



# THE ON GUARD

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GEORGIA  
TURKEY SHOOT



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## Exercise tests Guard as first military responder

### ‘Vigilant Guard’ trains thousands on nuclear scenario

By **Sgt. Jim Greenhill**  
National Guard Bureau

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Even the response to a 10-kiloton nuclear device detonating in an American city starts in the 9-1-1 system.

In this nightmare nuclear scenario, the phone lines lead first to a dispatcher, then to a series of local, county and state civilian authorities, and then to the National Guard. Civilian agencies always are first on the scene; the National Guard is the nation’s first military

responder, supporting the governor and state emergency management agency.

Vigilant Guard – an 11-day exercise in which the National Guard’s 1,000-acre Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) here stands in for Indianapolis after a nuclear bombing – tests National Guard capabilities developed since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and since Hurricane Katrina exploded on Louisiana and Mississippi on Aug. 29, 2005.

The joint exercise uniting civilian authorities and troops from the National Guard, Reserve and active duty is hosted by the Indiana National Guard and ended May 18.

Vigilant Guard showed how local, state and federal agencies would come together like a

mosaic of disaster response in a real calamity.

“The 9-1-1 call would generate a police officer, a firefighter or an emergency response person,” LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during a visit here, speaking over the sound of a concrete drill as a special National Guard team extracted the wounded and dead from a rubble pile.

“When the local first responder comes on the scene and they see what they’re facing, the senior person becomes the incident commander,” Blum said, sketching out the incident command system that is part of America’s National Response Plan.

Repeatedly proven in western wildfires

– where numerous agencies who may never have worked together before must quickly respond to a complex crisis spread over tens of thousands of rural and urban acres – the incident command system gives responders a common operating plan, allowing trained people from disparate agencies to know in advance exactly how they fit in to the big picture in a catastrophe.

The civilian incident command system borrows heavily from military command and control models.

“The incident commander calls back to his or her higher command and tells them

**VIGILANT GUARD continued on:  
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### Guard rolls out for tornado disaster in Greensburg

By **Maj. DeAnn Barr**  
Kansas National Guard

Within four hours of the deadly tornado that struck Greensburg, Kan., May 4 under the cloak of darkness, Kansas National Guardmembers were called to duty to bring relief to their devastated neighbors.

Before the sun rose to clearly show the extent of damage, 15 security forces personnel from the Kansas Air National Guard in Wichita were on the scene providing law enforcement assistance to local authorities.

“We arrived to utter devastation,” said Master Sgt. Frank Cook, one of the first wave responders with the 184th Security Forces Squadron, 184th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, at McConnell Air Force Base. “We worked to make a difference and protect what little property these people have left.”

The Air Guard security forces were joined by about 30 Soldiers from the Battery E (TAB), 161st Field Artillery, Kansas Army National Guard from Great Bend, Kan.

The state’s new C2V Mobile Incident Response Vehicle was mobilized early May 5 and placed next to the Greensburg courthouse, one of the few buildings in the town left standing. Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general of Kansas and the director of the state’s emergency management, was on-site the same day setting the stage for timely communication



Photo by Pfc. John Wood

### Alaskan urgency

Spc. James Kinchen of the 297th Infantry Regiment (Scout) calls for help while Jasmine Boyle of Homer portrays a wounded citizen during the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge exercise and mass casualty training event in North Pole, Alaska. See related story on page 10.

**GREENSBURG continued on:  
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### May: a month to remember

If April is “the cruellest month,” according to T.S. Eliot’s immortal verse, May was one of the most challenging for the National Guard. Seldom has this nation’s Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen been pulled in so many different directions in this country at the same time. Guard troops from many states took part in three demanding homeland defense training exercises that tested our abilities to support local, state and federal authorities during a hurricane in Rhode Island, multiple terrorist attacks in Alaska, and a nuclear detonation in Indiana.

Meanwhile, Mother Nature churned up some real-world missions with a devastating tornado followed by flooding in Kansas; wildfires in Florida, Georgia, Minnesota and California; and still more flooding in South Dakota and Missouri.

This month’s edition of The On Guard focuses on the Guard’s response during the training scenarios and to the real domestic emergencies, based on reports by members of our staff and from state public affairs people. Coverage begins here on **page 1**.

More training stories are found on **pages 7-10**. Reports about the Kansas tornado are on **pages 4-5**. Stories about fires and floods are on **page 11**. And we’re all holding our breath to find out what June will bring, when the hurricane season begins. We’re confident that no matter what, the Guard will remain Always Ready, Always There.

- Master Sgt. Bob Haskell,  
Senior Editor

State Partnership Program can help keep broken promise: Page 13



## ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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E-mail your stories to us by the first Friday of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (300 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

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# SUMMER SAFETY?

## MEET STAFF SGT. HYDE

ARLINGTON, Va. – The SEND commands by now have triggered the annual deluge of e-mails reminding us of all kinds of ways to stay safe during this dangerously-fun time of year called “the 101 days of summer.” Use sun screen. Wear your motorcycle or bicycle helmet. Put on a lifejacket. Check for ticks. Pick a designated driver. Buckle your seatbelt. Drink plenty of water and other fluids. And if you must have a beer or two – which a lot of us must – DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE or operate a boat or jet-ski or even water ski.

Hey, I'm not poking fun at the messages; just the volume of them. I believe it's important to remind people about the perils of letting a good time get out of hand. And I suppose that if we write it and say it enough – that the road over here can be just as deadly as the war over there – most everyone will get the message.

We get the same messages during annual training and while we're performing our other duties such as fighting wildfires and helping tornado victims. Safety first. Use ground guides. Wear safety vests and hard hats and helmets. And hydrate, hydrate.

Here's my safety message: Stop and think.

Sometimes, on the spur of the moment, you can do something that is not safe without knowing that you're doing it. Then, if you do not die or get seriously injured, you may encounter someone like Staff Sgt. Hyde.

That's not his real name. I can't remember it. However, I did have a



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
Senior Editor

brief but memorable encounter with him many summers ago during annual training in Maine.

He was a Huey crew chief and I did something that could have caused his helicopter to crash. Here's the story:

It was media day, and I was escorting a newspaper photographer and a couple of reporters on a flight

from the Maine Guard's training area at Bog Brook to the place in the woods where, as I recall, our combat engineers were operating bulldozers and blowing things up.

The crew chief had professionally and politely given us the standard safety briefing about how to approach the aircraft and where to meet in the unlikely event that it crashed. He didn't say anything about the doors – the side doors that slide open and shut – other than telling us how to kick out the windows if we had to.

He made sure we were properly belted in, and we took off – doors closed – for the 20-minute flight. He was sitting on the left side of the helicopter and I was on the right. We were cruising at 120 mph or so. It was a glorious day, and the photographer, who was facing me, wanted to get some aerial shots. He asked me to open the door.

Sure, no problem, I thought without really thinking. I pulled the door

halfway open, and the photographer started clicking away. Next thing I knew, the crew chief was in front of me. He slammed the door shut. He pointed his finger at me. His eyes were burning holes through his helmet's sunshield. The door remained closed until we landed 10 minutes later.

I'll never know how he got around that helicopter so quickly, but the crew chief was waiting for me when I hit the ground. Staff Sgt. Jekyll had become Staff Sgt. Hyde. “Come with me!” he yelled into my face. I followed him until we were out from under the main propeller so he could make himself heard.

He called me a name that I refer to here only with the greatest reluctance. Begins with an a. Ends with an e. Has seven letters. It's frequently preceded by “You.”

Then he informed me in no uncertain terms (1) that I had committed an unsafe act; (2) that the wind could have ripped off that door and sailed it into the rear rotor; (3) that the people on board could have been killed; (4) that the door could have killed someone on the ground; and (5) that it was his helicopter and he did not like it one damned bit when anybody did anything dangerous to it or around it.

I stood there and took his tongue lashing for the two or three minutes knowing that I had done a stupid thing and that his helicopter was my only ride back to Bog Brook.

Needless to say, that is one safety lesson I will never forget.

So enjoy these 101 days. Spend quality time with family and friends. Be safe. Don't drink and drive. And if you're flying in a Huey, don't mess with the doors.

Stop and think. 

### To the editor: APFT column struck a chord

I am the state training officer for Hawaii and want to thank you for the article you wrote on PT. It underscores how many feel toward the APFT and the anxieties as well as underlying benefits. I am a military technician and have taken the APFT for record twice a year for the last 10 years. It is not a requirement for me but I feel we always need to be ready to meet or exceed the standard given the opportunity.

I have not seen the mid to high 200s in years but always try to aim for them as my goal. I am not particularly skilled at the cranking out the pushups, situps and two-mile run so I have to make a conscious effort to do them regularly or risk the result of failing. Gone are the days of youth when I could take and pass the APFT effortlessly without training and feel ok the next day. I practice but still hurt the next couple of days whenever the APFT is taken. I don't do the minimum and walk away from the pushup and situp events like many I have seen over the years because that is shortchanging yourself and a bad example for our Soldiers to emulate. I would rather give it my best shot and fail rather than give it the minimum and pass.

—Maj. Wesley Tanji, Hawaii National Guard

### COMMENTARY:

## My brother the proud infantry Soldier

By Senior Airman Paul Ross  
Georgia Air National Guard

WARNER ROBINS AFB, Ga. – I went to visit my brother last weekend. He's a typical 18-year old – cocky and arrogant with plenty of spit and vinegar flowing through his veins.

As a recent graduate of the Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., he is now a crucial piece in the backbone of the United States military and one of the key factors in this country's Global War on Terrorism.

I have a great deal of pride in my brother. The youngest of four boys and second youngest of six kids, he was always finding himself in situations that required disciplinary action. This led teachers and faculty members to ultimately decide, like they do with most troublesome youths, that he wouldn't amount to much more than a convict or a vagabond. At some point my friends started a betting pool about how old he would be when

he was incarcerated. Much to his teachers' disbeliefs, no one has won the money.

It's almost amusing to think that in a short time he will be aboard a plane, taking the 12-hour flight across the Atlantic with only one intention: to protect the freedoms of every citizen of the United States of America, including the same folks who wrote him off as a waste of their time and efforts.

In all the conversations I've had with my brother, I have never heard him speak with as much passion and enthusiasm as he does when he discusses the infantry. He could talk for hours about the various weapons he has been trained to fire or about the proper way to enter a building full of potential threats. I have my wife and daughter, but his heart belongs to the Army.

As we were sitting in my hotel room the night of his graduation he spoke of his excitement to get wherever the Army needs him and to get his hands dirty helping combat the war on terror. I thought to myself: “It's a damn good thing there are men like my brother or we wouldn't have any freedoms to fight for.”

And at that moment I realized that he was now a man and not my little brother. He wasn't

the same 10-year-old who I used to pick on and shun when my buddies came around. This man was going to protect my daughter's freedoms, my wife's liberties and my American way of life.

The world is filled with all sorts of men – men who agree with war and those who disagree. There are men like my father, with more blue on his collar than in a clear day's sky, who finds solace in the factory. There are men who grow up to heal the sick and men meant to lead countries. There are men, much like myself, who feel safer behind a pen and pad of paper than with an M-16 slung over their shoulder. And then there are men like my brother – men who are willing to give up their most valuable possession in order to keep our way of life intact.


There is no dishonor for those of us who lack the same vim and vigor it takes to tramp through the streets of Baghdad and put our lives on the line. But the next time you are enjoying a day with your family or relaxing on your couch, remember the men like my brother, the men who still so closely resemble boys, the men who grow up too quickly, the men who fight for freedom, the men who sometimes don't come home. 





Photo courtesy of 1/34 BCT

A Minnesota Guard Soldier speaks with a resident of Al Batha, Iraq, before the new construction of the city's roads.

## Minnesota unit improves roadways, bridges in Iraq

By Spc. Brian D. Jesness  
1/34th BCT Public Affairs

CAMP ADDER, Iraq - Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers and Iraqi citizens of Al Batha recently restored 15 kilometers of Al Batha city streets in southern Iraq.

The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division's Civil Military Operations team supervised projects to grade the city's streets, which had not been maintained for 20 years. Most of the streets were nothing more than dirt trails with deep ruts from vehicle traffic.

"Many of the streets had eight-foot-wide pot holes filled with mud, sewage and garbage; making the street impassable for municipal vehicles, daily routines and commercial transit," said Capt. Colin Fleming of Burnsville, Minn., 1/34 BCT deputy civil military operations officer.

