

# THE ON GUARD

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## GWOT



Hoosier Soldiers continue to train for the War on Terror.. Page 3.

## Medal



New York Soldier wins Bronze Star for valor. Page 10.

## Afghanistan



California Guardsmen make village life better. Page 16.

## Vermont's international mountaineer training

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

JERICHO, Vt. – The U.S. Army's Mountain Warfare School, which is operated by the Vermont Army National Guard, reached the pinnacle of international respectability during the early days of March when winter still gripped the Green Mountains and the rest of northern New England.

The school was embraced as a permanent member of the International Association of Military Mountaineering Schools on the final evening of that organization's 39th annual conference that was held in this country for the first time.

That elevated the Army's only mountain warfare school to the same level as the seven other permanent members, all from Europe, that have been training troops in the art and science of high-altitude warfare for decades.

Swiss Army Col. Hans Wyrsh, secretary of the IAMMS committee, announced during the March 3 farewell banquet that the U.S. school has come of age during its 21st year by being elevated from an

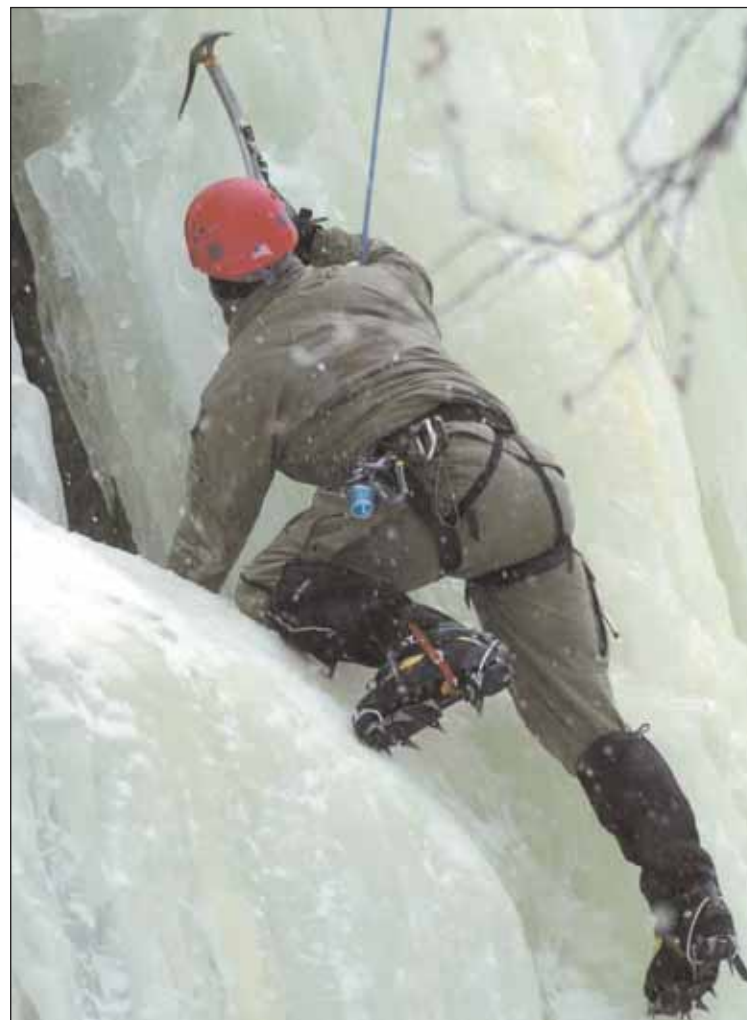
observer nation to a permanent member. Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas also spoke during the dinner.

The United States has been an IAMMS observer nation for 11 years. Countries must have observer status for at least two years and organize an international meeting to be granted permanent status with the consent of all other permanent members. The Vermont school has checked off those blocks.

Representatives from military mountaineering schools in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland, the other permanent members, unanimously supported the motion to make the U.S. one of their peers, Wyrsh reported.

That puts the U.S. school on equal footing with those other countries when it comes to setting standards for training, explained Lt. Col. Matthew Fitzgerald, who has commanded the school, located at the Vermont Guard's Ethan Allen Firing Range a dozen miles east of Lake Champlain and Burlington, since last April. He's been a moun-

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Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell,

Scaling the ice covering the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School's workout wall on Mount Mansfield in northern Vermont was one of the challenges presented to participants in the International Association of Military Mountaineering Schools' annual conference.

## Guard helps develop world militaries through partnerships

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

GARMISCH, Germany – It didn't bother Master Sgt. Deborah Borges one bit that she did not hold a degree in international relations or that she could barely be called a world traveler or that she did not have an officer's commission.

People in Slovenia who had once been ruled by the Soviet Union wanted to learn about democracy. They wanted to get into the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization. They wanted to learn how the

American military functions and how Americans live. Deborah Borges, of the Colorado Air National Guard, was convinced she could help because she pays attention to detail and because she sees things through to the end.

That's what gave her the confidence to take on the job as the coordinator for the State Partnership Program for the Colorado National Guard. She assumed the job, which someone else had started, of planning events that helped Slovenia get into NATO. Now, she is helping the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan forge stronger ties with the United States.

That's right, Jordan. Colorado now has two state partnership relations – with Slovenia in Eastern Europe and with Jordan in the Middle East. Borges helps to oversee both programs on behalf of Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, the Colorado National Guard's adjutant general.

The National Guard's State Partnership

Program, started in 1993, aligns states with nations around the world to help them develop modern military forces, learn the concept of civilian control of the military, and establish civil-military relations that benefit the public during civil emergencies.

The significance of Colorado's relationship with Jordan is that Jordan is the first Middle East nation to form a partnership with a state program. Prince Feisal Ibn Al-Hussein of Jordan's royal family last April expressed the hope that the partnership would help promote peace and stability in that region.

"When I hear about people in other countries who want to learn about western democratic governments and about our country, I want to help," said Borges while attending The Adjutants General State Partnership Program's 2005 Conference at the Edelweiss Lodge and

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## About The On Guard

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E-mail your stories to us by the 1st of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

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# ANG members needed to fill TI slots

## On Guard Staff Report

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Air Force needs TIs and you could be one of them.

During a recent visit to Lackland AFB, Chief Master Sgt. W. Allen Usry, ANG First Sgt. functional manager, had the opportunity to meet with several Air National Guard members that are presently serving on Title 10 as Military Training Instructors (TIs).

"The ANG members presently serving as TIs at Lackland are making a difference in our Air Force, both by training our future Airmen and also by portraying a positive representation of the Air National Guard," Usry said.

Each fiscal year the Superintendent of Air Force Basic Military Training (737 TRG/CCS) may select up to ten participating ARC members for Military Training Instructor (MTI) duty.

The Air Guard has approximately 40 slots for TIs it needs to fill. Any ARC member that would like to apply for this type of duty must meet the following requirements:

- \* Meet requirements in AFI 48-123, AFI 36-2110, Assignments, and AFI 36-2108, Airman Classification.

- \* Be a high school or general education

development (GED) graduate.

- \* Be able to obtain sufficient retainability for 4 year EAD tour.

- \* Have 13 or less years total active Federal military service.

- \* Be a SSgt or TSgt

- \* Commit to serving an active duty tour.

- \* Have a score of 48 in the 'General' area of the ASVAB Test.

- \* Must have high standards of military appearance and conduct.

- \* Must not be on any phase of the weight management program.

- \* Have a minimum physical profile of 121221 and the ability to speak clearly and distinctly.

## Selection Process

The Superintendent of Air Force Basic Military Training will review the package. If approved, the member's unit will need to send them TDY to Lackland AFB to have an interview with the 737 TRG/CCS. While at Lackland, the member will also complete the mental health screening and evaluation.

The 737 TRG/CCS will notify the member in writing of selection/non-selection. If

selected by the 737 TRG/CCS, the member will need to complete the remainder of the EAD package for processing which includes:

- \* Application letter for EAD

- \* AF Form 125

- \* Last 3 EPR's (if applicable)

- \* Copies of all DD 214's

- \* Copy of last AF Form 526,

- \* Resume (military and civilian) covering all periods of employment and unemployment

- \* Personnel Brief

- \* Complete physical examination within one year and weight certification from MMTF

- \* Copy of SF 88 and SF 93,

- \* Proof of negative HIV test and DAT results

- \* Letter of recommendation from commander/program manager

- \* Letter from hiring official stating they meet the qualifications for the specific job.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the MTI Recruiting Team at DSN 473-1016/1018 or Email [MTIR@lackland.af.mil](mailto:MTIR@lackland.af.mil) for application information.

Any additional questions can be referred to Chief Master Sgt. Bill Seiler, The ANG Liaison Superintendent assigned at Lackland.

# DoD Launches 'America Supports You'

## By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department launched a new program to showcase America's support for the men and women of the armed forces and the myriad ways the country is expressing that support.

