



THE ON GUARD

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Purple Heart Hall of Honor opens in New York



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National Guard turns 370 years old

Minutemen still just as timely

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

ARLINGTON, Va. – What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); a lot older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turns 370 years young Dec. 13.

It all started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

While other English colonies like Virginia and Spanish colonies like Florida and Puerto Rico had individual towns with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the first place in the New World where the population was large enough to justify organizing compa-

nies into regiments for command and control. These regiments became a kind of military "family" for members. Although their names have been changed and individual companies have come and gone, the three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard.

In retrospect, a string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and 19 are countless. Yet, even as the National Guard has transformed many times, it remains in line with its first role as the citizens' Army; and, for the last three generations, the citizens' Air Force.

The American colonies adopted the English militia system, which obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. Now, a force of more than 450,000 men and women serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

The continued existence of the colonial militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. Since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the Guard. The first of these laws, passed in 1792, governed the militia for the

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Accidental deaths drop among Army Guard troops

By Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army National Guard saw a 26 percent decline in accidental deaths last year as part of an overall reduction in the number of accidents and injuries suffered by Citizen-Soldiers.

Fiscal year 2006 saw 71 Class A-C accidents, which are those costing between \$20,000 and \$1 million. That's down from 119 accidents in fiscal year 2005. Guard officials attribute the reduction to training.

"We have had extensive driver's training and trained almost 270,000 Soldiers in defensive driving," said Agnes J. Eisenhart, safety and occupational health manager for the Army National Guard. "That's a tool they can learn in the military and use off-duty as well."

For Citizen-Soldiers, it's off-duty time and traveling in privately owned vehicles when many of the accidents occur, said Eisenhart. Fatigue is often the reason for those accidents, especially when Guard members travel long distances between their home and their unit's armory during drill weekends.

The Army National Guard is taking steps to alleviate those conditions. Now in its third year, the Guard's Fatigue Management Program provides lodging for Soldiers who must

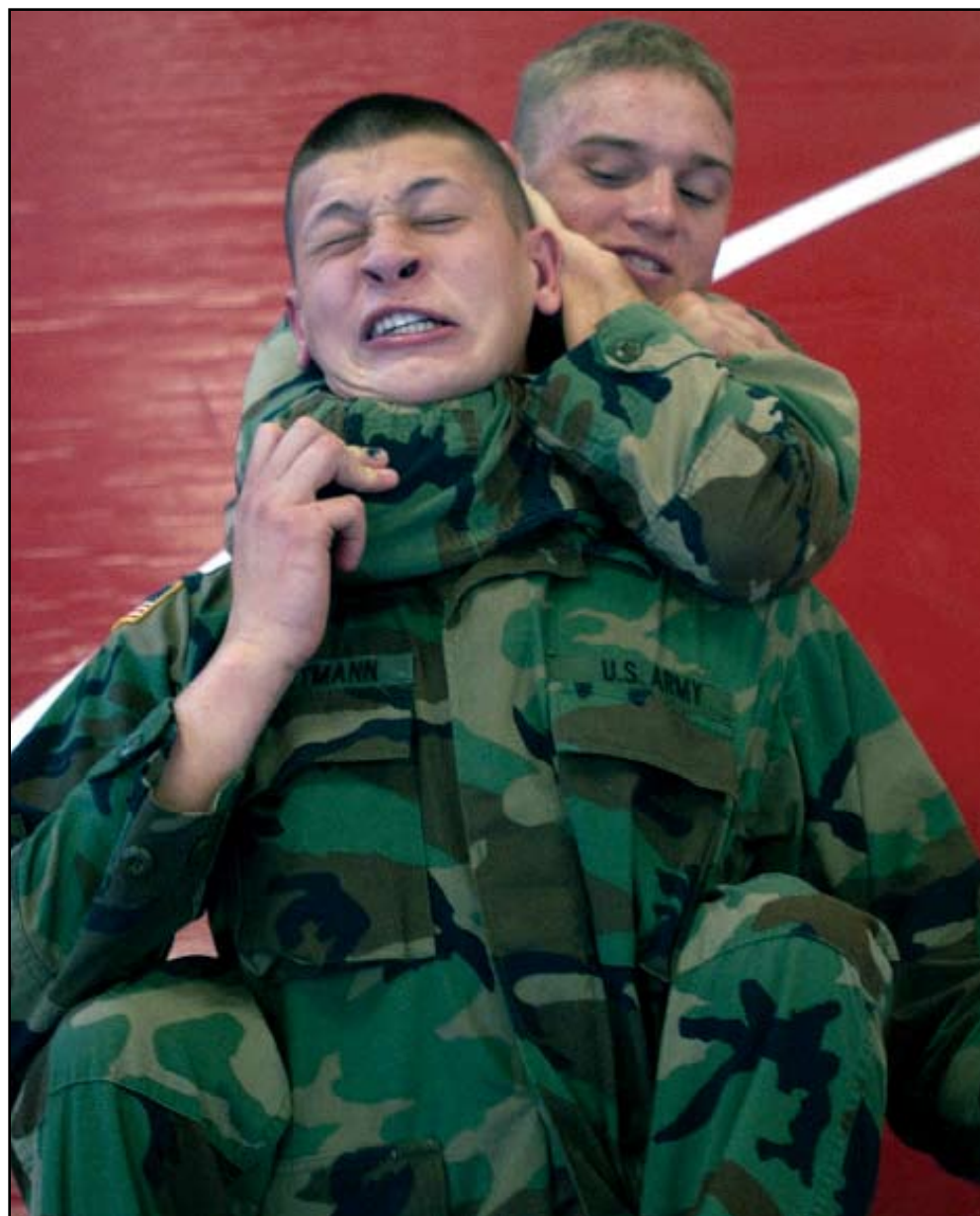


Photo by Sgt. Daniel Palarmo

I give up!

Pfc. Kevin Ward applies a choke hold to Pfc. Trevor Hartmann, both of the Pennsylvania National Guard, while training in combatives at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Read how this new training is growing in the National Guard on pages 8-9.

D.C. Soldier is newest Military Idol

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (Army News Service) – A percussionist with the D.C. National Guard's 257th Army Band is the newest Military Idol.

Spc. Vicki Golding used the contrasting styles of Stevie Wonder and Barbra Streisand to win the military singing contest, the second one ever, in early November at Wallace Theater. But the sounds were all Golding's.



Spc. Vicki Golding

"I think she's probably a student of Streisand in that she has the same brilliant technique," Military Idol artistic director Victor Hurtado said of Golding's version of "The Way We Were." "She stayed true to the piece, but I still heard Vicki Golding doing it. She threw a

few riffs in there, which comes naturally to her. It was really wonderful."

Earlier in the program, Golding had the audience dancing in their seats during her rendition of Wonder's "I Wish." Hurtado, who doubles as director of the U.S. Army Soldier Show, said the contrasting styles worked fabulously.

Golding followed third-place finisher Sgt. Quanda Brown's rousing rendition of Chaka Khan's "Tell Me Something Good" with the MILITARY IDOL continued on:
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Guard officials stress preparations for a possible pandemic: Page 6

ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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

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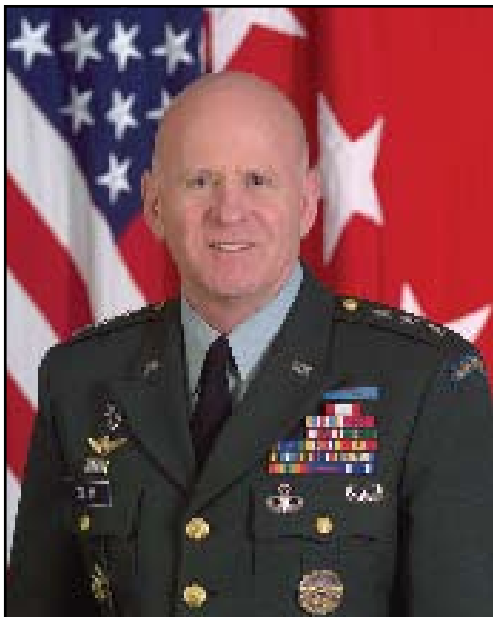
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A holiday salute to our Soldiers and Airmen

Dear Guard Members,

This holiday season, families and neighbors all across America will gather to revive honored traditions, rekindle old friendships, and renew the hope and joy that is part of the season. And as they do, their thoughts and prayers will naturally turn to you, the men and women whose mission it is to defend peace and freedom, both at home and abroad.

You are the sharp sword of freedom. You save lives. You support civil authorities. You reduce human suffering. You fight without complaint in foreign skies and hostile lands. You voluntarily put your lives at risk and sacrifice your comfort and the comfort of your families and employers so that all of our fellow citizens can enjoy the blessings and the benefits of liberty.

It is a sacrifice made even more precious by the fact that you render it willingly. In describing the Citizen-Soldiers of an earlier generation, historian Stephen Ambrose wrote: "At the core, they knew the difference between right and wrong and were unwilling to live in a world in which evil triumphed. So they fought and they won, and we and those yet to be born are eternally grateful."

Like earlier Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, you too stand tall in defense of your nation and your communities. And like them, you also will be victorious. Of that, there is no doubt. So as you and your families celebrate and reflect during this holiday season, be reminded of the blessings you provide and know that the hearts and prayers of all Americans are with you.

We salute your courage. We appreciate your sacrifice, and we pray each day for your success. We extend our warmest and most heartfelt wishes for safe and happy holidays.

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Purple Heart Hall of Honor opens



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael O'Halloran

A Purple Heart Medal recipient watches the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor dedication ceremony in New Windsor, N.Y., Nov. 10.

Hall unlocks stories of past and present combat veterans

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

NEW WINDSOR, N.Y. - Thousands of people, including members of the National Guard, gathered under a bright autumn sun here Nov. 10, the day before Veterans Day, to dedicate a lasting tribute to the nation's recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.

Active duty, Guard and Reserve members, past and present combat veterans and their families, and political dignitaries gathered to dedicate the \$6.5 million National Purple Heart Hall of Honor with patriotic speeches, historical music, tours, a ribbon cutting, and a fly-over by Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopters.

Dignitaries included New York Gov. George Pataki, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, the New York National Guard's adjutant general.

Air National Guard members from the 105th Airlift Wing at nearby Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh helped direct the throng of visitors.

"It is fitting that we gather today at this historic site to honor our veterans, show gratitude for their service and educate others about their sacrifice in keeping our nation free," said Taluto.

"Thanks to Gov. Pataki's support, this hall of honor is appropriately located at the winter encampment of the Continental Army, the site where Gen. George Washington created America's first military award," Taluto added.



The speeches and music drifted through the crowd amid the crisp fall air and a rich smell of damp earth. The sounds of the old Continental Army came alive as Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment Fife and Drum Corps played "Yankee Doodle."

Purple Heart recipients from the New York Army National Guard smartly carried the colors into the military ceremony, and the U.S. Military Academy band from West Point played the anthems of all the military services.

The Purple Heart is rooted here. Washington created its predecessor, the Military Badge of Merit, five miles away in 1782. Today, more than 1.7 million service members are entitled to wear the Purple Heart. Approximately 600,000 of them are still alive.

To preserve their stories, state officials began a nationwide search for Purple Heart recipients in early 2006. To date, more than 12,000 have submitted their stories. They include combat stories from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Hall continues to receive hundreds of stories each week, officials said.

The Hall cost \$6.5 million to build. It was funded by the state of New York and the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). The MOPH is the only congressionally-chartered organization for combat veterans.