The project restored many streets in Al Batha to serviceable gravel roads free of the sewage and debris that partially obstructed many of the city's streets.

The repair of the streets inspired Al Batha city officials to work with provincial authorities to pave the streets and complete the project. To date more than 30 miles of roads have been repaired in Dhi Qar province by these CMO projects.

The 1/34 BCT CMO teams have completed several other road projects throughout Iraq.

Since April 1, 2006, south-central Iraq has seen improvement of more than 540 kilometers of roadways through a highway maintenance program employing local workers to clean up highways. The program removed debris along

highways to provide routes safe from roadside bombs for civilian traffic and coalition forces. Roadside bombs are the biggest threat to supply convoys of coalition forces throughout Iraq.

Last fall, the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery CMO team constructed a new bridge over a canal in the rural date-farming village of Bahkan in Babil province near Camp Scania. The project coordinated by 1st Lt. Stephen Hall of Austin, Minn., deputy effects officer for 1, 125 CMO team, selected a contractor and workers from Bahkan.

"I picked a contractor from that community and all the workers were hired from Bahkan so they took pride in the work. Now the main access to their village is open again," said Hall.

The old bridge, made of concrete only a foot thick, was the only access across canals surrounding the village, home to more than 100 families. It had degraded to the point that underlying support beams were showing as travelers passed over it.

In Dhi Qar and Babil provinces, civil transportation offices are rare. Many roads are left impassable year round from heavy erosion during the winter rainy seasons. Residents are left to find alternative passage to basic necessities of agriculture, clean drinking water and schools.

After more than one year in Iraq, more than 270 projects have been completed by 1/34 BCT CMO teams throughout the country to assist the provinces and gain support for coalition forces.

The Minnesota National Guard 1/34 BCT has more than 2,600 Guardsmen in Iraq plus



Photos by Capt. Paul Rickert

**Above: The old bridge to the village of Bahkan, Iraq, before the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Civil Military Operations team began the project of constructing a new bridge through local contractors. Below: A Minnesota Soldier shakes hands with an official from Bahkan on the newly constructed bridge to the village surrounded by canals.**



Soldiers from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, New Jersey, Georgia, California and several active-duty units.

## Kentucky Guard making difference at Iraq school

By Spc. L.B. Edgar  
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MAKASIB, Iraq - A warm welcome met the Soldiers upon their arrival. Smiles have replaced once contemptuous stares. The typical silence gave way to a friendly dialogue. A customary hand to the heart followed every handshake. The Soldiers were greeted, not as outsiders of the community, but the heroes of the now joyous school.

The day was special for the students of the Al Rasul Primary Elementary School here, a town west of Baghdad, April 17. This was the first day students enjoyed the fully refurbished learning facility made possible by the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Kentucky Army National Guard, assigned to 130th Field Artillery Bde., 1st Cavalry Division.

However, the day was just as special for the Soldiers as for the students, said Lt. Col. John Luttrell, the battalion commander, "You could see the smiles on their faces. For my Soldiers that really

means a lot for them. They truly get to see the fruits of their labors," said the native of Harlan, Ky.

Just as Rome was not built in a day, the fruits of the Soldier's labor were the culmination of seven months working in the Makasib community. Work that was as much patrols as it was relationship building, Luttrell said.

"Every day we go out, we try to make some kind of difference," he said. "What makes me proudest is going out and talking to the communities and listening to the people say how much they appreciate you."

The Soldiers of the battalion are Army National Guardmembers from Kentucky who bring a plethora of professional experience, which aids in civil military operations and humanitarian assistance missions, as well as simple social interaction with the populace, said Maj. Chris Cline, the battalion civil military affairs operations officer.

"One of the things that Kentucky boys are good at is talking. That one-on-one relationship with the local Iraqis (is) critical because you gain trust (with one another)" said the native of Hodgenville, Ky. "Our Soldiers are really good about interacting with the students. Our Soldiers are good role models. They saw a genuine concern and care for the students."

## Afghan police graduate new leaders with Guard help

By Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

American Forces Network - Afghanistan  
BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Afghan National Police took strides toward taking more control of their own security after a joint team of Soldiers with the 235th Military Police Company, South Dakota Army National Guard, and Airmen with the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team led them through a leadership seminar April 2-4.

Police chiefs from seven districts across Kapisa Province received classroom instruction on ethics, values, leadership, community policing, map reading, running a tactical operations center, basic communication, hygiene and logistics. Completion of this course made them the first Afghan police leaders to complete this type of training.

"This training was virgin territory for them and for us," said Army Lt. Col. James Slagowski, 201st Regional Security Assistance Command Central senior mentor for Kapisa ANP. "I know they will take the lessons they learned here and pass it on to their subordinates."

Not only did the training serve to teach leadership skills to local ANP, but it also helped with increasing interoperability between the ANP, Afghan National Army and coalition forces.

"Teaching them some of the ways we operate and ways they can communicate with their troops will only help improve our working relationship because we will all be on the same page when it comes to how we lead our people," said Army 2nd Lt. Thadius Schmit, 235th MP Company platoon leader from Rapid City, S.D. "Training like this makes them more self-reliant so that one day they can run their security operations by themselves."

The 16 ANP leaders agreed that this training opportunity is one that taught them a lot and is one that they will never forget.

"First, I would like to thank the Soldiers for sharing their wealth of knowledge with us," said Afghan Col. Ahnadullah Oria, Tagab District police chief and one of the class's distinguished graduates. "I especially enjoyed the leadership and communications classes. It taught us ways to manage our troops and improve security for the community."

Fellow honor grad and police chief of Nejrabdis District, Afghan Col. Padshahgul Bakhtegar, agreed.

"The training I will take back to my troops is the communication portion," he said. "If we can communicate, we can provide better security for our people."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

Guardmembers teach a leadership seminar for Afghan police chiefs in April.



# DEVASTATION

## But Kansas units there to provide relief

By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl  
National Guard Bureau

GREENSBURG, Kan. — It was hard to describe the destruction in Greensburg, Kan., after an F-5 tornado leveled it the night of May 4. State and federal officials reported that 95 percent of the town was destroyed. Some compared it to a bombed-out European city at the end of World War II.

What was easy to describe, though, in this unfortunate town were the efforts of hundreds of National Guardmembers helping the residents recover.

Soon after arriving, Kansas Guardmembers looked after resident's safety, created an operations center, and went to work providing debris removal, security, transportation, damage assessment, power generation, communications and water.

Some of those that responded were from the Detachment 1, 226th Company of Pittsburg, Kan.

After getting the call, 14-year Guard veteran Sgt. Marcus Chamberlin arrived in the nearby town of Pratt May 6 at 1 a.m., got two hours of sleep and was on his way to Greensburg by 4 a.m.

He said the first thing that his work crew did was remove trees from the city hall area and debris from the hospital. They used front-end loaders, dump trucks, backhoes and mainly their hands, he said.

"We had a lot of support from state workers and their trucks. We work side-by-side with them and ... the Air Force (Air National Guard) ... with KDOT (Kansas Department of Transportation)."

Another 226th member, Sgt. Robert Wells, was astounded by the devastation: "I saw a little bit of rubble and nastiness in Bagdad when

I went there in 2003, but this blows that away," he said.

Later, those same Soldiers worked till sundown, removing a large, downed elm tree near the Federal Emergency Management Agency trailer by the courthouse. It was the same trailer that President Bush would hold a meeting in the next day during his visit to Greensburg. The president stopped periodically to thank the troops and pose with them for pictures.

In a steady rain, 1st Lt. Mark Doud of the 891st Engineer unit supervised Soldiers removing rotting food from a market on Greensburg's main strip—U.S. 54/400. They filled shopping carts with hundreds of packages of spoiled cheese, yogurt, hotdogs and such and tossed them into a dumpster to be hauled away to a land fill.

Other members of Doud's unit cleared easements so utilities could be turned back on.

According to 1st Lt. Drew Poulon, cell phones served as the main communications link to the three work crews he led. He said their hand-held radios weren't working due to the many communications vehicles parked in the center of town emitting radio signals. Knowing where his teams were was made more difficult by the fact that all but a few of the town's road signs were lying twisted on the ground.

His teams were under orders to only remove rubble 8 to 10 feet from the edge of the road, the easement area. They also hauled away load after load of rubble that many residents placed next to the curb.

"The spirit of these people is incredible," said Poulon. "They come and say thank you after you haul away their roof that's been blown off their house," he said.

Sixty-five Air Guardmembers of the 190th Air Refueling Wing's civil engineering squadron cleared debris from public areas.

"We're separating the wood from the metal [and] from the plastic and



Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Rudl

**Over 500 Army and Air National Guardmembers were in Greensburg, Kan., May 10, removing debris, providing security, generator power, food and water, and performing other disaster relief functions.**

regular junk. That makes it easier to take out to the landfill where they burn it," said Master Sgt. William McClain on his first day in Greensburg.

"We're mainly picking through stuff by hand, using the heavy equipment on the big stuff," he said, and cautioned that, "There's a lot of opportunity for injury out here."

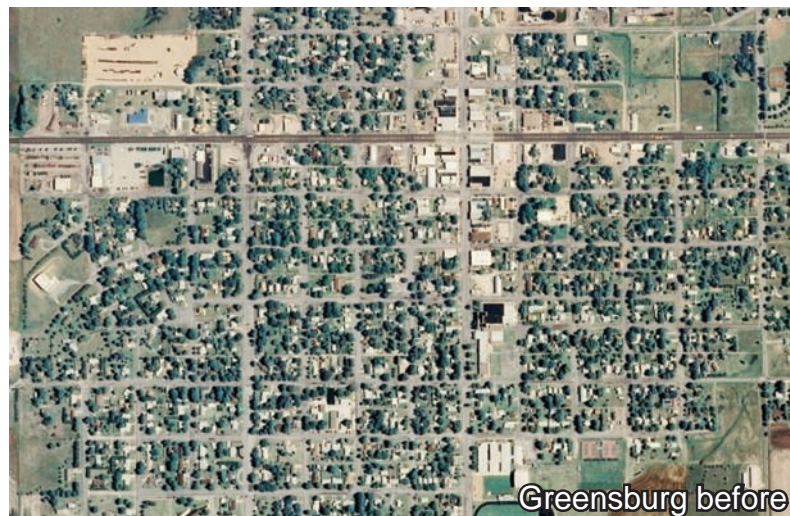
His workers agreed that their two biggest safety concerns were staying hydrated and looking out for nails protruding from debris.

It wasn't hard to find Guardmembers doing some type of cleanup in Greensburg, a town measuring roughly four square miles. For Spc. William Glasgow of the 242nd Engineer Battalion and a Kansas resident, tornados were nothing new: "I've been in an F2, chased by an F5 and been hit by stuff from an F1."

Though it was his fourth day of back-breaking work, exhaustion wasn't evident on his sun-baked face. He said his fellow crewmembers, about 10 Soldiers, were clearing two to three blocks a day of rubble and were under strict orders not to touch valuables.

According to Tech. Sgt. Jared Delong of the 134th Air Control Squadron, one of his unit's first tasks after arriving was setting up 18 light carts around town that helped rescue workers see what they were doing at night. They also brought two large generators that powered up city government offices. Delong also drove around on an all-terrain vehicle with a fellow squadron member assessing damage and stopping occasionally to retrieve American flags from the rubble. When they found one, they folded it and disposed of it properly. His unit planned to present one muddied and torn flag to the Greensburg mayor.

All of these efforts by Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen made it possible for the residents of Greensburg to return to their homes and salvage what they could. Making the streets passable allowed 20-plus-year resident Jason West access to his de-



Greensburg before



Greensburg after

Photos courtesy of Kansas National Guard

molished home. Luckily, when the storm struck at 9:45 p.m. his wife and kids were out of town visiting relatives. He said that none of his family members or anyone that he knew died or was injured.

As he held his infant daughter, he eyed his truck parked next to what used to be his house. He wanted to see if it would start up, better yet, move out of the rubble pile that it had become part of. "My baby," as he called the truck, had only 3,800 miles but looked like it had been pelted by bricks.

His friend's truck was on its side in West's front yard. Some townspeople rolled by in a small tractor

hauling a crushed four-wheeler that was almost unrecognizable. West yelled, "Does it run?" They laughed; and replied, "How'd you make out?" West fired back, "All right."

