



# THE ON GUARD

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Newspaper of the National Guard



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## Earnhardt will drive Guard car

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

DALLAS – Dale Earnhardt Jr., whose family's name is part and parcel with the American motorsports legend, will drive the Chevrolet that the National Guard will sponsor in NASCAR's top-level Sprint Cup series next year.

Earnhardt, "Junior" to the millions who follow the sport, will drive the 88 car for Hendrick Motorsports' new team that will have PepsiCo products Mountain Dew and AMP Energy as its other major sponsors, it was announced during a nationally televised press conference here Sept. 19.

The popularity of the Earnhardt name raises the Guard's participation in one of America's two most popular spectator sports, the National Football League being the other, to a new level, said Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard.

NASCAR appeals to the same age group, 18-24, that is the prime recruiting group for the Guard and the other military services, Vaughn pointed out. The Army Guard has to recruit about 70,000 new people every year, he said at the Dallas Convention Center.

"If the strength of our recruiting is the same place that you run NASCAR, which it is, and if Dale Earnhardt Jr. is the most popular of all

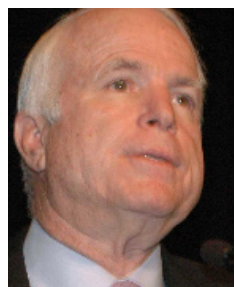
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## 'You are the best among us,' McCain tells Guard group

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

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – America must make a new and lasting commitment to the National Guard, U.S. Sen. John McCain said here Aug. 27.

The actions of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen since the 9/11 terrorist attacks have changed how Americans think about the National Guard, McCain told the National Guard Association of the United States' 129th General Con-



Sen. McCain

**MCCAIN TELLS GUARD**  
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Photo by Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

### Light work

Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. Adam Fleck installs a search light on the roof of a Humvee for use during night patrols in Camp Buehring, Kuwait Aug. 9. Fleck is a mechanic for the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, which is providing force protection in the Baghdad area. Mechanics often work at night to avoid temperatures that often reach more than 120 degrees during the day.

## Stunt pilot dives into Air Force Week-New England

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

OTIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. – When it was parked on the flight line, the 330 horsepower, carbon-fiber Air National Guard stunt plane, with its colorful paint scheme, drew looks from passersby. But when its owner took off and barrel-rolled it with white smoke trailing, then soared high into the clouds before stalling and flipping end-over-end, careening towards the ground in a propeller-buzzing spiral, the spectators gasped, then cheered as it recovered.

The daring, highly-skilled pilot, Maj. John Klatt from the ANG's Guarding America, Defending Freedom Aerobatic Team, was one of many stunt pilots who flew at Otis Air National Guard Base here Aug. 24-26, which wrapped up Air Force Week-New England.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out for air shows at Pease Air National Guard Base in New Hampshire and at Otis on Cape

Cod over two August weekends and for a host of other events during the week in between. The Air Force's Thunderbirds also performed at Cape Cod. Air Force Week New England was one the ANG's major events during the Air Force's 60th anniversary celebrations this year.

"What a performance. I'd think he'd get dizzy," said Tom Miller who, with his 6-year-old son, watched Klatt perform. "You'd think the plane couldn't handle that."

For the last three years, Klatt and his Staudacher S-300D – a single-prop, high performance aerobatic plane that reaches speeds of 250 mph – has traveled to air shows across the nation promoting the ANG. He has performed in more than a dozen shows this year, and he will fly in at least 10 more before November – a full air show season.

What makes Klatt unique from other air show performers is his fulltime mission: promoting the ANG. Partnering with the ANG,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

**Aerobatics pilot Maj. John Klatt performed at the Cape Cod Air Show Aug. 24.**

he and his three-man team travel to air shows much like a race car team travels from racetrack to racetrack.

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**Kentucky Soldiers stabilize Baghdad neighborhood: Pages 8-9**



# WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'GOOD TO GO?'

## 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.

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

Jermaine Walker

My oldest son has issued the following warning: If I ever end another of our telephone conversations with him by saying "Out here," he will change his family name to Smith or Jones and get an unlisted number.

He insists, with the tenacity he gets from his mother, that he is a civilian to the core and that he has always preferred the free-spirited side to his old man rather than the regimented side. I am trying hard to reform because I do want to keep open the telephone lines of communication between us.

That concern got me to wondering about the way we communicate with our civilian brothers and sisters when we talk to them face-to-face or by telephone or e-mail. Recruiting and retention are among the things that always concern those of us in uniform, and I wonder if we are shooting ourselves in the foot because we have stopped speaking English.

As far as both of my sons are concerned, "Roger" is a rabbit; not a variation of "I understand." "Leave" is what you do when you go home. It does not mean taking time off or going on vacation. And "good to go?" They look at me as if I'm saying "all set" in Martian. They can't tell whether I'm serious or just showing off. I can only imagine how they'd look at me if I ever asked them "Are we tracking?"

We refer to so many things by their initials – POV, TDY, and ASAP (or A-sap) come to mind – that people may wonder if we're trying to wear out the alphabet. If someone has to ask "What do you mean?"



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

then you have interfered with the process of communication.

And here's what really irks me. You call an armory. Someone answers the phone with the run-away salutation "Threesixtysecondmesskitrepaircompny, canlhelpyousiorma'm?" To me, it's annoying to have to ask the sergeant, or whomever, to repeat themselves. I'm afraid it can be downright intimidating to a wife trying to reach her husband who forgot his cell phone or to a mother trying to locate her son. And telling them to "wait one" rather than saying "just a moment, please" undoubtedly adds to the frustration.

Then there are the speech mannerisms and the dialects of the members of the ethnic cultures that punctuate our diverse force. I'm from Maine, where we self-righteously believe

the Queen's English is prized above all else, and I really don't understand anyone from Louisiana.

Add up all of these factors, and the United States military, including the National Guard, is its own Tower of Babel – many people saying the same things in different ways. It can be downright confusing to people who are not accustomed to our military lingo and ethnic eccentricities.

All professions have their expressions and their buzz words.

Lawyers say things like pro bono (working for free) and pro se (he didn't hire a lawyer, the fool). Doctors throw around words with lots of syllables to make it perfectly clear that they are doctors. Masons say "mud," not mortar. Sailors call walls "bulkheads."

And some people use the same words in different ways. There is a great story about how people in the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army use the word "secure," as in "secure a building." The Navy locks it up at the end of the day. The Air Force buys it. The Marines set up a perimeter with checkpoints. The Army blows it up.

Furthermore, a lot of "educated" people just love the expression "quid pro quo," which, loosely translated, is a 50-cent way of saying "pay back."

I have long maintained that the really smart people have the ability to share their ideas and insights with the greatest number of people and that talking over someone else's head does not make the speaker very

smart at all. I have also concluded that telling your mother "I'm going TDY to Gitmo for two months. I want to park my POV out back. Hooah?" doesn't make you anymore of a Soldier than asking, in English, "Is it OK if I park my car out back while I'm at Guantanamo Bay for the next two months?"

The August edition of GX magazine devotes a page in its Family section to Army jargon. Staff Sgt. Heather Allen offers up a list of slang expressions and another list of acronyms to help civilians understand what we're talking about when our jargon spills over into a conversation with someone who doesn't know very much about the Army or the National Guard.

I like GX magazine a lot. Great photos. Timely stories from the battlefields and domestic front. Informative history. An educational cartoon strip about our Guard heroes. There's a good mix for everyone in the Army National Guard – from our newest recruits to old Soldiers like me.

But I think GX misses the mark by publishing its guide to Army lingo for civilians. Why not encourage our Soldiers to remember who they're talking to and speak accordingly? Why not encourage us to speak the same English that we spoke before we took the oath?

I believe that, by and large, the recruiters are very good at this. They have to be to do their jobs. But let's face it. We're all recruiters. We all want to persuade good people to join our ranks so they can know the satisfaction of being always ready, always there. That frequently means helping to persuade moms and dads and wives and husbands that joining the National Guard is a good idea for their son, daughter or spouse. I'm pretty sure we'll be even more successful if they know what we're talking about.

So. Are we tracking? Do I make myself clear? Good.

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## Corrections

I was reading the article titled "Katrina: The levees broke... but not the Guard." I am one of the members of the 159th Fighter Wing that helped transport fuel to nearby hospitals and shelters for the emergency generators. I was just curious who the 157th Airlift Wing is that you gave credit to for doing such actions?

*-Staff Sgt. Steven Galmiche, 159th Fight Wing, Maintenance Squadron, Aircraft Ground Equipment*

Staff Sgt. Galmiche:

You are correct. In the article I wrote for the August 2007 On Guard, I incorrectly cited the 157th Airlift Wing as the unit in question, per your remark. It was, in fact, the 159th Fighter Wing of the Louisiana Air National Guard that delivered the fuel to the stricken hospitals and shelters in New Orleans, per the oral history I recorded from Lt. Col. George Wilson in May 2007 at Belle Chasse Naval Air Station. Thank you very much for your interest in reading the historical features in the On Guard, and I apologize for my error.

*-Bill Boehm, Archivist, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs*

## Reader feedback

I cannot read your paper anymore ... Because of the fact that every time you have anything about airlift it's ALWAYS about those damn C-17s! NEVER anything about C-5s, which of course do NOT need an air refuel to accomplish their mission, nor does it need two aircraft to do the same job. In the last three and a half years I have flown 1,700 hours in a C-5. I'm sick of this paper and your lack of caring for the 150 C5s that support this country.

*-Staff Sgt. Richard Martin, Tennessee National Guard*

(The reader can take comfort in knowing that we have run a picture of a C-5 in conjunction with Air Force Week-New England on page 13)

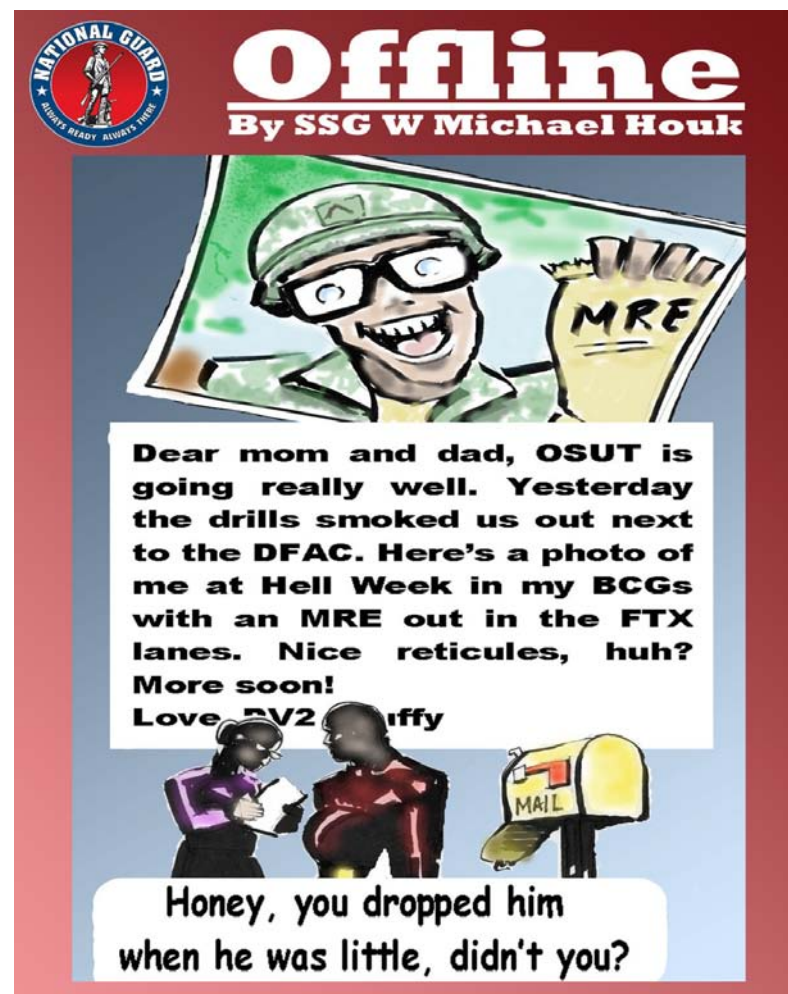






Photo by Fred W. Baker III

Missouri Army National Guard Col. Frederick J. West stops along the Walden Point Road to show some dried muskeg, which is made up of layers of decomposing dead plants and trees. While building the Walden Point Road through Annette Island in southeast Alaska, crews had to dig out muskeg as much as 30 feet deep, and refill the void with rock and soil.

## Missouri celebrates Operation Alaskan Road's completion

By Jamie P. Melchert  
Missouri National Guard

ANNETTE ISLAND, Alaska – Missouri Guardmembers, military leaders, legislators and local residents celebrated the transfer of a 14.3-mile road to the Metlakatla Indian Community Aug. 6. This marks the end of a 10-year Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training project that will provide a lifeline for the Metlakatla through the rugged mountains and wilderness of this remote island.