"America Supports You" is designed to gather information about the many activities and programs Americans have launched to show support for the troops – and most importantly, to ensure they and their families know about it, Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, told Pentagon reporters today.

Abell said communicating America's support for servicemembers and their families is a big morale booster for "those who are fighting to defend our freedom" and communicates America's "recognition and appreciation of the courage and commitment of those who serve."

Since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Americans have come together as never before, united in their resolve against their terrorist enemies, Abell said. "And in the three years since Sept. 11, 2001, throughout our operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere around the world, the American people have stood solidly behind our military personnel, both men and women, and their families," he said.

That support spans every segment of society – from individuals and families to schools to local communities to major, multinational corporations, Abell said, "all doing their part to show their appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice of America's fighting forces."

But despite the outpouring of support, said Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, servicemembers aren't always aware of it. "We've heard

troops in the field asking if Americans are still supporting them," she said, "and we were determined to be able to answer that question in a meaningful way."

The America Supports You program will ensure servicemembers know about their many acts of gratitude - including activities conducted at the local level, said Barber, who will run the program.

The program encourages people to visit <http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/> and share details about their project or activity. By doing so, they can sign up to receive a military-style dog tag with the "America Supports You" logo that provides a tangible symbol of their support.

At the kickoff event, Abell noted that the initiatives under way run the gamut. Brittany and Robbie Bergquist, a brother-sister team in Massachusetts, have used their "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program to buy prepaid calling cards so deployed servicemembers can call home.

Another organization formed to build or renovate homes for disabled veterans returning home from Southwest Asia.

Other groups set up programs so children of deployed troops could listen to or watch their mom or dad read bedtime stories to them.

Home Depot donated tools and materials so families could repair and maintain their homes during their loved ones' deployment. Starbucks donated coffee to give troops in Southwest Asia a taste of home. The list goes on and on, Abell said.

James Mueller, senior vice commander in chief for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, knows personally how important it is for deployed servicemembers to know that their country is behind them. An Army veteran who served in Vietnam, he remembers how difficult it was to be thousands of miles from home, in harm's way, without the full support

of many of his countrymen.

"We never want that to happen to our troops again," he said at today's America Support You kickoff.

To ensure it doesn't, VFW posts nationwide are involved in sending care packages and supplies to troops overseas and helping families on the home front through a program that helps pay for things like groceries or emergency appliance repairs.

Edward Powell Jr., president and chief executive officer of the United Service Organizations, shares Mueller's memories of the Vietnam era and vows never to let it happen again.

"Our goal is to make sure the men and women who signed up to protect us know that they are appreciated and that we haven't forgotten them," he said.

To that end, Operation USO Care Package has sent more than 400,000 care packages to give deployed troops a taste of home, and the USO sponsors other programs and services for servicemembers and their families.



Photo by Betsy Torres

**Barber (right) gives "America Supports You" dog tags to Shauna Fleming, who launched a letter-writing campaign to express appreciation to deployed troops.**



## Operation Hoosier Guardian: veterans turn their attention home

By Sgt. Lesley Newport

Camp Atterbury Public Affairs

BUTLERVILLE, Ind. – Travelers on the stretch of highway 50 between Interstate 65 and Butleville noticed a distinct increase in traffic during the first weekend in February. The type of vehicles was undoubtedly a sign of things to come as more than 50 HMVEEs, 2½-ton trucks and several bus-loads of National Guard Soldiers made their way to the newly designated Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in southern Indiana.

The Soldiers and Indiana National Guard Airmen mobilized to respond to a mock civil disturbance at Muscatatuck. Along with state police, local law and emergency response agencies and the State Emergency Management Agency, the Indiana National Guard participated in Operation Hoosier Guardian. The periodic event, held since shortly after 9/11, is a state exercise to train and evaluate agencies' abilities to coordinate a joint response to emergency situations.

SEMA and the Indiana National Guard develop new and relevant scenarios for the responders, providing them with reality-driven training exercises.

Maj. David Freeland, Indiana National Guard Assistant State Training Officer, described the process as challenging. The most recent scenarios were designed around a fictitious conference of all fifty state governors.

"It's a great opportunity to get civilian and military authorities together, open lines of communication. It presents an opportunity to learn what assets are available throughout the state," said Freeland.

Freeland said a simulated hostage situation was a prime example. "The state police were working on getting a phone or some other form of communication to the hostage-holder without exposing any of their troopers to the terrorist's line-of-fire."

A solution was quickly decided on when Task Force One, a federal emergency management asset that specializes in search and rescue, offered a remote control robot to drag the phone and line to the terrorist to facilitate negotiations.

During the exercise, Indiana National Guard Soldiers

provided security. Soldiers of the 1-152 Infantry Regiment were deployed to the scene from Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, forty-five miles northwest of Muscatatuck.

The 1-152 will serve as the state's Serious Incident Response Force after validating at Operation Hoosier Guardian, taking over for the 293rd Infantry. The SIRF is responsible for deploying ten percent of its force within four hours and a full force within 24 hours.

The first wave arrived by Black Hawk helicopters from Camp Atterbury and provided security until the convoy made the ninety-minute trip to Muscatatuck.

"I haven't been to Muscatatuck, so we just grabbed a map, briefed the convoy and headed out," said convoy commander Lt. Ninsling. "The route definitely added to the mission and was good training for our drivers."

The convoy was met by members of the 293rd who served as civilian role-players on the scene, posing as protesters, media and terrorists. The 293rd was validated and has served as the SIRF since October of 2004. It became apparent that the 293rd wanted to make sure they gave the most realistic training as possible.

Sergeant Major Charles Cox, Readiness NCO for the 293rd briefed the role-players on their missions. "They took it serious; they wanted to give the 1-152 a good training event. I told them "These guys are going to be on our left or right, so make it realistic as possible," said Cox.

Both the 1-152 and the 293rd were mobilized for the first rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom and scores of Soldiers from both units are combat veterans.

Lt. Col. Tim Thombleson, commander of the 1-152, explained the mission was to provide support to civilian authority, establish security for the first responders and restore order to ensure a safe environment for the public.

He and his Soldiers were also impressed with the new facility. "The training opportunities here are incredible," said Thombleson. "The array of one, two and three story buildings and road structure can be used to practice a security task with law enforcement like we are doing here today or practice military operations on urban terrain as training for combat."

The state recently moved the event to the Muscatatuck



Photos by Sgt. Les Newport

**Spc. Matthew Shoda (left) of the 293rd Infantry role-plays a terrorist demanding the release of prisoners held by the U.S. His hostage, Spc. Matthew Thompson of the 293rd, has a bomb strapped to his body.**

Urban Training Center, a state development center scheduled for transfer to the Indiana National Guard in July. The facility was slated for destruction in 2005, but was salvaged as a proposed training site for military and civilian agencies that operate in urban environments.

Lt. Col. Kenneth McCallister, Muscatatuck Site Manager, is overseeing the development of the training center. With nearly seventy structures, including a power plant, hospital and school, McCallister says the site has potential for offering far more than occasional weekend-long training opportunities.

"Plans are in place to conduct training with the Department of Defense and regional civilian agencies in 2005 and 2006," said McCallister. "This is a unique training venue and you won't find anything like this anywhere in the U.S."

Protests, WMD attacks and hostage situations continued well into the night for the 1-152, until the exercise ended sometime after midnight. Maj. Freeland gave them high marks.

"Obviously when you have a unit that has recently returned from deployment, the quality of leadership is going to reflect that. The performance of the Soldiers reflects that," said Freeland. "We would hope that we would never have to call them for this kind of mission, but if we do need them, it's good to know what we can expect."



**Soldiers of B Company, 1-152 Infantry Regiment, Indiana Army National Guard, perform tactical movements at the scene of a simulated hostage crisis.**



# Band of Brothers' legacy lives on through stable

**Lt. Cols. Jim Conway and David Buck**  
172nd Airlift Wing, Public Affairs Office

JACKSON, Miss. – It was a routine day at the 172nd Airlift Wing in Jackson, Mississippi, and a very typical busy day for Lt. Col. Jim Conway, the wing's air operations officer. As the work day neared an end on October 9, 2004, a strange email arrived on Conway's electronic desktop requesting moving a horse stable (circa 1924) from England to Georgia, a 4,000 mile journey.

Compared to the missions the wing's 183rd Airlift Squadron flies in order to conduct aircrew qualification training on its new fleet of C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, this request was as unusual as it was historical. In 1945, the stables housed members of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR).

A few years ago, Mississippi author and historian Stephen Ambrose wrote of a group of some 1,600 courageous World War II paratroopers, members of "Easy Company," of the 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Infantry Division, from Toccoa, Georgia.

The book he wrote, "Band of Brothers", and the movie it inspired, testified to the endurance, ingenuity and persistence that distinguished this group of Soldiers during the war of wars.

The stables became home to the men, with the small stalls affording them safety and the luxury of privacy in the face of a world at war. As paratroopers, their mission was dangerous and treacherous, and the stables provided them a sense of warmth and home while they thought about their families thousands of miles away.

