



THE ON GUARD

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Secretary visits Alaska
Guard missile battalion



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PARTNERSHIP: Ohio, Serbia join hands

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The weekend's biggest college football game -- No. 1 Ohio State vs. No. 2 Texas -- was the talk of the town here Sept. 8. But at an airport near the Ohio State University campus something much larger in the world arena was kicking off: a partnership between the state of Ohio and the Republic of Serbia.

It heralded the promise of a new State Partnership Program between the Ohio National Guard and Serbia's military forces that, officials said, could lead to improved security and economic growth for the Serbian people and pave the way for Serbia's entrance into NATO and the European Union.

Serbian President Boris Tadic, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and U.S. Senator George Voinovich, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, announced the new partnership as Ohio Army and Air Guard members stood in formation to mark the historic occasion.

It is a logical alliance, Taft pointed out, because 20,000 people of Serbian descent live in Ohio.

"This is a new page in our history. The State Partnership Program between Ohio and Serbia is a first step," said Tadic

who has been Serbia's president since 2004. Serbia used to be part of Yugoslavia. Maj. Gen. Zdravko Ponos, acting chief of the Serbian General Staff, accompanied Tadic on his visit to Ohio.

"Right now I am expecting that the generals are going to find a practical solution for our cooperation in the field of security between two very important institutions, the National Guard of Ohio and the armed forces of Serbia," added Tadic who previously served as Serbia's minister of defense. "But I see some new perspectives. For example, when you have cooperation in the defense and security fields, you can expect more in the economy."

Military cooperation will foster closer ties between the United States and Serbia that could lead to increased U.S. economic investment, Tadic predicted in Washington before traveling to Ohio. "Without cooperation in the defense sector, we are not going to have cooperation in the economy on the high level," he said.

Tadic signed a Status-of-Forces Agreement with Secretary

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Photo by Sgt. Ben Cossel

Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, escorts Serbian President Boris Tadic past a joint honor and color guard during a Sept. 8 visit. Tadic and his Serbian delegation met with Wayt, Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and other Ohio leaders to discuss the partnership between Serbia and the Ohio National Guard through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Domestic resources must grow, chief says

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – The National Guard's domestic equipment levels must be significantly improved, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said here Sept. 16.

"We are superbly equipped overseas," LTG H Steven Blum told the 128th National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) General Conference. "The Soldiers want for nothing as far as equipment in the combat zone, and that's the way it should be."

But the domestic picture is less rosy. "We are now in a dangerously low resourcing level for missions back here at home, and that must be seriously addressed," Blum said.

Talking to about 2,500 National Guard officers and others attending the conference, the general used the analogy of a small town fire department that needs people, training and equipment to fight fires. Americans would not tolerate inadequately equipped fire departments, he said.

"Nobody would accept that from their fire department in any hometown in America, and we should not allow that to be accepted in any [National Guard] armory or readiness center," he said. "The American people are not going to be happy with a response from

the National Guard that has not been fully equipped for the mission it has been assigned."

The comments were the one note of warning during Blum's hour-long "State of the Guard" address that amounted to



LTG Blum

a celebration of five years of extraordinary change.

"Sept. 11 [2001] marked the beginning
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Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky

MEDICAL CARE IN AFRICA: Maj. Douglas Genereux, a physician's assistant with the 143rd Medical Group, Rhode Island Air National Guard, inspects the ear canal of a Ugandan woman during exercise Natural Fire 2006 in Serere, Uganda, Aug. 9. The exercise, the largest held between East African Community nations and the United States, consists of military-to-military training as well as medical, veterinary, and engineering civic affairs programs conducted in rural areas throughout the region.

Youth learn about Lewis and Clark Expedition with Guard help, Page 8

ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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The KC-135: Older than dirt - like me

In case you missed all of the excitement, the KC-135 celebrated its 50th anniversary at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma on Sept. 8-9. Yup. The Stratotanker, still the U.S. Air Force's workhorse flying gas station, has been with us for a half century. And, thanks to the fact that the fleet has had almost as many face-lifts and other modifications as the first three Charlie's Angels, it is still going strong.

Although this was written before Labor Day weekend, to meet our October deadline, I'm sure that many terrific things were said about the ageless aircraft's durability and dependability during its golden anniversary party. And why not. The American taxpayers have certainly gotten their money's worth from these airplanes built by Boeing, and the Air National Guard has justified a sizeable chunk of its existence by flying them.

Twenty of the Air Guard's 89 flying wings are KC-135 air refueling wings, and they perform 40 percent of the Air Force's refueling missions, according to National Guard Almanac. They fly 251 of the 530 Stratotankers still in the inventory, according to the Air Force's Web site.

September's celebration actually commemorated the first flight of the KC-135 in August 1956, the Air Force tells us. I was 7, but more on that later. The first planes were delivered the following June, and the last one, the 732nd, was delivered in 1965.

It is the military version of the Boeing 707, the first commercially successful jetliner. The obvious differences were that the KC-135s had a lot fewer windows and they had this funny looking thing - the boom - sticking out the back end. They've also been flown for a lot longer than the major airlines flew their commercial models. They are the air-to-air refuelers that keep on giving.

So the KC-135 and I have a couple of things in common. We're pretty old, and we're still getting up and doing our job on a regular basis. There is also a personal aspect to all of this. I have had some memorable rides aboard KC-135s during my 35 years in the Guard, and I have flown on another plane that was refueled twice by one of these flying gas stations.

I fell in love with the airplanes and the mission in the early 1980s when I spent a year with the Maine Air Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing, the renowned Maineiacs, in Bangor. I got to lie beside the boom operator in the boom pod while he pumped fuel into a



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Senior Editor

C-5 Galaxy during my maiden flight. I was a kid in a candy store. I couldn't get enough. I was intrigued with the idea -- the "aerial ballet" -- of one plane from Bangor meeting another plane from somewhere else at an arbitrary point at 27,000 feet so the first plane could refuel the second.

The really memorable flights were ahead of me.

It was a dark and stormy night in Bangor when I reported for one mission. The flight was to Greenland and back to refuel four F-16s that were headed for Europe. "The weather won't be getting any better than what you're seeing right now," the crew was told before taking off.

A chain of thunderstorms stretched over the Atlantic along the flight path. Our airplane was a stone skipping across the top of the storms. Turbulent was too tame a word. Still, the pilot got the plane to the refueling point in time to rendezvous with the fighters. Then the boomer, an old hand named Roger McLeod, had the job of connecting with the fighters so they could get gas and continue on their way.

Imagine spearing salmon jumping in white water while you're sitting in a canoe. That's what it was like trying to connect the boom to those F-16s. The fighters were bobbing and bouncing behind us. They were being kicked around as badly as the tanker. They were only about 40 feet away from the tanker's tail when they connected, which didn't allow much margin for error. I kept wondering if one of those fighter jocks would push when he should pull and drill his nose into the back of our plane that was carrying a lot of jet fuel. Oh well, I figured, it would all be over in a flash. But the pros persisted and kept their cool. There was no collision. Somehow Roger got fuel into those F-16s. The pilot turned

the Maine plane around, and we bumped our way back to Bangor.

I had been told how well the KC-135s were built; soundly enough so they could tow shot-up fighters back to their bases during the Vietnam War. That flight on that wild night made me believe in the Stratotanker's structural integrity.

A few years later, I rode in the back seat of an F-16B model fighter from the Vermont Air Guard that was based in Bangor to keep Russian Bear bombers from crowding the northern U.S. coast. It was a Friday in June 1987. My job was to write a story for my newspaper about the Vermont F-16 detachment's Cold War mission in Maine.

"Pipe" was my pilot's call sign. He was the lead pilot for two fighters that flew to Cape Cod for a training mission -- some electronic dog fighting -- with a couple of F-15s from the Otis Air National Guard Base off the Massachusetts coast. But we needed fuel after we got there to do the dog fighting and then get back to Bangor. And there was no sign of the KC-135 out of Plattsburgh, N.Y., that was supposed to refuel us. No radio traffic, no visual sighting, no nothing.

The F-16s were getting close to "bingo fuel." That is the expression for just enough fuel to fly back to your base. Still no tanker. The tone of Pipe's radio talk with air traffic controllers quickly progressed from concern to agitation to anger.

"We are at bingo fuel! Where the hell is that tanker?" he finally yelled -- just before getting the call that the tanker had arrived. Sure enough, there it was, a spec off to our 10 o'clock. We closed with the KC-135 in a matter of seconds and filled our tanks in a few minutes. The refueling boom passed over my head before sliding into the receiving port behind the cockpit. I don't remember too much about the rest of the flight because I got violently ill. Pipe twisted that F-16, and me, every which way but loose. We pulled six Gs. I do remember refueling one more time before flying back to Bangor. The flight was two hours of ecstasy and agony.

We were probably never in any great danger of running out of fuel and falling out of the sky. There were probably plenty of places between Cape Cod and Bangor where we could have landed. But it was fascinating to be part of the ballet in a receiver instead of in a tanker. To this day I understand just how relieved a lot of military pilots have been to see the KC-135s during the past 50 years.

Master Sgt. Bob Haskell can be e-mailed at Robert.Haskell@ngb.ang.af.mil.

Letter to the Editor

To The Honored Guard,

My name is Jennifer Richard of Vidor, Texas. It has been ... a year since hurricane Rita hit Southeast Texas. I am sorry I did not write this letter sooner. When my family returned from evacuating, our home and town had no water, no gas and no electricity. We did not have a clue as to how to handle our every day life. The Guard was present in our town with more help than we could have dreamed of. I felt safe

that the Guard was here to keep peace. We were not thirsty because the Guard was here to give us water. We were not hungry because the Guard was here to give us food. I was not afraid because the Guard was here to protect us. I know I have taken the Guard's presence for granted all my life and that is regretful. Words cannot express the humbling gratitude we feel. My son-in-law has been an active member of the Guard for three years now and I am so proud. I only wish I could have thanked every Guardsmen that was here, and every member that was not.

-Thank You All, Jennifer Richard

Air Readiness Center renamed; scores 'excellent' inspection

By Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley
National Guard Bureau

The Air National Guard Readiness Center located at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., was renamed Aug. 25 after a retired National Guard Bureau chief pivotal in its initial construction.

