

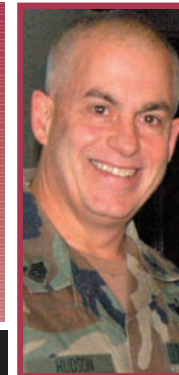


# THE ON GUARD

Volume 35, Issue 9

September 2006

Newspaper of the National Guard



**CSM David Hudson  
assumes NGB  
leadership post**

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# PRESIDENT PRAISES BORDER MISSION

**By Sgt. Jim Greenhill**

National Guard Bureau

MISSION, Texas – The National Guard exceeded President George Bush's requirement to have up to 6,000 troops on the U.S. border with Mexico by Aug. 1, the president said here on Aug. 3.

"Last May, I said we'll deploy up to 6,000 National Guard members to assist the Border Patrol," the president said in a speech at Anzalduas County Park. "I said we'd get it done by August 1st. Well, we got it done by August 1st. And I want to thank those in the National Guard."

Nearly 6,200 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen were on duty in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California by Aug. 1.

The president spoke on the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande, ebony trees shading him from the 96-degree heat, Mexico behind him.

"You heard the president," said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, who accompanied the president during his Thursday afternoon border visit with Guard members and U.S. Border Patrol agents.

"He was very complimentary to the National Guard," Blum said. "We delivered

**PRESIDENT PRAISES continued on**

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian Christiansen

**North Carolina Army National Guard Spc. Alan Handy had the watch at sunset in San Luis, Ariz., in late July. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the country are deployed to the southwest border in support of Operation Jump Start.**



New York National Guard photo

**National Guard troops who reported for duty at Ground Zero after 9/11 came with helmets, respirators and a desire to help their fellow Americans.**

## How 9/11 changed the National Guard

**By Sgt. Michael Dann**

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – At 8:46 on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, American Airlines Flight 11 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, the first of the terrible events that defined that terrible day.

The terrorist attacks five years ago this month spurred the National Guard into action – protecting government offices, airports, and critical infrastructure across the land.

"When the towers collapsed and that airplane hit the Pentagon, it started a no-notice transformation for the National Guard," said

LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "That transformation continues to this day and will continue for the foreseeable future."

The Guard has seen tremendous growth in its capabilities and missions, both at home and overseas, changing its role from a strategic reserve force to an operational force, he said.

"The Guard at one point had over 50 percent of the ground combat units, infantry and armor, fighting in Iraq," Blum said. "Today we have over 70,000 Guard members serving or heading overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism."

That role as an operational force and the

new mission along the U.S.-Mexico border have thrust the Guard into the public eye, Blum pointed out. The Guard's response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma last year also made front-page news around the world.

"All 50 states, four territories, any place that had a Guard unit, sent help. Over 50,000 Guard members responded to Katrina with just a phone call," the Guard Bureau chief said. "That was the largest, most rapid military response to a natural disaster in the history of the world."

Now, President George W. Bush has called

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**Guard activated for airport security again | PAGE 3**



## ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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## A 9/11 chaplain who saved a life



The notebooks and folders are still with me, having survived the shuffle of the past five hectic years. They are filled with the full names and specific places and quotes and random thoughts that I recorded during the long 10 days I spent in New York City and Jersey City and Staten Island in September 2001 – after 9/11.

Among the names is Lt. Dennis Rabineau, an Assembly of God pastor and Naval Militia chaplain from New Jersey, who saved my life. His kindness is as vivid as anything can be five years after the fact.

I met him at the Fresh Kills Landfill, the gritty, foul-smelling place on Staten Island that had been the largest landfill in the world. An endless train of huge trucks hauled the debris from the World Trade Center to that place to be painstakingly examined for evidence against the terrorists who had attacked America and for bits of flesh and bone and items that might help identify the victims.

Army National Guard Soldiers were running the base camp for the hundreds of law enforcement people who needed food, water, ice and a place to take a break from their exhausting and exacting task. It was one of the National Guard stories that I was determined to cover. I was also trying to make up for lost time because I got to New York a lot later than I wanted to.

I was in Anchorage, Alaska, on the Tuesday morning when the terrorists struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and when some incredibly brave passengers, so far as we know, forced the fourth plane to crash in rural Pennsylvania. Yeah, we all know the stories.

It took me a week to get to New York to do my bit – to help tell the stories of the thousands of Guard troops who left their civilian jobs with barely a word to their bosses so they could help their fellow Americans during one of this country's darkest times.

I had gotten as much information and written as much as I could about the Guard's response while waiting to get out of Alaska. Maj. Mike Haller, the Alaska Guard's public affairs officer, was a gracious and accommodating host. He did not object at all to the fact that I was running up a huge telephone bill in his office and that I was neglecting most of the Guard stories that I had intended



*By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell*  
Senior Editor

to cover when I flew to Anchorage on Sept. 10. 9/11 changed a lot of priorities.

I remembered interviewing Tom Wicker, the former New York Times columnist, when I was in college, around 1970. Wicker was a Times reporter who was covering President Kennedy's trip to Dallas when the president was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. I had asked Wicker what it was like to cover a story of that magnitude.

His answer, in a nutshell, was that he felt devastated as an American and determined as a journalist. As badly as you felt for the country, you just had to be a part of that story, Wicker said. News people are indeed moths drawn to the flame. I felt that way about 9/11.

Therefore, my adrenaline was outracing my common sense when I finally landed in Newark, N.J., and headed for the carnage and the story in New York. I wasn't eating. I



New York National Guard photo  
**Guardsmen along with New York Firemen combed through the unstable and dangerous rubble at ground zero.**

wasn't sleeping. I wasn't taking care of myself.

I wound up at Fresh Kills after spending two full days at Ground Zero. I began talking to Guard people and taking photographs of Army engineers who were pouring cement slabs for tents at the base camp. It was pretty clear to me that the camp was going to be there for awhile.


That's when I encountered Chaplain Rabineau. I must have looked like hell. He answered my questions about who he was and what he was doing to help the people who were working at that site. Then he asked me a question: "How are you doing, Sergeant Haskell?"

No one, other than my wife, had asked me that before. None of the other people I encountered had observed that this thing was taking a heavy toll on the people who were reporting on them.

I pondered the chaplain's question for a moment, then I had my own meltdown. "Not very well," I confessed as I bowed my head and my tears dropped into the dust in front of my chair.

After talking quietly with me for a few more minutes, the chaplain did two things I will never forget. First he scolded me for not taking care of myself and reminded me that coffee and cigarettes are not among the basic food groups. Then he prayed for me. He asked God to give me the strength to do my job – to tell the stories about what the National Guard troops and other military people were doing to help other Americans get through this ordeal.

Many of us in uniform are still living it. If you equate 9/11 with Pearl Harbor as a catastrophic event that propelled our country into war, we have been involved with the Global War on Terrorism longer than many of our parents and grandparents were involved with the 45 months of World War II. Our terrorist enemies are not nearly as well defined as were the armies and navies of Germany and Japan. It may go with the territory, but it is unsettling to me that my friend Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts expects to spend the sixth year of this war in Afghanistan.

My encounter with the chaplain gave me the strength and enough of a wakeup – or get-some-sleep – call to sustain me through the rest of that mission in New York five years ago. Our meeting lasted, at the most, for an hour. Someday I hope to tell him in person that he made a friend for a lifetime. 

## Knowing what we're defending


To the editor:

I enjoyed Master Sgt. Bob Haskell's article about the U.S. Constitution in the August 2006 edition of "The On Guard." I firmly believe that all Americans need to know more about how our government is actually supposed to function. Too often our citizens form opinions on how our government works from TV shows and

movies. Talk show hosts from both the right and left quote the Constitution out of context to support extreme views.

*"Every service member should know what they have sworn to defend."*

Reading the Constitution is a bit like referencing the applicable Air Force Instruction – except that the Constitution

is the entire framework upon which our system of government is built. Every enlistment includes an oath to "Support and Defend the Constitution of the United States." Every service member should know what they have sworn to defend. 

– Col. Craig Snow  
Maine Air National Guard



# Missouri Guard aids St. Louis in storm relief

By Sgt. Katherine L. Collins

Missouri National Guard

ST. LOUIS – In the aftermath of heavy rainstorms and destructive winds that hit the St. Louis area July 19, the Missouri National Guard joined with local agencies to ensure the safety and recovery of city residents.

Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen from throughout Missouri arrived in the city to help within 24 hours after storms hit. Their mission focused on health and welfare inspections and debris removal.

Along with physical damage, the storms caused hundreds of thousands to lose power as temperatures soared into the high 90s.

One day after the storms, senior officers and enlisted set up a National Guard headquarters at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in downtown St. Louis. In addition, members of the Missouri Guard's 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company from Macon and Detachment 1, 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company from Kirksville began knocking on resident's doors to ensure their safety and assess their needs. St. Louis Fire Department representatives with radio communication accompanied them.

"The Soldiers simply inspected to see that local residents were staying cool and hydrated during the power outage" said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Rash, the unit's operation sergeant. "Many of the residents had already relocated to the city's cooling centers or other locations such as homes of friends and family. To residents still at home, the soldiers relayed phone numbers and directions to the cooling centers and gave them bottles of water."

Guardsmen also transported residents from shelters to their homes to access medications and clothing, and then returning them back. Soldiers performed this service primarily for the elderly and handicapped seeking shelter at the Whol Center, the city's most acute care shelter, which houses about 300 people.

"The community was very receptive to the Guard's effort to help," added Master Sgt. James Bates, the 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company's first sergeant.

Roy Gillespie, an American Red Cross representative, said that some of the elderly who were transported to their homes said that the trip in a military vehicle with Soldiers was one of the best days of their lives. He said they were grateful for



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Veissman, Missouri National Guard  
**Spc. Arthur Rulo and Spc. Justin Lafae of the Missouri National Guard's 1140th Engineer Company, from Cape Girardeau, conduct a health and welfare inspection at the home of a St. Louis resident. Almost 400 Missouri Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen teamed up with City of St. Louis departments to assist St. Louis in recovery from recent destructive storms.**

the exciting experience.

Starting Friday afternoon and continuing throughout the weekend, Guardsmen removed debris from St. Louis streets. "It's great to be able to help. We are not from St. Louis, but we go where we are needed," said Sgt. Daniel Tooloose of the 880th Haul Team from Perryville. "This is the best training

too. We were conducting our two weeks of annual training when we were called to St. Louis. We were performing common task training there, which is important, but no training beats getting in the trucks to perform real-world missions," he added.

Sergeant Tooloose said he has served with the 880th for 10 years and enjoyed the many aid missions he has performed. "I love to help," he said.


Sam Simon, director of public safety for the city of St. Louis, commended the Missouri Guard's efforts. "We give the Missouri Guardsmen a standing ovation. They have answered the call to go wherever we need them and do whatever we ask of them. They have performed professionally and admirably. The City of St. Louis thanks them."

Col. David Irwin, commander of the St. Louis-based 70th Troop Command, praised the Missouri Guard's performance as well as the efforts of all the St. Louis departments involved in the relief mission.

