



# THE ON GUARD

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Newspaper of the National Guard



## Four brigades alerted for duty in Iraq

### 13,000 could begin deploying in December

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Four National Guard brigade combat teams have been notified for possible deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Department of Defense officials said April 9.

The units are the 39th Infantry

Brigade Combat Team, based in Little Rock, Ark.; the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, from Oklahoma City; the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, from Indianapolis; and the 37th Brigade Combat Team, out of Columbus, Ohio.

The units are not scheduled to begin deployment until December, officials said, and some may not go at all. "The units will only be deployed if conditions on the ground dictate it," a Defense Department spokesman said.

These units will be mobilized for one year in total. In the past, units often mobilized months in advance of a one-year deployment to train for the mission. Officials would also add a month on the end of a deployment for demobilization. Often units spent 16 months mobilized for a yearlong deployment.

A total of 13,000 Guardsmen are affected by the alert, which is earlier than is common for active duty units. This extra time gives Guardmembers time to notify families and employers.

It also gives the Soldiers time to train for the tasks they will perform in Iraq.

While all of these units have deployed in the war on terror, most of the Soldiers in the units have not. DoD officials said that more than 60 percent of the Soldiers in these four brigades have not deployed before.

The 39th Brigade served under the 1st Cavalry Division from February 2004 to February 2005.

The 45th Brigade Combat Team served in Afghanistan to support training of the Afghan National Army. The

unit deployed in fall 2003.

The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team served in Kosovo from August 2004 to February 2005. The brigade includes Soldiers from Ohio and Michigan.

Many elements of Indiana's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have deployed since November 2002 to both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The last brigade-level rotation was in support of Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from May 2004 to August 2005.

### A season for our patriots

The Memorial Day weekend, the last weekend in May, will begin this country's 2007 patriotic season that will run through the Fourth of July. It includes Flag Day and the U.S. Army's birthday on June 14. The On Guard this month is focusing on the services and sacrifices that our National Guard patriots have made for their country.

Some Gave All, our center spread, lists the 479 members of the Army and Air National Guard who have died while serving during the Global War on Terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001. [Pages 8-9](#)

Master Sgt. Bob Haskell writes about the Air National Guard's presence at the new United States Air Force Memorial in Arlington, Va., in his monthly column. [Page 2](#)

Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith reports on the Air Guard's charter members, the original members of the Air National Guard when it was created with the U.S. Air Force in 1947 – 60 years ago. [Page 4](#)

May is also the month for remembering mothers. So we are running a story by Lt. Janette Arencibia about a military mother from Oregon who is serving with her son in the Army Guard's 41st Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan. [Page 16](#)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

### Afghanistan and back

New Jersey Citizen-Soldiers from the 50th Personnel Services Battalion march in Lawrenceville, N.J., in March as part of welcome home ceremony. The battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Walter Alvarado, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Vander Clute, right, lead the way. Other New Jersey units paraded as well. The Soldiers recently completed year-long deployments to Afghanistan.

## Leaders urge solid funding to close equipment, training gaps

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, – The National Guard force is second to none in terms of the quality of its people, but severe equipment shortfalls are keeping it from being fully ready, the chief of the National Guard Bureau told Congress April 11.

LTG H Steven Blum urged the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee to support the fiscal 2008 National Guard budget requests to ensure the Guard can continue serving as the country's "21st century Minutemen and women."

Guard forces deployed overseas are "superbly equipped and superbly trained ... and we want for nothing," Blum told the subcommittee.

But he said the situation at home

isn't nearly as rosy. "It's a much different story, and it's not a good story," he said.

"The National Guard today, I am sad to say, is not a fully ready force," the general said. "Unresourced shortfalls still exist that approach \$40 billion to provide the equipment and the training that I personally feel your Army and Air National Guard are expected to have to be able to respond to the citizens of the United States."

Blum introduced two Guard members who exemplify this gap.

One, an Oregon Air Guard staff sergeant who just completed a third combat tour in Iraq, returned home

**FUNDING continued on: Page 12**

## Army Guard at 350,000 members; reaches goal ahead of schedule

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army National Guard reached its congressionally authorized end strength of 350,000 Citizen-Soldiers on March 30, six months earlier than originally projected, Army Guard officials have reported.

"The strength of the Guard has been the amazing levels of retention among members of deployed units, surpassing all expectations,"

said Lt. Col. Diana Craun, the Army Guard's deputy chief for strength maintenance.

"Retention is highest among units that have returned from deployments, and retention is an essential element in end strength," she added.

It is the first time that the Army Guard has been at full strength since 1999, Craun said. Officials had

**350,000 continued on: Page 12**

Guard holds first-ever honor guard competition: [Page 7](#)

# The Air Force Memorial: more than meets the eye

to fly nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean, from New York to Paris, in May 1927. He received a peacetime Medal of Honor in March 1929.

Baker was an Ohio National Guard bomber pilot during World War II who led the Army Air Force's 93rd Heavy Bombardment Group during a daring but ill-fated attack against enemy oil refineries in Ploesti, Rumania, in August 1943. Baker's plane was heavily damaged, but he led his formation to the target and bombed it "with devastating effect," Gross reports, before his plane crashed and everyone on board was killed.

Those are some of the obvious heroes that the Air Force Memorial honors. There are others whose efforts have been no less noble. One of them was a black man. He was Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr., a Tuskegee Airman and fighter pilot who flew 101 combat missions in Korea and 78 more in Vietnam. He became the first African-American four-star general in the U.S. Air Force in 1975.

He is quoted on the panel dedicated to "Excellence" on the south wall that honors the Air Force's three core values: Integrity First; Service Before Self; Excellence In All We Do.

"The power of excellence is overwhelming. It is always in demand and nobody cares about its color," is the quote by Gen. James who frequently spoke to minority students about Americanism and patriotism.

It's impossible to know how many young men and women of color Gen. James influenced to reach for the stars before he died in February 1978, shortly after he retired. But we do know of one — his son. He is retired Lt. Gen. Daniel James III who in June 2002 became the first director of the Air National Guard who was an African-American and a three-star general.

So, for my money, that makes Gen. "Chappie" James part of the Air National Guard's legacy, one of the Guard's ghosts that you can find for yourself when you visit the Air Force Memorial.

Lindbergh was a Missouri National Guard pilot and a captain when he became the first person

Bleckley, from Kansas, received his medal posthumously after being shot down in France while flying supplies to an American infantry battalion that the Germans had cut off in the Argonne Forest in October 1918, near the end of World War I.

They will not be disappointed. They will discover, as I did, that there's more to the memorial than meets the eye. You have to admire the four eight-foot statues of the Memorial's Honor Guard, a steadfast tribute to the enlisted force; and the clear panel of four F-16s flying in a missing man formation. But what I liked best is that the memorial is so open, like a runway. It is certainly not a huge site, but there's lots of room for lots of people to move around.

Finally, there is something for everyone who has served in the Air Force, the Air Guard and the Air Force Reserve even though the memorial avoids fractionalizing the service into its components. The memorial pays tribute to the total Air Force.

There are three names of National Guard members among the 61 names of Medal of Honor recipients etched into the north wall. They are 2nd Lt. Erwin R. Bleckley, Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, and Lt. Col. Addison E. Baker. All three served in the National Guard before there was an Air National Guard. No one in the Air Guard has won the Medal of Honor since 1947, according to my friend Charles "Doc" Gross, Ph.D., the National Guard Bureau's preeminent Air Guard historian. The following three accounts are from his book "The Air National Guard and the American Military Tradition" (1995, National Guard Bureau).

Bleckley, from Kansas, received his medal posthumously after being shot down in France while flying supplies to an American infantry battalion that the Germans had cut off in the Argonne Forest in October 1918, near the end of World War I.

Lindbergh was a Missouri National Guard pilot and a captain when he became the first person

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By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
Senior Editor



ARLINGTON, Va. — You have to know a thing or two about the Air National Guard to find some of its history at the new United States Air Force Memorial. But there is some impressive Air Guard heritage at the memorial which towers over Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon if you know where to look.

I discovered that on Easter Sunday when I visited the memorial beside the old Navy Annex on Columbia Pike for the first time. It was a cold, blustery day that April 8, but I was not the only curious soul drawn to the three spires that stretch toward the sky — arcing in three different directions.

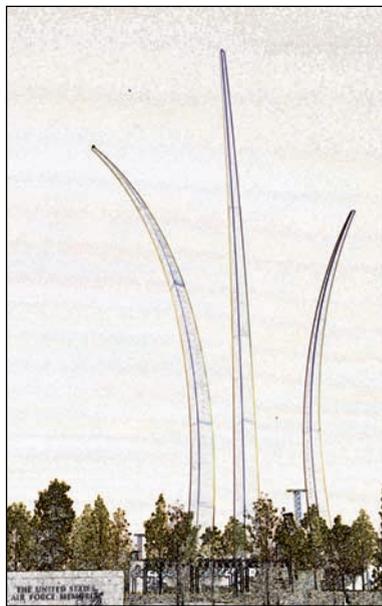
I know what they're supposed to represent — three of the four contrails created by the Thunderbirds when the Air Force's renowned demonstration team performs its bomb burst maneuver. The fourth contrail is absent in tribute to the Air Force people who have died for their country. You could call it the

missing-man bomb burst.

Frankly, not being an artistic sort, the spires remind me of three long fishing poles placed on a beach by three guys who can't agree where the surf is. That's why they're leaning in three different directions. But I'll give the Air Force credit. Those 270-foot arcs do get your attention, and sooner or later you have to check out the memorial.

I expect a lot of people will be doing that this year for a couple of reasons. This is the first patriotic season — the period from Memorial Day to the Fourth of July — that the Air Force Memorial is open to the public. It was constructed last year and dedicated by President Bush on Oct. 14. This is also the year that the Air Force is commemorating its 60th anniversary, which it will actually observe on Sept. 18. That makes this the Air National Guard's 60th anniversary year as well.

So it's safe to say that a lot of people who have worn Air Force blue since 1947, or whose fathers, mothers or grandparents have worn the uniform, or who simply like memorials will be drawn to the three arcs that rise over Arlington as the Washington Monument dominates the District of Columbia's skyline across the Potomac River.



The U.S. Air Force Memorial

## Late breaking news:

# Spring nor'easter brings out the Guard

ARLINGTON, Va. -- National Guard troops in eight northeastern states -- from Maine to West Virginia -- rolled out or stood by to help residents recover from a massive storm that flooded parts of the region in mid-April.

Nearly 2,600 Army and Air Guard members, most of them called to state active duty, responded to the spring storm that was blamed for 17 deaths, according to the Associated Press, and that left hundreds of thousands without power. It was reported to be one of the worst storms

in many years. Maine residents, for example, compared it to the massive ice storm that paralyzed much of the state in January 1998 and the devastating flooding of 1987.

The severity of the storm was overshadowed throughout much of the country by round-the-clock coverage of the April 16 massacre at Virginia Tech.

Still, the National Guard Bureau reported on April 18 that 2,579 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, including 1,423 troops in New York, were performing duties they are

familiar with when rivers overflow their banks and when winds tear up coastal regions.

New York Guardmembers were pressed into service to transport civilians to safer ground and haul supplies, to augment law enforcement officials and to help clear debris. States of emergency were declared in eight counties and numerous road closures were reported in two others. Guardmembers drove high-water

**NOR'EASTER continued on: Page 13**



Photo by 2nd Lt. Sherri Pierce

**New Hampshire members rescue stranded school children.**

### ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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### SUBMISSION

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**Editor.OnGuard@ngb.ang.af.mil**

### ADDRESS

NGB-PAC  
Suite 11200  
411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202-3231

### PHONE/FAX

(703) 607-2649  
DSN: 327-2649  
FAX: (703) 607-0032

### WEB SITE

For more National Guard news, visit our Web site at:  
**www.ngb.army.mil**

### STAFF

#### CHIEF

**National Guard Bureau**  
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#### CHIEF

**NGB-Public Affairs Command Information**  
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# Air National Guard's new deputy director named

ARLINGTON, Va. – An Alabama Air National Guard general officer who has served at the Pentagon for nearly a year has been named deputy director of the Air National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Stanley Clarke III is succeeding Maj. Gen. Charles Ickes II who has served as the Air Guard's deputy director since February 2005. Ickes has assumed his new duties as special assistant to the Air Force's Air, Space and Information Opera-

tions, Plans and Requirements.

Clarke will assist Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, in formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, plans and programs affecting more than 106,000 Air Guard members serving in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Clarke, who joined the Alabama Air Guard in 1991, has been the deputy director for Strategic Plan-

ning at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force since last June. He was the assistant adjutant general for Air in Alabama from December 2005 until he began serving at the Pentagon in mid-2006.

"His most recent Air Staff assignment in strategic plans and programs will prove helpful as we continue through the Air National Guard reset," said McKinley in announcing Clarke's appointment

as his deputy. "Brig. Gen. Clarke's varied experience in the field, at state headquarters and in Washington will be an asset to my team and the Air National Guard as a whole," McKinley added.

Clarke began his military service in January 1982 with undergraduate pilot training at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours in fighter and transport aircraft. 



Brig. Gen. Stanley Clarke III

## Six countries cut from imminent danger pay list

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Bosnia-Herzegovina is among six countries the Defense Department is removing from the list of countries where servicemembers receive imminent danger pay, DoD officials said March 30.

Angola, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Croatia and Macedonia also will be removed from the list. The changes go into effect Nov. 1.

Troops deployed to Kosovo will continue to receive imminent danger pay. More than 1,500 are serving in Kosovo.

The number of U.S. servicemembers affected by the change is small,

officials said.

A total of 232 serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina will lose the pay. Forty-three are affected in Macedonia, seven in Georgia, five in Angola, one in Sierra Leone and an unknown number in Croatia.

DoD officials conduct worldwide reviews to determine whether to continue imminent danger pay. Servicemembers receive \$225 per month for imminent danger pay. The pay recognizes duty in foreign areas where there is the threat of physical harm or imminent danger on the basis of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism or wartime conditions.

Bosnia and Macedonia first went on the imminent danger pay list on

June 22, 1992. Sierra Leone went on the list on July 18, 1997, Angola on March 1, 1998, and Georgia on July 22, 2002, officials said.