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Conaway was surprised when the cameo rededication ceremony he was honored at also included the unveiling of the building's new name, Conaway Hall.

"My pulse must be half gone -- they normally don't name a military building for someone who is still living," he said.

Many notables attended the ceremony, including LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau, and the event's host Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director, Air National Guard.

"A building is just bricks and mortar, but with this name it now has a heart and soul," said McKinley.

Conaway's 37-year military career included three years as chief of the National Guard Bureau from 1990-1993. He was instrumen-

tal in getting the original \$4.5 million facility built in the early 1980s. Known at the time as the Air National Guard Support Center, he pushed to have a new modern facility built while serving as the Air Guard director. The facility with its hefty price tag was nearly dented by congressional house staffers, he explained.

"We were told there was not going to be anymore military headquarters buildings in the Washington D.C. area," Conaway explained, adding that the project was finally realized with help from a congressional representative.

Today, the center, as it was re-designated in October 1991, is 138,000 square feet. New

renovations and additions were completed in May 2004 at a cost of nearly \$25 million, according to National Guard historians.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Conaway (center) stands with LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau (left), and Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director, Air National Guard (far right), during the Air National Guard Readiness Center's renaming ceremony Aug. 25.

Readiness Center milestones

October 1976: Maj. Gen John L. Pesch (ANG director) formally activated the Air National Guard Support Center (ANGSC) at Andrews AFB

June 1979: Center redesignated, activated as a direct reporting unit; assigned to U.S. Air Force

December 1976: site for center selected, personnel move into six vintage World War II buildings

1976 to 1991: the center expands from 16 authorized personnel to 622

1981: Congress authorized construction of permanent facility; personnel began moving into the new facility early in 1984

October 1991: ANGSC redesignated ANG Readiness Center

August 2002: contract awarded to build 35,000 sq. ft. addition

Function

The Center develops, manages and directs Air National Guard programs which implement national-level policies set by the DoD, the Air Force and the National Guard Bureau. It also performs operational and technical functions to ensure combat readiness of ANG units and is a channel of communication between the NGB and the states on ANG operational activities.

How the center excelled

By Staff Sgt. Adrienne L. Wilson
Andrews AFB

The Air National Guard Readiness Center received an overall "excellent" rating on a recent Unit Compliance Inspection, with five of the eight areas rated "outstanding."

The center has made a 180-degree turn to receive an "excellent" during this UCI, said Col. Michael E. Hillestad, the ANGRC commander at the time. It was their talent, attitude and enthusiasm that made this possible, he said.

Thirteen inspectors from the Air Force Inspection Agency, headquartered at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. graded the center from

July 31 to Aug. 4.

Eight major areas were inspected, totaling 568 compliance checklist items. The areas were: bylaws, executive orders and DoD requirements, contracting, communications and information, emergency management, security, financial management, personnel and information management."

"The corporate process and structure of the ANGRC are continually evolving to keep up with changes in the Air Force and Department of Defense as a whole," said Col. Susan A. Wassermann, ANGRC vice commander at the time.

"The structure in place during the previous UCI was no longer the best for the current mission and subsequently not set up for success," she said.

'Exotic' Army Guard aviation unit bound for Iraq

Soldiers come from 23 states, Reserve, active duty

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – The commander of an "exotic" Army National Guard aviation unit preparing for a year-long deployment to Iraq urged families to emphasize safety to their Soldiers.

"The Army will give us gear to protect ourselves, but that gear will only be of value if it is used and used correctly," said Lt. Col. Pat Weber during an Aug. 24 deployment ceremony for the Army Guard's Operational Support Airlift Command (OSACOM).

"If I could give you a mission, it would be to remind your loved ones of that fact each time you talk to them," Weber said. "We will keep after them in theater, and your reminders will help reinforce our guidance.

"You are as important to the success of our mission as your Soldiers that will deploy," added Weber at Davison Army Airfield, part of Fort Belvoir in northern Virginia, where OSACOM is based.

Weber is leading the 65 or so aviators who are preparing to spend 2007 in Balad directing the operations of Army fixed-wing passenger and cargo planes in Iraq.

They were to have left for Fort Sill, Okla., for mobilization training in early September and begin their year of duty in Iraq with the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade by the end of

this year, it was explained.

OSACOM is the headquarters for four Army Guard regional flight centers and a focal point for 53 flight detachments. It operates more than 60 Army planes in 53 states and territories that fly all over the world.

It is the first headquarters element from the National Guard Bureau, based in Arlington, Va., to be deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It includes about 25 volunteers from the Guard Bureau, 30 from the Missouri Army Guard's 20th Combat Aviation Brigade, as well as 10 other individuals, explained Maj. Bill Smith. Some of the volunteers from 23 states are active Army and Individual Ready Reserve personnel.

Members of the Training Support Brigade at Fort Sill have said the OSACOM element is the "most exotic" unit they have ever mobilized, Weber said.

Some of them, including Smith, have already flown Army aircraft in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. Smith served in Kuwait for three months during the summer of 2003. OSACOM personnel and aircraft have been active in that theater throughout the Global War on Terrorism, he pointed out.

The fixed-wing mission is to fly as much cargo as possible throughout the country so that Soldiers do not have to transport it along Iraq's deadly roads or fly it at lower, more dangerous altitudes in helicopters. The planes also fly generals and other senior leaders around the country to improve their situational awareness of the battlefield.

Although smaller than most planes that fly in Iraq, the OSACOM aircraft have earned their keep, according to Col.

Jackie Reaves, commander of the Operational Support Airlift Agency, OSACOM's higher headquarters at Davison.

Box-shaped C-23 "Sherpas" have flown more than 19,000 hours, carried more than 56,000 passengers and hauled more than 18 million pounds of cargo in Iraq and Kuwait since February 2004, Reaves said during the ceremony in a hanger where a huge American flag was the backdrop.

Smaller twin-engine C-12s have flown more than eight thousand hours, carried more than 11 thousand passengers and hauled more than 400,000 pounds of cargo in Kuwait and Afghanistan since March 2003, Reaves added.

"The litany of laudatory comments by combatant commanders in theater more than validates our presence and worth, especially when the operative term consistently being used is 'indispensable,'" Reaves said.

During the ceremony, Capt. David Bartelsmeyer and 1st Sgt. Javier Acosta from the headquarters company of the 20th Combat Aviation Brigade presented Weber and OSACOM Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Mills with a Missouri state flag as a token of that state's dedication and commitment to the Iraq mission.

Weber presented Bartelsmeyer with an OSACOM print for the Missouri adjutant general, Maj. Gen. King Sidwell, to represent the command's commitment to Missouri's Soldiers and families involved in the deployment.

Reaves presented the West Virginia state flag to the OSACOM unit's junior ranking Soldier, Spc. Joseph Garland, to represent the 23 state flags that will be flown at the OSACOM headquarters in Balad.

★ Guarding America ★

ARKANSAS

The state's Air Guard saw Brig. Gen. Riley Porter 'take the controls' Aug. 6. This West Helena businessman has more than 32 years of service in the Air Guard and 5,700 flying hours in various military aircraft. Since 2002 the general has seen his share of deployments, deploying three times in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He served as commander, 376th Operations Group in Kyrgyzstan; commander, 332nd Operations Group, Tallil Air Base, Iraq; commander, Detachment 1, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing at Balad Air Base, Iraq; and director, Regional Air Management Control Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

CALIFORNIA

The 146th Aerial Port Squadron was recognized with the Air National Guard's Aerial Port of the Year Award. The ceremony included the 146th Airlift Wing honor guard, the 562nd Air Force Band, and various special guests. The award was presented to Brig. Gen. George T. Lynn, Air National Guard Assistant to the Director for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support. The squadron earned the award for services performed from Oct. 1, 2004 – Sept. 30, 2005.

GEORGIA

North Georgia College & State University's students who were deployed for active duty with the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade and spent a year in Iraq were honored at an Aug. 28 Welcome Home Ceremony on campus. More than 60 students served in Iraq and returned home in May. A majority re-enrolled in classes at NGCSU,

which started Aug. 23. More than 40 of the soldiers stood in formation together on the university drill field during the military parade that took place in their honor.

ILLINOIS

The state's Guard, along with state, federal, and local agencies, conducted a five-day homeland security training exercise in the St. Louis Metro East area in August. The exercise, known as "Prairie Thunder," was the third and final exercise conducted this year that strategically positioned the Illinois Guard alongside numerous outside agencies to test preparedness and their ability to respond to large-scale emergencies. Approximately 600 Soldiers and Airmen supported local first responders through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency during the exercise.

MASSACHUSETTS

Three hundred members of Task Force Patriot deployed to the Balkans Aug. 8. The task force is comprised of soldiers from Headquarters Detachment, A Troop and B Troop of the 1st Squadron, 182nd Cavalry, and A Company 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry. The soldiers will be mustered into federal service and will deploy to Kosovo in support of NATO peacekeeping operations, spending approximately 18 months on active duty. The 182nd Cavalry and 181st Infantry are two of the four oldest units in the country, tracing their lineage back to the Massachusetts Bay colonial militia founded in 1636.

MISSISSIPPI

Approximately 140 Soldiers of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group recently returned from a nine-month tour in Afghanistan. For many of the Special Forces Soldiers, this was their second tour of duty in helping defeat Taliban forces in locations throughout the country.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The 12th Civil Support Team completed its first joint training exercise with emergency response workers from the University of New Hampshire in July. The training involved two simulated disasters and a day of public demonstrations. Organizers used the training to build relationships that will help local responders coordinate effectively with the 12th CST during a real emergency.

OHIO

Brig. Gen. Robert Boggs was selected as the new chief of staff for the Ohio Air National Guard and promoted the rank of Brigadier General. Boggs will serve as a member of the Joint Force Headquarters at Beightler Armory in Columbus. As chief of staff, Boggs' responsibilities will include evaluation, issue resolution, action recommendation, technical assistance and guidance for the more than 5,000 members of the Ohio Air National Guard.