"This mission requires fluid teamwork between all the city of St. Louis departments and the Missouri Guard. [They] have done great at coordinating with and following the direction of the city's departments to perform whatever missions are needed. Their spirits are high as they are proud to help," he said.

"The St. Louis community is very appreciative of our help," Colonel Irwin added. "Many residents have honked their horns and waved at us to say thanks."

Maj. Douglas Gifford, executive officer of the Missouri Guard's 205th Military Police Battalion and relief effort liaison between the Missouri National Guard and the City of St. Louis, also commented on the success of the teamwork between the city and Guard. "The joint effort has gone exceptionally well. The Guard couldn't have asked for more assistance from the city's departments to get this mission done."

During the first two days of the mission, the team effort of the city of St. Louis and the Missouri Guard helped revive the city from the initial storm that caused loss of electricity to about 200,000 residents. A second storm two days later caused additional damage and further loss of power to the city. According to Major Gifford, St. Louis asked for additional relief efforts from the Guard, to include more health and welfare inspections and debris removal. 

## Guard called to airports to augment security after U.K. terrorist plot foiled

Compiled from wire reports

ARLINGTON, Va. – In the wake of an Aug. 10 announcement by British authorities that they arrested several people involved in a plot to blow up commercial airliners, the governors of three states activated Guardsmen to augment security at several airports.

As this publication was going to press, the governors of Massachusetts, California and New York had called up troops to help secure several airports in their states in support of local law enforcement agencies.

Others governors, including Alaska's, had alerted their Guard forces to be ready to assist.

This came as U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) raised the terror level for flights from Great Britain to red (severe).

Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney called Guard members up to state active duty to assist at Logan International Airport. They were to support the State Police, the Transportation Security Administration,

Massport (Massachusetts Port Authority) and other state public safety personnel. All forces involved in the security augmentation mission were to receive training from the TSA and Massport.

"I appreciate your honor and integrity ... willingness to respond so quickly to the emergency that we face," said Romney to about 50 members of the 972nd Military Police Company deployed to Logan to man new security checkpoints.

"This kind of rapid and robust support for public safety agencies is at the heart of the National Guard's capabilities, experience and Citizen-Soldier heritage," said Brig. Gen. Oliver Mason, the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard.


National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in California had received authorization from the governor to utilize Soldiers in state active duty to support TSA security.

New York had received the governor's authorization to mobilize an additional 75 Soldiers to supplement critical

infrastructure security that was already in place.

"We have offered the mayor, New York City law enforcement and the Port Authority any additional assistance they might need to further support and bolster their security efforts including offering to increase National Guard presence at our two airports," said Gov. George Pataki in a statement Aug. 10.

These call-ups came as all domestic flights in the United States were under orange alert, the DHS's second highest security ranking. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff said the British plot involved the use of liquid explosives that could be carried on board aircraft disguised as beverages, electronic devices and other common objects.

It's not the first time the National Guard has been called up to help secure airports. After the 9/11 attacks, 52 states and territories activated over 7,000 Guardsmen for similar missions in 442 airports across the country. 



# West Virginia Air Guard unit jump starts medical care

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

PLAYAS, N.M. — A former medical clinic is rising like a phoenix after years of neglect in this abandoned New Mexico borderland town as a group of West Virginia Air Guard members establish medical services for personnel serving in Operation Jump Start.

Until 1999, Playas housed employees of the Phelps Dodge Hidalgo copper smelter in remote, sparsely populated southwest New Mexico within sight of Mexico.

The smelter closed, leaving Playas nearly abandoned. The Department of Homeland Security paid about \$5 million for the 1,840-acre town in 2003, according to media reports, and it is now being used as a training center by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. It is the New Mexico Tech Playas Training Center.

It is also close to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen participating in Operation Jump Start, the National Guard's support to Customs and Border Patrol to secure the U.S. border with Mexico.

Seven West Virginia Air Guard medical personnel are renovating the town's former medical clinic for people who face medical risks in the harsh desert climate.

"Our mission is to deliver general medical care in an innovative manner in an isolated area," said Capt. Anita Fouch, a nurse practitioner with the West Virginia Air Guard's 130th Airlift Wing.

Jump Start troops are susceptible to such risks as dehydration, sunburn, insect bites and stings, snake bites and twisted ankles, medical team members said.

"We were the first to respond to the request by the governor of New Mexico to the governor of West Virginia," said Col. David Porter, a flight surgeon and the commander of West



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

**Members of a West Virginia Air National Guard medical team, who are not identified for security reasons, restock a medical clinic in Playas, N.M. The clinic is being set up to treat personnel participating in Operation Jump Start, the National Guard's support to the Customs and Border Patrol.**

Virginia's 167th Medical Group.

Porter's team was told on July 8, a Saturday, to prepare to deploy. "By Tuesday we were all ready," he said. "We've been very proud to be able to be here and to serve the Citizen-Soldiers who are out there pounding the desert."

"There's usually a core in every unit that steps up, and these are the ones," Porter said.

He has deployed five times since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He has served in Southwest Asia.

"This is desert," Porter observed. "It's just like Southwest Asia. You're going to see a lot of the same things — minus, of course, the war trauma that you see there, and even that's a possibility."

The first order of business was reestablish-

ing Playas' medical clinic. The building needed to be cleaned. It needed telephone and computer lines, air conditioning and water. It needed to be stocked with medical supplies.

But the team members did not start from scratch. The examining tables, some beds and other equipment left behind when the town was abandoned are all serviceable, they determined.

Porter said Operation Jump Start is a good training opportunity. "There's nothing like hands-on to really learn the job," he said.

The Airmen, who include four medical technicians and a medical administrator, would rather not see any Citizen-Soldiers professionally.

"Be physically in shape to begin with," Porter recommended to Citizen-Soldiers deploying for Jump Start. "Start your hydration before you leave home."

While medical team members say Citizen-Soldiers should be cautious while on duty, they also say many injuries happen during off-duty hours.

"Be cautious during your recreation," Porter said. "Avoid excessive abuse of alcohol because it leads to dehydration the next day during duty hours and lack of concentration. Alertness in the desert is critical. Cute spiders don't make good pets."

These West Virginia Air Guard members — initially deployed for a month — say they're proud to serve.

"It's good to be a part of something that directly impacts the lives of all Americans, not just the military," Fouch said. "We're very much needed. This is not something that just impacts the lives of the people on the border. This is a nationwide event."

*Reuters News Service contributed background information to this report.*

FROM PAGE 1

## President praises

over 6,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to the southwest border states on time, on target. The Customs and Border Patrol commissioner [W. Ralph Basham] is ecstatic about the support he's getting out of the National Guard. As the president said, who else is better prepared in the military to do this mission other than the National Guard?"

Flying into McAllen-Miller International Airport, the president inspected Guard air assets and Border Patrol equipment before he was whisked through McAllen to the border.

There, Bush visited National Guard Soldiers who are members of an entry identification team that watches the border with equipment that enables them to see people by day or night. The Guard members relay their observations to Border Patrol agents who apprehend suspected illegal immigrants or narcotics smugglers.

Bush at times put his arm around the shoulders of Citizen-Soldiers as he chatted with them about their roles in Operation Jump Start, the National Guard's two-year support to the Border Patrol in securing the border against illegal immigrants.

"He appreciates the sacrifice and the com-

mitment of these magnificent Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen for this very important mission that does have security implications for us right here at home," Blum said.

The president also chatted with Border Patrol agents on horseback before delivering his speech.

"It was an opportunity for the president to see firsthand the great partnership and collaboration between the Border Patrol and the National Guard," said David Aguilar, chief of the Border Patrol.

"The National Guard is a tremendous partner," Aguilar said. "What the National Guard brings to the Border Patrol is nothing less than a force multiplier protecting this nation."

The president thanked all National Guard members in general and LTG Blum by name before outlining his immigration policy.

"General Blum said, 'Mr. President, we're going to get the job done,'" Bush recalled. "I said, 'That's good, General Blum, because — come August 1st — I'm going to come down to the area and take a look-see. And he did. Thank you, General Blum, for a job well done.'"

The National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are assisting agents in the nation's largest law enforcement agency by taking support roles such as monitoring border surveil-

lance equipment and standing watch on the border. Guard members are also answering telephones, staffing communications centers, maintaining Border Patrol vehicles and building more patrol roads, fences and other border infrastructure.

"They're not arresting people," the president said. "We're not going to militarize this border. The job of arresting people is up to the Border Patrol. [Guard members'] job is to help the Border Patrol — you know, surveillance and construction, logistics. If you've got a Guard person dispatching, it means there's one more Border Patrol agent out on the front line."

"Being eyes and ears is probably one of the most critical things they've been doing and acting as a tremendous force multiplier for the men and women that are actually on the border and responding to what the Guard is seeing for us," Aguilar said.

The president said his Texas roots, including his time as the state's governor, give him an acute understanding of the border.

"I understand this border," Bush told the crowd that included many uniformed Guard members. "We have an obligation to secure our border, and we have an obligation to treat people with decency and respect. And we're going to do both."

Some of the Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who have come to the border from more than 30 states said they had no comprehension of the situation until they arrived. Border Patrol agents in some sectors apprehend hundreds of people and hundreds of pounds of illegal drugs every day, they learned.

The National Guard is expected to be on the border for up to two years. The president credited the Guard with helping the Border Patrol seize 17,000 pounds of illegal drugs and apprehend 2,500 illegal immigrants since Operation Jump Start began.

The president said he had ordered Guard members to the border while the Border Patrol beefs up its force and technology assets.

"We've called for increases in manpower and technology," he said. "We're going to train 6,000 additional agents. The reason we brought the Guard down here was because we knew we had an immediate need to enforce the border. Until those 6,000 are trained, we're going to be using National Guard units from over 30 states here. And the plan is working. It makes sense. If we need more manpower and the need for manpower is immediate, it makes sense to call upon our Guard troops to come and help the Border Patrol do the job."



# Guard boosts Border Patrol at Ariz. trouble spot

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

NOGALES, Ariz. — Seven suspected illegal immigrants were on their knees, guarded by Border Patrol agents, a few hundred feet from the fence that delineates the United States border with Mexico.

The suspects were apprehended in mid-July by agents whose efforts are being helped these days by members of the National Guard. The Citizen-Soldiers are relaying information obtained from border surveillance devices and observation posts to the agents.

About 200 people said to have crossed the border illegally are processed every day at the Nogales Station in the Border Patrol's busy Tucson Sector, Border Patrol officials say. That may sound like a lot, but it is significantly fewer than the 600 a day tempo of just four months ago — in March.

Although apprehension rates typically vary with the season, Border Patrol officials attribute the latest drop to the arrival of National Guard troops for Operation Jump Start, the initiative President George W. Bush announced in mid-May to help the Border Patrol secure the U.S. border with Mexico.