West had another wish in addition to starting his truck: He wanted a ride on one of those National Guard helicopters that had been flying over this town the past few days.

West's resilience and optimism were apparent, along with other residence struck by this disaster. They will pick up the pieces and move on with their lives. Thankfully, the citizens of Greensburg had the National Guard standing with him, clearing their path to recovery.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Carl Mar

Laura and Rodney Prosser with their daughter Heidi, 11, and son Keith, 13, sit in front of what remains of their Greensburg, Kan., home. 1st Sgt. Prosser, a member of the Kansas Guard's Alpha Battery, 161st Field Artillery, was at Ft. Riley with his unit participating in a field exercise when the tornado struck. Read his story at [www.ngb.army.mil/news](http://www.ngb.army.mil/news).



From page 1:  
**GREENSBURG**

response in support of local authorities.

"We were fully operational within 12 minutes of arriving, and had on-board computers, phones, satellite internet, UHF, VHF, HF and 800 MHz radios. Emergency management personnel and the highway patrol utilized the vehicle extensively throughout the recovery," said Sgt. John Staiert, a Kansas Army Guardsman from Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka.

Also in the first wave of responders from the Kansas Air Guard was the 134th Air Control Squadron from McConnell Air Force Base. Their 15 personnel arrived during the wee hours following the F-5 tornado that hit Greensburg head-on at 9:45 p.m., bringing with them many mobile communication assets. Within short order, they had established a command center complete with power, phones, video and teleconferencing capabilities. Generators, lights, water, fuel, a wrecker and heavy equipment operators were also on site.

"The connection, coordination, and communication between the Air Guard and our Army counterparts have been fantastic," said Maj. Tim Smith, 134th ACS and on-site commander for the Kansas Guard resources.

In response to numerous national and local media flocking to the area, the 184th ARW also sent a four-person public affairs team. They facilitated press conferences hosted by the Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and other officials.

"Kansans are resilient," said Sebelius as she toured the area Sunday evening. "I am so thankful for the prayers of not only Kansans, but from people across the nation."

Senior Airman Shane Clarke has been a security forces troop for four years, but this was the first disaster he was called to serve in.

"I got the initial phone call at 3 a.m., and at first I was nervous because I didn't know exactly what was going on," he said. Once I went in and learned the full situation, I was eager to lend a hand. I want to help these people who must feel helpless and a little desperate. I want to let them know we care."



Photos by Master Sgt. Greg Rudl

**Above: Kansas Army National Guardmembers in the background work to clear utility right-of-ways May 8. Below: Sgt. Frankie Schubert clears a tree near the courthouse.**



## Guard's mobile hospital brought to the scene

The Kansas Guard's Expeditionary Medical Support System (EMEDS) deployed to tornado-ravaged Greensburg just a few days after the disaster.

"The doctors, nurses and other medical personnel are dedicated to taking care of their patients," said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, the adjutant general for Kansas, referring to Greensburg's medical community, "but they have no place to work. The EMEDS has just about everything they'll need to resume their duties and see that the people of Greensburg get the quality healthcare they're used to receiving."

The EMEDS, based out of the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Topeka, is a complete, self-contained hospital that can be transported anywhere in the United States. Most services offered by a regular hospital can be performed in the EMEDS, including surgery, dental care, laboratory services, pharmacy, supply and in-patient care.

The 190th ARW is the only organization in the country currently with an EMEDS dedicated to homeland security and will be

the central location for all EMEDS logistic support throughout the country.

The Kansas EMEDS was first used for relief operations in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina, which was the first time an EMEDS unit was tasked domestically for a relief or homeland security mission.



**Clockwise from the top: The Kansas National Guard's EMEDS was set up for business in Greensburg, Kan., a few days after the tornado struck May 4. Lt. Col. Janet Hanson, 190th Air Refueling Wing Medical Group commander, surveys medical supplies provided with the EMEDS. It provided a place for the Greensburg medical community to work after the town's hospital was destroyed.**



Photos by Sharon Watson



# Destruction to order: Kansas engineers pave the way for Greensburg

**By Sgt. Heather Wright**  
Kansas National Guard

GREENSBURG, Kan. - Fetid humidity and a morass of tree limbs, steel, glass and other debris that used to be the town of Greensburg greeted the combat engineers of the 772nd Mobile Augmentation Company, the 242nd Engineer Company, engineers from the 184th Air Refueling Wing's civil engineering squadron, and the 891st Engineer Battalion. Despite the overwhelming scope of the catastrophe, they weren't deterred. They were on a mission.

An F5E tornado with 200-mile per hour winds and a 1.7 mile diameter funnel leveled the town May 4. After establishing resident safety and an operations center, the Kansas National Guard sent in Soldiers and Airmen to help restore order and begin recovery efforts.

With a disaster of such an extent, restoring road access and establishing control of utilities was essential. The engineers' first mission was to help Greensburg regain control by removing the piles of debris that covered roadways and utility access buried beneath the easements that border private property. The Kansas Department of Transportation assisted by transporting the debris to an established land fill. After the debris was removed, utility companies could come in to assess and repair the damage. This was the first step on the road to recovery.

Sgt. Brian Blandemer, a heavy equipment operator with the 242nd Engineer Company, was stunned by the amount of damage, but determined to help with recovery: "There's a lot of work to be done yet, but I think we're doing a good job," he said. Staff Sgt Calvin Hicks, a supervisor with the 891st, agreed. He would like to see more heavy equipment in

use, but until the soil dried out he had to rely on smaller tools: "We're working with what we've got. Everybody is working together and we're getting as much done as we can," he said.

Many of the engineers have experience responding to natural disasters but hadn't experienced anything approaching the level of devastation in Greensburg. Spec. Justin Noble Zimmerman, a heavy equipment operator with the 242nd Engineers, first experienced nature's force with the 1998 flood in Augusta, Kan. "This is a lot worse than anything I've ever seen. In Augusta, there were actually houses left. Here, there's absolutely nothing." Spec. Adam Joseph Beckman, a combat engineer with 772nd, remembers the small structure damage and tree limbs of the ice storm in Channute, Kan., but wasn't prepared for Greensburg. "I was devastated, he said, "I couldn't believe that something like this would happen. You know, you don't realize what you're going to run into until you get here and once you get here, you feel terrible."

Once the shock wore off, determination to help set in. Spec. James Hensley, a combat engineer with the 772nd, expressed a common reaction to the disaster: "I was shocked ... I felt really bad for the people and was really motivated to help out any way I could."

The positive reaction from Greensburg residents helped to shore up that determination. "People are smiling and seem happy that we're here," says Beckman. "Everybody waves at us as they go by and gives us water, oranges and stuff. I think we're doing a good job."

Sgt. Randall McMillan, a heavy equipment operator with 772nd smiled as he recalled how happy a resident was to receive the "Welcome" sign that McMillan found among the debris.



# America's air might on display for Guard supporters at The Great Georgia Turkey Shoot

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

TOWNSEND, Ga. — William Hill, a building inspector from Valdosta, Ga., shielded his eyes and looked up into the bright spring sky in the midst of 800 spectators. An F-15 Eagle fighter appeared over a line of pine trees and roared toward them.

It seemed to accelerate as it cleared the treetops and entered an open field. It dropped its practice bomb and climbed toward the sun, leaving behind deafening rumble and pounding chests. "Baa-do!" Smoke billowed from grass surrounding a discarded piece of armored equipment—the bomb had struck its target.

"Ladies and gentlemen ... the F-15 Eagle ...," the public address announcer said.

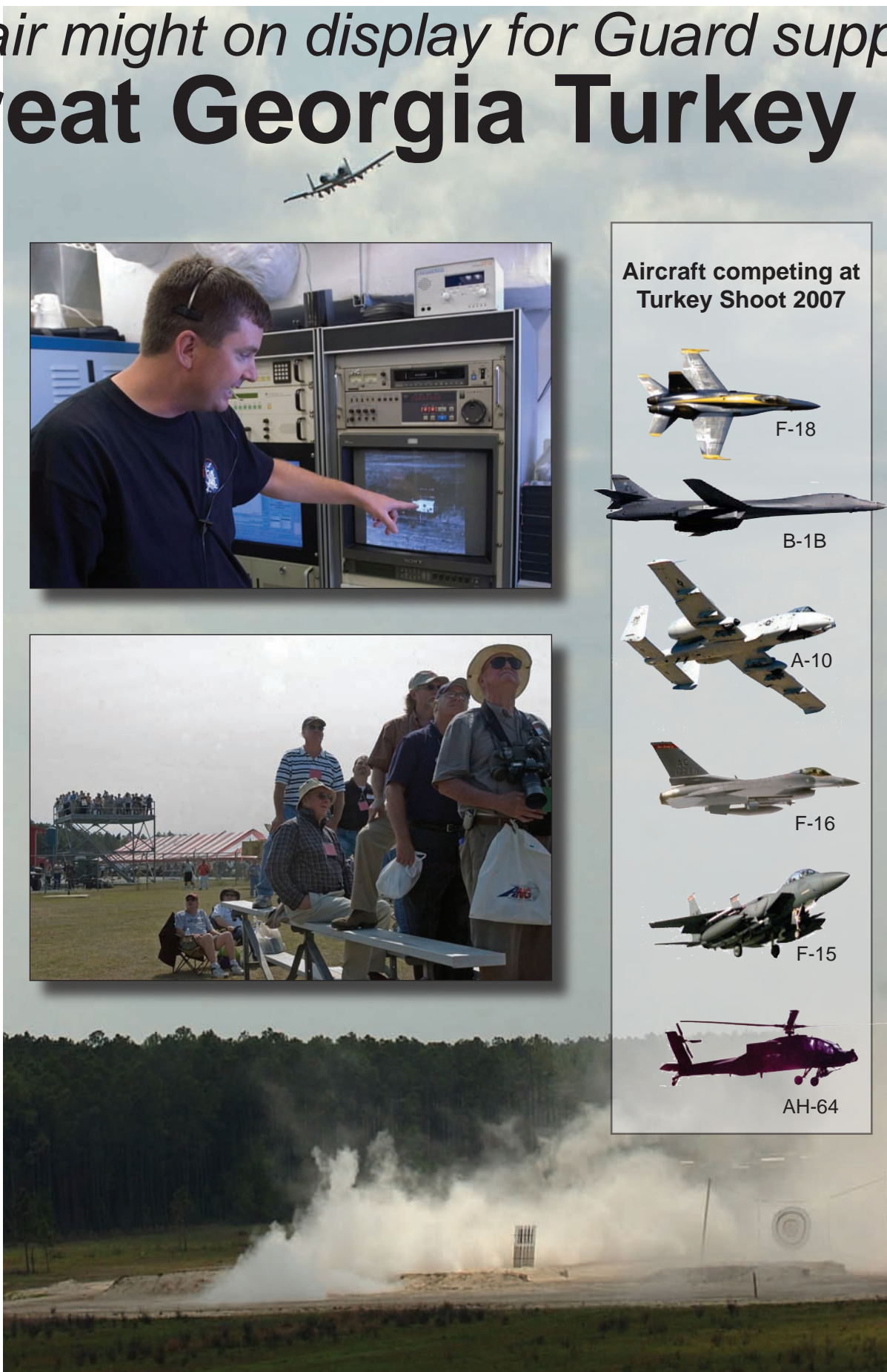
"It's pretty amazing," Hill exclaimed, who echoed the thoughts of onlookers at the Great Georgia Turkey Shoot, an annual, joint forces bombing and strafing competition for military pilots held April 25. Hosted by the Georgia National Guard, it also showcases America's airpower to spectators that include state and civic leaders, Guardmember employers and special guests.

The event, first held in 1998, is the product of the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) based in Savannah. It's held at the 8.1 square-mile range Townsend Bombing Range located 60 miles south of Savannah. Officials said the decision to bring together a large, joint force of aircraft for an annual training event and open it to Guard supporters was based on the need to educate employers about the center and the Georgia National Guard.

"Our biggest challenge is to transport the spectators in from Atlanta (300 miles away) and Savannah by 10 a.m.," said Lt. Col. Kirk Simmons, the center's operations group commander. Most were flown and bused in. A full day of sky-gazing was planned, and the spectators arrived on time armed with binoculars and cameras. Many said they had never seen such a display of airpower.