Following the war, the stable was again used for horses, and the men returned to the U.S. to carry on their productive lives.

Over the decades that have passed since those bloody days, the stables and the men have shared a similar history with the stable. The group's numbers are steadily disappear-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Connie Reed

**This group symbolically transferring delivery from the owner, Mr. Michael Steadman (far right) to the Air National Guard, received by Lt Col Jim Conway (far left) assisting are (2nd left) Englishmen Mr. Stephen Sowerby, his father, Keith Sowerby, Mr. Sam McCallum and Mr. Tim Green. They traveled with the cargo to Toccoa, Ga., to re-assemble the stable used by the Band of Brothers during World War II.**

ing as are the old stables 4,000 miles away. In fact, only one stable remains.

When "Band of Brothers" aired on British television, it had the highest viewership of any mini-series in BBC history. The people

of England feel a great affection for the 506th. The idea of rescuing the last stable from eminent bulldozing was that of Chris Anderson, on the staff World War II magazine.

He contacted Brenda Owens, a board member of the Stephens County Historical Society in Georgia about the possibility of saving the stable and relocating it to the home station of the 509th.

She began a quest that took 14 months to accomplish. Michael Stedman, whose land the stables were located in Aldbourne, England, knew that they were a part of history and wanted someone to take on the project of saving them before it was too late. He worked with his neighbor, Keith Sowerby, a master carpenter, to find a way to get the stable to the U.S.

Mr. Sowerby stated, "I called up the British RAF and asked if they might be a gent and let me borrow a C-17". The RAF then contacted the American Ambassador to England. The British Ambassador to America was also contacted, and history was about to be changed.

With the help and involvement of aviators from the 99th Squadron at RAF Brize Norton, and the urging of embassy staff on both sides of the Atlantic, a plan was put into motion to find someone to move the stable to the Historical Society's museum in down-

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**This is a photo of one of the many stables used during World War II by members of the 506th Paratrooper Infantry Regiment. The only remaining stable was dismantled, delivered to Georgia by the 172nd Airlift Wing, and will be reconstructed at Camp Toccoa as a museum and memorial to the "Easy Company," 506th PIR. This and other photos of the stables can be found at the following website: <http://www.savesthestables.com/>.**



FROM PAGE 4

## Brothers



Members of the RAF and members of the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing, load the first pallet of the famed stable onto the 172nd's C-17 Globemaster III, for transport to Dobbins Air Force Base.

town Toccoa, Georgia.

Before they could be contacted, however, several other agencies and governmental officials needed to give their stamp of approval on both side of the Atlantic.

Among them were the UK Ministry of Defense, the U.S. Embassy in London, and the British Embassy in Washington, the United States Air Forces in Europe to the Air Mobility Operations Control Center, the U.S. Transportation Command and Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base; and Headquarters Air Force at the Pentagon, as well as the National Guard Bureau.

Unknown to them all, another band of brothers in Jackson, Mississippi, would carry out the plan for the 'Easy Company' legacy. It was a plan that initially seemed next to

impossible according to Conway.

"There were two hard parts," explained Conway, who became project officer for the mission, "getting information on the load, and getting the mission put together properly. It had to be contributing to the war effort, involve training, and be a legitimate mission."

"Without the assistance Lt. Col. James Hartline, and personnel from our own Operations Support Flight and current operations shop, things here would have been difficult to pull together," Conway said. "We are in the middle of C-17 conversion training and the 'opportune cargo' mission looked grim."

Hope came for the mission at the final hour.

"AMC requested the 172nd to haul 80,000

pounds of needed supplies for Iraq from Charleston Air Force Base to Rhein Main AFB, Germany," said Conway, anxious to relay the good news to their British counterparts.

"Rather than return an empty aircraft to Jackson, it made sense to provide additional training for the crew and pick up this 'opportune cargo', while also allowing time for the 172nd Airlift Wing commander to meet with the leadership of the only squadron outside the United States that flies the C-17.

"It was an exciting mission for him, his first overseas trip in the new aircraft."

"This was a thrill for me to fly on this mission. I was able to get in some stick time, observe my aircrew team in action, meet our counterparts in England, and fly the Cadillac of the airlifters," said Col Mike Brock.

Brock's British counterpart, Commander Spiv Gair of the 99th Squadron, hosted the crew and oversaw the loading of the stable.

"It had been carefully dismantled, and the pieces labeled for reassembly in the spring of 2004, by English carpenters Keith and Stephen Sowerby with the assistance of Sam McCallum and Tim Green.

They were on hand as the six pallets weighing in at over 25,000 pounds, were rolled up the ramp into the cargo compartment of the C-17 December 9, 2004. Members of BBC television and radio, local and county newspapers, and independent photographers documented the historic occasion.

Ten hours after takeoff, the stable arrived in the U.S. Waiting to receive it at Dobbins Air Reserve Base near Atlanta were members of the Stephens County Historical Society, the mayor, the 94th Airlift Wing commander at Dobbins, Brig. Gen. Thomas Stogsdill, and several residents of Toccoa.

They supervised the stables' final journey to



Col. Mike Brock, commander 172nd Airlift Wing, Jackson, Miss. talks to a BBC radio reporter aboard the Guard units' C-17 aircraft on the ramp at RAF Brize Norton, England.

Toccoa, where carpenters will hopefully reconstruct the building in time for next October's annual meeting of the 506th's remaining members.

Along with the building were some of the artifacts of the 506th from WW II, including letters, a hand written check list, and several other items found within the walls of the stable.

Eerily, graffiti scrawled on the stable walls by the 506th paratroopers 60 years ago, are still visible as a reminder of their presence far from their home shores.

Ten proud, but tired, members of the 172nd Airlift Wing left the stable with its new owners and continued home to Jackson, Mississippi, just a few hours' drive north of where the late Stephen Ambrose spent his final years.

They were pilots, Col Mike Brock, Lt Col William Hill, Lt Col Jim Conway, Maj James McDowell, Maj Mike Ugajin; loadmasters Master Sergeant Roger Clark, and Senior Master Sgt. Jim Hansford; and additional support personnel Lt Col David Buck, Technical Sergeant Connie Reed, and Staff Sgt. Jasmine Cook.

Lt. Col. Buck, who served as public affairs officer, said after the mission, "The real irony that runs through this whole story is the ingenuity of the human spirit to endure the circumstances, form a team to accomplish a goal and persist until the job was done.

"Just as our predecessors carved out a niche in history to utilize the stables as squadron offices and quarters, the members of 99th Squadron formed a team, pursued an idea and worked a deal with the Americans to build a museum to preserve both our heritages," Buck said.



Four members of the 506th Paratrooper Infantry Regiment train at Camp Toccoa, Georgia, during World War II.



# Wounded Blackhawk pilot vows to fly again

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – Army National Guard officer Ladda "Tammy" Duckworth did not give a room full of men, including a couple of generals and a legislator from her state of Illinois, any time to feel sorry for her when she was promoted to major on Dec. 21 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The lady in the wheelchair was too busy swapping stories about flying helicopters, asking about her outfit's 300 or so Soldiers still serving in Iraq, and making her point that she plans to continue serving this country. There was no chance for anyone to lament the fact that most of her two legs are missing and that her severely damaged right arm was encased in a hinged splint.

"I hope this is the worst thing that happens to anyone in the 106th during this deployment," the UH-60 Blackhawk pilot smiled warmly on the first day of winter. "This is not so bad. There is always somebody worse off than you are. I'm just glad it was me and not one of my guys out there."

Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, and other leaders from the Army Guard's Readiness Center in nearby Arlington, Va., were there. The adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Randal Thomas, and five other Guard members from Illinois were there. So was State Senator Chris Lauzen from Illinois's 25th District.

They gathered in the afternoon, four days before Christmas, to surprise Duckworth with her promotion from captain to major and to present her with an Air Medal and Army Commendation Medal. She was presented a Purple Heart on Dec. 3.

Duckworth is a native of Hawaii, and her mother and father flew from their home in Pearl City to spend the holidays with her and her husband. Her brother and members of Bowlsbey's family also visited.

Life for Maj. Tammy Duckworth, 36, and her husband, Illinois Army Guard Capt. Bryan Bowlsbey, has changed dramatically since the afternoon of Nov. 12. That's when a rocket propelled grenade hit the chin bubble of the Blackhawk she was piloting in Iraq and exploded between her legs, according to the on-line journal her husband is writing.

Her copilot, from the Missouri Army Guard, landed the crippled Blackhawk before other crewmembers, air ambulance personnel and doctors began working feverishly to save her life, Bowlsbey stated. The helicopter's crew chief, Spc. Kurt Hannemann, from Illinois was apparently hurt but "was listed as not seriously injured," Illinois Guard officials reported.