Up to 6,000 troops participating in Operation Jump Start are expected to be performing duty along the 1,300-mile border from Texas to California by Aug. 1. The \$770-million operation in support of Customs and Border Protection could continue for up to two years.

Officials say the decrease in apprehensions is striking in areas where the Guard has been deployed.

"We've seen dramatic decreases in the numbers of entries and apprehensions," said John Fitzpatrick, patrol agent in charge for the Nogales Station. "They've basically come in and overnight shut down those areas where they've been deployed. We're gaining ground that much faster now that we have the National Guard here."

The Tucson Sector patrols more than 280 miles of border, 32 miles of it within the Nogales Station's territory. The border terrain is as difficult here for the agents who police it as it is for the human smugglers and drug traffickers who try to negotiate it for profit.

Much of it is in remote, rural areas, but eight miles of it runs through urban landscape. The elevation varies from about 4,000 to 9,000 feet. The terrain varies from desert to mountainous, all of it sweltering hot in the summer and subject to violent storms with frequent lightning strikes.

"Our entire border area for the most part is mountains and canyons," Fitzpatrick said. "Desert heat is a challenge as well."

Human smuggling, drug trafficking and terrorists seeking entry to the United States are concerns for the Border Patrol here. "Anybody looking to do harm to this country, and the illegal aliens are part of the equation," Fitzpatrick said. Agents say illegal immigration is accompanied by crimes such as vehicle thefts, robberies and assaults.

More than 500 Border Patrol agents are assigned to the Nogales Station. Nogales is directly across the border from the Mexican city of the same name. The agents use everything at their disposal. They ride horses, bicycles, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles to patrol the border. They use cameras that can "see" by day and night, sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles.

"If we can put enough pressure on the border so that it's not feasible and not economically viable for these smugglers to continue to smuggle people across, that allows us to then focus on everything else that's going on," Fitzpatrick said.

Nogales is one of the nation's peak places for human crossings. Other numbers obtained from the Border Patrol illustrate the extremes of Nogales:

- About 800 pounds of marijuana are seized each day; 160,000 pounds since Oct. 1.
- More than 260 assaults of Border Patrol agents have occurred in the Tucson Sector since Oct. 1, most in Nogales.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

**An Arizona National Guard Soldier stands watch on the U.S. border with Mexico at Nogales, Ariz., in July, looking over the Mexican city also named Nogales. The Citizen-Soldier is a member of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team participating in Operation Jump Start, the National Guard's assistance to the U.S. Border Patrol.**

- Some 450,000 people were apprehended in the sector last year, including 30,000 criminal aliens, some of them rapists and murderers.

Fitzpatrick credited the National Guard with boosting the Border Patrol's already spectacular drug seizures in the Nogales area. He credited a Guard unit's work with helping the patrol make a significant drug bust during the second week of July.

"We seized well over 600 pounds of marijuana as a result of their observation," Fitzpatrick said. "Those are very immediate and direct impacts that they've had. The long-term impact is going to be huge."

Fitzpatrick said the Guard is building a road in rugged country that will improve access to the border for agents. Guard members are erecting vehicle barriers along the border. "They're putting up hundreds of feet a day and covering areas that we've never really been able to address with infrastructure," he said. "And it's happening at a rapid rate. So there's significant and immediate impacts."


Guard members also are relieving agents who could not perform their law enforcement duties because they had to carry out other tasks.

"We had agents in here that were answering phones," said Jose Maheda, a field operations supervisor. "Working in dispatch. Working as administrators. Working as mechanics."

The Guard took over some of those positions in June. By early July, the Guard established observation posts along the border.

People unfamiliar with the borderlands along the 1,300 miles between the U.S. and Mexico might be surprised by the nature of the border and the pace of activity in hotspots such as Nogales.

## Operation Jump Start

More OJS stories and photos: See and read about Guard troops working the southwest border at [www.ngb.army.mil/news](http://www.ngb.army.mil/news). Check out the "Southwest Border Support Gallery" chronicling the important work being done there by the more than 6,000 troops. 

"I was amazed when I got here and I saw the border," Staff Sgt. Justin Zulueta said. "You always hear it's nothing. But when you actually see it, it's just one strand of wire. It's mind-boggling."

While substantial fences run through the heart of urban areas such as Nogales, "You go a half mile either way and it's just this," Zulueta said, pointing to a broken down barbed wire fence on a ridge above Nogales.

Fitzpatrick said the Guard's arrival is an important contribution to improving border security.

"It's important because Nogales is an extremely busy and dynamic place with regard to immigration and border security," he said. "The Tucson sector as a whole has been the busiest for several years. The busiest in the country. We need to hit it where it's hitting us, and this is where it's at."

"I'm not sure that people in the interior of the United States necessarily see and understand the magnitude of the problem that we have and the threat that we face along our border and the potential vulnerabilities that we may have."

Alpha Company of Arizona's 1st Battalion, 158th Infantry, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was in the final days of annual training on July 19 — taking its turn fulfilling the border mission. The 1st battalion was the first National Guard unit in Arizona to establish entry identification teams on the border.

The teams observe border activity and report it to the Border Patrol using a traditional infantry format.

"No longer will we have areas of the border that are wide open; that we have no vigilance on," Maheda said. "We'll be able to have people out there who will call out the stuff to us and say, 'Hey, I see something,' and we'll be able to respond and make that arrest."

Maheda said that's important because Nogales is a strategically significant location. "Within an hour, you're in Tucson," he said. "In three hours, you're in Phoenix. Theoretically, if you cross this morning and you get away, you can be in Chicago this evening. So we are the front line. If we don't stop them here, then who knows where they can be."

Troops who have worked 24-hour shifts with 24-hour breaks said challenges include the flies, the 115-degree heat and the lightning that accompanies the ferocious summer storms that surprise newcomers to the desert.

But squad leaders said the biggest challenge may have been how fluid the situation is on the border. "You have everything from Mexican families just trying to make a better life for themselves to drug runners," said Zulueta.


Figuring out which is which led to "a lot of hard decisions at the lowest levels," Zulueta said, meaning that enlisted leaders at individual observation posts needed to make quick judgments about the nature of threats and what to report to the Border Patrol.

Some observation posts, including Zulueta's, experienced what squad leaders felt was testing or probing by people from the Mexican side. Those people apparently approached the Guard positions in a defiant manner to find out how the Soldiers would react and how quickly the Border Patrol would respond.

Guard members have upbeat attitudes about the mission. "It was perfect," said Staff Sgt. Desi Hermosillo. "It couldn't have gone any better. It's great that we're supporting the Border Patrol, that we're serving our country this way."

"We feed off of each other," said Fitzpatrick, the chief Border Patrol agent. "The enthusiasm is there. We know it's important, and they know it's important."

Capt. Jeremy Cook also understands the importance of the Guard's mission. When he's not commanding Alpha Company, he's a senior Border Patrol agent at the Nogales Station.

"It's alleviated a lot of pressure on us," said Cook. "It's helpful, very helpful. The mission is going great. They're doing a really good job. Morale is really good." 



## THE ON GUARD

### Nuttall becomes Army Guard's deputy director



**Brig. Gen. James Nuttall**

**By Sgt. Michael Dann**

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Brig. Gen. James Nuttall has reported for duty as the new deputy director of the Army National Guard.

This assignment brings him back to the National Guard Bureau where he served as chief of staff for the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., from March 2003 to November 2004.

Nuttall will assist the director of the Army National Guard in formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans that affect the Army National Guard.

He replaces Brig. Gen. Frank Grass who has become the director for Mobilization and Reserve Component Affairs for United States European Command in Germany.

Nuttall most recently served as deputy director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, Washington. He had held that position since November 2004.

Nuttall brings more than 30 years of military experience to his new job. He was commissioned in 1975 as a field artillery officer in Rhode Island, his home state.

He has held assignments from section leader to brigade commander with the Rhode Island Army Guard.

Leadership positions held by Nuttall include deputy assistant commandant for the U.S. Army Field Artillery School in Ft Sill, Okla., and chief of staff for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command in Ft Monroe, Va.

Nuttall was also a Division I baseball umpire for the Eastern College Athletic Conference before the terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. He hopes to umpire again after his responsibilities with the Army Guard come to an end, said Nuttall who sees many similarities in being an Army officer and an umpire.

"They both are regimented by the manner in which you conduct yourself," he recently explained. "People are always looking to your decisions, and it gives you an opportunity to excel as a leader as well as a member of a team." 🦋

### Hudson steps up as new senior enlisted advisor

ARLINGTON, Va. — Command Sgt. Maj. David Hudson from Alaska has begun learning the ropes as the senior enlisted advisor for the chief of the National Guard Bureau. He is the second person to hold that position at the Guard Bureau's joint headquarters.

He is succeeding Command Sgt. Maj. John Leonard Jr. from Maine who has officially retired but is helping Hudson settle into the job of advising LTG H Steven Blum about the enlisted affairs of the 457,000 Soldiers and Airmen in the Army and Air National Guard.

Hudson, who was born in Alexandria, Va., assumed his new position on Aug. 3 after serving as the state command sergeant major for the Alaska Army National Guard. He became the first traditional Alaska Guard Soldier to serve as the state's command sergeant major.

Leonard served as the first senior enlisted advisor at the Guard Bureau from November 2003 until this August when he retired with 41 years of military service. He enlisted in

the Marine Corps in 1965 and was wounded twice during a 14-month tour in Vietnam.

Since joining the National Guard in 1972, Leonard has served as the state command sergeant major in Maine, as the command sergeant major for the entire Army National Guard, and as the senior enlisted advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

Hudson's military career spans some 33 years, including more than 10 years in the Air Force and Air Force Reserve. He logged more than 3,200 flying hours as an aerial weather observer and has participated in 58 hurricane penetrations.

Hudson has served as a traditional Soldier in the Alaska Army Guard for the past 22



**CSM John Leonard Jr.**



**CSM David Hudson**

years and has held all leadership positions as a noncommissioned officer. He was the commandant of the 207th Regional Training Institute before becoming the state command sergeant major.

Therefore, he is familiar with the Army and Air Force components of the National Guard.

He is currently on leave from the Alaska State Troopers where he holds the rank of captain. He last served as commander of the Criminal Investigation Bureau and coordinated numerous investigations of violent crimes and narcotics violations throughout Alaska.

Hudson's educational background includes a master's of science degree in organizational management. 🦋

### Maryland Guard assists U.S. citizens fleeing Lebanon

**By Rick Roth**

Maryland National Guard

BALTIMORE, Md. — Maryland National Guard members helped repatriate over 5,050 U. S. citizens fleeing the fighting in Lebanon in late July.

More than 30 Maryland Guardsmen saw to the needs of evacuees from Lebanon arriving at Baltimore /Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) Airport July 20-28. Nineteen flights arrived during that time averaging 250 passengers each.

As groups of weary evacuees arrived they were immediately greeted by clapping hands and cheers--and Guardsmen willing to lend a hand.

"Flights are coming in and people are pretty distraught," said Sgt. 1st Class John Lavery, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Maryland Army Guard Soldiers supporting the repatriation operation.

