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Guard's lack of equipment puts U.S. at risk

Chief, TAGs express concern to Congress

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Congress must either fund equipment for the National Guard or accept the risks of an under-equipped strategic reserve, the Guard's top officer said May 24.

The Guard has only about half of the equipment it needs, LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, testified before the House of Representatives committee on Homeland Security's subcommittee on management, investigations and oversight.

Flanked by three states' adjutants general, Blum told committee members that having the nation's only strategic reserve equipped at 50 percent sends a message "that could be miscalculated by our adversaries overseas."

"It's really now the job of the Congress to fund the equipment or accept the risk," Blum said.

The Defense Department has proposed spending \$22 billion for National Guard equipment purchases over the next five years, Blum said.

Even so, that would equip the Guard to only 75 percent, its level before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Blum questioned whether that is enough.

"We are in a post-9/11 world, and I am not certain that those levels still apply," Blum said.

Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Roger P. Lempke, the adjutant general of Nebraska and president of the Adjutants General Association, told committee members that there needs to be better accounting at the Defense Department level for states' equipping needs.

Currently, equipping the Army and Air National Guard is managed by the respective services, and levels are based on units' wartime missions. This causes problems when states respond to multiple requirements—state and federal—forcing them to cross-level equipment, or take it from one unit to give to

another. In addition, much Guard equipment deployed overseas has not returned.

Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert P. French, deputy adjutant general for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, said that leaves his state falling short. "What happens today because of the war effort ... leaves us with substitute equipment at home or no equipment at home," he said.

Blum conceded that the Guard does not need full equipping of its lethal systems, such as tanks and artillery systems. Units need only enough of those for training. But, he

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Chief welcomes Montenegro as newest partner

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – The chief of the National Guard Bureau welcomed newly independent Montenegro into the National Guard's expanding international family during a dinner for the Balkan nation's president in early May.

"This is a good night. It celebrates the start of a program that will lead to a better future and stability for Montenegro," LTG H Steven Blum toasted President Filip Vujanovic at Blum's home. "Tonight we celebrate friendship and teamwork and we celebrate your independence and your freedom," Blum added.

"I wish to thank you for your contributions to make possible the cooperation between our army and the National Guard of the United States, thereby all of the Army of the United States" said Vujanovic who has been Montenegro's president since May 2003.

Montenegro, the world's newest nation, became the 56th country to join the National Guard's 14-year-old State Partnership Program. It has been partnered with Maine, and Maj. Gen. Bill Libby, the Maine National Guard's adjutant general, also attended the dinner, held at Blum's residence at Fort McNair in Washington.

"States partner with emerging democracies," Libby pointed out.

Montenegro, about the size of Connecticut, declared its independence from Serbia last June 3. Serbia is Montenegro's eastern neighbor. "We in Montenegro feel that our military cooperation represents a great basis

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

'Knock, knock'

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Maryland National Guard, practice room clearing procedures during training on Military Operations in Urban Terrain at Fort Dix, N.J., May 11. The 58th IBCT is in the process of deploying to Iraq. **See more photos on page 8.**

Scuba-diving wounded warriors find equality underwater

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – Six months after an explosive device cost him his lower right arm, Wisconsin Army National Guard sergeant and world-class athlete Darrell "J.R." Salzman has found the great equalizer.

Water.

"The hardest thing that I've had to do [since

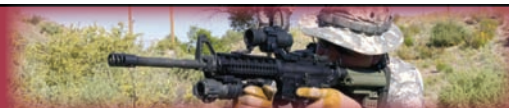
the injury] was actually here," Salzman said as he floated in full scuba-diving gear in Walter Reed Army Medical Center's aquatic therapy pool in early June. "You have to tread water for 10 minutes. Treading water for 10 minutes with half a hand – that was so hard to do. So hard. A couple of times, I went underwater, but I fought it out and stuck with it. I'm still here. I made it."

An explosively formed penetrator (EFP) cost Salzman his right arm below his elbow and the ring finger on his left hand; it also inflicted left-hand nerve damage that affected surviving fingers.

It is John W. Thompson, a former Colorado

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New Mexico improves weapons skills



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A BOOK FOR MOMS AND DADS WHOSE KIDS ARE GOING TO WAR

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 and e-mailed to: Editor.OnGuard@ngb.army.mil

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ARLINGTON, Va. – "I'm going to tell the union. Where's my lawyer? I'm going to sue. I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore."

"What are you ranting and raving about this time?" my longsuffering wife asked me.

"The National Guard Bureau screwed up my Memorial Day weekend – for the second year in a row," I shot back. "Everybody in America had three days off except me. I had to work. It's just not fair."

"Oh, quit whining," replied my better half. "It's not like you gave up Christmas. A lot of other people had it a lot tougher than you did."

OK. So much for feeling sorry for myself. I'm a Soldier. I was doing my duty. And I was a long way from Iraq and Afghanistan. I was doing what I have been doing for much of my life. Editing. In this case, editing a wonderful new book by Paula Sumrall.

As it turned out, editing Paula's book made my weekend.

The title is "Our Sons, Our Daughters: A National Guard Guidebook to Your Child's Deployment." The National Guard Bureau will publish it this summer.

Paula's book is for the parents and the grandparents of our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who are being deployed to fight the Global War on Terrorism a long way from their homes. Paula's book is for the people who, she maintains, are frequently forgotten during the mobilization process, especially if those who are being deployed are married and have children. Paula's book hammers home the point that mothers and fathers and grandparents fret and feel the same concerns about their National Guard warriors as do the wives, the husbands and the children of those who are going to war.

"The only problem I have seen is that sometimes the wives don't

understand that the parents are going through as much heartache as they are," states Deanna Meyer, a Minnesota Guard Soldier's mother.

Paula's book goes a step further than other books and pamphlets which feature information about family readiness groups, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and powers of attorney for the people who are left behind. She includes stories and observations by the moms and dads, especially the moms, about what they have endured while their son or daughter has been at war.

Harry and Susan Williams of California share their emotional stories about the Sunday morning they were informed their son had been badly wounded in Iraq and what they experienced when they first saw him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Mary Connolly of Massachusetts writes about her \$1,500 telephone bill during the first month that her son, 2nd Lt. Douglas Wenson, was away from home.

Val Koelln of Minnesota tells about sending an inflatable pool, the kind that children splash in, to her son, Spc. Jeremy Koelln, who patiently filled it with bottled water to help beat the heat in Iraq.

Deanna Meyer tells of how several parents met in a restaurant to comfort and counsel one another after getting the word that their Soldiers' tour had been extended. "It is much easier to ask for help from someone who knows what is happening," she explained.

The stories are priceless. They will strike a chord with every parent who has watched a son or daughter go away and anxiously waited for them to return.

Why has Paula Sumrall written this book? She is an engaging lady,



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Senior Editor

the wife of Maj. Gen. Mike Sumrall from Alabama, who has been a teacher, an actress and a singer. She grabs the bull by the horns. She does not sit around waiting for other people to act on what she believes to be a good idea.

The seed for the book was planted when she and her husband, who was the Alabama Guard's adjutant general at the time, watched members of the Army Guard's 20th Special Forces Group fly off to Afghanistan in September 2002.

"As the time approached for our Guard soldiers to leave, I realized that a lot of people my age were standing around the edges of the crowd trying not to get in anyone's way. Who were they? Where did they come from?" she writes in her introduction. "They were you. Parents. Moms and dads. Grandmothers and granddads. They had come to see their Soldiers off. Regardless of the time, the place, the date, you were there."

Paula also makes a convincing case that those are the people who frequently get forgotten during the deployments; that they play second

fiddle to the spouses and children or significant others.

She made me realize that I have been as guilty as anyone of taking my widowed mother for granted while focusing on my wife. I came home to my wife, not my mother, after basic training. I always called my wife, who lives in Maine, when I returned from my assignments to many of the places around the world where Guard troops have served during the past decade. Calling my mom was an afterthought. I'd get to it in a day or two – or sometime the next week.

Paula recalls saying a prayer as the plane took off from Maxwell Air Force Base on that dreary September day in 2002. "Dear Lord, use me to serve my country. I am too old too put on a uniform, and I don't know what else to do."

She believes that her deployment guidebook for parents and grandparents is the answer.

"This book is a good example of what it means to be careful about what you pray for because you might get your answer in a way that you would never have anticipated," Paula states in her straightforward way. "I certainly did."

Last Memorial Day weekend I met another patriotic woman named Anne Comeaux from Louisiana whose son had been killed with six of his Army Guard buddies in Iraq on Jan. 6, 2005. The story was featured during the National Memorial Day Concert which I helped to cover in Washington for the Guard Bureau. Telling Anne's story about how she has maintained her artificial Christmas tree in her home as a shrine for her son and his friends was my labor of love during that May weekend in 2006.

Editing Paula Sumrall's book was just as rewarding this year. No, I'm not mad, and I'm not going to sue over losing my holiday weekend. I was proud to do it.



Letter to the editor:

In a recent article (The On Guard, June 2007, Page 14 "Motorcycle Safety: Consider the risks") an accompanying photo shows a [Soldier] riding a motorcycle and not conforming to the Reg.

Army Regulation 385-55, Appendix B-3, Paragraph 'e' states: "Soldiers will wear proper eye protection, full-fingered gloves, long trousers, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, high-visibility garments (bright color for day and retro-reflective for night)."

Specifically in this instance, I question the high visibility garment of the [Soldier] in question. I do not believe the Army Combat Uniform is considered high visibility and although the [Soldier] appears to be wearing a PT belt around his arm, I don't not think that qualifies ...

While I applaud you for trying to get the word out on motorcycle safety, it is difficult for me to try to educate the riders in our Motorcycle Mentorship Program when conflicting information comes out.

I for one have some issues with the Reg (visibility vs. protection) but until the Reg changes I follow it and try to educate my troops as to what is proper. ...

-Staff Sgt. Michael Lemire,
Co. C (MED), 186th BSB (MTN), Training/Admin NCO

Down Range



Cartoon by Staff Sgt. Mike Houk

Minnesota troops build school, business in southern Iraq

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

CAMP ADDER, Iraq — Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers opened a new school and a truck stop, including a restaurant, in May in the village of Um Eneej in southern Iraq.

“The village elders told us a school was the most important thing they needed,” said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Sarvi, 1/34th Brigade Troops Battalion (BTB) field civil military operations officer sergeant. “They said ‘we need our children to be educated because that is the future.’”

1st Lt. Josh Fjelstad, 1/34th BTB field civil military operations officer, said, “As of now, less than 10 percent of the village is educated.”

Fjelstad and Sarvi worked with local elders for more than six months to build a relationship with the village and create projects to better the community and enhance the local economy.

“We insisted the contractor hire local help,” said Sarvi. “He had to hire at least 10 [local] workers and



Photo by Spc. Brian D. Jesness

1st Lt. Robert Grutsch (left) and Maj. Martin Sayre of 1/34th Brigade Troops Battalion hand out boxes of school supplies to children of the new coalition forces-built school in Um Eneej, Iraq.

he hired 20.”

The school is capable of educating 300 to 500 children daily. Before, these children had no other local alternative. The village hasn’t had a serviceable school since before 2003.

In addition to the school, Fjelstad

and Sarvi wanted to make the local highway safer and provide an ongoing source of income for the village. So the truck stop was designed to accommodate the 100 to 200 truck drivers passing by Um Eneej daily on their way between Basra and Baghdad.

“For years (the village) had little source of income,” said Sarvi.

The truck drivers also often parked their trucks on the road at night near the Um Eneej Iraqi highway patrol station for security. The drivers sleep on the pavement next to their trucks creating a hazard for Coalition Forces, Iraqi highway patrols and local travelers.

“You’ve got these people stranded on the highway with nowhere to safely stop, eat or rest,” said Sarvi.

The truck stop will employ 85 people from Um Eneej and create a safer environment for all traffic near the village, said Fjelstad.

He worked with five elected board members of the truck stop to develop a business plan to sustain the operation.

“The goal is to save 10 percent of earnings per month for future projects [in Um Eneej],” said Fjelstad.

“In a couple of years they could have enough money to buy a school,” said Sarvi.