The financial losses for servicemembers in Macedonia, Georgia, Angola and Sierra Leone are partially made up by an increase in hardship pay for the countries, DoD officials said. Hardship pay for Angola, Georgia and Sierra Leone will increase from \$100 to \$150 a month. In Macedonia, the pay will be instituted at \$100 a month.

Hardship duty pay recognizes those assigned to areas where the quality of life is substantially below that most members in the United States generally experience. 

## Two female Soldiers make history as air defenders

By Staff Sgt. C.G. Maldonado

Florida National Guard

STARKE, Fla. - Two Florida National Guard women are making history as the first females in the U.S. military to become Avenger crewmembers, a Military Occupational Specialty restricted to males only until last October.

Spc. Sorimar Perez, 32, and Spc. Amanda Landers, 25, are assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, in Daytona Beach. Both are training at the 211th Regional Training Institute at Camp Blanding Joint Training

Center.

The Avenger system is a lightweight, highly mobile and transportable surface-to-air missile/gun weapons system. It provides mobile, short-range air defense protection against air and land attacks.

In order to graduate in their new specialty, Landers and Perez have to complete two phases of training. "Phase one teaches the basic components that go along with the Avenger system," said Master Sgt. Edwin Wilson, 211th branch manager.

During phase one, Landers and Perez learned to operate global



Landers



Perez

positioning devices, radio systems, and other small devices used peripherally with the Avenger. Additionally, they became familiar with the Stinger missile and the skill level tasks they need to know according to their rank.

By March, the two were in phase two. They are learning the operation, maintenance, and configurations of the larger components of the Avenger, as well as seeing how phase one fits into this final phase. 



Photo courtesy of the Alaska Army National Guard

### Friendly falcon

Alaska Spc. Paul Norwood holds a trained Saker Falcon in the Kuwait desert. Norwood is a member of Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, currently deployed to Kuwait. During a routine patrol in the Kuwait desert, Charlie Company Soldiers befriended a pair of Kuwaiti falconers.

## DoD unveils compensation program for frequent deployments

By Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department unveiled a program April 19 that will reward administrative leave to servicemembers whose service in combat does not meet the department's goal for the time at home station between deployments.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates directed the development of this program Jan. 19, when he implemented a force management policy stating that DoD's goal was to

give active-duty troops two years at home station for every year deployed, and reserve component troops five years at home station for every year deployed. At the time, Gates recognized that national security concerns would require servicemembers to be deployed more frequently than this goal, so he announced a compensation plan to make up for frequent deployments.

Under the new policy, active-duty servicemembers who are deployed for more than 12 months in a 36-month period will earn one

day of administrative absence for each month beyond 12. If servicemembers are deployed for more than 18 months in a 36-month period, they will earn two days of administrative absence a month. Past 24 months, they will earn four days a month.

Members of the reserve components will earn one day of administrative absence a month for every month beyond 12 they are mobilized in a 72-month period. Members of the reserves will earn two days a month if they are mobilized past 18 months in a 72-month period, and four days a month if they are mobilized past 24 months in the same period.

Administrative absences are days off authorized by the commander and are separate from

normal leave accrued by a servicemember.

In a Pentagon news conference announcing the policy, Michael Dominguez, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said that this program is meant to recognize the sacrifices servicemembers make, but is in no way trying to put a physical value on their service.

"Secretary Gates and all of us honor the service of the men and women in uniform, particularly in these demanding times," Dominguez said. "This program can't be viewed as being commensurate with the level of service that they offer to the nation. In many respects, while it is substantive and it is tangible, it's also symbolic." 

# From the start

## Air Guard's charter members reflect on first 60 years

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Their membership gets older and smaller every day. Nearly 60 years have passed since they formed, but time has not removed distant memories of 1946-47 after they had claimed victory in World War II and flew as Air National Guardsmen.

You may have met them on your drill weekends. Maybe outside your shop or at a base function: that man with the silver hair who grabbed your elbow in the hallway one Saturday afternoon to tell you about those who came before you, and how their voices filled the cockpits of retired aircraft and echoed in hangers long since torn down.

They are the Air Guard's charter Airmen, the first to serve. They will be among us when the Air Guard celebrates its 60th birthday this fall. For many, we may never know who they are, where they are or how they helped set the Air Guard on its path. Still others keep in touch with their units and share their whereabouts and experiences through alumni groups, museums, speaking engagements, interviews and, yes, hallways outside your workshop.

Retired Colorado Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Harry Emily missed his last two alumni meetings. He is 90, and he is the oldest living charter member of the Colorado Air Guard and certainly among the oldest in the entire Air Guard. He said he was disappointed about not being able to see his Guard friends, but it was just too much for him to travel. "There is nothing more important than your friends," he said.

"You're talking to a most fortunate person," Emily said about his life as an Air Guard member, a newspaper man, a husband, a father, a grandfather and a great-grandfather. He lives in Denver with his wife Frances.

Emily joined the National Guard in 1938 and was discharged after World War II. He helped train pilots, navigators and aero engineers on B-25 Mitchell bombers, and he went to school to serve in a P-38 Lightning fighter squadron. He said there were 17 members in 1946 when they reorganized the 120th Aero Observation Squadron into the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron which flew P-51 Mustang fighters. They were the first Air Guard members in the country to be federally recognized.

They were federalized in Texas, and a

photograph was taken of the entire observation squadron. "That photo hangs in the Buckley Air National Guard Base headquarters building in Denver," Emily said.

During the war, many Army Air Corps units were moved or broken up, and their experienced Soldiers were scattered throughout the Army. After the war, the new Air National Guard Airmen came from a war-expanded and reorganized Army Air Force. These veterans were already forming Air Guard squadrons in their hometowns when Congress established the Air Guard on Sept. 18, 1947.

Emily said what defined the early Air Guard was no different than the National Guard today: the basic intent to take care of the state and to protect the nation in case of a national emergency.

Everything has gotten bigger, he said, but the individuals and the families that sacrifice time to serve their state and country remain the same. "They are doing a wonderful job, and, God, we can't do enough to support them," he said. He and others from the original Colorado Air Guard do their best.

The group helped build a museum. Established in 1994, the Winds over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Denver is a place where people learn about the role of aviation and the Air Guard in our nation's history. The museum recorded and archived Emily's experiences on video.

"At my age all you have left is memories," he said.

The origins of the Colorado ANG and Emily's small group are similar to how other units started throughout the country. Most units existed as a handful of seasoned combat flyers and mechanics from the war. Others were the Air Guard's first recruits.

Lt. Col. Lloyd Goodrow, a public affairs officer for the Vermont Air Guard, said 27 World War II combat veterans organized the Vermont Air Guard, which was the fifth ANG unit to be federally recognized.

"The original 27 Air Guard members are now reduced to four," Goodrow said.

The unit's second wing commander, retired Brig. Gen. Richard Spear, is one of them. Spear, who now lives in Arizona, was a pilot during World War II and started his own business when he returned home. But he left it when he heard there would be a "flying" unit in Burlington.

"We had just a big, empty field ... there was absolutely nothing there," Spear said in a 2006 interview.

Goodrow said the unit leased a hanger from the city, which became home for their training aircraft: a C-47 Skytrain cargo plane and an L-5 Sentinel liaison aircraft. Maintenance was

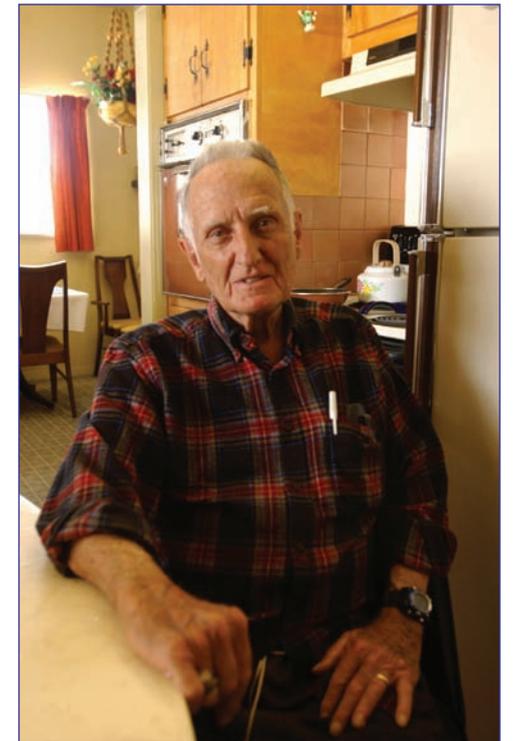


Photo by Spc. Jessica Stone

Harry Emily, 90, was one of the charter members of the Colorado Air National Guard. He was in the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, which was the nation's first federally-recognized Air Guard unit 60 years ago.

performed on the flight line. The unit provided air and sea rescue on Lake Champlain with its C-47, a five-foot raft and a 42-foot crash boat.

Today the Vermont ANG claims to be "heavily involved in homeland defense. Since 9/11, its 158th Fighter Wing has defended the nation with its F-16s. The facilities, the number of personnel, the cost of each aircraft, even the mission concept of today's 158th Fighter Wing would astound those in 1946. It's no longer dependent on second-hand, cast-off equipment or viewed by the active military and the public as a bunch of 'weekend warriors.' The Vermont ANG and other reserve components have become a vital part of the 'Total Force' concept."

"Sixty years have passed, and so have many who proudly called themselves Vermont Air National Guardsmen," said Goodrow.

Goodrow said the days of knocking on doors of World War II veterans to invite them to sign up for the Air Guard have now been replaced by high tech, multi-media marketing plans.

"The ultimate desire to serve and make a difference remains the same," said Goodrow. "These gentlemen, our original pioneers, lit the spark that became the powerful fire that is now the Air National Guard, and our gratitude for their courage and determination will remain. Our challenge is to carry on their great legacy."

*The Air Force and the Air National Guard are celebrating their 60th birthday with events from now until September. For more information, go to [www.ngb.army.mil/features/AF60th](http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/AF60th).*



These photos, courtesy of the Colorado Air National Guard, can be found at [http://www.cobuck.ang.af.mil/Buckley\\_Historical/index.htm](http://www.cobuck.ang.af.mil/Buckley_Historical/index.htm)



## Air National Guard's defining moments - May

**1918:** Maj. Reuben Fleet, an Army officer and former Washington state Guardsman, organized the first U.S. air mail service. After World War I, he left the Army and founded the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo, N.Y.

**1931:** The National Guard provided 65 aircraft and crews from all of its 19 observation squadrons to participate in the Army Air Corps' annual maneuvers that began at Wright Field, Ohio, and then crisscrossed the United States.

**1952:** The ANG's 116th Fighter Bomber Wing

participated in "Operation High Tide," the first air refueling under combat conditions. After launching missions from Japan and attacking targets near Sariwon, North Korea, its F-84 fighter-bombers were refueled by KB-29 tankers during their return flights to Misawa Air Base.

**1965:** The Oklahoma Air Guard's 185th Air Transport Squadron deployed its C-97E "Talking Bird" flying command post to Puerto Rico to support the U.S. military intervention in the Dominican Republic.

**1966:** The National Guard magazine reported that Capt. John M. Swigert, a former Connecticut ANG flier, had been selected by NASA for astronaut training. Swigert, a civilian test pilot for the Pratt & Whitney Division of the United Aircraft Corporation, had served as a Connecticut Air Guard pilot for approximately five years.

**1968:** Pilots from the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Colorado ANG, began flying operational missions in South Vietnam.

-Compiled by Dr. Charles J. Gross





Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

**OH-58AC Kiowa helicopters await overhaul and upgrades at the Mississippi Army National Guard's repair depot in Gulfport.**

## Upgraded Helicopters primed for Southwest border duty

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

GULFPORT, Miss. – Three dozen Army National Guard helicopters are being upgraded and overhauled for duty along the Southwest border where the National Guard is supporting the U.S. Border Patrol in Operation Jump Start.

Twenty-two of the OH-58 Kiowa helicopters are being refitted at the Mississippi Army National Guard's 1108th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD) at the Trent Lott National Guard Training Complex near the Gulf of Mexico.

Other Kiowas are being worked on at the National Guard's three other AVCRADs in California, Connecticut and Missouri. AVCRADs provide depot-level maintenance to Army National Guard aircraft. The 1108th AVCRAD serves nine Southeastern states, Puerto Rico and

the U.S. Virgin Islands.

After being refit, the Vietnam era helicopters will undergo maintenance test flights to ensure they are ready for the border mission.

Up to 6,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are assisting the Border Patrol on the nation's Southwest border in an effort to deter illegal immigrants from entering this country. President George Bush announced Operation Jump Start (OJS) in May 2006. National Guard Bureau officials say the helicopters will provide a significant boost to the air surveillance part of the mission as it begins its second year.

Like the proverbial cat, the Army's scout helicopter introduced in 1968 keeps being reincarnated in the National Guard. After conducting final flight testing March 23 on one of the first Kiowas prepared for the border mission, Maj. Bille Miller, supervisory

maintenance test pilot, explained:

"The aircraft we just flew in was a 1971 model airframe. So, what's the return on investment? That aircraft has been flying for 36 years, and now it's been upgraded into a different configuration ..."

Unique to the National Guard, the four AVCRADs have wrung decades more service out of the relatively low-cost Kiowas than the aircrafts' originally projected 20-year lives.

For the border mission, where the Kiowas will help boost the Border Patrol's ability to spot and interdict those who traffic in people and drugs, the aircraft are being upgraded with a half-dozen 21st-century law enforcement devices.

The upgrades include radios that enable National Guard Citizen-Soldiers to communicate with Border Patrol agents and other civilian law enforcement officers; moving maps that show pilots and passen-

gers exactly where they are; radar altimeters that give the exact height above the ground during flight; night vision equipment; and a two-million candlepower spotlights.

Higher skids are being fitted to raise the height of the helicopter. The aircraft are being rewired, fitted with new monitors and mechanically scrutinized from their rotor blades to their undercarriages.

"Upgrading it to these new systems is going to help the pilots tremendously," said Ronald Groce, a civilian contractor with the AVCRAD whose military career included surviving 13 helicopter crashes during two tours in Vietnam. He rejoined the 1108th AVCRAD as a civilian after retiring from a 28-year National Guard career.

