective belt or vest. These items must be worn by all Soldiers, regardless of the laws of the state in which they are riding.

Texas training Guard’s first dive team

By Master Sgt. Brenda Benner
Texas National Guard

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Texas Army National Guard is currently preparing Soldiers to be a part of the 627th Heavy Dive Team, the National Guard’s first team of divers.

An anchor of the new 627th HDT is 43-year-old Sgt. Lance Little, who has been developing the physical and academic training plan that will prepare the prospective divers for their two diving qualification courses.

Little earned his second-class diver and salvage diver qualifications as an active-duty Army diver during the 1980s. He said there were fewer than 100 divers Army-wide when he was diving. Now the Texas Army National Guard has the opportunity to provide about 20 to 25 of its Soldiers to the diving corps.

Once the unit has a group of qualified divers, Little said he will focus his energy on getting himself prepared for the rigors of first-class dive school next summer.

“Every detail and situation of underwater missions must be planned for,” Little emphasized. “For every hour underwater, there are about 10 hours of preparation. You don’t want your brain to go to mush during a stressful situation if something goes wrong.”

To ensure the new diver recruits maintain their composure underwater, Little prepares them with pool “hits,” during which he grabs their masks and steals their swimming fins. There is no escape from this critical repetitive drill. During the “attack,” they must remain calm while holding their breath long enough to put on their equipment and touch the deep end wall before coming to the surface.

Capt. James Proctor, commander of the



Photo by Master Sgt. Brenda Benner

Experienced salvage diver Sgt. Lance Little, top, “attacks” Sgt. Roel Ramos during repeated pool “hits” by taking off his mask and removing his swimming fins. Prospective dive school students must overcome panic and perform corrective actions with one precious breath of air.

627th HDT, is in his fourth month of training at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City Beach, Fla. He said Phase I of dive school was more demanding than any of his prior military courses.

“It’s a physical and mental challenge,” Proctor said. “It’s a gut check. If someone can make it through phase one, then there’s a high percentage passing rate through phase two.”

The Army Diver Phase I course, which ranges from two to three weeks, is taught at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The course involves water survival skills and basic diving instruction, but first and foremost, Soldiers must pass the rigorous Diving Physical Fitness Test, which includes an endurance swim and chin bar pull-ups.

During Phase II, Soldiers study human anatomy and physiology, underwater physics and dive medicine. They learn to operate

underwater hydraulic tools such as chain saws, wrenches, grinders, and impact drills. They also train with underwater explosives.

Joining Proctor as a fourth-month student is fellow 627th HDT member Spc. Joseph Wieland. Both Soldiers anticipate graduating as Army divers in late July. Four other unit members recently arrived at the NDSTC for their six-month training rotation.

Sgt. Jon Dodge, who was in the Navy in the 1980s, tried out for its revered dive team while in his 20s, but didn’t make the cut for the timed running event. A few months later at Fort Leonard Wood, he became one of the many Phase I statistics, but Dodge doesn’t know the word “quit.”

“I’m ready for my second chance,” Dodge said.

Sgt. Roel Ramos drove 900 miles from Lubbock to push himself to the limit. Like Dodge, he attended Phase I of dive school for a second time. Ramos said he makes the daily sacrifice of working out because he wants to belong to a team of Soldiers who are more dedicated than most.

The fourth HDT member to recently begin Phase II training is Corpus Christi resident Spc. Shaun Wheaton. He said he’s spent very little time in or around water until this past year.

Proctor, a commercial diver for the past two years, performs construction work on oil rigs. He understands first-hand the physical rigors of underwater engineer work.

“We encourage people to visit us, to try out with the DPFT and the 500-yard swim,” Proctor said. “If they can pass the swim, we’ll let them train with us and improve. Then, once they pass the entire DPFT, we’ll put them on our books. Some of our guys had to work their way into the unit.”



Finding their way behind enemy lines and putting bombs on target is what 148th Air Support Operations Squadron Staff Sgts. Shawn Bearinger and Murphy Fountain III are all about during training to support the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Schwartz

Putting bombs on target

New Pa. unit fields elite Tactical Air Control Party Airmen

By 1st Lt. Jay Ostrich
Pennsylvania National Guard

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Behind the camouflaged and steely-eyed glare of a Pennsylvania Air Guard 148th Air Support Operations Squadron member, you'll find the new face of an air combat warrior. But unlike their brothers and sisters who bravely take to the skies to defend our freedom, this new generation of Airmen find their future and mission on solid ground.

"In a split second, you go from quiet and relative calm to your entire world erupting around you as time slows to a crawl," said Master Sgt. Aaron Gibbs, 148th ASOS Tactical Air Control Party, of his mission behind enemy lines. "You don't have time to think things through; you have time to react or die."

Known affectionately as "Air Force Infantry," Gibbs is one of a select few who earned the privilege of wearing the black beret and crest of this new face of air combat warrior.

Headquartered at Fort Indiantown Gap, the mission of this elite unit is to support the 55th Brigade Combat Team and 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, said Lt. Col. Terrence L. Koudelka, 148th commander.

They maneuver behind enemy lines while they meticulously plan, request and direct air strikes against targets close to friendly forces. On the battlefield, they are known by bogged-down friendly forces as "Death on call."

The TACP motto tells more of the tale: "The strong shall stand, the weak will fall by the wayside." For the members of the 148th, living this motto as a team is an uncompromising way of life.

"This means that everyone works together to accomplish the same mission—putting bombs on target," said 148th TACP Master Sgt. Scott Ball. "TACPs work in groups of two men, and we need to know that we can trust each other explicitly."

That trust will now be forged with their new partners in the Stryker Brigade.

"The tradition of TACPs working with the Army is an old concept dating back to the Korean War, but it's the newest mission in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard," said Ball. "I would venture to say that most people have no idea what our job entails, the specialized gear that we need and the training it takes to become a TACP and stay proficient."