The average tomato and onion farmer in Um Eneej makes less than \$50 a month in the small village of less than 1,800 people.

The 1/34th BTB is attached to the Minnesota Army National Guard’s 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division. The 1/34th BCT currently has more than 2,600 Minnesotans deployed throughout Iraq.

New scam targets military spouses

By American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam that targets family members of deployed troops.

The Red Cross was alerted about the scam earlier this month, said Deborah Goldberg of the Red Cross.

The scam involves a person with an American accent calling a military spouse, identifying herself as a representative of the Red Cross, and telling the spouse that her husband was hurt in Iraq and was medically evacuated to Germany. The caller then says that doctors can’t start treatment until paperwork is completed, and that to start the paperwork they need the spouse to verify her husband’s Social Security Number and date of birth.

It is hard to determine how many spouses have been targeted by this scam, Goldberg said, as there are many ways for spouses to report problems like this. However, one confirmed report was enough for the Red Cross to act, she said.

“We know that it happened to one person; it was probably going to happen to others, and we wanted to be prudent and alert people,” she said.

American Red Cross representatives typically do not contact military members or dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant, according to a Red Cross news release. Military family members are urged not to give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation that their spouse is deployed.

In addition, Red Cross representatives contact military members or dependents directly only in response to an emergency message initiated by a family member, the news release said. The Red Cross does not report any type of casualty information to family members; the Defense Department will contact families directly about family members’ injuries.

It is a federal crime, punishable by up to five years in prison, for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member of, or an agent for, the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting, collecting, or receiving money or material, according to the news release. Any military family member that receives such a call is urged to report it to their local family readiness group or military personnel flight.

‘America’s air operations center’ opens at Tyndall

Managed by Florida Air Guard

By **Master Sgt. Linda E Welz**
1st Air Force

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — First Air Force celebrated the grand opening of the Florida Air National Guard’s 601st Air and Space Operations Center here June 1 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the 37,000-square-foot, \$30 million combat center. The 601st will manage the day-to-day operations of the new facility.

First Air Force, which also serves as the Continental US NORAD Region under the North American Aerospace Defense Command, provides air security and air sovereignty defense for the continental United States. The new AOC plans, directs, and assesses air and space operations for NORAD, and the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM).

Conceived in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the state-of-the-art AOC further enables First Air

Force to protect America’s skies from attack, as well as provide life-saving relief during natural and man-made disasters.

Ms. Debra Burlingame, co-founder of 9/11 Families for a Safe and Strong America, and director of the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, served as the ceremony’s keynote speaker. Her brother, Charles “Chic” Burlingame III, a retired military aviator, was the pilot of American Airlines flight 77 that was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Pentagon.

Ms. Burlingame said when times are difficult, Americans pull together as a nation toward a common goal.

“We are a country of achievers



By Master Sgt. Linda E Welz

Guests look on as a video presentation is displayed on a new \$3.5 million data wall at the dedication of new AFNORTH air and space operations center.

that dream big and fight hard to the end,” said Ms. Burlingame. “We love to win (and) this spectacular new facility is here because people will never again let a tragedy like 9/11 happen; not on our watch.”

As the newest combat center in the Global War on Terror, the AOC operations floor employs a high-tech, two-story, 16-screen data wall in a media-based theater reminiscent of a space-age control center.

America’s AOC employs the Theater Battle Management Core Systems that the Joint Forces Air Component Commander uses to task and re-task theater assets by providing real-time feeds to pilots, navigators, and air battle managers, allowing them to make better informed decisions.

It also employs, through its Western and Northeastern Defense Sectors, the Battle Control System — Fixed program, to collect input from a network of radars to alert operators of airborne activity in continental U.S. airspace. BCS-F provides key technology for the protection of the sovereign airspace over the continental U.S., Canada and surrounding waters.

General Ronald Keys, Air Combat Command commander, spoke of the many sorties, evacuations, rescues, firefighting missions, and other missions that the command had completed since the 2001 terrorist attack.

He called the opening of the new AOC a red-letter day.

Virginia Air Guard wing transitions to Langley AFB

Air Force Print News

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — The Virginia Air National Guard’s 192nd Fighter Wing recorded its last F-16 Fighting Falcon training mission June 20.

The wing, which has flown the F-16 since 1991 and is the nation’s first ANG unit to fly the F-22 Raptor, will conduct associated operations with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley.

More than 20 192nd FW pilots are trained to

fly the F-22 and a growing number of the wing’s full-time and traditional status Guardmembers are working alongside their active-duty counterparts, changing the face of the Virginia ANG.

At Langley, 192nd FW Airmen will associate themselves with the F-22A Raptor mission, the 480th Intelligence Wing’s Distributed Ground Station imagery analysis mission and the Combat Air Force Logistic Support Center, said Col. Jay Pearsall, 192nd FW commander.

The move is part of the Air Force’s Total Force Integration initiative, which spans the entire Air Force mission and represents the service’s reality of “One team, one fight, with a shared, disciplined combat focus.”

“The Air Force is a team, made up of active, Guard and Reserve Airmen who work together to accomplish the mission,” said Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff. “You can’t look at an Airman and tell if he or she is active, Guard or Reserve.”

ALASKA

The Last Frontier State's Col. Deborah McManus was promoted to Brigadier General and now is the new chief of staff for Joint Forces Headquarters-Alaska. She the first female general officer in the state's history and will be responsible for providing command and control of National Guard forces in executing homeland defense, defense support of civil authorities and other domestic emergency missions within Alaska.

ARIZONA

The Canyon State's 162nd Fighter Wing gave Dominic Magne, 6, from Flagstaff, Ariz., honorary lieutenant bars and pilot wings during a training day at the Tucson International Airport April 17. Dominic's wish to become a fighter pilot became reality when the wing learned about him through Dream Factory, a non-profit agency that grants dreams to critically ill children. Dominic battles acute lymphomatic leukemia that was first diagnosed at age 2. He took a break from his treatment at Phoenix Children's Hospital to undergo pilot training at the 162nd.

ARKANSAS

A send-off ceremony was held June 12 for Soldiers of the Natural State's 871st Troop Command's Headquarters Company. Approximately 30 Soldiers departed for mobilization training to Camp Shelby, Miss. There, they will prepare for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

FLORIDA

The Sunshine State's Army National Guard was recently recognized for excellence in logistics by the chief of staff of the Army, placing among the best in areas including mobilizing for deployment and supply activities. Florida won three first-place awards and one runner-up award in the chief of staff of the Army's 2007 Combined Logistics Excellence Award (CLEA) program.

GEORGIA

Thirty Peach State Guardsmen from the 48th Infantry Brigade and other Army and Air Guard units in the state are helping to prepare soldiers from the country of Georgia for a deployment to Iraq. The project is the latest in a series of ongoing training, humanitarian

★ Guarding America ★

and familiarization missions that are part of the State Partnership Program. The relationship between the Georgia National Guard and the nation of Georgia dates back to the mid-1990's.

IOWA

Approximately 20 Soldiers from the Hawkeye State's 554th Quartermaster Battalion and other supporting Iowa units were welcomed home June 16 with a ceremony. The Soldiers spent the past 15 months serving on federal active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The Soldiers were mobilized in February 2006 and operated as an Embedded Training Team and provided advanced logistical and combat support.

MASSACHUSETTS

National Guard teams from across New England conducted an exercise in Truro in the Bay State May 4-11 to test their ability to respond to a lengthy weapon of mass destruction event. The exercise simulated the release of a chemical or biological agent in a suburban area, and Guard teams had to respond in concert with each other and civilian first responders. Civil support teams from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont participated, as did the Massachusetts National Guard's CERF-P, a regional weapon of mass destruction response team, and the Massachusetts State Police Hazardous Devices Unit also joined in the training.

NEBRASKA

Soldiers from the Cornhusker State's Company D, 134th Infantry Long Range Surveillance Detachment are serving as Quick Reaction Force members at Camp Anaconda, Iraq. The detachment is part of the Lincoln, Neb.-based 1st Squadron,

167th Cavalry Regiment that completed more than 1,700 missions, responded to more than 350 significant acts (including small arms fire attacks, indirect fire attacks, and sniper attacks), apprehended insurgents and responded to downed aircraft.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air National Guard, active-duty and reserve units from across New England teamed up for a series of refueling missions June 6 from Pease Air National Guard Base in the Granite State. The event kicked off a summer-long celebration of 60 years of Air Force history. The celebration, called Air Force Week New England, culminates in

August with two major air shows: one at Pease and the other at Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts. Air Force Weeks are designed to highlight the Air Force's heritage and contributions to the Global War on Terrorism.

OKLAHOMA

Approximately 50 medical personnel of the Sooner State recently returned from Operation Cherokee Angel—a humanitarian aid mission to Azerbaijan. They departed May 10 as part of the Partnership for Peace program between the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma National Guard and the country of Azerbaijan. During the mission, they conducted training operations with Azerbaijani medical personnel. After the training, a combined team of U.S. and Azerbaijani medical personnel treated approximately 875 international displaced persons in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

OREGON

Representatives from the cities of Gresham, Hood River, Beaverton and Corvallis in the Beaver State visited the 142nd Fighter Wing at Portland Air Base, June 9, for the Cities of Honor Program. Beaverton Mayor Rob Drake,

Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis, Hood River City Manager Bob Francis and Hood River City Councilor Laurent Picard, and Corvallis City Councilor David Hamby, took part in the unveiling ceremony held inside the old 939th Air Refueling Squadron hangar.

MONTANA

The Montana National Guard had two successful rescue missions in the month of June. A civilian pilot who was injured when he lost power in his small airplane in the Elkhorn mountains was found by the Security and Support Detachment and two lost boy scouts were found by a Blackhawk crew.

SOUTH DAKOTA

After spending one year in Afghanistan, 16 members of Sioux Falls' 147th Field Artillery in the Mount Rushmore State were honored at a welcome home ceremony June 18 at the Multi-Cultural Center in Sioux Falls. The unit deployed to Afghanistan as an Embedded Training Team (ETT) with the primary mission to train and mentor leaders of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police at the corps, brigade and battalion level.

UTAH/NEVADA

The Department of Defense notified Congress in May that Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Teams (WMD-CST) have been certified for the Utah and Nevada National Guard. The 85th WMD-CST of Lehi, Utah and the 92nd WMD-CST of Las Vegas are fully ready to assist civil authorities in responding to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident, and possess the requisite skills, training, and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements.

WASHINGTON

Approximately 25 civil engineers from the 141st Air Refueling Wing in the Evergreen State are engaged in a mission to construct, maintain and repair the airfield and base operating support facilities for Sather Air Base, Iraq. Sather is located at the Bagdad Airport and is known as "the Gateway to Baghdad and beyond." Over 100,000 people and 40,000 tons of material have passed through the Sather terminal in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Big gamble, huge win

Fuel mileage call propels Mears to first Nextel Cup victory

CONCORD, N.C.—In his 156th Nextel Cup Series start, Casey Mears, driver of the No. 25 National Guard/GMAC "American Heroes" Chevrolet, won the Coca-Cola 600 May 27 at Lowe's Motor Speedway to earn his first victory at NASCAR's highest level.

The 29-year-old driver gambled his way to victory lane after running in the top 10 for much of the 400-lap race. With less than 10 laps to go, crew chief Darian Grubb made the call to stay out as the leaders pitted, and Mears was able to stretch his fuel to the finish line—just barely.

"This win is unreal—it's been a long time coming, and I'm so proud of the team," said Mears, who ran out of gas on the cool-down lap after taking the checkered flag. "Darian made a great call and told me to conserve fuel. That was the call that won it for us, and turned our third or fourth-place car into the winning car."

Mears, who qualified 16th-fastest for the

event, was especially satisfied with the end result after his team fought through a race riddled with various challenges.

Early on, Mears struggled with a tight race car and just missed being involved in several significant wrecks. He was able to drive through a multi-car accident that happened after Jimmie Johnson lost a tire tread in traffic on lap 53 and avoided a lap 63 accident involving teammate Jeff Gordon.

Just past the race's halfway mark, Mears was again able to thread the needle and somehow missed hitting anyone when the No. 99 car lost a tire while running third and collected the No. 6 car as a result.

