



# THE ON GUARD

Volume 36, Issue 8

August 2007

On-line at [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil)

Newspaper of the National Guard



## Base turnover symbolizes success in Balkans

### Eagle Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina transferred

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina – The Stars and Stripes flew over Eagle Base for the last time on the morning of June 30, the day the United States turned this sprawling military installation over to its host

nation.

LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, was the senior U.S. military representative at the turnover ceremonies. He commanded the National Guard's 29th Infantry Division at Eagle Base in 2001-02 during a 12-year U.S. military presence.

"When U.S. military forces arrived ... Bosnia and Herzegovina was a shattered country, reeling from years of devastating warfare," Blum told an audience that included two of Bosnia and Herzegovina's three presidents and other senior

officials.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina is today a sovereign, democratic nation, fully at peace, cooperating with its neighbors and committed to joining the Euro-Atlantic community," Blum said.

From 1992-95, this Balkan nation, about the same size and terrain as West Virginia, was engulfed in war. After the Dayton (Ohio) Peace Accords of November 1995, a NATO-led international peacekeeping force (IFOR) flooded 60,000 troops into the country. IFOR was succeeded by SFOR, the Stabilization Force also

led by NATO. Finally, SFOR gave way to EUFOR, European Union peacekeeping troops whose mission only now is winding down.

"The American military presence here, initially totaling 20,000 U.S. Soldiers, signified a vital U.S. commitment to the success of the Dayton peace process and to helping Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path to peaceful reconstruction and development," Blum said, speaking alternately in English and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

U.S. servicemembers fold the flag at a turnover ceremony at Eagle Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**BASE TURNOVER**  
continued on: *Page 12*

### North Dakota flies its first unmanned aircraft mission

FARGO, N.D. – Gov. John Hoeven and North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk announced July 2 that the 119th Wing, North Dakota Air National Guard, has flown its first unmanned aircraft system (UAS) mission from Fargo.

The squadron is flying the MQ-1 Predator, a medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft. The MQ-1's primary mission is interdiction and reconnaissance.

In January 2007, the 119th Wing converted from the F-16A Fighting Falcon jet mission to the new missions of the UAS and the C-21A Lear Jet cargo aircraft. The C-21A Lear Jet is an interim aircraft leading to the Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA) which is expected to be available by 2011.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen continue to make significant contributions on the frontlines in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now they are able to do it right from Fargo," Hoeven said.

"This week marks the beginning of a new era and an exciting future for the NDANG. The 119th Wing is at the forefront of future unmanned aircraft systems," said Sprynczynatyk. "The hard work and dedication of the Happy Hooligans have made this a very successful transition. The 119th Wing is leading the way and will stay relevant for years to come."

"The North Dakota Air National Guard has flown fighters for 60 years, but now, we're bringing all of the skills from the fighter

**N. DAKOTA FIRST** continued on:  
*Page 12*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel King Jr.

### Open wide

Illinois Air Guard Staff Sgt. Scott Filipek, along with four other members of the U.S. Central Command Air Force band "Thunder Roll," feeds an infant apple sauce during the band's visit to a baby orphanage June 19 in downtown Djibouti in the Republic of Djibouti. Thunder Roll visited Camp Lemonier and Djibouti for a five-day concert tour. It is made up of Air Guard musicians based out of Peoria, Ill.

### Maintenance is a combined effort

By Spc. Aleah Castrejon  
33rd Military Police Battalion

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq – The 33rd Military Police Battalion plays a vital role in keeping all the military equipment on Forward Operating Base Bucca operational.

Instead of each unit having its own

maintenance activity, all maintenance personnel are consolidated into the Camp Bucca Maintenance Activity (CMBA) team. This team is lead by Illinois Army Guard Chief Warrant Officer Chris Drozs from the 33rd Military Police Battalion and is composed of the maintenance section from the 33rd, but also Air Force, Navy and active-Army component personnel stationed at Camp Bucca.

**MAINTENANCE** continued on:  
*Page 12*

### Operation Jump Start moves into its next phase

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The National Guard plans to adjust the number of personnel performing security duty along the U.S.-Mexican border from about 6,000 to about 3,000 members, a National Guard Bureau spokesman said July 10.

Last year, President Bush directed the National Guard to assist the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency in patrolling the 2,000-mile-long border with Mexico, National Guard Bureau spokesman Army Maj. David Kolarik told American Forces Press Service during a phone interview from the bureau's headquarters in Arlington, Va.

National Guard members "have performed superbly" in answering the President's call to assist on the border during "Operation Jump Start," Kolarik said. The Customs and Border Protection Agency is a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Almost 6,000 Guard members—mostly volunteers—have been on border security duty in the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California in support of the U.S. Border Patrol since June 2006, Kolarik said, noting the reduction was part of original planning.

"It was never meant to be a permanent solution," Kolarik said of the National Guard's participation in Operation Jump Start. "It was just an intermediate measure to provide support for border security efforts until they brought the additional resources and personnel in line that they needed."

The Guard redeployment is slated for completion around Sept. 1, he said.

**BORDER TROOPS** continued on:  
*Page 10*

PREVIEW OF AIR FORCE WEEK—NEW ENGLAND: PAGES 8-9



**ABOUT THE ON GUARD**

The On Guard is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. About 70,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

**SUBMISSION**

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

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

**ADDRESS**

NGB-PAC  
Suite 11200  
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA 22202-3231

**PHONE/FAX**

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

**WEB SITE**

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

**STAFF**

**CHIEF**

**National Guard Bureau**  
LTG H Steven Blum

**DIRECTOR**

**NGB, Public Affairs and Strategic Communications**  
Mr. Daniel Donohue

**CHIEF**

**NGB-Public Affairs Command Information**  
Lt. Col. Eric Maxon

**SENIOR EDITOR**

Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**EDITOR**

Master Sgt. Greg Rudl

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
Tech. Sgt. Mike Smith  
Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
Staff Sgt. Bruce Hedrick  
Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy (deployed)

**BROADCASTERS**

Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Rotherham  
Staff Sgt. Rebecca Doucette  
Staff Sgt. Mike Houk

**WEBMASTERS**

Don Gundermann  
Jermaine Walker

# A NEW ENGLAND AIR SHOW: THE SOUND OF FREEDOM

*By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.*

-Concord Hymn, Ralph Waldo Emerson

PAGE  
2

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. — You can make a pretty good argument that Massachusetts more than most of the other United States reverberates with the sound of freedom and its tradition of trust in the militia — the National Guard. (No, Texas, we have not forgotten the Alamo.)

Massachusetts is, after all, the home of "the shot heard round the world," a famous phrase from a poem that on July 4, 1837, commemorated the completion of the battle monument in Concord where the Minutemen faced off against British soldiers in April 1775.

It is also home to the Air Guard's 102nd Fighter Wing whose legacy includes protecting America's skies for 86 years. Two of that wing's F-15 Eagles were the first military aircraft to fly combat air patrols over New York City after the terrorists attacked the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the base hard beside the Atlantic Ocean will host an air show that will climax Air Force Week New England in August. The Air Force's Thunderbirds will perform during the Cape Cod Air Show on the weekend of Aug. 25-26. The base and the wing, commanded by Col. Anthony Schiavi, will put its best foot forward to showcase the Air Guard's past, present, and future.

The 1,100-member wing, the fifth oldest Air Guard unit in the country, is losing its fighter planes. But it will live on as the 102nd Intelligence Wing thanks to the law of the land prompted by one of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations. The seagull in the circular patch worn by the members of the 101st Fighter Squadron, the people who have been flying the wing's planes, will continue to soar.

The fact that the Air Guard



**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
Senior Editor

is remaining on Cape Cod, even though the job is changing, is one of the most important themes for the air show that is part of the Air Force's yearlong celebration of its 60th anniversary, Schiavi pointed out.

Air Force Week New England is the Air Guard's main event among the six Air Force weeks that have been held or will be held from New England to Hawaii from March to October. It will start in New Hampshire on Aug. 17 and feature the Wings of Hope Air Show at Pease Air National Guard Base the weekend of Aug. 18-19. It will segue to the Cape during the following week with a series of events earmarked as Education Day, Science Day, Youth Day, and Community Day. The Air Force's musical ensemble Tops in Blue will perform in several places.

The New England week is the only one of the Air Force weeks that begins in one place and ends in another. The five others have been or will be held in one location. That is also fitting, Schiavi said, because there are no longer any major active duty Air Force bases in New England. It is Air Guard country and, as in the rest of the country, the National Guard is ingrained into many of its communities.

Therefore, the tens of thousands of people expected to turn out will

see firsthand the fruits of labor by Air Guard professionals who keep the KC-135 Stratotankers flying for the 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease and who have sustained the air sovereignty mission for the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis. You can count on the 157th to remind everyone who will listen that those jet fighters could not fly their combat air patrols for very long without getting fuel from the tankers.

"It helps us explain to our own folks and to the folks in the community what the Air Force is all about. It gives those folks some insight into our capabilities. It gives us the opportunity to showcase our people and our equipment, primarily our aircraft," said Schiavi about what an air show does for a base and its units.

The Cape Cod Air Show will also reinforce the idea that the Air Guard is not vacating Otis; that the Air Guard's presence on the Cape will continue in conjunction with the Coast Guard and the Army Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation.

So who will go to get the message? A lot of people, like me, who are intrigued by the men, the women, and the airplanes that they admire even if they do not fully comprehend what makes them tick.

There is certainly a rush to

walking around the planes and listening to the martial music and watching the Thunderbirds, or the Navy's Blue Angels or Army's Golden Knights, perform their aerial acrobatics that is hard to beat at any amusement park or circus in the land.

I will carry the memory of one such rush to my grave, provided Alzheimer's doesn't wipe it away first.

It was in Bangor, Maine, a lot of years ago. The Thunderbirds were performing during an air show sponsored by the Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing at the international airport.

Late in the show, as I recall, the crowd of thousands was focused on four or five of the Thunderbirds' F-16s performing above the airport. I happened to turn around. Another T-bird was flying in low and fast toward the back of the crowd. No one heard it because the noise of its engine was behind it — the Doppler effect, I presume. It seemed to be so low that a wheel of its landing gear, had it been down, would have cold-cocked me. Then it was over us and gone, with a magnificent roar that could set your hair on fire.

That single moment made my entire afternoon at the air show worthwhile. The idea that one of this country's fighter planes could do that sent a patriotic chill up my spine.

So who will go to the Air Guard's Air Force Week air shows in New Hampshire and Massachusetts in August? A lot of people, like me, who understand, and appreciate, the sound of freedom.

## GEE, SIR! WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO FLY LIKE THAT?



**By Staff Sgt. Mike Houk**

## Are you getting your On Guard?

Are you getting too few copies? Too many? Are they going to the wrong place? Or are you not getting them at all? In an effort to better serve you, The On Guard staff is updating our distribution list. Please e-mail us with any changes to:



**Editor.OnGuard@NGB.ANG.AF.MIL**

Please include the number of copies requested and unit address, and a POC if applicable.



# ANG opens new combat runway

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

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — It's a 3,500-foot-long stretch of cement with a few hundred feet added on, just in case. That's not much space to safely land a heavily loaded, half-million pound cargo plane, but officials here say it's the perfect runway for Mississippi Air National Guard pilots to train on.

Mississippi National Guard members and special guests gathered in the summer heat of the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center July 9 to cut the yellow ribbon for the Air National Guard's first C-17 Globemaster III assault landing training facility.

Called Shelby Aux Field, the 210-acre airfield is one of only two runways in the world specifically designed for C-17 short-field landing operations. It was constructed to meet the training demands of the Air Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing, which operates and maintains eight of the aircraft.

More than 300 people attended the ceremony. They watched a C-17 flyover and landing that demonstrated the airfield's and the airplane's capabilities. Speakers included Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard; Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, commanding general of the 1st U.S. Army, and Maj. Gen. Harold Cross, the Mississippi Guard's adjutant general.

"It's great to come out and see something that has been on the drawing books for many, many years and now it's ready to be used full time," said McKinley. "It means a lot to our country, it means a lot to the state of Mississippi and it will provide a lot of training for many years to come for Airmen flying the C-17."

The Jackson-based 172nd was the first Guard unit to fly the C-17, which the Air Force calls its "most flexible cargo aircraft." Air Force officials say can operate from small, austere airfields including assault runways as short as 3,500 feet and only 90 feet wide. The aircraft turns around on narrow runways by using its backing capability to make a three-point turn.

Capt. Brian Matranga, a pilot for the 172nd, said such maneuvers are generally performed by aircraft commanders. The wing has



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

**Military leaders and state and federal guests cut a ribbon July 9 to commemorate the opening of the Air National Guard's first C-17 Globemaster assault runway training facility at Camp Shelby, Miss.**

approximately 44 of them, and all are required to make assault landings every training cycle. "That's a lot of training we have to accomplish ... and a lot of times it's hard to schedule at out-of-state facilities," said Matranga.