During a recent field training exercise, the 148th had the opportunity to show what makes them "train like they fight"—their squadron motto. The FTX lasted four days, where members worked day and night to simulate actual deployment scenarios.

"Deployments require a lot of the same training as the FTX," said Gibbs. "The three tenets of our career field are to be able to shoot, move and communicate. During the FTX we stressed all three to ensure that our men are trained. The more they use the radios and equipment while they are here, the better off they will be when they are in theater."

Since the 148th is a new unit – it officially stood up with ceremonies May 16 – it's always on the lookout for new members. "We try to educate people as we meet them, but we're always looking to get members and leadership from the wing to come out and see what an ASOS is all about," said Ball.

"We find that in talking to new recruits or guys interested in being a TACP that they want to be challenged and want to have a direct result in the Global War on Terror," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Bearinger, a 148th TACP. "Being a TACP fills both of those voids. You put bombs on target and see the immediate results, knowing that you saved American lives."

Join the 'party'

TACPs are the only true front-line combat job in the Air Force. They are rich in combat experience and military tradition. TACPs learn various combat skills, such as land navigation and artillery call-for-fire for Target Marking and Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses missions. Members attend the U.S. Air Force Combat Survival School immediately following technical school. Only those who volunteer for and graduate from Airborne (parachutist) School will be assigned to Army Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces units. Other schools available to members include Air Assault (rappelling), Pathfinder, Ranger, HALO and Scuba.

-www.airforce.com/career

HEADS UP!

New office

The Defense Department recently merged two military support programs as part of efforts to better address departing service members' financial and transition needs. The previously separate Financial Readiness and Transition Assistance programs were combined in March to form the new Office of Personal Finance and Transition.

www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=49927

2009 pay raise

The House Armed Services Committee approved H.R. 5658, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009. H.R. 5658 authorizes \$531.4 billion in budget authority for the Defense Department and the national security programs of the Department of Energy. The bill also authorizes a 3.9 percent military pay raise in addition to \$70 billion to support ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan during fiscal year 2009.

<http://armedservices.house.gov>

Retiree compensation

As of June 9, claims are being processed for retirees who may now be eligible for tax-free compensation through the Combat-Related Special Compensation program as a result of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. This includes length of service (20 years), Medical Chapter 61, Temporary Disabled Retired List (a component of Chapter 61), and Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) retirees. Those receiving retirement under section 12731b of title 10 United States Code are not included.

www.crsc.army.mil (Army); www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/disability/CRSC/CRSCnew.htm (Air Force)

Political activity

A revised Defense Department directive provides a more clear definition of what servicemembers may and may not do within the political realm, particularly running for political office.

www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134410p.pdf

Education benefits

Many veterans' education benefits come with an expiration date, such as: (1) tuition assistance – \$4,500 a year that expires after active duty; (2) Montgomery GI Bill for active duty – expires 10 years from the date of last discharge or release from active duty; (3) Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve – 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or until released from the Selected Reserve or National Guard; (4) Veterans Education Assistance Programs – 10 years from the date of the last discharge or release from active duty.

www.gibill.va.gov

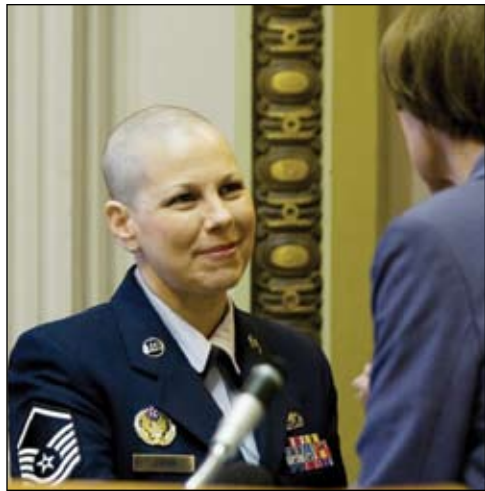


Photo by M.T. Harmon

Master Sgt. Tammy Caban accepts her presidential award May 16.

Sergeant gets presidential volunteer award

Master Sgt. Greg Rudl
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — An Air National Guard member was among seven service-members who received USA Freedom Corps President's Volunteer Service Awards through the Military Volunteer Recognition Initiative in a ceremony at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington May 16.

Master Sgt. Tammy Caban, assigned to the National Guard Bureau here for the past 14 years, was the Guard winner. Caban, 41, has volunteered with the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) since 2004, providing grief assistance to families who have lost a loved one serving the military. She also volunteers to help patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

"It's not about volunteering, it's about service—it just seems like the right thing to do," said Caban about the countless hours she's put into helping others. "It's the least that I could do. I wish I could more. It comes from my heart, so I don't think about the time it takes," she said.

Caban's involvement in TAPS includes helping 5- and 6-year-olds write letters to deceased loved ones, like a father who never returned from the War on Terrorism.

"The first thing you do is let them know that you're there for them ... whether they want to talk about it or not," said Caban. "They really can't write on their own, so you're sitting with them ... on your lap or next to them and they're telling you their stories."

These letters, written on tissue paper, are tied to balloons and then "released to their loved ones in heaven," she said.

Caban won't be able to continue with TAPS this year because she is receiving chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer.

"It broke my heart because I won't be there for those kids. I know that some of those kids that have looked for me every year will look for me again this year," she said.

At Walter Reed, she volunteered through Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) over the past year-and-a-half at the Mologne House, a long-term rehabilitative, in-patient treatment center there. Caban spends one or two Friday nights per month in the lending library where she helps patients and their family members check out books, DVDs and video games.