OREGON

The Baker City Armory was dedicated to the World War II Soldiers of Company F, 186th Infantry, 41st Infantry Division in a ceremony in Baker City Aug. 31. Some members of Company F were on hand for the ceremony. The Soldiers of Company F, based out of Baker City, mobilized for duty Sept. 16, 1940, and were part of the first deployment of U.S. service members overseas during World War II. The unit deactivated in Japan in late summer of 1945. The armory is a state-of-the-art facility that now serves as home to Company F (-) Forward Support Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion. Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees, adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard, presided over

the ceremony.

RHODE ISLAND

The state held its annual "Leapfest" Aug. 12 at the University of Rhode Island campus in Kingston. This premier military parachuting competition gathers teams from U.S. and foreign military branches. Its meant to sharpen skills and deepen comradeship among the world's airborne soldiers. Competing parachutists jump from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter and aim for a large orange "X" in the middle of the drop zone. They're judged based on how long it takes each of them to run, with their parachute in hand, from the point each hit the ground to the X.

SOUTH CAROLINA

In June, the state's 12-man Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) team joined first responders and the 228th Signal Brigade on location in North Charleston to demonstrate the Palmetto State's ability to rapidly respond to emergencies such as hurricanes. The Palmetto Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration (CWID) showed how South Carolina's JISCC team has played a key role in validating the latest "first responder" emergency communications plans of the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Northern Command.

SOUTH DAKOTA

This state's Air National Guard celebrated its 60th anniversary recently with a two-day airshow at Joe Foss Field, which had more than 100,000 spectators attend. The field is named for Brig. Gen. Joseph J. Foss who recruited and trained air and ground crews to form the state's Air Guard. Its first plane was the F-51, originally a "pursuit" aircraft and then designated as the P-51. In other news, the state recently partnered with the small South American country of Suriname as part of the National Guard State Partnership Program.

TEXAS

During this year's Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon, Lt. Col. Richard "Rick" Noriega, commander of the Laredo Sector for the Operation Jump Start, made a check presentation for \$2,862 on behalf of the local Soldiers from Texas Military Forces. The money was collected during a MDA lockup in which Soldiers collected money to bail out Noriega.

WEST VIRGINIA


An Air Guard member was honored by the national branch of the NAACP July 18 during the group's 31st Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Awards Dinner in Washington. Maj. Kenneth L. Hale, 50, of Charleston, was presented the Roy L. Wilkins Renown Service Award by Mr. John Johnson, chief of executive operations for the NAACP's National Programs Department and LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau. The award recognizes military members who have distinguished themselves by contributing to military equal opportunity policies and programs. Hale was the only Air Guard member to receive the award this year, representing West Virginia's 2,300 Air Guard members. 



Photo by Spc. April L. Dustin, Oregon National Guard

WEAPONS FAMILIARIZATION: Oregon National Guard Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, fire AK-47 rifles during weapons familiarization training Aug. 11 during Khaan Quest 2006, a U.N. peacekeeping exercise near Ulaanbataar, Mongolia.

You've heard of the Thunderbirds—how about the Minute Men? *Air Guard's first, only demo team honored*

By 2nd Lt. Darin Overstreet
Colorado National Guard

CENTENNIAL, Colo. - The Colorado Air National Guard honored the "Minute Men" – the first and only Air National Guard aerial demonstration team – with special events this past summer.

An event marking the 50th anniversary of the Minute Men being federally recognized as *The Air National Guard Aerial Demonstration Team* took place June 20. The ceremony included a tribute to former members, but the highlight was the unveiling of an F-16 Fighting Falcon painted in the similar red and silver scheme of the original team's F-86 Sabre jet.

Presenters at the ceremony included retired Maj. Gen. John France, former Adjutant General for Colorado and a Minute Men team member; Brig. Gen. Mike "Farmer" Edwards, commander of the 140th Wing of Colorado; and Ms. Ellen Williams, widow of Brig. Gen. Walter "Walt" Williams, who retired as the commander of the 140th Tactical Fighter Wing and the team's founder.

The team was also honored with a heritage celebration Aug. 6 consisting of a dinner and family day. The event featured the retro-

painted F-16 alongside its look-a-like, an original Minute Men F-86.

The project had been three years in the making, ever since General Edwards walked through the structural shop and saw a drawing by aircraft maintainer Staff Sgt. Paul Allen, who had been exploring paint ideas after the wing won top draw for paint job at the 2003 Tiger Meet of the Americas unit competition.

Allen recalled the general's comment when he saw the draft of the Minute Men paint scheme: "We're gonna do that," he said.

When he heard the project was approved, Allen meticulously researched the history of the Minute Men, so he could better bring the design to life on an F-16. "It's an honor to have played a role in the recognition of the Minute Men," he said.



Photo by Sr. Master Sgt. John Rohrer

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of federal recognition as the official Air National Guard aerial demonstration team, the 140th Wing, Colorado, painted this F-16 Fighting Falcon in the same red and silver paint scheme as the original F-86 Sabres flown by the Minute Men. Pictured is the 140th Tactical Fighter Wing maintenance crew responsible for the design and painting of the plane. This will be the only F-16 painted to mark the occasion and it will remain that way until January 2007.



Photos by 2nd Lt. Darin Overstreet

The Minute Men from the 120th Fighter Squadron, 140th Tactical Fighter Wing (now the 140th Wing), is the only Air National Guard demonstration team to have been federally recognized. They began performing in 1947 with Lt. Col. Walt Williams, the team's founder, but were federally recognized in 1956 and performed as an official team until 1959. Inset photo: Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John France, former adjutant general for Colorado and Minute Men pilot, stands next to the very plane that he once flew as a Minute Men team member.

The short but thrilling life of an aerial demonstration team

Many have known the sky to be the limit, but for others, like the former Minute Men, the sky was simply a place to work and play.

They began performing in 1947, with Col. Williams as a solo pilot. The early performances focused on air shows, rodeos and the like around Colorado. As its popularity grew by 1950, neighboring states wanted the team's services, but the Korean War intervened and the team had to send its pilots there to fly combat missions.

When the Colorado Air National Guard returned from active duty and received the F-80 Shooting Stars, Williams' idea of forming a precision team intensified. By the fall of 1953, the team was again organized with the "slot" or fourth position added to complete the diamond formation.

Initially their maneuvers were simple, low-level passes, loops and rolls, but as their proficiency increased, so did the number of complex acrobatics. Among its many aerial acts, they developed the Eiffel Tower maneuver, where four pilots would fly toward the ground, with smoke streaming, to form the four-corner structures of the Eiffel Tower and a soloist would fly up the middle, like the elevator of the tower.

With their popularity, Williams began inquiring about a name for the team. 1st Lt. Richard Hueholt, the pilot holding the trailing slot position, suggested Minute Men to represent the Citizen-Soldiers of colonial days and to honor the Guard's proud heritage as the militia.

As the name indicates, the team was composed almost entirely of traditional Guardsmen: airline pilots, engineers, students, a radar controller and an attorney.

The team suffered its only accident at Dayton, Ohio, June 8, 1956. The climax of their show that day at Wright Patterson Air Force Base was the "bomb burst." As the team pulled over the top of the maneuver, the ailerons on slot-man Capt. Jon Ferrier's plane became jammed, throwing it into an uncontrolled roll at 6,500 feet. Sacrificing his own life to save others, Ferrier stayed with the plane until it crashed into a tiny open space near a crowded residential area. No civilians were injured. Ferrier received the Distinguished Flying Cross, posthumously.

At a performance for the National Guard Association's conference in Spokane, Wash., in October 1956, the team was designated by an impressed Secretary of the Air Force as the official Air National Guard demonstration team. This was only three years after the establishment of the Air Force Thunderbirds.

With federal recognition and the accompanying funding, the Minute Men began performing nationally and internationally. Along with becoming an official team came the transition from the F-80s to the F-86 Sabres and a C-47 to transport staff and equipment.

The federal recognition only lasted for three years, until 1959, when the funding ran out. Though the time was short, the Minute Men accomplished much during that period. They performed in seven foreign countries before more than three million spectators and logged more than 1,135,000 flying miles. As a result of their efforts, they were inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., Nov. 1, 2003, before a crowd of more than 200 aviators, family and friends.

Training for the future

Conference highlights transformed Air Guard Medical Service

Stories by Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

SNOWBIRD, Utah – Readiness Frontiers 2006 gave departing Col. (Dr.) Randall Falk – who stepped aside Sept. 1 – another chance to take in the big picture of the Air National Guard Medical Service (ANGMS) he has led for six years.

What Falk saw was a landscape transformed.

“What gives me the most satisfaction is seeing the Air National Guard Medical Service develop a real mission,” he said in a break between sessions at the Snowbird Ski & Summer Resort in Little Cottonwood Canyon, east of Salt Lake City. “We’re a vibrant force today, well integrated into the Air Force medical system. The most gratifying thing is to see our transition from a force in reserve with very little wartime deployable capability to an integral part of today’s total force and today’s joint Guard force.”

Readiness Frontiers 2006 was a July 27 through Aug. 7 conference that provided training, discussion and networking opportunities and a military exercise for the Air National Guard medical community.

The ANGMS’s primary missions are homeland security and the EMEDS or Expeditionary Medical Support packages being stood up nationwide.

The Air Guard divided up responsibilities with the active Air Force.

“We took the lead on homeland security and homeland defense,” Falk said, “They support us whenever we need support. Then we support them in the Air Expeditionary Force mission.

“The whole objective of medical support in the homeland security environment was to be able to provide a surge medical capability which is lacking in the nation.”

The Guard’s newfound capability to provide that was demonstrated after Hurricane Katrina, when 904 medics – representing about 16 percent of the Air National Guard



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Missouri medical personnel participate in an exercise simulating the National Guard’s response during the aftermath of a severe earthquake in Utah at Readiness Frontiers 2006 held July 27 through Aug. 7.

Medical Service – flooded Louisiana and Mississippi, said Col. Kenneth Franklin, deputy director of the ANGMS.

“What was a concept back in 2001 is a very real and relevant capability today,” Franklin said.

Katrina was historic for the medical service: Until then, no more than 0.2 percent of the service had ever deployed.

The annual Readiness Frontiers 2006 saves time and money, proponents say.