Duckworth lost half of the blood in her body, said the



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Illinois Army National Guard officer Tammy Duckworth was the center of attention when she was promoted to major on Dec. 21 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Duckworth lost most of both of her legs after the helicopter she was piloting was shot down in Iraq on Nov. 12. Lt. Col. Fred Allen was one of the members of the Illinois Army Guard who attended the promotion ceremony. Allen, who commands the 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation, was Duckworth's commanding officer in Iraq.

woman who had served in Iraq with the Illinois Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation, an assault helicopter unit, since last March. Three bones in her right arm were broken but have since been pinned and plated together.

Nearly all of her right leg has been amputated, and she has lost her left leg beneath the knee. Her left leg will be fitted with a prosthesis, and Duckworth is grasping at every hope that she can also be fitted with a right-leg prosthesis, her husband explained, so she can again fly helicopters or fixed-wing airplanes or at least remain in the Army Guard.

"Remaining a Soldier is her fall-back position," her husband told a reporter while Duckworth talked and joked with her visitors. "She will try to fly Blackhawks with prostheses after a long recovery period. She will go before a medical review board in six months or a year. Their decision may depend on whether she can pass a physical fitness test."

"It's always a privilege to wear the uniform," said Duckworth who has been assured she can return to her civilian job when she is able, her husband added. She is the manager of Rotary service clubs in the Asian-Pacific area for Rotary International.

No one was betting against the determined woman who had undergone surgery many times by Dec. 21 and who gave every impression of having come a long way in the 39 days since being shot down. She was still learning to maneuver her electrically powered wheelchair because it was only the third time she had been up from her bed since arriving at Walter Reed on Nov. 18.

"We're so proud of one of our finest," praised Lauzen. "My first priority is taking care of Soldiers who we are fortunate enough to have come home to us. I'm here to express the love, respect and appreciation of the people of Illinois."

FROM PAGE 1

## Partners

Resort amid the splendor of the snow-covered Alps.

"I think it's important to help stimulate those efforts and to help others understand how our government works," said the woman who has directed Colorado's State Partnership Program since 2000.

Borges has accomplished a great deal while doing the job performed by officers in most of the 42 other states and territories with state partnership programs. At the same time, she has guided her three daughters as they have matured from teenagers toward adulthood. She now has a granddaughter.

The many exchanges and visits that Borges has arranged for Slovenian military people to this country and for Colorado Guard people to Slovenia were instrumental in Slovenia's invitation to join NATO in

November 2002. Slovenia became a NATO member, with six other east European countries, in March 2004.

She developed a Minuteman Fellow program in which high ranking Slovenian government officials met with members of Congress, including the chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, and Army and Air Force officers in Washington, D.C.

Borges placed the first National Guard bilateral affairs officer from Colorado in Slovenia to assist that country's Ministry of Defense. She then flew to Slovenia to help the next bilateral affairs officer write his plan for assisting that country through 2007.

She has, in short, come a long way since loading and unloading planes and trains with a forklift during the year she spent at a Strategic Air Command base in Germany while serving in the active Air Force from 1970-73.

Borges joined the Colorado Air Guard in 1992. She was named the state's airman of the year after her first year back in uniform. She joined the adjutant general's staff in 1998 and took on the State Partnership Program in 2000.

"Deb has great tenacity. She is not overwhelmed by the tyranny of distance," said Whitney. "She is very efficient and very committed to this program. She makes sure that our visitors get the proper respect and honors." Now Borges is working with Col. Jay Gates, Colorado's international partnership officer, and Maj. Amir Hussain at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., to support the new partnership with Jordan which became official last July.

There are some significant differences between Slovenia and Jordan, Whitney pointed out. Slovenia, for example, needed help in developing its corps of noncommis-

sioned officers that the American armed forces take for granted. Jordan already has a mature military organization and is looking for more advanced support with such things as flying and upgrading F-16 jet fighters.

"Jordan already has capable armed forces. It is an island of stability in a sea of turmoil," Whitney said. "They want help with weapons systems. They just got the F-16. They want to know how to train their pilots effectively and how to upgrade the planes."

The Colorado Air Guard can help, Whitney maintained. "We've been flying the F-16 for a long time. We have some of the best F-16 pilots in the world."

Jordan also wants to learn more about flying and maintaining Blackhawk helicopters and about Special Forces, artillery and peacekeeping operations and responding to natural disasters, said Whitney who visited that country for four days.

# Overseas airlift

## Volant Shogun exercise calls upon Alaska Air Guard unit to provide extensive support

By **Captain Candis Olmstead**  
176th Wing, PAO

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – About 15 members and a C-130 Hercules from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing arrived here to support of Pacific Air Forces' Operation Volant Shogun. They joined crews and maintainers along with another aircraft that were here for about month before heading back to Alaska.

The remaining people and assets temporarily assigned at Yokota Air Base will continue supporting PACAF's airlift capabilities in the region.

Volant Shogun, an operation that began in 1998, allows PACAF to task C-130 airlift

units under its command with transportation missions throughout the Asia-Pacific area.

Yokota AB has its own C-130s assigned, however, the heavy demand for airlift in this area – and the support they provide around the globe – requires assistance from other units to pick up some of the slack.

These types of airlift missions in the Pacific region provide transportation for supplies and troops. This can vary from equipment like an all-terrain military vehicle being moved from Guam to Okinawa; to Marines being transported from the Philippines to a base in Japan. Generally, several tasks are accomplished at once, such as the following mission.



Photos by Candis Olmstead

(Above) Master Sgt. Thomas Graham, a propulsion technician in the 176th Maintenance Squadron, finishes up another day at work after the 144th Airlift Squadron lands a C-130 at Andersen AFB, Guam. A B-2, stationed at Andersen, is taxiing in behind him. (Left) Major Blake Gettys, a C-130 pilot in the 144th Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, flies a routine mission in support of Operation Volant Shogun. He is pictured here while flying past Mt. Fuji in Japan, on the way into Yokota Air Base from Guam on March 15.

Alaska Guardsmen from the 176th Wing transported a forklift, a thousand pounds of supplies and equipment, and about ten personnel on one aircraft from the Republic of Philippines to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

In the six months the Alaska Air National Guard has been supporting Volant Shogun, more than 60 members of the 176th wing—from aircrew to maintenance and support teams – have deployed here, in addition to

using two to three of the wing's eight C-130H's at any given time. They have flown into at least 11 countries, including Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, New Zealand and Australia. They've supported repatriation missions (return of military members' remains to home country), tsunami relief and standard airlift throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

## New animal species discovered on Idaho National Guard training range

By **Lt. Col. Tim Marsano**  
Idaho National Guard

Staff members from the Idaho National Guard Joint Environmental Management Office have discovered a species of freshwater shrimp new to science on the Idaho National Guard's training area on U.S. Bureau of Land Management land in Ada and Elmore Counties.

In 1996, Idaho Army National Guard staff members Dana Quinney and Jay Weaver collected a large freshwater fairy shrimp in Tadpole Lake, a normally dry lakebed that fills up in years of abundant water. These staff members had seen the species for many years, but were not able to identify it from published sources. Quinney located a freshwater shrimp expert in Northern California, Christopher Rogers, and sent him the specimens to identify. Rogers compared these Tadpole Lake specimens to the other freshwater fairy shrimp species and found that the Idaho specimens were not identifiable as an existing species because they are a species new to science. Shrimp expert Jorgen Oleson of Denmark contributed scanning electron microscope images of the species that confirmed its unique identity.

Rogers, Quinney, Weaver, and Oleson have described the new species and applied for official nomenclature. The new shrimp is a member of genus Branchinecta, and is a predator that captures and kills smaller species of shrimp. Both known locations for the species are in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. The new species has biting mouth parts and large spines on its legs that aid in the capture of prey. An adult animal is almost 3 inches long. Many species of fairy shrimp closely resemble one another, but the new species is very different from all other species of fairy shrimp. The paper describing the new species, co-authored by Rogers, Quinney, Weaver, and Oleson, has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Crustacean Biology and is currently in press.

The new species occurs only in desert playa lakes, only in years where there is water in them for several weeks during spring months.

Since playa lakes in this training area have not been used for military training for over fifteen years, Idaho National Guard uses of the land should not pose threats to the species or its habitat.

The discovery of the new species is part of

the Idaho Army National Guard ongoing Natural Resources Program. This may be the first time that a species new to science has been discovered and authored by the military.

Professional training and environmental awareness programs ensure the men and women of the Idaho National Guard have learned how to protect and enhance the environment, while fully supporting military training missions. The program is based on four environmental pillars that provide a structure reflecting the National Guard's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Those pillars are:

- \* Compliance with state and federal environmental laws, regulations and presidential executive orders.
- \* Pollution prevention.
- \* Conservation of wetlands, floodplains, endangered species habitats, and historic and cultural sites.
- \* Restoration of areas contaminated by past practices, to include cleanup of polluted sites. We work closely with federal and state regulatory agencies to define appropriate cleanup measures and schedules.