Air Guard pilot to join Thunderbirds

By Lyndsey Sullivan
Nevada National Guard

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevada National Guard pilot Maj. Derek Routt has distinguished himself throughout his Air Force career by emphasizing basic character traits such as integrity and work ethic.

They promise to be the same attributes Routt will uphold this fall when he becomes the first National Guard pilot to join the U.S. Air Force's Air Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds.

Routt, 38, is the first Air National Guard pilot chosen to fly with the team. Other Guard Airmen have held enlisted positions on the team, but Routt is the first pilot.

The application process for the world-renowned team was arduous. Routt completed the 30-page application for the Thunderbird team in January and made the first cut with five other individuals.

The application process was only the beginning, though. A series of lengthy interviews in Florida, South Carolina and Las Vegas took months, but Routt said it was worth the effort.

"I would watch the Thunderbirds and always thought they were truly magnificent," Routt said.

It wasn't until May 30, the day after his birthday, that the son of a National Guardsman learned he would get the chance of a lifetime to fly with the Thunderbirds.

"It is an unbelievable honor," Routt said "Not only to represent the Guard, the Air Force and the Army, but also my family. It's really a defining moment."

This year, 50 percent of the current team will receive new assignments and Routt will take over the "No. 7" position as the operations officer and second-in-command.



Photo by Tyson V. Rininger

Maj. Derek Routt climbs into an F-16 preparing to fly with the 64th Aggressor Squadron during the Red Flag Exercise at Nellis Air Force Base in 2005. Top right: The Thunderbirds.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Justin Pyle



Photo by Tyson V. Rininger

He will begin his four-month training period in July, receive his uniforms in October and begin flying with the team in November, said Capt. Elizabeth Kreft, the public affairs officer for the Thunderbirds.

Routt began his career as an active-duty, nuclear missile launch officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. Thirty months later he crossed into aviation and trained in Texas, received his wings in June 1997 and transferred to Florida where he learned to fly the F-15C.

In May 1998, Japan became the next

stop for the aspiring pilot. For the next three years, Routt was stationed with the 67th Fighter Squadron in Japan flying throughout Iraq, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

In 2003, Routt was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas and flew F-16s for three years. In 2006, he transferred back to F-15s and joined the Nevada Air National Guard High Rollers. He currently serves in the 65th Aggressor Squadron.

"It's been great and I hope it will continue to be great," Routt said. "I'm sure it will."

Officer, NCO awarded place in history

Pair receive first joint awards

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — An officer and a noncommissioned officer received on May 16 the first joint awards since the National Guard Bureau (NGB) became a joint activity of the Department of Defense.

"These are the first joint awards under the new authority of the newly joint National Guard Bureau, so these guys are making history," said LTG H Steven Blum, NGB chief, after the Joint Staff Flag Room ceremony at the Pentagon.

Maj. David Guido received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Sgt. 1st Class John Craig received the Joint Service Achievement Medal. Both serve the National Guard as Title 10 Soldiers in the Guard's federal active duty force.

On Jan. 28, President George W. Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2008, which included the most significant and sweeping administrative and organizational reforms of the National Guard and NGB since the National Defense Act of 1916, according to NGB officials.

The overall effect was to strengthen the Guard's role in the DoD to meet the Guard's



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Sgt. 1st Class John Craig, left, and Maj. David Guido were presented the Joint Service Achievement Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal respectively, May 16.

increasing domestic and foreign responsibilities, officials said.

Among a host of other changes, the NDAA designated the NGB as a joint activity of the DoD, thus the joint awards.

Guido's award recognized his performance as executive officer in NGB domestic operations and as central command desk officer in international affairs there.

Craig was recognized for contributions to Vigilant Guard, the largest National Guard homeland defense exercise ever conducted.

"I'm very honored," Craig said. "It's a privilege to get this award and be the first NCO to receive a joint award. It's significant for the

whole National Guard because we are now a joint staff. Hopefully, there will be many more joint awards to come."

Guido and Craig were joined by members of their families and Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen with whom they serve.

"I'm very proud of him," said Mitzi Craig, Sgt. 1st Class Craig's wife.

"It's a great honor," Guido said. "It's a great moment for the Guard to be recognized as a joint headquarters, and it's an absolute privilege to be part of a joint team. Having commanded a history detachment [and now] being a little bit of history is always a great thing."

Craig, whose decorations include the Bronze Star, is an operations sergeant in NGB operations division, with an expertise in non-lethal weapons.

Guido, liaison officer to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is continuing a family tradition of military service that includes World War II and Vietnam. He enlisted before he turned 17.

The Defense Meritorious Service Medal recognizes exceptionally outstanding work by leaders serving in a joint activity. The Joint Service Achievement Medal recognizes outstanding performance.

Servicemembers permanently assigned to the headquarters staff of NGB on or after Aug. 1, 2004, are eligible for DoD decorations and awards, according to a DoD memo.

Eligibility does not extend to the 54 states' and territories' joint force headquarters.

Partnership news

Michigan-Germany

Soldiers from the German army's Long Range Reconnaissance 200th Fernspählehrkompanie trained with Company F, 425th Infantry Long Range Surveillance at Camp Grayling in April. The paratroopers parachuted from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The troops also conducted "break contact" drills, which consist of a team making contact with the enemy, engaging and moving out of the area to a predesignated rally point.

North Dakota-Ghana

Adjutant general, Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, visited Ghana in June with other state leaders to reinforce the ideals of democratization and civilian control of the military. The leaders were there for the bilateral training portion of the month-long Exercise Shared Accord, where U.S. armed forces train elements of the Ghanaian Army, assist local villages to increase Ghana's security capacity and enhance Ghana-U.S. military relations.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski

Alaska Air Guard members and others work at the airfield at Chhnang Province, Cambodia, for Operation Pacific Angel May 24.