"Everything we're doing enhances their flying capabilities," said Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Bond, an avionics mechanic. Some examples:

The moving map increases navigational accuracy by day and night. "A police officer can type in an address in the back seat or you can type it in in the front seat and it will take you from point A to point B," Miller said. During the journey, passengers can follow geographical and manmade features on computer map monitors.

The night vision equipment makes the helicopters – which can be flown so that it can barely be heard from the ground – useful at night. "We can ... see people moving because of their heat signatures," Miller said. "We can find people at night on the border."

The spotlight allows Citizen-Soldiers to illuminate suspected smugglers or illegal aliens while they guide Border Patrol agents on the ground in for the apprehension, communicating on radios that can be heard by multiple agencies.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

**Staff Sgt. Russ Williams works on an OH-58AC Kiowa helicopter's wiring harness at the Mississippi Army National Guard's 1108th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot (AVCRAD) in Gulfport, Miss.**

## President thanks Guard for helping to secure border

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service  
WASHINGTON – President Bush thanked National Guard members April 9 deployed across Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico for helping the Border Patrol crack down on illegal entry across America's southern border.

"We've worked with our nation's governors to deploy 6,000 National Guard members to provide the Border Patrol with immediate reinforcements," Bush said during a speech on immigration policy in Yuma, Ariz. "It's called Operation Jump Start, and the Guard down here is serving nobly."

## Making a difference

Operation Jump Start successes supported by the National Guard (as of April 20):

- Alien apprehensions: 65,962
- Vehicle seizures: 614
- Marijuana seized (lbs): 187,367
- Cocaine seized (lbs): 4,610
- Aliens rescued: 85
- Currency: \$58,593
- Badges back to the border: 408

Aiding in these successes were Guardmember involvement in entry identification teams, camera operations, remote monitoring, mechanical support at checkpoints, etc.

-Data obtained from Department of Homeland Security Office of Border Patrol

### Troop strength

National Guardmembers serving on the border (as of April 20)

- Army: 5,035
- Air: 962
- Total: 5,997



Photo by Senior Airman Trish Harris

**Oregon Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Mark Quinn scales a communications tower near Tucson, Ariz., to conduct an inspection.**

## OREGON SERVES UNIQUE MISSION IN OPERATION JUMP START

By Senior Airman Trish Harris  
Oregon National Guard

PHOENIX, Ariz. - Donning protective gear and carrying a weapon while standing watch over the desert. Performing maintenance on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Climbing 100-foot communication towers on remote mountains. Pushing steel pipes into the ground. What do they all have in common? They are all tasks being performed by Oregon Air and Army Guard personnel in Arizona.

They have integrated into nearly every part of the Operation Jump Start (OJS) mission in Arizona since it began in June 2006.

There are approximately 2,500 Guardmembers currently in Arizona supporting OJS. More than 8,300 Army and Air National Guard members from

49 states and two territories, Guam and the Virgin Islands, have served in the OJS mission in Arizona.

"Having the Guardsmen serving in these different support roles has allowed Border Patrol agents to return to the field to perform their vital law enforcement role," said Sgt. Gustavo Soto, Customs and Border Patrol supervisory patrol agent. "This law enforcement role, which Guardsmen do not do, includes confronting and arresting illegal drug, weapons and human traffickers and apprehending those entering the country illegally."

According to Soto, there were 9,200 apprehensions in the Tucson sector and more than 290,000 pounds of marijuana seized between Oct 1, 2006 and Jan. 31, 2007.

# ★ Guarding America ★

## ALASKA

The Last Frontier State Army National Guard members are deploying to Afghanistan for one year to embed with the Afghan National Army and support efforts to rid the nation of terrorist groups. The Guard members will report to Fort Riley, Kan., for nearly three months of training before deploying to Afghanistan in late June.

## ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon State's 162nd Fighter Wing hosted more than 600 middle and high school students during a program honoring the victims of the Holocaust March 29 at the Tucson Air National Guard Base.

## ARKANSAS

Approximately 40 Soldiers with the Natural State's Headquarters Battery of the 142nd Fires Brigade departed April 11 for Fort Sill, Okla., for mobilization training. The training marks the beginning of their 14-month mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## CALIFORNIA

Golden State Soldiers from several Army engineer companies were honored in a ceremony March 11 for restoring a building at the Veterans Home of California in Yountville. The 500-acre facility currently accommodates more than 1,000 veterans and members and has served more than 47,000 since it was founded in 1884.

## COLORADO

The Centennial State's Brig. Gen. Stuart Pike accepted his new position as deputy adjutant general for Space and Missile Defense in a ceremony March 29 in Colorado Springs at the headquarters of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense.)

## DELAWARE

Chief Master Sgt. Holly Morris was appointed the state command chief for the Diamond State Air National Guard April 15. She is the 10th person to hold the position. The state command chief is the senior enlisted member and advises the state's Air Guard leader about all matters pertaining to the organization's enlisted members.

## GEORGIA

Col. Thomas Moore assumed command of the Peach State's 116th Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base on March 23. Moore is responsible for the worldwide employment of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (J-STARS) aircraft.

## HAWAII

A departure ceremony was held April 9 to say Aloha to more than 70 Soldiers from Company C (Air Assault), 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, the Hawaii Army Guard's last non-deployed aviation asset to be deployed for the Global War on Terrorism. The Soldiers will begin mobilization training at Fort Sill, Okla.

## INDIANA

Hoosier State Soldiers assigned to the 205th Infantry Brigade participated in a variety of training scenarios March 12-17 at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center. The new trainers will now train units preparing for deployment by conducting exercises such as Forward Operating Base Warrior.

## IOWA

The Hawkeye State's 833rd Engineer Company from Ottumwa has been ordered to federal active duty for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Approximately 120 Soldiers have been mobilized and are expected to begin active duty in June.

## KENTUCKY

The Bluegrass State Army Guard officials conducted a "Freedom Salute" for the 130th Combat Engineer Company at the Madisonville Community College campus March 18. The 130th was mobilized in September 2005, and its 54 members were stationed in Tikrit and Kirkuk, Iraq.

## MAINE

The Pine Tree State's 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor received its first R-model KC-135 Stratotanker March 28 as part of its conversion from E-model aircraft to R models. The conversion follows the guidance from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision in 2005 to assign 10 KC-135 R model aircraft to the Maine wing.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State Soldiers in the 747th Military Police Company trained in Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) in early March at the Norton Industrial Complex in Worcester. MOUT operations are used during combat as well as peacekeeping missions.

## MICHIGAN

The Selfridge Air National Guard Base in the Wolverine State received its first hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle from Hyundai in March. It is part of the Air Force's commitment to conserve energy. Using renewable energy is a collaborative effort among the Army, Defense Logistics Agency, Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Energy, Chevron and Hyundai.

## MINNESOTA

A North Star State's Army Guard unit surpassed \$15 million in reenlistment bonuses awarded to Soldiers who have extended their military obligations since deploying to Iraq less than a year ago. More than 1,100 Soldiers in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, have reenlisted since the unit arrived in Iraq last April.

## MISSOURI

Show Me State Sgt. 1st Class Gary Gorsuch recently received the Joint Service Commendation Award for his work as the operations NCO and supply NCO in a provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan's Paktika province. He coordinated joint operations among the National Guard, Army, Army Reserve, Air Force, Navy, and Marines.

## NEVADA

Brig. Gen. Robert Fitch succeeded retiring Brig. Gen. Michael Gullihur as the commander of the Silver State Air National Guard April 15. Fitch assumed command of all 1,100 Air Guard members based in Carson City, Indian Springs, Las Vegas and Reno.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Deployed members of the Granite State's 157th Air Refueling Wing assigned to the 478th Expeditionary Operations Squadron recently donated 100 "compassion packages" containing much-needed supplies for residents of the Manta City Dump, Ecuador, during February.

## OHIO

Buckeye State Staff Sgt. Ashley Schmidt of the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo was recently recognized as one of the leaders in the new Guard Recruiter Assistant Program, or G-RAP. She is the leading Air National Guard G-RAP person and has signed up 14 new Air Guard members.

## OKLAHOMA

The Sooner State's 63rd Civil Support Team, located in Norman, provided backup support to the Missouri National Guard's 7th Civil Support Team during a training exercise with emergency responders in Branson, Mo., in March.

## OREGON

Sixty Soldiers of the Beaver State learned fundamental fire fighting and rescue techniques from the experts at the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Training Center March 10-11.

## RHODE ISLAND

Five members of the Ocean State's 173rd Infantry Detachment (Long Range Surveillance) received Bronze Stars on March 31 for their efforts in Iraq. The unit was the reconnaissance element for the 42nd Infantry Division and worked closely with the 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor and 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Soldier from the Mount Rushmore State's 235th Military Police Company helped lead Afghan national police through a leadership seminar at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan April 2-4. Police chiefs from seven districts across Kapisa Province received classroom instruction on such subjects as ethics, values, leadership, community policing and map reading.

## TEXAS

The Lone Star State's 136th Airlift Wing received an "excellent" on its Operational Readiness Inspection April 5. It was evaluated on its mission capability by Air Mobility Command inspectors generals at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss.

## VIRGINIA

Approximately 149 Soldiers of the Old Dominion State's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Staunton, are being ordered to active duty for 13 months beginning May 1 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## WISCONSIN

Badger State Spc. Joshua Powers, who is serving with Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, was named Soldier of the quarter for Camp Virginia, Kuwait. Powers is a rifleman in the infantry company that is providing security for coalition forces in Kuwait.

## WYOMING

Equality State Army Guard from the Rock Springs Armory provided a 400-gallon water buffalo storage tank to the town of Pinedale March 21 for use while a new well is dug in the area. The Guard was tasked with the mission following a request for assistance by Pinedale officials to the Wyoming governor's office.



Photo by Maj. Orson Ward

## Jungle smorgasbord

A Surinamese instructor points to a tabletop of roots, nuts, plants, herbs, fuel and meats gathered from the surrounding area to show how Soldiers can survive in harsh jungle conditions. Maj. Gen. Michael Gorman (center in civilian clothes), South Dakota's adjutant general, met with officials from the Suriname Armed Forces as well as business, education, tourism and media organizations March 15-18 to officially establish a partnership with the country.

For more National Guard news, including stories, photos and video, visit [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)

# 'Only one chance'

## First HONOR GUARD competition strives for excellence among Guard teams

By Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk  
National Guard Bureau

RENO, Nev. – Staff Sgt. Jeromy Turner knows all about the finality of funerals, about the idea that you have only one chance to make a good first impression.

"We only have one chance per veteran. We may do 12 services in one day, and every service has to be perfect," said the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Oregon Army National Guard's honor guard team.

"When we're not honoring veterans, we're training," Turner added. "We're doing our after action reviews and rehearsals so that we can go out and honor these veterans the best we can."

That commitment level was shared by the members of eight state teams that participated in the National Guard Bureau's first competition for Army Guard honor guard teams on March 20-22.

Teams of seven Soldiers from Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah converged on the Stead Training Facility, an Army Guard site on the outskirts of Reno, to see how close to perfection they could come.

The competition was the result of the NGB's efforts to standardize the way that state

teams render final honors to the people being buried and to their families.

"These are probably the best teams from across the nation," said Ari Morales, the operations coordinator for Nevada's honor guard program and who also coordinated the competition.

Members of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) from Fort Myer, Va., which participates in thousands of funerals every year and guards the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, were the evaluators. They came at the request of Staff Sgt. Tyrone Kosa, a former member of the "Old Guard" who now manages the Army Guard's Honor Guard Program. He, along with Morales, spent nine months developing and organizing the event.

Each day began with an exhaustive in-ranks inspection during which Old Guard NCOs "hard-eyed" each Soldier from head to toe. They used rulers to check uniforms and record "gigs," or discrepancies. They checked things like hat placement: Did the brim sit two fingers from the bridge of the nose? Was the hatband parallel to the marching surface?

Then competitors were rated on all aspects of performing a funeral for a fallen veteran – from lifting caskets and urns out of hearses to firing the customary salute with M-14 rifles and presenting the folded flag to a deceased's family member.

Participants perfected personal appearance by cleaning their black shiny shoes with glass cleaner and blackening the soles with edge dressing. Furthermore, someone on each team dusted shoes and used a lint roller on uniforms prior to each event

The judges scored events according to strict regulations and, to make things more challenging, Kosa threw in a few twists. He administered a 60-question written exam on the history of memorial affairs. The participants ran a grueling, timed obstacle course which



Photo by Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk,

Oregon Army Guard Sgt. Robert "Luke" Summers ceremoniously hands his M-14 rifle to Sgt. Charles Rice during the National Guard Bureau's first National Honor Guard Competition in Reno, Nev., March 20-22. The Oregon team won the competition which was judged by members of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) from Fort Myer, Va.

had to be done twice – once for time and then repeated in full dress blues while performing honors; both times while carrying a casket weighted down by 200 pounds of sandbags.

At 3:30 a.m. on the last day, Kosa interrupted the participants' sweet dreams when he quietly told them they had a half hour to prepare their uniforms and get on buses waiting to take them to an airfield. There they performed "honorable transfers" in below freezing temperatures from a Nevada Air Guard C-130 waiting on the flight line. Later that morning, they were grilled by members of a board headed by Brig. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard.

Sgt. Joshua Keil from the Missouri team explained that the intense competition means more than points on a score sheet: "When I present the flag to the next of kin, and they look into my eyes with sincerity, they're looking for comfort, and I see them get just that

little bit of comfort. It makes all the difference in the world."

Sgt. Delarion Perry shared that sentiment: "They come up and shake your hand after the service. That lets me know I've done my job to the fullest, the best I could do."

Later that evening at the awards banquet, the winners were announced: In third place, Tennessee. In second, Utah. The winning team, which received a saber affixed to a plaque, was the team from Oregon.

"It means the world to them," said Oregon's Turner during the ensuing celebration. This veteran of the Iraq War praised the competition and summed up what it meant to win: "Pretty much all of us are combat veterans and we all lost friends over there. Every day we do services we'll be marching past our friends' headstones. ... Going out there and being pallbearers together, it's something you can't describe." 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

## Soldiers graduate as trainers of military funeral honors

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa  
Florida National Guard

STARKE, Fla. - Sixteen Soldiers from the National Guards of Florida, Alabama and Puerto Rico graduated in late March from the Military Funeral Honors Training Course.