From a performance perspective, Mears and the No. 25 National Guard/GMAC "American Heroes" Chevrolet team also dealt with alternator difficulties that surfaced on lap 149. Mears reported the car was showing no volts, and Grubb made the call to switch to the back-up battery before bringing his driver in for a primary battery replacement on lap 170.

Due to the quick work of the No. 25 team, Mears was able to stay on the lead lap despite changing batteries and for the remainder of the race, he periodically switched back and forth



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Casey Mears celebrates his first Nextel Cup victory May 27 at Concord, N.C.

between the primary and back-up batteries to ensure engine power.

"The alternator definitely had me worried, but Darian was calm and we got through it," Mears said. "The crew did a great job not only with that swap, but with keeping up with race

track. The track conditions forced us to make a lot of changes as the sun went down, and we ended up with just a completely different car than we started with."

—Courtesy of Hendrick Motorsports



National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, a Marine and representatives of federal, state and local agencies with homeland security missions advance downrange while shooting on the move during the Gunfighter Course hosted by the New Mexico National Guard near Albuquerque, N.M., May 29.

The making of Gunfighters

New Mexico steps outside the box to improve Guardmembers' weapons skills

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The New Mexico National Guard tapped a former Marine and police officer to improve its weapons skills.

In late May, New Mexico hosted the 40-hour Gunfighter Course taught by Pat Rogers. Each Soldier or Airman fired about 2,500 rounds — more in a week than some fire during a six-year enlistment.

Guardmembers — most of them cadre from the state's Combat Arms Training Company (CATC) — are expected to share their knowledge like a benevolent virus. "We take what we learn here back to CATC and teach advanced weapons training," said Maj. Frank Oliveira, CATC commander.

The Guard used an Albuquerque Police Department range and invited Border Patrol, police, corrections officers and other colleagues for the course that ended June 1. Of 40 students, about 25 were Guardmembers.

"We all need to work on the same page," Sgt. 1st Class Manny Bustillos Jr. said of the joint training environment. The New Mexico Air National Guard loaned the weapons, and the state provided the ammunition.

Designed for people with intermediate to advanced skills, the course has become a New Mexico annual tradition. "Shooting is a perishable skill," said Bustillos, attending his third Gunfighter Course. "If you don't do it often, you lose it."

A Marine Corps study found that shooting skills decline after just eight days away from

the weapon, said Rogers, a former chief warrant officer in the Marine Corps, and a former New York City Police Department sergeant and operator for other government agencies.

New Mexico reached out to Rogers after Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2002, said CATC 1st Sgt. Jason Riley, crediting Brig. Gen. Kenny C. Montoya, the state's adjutant general, with enabling the innovative training. "Montoya has been adamant that New Mexico National Guardsmen get the most modern and up-to-date, battle-focused training available," said Riley, taking his second class. "We've got tremendous feedback from both Afghanistan and Iraq; that the training provided by CATC and some of the specialized instructors like Pat Rogers made a big difference."

"We're not talking about shooting. We're talking about fighting," Rogers said. "For years we have stayed with marksmanship rather than marksmanship, weapons manipulation and mindset. It's a quantum leap."

Rogers, 60, owns E[li].A.G. Tactical which contracts with the Guard. He brings special operations doctrine to the course which focuses on the M-16 or M-4 carbine platforms in conjunction with the 9 mm pistol. Among other resources, he studies the latest military after action reports to guide his training.

This year's course included Guardmembers who are about to deploy. About 18 CATC members will train an Afghan National Army battalion. "The skills we've developed here will help us when we get over to Afghanistan," Riley said.

Bustillos is senior instructor for the CATC's military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) section. "This is a good opportunity to keep my tactics and my shooting up," he said. "This is probably the last time we get range time like this before we get deployed."

He said attending the Gunfighter Course multiple times has improved his weapons-handling speed and combat skills. Perhaps such constant training helped Bustillos finish the week as the top gun among the Guard-

members, scoring 97 out of 100 points on a final qualification test.

Skills covered include how to properly assemble individual gear so it functions in the smoothest way with the carbine and pistol; shooting on the move; tactical reloading; weapons handling and manipulation; and clearing malfunctions.

Bustillos is a convert. "I come from a Marine Corps background where shooting was 500 meters out, scoring hits — but that's not the way you fight nowadays, everything is close," he said. "It's MOUT, CQB (close quarters battle) and you need to really change the way



A 'gunfighter' performs a tactical reload.

the tactics are, because the enemy obviously are not fighting the way they used to."

Basic rifle marksmanship (BRM) followed by annual familiarization and qualification is not enough, the CATC NCOs and their civilian mentor insist.

"We're not shooting enough," Rogers said. "It requires constant sustainment training."

Shooters tackle an obstacle course and an exercise that this year followed a scenario involving foreign terrorists partnering with domestic gangs to kidnap a person with crucial information that could enable them to set off a weapon of mass destruction.

Soldiers move through the course tactically, using voice and hand signals, firing at targets and receiving sudden situational changes over the radio. They must assess an evolving scenario that includes distinguishing between the bad guys and



1st Sgt. Jason Riley of the New Mexico National Guard's Combat Arms Training Company tackles a live fire obstacle course during the Gunfighter Course.

the good-guy hostage and recognizing the value of potential intelligence materials.

Because it's a civilian-taught course, correct uniform is not required, and some Soldiers "sanitize" their uniforms, removing rank or tabs to remind themselves that, for this week, only gunfighting matters.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Williams removed his rank and the tab that identifies him as a Ranger, fresh into the National Guard as a CATC instructor after a decade with the 1st Ranger Battalion. Williams said CATC's reputation persuaded him to join the National Guard.

"I wasn't expecting to see the great things that I have seen," Williams said. "The initiative is there, the intestinal fortitude. It's comforting to know that Guardmembers have stepped up to the plate and are ready to go and fight this nation's wars."

Oliveira, the CATC commander, said his first time through the Gunfighter Course boosted his confidence with the weapon. "Knowing what I can do with it, and also the transition — when the carbine goes down, it's second-nature to go for that pistol and engage the target."

At times, this range feels more like a war zone than a domestic facility south of Albuquerque. Gunfire mingles with the screech of jets and thud of helicopters from Kirtland Air Force Base. The wind blows up the desert dust, and in late May the temperature exceeds 100 degrees.

"The majority of infantry engagements take place under 200 meters, with the majority of those taking place in under 100 meters," Rogers said. "What we need to do is improve their ability to get close-range hits."

Other important skills include engaging multiple targets, shooting from different positions and shooting in close proximity to other Soldiers — all under strict time constraints.

Rogers has contributed a fighting mentality to Guardmembers, Bustillos said. "On the [traditional] range, it's mostly about precision shooting and getting rounds on the target, but they get away from the actual fighting element. You're in a fight, you're not shooting paper. Senior leadership needs to understand that you can be the most tactical guy out there and go to the marksmanship range, but if you're not learning how to fight with your gun, then you're training your guys to fail."

State Partnership Program looks to expand to Africa

Decision based on European successes

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Boosted by the European success of the National Guard's State Partnership Program, Guard leaders gathered here in early May were looking to southern expansion — in Africa.

"We will see a growth in the number of state partners as AFRICOM stands up," LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during the EU-COM Adjutants General State Partnership Program (SPP) Conference that wrapped up May 8.

AFRICOM is U.S. Africa Command, a new unified regional combatant command scheduled to be stood up by Sept. 30, 2008. EUCOM is European Command, whose sprawling responsibilities across 92 nations currently include most of Africa.

Of the National Guard's 56 partnerships between U.S. states or territories and foreign countries, 26 fall within EUCOM's area of responsibility, and it was with EUCOM nations that the SPP started back in 1993, following the collapse of the Iron Curtain.

State partnerships foster military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian cooperation.

SPP relationships within EUCOM have bolstered regional and theater security, stability and prosperity, Blum said. Successes include fostering conditions that have allowed SPP partners to join NATO and the European Union and delivered coalition partners for the Global War on Terrorism.

"The potential to accomplish so much more is within our grasp," Blum said.

Adjutants general meeting here were briefed on the updated security strategy of Gen. Brantz J. Craddock, the new EUCOM commander.

"This partnership that the National Guard Bureau brings to European command helps us execute our theater security cooperation in ways that we could never touch with the other forces we have," said Maj. Gen. Frank J. Grass, EUCOM's director of mobilization and reserve component affairs. "When the adjutants general depart here, they will understand as much about Gen. Craddock's strategy as we do; we want them to carry our message."

Other conference topics included resources for SPP activities and vision for the future. The National Guard works closely with other U.S. entities, including EUCOM and the State Department, so that SPP activities reinforce overall U.S. efforts.

"We don't do things in a vacuum," Gen. William E. Ward, EUCOM's deputy commander, told the adjutants general, emphasizing the need for coordinated U.S. efforts.

In a period of just a few weeks, a foreign nation's defense minister might be visited by a dozen senior U.S. officials from many

**SPP TO AFRICA continued on:
Page 14**



Photo by Officer Candidate Adam Musil

Czech soldiers familiarize themselves with U.S. weapons under the guidance of Texas Army National Guardsmen at Camp Bowie, near Brownwood, Texas. The 436th Chemical Company, from Laredo, Texas, trained with the Czechs between in May.

Czech soldiers train with Guard Soldiers in Texas

By Officer Candidate Adam Musil
Texas National Guard

CAMP BOWIE, Texas — For the third time in as many years, members of the Texas Army National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic conducted joint training exercises as part of European Command's Country Campaign Plan. The two-week training event, known as Operation Endeavor, was an opportunity for a platoon of Czech soldiers to train with the Guardsmen of the 436th Chemical Company in rural west Texas.

"When working with the Americans, we have tried to teach them how we do NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) treatment and out triage area," said 1st Lt. Milos Kaltenbrunner. "We also wanted to show them our

point of view in dealing with an NBC event with mass casualties. They have also educated us on their NBC procedures."

Along with chemical training, the Czechs went through classes on the weaponry and tested on urban combat and Humvee simulators. Once the classes were completed, the Czechs took to the firing range and were given an opportunity to qualify on the M-16 and M-9 weapons.

"When it comes to shooting, they catch on very fast," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Quintanilla, one of the range instructors. "Their [Czech army] weapons are non-adjustable, so they are for the first time making adjustments on the weapons. It's a challenge, but they are doing a good job."

Alaskan civil engineers team up with Israeli Air Force

NEGEV DESERT, Israel—Alaska Air Guardmembers spent their two weeks of annual training on an Israeli Air Force (IAF) base in Israel's Negev Desert in May. The 50 members of the Anchorage-based 176th Civil Engineer Squadron were quick to volunteer for the coveted rotation during which they hoped to complete several exercise-related construction projects.

"The unique thing about this deployment is that we have five different projects going simultaneously," said Capt. Stephanie Kerrigan, project officer for the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron. "With so many different projects, almost every person has, at some level, been able to do work specific to his or her area of expertise. It's great for skill-set training."

"It's also great training for managers because of the complexity of the projects and limiting factors. We're learning how to respond and react in a dynamic environment while still getting the job done," Kerrigan said.

Working with limited equipment, supplies, communications, and transportation resources adds to the project's complexity and closely simulates conditions of a war-time environment. Encountering incompatible materials and supplies forces the engineers to improvise.

"This is a way for both groups to work

together and work with a lot of different equipment and materials," said Meier Gur, project liaison for the Israeli Air Forces, who has been with the project since its inception and hopes it continues far into the future.

In addition to working on U.S.-specific construction projects, the Guardmembers have had the chance to work in a "combined" environment. Several 176th electrical and power production craftsmen provided exothermic

The Texas, Nebraska and Czech Republic State Partnership Program is one of the most active engagements within the European Command Area of Operation. With Texas and Nebraska having a large Czech population, the mutual bonds and ties have already been established. The size of the Czech military directly mirrors the size and capabilities of the Texas and Nebraska National Guards, and the Czechs see the National Guard as a great resource.

"Training alongside our Texas counterparts in realistic scenarios improves our ability to interact with the United States," said Kaltenbrunner. "It builds a trust between us that is important for all NATO soldiers during the global war on terrorism."