"By coming to this event today, employers saw the strength of their military. Hopefully they gain a better understanding of what the Guard and reserves do," said retired Maj. Gen. Tom A. Wessels, state leader for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

Wessels confirmed that more than 600 Georgia Army and Air Guard employers attended. They saw military pilots in competitive training, and they took home the knowledge of how Guardmembers in operations, logistics and support help the pilots put their bombs and bullets on target.



An A-10 drops a practice bomb at the Townsend Bombing Range, Ga, April 25 during the Great Georgia Turkey Shoot. Top inset: Tech. Sgt. Jeff Davidson, a radar technician, determines the location of bomb impacts and scores them. Bottom inset: Over 800 spectators watched the action, including state and civic leaders, Guardmember employers and special guests.

Fighter and attack pilots came from the active Air Force, the Marines and the Army National Guard, as well as from Air Guard bases in Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts and South Carolina. Air Force and Marine Corps pilots and crews came from North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

"We look forward to this event every year because the range is great and the folks here treat us great," said Lt. Col. Frank Detorie, an A-10 pilot for the Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing.

Detorie's group of A-10 attack

planes won the top team award. The pilots were Lt. Col. Pete Siana, Maj. Bob Feher, Maj. Tim Lakata and Detorie. He said the competitions they normally participate in involve A-10s only, so competing against other combat aircraft was unique. "It's an extra chance, on top of our wing's deployments here, to come down and use the range and the great facilities and billeting they have," he said.

Pilots controlled their aircraft with seemingly surgical precision while flying at hundreds of miles an hour. They were timed and tracked

## Aircraft competing at Turkey Shoot 2007



## Success secrets

We asked Lt. Col. Frank Detorie, the captain of this year's winning team, the Connecticut Air Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing, what it takes to win. This is what he told us:

**EXPERIENCE:** The average pilot in our squadron has close to 3,000 flying hours in the A-10. That's probably triple the average for a pilot in an active-duty A-10 squadron.

**SORTIES:** Although many of our pilots are only part timers (all on the Connecticut team were), we have the same training requirements as any active duty or full-time pilot.

**PREPARATION/FOCUS:** We tend to take these competitions quite seriously. We hold internal unit competitions to select our best possible team and then spend several hours mission planning each competition. We look at targets, print maps, review weapons parameters, and even practice the profile in our simulator.

**MAINTENANCE:** The best pilots in the world are not much good without airplanes to fly. Our maintainers do an outstanding job of providing airplanes that are in excellent condition each and every day. They pick their best airplanes for these events. They deserve much of the credit for our success.

Airman designating targets from the ground. The range recently expanded its airspace, which now allows for high altitude weapons drops from 25,000 feet.

The Savannah center, which manages the range, is one of four Air Guard CRTCs in the nation. Volunteers from the other CRTCs supported the event. They helped manage the airspace as well as fueled and maintained aircraft on the flight line.

Simmons said the CRTCs' mission is to provide year-round training so Air Guard units can improve their combat readiness. For some airmen, they are infamous places where they have to don all of their chemical warfare gear and prove their ability to survive and operate (ATSO) in a combat environment. But the CRTCs offer a lot more than ATSO-sweat.

The centers allow unit training that cannot be accomplished at their home stations. That includes bare base deployment sites, air-to-air and air-to-ground ranges, rifle ranges, firefighting facilities and joint combat training environments. In short, the facilities act like forward operating locations and provide a realistic site for unit operational readiness exercises and inspections.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith



## EXERCISE PRIMER

What was “Vigilant Guard”?

An 11-day, Indiana National Guard-hosted exercise that tested the National Guard as the first military responder in support of the governor and the state emergency management agency. “Vigilant Guard” reinforced that all incidents are local. The exercise demonstrated the capabilities of the Indiana National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, the Joint Task Force-Indiana, and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Specific National Guard homeland defense capabilities included the National Guard Reaction Forces, Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Package teams.

What was the scenario?

A simulated 10-kiloton nuclear device detonation drove the deployment of National Guard personnel from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, the National Guard Bureau, and other states.

Who participated?

More than 2,000 National Guard personnel from Indiana and surrounding states participated – all under the command and control of the governor of Indiana through EMAC. These forces operated and trained alongside other participants including Indiana county and state agencies, the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V, and the Department of Energy.

### Elements

- Nuclear detonation incident in greater Indianapolis, Ind., resulting in:
  - ☐ Casualties
  - ☐ Infrastructure damage
  - ☐ Evacuations/displaced persons
  - ☐ Contamination

### Participants

- ☐ Indiana National Guard
- ☐ Illinois National Guard
- ☐ Ohio National Guard
- ☐ National Guard Bureau

### Coordinating organizations and agencies:

- ☐ Local, county and state agencies
- ☐ National Guard Bureau
- ☐ U.S. Northern Command
- ☐ Department of Homeland Security
- ☐ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Army and Air National Guard members assigned to the Ohio National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) practice extracting victims trapped in the rubble of a collapsed building during Vigilant Guard.

## Thousands participate in exercise

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what they need,” Blum explained. “They run that up quickly through the emergency response apparatus. If they can handle it at the local level, at the municipality, they do. If they can’t, then they get county assistance. If the county can’t, then they get state assistance. If they can’t handle it there, we get interstate assistance through emergency mutual assistance compacts that have been prearranged.

“If that fails, then the governor has the option of calling the president and getting federal assistance – civilian assistance in the form of money or equipment or manpower or expertise. If the military is deemed to be needed, the governor can call out the National Guard, and frequently does, early.”

Blum was surrounded by Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen working side-by-side with civilian responders in an exercise designed to stress participants and find the breaking points without compromising safety.

“One of our training objectives was to stress this to the point that the first responders needed help – they were out of equipment, they were out of personnel,” said Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard. “It caused them to go to the county, to the state. The governor activated

the Guard. We were stressed to the point where we needed help from our sister states.”

Illinois, Ohio and the National Guard Bureau pitched in.

“It was planned that way to stress us to the point where we would then go to Northern Command for assistance,” Umbarger said.

“This may well be the most demanding scenario our nation would face,” said Gen. Gene Renuart, commander of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). “It’s beyond the capacity of any single agency to respond to it on their own. That’s what our nation does well – it pulls together.”

Most of the time – 99.99 percent of the time since World War II – domestic disaster missions are accomplished below the federal level, the National Guard Bureau reported. Only 10 times since 1945 has a domestic response included a federalized National Guard.

The morning of Blum’s May 12 visit to Vigilant Guard, commanders identified areas for improvement in communications. “They had some successes, and they had some failures,” Blum said. “They overcame the failures, and now it’s pretty reliable. But it was a little rough in the first couple of hours, which is pretty realistic. Problems have been quickly worked around; we wouldn’t have been able to work around them

two years ago, so we would have broken much sooner.”

While Vigilant Guard unfolded, National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen were engaged in real-life missions in half the states and numerous foreign countries. Yet no one scheduled to attend Vigilant Guard had to cancel. Thousands of Guardmembers have been pulled into the exercise, including some with no notice. Those who did receive advance warning were required to respond in real time, with no advance set-up.

A Kiowa helicopter buzzed above the exercising Guardmembers, relaying video back to commanders. After a real nuclear detonation, an unmanned aerial vehicle might do the same job. The high-definition footage allows commanders to assess exactly what’s happening, and it can be coupled with computer-generated terrain and building-interior models to plan how to tackle problems.

Some of the data for those models might come from a National Guard CIP-MAA detachment, Guardmembers who conduct Critical Infrastructure Protection – Mission Assurance Assessments. Their mission: Ongoing all-hazard assessments of critical defense industrial infrastructure.

Concrete dust rose from a rubble pile as Soldiers labored to find vic-

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## KEY PLAYERS

### Joint Force Headquarters - State

JFHQ-State provides command and control of all National Guard forces in the state or territory for the Governor, or in the case of the District of Columbia, the Secretary of the Army; can act as a joint services headquarters for national-level response efforts during contingency operations.

### Joint Task Force State

JTF-State provides command and control of all state military assets deployed in support of civil authorities or a specific incident and facilitates the flow of information between the and the deployed units.

### Civil Support Team

CSTs Assess suspected Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attacks, advises civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and facilitates the arrival of additional state and federal military forces.

### Counter Drug Program

CDP responds to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or high yield Explosive (CBRNE) incidents and supports local, state, and federal agencies managing the consequences of the event by providing capabilities to conduct casualty/patient decontamination, medical support, and casualty search and extraction.

### CBRNE Enhanced

### Response Force Package

CERFP responds to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or high yield Explosive (CBRNE) incidents and supports local, state, and federal agencies managing the consequences of the event by providing capabilities to conduct casualty/patient decontamination, medical support, and casualty search and extraction.

### National Guard Reaction Force

NGRF provides force protection and security for WMD Civil Support Teams and CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Teams.

### Critical Infrastructure Protection-Mission Assurance Assessments

CIP-MAA conduct all-hazard risk assessments on prioritized federal and state critical infrastructure in support of the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program (DCIP).

### Joint CONUS Communications Support Environment

JCCSE encompasses all of the vital organizations and supporting net-centric IT capabilities required by the National Guard to support USNORTHCOM, US-PACOM, USSTRATCOM, and other Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) mission partners.

### Expeditionary Medical Support

EMEDS comprised of a variety of light and lean modular, rapid response medical packages that can be used in a myriad of operations such as humanitarian relief, wartime contingencies and disaster response.

### Emergency Management Assistance Compact

EMAC is a national mutual aid partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during governor or federally declared emergencies. EMAC is about governors helping fellow governors in time of need.



## Puerto Rico weighs in for Vigilant Guard

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

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Two members of a special National Guard homeland defense team from Puerto Rico served with their colleagues from Indiana during Vigilant Guard.

Capt. Roberto Gonzalez, the science officer, and 1st Lt. Peter Rodriguez, a physician's assistant, from Puerto Rico's 22nd Civil Support Team filled out Indiana's 53rd Civil Support Team for the 11-day exercise.

The 53rd CST deployed its full response team from Camp Atterbury, an hour's drive north, to train in the exercise alongside civilian emergency responders and other Guard disaster response teams.

Except for some drawer and cabinet arrangements, Gonzales said the 53rd's mobile analytical laboratory vehicle is like the one he operates at home. That enables him to work at any of the nation's 55 CSTs with little or no additional training, he said.

The lab, contained in a blue truck with a large rear cab, enables him to test materials from a disaster site for toxic chemicals, nerve agents and other things that could be hazardous to people's health.

Gonzalez agrees that the CST's standardized equipment is good for the Guard because it allows the flexibility to draw in members from other states to fill manpower shortfalls for missions.

"Our unit is located near San Juan," Gonzalez said. "I would not get the chance to do something like this back home, so I am very glad I'm here."

Gonzalez moved to Puerto Rico as a child. He holds degrees in environmental science and can call on an almost encyclopedic knowledge of his lab and the intricate capabilities of the equipment he uses to analyze suspicious material.

1st Sgt. Gene Wood, the Indiana team's first sergeant, said his team enjoys training with other civil support team members from the 54 states and territories. "It's really important that we have established relationships with other teams in our region and all across the country," Wood said.



Capt. Roberto Gonzalez, a science officer with the Puerto Rico's 22nd CST, explains the workings of a microscope that uses infrared waves to identify suspicious compounds.



Photo by: Spc. Robert G. Cooper III

Members of the Indiana Army Guard's 2nd Battalion, 293rd Infantry Regiment of Fort Wayne break up a simulated tussle between two power plant workers during the Vigilant Guard exercise in May.

## Chief explains Guard's disaster role

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tims located by search dogs and their civilian handlers. Guardmembers jogged by, guiding gurneys to field decontamination facilities. Medics evaluated and treated survivors.

"You wouldn't have seen any of this one day before 9-11," Blum said. The general turned to the CST team drilling in the concrete. "That capability didn't exist, to do urban search and rescue," he said. "The technical extraction did not exist."

He gestured to the decontamination tent that is part of a National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Package (CERFP). "This capability didn't exist, to do advanced decontamination."