"A lot of these people are carrying everything they have with them," he said.

Maryland Guard members worked primarily as escorts for the evacuees, helping to smooth the repatriation process as well as helping them navigate the airport. Maryland Soldiers and Airmen ensured evacuees made their connecting flights and chaplains stood by to lend spiritual assistance.

The repatriation effort was a joint civil and military operation involving both the Maryland Air and Army National Guard as well as the Maryland Defense Force.

"There's nowhere else in the world you can get this type of treatment," said Sgt. Dale Clester, referring to the combined assistance made available to the evacuees as they arrived. Clester and his wife Pvt. Kelly Clester, both members of the



Photo by Heike Hasenauer

**Spc. Ebony Wood of the 1297th Combat Sustainment and Support Battalion's 1729th Forward Support Maintenance Company gives a boxed lunch (provided by Red Cross workers) to one of many arriving children from Lebanon at BWI Airport July 21.**

1729th Forward Support Maintenance Company located in Havre de Grace, Md., began working on the first day of the operation.

The trip from Lebanon to the United States could take as long as five days, said Clester. And many of the travelers were very weary from remaining awake for most of it, he added.

"People waiting for flights out of Cypress are afraid to go to sleep," said

Clester, "for fear that when their names are called to board their flight they'll be asleep and miss them."

Coordination between state, local and federal agencies was the responsibility of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, while repatriation operations were lead by the Maryland Department of Human Resources (MDDHR).

After passing through U.S. Customs, evacuees were greeted by American Red Cross workers distributing food along with hygiene kits. MDDHR workers helped coordinate follow-on travel and medical personnel were on stand-by to lend assistance should returning citizens require it.

"It's been a really nice experience working joint Air and Army Guard," said Tech. Sgt. Dena Mioduszewski, a member of the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Services Flight. "It shows you how well the Army and Air can work together."

Mioduszewski had been a part of the mission since day one and had recently been made the Air Guard Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge on the ground at BWI.

"I called my commander and said, 'I've got to be a part of this,'" she said.

At one point she overheard an evacuee trying to make a phone call to family in California, however the battery in his cell phone had died. She lent the man her cell phone. "You do what you can," she said.

Sgt. 1st Class Lavery, a recently returning Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, made it clear that he was happy to be helping his fellow citizens. "You see the joy of these people meeting their families," he said. "This is a good humanitarian mission." 🦋



# THE ON GUARD

REMEMBERING  SEPTEMBER 11

FROM PAGE 1

## Changed the Guard

on the Guard to help the U.S. Border Patrol secure the borders in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California against illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, the Guard remains engaged in other missions at home and in more than 40 countries around the world.

So far, the public has responded positively to the Guard's new identity, with recruiting numbers running at an all time high. (Related story on page 16.)

"The opinion about the National Guard has moved in a few short years from 'Are they relevant?' to being deemed essential to the security of this nation," Blum said. "We may be at an all-time high in terms of our image. We may, in fact, be the most respected uniformed force in hometown America right now."

Many new capabilities are being added to the Guard's inventory to better serve its homeland defense mission.

Each of the 50 states and the four territories now have a joint force headquarters to give the states better command and control over assets during times of crisis, both inside and outside their borders.

Furthermore, by the end of this year each state will have a civil support team ready to react at a moment's notice in case of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. The teams will be able to detect and identify deadly agents, advise authorities about the best course of action, and establish a communications bridge between local, state and federal emergency responders.


"The fact that we haven't had a shutdown of any commercial part of our nation since 9/11 is huge," says Blum. "It's because of the contributions these 21st century Minutemen and women of the Guard are making to the defense of our nation."

Even with all the deployments and changing homeland defense missions, retention has never been better, giving the Guard its most combat-experienced forces since the end of World War II.

"The people of the National Guard are the finest young men and women we have ever had in our ranks in our 369-year history," Blum said

The Guard today has the youngest force since the end of the draft almost 35 years ago, he added.

"It's also the most experienced force the Guard has ever had. Over half of our Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are veterans of at least one prolonged combat tour," Blum pointed out, and many have had second and third tours.

When you include the numerous mobilizations for domestic missions like airport security, the G-8 Summit, the Democratic and Republican conventions, and numerous natural disasters of which Katrina is only the most prominent example, many Guard members have had four or five tours, Blum added. That pace was inconceivable before Sept. 11, 2001. 

By Sgt. Michael Dann

National Guard Bureau

The 9/11 terrorist attacks five years ago had a profound effect on men and women serving in the National Guard. These are four of their stories:

**Sgt. Michael Wareham:**  
**STILL MORE TO DO**

Michael Wareham was getting ready for work in Tulare, Calif., that Tuesday morning when he and his wife saw the reports on Good Morning America. It was Sept. 11, 2001, and someone had attacked his homeland.

He did not go to work as a bus driver that day. He stayed home, glued to the news reports and images on his television.

Wareham had been a military policeman in the Army during the end of the first Gulf War, but he never got to the Gulf.

"I missed Desert Storm," Wareham said. "I didn't do everything that needed to be done. I wanted to do something meaningful."

He joined the California Army National Guard three months after 9/11 as an infantryman. He has had several chances to do something meaningful since then.

Wareham went to Iraq attached to Alpha Company of the Washington Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 185th Armor in November 2003. He was wounded twice.

First a mortar attack by insurgents against his unit's base camp killed his battle buddy and peppered the left side of Wareham's body with shrapnel.

Then his unit was escorting a convoy of medical personnel when they came under fire from a blacked out vehicle that was following the convoy. Wareham was the gunner on the tail vehicle. An AK-47 bullet ricocheted off his vehicle's armor plating and into his left shoulder.

He brought home his two Purple Hearts in February 2005.

The following August, Wareham and other members of the California Guard went to New Orleans to help pick up the pieces after Hurricane Katrina.

Wareham spent days searching homes, schools, and other buildings for victims in the 9th Ward.

"It was a rough deployment, sobering, disheartening, and as equally disturbing as the things I saw in combat in Iraq," Wareham said. "Those people needed us down there."

Sgt. Michael Wareham is a member of the 649th Military Police Company. These days he can be found along the Mexican border in Southern California, taking part in Operation Jump Start and helping the Border Patrol stop illegal immigrants from entering this country.

"It's a mission we need to do. We are having an impact down here," said Wareham who believes he can still do more. "There's even more to be done now," he said. "I got two years left on this enlistment to see what I can get in."



**Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Evans:**  
**THE A-PLUS GAME**

It was her first day at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., working for the director of the Air National Guard, and she spent it looking out the window wondering, "What the hell is going on?" The smoke billowed into the sky above the Pentagon and the office that she had left the day before.

Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Evans was 22 when the airliners crashed into their targets. She had just started her new job with the National Guard Bureau, moving from the staff of the assistant secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

"I remember looking out the 12th floor window here at the National Guard Bureau that morning, watching a US Air jet taking off from Reagan National Airport, thinking what a beautiful day it is," Evans said. "By that afternoon, looking out the same window, I was watching smoke and debris floating by on the wind."

Evans has family in Washington and in New York City. They were worried about her. She was able to call her grandmother in New York and let her know that she was OK.

Not being sure about Evans' last day of work at the Pentagon was, her grandmother was pretty worried until Evans called her.

Meanwhile, Evans mother, who lives in the D.C. area, could not contact her and finally had to call the grandmother in New York just to find out that Evans was OK.

Evans has remained with the National Guard Bureau and will pin on master sergeant stripes Sept. 14, five years and three days after that unforgettable first day on the job.

Evans has noticed a big change in herself as she looks back on the time she has spent in uniform.

"I no longer come to work with anything less than my A-plus game," Evans said. "I'm in a great place, working for the director of the Air Guard, to make a difference and be a true professional."

"If you're going to come into the military these days, don't do it just for a job or money for higher education," Evans added. "Come in and do something to make a difference and leave positive footprints for those coming behind you."

**1st Lt. Jude Lau:**

**COMPELLED TO JOIN**

Army National Guard 1st Lt. Jude Lau was a 20-year-old cadet senior at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., which has been graduating military officers since 1839, when the terrorists attacked.

He and others in his French class had heard rumors about airplanes crashing into buildings and ran to a television in the Post Exchange after the bell.



Lau said it didn't seem real to him at first. "I couldn't believe it. I thought somebody really messed up," he said.

That night Lau and his fellow cadets sat outside their dormitories and watched the news projected onto bed sheets, hung up like a drive-in theater.

The reality of what had taken place hit him as the images were shown on those sheets. "I was in shock and awe. We are not as safe as we think we are," he said.

Lau was the first member of his Chinese-American family to consider military service which is a choice VMI graduates must make before accepting their diplomas.

He had already decided to join the Army National Guard after graduating, and the events of Sept. 11 validated that decision. "It compelled me to join," he recalled.

Now he is 25 and an infantry officer in Virginia's 29th Infantry Division. Lau is currently assigned at the National Guard Bureau's Office of the Inspector General.

"I'm still supporting from the sidelines, but I'm ready to jump into the fight as a member of Special Forces," he said. "I've never felt more confident that we will win this fight."

**Sgt. Jim Greenhill:**

**MEMORIES OF LONDON**

"How could I give back?"

That was Army National Guard Sgt. Jim Greenhill's first reaction to the attacks on New York and Washington.

Greenhill knows firsthand the devastation and change that a terrorist attack can cause. As a child growing up in London, an Irish Republican Army bomb went off a block from his front door. "It's really sad American kids will have to grow up with a fear of terrorism," he said.


"9-11 was a wakeup call," Greenhill added.

He came to the United States when he was 19, and it didn't take him long to find a way to give back to his adopted country. Only days after the attack, while driving back home to Colorado from a business trip, he decided to join the armed forces.

He was 37, however, and he was told he was too old for the Marines and Army. But an Army Guard recruiter was able to get Greenhill a waiver for his age, and at 38 he graduated from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training.

In March 2005 the Army raised the enlistment age to 40 and has since raised it again to 42.

Greenhill started his Guard career as a truck driver. He has been a civilian newspaper reporter since completing college, however, and he became a journalist in the National Guard. He has served for a year in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he worked with Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen. That helped him realize that everybody is contributing to the war against terrorism.

Now 41, Greenhill is serving at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., as a public affairs staff writer. 







## C-130 crew saw Pentagon explosion

By 1st Lt. Sheree Savage

Minnesota National Guard

MINNEAPOLIS- Five years after witnessing the terror attacks of 9/11, a C-130 crew from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing remembers the day like it was yesterday.

Taking off from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, the crew enjoyed the beautiful weather and admired the sun shining off the Potomac River. It was Lt. Col. Steve O'Brien, the aircraft commander, who spotted an airplane at his 10 o'clock position. The aircraft was American Airlines Flight 77 that hijackers crashed into the Pentagon.

"When I first saw the aircraft it was moving fast, and that's when air traffic control called and asked, 'Do you see an airplane? Can you tell me what kind it is?' and then asked for us to follow it," recalled O'Brien. "Never in 20 years of flying had I been asked to follow a commercial airliner."