Taught by instructors from the National Guard Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark., it was the first time the two-week course was offered in Florida at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

"The training concept is 'train the trainer' where an individual from each of the regions comes up for the training and then takes that training back to his region within the state," said State Command Sgt. Maj. of the Florida National Guard, Robert Hosford.

The course curriculum included the history of memorial affairs, basic drill and ceremonies, and different configurations of the various types of funeral honors, including grave side and firing details.

"It has been a very detailed course, encompassing everything the Soldiers need to know," said retired Sgt. Maj. Daniel Blackman, director of the Military Funeral Honors Program (MFHP)

in Florida. "They trained on everything; from the time the hearse arrives to the point where the family receives the flag."

The course required constant practice with prolonged periods of standing, lifting and repetitive steps, and the instructors strictly enforced procedures and ceremonial composure at all times.

"The course was demanding," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl Davis, MFHP area coordinator for St. Augustine. "I found the non-verbal communication methods and the new flag-folding technique for Full Honors interesting."

Davis has been a member of the MFHP since 2004 and has participated in more than 100 funeral services. He now works full-time assisting Blackman in running the program.

"I think taking the course was important because of the need for consistency across the nation and particularly for the state," said Davis.

During the course, Soldiers were introduced to the M-14 rifle, which is the ceremonial standard for a funeral firing detail. Blackman purchased 40 M-14s and will deliver eight to each of the program's five areas located in Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee, St. Augustine, and Ft. Pierce.

"I still need to buy presses and steamers and other little things to

make the Soldiers look good and help them have the best possible presentation because they represent not only the Florida National Guard, but also the United States Army," said Blackman. 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Soldiers prepare to pass the folded flag while practicing a full military funeral honors service during the Military Funeral Honors Training Course held at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in late March.

# SOME GAVE ALL...

THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORIES OF NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN LOST WHILE DEFENDING OUR NATION'S PRINCIPLES ON 9/11 AND DURING OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM, AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. THEY WERE BEARERS OF A TORCH THAT HAS BEEN PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION OF AMERICANS TO THE NEXT SINCE 1636.

National Guard casualties from the Global War on Terrorism are updated weekly on the National Guard Web site: [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)



## Total casualties as of April 6, 2007

Operation Iraqi Freedom: 422  
Operation Enduring Freedom: 50  
Killed In Action: 365  
Not Killed In Action: 106  
Total: 479

### Alabama

SGT Aubrey Bell 10/27/2003  
PFC Paul Bueche 10/21/2003  
MSG Herbert Claunch 4/18/2004  
SSG Tommy Little 5/2/2005  
SPC Jeremy Loveless 4/28/2003  
SPC Christopher Taylor 2/16/2004  
SFC Christopher Willoughby 7/20/2003

### Alaska

SPC Michael Edwards 1/7/2006  
SPC Jacob Melson 1/7/2006  
CW4 Chester Troxel 1/7/2006

### Arizona

SGT Howard Allen 9/26/2005  
SSG Darrel Kasson 3/4/2007  
CPL Jeremiah Robinson 10/6/2005  
SGT Elijah Tai Wah Wong 2/9/2004  
SPC Christopher Young 3/2/2007

### Arkansas

SPC Ronald Baker 10/13/2004  
SSG Hesley Box Jr. 5/6/2004  
SSG Stacey Brandon 4/24/2004  
SFC John Brown 1/20/2007  
CPL Jimmy Buie 1/4/2005  
SGT Russell Collier 10/3/2004  
CPT Arthur Felder 4/24/2004  
CW3 Patrick Kordsmeier 4/24/2004  
SFC William Labadie Jr. 4/7/2004  
SPC Joshua Marcum 1/3/2005  
SPC Jeremy McHalfey 1/3/2005  
SFC Troy Miranda 5/20/2004  
SSG Billy Joe Orton 4/24/2004  
PFC Derek Plowman 7/20/2006  
SSG William Robbins 2/10/2005  
SPC Lyle Rymer II 1/28/2005  
SGT Michael Smith 11/26/2004  
CPT Michael Taylor 1/20/2007  
1SG William Warren 1/20/2007

### California

SSG Jerry Bonifacio Jr. 10/10/2005  
SPC Marcelino Corniel 12/31/2005  
SGT Arnold Duplantier II 6/22/2005  
SGT Shakere Guy 10/29/2005  
CPT Raymond Hill II 10/29/2005  
SGT Timothy Kiser 4/28/2005  
SFC Issac Lawson 6/5/2006  
SGT Patrick McCaffrey Sr. 6/22/2004  
SPC Michael Mihalakis 12/26/2003  
SGT Paul Neubauer 9/23/2005  
SPC Paul Nicholas 2/20/2005  
SSG Michael Ottolini 11/10/2004  
SSG David Perry 8/10/2003  
SPC Eric Ramirez 2/12/2004

SSG Jose Rangel 1/23/2005  
SFC Rudy Salcido 11/9/2006  
SSG Daniel Scheile 9/24/2005  
SPC Dennis Sellen Jr. 2/11/2007  
SGT Alfredo Silva 9/15/2005  
SGT Mike Sonoda Jr. 9/22/2005  
SPC Quoc Binh Tran 11/7/2004  
1LT Andre Tyson 6/22/2004  
SPC Daniel Unger 5/25/2004  
1LT Michael Vega 3/20/2004  
SPC Glenn Watkins 4/5/2005

### Colorado

SPC Derrick Lutters 5/3/2005  
SSG Michael Parrott 11/10/2005  
SGT Luis Reyes 11/18/2005  
SFC Daniel Romero 4/15/2002

### Connecticut

SGT Felix Del Greco 4/9/2004  
SPC Robert Hoyt 12/11/2004  
SSG Joseph Phaneuf 12/15/2006  
SPC Daryl Dent 8/26/2003

### District of Columbia

SPC Daryl T. Dent 8/26/2003

### Florida

SGT Dennis Boles 10/24/2004  
SPC Daryl Davis 11/29/2004  
SSG Joseph Fuerst III 6/24/2006  
SPC Marco Miller 12/5/2006  
CPL John Rivero 4/17/2003  
SSG Daniel Suplee 8/3/2006  
PFC Brandon Wadman 5/5/2004  
SPC Jeffrey Wershow 7/6/2003  
SPC Robert Wise 11/12/2003  
SGT Roy Wood 1/9/2003

### Georgia

SFC Victor Anderson 7/30/2005  
SPC Christopher Boone 2/17/2007  
SPC Jacques Brunson 7/24/2005  
SPC Joshua Dingler 8/15/2005  
SGT Philip Dodson Jr. 12/2/2005  
SSG George Draughn Jr. 9/1/2005  
SFC Amos Edwards Jr. 2/17/2006  
SSG Bobby Franklin 8/20/2003  
SSG Carl Fuller 7/24/2005  
SPC Marcus Futrell 12/2/2005  
SGT Jerry Ganey Jr. 8/3/2005  
SPC Mathew Gibbs 8/3/2005  
SSG Charles Gillican III 5/14/2005  
SGT Jonathon Haggin 7/30/2005  
SFC Robert Hollar Jr. 9/1/2005  
SSG David Jones Sr. 7/30/2005  
SGT James Kinlow 7/24/2005  
SGT John McGee 5/2/2005  
SSG Chad Mercer 6/30/2005  
SSG Dennis Merck 10/20/2005  
SGT Foster Pinkston 9/16/2003  
SGT Paul Saylor 8/15/2005  
SGT Ronnie Shelley Sr. 7/30/2005  
SPC Channing Singletary 6/23/2006  
SGT Michael Stokely 8/16/2005  
SGT Thomas Strickland 8/15/2005

MSG Thomas Thigpen Sr. 3/16/2004  
SGT John Thomas 7/24/2005  
SSG Philip Travis 12/2/2005  
SFC Charles Warren 8/3/2005

### Guam

SGT Gregory Fejeran 3/5/2007  
SGT Christopher Fernandez 3/5/2007  
SFC Michael Fuga 9/9/2006

### Hawaii

SGT Deyson Cariaga 7/8/2005

### Idaho

SFC Virgil Case 6/1/2005  
SPC Carrie French 6/5/2005  
Maj Gregory Stone 3/25/2003

### Illinois

1LT Debra Banaszak 10/28/2005  
SPC Jessica Cawvey 10/6/2004  
SSG William Chaney 5/18/2004  
SSG Jacob Frazier 3/29/2003  
SGT Landis Garrison 4/29/2004  
2LT Richard Gienau 2/27/2005  
SPC James Grijalva 10/12/2005  
SGT Jessica Housby 2/9/2005  
SPC Charles Lamb 10/5/2004  
SGT Shawna Morrison 10/5/2004  
SGT Ivory Phipps 3/17/2004  
PFC Brandon Ramsey 8/8/2003  
SPC Jeremy Ridlen 5/23/2004  
SGT Brian Romines 6/6/2005  
1LT Brian Slavenas 11/2/2003  
SSG Michael Sutter 12/26/2003  
SGT Joshua Terando 11/10/2005  
SFC Kyle Wehrly 11/3/2005  
SPC Brian Wright 12/6/2005

### Indiana

SSG Richard Blakley 6/6/2006  
SFC Craig Boling 7/8/2003  
COL Canfield Boone 9/11/2001  
SPC Brian Clemens 2/6/2003  
CPT Michael Fiseus 3/26/2005  
SPC Brett Hershey 3/26/2005  
MSG Michael Hiester 3/26/2005  
SPC William Jeffries 3/26/2003  
SSG Bradley King 4/2/2007  
SGM Jeffrey McLochlin 7/5/2006  
SSG Paul Pabla 7/3/2006  
SGT Joseph Proctor 5/3/2006  
CPL Darrell Smith 11/23/2003  
SPC Norman Snyder 3/26/2005

### Iowa

SGT Casey Byers 6/11/2005  
SGT Paul Fisher 11/6/2003  
CSM Marilyn Gabbard 1/20/2007  
SGT Seth Garceau 3/4/2005  
SPC James Kearney 11/1/2004  
PFC David Kirchoff 8/14/2003  
SGT Joshua Knowles 2/5/2004  
SPC John Miller 4/12/2005  
SFC Scott Nisely 9/30/2006  
SPC Daniel Sesker 4/6/2006

SPC Aaron Sissel 11/29/2003  
CW4 Bruce Smith 11/2/2003  
SGT Kampha Sourivong 9/30/2006  
SGT Gregory Tull 11/25/2005

### Kansas

SGT Michael Barry 2/1/2003  
SFC David Berry 2/22/2007  
SPC Don Clary 11/8/2004  
SGT Jessie Davila 2/20/2006  
MSG Bernard Deghand 9/15/2006  
SSG Clinton Wisdom 11/8/2004  
SPC John Wood 10/7/2006

### Kentucky

CPT Clayton Adamkavicius 4/21/2006  
SSG William Allers III 9/20/2005  
SSG Thomas Clemons 12/10/2006  
MSG Clinton Cubert 4/16/2006  
SPC Michael Hayes 6/14/2005  
1LT Robert Henderson II 4/17/2004  
SPC Jonathan Hughes 3/19/2005  
SFC Charles Jones 9/20/2006  
SGT Ryan Montgomery 7/3/2005  
SGT Darrin Potter 9/29/2003  
SGT James Sherrill 4/3/2005  
SPC Eric Toth 3/30/2005

### Louisiana

SGT Christopher Babin 1/6/2005  
1LT Christopher Barnett 12/23/2004  
SPC Bradley Bergeron 1/6/2005  
SFC Kurt Comeaux 1/6/2005  
SPC Michael Evans II 1/28/2005  
SFC Huey P. Long Fassbender 1/6/2005  
SGT Robin Fell 5/19/2005  
SPC Armand Frickey 1/6/2005  
SPC Lee Godbolt 3/26/2005  
SFC Peter Hahn 5/24/2005  
SGT Paul Heltzel 3/15/2005  
SGT Floyd Knighten Jr. 8/9/2003  
SSG William Manuel 1/10/2005  
SPC Warren Murphy 1/6/2005  
SGT David Murray 6/9/2005  
SPC Creig Nelson 12/29/2004  
SGT Nicholas Olivier 2/23/2005  
PFC Kristian Parker 9/29/2003  
SPC Christopher Ramsey 1/28/2005  
SSG Johnathan Reed 1/28/2005  
SGT Bernard Sembly 5/19/2005  
SSG Isiah Sinclair 3/26/2005  
SGT Robert Sweeney III 1/10/2005  
SPC Seth Trahan 2/19/2005

### Mississippi

SSG Larry Arnold 6/11/2005  
SPC Bryan Barron 5/23/2005  
SPC James Chance III 11/6/2003  
SFC Sean Cooley 2/3/2005  
SSG Travis Cooper 7/15/2005  
SPC Raphael Davis 12/2/2003  
SGT Joshua Ladd 5/1/2004  
SGT Terrance Lee Sr. 6/11/2005  
SPC Audrey Lunsford 5/23/2005  
SPC Robert McNeil 2/11/2005  
1LT Robert Oneto-Sikoraki 10/31/2005  
SGT Timothy Osbey 2/16/2005  
SSG Saburant Parker 5/23/2005  
SPC Robert Pugh 3/2/2005  
SPC Joseph Rahaim 2/16/2005  
SSG Christopher Robinson 3/25/2006  
SFC William Spillers 2/17/2007  
2LT Matthew Stoval 8/22/2004  
SGT Daniel Varnado 5/23/2005

### Maryland

CPL Samuel Boswell 10/14/2005  
CPL Bernard Ceo 10/14/2005

SGT Brian Conner 10/14/2005  
CSM Roger Haller 1/20/2007  
SSG Michael McMullen 1/10/2006  
CW4 William Ruth 9/11/2001

### Massachusetts

SSG Joseph Camara 9/1/2003  
SGT Michael Kelley 6/8/2005  
SGT Theodore Perreault 12/23/2003