An aircraft commander or mission pilot is the only one who can conduct the steep and swerving descents and short arrests using thrust reversers and brakes during an assault landing. It's an initial qualification achieved at a Aircraft Commander Upgrade School at Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

Such landings can be conducted in blackout conditions in which aircrews wear night vision equipment to see special lights defining the runway. It could be compared to landing on an aircraft carrier at night, except that the runway is a lot longer and is not pitching and rolling.

However, a C-17 is longer than three Navy F-18 Hornets and can carry a 70-ton Abrams tank and more than 100 Soldiers.

A new three-stall fire house and operations center has also been built at Shelby Aux Field to support the training operations.

Officials said they would share the facility

## Camp Shelby Assault Runway

**NAME:** Shelby Aux Field 1

**OPENED:** June 9

**LENGTH:** 3,500 feet

**WIDTH:** 90 feet

**COST:** \$10 million (includes assault trip, fire station and surrounding airfield improvements)

**PURPOSE:** Save training days and dollars; bridge the gap of suitable airfields in the U.S.

Shelby Aux is one of only two airfields in the world designed and constructed for C-17 short field assault landing operations. It is the only one owned by the ANG.

with active duty C-17 units. It will provide users with real-time scoring and feedback on their landing maneuvers.

# Counterdrug outfits program with new equipment

By Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Hackley  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Soldiers and Airmen in the ground reconnaissance, civil operations, and criminal analysis fields will see new or upgraded equipment between now and next fiscal year.

That's because the National Guard Bureau Domestic Operations Counterdrug Program has purchased millions of dollars worth of equipment to improve state programs.

The purchases were made possible with the combination of Counterdrug end-of-year funds and Army Program Executive Office Soldier funds.

"National Guard Bureau is definitely looking forward in regards to how ground reconnaissance supports law enforcement," said Army Guard Maj. Jeff Newman, logistics officer, California National Guard. "The fielding and receipting of this specialized equipment validates Counterdrug's response from the field."

Newman was one of the first to get issued the equipment.

Each of the 54 programs will receive a set

number of hand-held thermal imagers, with 559 dispensed at the cost of \$12.4 million, provided by PEO Soldier funds from the U.S. Army. However, the nation's top seven states for illegally-produced marijuana—California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Tennessee, Oregon, Virginia, and West Virginia—as well as the other southwest Border states—Arizona, New



The MX-2A Hand-Held Thermal Imager

Mexico, and Texas—will receive plus-ups of the imagers. Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan and Nebraska round out the plus-up recipients as they also operate the Light Armored Vehicles used to bring law enforcement agents

into high-risk areas.

"The MX-2 detects infrared sources such as human beings and vehicles at long distance, often when traditional night vision cannot," said Army Guard Lt. Col. Reyes Cole, training chief, National Guard Bureau J3 Counterdrug Division.

The imager is effective day and night, weighs 2.5 pounds and is cased in aluminum alloy. It can be hand-held, mounted on a tripod or vehicle, and has remote and monitor viewing capabilities as well as imaging recording.

"Threats can be detected at longer ranges with this equipment and that's a major force protection advantage," said Cole.

Soldiers and Airmen trained in ground reconnaissance will use the equipment in detecting illegal drug activity in operations they support for law enforcement agencies across the country.

All the equipment will be released in phases as it becomes available. Additional gear purchased for the surveillance teams and criminal analysts include binoculars, bullet-proof vests, cameras, satellite phones, goggles and holsters.

## Illinois unveils mental health services for returning troops

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — All Illinois National Guard troops returning from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan will now be screened for traumatic brain injury and have access to post-traumatic stress disorder help under a new, first-of-its-kind state program.

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Tammy Duckworth, director of the state's Department of Veterans Affairs, announced the program in early July in Chicago.

The program includes mandatory traumatic brain injury screening for all returning National Guard combat veterans, voluntary screening for all other Illinois veterans, and a 24-hour toll-free psychological help line for veterans suffering from PTSD.

Blagojevich called the new services an important response to veterans' mental health needs.

"After they've given so much to protect our freedom, we should do everything we can to help them live productive and stable lives when they return home," he said.

Duckworth said she's proud to see Illinois set an example in how to care for returning combat troops.

"The time is now to help our heroes who have fought for our freedoms, who have sacrificed their lives for us," she said. "We must, at the very least, make sure they all have access to the health and psychological care they deserve."

The Defense Department's latest Mental Health Task Force Report, released June 15, notes the department is working to improve screenings servicemembers receive for possible mental health problems.

"We've got these post-deployment questionnaires that you fill out when you leave theater," Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"When I left Iraq, I filled out a questionnaire that said: 'Were you near an (improvised explosive device) that went off? Are you having trouble sleeping? Are you having trouble controlling your feelings?' And so forth, and so on."

"A lot of people check 'no' because they want to get home," Casscells said.

Questionnaires have been retooled so that "even if they check 'yes,' they're going to get home and get the care when they get home," he said, adding that this will help promote more honest responses.

Follow-up care also is getting more emphasis, he said.

"We are getting some retired soldiers, including chaplains and psychologists, who are going to make it their business to contact people at six months and say, 'I just want you to know that we haven't forgotten your service. I'm a veteran. And don't forget there are all these things available to you. And by the way, I'm here to talk to you. I struggled with this or that. And you can call me confidentially because I'm not in the chain of command,'" Casscells said.

"But we want to make sure that at six months, we've got everybody contacted," he said. "And so we are working toward that goal."



# Change of scenery: Eskimos in Kuwait



*"As soon as I smell the ocean, it feels like home. I miss the mountain tundra. The wilderness is right out your back door."*  
-Pfc. Darin Olanna

*"I can depend on no one else but all these other guys I've been training with."*  
-Spc. Reuben Olanna



By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

CAMP BUERHING, Kuwait – It's not like a giant hairdryer; it's like standing under a giant magnifying glass; or like turning an oven to 127 degrees, jumping in and closing the door.

These are ways Eskimo members of the Alaska National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment explain the Kuwait heat to family and friends back home.

The hottest weather that many of them experienced before the Alaska Guard's largest deployment since World War II brought them to the desert was 70 degrees, depending on the part of Alaska they're from, since the state has a wide range of temperatures over an area more than twice the size of Texas. Unit members claim the heat has approached 150 degrees in Kuwait during their deployment.

"Big difference for us; horrible," said Pfc. Darin Olanna, 23, from the Alaskan coast near Nome where the record high is 86 and

the record low is minus 54. "As soon as I smell the ocean, it feels like home. I miss the mountain tundra. The wilderness is right out your back door."

A wilderness is right out the back door of Camp Buerhing, too – a sparsely populated flat desert. The coldest temperature on record in Kuwait? In January 1964, 21.2 degrees, according to the country's United Nations representatives. No "minus" in front of that number.

Drinking water, increasing food intake, seeking shade and – perhaps counter-intuitively – increased exercise regimens have helped the Alaskans cope with the heat, they say. Some douse themselves in cold water, as they would during peak heat back home.

"To me, it's the same survival techniques as being in the Alaskan winter," said Master Sgt. John Flynn, 40, a Yup'ik Eskimo. The extreme cold presents similar challenges to extreme heat, including dehydration, he said. Blinding sandstorms remind him of blinding snowstorms.

"The only difference is when it's cold you put more layers on, but here even when it's hot you cannot take layers off," he said.

Near Nome, a "polar bear swim" is an annual tradition, swimmers diving into the water in May, when there is still ice.

"If I could do that now, I wouldn't hesitate," Olanna said.

More than 80 Alaska communities are represented in the 3rd Battalion. "There's people from all over the state," Olanna said. "From Barrow to Dillingham to Nome to Sitka. You've got Athabascan Indian, Yup'ik Eskimo, Haidan Tlingit Indians from southeast. All walks of life."

Their mission in Kuwait, where they arrived in October 2006 and which they expect to leave this fall, includes providing security, including quick reaction forces that can cross the Iraqi border, and performing infrastructure vulnerability assessments.

In their civilian lives, the Eskimos hunt and fish for a smorgasbord of walrus, whales, Canada geese, moose, reindeer, bear, caribou, salmon, white fish, trout and pike. Some are full-time Guardmembers back home or have other jobs such as working in a halfway house counseling petty criminals, but their roots are in a way of life as radically different from most of their colleagues as is the lifestyle of Kuwait's desert nomads.

"The way I grew up, until I joined the Guard, was surviving off the land," Flynn said. "You need a little bit of money, but money will not make you survive where I'm from. The land will. Mammals, geese, wild flowers, berries, that's the way of life I grew up with – hunting and fishing."

In Kuwait, rifles are the tools for personal protection. Back home, rifles are the tools for hunting.

"I miss the food from back home," said Spc. Reuben Olanna, 27. Darin Olanna's cousin fantasizes about a filet of salmon cooked within minutes of being caught.

Darin Olanna missed corralling his

friend's reindeer herd this year. The Olanna cousins are Inupiaq Eskimos from Brevig Mission and Nome.

For some, military service is the only reason they have ever left Alaska – either to attend basic combat training in Georgia or South Carolina, pre-mobilization training in New Jersey or professional development in Arkansas. They have never previously deployed outside the state, which was exempt from overseas deployments during the Cold War because Alaska Guardmembers were considered forward deployed against the Soviet Union.

"I have uncles that were in World War II and Vietnam," said Sgt. 1st Class Homer Nunooruk, 38. "Relatives that were in the first Gulf War and Afghanistan. It brings a deep pride in me."

Nunooruk, an Inupiaq from Nome, in northwestern Alaska, said many Eskimos choose the National Guard for the educational opportunities, training and discipline. "A lot of my relatives that I talk to from other communities, they do it so that they have an alternative income and training and education," he said.

For Flynn, the National Guard was a life-changing opportunity. Orphaned at 13, inspired by the camaraderie he witnessed at a military funeral, reminiscent of an Eskimo extended family, the 19-year-old enlisted to turn his life around.

Twelve of Nunooruk's relatives deployed with him. Another died in a vehicle accident during their pre-deployment training at Camp Shelby, Miss.

"Every once in a while, I'll pull them aside and we'll talk," he said. "We'll just talk about what's going on back home. Things that we miss. Hunting and fishing. Being outdoors. The biggest consensus is we miss being in the outdoors in Alaska, especially wintertime."

It has been a deployment of firsts – first exposure to such extreme heat, to a sand desert, to overseas travel, to separation from extended families.

"Being away from home," Reuben Olanna said. "I can depend on no one else but all these other guys I've been training with."

Nunooruk said the deployment has helped him follow his parents' advice.

"They always said 'See what's outside of Nome,'" he said. "When I went to Anchorage, they said, 'See what's outside of Alaska.' One thing they always wanted me to experience was different cultures and lifestyles. I always loved meeting new people and trying new foods."

Nunooruk moved his family to Palmer, where it reaches the 80s, before the deployment.

"It's so hot at night, I can't sleep," his wife told him during one call home.

"It's 123 degrees here," he replied. "80 is pretty cold here." He wondered if he would feel cold back home on leave.

The Eskimos say extended families are a blessing for a deployment.

"I'm getting a lot of support from them, from all my cousins and friends. They've been telling me to hang in here," Reuben Olanna said. "I tell them I am enjoying it."

Unit members say they will miss something about their deployment in Kuwait – but it's not the heat.

"Being around all these guys on a daily basis," Darin Olanna said.

"It wouldn't be a bad place," Flynn said, "if it wasn't so hot."

– KYUK 640 AM/TV of Bethel, Alaska, and Wikipedia contributed to this report.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

Alaska Army Guard Sgt. Michael Wassilie, a Yupik Eskimo, provides marksmanship instruction to a civilian on the M-4 rifle, the standard U.S. infantry weapon used in Iraq and Afghanistan.





Photo by Spc. Heidi Matthews

Sgt. Robert Buckley and Sgt. Donald May of the 222nd Transportation Company, Arizona National Guard, stand in front of the burned wreck of the up-armored tractor-trailer truck they were driving on Main Supply Route Tampa in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated underneath the cab on April 19.

# IED (Individuals Escaping Death)

## Arizona's 'Triple Deuce' truckers happy to be alive

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – For some Citizen-Soldiers in the Arizona Army National Guard's 222nd Transportation Company, the Fourth of July was just another workday.

They were driving up-armored military tractor-trailer rigs in convoys carrying supplies into Iraq that Wednesday.

For at least two members of the "Triple Deuce," though, Independence Day had more meaning than usual. They were alive.

Sgt. Robert Buckley, 29, and Sgt. Donald May, 33, were still celebrating their escape after their tractor-trailer was destroyed April 19 by an improvised explosive device (IED) that blew up beneath the cab in which May was driving and Buckley was riding. They were in the lead vehicle when they were hit.

Both escaped the fire that engulfed their vehicle and walked away without serious injury.

The Triple Deuce mobilized in May 2006. The unit has been in Kuwait running supply convoys into Iraq since last August. Members anticipate coming home to the United States later this summer.