A joint task force project, known officially as Operation Alaskan Road, was designed to utilize reserve and active military component members to construct a roadway to help connect the Metlakatla with a ferry boat dock located on the northern tip of the island.

"I am proud that the Missouri National Guard has provided several key leadership positions as well as engineering expertise toward the completion of this project," said Maj. Gen. King E. Sidwell, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard, during the transfer ceremony.

In addition to providing essential engineering talents, Sidwell noted that Missouri Guard members who were assigned to both rotational and durational duties worked hard during difficult weather conditions to provide vital support operations. Missouri's Citizen-Soldiers prepared hot meals, conducted water purification, provided medical care and maintained heavy equipment to support the project.

"The people here are very grateful to the Missouri National Guard," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gross, who also attended the ceremony. "They are also very close to Col. West for his many years of service to this project."

"Most people can only dream about being part of something greater than themselves. I

am fortunate that I get to reminisce about being part of a dream that is close to becoming a reality," said Missouri Army Guard Col. Jerry West, commander of Joint Force Engineering Component Command.

West, who has been a key leader with the Alaskan road project for over eight years, was presented a tribal robe by Metlakatla Indian Community during a celebration that marked the end of the military's role in the project.

"When the community of Metlakatla honors a very important person, they present them with a button robe blanket. My blanket has all four clans of the community: Eagle, Raven, Whale and Bear," explained West. "These four clans form a circle that represents a family which cannot be broken. Having all four clans together brings power and strength."

First proposed by the Metlakatla Indian Community nearly 60 years ago, the road project started to become reality in 1997 when plans were formulated and the base camp, Camp Wy Wuh, was built, according to project reports. Road construction began in 1998 with clearing the land through the temperate rainforest. That was followed by blasting hillside rock, excavating and hauling away materials to make way for the roadway, installing culverts, building the road surface, and bridge construction.

Approximately 12,000 military members served primarily on two-week work rotations to support the project. Navy Seabees and National Guard engineers blasted approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of solid granite. Members of the Active Army, National Guard and Marines hauled away over 3 million cubic yards of material.

Progress on the roadway ranged from nearly three miles per year to less than one mile per year. Limitations on construction

were mainly attributed to harsh winters, high amounts of rainfall which is common to the region, and safety considerations.

"The highlight of this mission – other than the obvious success of completing this road – is our safety record," said West. "I was very thankful to have other experienced professionals to work with in building the road. Alaska is forest, mountains, muskeg, rain and dangerous waters. In the 10-year history of this project, no one sustained an injury resulting in loss of limb or loss of life."

West said the task force was slated to lower its flag on Sept. 15, and Alaskan Command will complete the activities on the island.

"There are many Missouri Guardsmen who have contributed to our success, some retired and some still active," said West. "I thank them all for what they have done. I consider myself fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve while doing something for the servicemembers who benefited in their training while helping make a dream come true for the Metlakatla."



Missouri National Guard photo

Construction recently ended on the 14.3-mile roadway on Annette Island, Alaska.

## Hire A Hero program links vets with jobs

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Although much of the stress associated with a National Guard deployment concludes upon redeployment, a new concern can surface as Soldiers and Airmen return to their homes. It is the angst that goes with finding a job if the returning veteran does not have one waiting.

For those Soldiers and Airmen seeking work, there is a new Internet tool, [www.hireahero.org](http://www.hireahero.org), to link military jobseekers with military-friendly employers.

"It's a site best described as where 'My Space' meets 'Monster.com' for the military community," said Dan Caulfield, the executive director of the non-profit organization Hire a Hero that operates the site. "It's a social network that enables veterans to connect with jobs."

The site [www.hireahero.org](http://www.hireahero.org) is designed to match employers searching for employees with military qualities and skills with job seekers looking for careers. More than 600 businesses have participated

on the job board, and more than 180,000 individuals have registered at the site. The site also allows those in the military community to expand their networking abilities, especially in the Soldiers' and Airmen's home communities.

"When someone comes back from a military deployment, they want to go back to work in their home area," said Caulfield, who was a Marine Corps infantry officer from 1989-1994. "The networking features of Hire a Hero allow the Soldier or Airmen to talk to more people in their area."

Caulfield, 40, stressed that networking is an important aspect of a job search, with success rates for jobseekers increasing dramatically with increased networking. Caulfield said a recent internal [www.hireahero.org](http://www.hireahero.org) survey revealed that jobseekers who networked with more than six site users had a success rate of more than 30 percent.

"We know that the more people you talk to as you look for a job the better your chances of finding a good job," Caulfield said. "We want to get you connected with people local to where you want to work."

Caulfield's ultimate goal is to eliminate the "military service penalty." He describes that as the under-employment of recently discharged veterans compared to their civilian peers who have chosen not to serve. According to the Department of Labor, the rate of unemployment for recently discharged veterans ages 20-24 was 15.6 percent in 2005, about double the non-veteran rate of 8.7 percent.

Under-employment does not just refer to unemployment statistics. Caulfield explained under-employment occurs when a veteran returns home and takes a job for which he or she is over-qualified and that the person could have landed right out of high school.

"They are being offered the bottom-level corporate jobs that pay \$8-12 per hour as opposed to the \$15-20 per hour jobs that they need to make it in the market today," Caulfield said.

Caulfield added that the military stereotype

**HIRE A HERO continued on:  
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## ALABAMA

The Yellowhammer State's 1169th Engineer Group, an Army Guard unit out of Huntsville, recently concluded a tour in Iraq. It supported all combat engineer missions of Multi-National Division – Baghdad from November 2006 through September 2007. During the year, the 1169th conducted more than 1,800 engineer missions resulting in the construction of 27 coalition outposts, 26 joint security stations, five safe neighborhoods and three markets.

## ALASKA

More than 120 Army, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers graduated from Air Assault School held in The Last Frontier state Aug. 24. Hosted by the state's 207th Infantry Brigade, the 10-day course was taught by instructors from the National Guard Warrior Training Center, Fort Benning, Ga.

## ARKANSAS

Approximately 60 Soldiers from the Natural State's 77th Aviation Brigade, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment were welcomed home Aug. 23 after a year-long deployment to Iraq. The battalion lost three Soldiers: Command Sgt. Maj. William "Tom" Warren, Maj. Michael Taylor, and Sgt. 1st Class John "Gary" Brown were among the 15 National Guardmembers killed Jan. 20 when their Blackhawk crashed near Baghdad as a result of enemy fire.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

About 80 students graduated from the D.C. Guard's About Face program in August. The seven-week program encourages students ages 13-17 to stay in school and teaches them basic life skills such as finding a job and balancing a checkbook. The students spent four weeks in the classroom and three at job sites.

## DELAWARE

More than 100 youths spent a fun-filled week at the beach as the First State National Guard hosted its 7th annual Youth Camp at the Bethany Beach Training Site July 29-Aug. 4. The campers ranged in age from 9-17 and are dependents of active and retired Soldiers and Airmen from the Diamond State's National Guard.

## GEORGIA

Peach State Army and Air National Guardsmen have a new commander following the announcement by Gov. Sonny Perdue Sept. 6 of the retirement of Lt. Gen. David B. Poythress, the state's adjutant general, from the military. The governor named Maj. Gen. William T. Nesbitt, commander, Georgia Army National Guard, as the new adjutant general. The announcement affects more than 13,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen in the state.

## ILLINOIS

The Prairie State's 958th Transportation Detachment from Belleville recently returned from a one-year deployment in Iraq to Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, Ind. During their deployment to Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, the 16-Soldier unit was responsible for providing movement control and gate security.

## IOWA

Approximately 50 Hawkeye State Army Guard Soldiers mobilized with Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation, were honored with a welcome home ceremony Sept. 13. The Soldiers were mobilized in January 2006 and deployed to Iraq and the Central Command (CENTCOM) theater of operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

## KANSAS

The Sunflower State's 535th Movement Control Teams of Manhattan returned to Camp Atterbury in August after a one-year deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During its stay at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, the 13-Soldier team maintained two control groups for ground and air. The team's tasks included checking the routes of all movements to and from the COB, ensuring the timeliness of all cargo shipments, and assigning trip tickets for all mobile missions.

## KENTUCKY

The Bluegrass State's Army Guard is currently recruiting qualified lawyers to join its

# ★ Guarding America ★

judge advocate general corps. Positions are traditional "mobilization day" slots, which requires attending drill two days a month and annual training two weeks a year.

## MAINE

Thirty-six Soldiers of the Pine Tree State's Detachment 1, 169th Military Police Company arrived Sept. 12 safely in Kuwait. The detachment spent more than 60 days of mobilization station training and preparation at Fort Dix, N.J. While in Kuwait, the unit plans to acclimatize to the new environment, receive their equipment and make final preparations prior to performing their mission: training Iraqi police officers in basic military police tasks.

## MARYLAND

From July 9-23, Airmen of the Old Line State Air National Guard's 175th Medical Group from Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, along with members of the Maryland Defense Force traveled to the Sioux Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota to provide much-needed medical services to reservation residents.

## MINNESOTA

The U.S. Army Northern Command validated The North Star State's National Guard emergency response unit, or CERF-P, on Aug. 20. The unit provides immediate capabilities to the governor including: incident site search capability of damaged buildings, rescue capability, decontamination, and medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize patients for transport to medical facilities.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

More than 1,000 Granite State Citizen-Soldiers assembled in formation Sept. 8 to officially recognize the transformation of the state's Army Guard from a strategic reserve to a leaner, more diverse force with new units and new opportunities. It's exchanging traditional howitzers for modern rocket artillery, units are being repositioned throughout the state and three under-used armories will be closed.

## NEW JERSEY

The Garden State's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team hosted members of the Albanian Army during the brigade's annual training at Fort Drum, N.Y. in August. This exchange is part of the ongoing bilateral relationship the state has with the republic of Albania.

## NEW YORK

Citizen-Airmen of the Northeast Air Defense Sector in the Empire State played a role in intercepting a small aircraft that strayed into the restricted airspace over Washington D.C. Aug. 1. Members of NEADS assisted in controlling two F-16 fighters, under the direction of North American Aerospace Defense Command, on a mission to intercept a small Cessna aircraft.

## OHIO

The Buckeye State's 135th Military Police Company conducted training exercises at two southern Ohio correctional institutions, Chillicothe Correctional Institution and Ross Correctional Institution, in August. One scenario included Guardmembers being called upon to help with day-to-day operations at the institution if the situation warranted it.

## OKLAHOMA

The Sooner State Army Guard announced in August that the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT) has received its mobilization order for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 45th has been on alert for possible duty in Iraq since last April. On Oct. 19, more than 2,400 of the state's Army Guard Soldiers will be mobilized for active duty in Iraq.

## OREGON

Operation Noble Resolve, a computer software experiment, was conducted in late August at the Joint Operations Center of the Beaver State National Guard. The goal of the experiment was to test communication abilities using a variety of tools including Common Operating Picture tools, Web notification and warning tools, and modeling and simulation tools

for computer mapping during a catastrophic emergency. These tools have been adopted by the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA and other emergency responders.

## PUERTO RICO

Five journalists assigned to the 113th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment of Puerto Rico worked side-by-side with national media outlets during a Women's National Basketball Association game between the Indiana Fever and Washington Mystics on July 31 at Conseco Fieldhouse. The unit, set to deploy to Iraq in September, covered the game as part of its sports training in public affairs while temporarily stationed at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Harry Burchstead, deputy adjutant general for the Palmetto State Army National Guard, presented the 122nd Engineer Battalion with the Valorous Unit Award Aug. 11. The unit received the award for its extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving during Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2003 through April 2004.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

The Mount Rushmore State's 109th Engineer Group, which just returned from a one-year deployment in Afghanistan, took on a new name as the 109th Regional Support Group last month. The 109th Engineer Group unit, which has a history of quick call-ups for active duty, was re-designated Sept. 8. Federally recognized in 1956, the 109th was organized as the command and control headquarters for the all engineer units in the state.

## VIRGINIA

The Old Dominion State's 192nd Fighter Wing held a ceremony Sept. 16 celebrating the highlights of the wing's 60 years at Richmond International Airport as the Virginia Air National Guard finalizes the unit's relocation to Langley Air Force Base, Va. The event marked the end of an era for the wing as the unit and its nearly 1,000 Airmen now fly the F-22A Raptor at Langley AFB.

## WYOMING

Fourteen members of the 153rd Aerial Port Flight of the Equality State Air National Guard returned to Cheyenne Sept. 9 after a four-month deployment. The group deployed to Qatar and their primary mission was the loading and unloading of cargo and people on aircraft.