The joint training exercises between the Czech forces and Texas began in 2005 when the Texas National Guard invited Czech leaders to speak at a chemical conference on Camp Mabry. The following year Texas sent a chemical platoon to train with the Czech Republic's Chemical Brigade.

Since the beginning of the global war on terrorism, the Texas National Guard has been instrumental in the training of foreign nationals around the globe in areas such as: Iraq, Afghanistan, Europe, and Central and South America.

"I never thought I would be training soldiers from a different country," said Quintanilla. "It says a lot that the Texas National Guard is allowed to train the Czech forces. It shows that the Texas Guard is fit for battle and trained at the highest level."

The drive for professional excellence by Guard troops was not lost on the Czech soldiers.

"Working with the Americans is perfect. They are a very professional fighting force," said Czech Staff Sgt. Martin Rancak when asked about what he liked best about working with the Americans. "They have taught us how to use the M-16 and other weapons. It has been a great experience for us working with them."

There are currently 1,000 Czech Republic Soldiers deployed throughout the world. Emphasis on training events and exchanges will remain a priority. The Czech Republic has a long-standing military history, but the armed forces of the Czech Republic are still a budding army.



Photo by Master Sgt. Julia Barklow

A mixed group of Alaska Air Guardmembers from the 176th Wing and Israeli contractors for the Israeli Air Force work together on a new runway project at an airbase in Israel.

Air Guard director visits bases with changing missions

By Staff Sgt. Bruce Hedrick
National Guard Bureau

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. - The director of the Air National Guard and his key staff visited two Air National Guard bases May 18-19 that have been affected by the 2006 Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC).

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley saw firsthand the challenges that each base faces for a successful transformation during his visits to the 181st Fighter Wing (FW) in Terre Haute, Ind. and the 127th FW at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich.

Because of BRAC, the 181st FW is scheduled to lose the F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and convert to a Distributive Common Ground Station mission (DCGS) and an Air Support Operation Squadron (ASOS). DCGS consists of fixed and deployable processing systems that support a range of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance platforms. The ASOS is a tactical mission that provides air power expertise and controls close air support for Army commanders. Neither DCGS nor ASOS missions have associated aircraft in the unit.

Under BRAC, the 127th FW is scheduled to lose its F-16 and C-130 Hercules aircraft and convert to the A-10 Thunderbolt II and KC-135 Stratotanker. It is also pursuing a new enhanced use lease (EUL), which is a joint effort to develop available land and facilities for expansion.

McKinley toured both bases and corresponding facilities and conducted a town hall meeting with personnel. In Michigan, he attended a promotion ceremony for Lt. Col. Michael Thomas, 127th Airlift group commander, and a Community College of the Air Force graduation for Air National Guard members.

"I've never seen this before, where the director and his entire staff come to visit," said Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, the 127th Wing's commander. "We have their attention, and they understand and value our concerns."



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. John S. Chapman

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley discusses F-16 engine maintenance and repair operations with Senior Master Sgt. Troy Davis May 18.



Photo by Lt. Col. Nahaku McFadden

"Pilot" Sam Gates receives a hug from District of Columbia Air National Guard Capt. Susanne Schulz who is also the Pilot for a Day program coordinator for the 113th Wing. Gates was attending the 2nd Annual Pilot for a Day Reunion and the Joint Service Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., with best friend Andrew McMichael May 18.

Special reunion

DC Air Guard's Pilot for a Day program etches happy memories

By Lt. Col. Nahaku McFadden
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - As the slide show revealed images of 14-year-old Kyle Knepp from his wheelchair, engaged in various Pilot for a Day (P4D) activities, many in attendance wept openly. Despite suffering from a painfully debilitating cancer that was ravaging his body and would eventually take his life, each image captured a young man clearly having a good day.

Good days, as those acquainted with chronic illnesses know, can be rare, and it was one of the reasons Cindy Ettinger, Kyle's mom, had to attend the second annual P4D reunion at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., May 18.

"It was really important to our family to come this year," said Ettinger, who brought along her other son. "Kyle's brother didn't

get to come. He wanted to see everything that Kyle experienced."

Etching happy memories for those who have endured so much is part of what the District of Columbia National Guard-sponsored P4D program is about, said Capt. Susanne Schulz, the program's coordinator and a D.C. Air Guard C-38 pilot.

Hosted by members of the 113th Airlift Wing, along with dozens of volunteers, the community outreach program allows military and civilian children suffering from chronic medical conditions to visit an installation for a day.



Since 2004, the DC Guard's P4D program has sworn in six honorary pilots. Sadly, just three of them, Will Ledford, Michael Ogunjimi and Sam Gates, made the reunion.

Along with the red carpet treatment, the "pilots" were treated to a picnic, complete with a moon bounce, and escorted by their host pilots to static displays of aircraft and the Joint Service Open House Air Show at Andrews.

"This reunion brings a wonderful sense of community," said Stephen Ogunjimi, Michael's father. "You get to meet other families going through this same thing. The kids encourage each other. It has been overwhelming."

Despite the tears and heartaches Shulz has experienced, she calls P4D her favorite program.

"The knowledge that we were able to make that one child feel special, even for just one day. It's an amazing feeling," she observed.

Ogunjimi credits Shultz and the program for so much more.

"The people involved think only of making the children happy," he began. "They make them feel as if they are the most important person in the world."

These memories will be there for the rest of his life," Ogunjimi continued. "This has contributed a lot to Michael's healing process."

Air National Guard's defining moments - July

1926: By an act of Congress, the Army Air Service became the Army Air Corps. The Air Corps was required to assist and support National Guard aviation units including training them.

1936: The first of 45 brand new North American O-47As were ordered for Guard aviation units by the War Department. The O-47 was the first Guard aircraft to incorporate such modern aircraft features as retractable

landing gear, a fully enclosed cockpit, and cantilever monoplane construction.

1943: The 111th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), formerly the 111th Observation Squadron of the Texas National Guard, began preparing to fly tactical reconnaissance missions from its base at Bou Fucia, Tunisia, during the invasion of Sicily which was launched three days later.

1956: Members of the Hawaii Air Guard's

169th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron and its 109th Aircraft Control and Warning Flight began manning a radar site 24/7 to maintain constant surveillance of the air approaches to those Pacific islands.

1966: Tennessee Air National Guard flight nurses and medical technicians began providing complete teams to serve on Air Force aircraft performing aeromedical missions in the Pacific theater, including Vietnam.

-Compiled by Dr. Charles J. Gross



Preparing for war



Photo by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum



Photo by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum



Photo by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Maryland National Guard, train at Fort Dix, N.J., May 11 prior to deploying to Iraq. Their training included casualty evacuation with a litter, room clearing procedures in an urban environment, guiding Humvees, patrolling, providing cover fire while fellow Soldiers advanced on positions and other war skills. [Watch the video of this story at www.ngb.army.mil/mp/default.aspx.](http://www.ngb.army.mil/mp/default.aspx)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

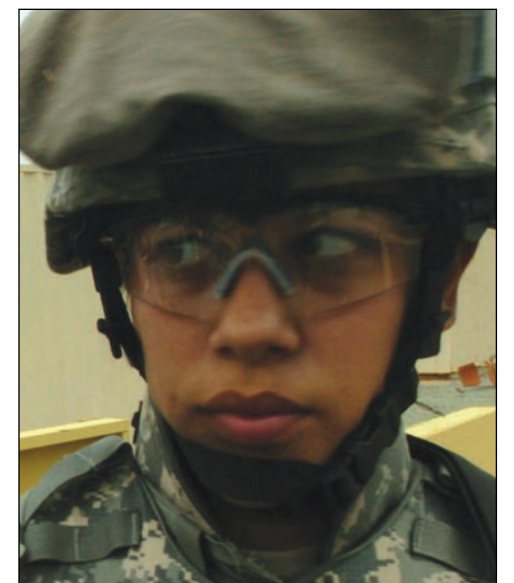


Photo by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum

From page 1: UNDERWATER

National Guard Soldier, who is Salzman's volunteer scuba instructor, who calls water the great equalizer, and Salzman and other wounded warriors say they agree.

"Many things are just easier to do in the water for amputees," Thompson said.

Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba Diving (SUDS) is a new, all-volunteer program for wounded warriors at Walter Reed. About 25 amputees have been through SUDS since February, and six more service members get the opportunity every two weeks.

SUDS is the brainchild of Thompson, a former Outward Bound instructor who is certified by the Professional Association of Diving

It's a whole other world. I can pretty much do everything in the pool that I could do before, with my injuries.

-Sgt. Darrell "J.R." Salzman

Instructors (PADI) and by the Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA).

"It is absolutely the most rewarding thing I have ever been involved in," Thompson said. "I am truly inspired by the Soldiers at Walter Reed."

The goal is to challenge wounded warriors from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and give them a skill that they can continue to enjoy into old age, Thompson said.

New to scuba diving, Salzman is far from new to the water. "I'm in the water all the time," he said. "It's my life in the summer. I love it."

A homebuilder by trade, Salzman, of Menomonie, Wisc., has been a lumberjack sports competitor from age 5, specializing in log-rolling and boom-running.

A fixture on ESPN's Great Outdoor Games, Salzman won 14 medals and ESPN's 2005 ESPY Award for Best Outdoor Sports Athlete. He has been a semi-pro and pro, tied for the all-time medal winner in the Great Outdoor Games, and set log-rolling and boom-running world records.

On Dec. 19, 2006, Salzman and two other Soldiers were the lead scouts for a fuel tanker convoy when an EFP hit the vehicle they were riding in.

"One second I'm sitting in the vehicle telling my driver something," Salzman said. "Next, I'm waking up. My whole body hurts. My arm hurts. Everything got really loud. I had lost my arm. ... I was reaching for something at the time. Had I not been reaching for it, I just would have had some injuries on my left hand. But I had my arm up, and I lost my arm."

Salzman, 27, plans to return to college and perhaps teach industrial education, or shop. "Every semester, I'm going to make up a new story about how I lost my arm," he joked.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

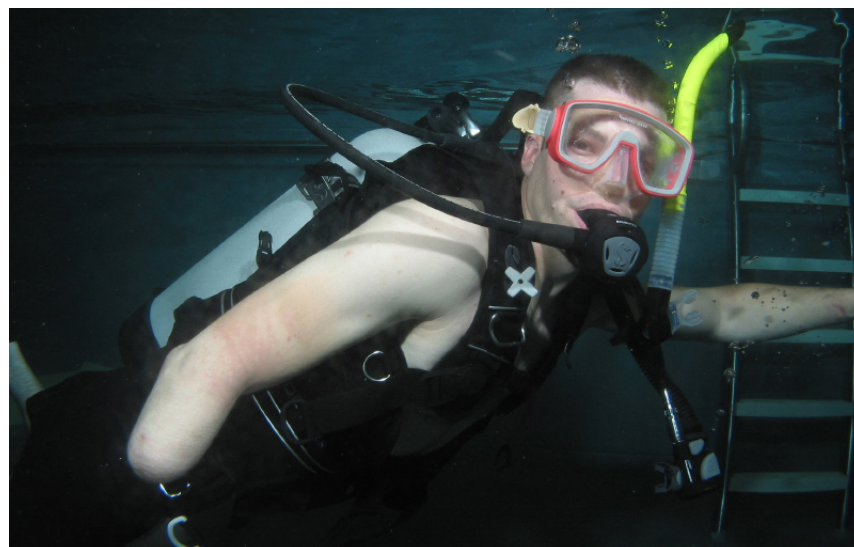


Photo by John W. Thompson

Wisconsin Army National Guard Sgt. Darrell "J.R." Salzman, an Infantryman who lost part of his right arm after the detonation of an explosive device near Baghdad, Iraq, on Dec. 19, 2006, learns to scuba dive from volunteer instructor John W. Thompson, a former National Guardsman, in the Soldiers Undertaking Scuba Diving (SUDS) program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center June 7.

SUDS

To learn more about the Soldiers Undertaking Scuba Diving program, visit www.sudsdiving.org.

To donate to SUDS, visit Disabled Sports USA at www.dsusa.org and specify that the donation is for the SUDS program.

"These kids are not going to know what to think."