For example, just one medical discipline, the bioenvironmental engineers, save \$16,000 and 24 days of training per person who attends the conference, said Maj. Kirk Phillips, chief, Occupational and Health branch.

“It saves a lot of money for the Guard,” Falk said. “To be able to get the certifications that we need to be able to work in our fields is very expensive. Each of our units has to seek training on a piecemeal basis. It’s not avail-

able to them, and when it is available, it’s available for few people at extreme cost.”

Senior Master Sgt. Chris McLain of the 134th Medical Group out of Knoxville, Tenn., ran the emergency medical technician training at Readiness Frontiers 2006.

“It gets us all together in one location to make sure we’re getting quality medical train-

ing” said McLain. “Great courses are being offered. They are all things we need to know with the current situation in the world.”


Courses included understanding the national incident management system and the incident command system.

“It really is what links us and our civilian counterparts together for command and control,” McLain said.

Other courses were targeted at flight surgeons, medical planners, public health experts, full-time health technicians, nurses, dentists and bioenvironmental engineers. The conference featured nationally certified courses in advanced trauma life support and advanced cardiac life support.

The ANGMS also paired with outside partners such as Saint Louis University and Harvard Universities to increase the standard of training and discussion.

Of the Harvard contribution, Maj. (Dr.) Kenneth Egerstrom, chief of aerospace medicine for the Air National Guard, said, “The people that they have there have deployed all over the world for all sorts of humanitarian missions and natural disasters. They’ve got a lot of firsthand practical knowledge.”

And it’s not feel-good networking: It’s potentially lifesaving networking. The conference allows the Guard to forge closer links with communities and agencies such as FEMA, ensuring all parties speak the same language. 

Mental health care critical before deployment, says Israeli psychologist

Troops should receive mental health care before they’re ever deployed, a senior Israeli official told medical leaders at Readiness Frontiers, sharing the Israeli military experience on mental health. Orit Lurie heads the research and development section of the Israeli Air Force and has 20 years’ experience.

“We learned that ... the negative consequences of stress are controlled before the war actually begins,” Lurie said.

“We rely too much on external help, and it’s about time we rely upon internal help,” said Lurie. “Not to wait all the time that somebody from the outside will come to help. If I will be more independent, then I will have more tools. Then I will be more immune to stress.”

“We do it using internal unit resources,” she said. “Not the professional person. We teach the commander to do that. He becomes the agent of change. Not me, the psychologist that didn’t fight a war but the commander who’s all the time with his Soldiers.”

Soldiers face two major demands – from the homes they’ve left behind and from the units they serve with.


“The most important thing is to keep a balance between these two worlds,” she said. “If you teach them how to do it in advance then they will guard their resources and there will be no problem between the two sides of the scale. So they can cope for a long time with

no Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or many negative consequences of stress.”

Lurie cited the example of Rudy Giuliani as told in his book “Leadership.”

“He wrote that he owed his bravery after the 9/11 event to preparation,” she said. “Because all the time when he was mayor of New York he was afraid what will happen if there would be a fire in one of the high buildings of New York. In every spare moment, he sat with his close staff and they thought what they would do. So when it happened they were prepared. That’s what I want to tell the people here – that preparation is the most important thing. Most of the time, we prepare the Soldiers to use weapons. We don’t prepare them to what they’re going to feel ... and we don’t prepare the commander to do that.”

But the Israelis do just that, she said, without going into detail because some of her work is classified.

“We have empirical evidence that it works.” 



Orit Lurie

New air surgeon’s vision: building partnerships, homeland defense

Col. (Dr.) William “Chip” Riggins became the National Guard Bureau’s air surgeon Sept. 1. Here are the issues he’ll emphasize in his new job, as he elaborated during Readiness Frontiers:

- Strengthening relationships at state level with public health officials: “We’re one of the relatively few providers of ‘surge capacity’ that cities and states can look to for medical support”
- Strengthening relationships throughout Defense Department, with sister services
- Supporting the Air Guard mission. “Making sure that medical support is appropriate and is available and is of the best quality that we can provide”
- Responding to new missions such as the increased use of unmanned aerial vehicles
- Take medical skills learned from supporting the deployed Air Force and apply those to our homeland contingencies
- Being prepared for potential challenges such as bird flu, disasters or terrorist attacks
- Psychological first aid, “making sure that from the average citizen on the street trying to help out [after a disaster] to first responders, that we don’t make those problems worse”



Riggins

Defense secretary tours Alaska missile battalion

Says missile defense more capable, relevant

Spc. Karima L. Turner
Alaska National Guard

FORT GREELY, Alaska – America's missile defense capabilities are increasingly important as more countries demonstrate the ability and willingness to develop ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said as he toured the 49th Ground Missile Defense Battalion here Aug. 28.

The 49th is the only National Guard missile defense unit of its kind.

Rumsfeld, who has played a key role in the development of the United States' sea, air, space and ground defense since the Reagan administration, finally had the opportunity to meet with troops and see his vision come true.

The U.S. missile defense system is still limited and needs more testing, Rumsfeld said, adding that it is important to have when North Korea and Iran are demonstrating their desire and capability to have nuclear programs, and terrorist groups are using rockets to attack civilians.

He said he has been involved in the missile defense program since its inception and has seen it go through much debate and change before arriving at its current state.

"I've seen the thing calm down to the point where it's now national policy, in law, that the United States develops a capability to defend itself against limited types of threats," he said.

Rumsfeld specifically talked about the threat posed by North Korea, saying it wasn't a military threat, but one of proliferation. North Korea's recent test launch of several missiles clearly demonstrates the country's determination to develop a nuclear program, he said, but Pyongyang is probably mostly interested in selling the missiles to other countries.

The 49th Ground Missile Defense Battalion has upgraded many of the sensors on its Sea-based X-Band radar, adding an addition-

al radar, according to Capt. Scott Munson, a battalion deputy battle analyst.

"The new radar gives a 360 degree view, allowing us to see any possible ballistic missiles that may be targeted at the United States or its territories," said Munson. "We also have a ground missile defense simulator that simulates threats to the U.S. and allows us to see all of our sensors and incorporate all of the command and control elements at a moment's notice," he added. "I'm supremely confident in my crew. They are top notch and get the job done."

Rumsfeld noted that the ground missile defense system has been evolving over time, which is important because terrorism is an ever-changing beast, requiring the United States defenses to stay flexible.

"The problem with ballistic weapons is a real one," Rumsfeld said. "The world is not static and as events evolve and change on the ground, we have to adapt. But the people here are dedicated," he added. "They are doing a terrific job, and I wanted to come and see it firsthand."

Staff Sgt. Rusty Craig has seen just how far the 49th has come and understands the importance of their mission.

"I'm extremely proud to be a part of [ground missile defense]," Craig said. "I think the Ground Missile Defense Program is a good thing for the U.S. As Soldiers, we're trained to defend the country, and that's what we are doing."

Brig. Gen. Thomas Katkus, the Alaska National Guard's assistant adjutant general for Space and Missile Defense, agreed on the importance of the program.

"The technology employed against current threats makes us the tip of the spear in fighting the Global War on Terrorism," Katkus said. "Having the secretary of defense visit further demonstrates the relevancy of the National Guard."

Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces Press Service contributed to this story.



Photo by Sgt. Jack Carlson III

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is shown a Ground-Based Interceptor Missile by Brig. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, program director-Missile Defense Agency, during the Secretary's visit on Aug. 27 to the Missile Defense site at Fort Greely, Alaska. The Missile Defense system is designed to provide coverage protecting the nation from accidental or intentional launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Army Emergency Relief can help financially

Soldiers and their families in a financial bind have yet another avenue for help. Army Emergency Relief is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the secretary of war and the Army chief of staff. AER's mission is to help Soldiers and dependents – it's helped more than three million overcome financial emergencies during the last 64 years.

Retired Army Lt. Gen. Robert Foley, a Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient, believes in the organization and promotes it at every opportunity.

Among other groups, they assist Army National Guard members on continuous active duty for more than 30 days and their dependents.

AER has helped the Army National Guard extensively recently: Through July 31 of 2006, they have provided \$872,000 to 11,008 Soldiers; In 2005, they specifically helped 2,465 Army Guard members by providing \$1.6 million in relief.

AER provides help with emergency financial needs for: food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses and

personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

They provide undergraduate-level education scholarships, based primarily on financial need, to children of Soldiers.

"Our three biggest needs are automobile repairs, emergency travel and help with rent or mortgage payments," said Dennis Spiegel, AER's deputy director for administration. "We want to prevent evictions and utilities being turned off."

If a family emergency or death occurs while a Soldier is deployed, the Army will provide travel back to a point of debarkation, but from there the Soldier is on their own dime for the remaining travel costs back to their home, according to Spiegel. That's where AER can help – They'll cover those extra travel costs associated with emergency travel.

"We assisted a lot of Guardsmen from the Gulf Coast returning from Iraq after the Hurricanes. In many instances, they came back to nothing," he said.

To find out more about AER or to make a donation, visit <http://www.aerhq.org/> or call toll free: (866) 878-6378.

-Master Sgt. Greg Rudl

**For more National Guard news,
go to
<http://www.ngb.army.mil/>**





Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Re-enactors wait to welcome participants in the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous to opening ceremonies on Aug. 13 at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park above the Missouri River near Mandan, N. D.

Guard helps provide Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous

Five days filled with activities for fun and education



Chris Duah, 16, of Indiana, is seen rappelling during the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous. Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill.

High school students experience Corps of Discovery and its military ties

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

BISMARCK, N.D. - On the flight home, Sylvia Lynch would try to explain what happened to her and 300 high school seniors in North Dakota in the third week of August.

But how could the youth coordinator from the District of Columbia National Guard possibly tell someone who wasn't there about the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous 2006, sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and hosted by the North Dakota National Guard?

There was too much to tell. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Lynch concluded before falling asleep, like all the equally exhausted 10 youths she escorted to the event.

"This was the big National Guard event of the entire bicentennial," said George Donnelly, senior program analyst for the National Guard Bureau. "One of the primary reasons for the Corps of Discovery's success was the military decorum and the military values."