## The foundation of border security



Master Sgt. Trina Stratton, Civil Engineer Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, measures where the next foundation will be placed at the San Luis site located near Yuma, Ariz., on Aug. 21. The foundations serve as the anchors for the fence that is part of the tactical infrastructure between the United States and Mexico. The 177th Civil Engineers deployed to Yuma from Aug. 18-31 in support of Operation Jump Start.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen





Above: Soldiers from C Company, 130th Engineer Battalion, Puerto Rico National Guard, use the claw of a Buffalo mine-protected vehicle to investigate a suspicious item while on a mission in Baghdad to clear routes of Improvised Explosive Devices Aug. 11. The 130th has cleared more than 70 percent of the IED's found in Baghdad since they arrived in September 2006. Below: Spc. Luis Medina, left, and 1st Lt. Juan Flores transport a robot used to investigate suspected IEDs during preparation for a route-clearing mission.

# Guard mine hunters provide peace of mind

Puerto Rican Soldiers clear the way in Baghdad

**Story, photos by Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum**  
58th Brigade Combat Team

The Improvised Explosive Device is one of the most dangerous weapons facing U.S. and coalition combat troops in Iraq. The question is: How to defeat it? With technology? Sure. Human intelligence? Also good. Another option is to call in the 130th Engineer Battalion, Puerto Rico Army National Guard, to simply clear your route.

These "Mine Hunters," as they call themselves, are out every day of the week with vehicles such as Buffaloes, RG-31's, Huskies, as well as the ever-present M114 up-armored Humvees, spotting and then disabling enemy IEDs before they can be detonated.

One recent mission began three hours before it was time to hit the road. Vehicles and weapons received preventive maintenance, bomb-defusing robots were checked and loaded onto vehicles, a mission briefing was given, and perhaps most importantly, dinner was served. Rather than going to the chow hall, the unit received their meals next to their vehicles, delivered by off-duty members. This, said Flores, lessens the preparation time so that they can get on the road quicker.

Then it was off to the fabled land known to those on Victory Base Complex as "outside the wire" to make the roads safe for convoys. However, the area the battalion Soldiers cover is more than any other engineer unit.

"They just concentrate on their battle space," said 1st Lt. Juan Flores, a platoon leader with C Company, 130th Engineering Battalion, referring to how other engineer units work. "We go through *all* battle space. We cover more space [and] spend more time out there."

As they drove through the streets of Baghdad, children waved as the engineers passed by. Some did a little dance or asked for water. After a close to a year of clearing these streets, Flores said things have changed for the better.

"You could hardly see civilians out there, people walking on the streets or kids playing around," Flores said of when his unit first arrived. "Today we know we have made a difference. It's nice to see civilians that can

go outside their houses, sitting around. Seeing kids play like nothing happened."

Being able to make the local residents feel safer is thanks, in part, to the vehicles the Soldiers operate. A formidable weapon in the arsenal of the engineers is the Husky anti-mine vehicle. This one-Soldier vehicle has sophisticated mine detection systems, which make it an important part of any route-clearing convoy. The fact that they have a high survivability rate is also a factor in their success, said Flores.

"As of today, throughout of all Baghdad, there hasn't been an incident with a Husky that I have heard of ... [with] a KIA (killed in action) or a serious wounded Soldier. And that's what makes this vehicle so safe and so reliable to work with," Flores said.

While on the road the occupant of one of the Huskies saw a suspicious object. The platoon sprung into action. Traffic was blocked on both sides and the Soldiers moved the Buffalo forward to do its job. The engineers scraped around the object with the Buffalo's giant claw, looking for anything suspicious. In the end, it was a false alarm, but that's all right with Flores and his Soldiers. Caution has made the unit one of the best currently in theatre.

"We're very proud of what we're doing and, yeah, we actually have set a standard for Baghdad," said Flores. That standard, he said, is the unit's discovery of 70 percent of all found roadside bombs in the Baghdad area.

When night falls, the prudent thing to do is extinguish any unnecessary light to avoid sniper fire. This, however, is not what happens on a route clearing mission. To find those roadside bombs, light is needed. And so gigantic floodlights on each vehicle are turned on, lighting up the sides of the road.

Four hours later, after an uneventful night on the town with not even a sniper taking a potshot, the convoy passed through the gate to Victory Base Complex. They cleared their weapons, did more equipment maintenance and checks and went off to bed. Tomorrow, they'll do the whole thing over again.

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



## 130th only as good as its mechanics

**By Sgt. S. Patrick McCollum**

Just as crucial as the work of the "Mine Hunters" of the 130th Engineer Battalion are the efforts of their support element. With a 98 percent equipment readiness rate, the mechanics of the battalion work tirelessly to keep the unit moving.

It wasn't always this way. The mechanics have faced unique challenges to achieve that rate. New equipment, little training, and vehicles ravaged by previous improper maintenance were just some of the obstacles that needed to be overcome before the mission could be called a success.

"When we came over here a lot of these vehicles were pretty beat up," said Spc. Angel Cruz, a heavy-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the battalion. "We took care of them, started work on them real good. And right now we've got two or three vehicles in our shop because mostly we've got the vehicles ready to go." Cruz attributed the health of the vehicles to mandatory checks that occur after every mission.

"Every time the line units come back from a mission they come and we double check the voltage, all the maintenance things," he said.

Fixing and maintaining these vehicles are now old hat to these engine jockeys.

There was a time, however, when Cruz and his cohorts had never even seen route clearance equipment, also known as RCE, such as a Buffalo. This made it even more

difficult to apply proper maintenance.

"We've never experienced working with this RC equipment before," said Chief Warrant Officer Luis Santiago, the battalion maintenance technician. "My challenge at the beginning of this operation was to get everybody familiar with the RCE. It took us like two or three weeks to get familiarized with the RC equipment and get the operation running."

"Back in home station what I have is five tons, 2 1/2 tons, Humvees," said Lt. Col. Angelica Reyes, the battalion commander, commenting on the vehicles she had back in Puerto Rico. "When you arrive here and receive the package that was already here in position for us, it's a completely different picture." The Soldiers, she said, didn't have the traditional technical manuals that guided the Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services of more standard issue vehicles. Through research and general know-how, they persevered to achieve the 98 percent readiness rate, Reyes said.

After mastery of the inner workings of the new vehicles and 10 months in country, the line units can now expect to turn in their vehicles and receive them the next day with just a few caveats.

"The turnaround time for our route clearance equipment is somewhere between four to eight hours. That depends on if they've got the parts on hand or not," Santiago said.

That achievement can be chalked up to one thing.

"They're well prepared," Reyes said. "They know their job."



# Suicide: major threat to Guard Soldiers

By SFC Erick Studenicka  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. -- In terms of a threat to Army National Guard Soldiers, it easily rivals rounds from a concealed sniper, an explosion from a hidden improvised explosive device or a blast from rocket propelled grenade. The threat doesn't stem from any foreign armed forces or military power and casualties resulting from this threat are often the saddest and most heart-breaking of deaths for the family and friends of these Soldiers.

The threat is suicide, which ranks as the No. 3 cause of death for Army National Guard Soldiers through Aug. 13. There have been 42 cases of suicide in the Army National Guard this fiscal year and it narrowly trails only combat (47) and accidents (45) in terms of Soldier deaths.

Statistics reveal the National Guard suicide trend mirrors the active-duty Army and the numbers are increasing. The active-duty Army Suicide Event Report released Aug. 16 reported there were 99 confirmed suicides among active-duty Soldiers in calendar year 2006, its highest number since 1991. The Army National Guard's total of 42 is the already 17 more than the 2006 total and marks the highest total since the Army National Guard began keeping suicide statistics in 2004.

The comparison to the active duty has one major difference though, according to Master Sgt. Marshall Bradshaw, the National Guard Bureau suicide prevention manager.

"The active-duty Army has

resources and facilities available to the Soldiers 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Bradshaw said. "They have a greater ability to track information and provide suicide-prevention resources to their Soldiers."

"Providing suicide-prevention resources (for the National Guard) is a greater challenge," he said.

Bradshaw was the subject matter expert representative for the National Guard Bureau at the Army Suicide media roundtable held in conjunction with the Army's release of its 165-page Army Suicide Event Report. The roundtable was held at the Pentagon and was televised on C-SPAN. The event was mediated by Army Col. Dennis Dingle, the Army director of human resources policy directorate.

Bradshaw said that current suicide numbers for the Army National Guard may be skewed high due to recent changes in reporting methods and improved information collection.

"The National Guard appointed its first full-time suicide prevention program manager in August 2006. Until that time, there weren't good tracking mechanisms in place," said Bradshaw, an Oregon National Guardsman who recently became the program manager Aug. 1. "We believe much of our information, our increased numbers, is due to better tracking mechanisms."

"However, logic would tend to agree, along with the Army and its increased deployments, that our suicide numbers would increase also."

It's yet to be proven, however, that there is a direct correlation between deployments and suicide. According to Col. Elspeth Ritchie, the behavioral health psychiatry consultant to the U.S. Army surgeon general and a roundtable participant, there is currently little statistical evidence linking suicide with the number and length of Soldier deployments. She did say that failed relationships are believed to be the cause of 70-80 per cent of suicides and that deployment-linked stress definitely could be a factor behind strained relationships.

Finances and employment issues are two other major causes of suicide, according to Bradshaw.

National Guard statistics reveal 60 percent of Soldiers who committed suicide this year have been on a previous deployment.

Other National Guard suicide statistics from this fiscal year show that a gunshot wound is the most common method of suicide (67 percent) and lower enlisted ranks make up the majority of suicides (32 of the 42 suicides were committed by the ranks of sergeant and below). Thirty-nine of the 42 suicides this year were committed by male Soldiers.

The National Guard's suicide rate (12 per 100,000) remains about the same as that of the general U.S. population (11.05 per 100,000; source Center for Disease Control). However, when comparing data using the only the 17-64 age group, the National Guard's suicide rate compares favorably to that age group's rate of 19.5 suicides per 100,000,



By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Master Sgt. Marshall Bradshaw, the National Guard Bureau's suicide prevention program manager, posts a suicide prevention placard at the Bureau's joint headquarters in the Jefferson Plaza One Building in Arlington, Va., Aug. 17.

Bradshaw said. Bradshaw said the fact is moot because each Soldier is an important, valuable resource to the military and the National Guard will continue to prioritize suicide prevention.

In addition to the commitment

of the National Guard toward a full-time suicide prevention program manager, 30 states have now appointed part-time managers as an additional duty. Training for the state suicide prevention program managers is set for spring 2008.

## Nevada embraces ANG's efficiency plan

### First state to host AFSO21 training course

By Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter  
Nevada National Guard

Working hard has its rewards, but working smarter returns even better rewards.

For the past few years, the Air Force has developed a plan to combine its operations and processes and rewrite the book on how to save time and money. The program is called Air Force Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO21) and is a program designed to solve problems, eliminate waste and systematically find better ways to streamline workloads and strengthen combat effectiveness.

The Nevada National Guard leadership team was so impressed by AFSO21 that it asked to have the program presented to Silver State Airmen and Soldiers. Air Guard members from Channel Islands, Calif. also participated.

Though the course has been gaining momentum since 2005, this was the first time training was held outside the Washington D.C.-area and the first time Army Guard Soldiers had been included in a cross-functional setting.

Nevada Air Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks saw first-hand how AFSO21 implementation had been successful for the Air Force staff at the Pentagon, the National Guard Bureau, and within major commands

around the world. Burks worked with Air Force staff coordinators to make the training available to the National Guard.

"I felt taking the training to the field and not only getting the book learning but the hands-on education would add significant realism to the lessons learned," Burks said.

According to the class coordinator, Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bunker, Nevada Guard leaders quickly became aware of the benefits of the course.

"Once we saw what this could do for us, the TAG quickly asked to have the AFSO21 brought to Nevada," Bunker said. "This is the first time this course was being conducted in the field for the Guard, and we're really excited to have it here."

The program will also help to improve communications, personnel involvement, direction and motivation for all involved.

"We're going to be able to reduce a lot of waste now," Bunker said. "It will eliminate non-value added work in processes and free people to focus on their real duties. That will save a lot of time and money and really help our combat effectiveness."

The AFSO21 tools will help units to meet five desired effects in the plan: people productivity, critical assets availability, cycle time/combat capability, fuel savings and safety.

The initial facilitator course is a week long and Bunker said everyone can benefit from the instruction. AFSO21 concepts are taken from successful corporations around the world

and its value has been proven many times over. The language and methodology of the program is universal, whether one is repairing aircraft at Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, dispensing medicine at a pharmacy at Tyndall Air Force Base, completing a C-130 isochronal inspection in Nevada.

"We want everyone to have one language," Bunker said. "If the Army Guard side and the Air Guard side are pretty much looking for ways to improve effectiveness, we think we should start with a common language. This way, an Army person can come in and sit down with some one from the Air side and still be able to do the job just as well."

While relatively new to the Air Force, process improvement techniques have been successfully used in American industry since the early 1900s. By 1920, Henry Ford had instituted process improvement methodology in his automobile manufacturing process. While others have perfected the process, Ford's pioneering work created the foundation upon which continuous process improvement is based.

AFSO21 training includes role playing and class participation that gives participants a practical understanding. Participants gain the tools to take what they've learned and implement it into their operating plans.