Beyond the conveyor-belt decontamination facility where Guardmembers encased in protective plastic suits could testify to the reality of Indiana's 80-degree temperatures, members of an Air National Guard Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) team evaluated and treated casualties. "That capability didn't exist, to do the mass casualty treatment," Blum said. "The teamwork amongst the civilian first responders and the military first responders and other agencies and government, did not exist. All of this is the post 9-11 environment and speaks very well that government and interagency and the military are working hand-in-

hand for the benefit of the American people."

The resources the Guard has grown in the wake of two national disasters – the terrorist attack and the storm – have some intimidating acronyms (CIP-MAA, CERFP, CBRNE) and some awesome technology, but Blum said the recipe for the Guard's response after that terrible 9-1-1 call is simple:

"If you're going to command and control anything or coordinate anything or synchronize anything, you need superb communications. You need mobility – you need trucks to bring people and equipment in and to bring people and things out. You need engineer equipment to clear roads and rubble and debris. You need general purpose aviation – helicopters – because they're the fastest way to get people in and out of an

affected area. You certainly need medical equipment and supplies and you certainly need a security force to keep people that you don't want in the area out of the area and to control the people in the area so they don't do more harm to themselves and panic and become desperate."

Today, the 54 states and territories have Joint Forces Headquarters. Twelve CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosives) Enhanced Response Force Packages are being grown to 17. The National Guard has 55 Joint Operations Centers nationwide, six CIP-MAA detachments, 54 detachments of National Guard Reaction Forces and 54 Computer Emergency Response Teams. Joint Incident Site Communications Capability packages are being expanded from 39 to 72.



Photo courtesy of MUTC

The Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC) in south-central Indiana served as the training ground for Vigilant Guard.

## Guard has historically trained for what's relevant

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – It is no coincidence that the National Guard trained in several domestic emergency scenarios in May: a nuclear detonation in Indiana, a hurricane battering tiny Rhode Island; and multiple terrorist attacks in Alaska.

The Guard has traditionally trained to this nation's needs and the world's situation, according to National Guard Bureau civilian historian Bill Boehm.

"The Guard has a history of training and preparing for whatever is going on in the world at that time," said Boehm, who holds a master's degree in history from New Mexico State University.

On May 9, however, he was doing work of another kind – manual labor. He was helping the National Guard

Bureau's new Public Affairs Rapid Response Team set up its mobile media center for the exercise that was set to begin the next day.

"The Guard has trained in various ways for both world wars and for the Cold War – all against standing enemy armies," Boehm added. "Now the Guard is training to defend our homeland against a considerably less organized enemy – terrorists – at the same time that we are heavily engaged in the Global War on Terrorism."

Training for the nation's needs:

- Many Guard Soldiers learned lessons that served them well during World War I while on duty along the Mexican border in 1916-17. More than 160,000 Guard Soldiers took part in the first large-scale federal call-up of the entire National Guard in modern times.
- Over 300,000 Guard Soldiers trained for World War II combat following peace-time mobilization in 1940. Members of 18 infantry divisions, 28 separate regiments and 29 flying squadrons fought in that way.
- Operation Ready Go sent Air National Guard fighter and reconnaissance units from 23 states and the District of Columbia to Europe for training in 1965. That exercise demonstrated the United States' readiness during the Cold War.
- Many Return of Forces to Germany (REFORGER) exercises during the 1980s demonstrated the Army Guard's involvement with the Total Force concept during the final decade of the Cold War.



Bill Boehm





Photo of Fred W. Baker III

**Foreign military attaches talk prior to their visit to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center, Ind.**

## Attaches survey U.S. disaster response capabilities

**By Fred W. Baker III**  
American Forces Press Service

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – A handful of foreign military attaches got a first-hand look at U.S. military and civilian first responders' ability to respond to a catastrophe at the National Guard's Vigilant Guard exercise May 12.

The group was flown to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center at the invitation of National Guard Chief LTG H Steven Blum.

Attaches from Serbia, Jordan, Kenya, Tunisia, Bolivia and Hungary, walked through the stages of the exercise receiving briefs and asking questions of those participating.

The group was invited as part of an effort to strengthen the Guard's State Partnership Program, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Bill Etter, director of strategic plans and policy for the National Guard Bureau.

"I think it was fantastic. They were able to see some cases where the military was responding, some cases where the civilians were responding, and some cases where they were working together hand in hand," Etter said. "The only way they would have had access is through the National Guard."

Etter said the opportunity to view the exercise provides a real-world perspective of the Guard's abilities.

"We can stand in front of someone and give them a slide ... but until they see the capabilities of the National Guard live, it just doesn't make as much sense," Etter said.

The Guard now has 56 state partnerships throughout the world, in all four major Army military commands outside the United States. The bureau matches states with countries wanting to participate in the program, which partners key leaders for training events.

There are three categories of exchange: military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian.



# Voices of experience

**Observer-controller-trainers provide guidance to players**

**By Spc. Robert G. Cooper III**  
Indiana National Guard

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Vigilant Guard offered servicemembers some of the most in-depth and comprehensive training available in crisis management. But that was just the beginning. Besides a realistic crisis environment involving challenging missions and inter-agency coordination, the exercise put to good use the people who observe and train the Soldiers and Airmen. They are called observer-controller-trainers, or OC/T in military jargon.

Battle-hardened individuals with years of real-world expertise, OC/T's provide specialized guidance to Soldiers and Airmen during a training exercise, offering on-the-spot advice that can enhance the training. If the training scenarios are the backbone of training, the OC/T is the spinal cord, able to offer information quickly and professionally.

For each training exercise, be it search and rescue or medical support, there's an OC/T available to help. When it comes to training

missions involving nuclear explosive devices or hazardous material (HAZMAT) operations, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Petrush of the Air National Guard's 175th Wing in Baltimore is the source of sound wisdom and advice.

With around 26 years of experience in emergency management, Petrush is the connoisseur of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Package (CERFP) operations. The OC/T's job is to provide the best guidance to Guard members during Vigilant Guard.

"Our expertise is all aspects of emergency management and CBRNE defense," Petrush said. "During Vigilant Guard, we supervise training venues and observe each individual's tactics and procedures. It's all about knowing their capabilities and improving upon them."

During a training mission, an OC/T will create the conditions and let the individuals follow through. "We set up the scenario but try not to interfere," Petrush said. "If we see

something that needs correcting, we give on the spot counseling designed to make them more proficient at what they do."

The more realistic the training, the better, Petrush said. That's what Vigilant Guard exemplified.

"I think this exercise is fantastic," he said. "The challenge is to make the scenarios as real as possible. This training is paramount to being prepared for a real-world event. We try not to have as many simulations because we want to make the venue worthwhile."

"We don't want them to go through the motions but to take something with them at the end of the day," Petrush added.

Petrush explained the importance of Vigilant Guard when it comes to a domestic emergency in the U.S.

"When we have things like Hurricane Katrina and the Twin Towers, the National Guard finds itself working with civil command structures," he said. "Vigilant Guard is outstanding in that it showcases our capabilities to other agencies."



Photo by Spc. Robert G. Cooper III

**A member of Indiana's 53rd Civil Support Team takes a radiation reading at the site of a simulated nuclear explosion during Vigilant Guard.**

## CST team helps during a crisis

**By Spc. Robert G. Cooper III**  
Indiana National Guard

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Screaming victims, multiple casualties and the fallout from a nuclear detonation inundate the once peaceful atmosphere of a local shopping mall here. Victims flee from a department store, deafened by the explosion and unable to listen to police directions. A few miles away, the Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team snaps into action.

Although the explosion was nothing more than a training scenario, it didn't keep the 53rd team from treating the catastrophe like an actual event. Fake blood, role-playing civilians and mock dirty bombs failed to prevent the team from completing its mission. It was day one at the 11-day Vigilant Guard exercise.

"Our primary responsibility is to assist local and state emergency personnel," said Maj. Paul Navas, the team's commander. When (first responders) don't have the capabilities, that's where we come in. This mission was a joint effort between SWAT and EOD (Explosive Ordnance) assets. While SWAT neutralized any possible threats, EOD checked for explosives. We made sure that the surrounding atmosphere was safe. They wanted CST to monitor the operation, which was a success."

The training scenario also displayed the affiliation between the Indiana National Guard and other state agencies.

"This exercise allows us to tie in with other forces, which has been excellent," said Sgt. Corey Gavin, administrative NCO for the 53rd CST. "It's great because, one, it builds good relationships and, two, it gives us an idea of their capabilities and them of ours."



Photo by Spc. Robert G. Cooper

**Top: Members of the Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team gear up to enter a simulated hot zone. Right: A CH-47D Chinook helicopter lands at the National Guard's Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.**

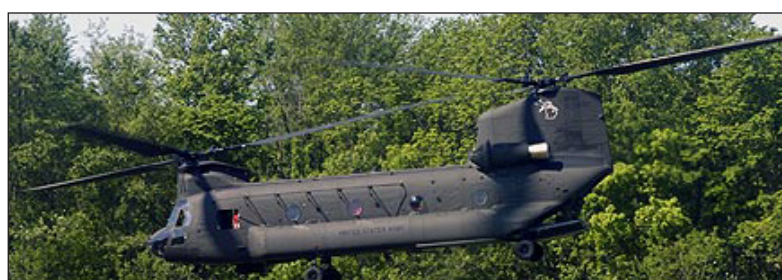


Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill



## MORE EXERCISES

What was "HURREX"?

A Hurricane Exercise, or "HURREX," was the National Guard's support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 2007 hurricane preparedness exercise series. The hurricane season began June 1 and, as in previous years, the National Guard is always ready, always there. Exercises like these ensure that the National Guard is even more capable and more ready than when 50,000 Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen saved more than 17,000 lives following Hurricane Katrina.

What was the scenario?

A simulated category 3 hurricane (Hurricane "Yvette") hit Newport, R.I., during this 11-day Command Post Exercise (CPX). A CPX is an opportunity to train command staff and subordinate and supporting leaders in order to successfully plan, coordinate, and synchronize efforts during an emergency.

Who participated?

The CPX didn't require the deployment of any National Guardmembers. However, seven New England states and the National Guard Bureau supported this exercise to enhance the emergency response capabilities and coordination of all first responders. The CPX was a joint exercise of local, state and federal agencies, the Department of Defense, FEMA (Regions I and II), and the Department of Homeland Security.

What was "Northern Edge"?

A joint training exercise designed to test military and civilian responses and coordination capabilities should multiple terrorist incidents occur throughout the state of Alaska. This exercise tested the integration capabilities between the National Guard's civil support, aviation, security, and communications teams, along with civilian first responders.

What was the scenario?

Multiple simulated terrorist attacks requiring response and consequence management occurred. Simulated attacks were launched on: a North Pole industrial complex, a North Slope pumping facility, a mass casualty incident in Fairbanks, and an improvised explosive device discovered in transit from Seward, Alaska.



Photo by Spec. Frank O'Brien

Two patient transport staffers from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital wheel away a mock patient from an Alaska Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter during a mass casualty exercise as part of Operation Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.

## Simulated terrorist threat trains military, civilian agencies in Alaska

By Capt. Amy Hansen  
Joint Task Force-Alaska

SEWARD, Alaska - The first week of the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge '07 exercise culminated here May 11 with a massive interagency effort to secure a ship with a simulated biological threat on board.

Hundreds of first responders, with uniforms ranging from the reflective jackets of local firefighters to military biohazard suits, were on hand at the Alaska Railroad dock to practice an integrated response to a simulated terrorist threat on a marine vessel.

In the scenario, the marine vessel was played by the U.S. Navy ship Henry J. Kaiser, a Military Sealift Command oiler stationed out of San Diego. When Alaska law enforcement was notified of "suspicious people" on the ship, they responded with a combined boarding effort from the Seward Police Department, the FBI, and a Coast Guard Maritime

Safety and Security Team. When those teams found mock chemicals and materials to make an improvised explosive device on board, an Alaska National Guard civil support team was called in to identify and safely remove the items.

The incident commander in the Seward event was Lt. Louis Tiner of the Seward Police Department. He was responsible, with the help of the Seward Emergency Operations Center, for coordinating the efforts of the agencies involved in the emergency response. "This is the first time I've been involved in a live, working exercise like this--dealing with terrorism in a joint effort with all of these organizations," said Tiner. "It's been busy and hectic--there are a lot of questions to answer and information to disseminate."

"Normally, these [other agencies] wouldn't be here right away--the city would activate its emergency operations plan, which includes requesting assistance from the state troopers, the Coast Guard, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Guard to get as much help as we could," Tiner said.