Units such as the Triple Deuce deliver the supplies that sustain Operation Iraqi Freedom – everything from Meals Ready to Eat to helicopter engine parts to retail items for sale at post exchanges.

"Heck, I brought up 40,000 pounds of charcoal one time," May said.

May is a lead vehicle commander. The lead vehicle in a Triple Deuce convoy is an M915A3 tractor, followed by a gun truck.

According to unit members, a tractor goes first because they are thought to be able to withstand an IED better than other vehicles.

"It can sustain a blast better," May said. "It sits so high. It's so heavy."

The lead vehicle commander and his companion serve as scouts, searching for possible IEDs or other hazards.

"You've got first sight on everything," Buckley said. "We're looking for anything out of the ordinary. If it don't look right, we'll stop right there. If anything happened, we preferred it to be us, because if somebody died behind us from something that we missed, neither one of us could live with that."

A typical convoy includes three or four gun trucks, about seven military tractor-trailers and up to 30 "white vehicles" – tractor-trailers driven by civilian contractors from places such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Convoys can take weeks to make the round-trip from Kuwait to an Iraqi destination and back, hop-scotching between forward operating bases. Soldiers prefer to drive at night, which they say is safer. They drive with headlights on at about 55 mph, blacking out only when stopped.

"Speed is your friend," said Staff Sgt. Armando Martinez, a convoy commander. "The slower you go, the more you're going to get hit."

Spc. James Wise and Spc. Heidi Matthews were in another vehicle in the convoy when Buckley and May were blown up at about 10:30 p.m. on Main Supply Route Tampa in Iraq.

"I saw the blast," Wise said. "I saw the

flame come out of the ground and wrap around his truck."

On his second deployment, Wise said he immediately started monitoring the perimeter of his truck, scanning for threats. Sometimes an IED presages a secondary attack, and Wise wanted to be ready.

"We were just driving along and then we see this truck catch on fire and start skidding down the road," Matthews said. She started crying. "They're my best buds here, I hang out with them all the time. That was their truck. I honestly thought they were dead."

The convoy halted, and Matthews listened to radio transmissions. "I thought they were still in the truck," she said. It was about 30 minutes before she heard the words that filled her with joy: "Personnel green."

"We were scanning our sectors and everything," Buckley said. About two hours into the drive, he was sitting on the edge of his seat, looking out the window as the truck cruised at about 55 mph.

"Everything looked perfectly fine," he said. "Without warning, boom. Everything just went silent. My door was blown off. The front of the truck was on fire. All along my door, where the frame is, that was just burning. The tires were destroyed. The front axles were gone. The truck was facing to the left. We were seeing the side of the road while the trailer was still straight. My driver here, Sgt. May, kept it upright. I've never been in a jackknife before. I thought we were going to flip it. I scooted over towards him. I'm holding on. It

was a crazy ride. It was like being on an old wooden rollercoaster."

Fumes stung Buckley's eyes and sinuses. "It was miserable," he said. "I smell something burning now and it makes me nauseous."

The Soldiers say the IED may have been made from a 155 mm artillery round laced with an accelerant, buried beneath the road surface and detonated remotely.

"Somebody out in the desert, just timing, hit the jackpot," May said. "Nothing personal."

"I heard a thud, and the next thing I know everything I saw was orange," he said. Knowing they would roll if he went off the road into a drainage ditch, May fought to control the truck.

After May halted the truck, Buckley grabbed his weapon, chambered a round, jumped out and dropped into the prone. He briefly returned to the truck when May appeared to be hung up in the flames, caught in the narrow space between the steering wheel and his body armor, but May worked free. "I thought I was losing my best friend," Buckley said.

Other Soldiers rescued the two.

"It wasn't our time," May said.

**"It's our convoy"**

On July Fourth, Martinez, the convoy commander, was in uniform, working issues at Camp Arifjan. The convoy commander is responsible for making sure all vehicles are maintained. He also was training and certifying his replacements. Martinez said it is crucial to him to pass along his deployment knowledge.

Martinez had been back in Camp Arifjan about 10 days since his last convoy, which was about the 21st mission he had undertaken during the Triple Deuce's deployment.

"I like going out there, even though it's getting dangerous," Martinez said. "They're fun. You're in your own world. When you run the convoy, you look back, you see all these people, their lives, they're depending on me to make good judgments."

Martinez sits in the right seat, calling other vehicles on his radio, making sure everyone is alert. Sometimes he fires flares to let suspicious people know they have been seen and are being watched.

The convoy commander sets the pace, and he's responsible for making sure the vehicles do not get separated. He's responsible for ensuring his troops get rest. And he's responsible for the convoy having enough food for the mission.

Martinez sees convoys as a team and solicits suggestions from his troops. "It's our convoy, it's not mine," he said.

During this deployment, Martinez has come under small arms fire and heavy mortar fire and has seen one of his gun trucks hit an IED.

"You just start reacting," he said. "Afterwards, you stop and it's like, 'Did this really happen?' And then you start thanking God."

**Success**

Members of the Triple Deuce say they've had a successful deployment, measured by missions completed, esprit de corps and minimal casualties.

"We haven't lost anybody," Matthews said. "We're all going home. We've done really well. We've worked really hard to get it. We've done our jobs."

They attribute success to good leadership within the unit and to supportive families and employers. Soldiers say having goals for their personal time – such as studying or personal fitness – helps. They say aiming to set the standard for other units, focusing on communications, looking out for each other and building trust have enabled them to be successful.



## ALASKA

Thirteen Last Frontier State Guard members deployed to Afghanistan June 30 to embed with the Afghan National Army in support of efforts to rid the nation of terrorist groups. They will work directly with the Afghan National Army in support of tactical operations against insurgent groups in that country.

## ARKANSAS

Natural State Guard medics from the Malvern-based 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team took a burn treatment refresher course from civilian medical professionals at Arkansas Children's Hospital June 13. The course was an extension of the initial training the Soldiers have already received from the military.

## HAWAII

The Aloha State Guard hosted a training event June 19-27 that tested the Guard's ability to augment disaster relief efforts. The annual training event included numerous units and agencies from Hawaii, California and Arizona, and consisted of exercise and classroom phases to simulate a natural, catastrophic disaster on the Hawaiian Islands.

## IDAHO

The Gem State Guard announced July 2 that its 116th Heavy Brigade Combat Team—the only “cavalry brigade” authorized for the Army National Guard—will remain as a cavalry organization, thus keeping with its cavalry heritage and tradition. Despite

# ★ Guarding America ★

the Guard's recent reorganization, the 116th will maintain its lineage to the early 1920s when the first Idaho cavalry regiment formed under the 24th Cavalry Division.

## IOWA

The 185th Regional Training Institution (RTI) in the Hawkeye State, formerly known as the Iowa Military Academy, celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 14 at Camp Dodge in Johnston. Founded in 1957, the RTI has trained and graduated thousands of commissioned officers, warrant officers, and noncommissioned officers.

## KENTUCKY

The Bluegrass State Guard unveiled two National Guard Heritage Paintings during a ceremony at the Capitol in Frankfort, Ky., June 26. They honored members of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617th Military Police Company who were involved in the March 2005 Battle of Salman Pak in Iraq.

## MISSOURI

The Show Me State's Counterdrug Task Force recently conducted a course to teach police officers ways to deal with street drugs,

such as marijuana, heroin, methamphetamines and ecstasy. The Counterdrug Task Force trained 36 St. Louis police officers during the week-long course at Jefferson Barracks. The course focused on street-level narcotics enforcement by uniformed patrol officers and other enforcement officers who have arrest authority.

## NORTH DAKOTA

Flickertail State Soldiers of the 188th Engineer Company, from Wahpeton, recently participated in Operation Jump Start's Task Force Diamondback, in Yuma, Ariz. Task Force Diamondback's joint force mission is to erect and reinforce segments of border fence and the construction of obstacles to help secure the southwest United States-Mexico border.

## OHIO

Three Buckeye State senior noncommissioned officers went to Belgrade, Serbia, in June, to discuss NCO development with the Serbian Armed Forces. Serbia is one of Ohio's two state partners. The other is Hungary. They have been working together since the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was signed in September

2006 by Serbian President Boris Tadic and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

## OREGON

The Beaver State's 142nd Fighter Wing began converting to the F-15 C and D models in May. The conversion to the newer models will take approximately 18 months.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

The Mount Rushmore State's Army Guard hosted the Joint Thunder Exercise in June. During the two-week training event, 4,300 servicemembers from 81 units in 34 states took part along with personnel from five countries. Joint Thunder gives servicemembers the opportunity to train on land navigation, leadership reaction courses, urban combat lanes, convoy missions, firefighting events and a combat life saver course.

## TEXAS

The Lone Star State's Army Guard reported July 7 that it recruited 3,478 new Soldiers so far this fiscal year, surpassing the year-end goal of 3,300 new recruits set by the National Guard Bureau three months earlier. Recruiters expect the total of Texas Army Guardsmen to exceed 18,900 by the end of the year.

## WYOMING

The Equality State announced July 2 that the responsibility for protecting the state against terrorism has transferred from the 67th Army Band, in Wheatland, to the 133rd Engineer Company, in Laramie. The 133rd takes over the critical mission for two years.

## Improved Savannah training center still challenging Airmen

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

SAVANNAH, Ga. — For the moment, it was quiet. But it never stays quiet here for long. As they stood before a patched cement flight line awaiting Air National Guard A-10 Thunderbolt pilots to arrive for a training event, several Airmen turned to enter the double doors to an empty operations building behind them.

Many times before, some of the nation's best Air Guard units had yelled through gas masks while training for combat inside the building. Now, the building was quiet. Across the street, construction workers hammered up a new operations complex. Near that, an environmentally friendly small-arms range and a high-tech firefighters' training station lay ready for resonant gun shots and hose-team commands. Forty miles south, a modern air traffic control tower echoed radio static.

It has been three busy years of renovations, expansions and operations at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center here and its Townsend Bombing Range 40 miles to the south. Although it was quiet now, the ghosts of trainings past and present promised a bright and busy future.

During the past three years, the Savannah CRTC has evolved to support a post 9/11 expeditionary force. Or maybe a smartly planned, cost saving, one-stop joint training center for a busy Air National Guard and a nation's joint operating military.

The Savannah CRTC with its team of 128 Airmen and civilian employees hosts thousands of training events and servicemembers each year. So many Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and

Marines call this place so many different things. It's one of only four Air Guard combat training centers in the nation, but officials say these centers do not compete with each other. Savannah combines its resources with centers in Alpena, Mich., Gulfport, Miss., and Volk, Wis., to fulfill the Air Guard's need for combat ready Airmen who can integrate into multi-service missions.

“CRTCs play a very important role in this because they enable units to accomplish training that cannot be accomplished at home,” said Col. Floyd H. Harbin, Savannah CRTC commander.

With Army, Navy and Marine Corps units regularly using the center, Harbin said his CRTC also offers Airmen a “joint training experience” that would cost millions of dollars to reproduce elsewhere.

Now, Savannah CRTC officials say nearly three years of strategic planning are paying off by offering eager Guard units the latest in technology at a modernized, one-stop shop. Also lining up are federal, state and local agencies and international military forces looking for the same.

“We just acquired 75-acres of land from the airport to expand to 223-acres, and we also expanded our coastal air space to allow high-altitude air combat training at the range,” said Harbin.

As construction continues, it becomes increasingly hard to recognize the CRTC from its former self. Looking from the main entrance, the center's new brick buildings contrast sharply with its 50-year-old structures. Some salvageable buildings were modernized. Other buildings — second-hand, worn down,



Photo courtesy of Charles Marsh

**National Guard leaders in Georgia break ground on the new medical building at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center recently.**

leaking and occupied well past their expected life spans — are being demolished.

“They are no longer your father's CRTCs,” said Patrick Welch, chief of airspace and ranges for the Air National Guard. He said that the training centers have come a long way from their beginnings as summer training camps. “All four CRTCs have upgraded communications infrastructures and state-of-the-art ranges and they offer a high quality of life services. They have also evolved to support operational readiness exercises and inspections and joint force exercises. They train in all aspects, and more than 700 units deployed to train at the four CRTCs in 2006.”

The CRTCs offer bare base deployment sites, air-to-air ranges, air-to-ground ranges,

rifle ranges, firefighting facilities and joint combat training environments. Visiting units can fly simulated combat missions and bombing scenarios including laser and strafing practice. They can also provide computer generated depictions of aircraft engaged in combat.

In short, the facilities act like forward operating locations and provide a realistic site for unit operational exercises and inspections.

Between 2005 and 2006, the Savannah CRTC alone hosted and supported 21 operational readiness inspections and exercises for Air Guard units. In the same time, the detached 8.1 square mile bombing range managed more than 3,000 aircraft sorties. The center also supported President Bush during his 2004 G-8 Summit.