"This is going to add value to what we do," Burks said. "I think this is the future of how we're going to do things, and it's going to make every thing we do much more effective."

### New TRICARE Reserve Select plan debuting

A simplified TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) open to all Guardmembers and Reservists program was planned to debut Oct. 1. The New TRS provides an across-the-board health care plan similar to the active-duty coverage. The only group excluded is Guardmembers and Reservists eligible for, or enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefits.

The new TRS is a premium-based health plan available to Selected Reserve members (unit assigned and IMA members) at 28 percent of the premium cost. Now, all enrollees will pay \$81 a month for personal coverage or \$253 a month for family TRS offers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard (and TRICARE Extra) with the active duty family member deductibles and cost shares applied to both the Selected Reserve member and family members under the TRS plan.

Members who are currently enrolled in TRS under the 3 Tier program, were to re-enroll into the new program prior to Sept. 30, 2007, in order to continue coverage.

Contact [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) and follow the links.



# Nevada ceases search for famed pilot

By SFC Erick Studenicka  
National Guard Bureau

The Nevada National Guard searched for missing millionaire adventurer and pilot Steve Fossett for more than two weeks in September before the operation was ceased on Sept. 21. Fossett went missing after taking off on a solo flight Sept. 4.

A total of 355.5 flight hours were flown over a search area that covered 17,000 square miles, according to the state Joint Forces Operation Center. At the height of the mission, the state activated 75 Guardmembers to provide communications, logistical and aviation support.

In spite of widespread attempts to locate Fossett, he had still not been found as of Sept. 21. The Nevada National Guard's incident command post planned to continue to process leads under the direction of the Nevada State Emergency Operations Center.

During the search, the Nevada Air National Guard flew two C-130 sorties each day with aircraft equipped with Scathe View technology. The Nevada Army Guard also made daily flights with two OH-58 observational helicopters. One UH-60 Blackhawk investigated leads in the search and a HH-60 Blackhawk specially equipped with medical evacuation gear remained on stand-by. All of the helicopters were based at the Flying M Ranch near Yerington, Nev., the location where Fossett began his flight. At times, the aerial search included up to 14 aircraft.

In the early days of the search, the Nevada Air Guard C-130s were flying about four sorties per day. The ongoing C-130 searches launch at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day and continue for about four to five hours before ceasing at twilight. The C-130 aircraft and a Nevada Army Guard UH-60 also flew late into

the night during the early days of the search as they were the only aircraft in the region equipped to search at night, but night-time searches have now been discontinued.

Nevada Army Guard observational helicopters equipped with Forward Looking Infrared Radar played an important role. The FLIR system enables pilots to steer their vehicles in low visibility situations and detect warm objects against a cold background even in complete darkness.

The Nevada ANG's Scathe View imagery system consists of a sensor mounted to a modified C-130. The turret is controlled by on-board imagery analysts working at a sensor control work station. The analysts can link full motion video to ground staff for review. The Scathe View equipment is manned by the Nevada ANG's 152nd Intelligence Squadron.

Located in northwest Nevada and stretching into the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada in California, the search area was two times larger than the state of New Jersey. The area is some of the most mountainous terrain in the United States.

According to Nevada Army Guard Maj. Ed Locke, the cost of the search through Sept. 14 for the National Guard was estimated to be about \$475,000.

Other organizations who provided aircraft for the search were the Nevada and California Civil Air Patrols and California and Nevada Highway Patrols.

According to wire reports, Fossett, 63, the first person to circle the world solo in a balloon, took off solo on Labor Day from an airstrip at hotel magnate William Barron Hilton's Flying M Ranch, about 70 miles southeast of Reno near Yerington, flying a single-engine Bellanca aerobatic airplane.

## Scathe View technology aided in search

The Scathe View is a humanitarian relief capability consisting of advanced electro-optical and infrared sensors mounted on a modified C-130 Hercules aircraft.



Nevada National Guard photo  
The Scathe View as mounted to the bottom of a C-130.

The system is operated by the 152nd Intelligence Squadron on aircraft flown by the 152nd Airlift Wing; both are units of the Nevada Air Guard.

The Scathe View system consists of an outboard camera system and an onboard monitoring station. The camera provides onboard sensor operators with real time visible and thermal imagery, including geo-location data. Sensor operators can support search and rescue efforts through voice reporting of the video, while providing coordinates and directions to rescue teams on the ground.

The system participated in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, providing real time imagery updates to emergency managers on the status of roads, bridges, levees, and power plants. The Guard's airborne sensor operators also assisted search and rescue operations, enhancing situational awareness by guiding rescue teams around flooded parts of New Orleans where water levels were impassable.

The Scathe View has been used in Nevada during wildfire operations. The system is able to collect infrared imagery to determine wildfire movement in relation to unusable roads and bridges, and to provide fire officials a complete picture of the fire's activities. The system was used in the 2006 Mt Hood rescue attempt supporting ground search teams looking for stranded mountain climbers.

# High plains twister

## N. Dakota responds to F4 tornado

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

NORTHWOOD, N.D. – The school mascot here is "Thunder," and a tornado brought a thunder like no other, ripping through this northeast North Dakota town of about 900 people on the night of Sunday, Aug. 26.

The tornado that wreaked havoc with the trees, buildings and homes in the close-knit rural community was no ordinary summer twister. It was an F4 on the Fujita Scale for rating tornado intensity. The killer tornado, eight-tenths of a mile wide and cutting a path five miles long, was blamed for killing one man and sending 19 more people to local hospitals.

Nearly 100 National Guard turned out to support the recovery mission.

"I still can't find my garage, and it's been four days. Where does a snow blower go?" asked Tech. Sgt. Chad Peterson from the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Civil Engineer Squadron, one of the residents who weathered the storm better than his home, which Peterson said is considered a total loss by his insurance adjuster.

As a civilian, Peterson works with information technology and emergency management for the Northwood Deaconess Health Center, the largest employer in Northwood. The health center is also the place where he and his family rode out the tornado, assisting patients at the time.

His military training in emergency management kicked in when the tornado hit as he directed people into hallways and had them get down and cover their heads. Exterior doors blew open and ceiling tiles lifted up and came crashing down around them along with

glass from the windows.

The damage in the town was among the worst seen in the state's history and is estimated to be between 38 to 59 million dollars. Four hundred thirty-one of Northwood's 460 homes were destroyed, damaged or affected by the tornado.

"I've never seen destruction like this before," said Capt. Penny A. Ripperger, the 119th Wing's public affairs officer. "You see pictures, but to walk through a town where literally every house seems to be touched by this disastrous storm is unbelievable."

Within 15 hours after the tornado hit, 40 North Dakota Army National Guard members were driving heavy equipment into town to begin clearing streets of debris and helping residents begin the process of getting back into their homes.

"This is what we do," said Lt. Col. Lee Nordin, operations officer for the 141st Combat Support Battalion, who was one of the first to respond. "We're here to support the governor and the emergency management people in their efforts in the event of emergencies and natural disasters."

More North Dakota Army and Air National Guard personnel reported for duty during the next few days and seamlessly fit into the recovery efforts.

"Military personnel were working around the clock in every aspect of the recovery effort. Soldiers and Airmen were busy operating chainsaws and heavy equipment to remove debris and clear trees and branches," Ripperger said. "They were providing security in and out of the city, and they were working closely with city officials and volunteer agencies."



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

Senior Airman Brandon W. Miller, left, and Tech. Sgt. Richard M. Hayes, both of the 119th Wing, remove fallen tree branches and debris from yards in order to clear a path for power line workers in Northwood, N.D., Aug. 28.

By 2 p.m. Tuesday, only 24 hours after they began arriving, National Guard members had helped remove approximately 700 dump-truck loads of debris to a landfill five miles west of Northwood. By the time they left the town on Friday, Aug. 31, the Guardmembers working with contractors and volunteers had removed over 2,000 truck loads.

Removing the debris made it possible for electrical crews to work on restoring power that had been out since the tornado hit Sunday night.

"The mission in Northwood highlights the dual role of our Citizen-Soldiers in defending our nation and assisting our state in a disaster," said Gov. John Hoeven.



# Al Furat

## Kentucky Soldiers provide means for Baghdad neighborhood to rebuild

**Story, photos by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy**  
58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

*The call came across the radio as the humvee rattled and shook down a dirt road in the Al Furat section of Baghdad: “activity” in a nearby abandoned building directed at Soldiers manning the guard towers of nearby Camp Slayer. Immediately, the Soldiers in the patrol turned their vehicles around and headed toward the building. The block was cordoned off with turret gunners providing overwatch. The Soldiers in the vehicles dismounted and moved quickly across the grounds of the building. Once inside, they moved with practiced ease down the separate corridors of the building clearing each room as they went. Swiftly and aggressively they swept the building, their footprints disturbing the accumulation of fine dirt and dust on smooth floor.*

In the end, the building was empty, however, a room with a view of one of the towers contained evidence of recent activity. But for the Soldiers, assigned to the Kentucky Army National Guard’s Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, kicking in doors and clearing rooms was something they hadn’t done since their first days patrolling this section of southwest Baghdad, a section that since then has seen a dramatic turnaround.

When the unit first arrived in Iraq in late 2006, kicking in doors in Al Furat, which is the unit’s main area of responsibility, was nearly all they did.

“The area we’re in now, when we first got here was, I don’t want to say unpatrolled, but it was kind of left alone by U.S. forces,” said Sgt. Dustin Thompson, a scout with the unit. “We were the first ones to patrol there in a long time. So, it was pretty rowdy when we first got here. We were getting shot at everyday.”

Others described it differently.

“We called it the Wild West, because that’s what it was like,” said Lt. Col. John Luttrell, battalion commander. “There was a gunfight everyday.”

The problems facing the area, unit members said, could be traced back to one source—sectarian violence between Sunni and Shi’a gangs, to include some with links to al Qaeda and other violent factions. Al Furat, which has a largely Sunni population, is separated from neighboring Al Jihad, a mostly Shi’a area, by a canal. Buildings that line the roadway along the canal on both sides bear the scars of factional violence in the form of bullet holes, shattered windows and blackened areas from rocket propelled grenade attacks. Many who live in the area have been injured, killed or worse, or they know someone who has been. Though attacks were mainly sectarian in nature, U.S. forces were targeted as well. The question for the unit was how to overcome those odds and return Al Furat, a once stable and prosperous area, to how it once was.

Building relationships was the answer,

said Luttrell, a former schoolteacher. Through dismounted patrols and talking with various people in the area the Soldiers in the unit worked with local sheiks and tribal leaders as well as other key members of the community who had unofficially taken on leadership roles. Through those connections a city council was formed. Initially the leadership positions of the council were filled with the individuals the Soldiers first talked with, but recently elections were held and community members elected those they felt would best serve those functions, said Luttrell.

While the Soldiers were able to largely keep violence down in the area through both routine presence patrols and working with Iraqi army and national police units who manned checkpoints in the area, the area’s economic and infrastructure needs had to be met.

“We’ve had several projects,” said Thompson. “We’re building markets and improving

schools, roads.” The projects are funded by the United States, but employ those in the area to do the actual work. One of the first areas to be rebuilt was the local market place, where local vendors offer everything from tennis shoes to fresh meat—the animals having been slaughtered that morning.

“The goal of ours has been to boost the economy and allow the locals to sustain themselves and not depend on us,” said 1st Lt. Martin Schafer, a platoon leader with the unit. “One way of doing that is to allow them trade to make money.”

Most mornings find the open-air market

area packed with those doing daily shopping. So much so an expansion is being constructed.

“As we progressed through the year (the unit has been here) we’ve had a bigger and bigger presence,” said Schafer. “And that market, as we’ve increased our presence, has increased as well and at this point we’re

funding an addition to the market. We hope this addition continues to grow and continues to make it an economic boost for the community.” Other projects include a pharmacy, a coffee shop and refurbishing local secondary schools. The unit and the Al Furat Council have also been working with the Iraq Ministry of Education to turn a now vacant building into a university, which many may say is fitting as it once housed a meteorological technical school.

While refurbishing the building to house a university may be a future event, the Soldiers of the unit are quick to point out the changes that have happened in the area currently.

“At this present time, we don’t get shot at as often,” said Spc. Leonard Pitman, a tracked-vehicle mechanic assigned to the unit as a driver. “The neighborhood has gotten a lot safer for the residents.”

And that feeling of safety is evident in other ways.

“Certain areas of the town are not occupied anymore, but [the local residents] are starting to come back in because people are starting to

feel safe,” said Pitman.

Those who live in the area expressed similar feelings.

“Today we find ourselves much more stable,” said Ahmed Selman Abbas, chairman of the Al Furat City Council, through an interpreter. “And definitely at the end of 149th service in Furat, they will leave their fingerprint on the community.”

That fingerprint, in part, came from working with the local community.

“He (Luttrell) invited us to share in the responsibilities and to make the neighborhood much more safe and much more stable,”

said Dr. Tahrir Aldelaimi, a dentist in Al Furat and also a member of the city council.