While the Hall uses the term "national" in its title, at the time of the ceremony it had not been officially sanctioned as such by the federal government. Legislation to this effect is pending in Congress.

"This is for the real heroes: those who paid the ultimate price," said Tom Parker, MOPH commander.

Hundreds of MOPH members came to support the Hall, and their purple service caps were everywhere.

It is proper and fitting that their stories be told, Parker said.

"I'm here for my buddies that did not come back," said Sgt. Thompson O'Neal, Troop E, 108th Cavalry Regiment, Georgia Army National Guard.

O'Neal is a Purple Heart recipient who is considering submitting his story to the Hall. He wore his distinctive black U.S. Army cavalry hat with wide brim and gold band. He said he was proud to bring with him the memory of 26 Georgia Army National Guard Soldiers from the 48th Brigade Combat Team who were killed in action in Iraq as well as to represent the cavalry and three men in his regiment who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I returned from Iraq in May. I was wounded in the Triangle of Death," O'Neal explained. In fact, the blast from an improvised explosive device ripped into O'Neal's face and left hand, breaking his front teeth, damaging his hearing and severely wounding his hand. He is undergoing physical therapy.

O'Neal and his wife, Deana, said they drove from Georgia to also represent National Guard members who could not be there. "I also want to pay my respects to the 'Greatest Generation,'" O'Neal said.

"This is our day," said New York State Senator Bill Larkin, a 23-year Army veteran who served during World War II and Korea. "This is to let the people know that these are the sacrifices that were made. America is free because of our fellow Americans who made that sacrifice."

The Hall rests on a hillside overlooking the Catskill Mountains. It has several rooms including a hallway dedicated solely to the medal. One room displays artifacts, artwork and descriptions of the Continental Army that camped here. An artillery exhibit is on the lower level.

Fanned out along the hall are 42 floor-to-ceiling panels that depict the nation's major

military engagements. Each panel, dating from 1775 to the present, gives the date of the engagement as well as the numbers of wounded and killed in action.

At the rear of the Hall, an interactive room provides three video-diary booths where viewers can watch and listen to videotaped interviews of Purple Heart recipients who lived to tell their stories. The videos are recorded on site.

"Thanks to them, we can understand the real meaning of their sacrifice," states a sign at the entranceway sign. Additionally, four computer stations provide access to a database of Purple Heart documents, including family letters, and photographs.

"I'm here for my buddies that did not come back"
-Sgt. Thompson O'Neal

Have a Purple Heart story? Share it.

New York state officials say families who would like to share their stories or other materials of Purple Heart Medal recipients should contact the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, P.O. Box 207, New Windsor, New York, 12584 or call toll free at 877-28HONOR.

Planning aids Washington flood response

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Washington National Guard officials called their fast, coordinated response to flooding in the state in early November the direct result of groundwork already laid with state and local officials in planning for disaster response.

As the *The On Guard* was going to press, about 250 members of the Washington Army and Air National Guard were on duty supporting civil authorities after torrential rains caused severe flooding that threatened nearly 300 homes, killed one person and left others stranded, according to Army Lt. Col. Debbie Allen, public affairs officer for the Washington Guard.

Gov. Christine Gregorie declared a state of emergency in 18 counties Nov. 6, and the Washington Guard responded within hours, Allen said at the Joint Operations Center at Camp Murray, Wash.

The Guardsmen manned security points in two counties, using vehicles and troops to guard roads, control access to flooded areas and prevent looting, Allen said. They also worked with the U.S. Coast Guard and local authorities to conduct search-and-rescue operations.

Close coordination with state and local officials during the past two years to plan and rehearse disaster response operations ensured a fast, coordinated response, Allen said.

Army service can be extended with waiver

By Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

For enlisted Army National Guard Soldiers, turning 60 may not mean a mandatory retirement anymore.

The National Guard Bureau Personnel Policy and Readiness Division recently announced that Soldiers may request a waiver to stay on duty past age 60. According to the newly revised policy, state adjutants general may approve waivers for up to two years beyond age 60 for traditional Guard Soldiers. For extensions beyond age 62, and for those serving in Active Guard and Reserve positions, requests must be forwarded to NGB for approval.

Requests for a waiver must include a formal request from the Soldier. Additionally, the request needs to contain a strong recommendation from the Soldier's chain of command, including the state adjutant general, stating why the Soldier should be retained as well as a current physical, cardiovascular screening and completed DA Forms 7349, 705 and 5500. However, those Soldiers who have already submitted an application for retirement may not request a waiver.

For more information, contact the NGB Enlisted Policy Section at (703) 607-3401.

★ Guarding America ★

ARKANSAS

The Natural State's 875th Engineer Battalion replaced the Missouri Army National Guard's 110th Engineer Battalion at Camp Striker in central Iraq in October. The 500-man unit is headquartered in Jonesboro, Ark. The 875th arrived at its duty stations in mid-October and began the formal transition process with the experienced 110th. The 875th mobilized in March and underwent pre-deployment training at Fort McCoy, Wis., before deploying to Iraq in late September.

CALIFORNIA

The San Diego-based U.S. Customs and Border Protection recognized three Golden State Guard Soldiers serving on Joint Task Force Vista during an October ceremony at the CBP headquarters. Sergeants George Cruz and Bach Zavala and Pfc. Jonathan Riley, members of Joint Task Force San Diego's command for Operation Jump Start, received letters of commendation during a historic presentation. It was the first time that CBP officials honored people outside of its operation, according to Michael J. Fisher, CBP's acting chief patrol agent.

GEORGIA

The Peach State's 48th Brigade Combat Team welcomed Col. Lawrence Dudney as its new commander during a change of command ceremony at its Regional Training Institute Oct. 29. Dudney has been serving as the brigade's deputy commander since 2003 and deployed to Iraq with them. He has a long history with the 48th, although he started out in a unit that is part of the Army Guard's Troop Command. Outgoing commander Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, who led the 48th during its recent yearlong deployment to Iraq, is leaving the brigade to become deputy com-

mander of the 1st U.S. Army at Fort Gillem near Atlanta.

ILLINOIS

After more than three months of training, members of the Prairie State's 1744th Transportation Company started their tour of duty in Iraq in October. After being mobilized in late June, they received more than two months of training in Camp Atterbury, Ind., before flying to Kuwait in mid-September. The unit fine-tuned their skills in Kuwait before moving north to Iraq.

INDIANA

Forty-four Hoosier State Soldiers climbed aboard a plane headed for Arizona Oct. 25 to join about 6,000 National Guard members from across the nation in support of the border mission, Operation Jump Start. This first significant deployment of Indiana troops to the border is just part of the job for Guard members, according to Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, Indiana's adjutant general. They will be assisting the Border Patrol by executing missions such as logistical and administrative support, operating detection systems, providing mobile communications, augmenting border-related intelligence analysis efforts, building and installing border security infrastructure, and providing transportation and training.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Bay State's 726th Finance Battalion retired its colors Nov. 5 and became Task Force Diamond, a 13-member unit mobilizing for a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. The unit will deploy as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and will be responsible for finance command and control in theater, supervising

the pay of commercial contractors and Soldiers and purchasing goods through the local economy.

MICHIGAN

Wolverine State Guard members received training for a deployment to Afghanistan to serve with an embedded training team to train the Afghan National Army in September. The embedded team is training the Afghan National Army in U.S. doctrine and tactics to enable the ANA to take over military operations in Afghanistan from U.S. and NATO forces. The intent is to be able to withdraw U.S. and NATO forces once the ANA is capable of defending Afghanistan independently. (See story on page 10).

MISSOURI

The Show Me State's 206th Area Medical Services Company recently held a ceremony at Logistical Support Area, Camp Anaconda, Iraq, to rename a local medical center after an Illinois Guard Soldier who was killed in action. The Missouri Soldiers officially changed the name of the Cobra Clinic there to the Sgt. Ivory L. Phipps Clinic. Phipps was a member of the Illinois Guard's 1544th Transportation Company and was killed during a mortar attack in 2004. He was a 15-year veteran of the Army and was on his last enlistment before retiring.

OHIO

The mess section of the Buckeye State's 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment competed in the 39th annual Philip A. Connelly Awards competition Oct. 7. The competition, originally established in 1968 to recognize excellence in the Army Food Service, has provided a showcase for Army mess sections

along with accolades for the best teams. The mess section competed against other units in a simulated combat zone. The Ohio cooks earned the chance to compete after winning the state-level competition.

OKLAHOMA

In a unanimous vote on Nov. 6, the Del City Council adopted the 1345th Transportation Company as its home-based unit and pledged to assist its members and families as needed. The Sooner State company is assigned to the 90th Troop Command and is a medium vehicle transportation company. The unit has been deployed to Iraq since early last summer and is performing transportation missions throughout the country.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Palmetto State's Army Guard recently expanded its aviation inventory by adding three CH-47 Chinook helicopters to its fleet of Apaches and Black Hawks. The Chinooks were expected to join the fleet during an Oct. 30 ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Station in Eastover. The Chinooks, which can transport heavy equipment or large numbers of troops, will greatly enhance the state's ability to react and assist civil authorities during emergencies such as hurricanes or earthquakes.

TEXAS

The Lone Star State's Army Guard welcomed its first female general officer Oct. 14. Brig. Gen. Joyce Stevens, an Idaho native, became the first woman Guard Soldier to earn the one-star rank in Texas. Stevens is semiretired from civilian employment but currently manages the validation of training for Operation Jump Start, the southwest border protection mission. She is also a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

VERMONT

Under the U.S. European Command's State Partnership Program, Green Mountain State Soldiers shared their experiences with the Army of the Republic of Macedonia during Operation Rising Phalanx, which took place in Krivolak, Macedonia, Sept. 9-22. The Soldiers, veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, traveled more than 4,400 miles to share their Global War on Terrorism training with a Macedonian military police battalion. The exercise culminated in a 10-month small unit exchange to train Macedonian Army military police platoons to take part in international peacekeeping missions.

WASHINGTON

The 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Evergreen State has been selected as one of three units to perform a safety retrofit of a critical new stabilization trim brake for the Air Force's KC-135 tanker fleet. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley recently announced that replacing the KC-135s is the Air Force's top priority. However, it will take more than three decades to complete the transformation, with 10-15 new tankers delivered per year.

WYOMING

The Equality State in early November tested its ability to communicate during a crisis. It held an exercise called Joint Lighting Communications that involved radio communications between local, state and National Guard facilities and radio assets positioned around the state. The exercise was one step to ensure that emergency responders can communicate with each other across the state if conventional phone lines, cell phones and e-mail are insufficient or cut off.



Breaking down doors

Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 107th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio National Guard, practice cordon and search drills at the MOUT facility Camp Buehring, Kuwait in October. MOUT stands for Military Operations on Urban Terrain.

Photo by Sgt. Chris Jones

Awards manager helps recognize top performers

If Gwinnetter Smith ever etches your name onto a brass plate with a computerized engraver, you'll have good reason to celebrate.

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

ARLINGTON, Va. — Gwinnetter Smith is the National Guard Bureau's Awards Program manager. She helps others recognize the Guard's most distinguished and meritorious Soldiers, Airmen and civilians by personalizing an array of NGB wooden wall plaques, bronze statuettes and framed paintings, to name a few.