He has decorated his prosthesis with a blue flame design, points out his injuries to all who ask in whatever degree of detail they want, and treats his amputation as a new challenge to work around.

"With my injuries, I have to relearn everything," he said. "I used to be right-handed. Now I'm left-handed, but I have a damaged left hand, so I've got to relearn everything, from tying my shoes to packing my bag."

In the aquatic therapy pool, Salzman is relearning and expanding his water skills. "I had never scuba-dived before in my life," he said. "It's a whole other world. I can pretty much do everything in the pool that I could do before, with my injuries."

In August, Thompson plans to take six wounded warriors to Bonaire, a Caribbean island in the Netherlands Antilles, for open-water dives required for certification. Later this year, he hopes to take a trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he once taught recreational scuba to deployed service members, including National Guard members.

"It's definitely boosted his confidence," said Salzman's wife, Josie, 20. "He got in the water and he can do it just fine, just like any

other person."

Chad Watson, 24, a Marine Reservist injured by an improvised explosive device in Fallujah, Iraq on Nov. 29, 2006, finds weightlessness and quiet in the pool.

"You feel more normal in the water," Watson said.

"You have to imagine waking up from a drug-induced coma not having limbs," said Army Staff Sgt. Jacque Keeslar, 37. Both his legs were amputated after he was wounded June 27, 2006, by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. "A lot of things go through your mind, what you can and can't do. Anything you can do ... is an accomplishment."

Salzman said he is repeatedly reminded that he is missing part of his right arm. He experiences phantom limb, the sensation that his arm is still there. Sometimes, he believes in his sleep that his arm is still all there, rediscovering its absence all over again upon waking.

Other therapeutic programs available to wounded warriors at Walter Reed include fly fishing, deep-sea fishing and kayaking.

"There are a lot of programs going on at Walter Reed that help," Keeslar said. "It's amazing to me how many programs are out there that help wounded veterans."

Keeslar was a certified scuba diver before

his injury. "I still want to dive," he said. "I still want to ride a motorcycle. They give you the opportunity to be able to come in here and realize that there's really nothing that's changed — that you still can do all the things that you wanted to do. It's going to be a little bit challenging, or you need different equipment."

Five weeks after his injury, Keeslar completed a five-mile handbike race. Five months after his injury, he completed the New York Marathon on a handbike.

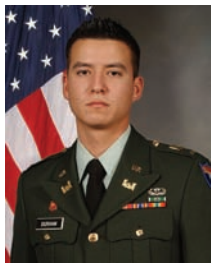
"I don't think it's just me," he said. "It's everybody that's in the military. We have that drive-spirit. We're always up to a challenge. Now that I have no legs, everything's a challenge."

Contributors to SUDS include the Annapolis Scuba Center, the Chatham Bay Foundation, Disabled Sports USA and PADI.

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

Newsmakers

Army Guard **Spc. Andrew Ruga** of the 222nd Transportation Company, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, was one of the winners of a recent Chef Emeril Lagasse military cooking contest. The contest was to air on two shows in June on the Food Network. **Ruga** often writes recipes while driving around in Kuwait.



Durham

Corps by the United States Army Engineer Regiment.

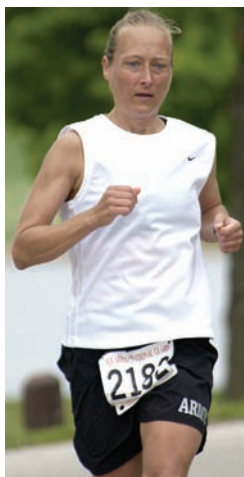
After 42 years of service to the Ohio Army National Guard and nearly 8,000 flying hours, **Chief Warrant Officer Rodger West** flew his final flight Feb. 27 in a C-26B fixed-wing, propeller-engine aircraft. It was from



West

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport. He returned to the States in late March following a six-month deployment to the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgt. Michelle Elliott, a member of the



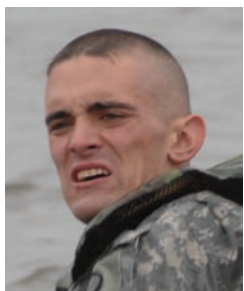
Elliott

Missouri National Guard's 1/135th Attack Battalion, located at Whiteman Air Force Base, competed on May 6 in the Lincoln Marathon, finishing 8th among female contenders. She also qualified for All Guard Marathon Team. The

30th Annual Lincoln Marathon included 5,000 military and civilian entries. Air and Army National Guard members from each state, including Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Alaska, participated in this event.

Sgt. Adam Norton, a Missouri Army

National Guardsman, recently lead the



Norton

Fort Leonard Wood 2007 Warfighter Team to a fifth place finish in the Army's Military Police Corps Warfighter Competition. In this "best of the best" contest, Norton, formerly an artilleryman with Company B, 1/128th Field Artillery, competed for three days against 29 other teams from U.S. Army posts around the world.

Potential fulfilled

Penn. Solider is state's 1st female pilot-in-command

By **Pfc. Matthew E. Jones**
Pennsylvania National Guard

In 1911, Harriet Quimby became the first licensed female pilot. In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. More subtle milestones in female aviation are still happening to this day.

On May 17, almost exactly 75 years after Earhart's historic trans-Atlantic flight, Chief Warrant Officer Angie Harris became the first female pilot-in-command (PC) of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Harris has faced quite a few challenges on her journey to becoming a PC, but she made it clear that being a female was definitely not one of them.

At the age of 21, after four years in the aviation field, Harris was sent to Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) with the intention of becoming a pilot. A month later she was sent home when it was discovered that she had astigmatism, a medical condition based on having an irregularly-shaped cornea.

"I had 20/20 vision and they sent me home anyway," said Harris. "I was pretty bitter," she said with a cynical smile.

After working 12-hour nights at what she described as a thankless job at an electronics manufacturing plant for a few months, Harris decided to make a career out of the military instead. She started working at the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site



Photo by Joe Ketterer

Chief Warrant Officer Angie Harris is the first female pilot-in-command of a Chinook helicopter in the Pennsylvania National Guard. She has been flying Chinooks for less than three years.

(EAATS) fulltime and became a noncommissioned officer. But as luck would have it, Harris' dreams of becoming a pilot were not over yet.

"I was completely content retiring as a sergeant major one day," said Harris. "Then, a year later, I came across an e-mail saying that the Army was seeking laser eye treatment test candidates. In three days I was in Philadelphia having the surgery done."

It was only a matter of time before a Soldier with the potential that Harris possesses was given a second chance, and six months later she was given exactly that. Col. Christopher Latchford, the Pennsylvania state army aviation officer, decided to send Harris to flight school again. Harris was ecstatic.

"Kudos to Colonel Latchford for having the faith to send me back the second time," said Harris. "Most others would have just said

'we already lost one flight school seat for you, we're not giving you another one.'"

Harris' dream of being a pilot had finally come true.

"It's a great feeling when you jump in the seat," she said. "You strap on the seatbelt, and it feels like you're at the aircraft's mercy, but you know you're in charge of it. You make it do what you want it to."

Following WOCS and Initial Entry Rotary-Wing, Harris immediately went to the CH-47 Aircraft Qualification Course to become a Chinook pilot like one of her icons, Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Reep, a standardization instructor pilot at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1.

"CW4 Reep is kind of my icon when it comes to the Chinook," said Harris. "It's like he just straps on the helicopter and it becomes part of him."

Mass. pilots smash records

By **Capt. Matthew T. Mutti**
Massachusetts National Guard

What do Col. Jon Mott, the 104th Fighter Wing Operations Group commander, and Cal Ripken, Jr. have in common? They are both record breakers who continually set new records every day they came to work.

On September 6, 1995 Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's 59 year record of 2,130 consecutive games played, and continued to set new records until Sept. 20, 1998, when the new record was set at 2,632 games. On March 30, 2007, Mott celebrated breaking the documented record for the most hours flown in an A-10 "Wart Hog" aircraft which was previously set in 1999 by retired Maj. Gen. James Skiff at 4,550.

Mott, the new "Time-Hog" will continue to break the new record of 4,570 hours until he transitions to the F-15 Eagle and stops flying the A-10 in the fall of this year.

After earning his wings in 1983, Mott has flown the A-10, logging both peace-time and combat hours in the aircraft. "I am excited about the transition, but not looking forward to leaving the Hog," said Mott. "It will be a sad day when I make my final landing. I have so many memories behind the stick... 189 days worth."

Mott's accomplishment is not an individual effort, in that every flight is only made possible



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert Sabonis

From left: Col. Jon Mott, Lt. Col. Ken Stiles, Col. Marcel Kerdavid and Lt. Col. Ed Sommers stand in front an A-10 prior to takeoff on March 30.

by the collaboration of many people and hundreds of support-hours. "I would never have broken this record or even flown a mission without the dedicated professionals I serve with," he said. "This isn't my achievement, it's our achievement, and I am so thankful for the opportunity to highlight the excellence of this wing."

Retired Lt. Col. Ron "Professor" Henry, who was the previous record holder of 4,430 hours in 1997, and retired Gen. James "Jibmo" Skiff were in attendance to share this accomplishment with Mott. "We knew our records would not stand forever," said Henry. "As the value of the A-10 is reaffirmed overseas, I am sure Mott's record will be broken too, but it is

still a huge achievement."

In addition to Mott's record, Lt. Col. Ken Stiles reached an impressive 4,000 hours in the A-10. Currently, there are less than 10 active A-10 pilots who have achieved this status.

During the celebration flight, Col. Marcel Kerdavid, commander of the 104th Fighter Wing, Stiles and Lt. Col. Ed Sommers flew in a four-ship formation with Mott and set another documented record for the most-combined flying hours in a four-ship. They set the new record at more than 15,585 combined hours, which breaks the previous record set by a four-ship at Barksdale Air Force Base, when they flew with 15,400 combined hours in 2005.

Texas prepares for hurricanes



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada

Staff Sgt. Jorge A. Sugranes shows the range of communications he can support.

By Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada
Texas National Guard

AUSTIN, Texas — Special-needs residents in or near Pasadena, Texas, assembled at the Pasadena Convention Center to evacuate to safe ground. Fortunately, the evacuation was not the result of a hurricane bearing down on Texas, but part of a statewide exercise during the week of June 3.

Under the direction of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), of the Texas A&M System, and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, civilian authorities in Pasadena, Lufkin and San Benito, together with Texas Military Forces, practiced their ability to evacuate those who could not leave the area by personal means to cities such as Corsicana, Dallas or Waco.

The scenario called for "Eunice" to hit the Houston/Galveston area as a category 5 hurricane. As a result, the evacuation hub in the convention center was activated with messages

going out to the public urging all Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Seabrook, El Lago, Taylor Lake Village and Nassau Bay special-needs citizens to assemble at the Pasadena Convention Center.

Thirty-four Texas Military Forces Soldiers from the 124th Cavalry, based in Waco, were trained to utilize the tracking software developed by AT&T and to assist with the evacuation and accounting of passengers. One Airman from the 4th Air Wing, Texas Air National Guard, supported the exercise with radio communications.

Overall, the objectives of the Texas Hurricane Exercise were to:

- Establish ground evacuation hubs in Cameron County and Houston
- Establish a pick-up point in Cameron County
- Establish the state staging area in Cameron County
- Establish a bus fuel point in Lufkin

- Evaluate and provide input for improvement of hurricane response

The drill's objective in Pasadena was to exercise local ability to communicate emergency management plans, to activate transportation hubs, evaluate communication interoperability, assess resident/companion animal tracking, coordinate public information systems, and evacuate communities most vulnerable citizens with medical requirements ranging from 0 to level 3 needs.

Robert Hemminger, emergency management coordinator, explained that 0 is a passenger with no medical needs but needs a ride; 1, 2 and 3 have various light medical conditions; 4 are severe bed-bound ventilator patients; and category 5 are those citizens institutionalized with the most severe medical conditions. When asked by the media who would take care of the categories 4 and 5, he explained that a regional medical operations center would transport those patients.

Hemminger said that the overarching questions after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were: "Who got to safety, and where did they go?" With this exercise they hoped to demonstrate accountability of all who fled "Eunice."