Pictured is the new species of freshwater shrimp discovered by Idaho National Guard Joint Environmental Management staff members. The shrimp on the left is a female and the other, a male.



# IAMMS: International Association of

FROM PAGE 1

## IAMMS

tain infantry Soldier for 16 years.

"I've got a mom and dad, and they love me. I've got four kids, and I love them," Fitzgerald said. "It's very important that you train people to the standard that you would want your own son or daughter to be trained to. It makes them, as well as their nation, stronger."

It's also important to know how your allies train and equip their troops and what they can do before you go to war, Fitzgerald added.

"In this era, you can find yourself in a theater with a multinational force," he said. "The time to train together and understand who you're fighting with and their capabilities is before you get into the theater."

That's what these IAMMS conferences are all about. Rescuing victims from avalanches was the primary topic of this year's conference, but it also featured a demonstration by the Mountain Warfare School's staff about how snow can be used to make defensive positions that are effective against small-arms fire.

Forty-four men from 16 countries, including mountain school leaders from Argentina and India, attended the conference that was as much of a cultural occasion as it was an exercise in mountain training, techniques and equipment. Argentina is an observer nation. India was one of three guest nations.

"Everyone here is at the top of their game in mountaineering and climbing," said Fitzgerald of the men who train in terrain named the Alps, the Andes and the Himalayas.

"We are the only school in India that teaches high altitude survival – between 18,000 and 20,000 feet," said Brig. Rajinder Langeh. "We train people from all of our neighboring countries except Pakistan."

"The significance of this symposium is that all of the mountain schools can meet each other and can't talk together so we can take experiences from all countries," explained Wyrsh who is also commandant of the Swiss Army Mountain School.

IAMMS was started in Switzerland in the early 1960s, Wyrsh said, because other countries were interested in what the Swiss mountain corps was doing. Switzerland invited Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Spain to come see for themselves.

"These other countries were interested to meet each other every year, so it has grown up," Wyrsh added. The annual symposiums are alternately held during the winter and summer.



Soldiers from all nations saluted every flag as the anthems of the 16 participating nations were played during the Feb. 28 opening ceremonies of the International Association of Military Mountaineering Schools' 39th annual conference held at the U.S. Army's Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt. for the first time.



Soldiers watched their international colleagues climb an ice-covered workout wall.

See IAMMS On Page 9



# of Military Mountaineering Schools

FROM PAGE 8

## IAMMS



Vermont Army National Guard Soldiers (above and bottom right), instructors demonstrate their skills at scaling a wall of ice on Mount Mansfield.



A U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School instructor checks an automatic weapon for a United Kingdom Soldier on a snow-covered range.

"I think it's become a very successful organization," said Wyrsh. "It's a unique way to bring these countries together. The discussions are very good. It's always better to talk, of course."

The school in Vermont may be short on altitude. It is based near 4,393-foot Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. But it has grown long on expertise since 1994 when it was designated as the Army's mountain warfare school.

It has a total staff of 56, and its 30 instructors have trained U.S. Special Forces Soldiers, Ranger trainers, Navy SEALs, and light infantry Soldiers on active duty and in the Army Guard's mountain infantry battalion during the five summer and three winter courses it conducts each year, Fitzgerald explained.

It has sent instructors to Afghanistan to serve as advisors for the Afghan National Army, and it has sent mobile training teams to help Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan establish their own mountain schools. The school trains between 500 and 700 troops each year, Fitzgerald said. There is a fundamental, cultural difference with other IAMMS members, staff members pointed out.

"Many of those schools train mountaineers to be soldiers," Fitzgerald said. "We train Soldiers to be mountaineers."

"In Europe, mountaineering is a lifestyle. It's a status symbol," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Cheney, one of the instructors. "It's not that way in this country. But when we get together like this we all learn things from each other."





# 256th Brigade Soldier honored with Bronze Star for Valor

By Spc. Erin Robicheaux

256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP AL TAHREER, Baghdad, Iraq -- Sgt. David Bernal puts heart and soul into his job as a civilian police officer in Staten Island, New York, and his work ethics are only mirrored as a Soldier fighting the war on terror.

Bernal is the recipient of the 256th Brigade Combat Team's first Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. This particular award is reserved for Soldiers who exemplify valor and courage beyond the normal call of duty.

Bernal is a member of Company D, 101st Cavalry, but the 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment is lucky to have him attached for the deployment. On a fateful night in December, as families across America were warm and cozy in their homes enjoying the holiday season, Bernal and his fellow Soldiers were in a fight for their lives.

"We went back into the kill zone and used our vehicles to push the others out of the road and before long all of the vehicles were disabled," Bernal remembered. "We jumped out of them and did individual movements into a berm about 500 meters away and held the fight there."

Bernal reflected on the events that led up to this struggle, and explained why he felt the need to repeatedly put his own life in danger.

He said that it was an average patrol, their third since arriving into Baghdad, and they

were still doing ride-alongs with the 10th Mountain Division. They were in an area where a unit had previously been hit during the day with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and small arms fire. They had four vehicles and as they made a turn onto Route Avalanche, he had a clear view of what happened next.

"I was in the last vehicle so I could see everything," he said. "We (the vehicles in the front) started receiving RPGs and small arms fire from one direction."

Bernal recalled that when those vehicles tried to move away, a tractor trailer came in and blocked the rest of the vehicles off. When that happened the convoy started to get hit from the other direction. Someone came over the radio and gave alternate directions to Bernal and his crew, but when they were reunited with the front half of the convoy, they only had two vehicles. The problem was that the vehicles on the other side of the ambush assumed the same thing, and thought that each other was in the kill zone. Bernal turned back. When his truck got to the scene the other two trucks were dead and the Soldiers started to receive heavy weapons fire.

"We used our trucks to move the others out of the kill zone," Bernal said, "but before long all of the vehicles were disabled."

*"We used our trucks to move the others out of the kill zone."*

— Sgt. David Bernal

That's when the 256th Soldiers took to the ground and began pounding the earth to find cover in a berm. He said that they sat there for a couple of hours and eventually either the enemy ran out of ammunition or they just couldn't proceed any further. After that, the American troops just waited for recovery assets.

When asked of what was running through his mind through all of this, Bernal smiled slyly as he recalled that all he could think of were his buddies' lives. "They all owe me money," he said smirking. "It's kind of hard to get cash around here sometimes."

It wasn't long before Bernal and the rest of the survivors of the event were right back out doing their duty. He said that three days later they all decided together that it would be best to get right back into the saddle. They felt that the longer they sat back and dwelled on it the easier it would be to start asking the question, "Why am I here?"

He said that they were all a little anxious to be going back to the same area.

"We drove past the area, stopped, and took a look around to check the enemy positions out (from that night). They were well fortified."

Bernal said that no matter what happens from here on out, he has full confidence in his fellow Soldiers and in the lessons that



Photo by Spc. Erin Robicheaux

**Brig. Gen. John Basilica, Jr., commanding general of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, presents Sgt. David Bernal from Staten Island, NY, and of Company D, 101st Cavalry, attached to 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, with the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. Bernal is the first Soldier from the brigade to receive the honor.**

they've all learned.

"If it's one thing that the military has taught me, it's that if you're on the other side of our ambush, you usually don't make it out."

## The National Guard Bureau Family Program: Changing to meet the needs of today's Guard

By Michelle Bohlen

National Guard Bureau

The National Guard Bureau Family Program (NGB-FP) has embarked on a new and exciting time of transformation. As Guardsmen continue to transition from "Citizen-Soldier" mode to positions at the forefront of the Global War on Terrorism, family support has become a critical factor.

The highest priority of Lt. Col. Anthony Baker, Sr., chief of Family Programs, is to provide families with the assistance they need to cope with mobilization, deployment, reunion and reintegration.

"We are living and operating in challenging times as we fight the GWOT," said Baker recently. "The events of September 11, 2001, will never be forgotten and have forever changed the world in which we live."

Baker pointed out that when the National Guard responds to the call, Guard members are separated from their loved ones, jobs, communities and social settings. In response, he said, "we must mobilize every resource we have to assist our service members and their families in regaining their footing, regardless of whether the service member was deployed abroad or within the U.S. states and territories."

A strong joint service family support network coupled with community agencies organized in each state and territory by the state Family Program directors and reinforced by Wing Family Program coordinators at each Air National Guard Wing,

assures that all units and states can readily communicate with each other and that no family falls between the cracks. The 54 State Family Program directors and 88 Wing Family Program coordinators are the primary resource in providing family readiness support to service members and families regardless of component.

The resources of the Family Assistance Centers are also available to service members and their families throughout the country. FACs are strategically placed in each state and territory to overcome the geographic distance that frequently separates families from centralized, installation-based service providers. They are the primary entry point for all service members and provide information, referral, and outreach support to military family members during the deployment process - a process that encompasses preparation (pre-deployment), sustainment (actual deployment), and reunion (reintegration). FACs are not just an indispensable pillar of support for families of deployed Soldiers - they also provide critical assistance to demobilizing Soldiers and promote the long-term health and welfare of military family units.