# Huey's last hurrah

## Ohio bids farewell to iconic helicopter

Story & photos by Sgt. Ben Cossel  
Ohio National Guard

GRAYLING, Mich. — When they hear the familiar “womp-womp-womp” sound of helicopters flying overhead, Ohio Guardmembers performing their annual training this summer should stop for a moment and turn their heads toward the sky for a final glimpse of Ohio Army National Guard aviation history.

Among the Blackhawks, Chinooks and Kiowas buzzing about, one will notice two UH-1H Iroquois doing what they’ve done for more than 35 years — performing Army aviation operations reliably and efficiently.

Hollywood’s infatuation with the Iroquois, known in common vernacular as the Huey and exemplified in such movies as *Apocalypse Now* and *We Were Soldiers*, has planted the image of the Huey as firmly in the American psyche as the tank and the M-16 rifle. As the sun sets on the 2007 annual training season, the iconic image of Army aviation — the Huey — is set to take its final ride for the Ohio Army National Guard.

“The Huey is what’s called legacy technology,” said Col. Rick Hall, the state Army aviation officer for Ohio. “It doesn’t have redundant systems, it doesn’t have near the lift capability of the modern aircraft, it doesn’t have enough range and it doesn’t do as well in a crash as modern aircraft.”

Hall explained the Army has been in the process of phasing out the Huey for several years, but the Ohio National Guard resisted releasing its Hueys for as long as possible.

“The state doesn’t have enough Blackhawks, so frankly, we’ve used the Hueys to fill out our fleet,” Hall said.

Hall estimates that at its peak, the Hueys numbered about 120 in service. Now only two remain with Company B, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment.

“It’ll be a sad, sad day when these birds finally go away,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Baker, a Huey mechanic with Company B from Columbus.

With 33 years in the military aviation field, Baker has worked on nearly every aircraft fielded since his days as a private.

“The Huey is dependable and fun—you just don’t have to worry about it, it’s a mechanically sound aircraft,” Baker said.

Besides being reliable, he said there was no other aircraft he preferred flying more.

“You could just throw open the doors and see the whole world,” Baker said.

That sentiment was held by many other people who constantly stopped Baker to ask for rides in the Huey.

“We’ve taken so many people up in this aircraft. VIP’s, governors, even General Kambic (Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for the Army) loved it. So many people have gone up in the Huey and they all just love it.”

With the end of his flying days in the Hueys looming, Chief Warrant Officer Brian Michael, a pilot with Company B, maintains a pragmatic attitude.

“It’ll be a little sad to see them go, but they’ve served their purpose. Time to move on to bigger, better and faster aircraft,” Michael said.

After having flown Huey missions in the



### UH-1 IROQUOIS

**TYPE:** Light utility helicopter  
**ENTERED ARMY SERVICE:** 1959  
**SPECIFICATIONS:**  
**WEIGHT:** 9,500 pounds  
**RANGE:** 300 miles  
**CREW:** 3  
**LENGTH:** 48 feet  
*-Source: U.S. Army*

Ohio Chief Warrant Officer Brian Michael, a pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, prepares a UH-1H Iroquois for one of its last missions with the Ohio Army National Guard. Michael flew the Iroquois, more commonly known as the Huey, during the Vietnam War.

jungles of Vietnam, Michael is the perfect pilot to fly the Huey during its final days. During annual training, the Huey has been used for Bambi bucket operations, range sweep and medevac missions, but Michael remembers well when the Huey was the king of the air during the Vietnam War.

“The Huey was the perfect aircraft for the mission in Vietnam,” said the Columbus, Ohio-based Michael.

Michael can recall many different types of missions he’s flown in the Huey, including rescue operations during the blizzard of 1978 in northern Ohio and casualty evacuation and re-supply operations during mudslides in north-central Ohio in 1989.

“Those state operations, the ones where we were actually helping people, saving lives, those were some of the best,” Michael said.

In mid-August, the two remaining Hueys will be released from the Ohio Army

National Guard and transferred to their new homes. One of the Hueys will go to the Colorado National Guard to continue service and the other will go to Texas where it will be refurbished for foreign sales.

“I’d keep those Hueys for another two years if I could,” Hall said. “It’ll definitely be a sad day when we finally let them go.”

#### The Huey in Vietnam

The most widely used military helicopter, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois, known as the Huey, began arriving in Vietnam in 1963. Before the end of the conflict, more than 5,000 UH-1s were introduced into Southeast Asia. Hueys were used for MedEvac, command and control and air assault to transport personnel and materiel. The AH-1G Huey Cobra arrived in Vietnam in 1967 to replace the UH-1B/UH-1C Huey in its military role.



A 142nd Fires Brigade Soldier pulls security during an annual training exercise at Fort Chaffee, Ark.

## Arkansas field artillery Soldiers focus on Warrior Tasks for AT

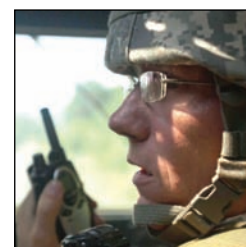
Story & photos by Sgt. John Heavner  
Arkansas National Guard

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. — The training areas in western Arkansas allowed instructors to simulate a war-time environment for Soldiers of the 142nd Fires Brigade during its annual training recently.

Firing from moving vehicles, treating and evacuating injured people, reacting to potential improvised explosive devices, and exploring urban terrain were all courses that 142nd Soldiers trained on during their 15 days of annual training.

With the brigade’s headquarters and entire 2nd Battalion currently mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 142nd only had two battalions present for the training. For the 1st Battalion, which just recently returned from Iraq, the training was nothing new. But for the brigade’s newest addition, it was the first annual training opportunity. The brigade’s 217th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) stood up last year as a result of the total Army transformation.

While sitting in a large operations tent, Master Sgt. Kimberly S. Brewer, operations sergeant for the 217th, explained the importance of annual training for a new battalion.



Radio contact.

“We’re just getting a lot of our equipment,” said Brewer. “This is the first time we put this [tent] up and put it into operation. A lot of this equipment is new to us so we’re in the process of learning.”

Lt. Col. James Treece, commander of 217th, said annual training was an opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses of his battalion and create the processes that will keep his troops strong.

“I’m overwhelmed at the opportunity to command these Soldiers,” he said. “When you’re building a new battalion, it gives you a chance to set high standards early. We’re unwilling to accept mediocrity.”

Although the wartime mission for the 142nd is field artillery, the focus for this year was to prepare the Soldiers through training on basic Warrior Tasks and other skills required on today’s battlefield.

Pfc. Kristopher Wells, a recently schooled target acquisition radar operator in the 142nd, said he is enjoying his first annual training with his “new family.”

“We’re doing a lot of intensive training,” said Wells. “I believe that it’ll give me a better idea of what to do in case of an ambush on a convoy. It’ll give me a heads up on what’s going to happen.”





## NEW HAMPSHIRE WING WILL PUT ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD

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

ARLINGTON, Va. – He was the most valuable player on his state championship high school football team, a state champion javelin thrower and a four-year letterman in collegiate track and field.

Now, Col. Richard P. Martell commands the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease Air National Guard Base. Martell was also a high school teacher and coach before joining the New Hampshire Guard in 1981 as a pilot. He took command of the wing in June 2001. That following September brought the commander and his base into tragic and direct contact with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

On 9/11, Pease was hosting a community event. Nearly 1,500 civilians from the area were working on community projects when the attacks occurred. After forming a battle staff, Martell received a call from Lt. Col. Jim Ogonowski who told him that he believed his brother was flying American Airlines Flight 11, which had flown into the World Trade Center's North Tower. They later learned that Ogonowski's brother, John Ogonowski, was Flight 11's captain.

The 157th supported the protective air cap around New York City with its KC-135 Stratotankers. Their normal mission is to support the Northeast Tanker Task Force from Pease ANGB. The task force pumps millions of pounds of fuel annually to military aircraft flying the transatlantic air bridge.

Nearly six years later, Pease will kick off Air Force Week-New England with an air show. Its Wings of Hope Air Show, Aug. 18-19, will be the base's largest public event since 9/11. The show will celebrate Air Force Week as well as the Air Force's 60th anniversary with air and



**Col. Richard P. Martell**  
Commander, 157th Air Refueling Wing  
Pease Air National Guard Base  
New Hampshire Air National Guard

ground demonstrations and local events that will benefit charities.

**The On Guard:** What does an air show and Air Force Week-New England do for a base and a wing, specifically Pease?

**Col. Martell:** It gives us wonderful visibility of the mission we do with the New Hampshire Air National Guard, and it also tells the Air Force story. We will do that through a number of different forums. We will host visits from Air Force senior leaders who will see, firsthand, the capabilities and the type of individuals we have working at Pease. It gets us out in the public to Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce events. And it provides a firsthand meet and greet with the civilian populous so that they can know what we do and the kind of outstanding folks we have.

**TOG:** I understand that this is the first air show for your base since 9/11. What is the significance of having it now?

**Col. Martell:** Being able to tie this to an Air Force Week was an opportunity that the Air National Guard, as a whole, could not pass up. Getting that kind of national attention out there is something we need to do.

**TOG:** Will those attending Air Force Week at Pease get a sense of what a refuel wing can be and how it supports the Global War on Terrorism and homeland defense efforts?


**Col. Martell:** We had been planning an air show for next year, but the Air Force came to us

and said we would like you to be one of our hosts for an Air Force Week, so we moved it up a year. We do this in a partnership with some nonprofits around here, and certainly having an air show to tell our story is a wonderful opportunity. The base is made of more than 1,000 servicemembers, including an Air Combat Command air traffic control squadron, a KC-135 Stratotanker simulator, and it is one of two Northeast Tanker Task Force units that do all the tanker planning for moving fighter jets all around the world. The Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing is the other unit.

**TOG:** What were the wing's accomplishments during 9/11? Did it refuel air defense forces? And since 9/11, how has it worked to support Operation Noble Eagle?

**Col. Martell:** There was no recall done at all by me that day, but by noon this base was almost fully manned with Guard members who wanted to be a part of the mission. All of our jets were fully fueled and manned with crews ready to go, and by that evening we started to fly over New York City in a protective air cap. It's something we have been doing ever since, anytime they need us. We maintain a line of alert here and we participate in Noble Eagle doing that.

**TOG:** Is there anything you want to add about Air Force Week-New England?

**Col. Martell:** Well it's a wonderful opportunity, and with it comes a lot of hard work. We have a number of folks that are engaged in this. We have events that are going on throughout the state, and we are trying to make this a New England event. There is going to be simultaneous proclamations from all the states and their statehouses. There will be a larger proclamation event at Faneuil Hall in Boston. We also have events at Red Sox games and other places. Hopefully, by the end of this summer a large portion of New England folks will know who their National Guard is and more about the Air Force mission. 

## Two wing commanders explain what it means to host this first-ever event, how their organizations have adapted to the post-9/11 world, and more.

PEASE WING'S OF  
HOPE AIR SHOW  
AUG. 18-19

2007 CAPE COD  
AIR SHOW  
AUG. 24-26



An F-15 from Otis Air National Guard Base refuels from a tanker out of Pease Air National Guard Base during an Air Force Week promotion event that took place June 6.

## AIR NATIONAL GUARD'S DEFINING MOMENTS-AUGUST

**1952:** Capt. Clifford D. Jolley, a Utah Air Guardsman, scored his fifth victory over a MiG 15. Flying an F-86 in a regular Air Force unit, he became the second of four ANG aces during the Korean War. Jolley ended the conflict with seven confirmed kills.

**1956:** Capt. Norma Parsons Erb became the first female member of the National Guard in its history. She joined the New York Air Guard's after

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation authorizing female nurses to join the Guard.

**1963:** Maj. Gen. Winston P. "Wimpy" Wilson, an Arkansas Air National Guardsman, became the first blue suit chief of the National Guard Bureau on a regular (i.e., non-acting) basis.

**1970:** Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird adopted the Total Force concept. It had been

developed and sold in the Pentagon by Dr. Theodore Marris, a former Air Guardsman and Air Force Reservist who served as a senior civilian official on his staff.

**1990:** Lt. Col. Harold Cross, 172nd Military Airlift Group, Mississippi ANG, landed his C-141 in Saudi Arabia. His was the first ANG aircraft and volunteer crew to reach the Persian Gulf region after Iraq seized Kuwait.

**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
National Guard Bureau

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. – Capt. Anthony Schiavi became an Air Force pilot of distinction on Jan. 26, 1991, when he shot down a MiG-23 during Operation Desert Storm. Now he is a full colonel and the new commander of the Air National Guard's 1,100-member 102nd Fighter Wing which will soon transform into the 102nd Intelligence Wing because of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission.

The wing on Cape Cod is losing its F-15 Eagles as it is taking on its new, much less visible, intelligence mission of downloading and analyzing data collected from distant war zones to inform battlefield commanders about enemy forces and activities. The wing's 101st Fighter Squadron has been guarding America's skies against enemy threats for a remarkable 86 continuous years. The wing's alert fighters were the first to arrive over New York City after the terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, and it has not let its guard down since then. It received an unprecedented fourth straight "outstanding" rating following a no-notice inspection, an Alert Force Evaluation, on June 5, three days after Schiavi had assumed command.