While military expertise factored greatly into rebuilding the area, it was also Luttrell’s civilian experience as a high school teacher that rang a bell with many in Al Furat.

“I think we are very lucky to find a commander, a teacher, like (Lt.) Col. Luttrell,” said Abbas. “His personal background, his academic teaching, because he is so close to the community by teaching secondary school.”

While the Soldiers of the unit assisted with the establishment of the city council, the council itself has established other means to better the neighborhood. One of which is the Furat

Advisory Board for Reconstruction, which draws on the experiences of those in the area to oversee rebuilding efforts.

“This board consists of 10 members presented by Furat City Council and the engineering staff of the neighborhood,” said Abbas.

“This will take the opportunity to assist, to design, to monitor and give the whole picture of any project that is going to proceed in the neighborhood. It’s like quality control for engineering work, actually.”

The advisory board would not have seen the light of day if it wasn’t for the efforts of the Soldiers of the unit, said Abbas, who added that the unit’s work in the neighborhood has set the standard for other units throughout Iraq.

“We hope that the 149th experience in Furat should be a model or example to be adopted for other coalition forces or units,” said Abbas.

And the unit’s efforts in Al Furat have been felt in other areas in Baghdad.

“Steps and procedures taken by our city council have been adapted by other city councils in Baghdad,” said Abbas.

But for the Soldiers in the unit, it really comes down to one thing.

“We just have to make it a better place for the children to grow up in,” said Pitman.



Soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, joke with a local Iraqi girl while on patrol in the Al Furat section of Baghdad. Aug. 29. Soldiers from the unit have been working with local officials to assist with rebuilding schools and other facilities in the area.



A Company A Soldier on patrol.



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dobbs checks a cabinet in a home for illegal weapons.



A Soldier talks with a local Iraqi boy during a patrol through Al Furat.



Sgt. Dustin Thompson looks over an abandoned vehicle to check for explosives or weapons during a routine presence patrol.



Two local girls share a laugh with Soldiers from Company A. The unit has been working with key people in the area to help rebuild infrastructure, schools and marketplaces.



## Newsmakers

**Chief Master Sgt. Anne Rice** of the 181st Fighter Wing of Indiana became the first female weapons manager to obtain the rank of chief master sergeant in her wing, the Air National Guard and in the Total Force. "This is definitely a predominately-male career field, and I really hope this



Rice

helps other females realize they can do whatever they set themselves out to do no matter what career field they are in." Rice said. She joined the Air Force 29 years ago and in 1985 joined the 181st in Terre Haute.

**Col. (Dr.) Michael Paletta**, state air surgeon for the Michigan Air National Guard, deployed to Southwest Asia for duty in the first three months of 2007. He deployed to Sather Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq. The base is named in honor of Michigan native Staff Sgt. Scott Sather, killed in the initial days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He will be the chief of flight medicine for the 447th Air Expeditionary Group.

**Senior Airman Kurt Day**, a member of the 173rd Fighter Wing in the Oregon Air National Guard, was selected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy and is on track to graduate in 2012. He started in the USAF Academy's Preparatory Program in July 2007. His goal is to become an Air Force pilot.



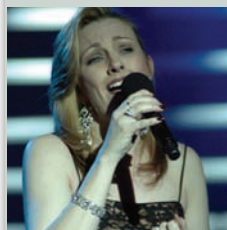
Day

After retiring from the Marine Corps 14 years ago, **Pfc. Giacomo Digiacomo** from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 135th Infantry is being deployed to Kosovo as a Soldier. The former Marine joined the Minnesota Army National Guard in January. He said he chose the Army National Guard instead of the Marine Corps because he wanted to serve the people close to him in his hometown.



Digiacomo

Military Idol winner **Spec. Vicki Golding** of the D.C. Guard sang the national anthem at the America Supports You Freedom Walk Sept. 9 in Washington. The walk started at the Lincoln Memorial and finished at the Pentagon. It pays homage to the lives lost on 9/11, renews our commitment to freedom and the values of our country and honors our veterans, past and present.



Golding

Less than two weeks after turning 41, **Scott Schwarzlander** of Bemidji, Minn., departed for basic training. A truck driver who delivers food to the National Guard Armory in Bemidji among other local stops, Schwarzlander said his stops at the armory inspired him to join the Army Guard. He later got his chance to join the Guard when the maximum age for joining increased from 35 to 42.

# Mississippi Citizen-Soldier's heroism didn't stop when he returned from war

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Staff Sgt. Danny Stanley served a year in Iraq, but the awards for heroism came for what the National Guard Soldier did back home. Stanley is credited with saving the lives of three people after the Mississippi Army National Guard member drove up on a fiery car crash.

His decision to stop and help — he says it was more unquestioning reflex than a choice — and risk his life to pull a father, mother and their girl from a car engulfed in flames earned him: the Soldier's Medal, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Award for Heroism and now the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism from the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

Stanley received the Valley Forge Cross at the 129th NGAUS General Conference here Aug. 25.

In Iraq, he ran convoy escorts, worked checkpoints and performed more than 300 missions. But a unique challenge awaited him back home in Mississippi, when he drove up on a burning car on rural Munford's Crossing Oct. 5, 2006.

With emergency responders still not on the scene and other drivers not stopping, Stanley, who was en route to a mission at the Kosciusko Armory, did.

"A vehicle had overturned off a bridge down onto the road below," he said. To this day, he remembers only that the car was white. "It burst into flames. I got out [and] thought maybe the car had been cleared, but it hadn't."

Stanley signaled passing cars for help, but no one would stop.

He had seen crashes before, riding in his daddy's wrecker as a boy. He had seen even more in Iraq, where he served as a combat lifesaver.

A burned and bruised man with broken bones emerged from the car and Stanley pulled him to safety. The man pointed back at the burning car.

"My family," he said. "My babies."

As the flames grew hotter, Stanley ran toward them.

"I opened the door," he said. "There was



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Staff Sgt. Danny Stanley received the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism at the 129th NGAUS General Conference Aug. 25.

a woman lying there."

Burned and cut, she had compound fractures to both legs.

"I went to reach to get her and she pushed my hands away," Stanley said.

"My babies," the woman said.

"I didn't know, exactly ..." Stanley recalled, words failing him. "The fire was roaring. A little girl jumps over from the back seat into my arms. I just grabbed her and threw her onto my back, and grabbed mom. She was about 2. I can see her. She had little pigtails and a white shirt on. I pulled her and her mom out and drug her over to the ditch."

A teen-age girl walked up. "Can I help?" she said. Stanley gave her the baby and a desert camouflage uniform shirt from his car. The girl wrapped the child in the shirt.

"My babies," the woman said, again.

"I got the baby," Stanley said.

"No, I have two in the back," the woman said.

"My heart sank," Stanley recalled. "The car just ... Flames were everywhere."

He went back to the car. He was wearing his Army fitness uniform, and the heat singed all the hair off his legs.

"You could hear the paint just cracking," he said. "You couldn't touch the car anymore. I dropped to my knees and just prayed right there that God took them before they felt the flames, you know? Maybe

the smoke took them before ... they died in their sleep.

"If they would've cried, I would've died."

Of the five people in the car, Stanley saved three. Unless this member of 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery Regiment had stopped, authorities have said that everyone in that car would have died.

The awards that came later were a surprise—one that quietly delights this unassuming Guardsman, his wife DeAnna and their 8-year-old son Colby, who is quiet around a stranger but admits he's mighty proud of dad.

"I was told 'thank you'," Stanley said. "And that's all I wanted."

"I did what any Soldier would do. What any man would do. I didn't expect anything out of it."

It was Stanley's chain of command, his support chain and the accident investigators who made sure his heroism was recognized.

"I appreciate it," he said, turning a coin from the chief of the National Guard Bureau in his fingers.

"As a Soldier, I'd seen so much in Iraq. I felt like I couldn't do enough for them, you know?" Stanley said. "I couldn't give them enough. I couldn't help enough. Which I knew down in my heart that's all I could do, but I just felt so vacant."

"I didn't think about it. I saw it. I went into action. It started, and it didn't stop until it was over. When the firemen and the policemen and the sheriffs and the coroners and everyone got there, I felt I could breathe again. I was still in shock at what had happened as far as the babies, but I knew in my heart I had done all I could do."

Stanley now works at Camp Shelby as an observer-controller running ranges. He does not like what he has seen. "It really affects a Soldier. It affects a man. A father. A husband. It affects us."

But he will neither run from it nor fail to stop and help.

Military leaders, politicians and celebrities said a lot at the NGAUS conference about the qualities of America's Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen.

Stanley is the kind of Soldier they were talking about.

## Oregon pilot surpasses 4,000 hours in F-15 Eagle

By Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy  
Oregon National Guard

4,000 hours.

That's 240,000 minutes, or 14.5 million seconds, if you like it broken down that way.

The timeframe sounds like a long time, until you realize 4,000 hours would be the equivalent of working 8-hour days for two years without taking a vacation. Then it seems like an eternity.

So when Lt. Col. Rich "Peewee" Kelly of the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing in Klamath Falls, Ore., was told he was approaching 4,000 hours flying in an F-15 Eagle, he reacted with a bit of cynicism.

"I never thought it would happen," he said.

Kelly is one of only two F-15 C-model pilots in the world to have reached 4,000 hours flying the Air National Guard's premier strike fighter. He was able to reach the milestone during the Sentry Eagle dissimilar aircraft training exercise on Aug. 10.

Kelly began his military career in the active duty Air Force. At the time, it was considered

quite an accomplishment to reach 2,000 hours in a fighter jet — a milestone that he never thought he'd reach.

"When I first started flying, only about five people had 2,000 hours," Kelly said.

He was able to reach the 2,000-hour mark while in the active duty Air Force. After joining the Oregon Air National Guard at Kingsley Field in 1999, Kelly was able to reach the 3,000-hour mark. As he drew close to the 4,000-hour mark, Kelly's squadron operations officer, Lt. Col. Wes "Pappy" French, began managing his flying hours in July so that the threshold would be reached during the weekend of Sentry Eagle. Kelly tried in vain to remain low-key.

"Pappy said it was 'to kill two birds with one stone because there was going to be a lot of media here,' and I said, 'I don't need a lot of personal attention on this thing,'" Kelly said with a self-deprecating smile.

The mission Kelly and his fellow pilots flew involved eight F-15 Eagles providing support to two F-18 Hornets which were tasked with putting 'bombs on target.'



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

Lt. Col. Rich "Peewee" Kelly surpassed the 4,000-hour mark in a F-15 while on a training mission during the Sentry Eagle air exercise on Aug. 10.



From page 1:  
MCCAIN TELLS GUARD

ference.

“Prior to 9/11, a lot of us didn’t always fully appreciate the power and potential of the Guard and what it might one day be called upon to do,” said the Republican senator from Arizona. “But my friends, we understand it now. ... The distinction between the Guard and active forces – a distinction that once was so clear – is now virtually undetectable. ... Not since World War II have we asked so much of the Guard, not only overseas, but at home. ... You understand both the value – and the price – of freedom. You are the best among us.”

McCain called for a slew of commitments to the National Guard, including:

- Following guidelines on how often deployments occur and how long they last. “Failure to do so abuses the trust of those who serve and is a national disgrace,” he said.
- Providing enough equipment. “We must never, never ask our young men and women to go into harm’s way without the equipment and training they need to do their job effectively and safely – whether the enemy they face is a military force, terrorist cell, pandemic disease, earthquake, fire or flood,” McCain said.
- Treating Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen better. “It means establishing a new compact with our Guard and Reserve component personnel to ensure they have the pay they deserve, the career opportunities they merit, and the level of service that befits their time, capability and need,” he said.

From page 3:  
HIRE A HERO

– that military people are disciplined, follow orders and understand a chain-of-command – can actually be detrimental in the eyes of a human resource professional.

“How does a (human resource) manager view that stereotype? As a frontline worker bee,” Caulfield said.

Caulfield believes the Hire A Hero site will be especially effective for National Guard members and said much of the potential for the site will stem from its use by National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. With that goal in mind, Hire a Hero signed a memorandum of understanding May 5 with the California National Guard to work with that state’s public affairs, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and family services offices in an effort to assist in employment acquisition as well as recruiting and retention.

The initial statistics for the use of the site by California Guard members during the first three months have been impressive. According to California Army Guard Col. Charlotte Miller, 694 California employers have posted more than 20,000 potential job opportunities on the site, and 706 connections between employers and California Guard members have occurred.

“It is important to us that our Soldiers are provided with quality civilian employment opportunities,” said Maj. Gen. William Wade II, the California National Guard’s adjutant general. “We are excited to be the first state to take part in this initiative.”