For Smith to score your name on a shiny bronze nameplate and attach it to an award with tiny brass nails, a request must be made by a division chief or higher official. Thereafter, approval is required by the Army or Air Guard chief of staff or possibly the chief or a vice chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The prestigious awards include the Sonny Montgomery Award and the Distinguished Service, Medallion and Eagle awards. So if your name appears on Smith's list, it is mixed in with the names of some very important people, including members of Congress and other national dignitaries.

Of note is the NGB Distinguished Service Award, an engraved cherry-wood plaque inset with two chief of the National Guard Bureau coins — front and back — set in a display case. This award recognizes the "highest level of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

Gwinnetter Smith, National Guard Bureau Awards Program manager, prepares a nameplate for engraving Nov. 7. Smith, who has worked at the Bureau for more than 10 years, is in charge of engraving and preparing awards and plaques for presentation.

contribution to the Guard," and only approved by the NGB chief.

Other awards include the NGB Minuteman Award, Civilian Jacket Award, Civilian Service Award, commendation and appreciation certificates, and a Pentagon Service Photo.

Civilians and contractors are also eligible for NGB awards, Smith said.

Her space at the National Guard Bureau's joint staff headquarters is more a workshop than an office. Its walls and floor are adorned with plaques, statuettes, paintings and frames.

After finishing an award at her corner workbench, she carefully packages it and personally hand-carries it to the mail room for shipment to all 54 states and territories

"I seldom get to go to the ceremonies where the awards are handed out," Smith said. "But the people in the states appreciate the attention, and I have been recognized with a lot of positive feedback for customer service to include several adjutants' general coins, and cards and letters of appreciation and commendation."

Smith has accumulated nearly 35 years

service as a federal technician and more than 10 years in the NGB Awards Office. She firmly believes that civilian employees, like herself, are an important component of the Guard team. "We make the same contributions to the Guard that service members do," Smith said.

She provides guidance and advice on the program and receives nearly 20 phone calls a day — and as many e-mails — inquiring about award procedures and eligibility. Last-minute requests are often her greatest challenge.

"I strive to expedite the late requests," she said. "I know that an unfulfilled request means that someone will not get their award, no matter whose fault it is," she said.

Smith also manages and frames nearly 70 different National Guard paintings from the "Heritage Collection." The collection depicts the National Guard in action from its early colonial times to the Global War on Terrorism.

"My favorite is "The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground," said Smith of the Civil War painting.

That painting portrays the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, America's first African-American infantry regiment, during the battle on Morris Island in South Carolina in 1863 (known to history as the battle of Ft. Wagner). Sgt. William Carney became the first African-American to earn the Medal of Honor by carrying the American flag in and out of the ferocious fight.

Although the NGB Awards Program does not include the Medal of Honor, Gwinnetter Smith's work can be just as important to recipients when their awards are displayed in their homes or on their office walls.

Congressman receives highest National Guard Bureau award

By Staff Sgt. Rebecca Doucette
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - The heartfelt words of retired Sgt. 1st Class John Allen said it all during his tribute to Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia upon his receipt of the Gen. G. V. 'Sonny' Montgomery Award from the National Guard Bureau Oct. 25 at the Rayburn House Office Building.

"Those of us who were off orders, not being paid, being refused medical treatment, were a powder keg of negative publicity waiting to erupt. Davis chose to use a little powder every day and bring light and warmth to a cold and dark situation rather than lighting the keg," Allen said.



Rep. Tom Davis

He was speaking of his Virginia National Guard colleagues who were injured while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They returned home to find out that they were "only one of many"

who were facing significant obstacles trying to receive the benefits they were due. "Congressman Davis' spark had been lit, and he told all of us that he would do something about it, and he did. He and his staff ... to this day are constantly pushing to ensure that we are ever increasing our care of Soldiers in the National Guard."

Each year the National Guard Bureau recognizes a person who has demonstrated exemplary service to the National Guard at the national level and whose performance exceeds the normal scope of public or private service in support of the nation's defense. LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, presented Davis with the award named in honor of "Mr. National Guard", the late Rep. or Sen. 'Sonny' Montgomery from Mississippi, for his work on behalf of Citizen-Soldiers.

The Montgomery Award is the top honor the chief of the National Guard Bureau can bestow upon an individual who exhibits the highest integrity, competence and the ability to inspire others.

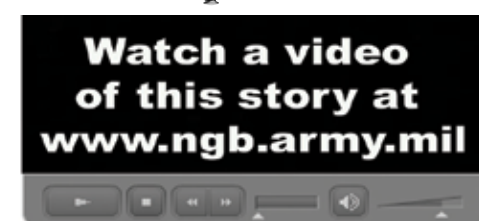


Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

Painting honors Guard's 'go-to' man

Retired Lt. Gen. Herbert Temple Jr., left, unveils an oil painting of Tommy Hill during a dinner at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va., Oct. 31 as Hill's son Stephen looks on. The unveiling was part of a dinner celebrating Hill's life and his contributions to the National Guard during his nearly 60-year career with the National Guard Bureau. Hill, who died in May, was seen by many as the "go-to" person for almost all matters concerning the Army National Guard. "Being with him was an enormous thrill for me," said Temple, a former chief of the National Guard Bureau. "He was dedicated to what he did and the people around him." LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and many other former NGB chiefs attended the dinner as did representatives from the Virginia Legislature. The painting of Hill will be displayed in the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington.

Preparing for a possible pandemic

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The well over half-million American deaths during the Spanish Influenza of 1918 wildly surpassed combat fatalities during World War I, and health officials believe we are due for another pandemic.

Public health officials say few people are prepared for such a catastrophic event: not most individuals, not the medical system, not the states and not the federal government.

“The National Guard is aware of the significant impact a pandemic outbreak would have and is working through several scenarios that would allow us to support the war effort overseas and at the same time support our communities at home,” LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, has said.

As the National Guard plans, equips, trains and reaches out to help communities prepare for a flu pandemic, public health officials are stressing personal preparedness.

“Any community that fails to prepare with [the] expectation that the federal government will come to the rescue is tragically wrong,” Michael Leavitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has said.

“The National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza” published in 2005 states, “While the federal government plays a critical role, ... the success of these measures is predicated on actions taken at the individual level and in states and communities.”

Bird flu

A highly pathogenic avian influenza virus causes H5N1 flu, commonly known as avian influenza or bird flu. Influenza subtype H5N1 has prompted worldwide concern. Two hundred million birds have died since the 1990s, history’s worst outbreak of its kind.

While an epidemic affects many people at the same time over a wide area, a pandemic is a global event. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies six phases:

First, a new influenza subtype emerges as H5N1 did in Asia during the 1990s.

Second, it infects humans. By Oct. 31, the WHO counted 256 human cases from contact with infected birds in 10 countries, with 152 deaths – close to a 60 percent mortality rate.

Third, the new subtype mutates and is transmitted person-to-person. H5N1 remains a bird disease. There is no evidence of the strain in the Americas, though migratory birds could change that. So we’re in the WHO’s Phase 3, the pandemic alert period.

In the remaining phases, human-to-human

Pandemic preparedness

What you and your family can do

- **Plan:** Have a family plan, including how children will be occupied during lengthy confinements at home.
- **Prepare:** Make sure shots are up to date. Stock nonperishable foods, bottled water, medications, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health-approved N-95 face masks, impermeable gloves, eye protection and other emergency supplies.
- **Practice hygiene:** Cover coughs and sneezes; put tissues in the trash; use a sleeve if you don’t have a tissue; wash hands; keep living and work areas clean. And during an epidemic or a pandemic: avoid crowds, limit travel and work from home.

transmission increases and becomes first an epidemic and then a pandemic.

“It is impossible to know whether the ... H5N1 virus will cause a human pandemic,” the National Strategy states.

Even if H5N1 turns out to be a false alarm, experts say that’s no reason to relax.

“The pandemic clock is ticking,” said Dr. Edgar Marcuse, former head of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee. “We just don’t know what time it is.”

Seasonal vs. pandemic flu

Influenza is an acute contagious viral infection, commonly occurring in epidemics and characterized by respiratory tract inflammation and a sudden onset of fever, chills, muscle pain, headache and prostration.

A pandemic spreads through respiratory secretions like droplets. The virus is not airborne, but is usually transmitted when infectious persons spray germs about while coughing and uninfected persons touch a contaminated surface and then touch their mouths or noses.

Days elapse between exposure and symptoms – days during which the disease is at its most infectious, further complicating public health efforts, since carriers do not know they are contagious. The illness lasts weeks; complications much longer. Deaths generally result from lung problems.

Public health systems can handle seasonal flu, which follows predictable patterns, usually striking during the winter in temperate climates, according to the Health and Human Services Department. People often build immunity from previous exposure. Healthy adults don’t risk serious complications. Vaccines and antivirals are available. Despite local disruptions, the impact is manageable.

Even so, seasonal flu kills 36,000 Americans annually – outpacing suicide, homicide, AIDS and drug abuse deaths. Most who die are very old, very young, or have compromised immune systems.

“A pandemic ... would

dwarf this impact ... potentially resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths, millions of hospitalizations and hundreds of billions of dollars in ... costs,” the National Strategy states.

Healthcare systems would be overwhelmed by pandemic flu, which strikes rarely and unpredictably. People have little or no immunity. Healthy adults risk death. Vaccines and antivirals are limited or nonexistent.

Influenza pandemics hit every 30 to 40 years, according to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Daniel Bochicchio, the National Guard Bureau’s deputy chief surgeon. The most recent occurred in 1968 with an estimated 1 million deaths worldwide.

Another pandemic would affect all countries simultaneously, would last at least six months and would cause widespread sickness, death and economic and social disruption, Bochicchio said. Federal assistance would be limited, so every county must be prepared, and the National Guard could help, he said.

Grave domestic threat

The H5N1 death rate is about 60 percent when it is transmitted to humans, although some experts caution against reading too much into that figure. H5N1 is still a “bird” disease that affects humans. Historically, the overall mortality of an influenza pandemic is less than 3 percent. One of the unknowns is how many people, if any, have had H5N1 cases so mild they went unreported.

Yet pandemic influenza remains a grave threat. Planning is vital because another pandemic on the scale of the Spanish flu would be a national disaster. The 1918 outbreak killed more Americans than died in combat during the Civil War, either of the world wars, Korea, Vietnam or any current conflict. Between 50 and 100 million people died worldwide. That pandemic’s disruption, necessitating mass graves, made exact casualty counts impossible.

According to numbers provided by Bochicchio: If the next pandemic is only as lethal as the relatively mild 1968 pandemic, 90 million Americans would be infected, half of them sick enough to require outpatient care. Some 865,000 would need hospitalization.

In this best-case scenario, 209,000 Ameri-

cans would die. That’s more than the annual number of Americans whose deaths are related to AIDS, alcohol and other drug abuse, car crashes, homicide and suicide combined.

The worse-case scenario would be a pandemic as lethal as the one in 1918. About 2 million Americans would die – almost four times as many who have died from AIDS since that epidemic began.

Some health experts warn that Americans are more vulnerable now than in 1918 when water came from wells, heat from fireplaces, light from kerosene lamps and food from the local area. Today, most Americans depend on public water supplies, power grids and elaborate national grocery store delivery systems. Many people no longer possess the knowledge to fare without those services. Officials predict 30 percent of the work force would be unavailable, disrupting all services and possibly causing civil unrest. Some describe the prospect as a nationwide Hurricane Katrina.

With current technology, it is unlikely that a vaccine would be available in the first six-month wave of a pandemic. Drugs would be in short supply and of questionable efficacy.