A few minutes later, O'Brien and his crew witnessed the nation under attack without realizing it. "We saw a fireball on the ground from jet fuel exploding and then saw the silhouette of the Pentagon through the haze of smoke," said O'Brien.

After air traffic control received the report from O'Brien, the flight crew was advised to continue their original mission and return to Minnesota. F-16 fighters were immediately launched to patrol and secure the area.

Resuming the flight home, the crew tuned in a newscast. Although they were expecting to hear about an airplane crashing into the Pentagon, the first thing the crew heard was that a second airplane had hit the World Trade Center. New York City was reported to be going up in smoke. Then reality struck. The nation was under an organized terrorist attack.

Minutes later, while the crew was flying over Pennsylvania, air traffic control contacted O'Brien and asked if he could spot another aircraft, Flight 93. After looking in all directions from the C-130's windows, smoke was detected barreling from an open field to the left of the plane.

"I thought the smoke was from a farmer burning or a junk yard," said O'Brien. "I was trying to be optimistic. The last thing anybody wants is to witness two commercial airliners crashing in the same day."

O'Brien reported the position of the smoke to the air traffic controllers and then was directed to land at the nearest airport, Youngstown Air Reserve Station, Ohio. When the plane landed, the crew witnessed another rare site — many large aircraft crammed into a small airport. All airplanes were grounded at airports across the nation.

After landing, the crew members explained what they had witnessed to members of the FBI and intelligence officers. After being released for the evening, O'Brien checked into his room, turned on the television and watched a report about Flight 93 crashing in a field in Shanksville, Pa.

"The news report confirmed what I saw. I knew it was an airplane crash," said O'Brien. "After our initial crew rest, we were put on alert to assist the Air Force Reserve for a few days before returning to Minnesota."

Many sleepless nights followed for the crew. O'Brien explained that after a few weeks he started to wake up in the middle of the night. When the pattern continued for him and other crew members, O'Brien gathered the group together to meet with a flight doctor to discuss how the mind deals with post-traumatic stress. The flight doctor explained how sleeping patterns would be restored, and he was right.

But memories linger as if the experience happened yesterday. Master Sgt. Jeffrey Rosenthal, flight engineer, explained that on a daily basis he is reminded about his 9/11 experience by reading the newspapers, watching the television and reminiscing about a recent deployment to the Middle East.

"Still today, we see firsthand the results of terrorism in the world," said Rosenthal. "Because I witnessed it firsthand, I have a deeper appreciation for what we are doing, and I know why America is fighting."

O'Brien and Rosenthal have deployed many times since 9/11 to support Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. They are gearing up for another tour in early 2007.

Five years after Sept. 11, 2001, Rosenthal remembers the day clearly. "I think I can speak for the crew, and what we remember is not a memory but a wish that it never happened. As time goes on, it seems like a memory that we all could have done without."



Photo by 1st Lt. Sheree Savage, Minnesota National Guard

**Lt. Col. Steve O'Brien: "We saw a fireball on the ground from jet fuel exploding and then saw the silhouette of the Pentagon through the haze of smoke."**



National Guard Bureau photo

**A helicopter arrives at the Pentagon minutes after impact.**



National Guard Bureau photo

**F-16s from the North Dakota Air National Guard performed combat air patrols over the Washington, D.C., area in the weeks and months following 9/11.**

## New York: The mission was anything but normal

By Maj. Les' Melnyk

National Guard Bureau

NEW YORK — On 9/11 National Guard members rushed to the aid of their neighbors, ready to defend and assist them in their hour of need. It was not your typical Aid to Civil Authorities mission. It was more like an instinctive response — a reaction to an unimaginable event, a defining moment that has been burned into the American psyche like Pearl Harbor was 60 years earlier.

Guard men and women sought out their units without having to be told, and prepared themselves for immediate mobilization and deployment. Those who were closest to ground zero rushed to the scene to render what assistance they could.

I interviewed some of those Citizen-Soldiers during the week after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, oftentimes sitting on a bench in Battery Park overlooking New York Harbor, as they took a break just outside their command post on the southern tip of Manhattan.

For the first time in my career as a military historian, I got a sense of what it must be like to do post-combat interviews with men who had not yet had time to decompress, to digest and analyze and make sense of all the events they had just witnessed. Men struggled for words. Their voices cracked. Occasionally their hands shook. Their hometown had been attacked, and many knew of friends and family that were missing and presumed dead.

1st Sgt. Joseph Ranauro of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry, worked as a court officer a few blocks from the Twin Towers. While patrolling the exterior of his court building that morning, he saw the first plane hit. Gathering up his detail of 10 men, most of whom had emergency medical training, he rushed down to the site, arriving just after the second plane struck.

They worked frantically to evacuate victims until popping noises and explosions caused them to look up at the South Tower.

"The [outer skin of the] building was waving all the way from ... about the tenth floor all the way up," Ranauro said.

Realizing a collapse was imminent, he rushed into the lobby of a nearby building.

"The gush of the air and the debris blew us in there ... about 10 or 15 feet, and everything went black," Ranauro said. "Just tons of dust and nobody could breath for ... three to four minutes. One of the guys I worked with was about six inches from my face. When I finally got my breath, the first thing I yelled out was 'Teddy, where are you?' He's yelling into my ear, 'I'm right next to you.'"

Ranauro and the men around him felt their way outside to safety. But as he would discover later, several of his friends and coworkers did not get out. After receiving medical attention, he went to his home on Staten Island and reported to his Guard unit later that evening.



New York National Guard photo

**A visibly exhausted Guard Soldier takes a break near the World Trade Center destruction.**

Early the next morning he was back in lower Manhattan with his unit, providing perimeter security around ground zero.

Faced with sudden crisis, training kicked in.

On the morning of Sept. 11, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, rushed to a unit armory near his home on Long Island and drove his Humvee into the city, taking to the shoulders and running down traffic cones much of the way to get around gridlocked traffic. On reaching his headquarters in Manhattan, he grabbed his executive officer and headed downtown to conduct a reconnaissance.

"When I got over there about 12:30 and stood there watching fire trucks blowing up and flames coming out of the wreckage of those buildings, and I saw the human remains on the ground, I switched over somehow and I found myself thinking like a Soldier," he recalled.

After assessing the situation, he called his brigade commander, relayed his information, received instructions, and returned to his headquarters to prepare for deployment downtown.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward Kane, the chaplain for the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, was preparing for morning Mass at his parish in Brooklyn when he heard about the attack. Although he was due to transition to the Inactive Ready Reserve in a few days and had already turned in his field gear, Kane outfitted himself with gear left over from his days as an infantryman in Vietnam and got into his car. When he emerged from the Battery Tunnel into lower Manhattan, he entered an atmosphere where everything was coated with thick gray soot and the dust dimmed the sun. It

light generator sets to provide illumination. Patrols detained looters, souvenir hunters, curiosity seekers and numerous members of the media who tried to sneak inside.

Soldiers escorted displaced apartment dwellers back to their buildings so they could retrieve their pets and valuable possessions, while other Soldiers kept people away from exposed power cables that were laid across the streets to provide electricity to the buildings of lower Manhattan. Guard members also escorted just about every VIP in America (and, it seemed, the world) as they flocked to lower Manhattan to view and condemn the handiwork of terrorism.

Guard armories pulled duty during the attack as well. The drill floor and many of the offices of the 69th Infantry's armory were taken over by the City of New York on the evening of Sept. 11 and made into a family support center.

The armory was immediately inundated with city employees and contractors, aid workers, grief counselors, and thousands upon thousands of anxious family members in lines that wrapped around the block.

"There was approximately 4,000 to 5,000 people on the outside, 2,000 people on the inside, not to say at least a good 500-700 personnel, staff and police officers" said Miguel Cruzado, the command sergeant major for the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry, who commanded a detachment of Citizen-Soldiers who stayed back at the armory to assist the city's effort. In no time at all, both the interior and exterior of the historic armory were papered over with flyers bearing the faces of the missing, while flowers and candles and countless other tributes surrounded the building. Soldiers coming back to the armory each night had to walk past a gauntlet of people in mourning, past the thousands of faces on the walls, in order to grab a few hours sleep in crowded orderly rooms and locker rooms.

As a native New Yorker myself, it was difficult at times to maintain my detachment as a historian. One of my earliest memories was of the twin towers being built. They were the tallest buildings in the world at the time and a marvel to my young eyes.

My first 10 years in the military were as a traditional Guardsman with the 69th Infantry, the unit whose armory was located closest to the World Trade Center. I still had many friends in the unit, and I was acquainted with one of the lieutenants in Alpha Company, Sean Baptiste, a firefighter who was killed when the towers collapsed. I understood the anger and resolve of these Guard members because I shared it. At the same time, I was intensely proud of how well my old unit, and all the other Citizen-Soldiers who had rushed to help, had performed amid the chaos.

*Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the December, 2001 issue of The On Guard.*



# THE ON GUARD

REMEMBERING  SEPTEMBER 11

## Counterdrug people expanded their horizons

By Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Prior to the devastating attacks of 9/11, the National Guard Counterdrug Program operated under the radar, so to speak. Since 1989, the unique program has supported law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations in the fight against illicit drugs in the United States. However, after the attacks, Counterdrug Soldiers and Airmen stepped outside their normal roles and supported the response efforts with their unique capabilities.

“We directly supported the ongoing rescue and recovery operations in New York City and at the Pentagon,” said Air Guard Col. Earl Bell, chief of the Guard’s Counterdrug Programs. “Our mission essential-equipment was critical to the efforts at the attack sites.”

Their aircraft were among the first ones conducting missions after the attacks. Counterdrug personnel flew the fixed-wing RC-26B aircraft and Reconnaissance and Aerial Interdiction Detachment (RAID) helicopters. They used a Mobile Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS) to support law enforcement missions across the country and along the U.S. border.

They operated five of their 11 twin-engine RC-26B airplanes to move critical personnel and equipment, according to Guard officials. The RAID helicopters (OH-58s) supported operations at the Pentagon by providing video downlinks to the District of Columbia Armory with their Forward Looking Infrared and daytime imagery. Using the MVIS, one of two in the country, Guardsmen supported cargo inspection operations at the Port of Champlain on the

New York and Canadian border. The self-contained, mobile inspection system uses gamma ray imaging to identify concealed cargo or detect explosives and narcotics.

“These efforts made Counterdrug visible to support future national emergency or homeland defense missions,” said Air Guard Lt. Col. Mark Tipmongkol, the Counterdrug Domestic Operations branch chief.

Counterdrug’s basic mission has not changed since 9/11. They are still in the business of saving American lives through drug demand reduction programs and support to law enforcement agencies. However, they have expanded their mission from counternarcotics to counternarcoterrorism.

“We conduct a full-spectrum campaign that bridges the gap among Department of Defense and non-Defense institutions in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational threats against the homeland,” said Bell. “Our support helps anticipate, deter and defeat these threats in order to enhance national security and protect our society.”