### Michigan

SGT Spencer Akers 12/8/2005  
PFC Wilson Algrim 12/23/2006  
SPC Timothy Brown 11/4/2005  
SPC Dane Carver 12/26/2005  
PFC John Dearing 11/21/2005  
SGT Duane Dreasky 7/10/2006  
SPC Craig Frank 7/17/2004  
SPC Richard Goward 4/14/2003  
SSP Ricky Kieffer 3/15/2005  
SPC Donald McCune 8/8/2004  
SPC Bobby Mejia II 12/23/2006  
CPT Lowell Miller II 8/31/2005  
SFC James Priestap 11/23/2006  
SPC Bradley Shilling 11/18/2006  
SPC Brandon Stout 1/22/2007  
SPC Chad Vollmer 12/23/2006  
SGT Matthew Webber 4/27/2006  
SGT Joshua Youmans 3/1/2006

### Minnesota

SSG David Day 2/21/2005  
SGT Joshua Hanson 8/30/2006  
SPC James Holmes 5/8/2004  
SGT Brent Koch 6/16/2006  
SGT Jesse Lhotka 2/21/2005  
SGT Bryan McDonough 12/2/2006  
SGT Kyle Miller 6/29/2006  
SGT Jacob Pflugsten 2/12/2005  
SGT Greg Riewer 3/23/2007  
SGT Corey Rystad 12/2/2006  
1LT Jason Timmerman 2/21/2005  
PFC Nicholas Turcotte 12/4/2006  
SSG James Wosika Jr. 1/9/2007

### Missouri

PFC Alva Gaylord 5/5/2006  
SPC Kenneth Melton 4/25/2004  
SPC Joshua Neusche 7/12/2003  
SSG Lawrence Parrish 10/7/2006

### Montana

SGT Travis Arndt 9/21/2005  
MSG Robbie McNary 3/31/2005

### Nebraska

SGT Germaine Debro 9/4/2006  
SGT Jeremy Fischer 7/11/2004  
SGT Joshua Ford 7/31/2006  
SSG Jeffrey Hansen 8/27/2006  
SFC Tricia Jameson 7/14/2005  
SGT Randy Matheny 2/4/2007  
SPC Dennis Morgan 4/17/2004  
SFC Linda Tarango-Griess 7/11/2004

### Nevada

SPC Anthony Cometa 6/16/2005  
CW3 John Flynn 9/25/2005  
SGT Patrick Stewart 9/25/2005

### New Hampshire

SPC Alan Burgess 10/15/2004  
SFC Robert Rooney 9/25/2003

### New Jersey

SGT Frank Carvill 6/4/2004  
SGT Ryan Doltz 6/5/2004  
SPC Christopher Duffy 6/4/2004  
SPC Alain Kamolvathin 1/16/2005  
SGT Humberto Timoteo 6/5/2004

### New Mexico

SGT Marshall Westbrook 10/1/2005

### New York

SGT Segun F. Akintade 10/28/2004  
SPC Azhar Ali 3/2/2005  
1LT Gerard Baptiste 9/11/2001  
CPL Joseph Behnke 12/4/2004  
SGT Larry Bowman 9/11/2001  
PFC Nathan Brown 4/11/2004  
1LT Mark Dooley 9/19/2005  
SGT Christian Engeldrum 11/29/2004  
CPT Phillip Esposito 6/7/2005  
SPC David Fisher 12/1/2004  
SGT Manny Hornedo 6/28/2005  
SSG Henry Irizarry 12/3/2004  
SGT Anthony Kalladeen 8/8/2005  
SGT Denise Lannaman 10/1/2006  
SPC Wai Phylo Lwin 3/2/2005  
SSG Heath McMillan 7/27/2003  
PFC Francis Obaji 1/17/2005  
PFC Hernando Rios 8/8/2005  
SPC David Roustum 11/20/2004  
PFC Benjamin Schuster 2/25/2006  
SPC Roshan (Sean) Singh 9/11/2001  
PFC Wilfredo Urbina 11/28/2004  
SGT John Uvanni 10/1/2004  
PFC Kenneth Gri Vonronn 1/6/2005  
SPC Michael Williams 10/17/2003

### North Carolina

SGT Leonard Adams 1/24/2005  
SGT Darry Benson 8/27/2006  
SSG Harold Best 10/7/2003  
SPC Jocelyn Carrasquillo 3/13/2004  
CPT Christopher Cash 6/24/2004  
SPC Daniel Desens 6/24/2004  
SSG Michael Voss 10/8/2004

### North Dakota

SPC Philip Brown 5/8/2004  
SPC Jon Fettig 7/22/2003  
CPL Nathan Goodiron 11/23/2006  
SSG Kenneth Hendrickson 1/24/2004  
SPC Michael Hermanson 5/24/2006  
SPC Chris Kleinwachter 11/30/2006  
SSG Lance Koenig 9/22/2004  
SPC Curtis Mehrer 6/6/2006  
SGT Keith Smette 1/24/2004  
SGT Travis Vanzoest 6/6/2006  
SPC Cody Lee Wentz 11/4/2004

### Ohio

SGT Michael Barkey 7/7/2004  
SPC Todd Bates 12/10/2003  
PFC Samuel Bowen 7/7/2004  
SFC Daniel Crabtree 6/8/2006  
SGT Jeremy Hodge 10/10/2005  
PFC Ryan Martin 8/20/2004  
SFC Daniel Pratt 11/3/2005  
SSG Aaron Reese 12/10/2003  
1LT Charles Wilkins III 8/20/2004

### Oklahoma

SPC Kyle Brinlee 5/11/2004  
SGT Buddy Hughie 2/19/2007

### Oregon

SSG Tane Baum 9/25/2005  
SSG Kevin Davis 4/8/2005  
SGT Justin Eyerly 6/4/2004  
SPC Benjamin Isenberg 9/13/2004  
SPC David Johnson 9/25/2004  
PFC Ken Leisten 7/28/2004  
SPC Justin Linden 6/4/2004  
SSG Nathaniel Lindsey 9/9/2006  
1LT Erik McCrae 6/4/2004  
SPC Eric McKinley 6/13/2004  
SPC Nathan Nakis 12/16/2003  
SGT Long Nguyen 2/10/2007  
SGT John Ogburn III 5/22/2005  
WO1 Adrian Stump 9/25/2005  
SFC Mark Warren 1/31/2005  
SSG David Weisenburg 9/13/2004

### Tennessee

SSG Nathan Bailey 11/12/2003  
SSgt Brock Beery 3/23/2006  
SGT James Carroll 7/31/2005  
SFC Mark Edwards 6/9/2005  
CW3 William Flanigan 7/2/2006  
SSG Asbury Hawn II 8/14/2005  
SGT Joseph Hunt 8/22/2005  
SSG Stephen Kennedy 4/4/2005  
SGT Dustin Laird 8/2/2006  
SSG Victoir Lieurance 8/22/2005  
SSG Sherwood Baker 4/26/2004  
SSG Keith Bennett 12/11/2005  
PFC Oliver Brown 9/28/2005  
SFC Daniel Brozovich 10/18/2006  
SPC Frederick Carlson 3/25/2006  
SPC Carl Curran 5/16/2004  
PFC Nathaniel Detample 8/9/2005

### Pennsylvania

SGT Michael Egan 9/19/2005  
SPC William Evans 9/19/2005  
SPC William Fernandez 9/19/2005  
SSG Christopher Geiger 7/9/2003  
SGT Brahim Jeffcoat 8/6/2005  
SPC Mark Kasecky 5/16/2004  
SPC Kurt Krout 8/6/2005  
SPC John Kulick 8/9/2005  
SFC Daniel Lightner Jr. 10/27/2005  
SFC Randy McCaulley 3/23/2006  
LTC Michael McLaughlin 1/5/2006  
SPC Mark Melcher 4/15/2006  
SSG Alan Rogers 9/29/2004  
SFC Ronald Wood 7/16/2005

SGT Michael Egan 9/19/2005  
SPC William Evans 9/19/2005  
SPC William Fernandez 9/19/2005  
SSG Christopher Geiger 7/9/2003  
SGT Brahim Jeffcoat 8/6/2005  
SPC Mark Kasecky 5/16/2004  
SPC Kurt Krout 8/6/2005  
SPC John Kulick 8/9/2005  
SFC Daniel Lightner Jr. 10/27/2005  
SFC Randy McCaulley 3/23/2006  
LTC Michael McLaughlin 1/5/2006  
SPC Mark Melcher 4/15/2006  
SSG Alan Rogers 9/29/2004  
SFC Ronald Wood 7/16/2005

### Rhode Island

SPC Michael Andrade 9/24/2003  
SGT Charles Caldwell 9/1/2003  
SGT Christopher Potts 10/3/2004

### Puerto Rico

SPC Richard Orengo 6/26/2003  
SSG Milton Rivera-Vargas 12/8/2005

### South Carolina

PVT Algernon Adams 10/28/2003  
SGT Stephen High 4/6/2005  
CW4 Patrick Leach 12/9/2004  
SSG Jerome Lemon 10/27/2004  
1LT Andrew Shields 12/9/2004  
SPC Chrystal Stout 4/6/2005

### South Dakota

SSG Gregory Wagner 5/8/2006  
SSG Cory Brooks 4/24/2004  
SSG Daniel Cuka 12/4/2005  
SGT Allen Kokesh Jr. 2/7/2006  
CW2 Paul Pillen 10/17/2005  
SFC Richard Schild 12/4/2005

### Texas

SSG Sean Berry 10/3/2005  
SGT Alex Cox 11/22/2001  
SSG Christopher Everett 9/7/2005  
SSG Tommy Folks Jr. 10/19/2005  
SPC Tomas Garces 9/6/2004  
SPC Kurt Graham 9/25/2005  
CPT Sean Lyerly 1/20/2007  
SGT Steve Morin Jr. 9/28/2005

### Utah

2LT Scott Lundell 11/25/2006  
SSG Alan Rogers 9/29/2004  
SFC Ronald Wood 7/16/2005

### Vermont

SPC Alan Bean Jr. 5/25/2004  
MSG Chris Chapin 8/23/2005  
SGT Jamie Gray 6/7/2004  
SGT Joshua Johnson 1/25/2006  
SPC Scott McLaughlin 9/22/2005  
SPC Chris Merchant 3/1/2006  
SGT William Normandy 3/15/2004  
2LT Mark Procopio 11/2/2005  
SGT Kevin Sheehan 5/25/2004  
MSG John Stone 3/28/2006

### Virginia

SSG Darryl Booker 1/20/2007  
SSG Craig Cherry 8/7/2004  
SPC Kyle Hemaier 5/23/2005  
COL Paul Kelly 1/20/2007  
SPC Timothy Lewis 11/19/2002  
SGT Nicholas Mason 12/21/2004  
SGT David Ruhren 12/21/2004

### Virgin Islands

LTC David Canegata III 1/20/2007  
SFC Floyd Lake 1/20/2007

### Washington

1LT Jaime Campbell 1/7/2006  
SGT Damien Fieck 12/30/2004  
SGT James Ricken 1/14/2007  
SPC Jeremiah Schmunk 7/8/2004  
SGT Jeffrey Shaver 5/12/2004

### West Virginia

SGT Bobby Beasley 8/7/2004  
SGT Deforest Talbert 7/27/2004  
SGT Gene Vance Jr. 5/19/2002

### Wisconsin

## Heads up!

### New Air Force medal

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center released criteria in early April for award of the new combat action medal, an award for Airmen who have been involved in direct fighting situations where they risked their lives in an enemy engagement. Any Airman who believes he or she may be eligible can now submit an award package for consideration. For more information, Airmen should contact their local military personnel flight or the Air Force Contact Center at DSN 665-5000 or (800) 616-3775.

### Kosovo pay kept

U.S. troops pulling peace-keeping duty in Kosovo won't lose their war zone pay, the DoD announced in late March. The announcement ended weeks of speculation that officials were considering such a move. The loss of imminent-danger pay and other benefits would have cost Soldiers hundreds of dollars each month.

### Handbook available

"Military Handbooks" has announced the release of its latest seven free handbooks for military personnel. They're written specifically for servicemembers and veterans and include information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. For free copies, go to [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com).

### USERRA help online

Reserve members can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act is the federal law that protects the employment of reservists and prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of military service. Go to the ESGR Web site at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil) and select the link, "USERRA Complaint Request" on the right side of the page.

### G.I. Bill change

A recent DoD policy change widens the eligibility window for Montgomery G.I. Bill education benefits. Reservists are eligible to receive G.I. Bill education benefits for the period covering their active duty service, plus four months. The total amount of coverage for reservists is still 36 months. Guardmembers can seek further guidance by contacting their local education office or going to [www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill).

# New York division headquarters partners with Egyptian Army for Bright Star 2007



Photo by Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg

**New York Army National Guard Col. Geoffrey Slack, the operations officer of the 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division, reviews the scheme of maneuver for Bright Star 07 over a "sand table."**

**By Lt. Col. Richard Goldenberg**  
New York National Guard

NEW YORK – Members of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division hosted military peers from Europe and the Middle East as planners laid the foundation for the New York National Guard's deployment back to the Middle East later this year.

The planning conference, held in Manhattan from March 23-27, brought together members of the

Egyptian Army Training Branch with "Rainbow Division" staffers to synchronize training plans for the Bright Star Exercise 2007, held in the western desert of Egypt from Nov. 3-19 this year.

Bright Star is a U.S. Central Command-directed joint/combined exercise, including a computer-simulated command post exercise and a tactical air, airborne, amphibious and special operations forces field training exercise with Egyptian,

coalition, and other U.S. forces in Egypt.

"All the forces deploying for Bright Star must come highly trained," said Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commander of the 3rd Army, U.S. Army Central and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command, the coalition joint task force headquarters for Bright Star. "This is not for the weak of heart."

Leading the Army's Bright Star team for this year's exercise will be the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters. The Army's famous "Rainbow Division" will lead co-command ground forces for Bright Star alongside the Egyptian Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Rounding out the bulk of the combat power in the task force for Bright Star will be the Washington Army National Guard's 81st Armored Brigade Combat Team.

Key to the success of the training of the Guardsmen and up to 15 different participating nations is the initial gunnery and small unit tactical training that brings Soldiers together before the large-scale maneuvers begin.

"Assimilation and integration training is as important as any other phase of Bright Star," said Brig. Gen. Elsellawy Abdel-Azziz, chief of operations for the Egyptian Training Branch.