To further assist families with the deployment process, Family Programs has launched two new online communities; [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org) and [www.guardfamilyyouth.org](http://www.guardfamilyyouth.org). These Web sites provide National Guard families with vital information for meeting the challenges associated with deployment, demobilization, and other

events. Guardsmen and their families also have access to the Guard Family Action Plan (GFAP) and Guard Family Team Building (GFTB) programs, both of which are designed to help families and communities cope with the challenges of military life.

The GFAP employs a "grassroots" process derived from one developed by the Army Family Action Plan to direct actions aimed at improving the National Guard community's family programs, benefits and entitlements. Guardsmen, family members and other stakeholders can submit quality-of-life issues to the GFAP team through their Web site, [www.gfap.org](http://www.gfap.org). The GFAP team then determines what actions are necessary to resolve the issue and assigns responsibility for these actions to the proper staff agency.

The GFTB program's specially designed education and training curriculum is modeled after a successful curriculum developed by the Army Family Team Building program. Guardsmen, family members, retirees, civilian employees and interested community members can participate in numerous online training exercises from the program's Web site at [www.gftb.org](http://www.gftb.org). GFTB courses focus on all aspects of life within the military, specifically the National Guard. Courses include Introduction To The National Guard, Conflict Management, Effective Leadership, and others.

In addition to meeting the needs of the family unit, NGB-FP has taken steps towards addressing the needs of youth, having recent-

ly launched the development phase of its National Youth Program. Family Programs also recently hired a National Youth Program Manager, who will be responsible for standardization, accountability, guidance, training, resources, and communication within the program.

Also hired were seven Regional Youth Coordinators, who will work within the states and territories. These coordinators will bring a wide range of expertise and experience to tasks associated with the creation and implementation of the National Youth Program.

Baker's vision calls for an NGB-FP made up of "a strong network of volunteers allied with the Active and Reserve components that includes members of federal, state, and local agencies; private corporations, and veterans' and volunteer service organizations." According to Baker, such a network would support our service members "regardless of service component." It would also support their families "before, during and after mobilizations and deployments."

By providing education, outreach services, partnerships and training and by constantly capitalizing on new capabilities, NGB-FP strives to establish and maintain communication, involvement, support and recognition between National Guard families and the National Guard.

To learn more about Family Programs, or to locate your State Family Program Office, please visit [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org).



# Bonuses pay big dividends in recruiting and retention

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – A substantial increase in enlistment and reenlistment bonuses for Army National Guard Soldiers that the chief of the National Guard Bureau announced in mid-December has begun to pay dividends, according to the Army Guard's Strength Maintenance Division.

Some of the bonuses have been increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000. All are for enlisted personnel except for one earmarked for officers and warrant officers.

Guard officials continue to make a concerted effort to inform all Guard Soldiers about what is available to them if they remain in uniform as well as what is available to people who want to join the Army Guard for the first time and how much is available to people who join the Army Guard after leaving active duty service.

These are the bonuses that LTG H Steven Blum, the Guard Bureau's chief, announced in December when he said "We're putting our money where our mouth is." They have been spelled out in a recent edition of GX magazine based on information from the Army National Guard.

The Army Guard is offering a six-year, prior-service enlistment bonus of \$15,000 with a payment schedule of 50 percent at the time of enlistment and 50 percent at the fourth-year anniversary.

The Guard is also offering a two period, three-year enlistment option of \$7,500 for the first three years and \$6,000 for the second three years. The payment schedule is 50 percent at the beginning of the three-year commitment and 50 percent upon completion of that commitment.

The Army Guard is offering a six-year reenlistment, or extension, bonus of \$15,000 payable in a lump sum upon the reenlistment or extension. It is also offering a two period, three-year reenlistment, or extension, bonus of \$7,500 for the first three years and \$6,000 for the second three years. The payment schedule for that option is a lump sum upon the reenlistment or extension. Soldiers with no more than 16 years of service are eligible for this bonus.

The Army Guard is also offering \$2,000 bonuses to Soldiers who agree to retrain into a critical military occupational specialty (MOS) to meet the Army Guard's needs. The payment will be made in a

lump sum upon completion of the training in the new MOS. This bonus cannot run concurrently with any other incentives that the Soldier has.

There is also incentive for new people to join the Army National Guard.

It is offering non-prior service enlistment bonuses of up to \$10,000 for a six-year enlistment. The Guard will pay 50 percent of that bonus upon successful completion of individual advanced training and the other 50 percent at the end of the fourth year.

Here is the breakdown:

-- \$10,000 for enlisting in one of the Army Guard's 10 most critical military occupational specialties. Those are infantryman, cannon crewmember, combat engineer, military police, light-wheel vehicle mechanic, motor transport operator, health care specialist, automated logistical specialist, food service specialist, and unit supply specialist.

-- \$6,000 to non-prior service Soldiers who choose to train in a MOS that is considered critical to the readiness of that Soldier's state. States cannot exceed 30 MOS's.

-- \$2,000 bonuses to non-prior service Soldiers who agree to perform their initial One Stop Unit Training during the off-peak months of October through May.

The Army Guard is offering \$50 for each month of obligation to another military service provided the individual agrees to join the Army Guard. The Soldiers must be assigned to a vacancy for which they are MOS qualified. The MOS must have been awarded while the Soldier was on active duty.

The Army Guard is offering \$6,000 bonuses for newly commissioned officers and warrant officers and for officers affiliating from active duty. The rate of pay will

## Show me the money



**Prior Service:** The Army Guard is offering a 6-year prior-service enlistment bonus of \$15,000 and a two to three-year enlistment option at a rate of \$7,500 for the first three-year and \$6,000 for the second three-years.

**Re-Enlistment:** The Army Guard offers a 6-year re-enlistment/extension bonus for \$15,000 payable in a lump sum upon re-enlistment/extension and two-3-year reenlistment/extension options paid at \$7,500 for the first three-years and \$6,000 for the second three-years.

be 50 percent upon commissioning and the other 50 percent on the 24-month anniversary of commissioning. Officers joining the Guard from active duty will receive 50 percent upon the execution of their contract. The other 50 percent will be paid on the 24-month anniversary of the contract.

A \$20,000 Student Loan Repayment Program is being offered as an enlistment option for non-prior service people. Soldiers must have existing student loans when they enlist. Loans established or disbursed after the date of enlistment will not be reimbursed. This bonus is good only for the initial enlistment.

People interested in obtaining more information about the increased bonuses can call their local Army National Guard recruiters.

## The Guard needs:

11B – INFANTRYMAN  
13B – CANNON CREWMEMBER  
21B – COMBAT ENGINEER  
31B – MILITARY POLICE  
63B – LIGHT-WHEEL VEHICLE MECHANIC  
88M – MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATOR  
91W – HEALTH CARE SPECIALIST  
92A – AUTOMATED LOGISTICAL SPECIALIST  
92G – FOOD SERVICE SPECIALIST  
92Y – UNIT SUPPLY SPECIALIST

**\$2,000 bonuses to Soldiers who agree to retrain into a critical military occupational specialty (MOS) to meet the Army Guard's needs.**

# Re-enlistments up by 73 percent after bonus announcement

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army National Guard has retained 73 percent more soldiers during the past three months than it retained during the same period last year, officials reported on Good Friday.

That was the good news from people like Army Guard Maj. Gregg Bliss and Maj. Ronald Lee Jr. who are responsible for keeping Soldiers in the Guard. Bliss is chief of the Retention Branch for the Army Guard. Lee is the Incentives Program Manager for the Strength Maintenance Division.

They are among the Recruiting and Retention people who are striving to make sure the Army Guard meets its goal of 350,000 Soldiers by Oct. 1.

Those men credit this year's significant increase in reenlistment bonuses and the retention teams currently serving with Guard Soldiers in combat zones as among the reasons why many more men and women are remaining in the Guard during the global war on terrorism.

The bonuses have been increased from the maximum amount of \$5,000 to as much as \$15,000 for Soldiers who reenlist or extend their periods of service by six years.

"We want to keep our Soldiers. We're putting our money

where our mouth is," said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, when he announced the increase in bonuses in mid-December.

The retention numbers have more than doubled since then. Lee reported that 3,106 more Guard Soldiers reenlisted from Dec. 14, 2004 to March 25, 2005, than reenlisted during the same time in 2003-04.

The total was 5,388 reenlistments for the most recent quarter, when the maximum bonuses have been \$15,000, as opposed to 2,282 reenlistments for the same quarter during the previous year, when the maximum bonuses were \$5,000, he said.

"The new bonuses have been a great tool for retaining our force," Lee said. "The impact is about on line with where I thought it would be. I suspected we'd get a pretty high reenlistment rate. A lump sum payment of \$15,000 is pretty significant."

He cited three reasons for the success.