The National Guard has taught thousands of students beyond those who attended Youth Rendezvous 2006 about Lewis and Clark and about the nation's armed forces, Donnelly said.

"It's provided the opportunity to get the military story - primarily the Guard story - back into the classroom," he said. "We have reached more than 130,000 students."

The students came from every state and four territories. Contest-winning essays on Lewis and Clark themes earned them their tickets.

To write the essays, the students researched the 1803 to 1806 Corps of Discovery expedition credited with opening up the West.

"My great heroes consisted of Superman, Wonder Woman and all of those comical heroes," wrote Nicholas Claudel of Augusta, Maine. "When I heard of this trip, I really thought of what they did for us as a nation, and it's a lot more than any old superhero ever did."

When the students - many making their first plane flight and some traveling 24 hours - landed in Bismarck, N.D., on Aug. 13, history abandoned those dry text book pages. "History will come alive for them," promised Maj. Gen. Michael Haugen, adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard.

Did it ever.

For five days, the students were immersed in the Lewis and Clark story. Surrounded by Citizen-Soldiers of today's National Guard who had volunteered to make the adventure happen, the high school seniors learned about the opening of the American West, the military of the early nineteenth century and the 21st century Minutemen.

"Oh, man, it's fun," said Samuel Duah, of Washington,

D.C. The 17-year-old listed highlights, pouring them out like the .45 Caliber rounds had poured from the Gatling's Battery Gun the students saw fired at Fort Abraham Lincoln.

The inclement weather. Traveling the furthest West he had ever been. Sleeping a night in an Army tent. Eating military rations at Fort Mandan. Meeting people from all over the United States. Learning more about Capt. Meriweather Lewis, Capt. William Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

"I already said I loved it here, right?" Duah concluded. "I'm glad I won the essay, and I'm glad I took the time to write it."

Still Duah had only scratched the surface.

The places they saw: Knife River Indian Village, the Missouri River, Medora, Bismarck and Washburn.

"I wish it was longer than a week, just from what I've seen already," Adrian Tutein, 17, of the Virgin Islands, said on the first full day.

The challenges they undertook: rafting the Missouri River, climbing a high ropes confidence course, riding on a wagon train and learning Native American dances.

"This is a great experience for us," said Ashley Ames, 16, of Montana, after riding a 'zip line' on the confidence course. "Something you don't do every summer."

The food they ate: smores cooked on a roaring fire on a Missouri River beach, steaks prepared fondue style on a pitchfork, a pig roast and those MREs.

"People make out that they're all bad and everything," said James Weese, 17, of Oklahoma, who drew a chili and macaroni Meal, Ready-to-Eat. "But they really aren't - they're not bad at all."

The stories they heard: of Sakakawea, as told by Amy

Mossett, a scholar of the Native American woman who helped guide the "Corps"; of York, the slave Clark so highly valued for his service but resisted freeing. And of the captains, their sergeants and privates on what was a military expedition.

"I ate lunch with President Lincoln," said Elisabeth Garrett, 17, of Pennsylvania about a re-enactor, "and he answered all our questions just like he was President Lincoln and we were in that time period."

On the long bus rides, they queried Citizen-Soldiers who accompanied them about today's National Guard and how they had come to enlist.

"It's a little bit different than what I'm used to," said Cody Boulware, 17, of Iowa. "This is just-wow! It's a lot more structured. I never thought about it before. It's sort of interesting to know why they do it. It makes a lot more sense."

When it ended too soon, they danced with Native Americans, Citizen-Soldiers, their adult escorts and with each other, and they signed each other's T-shirts, and promised to stay in touch. Some of them cried.

They were unequivocal in their thanks to the National Guard and to North Dakota in particular, which had shone its generous hospitality like the sun had shone on its Great Plains.

"I'm very thankful to the National Guard for doing this," Duah said. "Giving us all this time. I've gained a new respect for them. Now I see what they do, and it's pretty cool." 🇺🇸



Citizen-Soldiers, Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous, Technical College



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

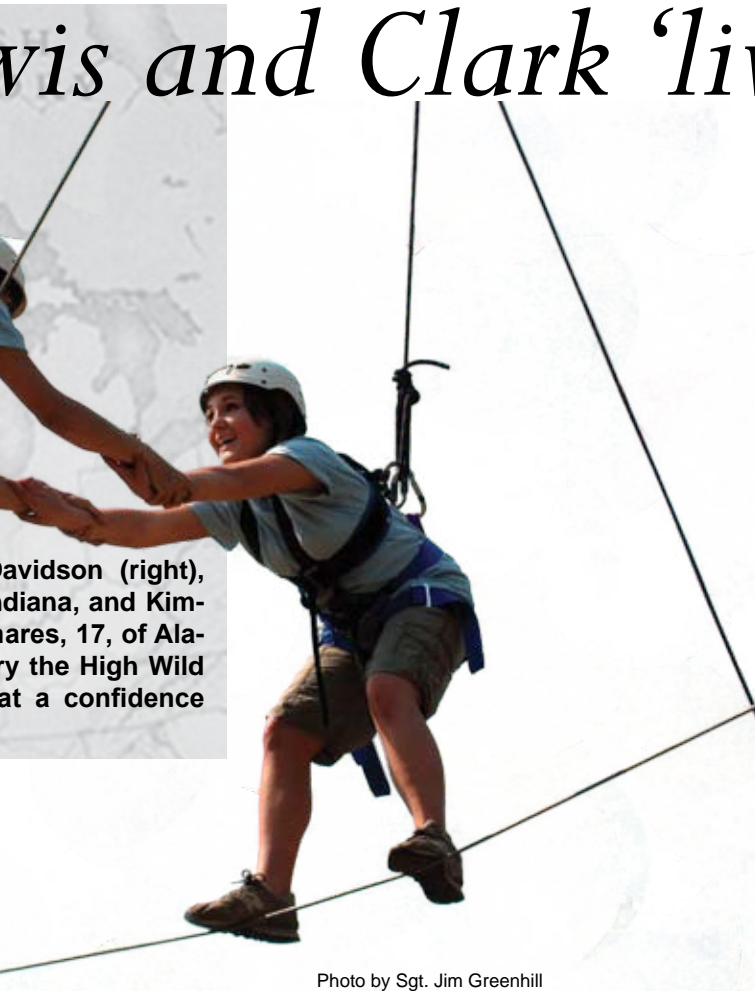
Shanice Gaddy, 16, of Washington, D.C., helps herself to fruit after Spc. Chris Hoff, right, North Dakota National Guard, served her a hamburger during a lunch for participants in the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous Aug. 14. About 300 high schoolers from all 50 states and four territories who won an essay contest attended the week celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Learn BOOK:

Among the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous brings the approach WEB SITE

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Lewis and Clark 'living history' for youth group



Davidson (right),
Adrian, and Kim-
Adrian, 17, of Ala-
bama, are ziplining
the High Wild
at a confidence

Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

On the first day of my summer vacation...

WINNING ESSAYS GET YOU AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

In order to be invited to Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous 2006, students had to submit an essay based on a Lewis and Clark theme. Here were some of them:

"The exploration team consisted of the two leaders, Lewis and Clark, 14 Soldiers, nine frontiersmen, two French boatmen and Clark's servant York. All were enlisted by Lewis and Clark based upon their various abilities and capabilities. All were essential members of the expedition team and their selfless service would be crucial to the success of the journey."

-William Dunkelmann, La.

"As you can see, all of the National Guard values had to be used to make this journey successful. They were loyal to the country by never giving up and doing exactly what they were commanded to do."

-Nicholas Claudel, Me.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Staff Sgt. Billie Jo Lorus, Sgt. Erin Hughes, Maj. Davina French and Chief Warrant Officer Theresia Hersch celebrate the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous closing ceremonies.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Native Americans, volunteers and students celebrate the Lewis & Clark Youth Rendezvous closing ceremonies at the United Tribes Museum in Bismarck, N.D.

Re-enactor appreciates Guard's efforts

NEW TOWN, N.D. – From the age of 12, Josh Loftis was hooked on Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

After attending a Corps re-enactment and learning he was related to Pvt. George Shannon, its youngest member, the Illinois boy graduated from high school at 16 so he could join a group following the trail during the three-year bicentennial.

The National Guard was one of the sponsors of events surrounding the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, which started in 2003.

With domestic operations such as Hurricane Katrina and numerous overseas commitments, surely the National Guard wouldn't have time for Lewis and Clark, thought Loftis.

But the boy who became a young man following in the footsteps of his heroes said the Guard has been there at every turn.

"The fact that through all this the National Guard [supported us] is a great testimony to [them]," he said as he stood by the Missouri River dressed in his period clothes near New Town, N.D., on Aug. 17, his 20th birthday.

Loftis and colleagues from the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Mo., a non-profit organization dedicated to rediscovering the legacy of Lewis and Clark, were in town to support Youth Rendezvous 2006. It was sponsored by the National Guard.

Loftis said that Citizen-Soldiers were on hand to provide physical help and serve as safety officers at various points during the three-year re-enactment.

"They were our safety net," Loftis said. "I'm really proud of all our guys overseas and all our guys here."

An event in St. Louis in September was to conclude the bicentennial celebrations.



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

With the domestic and overseas operations tempo increasing for the last five years, Lewis and Clark re-enactor Josh Loftis, of Illinois, thought the National Guard would drop its support of bicentennial celebrations of the expedition. The 20-year-old who portrayed Pvt. George Shannon, traveling with the re-enactors since he was 16, said he was delighted when the Guard kept with the mission.

"It's really kind of sad" Loftis said. "This is everything I've worked for since I was 12 years old, and it's been everything I've lived for the last three years. I haven't had a real job since 2003."

The commemoration and the Guard's support were worth it, Loftis said.

"The smiles on the kid's faces when we tell them about Lewis and Clark – those are our reward," he said.

-Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Learn more about the 'Corps'

In many books, Stephen Ambrose's "Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West" brings the story to life for those new to the topic and takes the unusual step of focusing more on Lewis than on Clark.