The assimilation training includes everything from individual or crew gunnery, demolition demonstrations and small unit tactical training with observer-controller-trainers supporting.

"Integration from all of our coalition partners combine for a joint training exercise that will guarantee the effectiveness of Bright Star," Azziz said.

Gathering all the representative

nations' military planners for a land forces conference in New York was one of the first such opportunities for key leaders and staffs to review the concept of co-command between Egyptian and U.S. forces before the final plans are approved.

"We have 15 countries that have not worked or trained side-by-side much, so you can understand the challenges," said Whitcomb in his remarks to the various military leaders from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan and the Netherlands.

The planning conference, held at the historic Lexington Avenue Armory in Manhattan, home of the Army Guard's famous "Fighting 69th" Infantry, provided a backdrop of history and tradition for the Bright Star coalition partners.

"As I meet with so many of our coalition partners, I realize how relatively young our country's armed forces are," said Whitcomb. "I am pleased that this planning conference could be held here in an armory with so many visible reminders of our country's rich military history."

Part of the weekend planning sessions included an overview of the role of the Guard over the past 370 years, especially the missions and achievements of the New York Guard since its response to ground zero in lower Manhattan.

The bulk of the planning centered on the evolving training tasks for Bright Star. Bright Star began more than 25 years ago as a military to military training opportunity for U.S. and Egyptian partners. Since that time, the global threat and military operating environment has changed considerably.

"Times have changed and the current fight is different from when the U.S. prepared to fight the former Soviet Union on the plains of Germany," Whitcomb said.

## Web-based personnel service lets Airmen get out of line

**By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith**  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Air National Guard is allowing its Airmen to get out of line.

That's a good thing. ANG members tired of waiting in line at their military personnel flights (MPF) customer service desk during training weekends now have an online alternative: the virtual Personnel Center (vPC-GR) located at <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR>.

The vPC-GR offers the same service for 16 different MPF transactions, they include

requests for active duty certificates (DD-214), TRICARE and retirement records. ANG members can also correct or add to their awards and decorations. More services will be offered as they become available.

According to the Air Reserve Personnel Center, vPC-GR will transform the way it does business through increased online services. This includes 24/7 accessibility and contact centers.

Future trips to MPF may now take only a few clicks on the mouse and a few taps on the keyboard. It has to beat waiting in line.

vPC-GR transactions available online:

- \* Requesting copy of a 20-Year Letter
- \* Nominating Airmen for awards and decorations

- \* Correcting duty history
- \* Correcting retirement points history
- \* Accessing current retirement points
- \* Requesting copy of DD Form 214
- \* Requesting copies of EPRs/OPRs
- \* Requesting mortgage letter
- \* Updating personnel data
- \* Electing RCSBP
- \* Receiving retired pay assistance
- \* Applying for retirement
- \* Requesting Reserve Income Replacement Plan
- \* Receiving ROPMA Board counseling
- \* Submitting ROPMA promotion board letter
- \* Requesting TRICARE Reserve Select



Watch a video of this story at [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Wounded, injured and sick rest on litters in the cargo bay of a Mississippi Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III, March 4, on their way to medical care in Ramstein, Germany during a late night flight from Balad Air Base, Iraq.

## Mississippi 'globe-masters' perform vital medical airlift mission from Iraq

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – The Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing makes it look so easy: how they fly aeromedical evacuation (aerovac) missions to the other side of the world, land in a combat zone, pick up wounded warriors and fly home – volunteering to do it over and over again.

Airmen from the 172nd flew such a mission March 2, looking rested and eager to take off from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. – the first stop on their aerovac mission to Iraq and back.

It was one of a series of flights that occur weekly for the 172nd which transports patients from Balad Air Base, Iraq, to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and to the states.

The medics at Balad know the Mississippi Guard well, and they know that their C-17 Globemaster IIIs are the fastest way out of Iraq for the wounded warriors. The Air Guard wing has perhaps the most seasoned and professional aerovac crews taking part in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

How seasoned? They have performed more than 350 aerovac missions since October 2005. More importantly, they've carried thousands of sick and wounded service members to life-saving hospitals and medical specialists.

Professional? They airlift a majority of aerovacs flying out of Balad, and they receive a lot of praise from passengers.

"The Mississippi crews are outstanding," said Maj. Patrick Perretta, a New York aeromedical director deployed to Germany with

the 791st Expeditionary Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Each aerovac draws upon a host of skills and units. Perretta and his medical team joined the Guardmembers on the Ramstein flightline. Together they prepared. The crew attended operational briefings, combed through preflight checklists and loaded cargo into the plane. The medics hung oxygen and power lines to configure the C-17 into a flying hospital.

It was a five-hour flight to Balad, located in northern Iraq and approximately 42 miles north of Baghdad. Nearing their destination, pilots Lt. Col. Nap Bryan, Capt. Brian Childress and 1st Lt. Wes Carter put on night vision goggles and prepared for a combat landing. The stealth is necessary. "There are constant attacks here," a security forces flight chief at Balad said recently. Everyone wore protective flak-vests and helmets.

After the plane touched down on the dark flightline and rolled to a halt, Senior Master Sgt. Robert Lundy, loadmaster, emptied the bay of the cargo that the plane flew to Iraq, and the medics filled it with patients and gear.

The patients, mostly U.S. Army Soldiers, walked aboard if they were able. Others were carried aboard on litters. Their conditions ranged from stable to critical. Lundy made sure the aircraft was set up for them.

"We make sure the medical crew has all the equipment they need, and we give them assistance," Lundy said. From the C-17's forward loadmaster station, Lundy controlled the lights, heating and air conditioning as well as the oxygen system used by the medics.

It normally takes three Airmen to fly a C-17: two pilots and a loadmaster. But the aerovac missions require additional pilots to allow for crew rest and technicians to maintain it down-range. It's all manned with voluntary deployments. The Guard members fly nearly 40 hours to complete one round-trip mission in five days. Nearly 40 maintenance personnel deploy for 60 to 120 days to maintain the aircraft at Ramstein.

The wing began the aerovacs in 2005 with 18 flights per month: four flights per week from their base in Jackson, Miss., with two aircrews flying alert missions from Ramstein. Now, they fly 12 missions a month from their base in Jackson. "As long as we have people who continue to volunteer, we will continue doing it," said Childress.

Childress said the crew does all it can to make the patients as comfortable as pos-

sible. The C-17 is engineered for that.

The Air Force calls the \$200 million C-17 its most flexible cargo aircraft. A brightly-lit, spacious cargo bay -- 88 feet long, 18 feet wide and 12 feet high -- confirms the claim. An environmental system maintains cabin temperatures suitable for burn patients, and its cargo bay is engineered to be quieter than other aircraft.

The wing, which was the first Guard unit to fly the plane, boasts a mission capability rate of more than 90 percent.

It was early in the morning when the aerovac returned to Ramstein. The patients were offloaded and transported to awaiting medical teams.

The medics said those with severe injuries go to combat support hospitals. Those needing advanced care go to nearby Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Stateside flights bring patients to Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington or burn patients to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

After an overnight rest, the crew flew out of Ramstein to bring a group of patients to Andrews. The eight-hour flight gave them time to wonder what events their patients faced during their deployments that put them on the aerovac. According to a February report by the Defense Manpower Data Center, more than 32,000 coalition forces have been medically air-transported in OIF for combat wounds, non-hostile injuries and diseases, four years into the war in Iraq.

At Andrews, a cold winter breeze blew through the open cargo doors. It brought with it a group of people who welcomed the patients home.

"There's a sense of satisfaction knowing you've taken care of the wounded, that we got them where they needed to go in the most comfortable and expedient way possible," Childress said.

The air crew watched them go. Then they prepared for the flight to Mississippi and home.



A C-17 Globemaster III from Mississippi's 172nd Airlift Wing is loaded with patients at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in early March for a medical airlift to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

## From page 1: FUNDING

to his unit to train on equipment built in 1953. "Now imagine being a combat controller in a critical mission like that and operating with unreliable old equipment built in 1953," Blum told the subcommittee. "I think that says it all. So while we have the best people, we have some significant equipment challenges."

A Kansas Army Guardsman who accompanied Blum to the hearing faces an even more serious issue, he said. The Soldier who returned from Iraq in November "doesn't have a problem of old equipment," the general said. "He has a problem of no equipment."

His unit, after leaving its own equipment in Iraq for the unit that replaced them, returned home to just two Humvees, both deemed "not good enough to go to war," Blum said. "And that's the equipment he has in his unit today."

Should a tornado or other stateside disaster require a Guard mobilization, the unit's ability to respond would be minimized, "not because of the great people in it, but because of the lack of equipment that is in that unit right now," he said.

Blum said the problem has reached epidemic levels, particularly in the Army. Most of the units in the Army and Air National Guard are under-equipped for the jobs and the missions they have to perform with no notice here at home," he said. "Can we do the job? Yes, we can. But the lack of equipment

makes it take longer to do that job, and lost time translates into lost lives, and those lost lives are American lives."

He urged Congress to address these shortfalls, noting the defense bargain the National Guard represents. The Army Guard makes up almost 40 percent of the Army's combat, combat support and combat service support structure, but costs just 11 percent of the Army's budget, he said. Similarly, the Air Guard provides more than one-third of the Air Force capability, at just 6 percent of the Air Force's budget.

"Plus, your Army and Air National Guard are the only Department of Defense forces that can be called upon by the governors with no notice to do what is necessary right here in the zip codes where your constituents reside," he said.

Blum said these statistics demonstrate the importance of the National Guard, not only in the global war on terror, but as an on-call force ready to respond to stateside emergencies.

"This nation cannot afford the consequences of an unready Army and Air National Guard," Blum said. "A strong and properly resourced National Guard, I think, is the best credible deterrent for any of our adversaries overseas that might miscalculate and think that we are unable to respond."

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, reported that recruiting and retention in the Army Guard is on the upswing since last year. "We have averaged, at

a net, over 1,000 a month to our end strength," he said.

He urged Congress to provide the resources these troops need to be mission-ready, citing exiting Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's mantra, "Don't confuse enthusiasm with capability."

"I can tell you that we have the enthusiasm," Vaughn told the senators. "The capabilities, you buy. You buy it in terms of training dollars, and you buy it in terms of equipment."

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the Air National Guard's director, joined Blum and Vaughn in urging congressional support for the National Guard budget requests. In the midst of tremendous "churn" within the force—much of it due to the Base Realignment and Closure process—the Air Guard continues to operate as a highly effective force, he said.

"Your Air National Guard is ready to fight today," he said. "They are totally integrated in the United States Air Force in the global war on terror; they are fighting the away game very professionally in all theaters of the globe, and we are also providing great support here at home."

Maintaining this capability requires solid funding so the force can modernize, McKinley said. "It is extremely important to the Air National Guard that our Air Force continues to recapitalize so we can transition the 20th century Air National Guard into a highly effective combat capable 21st century Air National Guard," he said.

## Wrenches to riots for Missouri maintenance unit

By Gary Stevens  
Missouri National Guard

ST. LOUIS — Soldiers from the Missouri National Guard's 1035th Maintenance Company, based at Jefferson Barracks, traded wrenches for riot batons and received some training assistance thanks to some friends.

Four Soldiers from the St. Louis-based Detachment 1 of the 1175th Military Police Company provided civil disturbance training for the 1035th. The training consisted of both classroom work and practical exercises on the Jefferson Barracks drill floor. Every National Guard unit is required to go through civil disturbance training to back up local law enforcement agencies as part of the Guard's state mission.

The 1035th Soldiers learned the primary formations for crowd control, as well as the proper rules of engagement for domestic and war time situations. They moved in lines, wedges and echelons, forming a human wall -- dozens of Soldiers moving as one.

Staff Sgt. Robert Haug served as chief instructor for the training. "The 1035th did a great job," said Haug. "They showed a lot of motivation and interest in the training."

According to Haug, the exercise had the added benefit of providing the 1175th MP Soldiers a good chance to train other people and share their knowledge and skills with other Soldiers. The Soldiers from the 1175th organized and conducted the training, in addition to developing the materials for the course.

"They're Guard Soldiers," said 1035th commander Capt. Sharon Bostwick. "Civil disturbance training is part of being in the National Guard. It's good training. If there's trouble, we could all be called up."

According to Bostwick, the Soldiers enjoyed the drills outside of their usual tasks. They understood and appreciated the value of the training. The drills also helped build unit cohesion as the Soldiers saw firsthand the importance of teamwork and mutual support.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

## Patriotic hug

Spc. Keshia Stocks, center left, hugs Master Sgt. Cynthia Carlucci, both of the 50th Personnel Services Battalion, New Jersey Army National Guard, during the singing of "God Bless America" at a welcome home ceremony at the National Guard armory in Lawrenceville, N.J. on March 9. The ceremony welcomed home the Soldiers from the 50th Personnel Services Battalion, 250th Personnel Services Detachment and the Afghan National Army Embedded Training Team. They all served in Afghanistan.

## From page 1: 350,000

projected that the Army Guard would reach 350,000 troops by Sept. 30, the end of this fiscal year.

"As long as someone doesn't turn off the machine, as long as we have the resources available to recruit like we do now, I fully expect us to be around 356,000 at the end of this year," Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army Guard, said in Congressional testimony on April 11.

The achievement follows one of the Army Guard's most successful recruiting and retention years in its history. The force experienced a net growth of 13,111 Soldiers during fiscal year 2006, Guard officials said, and it surpassed its retention goal of 34,875

by reenlisting 41,083 Soldiers. That was said to be unprecedented for the all-volunteer force since the end of the military draft 34 years ago. The Army Guard's end strength was 346,288 when the last fiscal year ended Sept. 30.

Reaching 350,000 Soldiers six months ahead of schedule was cause for celebration within the Strength Maintenance Division. Here are some of the reasons why it happened:

- The personal involvement of state governors, adjutants general, unit commanders and other leaders in the business of recruiting and retention was considered an important key to the success.
- An additional 2,400 recruiting and retention noncommissioned officers were brought into the force between August 2004 and August 2006. In all, the Army Guard has trained more

than 3,500 recruiting and retention NCOs during the past two fiscal years. "They are now finding their legs and beginning to pay off in big ways," said Craun.