Alaska helps deliver medical supplies to Cambodia

CAMP DENALI, Alaska - Seventeen Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard at Kulis Air National Guard Base landed in Cambodia May 24 in support of Operation Pacific Angel.

The Guardmembers deployed to support the joint humanitarian assistance operation in the Pacific region and were the first members in a U.S. military aircraft to land at Kampong Chhnang Province airfield, Cambodia, since the airfield was built in 1975.

Pacific Angel is aimed at improving the civic action cooperation between the armed forces of Thailand, Cambodia and the U.S. military.

"The Alaska National Guard continues to set the standard of excellence," said Maj. Gen. Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "As Alaskans, our Guardsmen know firsthand the importance of providing relief and assistance to those in need. It's part of our culture and this mission further demonstrates our forces' flexibility in accomplishing multiple missions at home and around the world."

The Guardmembers delivered a 3,000-pound pallet of medical supplies to a multinational team of medical professionals who processed the supplies for movement to clinics in Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Cham Provinces.

-ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

State Partnership conference fosters southeast European cooperation

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

SOFIA, Bulgaria – National Guard and Department of Defense leaders and military chiefs of defense and civilian emergency planners from 10 southeast European nations who gathered here in early June agreed to increase their joint support to NATO missions and strengthen their capacity for military support to civil authorities.

U.S. and foreign officials called the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) Southeast European Regional Workshop that met here June 2-4 a solid success.

"It exceeded all of the participants' expectations," said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "We got an agreement from all the National Guard states and their partner nations to increase our participation and collaboration in mutual NATO missions."

In addition to agreeing to boost SPP contributions to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the defense leaders:

- Discussed ways to strengthen the SPP in the region and contribute to improved Southeast European security, stability and progress.

- Agreed to bolster military support to civil authorities. "We agreed to extend the partnership beyond military-to-military," Blum said, "Civil-military relationships are very important to be in place before the military has to be called upon to support civil authorities."

Examples of military support to civil authorities include response to natural and manmade disasters, terrorist attacks or other asymmetric attacks. Military support to civil authorities is the epicenter of the National Guard's homeland defense activities.

In the United States, National Guard leaders place great emphasis on establishing relationships with civilian organizations before natural or manmade catastrophes occur.

- Pledged to expand people-to-people relationships. "In the end, that's what it's really all about, is relationships," Blum said. "Cooperation and friendship ... enables the SPP to be as powerful, as valuable as it is."

During a side visit to Bulgaria's National Military Training Complex at Charalitza, Blum found military officials and civilian emergency managers from Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and numerous other countries working on mutual support plans.

"Fifteen years ago, you wouldn't have seen them in the same room," Blum said. "And if you had, they wouldn't have been talking."

The National Guard's SPP has played a role in changing that environment.

"SPP makes a huge difference to this region," Blum said. "It's acting as a catalyst to accelerate progress toward cooperation and reform. The trust and the confidence level grow every day amongst militaries that have not always been partners."

The SPP has helped former adversaries become allies. "To take people that have been

in an adversarial role in recent history and move them to a place where they are truly colleagues and partners in such a short period of time is outstanding progress," Blum said.

The SPP benefits both sides, Blum emphasized.

"It broadens our experience," he said. "It professionally develops our people."

That includes National Guard bilateral affairs officers serving full-time overseas, in addition to training exchanges and collaborative

highlights of Tennessee's 14-year relationship with Bulgaria, during which time the country transformed from a member of the Warsaw Pact to a member of NATO and the European Union.

"Pretty impressive," Blum said.

The Southeast European countries and partner National Guard states represented at the workshop were: Albania and New Jersey; Bosnia & Herzegovina and Maryland; Bulgaria and Tennessee; Croatia and

Minnesota; Hungary and Ohio; Macedonia and Vermont; Montenegro and Maine; Romania and Alabama; Serbia and Ohio, and Slovenia and Colorado.

Some National Guard states have more than one partner.

"There's not one country that's a partner that doesn't bring value to the relationship and bring new techniques or procedures or attitudes or approaches to how we deal with problems that are common to all of us," Blum said. "We greatly benefit from seeing how other nations deal with their security challenges and how they handle response to either a defense support to civil authorities mission or a national defense issue."

The workshop was Blum's initiative to build on the positive results of a groundbreaking 2007 Southeast Europe Regional Workshop in the Croatian city of Dubrovnik, bordering the Adriatic Sea. The Sofia gathering was intended to more sharply focus SPP activities in this still volatile and unsettled region of Europe in support of NATO's revolutionary transformation into an expeditionary alliance and European Command's goal to strengthen cooperation and integrate the region into the Euro-Atlantic community.

"The National Guard Citizen-Soldier or -Airman is, perhaps, the best ambassador for the United States"

—LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau

real-world missions.

"The National Guard Citizen-Soldier or -Airman is, perhaps, the best ambassador for the United States," Blum said. "They're superb Soldiers and Airmen. They're committed citizens. They're not only concerned about the security and wellbeing of their neighbors and their state and their nation but also the world community."