Although the overall objective was for all the agencies to work together at the request of the Seward authorities, they also had training goals of their own.

This was evident as shots rang out from Coast Guard vessels in the Seward harbor during the boarding of the Kaiser. According to Ensign Christine Young, a detachment team leader for the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team Anchorage, four Coast Guard boats were practicing enforcing a security zone around the suspicious ship.

"They are practicing boat-on-boat use-of-force steps, up to and including disabling fire, in response to a security zone incursion," Young said.

In addition, the Coast Guard Cutter Maple tried loading smaller boats to see if it was possible to transport them on a buoy tender. Finally, the MSST practiced working with the FBI to board the suspicious ship.

According to Brig. Gen. Thomas Katkus, Alaska Army National Guard commander, the Alaska Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team and the Idaho Guard's 101st CST were practicing their ability to switch places in the middle of an event. "All civil support teams have extensive equipment, communications, technology and training, but we have to make sure it all comes together and we can relieve each other in place. We want to be able to make a seamless transition when one team needs a break," Katkus said.

## National Guard supports federal Hurricane 'Yvette' exercise

By Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Hackley  
National Guard Bureau

QUONSET POINT, R.I. - Two National Guard aircraft and crew participated in the kickoff to a federal hurricane preparedness exercise here April 30.

A RC-26B airplane from West Virginia and an OH-58 helicopter from Massachusetts provided capabilities demonstrations to state and local officials as well as the media during Rhode Island's Hurricane Awareness Tour.

"This was an outstanding opportunity to showcase the RC-26B," said Lt. Col. Darren Childers, an RC-26B pilot with the West Virginia National Guard.

The National Guard supported the state of Rhode Island and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hurricane preparedness exercise series through May 10 at the Quonset State Airport. In the scenario, a simulated category 3 hurricane named "Yvette" hit Newport, testing local, state and federal emergency personnel.

"We need to know our weaknesses and bolster our efforts in the event of a real hurricane," said Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, adjutant general and director, Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

New England hasn't seen a hurricane since Hurricane Bob in 1991, but officials warned they are overdue. Bill Proenza, director of the National Hurricane Center, urged everyone to be ready. And that opinion was echoed throughout the day's events.

"Our task is to prepare, prepare, prepare," said Rear Adm. Samuel De Bow, director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "You need to have a plan for you, your family, and your business."

The National Guard is ready, whether for this hurricane exercise or the real deal. And they have experience. Childers flew reconnaissance missions during Hurricane Katrina. He was one of the 50,000 Soldiers and Airmen who responded to the catastrophe that struck the Gulf Coast almost two years ago.



Rhode Island Gov. Donald L. Carcieri speaks at a press conference during exercise "Hurricane Yvette."







Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Guard firefighting crews in Florida help soak any hotspots with water from 1,000-gallon tanks attached to the back of five-ton military trucks.

# Guard helps battle wildfires in four states

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – National Guardmembers in four states were helping to battle wildfires that burned more than 300,000 acres, Defense Department officials said May 16.

In New Jersey, a training mission started a fire at the Warren Grove Training Range in the Pine Barrens. An Air Guard F-16 conducting a close air support training mission dispensed flares that started a fire in the scrub pine forest. While range safety personnel were on the site immediately, the fire jumped a county road and a state road and had burned roughly 13,500 acres, New Jersey Guard officials said.

Conditions on the ground were perfect for fires: low humidity, high wind and no rain for 20 days. New Jersey Guardmembers in Black Hawk helicopters cooperated with state forest officials and dropped water on the blaze, which

have damaged about four dozen homes, officials said.

In Florida, 110 National Guardmembers were supporting firefighting efforts in Flagler County. This included Guardmembers from South Carolina and Georgia. In southeast Georgia, 41 Guardmembers supported operations, officials said.

Georgia National Guard aircraft flew 289.4 hours, delivering more than 2,500 buckets, each filled with 2,000 gallons of water onto hotspots. Guardsmen also dumped more than 200 buckets, each filled with 700 gallons, on the flames. In Georgia, two CH-47 helicopters and a UH-60 helicopter supported the effort, officials said, adding that Guardmembers also provided some ground support.

In Minnesota, two Air National Guardmembers supported firefighting efforts in Grand Marais, officials said.

## South Dakota, Missouri support flood relief

RAPID CITY, S.D. – On May 7, the South Dakota National Guard continued to support local emergency management agencies during flood relief operations in eastern South Dakota.

Weekend storms brought heavy rain creating flood conditions in eastern parts of the state causing property and road damage.

“The community knows the Guard is there to help,” said Maj. Bruce Carter, commander for Task Force 2-147 which is headquartered in Watertown.

Guardmembers completed missions that involved hauling a non-military generator and pumps to Groton and Warner, sandbagging in Redfield and Aberdeen, and supporting the distribution of resources at the Brown County Highway Shop in Aberdeen.

The South Dakota Emergency Operations Center, Pierre, tasked the missions to the South Dakota National Guard beginning at 2 p.m. May 6, and all missions were completed by 10:30 p.m.

Carter said 75 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, the 665th Maintenance

Company and the 740th Transportation Company were involved with the operations.

“Guardsmen have left their own homes that were being flooded to help others,” said Master Sgt. Todd Rose, NCO -in-charge of TF 2-147. “This shows the quality of the South Dakota National Guard – they put the needs of the community before their own.”

Carter said that Sgt. 1st Class David Nichols of Redfield abandoned efforts to save his own home to help save a local resident’s home. Carter said numerous Soldiers in Aberdeen displayed the same action of selfless service in their response to the local community’s needs.

Soldiers filled and placed 600-700 sandbags to save a resident’s home in Redfield and built a three-sandbag-high wall that is 1,000 feet long to protect water treatment lift-stations and electrical sub-stations in Aberdeen.

Carter said National Guardmembers delivered water pumps and a generator to alleviate pressure on the local water treatment plants in Groton and Warner that were being overwhelmed due to the flooding.

As of May 7, South Dakota had 47 Soldiers of the original 75 still on state active duty.

More than 100 Citizen-Soldiers of the Missouri National Guard assisted, or stood by ready to assist, flooded communities May 7. Forty Soldiers worked overnight in Craig, helping to protect a water plant. An additional 60 Soldiers mustered at Lexington and Richmond to be a quick reaction force for any communities in need.

“As always, these Soldiers are anxious to help their neighbors through this crisis,” said Maj. Gen. King Sidwell, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard.

The Missouri National Guard also placed liaison officers in counties that were flooded.

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



A sampling of state active duty missions

**Alaska:** Providing Soldiers to support the Anchorage police department in providing a safe and secure environment for the International Whaling Commission convention

**New York:** 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:** Providing Guardmembers for security and infrastructure protection

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

**Texas:** Supporting tornado response operations

**Georgia:** Supporting wildfire operations in southwest part of the state

**Florida:** Supporting the Florida Division of Law Enforcement who are assisting with assessment of Florida’s Seaport Inspection Program

## NEW HAWAII UNIT TAKES ON SOUTHWEST BORDER MISSION

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum  
Hawaii National Guard

More than 180 Soldiers from the Hawaii Army National Guard’s 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion spent annual training on the Southwest Border of Arizona supporting Operation Jump Start in May. The battalion conducted surveillance and counter mobility operations to disrupt and prevent illegal border crossings.

Special Troops Soldiers Task Force Tucson entry identification teams (EIT) performed surveillance missions while Task Force Diamondback engineers constructed roads and fences. The National Guard presence frees up U.S. Border Patrol personnel to concentrate on their the law enforcement mission.

The new battalion commanded by Lt. Col. Moses Kaiowi Jr. consisted of former separate elements of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The units are Headquarters and Headquarters Company (military police, medical, administrative and logistic personnel), Company A (227th Engineers), Company B (229th

Military Intelligence), and Company C, the new signal unit.

More than 60 engineers from Company A cut new roads, rebuilt fences and improved the drainage in the Tucson sector’s border towns of Nogales and Sierra Vista.

“The roads being cut through the rolling small mountain range will improve access for border personnel,” said Capt. Auredith T. Tumpap, the Company A commander, “while the 20-foot pipe walls being erected will replace some of the older aircraft landing ramp walls. Our Hawaii Air Guard engineers were part of a team erecting the Yuma fence line last fall.”

“The mission has given the veterans an opportunity to share their expertise, especially in heavy equipment operations and welding to our newer Soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ian S. Ross, a member of the unit when it was an engineering battalion more than 30 years ago. “We’re not new to this mission either. We’ve done similar work twice on the Mexican border, south of San Diego, Calif., the last time in 2000.”

“The balance of the battalion’s Soldiers

are making up the 10 EITs supporting Task Force Tucson,” said Kaiowi. “After two days of briefings and a paintball exercise, the Soldiers were more than ready to go on mission. Our observation posts are on clearly visible locations on hilltops facing the border. The 24-hour mission uses binoculars and infrared sensors to detect undocumented aliens (UDA) during the day or at night.”

“During one of our construction missions we spotted a dozen UDAs trying to cross the border,” said Tumpap. “We called in a report while they backtracked into the Mexican half of the split city of Nogales.”

“This mission has provided an opportunity for our new battalion to test all of our mobilization operation in a real world mission,” said Kaiowi.

Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Hanson, from Company A (Combat Engineers), 29th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, welds bars to a 20-foot high pipe wall being built in the Nogales, Ariz. border town during Operation Jump Start in May.

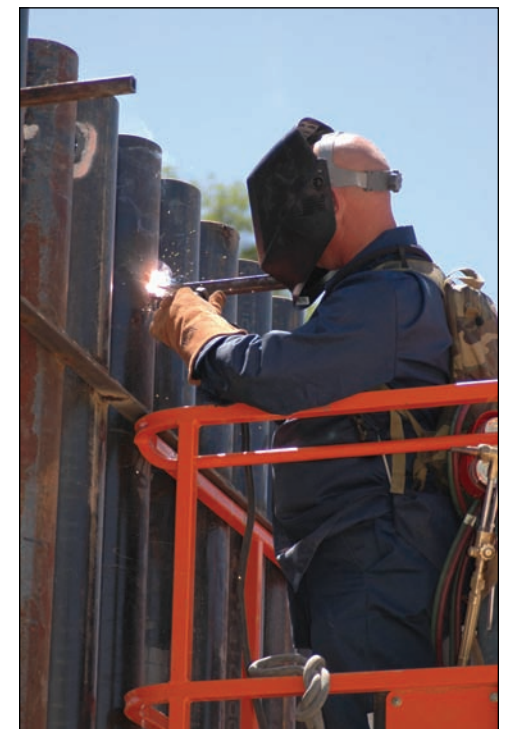


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Stephen M. Lum



# ★ Guarding America ★

## ALASKA

Members from the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base in the Last Frontier State were recently recognized for their outstanding work that resulted in the safe rescue of 23 people stranded at sea last summer. They came to the rescue of the Cougar Ace, a large Japanese ship that had rolled onto its side in July while traveling from Japan to Oregon with nearly 5,000 automobiles aboard.

## ARIZONA

Four members of the Grand Canyon State Guard took to the baseball field May 5 at a game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the New York Mets as part of a military appreciation day at Chase Field.

## CALIFORNIA

The Golden State National Guard hosted Operation Vector, a large-scale interstate and interagency exercise conducted April 17-19 at major landmarks in the Los Angeles area. The exercise included two other states and emergency responders throughout southern California. Operation Vector began with a simulated earthquake that devastated southern California regions.

## DELAWARE

Two Soldiers from the 261st Signal Brigade's Joint C4 Coordination Center (JCCC) in the Small Wonder State deployed to Greensburg, Kan., May 9-15 to help restore communications to the tornado-torn town. Capt. Brian Walbridge and Chief Warrant Officer Carey Kellam from the JCCC in Smryna provided critical communication support.

## GEORGIA

The city of Thomaston in the Peach State honored Sgt. 1st Class Robert Lee "Bobby" Hollar Jr. April 13 by dedicating the city's post office in his name and memory. On hand to help dedicate the facility was Hollar's wife, Amanda, and two children. Hollar was killed in the city of al-Mahmudiyah south of Baghdad Sept. 1, 2005, when the blast of an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle.