Last year, after Hurricane Katrina, Counterdrug was again able to support the nation’s rescue and recovery missions. Besides using their aerial assets, the Light Armored Vehicle, an eight-wheeled amphibious vehicle, was used to support rescue operations and was directly responsible for saving 604 people.

“Prior to our support for 9/11, Counterdrug was not seen as this asset to assist in homeland defense missions beyond our normal operations,” said Tipmongkol. “Now, we are asked to participate in planning for future events like another hurricane.”

Given its new identity, Counterdrug is being asked to support

more missions than ever before. Each mission request still has to pass a litmus test. While response to Katrina was obvious, Counterdrug doesn’t have the authority or funding to support every request. Operation Jump Start, for example, didn’t pass the test even though Counterdrug Guardsmen have been working similar counternarcotics missions along the southwest border since the 1990s.

“The border operation missions for Operation Jump Start don’t have the counterdrug nexus or critical life and death requirements for us to operate under regulation,” said Bell.


Counterdrug, which operates in all 54 states and territories, has more than enough to keep its 2,500 full-time Soldiers and Airmen busy. Last year, the program underwent a major transformation under Bell’s leadership.

Three major initiatives are now the focus of the program: Drug Demand Reduction, Decision Superiority and Combatant Commander Support.

Through Drug Demand Reduction efforts, the program is working with other community-based organizations to establish a science-based and measurable drug education curriculum for school-age children. Decision Superiority efforts support information sharing capabilities among military and law enforcement personnel. Combat Commander Support includes creating teams to support counternarcoterrorism efforts around the world.

These signature programs are all in their implementation stages and are expected to bring Counterdrug even more into the limelight.

“I believe our program used to be one of the best kept secrets in the National Guard,” said Tipmongkol.

Not any more. 

## A Guard son’s perspective

By Dominic Morales

Nation Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The date Sept. 11, 2001, will forever hold a place in my memory. It is a memory full of confusion, fears, tears and sheer chaos. The terrorists had accomplished most of their mission, and they had left a question mark on all Americans. I had always thought that the United States was untouchable, impenetrable and supreme. Yet, 9/11 revealed many weaknesses in America and brought the world’s attention to the extreme measures terrorists are willing to take.

Both of my parents are active duty National Guard members, so meetings at the Pentagon, in the same section that was hit, were nothing out of the ordinary. I was sitting in class that morning with no idea about what was going to happen. It seemed as if no one knew anything was going to happen. My teacher left the room to make some photo copies. He turned on the television when he returned. Everyone was silent. The room felt cold and dark. I could feel people starting to get extremely worried. Then as the facts came together, everyone started to panic.

The Pentagon had just been hit and the news kept streaming video of footage from the Twin Towers in New York. Then our principal got on the loudspeaker and announced what was happening. Not knowing if my parents had been caught in the attack on the Pentagon, I frantically tried to get in touch with them by calling their cell phones. Every time I attempted to call, I got a message saying that the network was unavailable. That was when I went to my counselor to figure out what to do.

I finally reached my parents, after trying for an hour and a half. They were alright. Their building had been evacuated,

and they had left immediately.

The streets were jammed as people were trying to get out of the area. My parents rushed to get my sister and me at school. When I saw them, we could not hold back the tears, and we rejoiced with hugs and kisses, feeling lucky they were alive. We later found out that the cell phone companies were flooded because so many people were calling each other. It caused a network failure.

Weeks, then months, after the attacks had taken place I kept experiencing random panic attacks. I could not figure out what was wrong until I went to a psychiatrist. The doctor said that I was most likely experiencing PTSD. That is short for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is described as a psychiatric disorder that can occur after experiencing or witnessing life-threatening events such as combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents or violent personal assaults. It was crazy to think that Sept. 11 could give me panic attacks.

But perhaps it wasn’t so crazy after all. I have read at least one study since then that says most Americans were deeply affected by 9/11.

I remember walking down my neighborhood street and seeing a flag on every mailbox. Sometimes there was more than one flag in the yard. Patriotism was at a peak, and everyone was willing to support each other through the hard times the nation faced.


I know I was not alone. Many children with military parents experienced the historic 9/11 terrorist attacks through the eyes of people dedicated to defending this country. To some, it happened too close to home. I’m sure that we all have ideas about how the events of 9/11 changed our perception about terrorism and changed the lives of so many.



National Guard Bureau photo

**Members of the Maryland National Guard form up outside the Pentagon after the attack.**

“I still cannot watch footage of the day without it bringing tears to my eyes and heaviness to my heart for the change it has brought to the entire world,” said my mother, Maj. Tammy Bevington. “The patriotism, courage, and solidarity shown by our country during and after 9/11 were inspiring and made me even more proud to be an American,” said my stepfather, Lt. Col. Andrew Bevington.

Furthermore, my family has realized that every living moment should be cherished and that spending time together is very important. That was also an important lesson from 9/11. 

*Dominic Morales is a college student who has been an intern this summer at the National Guard Bureau.*



# THE ON GUARD

REMEMBERING  SEPTEMBER 11

## History: How the Guard ramped up and rolled out

The following is excerpted directly from the Annual Review of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, 2001, and is the best account of times and events related to the National Guard's response to the terrorist attacks. All events took place on Sept. 11, 2001. All times are Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

**Approximately 8:40 a.m.** – With Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) notification of the assumed hijacking of American Airlines Flight 11, from Boston en route to Los Angeles, 1st Air Force (Air Combat Command commanded by an Air National Guard general and mostly staffed by ANG personnel) immediately establishes an Air Operations Center (AOC) to deal with the incident.

**8:43** – FAA notifies North American Air Defense Command's Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS, located in Rome, N.Y.) of possible hijacking of United Airlines Flight 175, from Boston en route to Los Angeles.

**8:46** – NEADS orders F-15s scrambled from Otis Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Massachusetts, the closest air defense alert site to Boston and to the two hijacked airliners. Fighters were from 102nd Fighter Wing, Massachusetts ANG.

**8:46** – Flying past the tip of lower Manhattan, American Airlines Flight 11 hits the World Trade Center's 110-story North Tower, between the 94th and 98th floors.

**8:52** – Two Massachusetts ANG F-15s are airborne from Otis ANGB.

**9:02** – United Airlines Flight 175 hits the World Trade Center's South Tower, between the 78th and 84th floors.

**9:24** – The FAA notified NEADS regarding probable hijacking of American Airlines Flight 77 from Dulles International Airport near Washington, D.C., bound for Los Angeles.

**9:24** – Three F-16s ordered scrambled from Langley AFB, Virginia, closest alert site to Dulles IAP.

**9:30** – Three F-16s from the 119th Fighter Wing, North Dakota ANG, air-



National Guard Bureau Heritage Series painting by Gil Cohen

**This painting depicts an Air National Guard pilot examining the damage at the Pentagon while flying protective cover over Washington. On 9/11, aircraft from three different fighter wings flew these combat air patrols.**

borne from Langley AFB.

**9:37** – Hijacked American airlines Flight 77 hits the Pentagon. Among the 189 dead (military and civilian Defense Department personnel, 59 passengers and five hijackers) are two Active Guard/Reserve Army National Guard members, Lt. Col. Canfield Boone of Indiana and Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Ruth of Maryland.

**9:40** – The FAA halts all U.S. flight operations and orders aircraft to land.

**9:50** – The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

**10:03** – United Airlines Flight 93, Newark, N.J., to San Francisco, crashes in western Pennsylvania.

**10:29** – The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses. It is later determined that more than 2,800 occupants of

the two towers – rescue workers, passengers on the hijacked jets, bystanders and hijackers – died in the attacks. Guard members in New York City and vicinity, seeing the magnitude of the destruction, began reporting to their armories or directly to lower Manhattan for disaster relief operations.


**10:43** – At the request of the Secret Service, the 113th Fighter Wing, District of Columbia ANG, establishes a Combat Air Patrol (CAP) over Washington.

**5 p.m.** – New York Gov. George Pataki places the entire New York National Guard on a high state of alert. All bridges and tunnels into New York City have been closed.

New Jersey's governor has declared a state of emergency and National Guard

medical personnel have been sent to Jersey City, immediately across from lower Manhattan, and have set up aid tents to treat casualties arriving by ferry.

The Connecticut National Guard has set up a 24-hour command post at state headquarters in Hartford. Emergency equipment is being sent to New York.

By the end of the "Day That Changed Everything," virtually every state had Guard personnel on alert if not actually guarding critical infrastructure such as bridges, tunnels and train systems across the nation. All had opened their 24-hour operations centers to maintain communications. In the days that followed 9/11, Guard personnel were deployed to airports to assist with security as airlines resumed flying. 

## It happened in September

Events that made National Guard history during September:

**Sept. 1, 1950:** Four Army Guard infantry divisions enter active duty for the Korean War. The 28th and 43rd will serve in Germany to support NATO, while the 40th and 45th will see combat in Korea.

**5-1969:** Members of Idaho's 116th Engineer Battalion are released from active duty, having completed a tour in Vietnam. One of eight Army Guard units to be deployed to Vietnam, the battalion was the only Army or Air Guard unit to actually

serve in Korea and Vietnam.


**7-1986:** An F-106 Delta Dart of the Florida Air Guard's 125th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron encounters a Soviet Air Force TU-95 "Bear" bomber flying near U.S. airspace en route to Cuba. Air Guard fighters intercepted Soviet aircraft hundreds of times during the Cold War.

**11-1777:** The town of Chadds Ford, Pa., becomes the scene of the Battle of Brandywine, one of the largest battles of the American Revolution, as General George Washington fails to block the British advance on Philadelphia. During the battle,

the Americans had their flank turned but withdrew in good order. Their retreat was covered by well-served militia cannon of Proctor's Artillery of Philadelphia.

**21-1846:** Monterrey, the largest city in northern Mexico, is captured by an American assault during the Mexican War. The assault was led in part by the 1st Mississippi Regiment commonly referred to as the "Mississippi Rifles." Commanded by Col. Jefferson Davis, future Secretary of War and Confederate president, the Rifles are among the best disciplined troops serving in the volunteer army. They would fight again with distinction at Buena Vista in February 1847.

**29-1918:** The important French village of

Sechault, overlooking a German supply road, is captured by New York's 1st Battalion, 369th Infantry, the famed "Hell Fighters From Harlem." The unit is one of three African American Guard infantry regiments fighting in World War I. Due to Army discrimination, the three regiments were placed under French Army control and proved themselves as capable in combat as any Soldiers in the American Army. They held the town despite repeated enemy counterattacks, suffering 172 fatalities killed and 679 wounded. 

For expanded stories and more dates and images, visit the National Guard Bureau's History Website at [www.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ngb.army.mil).



# THE ON GUARD

# ★ Guarding America ★

**DELAWARE:** About 75 Airmen from the Delaware Air National Guard departed by C-130 aircraft from the New Castle County Airport July 29 for missions in this country and abroad. About 25 aircrew members and maintenance personnel left for Afghanistan for a rotation of about 40 days. Another 51 Airmen departed for Arizona for two weeks to perform civil engineering functions to support a border security mission.