Caulfield anticipates that other states including Texas, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania will sign memorandums of understanding with Hire a Hero in the near future. Eventually Caulfield would like to sign a MOU with all 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

Before becoming the executive director of Hire a Hero, Caulfield was the managing director of Helmets to Hardhats, a program that has helped about 60,000 military personnel transition into the construction industry. Caulfield decided to organize Hire A Hero because it involves all industries whereas the construction industry involves about 5 percent of U.S. employment. Caulfield said he has invested about \$500,000 in the project. Lincoln Tech, a career training school, has also contributed about \$500,000, he said.

# Ohio ANG unit *holds on tight* to trophies won at Rodeo competition

By Capt. Karen O'Neill  
Ohio National Guard

An 18-person team from Ohio’s 121st Air Refueling Wing competed against more than 55 U.S. and international military teams, and returned home as winners.

Attracting spectators from around the world, the competition was part of the bi-annual Air Mobility Command’s Rodeo July 22-28 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

The team was awarded three prestigious trophies - Best KC-135 Air Crew, Best KC-135 Air Refueling Crew and Best KC-135 Post-Flight Inspection - once again proving that they are the best of the best among their peers of active duty, Guard, and Reserve. They placed first for flying in the tanker category, which included the KC-135 and KC-10. The aircrew headed by Aircraft Commander Maj. Jim Camp and co-pilot Capt. Nick Hupp led the crew to this year’s top place finish.

Their overall fourth place finish in the tanker category included air refueling, cargo loading, a maintenance preflight and postflight inspection, fuel servicing, daily observations and home station check scores, and three Security Forces events that included weapons, tactics and combat endurance.

“We’re very proud of this year’s team and what we’ve accomplished. It’s an honor to represent the 121st, the Air National Guard, and the state of Ohio,” said Maj. Dave Johnson, team commander.

The 121st was the only Guard unit to compete in the KC-135 category.

Rodeo is an AMC international event that focuses on readiness and features airdrop, air refueling, and other events showcasing security forces, aerial port, maintenance and aeromedical evacuation personnel.

The Security Forces team competed in rigorous events that tested their combat skills, rules of engagement in military operations other than war, physical endurance and tactical knowledge.

## Arizona unit unlocks high-altitude balloon potential

Hopes to aid civil and military authorities

By Tech. Sgt. Angela Walz  
Arizona National Guard

When chaos and confusion ensues in the aftermath of a natural disaster, or when the “fog of war” grinds traditional forms of communication to a halt, the Arizona Air National Guard has a solution.

Detachment 2 of headquarters Arizona Air National Guard, more commonly referred to as the 111th Space Operations Squadron, is the military’s first unit to operate free-floating balloons in the high altitude environment. The payloads attached to these balloons provide beyond line-of-sight communications capabilities for both military and civilian users.

Located in Phoenix, the 111th SOPS currently receives support from Air Force Space Command. The unit anticipates federal recognition to become an active ANG unit under Air Combat Command. The 111th has 11 active Guard reservists and 16 traditional Guardsmen.

Their mission first piqued leadership interest at last year’s Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment (JEFX) at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and more recently at a multiple state and



Photo by Staff Sgt. Douglas Nicodemus

Aircraft commander Maj. James Camp is accompanied by crew chief Tech. Sgt. Paul Tillet on a preflight inspection of their KC-135 before a refueling mission.

“We came here with little experience and tested our combat efficiency,” said Security Forces team member Staff Sgt. Troy Taylor. “With our high operations tempo and missions to Iraq, we took lessons learned from the competition and applied them to squadron training.”

The support they received from their teammates while competing in each event was awesome, said Taylor. The Security Forces events were the most physically demanding of the competition.

Tech. Sgt. Steve Rood led the 10-member maintenance team to the top score, among KC-135 postflight inspection teams.

The aircraft that competed included the

C-17 Globemaster III, C-5 Galaxy, C-130 Hercules, C-160 D, KC-10 Extender and the KC-135 Stratotanker. Rodeo provides a forum for Airmen and international partners to share the best of tactics and techniques. The last biennial competition took place in June 2005 after a five-year hiatus due to the increase in the operations tempo in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The ultimate goal of the competition is to develop and improve techniques and procedures that enhance air mobility operations. Spirited competition furthers that aim, while strengthening the mutual goals and bonds of friendship developed between competing teams.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Angela Walz

Master Sgt. Jake Martinez, a launch operator, prepares the balloon for flight.

Combat SkySat is relatively low cost and provides immediate capabilities. While the price tag of a commercial satellite is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, each Combat SkySat launch is approximately \$10,000.

Its basic mission is to increase the distance of short-range radio transmissions. “It extends the distance of regular radio transmissions to more than a 320-mile radius,” said Lt. Col. Patty Tuttle, 111th SOPS commander. Standard ground radios generally transmit only five to 10 miles and are limited by line-of-sight.



## Recruiting and retention

# Big recruiter on campus

*Working with the Montana Army National Guard, the University of Montana ROTC program doubled in size*

**Staff Sgt. Roger M. Dey**  
Montana National Guard

MISSOULA, Mont. - Marine, student, Soldier and cadet are all labels that Sgt. 1st Class Cary Monbarren has worn in his life. Drawing on his experiences, Monbarren, a recruiter for the Montana Army National Guard, has helped to double the size of the Reserve Officer Training Corp at the University of Montana in Missoula. In less than a year, this school, with a student body of roughly 10,000, has developed the fifth fastest growing ROTC program in the nation, and the second largest in the Pacific Northwest.

The U of M ROTC Grizzly Battalion has traditionally been a strong program, but with Monbarren's help, cadet numbers have leapt from a yearly average of between 40 and 50, to nearly 100 cadets this year. The number of cadets receiving commissions in 2009 is projected to be between 25 and 40, compared to a historic average of between 17 and 18.

With the assistance of Maj. Dean Roberts, assistant professor of military science, Monbarren has been given office space at the ROTC headquarters in Schreiber Gymnasium, which has helped him deal with campus recruiting activity and improved his ability to draw students with previous military experience.

Although his recruiting position doesn't require him to be a part of the ROTC program, Monbarren voluntarily takes on extra duties and trains cadets in basic military skills, becoming an integral part of the cadre and a valued member of Lt. Col. Mike Hedegaard's Military Science Department. Monbarren's background gives him a certain level of authority when speaking to students and cadets alike. "I think I've got a different perspective on things here," said Monbarren "I was a student at the University of Montana. I still take classes. Sometimes I'm sitting right next

to one of my cadets instead of in front of them teaching classes. I was a cadet before opting to go on a deployment. I know what they're going through as students and cadets, as well as Guardsmen, so I can kind of relate."

Acting as a liaison between the Montana Army National Guard and the ROTC program, Monbarren also works to bring Montana Army Guard Soldiers in to assist in training the cadets and helps to coordinate the ROTC's use of Guard facilities. These multiple roles put Monbarren in a unique position to train cadets and students in basic military skills while also explaining what the Guard does for the state. This allows the cadets to explore the opportunities of a Guard officer through the Simultaneous Membership Program.

The Simultaneous Membership Program, or SMP, is a program that affords ROTC cadets the opportunity to serve as drilling members of Guard or Reserve units, gaining valuable experience through mentoring by the officers of their units. To participate, a cadet must first be enlisted in the Army National Guard or Reserve. This has been a mutually beneficial arrangement for Army National Guard, the ROTC program and for the cadets themselves. Cadet Sean Conlon, a senior in Forestry and an infantryman with B Company, 1st of the 163rd Infantry, said "The major advantage I did pick up was that if you have your enlisted experience first, you're going to be a better leader and you'll get a lot more hands-on experience with how being a Soldier actually works as opposed to just going through the cadet world."

Monbarren credits the diversity of career fields available in the Montana Guard with his success in bringing potential cadets to the Guard and to the SMP.

"We're our own Army in Montana," he said, "If I've got a cadet that wants to be in aviation, I can take them over and let them see a Blackhawk up close. If he wants to be infantry, I can take him to the infantry unit and they can touch the weapons and Bradleys. The experiences these cadets can get are basically in every branch they could possibly go into once they get their commissions." Conversely, pure scholarship cadets do not drill with units and do not get the mentoring and first-hand soldiering experience



Photo by Staff Sgt. Roger M. Dey

**Sgt. 1st Class Cary Monbarren, a recruiter for the Montana Army National Guard, worked to double the size of the University of Montana ROTC cadet corps.**

that the SMP cadets do and, while the Army Reserve in Montana does offer SMP, they are not able to provide the range of careers that the Guard can, nor do they offer the same financial benefits as the guard, most notably in Tuition Assistance.

According to Roberts, cadets used to join the ROTC without any military experience and would later join the Guard and go SMP. Today, he says that about 80% of the cadet corps at the U of M were Guardsmen before joining ROTC, a fact which he feels contributes to a higher graduation and commissioning rate among SMP cadets as compared to scholarship cadets. Monbarren sees being an SMP cadet as the best way to fulfill the multiple goals of serving the country, getting an education and becoming an officer.

## Penn. unit home to three of the ANG's top recruiting assistants

**By Tech. Sgt. Jonathan White**  
Pennsylvania National Guard

In April 2006, Staff Sgt. Kevin Watson made a decision that would change his life forever. After serving three combat tours in Iraq as a Marine, Watson decided to join the 111<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron as a fire fighter.

"In the beginning I was hesitant about joining. I can admit now that the Air National Guard exceeded my expectations," said Watson.

Watson decided to return the favor by becoming a recruiting assistant through the Air National Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). Watson used his experience as a Marine Corp recruiter assistant to become not only the Wing's leading "G-RAPER" to date, but the entire ANG as well.

From September thru December 2006, Watson recruited seven individuals. Since then, he's picked up speed, recruiting another 14 in the last seven months, which gives him a running total of 21 with two more in the works. The G-RAP program pays \$2,000 per enlistment (prior service and non-prior service). Is this a good incentive? You do the math!

Watson reaches out to non-prior enlistees by developing a rapport with parents and school counselors. He's even developed a Power Point presentation for school counselors. "You have to involve the parents and address general questions regarding war and deployments."

He deals with apprehensive individuals by discussing his personal experiences. Moreover, when he explains to possible recruits that he would not sell them something he would not sell to a member of his own family, he means it. He points to the example of his brother, Airman 1st Class Steven Watson, a member of the 111th FW, currently in basic training.

Tech. Sgt. Steven Leibig, 111th Logistics Readiness Squadron aircraft fuels operator, cites providing detailed, accurate information to potential recruits as essential to the success of any G-RAPER. His success is shown by the 10 enlistees he brought to the wing, making him the No. 2 G-RAPER in the nation.

Leibig said he feels the wing has benefited greatly by having current members actively seek out potential recruits. It's because of the G-RAP program "the 111th has recently gotten the quality people that it has."

With a respectable eight enlistees to his credit, Master Sgt. Mark Armstrong is holding strong at No. 4 in the nation. A 111th Civil Engineering Squadron plumber, Armstrong says he is interested in educating people about the "phenomenal" benefits of the Guard. "It basically sells itself."

He said he enjoys helping people find a way to continue their career when they feel there is nowhere else for them to go. Armstrong says the highlight of his experience so far has been learning why people want to support our country.

Col. Paul Comtois, 111th FW commander, enthusiastically commends the top performers and their exceptional work in sharing the 111th's story. He said he was not surprised to learn that his wing held three of the top five recruiting assistants in the nation.

"We really have the perfect situation here at the 111th. Not only does Philadelphia offer a fertile recruiting ground, but more importantly, we have a great recruiting team and highly industrious unit members. I am very proud of our Airmen and how they continue to show their mettle."

## Employer support recognized by Tenn. Soldier

**By Sarah McCleary**

WASHINGTON - Challenged by the loss of employees, civilian employers of National Guard Soldiers endure sacrifice in a time of war that only a Soldier could understand.

"We all have to sacrifice when we are a nation at war; unfortunately, this is true for our employers too," said former Sgt. Robert S. Nakamoto, Company M, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Division, Tennessee National Guard. "Without their support our situation would be truly bleak."

To show his appreciation for that support, Nakamoto nominated his employer for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

"When I got back from deployment, I realized I had a lot of people to thank," Nakamoto said. "I owe a giant debt to the state of Tennessee, my co-workers and my family."

In his civilian life, Nakamoto is an environmental protection specialist, revising and interpreting Tennessee's hazardous waste regulations and monitoring the state's hazardous waste and used-

oil inspections.

Deployed in November 2004, Nakamoto was a scout and gunner who conducted patrols with his tank crew, supported the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and served as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle crewman. Injured when an IED detonated near him, Nakamoto required medical treatment that kept him away from work for an even longer period of time.

"I'm grateful to God that Tennessee's state government did everything that they could for me and the rest of the troops," Nakamoto said. "They went above and beyond what is required."

While he was deployed, the state of Tennessee paid 100 percent of the cost of his civilian health, dental, disability and life insurance benefits, according to Nakamoto. They also supplemented his National Guard salary with \$1,000 in monthly pay. Nakamoto was able to accumulate sick leave, vacation leave, seniority time and time toward retirement as if he were on the job, and the state continued paying into his retirement.