## HAWAII

The Aloha State's National Guard Counterdrug Program hosted the first Hawaii Partnership to Prevent Underage Drinking Conference April 26 - 27 in Honolulu. More than 40 federal, state, city and county members attended the conference to discuss underage drinking and other issues.

## IOWA

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge in the Hawkeye State unveiled a new exhibit April 14 to honor of the 90th anniversary of the United States in World War I. "World War I Camp Dodge: Home Away From Home" depicts the everyday life of Soldiers from 1917-1919 and explains the important role Camp Dodge played during the war.

## KENTUCKY

Engineers with The Bluegrass State Army Guard have implemented a joint venture with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System which allows Soldiers to attend college-accredited classes in carpentry, electrical wiring, plumbing and heavy equipment operation during their drill weekends.

## LOUISIANA

The Pelican State's John P. Basilica Jr., was promoted to major general at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville. He was pinned by his wife, Karen, and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the state's adjutant general. He now serves as the director of J-4 (Logistics) at the National Guard Bureau.

## MASSACHUSETTS

The Bay State National Guard bid farewell to approximately 150 infantry Soldiers May 3. Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry, based in Hudson, received a year-long mobilization order to Iraq. The Soldiers will perform a security force mission there which includes

facility and convoy security operations.

## MISSOURI

Show Me State National Guard officer and elementary principal 2nd Lt. Matthew Martz was awarded the title of City Council Principal of the Year from the St. Joseph Parent-Teacher Association for his achievements during the 2006-07 school year.

## MONTANA

The Treasure State's 120th Fighter Wing planned to hold a change of command ceremony June 10.

Col. Michael J. McDonald, vice commander of the 120th, will take command from Col. Mark Meyer. The Montana Air National Guard currently is home for more than 1,000 Air Guard members.

## OREGON

More than 850 Beaver State Soldiers are scheduled to return home from the largest deployment of Oregon Soldiers since World War II, encompassing a 16-month mobilization to Afghanistan. The 41st Brigade Combat Team deployed to lead Task Force Phoenix V, which

is assigned to train Afghan Security Forces, in February 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Mount Rushmore State Soldiers conducted a medical evacuation exercise on April 4 in La Calera, Nicaragua, during the humanitarian assistance exercise New Horizons. The \$7.25 million U.S.-Nicaraguan joint exercise was supported by the Air Force's 820th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron and the South Dakota Army National Guard. The exercise provided a new school and a medical clinic with free health and veterinary care to the local people.

## VIRGINIA

More than 90 Old Dominion State Airmen of the 203rd Red Horse Squadron participated in a welcome home ceremony May 13 recognizing their deployments to Qatar, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Airmen entered active federal service in September 2006.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Virgin Islands Carnival Committee

recognized the Virgin Islands National Guard during three events of Carnival 2007 as visitors from around the world flocked to the territory. The Virgin Islands' Carnival is one of the Caribbean's top cultural and social celebrations.

## WEST VIRGINIA

About 85 members of the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing in the Mountain State deployed to Southwest Asia in early May to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Unit members have deployed to Southwest Asia several times since 9/11 while continuing to support Operations Joint Forge and Coronet Oak.

## WISCONSIN

The memory and honor of a Milwaukee Air Force Medal of Honor recipient, Capt. Lance P. Sijan, will soon be preserved when the 440th Airlift Wing transfers its title of a memorial building to the 128th Air Refueling Wing in the Badger State Air Guard. The 128th will dedicate and re-name their base dining facility "Sijan Hall." The 440th, an Air Force Reserve unit based in Milwaukee, will soon close and relocate.

## WYOMING

The Equality State's 84th Civil Support Team participated in a joint mass casualty exercise May 21-25 at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. The training consisted of a tabletop exercise and a three-day response exercise. The event involved more than 200 participants including the 72nd Civil Support Team from the Nebraska National Guard.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison

## You want a piece of me?

New Jersey Senior Airman Erick Contreras (left) of the 108th Security Forces Squadron tries to subdue "Redman" Staff Sgt. Jacinto Riveria using a baton. Members of the squadron are training and preparing for an upcoming deployment this summer.





Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, studies ovens where bodies were burned in the crematorium during a visit to the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site in Germany May 6. The general was en route to conferences of the Guard's State Partnership Program in Germany and the Balkans.

# Chief: State Partnership Program can help keep a broken promise

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

DACHAU, Germany – Never again.

People said what two Army National Guard divisions found inside Dachau Concentration Camp in April 1945 must happen “never again.” The words were carved into memorials and painted foot-high in multiple languages on banners. But in Bosnia, Darfur and elsewhere, their promise was broken.

“I say that’s more a prayer than a promise,” LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said after visiting the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site May 6.

Blum was en route to the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) Adjutants General State Partnership Conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a gathering of National Guard leaders from states that have partnerships with nations in the USEUCOM area of operations.

After that, he was scheduled to attend a historic State Partnership Program (SPP) Regional Work-



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

**Gen. William E. Ward, the deputy commander of Headquarters U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), spoke to attendees at the USEUCOM Adjutants General State Partnership Program Conference.**

shop bringing together 10 Balkan countries and their National Guard partner states in Dubrovnik, Croatia. At this event, representatives from countries that fought less than two decades ago after the former Yugoslavia collapsed in civil war

would engage in formal meetings and informal social activities.

The SPP fosters cooperation via military, socio-political and economic conduits at local, state and national levels through 56 partnerships between U.S. states or territories and

foreign countries.

The SPP is one tool that can help make “never again” a reality, Blum said. At the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site, the general saw photographs of Nazi atrocities committed before and during World War II. He walked through a gas chamber disguised as a shower room. He turned abruptly away from a line of ovens where the dead were burned, saying he had seen enough.

“It focuses me on the importance of why we have to have the 10 Balkan countries that are our partners in the State Partnership Program working a regional approach and a collaborative approach,” Blum said. “Rather than concentrating on their differences, we need to maximize all of our efforts as a team of teams toward a common purpose, and that is democracy and human rights for everybody in that region and maintaining a stable and secure Balkan region, which has not always been the case, but today there is great potential for that promise to become a reality.”

The Dachau Concentration Camp operated from 1933 until 1945, when it was liberated by two Army

as a memorial, and now up to one million visitors annually walk through this place that was the model for the Nazi concentration camps. The majority are young people learning what happened here, curators say.

Visitors – including Blum – quickly lapse into silence as they walk the grounds. Groups break up, and people stand alone, as the chief did, contemplating the black and white photographs that document what happened here and the components of the machinery of death that remain, such as a rack inmates were strapped to before they were lashed with wooden whips.

After his visit, Blum said, “Elie Wiesel put it best: Many of these people were killed twice. Not only were their bodies killed, but their spirit and their minds were killed as well.”

The place is overwhelmingly gray – gray photographs, gray gravel, gray concrete, gray history. In April 1945, it was relieved by a rainbow.

“The two units that converged on Dachau ultimately to put an end to this madness were the 42nd ‘Rainbow’ Infantry Division and the 45th ‘Thunderbird’ Infantry Division, both National Guard divisions,” Blum said. “One came in from one side of the camp, one came in from the other, and together they put an end to this suffering and the madness that was going on here.”

The Americans found 42,000 people crammed into the camp, including tens of thousands evacuated from other concentration camps during the Third Reich’s fall.

“The Guard has throughout its entire history been responsible for saving lives and preventing suffering and returning abnormal conditions to normal,” Blum said. “We do it at home and we do it all around the world. We’ve done it for over 370 years, and we continue to do it today, and we’ll do it as long as there’s a United States of America.”

Blum paused at the black wrought iron gate at the camp’s entrance. “Arbeit macht frei,” inmates read in the iron above the gate. These words were neither prayer nor promise, simply a lie that “work will make you free” when in fact extermination through work became Nazi policy.

“When you finally get to the end of this and your see the inhumanity to man that went on here and then the ultimate destination being either the crematorium or the gas chamber, it’s quite powerful and sobering,” Blum said. “It helps me remember why we do what we do and why it’s important.”

## Air National Guard's defining moments - May

**1925:** In a sham air battle staged 4,000 feet over Times Square, four National Guard aircraft defeated an attack on New York City by four Army planes and then chased them back over Long Island. The clash was watched by an estimated 6,000 people. It was also broadcast live by radio station WOR in Newark, N.J.

**1927:** Fourteen of the 17 Guard aviation units began modernizing their aircraft inventories, receiving Douglas O-2C and Curtiss O-11 observation aircraft plus Consolidated PT-1 and Douglas

BT-1 trainers. That was part of a plan approved by the Militia Bureau and the Army during fiscal year 1926 to phase out the Guard's aging Curtiss JNS trainers.

**1944:** 1st Lt. Donald J. Smith, a prewar enlisted member of the Illinois National Guard's 108th Observation Squadron, was shot down while piloting his B-24 on a bombing raid against the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania. He parachuted safely from his burning aircraft, evaded capture by German forces, and escaped to allied lines

in Italy months later with the aid of Yugoslav partisans. After the war, he rejoined the Illinois National Guard and rose to the rank of major general.

**1959:** The Air Guard's air defense runway alert program was expanded to 22 fighter squadrons. Under that program, seven of them performed alert duties around the clock while the remaining 15 units exercised those responsibilities 14 hours per day mostly between dawn and dusk.

-Compiled by Dr. Charles J. Gross





# HEADS UP!

## Internet sites blocked

The Defense Department is blocking access to many popular Internet sites from department-owned computers due to bandwidth issues, say U.S. Strategic Command officials. Joint Task Force Global Network Operations, which directs the operation and defense of the Defense Department's global information grid to assure timely and secure capabilities in support of the department's warfighting, intelligence and business missions, blocked 12 popular sites on government computers yesterday. The sites are: youtube.com, pandora.com, photobucket.com, myspace.com, live365.com, hi5.com, metacafe.com, mtv.com, ifilm.com, blackplanet.com, stupidvideos.com and filecabi.com.

## Deployment awards

Active-duty and reserve-component units that deploy anywhere in the world can showcase their training or contingency deployment successes by entering the 2008 annual Army Chief of Staff Deployment Excellence Awards for deployments between Dec. 1, 2006, and Nov. 03, 2007. Units that deployed at the last minute between Feb. 1 and Nov. 30, 2006, and were unable to submit entry packets for the 2007 awards may also enter the 2008 competition. Besides the chance to highlight a command's deployment successes, the DEAs were created in 2000 to capture and share methods commands use to improve their deployment processes. Guidance for entering the DEAs and an example of a unit package are available at [www.eustis.army.mil](http://www.eustis.army.mil). Navigate to DPMO, which will link to the DEA program. An AKO username and password are required for access.

## Restructuring TRS

TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) will be restructured later this year, according to officials at TRICARE Management Activity. "We're working hard on implementation and hope to be able to talk about it in more detail later this summer," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, TMA. "Soon after that, eligible members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve will be able to qualify for, and purchase, the restructured TRS coverage." The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act mandated the elimination of the complicated three-tier system, according to Granger. "All we can really say right now is that starting October 1 all qualified members will pay the same premium rates."

## New MyPay security

MyPay officials have announced that another new security feature has been added to protect customers' data on the pay account system. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service has implemented the "virtual keyboard" to assist in protecting against malicious software such as Spyware, Trojans and Keylogging. The virtual keyboard was available in mid-May. Each time a user logs on to MyPay, the virtual keyboard will appear on the screen. Users can type in their login ID and "press" the keys on the screen by clicking on them with their mouse to enter their personal identification number instead of typing the actual keys. The virtual keyboard is to be used only for the user's PIN.

## The 101 critical days of summer

# Motorcycle safety: Consider the risks

By Brig. Gen. James W. Nuttall

Deputy Director, Army National Guard

The summer is a great time to jump on your motorcycle and enjoy the thrills of the ride, but also to take stock of the risks of riding and the ways to mitigate those risks. Before we discuss some of the risks, let's consider some of the paradoxes about riding.

One paradox is that slow-moving obstacles such as pedestrians, bicycle riders, and even slow moving animals can change direction (or stop) abruptly, more quickly than most larger and faster moving vehicles. One way to mitigate this risk is to think in terms of longitudinal (distance ahead) and lateral

(distance across) safety zones. We frequently hear and think about not following too close, but we sometimes fail to hear about the dangers of passing too close to another road-user (jay walker, deer in search of headlights, or cross-walker).