Meanwhile, the United States has less than 1 million staffed hospital beds, according to the American Hospital Association. About 95 percent of those beds are already in use on any given day.

During an influenza pandemic people would continue to get sick from other causes. Hospitals would be overwhelmed.


In most states, the department of health is the lead planning agency for a pandemic. Bochicchio exhorts state Guard officials to engage with that agency, offer planning expertise and help write credible and durable plans that meet national standards and are understood by responders at all levels.

“The National Guard is uniquely well suited for a relevant role since we work and live in every community across the nation and have a proven track record for success in providing military support to civilian authorities in support of homeland security,” Blum has said.

The National Guard could help tackle the surge crisis by identifying community facilities that would help people who are too sick to stay home but not sick enough to burden the overcrowded hospitals, Bochicchio said. Plans should include cots and bedding, food, water, sanitation, medical support, and transportation, he said.

The Air National Guard Medical Service is also addressing the surge capacity crisis by developing mobile response packages. The Guard’s capability to provide that service was demonstrated after Hurricane Katrina, when 904 medics went to Louisiana and Mississippi, said Col. Kenneth Franklin, the medical service’s deputy director.

People are getting the message about pandemic flu. A national poll conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health earlier this year found that 57 percent of respondents are concerned about the spread of avian flu in the United States and 62 percent are concerned about a pandemic outbreak.

Preparation starts at the lowest level. That means personal preparedness, especially for troops who will be called upon to help their neighbors during a national crisis. 



Potential Impact of the Next Influenza Pandemic in the U.S.

*	Low estimate (1957 & 68 based)	High estimate (1918 based)
Illness (~25-35%)	90 million	90 million
Outpatient care	45 million	45 million
Hospitalizations	865,000	9.9 million
ICU care	128,750	1.5 million
Mech. Ventilation	64,875	742,500
Deaths (~0.5-2%)	209,000	1.9 million

Number of Staffed Hospital Beds in US: ~955,000*

Stopping drug traffickers by air



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

Senior Master Sgt. Bret Patrick, detection systems specialist, works with a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent while at the Air and Marine Operations Center at March Air Reserve Base, Calif. Patrick monitors the radars that track aircraft flying into the United States, specifically watching out for potential drug smugglers.

Guard specialists at California base monitor planes, serve as first line to drug seizures

By Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley
National Guard Bureau

At any given time, there are 8,000 to 10,000 aircraft flying across and into the United States; knowing who and what are on those aircraft and if they are compliant is mission essential.

Dangerous drug dealers are without thousands of pounds of marijuana and cocaine and \$359,000 in cash thanks in part to seven Airmen of the National Guard Counterdrug Program stationed at the Air and Marine Operations Center in Riverside, Calif. Their efforts last year helped U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seize that amount of contraband from aircraft bound for this country.

Five of the seven Airmen are detection systems specialists, one works in communication and another is the commander of military operations. Working alongside other CBP specialists to guard the skies, they are responsible for monitoring all air traffic coming into the United States 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Customs and Border Protection is charged with securing the nation's borders between ports. We look at our unique facility as the security of air space," said James Platske, director, Air and Marine Operations Center (AMOC). "We are an integral part of CBP and the Department of Homeland Security."

"All international aircraft has to clear customs," said Air Guard Senior Master Sgt. Bret

Patrick, a specialist with over four years at the AMOC. "Commercial aircraft have their own systems in place to do that so general aviation is our bread and butter."

At any given time, there are 8,000 to 10,000 aircraft flying across and into the United States, according to Platske. And knowing who and what's on those aircraft and if they are compliant is mission essential to the AMOC.

Patrick recognizes the difficulty in remaining that vigilant all the time. However, he is comfortable knowing they are doing a great job based on the experienced staff around him.

"There's an incredible mind trust within the AMOC among the other specialists," he said. "Most of them are retired military who have extensive experience in air traffic control and bring 20-30 years of knowledge to the table."

Sharing an operations room with them motivates him because he values the professional development he continues to gain on a daily basis. Together, they work within nine geographical regions to monitor aircraft. Radars, 230 of them across the nation, pick up aircraft movement and it's all tracked by the specialists. Each tiny dot of the hundreds denoted on their monitors represents a single plane. It's the detection specialist's job to determine which of those aircraft are compliant, and which aren't.

"It sometimes is like a needle in a haystack," said Patrick.

For most cases though, technology is on their side. Each aircraft should contain a transponder box that emits a code to identify the aircraft. As an aircraft is flying, its information is automatically received and the specialists can identify who is flying the plane and where it came from — if they have

uploaded their flight plan. That is all part of their surveillance duties to ensure pilots are adhering to procedures.

However, AMOC's radars can't see everything; most are limited by line-of-site. Knowing this, drug smugglers have created obscure routes over the years where radar can't pick them up.

"A classic tactic is to fly low through a canyon to evade radar," explained Patrick. "If the aircraft isn't on our radar, we don't know it's there and smugglers can sneak into the country."

To combat that problem, they use tethered aerostat radars in canyons and similar areas.

"These balloons have a look down capability of 10,000 to 12,000 feet and make it difficult for aircraft to escape their radar," said Patrick.

Once an aircraft has been identified as a potential threat, CBP launches their interceptor aircraft to track the plane. First, a C-550 interceptor jet shadows the aircraft until it lands. Additionally, an UH-60 Blackhawk is also launched with the law enforcement personnel on board who will make the drug seizures and detain the pilot and crew if necessary.

The AMOC has a huge database at their disposal with information for local, state and federal law enforcement personnel when an aircraft lands.

"We have the ability to coordinate efforts in a one stop shop," said Patrick. "We can call in the sheriff, local airport police or whatever law enforcement we need to detain the pilot quickly and easily."

Between the equipment and the highly trained personal and a strong interagency working relationship, the National Guard Counterdrug Program continues to help law enforcement thwart drug traffickers' attempts to bring illicit drugs into the United States. In addition to the cash CBP agents have seized in fiscal year 2005, Guard efforts at the AMOC resulted in 16,000 pounds of marijuana and 20,500 pounds of cocaine crossing our southern border as well as another 1,200 pounds of marijuana from Canada.

Mission support doesn't end there. If arrests are made, the specialists have to bring all their evidence to court and testify against the smugglers. Luckily, they can create photographic evidence from their radars to help them in court.



File photo

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System is a low-level surveillance system that uses aerostats as radar platforms. An aerostat is a lighter-than-air, inflatable, aerodynamic balloon filled with helium and air. The primary mission is to provide low-level radar surveillance along the southwest border of the United States and Mexico, the Straits of Florida and the Caribbean in support of federal agencies involved in the nation's drug interdiction program.

Heads up!

Wounded Warrior Program

The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2), formerly the Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3), is designed to assist wounded Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up personal support. This support is especially strong during the Soldier's transition either through rehabilitation and back to military service or into the civilian community. An AW2 call center links Soldiers and families with the appropriate AW2 specialist at 1-800-833-6622. For more information on the AW2 program, visit: <https://www.aw2.army.mil>.

Military OneSource

Military OneSource (MOS) is a community support service that the Army implemented in August 2003 and which is available worldwide 24 hours a day to Soldiers, deployed Department of Defense civilians, and family members. Each military service has its own OneSource. The DoD created Military OneSource as a portal to access all the military services' OneSource programs. Utilization shows strong gains in 2006, having already reached 23.6 percent, far exceeding the year's target of 15 percent. The Army leads the other branches in referrals for nonmedical counseling with a monthly referral rate of 0.2 percent. Nearly two-thirds of all users are Soldiers and 6 percent are repeat users. For more information visit: www.militaryonesource.com. For assistance from Military OneSource, call 800-342-9647. To find out more about Army Family Programs, see: www.MyArmyLifeToo.com.

Teaching future Soldiers

Working as an instructor with the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is one way to help turn today's high school students into tomorrow's Soldiers. To qualify, you must be a commissioned or noncommissioned officer who has been retired for three years or less and receiving retirement pay. You must also have been approved as an instructor. If you would like more information about JROTC employment opportunities, e-mail mailto: jrotcim@usaac.army.mil or call (757) 788-4001 or 1-800-347-6641.

Calling DFAS easier

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Cleveland Center is working to upgrade the service that retirees and annuitant surviving spouses receive when contacting the Retired and Annuitant Call Center. When you call DFAS at 1-800-321-1080 or (216) 522-5955, your call will soon be answered by an automated operator. The system will ask you to either say your Social Security Number (SSN) or enter the numbers on your touch-tone phone. You will need to give your SSN so that the system can access your records. You will then be able to use the automated system to perform certain tasks such as changing your correspondence or bank address or requesting a new retired pay or tax statement.

BUILDING BETTER WARRIORS

Guard's combative arts prog

State after state realizing importance of this mixed martial arts skill

By Capt. Cory Angell
Pennsylvania National Guard

The Modern Army Combatives Program, based on a mixture of martial arts, is taking root in the National Guard due to its popularity among soldiers and a strong belief that it teaches valuable lessons needed in combat.

The program progresses through four levels (see sidebar) and teaches wrestling, judo, boxing, kick boxing and stick fighting, starting out with Brazilian jui-itsu.

"When a Soldier takes part in combatives training, they gain faith in their skills to fight and win on any battlefield," said the Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston.

"Combatives builds the soldiers warrior ethos but it also gives them the ability to defend themselves when they can't use lethal force," said Sgt. 1st Class Alan Ezelle with Oregon National Guard's 2-162 Infantry Battalion.

Ezelle points out that the training is now mandatory for all soldiers going into theater and feels that it's critical in helping soldiers survive in combat.

"It teaches them body mechanics and gives them the ability to detain someone physically," said Ezelle. "In combat, a soldier will deal with locals at arms length, not knowing what possible situations can arise."

Ezelle was a platoon sergeant in Iraq when his unit deployed there from March 2004 to April 2005. His battalion saw heavy fighting and suffered 15 percent casualties during their deployment. He feels the program builds critical skills.

"The mat time we spent there that week is worth its' weight in gold," said Reese, referring to the combatives training they did in-theater. "Most soldiers are still talking about

training that they had ever gone to."

Maj. Christopher Reese was the executive officer of 2-162 Infantry when they decided to train their battalion in combatives last February.

"We wanted to be the first battalion to step up and lead the way with combatives," said Reese. "We graduated 89 Level I instructors on our first annual training period since the unit returned from Iraq."

The first training period after a deployment seems to be an excellent time to build a strong base for combatives in a unit.

"We had just returned from Iraq and our training cycle had us focus on individual skills," said Ezelle. "It was the perfect time to send a large number of troops to Level I and start building our program."

Even though it has become mandatory training in the Army and teaches critical skills needed in combat, the unit found it was necessary for other reasons.

"For those who stuck it out until the end, a bond was created that was desperately needed in our battalion," said Reese. "The battalion is half full of veterans and half full of new personnel so this brought the two groups together and competition with your brethren is the best way to meld a unit."

The unit plans to advance the program while they maintain what they have learned by integrating it into their training calendar.

"Once these guys got back to home station, their platoon sergeants immediately began a training program that will be everlasting because they are doing it for their weekend physical fitness now," said Reese.

"They dedicate at least three hours a month to the training and have plans to start putting the Level I soldiers through Level II. The key is not allowing soldiers to forget what they have learned," he said.

Funding short, but enthusiasm long

Some units have had issues finding equipment and facilities to train in for the instructor qualification course.