The base will also host the Cape Cod Air Show, including the Air Force's Thunderbirds,



**Col. Anthony Schiavi**  
Commander, 102nd Fighter Wing  
Otis Air National Guard Base  
Massachusetts Air National Guard

on Aug. 25-26. That is the final weekend of Air Force Week-New England which will begin in New Hampshire a week earlier. It is all part of the Air Force's 60th anniversary celebration, and it will cast the spotlight directly on the Air Guard. Schiavi recently met with The On Guard to discuss the significance of August's Air Force Week and air show for the base and to talk about the future of his wing. He is satisfied about one thing. The seagull in the patch worn by members of the 101st squadron since 1924 will keep on flying for a long time.

**The On Guard:** What does an event like Air Force Week-New England, and its related air show here at Otis accomplish for a base or a wing?

**Col. Schiavi:** It helps us explain to our own folks and to the folks in the community what the Air Force is all about. It gives those folks some insight into our capabilities. It gives us the opportunity to showcase our people and our equipment, primarily our aircraft. The Thunderbirds will be a major part of our show. Considering that the Air Force's 60th anniversary is in September, it's a great recruiting and retention thing for the young folks who come down and get the excitement that surrounds any air show and helps bring some of them closer to signing on with our Air Force or Air National Guard. After all, the big Air Force presence in the Northeast is the Air National Guard.

**TOG:** This will be the first air show at Otis since 9/11. The mission for this base will change over the next year. Will this air show give people

a sense of what this base has been or what it is going to be?

**Col. Schiavi:** A lot of folks in the community may not know what actually happened to the base. When the 2005 BRAC report originally came out, Otis Air National Guard Base and the 102nd were slated to be closed altogether. When the final recommendations came out, Otis was realigned, not closed, and the 102nd is alive and well. The air show will help folks realize that the base is not going away. We will still have a strong military presence here at Otis as we stand up the 102nd Intelligence Wing to support information superiority missions for the Air Force.

**TOG:** What will the new intelligence mission be here?

**Col. Schiavi:** In general terms, one of our new missions will be to serve as a digital ground station. That mission is to collect and analyze and disseminate to the warfighter imagery and other types of intelligence data that platforms like the Predator, the Global Hawk, and the U-2 get from combat theaters. There is an incredible amount of intelligence. Our mission in the digital ground station, similar to our air sovereignty mission with the alert aircraft, will be to remain as a 24/7 unit performing the intelligence mission.

**TOG:** Will the new mission require as many people?

**Col. Schiavi:** Our overall size will go down by about 100 people. We have a fairly large wing here. We're working the people issues associated with that. A lot of our young people are very computer literate. This new mission is very suitable for the kind of people we have here and the kind of people we expect to recruit into the unit. We have had a lot of interest among people, internally and externally, who want to get into this new area. I think the Air National Guard will very quickly embrace this new mission and give it the stability that the Guard gives to almost every mission that it performs.

**TOG:** What is the transformation schedule?


**Col. Schiavi:** We will officially begin converting into the digital ground station mission on Oct. 1. We're expected to be at our initial operational capability around June 2008. We'll build on that to reach our full operational capability somewhere around fiscal year 2010. Some of our older F-15s have already gone to what we call the "bone yard" in Arizona. The big push for our airplanes will happen this fall. We will probably send four of our aircraft to Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Mass., in September. All of our aircraft will be gone by next March 31. 







Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

**Soldiers from North Dakota's 188th Engineer Company work along the border in June.**

## North Dakota helps secure southwest border

**By Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp**  
North Dakota National Guard

YUMA, Ariz.—Army and Air National Guard personnel are sweating through blistering Arizona heat as they help to secure the southwest border between the United States and Mexico.

The Soldiers of the 188th Engineer Company, from Wahpeton, N.D., are just a few of the soldiers participating in Operation Jump Start's Task Force Diamondback, in Yuma, Ariz.

Task Force Diamondback's mission is to erect and reinforce segments of border fence and the construction of obstacles to help secure the southwest United States-Mexico border. Operation Jump Start is the Army and Air National Guard's border mission to provide support to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol in the areas of administration, communications, intelligence, maintenance, construction, entry detection and identification.

The Soldiers in the 188th Engineer Company from North Dakota are skilled workers versed in many areas of vertical construction and heavy equipment operation. On this mission, they are reinforcing the primary steel fence at the border by adding welding to the interlocking tabs on the new metal panels. They are also erecting light poles and a secondary fence inside the primary fence, which will create a well-lit no-man's zone that will be the domain of only the Border Patrol vehicles when complete.

The section of fence that the North Dakota Soldiers are working on runs for many miles separating the cities of San Luis, Ariz. and San Luis Rios Colorado, Mexico.

"This is a great training opportunity for the younger troops because they are getting a chance to use equipment that they might not have a chance to use during regular training back in North Dakota," said 1st Sgt. Marvin H. King Jr. "They're gaining skills and experience beyond their pay grade."

Spc. Denver L. Tergesen, of the 188th Engineer Company, says he has never been able to use arch welding equipment in the past, seconds the sentiment.

"The work along the border fence is a great new experience," added Tergesen.

While the mission is providing valuable training for the Army and Air National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from all around the country, it is also proving valuable to the security of the nation's borders.

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Patrol statistics, the undocumented alien border crossing into the Yuma sector has been reduced by 68 percent since the beginning of Operation Jump Start.

# Wyoming Soldiers track illegals, train for war

**By Officer Candidate Christian Venhuizen**  
Wyoming National Guard

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Pfc. Cameron Hokanson, of Rock Springs, Wyo., is one of the biggest obstacles for illegal immigrants in a border area that spans a nice chunk of New Mexico.

He is one of 27 Wyoming National Guard Soldiers from the 1041st Engineer Company's Rear Detachment, of Rock Springs. They extended their two-week annual training period, in June, to three weeks and took on the border mission with Operation Jump Start.

The Soldiers are the eyes and ears of the U.S. Border Patrol, reporting border activity to the law enforcement agents. They rotate through three eight-hour shifts and cover six areas, some across from Juarez, Mexico.

Hokanson's job is to stand watch over the border and spot undocumented aliens crossing onto U.S. soil. He's very good at what he does, leading his unit with 19 assists to the U.S. Border Patrol, more than half of his unit's total, as of July 1.

Hokanson's ability to ID illegals and call in the Border Patrol is also proving to his supervisors that he has the skills for calling in the big guns — artillery and more.

"I think a lot of our Soldiers are starting to think 'Hey, when I go to war, this is what I've got to do,'" Sgt. Jim Boles, of Rock Springs, said. A combat veteran, Boles said this type of mission teaches the Soldiers how to track the enemy and how to call in fire power.

In combat, instead of illegal aliens, the Soldiers might be spotting insurgents, and instead of Border Patrol agents, the Soldiers might call for close air support. However, in New Mexico, Hokanson was well on his way to winning a bet — who, in his unit, could help capture the most undocumented aliens.

"It's been a really neat experience just to see the techniques the UDAs (undocumented aliens) use to sneak by us," Hokanson said. "They'll do anything to hide from us."

He said he's seen UDAs duck walk, crouch and run, lay down and crawl, even walk

straight for him. "Saturday night, they were probably about 50 yards away. They were close."

Close, but not dangerously close, Boles said. Regardless, all of the Soldiers went through a week of unarmed combat training, and weapons training and all of the Soldiers have an M-16 rifle nearby. The rules for engagement allow them to use their weapons only when faced with immediate danger to themselves or someone else.

Unlike a combat situation, the Soldiers are directed to avoid engagements and allow border patrol agents to handle the situation before it heats up.

Even though they will probably not use their weapons, Operation Jump Start is a very real mission, with other benefits for the unit. One of which helps these Soldiers rejoin their deployed counterparts this fall.

Wyoming's State Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Russell said it's sometimes difficult to reconstitute a unit mixed with war veterans and those who haven't been in battle. He hopes serving in Operation Jump Start brings the whole unit together quicker. "It gives these Soldiers war stories to tell the rest of the unit when they come back," he said. "It's really working out well."

It's also improved the unity among those in the detachment. When the 1041st left for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the rear detachment experienced a large number of changes: a new commander, a new first sergeant, new squads and a new way of doing business.

Acting first sergeant Master Sgt. Charles Bracken, of Lovell, said the first few months were tough as everyone had to work their way through the changes. He said serving in Operation Jump Start has helped turn things around.

"I've had several Soldiers come to me and say these last three-to four months have been the best training they've had since they've been in the National Guard," Bracken said. "We've got some really good Soldiers here. I'm really impressed with this detachment. We've come together."

"I feel like I've grown closer to the members of my squad and the other Soldiers in the unit," Hokanson said.

"A lot of guys are just more focused," Boles said, noting the Soldiers respond when called to action. "After Hurricane Katrina, they were helping people out. Here they're defending the border."

The Soldiers said they are proud of what they are doing in New Mexico and understand the importance of their mission.

"One of those aliens could be coming just to find a better life, but on the other side of the coin, he could be a drug dealer," Spc. Josh Cooley, of Rock Springs, said. "I think a lot of the American population had a great deal of animosity about what we do here, but I don't understand where those misperceptions come from."

Cooley said he would like to have a hands-on role in arresting the UDAs, but understands the restrictions the National Guard has and appreciates his Border Patrol counterparts. "So far it has been very professional to say the least."

**"One of those aliens could be coming just to find a better life, but on the other side of the coin, he could be a drug dealer"**

*-Spc. Josh Cooley*



Photo by Officer Candidate Christian Venhuizen

**Pvt. Clint Warren, of Star Valley, Wyo., keeps an eye on the U.S.-Mexican border. Warren is a member of the Wyoming Army National Guard's 1041st Engineer Company, supporting Operation Jump Start.**

## OJS successes

*Operation Jump Start operational successes supported by the National Guard*

<b>Alien Apprehensions</b>	<b>84,875</b>
<b>Vehicle Seizures</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Marijuana Seized (lbs)</b>	<b>201,000</b>
<b>Cocaine Seized (lbs)</b>	<b>4,780</b>
<b>Aliens Rescued</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

*-From June 15, 2006; Numbers are approximate; source—U.S. Customs and Border Protection*

## Mother loads

*Significant OJS-supported seizures*

**August 2006:** Border Patrol agents, National Guard and Texas DPS seize 3,058 lbs. of marijuana valued at almost \$2.5 million, 449 lbs. of cocaine valued at over \$14 million and a tractor-trailer that was painted to resemble a Wal-Mart truck

**September 2006:** A special response team made up of Guardmembers seize 694 lbs. of cocaine valued at over \$22 million

**January 2007:** Guardmembers assigned as vehicle dismantlers assisted in the extraction of over 4,000 lbs. of marijuana valued at over \$3 million

**March 2007:** Guardmembers assigned to the Interstate 25 checkpoint in Texas assisted in unloading over 650 pounds of cocaine concealed in a 1994 Peterbilt tractor-trailer.

**May 2007:** Guard vehicle dismantlers assigned to the Kingsville, Texas, checkpoint assisted agents with the extraction of contraband in seven narcotics cases totaling 1,076 lbs. of marijuana and 14 lbs. of cocaine



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

**North Dakota Sgt. Andrew S. Heinrich inspects his weld on the U.S.-Mexico border June 7.**

## From page 1: BORDER TROOPS

About 3,000 National Guard members will continue assisting the Customs and Border Protection Agency along the U.S.-Mexican border, Kolarik said.

The National Guard's presence along the U.S.-Mexican border has helped to bolster border-protection efforts to curtail illegal immigration as well as to circumvent narcotics traffic, Kolarik said.

Guard members on border duty do not perform law enforcement missions, but they do conduct surveillance and operate detection equipment, work with border entry identification teams, analyze information, assist with communications and give administrative support to the Border Patrol.

National Guard members "have done just a phenomenal job down there on the border," Kolarik said.



# The ANG can see you now



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Tucker

**Capt. Adam Stepniewski, 137th Medical Group dentist, prepares to extract a tooth with Staff Sgt. Tiffany Jones, Tinker Air Force Base dental technician, assisting. The dental team extracted 23 teeth on the first day of treating the internally displaced people of Azerbaijan.**

## Oklahoma Air Guard provides critical medical care to former Soviet state

**Story & photo by 1st Lt. Crystal Stiltner**  
Oklahoma National Guard

Oklahoma Air National Guard units made history recently by providing critical medical care to citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, marking the first time a U.S. military team participated in a humanitarian relief mission in the former Soviet Union state.

The 137th Airlift Wing, Will Rogers ANG Base, and the 138th Fighter Wing, Tulsa ANG Base, put together a medical team consisting of doctors, dentists, optometrists, a physician's assistant, nurses and administrators based out of not only the Oklahoma ANG units but Tinker Air Force Base and the National Guard Bureau as well.