### ESGR's top employers

The Department of Defense announced the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve:

- Augustine and Sons, Inc. – Rose Hill, IA
- Conway Inc. – San Mateo, CA
- Creative Healthcare Solutions – Scottsdale, AZ
- CHE Consulting, Inc. – Fenton, MO
- Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group – Tulsa, OK
- Gantt's Excavating & Contracting, Inc. – Martinsburg, WV
- General Motors Corporation – Detroit, MI
- New Hampshire State Police – Concord, NH
- Nucor Corporation – Charlotte, NC
- Sierra Pacific Resources – Nevada Power • Las Vegas, NV
- Sodexo USA – Gaithersburg, MD
- State of Tennessee – Nashville, TN
- Turbocam International– Dover, NH
- Ultra Machining Company – Monticello, MN

The Freedom Award was presented to these organizations during a formal ceremony Sept. 12 at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.



# Air Force Week-New England takes flight with Guard hosts

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

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Had it not been for some special access, Lori Safford and her sons, Benjamin, 11, and Samuel, 9, who both suffer from muscular dystrophy, and daughter Libya, 8, would not have experienced the thundering fighter jets, the towering cargo planes and the many other things that make up an Air Force Week air show.

The Saffords and more than 200 special-needs guests, including children from the Make a Wish Foundation and the New Hampshire Brain Injury Association, attended afternoon air show practice sessions Aug. 17, the opening day of Air Force Week New

England and one day prior to its public air show at Pease Air National Guard Base in southern New Hampshire.

Gate donations and parking fees collected from the weekend air show were donated to the organizations through the Wings of Hope Foundation.

“It’s just a wonderful opportunity to attend without the crowds,” said Safford. “We love the military and appreciate everyone’s service.”

The group experienced events familiar to many air show attendees, including aerial demonstrations, aircraft static displays and the U.S. Air Force Drill Team. Benjamin and Samuel even helped lay out a marker for the Army Silver Wings Jump Team.

Pease Air National Guard Base and Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts are co-hosting Air Force Week New England from Aug. 17-26. They are the only two Air Guard bases to host this year’s six Air Force Weeks that are commemorating the Air Force’s 60th anniversary.

The New England events are drawing upon the region’s rich slice of American history, and the week began with proclamations by New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch in Concord and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

“It’s only fitting that we recognize the 60th birthday of the greatest Air Force that the world has ever known or ever will see, the United States Air Force,” said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, in Boston. “It is only able to do what it does because of the great Citizen-Airmen that follow the traditions ... that started with the National Guard at the First Muster [in Massachusetts] in 1636,” Blum added.

Faneuil Hall is where Samuel Adams and others planned Boston’s part in the American Revolution.

“The guys cooked up in this building behind us the system of government that we’ve sworn to defend. It is the only democracy that has remained for as long as it has in the history of the world, and it will only remain as long as we have strong Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen that are willing to put down their plows and take up their muskets when they need to defend their community, help the citizens of their state or defend their nation,” Blum added.

“We’re a great total force, 60 years young,” said Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard. “We’ve got a lot of great things in our future. As I look out at these young Airmen today, whether they be active, Guard or Reserve, I am deeply impressed with their spirit, their dedication and their selflessness.”

The event included the second perfectly timed flyover of the day. An F-16 Fighting Falcon and an F-86 Sabre flew above Faneuil Hall immediately after the National Anthem.

The Massachusetts Air National Guard Honor Guard presented the colors. The Air National Guard Band of the Northeast performed the National Anthem.

The United States Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team from Washington drew applause and gasps from the audience with a nearly flawless display using M1 rifles with fixed bayonets.

At the historic New Hampshire statehouse in Concord – in which the legislature still meets in its original chambers – State Sen. Harold Janeway read the governor’s proclamation under a blue morning sky to dozens of elected and military officials, including Blum and McKinley. The proclamation recognized the New Hampshire Air National Guard and “all it does both on the state and on the national level.”

New Hampshire’s air show kicked off the

following day with a cool breeze, a hint of the approaching fall. The breeze also lifted Air Force Week New England’s first performers and aircraft into the sky before an estimated 50,000 spectators. The crowd cheered during a flyover by a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber.

Spectators walked across a vast cement flight line toward standing displays of New England Air Guard aircraft including a KC-135 Stratotanker from New Hampshire, an A-10 Thunderbolt from Connecticut, an F-16 from Vermont, and a C-5 Galaxy from New York. A C-17 Globemaster from Mississippi and a KC-135 from Kansas as well as other military service, civilian and vintage aircraft were also on display.

“We came here to represent the Air Force and the Air National Guard and show the people what we do,” said Capt. Scott Perkins, a pilot from the New York Air Guard’s 105th Airlift Wing.

Officials explained the Air Force Weeks are intended to tell the Air Force story to the American people by providing direct access to Airmen and their equipment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Two of the visitors to the Air Force Week-New England “Wings of Hope” Air Show at Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth, N.H., watch a stunt glider pilot Aug. 19 in front of a New York Air Guard C-5 Galaxy.

From page 1:  
ANG STUNT PILOT

“This is like old-time barnstorming in a real grass roots way,” said Klatt. “It’s out in the community just like the barnstormers who would land and then take their airplanes up and show others the gift of flight.”

Klatt dreamed of flying during his childhood. Now he has 23 years of flying experience and has logged more than 13,000 flight hours. “Thanks to the Air National Guard, I am living my dream,” he said with a smile.

As a traditional Guardsman with the Minnesota ANG’s 148th Fighter Wing, Klatt recently returned from his second combat tour flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon in Iraq. He has logged more than 1,500 hours in the F-16. He has also flown C-130 Hercules transports during his 18 years of Guard service and deployed for worldwide operations.

It was his passion for flying, Klatt said, that led him to aerobatics. That passion led him into high-level competitions where he eventually earned top-10 national finishes and won “a lot of regional contests,” he said.

“It was very expensive,” said Klatt, “and it was all out of pocket, much like the guy who races at a local race track.”

Klatt said that performing at air shows allows him to enjoy acrobatic flying and make a living at the same time. “I’m very lucky to make a living doing what I love,” said Klatt, “both as a traditional Guardsman and with this program.”

Flying aerobatic maneuvers at air shows and flying F-16s are separate entities, said Klatt, but there are some similarities. Aerobatic flying is for entertainment, he said, but flying F-16s is important to what the ANG does for the Total Force. “It’s really critical [with the ANG] that you do your job 100 percent every time. It’s important, as well, when flying in air shows that you do your job 100 percent for safety. So they are similar in that.”

As if death-defying aerobatic maneuvers were not enough, Klatt and his operations coordinator, Tim Jarvis, and mechanic, Brian Spiro, also provide spectators with a larger air show package. That includes a 70-foot mobile recruiting station, a flight simulator and a second, two-seater stunt plane, which they fly for orientation flights with members of the community.

Klatt also narrates to the crowd as he performs his aerobatic showstoppers that include flying upside down at what appears to be a few feet above the ground.

“This is the Indy car of airplanes,” said Spiro, who added that maintaining the high-performance aircraft on the road is his greatest challenge. “It’s a pretty unique airplane. They are no longer built, and there are only about 30 of them to begin with.” Spiro worked from early in morning until late in the afternoon at Otis, ensuring both stunt planes were airworthy and ready for Klatt.

Before arriving at Otis, Jarvis ensured the aviation gas, hanger space, transportation, lodging and other logistics required were in place. It’s a routine for him, he said. He also contacted the local ANG recruiters who helped set up the mobile recruiting station and flight simulator. Thousands of spectators visited the station and simulator, and many filled out the recruiters’ lead forms if they thought they might be interested in signing up.

“I can’t say enough about my guys and everyone else,” Klatt said. “It takes a lot to make this work. Much like the Guard, it takes a team to put bombs on target. It’s the same concept here.”

Klatt and the aerobatic team traveled on to the Cleveland Air Show. The team was scheduled for shows in Brunswick, Maine, Sept. 14-16; Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 21-23; Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 27-30; Atlanta, Oct. 10-14; New Orleans, Oct. 26-28; and Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 2-4.

“It’s great to have the support of the National Guard Bureau,” said Klatt.



## From page 1: JUNIOR TO DRIVE

the NASCAR drivers, which he is, then you would think that would make a difference in the number of people who will follow the Guard, the Guard car, and maybe effectively think about joining our team," Vaughn elaborated.

"And that's all we ask him to do. Dale will have an enormous, enormous impact on that effort," Vaughn predicted. "People will look at the partnership this way: The Guard is a great way to serve. It's a first-class organization. And I like Dale Earnhardt Jr. So does the Guard. I'm going to have to think about that."

"I think it's important to support the military, especially now," said Earnhardt about his new affiliation with the National Guard.

Previous Guard car drivers have been Todd Bodine and Greg Biffle who finished second in the Nextel Cup Series in 2005. Casey Mears is this year's driver.

Earnhardt, 32, has won 17 Cup-level races and two NASCAR Busch Series championships. He is the son of racing legend Dale Earnhardt Sr., who was killed in a crash on the final corner of the final lap of the NASCAR season's inaugural race, the Daytona 500, in February 2001. He is the grandson and nephew of, respectively, NASCAR pioneers Ralph Earnhardt and Morgan Shepherd. His mother's father, Robert Gee, built NASCAR cars.

Earnhardt will replace Mears as the driver for the Guard car and will add his name and pedigree to the Hendrick lineup of dominating drivers that include Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson.

Mears will replace Kyle Busch, who is leaving the Hendrick team for the Joe Gibbs team, after one season as the No. 25 Guard/GMAC Chevrolet car driver, and Earnhardt will begin racing for Hendrick Motorsports after severing his ties with Dale Earnhardt Inc., the company that his father founded.

Earnhardt has signed a five-year contract with Hendrick Motorsports, he announced in June. His new car number is no accident. He has driven the No. 8 Chevrolet since he entered the Cup Series in 1999. His grandfather raced with that number, as well as 88, and Dale Sr., drove the 8 car early in his career. Earnhardt family politics, however, precluded Junior from bringing the famed single-digit number to the Hendrick team.

"We considered every number with 8 in it that was available," he told a room filled with media and Texas Army Guard recruiters, distinctive in their Army Combat Uniforms.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Dale Earnhardt Jr., left, will drive the National Guard car next year in NASCAR's top-level Sprint Cup series for Hendrick Motorsports. He stood with Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, and Rick Hendrick, Hendrick Motorsports owner, in Dallas where the announcement was made on Sept. 19.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

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

PORTLAND, Maine – After pedaling their 18 bicycles along 170 miles of Maine roads, Maine Air National Guard Cycle Team members, dressed in red, white and blue cycling outfits, coasted to the end of their three-day journey here Aug. 20 in front of the Hadlock Field baseball stadium.

Their trek started in Bangor Aug. 18, and they headed south, stopping along the way to celebrate and promote the 60th anniversary of the Air National Guard with the public.

The event was part of Air Force Week New England, which celebrated the Air Force's birthday.

Flat tires, hills and rain did not stop them from informing the public about the Air National Guard and the Air Force.

"It was a little difficult at first with the rain and wind, and it was cold, but we made it through," said Lt. Col. Michael Girardin, from the Maine Guard's Joint Force Headquarters at Camp Keyes in Augusta.

They spent the first night in Augusta, and they rode to Auburn the next day. Their final leg took them to Portland.

After taking a short break in Freeport, the group left for Portland with a police escort leading the way. They followed the police car and its siren along the town's main boulevard as hundreds watched them roll by.

The Air Guard bikers represented the Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refuel-

ing Wing, 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron, 256th Combat Communications Squadron and the Joint Forces Headquarters.

"It seemed fitting that we put together a bike team and stop at communities to talk to people about the Air National Guard," said Col. Don McCormick, JFHQ chief of staff.

A chase van followed the team with spare bike tires and tubes as well as boxes of ANG water bottles and other handouts which the team gave to people along the way.

The colonel said a highlight for the trip was visiting the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta.

"It was a real touching experience," said McCormick. "We had a tough day. We started

in the rain, and then we had hills, and then we had wind, but to finish with the veterans made the difference. We actually met a veteran who was in the Maine Air National Guard in 1946 and 1947 ... a founding

-Col. Don McCormick

member."

Maine kicked off its Air Force Week with a proclamation by Gov. John Baldacci. The state continued its celebration on the following day with a musical performance by the Air Force's Tops in Blue at Old Orchard Beach. A Military Appreciation Day on Aug. 20 in Portland included a flyover by a 101st Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker during a Sea Dogs baseball game.

"We saw a lot of folks waving flags along the way, and it was a very good trip," said Girardin.

## Tenn. Soldier enters Iditarod sled dog race

The Tennessee Army National Guard announced its sponsorship of Master Sgt. Rodney D. Whaley in his bid to run the 2008 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. He is the first Tennessean to have ever entered the race, which is billed as "The World's Last Great Race." He will be utilizing the skills he has developed in the Army Guard the past 24 years.