"We have trouble getting the resources to train because the program is mandated but not yet fully funded," said Staff Sgt. Dave Hagen with the Oregon National Guard. "The units have to pay for some costs themselves and we have gotten some help from a local police academy so that we have mats."

Other forms of funding are being used by Minnesota to help give their program a boost.

"The Army Community of Excellence has helped us with the purchase of wrestling mats," said Sgt. Maj. Tony Padilla, Level III instructor with the Minnesota National Guard. "That has helped us build 150 Level I qualified soldiers and ten Level II instructors."

The Oklahoma National Guard has seen a significant amount of growth in combatives after its Regional Training Institute (RTI) set up training last November.




Level III combatives instructor, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Malloch, demonstrates a combatives move for



Photo by Maj. Sonise Lumbaca

Soldiers conduct Escrima training, also known as Filipino stick fighting, at Fort Bragg.

"We have trained 160 Level I instructors and 55 Level II instructors for the National Guard," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael B. Hannan, course manager with the Train the Trainers Course for the RTI.

"We don't want Soldiers doing hand-to-hand Combatives for the first time against an enemy soldier," said Preston. "Learning fundamental drills in training provides Soldiers the skills they need to survive in combat." 

Guardsmen places at national Army Combatives tourney

Sgt. Josh Fridgen of the 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota National Guard, finished second in the 140 pound weight class, at the second annual All-Army Combatives Tournament held at Fort Benning, Georgia Nov. 3-4.

Almost 200 soldiers competed in the tournament, including a 12-man team from Guam and teams from Pennsylvania and Minnesota. The fights featured Brazilian jiu jitsu, judo, boxing and Muay Thai.

"PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW AND RESERVES ARE

**-Matt Larsen
United States Com**

S gram growing



Photos by Sgt. Daniel Palarmo
students of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.



Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Katrina Beeler
servicemembers demonstrate a throwing technique during martial arts training for U.S. Army Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, in June.

ON THE MAT WITH COMBATIVES TRAINING: ONE WEEK OF GETTING PUNCHED, THROWN & CHOKED

I have never been so tired, so sore, so bruised, or felt so good as I did after finishing the week-long Level I Modern Army Combatives Course at Fort Eustis, Va.

By Spc. Charles Siler
Army Training and Doctrine Command
This story originally ran in TRADOC News Service in 2005.

I had no idea what to expect when I walked through the door of the combatives classroom.

The instructor didn't waste any time diving right in to the meat of the class by laying the foundation of body positions that would be the bedrock of the 40-hour class.

He demonstrated the four basic positions that form the core of instruction: the rear guard, the front mount, the guard and the side control. – before asking the class to take turns putting each other in the different positions.

Learning came through repetition. Since there are so many moving parts to the drills in the combatives course, the best way to make sure you got everything right was to do it over and over and over.

Once we were good and tired after a full day of practicing different body positions and drills, the class ended with nearly an hour of sparring against other classmates for dominant body position.

Honestly, I was tired after the first three-minute bout, but there was no rest for the weary as the instructor rotated grapplers and

The Levels of Army Combatives

-Level I is a one-week course designed to teach basic combatives techniques. Level I-qualified instructors can teach the basic combatives drills and tasks.

-Level II is a two-week course tailored to teach advanced techniques, teaching methodologies and philosophies. It's designed to integrate fighting skills into the infantry battle drills and close-quarters battle.

-Level III is a four-week course that advances the skills taught in Level II.

-Level IV is a four-week course that teaches management skills focusing on how to design, manage and execute a combatives program.

continued the exercise. When I got home after the first day, I was exhausted and lethargic. All I wanted to do was sleep.

Day 2

On the second day, the instructor made it clear why body position was so important. He taught us a number of submission moves we could put our opponents in, such as chokes and hyper-rotations of the elbows and shoulders. The more dominant body position you have, the more danger your opponent is in of being put into submission.

I thought this was great stuff until we began doing it to each other. I have never been choked so many times in my life. At the end of the day I felt like I had strep throat, but it was all worth it as things were starting to come together. After all my strength had left me the day before, I found I had some in reserve I

didn't know about when we spent the second afternoon battling each other for submissions, trying to force our opponents to tap out during more three-minute bouts.

Day 3

Wednesday was really tough, since we quickly reviewed the lessons from the previous two days and went straight into wrestling for the entire day. Nearly everyone in the class was running on fumes, which turned out to be the point of the exercise. The instructor wanted us to rely on the techniques he taught us, not our own physical strength. And once we were tired enough, all we had was technique.

Day 4

This morning was the infamous punch drill. Since the course teaches its students how to end a fight through grappling, choking and joint manipulation, we needed to know how to get through our opponents' striking ranges and bring them to the ground.

A number of volunteers lined up to deal out punishing blows to students. The volunteers wore boxing gloves and were given the responsibility of striking us as we came toward them to achieve the clinch. While it was the most painful portion of the class, it really wasn't as bad as it sounds. The lessons were valuable since some of the students had never really been hit before and now they were not afraid of being struck. It also gave us confidence in our training and our abilities.

Day 5

The last day of the class was spent testing our ability to pass on the knowledge we gained to others before going into one last great battle royale. The final bout of the week involved the class being divided into two teams and duking it out until one team had eliminated all the members of the other team. It was a fun way to test our new skills in a team setting.

Skill Level I Basics

- Stand In Base
- Escape the Mount, Trap and Roll
- Pass the Guard
- Side Control
- Achieve the Mount from Side Control
- Escape the Mount, Shrimp to the Guard
- Arm Push and Roll to the Rear Mount
- Escape the Rear Mount
- Rear Naked Choke
- Cross Collar Choke from the Mount and Guard
- The Bent Arm Bar (Mount and Side Control)
- The Straight Arm Bar from the Mount
- The Straight Arm Bar from the Guard
- Sweep from the Attempted Straight Arm Bar
- Scissors Sweep

WHAT THE GUARD IS SAYING ABOUT ARMY COMBATIVES

"We teach combatives at ... [a community college] for their law enforcement and public safety courses. They find that [it] helps their students and it gives us positive visibility in the community."

-Sgt. Mark Radford, North Carolina

"We have partnered with the New Hampshire State Police Academy and conducted joint Law Enforcement/Military combatives training. We have also sent our instructors to a Gracie Brazilian JuJitsu seminar taught by Ryron Gracie."

-Maj. Greg Heilshorn, New Hampshire

"I have completed Level I, and am a solid believer in the program."

-Lt. Col. Thomas Weiss, Illinois

"The soldiers enjoy the training, and we hope that the program continues to grow."

-Staff Sgt. Edward Toth, Pennsylvania

**HOW THAT THE GUARD
A PRIORITY FOR US"**

n, president of the
mbative Arts Association

Michigan team trains to train Afghan army



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Downen Jr.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Cabral shoots his M-4 carbine while participating in a quickfire exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich., Sept. 17. It was part of training for a deployment to Afghanistan to serve with an embedded training team to train the Afghan National Army.

Learn from vets who've been there before

By Sfc. James V. Downen Jr.
Michigan National Guard

"In the past five years, our coalition has trained and equipped more than 30,000 soldiers in the Afghan National Army."

-President George W. Bush

The coalition mentioned in the president's speech includes an embedded training team (ETT) made up of Michigan Army National Guard members, right now training themselves so they can train the Afghans.

The ETT will assist in the professional development of the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) as well as accompany them on combat operations and serve as their liaison to U.S. or allied forces.

The ETT is composed of Soldiers from Joint Forces Headquarters, Recruiting Command and the 177th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) and is tentatively scheduled to mobilize in February.

To prepare for their important mission, ETT Soldiers recently immersed themselves in weapons, tactical air support and Afghan cultural training provided by 177th RTI instructors and two 1st Battalion, 126th Armor NCOs that previously deployed to Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. David Schneider and Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Harlan, 2005 Afghan ETT veterans, added "boots on the ground" perspective. The NCOs gave input on the structure, training, and weapons used by ANA. Midway through the training, Staff Sgt. Harlan donned Afghan "Shalwar Kamez" clothing and a "pokol" hat and held a typical Afghan tea social with sweets.

The Afghan ETT veterans related challenges and solutions

that would be encountered. One challenge was learning Russian weapons systems such as the 12.7 mm DSHK machine gun. Schneider stated that there aren't many examples of this gun in the United States, so he and the other vets advised outgoing EET members to get training from U.S. Special Forces or their ANA counterparts.

Both Schneider and Harlan stressed the need for the ETT to be proficient with the U.S. "Spitfire" radio and SATCOM telephone procedures so they could serve as liaison between Afghan and U.S. or allied forces. Radio proficiency is also a key component to calling for artillery or air strikes and medical evacuation.


The team qualified with their M4-A1 carbines and M9 pistols, and conducted close quarters instinctive shooting techniques because previous ETT units had to clear buildings in Afghan villages.

ETT Company Team Chief Maj. Mark Bidwell gave this

insight while waiting for his turn on the M9 firing line: "This is an excellent mission. We will embed with the Afghans and enable them to stand up and take over the

fight and the Army will be doing more of the same. The best way to win the Global War on Terror is by empowering the people most affected by terrorism with the means to defeat them."

Upon conclusion of the two-day training event, Maj. Harris reiterated to his Soldiers the importance the ETT will play in the Global War on Terrorism and the need to be in top physical shape to succeed. "Gentlemen, we are the tip of the spear, never forget that!"

The ETT Soldiers left Camp Grayling at the end of the training session with many lessons learned, strengths and weaknesses assessed and the knowledge that the level of intensity to train for the ETT mission is going to steadily increase as the deployment date nears. 

"The best way to win the Global War on Terror is by empowering the people most affected by terrorism with the means to defeat them."

-ETT Company Team Chief Maj. Mark Bidwell

Heavenly armor: Pastor given 'additional protection' for Iraq deployment

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard

FORT McCOY, Wis. – The congregation of Crown Point Baptist Church felt if their pastor's body armor wasn't enough to protect him in Iraq, maybe a hundred or so Bible verses would do the trick.

Before deploying to the Middle East as a chaplain with the Florida Air National Guard, Crown Point Baptist's senior pastor Steve Thompson received a unique "blessing" from his Jacksonville, Fla., congregation: the members took black markers and autographed the inside of his Interceptor body armor vest with more than a hundred Bible verses.

"On the inside everybody wrote their favorite scripture verse," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thompson explained while training at Fort McCoy, Wis., in preparation for the upcoming deployment. "A few of them were kind of worried about me. I shared with them that any bullet that tried to get to me would have to go through the armor, and through their prayers, and through God's word."

Thompson, 54, is soft-spoken and, even in the chilly October weather in Wisconsin, wore a near-perpetual smile while talking about his congregation. He said he knows pretty much all of the verses they wrote by heart, and proved it by quoting the most common verse scribed on his armor – Philippians 4:13 – without missing a beat: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

This will be Thompson's first overseas deployment in 22 years of military service. He is deploying with Florida's 202nd RED HORSE Squadron, and will help tend to the spiritual needs of those Air Force engineers while they help repair runways, roads, and other structures in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan. RED HORSE is an acronym for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers.

Thompson described the chaplaincy service as one of the military's most important jobs, especially in a combat zone: "We get to minister to troops during some special times, like when they might have crisis (back) home. We support and encourage commanders and leadership to make sure the morale is high, and we are able to help people do their jobs successfully and get back home."