"We process evacuees, assist them on the bus and scan their ID bracelets," said Sgt. Jay White, one of the Texas Military Forces Soldiers, describing his role in the exercise. "There are different ID bracelets for people and pets, but our aim is to keep them together."

When asked how people with allergies would evacuate, he said that there was a special bus designated as a non-pet bus.

White explained that the name on the ID bracelet is fed into a computer system that corresponds with a particular bus number and GPS system and transmitted to the State Emergency Operations Center (SOC). In addition to being able to track the bus, the system will also allow SOC personnel to investigate deviations from the bus schedule and route.

Tony Betz and Charles Bryant, both from Texas A&M, were the node controllers together with the other TEEX members there to evaluate the exercise's effectiveness and write an after-action report.

"We will inject scenarios to invoke the desired or undesired responses, and work under real time and exercise time," Mr. Bryant said.



Photo by retired Lt. Col. Jim Driscoll

A Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter drops water on the wildfire.

Georgia fights largest wildfire in state history

By Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Baldowski
Georgia National Guard

Editor's note: Based on a June 1 report.

Georgia National Guard helicopters continue the aerial battle against the largest forest fire ever recorded in Georgia. To date, Army Guard helicopters have flown more than 353 hours, dropping more than 3,100 "bambi bags" of water, equivalent to more than 3 million gallons of water. Since the fire erupted in April, close to 600,000 acres have been scorched in southeast Georgia and 18 homes destroyed. Fortunately, there have been no fatalities reported.

Despite official reports that the two main fires, Sweat Farm Road and Big Turnaround are 85 percent and 50 percent contained respectively, dry, hot and gusty winds continue to fan the fire. Drought conditions throughout the state have reached critical levels and have hindered firefighters. According to GEMA officials, crews are fighting more than 66 smaller fires.

Georgia Army National Guard aviation assets continue their month-long battle against the fires. Currently, Georgia National Guard assets include a CH-47 Chinook and two UH-60 Black Hawks. The Chinook flown by members of the 169th Aviation Regiment from Hunter Army Airfield and the two Black Hawks from the Dobbins-based 171st Aviation Battalion, dump thousands of gallons of water each day on the spreading fire.

The air battle against the fires is supplemented by 20 National Guard personnel. An additional 33 personnel on state active duty recently arrived at the scene with nine vehicles and one water buffalo to provide logistical support. The Georgia Air Guard has deployed two members from the 283rd Combat Communications Squadron at Dobbins to provide communications support. The Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF) is also supporting the firefighting efforts. Some 30 personnel from Training Site Command, 175th Engineering Platoon and 874th Engineering Detachment are supporting the Swampfire Mission in Jesup. The Guard is also providing logistics and vehicle support to the Firefighting Task Forces in Jesup, Statesboro, Tifton, Waycross; and the just-completed mission at St George. The GSDF is also providing security, fire watch, and traffic control support.

White House briefing

LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, briefs President George W. Bush on the availability of National Guard personnel for the 2007 hurricane season in the Situation Room at the White House June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts between 13 and 17 named storms this year.



White House photo by Eric Draper

Taking fire

Four receive Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism at Ramadi

By Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith
36th Combat Aviation Brigade

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq – Four pilots from Company B, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment (Attack), 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement while flying a combat mission in Ramadi, Iraq. The award was presented to the pilots April 16.

Basically a Texas Army National Guard unit, the 36th CAB includes some 2,500 National Guard Soldiers from 44 states.

Earning the award were 1st Lt. Matthew Salo, of the Texas National Guard, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Stacy, Chief Warrant Officer 4 William “Dub” White and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marcus Moore, of the Missouri National Guard. The four distinguished themselves by their actions in Ar Ramadi on Dec. 19, 2006, during a mission to provide air cover for coalition forces (U.S. Marines working with Iraqi army soldiers) who were establishing an observation post within the city.

The AH-64 Apache helicopter pilots searched for insurgents from the air while the forces were on the ground moving from building to building, clearing the way and looking for the best location to set up an observation post. Within seconds of one coalition force squad entering a building, the pilots heard over the radio that an improvised explosive device (IED) had detonated. Salo said several Iraqi army soldiers were hurt, and most of the squad’s com-

munications equipment had been damaged or destroyed.

The ground troops continued clearing the building, and set up a perimeter around it. About 40 minutes later, another IED went off. The Marines on the ground decided that they had to move the casualties out of the building and needed to call in a casualty evacuation. A third IED exploded and the enemy began firing at the Marines still inside the building.

With the coalition forces having limited communications, the troops on the ground had no way of letting the tactical operations center back at Camp Ar Ramadi know the situation. So the Apaches became a radio relay between the ground forces and the command post many miles away. Salo said enemy fire seemed to be coming from everywhere.

“We couldn’t identify where the fire was coming from in that urban environment, but we thought we could draw some fire away from the ground guys, make some noise and keep the bad guys’ heads down,” Salo said. “That’s when we started getting shot at the first time.”

Low on fuel, taking fire and providing a vital communications link, the Apaches stayed long enough to allow the Hum-vee convoy to evacuate

the wounded Soldiers before heading back to Camp Corregidor, Iraq, to refuel. While assessing battle damage, White and Moore discovered they had taken enemy fire to the aircraft’s tail wheel, belly and transmission. Salo and Stacy sustained damage to their helicopter’s flight systems. All four pilots could have determined that their aircraft were not safe to fly and headed back to LSA Anaconda, but they all decided to go back into the firefight and continue the mission.

“We knew the mission was vital and we had to go back in,” Salo said.

“This is our job: Protecting the heroes on the ground is what we love to do.”

-Chief Warrant Officer William “Dub” White



Photo by Staff Sgt. R.A. Steele

From left, 1st Lt. Matthew Salo, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marcus Moore, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Stacy and Chief Warrant Officer 4 William “Dub” White display their Distinguished Flying Crosses and accompanying certificates in front of an AH-64 helicopter at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq.

Within minutes of returning to support the Marines, the Apaches again began taking fire from the insurgents. At this time, Salo and Stacy saw one of a helicopter pilot’s worst nightmares coming straight for them – a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). They banked away, saw the airburst of the RPG miss them, and flew

back into the flight to continue monitoring the radios for the ground guys.

“The Marines were obviously in the middle of it and pretty nervous,” Moore said. “Since we were able to talk to them, we could relay the situation to their command post, which was finally able to dispatch a patrol to get out there and establish a relay station for them -- providing additional support.”

Once the wounded coalition forces members were on their way out of the area and headed to safety, the Apaches left their station to return to the Forward Area Refueling Point at Corregidor to get more fuel

and assess damage to their aircraft. This time, damage was found in a rocket pod of the Apache flown by White and Moore.

Since the mission was not complete and coalition forces were still in harm’s way, the 36th CAB Soldiers returned to the heart of the battle. The Marines had their observation post operational by then. With more casualties having been incurred, the Marines needed to leave the area. Similar to the “Mogadishu mile” executed by Rangers in the movie Blackhawk Down, the Marines made a run for it on foot. With the Apache pilots providing security and cover, the coalition forces were able to safely get back to their base.

The Apache pilots never fired a shot during the entire mission. “We couldn’t identify where the enemy fire was coming from, and there were civilians all over the place,” Salo said, referring to the Rules of Engagement that require U.S. Armed Forces to have positive identification of the enemy engaging in either a hostile act or exhibiting hostile intent.

“This is a major city; it was in the middle of the day, and about the only thing we could do was provide cover for the Marines by getting

over the top of them,” the lieutenant explained. “[We had to] keep an eye out and draw the enemy’s attention away while the Marines got out of the city.”

Stacy said the toughest part of the mission was actually identifying the people doing the shooting.

“The enemy doesn’t have any dead giveaways or fire any tracer rounds,” White said.

Salo added, “The enemy doesn’t move in columns out in the middle of the desert; this is urban warfare, everyone and no one is a target.”

These Apache crews have worked on several occasions with the same Marines they supported on that particular day. They know each other very well. E-mail excerpts from the Marines involved said that if the Apache pilots hadn’t been there, many more casualties could have been incurred.

“Someday I’ll get to meet those brave Marines,” White said. “The ground guys are in the thick of the battle every day, and we just come in to help them out when we can.”

A few days later, the same aircrews were back in Ramadi, providing the same type of air coverage for the ground troops there.

Missourian awarded DFC

By Regina Turner

Missouri Army National Guard

GHARIBAD DARB, Iraq – Sgt. Alexander Johnston, a Missouri National Guardsman, received the U.S. Army’s Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism during flight. Johnston is one of few enlisted Soldiers having received this prestigious award which is primarily given to flight officers. Only seven of the Army’s 41 medals rank higher than the Distinguished Flying Cross.

According to Johnston, flight engineer for the fixed wing C-23 Sherpa aircraft, his mission hauling passengers and cargo from Balad to Tikrit on Jan. 4, 2007, began as any other. It was



Sgt. Johnston

Chief Warrant Officer Brett Krass (Mississippi National Guard) spied a seemingly friendly Iraqi standing on his truck feverishly waving as the C-23 flew over at an altitude of 100 feet. Unbeknownst to the crew, what waited 25 meters ahead was an insurgent who was armed with a machine gun that would end up striking the

approximately 7 a.m., the air was a cool 50 degrees and the wind was calm. As part of his duties, Johnston loaded and secured the cargo, and briefed the passengers.

Johnston said that takeoff during the flight was uneventful. Twenty-five miles west of Balad, co-pilot

slow-moving aircraft 18 times.

“It sounded like M-80 fire crackers going off. I thought to myself ‘this is bad’ then I just reacted,” said Johnston. “I noticed one of the passengers in the back had been hit, another crewmember, Capt. Matt Sheppard, a flight surgeon helped me position him on the floor.”

“I went back to the cockpit and removed Krass from his seat, placing him in the cabin with the flight surgeon,” continued Johnston. “Krass suffered injuries to his leg, feet and hands.”

Johnston returned to the cockpit a second time, positioning himself in the co-pilot seat, trying to assist pilot Chief Warrant Officer Terry Lee (Missouri National Guard). Johnston scanned the area for traffic and additional insurgents, helped Lee monitor gauges, and upon landing he assisted with steering the aircraft.

Departing the aircraft, Johnston noticed that Lee’s flight suit leg was soaked in blood; he

too had been injured by the attack. “Lee is a great pilot, if it would not have been for him, we would have inevitably lost control of the aircraft,” said Johnston.

Respectful of Krass, Johnston said, “Even when injured, Krass had the foresight to put ‘direct to Balad’ in the flight management system prior to evacuating the co-pilot seat.”

Only when the aircraft landed were the crew and passengers aware of the extensive damage the aircraft sustained. Rounds hit the wing, tires, rudder and the main fuel line. A tracer round was responsible for starting a fire in the cabin that was undetected during flight.

In retrospect, Johnston feels very fortunate to have had a flight surgeon as a crewmember that January day. He gives all the credit to the pilots, “Lee and Krass are of the highest caliber of individuals—it was an honor to fly with them.”



Photo by Gregory Smith

Army National Guard Warrant Officer Tammy Brooks, center, wearing her pink cowboy hat, is cheered by her friends, family and Guard coworkers at the finish line of the 18th annual Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure on June 2 in Washington.

Strength in numbers

Soldier, supporters run after fight for her life

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

WASHINGTON — According to the American Cancer Society, about one in eight women will have invasive breast cancer during their lifetimes. Nearly one in 33 will die from the disease, but more women are winning the battle thanks to increased awareness and im-

proved treatments.

What women also need, says Army National Guard Warrant Officer Tammy Brooks, is support from family, friends and coworkers. Brooks knows firsthand, because she was diagnosed with advanced stage breast cancer more than one year ago.

On June 2, Brooks, along with those helping in her recovery, was strong enough to run five kilometers during the 18th annual Susan G. Komen National Race for the Cure.

She said she wanted to make people more

aware of how important personal support is to women fighting breast cancer.

"We are 'Army Strong,' but we are family strong too," said Brooks about the Guardmembers who supported her.

Her run followed months of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. She said there were many difficult moments, like when she had to tell her 6-year-old son about her condition, and her overnight treatment at a military medical center. Then there was her return to work at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

"Others could see what was happening to me, but I want to get my life back," said Brooks. "Now I want to show how the Guard takes care of each other ... and how it supported me."