"The Iditarod is the ultimate experience and my life-long dream," said Whaley. "Thanks to the National Guard, it will become a reality." Whaley grew up in Alaska, racing in junior sled dog races as a boy, and has always remained passionate about the sport. In recent years, he has raced in several sled dog races in British Columbia, Canada, Washington State, and Northern Michigan.

Whaley will begin training his team in October at Alcan Kennels in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Training will continue until January, when he must complete his qualifying races.

"The qualifying races are crucial," he said. "If I don't qualify, I don't run the Iditarod."

To qualify, a musher must complete two sanctioned qualifying races that total 500 miles; one of which is 300 miles.



Courtesy photo

Master Sgt. Rodney D. Whaley is being sponsored by the Tennessee National Guard in his bid to run the 2008 Iditarod.

## More sports

### Not forgotten

Members of the 173rd Fighter Wing, Oregon Air National Guard at Kingsley Field, have not forgotten Master Sgt. Bob Miller who died from multiple sclerosis in 2000. He is remembered each year by the Kingsley Field bicycle team riding in his honor in the Health MS Bike Ride. On Aug. 4 and 5, 40 riders from Kingsley Field rode approximately 4,500 miles raising more than \$19,600 for the cure of multiple sclerosis. Kingsley had the largest team generating the most money in Oregon.

### Biathletes head south

During the week of Aug. 25, National Guard athletes participated in the 7th CIEM (International Competition of Mountain Schools) and the South American Biathlon Championships at Portillo, Chile. The events included an individual biathlon race, a cross-country ski race, a giant slalom and a military patrol race. In addition to the three South American nations of Argentina, Chile and Brazil, Spain and the United States were represented. The U.S. team included Jesse Downs, Nigel Kinney, Sam Morse, Karl Granroth, Frank Gangi and Brian Beason. Jesse Downs was the top finisher, taking 2nd place in the men's 20 km biathlon individual race, while Kinney captured 3rd in the men's 15 km cross country race. The team of Granroth, Downs, Kinney and Morse finished 2nd to Spain in the military patrol race.



# Once more, with feeling The National Guard, in songs and music



By Bill Boehm

National Guard Bureau

Famed gospel/pop singer Pat Boone recently released a song, "For My Country," that honors members of the National Guard. It debuted at the National Guard Association annual meeting in September 2006. Boone's ballad specifically singles out the men and women of the Guard as "our finest and bravest." Just as Boone's family can trace their lineage to frontiersman Daniel Boone serving the 18th century Kentucky militia, the National Guard can trace a link with music and song to its earliest days.

This testimony in song has survived through many forms of media. There are many musical salutes written about the National Guard peppered throughout our nation's history, particularly marches and other upbeat compositions. Others include official works commissioned by the Guard itself. In early times, the distribution of sheet music popularized these compositions. Starting in the early 19th century, sheet music sales often became a way to measure a song's popularity. Ordinary citizens heard this music in plays and musical performances. Publishers then adapted these scores and sold them for use with musical instruments, part of the precious leisure time for many households as the nation grew. Though later audio formats developed in the 20th century are barely alive today, retailers still sell sheet music in much the same way as in the early 19th century.

One such work is the "National Guard Grand March," written by J.M. Kieffer and copyrighted by Brainard's and Sons Company of Chicago in 1881. Adapted for violin, with piano accompaniment, this upbeat march stirred a feeling of patriotic fervor with its driving eighth notes and rousing beat. Another similar work is W.F. Wellman's "American National Guard March" from 1877, played on piano at tempo di marcia, or march tempo. Although the composition of these works preceded the modern Guard, their cadence evoked a spirit of military discipline and brevity.

Sheet music's popularity continued into the 20th century, as the Guard evolved into its unique dual state-federal role. With the onset of World War I in 1917, songs celebrated military preparedness ("Wake Up, America!") or regional heritage ("Mississippi Volunteers: Forward, March!"). The Great War aroused a great deal of patriotism throughout the nation, and songwriters capitalized on this sentiment.

With the advent of radio and long-playing records, more songs recognized the Guard. "Goodbye Dear, I'll Be Back in a Year" specifically alluded to the call up of the entire National Guard in 1940, just prior to our nation's entry into World War II. After the Guard distinguished itself through victory in that war and in the Korean War, the National

Guard Bureau commissioned "Song of the Guardsman." Composed in 1955 by Byron Kessinger, with lyrics by Lt. Col. Bernard J. Golden, "Song" chronicled the Guard's history all the way up to the recently fought Korean War. Interestingly, this song also made a provision for local units to improvise their own lyrics to boost esprit de corps. As musical trends changed, however, this song fell out of favor.

Perhaps the most famous song and recording about the National Guard in its history is "I Am the Guard." This became

the creed of the National Guard, displayed in National Guard Readiness Centers across the United States. Charles Chappell originally penned the text for the Chicago advertising agency Owen & Chappell, Inc. in 1951. The phrase "soldier in war, civilian in peace" alternates throughout the recitation of the lyrics. This literary device nicely underscores the dual role of the Citizen-Soldier, always ready to take arms in wartime and there to assist neighbors in times of crisis. Arthur Fields later rearranged the Chappell lyrics slightly to include a full orchestral

arrangement. This edition, copyrighted in 1966, became "The Ballad of the National Guard." Fields also adapted the piece for other musical styles. Bands and orchestras played it for many different audiences in the years following.

Today, "I Guard America," with words and music by James Rogers, is the National Guard's official song. Musicians perform the piece "with reverence," as noted in the musical score. In Rogers' composition, the lyrics still reflect the dual mission of Guardsmen to their country and their respective state or territory.

Looking at these works in a larger sense, they allow people across the country to become acquainted with their National Guard in a more personal way. Whether through strings and horns of a full band, or a heart-felt lyric, music and song evoke the image of all National Guard men and women doing their very best to defend our nation, both at home and abroad.



Cover page of the sheet music for "Mississippi Volunteers: Forward, March!", 1917. Courtesy Historic American Sheet Music Project, Duke University Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library; online resource, <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/dynaweb/sheetmusic/1910-1920>.

## The National Guard official song

I was a minuteman at Concord Bridge  
The shot heard 'round the world  
and I was there on Bunker Hill  
When "Old Glory" was unfurled  
And when my country called me  
From within or from afar  
I'll be first to answer  
Proud to be the Guard

Defending Freedom protecting dreams  
This is the spirit of what it means to me  
For my God and my home that I love  
I GUARD AMERICA

And in the eyes of my enemies  
Or the eye of a storm  
I face the dangers as they come  
In any shape or form  
I am your sons, your friends, your fathers  
And your daughters working hard  
To be the best and keep us strong  
Proud to be the Guard

Defending Freedom protecting dreams  
This is the spirit of what it means to me  
For my God and my home that I love  
I GUARD AMERICA

Defending Freedom protecting dreams  
This is the spirit of what it means to me  
For my God and my home that I love  
I GUARD AMERICA

Guarding AMERICA

AMERICA

## It happened in October

### Events that made Guard history

**Oct. 3, 1794:** When Congress enacted a tax on whiskey in 1791, the result sparked mob actions from farmers in western Pennsylvania. Militia units would be called up for federal active duty for the first time, and President George Washington, acting in his role as commander-in-chief, donned a military uniform. He inspected the troops and took command in the field at Harrisburg, Penn., the only time a U.S. president has ever done so.

**Oct. 10, 1968:** New Hampshire's Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 197th Artillery, one of eight Army Guard units to serve in Vietnam, fired the battalion's first mission on this date. During its tour, the 3/197th would support the 1st Infantry, 1st Cavalry, 101st Airborne and Army of the Republic of Vietnam divisions as well as 35th Special Forces Group. Six of its Guardmembers would be killed in action during the unit's one-year tour.

**Oct. 15, 1918:** Lt. Col. William "Wild Bill" Donovan earned the Medal of Honor while leading his regiment, the 165th Infantry, 42nd "Rainbow" Division, in an

attack to capture a German strong point in the Meuse-Argonne region of France. Later, in World War II, Donovan organized and commanded the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of today's CIA.

**Oct. 19, 1781:** After a siege of three weeks, American independence was assured when a British army commanded by Gen. Lord Charles Cornwallis was entrapped in Yorktown, Va. Cornwallis was compelled to surrender his more than 5,000 troops to Gen. Washington, who commanded a combined Franco-American force which contained several thousand militiamen from Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina.



## Community outreach Oregon unit helps those less fortunate

By Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

Oregon National Guard

Members of the Oregon Army National Guard are helping to turn a typical neighborhood baseball field into a sports complex an entire community can be proud of – and utilize.

A group of Soldiers from the Oregon National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training program began working on improvements to the Harmony Sports Complex in east Vancouver, Wash., during the last week of August.

The Columbia River Miracle League – a Vancouver league for children and adults with disabilities – hopes to make the sports complex their new home. The construction project is being monitored by inspectors with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure proper accessibility requirements.

By the time the official dedication ceremony kicks off on Sept. 22, organizers hope to have new sidewalks, wheelchair accessible ramps, 12 new parking stalls and a new playing surface on the field, said Shonnie Samwel, project manager for TEAM Construction in Vancouver, Wash.

"This is a wonderful way to give back to the community," Samwel said. "And it has generated a lot of interest throughout the local area."

For the Oregon Guardsmen who are working on the project, the work is fulfilling on both a community and a personal level, said Sgt. Mike Germundson, of the 234 Engineers.

"This is really satisfying," he said. "This is going to give people with less opportunities in life a chance to have some fun," he said.

Germundson is no stranger to construction projects. He deployed to Iraq with the U.S. Army's 52nd Engineers during the early days of the Iraq War. He worked on construction projects alongside local Iraqis in and around Mosul, Iraq for most of 2003, building block houses and schools. He said projects like the Harmony Sports Complex shows that Soldiers can deploy around the world and do their mission, but can return home and go right back into important civilian jobs.

"We want to do good things for the community," he said.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

Oregon Guard Spc. Zac Spencer shovels gravel into the foundation of what will become one of several wheelchair accessible ramps at the Harmony Sports Complex in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 7.



Photo by Sgt. Kara M. Greene

More than 40 California National Guard Soldiers marched in honor of the fallen Aug. 24, led by the C Company, 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Company guidon. While deployed to Iraq in 2005-06, the company lost nine California Soldiers.

# Road march for the fallen

## California honors its Soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq

Sgt. Kara M. Greene

California National Guard

Beyond the yellow ribbons, bumper stickers and lapel pins, Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Matthews wanted a way to actively honor the California National Guardsmen who have lost their lives in Iraq that hasn't been done by hundreds already.

As she thought about this further, she remembered an article about a Tennessee National Guard Soldier who conducted a road march in honor of the fallen Soldiers from his state, and instantly knew this was the way she would honor California's fallen.

More than 40 other California Army National Guard Soldiers followed in her footsteps, literally, for a five-mile road march at Mather Air Field, to honor the fallen Soldiers, Aug. 25.

"I was amazed by all the support, emails and news coverage we received," said Matthews. "It showed that there is still a lot of support for our troops."

Before the sun came up, the Soldiers began gathering. Some attached photos of their fallen comrades to their field packs. Others had listed names on poster board on their

30-pound packs.

At 6 a.m., the Soldiers began walking down the street on a beaten running path used by Soldiers and civilians alike. A few American flags flew in the morning breeze from the Soldier's backs. It was a sight not normally seen on this busy Rancho Cordova street.

The march honored not only National Guard personnel, but recognized active duty Soldiers who called California home.

Off and on, one Soldier led the others in a cadence.

"Although we were all marching for different fallen friends, the cadence brought us together and made us into one team with one goal- to honor these Soldiers," said Simpson.

Less than two hours later, the road march ended. The Soldiers dropped their rucksacks from their backs and drank water.

"The road march is over for us," said Simpson. "We'll go back to work but the hope is that we'll never forget the memory of our fallen comrades."

"I knew this was right up my alley," said Matthews, the Joint Force Headquarters readiness and operations noncommissioned officer of planning the road march. "I started by sending out an email asking for participants."

Simpson marched for Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Lawson who deployed with the 49th

Military Police Brigade. Last September, she returned from Iraq without her comrade.

"He would have been the first one to volunteer for this event," said Simpson. "That's just the type of Soldier he was. Dedicated and respected among his peers and subordinates."

The JFHQ headquarters and headquarters detachment plans events frequently for the community, Matthews said. But this was the first event she spearheaded to honor Soldiers as an individual.

Her husband and nephew are in the California National Guard as well. Between the three of them, they've deployed to Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Matthews has twice acted as a casualty assistance officer. And she has since been able to identify with families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"These families become your families," Matthews explained. "Once the funeral is over and the tragedy isn't on the news anymore people go back to their comfort zone, but the family is changed forever."

The last few words of the Noncommissioned Officer's Creed guide Matthews, "I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals," she said.

As a professional Soldier, Matthews interprets this duty to mean also never forgetting the great sacrifice some Soldiers make as part of their job.



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