But what will make his own deployment go by much easier will be the support he receives from his Crown Point Baptist congregation – perhaps most importantly helping Thompson's wife in his absence. Thompson said she not only has to cope with his own absence, but their son is a captain in the Army and is also on his way to Iraq. In addition, their youngest son is in officer training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and could possibly deploy with the Army Reserves to Iraq.

"She could potentially have two of her sons there – plus me – so that is a lot of stress on her," Thompson said. "The church



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa.


Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Thompson displays his "holy" body armor.

has been incredibly supportive. They are enthusiastic and ensured me my wife will be well-taken care of so I can concentrate on what I'm doing here, helping our people."

Thompson explained that providing spiritual support to deployed service members of many different religions is quite different than ministering to his own congregation in Florida.

"The people in (my) church are very homo-

geneous," he said. "I'm a Baptist preacher and the people in my church are primarily Baptist. We come from the same doctrine of thoughts, so the ministry emerges out of that."

"Here it is very different," he added. "We have lots of different denominations. I would imagine that if you were to open up an encyclopedia of religions that we've probably got every box checked here." 

A successful startup

Minnesota company goes from paper to war in less than year

By Master Sgt. Charles Wheeler
36th Combat Aviation Brigade

NEAR KUWAIT CITY – Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment has only been in existence since Oct. 1, 2005, but its Soldiers are already on their way to combat.

Through hard work, sacrifice, and some timely help and guidance, this remarkable unit went from the planning stages to being prepped to deploy to Iraq.

The company, stationed at Holman Field in St. Paul, Minn., flies the CH-47 (Chinook) helicopter – the large, tandem rotor kind designed to transport cargo, troops, and weapons.

It all started when a CH-47 company was needed to complete the first Army National Guard fully transformed 36th Combat Aviation Brigade. Other states were offered the company — complete with additional end strength and funding – with the caveat that they had to be ready to go to Iraq in August. When those other states requested more time, the offer was extended to Minnesota, and they seized the opportunity.

When Spc. Andrew Levesque of Forest Lake, Minn., first learned the new unit was prepping for Iraq, he immediately volunteered to go on his first deployment.

“I am amazed at how fast we are able to get up on our feet,” Levesque said.

He is certified on the Maneuver Control System and attached to battalion headquarters for the deployment, but played a big role in getting Company B to pass a weapons inspection four months after being “stood up.”

“I just wanted to have an impact on

the mission and help in any way I could,” Levesque said.

Getting a new company off the ground has been a very different experience for 1st Lt. Dan Nelson.

After previous deployments as an enlisted infantryman doing security for Patriot Missile sites in Saudi Arabia and working security in airports after 9/11, Nelson got his commission and became an aviator in 2004.

“We trained on Hueys in flight school and I flew Blackhawks before I got transferred to Company B,” Nelson said.

Like many other Minnesota National Guard pilots in Company B, he went through Chinook transition training to meet the qualifications needed for these helicopters.

The only pilot qualified to fly CH-47s in the Minnesota National Guard before last summer was Maj. Mike Barker, Company B’s commander.

“There could not be a better time to be a young pilot as they are getting tactical experience and a lot of valuable training,” he said, in reference to the new company, its aircraft and deployment to Iraq happening so fast.

“The state [Minnesota Army National Guard] gave me the A team, and we could not have done it without so much support,” he continued. “Iowa was very supportive as well, as they gave us instructor pilots, replacement parts and good advice related to what we were doing,” Barker said.

A lot of hard work and detailed planning went into organizing the successful startup of the company, said Barker.

Aircraft, logistics, pilots, maintenance and support personnel had to be identified and



Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Wheeler

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter from the newly formed Company B, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment hovers during a mobilization readiness exercise during pre-deployment training at Ft. Hood, Texas. This unit showed incredible initiative by going from the planning stages to being prepped to deploy to Iraq within one year. Inset photo: Maj. Mike Barker, Company B’s commander, has been a busy man of late preparing his unit for combat while sacrificing time away from his wife and children.

brought together.

Mechanics and fuel crews were cross-trained, a chain of command was established, standard operating procedures were created, and Barker found himself front and center in the whirlwind of activity.

“My wife, Amy, was getting frustrated with what was going on because I was gone so much and there was no family time left,” he said.

Barker is concerned about being away from his family for so long and worries about the impact on his children, especially with all the time and effort spent getting started and the training nearing completion.

“But I am excited because this is what we train for, and I’m ready to do my part,” he said.

Company B will be in Iraq for one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 🇺🇸

Rhode Island stands up new special ops unit

CRANSTON, R.I. – The Rhode Island National Guard announced the formation of a new unit Nov. 3 called the Special Operations Detachment – Global Warfare (SOD-G).

The 36-person detachment is aligned with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. SOD-G will provide support to USSOCOM in planning, synchronizing and executing special operations for the Global War on Terrorism.

Unit personnel will maintain unique special operations skills and capabilities as well as combat support and combat service support resources.

“Their [USSOCOM] specialized mission requires dedicated and experienced Soldiers which Rhode Island is qualified to provide,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Bray, adjutant general of the Rhode Island National Guard.

“Over the past four years, the Department of Defense has expanded the role of USSOCOM to include the responsibility for planning and leading the Department of Defense efforts during the Global War on Terrorism. In addition to training, organizing, equipping, and deploying combat-ready special operations forces to the geographic combatant commanders, the command has the mission to lead, plan, synchronize, and, when directed, execute global operations against terrorist networks. It is because of this additional responsibility given to USSOCOM that SOD-G was created,” said Col. Larry Pezza Jr., the SOD-G commander. 🇺🇸



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Jim Foard

Worth the wait

Staff Sgt. Pat Landis, assigned to the 175th Security Forces Squadron, Maryland Air National Guard, is greeted by his girlfriend at Martin State Airport in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 22 after returning home from a six-month deployment in Kirkuk, Iraq.



**Busted
on the border**

A New Mexico National Guard Soldier pries out a block of marijuana uncovered in the wheels of a truck. The vehicle was stopped by the Border Patrol at a checkpoint north of Las Cruces, N.M. The Soldier is supporting the Border Patrol in Operation Jump Start.

**Making a difference:
Operation Jump Start
accomplishments as of
mid-November**

Operational successes supported by the National Guard serving as entry identification team members, camera operators, Remote Video Surveillance System operators and mechanical support members at checkpoints. Data collection commenced June 15, 2006:

Alien Apprehensions	21,717
Vehicle Seizures	318
Marijuana Seized (lbs)	80,235
Cocaine Seized (lbs)	2,319
Aliens Rescued	73
Currency	\$ 2 4 , 0 6 4

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection



**From Page 1:
GUARD BIRTHDAY**

first 111 years of the country's existence.

The Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed it as the nation's primary organized reserve force. The National Defense Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard under the National Guard Bureau.

In 370 years, the equivalent of 18 and one-half 20-year careers, the weapons and technology have changed drastically, but the Guard's contribution to the nation's defense has remained paramount.

Generation seven rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord. Generation 12 faced off, brother against brother, in the Civil War. Generation 14 "Remembered the Maine" during the Spanish-American War. Generation 16 was already on duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Generation 19 will never forget and is still responding to 9/11.

In 1636, the militia's primary firearm was the crude match-lock musket, which could take 56 steps to load and fire. Nearly one-third of militia Soldiers carried only a long pole, or pike, into combat. Today, the Guard members may carry into combat the SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon), which can fire 750 rounds per minute.

Our colonial forefathers could not have imagined much of what their descendants can use in combat today – jet fighters, tanks, satellite radios, laser-guided munitions, global positioning systems, rocket artillery, and countless other high-tech devices.

Now, after 370 years, what does the future hold for this always ready and reliable force?

Coming generations will continue to use all of the modern technology at its disposal. At their core, however, today's Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their communities and country a safer and better place.

**From Page 1:
MILITARY IDOL**

more sedate "The Way We Were" to close the competition that began on 29 Army installations around the world.

"It brought everybody back to a focus for the end of the show," Hurtado said. "Sometimes less is more. And a beautiful instrument, just in its simplicity without all the bells and whistles, was a really brilliant, brilliant thing to do."

That was the plan for Golding, 35, a native of Brisbane, Australia, who studied as a tuba player and vocalist at the Queensland Conservatory of Music.

"There was a bit of a strategy to pick a song that was fun and upbeat and easy to listen to like 'I Wish.' But I also enjoy performing songs like that because they're more fun to perform," she said. "The audience gets more involved and the feedback from the audience helps you drive the performance and make it more enjoyable.

"If you're enjoying yourself, the audience will enjoy themselves. And if the audience is enjoying themselves, you enjoy yourself more and you relax more. It just rolls that way." Golding returned to her emotional roots with Streisand's tune. She recalled a long-distance telephone company's television commercial that used the song during her childhood.

**From Page 1:
ACCIDENT DEATHS**

travel more than 50 miles to their duty location. And that has had other benefits in addition to reducing accidents.

"A lot of commanders said they find their Soldiers more rested and ready to give more during that drill weekend," said Eisenhart.

Steps are being taken to reduce accidents even more.

With the rise in popularity of motorcycles among many Soldiers, Guard officials are revamping motorcycle safety programs and have instituted stricter regulations. Soldiers are now required to wear personal protective equipment, such as helmets and eye protection, regardless of duty status, said Eisenhart.

"We don't want to lose any Soldier, regardless of duty status," Eisenhart said.

FINDING A

FAMILY READINESS COORDINATOR

NEAR YOU

IS JUST A FEW CLICKS AWAY

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 referrals. Family program offices in the 54 states and territories, wing family program coordinators and a host of other resources for families can be found at:

www.guardfamily.org

To get to this searchable site, -click the family member icon -then click on the green "Local Community Resource Finder" on the right





“The Death of General Warren at Bunker Hill” by John Trumbull, 1786. Of all his paintings of the Revolutionary War, this was the only action at which the artist was a witness. *Paining courtesy of Yale University Art Collection.*

It happened in December

Events that made National Guard history

Selected entries from the National Guard's 365-day event calendar found at www.NGB.Army.mil/

23rd, 1814-Villere's Plantation, La.-An advance detachment of 1,500 men, preceding a British army of nearly 10,000 men, is attacked by General Andrew Jackson on this night. Jackson's assaulting force of 2,000 men was largely composed of Louisiana and Tennessee militia.

7th, 1941-Tarlac, Luzon, Philippine Islands-The 192nd and 194th Tank Battalions fight a holding action against Japanese invaders as other American and Filipino troops withdraw into the Bataan Peninsula. These two battalions were composed of former Guard tank companies and they, along with New Mexico's 200th Coast Artillery, had arrived in the Philippines just prior to the Japanese attack. Those Guardsmen not killed in combat were all captured with the fall of Bataan in April 1942. Many would die on the infamous "Bataan Death March" or while in Japanese captivity.

19th, 1989-Fort Howard, Panama-The beginning of Operation JUST CAUSE, the American action to overthrow the regime of President Manuel Noriega, finds a platoon of Missouri's 1138th Military Police Company in-country during its normal rotation of annual training. The 1138th is ordered to construct a prisoner of war holding facility. While working on the wire pen, the unit comes under mortar attack by Panamanian forces.

Art of war: Militiaman captures military events

By John Listman

National Guard Bureau

The day after Christmas can be a time for families to relax and regroup following the festivities of the holiday. Such was the case 230 years ago when Hessian auxiliaries, often mistakenly called “mercenaries,” were sleeping off the effects of the Christmas celebration in their warm quarters in Trenton, N.J.