-- The maximum bonuses have been increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

-- The maximum number of years of service for which Guard Soldiers are eligible for these bonuses have been increased from 14 to 16.

-- Soldiers who have already received one reenlistment bonus can get another bonus for reenlisting again.

More money is available for other incentives, such as the G.I. Bill for Soldiers who wish to continue their education, said Lee who explained his budget for all incentives is \$307 million for this fiscal year compared to \$229.5 million for 2004.

He cited other factors that are also working in the Army Guard's favor.

The number of recruiters has been increased from 2,700 to 4,100. That means there are more people on duty to recruit new Soldiers and work with those who are thinking about leaving the Guard.

Cells of retention Soldiers have been deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan to encourage Soldiers whose enlistments are nearing an end to remain in the Guard after they return to their homes.

Leaders are listening to the families' comments about why the Soldiers are getting out, and they are addressing those concerns.

"It helps with retention to identify and do something about the factors that keep people from reenlisting," Bliss said.

"We've gotten a lot smarter about keeping Soldiers," he added. "Therefore, more are staying in to take advantage of the incentives that are available to them."



# Family readiness is key in the War on Terror

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Paula Golladay has lots of advice for the families of National Guard troops who are preparing to go to war.

Organize. Set up a telephone tree or phone-calling roster for the families before the soldiers or airmen leave home. Have a family readiness group representative where the troops are being processed to ensure that powers of attorney, wills and other family matters are attended to. Make sure the spouses who remain behind know where the life insurance policies can be found, where the safe deposit box is located, and when the car next needs an oil change.

Oh yeah, find a Michelle Nelson. You're going to need someone like her.

Such are the lessons that Golladay has learned as president of the family readiness group for a Virginia Army National Guard infantry unit that is serving in Afghanistan.

The wife of recently promoted Sgt. Maj. Robert Golladay is the leader for the group of families whose 180 men of Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry were deployed to Fort Bragg, N.C. for training last March, then to Afghanistan last July and who, if all goes well, will come home late this summer.

The company is based in the northern Virginia city of Winchester, but typical of many Guard units, the families live all over the map - in northern and western Virginia, in Richmond and Virginia Beach, and in West Virginia - and as such, do not have the support that families have who live on a military base.

Among this far-flung group of families, Michelle Nelson is the go-to person. She is the wife of the company's commander, Capt. Mark Nelson. She has earned her spurs as a leader while caring for her own family of three daughters, ages 2, 8 and 14, during her husband's absence.

Several thousand family readiness groups, formerly called family assistance and family support, have been organized across the country for National Guard units in the 15 years since many Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen began being mobilized for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Subsequent deployments to Bosnia, Kosovo and now to Iraq and Afghanistan have reinforced the need to care for the families. Many of the families get upset and frustrated early into the deployments because they don't understand how the military works, Golladay and Nelson observed.

The most effective family readiness groups have a Michelle Nelson, a go-to person, said Dorothy Ogilvy-Lee, the former director of Family Programs at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

"I can't imagine a group being successful without a go-to person. A group has to have a pivot. A leader will emerge," explained Ogilvy-Lee who retired last June after devoting 20 years to developing and nurturing Guard family groups. She



Nelson

*"She ran between me and Winchester to take care of the two families who lost the soldiers. If it weren't for Michelle, I could not have functioned. I could not drive myself to therapy. She truly was my guardian angel."*

– Paula Golladay referring to Nelson.

believes they are important because "If stuff starts falling apart back here, it will rip a unit apart."

Nelson, who does not work outside the home, has stepped up to be the pivot for the Winchester group even though she did not originally believe the commander's wife should automatically assume that role.

She has worked with Paula Golladay to help the families get through their first difficult month of separation, to address problems with pay and TRICARE, and to organize regional telephone trees so the families can stay connected. She has arranged for food, limousines and bagpipes for the funerals of the unit's two soldiers killed by an improvised explosive device last Aug. 7, three weeks after they got to Afghanistan. At the same time she was helping Paula, whose right foot was partially amputated due to osteoporosis.

She has helped put on a picnic for the families in August, a car wash and bake sale in September, and a catered Christmas party in December.

The list goes on. She encouraged one young mother to get the Red Cross to request that her husband remain home on leave for an extra week to help care for their new daughter who was born in late November. The request was granted. She helped organize a candlelight vigil for the families - and the entire Winchester community - on March 4, the first anniversary of the company's deployment.

"The toughest time was the first month after the men left," recalled Nelson. Although some families were ready, others were not. "It's always difficult for National Guard families to adjust to an active duty deployment, especially to a war zone. Many wives are not involved in their husbands' Guard activities. Now, I think all of the families have fallen into a nice level plane.

"This job is more involved if it's done right than I thought it would be," added Nelson following the group's monthly

meeting in late February. It was held at the American Legion Post in Winchester. Timothy Hickey, a representative for the Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association, addressed members of about 40 families on adequate life insurance coverage.

That has been one of the main concerns since the two soldiers, Staff Sgt. Craig Cherry and Sgt. Bobby Beasley, were killed. Both were married. Cherry had two children from a previous marriage and an infant with his current wife, Nelson explained.

"That was a devastating wakeup call for all of the families," said Paula Golladay who wears a Blue Star pin on her lapel because her husband is serving in harm's way. "That's when the families with the most problems started asking the tough questions" about adequate insurance and final arrangements, she added.

Michelle Nelson has striven to provide those answers and to help in other ways. She has made many friends in the process.

"No one would have known anything about me if it hadn't been for Michelle," said Jessica McPeak who explained that several women in the family group called her before her daughter Clara was born Nov. 26 and have called to check on her since.

Paula Golladay cannot say enough about what Nelson has done for her since she lost part of her right foot on Aug. 10. Her husband, then the Headquarters Company's first sergeant, could not come home. It was three days after the two soldiers were killed.

"She ran between me and Winchester to take care of the two families who lost the soldiers. If it weren't for Michelle, I could not have functioned. I could not drive myself to therapy," said Golladay who was incapacitated for five months. "She truly was my guardian angel."

## Guardmembers located missing man during two-day aerial search

By Kalei Brooks

Alaska National Guard

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – A caribou hunter who had been missing for two days is now in contact with rescuers after the Alaska Air National Guard spotted him during an aerial search on March 16.

An HC-130 Hercules from the 211th Rescue Squadron with pararescuers on board from the 212th Rescue Squadron found the missing man in an area about 40 miles north of King Salmon. The man, who is approximately 35 years old, had been missing for two days.

"The two saw a caribou herd and somehow got separated when they went after it," said Maj. Mike Stowers, of the RCC. "Weather moved in and both spent the night outside of camp," Stowers said.

One hunter made it back to base camp the following day. The RCC said Alaska State Troopers reported receiving 911 calls from the missing man saying he needed help and was holed up in a snow cave. However, he was unable to give his exact location and condition because the communication link was broken up several times.

An HC-130 Hercules and a HH-60

*"The two saw a caribou herd and somehow got separated when they went after it. Weather moved in and both spent the night outside of camp."*

– Maj. Mike Stowers

Pavehawk from Kulis Air National Guard Base searched the area that evening, but fog and some low clouds made the attempt unsuccessful. An HC-130 Hercules was launched again the next morning and was able to locate the missing man in the afternoon. Guardmembers dropped a radio to the

hunter to coordinate with a civilian aircraft to transport the man out of the area, Stowers said. Three civil aircraft took part in the search efforts.

The Air National Guard was credited with one save for this mission, bringing the total number of saves to 15 so far in 2005.



# State Partnership develops an inroad to Africa

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

GARMISCH, Germany - Army National Guard Col. David Sheppard has a friend in the right place at the right time. The place is South Africa. The time is now - when the United States European Command is striving to make new inroads into Africa. A good part of that effort depends on the National Guard's State Partnership Program.

Sheppard, the deputy adjutant general for the New York National Guard, has become friends with Col. Eddie Drost, deputy commandant of the South African army's war college, over the past two years. They compared notes and swapped stories about their country's military forces while attending the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., during two weeks in 2003 and again in 2004.

New York formed a state partnership alliance with South Africa last year. The initiation ceremony took place in South Africa in August. Three other partnerships with African countries have been formed between North Dakota and Ghana, Utah and Morocco, and Wyoming and Tunisia. Furthermore, Sheppard said, New York would like to expand its horizons and form a partnership with Botswana, South Africa's neighbor to the north.

"The National Guard Bureau asked us to work with South Africa," Sheppard explained. "We're very excited about this partnership and about expanding into Botswana."

The European Command (EUCOM) is encouraging other states to do the same thing because Africa is its newest frontier. That was the message that Air Force Gen. Charles Wald, the European Command's deputy commander, delivered to National Guard leaders from 23 states during The Adjutants General State Partnership Program 2005 Conference in mid-March.