Members spent eight days training alongside the Azerbaijan military medical team to treat refugees who were internally displaced after conflicts there. The Oklahoma Guard teams treated nearly 1,000 patients during the three-day event in field conditions along the Caspian Sea.

According to Maj. Rustin Wonn, Oklahoma

State Partnership coordinator, the Oklahoma Guard's relationship with the country began in 1994 when Azerbaijan requested participation in the State Partnership Program. The program, spearheaded by the National Guard Bureau, seeks to match up foreign countries' defense ministries and other government agencies with individual state Guard units for the purpose of improving bilateral relationships.

"We began with just a few contacts in 2004," said Wonn. "By 2007, we have had over 20 exchanges with Azerbaijan through the Oklahoma Army and Air National Guard."

Master Sgt. Doug Mason, 137th Bioenvironmental Engineering Office, helped plan the latest mission and said it was the largest and most complex so far.

"We had to schedule aircraft and ground transportation through several countries," said Mason. "We put together a medical team which came from four different units, secured a landing location, coordinated meals and lodging, scheduled classroom training and found a field location to treat the refugees. The amount of work that went into this project was phenomenal."

A crew from the 185th Airlift Squadron at WRANB flew the medical team aboard a C-130H into Nasosnaya Air Base May 14 where they faced another hour and a half bus ride to Qaraheybat Training Center.

Visiting Guardmembers looked through the bus windows at former Soviet Union training facilities, pockmarked roads and wandering livestock being shepherd along the streets.

The Oklahoma team shared barracks with the men and women of the Azerbaijan military.

"The Azerbaijan military personal welcomed us and treated us as their guests," said Staff Sgt. Lara Dean, a medical technician with the 137th AW. Dean was not used to the way the Azeri men wanted to carry all her things. "We weren't allowed to carry anything for ourselves but by the end of the trip, they realized we wanted to help," said Dean.

Day two brought American and Azeri troops together in a classroom to begin training. The 137th medical team gave instructions on emergency medicine and demonstrated the equipment they brought that included the first aide pack. The training moved outside as both sides erected tents to serve as a temporary field clinic. Master Sgt. Kevin Pollard, 137th medical technician, demonstrated how to put together a NATO gurney and transport a patient.

The Azeri medical team provided a film that documented their medical program from the front lines to the city hospital. According to Azeri officials, their medical program is rapidly advancing and gaining new technology as the country continues in its independence from the Soviet Union.

Both medical teams set up in a three story school house in the nearby town of Sangayit where they unpacked the pharmacy and laid out dental instruments. The optometrists and doctors set out their equipment and exam tables. It wasn't long before patients began to arrive.

The teams treated nearly 300 patients and dispensed more than 2,100 prescriptions the first day according to Maj. Malette Rosneck, registered nurse and officer in charge of Immunizations and Infection Control for the 137th AW. By the third day, nearly 1,000 patients received care and the Oklahoma team handed out almost 4,000 pounds of medical supplies.

Brig. Gen. Robert Ireton, commander of the Oklahoma ANG, visited the troops in country and said he was impressed with their performance.

"They were working very hard under very tough living conditions, but came away feeling the experience was rewarding," he said.

U. S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Anne E. Derse, applauded the Guard in a recent letter.

"This is an incredible accomplishment that was received extremely well by the local community, the government of Azerbaijan, as well as the media," she said.

## Guard responds to New York floods, Alaska fires in late June

**By Donna Miles**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — National Guard troops helped search for people still missing after flash floods deluged the southern Catskill Mountains, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer said in a statement June 22, as Alaska Guardsmen fought spreading wildfires in the nation's largest state.

About 50 National Guard troops were on duty to provide search-and-rescue, engineering and other flood-related support, officials from the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs reported. The New York Army National Guard's 53rd Troop Command sent combat engineers from the 204th Engineer Battalion to help remove debris and make emergency road repairs, officials said.

The task force used six 20-ton dump trucks, three bulldozers, three bucket loaders, two excavator vehicles, two trucks and a rough terrain roller to conduct the mission.

Officials said more equipment will be provided, if needed.

Their efforts were focused on the town of Colchester and Delaware County, which received torrential rains earlier in the week. Four people were reported missing.

Meanwhile, Alaska National Guard troops helped the state Department of Forestry fight about 14 wildfires spreading across the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and crews used Bambi buckets—collapsible buckets with a valve on the bottom that releases water—to help douse the flames, National Guard Bureau officials reported. Each helicopter has a six-person crew, and about 30 Guardmembers are involved in the effort.

The crews worked out of Palmer Airport, and have been asked to remain on station for seven days, officials said.

Thunderstorms, erratic winds, hot temperatures and low humidity challenged fire-control efforts, and more troops could be needed, they said.

"The Alaska National Guard is always ready and prepared to take care of fellow Alaskans," said Army Brig. Gen. Deborah McManus, chief of staff for the Alaska Guard's Joint Forces Headquarters.

## ANG ready to help during space shuttle missions

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

ARLINGTON, Va. — As NASA's Space Shuttle Atlantis landed June 22 at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., Air National Guard members looked back to its launch two weeks earlier knowing they were ready to help. They were relieved that they didn't have to.

Working with the U.S. Northern Command, which is responsible for military support to space shuttle missions, the Air Guard supported NASA with its East Coast Launch Abort and Emergency Landing Sites at F.S. Gabreski Airport, N.Y., Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., and Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.

Space shuttle Atlantis launched from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., on June 8 for an 11-day mission to continue construction of the International Space Station.

Of the space shuttle's many possible emergency situations, some scenarios predict the astronauts can survive mechanical, weather or other problems that cause them to abort the launch. According to NASA, planning for each space shuttle mission includes provisions for an unscheduled landing at contingency sites in the U.S. and overseas.

The Air Guard's emergency landing sites were three of nine U.S. airports that were in Atlantis's flight path with runways long enough for it to land. The sites stood up

emergency response teams and maintained readiness centers and communication links with NORTHCOM during the launch.

"We play a small part in it unless something happens, then we would play a big part," said Maj. Scott Hoyt at Pease.

Hoyt, who has worked as an alternate site coordination officer (ASCO) at Otis and who served in the same role at Pease for Atlantis's recent launch, explained that the Air Guard units conduct training every two years with NASA to certify for the missions.

When designated as an alternate landing site, the airfields place a team of military and local responders on standby that coordinate with an on-scene commander and the ASCO. The ASCO



NASA photo

**Space Shuttle Atlantis lands at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., on June 22. The Air National Guard was ready to help in case of an emergency during the June 8 launch.**

maintains communications with launch officials through a telephone and computer network, which ties in to larger support agencies.



## From page 1: MAINTENANCE

These servicemembers have the challenging task of direct support and organizational maintenance at Camp Bucca. They are responsible for fixing and rebuilding vehicles, filing and organizing the necessary paperwork, and a multitude of other tasks needed to maintain the vehicles.

Upon taking over the mission as the officer in charge of the CMBA, Drozs divided the available mechanics into five teams in order to sustain the 24-hour-a-day operations.

The personnel in the motor pool repair military vehicles including tractor trailers, Humvees including up-armored Humvees, M1117 armored security vehicles, as well as making repairs to civilian equipment such as John Deere Gators and all-terrain-vehicles (ATVs). These vehicles are vital to post

operations for the entire base.

The main effort of the CBMA is the combat vehicles that operate outside the safe confines of base.

"It is imperative that our Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen have the best equipment that will not breakdown when on patrols," said Lt. Col. George Rakers, 33rd MP Bn. commander.

Another responsibility of the CBMA is to conduct wrecker support for convoys and provide recovery support to units that breakdown in their designated area of operations.

The motor pool's main office is where all the plans and paperwork happen. The clerks work hard in order to plan for the incoming vehicles and placing of the equipment to keep the motor pool clean and accessible for mechanics.

Clerks are responsible for dispatching vehicles as well as ensuring the necessary paperwork is filled out correctly and completely.

Be it Army, Navy, Air Force or civilian, all personnel in the motor pool work together to improve operations to make it easier for the next unit.

The 33rd MP Bn. planned improvements for the CBMA are to expand the work area and install more cooling fans.

"Many people don't realize how important the CBMA is to the safety of the base, but without the clerks and mechanics, the rest of us wouldn't be able to do our mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Nuding.



Photo by Spc. Aleah Castrejon

While replacing an engine on a Humvee, Illinois Guardsmen Staff Sgt. Jeff Roth and CWO Chris Drozs notice a crack in the back side of the front cross member.

## From page 1: BASE TURNOVER

Serbo-Croatian. "Eagle Base ... was a critical facility for the successful implementation of the military provisions of the Dayton Accords in northeast Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Blum spoke for the more than 100,000 active and reserve U.S. military personnel, including many National Guard members, who have served at Eagle Base since it was established in 1995.

"This is a very special day for us," said U.S. Ambassador Douglas L. McElhaney, who accepted the U.S. flag from Maj. Gen. Richard Wightman Jr., the senior military representative to NATO Headquarters here, after it was lowered and replaced with Bosnia and Herzegovina's blue and yellow flag.

"A lot of money, a lot of people have been through here," McElhaney said, reflecting the enormity of the U.S. commitment to peace. "When the flag comes down, it's always sad to see, but when a Bosnian flag representing all the Croats and Serbs and Bosniaks in this country goes up, it's a very nice thing to see because we know that we were part of it."

The nation's three ethnic groups once fought. Now they share a political process and increasing prosperity. The conflict – internationally symbolized by the heartbreaking devastation of the capital, Sarajevo, that only a few years earlier had hosted the 1984 Winter Olympics – once commanded newspaper front pages and led newscasts. The peace receives little publicity.

"No news is good news," McElhaney said. "That's a pretty good indication that things are going well. We have some ups and downs in terms of trying to develop institutions, in terms of trying to bring folks together. But there are a

lot of people of good will in this country, and I want to think that one thing that the United States and the military and everyone else leaves here is that willingness to compromise and to do things as a team, to do them together. That's part of our legacy here."

Bosnia and Herzegovina now contributes troops to Operation Iraqi Freedom and aspires to NATO membership.

"This is a great success story," Blum said after the ceremony. "The fact that U.S. forces and NATO forces no longer need this base to maintain stability in this region is a huge sign of success."

Success wasn't a given. "No one knew how long we'd be here or what the final outcome would be," Blum said. "We just had to stop the killing. We had to enforce the Dayton Peace Accords. This is a magnificent success story, U.S. forces working with our allies and NATO partners and some non-NATO partners such as the Russians."

Partners at Eagle Base included U.S., Nordic, Polish, Turkish and Russian brigades.

"This is one of the fastest lifecycles of a military intervention. This is something that we should all celebrate and take great pride in," Blum said at the base that lies about three hours north of Sarajevo where he spoke during a significant anniversary two days earlier.

It was in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914, from a spot now marked by a stone block set in a wall along a bustling street, that nineteen year old Gavrilo Princip assassinated the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Historians consider that single event in the Balkans as the trigger for World War I, which brought death to millions across the continent and ultimately drew in the United States.

The National Guard's links with Bosnia



Photo courtesy of the North Dakota National Guard

Happy Hooligan Predator operators are seated at their positions in the Ground Control Station at the 119th Wing in Fargo, N.D.

## From page 1: N. DAKOTA FIRST

mission into the Predator mission," said Col. Robert Becklund, 119th Wing commander. "This is a dramatic and cultural change for our unit and we're proud to be a part of this new and exciting mission."

Throughout the transition, 119th Wing personnel have been training for the new positions of the MQ-1 Predator mission.

"It is great to be a part of this air and

space power mission. Our squadron is committed to maintain the traditional high standards the Happy Hooligans are known for," said Lt. Col. Rick Gibney, commander of the reconnaissance squadron.

"It is exciting and rewarding to be a part of this mission that involves the global war on terror, homeland security and domestic contingencies."

and Herzegovina continue through the State Partnership Program (SPP). Bosnia and Herzegovina is partnered with Maryland. The SPP is just one example of the continuing security relationship between the U.S. and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Blum said.

President Nebojsa Radmanovic, one of the nation's three presidents who are each elected by its ethnic groups, called the handover of Eagle Base a significant, hopeful moment marked by his nation's thanks and symbolizing trust.

Like its neighbors of Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia, Bosnia is vulnerable to

earthquakes. The National Guard State Partnership Program offers insights into how the military can support civilian authorities during rescue and recovery missions following such disasters.

"The transformation of the defense ministry and the integration of the armed forces has become a model for the reform of other ministries and the government as a whole," Blum said. "The armed forces are strengthening their capacity for crisis management, response to natural disasters and peace support."

—Some information for this report was obtained from The CIA World Factbook



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

U.S. Ambassador Douglas L. McElhaney, LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau and Maj. Gen. Richard Wightman Jr., senior military representative at NATO Headquarters in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stand during ceremonies marking the turnover of Eagle Base, near Tuzla, in Bosnia-Herzegovina June 30.