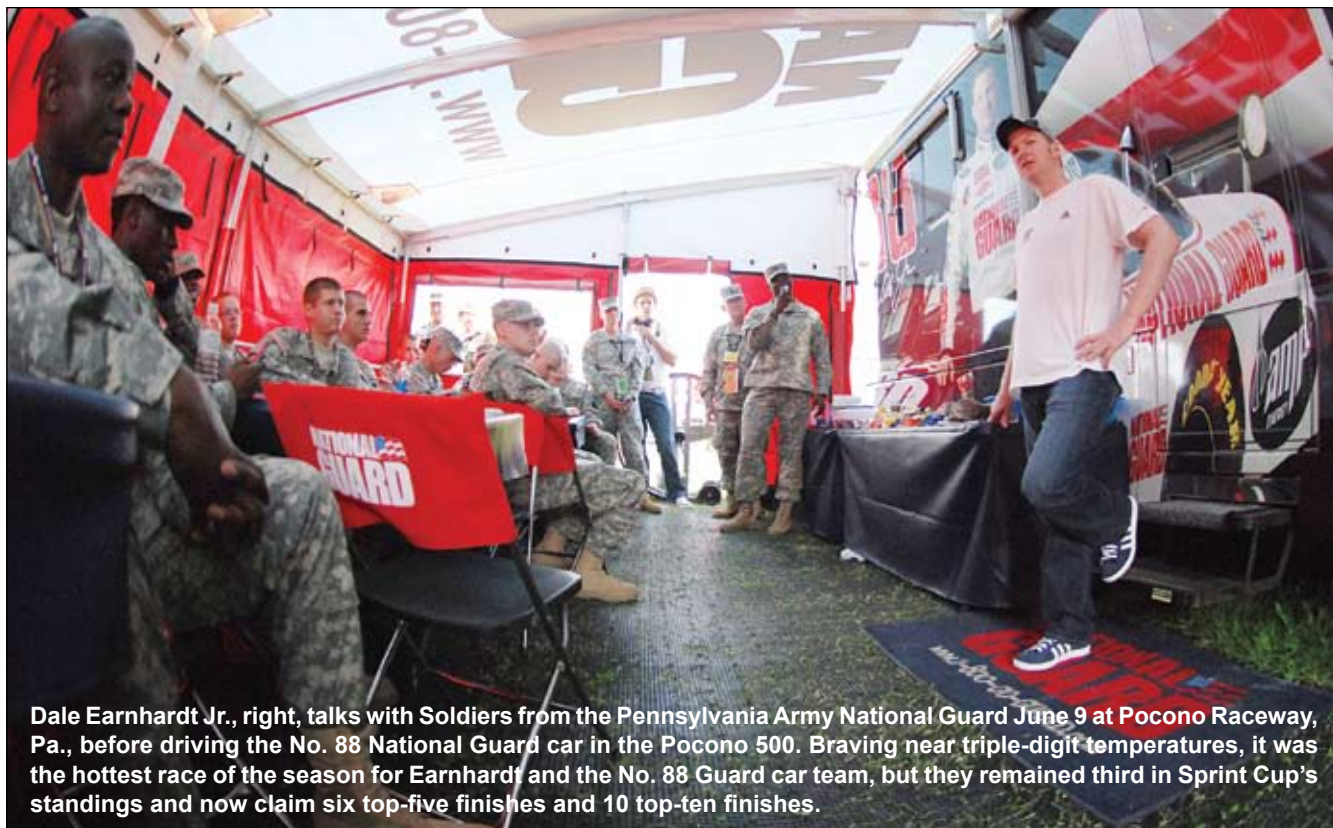
The National Guard's SPP, which has evolved since 1993, pairs 59 countries with state Guard organizations to promote military exchanges and military support to civil authorities, including emergency management and disaster response and civil security cooperation through educational, legal, medical and scientific contacts with a security nexus.

At one point in the workshop, Lt. Gen. Galimir Pehlivanov, the Bulgarian deputy chief of defense for operations and training, gave about a 15-minute soliloquy detailing the



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

LTG H Steven Blum and Donald Loren, deputy assistant secretary of defense for homeland security integration, pay their respects during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Bulgarian Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Sofia, Bulgaria, on June 2.



Dale Earnhardt Jr., right, talks with Soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard June 9 at Pocono Raceway, Pa., before driving the No. 88 National Guard car in the Pocono 500. Braving near triple-digit temperatures, it was the hottest race of the season for Earnhardt and the No. 88 Guard car team, but they remained third in Sprint Cup's standings and now claim six top-five finishes and 10 top-ten finishes.

Photo by Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith

A day at the races with Dale Jr.

By Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

LONG POND, Pa. – Hours before his seventh-place start and fourth-place finish in NASCAR's Sprint Cup Pocono 500 at Pocono Raceway here June 9, Dale Earnhardt Jr. looked fresh and rested as he visited National Guard members at an infield area.

Earnhardt, dressed in a T-shirt, jeans and sneakers, took 15 minutes out of his busy race day for an exclusive interview with The On Guard, to sign a few autographs and hang out with 18 new enlistees in the Pennsylvania Army Guard. Then he climbed into the blue and white No. 88 National Guard Chevy Impala to endure the heat of competition under the watchful eyes of thousands of his military and civilian fans.

"I hope they are well. I hope they are making the best of the situation," said Earnhardt about Guardmembers serving overseas and at home. "We appreciate everything they do for us. We're working, we're racing, we're having our freedoms and enjoying our lives in part for what they accomplish."

Guardmembers returned similar sentiments to Earnhardt after he finished the grueling, 500-mile, four-hour race in the car where temperatures were comparable to a pizza oven and with track temperatures in the mid-90s.

Literally, it was the hottest race of the season for Earnhardt and the No. 88 Guard car team, but they held their third position in the Sprint standings and after claiming their sixth top-five finish and 10th top-10 finish this season.

Considering the unknowns Earnhardt faced going into this season with a new team and new sponsors, including the National Guard, he said he "feels pretty good" with what's been accomplished, so far.

He is the hottest driver for Hendrick Motorsports even though he is the new member of that team which includes Jimmie Johnson who has won the last two season championships. Johnson is in sixth place.

"We still got other things we want to accomplish," said Earnhardt in an air-conditioned Army Guard recruiting RV before the Sunday afternoon race. "[There's] quite a bit

more left in the season, but we're in a good position. I feel like this is definitely one of the best opportunities I've had to chase after the championship, to win a championship, so we're trying to put ourselves in the best position to do that when it comes time for that last 10 [races]."