Suddenly, the cold morning air was filled with the sounds of cheering men intermixed with rippling volleys of musket and cannon fire because, without warning, 2,400 American Soldiers attacked and quickly overwhelmed the Hessians' positions.

The Hessian commander, Col. Johann Rall, was mortally wounded along with 23 of his men. Of a garrison consisting of about 1,400 troops, 896 were captured, and nearly 200 more were taken while trying to flee from the town. American losses consisted of two men who froze to death during the march to Trenton and four who were wounded in battle.

Gen. George Washington had won his first significant victory of the Revolution, and by doing so saved his Army from disintegration and the young republic from total defeat.

As important as that victory in 1776 proved to be, it was little celebrated in art until 10 years later when John Trumbull completed his painting “The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton” in 1786.

Trumbull went on to create some of the most famous and enduring images of the Revolution, its battles and leaders. Some of his paintings subject matter were based upon firsthand observations while he served as a militiaman during the war.

Trumbull was born to a Connecticut family of wealth and influence in 1756. His father served as Connecticut's royal governor before the war, then adopted the patriot cause and continued to hold office during the Revolution. Trumbull graduated from Harvard College in 1773, when he was 17, and pursued his artistic career.

Soon after word arrived of the fighting at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, Trumbull joined the 1st Connecticut Regiment and marched to join the American Army besieging the British in Boston. While stationed at Roxbury, he witnessed the fighting at Breed's (Bunker) Hill about a mile away. He later made sketches of the action and in 1786 produced one of his first war paintings, “The Death of General Warren at Bunker Hill.”

In Boston, he made a series of detailed diagrams of the British

works. Soon his skills brought him to the attention of Washington who made Trumbull an aide-de-camp and mapmaker and started a friendship that would endure until Washington's death in 1799. After the British evacuated Boston in the spring 1776, Trumbull accompanied Gen. Horatio Gates who took command of the Northern Army guarding Crown Point and Ticonderoga in upstate New York. Promoted to colonel, Trumbull resigned in February 1777 to pursue his art career.

He opened a studio in Boston and produced paintings for hire. In 1779 he again served the cause when he briefly acted as an aide to Gen. John Sullivan in Rhode Island to help repel a British invasion. After the threat passed, he returned to Boston and, incredibly, then sailed to England to study painting under the famed court artist Benjamin West. Trumbull was arrested in London in 1780 after voicing the American cause. He was re-back to America in 1781.

Trumbull returned to London in 1784 and stayed living in London documenting the the Revolution. During the he produced or of his best known the Bunker Hill and Trenton paintings that he finished in London, Trumbull started several more that he completed about 1797 in America.

The delay was caused by Trumbull's desire to portray the faces of the men as accurately as possible. He traveled across the country, meeting the men involved, such as Washington, and making sketches that he used to finish the paintings he had started in London.

Among these were “The Death of Mercer at Princeton,” “The Signing of the Declaration of Independence” and “The Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.”

While still in England, he had traveled to Paris to paint in the details of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams in the Independence painting, as well as the details of several French officers who he portrayed in the Surrender of Cornwallis. That attention to detail makes his works among the most historically


accurate records of the war.

Upon returning to New York, the nation's capital at the time, Trumbull started petitioning Congress to retain him to document the war in what would be government-sponsored paintings. But the country was broke and could not afford his services. So in 1794 he became the secretary to John Jay, returning to London as he helped negotiate U.S. trade treaties with European nations. He stayed in England for almost 10 years, returning home again in 1804. While there he finished a number of the works started years earlier.

Back home, he was appointed president of the New York Academy of Fine Arts in 1805, and in 1808 he became the vice president of the American Academy of Fine Arts. But with increasing eye problems, he once again returned to London to be treated by a specialist. He was stuck there when England and America went to war in 1812. He was unable to sail home until after the war in 1815. To pass the time and earn some money, he painted religious subjects. His paintings sold fairly well.

Once home again, he became the president of the American Academy of Fine Arts, a post he held until 1835.

More importantly, he again approached the Congress to hire him to document the Revolution for all Americans to admire. Since the British had burned the Capitol in 1814, the Congress was designing the building we know today, with its central rotunda. Congress paid Trumbull \$24,000 to produce four enlarged copies of his existing works “The Signing of the Declaration of Independence,” “The Surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga,” “The Surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown,” and “The Resignation of General Washington.” All were completed in 1826. Each work measures 12x18 feet. They line the Rotunda to this day. We have all seen them reproduced in our history books. They are part of all Americans.

When we think about National Guard members who have made history, we often think of generals, presidents or heroes such as Medal of Honor recipients. Little thought or mention is made of artists. But these people, like Trumbull, help us to visualize aspects of our heritage not easily conveyed by words on a page. John Trumbull played a minor role as a militia Soldier during the war, but few can deny that much of what we know and think about the war comes from his art. It is as much a part of our national identity as the Statute of Liberty and the Liberty Bell. 



John Trumbull

Crisis at 1,500 feet

Colorado pilot overcomes in-flight medical emergency

By Capt. Nicole David
140th Fighter Wing

BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. -- Little did pilot Lt. Col. Pete "Smokey" Byrne know that when he headed out on a training mission here this past summer that the flight might



Department of Defense photo

Lt. Col. Pete "Smokey" Byrne, a Colorado Air National Guard pilot, experienced extreme vertigo June 13 while flying his F-16 on a training mission. He landed the plane safely, but may never fly again because of a medical condition.

have been his last.

Byrne and five other Colorado Air National Guardsmen flew their F-16 Fighting Falcons June 13 to participate in a four-versus-two "defensive counter air" mission. Two of the planes played the enemy while the remaining four protected a simulated asset. The routine exercise was underway and they were in the middle of an engagement when the incident occurred.

"I was engaging the enemy and initiated a 4-G turn and instantly felt pain in my neck, like I had torn something," Byrne said, adding that the pain was tolerable though. Within seconds, things started shaking and he experienced tremendous vertigo like "the world below was spinning on a record player."

Byrne was flying low, around 1,500 feet. Sensing his perilous condition, he put the F-16 on autopilot.

"I couldn't focus," Byrne said, "so I radioed our flight leader that I was not feeling well and that I needed to head home. Then I asked my wingman if I was flying straight and level, because I couldn't tell."

With the autopilot on, he and his wingman figured out what to do. He told the other pilots that he couldn't fly and they declared a physiological emergency with air traffic controllers at Denver International Airport. Lt. Col. Tim Conklin took over as his wingman and tried to help him gain altitude and fly back to Buckley AFB.

After more than 90 minutes had passed, Byrne was still unable to fly and concerned about the planes low fuel level. He prepared for a possible ejection. He had the presence of mind to keep his jet away from homes and businesses in the case of a crash.

"I had to take my helmet off," Byrne said. "Even though I had oxygen and air conditioning, I felt like I needed air. I vomited for the first time in all my years of flying."

Fortunately, he started to feel better, and he headed back toward Buckley.

Within five miles of the base, he took the jet off autopilot and lowered the landing gear. More bad news: air traffic control radioed saying tail winds were 12-15 knots (normally F-16s

don't land if the winds are greater than 10 knots). With little fuel remaining and cloudy vision, Byrne had no other choice but to land.

At 20 feet off the ground, Byrne flew into a gust of wind that seesawed the aircraft back and forth.

"We were all scared, and I told [Byrne] to 'Eject! Eject!'" Conklin said. But Byrne was able to steady the aircraft, correct it and make a hard landing in time. He said he remembered putting the parking brake on right away.

"I was just so thankful that no one was hurt and there was no loss of life or property," Byrne said.

Buckley firefighters put Byrne into an ambulance headed for Aurora South Hospital. Emergency medical technicians tended to him. "Call my


wife, Janet," he told them.

In the emergency room, Byrne and his wife waited for an explanation and then realized he needed immediate attention - he was experiencing paralysis on the left side of his face. After a CT scan, the doctor informed him that an artery that sends secondary blood into his brain was torn. This explained the severe vertigo.

After spending a week in intensive care, Byrne was released. Doctors assured him he would be fine physically, but that he may never fly again.

"This hit me the hardest," Byrne said. "It was not only what I did in the Guard but also what I did for a living in the civilian world." Byrne had flown commercially for 14 years. Suddenly, he was faced with the reality that his life, as he knew it, was going to change, and something he loved to do may not be possible anymore.

To date, Byrne still hasn't been told whether he will ever fly an F-16 again. He is waiting for the National Guard Bureau to deliver his fate. But he isn't one to stand still.

He may be able to fly commercially if the FAA issues him a medical certificate. "I just want to have the option to say 'yes' or 'no' to getting back into a cockpit," Byrne said. "And if the Air Force tells me I can't fly, I can apply to become worldwide deployable ... in some other capacity." 

"We were all scared, and I told [him] to 'Eject! Eject!'"

-Col. Pete "Smokey" Byrne's wingman

Maestros over mayhem

Pennsylvania air operators help orchestrate Red Flag

By Lt. Jay Ostrich

Pennsylvania National Guard

The following chronicles the 112th Air Operations Squadron's work at the Red Flag exercise Aug. 8-20.

Within sight of the glitz of the Las Vegas Strip, another finely tuned concert prepares to take a desert stage. It has all the trimmings of high-tech sound systems, coordinated wardrobes, and full-throttle pyrotechnics. But unlike those for mere entertainment, this performance is a matter of life, death and national security.

The stage is an intimidating 12,000 square mile range in the desert sands adjacent to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The two-week exercise, called Red Flag, aims to provide advanced combat training for U.S. and allied aircrews in a highly realistic threat environment. The orchestra, a combination of airmen from the U.S., Canada and France, hopes to synthesize their efforts and aircraft to make the sweet sounds of freedom ring throughout the world.

Enter center stage is the 112th Air Operations Squadron,

Pennsylvania Air National Guard, from State College. It is one of only five such Guard and Reserve units capable of coordinating this intricate air symphony. They are the maestros of this mayhem, a 17-member team from Happy Valley ready to take the wand as conductor who makes sure all players are in unison, hitting precise notes at the right time.

Flawless communication and careful coordination are needed too to execute this mission though. Strike one sour chord here and the whole opera, the entire mission, falls miserably flat.

Overture

Their job as maestro is set within the relatively safe confines of a Combined Air and Space Operations Center (CAOC), a nerve center of operators, technicians, and command and control systems used to prosecute an air campaign. This small but vital force allows the Air Force to accurately target enemies anywhere on the planet while avoiding fratricide and unnecessary collateral damage.

As a fiery red sunset descends upon the desert, Lt. Col. Aaron Vance, 112 AOS chief of training and senior air defense officer, sits confidently behind a massive bank of computers and radios. Within a few minutes, his team must coordinate their efforts to help F-16s and French Mirage fighter planes deliver a deadly payload of justice to a formidable enemy.



Photo by Lt. Jay Ostrich

Staff Sgt. Adam Walters studies mission tactics with Lt. Col. Aaron Vance while communicating with a myriad of aircraft during Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Vance's job is to communicate specific CAOC's decisions to variety of exercise "players."

"After all the analysis, we issue through the AWACS a mission target coordinated with the Air Tasking Order, which basically tells pilots what to do, where to go, and when they should do it," said Vance, a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate. "Essentially, we tell these instruments what notes they should

RED FLAG continued on:
Next page

Thinking lean, saving money

□ Two Texas aerial porters, empowered to think smarter and leaner, find a better way to palletize C-17 tires. The innovation potentially saves thousands.