- Bonuses for signing up and staying in have increased significantly. The bonus for non-prior service people, for example, has doubled from \$10,000 to \$20,000; bonuses for prior-service people and for those who stay in have increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000; college assistance includes a \$20,000 bonus and 100 percent tuition assistance.
- The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) and Every Soldier A Recruiter (ESAR), which provides other Guard Soldiers bonuses of up to \$2,000 for persuading people to join the Guard and complete their initial training, has enjoyed nationwide success.

- Advertising and marketing strategies which focus on new technology and mediums, such as professional auto racing and bass fishing, have been successful.

- Training and sustainment programs for new Guard Soldiers have been extremely beneficial. Only 1.98 percent of Army Guard recruits have failed to complete their basic and advanced individual training during the past 12 months, officials said. That is the lowest attrition rate among all of the military components.

The key has been adequate funding for the additional recruiting and retention personnel, the bonuses, the advertising and marketing campaigns, and the training programs, said Craun. "We will continue to grow the force as long as we have the funding," she maintained.

# Dam beavers

## Helicopter crews help drain reservoir clogged by furry critters in Maryland

By Capt. David Magness  
Maryland National Guard

OAKLAND, Md. — Soldiers and their helicopters from two Maryland National Guard aviation companies were called out in early March to move pumps into position to drain water from an overflowing reservoir.

Water from a 7.5 million-gallon reservoir in the small western Maryland mountain town of Oakland was pouring over an earthen dam, threatening the safety of homes and businesses downstream. Beavers had clogged the dam's drainage system so thoroughly that divers could not clear it. To make matters worse, warmer temperatures were forecast that would melt the snow pack and raise the water level. The reservoir urgently needed to be drained.

Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation and Company C, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation used CH-47 Chinook helicopters to lift two 8,900-pound pumps into

place so they could begin draining the water and easing the pressure on the dam. UH-60 helicopters were also used in the operation.

The helicopters and crews overcame several challenges, including small landing and pickup zones with encroaching wires and buildings, unusual loads and nighttime operations.

Almost all of the members of newly-minted Company B were new to the CH-47 and were not experienced in this type of mission. Combat veterans of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and Company C aided their Chinook brethren.

The helicopter crews rehearsed the mission by hauling a 4,000 pound oil tank to the top of the dam and carefully setting it down.

After the pumps were in place and operating, the reservoir level was brought down, allowing workers to unclog the drainage pipe and avoid a potential flood.

The training gained by the de-



Photo by Sgt. First Class Don Claxton

**A Maryland CH-47D Chinook helicopter assists local authorities by hauling two giant pumps used to relieve pressure on a dam in the western Maryland town of Oakland on March 7. The reservoir had become dangerously full when a submerged outflow pipe had become clogged with sticks and mud placed by beavers.**

ploying B Company will prove instrumental to the war fight and to future emergency hurricane and flood missions in the United States, said Col. Fritz Kirklighter, the 29th

CAB commander.

"This mission was a tremendous success," said Kirklighter. "Citizen-Soldiers took time off from their jobs and families to help their neighbors

in need. We were needed to support the people of Maryland, which also gave our Soldiers better training to refine both our state and combat operation missions." 

## Virginia prepares for disaster response

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — In an historic training exercise for the 29th Infantry Division April 11, Soldiers established the operations center charged with coordinating Guard Military Support to Civil Authorities in the event of an emergency in the National Capitol Region.

More than 100 key staff and planners from the 29th ID used this training to learn to work seamlessly with state agency personnel and first responders.

"How we train to support the citizens of Virginia and Maryland will go a long way toward how we effectively support them in time of need," said Brig. Gen. Grant Hayden, exercise director and deputy commander for the 29th ID. "We do these exercises to see how we'll respond during a real emergency. We're solidifying the Joint Task Force 29 concept."

The training incorporated lessons-learned from Hurricane Katrina and will help expedite Guard support and put boots on the ground sooner



Photo by Master Sgt. Fred W. Baker III

**Virginia Guardsmembers work in the operations center during an April 11 exercise dubbed "Hurricane Howard." They learned to work with state agency personnel and first responders.**

when disaster strikes, said 1st Sgt. Russell Hunter, 29th Infantry Division chief operations sergeant.

"What we've learned from Katrina is that we've got to do things on the front end," Hunter said. "We

need to understand the complexities of working with civilian responders. If we're all working the same, and we're all talking the same, then we're able to cut out the bureaucracy." 

### From page 2: NOR'EASTER

trucks and Humvees to help the cause.

An additional 154 Guardsmembers were on duty in neighboring New Jersey where the armory in Teaneck was being used as maintenance site by the Department of Public Works.

The rescue of 18 children in Nottingham, whose school was surrounded by flood waters, highlighted the New Hampshire Guard's efforts throughout the state to assist first responders.

A handful of Connecticut Soldiers evacuated 37

civilians and 90 patients from an assisted living complex in Stamford and Westport, NGB reported. More than 300 troops were on duty in New Hampshire, filling and distributing sandbags, manning traffic control points and supporting evacuation operations in Keene, Hampton and Rochester; and 231 Massachusetts Soldiers were performing similar duties in Salisbury and Newbury in anticipation of flooding along the North Shore above Boston.

In Maine, 139 Soldiers provided traffic control security at roads and bridges that were closed because of the storm. 

## Called out

A sampling of state active duty missions (as of mid-April)

**New Jersey:** Storm relief operations from spring Nor'easter; current mission focus is evacuation of civilian personnel utilizing 2.5 and 5 ton high wheel vehicles from flooded areas; security and infrastructure protection of key assets at nuclear power generation plants

**New York:** Providing several hundred Guardsmembers for anticipated missions of emergency transportation of civilians and logistics, augmentation to law enforcement and debris removal after major storm; Security missions and command and control at train stations, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, JFK and LaGuardia airports; providing key asset and infrastructure protection at nuclear power plants

**Louisiana:** Providing special response teams in New Orleans to support the police department for Operation Crescent Guard; conducting roving patrols and static checkpoints there

**Massachusetts:** Conducting spring storm response operations in Reading and South Shore; activated two transportation companies to support possible coastal evacuations

**California:** Providing force protection for several installations

**Kentucky:** Providing water purification for Knott County due to a county wide water shortage

**Iowa:** Supporting winter storm response operations in Burlington

**New Mexico:** Furnishing potable water and equipment to various communities

## Alaska ANG assists British seaman

By Kalei Brooks  
Alaska National Guard

CAMP DENALI, Alaska — The Alaska Air National Guard came to the aid of a British seaman who was injured onboard a Royal Navy submarine in Prudhoe Bay in March.

The British submarine HMS Tireless was in Prudhoe Bay, more than 600 miles north of Anchorage, participating in the U.S.-United Kingdom exercise ICEX 2007.

On March 20, the Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali received word from the exercise's Joint Task Force that an oxygen tank exploded on the HMS Tireless, injuring one seaman and killing two others onboard.

The Joint Task Force requested

assistance in transporting the injured seaman to Anchorage for medical attention. Less than an hour later, an Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 aircraft from the 211th Rescue Squadron with pararescuemen aboard from the 212th Rescue Squadron was enroute to the town of Deadhorse to pick up the injured man.

According to reports, a civilian helicopter already on the North Slope transported the man to Deadhorse from Ice Camp at Prudhoe Bay. The HMS Tireless was about 170 miles north of Deadhorse.

The patient and a doctor were brought aboard the HC-130 aircraft. They were flown to Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage to an awaiting ambulance. 



first  
pitch

Photo by 1st Lt. Jay Ostrich

Senior Master Don Koch, a 35-year veteran of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and one of its first Purple Heart recipients, prepares to throw out the first pitch.

## Airmen honored at home opener

By 1st Lt. Jay Ostrich

Pennsylvania Air National Guard  
PITTSBURGH - Three years ago, the weather, terrain and local hospitality couldn't have presented a more startling contrast. It was exceptionally hot and not every person they met in the sands of Iraq's Sunni Triangle was friendly to these Airmen from the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Middletown, Pa.

But on a frigid afternoon surrounded by beautifully manicured

grass, more than 38,000 rabid Pittsburgh Pirates fans gave Senior Master Sgt. Don Koch and Tech. Sgt. Jeff Myers the warmest reception of their lives.

As the first recipients of the Purple Heart in Pennsylvania Air National Guard history, the duo was honored by throwing out the ceremonial Opening Day first pitch and catch, April 9.

Their participation marked the beginning of a statewide effort called "Operation Shining Diamond" to celebrate the Air National Guard's 60th anniversary at professional baseball parks throughout the commonwealth. The 111th Fighter Wing, Willow Grove, Pa., also provided a three-ship A-10 flyover during the national anthem.

Throughout a rousing and lengthy standing ovation, fans gave thanks to these Airmen who were wounded in an improvised explosive device attack, which rendered both with extensive shrapnel wounds outside Mosul, Iraq.

"It gave me a big chill to be in

front of that crowd," said Myers, who later received a second Purple Heart and a Bronze Star after returning to duty in Iraq. "I know they appreciate what Airmen do and the sacrifices we make to ensure freedom and our way of life."

With more than 50 years of combined service to their commonwealth and country, the team provided convoy security as gunners with the 1058th Air Expeditionary Force Transportation Company in 2004. Their seven-man team ran convoys for the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division through austere and hostile regions.

But the pair weren't the only people being recognized for more than a half century of dedication. Pittsburgh native John Wray, a Pirates fan who has logged in 50 straight opening day events, couldn't help but give a personal salute for their efforts. For the first catch, he loaned Koch the very glove he wore to his first opening day game when he was just six years old.

"These guys are really unbelievable heroes," said Wray who works as a fundraiser for a national church organization. "It couldn't be a greater honor to me than to have these servicemen use this glove and go make history."

With a steely-eyed gaze and perfect bearing, Myers wound up and delivered an inside strike into the history books and a well-weathered glove.

"History matters, because it means that what we did as a team has touched someone's life and hopefully made it a little better," said Myers.



Staff Sgt. Willie Vegas Sr.

## Florida bodybuilder making it big

A Florida Guardsman with the 3rd Battery, 265th Air Defense Artillery has qualified for the 2007 U.S. Amateur National Bodybuilding Championships.

Staff Sgt. Willie Vegas Sr., 40, will be trying to out-flex bodybuilders from all over the nation in November in Dallas, Texas. It's the second time he's qualified for it.

"My goal is to compete in the professional arena and represent the Florida National Guard as well as the U.S. military around the globe," said Vegas, who plans to go pro if he wins. He started bodybuilding in 1991.

He enlisted in the Florida National Guard in 1998 and is currently assigned as an avenger squad leader with the 3-265th in Bradenton.

## Missourian excels at 2007 U.S. Army Small Arms Championships

By Regina Turner

Missouri Army National Guard

FORT BENNING, Ga. - Missouri Guard Staff Sgt. Damon Rufener recently earned the top title in the novice class of the Overall 2007 U.S. Army Small Arms Championship. This national marksmanship event was sponsored by the U.S. Army Infantry Center and conducted by the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit on March 2 - 13.

The competition included advanced combat live-fire training events with both the service rifle and service pistol. The 150 participants represented the active Army, Army Reserves, and Army and Air National Guard from across the country.

Rufener competed in both novice class individual matches and team events. The championship included

22 trophy events. Rufener took first place in four individual novice events.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly Vedane-Finn

Novice class winner Staff Sgt. Damon Rufener in action.

## Mass. supports Boston Marathon

HOPKINTON, Mass. - While having more than 900 Soldiers and Airmen serving on active duty at home and abroad, the Massachusetts National Guard continues to play a critical role in the Boston Marathon.

Approximately 400 soldiers from the 51st Troop Command assisted state and local police in protecting public safety along the marathon route from Hopkinton to the border between Boston and Brookline.

Soldiers and Airmen from the 1st Civil Support Team supported public safety operations by monitoring for any chemical, biological or radiological agents during the event. The CST also advised civil agencies

in planning for and reacting to any known or suspected weapons of mass destruction.

In addition to public safety support, about 20 Guardmembers participated in the event as runners.

The Air National Guard performed a flyover during the opening ceremonies with four F-15 Eagle jet fighters from the 102nd Fighter Wing, based at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod.

"Overseas deployments continue, but homeland security remains a primary mission," said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., the state's adjutant general. "Our Soldiers and Airmen are ready to serve wherever they're needed."



Photo courtesy of LAT Photographic

## Frustration at Martinsville

Casey Mears and his No. 25 National Guard car pits at the Martinsville Speedway in Virginia April 1. Multiple problems crippled the car's chances, and the team gutted out a 42nd-place finish in the 500-lap race. Mears said after the race that "it was a nightmarish day." He dropped to 33rd in the NASCAR Nextel Cup point standings and was 184 points out of 12th place, the final spot in the 2007 Chase for the Championship.

# TrailBlazers

**A study of Guard history will uncover the stories of men and women who played key roles in our nation's growth as a world power. This month two of these men, separated by hundreds of years, left their mark upon our heritage: one in the 17th century, the other in the 20th.**

**By John Listman**  
National Guard Bureau



*Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society*

Captain John Smith as portrayed on the front piece of the German edition of his *Generall Historie* published in 1636.

## Captain John Smith (1579-1631)

Four hundred years ago, on May 14, 1607, 101 Englishmen in three small ships sailed up the newly named James River in Tidewater, Va. A small island was selected for their settlement due to its excellent defensive position. It was christened "Jamestowne" in honor of King James I. They established the first permanent English colony in North America. At the same time they all became members of the first English militia in the New World.

One of their military leaders was Captain John Smith, a soldier of fortune with an extensive background of service in various European armies. From about 1596-1606, he fought in wars from the Netherlands to Hungary. He earned his rank of captain (in today's terminology the equivalent of lieutenant colonel) in the Hungarian army for his bold leadership while fighting the Turks.

But in Virginia, perhaps his most famous act was being saved from execution by Pocahontas, as related by him in his memoirs entitled *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles* published in 1624. In this and other works Smith comes off as a hero saving the colony from disaster from hostile native tribes.