Earnhardt has steadily introduced himself to the Guard this year. Asked to compare military service to auto racing, he said commitment is key:

"There's a lot of similarities between the two when you're talking about what you have to sacrifice and what you have to give up to have success, some of the things you put yourself through early on to get to the end of the road."

"It was a great privilege," said Pvt. Kyle Fernandez about being able to ask Earnhardt a question. "I knew I would have opportunities, but [I didn't think they would include] speaking to Dale Earnhardt Jr."

Fernandez leaves for basic training next month. He and 17 other new Guardmembers repeated their enlistment oaths at the grandstand before the race, carried in their state flags, unfurled the American flag and watched Earnhardt navigate the 2.5-mile triangular track during the race.

Earnhardt's mechanics and pit crew members said they regularly take time at the races to speak with Guardmembers.

"I'm just thrilled that these guys enjoy themselves watching this," said crew chief Tony Eury Jr. "We love to see the guys and hear their experiences. Dale Jr. and I have met them, and we get letters from over there."

"Every week we meet a bunch of them," said pit

crew coach and No. 88 tire changer D.J. Richardson. "For a lot of them, it's their first time here, and it's pretty cool to see how they react to what we do."

When the race started, Earnhardt immediately positioned himself into the top five. He pitted several times during the race, which allowed Eury, Richardson and other team members to make quick handling adjustments and tire changes. Earnhardt fell to 33rd after pitting on Lap 121. He quickly steered his way back through the pack but complained about how the "dirty air" made it difficult to pass. Earnhardt was in second place with 17 laps to go. He held onto fourth place in the race won by pole-sitter Kasey Kahne.

"It was hot today, very, very hot and not a fun day," said Earnhardt. "We were pretty good at the start of the race; then I got a little bit loose, then a little bit tight there in the middle part and lost a lot of track position. But we gained it back with a little bit of strategy in the pits. It's going to get hotter in the car the next couple of months."

Reigning king Second crown for N.J. Guardman at All-Army Chess Championship

By Tim Hipsps
Fort Myer MWR Center

FORT MYER, Va. – First Lt. Arthur Macaspac, a New Jersey Army National Guardsman, won his second crown in the All-Army Chess Championships May 11-16 at Fort Myer Community Center in Arlington, Va.

Macaspac, 34, won 10 matches and settled for a draw in his final game to win the six-day tournament. He was scheduled to represent the Army in the 2008 Armed Forces Chess Championships June 9-13 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

Macaspac also won the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command-sponsored tournament in 2006 and finished runner-up to seven-time All-Army champion Staff Sgt. Rudy Tia Jr. in 2007.

Having already played in more than 20 tournaments this year as a member of the Marshall Chess Club in New York City, the Citizen-Soldier said he was sharper than ever before for the All-Army Championships.

"Practice was the key to winning here," Macaspac said. "Since I left active duty, I moved to Union, New Jersey – very

"Normally, if I have a pawn advantage, I'm able to convert it to a winning game"

—1st Lt. Arthur Macaspac, New Jersey Guard

close to New York, which is the center of chess in the United States – so I've been able to play once or twice a week in good tournaments against a lot of strong players."

Macaspac, who is scheduled to deploy to Iraq in September, also finished 2nd in the speed-chess competition.

"Arthur is a very solid player," said runner-up Sgt. Chris Drake of Fort Bragg, N.C., whose only loss in the tournament came at the hands of Macaspac. "If you make a small mistake, he's going to take advantage of it and punish you for it."

Drake, a member of the Fayetteville (N.C.) Chess Club, finished fourth in the All-Army Championships in 2006 but missed the tournament last year while deployed in Iraq, where he managed to play only about five games.

Macaspac thought Drake played right into his game plan.

"He played passively," Macaspac said. "He could have defended a pawn, but I think he overlooked it, and then I managed to grab a pawn. Normally, if I have a pawn advantage, I'm able to convert it to a winning game. It was just a small mistake on his part, but it was critical for me to win the game."

Drake agreed: "I made a slight error. I put my rook on the wrong square, and he punished me for it."

Macaspac said that this may be his last tournament.

"Well, it depends," he added. "We keep saying 'last year,' but because we love the game, we keep coming back."



Photo by Tim Hipsps

New Jersey Army Guard 1st Lt. Arthur Macaspac ponders his next move en route to winning his second crown in the All-Army Chess Championships May 16.

'Contact!' National Guard's journey into aviation began with some pushing and pulling



By Charles J. Gross, Ph.D.
Air National Guard History

The National Guard served as a hotbed of early, grassroots aviation. Key individuals persevered despite a lack of funding and interest by military leadership.

Like the Army, that enthusiasm had been foreshadowed by ballooning. In April 1908, a group of Guard enthusiasts had organized an "aeronautical corps" in New York City to learn ballooning, but there is no evidence that they ever actually ascended in those devices. In 1910, unit members raised \$500 privately to buy their first aircraft. The investment disappeared when the plane crashed on takeoff during maneuvers that same year.

There were several other early efforts to form Guard aero units in various states by civilian flyers, businessmen and Guardsmen. They were as interested in promoting the general development of American aviation as they were in establishing Guard aviation. The Missouri Guard established a small aero detachment in 1909. California established an aeronautical detachment in its 7th Coast Artillery Company March 12, 1911. Eugene Ely, the first man to launch an aircraft from the deck of a warship, was the detachment's first private and the first pilot to be commissioned in that state.

Several states had established small aviation branches within their National Guard organizations by 1916. Aside from New York, none were able to provide those fledgling air organizations with anything approaching adequate financial support. Nebraska's experience was apparently typical. The state's experiment with military aviation began in 1913 when members of its signal corps branch assembled a Curtiss Model D biplane. The plane probably participated in the branch's annual encampment that year but there was no official recognition of aviation's existence in the Nebraska Guard. Formal acknowledgement came on July 15, 1915, when the state issued an order organizing its aviation corps. Capt. Castle W. Schaffer was assigned as its chief. A little later, he was joined by Ralph E. McMillen, a qualified pilot. Each of the officers provided their own airplane. To raise money for the aviation branch, the governor "decided that the aviators should give exhibitions at county fairs and other public gatherings to supplement the very small funds that could be made available from the state."