**MINNESOTA:** Army Guard Sgt. Kyle Miller of Willmar was remembered July 5 at the Convoy Support Center Scania in Iraq as a great friend and Soldier who would always get the job done, no matter the task. Miller, an artillery signal support system specialist, died when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle June 29 south of Balad. Capt. Richard Rupp of Blaine, Minn., said Miller possessed great expertise with computers and radio equipment. "Kyle had the ability to raise the morale of those around him with his sense of humor and wit," Rupp said. "His easygoing attitude and positive disposition were his tools for morale."

**MISSOURI:** The Missouri National Guard has gained a new transportation company. It will be headquartered at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis with a detachment in Jefferson City. The 1138th Transportation Company is a 177-member medium transportation unit to be equipped with 60 Medium Tactical Vehicles and 120 trailers with off-road capabilities.

**NEVADA:** Sgt. 1st Class Larry Perkins, currently the readiness sergeant of the 777th Engineer Team in Las Vegas, was selected as the 2005 Transportation Corps Regimental Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in the Reserve Component Category. Perkins received the award primarily for his work with the 1864th Transportation Company in 2005 while the unit was deployed in Iraq and Kuwait. Perkins was the convoy commander on more than 20 missions with no serious incidents reported. Additional accolades for the 1864th were received by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Quintana and Sgt. 1st Class Richard Rohweder. They were named second runner-up and third runner-up respectively.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** Army Guard Sgt. Jason Weaver, an Iraq combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient, attended the address of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to a joint session of Congress in Washington on July 26 as a special guest of U.S. Sen. John Sununu. It was Weaver's first trip to the nation's capital. "It was quite an opportunity," he said. Weaver, 32, has been a New Hampshire Guardsman for 10 years. He was wounded in the lower leg during a shootout with in Mosul in March 2004 while serving with the New Hampshire Guard's 2nd



Battalion, 197th Field Artillery. Four insurgents were killed and a weapons cache was secured by Weaver's patrol. He works full-time in the New Hampshire Guard's environmental office.

**OHIO:** The Ohio National Guard celebrated its 218th birthday July 25. The Ohio Guard traces its roots back to that date in 1788 when Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory, signed into effect a "law for regulating and establishing the Militia in the Territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio." Ohio's Citizen-Soldiers have participated in every major campaign since that time. The organization has evolved from an all-male Army, armed with muskets and bayonets, powder horns and bullet pouches, into today's elite fighting force of men and women armed with M-16 rifles, M-1, and Global Positioning System guided munitions.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** It was a bittersweet moment for many people on Aug. 3 as the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's EC-130 touched down at Fort Indiantown Gap for its final landing. The aircraft, assigned to the Harrisburg-based 193rd Special Operations Wing, was formally retired. However, it will live on as a static display at the installation. The aircraft has been part of the 193rd since 1977 and was deployed worldwide as a "weapon of mass persuasion," broadcasting

information over standard radio and television frequencies. Before being decommissioned in early 2006 it had flown 12,000 hours, 2,700 of which were combat hours.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Gov. Donald Carcieri commissioned four new lieutenants into the ranks of the Rhode Island Army National Guard on July 29 at the Rhode Island Guard's Regional Training Institute in Narragansett. The ceremony marked the 50th anniversary of the Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island. Since 1956, 640 have graduated from OCS and received commissions in the Rhode Island Army Guard. This year's graduates were 2nd Lieutenants Greg Gonsalves, Ian Kozelsky, Elias Noguera and James Sykora. On hand for the ceremony was Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, Rhode Island's adjutant general, and other Rhode Island Guard members, retirees, families and invited guests.

**TEXAS:** Texas Army National Guard personnel and equipment were deployed to Secorro and Vinton, Texas, to assist with the recent flooding. Ninety-six 96 Soldiers, 12 trucks, two Humvees, a couple of wreckers and a "water buffalo" were deployed to assist in the aftermath of severe flooding. Secorro and Vinton, both near El Paso, were the hardest-hit towns.

*Guarding America items can be submitted to Editor:OnGuard@ngb.af.mil by the first Friday of each month. They will be published in the following month's edition of The On Guard.*

## Heads up!

### ► TRICARE Reserve Select

All members of the Selected Reserve can purchase the TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) health plan which offers comprehensive health coverage similar to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. Open season for qualifying and purchasing TRS Tier 2 or Tier 3 will go through Nov. 25, with coverage becoming effective Oct. 1. Members who qualify for TRS Tier 1 should consult their reserve component personnel office for details about qualifying. Monthly Tier 3 premiums for calendar year 2006 are \$247.00 for member-only coverage and \$767.41 for member and family coverage. Premiums are adjusted annually on Jan. 1 and will be posted on the TRICARE Website. Check out <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> for more information.

### ► Bridging the pay gap

The Reserve Income Replacement Program, part of the 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, authorizes the Secretary of Defense to pay income replacement to eligible, involuntarily mobilized members of the reserve components. It is hoped this program will reduce the financial stress placed on fam-

ilies when National Guard or Reserve members are called to involuntary active duty, causing a potential reduction in their monthly household earnings. The program will pay eligible members an amount equal to the difference in pay between their total monthly military pay and their 12-month average civilian earned income if greater than \$50.00 and up to a maximum of \$3,000 per month. Unless extended in law, this authority will end December 2008. For further information, Army Guard Soldiers should contact either their unit administrator or NGB-ARH at 703-607-5851 or e-mail ARMYG-1RIRPOLICY@hqda.army.mil

### ► Retirement applications

All eligible members of the Air National Guard can now submit retirement applications electronically via the virtual Personnel Center Guard and Reserve (vPC-GR) Website (<https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vPC-GR/default.asp>). This service is operated by the Air Reserve Personnel Center and will give Airmen the ability to monitor the status of their application from start to finish. Previously, they had to visit their local military personnel flight, complete the required retirement application package, submit it to their supervisor or commander, and send it to ARPC.



Photo by Sgt. Nathan Bright, Delaware National Guard

**STRAIGHT AND NARROW:** Delaware Army National Guard Spc. Michael Zappaterrini, a carpentry and masonry specialist with the 249th Engineer Detachment, sights down a board to make sure the "crown," or bowing, is right side up. He and 33 other members of the detachment performed their annual training period in Niantic, Conn., this summer. They participated in Task Force Husky at Camp Rell, restoring outdated buildings.



# Troops, commanders test exportable training system

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – The badly injured pilot of a downed helicopter screamed for help. Thick black smoke billowed from the aircraft's tail. A foreign officer lay wounded under a skid. Insurgents opened fire on approaching National Guard infantry Soldiers.

That scenario was part of some extraordinarily realistic training at Camp Atterbury during an exercise named XCTC 2006 in July. That is short for Exportable Combat Training Capability, and it could be the way that National Guard troops are trained for future deployments.

Meanwhile, miles away from the downed helicopter, civilian defense contractors and trainers from the active Army watched the scenario unfold on computer screens. They watched the Soldiers and their vehicles moving on a traditional, two-dimensional screen and on another screen that made the Soldiers look like three-dimensional figures in a videogame.

After the exercise was over, the contractors combined the computerized images with video shot in the field to create a product that gave a whole new meaning to the concept of After Action Review.

This type of training was previously available only at Army facilities in California, Louisiana and Germany. However, it can be difficult to schedule time for Guard troops at those places, Guard officials said, and it's expensive to move entire brigades across the country.

The National Guard Bureau, for the second straight year, conducted exercises to demonstrate that this training could be brought to the troops rather than taking the troops to the training.

"We created a combat training capability environment that the National Guard could do at home station as a tool to prepare for deployment," said Marshall Townsend, deputy director for the exercise.

"The real power is the training method," he added. "Because we can track you, we can let you go out and exercise your training without a coach. I can send a Soldier out there, and

then I can show him with the technology what he did. It brings the same learning environment as a combat training center to the National Guard."

This is not your father's annual training.

XCTC 2006 saw more than 750 Indiana National Guard Soldiers participate in a three-week exercise through July 28 based at Camp Atterbury, according to Lt. Col. Deedra Thombelson, an Indiana Guard spokesperson.

Soldiers from the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were at the heart of the action even though they were not preparing to deploy, Thombelson said.

The National Guard Bureau's Army Training Division brought First U.S. Army trainers, civilian contractors and Indiana Citizen-Soldiers together for the train-as-we-fight exercise, she said.

The XCTC applies the latest technology to the age-old dilemma of how to simulate a combat environment as realistically as possible without actually injuring Soldiers.

Battlefield effects – Hollywood-like special effects – increased the realism and the stress for the exercise. The trainers tracked instrumented Soldiers and vehicles and civilians on the battlefield in an urban setting.

"It really helps replicate the problems we have over there," said Maj. Hal Johnston, who has served in Afghanistan. "It's as close to real as you can get."

Johnston said XCTC is a huge improvement over transporting troops to the National Training Center in California or to




Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

**An Indiana Army National Guard Soldier reacts to a demonstration during XCTC 2006 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in late July.**

the Joint Readiness Training Center in Louisiana. "Our movement down there was enormously complicated," he said. "This focuses on the training rather than the movement."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mullins, a platoon leader, echoed Johnston's praise. Like 75 percent of the Soldiers he leads, Mullins is a combat veteran.

"Men are visual creatures," he observed. "A lot of these young men grew up in the videogame revolution. It helps them grasp a lot of the concepts because it's so visual. It provides a level of realism to these guys."

"This is real-time training with things that are going on in theater right now," he said. "The more we sweat here, the less we'll bleed on the next deployment. It's a showcase that the state should be proud of, and at the same time it's a valuable training tool. I can't wait for this to be a model for the entire National Guard." 

## Abandoned state hospital reborn as training center

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

MUSCATATUCK, Ind. – An abandoned mental hospital that might be a good setting for a B-grade horror movie is actually a unique Indiana National Guard asset that leaders say has world-class potential.

You'll not find a training venue that provides these capabilities and these opportunities to train a brigade combat team in an urban environment," said Lt. Col. Ken McCallister, site manager for the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC). "This is a top-rank facility, not just for the Indiana Guard but the National Guard as a whole."

The 70-building training center started life in 1919 as the Indiana Farm Colony for Feeble Minded Youth, later renamed the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center. The sprawling, art deco-influenced complex in south-central Indiana was one of the venues for XCTC 2006.

XCTC is the Exportable Combat Training Capability that National Guard officials expect to make it possible to train entire battalions for combat duty in such places as Iraq and Afghanistan without having to go to one of the Army's three permanent combat maneuver training centers in California or Louisiana or Germany. XCTC 2006 was the second proof-of-concept exercise for the new training. The first was held last year in Kentucky.

During XCTC 2006, units from the Indiana Army Guard's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team spent three-day stints at the MUTC, tackling scenarios that included snipers firing from rooftops, bomb makers holed up in buildings and encounters with civilians on the battlefield.