By Maj. Ann Peru Knabe
379th Air Expeditionary Wing

Southwest Asia -- When the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Anthony Krawietz charged incoming troops to think smarter and leaner, a group of aerial porters took it to heart.

"One of the first things we looked at was how C-17 tires were palletized," said Staff Sgt. Michael Key, a Texas Guardsman deployed from Carswell Air Force Base. "We knew there was a way we could do this 'smarter' but it took a good week for us to figure it out."

Key and 11 other Airmen pack and load C-17 Globemaster tires for shipment to the United States, where the tire manufacturer refurbishes them for continued use. On average the 8th EAMS aerial porters ship 114 tires a month.

The old way of palletizing C-17 tires was shipping four per pallet. The "single pallet" method, which had been practiced since the 8th EAMS set up shop in Southwest Asia, required four pallets with two skids each to hold 12 main tires and four nose tires. The main tires each weigh 485 pounds, and the nose tires weigh 265 pounds.

PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS: Texas Air National Guardsmen Staff Sgt. Michael Key and Senior Airman Jayson Steelman pose next to their recent innovation, a multi-pallet train that contains 16 aircraft tires.



Photo by Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

The aerial porters knew there was a better way to go about business, but the solution wasn't immediately intuitive.

"It was a matter of trial and error," said Senior Airman Jayson Steelman, an aerial porter assigned to the "Mighty 8th." "We did the math, measured the skids and looked at several different options, and finally figured out a better way to load these tires."

Steelman, who also is a member of the Texas Air National Guard, said a standard aircraft pallet is about seven inches too small to stack four wooden tire pallets side by side. So the team experimented with some alterna-


tive configurations. The innovative moment came when they realized they could make up for the lost space by using space provided by aircraft pallet couplers. By bridging the skids over the coupler gap of two "married" pallets, they doubled the aircraft pallet load.

The new configuration uses eight skids on two coupled pallets holding 16 tires. With the old process, this shipment would have required four pallets to ship the same amount of tires. With two less pallets, the aerial porters save scarce and critical aircraft space and the cost of shipping pallets and tiedown equipment. In fact, every 16 tires shipped represents a

savings of \$2,064.

"If we continue to average 114 tires a month, it will add up to \$14,706 every 30 days," said Krawietz. "In addition, pallet space requirements and ramp workload decreases by 50 percent with the new configuration."

Capt. Stanley Medykowski, the officer in charge of the Mighty 8th's air freight section, said the change represents a growing trend in the area of operations.

"We're continuously trying to improve our operations in an austere environment," said Medykowski. "And it's all the better when we save the taxpayers' money." 

From Page 14: RED FLAG

play."

The CAOC team's mission tonight is to deftly interpret endless streams of incoming intelligence and data in order to destroy valuable targets in less than 20 minutes of their identification and mission tasking. The goal: 100 percent mission effectiveness, minimal collateral damage, and zero coalition casualties.

"Tonight is a culmination of training and a conclusion to our conversion from simulation to live aircraft and missions," said Vance. "The end result, we hope, is to end the war. Some targets allow you to do that more quickly."

Intermezzo

If accurate analysis is the sheet music for mission effectiveness and ending the war, then the men and women of 112th, who operate the intelligence cell of the CAOC, hold a steady quill.

The team must help strategically navigate pilots and airmen through a tangled web of weapons, warmongers, and innocent civilians, by determining threats, assessing damage and monitoring the execution of orders.

"If our mission fails, the political side of the house won't be happy," said Lt. Col. Lee Sublett, a senior intelligence officer for the 112th. "Ultimately, good people can die."

Tonight, Sublett and his team receive information that a key enemy scientist working on weapons of mass destruction has been located in a building near a mosque and a high-ranking official is conducting a secret meeting in a stationary railcar near civilians. They must now decipher whether the targets can

be taken out without undesired collateral damage and prioritize which targets are more valuable to the overall mission.

"You can't just focus on one aspect or contingency of war. You need to see the bigger picture," said Sublett.

After concluding that available fighter aircraft can get the job done, a plan is approved and relayed to the AWACS, who in turn pass it on to the pilots. The concert can now resume in force.

Finale

Just minutes later, bombs and fire rain down upon the selective targets and light up the desert night.

The stage is now silent, and although the enemy has been destroyed and much of the audience has returned home, the mission of the 112th continues. It is time to read the reviews.

The main critic of tonight's 112th performance is Maj. Paul Fast, 505th Operations Squadron, a lead strategy instructor, whose small cadre of CAOC experts have guided this group through weeks of painstaking performances. He will begin a detailed brief aimed at analyzing the good, the bad and ugly of tonight's mission that will last into the wee hours of the morning.

As for the decisions made by these Happy Valley airmen, Fast seemed genuinely impressed.

"They did an outstanding job," said Fast. "These folks are knife-in-the-teeth kind of Airmen and I am confident they are now ready to augment any mission anywhere around the world."


Staff Sgt. Adam Walters, an air tasking order technician with the 112th on his first Red Flag mission, agreed with the overall assessment.

"At first I was nervous as can be to be here," said Walters,

who learned a completely new system at Red Flag and works as an auditor in Altoona. "Now I have no idea what I was sweating about - this has been a great experience."

Behind him, 112th Lt. Col. Bob Petersen, finishes up his paperwork as chief of Combat Operations and reflected on what has been an intense two weeks of training.

"They did an exceptional job," said Petersen, who added that this was the best exercise he had ever been through.

With the reviews in and the critics pleased, the 112th heads back home, ready for the next show in any venue around the world that needs the maestro's touch. 

For more National Guard news, including stories, photos and video, visit www.ngb.

Former Guard Soldier wins congressional seat

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A retired Minnesota Army National Guard Soldier and veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom will be among the new faces in the House of Representatives when the 110th Congress convenes in Washington in January.

Timothy Walz, who rose to the highest enlisted rank of command sergeant major, will represent Minnesota's 1st Congressional District after defeating Gil Gutknecht, the Republican incumbent, by capturing 53 percent of that district's vote Nov. 7. Walz is a Democrat, a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, and he won election during his first try for a congressional seat.

Walz, 42, will be one of 22 former members of the National Guard who will serve in 110th Congress, according to the National Guard Bureau. Four are in the Senate and 18 are in the House.


Walz served in the Minnesota Army Guard for 24 years and retired from the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery as its command sergeant major in the spring of 2005. He served with the battalion in Italy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the campaign against terrorists in Afghanistan.

Born in West Point, Neb., he joined the Nebraska Army Guard when he was 17, before graduating from high school. Walz and his wife Gwen moved to Mankato, Minn., in 1996 and accepted positions in teaching and coaching at Mankato High School.

Walz was named an Outstanding Young Nebraskan by the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce for his service in the education, military and small business communities.

Two other candidates with National Guard backgrounds lost their first bids for seats in the House.

Martha Rainville, a Republican and the former adjutant general for the Vermont National Guard, lost the race for Vermont's at-large seat to Democrat Peter Welch.

Ladda "Tammy" Duckworth, a Democrat and Iraq war veteran, narrowly lost the race for Illinois's 6th District to Republican Peter Roskam. Duckworth, an Army Guard officer, lost both of her legs in November 2004 when the helicopter she was co-piloting in Iraq was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. 

Pat Boone sings praises of National Guard



Photo by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Pat Boone sings during the National Guard Association of the United States' 128th General Conference in Albuquerque, N.M., in mid-September.

Records music video; proceeds to aid paralyzed veterans

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Gospel Music Hall of Fame member, singer and actor Pat Boone has recently recorded and released a music video that honors National Guard members.

Boone's song and video, "For my Country," glorifies

Guard members from the heartland of America who are serving around the world. The ballad includes a message that the Guard has brought the Global War on Terrorism to the enemy, calling it a "deadly, dirty job that must be done." It also includes passages that recognize the sacrifices of sweethearts and other loved ones back home.

"I figured we need to honor, now more than ever, our troops who have trained ... and are doing an impossible job, bigger than anyone could have foreseen," said Boone during an exclusive interview with The On Guard.

Boone first performed the song Sept. 15 in Albuquerque, N.M., during the 128th General Conference of the National Guard Association of the United States. The music video was released by Boone's Gold Label in November in a DVD collection, which includes a one-hour documentary. Boone said the documentary tells the story of the National Guard through interviews with Soldiers and families. A free sample of the music video is available at www.formycountry.us.

Also appearing on the DVD is the musical trio, Valor, which sings with Boone.


Boone said he hopes listeners come away from the song

saying "yes, these men and women are our finest and bravest." Additionally, Boone is donating a portion of the DVD's sales proceeds to the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Boone, 72, has been one of this country's musical icons since the 1950s, when he was known as "the kid in the white buck shoes" because of his clean-cut image. His relationship with the National Guard dates back to the days of his famous great-great-grandfather, Daniel Boone, who was a member of the Kentucky militia. "Meeting the country's call like the farmers who picked up muskets ... some of that DNA is in me," Boone said.

Boone has used his music to honor the military before. Several years ago he recorded American Glory, an album of patriotic songs and military anthems. During the Vietnam War he recorded "Wish you were here, Buddy," for returning Soldiers.

"I'm pro-American troops that answer the call, not pro-war," Boone said. "In [the Vietnam] case we did not support the troops."

"We owe the Guard a debt we can never repay as we go to school, to church," Boone said. "But we can sure send our praise and unite behind them, not just while they're fighting." 

Alaska's Operation Santa Claus in its 50th year

By Maj. Mike Haller

Alaska National Guard

The Alaska National Guard will continue to play a key role in Operation Santa Claus, a yearly goodwill ritual where toys, clothing, books, school supplies and even water are delivered to children and families in remote villages across Alaska.

"This is our 50th anniversary year," said Maj. Gen. Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We're headed back to St. Mary's where it all began, and we'll visit friends in other parts of Alaska as well." St. Mary's is about 400 miles due west of Anchorage near Alaska's west coast.

"It takes our 300 volunteer elves, working year-around, that make the magic happen," Campbell said.

The Air Guard uses their C-130 Hercules aircraft and the Army Guard uses their rugged UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and the C-23B+ Sherpa fixed-wing aircraft to deliver gifts to the children

This Guard "gift-lift" began in 1956 and was an answer to a prayer offered on behalf of nearly 200 children at an orphanage in St. Mary's.

Spring floods denied a fishing season that year. A drought that followed severely lessened the four-legged food that hunters and trappers would normally have for their families and the children of the orphanage. Every bit of money the mission had was used to pay for food to be shipped in. As Christmas loomed it appeared that nothing was left. This troubled the sisters who ran the mission.

They wrote a letter explaining their need and it found its way to members of the Air Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron in Anchorage. The request was simple, much as her prayer, the children needed to have Christmas.


Radio and television stations and the two Anchorage newspapers spread the word. Within just a few days, Air Guard members received generous donations of both new and used toys. After fixing any worn parts and painting them like new, they handed them over to the jolly old elf for delivery aboard one of three of their C-123J Providers, an aptly-named aircraft, to ensure the mission was successful. 



Photo by Spc. J. TaShun Joyce

Taking the oath in Kosovo

Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan and Pennsylvania Army National Guard Soldiers assemble with other active duty and Reserve Soldiers for a reenlistment ceremony at Camp Bondsteel's Victory Parade Field in Kosovo Nov. 11. The oath of enlistment was given by Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, commanding general, Multi-National Task Force (East). The Soldiers are conducting peacekeeping operations there as part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force that has been in the province since 1999.