## Newsmakers

A Maryland National Guard Airman has been selected to compete as part of the U.S. team in the 2007 Conseil



Moulds

International du Sport Militaire World Games. **Tech. Sgt. Lati-sha R. Moulds**, an Air National Guard recruiter based at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Essex, Md., is one of only 23 servicemembers

selected from across the armed forces.

**Maj. John F. "Jack" O'Connell**, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 108th Air Refueling Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, was recently named the recipi-



O'Connell

ent of the U.S. Air Force Award for the Outstanding Reserve/Guard JAG for 2006. O'Connell spent 10 years in the U.S. Navy as a pilot. He flew the F-14 Tomcat with Fighter Squadron

Thirty-Three, logging almost 1,000 hours and 200 carrier landings aboard the USS America and flying combat missions in support of Operation Desert Storm. Six years later, he joined the 108th as a member of the JAG section.

**Spc. Sarah McIntosh** is the first female cadet to serve in a United States war from Virginia Military Institute. The VMI cadet is going to the Middle East



McIntosh

with the Virginia National Guard's 429th Transportation Company. The 20-year-old specialist is the first female VMI cadet to deploy. She joined the Virginia Guard when she was in high school. Although she did not have to deploy with the 429th when it was activated since she is a student, she chose to fulfill her Guard duties.

**Maj. Betty Anderson**, who serves with the Arkansas National Guard's 87th Troop Command, won the North



Anderson

American Natural Bodybuilding Federation's Northwest Arkansas competition in May. It was her first bodybuilding contest. By winning, Anderson earned berths in regional events and plans to compete later this year in a

statewide contest and in Oklahoma. The Maryland National Guard awarded a \$25,000 check to **Pfc. Dolton Goolcharan** from G Company, 729th Brigade Support Battalion for his recruiting efforts under the Guard-Recruiting Assistance Program in June. Goolcharan, a 22-year-old part-time Soldier in the Guard, helped bring 14 new Soldiers into the Maryland Army Guard over the past 16 months.

# There she is...

## Utah Soldier crowned Miss Utah

DRAPER, Utah – Utah National Guard Sgt. Jill Stevens was crowned Miss Utah June 30 at the annual Miss Utah Pageant held at the Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City. She's a member of 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation.

The only member of the military in the field this year, Stevens, of Kaysville, competed as Miss Davis County along with 49 other contestants from the state.

Competing in last year's pageant as Miss Southern Utah University, Stevens finished second runner-up.

She was later awarded first runner-up when her predecessor was unable to fulfill her duties.

Graduating this spring as a registered nurse from SUU, Stevens decided on a second go at the title after friends and family told her she had a legitimate shot at the crown.

"That's why I went back, because people believed in me," Stevens said. "There was such good competition; I knew I needed to work hard."

Adding to the suspense of the evening, when the field was narrowed down to 10 finalists, Stevens' name was announced ninth. And when the group was pared down to five, Stevens was the fifth contestant called.

"These are some stellar girls," added Stevens, modestly. "I did my best, but I left it in the Lord's hands."

Stevens is a combat veteran, having served as a medic on an 18-month tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 1-211th in 2004-05.

Just a week before the pageant, she was a last-minute fill-in for a running relay team in a 178-mile trail race.

The team was composed entirely of Utah Guardmembers and finished seventh overall.

"Jill Stevens is a wonderful ambassador for the Guard. Obviously she is bright and attractive, but most important, she's a terrific Soldier," said Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, adjutant



Sgt. Jill Stevens

general of the Utah National Guard.

Stevens will compete in the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January 2008.

# Never too old to serve your country

## Oregon Guardsman overcomes age, lack of experience to lead Soldiers to Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett  
New Jersey National Guard

FORT DIX, N.J. – Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston comes off the firing line and takes off his Kevlar helmet. Large droplets of sweat stream down his face. Gholston wipes the sweat from his brow and looks around at his fellow Oregon National Guard Soldiers.

"Drink water," Gholston says, slinging his M-4 rifle onto his shoulder.

Hearing their squad leader, the other Soldiers drink deeply from the hydration packs they wear on top of 30-plus pounds of body armor.

Earlier this month, Gholston and the rest of Oregon's 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment fired their weapons at the Short Range Marksmanship range. While here they were only firing at targets. In two short months they could be shooting to save their lives.

The 90-degree New Jersey heat makes the training tough, as evidenced by the sweat pouring off the Guardsman, but it's nothing compared to the 130-degree days they will face once they arrive in Iraq later this summer.

At 52, Gholston stands out from his fellow Soldiers, all of whom are in their 20s or 30s. His hair is several shades greyer and his face is more lined, but as the other Soldiers take a short respite from the day's training by sitting in the shade of a tree, Gholston remains standing.

He goes from Soldier to Soldier asking them how they did on the range. He offers words of congratulations to those who shot well and words of encouragement to those who did not.

Iraq will not be Gholston's first war experience. Many of his fellow Oregon Soldiers were not born when Gholston deployed to Vietnam in 1975.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

**Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gholston, a squad leader with the Oregon National Guard's 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, talks with his fellow Soldiers.**

Gholston was sent to Vietnam with the U.S. Navy as a combat videographer, and he filmed the fall of Saigon and the evacuation of refugees from that war-torn country.

Thirty years after the Vietnam War, Gholston decided it was time to once again serve his country.

"We are at war, and by watching the news it became very apparent that troops were needed to support the war effort," Gholston said. "I think going to Iraq is a chance of a lifetime. It's the biggest story out there right now, and I feel privileged to be able to report on it."

Going from Navy to Army, especially after taking a 15-year break in service, was not easy for the Portland resident. He experienced many growing pains during the transition.

"It's a totally different mindset between the Navy and Army," Gholston explained. "In the Navy we just went out and did our job, but in the Army it's about being a total Soldier. You have to shoot and qualify on your weapons, do ruck marches and everything else that infantry

Soldiers do. I had that Navy mindset and plus I'm getting older, so I had to really train and focus to keep up."

When Gholston started with the 115th two years ago, his leadership didn't know what to make of the new staff sergeant with no Army experience.

"He scared the hell out of us because of his lack of Soldier skills" admitted 1st Sgt. Michael Cummings, the unit's top non-commissioned officer. "We had to teach him how to shoot an M-16. He had never fired one before."

Gholston's first real test was being sent to New Orleans to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief mission.

"New Orleans was a real eye-opener," Gholston said. "My experience is with the Navy, but I was really submersed in the Army. We got the job done though. I shot over 18 hours of footage documenting the devastation and interviewing Soldiers of the Oregon Army National Guard."





Photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

Akron, Ohio resident Pfc. Marshall Conyers, food service specialist, prepares French onion soup June 16 as he and other Soldiers of the 1485th Transportation Company, 112th Transportation Battalion, compete in the highly prestigious Connelley competition.

# Sizzling

## Ohio cooks compete in Army-wide competition

By Sgt. Benjamin Cossel  
Ohio National Guard

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. – It was more than the mid-day sun and the hot kitchen causing the food service specialists of the Coshocton-based 1485th Transportation Company, 112th Transportation Battalion to sweat bullets as they prepared the June 16 noon-time meal.

The pressure was on as judges walked through the tactical field mess clipboards in hand measuring the Soldiers every move.

Selected during annual training last year, the food service specialists of the 1485th were chosen to represent the state of Ohio in the Army-wide Connelley Competition. The annual competition pits each state's representative in the competition to prepare a lunch meal in a tactical environment.

"We're looking for taste, texture, how well the food is garnished, how well the Soldiers maintain their kitchen and mess environment," said Master Sgt. (Ret.) Daniel Ruff, one of the three judges for the event from Bowhead Logistics.

"It's a very demanding competition, if the recipe says they're supposed to begin the soup

at 9 a.m., I dock them a point if they start it early or late," Ruff said.

The Connelley Competition began as a partnership between the Department of the Army and the International Food Service Executive Association when then President of the Association, Philip A. Connelley, approached the DA.

"The IFSEA strives for excellence in the food service industry," said State food service representative Chief

***"To serve a meal that puts a smile on the face of a Soldier increases morale and makes the job worth it"***

*-Chief Warrant Officer  
Beverley Zwyer*

Warrant Officer Beverley Zwyer.

"Mr. Connelley wanted to bring some of the lessons learned by the IFSEA to the Army's food service, so he approached the DA with the idea for the competition," she said.

In addition to food preparation, the Soldiers are judged on their administration, sanitation and overall food presentation.

"If they put the mashed potatoes



Ohio assistant adjutant general of Army, Brig. Gen. Mathew Kambic, greets evaluators who will judge Ohio cooks during the Connelley competition.

in the top left compartment of the tray for one Soldier, they have to do it for all the Soldiers coming through, the presentation must be uniform," said Ruff.

While the evaluation only lasts for one day, Soldiers of the 1485th have prepared for this day for six to eight months, going over the recipe, making sure all facility paperwork is in order, training and mentoring said noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Alan Metzcar.

Before Soldiers of the 1485th can go on to compete at the DA level, they must win their region comprised of seven states: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"Once we win," said Zwyer, "we'll go on to the DA level to compete against the winners of the other regions. Once we win that, we'll go on to New Orleans for the awards banquet in early April."

Just as the cooks are putting the finishing touches on the meal, as if on cue, a squad of Soldiers from the 1485th makes a tactical insertion into the area. The Soldiers maintain perimeter security as Ohio Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt is given a tour of the facility. The lunch bell rings and the Soldiers hit the hand washing station, ready for lunch.

The menu is color coded for caloric content with a fitness menu provided, for lunch today, these Soldiers will feast on French onion soup, Saltine crackers, Creole pork chops, Islander rice, scalloped whole kernel corn, tossed green salad, assorted dressing, chocolate drop cookies, toasted garlic bread, unsweetened ice tea, milk, coffee, flavored beverages and, of course, condiments to season to taste.

"Food service specialists are a kind and caring group of people," said Zwyer.

## Arkansas engineers find 1,000th IED in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney  
875th Engineer Battalion

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – The Arkansas Army National Guard's 875th Engineer Battalion has found and cleared over 1,000 improvised explosive devices since deploying to Iraq last September, saving countless civilian and military lives.

July 13 proved to be a lucky day for Sgt. Joshua R. Beasley and 2nd Platoon, 131st Engineer Company. The eagle-eyed Soldier spied an IED along a portion of a major military supply route and civilian commerce artery in central Iraq. The 25-year-old native of Cardwell, Mo., was serving as truck commander of an armored Buffalo when he spotted the potentially deadly bomb.

The 875th deployed to Iraq in late September 2006, and is tasked with a critical assured mobility mission that includes route clearance, route sanitation and rapid crater repair. The 500-man battalion includes troops from Arkansas, Indiana and Vermont National Guard units. The battalion's Alpha Company, 2nd Platoon, made the 500th find and clear in March of this year.

"We take great pride in being the company to find and clear the 1,000th IED," said Capt. Jacob Roy, 131st company commander, "we take our mission very seriously and head out every day to do the best job possible. I couldn't be prouder of 2nd Platoon and our guys."

Once Beasley identified the IED, the patrol moved to a safe distance and called in an explosive ordinance detachment to render the bomb harmless.

The patrol then continued on with the late night mission that lasted over eight hours.

The 131st operates out of Camp Striker near Baghdad. In the vehicle with Beasley was Staff Sgt. Jason Hood, the patrol leader, Spc. Stephen Gillespie, the driver, and Spc. Samantha Gibbs, the patrol medic.

"This is a real milestone for the 875th and for our assured mobility mission," said Col. Patricia Anslow, battalion commander. "Sgt. Beasley's eagle eyes saved lives; I'm extremely proud of him and all of the incredible Soldiers of the 875th. These men and women have done an outstanding job and are making a difference every day."

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





## Katrina: The levees broke ... but not the Guard

Photo by SMS Charles R. Ware

By Bill Boehm  
National Guard Bureau  
First of a two-part series.

Imagine a city subject to devastating fires, cholera and yellow fever epidemics, fierce floods, marauding pirates and the ravages of war for nearly 300 years. It has also been subject to a series of hurricanes, the most recent of which in 2005 nearly obliterated its very heart while millions watched around the world.

How can a community like this survive? Despite a horrific past, New Orleans remains resilient, occupying a unique place in the annals of American history.

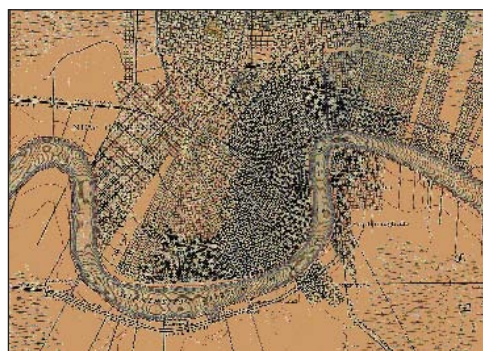
Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president, wanted to acquire New Orleans as a port on its own. That fact underscores just how important this strategic destination was to the young United States of America. Through fortunate circumstances, Jefferson acquired the city and the extensive Louisiana Territory in 1803 from France.