Camp Atterbury – a National Guard training and mobilization

center about 45 minutes north of the MUTC – was the main base of operations for the XCTC. The distance between the two was perfect for practicing convoy operations, commanders said.

Meanwhile, with Jefferson Proving Ground perhaps an hour's drive east, trainers have used all three venues together, McCallister said. Helicopters take off from the proving ground, a former weapons testing facility. Troops are inserted at the MUTC to practice urban warfare. The helicopters fly on to Camp Atterbury for separate exercises, later returning to one of a half-dozen MUTC landing zones to extract the troops.

Marshall Townsend was deputy exercise director for the XCTC.

When he saw the MUTC, Townsend saw training opportunities: an on-site power plant, 2,900 feet of tunnels



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

**An Indiana Army National Guard Soldier with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team guards a perimeter during XCTC 2006 at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Indiana in late July.**

connecting buildings, and nine miles of roads.

The MUTC has all the characteristics of a small town. Features include the 180-acre Brush Creek Reservoir, 487 acres of forest, 115 acres of abandoned fields and 1.2 miles of the Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck River.

"It's a great asset," Townsend said. "It's unique. We're able to turn this into a city. You can isolate it. You can create your own training environment."


As a trainer, Townsend can use buildings as varied as a school, hospital, church and detention facility to create scenarios.

Many of the buildings have basements. Buildings vary from single-story to up to five floors and construction types vary from mobile homes to brick and concrete. The elevators still work. The uses of the more than 2,000 rooms amounting to more than 860,000 square feet of indoor space are limited only by a trainer's imagination. Much of it – including the hospital and school – includes original furniture that adds to the realism.

"You've got all levels of urban warfare you can train," Townsend said. "You don't find stuff like this, this complete and extensive."

The complex has been used by other agencies, including special operations groups, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, civil support teams, special tactics squadrons, weapons research groups and others.

More than 16,000 people have used the facility since the Indiana National Guard took it over in July 2005.

"A company just doesn't have an impact," said Townsend about the size of the facility. "You could train a brigade combat team here." 



# Contacting a Family Readiness Coordinator near you

The National Guard Family Program office in each state joint force headquarters (JFHQ) is designed to assist family members of all service members, regardless of the military organization or status, with information and/or referrals. Following is a list of Family Program offices in the 54 states and territories, followed by Wing Family Program Coordinators.

## Send changes/corrections to:

**Edelina Villavicencio**  
**Marketing/Communications Specialist**  
**National Guard Bureau-Family Programs**

**1411 Jefferson Davis Hwy.**  
**Arlington, VA 22202**

**(703) 607-5526 DSN 327-5526**

### Alabama

State Family Program Director  
SGM Hubert Chance  
1720 Cong WL Dickerson Dr.  
Montgomery, AL, 36109-0711  
Office/DSN: (334)-271-7283 / 363-7283 or  
(800) 231-2846

117 ARW  
Pamela Lacey  
5401 East Lake Blvd.  
Birmingham, AL 35217  
Office/DSN: (205) 714-2699 / 778-2699

187 FW  
Sharon Hubbert  
5187 Selma Hwy.  
Montgomery, AL 36108-4824  
Office/DSN: (334) 394-7119 / 358-9119 or  
(800) 368-4481, option 2

### Alaska

State Family Program Director  
SMSgt Jan Myers  
49000 Army Guard Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2552  
(907) 428-6663 / (317) 384-4663  
Mailing address: P.O Box 5800  
Ft. Richardson, AK 99503-2552  
(888) 917-3608 (works only within AK)

168 ARW  
Nola Barnes  
2680 Flightline Ave., Ste. 117  
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1740  
Office/DSN: (907) 377-8715 /  
(317) 377-8715

176 WG  
Gretchen Nealy  
5002 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
Office/DSN: (907) 249-1130 / 626-1130

### Arizona

State Family Program Director  
CPT Jon Michael Cookson  
5636 E. McDowell Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85008-3495  
Office/DSN: (602) 267-2593 / 853-2593 or  
(800) 233-7758

161 ARW  
Glen Klassen  
3200 E Old Tower Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ. 85034-7263  
Office/DSN: (602) 302-9094 / 853-9094 or  
(800) 435-542, ext. 2-9094

162 FW  
Ms. Jolene Helt  
1650 E Perimeter Way  
Tucson, AZ 85706  
Office/DSN: (520) 295-6566 / 844-6566

### Arkansas

State Family Program Director  
Mary Myers  
Camp Robinson  
Building 6402 Missouri Ave.  
North Little Rock, AR 72199  
Office/DSN: (501) 212-4102 / 962-4102 or  
(800) 446-4645

188 FW  
Eva R. Patton, CIV/FAM  
Family Readiness Support Coordinator  
188 FW Air National Guard  
Ft. Chaffee  
4850 Leigh Ave.

Fort Smith, AR 72903-6096  
Office/DSN: (479) 573-5167 / 778-5167

189 AW  
Mrs. Stephanie Wynn  
112 CMSGT Williams Drive  
Little Rock AFB, AR 72099-4802  
Office/DSN: (501) 987-5952 / 731-5952

### California

State Family Program Director  
Steven Read  
CAJS-FP Box 54, 9800 Goethe  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
Office/DSN: (916) 854-3252 / 466-3252 or  
(800) 449-9662

129 RQW  
Carolann Wunderlin  
HQ 129th Rescue Wing/Family Readiness  
Bldg. 680, Macon Rd.  
California Air National Guard  
Moffett Federal Airfield, CA 94035

144 FW  
Barbara Draughon  
5323 E. McKinley Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93727-2199  
Office/DSN: (559) 454-5383 / 839-5383 or  
(800) 516-8277

146 AW  
Jo Ann Bellen  
100 Mulcahey Dr.  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041-4002  
Office/DSN: (805) 986-7468 / 893-7468

163 ARW  
Debbie Hambrick  
1620 Graeber St.t  
March ARB, CA 92518-1624  
Office/DSN: (951) 655-2165 /  
447-2165

### Colorado

State Family Program Director  
Charlene Shields  
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## Guard Bureau chief praises NAACP for making Guard better

**By Master Sgt. Greg Rudl**

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – “As I stand before you here this evening, we owe you a debt of gratitude and need your continued support. It’s critically important that the Guard look like America. If it does not, it is not truly America’s National Guard.”

Those were the words that LTG H Steven Blum delivered to about 400 military people and civilians at the NAACP’s 31st annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner July 18. The dinner was held in conjunction with National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s 97th national convention.

In his keynote address, the chief of the National Guard Bureau thanked the NAACP for helping the National Guard recruit minorities, thus making it a better organization.

“The NAACP helped us reach out into American communities and helped many understand the myriad of benefits and opportunities in service with the National Guard,” said Blum, who was presented the NAACP’s 2006 Meritorious Service Award. The award is given annually to a serviceman or woman in a policy-making position for the highest achievement in military equal opportunity.

“By holding his commanders accountable and by leveraging the talents and skills of all Guard members regardless of race, gender or ethnic background, he created an atmosphere of dignity, mutual respect and genuine fairness,” said a member of the NAACP’s Board of Directors who presented the award to Blum.

“The strength of this nation is that it’s not homogeneous,” Blum said. “We don’t all look alike. We don’t all think alike. We don’t all play alike. We don’t all have the same physical attributes.” The ‘follicly-challenged’ general drew laughter and applause when he said, “Some of us are taller, and some of us can grow hair.”

Blum introduced six veterans who have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan and honored their dedication. “They would go back and do it again,” Blum said. “Some have lost eyes and limbs, and they would go back and do it again.”

“Those are the kind of young men and



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. D. Christopher Martin, District of Columbia National Guard

**LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, displays the Meritorious Service Award that he received from the NAACP in Washington on July 18. The National Guard is better prepared today than ever before, Blum said during the NAACP's annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner.**

women you’re getting in the armed forces today,” he continued. “It’s an all-volunteer force. Nobody has had to serve in the last 35 years that didn’t want to serve. And in the last five years, anybody that has joined the Guard or any of the armed forces know it’s not a question of if you’re going. It’s when you’re going and how often you’re going and to what new place.”

Blum noted that the National Guard is deployed worldwide, continuing to fight the Global War on Terrorism, helping to secure the southwest border, and preparing for a pandemic, hurricanes and other disasters.

He made his case for continued funding for the Guard, saying “we are the richest


country in the world and there’s no excuse for not equipping the armed forces the way they need to be equipped.

“The job’s tough enough for those guys at the table,” said Blum, motioning to the wounded vets. “They have to have ... what they need to do the job. We owe them that.”

Blum focused the last part of his speech on Hurricane Katrina and how the National Guard responded to the crisis last September.

The adjutants general, with the support of their governors, quickly responded with troops, equipment and supplies, he said. “We have Americans in trouble and this is what we need,” Blum told the adjutants

general. “They kept sending it until [we] said stop. ... Nobody asked how are we being paid ... [or] how long we’re going to be there. That’s why I’m proud to be the chief of the National Guard Bureau. I don’t think there is a finer organization wearing the uniform of this nation.”

Blum was the third chief to receive the NAACP’s Meritorious Service Award. Lt. Gen. Russell Davis was so honored in 1999, and Lt. Gen. John Conaway in 1992. The association also presented its Benjamin L. Hooks Distinguished Service Award to Felton Page, the Guard Bureau’s director of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights. 

## Army Guard enjoying big recruiting successes

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Army National Guard is experiencing its biggest and longest-running recruiting success since the end of the draft, the chief of the National Guard Bureau told Pentagon reporters in mid-July.

The Army Guard has met or exceeded its recruiting goals for the past nine months, LTG H Steven Blum said. The force also increased its end strength each month for the past nine months, to its current 350,000, he said.

Defense officials announced earlier this week that the Army National Guard has recruited almost 51,500 soldiers since Oct. 1, about 1,500 above its year-to-date goal. During June alone, the Guard recruited more than 5,800

soldiers, 1 percent above its goal for the month.

“Our recruiting continues to be extraordinarily effective,” Blum said today. “We have just concluded the ninth consecutive best recruiting month in the history of the National Guard since the end of the draft. So in the last 35 years, we have never seen nine consecutive recruiting months or a net gain to the extent that we are enjoying right now.”

Blum called this phenomenon a testament to the country’s youth and their belief in the mission, particularly when Guardsmen are being called to duty and deploying at an “unprecedented rate.”

“Everyone who joins the Army or Air National Guard knows that they will deploy; (it’s) just a matter of when,” he

said. “And yet that has not shown any reluctance on their part to join our ranks.”

“The young men and women of this nation are responding to the challenge and to the missions that the Guard’s being called upon (to carry out),” he said.

Blum noted that those who enlist “are staying with us in unprecedented numbers.” During June, retention in the Army National Guard was 122 percent of the cumulative goal of more than 25,000 re-enlistments, defense officials announced earlier this week.

“(This) speaks volumes about the magnificent young men and women of this nation and how well that people support the National Guard,” Blum said. 