Brooks was one of 3,880 breast cancer survivors who ran and walked past the memorials, museums and government offices that make up the DC mall. More than 40,000 supporters joined them. Together they raised nearly \$4 million.

Brooks was an avid runner before her cancer, she explained, running in Army 10-mile races. So she was enthusiastic about getting back to the sport, back to her life and would now "never complain about her Army fitness tests again."

Today, Brooks is back at the readiness center working in personnel. Her doctors continue to monitor her condition and said they will never know if the disease is completely gone.

What helps her, she said, is the knowledge that the Guard will be there for her, especially her boss, Col. Marianne Watson, who has been her "special angel" and ardent supporter through the ordeal.

"There are so many women in the Guard who have breast cancer, and we need to let them know they are not alone," Brooks said.



Hire A Hero

The non-profit Hire A Hero program is accepting applications to award 122 academic scholarships to the military community. These scholarships are available to active and transitioning military personnel, veterans, National Guard Members, Reservists and their spouses. Degree and diploma programs will be available in automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology and hospitality services. For more information, go to www.hireahero.com.

USERRA Assistance

Members of the National Guard and Reserve can now request assistance online from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) ombudsmen for employment issues arising from military service or mobilization. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is the federal law protecting the military reservists' employment and prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of military service. National Guard and Reserve members can visit the ESGR website at <http://www.esgr.mil/> and select the link, "USERRA Complaint Request" on the right side of the page.

Tour bonus

Soldiers serving the new 15-month tours in Iraq and Afghanistan will be paid the Army's \$1,000 per month extension bonus for serving more than a year in theater. Like all bonuses for those serving in combat zones, the extension bonus is tax-free.

Guardmembers sign up for bone marrow program

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

ARLINGTON, Va. — It was as easy as spelling your name, sticking a cotton swab in your mouth, and closing an envelope. It was free, and it took all of 15 minutes. It was that simple, but the effort could save the life of someone fighting leukemia — a deadly blood cancer.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Chief Master Sgt. Michelle Siau swabs the inside of her cheek at the National Guard Bureau June 5 during a bone marrow donor drive.

Thoughts of saving lives brought 335 Guard members and government service workers at the National Guard Bureau's Joint Force Headquarters here June 5 to register for the National Bone Marrow Registry through the C.W. Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program.

What surprised many participants was how painless the process really was. What amazed the 15 volunteers who set up and managed the drive was that it requires no experience or medical knowledge.

"There were a lot of misconceptions," said Maj. Karen Patrick, National Guard Bureau Executive Services coordinator. Patrick said she had to explain to many people that a blood sample was not required. All people had to do was fill out the registration form and swab the inside of their mouth in four places. "The form was the hardest part," she said.

Guard Bureau personnel held the drive for Slater Phillips, the 7-year-old son of Air Guard Lt. Col. Cheryl Phillips and Air Force Lt. Col. Tom Phillips.

The Phillips family learned this spring that Slater has bi-lineage leukemia, an extremely rare occurrence of two forms of the disease, which requires two different medical treatments followed by a bone marrow transplant.

"Slater is very fortunate to have a bone marrow profile match with two of his three siblings; however, odds of siblings matching are only about 20 percent," said Cheryl Phillips. Of the thousands searching for a matching donor marrow, many will never find it.

So, the NGB volunteers dialed the program's toll-free number: 1-800-MARROW-3. Program managers shipped them all of the materials and information required. The volunteers picked a date, posted flyers and sent e-mails. That morning they reviewed step-by-step procedures and set up folding tables and chairs inside the Bureau's granite and glass lobby.

"But for the grace of God this could be your child, your wife, your mother ... it could be you," said Phillips. "This could be someone that you love, and their chance at life could be you getting a cheek-swab." Phillips stood in the lobby and thanked those who registered, and she explained her son's condition to those who asked.

The Defense Department's marrow donor program estimates that nearly 500 military families need matching bone marrow.

"I have a son, too," said Maj. Tela McFadden from the Bureau's counter drug office, "and I would like to think that folks would come together to help him if he were sick." McFadden agreed that her registration was effortless and "very important."

The program is named for Congressman C.W. Bill Young, who initiated it. Its goal is to place as many personnel as possible into the national registry. It covers all costs and provides whatever medical and logistical support is needed. Its officials say registration

is important to homeland security efforts because some chemical and radiological warfare agents can damage bone marrow.

"We want Guardmembers to hold drives at their units," said Navy Lt. Cdr. Cynthia Campbell, the Washington-area coordinator.

Campbell has been coordinating marrow drives since a friend died

from leukemia more than 14 years ago. She said the loss devastated her, especially knowing his life could have been saved if he had found a match. Since that time, she has registered more than 80,000 people, she said.

Bone marrow fills the cavities of the bones, and it's the source of all blood cells. Bone marrow cells can now be harvested by filtering blood through a machine, which is less painful than being transplanted from the donor to the recipient with a needle. The donor and recipient must match genetically to avoid rejection by the body's immune system. Ethnic minorities often have a harder time finding genetic matches.

"There is a Navy family in Maine that has sought a match for their daughter for more than a year now," said Campbell. "You can imagine knowing that someone out there matches your child and could save their life, but they haven't registered."

It would seem easy for the military to simply take the blood and DNA data it collects from every servicemember and place it onto the national registry. "It can't," said Campbell. Bone marrow donation is voluntary. People have to agree to donate their bone marrow cells even after they register.

The DoD Marrow Donor Program adds more people to the national registry than any other organization

From page 1: MONTENEGRO



Photo by Chief Warrant Officer Mark Houdlette

Filip Vujanovic, president of Montenegro, gets his first look at the state of Maine aboard a Maine Army National Guard helicopter in May. Maj. Gen. Bill Libby, Maine's adjutant general, and Maj. Gen. Terry Scherling, director of the National Guard Bureau's Joint Staff, accompanied Vujanovic.

for our overall cooperation," Vujanovic added.

The dinner took place eight months after Blum hosted a similar event for Serbian President Boris Tadic when Serbia formed a partnership with Ohio last September. Blum has actively promoted peace and stability in the Balkan region since serving as commanding general of the Multinational Division North peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina from October 2001 to April 2002.

The Maine-Montenegro alliance was made possible by a Status of Forces agreement that Vujanovic signed with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Washington on May 1. That, coincidentally, was May Day which is an important holiday in former communist and socialist countries. Montenegro, now a democracy, was formerly part of Yugoslavia.

The agreement makes it possible for the Maine National Guard and Montenegro's armed forces to conduct mutual military exercises, hold regular exchanges and engage in other forms of cooperation, officials said. That is the goal of the Guard's partnership program.

Maine and Montenegro have much in common, said Libby who met Vujanovic in mountainous Montenegro in December and who escorted the president and his delegation during a visit to Maine and a meeting with Gov. John Baldacci on May 2.

The Montenegrin visitors who flew to Maine on a cool, sunny morning included Minister of Foreign Affairs Milan Rocen, Minister of Defense Boro Vucinic, and Lt. Gen. Jovan Lakcevic, chief of the General Staff.

"We share militaries that are of similar size and similar composition. I was struck by that immediately," Libby added. "They have engineers, mountain infantry, and military police. We have the same force structure. As we looked at the geography of Montenegro and the economy of Montenegro, there are so many similarities – agriculturally based, natural-resource based, tourism based. So there's a great fit – militarily and on the civilian side."

The partnership will begin in earnest after Maine and Montenegro take part in the European Command's State Partnership Program Conference in Garmisch, Germany, and the Balkans' State Partnership Conference in Croatia during the second week in May, Libby added.

"We will learn the best practices from the mature partnerships and determine what the road ahead looks like," Libby explained. "Montenegro initially is interested in developing a professional NCO corps, something that is a core competency of any Army National Guard unit or of any Army unit. We'll get on with that immediately."

"We look at this relationship as a continuation of this state's role in reaching out and making sure our world is stronger and safer for all of our citizens," said Baldacci during a luncheon at the Blaine House, the Maine governor's official residence in Augusta.

"I know how important it is for our state to reach out to you with our business community to work for the benefit and prosperity of all Montenegrins," Baldacci added.

"I would be very happy if our respective business communities could get in touch, building on the mutual cooperation between our military and the National Guard of the state of Maine," Vujanovic told Baldacci. "People from the business communities will find a way to work together."

From page 6: SPP TO AFRICA

different federal agencies, service branches and other government entities. "We've got to ensure that that message that we send is the same message," Ward told the adjutants general. "I need your help in ensuring that's the case."

Synchronized efforts between disparate agencies, continuity, consistency and persistence are vital to maintaining successful international relationships, he said.

The National Guard is unique in its ability to deliver, Ward emphasized – and that's because of the hyphenated pedigree of the Guardmember: Citizen-Soldier, Citizen-Airman.

"There's only one branch of our services, one arm of our services, one component of our services that brings that to the table: That's our Guard," Ward said. "The work that you all do is an absolutely critical element to our engagement strategy."

LTG Blum explained the advantage of the SPP. "You have a longstanding relationship, as opposed to people who are moving through a two- or three-year assignment," he said. "You have continuity. If there's one thing that our nation needs to do better, it is build partnership capacity around the world, and the most effective way we've seen to do this in the last 15 years is the National Guard State Partnership Program, because it has endured changes of administration, changes of governments, changes of world situations.

"We have 56 partnerships. None of them have failed. We've had a couple of rough bumps along the road from time to time, but the partnerships have endured even at times when our nations didn't get along as well as they might."

The SPP has no shelf life, no end date, he said.

"It's like a marriage," Blum said. "It's a lifelong marriage where two equal partners decide what happens in this partnership. There are no bounds on what the partnership can do. But

From page 1: EQUIPMENT

outlined an "essential 10" categories that list 342 dual-service items needed both to respond to U.S. disasters and to support units' wartime missions. The categories include maintenance, aviation, medical and power generation. States need more equipment such as trucks, helicopters and communications equipment, Blum said.

The Guard chief also was critical of the equipment most states have left at home, saying some of it is decades old and not fit for war, to sell or even to give away.

"Those 40-year-old trucks are here in the U.S. because they are not good enough to go to the war. But someone thinks they

all of the activities of the partnership support the EUCOM commander's theater security cooperation engagement strategy and also at the same time are compatible with the national objectives of the national partners."

The Illinois National Guard and Poland represent a mature SPP relationship that has benefited both partners and seen their troops training and fighting side-by-side.

Case Study: Illinois and Poland

Stood up in 1993, Illinois and Poland was one of the first National Guard state partnerships. On average, the Illinois National Guard and the Polish military conduct 10 events every year.

"Poland was one of the first Eastern European countries to get into NATO," said Maj. Gen. Randal Thomas, the adjutant general of the Illinois National Guard. "They have been able to export stability and NATO expertise. It culminates with the fact that Poland is our second-largest ally in Iraq. When they went to the war more than four years ago, they asked for Illinois Guard augmentee personnel to be with their division."

The fifth rotation of Illinois officers and senior noncommissioned officers recently arrived in Iraq to serve for a year alongside Polish troops. And Illinois officers are preparing to augment Polish troops deploying to Afghanistan.

"The relationship is a very mature one," Thomas said. "So much so, that we are deploying with them into war zones."

As Thomas spoke, Illinois Guardmembers were engaged in three separate missions in Poland. A training exercise was focused on peacekeeping operations. Leaders from the National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe program were briefing Polish civilians about the National Guard's formula for success with at-risk youth.

"We now have graduated successfully over 75,000 young men and women that were high school dropouts that are now high school graduates and productive members of society," Blum said of Youth ChalleNGe.

are good enough to be used to save American lives," Blum said. "I say they're not good enough."

When Guardmembers deploy overseas, they are fully equipped for their mission, Blum said. It should be the same here, he told the committee. If America were to suffer a terrorist attack simultaneously with a natural disaster combined with supporting the war, the force could easily become overwhelmed, he said.

"We're doing every single mission that we can possibly be doing, and we're doing it simultaneously, and we're trying to do it with 50 percent of our equipment," Blum said.