ES:

For more about Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, try these numerous other Websites:

www.lewisandclark.com: Companion site to the Ken Burns film, "Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery."

nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark: Includes journal entries, historical photos, drawings and more.

www.lewisandclark.net: The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Mo., a non-profit organization dedicated to rediscovering the legacy of Lewis and Clark.

www.lcyouthrendezvous.com/links/

California crew rescues critically injured children in Mexico

Provide medical care to kids, emotional care to mother

By Capt. Alyson Teeter
California National Guard

MOFFETT FEDERAL AIRFIELD, Calif. – The California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing has performed a wide variety of civilian search and rescue missions, including persons aboard ships in distress, lost or injured hikers and medical evacuations. But a recent rescue of U. S. citizens in Mexico will long be remembered.

On the morning of Aug. 3, the 129th received a call from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley Air Force Base, Va., requesting the wing provide life-saving assistance for four U.S. nationals, ages 4, 7, 11 and 13, who were critically injured in a car accident in Guerrero Negro, Mexico.

The 129th was ready to go, as its war-time mission is to perform combat search and rescue anywhere in the world. Equipped with MC-130P Combat Shadow tankers and HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters, the unit also works closely with the Coast Guard and various civil agencies on state missions.

This mission utilized the MC-130P as a transporter and medical clinic for the children, said Staff Sgt. Michael K. Bendle, a pararescueman and one of three mission PJs.

Not only was lifesaving equipment and aircraft preparation crucial to the mission, but diplomatic clearances and airfield logistics were as well. The crew required Mexico's permission to enter the country's airspace and a landing location.

"The AFRCC, embassies and other agencies worked to get us clearance in to Mexico," said Capt. Michael P. Wagle, a squadron pilot. "Before the clearance came in, we launched the aircraft and orbited the border, ready to go."

The plane landed at the most suitable airfield and one nearest to the hospital where the children were being treated. Ambulances were waiting and transported the crew of three PJs, Senior Master Sgt. Robert E. Simmons, Staff Sgt. Darren M. Pon and Bendle, and the flight surgeon, Dr. (Capt.) Joshua S. Kucker to the hospital.

"When the crew arrived, it turned out that only two of the four children were being treated at the hospital," Sergeant Bendle said. "The two other children had been banged up but were released."

The crew immediately treated the children and prepared them for the rescue flight home.

"The hospital had rudimentary medical gear," Bendle said. "There was no high-tech equipment like CAT scans or modern stuff we have here in America."

Ambulances then transported the crew, children and mother back to the airfield.

The crew quickly departed and headed back to the United States. While the plane was airborne, the flight surgeon and PJs administered life sustaining treatment. They also made further assessments and planned the drop-off to hospital staff in San Diego.

Master Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson, the mission 'scanner,' was asked to help the mother once they departed Mexico.

Johnson is the mother of four boys and one girl. That fact created a common bond between her and the distraught mother, who also had the same.

"At first, my job didn't seem that important, but when the mother was crying and holding my hand, I realized she needed the support and comfort," Johnson said. "I was able to put myself in her shoes. The empathy gave her a bit of peace and security."

Johnson periodically updated the mother regarding her daughter and son's medical status during the flight.

The aircraft landed an hour and a half after takeoff at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego. Ambulances, doc-



Photo by Master Sgt. Jennifer A. Johnson

129th Rescue Wing flight surgeon Dr. (Capt.) Joshua S. Kucker and MC-130P loadmaster Senior Master Sgt. William J. Wunderlin treat and assist a critically injured child during the flight to Naval Air Station North Island, Calif.

tors, nurses and local television news stations were waiting.

The children and mother were transported to the local children's hospital. Johnson accompanied the mother, providing a smooth transition between one form of care to another.

"It was comforting to know that the children would be in good hands," Johnson said.

Sadly, the boy passed away a few days later, but being kept on life support allowed for his organs to be donated.

"It's not very often we get this type of mission," Bendle said. "You want to go the extra mile when the mission involves a child."

The mission marked the 557th rescue mission for the 129th since its activation in 1975.

New center improves Guard's crisis communication abilities

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

SMYRNA, Del. – The National Guard Bureau has stood up a sophisticated center that greatly improves crisis communication.

"This is a giant step forward from where we were even



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau, left, watches as Sgt. Bryan Potter, 280th Signal Battalion-Delaware National Guard, demonstrates equipment Sept. 6 that enables different agencies to talk with each other during a crisis.

less than a year ago," LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau said after a Sept. 6 visit to the Joint Command, Control, Communications and Computers Coordination Center (JCCC) at the Smyrna Readiness Center in Smyrna, Del.

"[This] is going to make it possible for a much better coordinated and synchronized communications response, whether it's a man-made disaster or act of nature," Blum said. "This is exactly the right thing to do. It's what the American people expect their National Guard to do."

The JCCC at Smyrna is an extension of the Joint Operations Center at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va. The facilities are the chief's eyes and ears for the National Guard's communications network, ensuring secure information sharing between the National Guard Bureau, individual states, incident sites and partners such as the U.S. Northern Command.

"We all know what needs to be done for the nation, be it a 9/11 or a Katrina or another event – and there will be another event – and we are ready," said Lt. Gen. Steven W. Boutelle, the Army's G-6, or chief information officer, who also toured the Smyrna facility.

"Katrina put an exclamation point on what we had been working on for three years," said Brig. Gen. Henry McCann, commander of the 261st Signal Brigade, which hosts the Delaware operation.

The JCCC's priorities are its Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen,

homeland defense, operational readiness, being mission capable and providing economy of force, McCann said.

"A year ago, JCCC didn't exist," said Lt. Col. Martin Devine, JCCC commander.

The readiness center where the JCCC is located was renovated, personnel recruited and technology brought together to create the program in less than 12 months, Devine said.

One of the facility's greatest assets is its personnel, commanders said. One cited the example of Staff Sgt. Bryce Palmer, a member of the 280th Signal Battalion who was on duty Sept. 6 in spite of losing his home to fire just days earlier.

In addition to attitudes such as Palmer's, the JCCC also benefits – like every other National Guard unit – from the civilian skills of its Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, such as a lieutenant colonel who works at a multinational computer technology company as a civilian, applying that professional knowledge to his JCCC position.

The JCCC coordinates communications during homeland defense missions and operations involving defense support of civil authorities. It is home to a plethora of complex communications capabilities. Examples include the ability to monitor multiple events simultaneously; the facilitation of communications between different agencies even when they use incompatible equipment; and the provision of teams of liaison officers to help agencies coordinate a crisis response.

More from the border: Operation Jump Start

Arkansas Soldiers keep watch on New Mexico desert

It's hard, but critical work at entry identification sites

By Maj. Keith Moore

Arkansas National Guard

LAS CRUCES, N.M. – It's another day watching over the United States' border with Mexico for the Soldiers of Task Force Arkansas, as they are known by their joint task force commanders and the agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Like many days for the teams that staff the entry identification team (EIT) sites, it begins by "drilling the checklist" or checking and securing materials to ensure they are ready for what lies ahead.

"Batteries, [food], optics, vehicle [maintenance] and [communications] checks." The list goes on as the Soldiers verbalize each item packed for the operation to carry them through the next 24 hours. The teams rotate on the EIT sites every 24 hours. The remoteness of the sites scattered throughout the New Mexico desert make it more imperative that the Soldiers go prepared.

"We have radios to contact our command center and the Border Patrol station, but it's not like you can just run down the street if you forget something. Once you get out there you kind of have to make due for 24 hours," said 2nd Lt. Brian Inman, one of the officers who coordinates the manning for the sites operating from Las Cruces. It is part of the National Guard's involvement in Operation Jump Start along the southwest border.

"The sites are covert, so we only change the teams once a day to minimize the traffic through the desert. This helps ensure the site is not compromised and reduce its effectiveness to the overall operation," Inman added. "We've been operating out here for about six weeks now, and we assisted the

Border Patrol by directing them to apprehend 160 individuals already."

The sites are only accessible by strong four-wheel drive vehicles like the Army's Humvee. The 30 or so mile trek through the rough terrain of the New Mexico desert makes you wonder how anyone could survive on foot in the area.

Inman, Sgt. Jay Sanders and Spc. Matthew Bealer relieve the team on duty and take responsibility for the site designated only by call sign "Bravo-2." The mountain-top site is perched on the edge of a rock outcropping some 1,000 feet high. The small outpost is covered with camouflage netting to blend in with the cactus, yucca bushes and rock. The netting also provides a bit of shade from the bright New Mexico sun. The position of the site high above the desert floor gives the Soldiers a vantage point from which to monitor activities below.

"Our location here enables us to look down on what's going on and direct the Border Patrol agents right to things they may not be able to see at ground level," said Sanders, peering through a pair of binoculars at the wide expanse of desert. "We had one instance a few weeks ago where a car stopped on the highway over there. Three people got out and started running through the valley. I called Border Patrol on the radio and they responded to the location we gave them. The car was already gone, but we were able to direct them right to the people in the desert because we could follow their movements from up here."

Soldiers at each EIT site can monitor approximately 20 square miles of desert utilizing binoculars, long range telescopic sites and thermal imagery sighting systems for nighttime detection. Also, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has hundreds of unmanned electronic sensors scattered across the desert region to monitor any kind of movement.

"It's hard to continuously scan the desert, so we take turns on the optics in two-hour shifts to give our eyes a rest,"

said Bealer. "The Border Patrol also gets frequent readings off sensors and calls us to confirm if we see anything in the area. They have been really good to work with and provide us [with] a lot of information on the landmarks and terrain features they use to designate locations out here."

The austere conditions on the EIT sites are fairly typical for infantry Soldiers in the field. "Bravo-2" consisted of an improvised shelter using parachute cord, camouflage netting and the support poles, and several rain ponchos. "It keeps the sun off of us and helps with the daily thundershowers we've been experiencing here lately," said Sanders. "A couple of storms have been so bad that we opted to take cover inside the vehicle. The lightening is the scary part. Being up this high makes us feel a little more vulnerable when that stuff starts flashing all around."

But weather isn't the only thing the Soldiers have to contend with. The animal life in the high desert region isn't too friendly either. "We see lots of big lizards, an occasional rattlesnake, and this one pesky squirrel that likes to run through the shelter late at night," said Bealer. "He's probably just looking for something to eat, but he usually scares us pretty good when he tears through here."