From there, the region embarked upon another chapter of modern history traced from its founding in 1718 by the French. Its tenuous existence depended on its proximity to both the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. The disasters that threatened the area forged its identity and its toughness.

Fast forward to 2005. A once-weakening hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico regains strength in late August and changes course to head toward the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts as a fierce Category 5 storm. Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the morning of Aug. 29 near Buras, La., and caused wind damage and flooding despite the fact it had dissipated from its waterborne speeds.

However, the majority of the damage from the hurricane in the New Orleans area came from breaches in the levee system. The

**Military medical personnel load a patient aboard a C-130H from the 130th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard. The 130th transported many patients from Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans to medical facilities in other states as part of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.**



Courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries.

**New Orleans, ca. 1891. At this time, the city was a compact settlement of about 250,000 people, surrounded by swamps.**

failure of the levees effectively flooded 80 percent of the area.

The National Guard was there in the New Orleans area as it prepared for the storm and then as it responded to the levee disasters. This humanitarian response was like no other response to a natural disaster in our nation's history. What made this response so distinctive is the fact that more than 50,000 personnel from all 54 states, territories, and the District of Columbia with National Guard assets answered the call for assistance by early September 2005.

How can we learn from this disaster as the nation observes its second anniversary?

One way is through interviews. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have shared their stories with military historians about

their participation in the rescue and relief efforts. Their accounts offer a glimpse into the hardships of duty as well as the triumphs of a grueling exercise.

Guardsmen came from all parts of the country and brought equipment and expertise capable of alleviating the suffering that the city was experiencing.

For example, the National Guard used rescue helicopters from the Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing in New York to airlift trapped residents to safety. Transport planes from the 189th Airlift Wing in Arkansas and the 130th Airlift Wing from West Virginia assisted in evacuating stranded residents.

The Guard also sheltered evacuees with assistance from local emergency providers, supplied food and water to stranded residents, and transported vital satellite equipment to the area that lacked electronic communications due to the wind and water damage.

Local responders were also hard at work. Louisiana Army and Air Guard units made a huge effort to keep basic and emergency services functioning while under great duress. Louisiana Army National Guard engineers kept the emergency generators in the Superdome running so the facility would not be cast into total darkness.

Louisiana Air National Guard personnel from the 157th Airlift Wing transported fuel to a local hospital to resupply emergency generators that were dangerously low. Despite threats of gunfire in the area, the fuel arrived at the hospital and the medical staff continued monitoring critically ill patients before evacuating themselves.

These are only a few examples of the hundreds of cases of dedicated service the National Guard provided in the city. It was a classic example of neighbors helping neighbors. Guard members offered a measure of solace to the distressed population as days grew into weeks after the initial floods. They also gave hope that a sense of order would return to the scarred city. That was the good news often forgotten amidst the chaotic working conditions.

New Orleans and the surrounding area experienced great tragedy in the storm's aftermath, and it continues to deal with a multitude of problems. For instance, the National Guard's Task Force Gator continues to assist the New Orleans Police Department as it combats crime in certain sectors of the city.

Not every story following Hurricane Katrina has had a happy ending. Yet as one talks to many living in the area, a person walks away sensing strength and optimism will help rebuild this area after this disaster laid so many lives asunder.

Next month: How the Guard responded to Katrina in Louisiana's rural parishes and in Mississippi.

## It happened in August Events that made Guard history

### Aug. 1, 1956

Capt. Norma Parsons becomes the first woman to join the National Guard when she was sworn in as a nurse in the 106th Tactical Hospital, New York Air National Guard. Only two days earlier, Congress enacted Public Law 845 allowing the participation of women in the Guard.

### Aug. 5, 1917

On this day, the entire membership of the National Guard was drafted into federal service for World War I. Just over 379,000 Guardsmen were drafted on August 5, 1917, more than doubling the size of the U.S. Army with the stroke of a pen.

### Aug. 16, 1777

An American army composed entirely of militia from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York as well as Vermont, soundly defeats a raiding party of 900 German troops foraging for horses. The German units were part of British General John Burgoyne's army attempting to capture Albany, NY. This action weakened his army, and contributed to his ultimate defeat at Saratoga in October.

### Aug. 17, 1969

Hurricane "Camille" slams into the Mississippi Gulf coast, packing winds up to 215 mph (Category 5). More than 3,200 Mississippi Guardsmen, Army and Air, are called to active state duty to render aid ranging from evacuating citizens from flooded areas, providing housing in armories for the homeless, and protecting heavily damaged communities from looting. In all, the storm, caused over \$4.2 billion (1969 dollars) in damage and cost the lives of at least 255 people.

### Aug. 18, 1846

Soon after war is declared against Mexico, American General Stephen Watts Kearny, with 2,000 soldiers, mostly Missouri volunteers, enters Santa Fe, N.M., unopposed. He claims New Mexico for the United States. Later, the Missouri troops moved south to fight Mexican armies at Brazito and Chihuahua City.

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



Photo by Dick Dryer, courtesy of Ohio Army National Guard Historical Collections

## Camp Perry celebrates 100 years of service to American marksmanship

This photo shows the firing line and targets at the 1936 National Rifle and Pistol Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. When Ohio National Guard Cpl. L. B. Jarrett fired the "First Shot" early in the morning of Aug. 19, 1907, at the newly-built Camp Perry Training Site, those in attendance had no idea that the sound from his .30-.40-caliber Krag-Jorgensen rifle would echo for years to come -- 100, to be exact. Camp Perry Military Reservation is a 640-acre training center located on the shores of Lake Erie, near Port Clinton, Ohio. The site, located along the western shoreline of Lake Erie, provides traditional and automated small arms rifle and pistol ranges for Ohio Guard Soldier training.



Commentary

# Ohio town pulls together, honors Airman killed in Iraq

By Brig. Gen. Stanley Clarke  
Deputy Director, Air National Guard

In small town America, when people see a funeral procession approaching, they still pull their cars over to the shoulder and pay their respects. But when McClure, Ohio, recently lost one of its hometown heroes serving in Iraq, it put everything aside to mourn its loss and to celebrate the freedom that such devastating loss represents.

McClure is a beautiful town in northern Ohio, about 40 miles southwest of Toledo. It is a small town with few streets, surrounded by thousands of acres of farmland.

On June 26, as the funeral procession of Air National Guard Lt. Col. Kevin "Sonny" Sonnenberg passed from church to the cemetery, the scene was one which I will never forget—old men with their farm caps over their hearts, ladies in wheel chairs, businessmen, women and children waving the flag.



Sonnenberg

On each side of the street were hundreds of folks who turned out to say goodbye and show their support for the Sonnenberg family and pride to our nation. As we

moved through McClure's beautiful farming landscapes, we passed the farm house belonging to Sonny's parents.

At the entrance to the drive, displayed in a semi-circle, were those things that represented Sonny's passions—a miniature F-16, an old pickup truck, and a pair of John Deere tractors, each flying Old Glory.

Sonnenberg's life and sacrifice represents the true spirit of the Minuteman. The men and women of our National Guard are ready to serve this country in battle, just as they have since the birth of our nation, in a moment's notice.

The significance of the Minuteman is known by all Guard men and women, but many of his family and friends may have been unaware of the symbolic relevance.

Like many Guardmembers, Sonny balanced his civilian and military life. He was a farmer, professional airline pilot, F-16 instructor pilot, husband, father, brother and friend to many. Much like the early Minutemen, he left his farm, family, job, and friends to take up arms in a cause that he believed in.

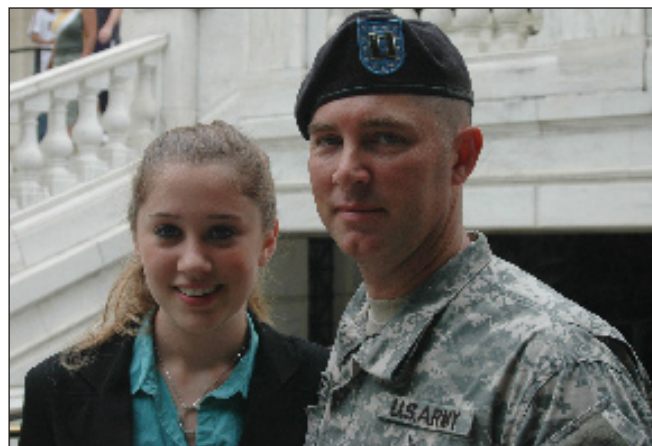
He was a volunteer and did not seek fame or special recognition for his efforts. He was passionate about his faith, family, country, flying and farming. I never met Colonel Sonnenberg, but I have met many folks like Sonny during my time in uniform.

On June 15, Sonnenberg, from the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, crashed on a combat sortie from Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Fellow squadron members performed a missing-man formation honoring Sonny, their friend and fellow Guardsman.

Our Minuteman heritage is replete with examples like Colonel Sonnenberg, their families and their communities. Sonny was a true "patriot" like that of the Minuteman; devoting himself to his country, defending those rights and freedoms that he too believed in.

I can't remember a time when I was more proud to wear a uniform or to be a Guardsman. I will keep the Sonnenberg family in my thoughts and prayers, and I salute and thank the residents of Henry County for reminding me of what is right about America.



Stephanie Kurtis, 18, greets her father, Rhode Island Army Guard Capt. Jeffrey Kurtis, 42, minutes before participating in a wreath-laying ceremony.

## Solemn honor

### Soldier's daughter represents Presidential Classroom program at Arlington

Story & photos by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. -- With her father deployed in Iraq for portions of her junior and senior years of high school, 18-year-old Stephanie Kurtis assisted her mother and became a mature adult whom her family relied upon even as adolescent rites of passage went by the wayside for the daughter of Rhode Island Army National Guard Capt. Jeffrey Kurtis.

So when it was time for the Presidential Classroom academic and leadership course to choose its representative for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, Kurtis was an overwhelming choice by her peers to represent the program. It was fitting that the young woman who had already been affected first-hand by the Global War on Terrorism represented the Presidential Classroom during the ceremony that recognized the ultimate sacrifice of the nation's military personnel, both known and unknown.

Kurtis was one of four students from the Presidential Classroom who participated in the afternoon wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns June 29. On a warm but dreary afternoon, Kurtis left a memorial wreath with the 3rd U.S. Infantry Soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns.

"I was honored. I uphold the military and the troops with extreme respect," said Stephanie, who graduated from Portsmouth (R.I.) High School this spring. "It was very eye-opening and it was something I'll never forget."

"This ceremony makes me thankful for those who came home and it makes me remember those who couldn't get home."

Presidential Classroom is an academic and leadership development course in Washington, D.C. It allows high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to observe the federal government at work. Stephanie was accepted into the program based on her SAT scores and grades. The organization provides a wreath for the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns each Friday at 3 p.m. between June and August.

With Jeffrey deployed in Iraq from August 2005 to October 2006, wife Bonnie had to rely on Stephanie for household help



Stephanie Kurtis, of Portsmouth, R.I., lays a wreath with a classmate at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery June 29. Kurtis was chosen by her peers in the Presidential Classroom course to participate in the ceremony.

with the family that also includes Gabrielle, 14, Zachary, 9, and Nathaniel, 3. There was no time for a driver's license, an after-school job and nights out with friends.

"I could have never have survived deployment without her," said her mother Bonnie. "She was never able to do typical teen-ager things. If I needed a time-out, she would take the kids. She was just tremendous."

To be chosen to represent the Presidential Classroom organization, Stephanie had to explain to the class of 40 of her peers why she wanted to participate in the ceremony. She told the group her dad had been in Iraq, she knew many people still fighting the war and she came from one of the most patriotic families in the country. Stephanie received an overwhelming amount of the votes, she said.

"I explained how my dad was in Iraq and I knew people still fighting in the war and how we are the most patriotic family ever," Stephanie said. "Our bathroom is even painted red, white and blue."

Stephanie didn't play up her personal sacrifices in front of her peers, but she did admit her father's deployment affected her dramatically.

"I basically put my life on hold one month before turning 18," said Stephanie, who is set to attend the Community College of Rhode Island this fall. "I couldn't get my driver's permit because my mom couldn't get out with me to practice."

Jeffrey Kurtis, who was deployed to Iraq with the Rhode Island Army Guard's 43rd Military Police Brigade, said he was ecstatic to hear his daughter had been selected to participate in the ceremony. With just four days notice, he arranged for the entire family to travel by train from Rhode Island to Arlington to witness the ceremony.

"It was seven hours on the train but we were going to make it happen," said Kurtis, now an officer in the Rhode Island National Guard's 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery Brigade. "Everyone in the Rhode Island Guard has been extremely supportive."