The aviators operated with either of the

state's two infantry regiments as training requirements dictated. Apparently, most of Schaffer's flights were visual reconnaissance missions conducted in direct support of the infantry. In July, Edgar Bagnell, a private in the Guard, was commissioned a first lieutenant in the flying organization. Schaffer apparently gave up flying after a crash landing during the summer of 1915. Bagnell was mustered into federal service in 1916. McMillen was killed when his airplane crashed during an exhibition flight in September 1916. His death marked the effective end of Nebraska's military aviation experiment.

The Army had begun sending Guardsmen to flight school in late 1915. In August 1916, Congress appropriated \$13.88 million for military aviation. The legislation also mandated that flight training would be provided to one Guardsman from each state. That initiative had been promoted by Reuben Fleet, a prosperous businessman, member of the Washington state legislature and a Guardsman. While a legislator, he had sponsored a bill to require Washington to spend \$250,000 on Guard aviation, far more than the federal government had appropriated in any one year up to that point. Although Fleet's appropriation bill ultimately died in the state legislature, he was convinced that his initiative had emboldened the Army to take a more aggressive stance in lobbying for aviation funds on Capitol Hill.

In 1917, Fleet was one of 11 Guardsmen selected for flight training. He transferred into the Army and won his wings after the United States entered World War I. During the war, he helped manage the production and procurement of Army aircraft in Washington. Fleet was selected to organize the nation's first airmail service in May 1918.

Raynal Cawthorne Bolling, for which an air force base is named, played a key role in the formative years of National Guard aviation. The New York Guardsman was the chief attorney for the U.S. Steel Corporation. In 1915, he began taking flying lessons and attended a military training camp for businessmen at Plattsburg, N.Y. After returning from Plattsburg, he and several other prominent New Yorkers began to organize a National Guard aero company with the support of Maj. Gen. John F. O'Ryan, the state's adjutant general. Aided

by an initial \$12,500 gift from the Aero Club of New York City and other private contributions, the fledgling Guard aviators rented two aircraft and financed the training of student pilots at private flying schools. On Nov. 1, 1915, Bolling organized and was appointed commander of the first real Guard aviation unit, the 1st Aero Company, New York National Guard.

Bolling's air unit was called into federal service on July 13, 1916, during the crisis with Mexico precipitated by Pancho Villa's raid on Columbus, N.M. In September, they were augmented by the 2nd Aero Company of the New York Guard from Buffalo plus 10 officers from other states. The 2nd Aero Co. had been organized in 1916. Following Villa's raid, President

Woodrow Wilson mobilized the entire National Guard and dispatched most of it to the Mexican border.

The 1st Aero Co. never saw the Mexican border. Instead, it trained at Mineola, N.Y. For the first five weeks at camp, all of its expenses for equipment maintenance and operation were paid by the Aero Club. The Army finally began to pay those bills on Aug. 1, 1916. The company was released from federal service on Nov. 2, 1916 and

disbanded on May 12, 1917. Bolling was disillusioned by the whole experience at Mineola. He doubted that aviation could ever be a success in the Guard because it was costly and highly technical. There was no shortage of volunteers to learn flying. But Bolling concluded that Guard aero units would never attract enough qualified enlisted mechanics. Bolling and virtually all of the members of the 1st Aero Co. left the Guard. They joined the Army Signal Corps Reserve and founded the 1st Aero Reserve Squadron in May 1917 which was sent to France in August 1917. Bolling's skepticism was shared by the acting chief of the Militia Bureau, Col. G.W. McIver, a regular Army officer. The War Department decided Guard aviation units would not be activated during World War I. Instead, those organizations were disbanded and their members were encouraged to volunteer for active duty as individuals.

Those early years were the opening chapter of the long and difficult struggle by National Guard aviation to win the right to fight as well-equipped and properly-trained units of America's armed forces.



Bolling

It happened in July

Selected entries from the National Guard's 365-day event calendar found at www.ngb.army.mil

July 2, 1926

WASHINGTON — Congress enacts a bill that establishes the U.S. Army Air Corps and places it in control of all Army aviation (including Guard) activities.

July 3, 1863

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — "Pickett's Charge" marks the climax of this three-day battle as Confederate forces reach their "High Water Mark" on the Union lines only to be repulsed and forced to withdraw. Guard units are fighting on both sides. The Southerners retreat back into Virginia in the following days, never to seriously threaten northern territory again.

July 5, 1952

"SMOKE VALLEY," South Korea — Kentucky's 623rd Field Artillery Battalion, armed with 18, 155mm towed howitzers, moves into this area in support of X Corps in holding operations against communist Chinese assaults. During this period, it will earn a Republic of Korea Unit Citation for its fire support of South Korean troops in repelling an enemy assault.

July 29, 1970

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR BASE, Thailand — Volunteers of Pennsylvania's 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Group begin their secret mission of propaganda broadcasts over enemy-held territory. During the 1965 operation of the U.S. military in quelling unrest in the Dominican Republic, the Defense Department decided it needed some way to communicate by AM radio with the populace our intentions and instructions to help reduce needless deaths. With the Vietnam War costing billions of dollars already, the Air Force said it could not organize such a specialized unit on a full-time basis. Maj. Gen. Winston Wilson, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, offered the 193rd to perform this mission.