**Maj. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of U.S. European Command Reserve Affairs, is confident the National Guard's State Partnership Program can play a vital role in making Africa more stable.**

Africa seemed a long way from the snow-covered Alps that towered over the new Edelweiss Lodge and Resort for U.S. military personnel in southern German's Bavarian region where Air Guard Maj. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the European Command's Reserve Affairs, hosted the conference.

Wald and other European Command staff members, however, insisted that promoting regional stability and civil-military relationships with African nations, which are among EUCOM's 91 countries, is their next major challenge.

"The European Command is looking at the new realities," Wald said. "We cannot allow the African continent to become another Afghanistan. Those countries could become places for terrorists to rest. We don't want that to happen."

LTG H Steven Blum addressed that concern in July 2003, a few months after becoming chief of the National Guard Bureau. "I want to assure you that I remain committed to the State Partnership Program," he told Guard leaders from the 54 states and territories. "It is readily apparent with the global war on terrorism that the United States must remain fully engaged in the international community."

Western Europe, where 84 percent of the EUCOM forces are located, has been stable for a long time thanks to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Eastern Europe has grown considerably more stable and secure in the 15 years since the demise of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, officials pointed out. Ten of those countries have joined NATO since 1999.

So it's time to change.

"We have to transform our operations to the southern and eastern part of our area of responsibility," said Maj. Gen. Jonathan Gration, EUCOM's director of strategy, policy and assessment. "We have to prepare contingencies for peace as well as for war. That is our main concern."

The National Guard has the people and the experience to support that effort because of its State Partnership Program. It also has the confidence of the European Command's commander. "I want to dot the map of African with SPP," stated Marine Corps Gen. James Jones, the supreme allied commander for Europe and the EUCOM commander. His message resonated throughout the conference even though he could not attend.

Why the State Partnership Program? The National Guard program has proven to be a force for international peace and goodwill since it was established in 1993 to help former Eastern Bloc countries learn about democracy.

It aligns states with nations around the world to help them develop modern military forces, learn the concept of civilian control of the military, and establish civil-military relationships that benefit the public during civil emergencies.

Now, 42 states, two territories and the District of Columbia are partnered with 48 countries in Europe, Asia and Central and South America. Colorado last year formed a partnership with Jordan, the first Middle East country to join the program.

Virtually all of NATO's 10 newest countries had state partnerships before they were admitted to that organization. Leaders of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland pointedly asked nearly half of this country's adjutants general to help them get into NATO during a landmark meeting in Belgium in March 1996. They became NATO members in 1999.

The partnerships generally start as affiliations between National Guard members and military people from the



**Col. David Sheppard, deputy adjutant general for the New York National Guard, has helped expand the State Partnership Program into South Africa.**

various countries. But they expand into the civilian sectors. Moldova, for example, is partnered with North Carolina. Last year North Carolina medical personnel vaccinated more than 10,000 Moldovan children for hepatitis.

European Command leaders believe that the State Partnership Program can make the same impact in Africa.

"It is astounding to me how important the program is to my bosses," marveled McKinley, the first National Guard general to direct EUCOM's Reserve Affairs. "This wonderful program that has developed over the last 12 years is ready to move to the next level. That's what this conference has accomplished."

There are concerns.

"The cultural climate in Africa is much different than it was in Eastern Europe in the early '90s. Please help us to know what we have to do," John Finney, Ph.D., said to EUCOM representatives. Finney is Blum's political advisor.

"The cultural differences are indeed significant," McKinley acknowledged. "We will have to study the needs and the best ways to begin the relationships." But he pointed out that what is considered a small effort by people in this country, such as drilling a well for a village, can make a huge impact in Africa.

Furthermore, bridging cultural differences is nothing new to people who have already been involved with State Partnership Programs in such places as Romania, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan.

New York, for example, has been associated with New Jersey in its partnership with Albania. Now, Empire State Guard officials have formed their own partnership with South Africa - enhanced by the friendship of two colonels.

"We have the opportunity," said McKinley, "to create a whole new history for the State Partnership Program that is vital for the stability of Africa."



# Contacting a Family Program Coordinator near you

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

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# Brothers' relationship leads to improvements in village life

By Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis

Office of Military Cooperation – Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan – This is a massive world we live in, with places many people have never heard of. At times in the United States we hear of small disadvantaged countries seeking help, through volunteer workers or requests for monetary donations to help impoverished cities.

Then sometimes events happen so oddly we use the phrase, "it's a small world."

One of those events is taking place in Afghanistan.

An Afghan man who lived in Kama District (near Jalalabad) left years ago because Afghanistan was war-torn. He fled to the United States, though he never forgot about his home or his concern for his people.

After several years in the United States, he secured a job with the County of Portland, Ore. While doing well in the United States, he started a project called the Kama Relief Corporation—an organization to get help for his small province.

The gentleman would often share his enthusiasm with his co-worker, Daniel Erpenbach, and seek to get the word out about his project.

Erpenbach asked his brother, Montana Army National Guardsman Maj. Donald Erpenbach, if he would like to help support this project in the District of Kama, Afghanistan.

Like many programs in the world, unless someone has a direct knowledge of its benefits it tends to be forgotten.

Months passed and Erpenbach prepared to deploy with his National Guard unit. His destination was Afghanistan. The unit's mission was to train the Afghan National Army as part of Task Force Phoenix III assigned to Pol-e-Charkhie.

Once in Afghanistan, he continued to receive e-mails from



An Afghan National Army soldier holds the future of Afghanistan in his arms. The soldier is part of the Armor Kandak (Battalion) with 3rd brigade ANA.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Mack Davis

**An officer with the 3rd brigade, Afghan National Army, speaks to a group of village elders in the district of Kama. While the ANA was in Kama visiting a relief project, they spoke with the elders about how they could help in supporting the government of Afghanistan.**

his brother. One e-mail reminded him about his friend and his district in Kama. Erpenbach, now the 3rd Brigade Embedded Training Team's Operations Officer for the ANA, said he would take a look at what type of support he could provide.

Eventually the 3rd Brigade ANA deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Erpenbach said he remembered the Kama district was near his troops' deployed location, and he sent an e-mail to his brother asking him to send a list of what support the area needed. Montana Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Arnie Marquart, 3rd ETT commander, had a Commander's Emergency Relief Program fund. Some projects in Afghanistan he deems emergencies can receive help.

Once Erpenbach received the Kama Relief Corporation list, he created a second list of items that qualified for relief funds; Marquart insisted that the ANA be involved.

Indiana Army National Guardsman Lt. Col. Edward Jordan, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Kandak (battalion) commander and Afghan Army Col. Abdul Qafim, went to see the village elders to determine which projects the village needed most.

"Although the request was made through a non-governmental organization, we wanted the village elders to tell us their needs," said Erpenbach.

Coordination was made through the local non-governmental organization, a local contractor, Mirwize, and ANA officials to meet with the village elders to evaluate needs and forecast cost.

Fund projects cannot exceed \$25,000, said Erpenbach.

They decided to support the elementary school of Moulavi Ibrahim in the Village of Daragali. The school has 500 students and meets in a canyon of small mountains, without any school facilities. The school needed a road to help get children down a one-quarter-mile path. The road would make it easier for cabs and cars to drop the children off. The school also requested and received a well.

Plans also included installing three additional wells for the village area: two community wells that provide potable water for approximately 60 homes, and another well for the school of Guj in the village of Sergal.

While the projects sounded relatively simple, location prevented them from being easily completed.

The road, while short in distance, was on the edge of a rocky mountain.

Contract workers had to bring jack hammers in to chisel away the boulders so that the path could be widened, said Mirwize. The opposite side of the path was supported by a stone wall, because the road would be three feet above ground level. The road needed additional drainage to prevent water from running down the mountain and eroding it, he said.

Of the four wells to be drilled, two were down a three-mile path deep into the village. This required the contractor to have the drilling equipment slowly moved into the area, fighting a line of trees and plowed fields.

All this was difficult for a contractor who had agreed to receive payment after all the sites had passed Marquart's inspection.

Marquart, Erpenbach and some of the 3rd Brigade's Afghan Army staff left Kabul recently for a six-hour journey to meet with the ANA's 3rd Kandak in Jalalabad.

The following day the group met with the Kama district elders to inspect the contractor's work and talk with the elders. The day was still crisp following a day of rain.

The meeting location was the site of the Ibramim Elementary School.

The elders welcomed the group with open arms. There were a lot of smiles as the elders discussed how much they appreciated the military taking an interest in their small village. While the ANA had village elders with smiles on their faces, they also spoke with them about needing their support. An ANA staff officer told them the army is always ready to assist them in their needs and their desire to have peace in Afghanistan. The officer also told the elders if they had young men sitting around in the ages of 20 through 25 they should encourage them to join the ANA.

The rest of the day was spent with children of the elementary school and inspecting the construction projects in Kama.

Word of mouth between two brothers jump-started this project, to the benefit of the Kama District, which received a new road and wells. But the ANA also gained new respect for its services and professionalism and a chance to tell young men why they should be a part of their country's Army.