The days are long and the conditions aren't great, but the Soldiers of Task Force Arkansas are dedicated.

"It can be boring at times when there is no activity out here, but it feels good to be making a difference," Sanders said. "And when we do get a bunch of activity, it is fun to call in and work with the border agents."


Sanders added that a number of the Soldiers have come to like the roll they play so much that they are considering applying for Border Patrol positions when their tour is up in six months. Some Soldiers even volunteer to ride along with Border Patrol agents on their days off to hone their skills in spotting suspicious activity and learn how to track illegal movements throughout the desert. 



Photo by Maj. Keith Moore

2nd Lt. Brian Inman (left), Spc. Matthew Bealer (center) and Sgt. Jay Sanders (right) take shelter from the bright New Mexico sun under the camouflage netting of their mountain top observation point. The Soldiers, members of the Arkansas Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, are part of Task Force Arkansas participating in Operation Jump Start along the U.S. border with Mexico. From their outpost nearly 1,000 feet above the desert floor, the three can monitor movement in the desert on one side, vehicles along a major highway on a second, and suspicious "stowaways" aboard railroad cars on a third.

Customs and Border Patrol credits the National Guard with (as of Sept. 15):

• Alien Apprehensions	10,479
• Vehicle Seizures	175
• Marijuana Seized	37,288 (lbs.)
• Cocaine Seized	1,738.2 (lbs.)
• Aliens Rescued	45

Significant Operation Jump Start events

May 15: President Bush announces the deployment of up to 6,000 Guard troops to the US- Mexico border – largest to region since President Wilson called up the Guard in 1916.

June 5: Four Southwest Border states -- California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas -- sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Office of Secretary of Defense, allowing deployments. The first troops (98) from each of the four states, are in place by next day.

June 15: Delaware, the first state admitted to the union, is also the first state beyond the border corridor to sign the OJS MOU. 1,032 troops are deployed, exceeding target of 800 for this date.

June 30: 11 supporting states sign MOUs or make verbal commitments to send troops; 2,547 troops are deployed (exceeding 2,500 goal).

July 31: 6,199 Guard personnel are deployed, exceeding the goal of 6,000 in place by Aug. 1 (5,475-Army, 724-Air; 4,256-duration troops, 1,943-rotation; 3,660 from supported states – 2,539 from supporting states outside border region).

Aug. 3: President Bush visits border, meets with LTG H Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau and praises Guard's efforts to meet Aug. 1 deadline.

Aug. 9: Spc. Kirsten Fike of Pennsylvania collapses while on surveillance duty near Yuma. She's hospitalized and dies the next day.

Aug. 30: 43 states/territories in total have signed MOUs; in August alone, five more sign (GU, PA, MA, NH, and IL).

-Compiled by Bill Boehm, NGB History

FROM PAGE 1:

GUARD RESOURCES

of a no-notice transformation of the National Guard,” he said. “For the Minutemen and Minutewomen of the National Guard, it was a call to arms, and we have been answering that call to support and defend America and its freedoms and our very way of life every day since.”

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the National Guard has added 45 weapons of mass destruction – civil support teams; 17 chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive enhanced response force packages; 54 computer emergency response teams; six critical infrastructure protection-mission assurance assessment detachments; 54 reaction forces; 54 24-hour a day joint operations centers; and numerous other capabilities, Blum said.

“Show me any organization anywhere in the world that has made that much progress that fast on such important issues in five short years,” he said.

He cited a litany of achievements that included:

- The immediate response to the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent airport mission that restored civilian confidence in flying.
- The historic response to Hurricane Katrina. “The Guard’s response ... may well go down as the Guard’s finest hour,” Blum said. “I have never had a prouder moment in my almost 40 years in uniform.”
- The contribution to the war effort in Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The contribution on the U.S. border with Mexico, where up to 6,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are taking part in Operation Jump Start, the National Guard’s assistance to the Border Patrol.
- The State Partnership Program, Counterdrug operations, family programs, Youth ChalleNGe and numerous other initiatives that have continued in spite of the much-increased domestic and overseas operations tempos.

“You name the theater, the Guard is there,” Blum said. “You name the operation, the Guard is there, and that’s the way it should be, because when you call out the Guard you call out America, and this nation should never go to war without the National Guard because it will go to war without the nation’s will behind it.”

Defying Army predictions that the Guard’s numbers would shrink to 324,000 Citizen-Soldiers in 2006, the National Guard instead had its best year of recruiting in 35 years, Blum said. Recruiting and retention must remain an absolute priority, he added.

“The National Guard is a national treasure,” he said. “The National Guard is a national bargain when it comes to national defense. The National Guard is providing real, critically

“We are now in a dangerously low resourcing level for missions back here at home, and that must be seriously addressed”

-LTG H Steven Blum

needed skills and real capabilities – not just some PowerPoint slide promises that never materialize that you’ve all seen in other places. For the National Guard, homeland defense is deeds, not words. The National

Guard’s proven performance has been simply incredible.

“We don’t check pedigrees and worry about who’s in charge. We want to know what needs to be done, and we go and do it, and that’s your National Guard,” Blum said.

The general expressed particular pride in the fact that the National Guard has maintained its commitment to the Youth ChalleNGe program that helps at-risk high school dropouts regain their footing. The program has graduated some 60,000 youths, he said.

“They represent 60,000 lives saved from either a cemetery or a jail cell,” he said. He called Youth ChalleNGe one of the most worthwhile things the Guard does.

“I am, if you can’t tell, immensely proud to be the chief of this organization,” he concluded.


The conference host, NGAUS, includes nearly 45,000 current and former officers. NGAUS was created in 1878 to provide unified Guard representation in Washington with the goal of obtaining better equipment and training by petitioning Congress for more resources, the same mission it has today. 



Photo courtesy of the Cleveland Browns

A SIGNATURE MOVE: Spc. Terry Dean of the 216th Engineer Battalion in Chillicothe, Ohio, gets his prosthetic leg signed by Braylon Edwards, a wide receiver for the Cleveland Browns during a visit to the Browns’ training camp Aug. 17. Dean lost his right leg when a roadside bomb exploded near Sumarra on Alternate Supply Route Grape, one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq. Dean said that he can participate in most activities with the new leg. Edwards, a former Michigan Wolverine, is considered by Dean to be one of his all-time favorite players for the maize and blue.

FROM PAGE 1:

SERBIAN PARTNERSHIP

of State Condoleezza Rice on Sept. 7. That agreement will permit regular military exchanges and exercises between the U.S. and Serbia and opens the door to the partnership with Ohio, explained LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, the Ohio Guard’s adjutant general, said he would visit Serbia later in September to begin planning the exchanges and exercises with that country’s military leaders.

“President Tadic has played a leading role in the democratic transformation of Serbia since 2000,” said Blum during a Sept. 7 dinner that he hosted for the Serbian president at the chief’s official home at Fort McNair in Washington.

“Serbia is key to the future of democratic freedoms and principles in the Balkan region. President Tadic has advocated Serbia’s strategic goal of joining in the European and Euro-Atlantic community of nations. He has led Serbia to become a strong regional partner and to achieve an inspiring transition to a stable democracy,” Blum said. “By virtue of his visit with us this week, President Tadic is clearly demonstrating his continuing interest in and support for the transformation of the Serbian military and defense establishment in accordance with NATO values and principles.”

The National Guard established the State Partnership Program in 1993 at the request of the Department of Defense so that states could work with eastern European countries that had been members of the Soviet bloc. It’s the Guard’s primary program for promoting security, cooperation and international goodwill with the Defense Department’s combatant commanders. States are now engaged with many other countries in Central and South America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen apply their military and civilian skills to build democratic principles within the partnered countries, enhance the professionalism of the non-commissioned officer and officer corps, encourage economic development and promote regional cooperation and stability.

The Ohio Guard has maintained a partnership with Hungary, Serbia’s northern neighbor, since 1993, and officials believe Ohio helped Hungary become one of three countries admitted to NATO in January 1999. The Ohio National Guard has also benefited from Hungary’s military skills, officials pointed out.


“Our partnership with Hungary has gone on for 13 years,” said Wayt. “The biggest thing we have learned is that we all learn from each other.”

Voinovich, who was governor when Ohio and Hungary formed their partnership, believes that Ohio can work with Serbia in the same way.

“I believe that our National Guard being in Hungary helped prepare them for their entrance into NATO and the European Union. My dream is that Serbia and all of the countries in the former Yugoslavia will become members of NATO and the European Union; and for the first time become really a part of Europe and the trans-Atlantic alliance that is so very, very important to the United States in that part of the world,” said Voinovich who is half Serbian. “So I think that the fact that we’re going over there is going to really help us develop the kind of relationship that we need with the Serbian military.”

Although the U.S. and Serbia were allies during both world wars, Voinovich said there is still lingering unhappiness among the Serbian people toward this country because NATO, including the U.S., bombed Belgrade, now the Serbian capital, in 1999 during the campaign to prevent Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic from using ethnic cleansing tactics against people in the province of Kosovo.

“I believe that this partnership begins a new chapter in the relationship between the United States of America and Serbia,” Voinovich said.

“Mr. President, the United States and Serbia have been friends in two world wars, and I know that after the Kosovo situation, many people in Serbia were wondering about the United States of America,” Voinovich told Tadic. “And I want you to know that the people of Ohio and the people of the United States of America love our Serbian brothers and sisters.” 

HISTORY

Uniforms impress at Yorktown centennial ceremony, still do today

By John Listman

National Guard Bureau

ON a pleasant October afternoon in 1881 the President of the United States stood before a large crowd gathered to hear him recall the historic events of a century before. President Chester Arthur spoke softly as he remembered the sacrifices made and the far-reaching effects of the events which unfolded on that spot 100 years ago to the day. He was the guest speaker for the centennial celebration of the British surrender to the American and French armies under the command of Gen. George Washington at Yorktown, Va., on Oct. 19, 1781. This month marks the 225th anniversary of that victory.