"We need to make sure that the troops that are back here have everything they need," he said.



Photo by Sgt. Robert Bleninger

Fireworks

Army Guard Spc. Tristyn Runia of West Union, Minn., fires an AT-4 anti-tank weapon at the Bardia Range at Camp Adder, Iraq, May 22. The high explosive, anti-armor warhead can penetrate reinforced vehicles.

July

A time of celebration — and reflection

By Bill Boehm

National Guard Bureau

America celebrates its 231st birthday on July Fourth. We as a nation are fond of this holiday's commemoration, featuring parades, community picnics and celebrations and exhibitions of fireworks. Independence Day's history reveals the reverence that citizens have for their country. Throughout U.S. history, Americans commemorated July Fourth with equal zeal as the religious-based Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in every state in the union and beyond. Even the smallest farming and milling towns, mining and lumber camps on the far frontiers organized large and highly-formal community festivities decades ago. These grand occasions took place even in places that no longer have a building standing today. Realizing the magnitude of this occasion, we realize that this is truly one nation and we all are citizens united in memorializing the creation of these United States.

The month of July also marks some of the most important military battles in our nation's history. These conflicts are central to the evolution of a free society that citizens enjoy to this day. Chief among this list are the Battle of San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War (1898), the First Battle of Manassas (also known as the Battle of Bull Run, 1861), the Battle of Gettysburg and others.

The National Guard was central in all these battles. Among the Guard's militia ancestor units in the Civil War fighting for both Union and Confederate forces, Gettysburg exemplifies a critical time in our nation's young life.

Fought from July 1-3 1863, the importance of this battle is great. First, it marked the beginning of the decline of the Confederate military force that was denied the chance to advance into the strongholds of Pennsylvania. It also led to an increase in Union army strength and morale that eventually brought about the end of the Civil War in April 1865.

It was the leadership of National Guard officers including Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain that forged victory for the Union army at the skirmish at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg. Other instances of heroism and courage were exemplified by the volunteer infantry from Minnesota, which held off furious surges from the Confederates



Painting by Don Troiani for the National Guard Bureau Heritage Series

Men of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry hold the line long enough for other Union troops to block the Confederate advance on Cemetery Ridge.

The month of July also marks some of the most important military battles in our nation's history. ... The National Guard was central in all these battles

despite tremendous loss of life at Cemetery Ridge.

There are many more cases of fierce combat from the accounts of Gettysburg from both sides. This turning point in our nation's Civil War, occurring so close to the nation's 87th birthday ("four score and seven"), gives pause for everyone to contemplate the precious nature of freedom.

This freedom carried a cost of lives lost and damage done. President Abraham Lincoln described this best in his famous address, as he

dedicated the Gettysburg National Cemetery in November 1863. Throughout these past 231 years, we have survived as a nation despite the fact bloodshed and turmoil are an unfortunate fabric in maintaining our national values and ideals.

Though the Fourth of July and subsequent celebrations highlight the best our nation offers its people, the commemoration of these historical milestones should equally temper our own notions of freedom and what it means to each individual.

Rhode Islanders maintain a tie to their militia roots



Photo by Sgt. John Cervone

Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, Rhode Island's adjutant general, fires a round from a Revolutionary War-era musket during the annual encampment of the state's militia units in May at Camp Fogarty, East Greenwich, R.I.

By Sgt. John Cervone

Rhode Island National Guard

Rhode Island National Guard militia units held their annual encampment, as required by state law, in May at Camp Fogarty, East Greenwich, R.I. The encampment highlights the roots of the volunteer militia, originally formed to protect the colonies against hostile forces.

The encampment has roots in the original militias "Muster Day" tradition whereby they were bound by law to assemble and train together. The event now serves to perpetuate the history and tradition of the militias of which there are 18 in Rhode Island that remain active.

The encampment featured militia members in period dress and uniforms. Participants demonstrated military honors and drill dating from colonial times.

Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, the adjutant general of the Rhode Island National Guard, viewed the training and participated in many of the events being performed by the militias, including firing a round from a cannon and a Revolutionary War-era musket. Bray presented each member of the militias with his personal coin and also thanked them for their dedication and loyalty to a cause that he holds in very high regard.

It happened in July

Events that made Guard history

July 1, 1898

SANTIAGO, Cuba — American forces attack first up Kettle Hill and then across a saddle to outflank San Juan Hill. Among the units making this attack is the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry (better known as the "Rough Riders"), two squadrons of which were drawn from the Arizona and New Mexico volunteer militia units. It was commanded by Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, himself a former New York Guardsman. Besides being the only president to receive the Medal of Honor, Roosevelt is also one of only three to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

July 2, 1863

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — On Cemetery Ridge, the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry arrives just in time to plug a gap left by retreating federal forces. Despite repeated Confederate attacks, the Minnesotans stands their ground, suffering one of the highest casualty rates of the war. Of 262 men entering action that morning only 47 remained uninjured by day's end. The Minnesota Guard's 135th Infantry, currently serving in Iraq, holds the lineage of this heroic Civil War regiment.

July 14, 1825

NEW YORK — The 2nd Battalion, 11th New York Artillery adopts the title "National Guard" in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette during his visit to America. Lafayette, a hero in the American Revolution, had also commanded the Garde Nationale de Paris during the French Revolution. The designation "National Guard" grew in popularity, and more and more states adopted it for their organized militia units until it became mandated in federal law in 1916.

July 16, 1916

MINEOLA, N.Y. — Capt. Raynal Bolling commanded the 1st Aero Squadron, New York National Guard, when it was mobilized during the Mexican Border Crisis. Using a variety of privately-owned aircraft, the 1st was the first flying unit organized in the Guard. During World War I, Bolling, now a colonel, was a leading planner of American air strategy. While riding in a staff car near the front at Amiens, France, on March 26, 1918, he was surprised by advancing German troops. Bolling and his driver, coming under enemy fire, jumped into a ditch where Bolling returned fire with his pistol (the only weapon either man had). He killed a German officer and almost immediately was killed himself by another officer. Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., is named in his honor.

July 21, 1861

MANASSAS, Va. — The first major engagement of the Civil War takes place along a muddy creek known as "Bull Run." The entire Confederate Army was composed of volunteer militia although some of its officers had served in the federal army before the war.

www.ngb.army.mil/news/todayinhistory/



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R Smith

A Delaware C-130 Hercules prepares to taxi June 14 for a training flight.

Delaware celebrates flight safety record

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

NEW CASTLE, Del. — Airmen from the Delaware Air National Guard's 166th Airlift Wing celebrated 44 years without a flight mishap here on Flag Day, June 14, with a ceremonial training flight that honored those who contributed to the achievement.

The flight marked 160,000 accident-free flight hours of operating two different aircraft: the retired C-97 Stratofighter and the currently assigned C-130 Hercules. The wing also maintained the record during 16 years of combat airlift operations in Southwest Asia and despite an operations tempo that currently logs an average of one million miles a year between its eight assigned aircraft.

"This is our ceremonial day of reaching that milestone," said Col. Jon Groff, air commander. Groff said the wing will determine the exact flight and date it surpassed 160,000 hours later, which he believes may be with its aircrew and one aircraft currently deployed to Afghanistan. "They are flying daily and are putting in all kinds of hours," he said.

For the ceremonial flight, Airmen from the wing's 142nd Airlift Squadron departed the base at New Castle County Airport with a group of special guests including community leaders and alumni. They flew toward the coastline and followed it south, crossing the state's three counties. They returned one hour later, landed, taxied through a fire truck's water spray and parked the aircraft in front of the base operations building.

Army Maj. Gen. Frank Vavala, state adjutant general, greeted the aircrew and special guests on the flight line as a host of Guardmembers applauded them. Vavala said the wing's accomplishment underscored its professionalism.

"This is our heritage," said Col. Carol Timmons, operations group commander. "To look at our [safety] numbers and be able to go back to 1964 without a flight mishap is just an awesome thing."

The wing recognized special guests that day, and it praised the support it receives from the community, its retirees and founding members including retired Tech. Sgt. John Hite and retired Brig. Gen. William W. Spruance.

Hite, 93, sat behind the pilots on the C-130's flight deck with his son-in-law during the special flight. In 1946, he joined the wing as one of the Air Guard's first recruits. He left the unit in 1950 as a P-47 crew chief and went on to develop programs and aircraft systems for the Federal Aviation Administration and the Flight Safety Foundation.

The wing had its last flight mishap in 1963 where a C-97 crew member was injured on takeoff. In an infamous mishap, the wing's squadron commander was killed here in 1961 when his T-33 Shooting Star training aircraft crashed on takeoff. His passenger, Spruance, was severely injured.

Spruance, who could not attend the event, is in many ways reflective of the wing's safety heritage. He is a 1946 founding member of the wing who recovered from his injuries to become a national advocate and speaker of flying safety, among many other achievements.

Challenge overcome

Arkansas' Youth ChallengeNge Program graduates 28th class

By Sgt. Jessica A. Hughley
Arkansas National Guard

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. — "We all make choices. Everywhere you go in life you make choices. When your friends and peers made the choice to drop out, you made the choice to drop back in."

Maj. Gen. William D. Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, congratulated the most recent graduates of the state's Youth Challenge Program June 16, telling them they had made good decisions and overcame obstacles during the 22-week course.

Youth Challenge is a voluntary program designed for "high-risk" youths age 16-18 who are looking for guidance in their lives. Youth Challenge has two components—a five-month residential phase, followed by a 12-month mentorship program, in which the cadet pairs with an adviser to apply life skills learned while in the initial phase. The program stresses leadership, academics and anger management, all of which encourage the cadets to become productive, responsible citizens.

This graduating class, the 28th for the program, was comprised of 37 young men and women. The class started out with 78 cadets.

During his remarks to the graduates and their families and friends, Wofford praised the cadets for persevering through the rigorous program.

"Look around. A large percent of the class that started with you isn't here,"



Photo by Sgt. Rick Fahr

Angel Davis accepts a top female fitness award from Robert Jackson, director of Arkansas' Youth Challenge Program. Davis was one of 37 young people who graduated from the program June 16.

the general explained in regard to the graduates' success. "It is because of your determination, your dedication and commitment."

Robert Jackson, director of the Arkansas Youth Challenge, said the program's graduates have gone on to contribute to society in a variety of positive ways. Jackson said the program's success rate makes it "Arkansas' best-kept secret."

"We teach them respect for

self, respect for others and to be responsible for their own actions. If they can master those they will do well," said Jackson.

Wofford said more than half, 56 percent, are in the work force, while 23 percent have continued their education. Eighteen percent have joined the armed forces.

Graduate Art V. Leal earned the distinguished cadet award, chosen as the most outstanding student in leadership and academics.

Brig. Gen. Larry Haltom awarded Cadet William R. Sellers the Top Academic Award for Class 28. Sellers scored more than 700 on his GED test, which has a maximum score of 800.



Indiana 25th state to offer Youth ChallengeNge

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indiana National Guard Adjutant Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger cut the ribbon to open the state's newest youth facility June 18 to the applause from local civic leaders, community



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Kikka

Erica Klepper, a candidate at the Hoosier Youth Challenge Program, and Indiana Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger pose during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

members, and National Guard alumni from across the state. The Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy is a National Guard program for at-risk teens that have left high school before graduation.

Daniels expressed concern about young Hoosiers that leave school with no appreciable skills in an economy that increasingly requires advanced training.

"I love the fact that America is the land of second chances," said Daniels. "We cannot afford to not make these kinds of opportunities available. This state needs young people."

Prior to the ceremony Daniels and Umbarger met with several students who have already been accepted to the academy.

"Everyone comes to the 'Y' in the road, a time to make a decision," Umbarger told the students. "We're proud you made this one, and we'll be right there with you."

The academy's cadre is primarily prior or current military personnel. The academy director, retired Col. Wayne Hill, was until recently Umbarger's chief of staff.

Hill said that Indiana has long anticipated the program, first established by the National Guard in 1994, and pointed to the success of graduates in other states.

Hill said there have been more than 70,000 cadets enrolled in the program nationally since its inception, and with the addition of a follow-up, year-long, post-residential mentoring program, has become a model for success.

-Indiana National Guard Public Affairs