Job security

Illinois insurance company gets national recognition for support

By Pfc. Lalita Laksbergs
Illinois National Guard

BLOOMINGTON, IL. — As the atrium at State Farm Insurance Companies Corporate South building began to fill with employees and dignitaries, a nervous Soldier donned her dress uniform. While it is not typical for an Illinois Army National Guard Soldier employed at State Farm in Bloomington to wear their military uniform to work, on this particular day, May 9, something special was about to happen.

"I'm really kind of surprised that they haven't been recognized before," said

Sgt. 1st Class Tisha Timan, a State Farm employee of 10 years and Illinois National Guard Soldier. "They definitely deserve it."

Timan nominated Farm Insurance Companies of Bloomington as an outstanding Patriotic Employer who supports Guard Soldiers serving their country.

Timan, a single mom, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 with Company A, 634th Brigade Support Battalion.

"I was never worried that my job wasn't there or my family wasn't taken care of. It's a huge comfort level knowing that State Farm is taking care of things. It was one less stressor for me," said Timan. "They do a lot more than they have to."

The company's executive vice president, Willie Brown, accepted the Patriotic Employer award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (ESGR). The company also received a bronze minuteman statue.

The company's support of Soldiers involves recognizing, honoring and enforcing the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Em-

ployment Rights Act (USERRA); ensuring managers and supervisors have the tools needed to effectively manage those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve; while continually recognizing and supporting the country's servicemembers and families in peace, crises and war.

Following the presentation of the Patriotic Employer Award, Ed Rust, State Farm's chairman and chief executive officer, signed a statement of support from the ESGR on behalf of the 1,600 State Farm locations nationwide.

State Farm's Military Affinity Group (MAG) corporate chapter is an example of the company appreciating the benefits of military-trained employees. The MAG's

mission is to provide a forum to explore how military core values and perspectives bring State Farm employees together and positively impacts its business goals.

The company's support of Soldiers has its foundation at the company level, and supervisors throughout the company are part of the equation of success. "They made me feel like a hero and I hadn't even left yet," said Illinois Spc. Fatima 'Joss' Burkett before leaving for basic training. Burkett is a State Farm employee of seven years.

That support continued as Burkett prepared to deploy in 2006 with the 634th.

"My last week at work they honored me with something new and special each day," she remembered. "On my last day, my boss honored me greatly with a ceremony of flags on my way out. There must have been 300 employees lined

up with flags and cheers. I cried like a baby."

Burkett nominated her supervisor, Scot Meece, through ESGR to receive an award for his continued support of Soldiers. He accepted the Patriotic Employer Award-Supervisor at the ceremony on May 9.

"I was tearing up during the ceremony because I was in front of the 'quiet heroes'," said Burkett referring to the many friends and coworkers in attendance. "Whether you support the politics or the war, you support the troops. That's what everyone here does."

"When I first came into State Farm, honestly, it was for a paycheck," said Burkett. "Now, I've seen this culture and family and it's a good one."

"On my last day, my boss honored me greatly with a ceremony of flags on my way out. There must have been 300 employees lined up with flags and cheers. I cried like a baby"

—Spc. Fatima 'Joss' Burkett, Illinois Guard



Photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen

Patriotic employee

Spc. Heather Rystrom, right, of South Dakota's 235th Military Police Company recognizes her supervisor, Deb Horan, with the My Boss is a Patriot Award presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves May 29. The award is given to employers for contributing to national security and protecting liberty and freedom by supporting employee participation in National Guard and Reserve forces.



Wife, husband duo deploy to Kosovo

By Jennifer G. Archdekin
Missouri National Guard

MARYVILLE, Mo. — When most Soldiers deploy for 12-18 months at a time, they are faced with dealing with separation from their family and spouses. It is a major adjustment for troops and the families left behind.

Currently, the Missouri National Guard is deploying about 1,000 Citizen-Soldiers to Kosovo. Thousands of people across the state and beyond its borders are affected. However, for one northwest Missouri couple their deployment will be different: They'll be serving their country half way around the world together.

1st Lt. Carrie Clark, of the 1128th Forward Support Company, and 1st Sgt. William Clark, of Battery B, 129th Field Artillery, were both selected for the Kosovo mission.

"I'm thankful to be able to live with someone I always live with," said Lt. Clark. "It's comfortable and I know what to expect."



1st Lt. Carrie Clark



1st Sgt. William Clark

With the comfort of knowing her husband is by her side, she also acknowledged that most of the other Soldiers will not have that luxury.

"I have empathy for Soldiers who don't have their spouse there," she said.

The Clarks know what is expected of them while serving on this mission.

"This is not a vacation," said Lt. Clark. "This is what we signed up to do. We have

work to do—a job, a duty."

The Clarks were married in 2004. Sgt. Clark had once retired, but returned to the Guard because he missed the camaraderie he had developed with other Soldiers during his 22 years.

Lt. Clark teaches high school communication arts and social studies and night classes for a junior college; her better half owns a trucking business and operates a small farm.

"The Soldiers come first," said Sgt. Clark about his mission in Kosovo. "At home, that's another story."

Lt. Clark points out other struggles she and her husband will face that others will not. There will not be a spouse at home to tie up loose ends left behind. The Clarks will depend on other family members to help with the day-to-day operations of the home and stateside life.

"You leave everything in their [family's] hands," said Lt. Clark. "They have to take care of our home, our finances and our dog. It takes a lot of trust."

Although Sgt. Clark will be deployed with his wife, he leaves behind two adult children. His son, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Clark, is also with the 129th FA and recently returned home from a mission in Afghanistan after 18 months.



Courtesy photo

Father award

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Booker of the Mississippi Army National Guard received the Military Fatherhood Award April 29 in Washington, sponsored by Lockheed Martin and the National Fatherhood Initiative. After receiving nearly 300 nominations from families across the world from all branches of the military, Booker was chosen for his extraordinary dedication to both his family and his country.