Among those in the crowd listening to President Arthur was the great grandson of the French Army commander at Yorktown, the Count de Rochambeau (himself the Marquis de Rochambeau). Treated as an honored guest, he was given the privilege of inspecting the various military units gathered

THE CHANCE TO WEAR SUCH FINERY WAS A STRONG RECRUITING TOOL USED TO DRAW YOUNG MEN INTO THE GUARD, WITH SOME UNITS HAVING WAITING LISTS OF MEN WANTING TO JOIN

at Yorktown to commemorate the event. While a few were units of the Regular U.S. Army, most were volunteer militia companies, forerunners of today's National Guard, from the various states. In total, 16 states had one or more units on hand. Of these, at least three – New Jersey, New York and Virginia – sent provisional battalions of multiple companies. The

story goes that the Count, quite taken by the great variety of dress uniforms, commented that he was greatly impressed by the military bearing of the Guardsmen.

The celebration marked a milestone in another way. Besides commemorating the victory that brought America its freedom from Britain, it was also the first national event of importance after the Civil War and was the first time that all the former Confederate states, the last of whom had remained under Reconstruction until 1877, had a chance to have their post-war militia participate in such a significant event. It helped to bind up the nation's wounds and allowed former enemies to once again share a common experience as Americans.

After the celebrations ended and the units returned home, members of the recently founded National Guard Association contacted the states that had troops at the Yorktown event and gathered photographs of them in their dress uniforms. Before forwarding these images to the association many of the units took the liberty of hand coloring these prints to show how their uniforms actually looked, leaving a valuable record that the black and white photography of the period could not capture. Once received, they were mounted, by state, in two massive photo albums and sent to the American ambassador in Paris, who presented the books to the Marquis on behalf of the Guard and a grateful nation.

Jump ahead to the 20th century. In the 1930s Mrs. Anne S.K. Brown developed an appreciation for the dress uniforms of European, American and other soldiers around the world. Being quite wealthy, she began collecting a vast amount of uniform and battle prints and plates, books (many quite rare or one of a kind), hand painted metal miniatures and other related materials. Although she passed away in 1985, she left a remarkable collection totaling thousands of items that is now located in the John Hay Library on the campus of Brown University in Providence, R.I. Open free of charge to the public,



Officers and enlisted men of the Bowling Green Guard, 3rd Battalion, Kentucky State Militia gathered at the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown in 1881 and showed off their uniforms.

its vast holdings include the two photo albums presented to Rochambeau in 1882.

The photographs that illustrate this article come from that collection which consists of 151 pieces. Each was colored by the unit itself, showing how it was uniformed in 1881. While most studies of the Guard's record focuses on its service in war or domestic crisis, often forgotten is the fact that for most of its nearly 370-year history, Guard personnel and units have conducted peacetime training and participated in events of local or national importance. Prior to World War II, the Guard had a large number of distinctively uniformed units in every

state. The uniforms were paid for by the units themselves. In fact, the chance to wear such finery was a strong recruiting tool used to draw young men into the Guard, with some units having waiting lists of men wanting to join. It is perhaps unfortunate that, with a handful of exceptions such as Philadelphia's "City Troop" or the "Monticello Guard" of Charlottesville, Va., these units have all but disappeared. The rush of modern life has made them seem archaic, like something from another time, which, of course, they are. But if not for that time and those men, perhaps the traditions we celebrate in the Guard – or the Guard itself – might not exist today.



Left: Officers and first sergeant, 22nd Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Division, New York State Militia. Center: 1st Lt. George Walker, commander, Chatham Artillery, Georgia Volunteers. Right: Pvt. Richard S. Scott, 1st Regiment, New Jersey National Guard.

Contacting a Family Readiness Coordinator near you

The National Guard Family Program office in each state's 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. The following is a list of Family Program offices in the 54 states and territories, followed by wing Family Program coordinators.

Send changes/corrections to:
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Families on the front line

Brothers, father and son explain what it's like to serve together in Iraq

By Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny
407th Air Expeditionary Group

ALI BASE, Iraq—Deployed service members serving at a base can literally eat, sleep and live together, becoming like a family. Some already are.

Meet three brothers who recently served together at Ali Base, Iraq: Air Force Staff Sgt. Patrick Peterson, a 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter; Army 1st Lt. Paul Peterson, supply operations maintenance officer, and Army Spc. Joel Peterson, maintenance parts specialists from the 1/34 Brigade Support Battalion. All are from the Minnesota National Guard.

Sgt. Peterson, the youngest, is from the 133rd CES/CEF out of St. Paul. He was originally scheduled to deploy to another, "nicer," location.

"Then when I found out my unit was coming here where my brothers were ... I jumped ship on the good deployment location to come here," he said.

Depending on work, the three spend a few hours a week together during their time off.

"We meet up at the dining facility, throw the football around, watch movies together, steal each others' video games, and reminisce about old times, said Sgt. Peterson. "After we all graduated, we left home and moved way throughout Minnesota. We see each other during the holidays, so being here we've been able to spend more time together."

What do their parents think about all three being on the front lines of the war on terrorism?

"My dad was in the Army, so he is cool with us being here, said Lt. Peterson. "I don't think our Mom would have liked it if only one of us came here."

Whether here or at home station, the brothers agree that deploying together is good.

"It's nice being here with your family because you have similar interests," Spc. Peterson said. "We'd like to see the Vikings beat the Packers together."

"It's fun to meet new people, but it's more comfortable to deploy with people you know," Sergeant Peterson said.

"The other day, I ran into one of my older brother's friends from high school in the chow hall here," he said. "He and my older brother [Joel] used to beat me up on a daily basis when I was a kid. It was pretty funny meeting up with him here."

Sgt. Peterson's brothers were here when he arrived at Ali Base, and they will be here when he leaves.

"One of the neatest things for me was being greeted at the passenger terminal by my big brothers," Sgt. Peterson said. "We had midnight chow together that night. But that also means they will be seeing me off at the PAX terminal,"

Mission first, then family

"Normally, we have an agreement that when we have the

uniform on we just have the same last name, and we're father and son during our off-duty time," said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Bowman, a material control management supervisor, describing the necessary professional relationship he must have with his son, Airman Jeffrey Bowman at Ali.

Both are in the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron but work in separate areas and sometimes get so busy they don't see each other for up to a week. When they do have time, they watch movies, play horseshoes and then meet up at the dining facility for dinner.

Both are deployed here together from the 102nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass.

Deploying with the Air National Guard is like deploying with family, said Sgt. Bowman. Many unit members have seen my son grow up. Many have worked together on and off duty for more than 20 years, said Bowman, referring to the closeness Guard members have.

Airman Bowman, pavement and equipment apprentice, has the more dangerous job. He's one of the "dirt boys" -- called out when needed to dig up unexploded ordinance (UXO).

Two days after the Bowmans arrived at Ali, a rocket attack put the "dirt boys" into action, assisting the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team.

"I was one of the 'Dirt Boys' digging up the UXO," Airman Bowman said. "That's my job. But while I was digging it out, I was thinking to myself, if this thing goes off, what is my Dad going to do?"

"It's a good thing his father has a good cardiac function," said elder Bowman. "Jeffrey is the kind of guy who doesn't run from work, and I love that about him."

When his son injured himself one day on the job, it was the first time that dad had second thoughts about his son being at Ali.

"I knew where my son was working," he said. "When you hear a radio call 'man down' in the same area where your son's working, it really gets you going. Then when I found



Photos by Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny

Top: If Tech. Sgt. and father Kenneth Bowman is nervous about his son, Airman Jeffrey Bowman's duty on the bomb disposal team, he doesn't show it. Below: A reunion of sorts – the Peterson brothers (from left, Staff Sgt. Patrick, Army 1st Lt. Paul and Army Spc. Joel) all served at Ali Base, Iraq. (Check out the thermometer reading!)



out it was Jeffrey, I had to stay calm.

"While at the combat surgical hospital, the first sergeant said to me 'Boy, do you look calm,' Sgt. Bowman said.

"I told her, you should see me on the inside."

While Sgt. Bowman was staying calm and heading to the CSH, Airman Bowman was thinking about dad.

"I knew I wasn't hurt that badly," he said. "But I was worried about my dad. I didn't want him to get too upset."

However dangerous the mission, having his son deploy with him has been a dream for Sgt. Bowman for almost 31 years.

"I've deployed to a lot of places on this planet," he said. "And I always wished my kids could see the places I've gone. Now Jeffrey is here. He has that chance to get outside the U.S. and see how the rest of the world is living."

Heads up!

Replacement income

The Defense Department kicked off a program in August that helps prevent activated Guard members from facing financial hardships. The Reserve Income Replacement Program will pay eligible National Guard members mobilized for extended or frequent periods the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation. Program payments are not automatic and they must be applied for through their service personnel offices. For guidelines, see www.Defenselink.mil.

ANG retirees need apply

The Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Corps anticipates approval of congressional legislation to Title 10, authorizing JROTC to hire retired Air Guard members as AFJROTC instructors. The date of final approval and enactment is expected to be Oct. 1. Based on this anticipated approval, AFJROTC is accepting applications from Air Guard members who have retired within the past five years or less or are within six months of a fixed retirement date. Applications may be accessed and completed via the AFJROTC public website www.afjrotc.af.mil (select "AFJROTC" and then "Instructor Application").

TRS deadline approaching

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. The one-time, special open season runs Aug. 1 – Nov. 25. Coverage begins Oct. 1, for TRS request forms postmarked on or before Sept. 25. Coverage begins Jan. 1, 2007, for TRS forms postmarked by Nov. 25. Tiers II and III plans are renewed. Members who qualify for TRS Tier 1 should consult their personnel office for details about qualifying. Monthly Tier 3 premiums for calendar year 2006 are \$247 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 Web site. For more information concerning cost

and eligibility visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect/> or contact your unit TRS representative.

Web site for overseas voters

The Defense Department has established a new Web site to provide information about electronic voting options which are available to Soldiers and their families as well as other U.S. citizens living overseas. The Integrated Voting Alternative Site (IVAS) includes information from all the states and territories about request and delivery alternatives available to U. S. citizens who live overseas and are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. The IVAS is located on the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site at: <http://www.fvap.gov/>.