When the men first landed, they immediately began looking for gold reported to be just laying out in the open, theirs for the taking. Smith argued for the construction of a fort to protect

the settlement. His warnings proved correct when on May 26 the first colonist was killed in a clash with the local natives raiding an outlying camp. The next day work started on a fort to surround the few houses erected on the island. Within weeks it was finished, including the mounting of five cannon.

Later, with the arrival of new settlers, Smith organized the men into two companies. While one company stood guard at the fort and outlying farms, the men of the other did the everyday work, mostly farming and fishing. Smith also set up a training regimen to teach the new men the basics of handling arms and military discipline.

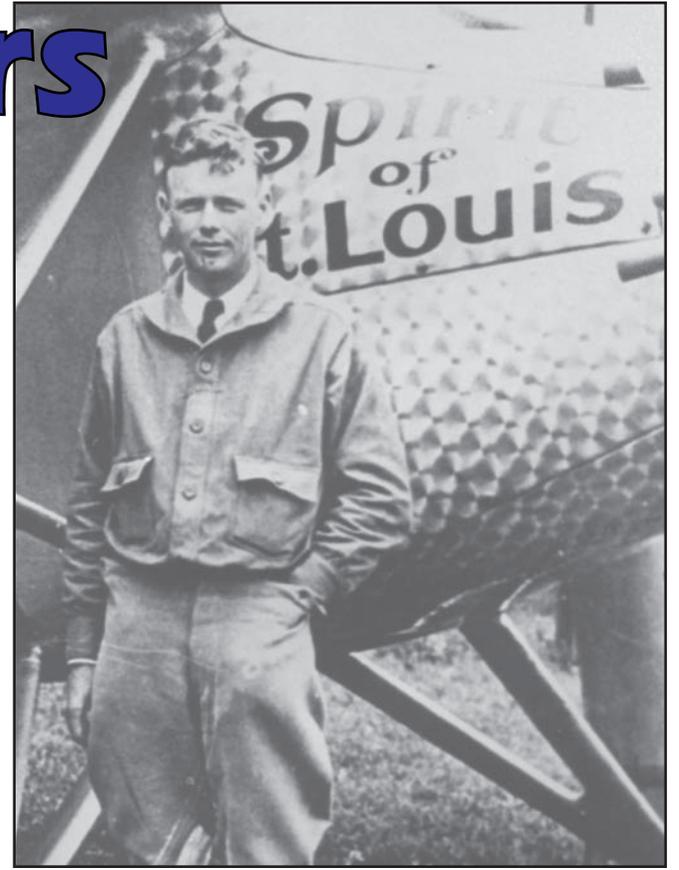
There is no dispute that Smith was a talented and capable military commander. But he was also abrasive and often at odds with other leaders of the colony. In fact, in 1609 he was threatened with arrest just before he was severely burned in a gunpowder explosion. He returned home to recover and never saw Virginia again. He spent his final days writing his various accounts of his life and adventures and died at home in 1631.

The Virginia colony nearly ended in 1608 due to death from starvation and Indian attacks, but Smith's courageous leadership helped to hold the survivors together long enough for new men and supplies to arrive in the spring. Most historians credit him as one of the most important leaders in the first years of the Jamestown settlement and thus in American and Guard history.

forces during their one-year deployment.

**May 8, 1884** Lamar, Mo. - Thirty-third President of the United States Harry S. Truman is born. He started his Guard career as an enlisted member of Battery B, Missouri National Guard Artillery in 1904. He left after three years but returned to the Guard on the eve of World War I in 1917. Commanding Battery D, 129th Field Artillery, 35th Division in France, he gained a reputation as a strict but fair leader.

**May 14, 1945** Mindanao Island, Philippines - Elements of Florida's 124th Infantry, 31st Infantry Division repel



*National Archives and Records Administration*

Captain Charles Lindbergh stands beside the Spirit of St. Louis just prior to his epic flight in May 1927.

## Captain Charles A. Lindbergh (1902-1974)

At 10:22 on the evening of May 21, 1927, a flimsy-looking silver airplane landed at Le Bourget Airport, near Paris, France. It was mobbed by thousands of cheering people welcoming its single occupant. A lean, tired pilot climbed out to thunderous acclaim. Charles Lindbergh had just flown for 33½ hours and entered the history books as the first man to fly solo, non-stop, from the United States to Europe.

Most Americans know his name and his airplane but few know little more about the man.

When he took off from New York City on the morning of May 20, to save weight so he could carry as much fuel as possible, he had no radio or parachute. But he did carry a passport, with his picture showing him wearing his uniform as a member of the 110th Observation Squadron, 35th Division, Missouri National Guard.

Lindbergh's entire career was connected with aviation. As the son of a member of Congress living in Washington, DC, he watched early Army pilots flying the first Army aircraft at Fort Myer, Va. He dropped out of college to fly with a barnstorming troupe. He joined the Army, attended pilot's training and graduated in 1925 as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Service Reserve. But the Reserve at this time had no drilling units or aircraft, so he joined the 110th Observation Squadron. He was such a skilled pilot that he was promoted to captain by the time of his flight in 1927.

While flying airmail in his civilian occupation he became interested in the trans-Atlantic contest in which a \$25,000 prize was offered for the first man to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. Lindbergh got the backing of some St. Louis businessmen and arranged for his special Spirit of St. Louis aircraft to be built.

Following his historic flight, Lindbergh became an overnight national hero and was quickly promoted to colonel in the Reserve. This effectively took him out of his Guard unit due to the lack of a slot. He was awarded the Medal of Honor and became the only Guardsman to get it for a non-combat achievement.

In his later life, his baby son was kidnapped and killed, again bringing his life back to public attention. In the years prior to World War II, he spoke with enthusiasm about some aspects of the Nazi government, making him very unpopular in America. He even joined the America First Committee trying to keep the nation out of the war before the Pearl Harbor attack. However, once in the war, he put his talents to use in service to his country as a civilian contractor for Ford Motors testing B-24 bombers. While visiting bases in the Pacific, he flew several combat missions against the Japanese. In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower awarded Lindbergh the rank of brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve. Lindbergh died at age 72 in 1974, one of the most famous Americans of the 20th century. And yet few know he was a Guardsman when he made his mark on history. 🇺🇸

## It happened in May

Events that made Guard history

*Selected entries from the National Guard's 365-day event calendar found at [www.ngb.army.mil/](http://www.ngb.army.mil/)*

**May 3, 1968** Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam - Colorado's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron becomes the first of four ANG squadrons to arrive in Vietnam. All four flew F-100 Super Sabre jet aircraft, giving close air support to ground

several Japanese "banzi" suicidal attacks. The division had just captured the important airfield at Valencia, and the enemy assault was a final attempt to recapture it.

**May 28, 1999** Kosovo, Yugoslavia - A-10 Warthog aircraft of the 104th Expeditionary Operations Group, known as the "Killer Bees," destroy Serbian tanks and other military vehicles during Operation Allied Force, the NATO war to force the Serbs to stop the "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo. Three ANG squadrons from Maine, Michigan and Idaho composed the 104th.



Photo by Senior Airman Andrew R. Howells

April Barrett accompanied her husband 2nd Lt. Shawn Barrett for the first time on a spouse orientation flight March 15.

## Family unity cultivates quality pilots

By Senior Airman Andrew R. Howells  
Utah National Guard

SALT LAKE CITY - Flying high above Utah's west desert, spouses of Utah Air National Guardmembers witnessed the refueling of an F-16 fighter jet from the pod of a KC-135R model aircraft on a spouse orientation flight March 15.

This was the first spouse flight since the 151st Air Refueling Wing converted to the KC-135R last spring. This flight also became a first for many of the passengers.

April Barrett, wife of 2nd Lt. Shawn Barrett, was one of the spouses who witnessed for the first time what her husband experiences every time he flies.

"I like seeing what my husband does when he goes up each time, and it really makes me proud to see how skilled they all are," said April.

Barrett is a new pilot who in December returned from 20 consecutive months of pilot training.

"It really was humbling to show my wife what all the studying we did together over the last year and a half was for," Barrett said.

April agreed, saying "I liked helping him study, and to be able to now see it all in action made it worth it."

Barrett attributes his success as a pilot to the support that he received from his wife throughout his pilot training.

"April's support and encouragement made it possible," he said.

## Mom, daughter serve in Iraq

By Capt. Ken Hall

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - More than 250 Minnesota Air National Guardmembers recently replaced counterparts in a combat rotation deployed to Iraq's combat airpower hub. Among them, 41 relatives comprising 19 families joined the famed Tuskegee Airmen of Balad's 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing.

These Citizen-Airmen fulfill a myriad of roles providing combat airpower over Iraq. Keeping pilots ready to fly and their jets airworthy are nearly 200 fellow Airmen performing countless critical roles.

Having served on active duty, in the Reserve and now the Guard, 20-year-plus veteran Senior Master Sgt. Marcia Dumancas deployed here with her daughter. The last time the sergeant deployed, daughter Leilani was a high school junior undecided about her future. "Mom," she decided during a going-away ceremony for deploying Airmen, "this is what I want to do."

Airman 1st Class Leilani Dumancas is on her first deployment here, serving as a life support technician. "Being responsible for all the gear that keeps pilots alive makes me feel very proud of what I do here," she says.

Sergeant Dumancas is the operations section supervisor where she and her fellow Airmen work 12-plus-hour shifts, seven days a week, ensuring pilots get airborne for 24-hour operations. She is on her second tour in Iraq and fifth major deployment overall. "You go through years and years of training. But this is it -- this is the real thing -- it's why we're in the military," she said.

# Military Moms Mother, son fight war on terrorism together

By Lt. Janette Arencibia

Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

KABUL, Afghanistan - They may ride in the same vehicle at home, but when headed out on a mission together in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sgt. Donna Mitchell and Spc. Kenniston Allan Vogal are required to ride separately. These warriors are a mother and son from Portland, Ore., assigned to the 41st Brigade Combat Team.

"I was working at the recruiter's office before leaving for basic and they told me to think of people who I knew that I could recruit," said Vogal. "The first person that came to mind was my mother. My mother was prior enlisted and I knew she wanted to serve her country again."

His mother previously served in the Air National Guard from 1976-84, working as a computer operator and base supply administrator. "Service to our country is in my blood because my father is a retired drill sergeant," Mitchell said. After serving there, she took jobs through a temp agency and then stayed home to raise her boys. In that period, she also worked in the Oregon State Board of Nursing. After 9/11, she felt compelled to be back in uniform.

Serving together is advantageous to both as well as their command. Mom tells of a time when she was asked to counsel her son regarding a timeliness issue. "[I was asked to] talk with him about tardiness and since that hour-long counseling between us, he has never been late." Son is just as quick to admit that. At times, a good hour-long time-out might be just what he needs because he is also a role model to his younger brother at home who just finished basic training. "My little brother, David Andrew Workinger, is serving with the 218th in Portland, Ore., and just finished basic. Now he's my gun chief. He wanted to come here with us."

Vogal says he admires his mother: "She is someone I am proud to recruit because of her people skills and her knowledge of the military. She really knows how to command people." Mitchell admirably says this of her son: "His enthusiasm for the military has been an inspiration to the entire family."

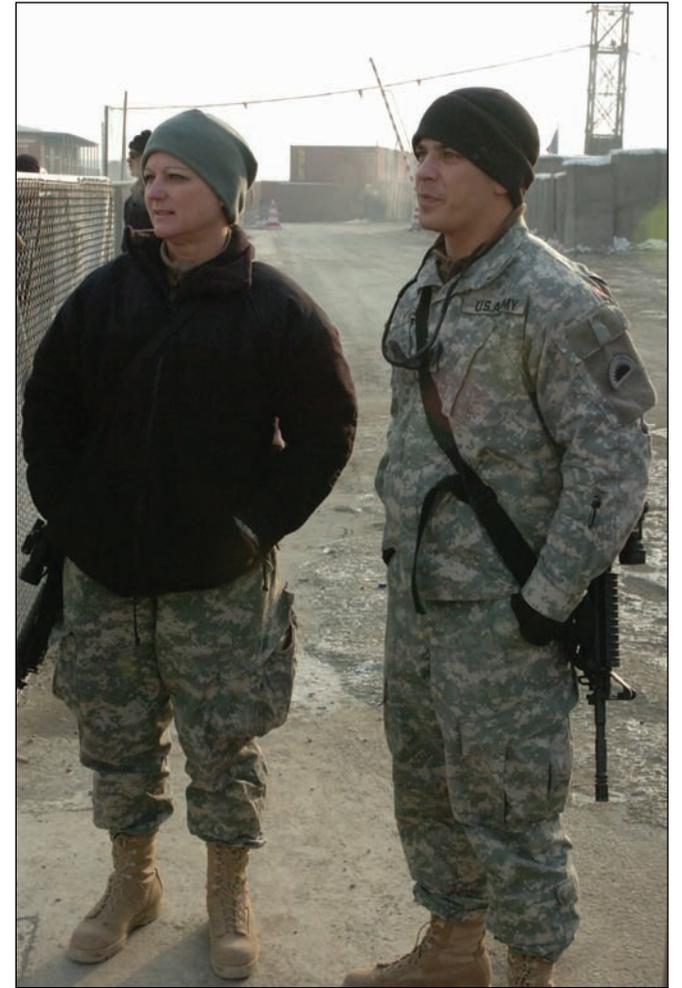


Photo by Lt. Janette Arencibia

Sgt. Donna Mitchell and son Spc. Kenniston Vogal watch the runway at Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan to make sure personnel transported from Task Force Phoenix make their flight with no complications.



## Family Program stands ready to assist those facing extended deployments

Col. Anthony E. Baker, chief, National Guard Bureau Family Programs, alerted his staff along with state, territory and wing family program staff to be ready for the increased challenges associated with extended deployments.

During times of deployment, family assistance coordinators are added to the states' family programs. With the current support of 452 family assistance specialists positioned in all of the states and territories, the Family Program is available to provide service to every military family 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Those services include assistance with ID cards and DEERS enrollment, TRICARE medical health enrollment, financial and legal referrals, community outreach infor-

mation and referrals for anything from finding counseling to helping locate a good mechanic.

The Family Program serves as a network that allows families to mutually support one another. By providing families with information, resources, and support, the program strengthens the unit, Guard member and family.

For more information or to find a family assistance center near you, call 1-888-777-7731 or go to:

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