According to accidents reports, several are described as "losing control" and then crashing or being thrown from the bike. If we try to mentally recreate the accident, we frequently identify the root cause as speed, the hypnotic tendency to go too fast for conditions -- weather, traffic, or in many cases our learning curve. Other accidents occurred when vehicles pulled in front of the motorcycles. The drivers apparently did not see and were not alert for motorcycles (an education requirement for all vehicle drivers). Let's all gradually climb the learning curve and eventually retire from many years of happy trails.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation (<http://www.msfsa.org/>) points out that increasing your knowledge about motorcycles and gear and increasing your skills are lifelong processes. Most diagrams of knowledge and experience show a novice period, an experienced period, and then an expert or instructor period (tier). A common assumption is that most accidents occur during the novice period, but a sad truth is that many accidents occur in

the final tier.

Currently, 20 states and Washington D.C. require helmets and 26 other states have partial requirements for younger riders. If not paying the ultimate price for not wearing your helmet, the medical costs for head injury accidents are almost twice the costs for non-head-injury accidents (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2005). According to Army regulations, motorcyclists on or off post are required to at least wear a DOT-compliant half-shell helmet, but wearing a three-quarter-shell or full-face (Darth Vader) helmet increases your safety.

According to Countermeasure, the U.S. Army Safety Center's magazine, a graduate of the rider training course is nine times less likely to have an accident than a rider without the training. In fiscal year 2006, 18 Army National Guard Soldiers were killed or seriously injured in motorcycle accidents. Four Soldiers were in a military duty status. The other 14 were in a non-duty status. As of May 2007, we have lost six Soldiers in motorcycle accidents this fiscal year. Two were in a duty status and four were in a non-duty status. Training has helped us keep our Soldiers safe, but we have room for improvement.

For additional information on motorcycle safety, see <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>.



Photo by Robyn Correll

A helmet may save your life.

# Tommy Hill: Enduring role model

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Thomas Anthony "Tommy" Hill, the National Guard's longest-serving civilian employee, is a lasting memory to contemporaries and to those he mentored.

Now they want to ensure that his legacy lasts for a long time, too, and that Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen who never met Hill know what he did for the National Guard.

On April 26, National Guard leaders past and present and Hill's widow, Olga, and other family members unveiled his portrait at the Army National Guard Readiness Center here. They planted a dogwood tree on the Arlington Hall grounds that Hill tended. They admired the headquarters he helped to procure. They traded anecdotes.

"We are honoring an old friend and a legacy," said Karen Holly, who raised a symbolic glass to honor her friend.

"My father always viewed the National Guard as his family," said Paul Hill. "It wasn't just the Guard, it was the men and women of the Guard, and he treated you the same way he treated us. He wanted all of you to be the best and do the best that you could do. He was very proud of you as he was proud of us."

Every serving member of the National Guard age 61 or younger was born after Hill had already joined the Guard as a civilian in 1946, the beginning of 60-years of service ended only by his death on Feb. 12, 2006. He was 86.

"You have to have a reason to get up in the morning," Hill told retired Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the director of the Army National Guard from 1998 to 2005. "The Guard is my reason; I love it that much."

A National Guard emblem adorns Hill's tombstone.

"In most of our lives, certain people come along that have a great impact on us," retired Lt. Gen. John Conaway, the chief of the National Guard Bureau from 1990-93, told the

audience that included other former Guard chiefs, directors and senior leaders. "Tommy had a great impact."

Conaway said he was told to meet with two people who would enrich his knowledge of the

National Guard when he came to the National Capital Region in 1977. Hill was one of them.

"I sat down with Tommy Hill to learn what was going on in the Guard Bureau," Conaway recalled. "Tommy was a mentor to many of us."



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, and Olga Hill, widow of Thomas Anthony "Tommy" Hill, the Guard's longest-serving civilian employee, plant a dogwood tree in Hill's memory at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., April 26.





8th Massachusetts Infantry and Band participating in military parade in El Paso, Texas, Sept. 21, 1916. (Courtesy New Mexico State University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Thomas Todsen collection, image 02230005.) Inset photo: The 8th arriving at Columbus, N.M., July 1916. (Courtesy New Mexico State University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Thomas Todsen collection, image 02230036.)

## Guard's Mexican border service of 1916 through primary documents

By Bill Boehm

National Guard Bureau Historian

With Operation Jump Start (OJS) well under way along the U.S.-Mexico border in 2006, one naturally can compare today's activity and the National Guard's 1916 call up in the same geographical area of our nation. Although there are about 6,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving OJS in June 2007, that call to service by President Woodrow Wilson over 90 years ago included every state in the union at the time, except Nevada, which then had no National Guard. This action affected over 160,000 men, who took defensive positions along the U.S.-Mexico border in the wake of Francisco "Pancho" Villa's raid of the small village of Columbus, N.M., on March 9, 1916, during Mexico's revolution. It was quite significant, as it was the first time that the president had called the entire Guard to national service for an event other than war as declared by Congress.

However, what do the Soldiers and Airmen of today have in common with their contemporaries from 90 years ago? What sort of difficulties faced them? What was a typical day like for them? What did the men do in their off time back then? The best way to answer these questions is to examine primary documents — newspaper articles, letters, journals, and other documents created on and around the time of the Guard's 1916 Mexican border service. It is these items, often found on brittle, yellow newsprint or, conversely, on fine bond paper, that attempt to answer these questions. Adding color and still more detail to these accounts are the photographs that the Soldiers of 1916-17 took as well as the maps and physical artifacts that marked their time of service in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. None were stationed along the Mexican border in California.

These historical documents are located in many places throughout the United States. A search of the WorldCat catalog, a comprehensive list of published and unpublished material indexed on the Internet, lists a great number of materials about the National Guard call up of 1916. Many are single items, found in libraries and archives of the state that sent troops to the border that year; places as diverse as Minnesota, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, and Idaho. Some materials are located within the records of the adjutant general's office in their respective states, often located within state libraries, historical societies, or regional archives. Other works published as separate volumes informed the public about the adventures that comprised the Mexican Border Service mission.

Individual officers wrote other publications. These serve as excellent firsthand accounts of living conditions and journals of daily activity. Other units chose to write about their assignment in the "foreign" atmosphere of the Southwest desert using humorous prose, as did the 1st Louisiana Infantry regiment in describing their time in Texas. This particular volume, *To the Border and Back: Mexican Border Service, from Alexandria to San Benito, Rio Hondo, and Home*, written by Herbert Mayer, gives a lighthearted view of the entire experience.

Hometown newspapers also detailed the Guard's movement to the border. The Boston Globe sent reporter Theodore Hedlund to Columbus with the 3rd Massachusetts Infantry in June 1916. Hedlund reported to Globe readers the conditions of the train ride west, and detailed Massachusetts Soldiers' experiences with local phenomena such as excessive heat and the occasional sandstorm.

The newspaper accounts often embellished the nature of the atmosphere, at one point

writing about the local dwellings: "...Soldiers have been warned to keep out of deserted adobe houses that line the border...these homes are believed to harbor deadly germs of malignant diseases. Future souvenir hunters who rummage about the empty adobe huts will be treated to a disinfecting process that will make them hesitate before they go on another such excursion." Although no record exists of any Soldiers punished for violating this edict, such warnings surely served as a deterrent to the adventurous.

Soldiers constantly fought boredom and sought entertainment. Hedlund's column describes an impromptu baseball game played between the Massachusetts unit and the 1st New Mexico Infantry stationed in Columbus, with the "Boston Braves" winning. A rodeo was held, where one Massachusetts Soldier rode a "bronco," an experience incomparable to the horse he once rode back home in Springfield. There were concerts as well. Beyond recreational pursuits, camp life consisted of marching, cleaning work areas, and constructing quarters as well as preparing weapons for possible encounters with marauding border raiders. Luckily, this never came to fruition, and the operation did help the National Guard in preparing for its work during World War I in 1917-18.

The Guard's work on the Mexican border is different today, yet the constants of individual life remain remarkably similar. To realize that Soldiers and Airmen of today experience so much of the similar emotions of their National Guard predecessors in 1916-1917 makes these accounts take on greater meaning. These documents are interesting to examine in person, as you are able to gain insight into the thoughts and feelings of those individuals from that time. History does come alive.

## It happened in June

Events that made Guard history

June 20, 1898

DAIQUIRI, Cuba — As the American Navy blockades the Spanish fleet in Santiago Harbor, U.S. Army Soldiers land at this little port close to Santiago. They have come to aid Cuban revolutionaries to gain their freedom from Spanish colonial rule. Among the 16,200 troops coming ashore are two Guard volunteer infantry regiments: the 2nd Massachusetts and the 71st New York. Joining them is the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, composed in part of Guardsmen from Arizona and New Mexico. The regiment's executive officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, would gain national fame, and the Medal of Honor, by leading them in action at Kettle and San Juan Hills on July 1.

June 5, 1945

OKINAWA, Ryukyu Island Group — After almost two months of steady, often bitter, fighting, sometimes including "banzai" charges and hand-to-hand combat with fanatical Japanese soldiers intent of dying for the Emperor, New York's 27th "Empire" Infantry Division is in the final stages of the climatic battle for this Japanese island. On this day its advance elements have finally reached the northern tip of the island, still encountering fierce resistance. The division, part of a joint Army-Marine Corps operation, landed on Okinawa on April 9. It took part in the northern operations against the outer belt of the Shuri defenses. Although subjected to tremendous naval and aerial bombardment, the Japanese, dug into caves and concealed pillboxes, continued to offer a determined defense. With almost every position captured or destroyed, the remaining Japanese defenders surrender on June 9.

June 14, 1968

TUY HOA AIR BASE, Vietnam — New York's 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron arrives, making it the last Air National Guard unit to deploy to Vietnam. Organized along with New Mexico's 188th TFS into the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing, this marks the only time any two Guard units, Air or Army, served together in Vietnam. Like the other three Air Guard squadrons serving in Vietnam, this unit was equipped with F-100 Super Sabre fighter-bombers. While capable of engaging in air-to-air combat, their primary role in Vietnam was flying ground support missions such as bombing enemy troop concentrations and suspected supply dumps and strafing and bombing enemy formations attacking American or South Vietnamese bases.

June 8, 1991

WASHINGTON D.C. — General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of Allied forces in Operation Desert Storm, leads the National Victory Parade up Pennsylvania Avenue in the first such military parade held in the nation's capital since the end of World War I. Among the military units are composite battalions of Air and Army Guard personnel who served in theater.

[www.ngb.army.mil/news/todayinhistory/](http://www.ngb.army.mil/news/todayinhistory/)



# A salute to our military fathers



Artwork by Randee Harvel, 11, a military child.

## Young artists and writers depict National Guard family

By Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada  
Texas National Guard

AUSTIN, Texas – They did not swear to uphold the Constitution, nor did they promise to defend our nation from all enemies, but they are every bit as much patriots as parents who miss their graduation, ball game, ballet recital, sleep-over and, sometimes, their first breath.

They don't complain, they do not whine. They are told to be brave, and so they are. They are our military children.

During April, the Month of the Military Child, many organizations pay a little extra attention to these troopers. One such child is Randee Harvel, who was asked to express her feelings about her military family. She has done so a number of times. She began entering the Armed Services YMCA art contest when she was 6. She won two times before and won again this year.



Randee Harvel

Randee, 11, attends fifth grade at the Arbor Springs Elementary in Newnan, Ga. When asked how she felt about winning a \$500 savings bond, it was evident in her soft-spoken answer that the praise of her mom and dad was much more important to her than the money.

The young lady has experienced separation many times because her father, Brig. Gen. Don Harvel, is the deputy commander of the Texas Air National Guard. Randee and her mother, Nan, make the best of prolonged separations by, among other things, entering contests and winning. Her winning entry this year was titled, "My Military Family."

Finishing second this year was another Texas Air National Guard child. Pierce Condon, 8, from Mesa, Ariz., in the same competition. Benjamin's dad is Chief Master Sgt. Dan Condon from the 147th Fighter Wing at Ellington Field in Houston.

In 2006, Brenna Condon, a first-grader, won with the essay "Why I'm Proud of My Military Family."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian E. Christiansen



Photo by Dayna Rowden



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

June 17 is Father's Day and we salute all the National Guard fathers throughout the 54 states and territories for your dedication to country and to your family.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen



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