

# THE ON GUARD

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National Guard Soldiers spearheaded WWII campaigns. Page 13.

## Responding to WMD on a national scale

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. – Staff Sgt. Scott Nidy returned to some old stomping grounds, where he once trained as a Marine, to help the National Capital Region train for a new mission during the second week in August.

Nidy, a medical technician, was among 114 members of the West Virginia National Guard who were flown to northern Virginia to help test a plan for quickly bringing in outside forces should terrorists attack this country's capital with weapons of mass destruction.

"The place hasn't changed much at all," said Nidy while working in a blue mobile medical lab parked at Camp Upshur, a training area of Quonset huts where he perfected his Marine combat skills about 20 years ago.

But the mission has changed a great deal. No one was nearly as concerned about terrorist attacks against this country in the mid-1980s as they are now – nearly four years after the Sept. 11 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. And offi-

cialists believe it's only a matter of time before terrorists strike again.

That is why the National Capital Region's Joint Force Headquarters conducted its first Joint Reception Staging Onward Movement and Integration/Base Support Installation exercise in the wooded terrain of the Marine Corps's sprawling base. Approximately 250 people took part in the readiness exercise. It was praised as a promising first effort.

The West Virginia National Guard provided the people, and their equipment, to make the exercise near Washington as realistic as possible. They belonged to the state's 35th Civil Support Team and its CERFP who are trained to support local authorities following an attack with an agent or weapon that could kill or incapacitate many people. CERFP is short for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Yield Explosive Response Force Package.

The West Virginia Air Guard used C-130 transport planes from its 130th Airlift Wing to fly those units from Charleston into Davison Army Air Field, near Fort Belvoir.

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Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

A West Virginia Air National Guard C-130, from the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, is directed to its parking place at Davison Army Airfield in northern Virginia. On board are other West Virginia Guard members prepared to take part in a National Capital Region training exercise for responding to weapons of mass destruction at Marine Corps Base Quantico during the second week in August.

## Kentucky Soldiers validate new training system

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

GREENVILLE, Ky. – The new gold bar sewn on his right collar and the foot-long antenna clipped to the right shoulder strap of his combat gear made this year's annual training somewhat different for 2nd Lt. John Agnew of the Kentucky Army National Guard.

It was Agnew's first period of prolonged training as a junior infantry officer since receiving a direct commission – from sergeant first class to second lieutenant – in March. He was still making the awkward transition from platoon sergeant to platoon leader in late June and early July.

It was also the first time that Army Guard Soldiers were training with a transportable computerized system that could revolutionize the way that many others like them will prepare for combat duty in years to come. That's why Agnew and his platoon in the 1st Battalion, 149th Brigade wore the antennas.

They were attached to butt packs of electronic equipment, originally developed for the Marines, which made them stand out in three-dimensional detail on computer screens at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center amid the rolling hills and coal-mining country of western Kentucky.

The Soldiers were piloting the Army National Guard's new Exportable Combat Training Capability, XCTC for short, that officials believe

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Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers are locked and loaded while searching for a suspected terrorist during their infantry training at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in western Kentucky.

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/onguard>

## About The On Guard

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## Submissions

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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# Full-time dental coverage for Guard and families

**Patrick S. Nolan, D.M.D.**

Chief Dental Officer, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Whether you are the Soldier, spouse or family member, the Army National Guard Surgeon's Office cares about your dental readiness and oral health. Dental readiness is a top priority for force health protection and the responsibility and duty of every Soldier. Additionally, good oral health is a family affair.

To help everyone, A FREE subscription to an online oral health and dental fitness newsletter is now available to you and your family. Turn on your computer, get on the Internet and visit [www.dentalbytes.us](http://www.dentalbytes.us) to receive your FREE ARNG Dental Bytes® newsletter.

Dental Bytes is a series of twelve monthly Internet newsletters developed by Dr. Patrick D. Sculley, DDS, (MG, USA Ret) former Deputy Surgeon General of the Army. Each colorful, family-friendly issue contains enjoyable, short features including: dental readiness information, current oral health articles, interesting trivia, and a direct link to the TRICARE Reserve Dental Plan Website. Check out the sample newsletter in this package.

You may sign up at the Dental Bytes web site to receive them at your email address automatically every month, or you can access new issues monthly on the web site by using an access password. Your access password is your two-letter state/territory abbreviation followed by 5454. For instance, if you are a Florida Guard Soldier, spouse or family member your access code would be, FL5454. If you are a California Guard Soldier, spouse or family member, your access code would be CA5454.

Oral health is a key aspect of overall health. A healthy smile has long been associated with youth, beauty, fitness, and a positive mental outlook. Learn how to protect your smile and foster the benefits of good oral health by signing up for Dental Bytes today.

In addition, the Dental Bytes Website contains a direct link to the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) Website ([www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)) where you will find all you need to know about you and your family's eligibility to receive the benefit of a wide range of diagnostic, preventive and restorative dental services. Guard Soldiers do not have to be activated to enroll themselves or their family members in the TDP.

We also invite you to visit [www.hooah4health.com](http://www.hooah4health.com) an Army National Guard-sponsored health promotion and prevention information Website. This site features over 980 pages of deployment health, family support resources, and links to an array of U.S. Army, DoD, Veteran's Affairs, and other government Websites.

If you do not have Internet access please fill out the enclosed post card and future issues of Dental Bytes will be mailed to you.

Thank you for your service, your dedication and your sacrifice protecting our country.

## The TRICARE Dental Program

The TDP is a voluntary dental insurance program that is available to eligible Active Duty family members, Select Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members, and their eligible family members. Retirees and their eligible family members can enroll in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) which is a premium based program (see TRICARE Retiree Dental Program fact sheet or visit [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)).

TDP Dental Coverage:

\* The TDP provides 100 percent coverage for diagnostic, emergency, and preventive services, with the exception of sealants. Sealants are covered at the 80 percent level with a 20 percent cost share paid by the beneficiary.

\* The TDP also covers the following services with a member cost share: fillings, root canals, crowns, extractions, orthodontics, periodontics, among other services.

\* The benefit package includes general anesthesia coverage at a cost share when provided in connection with a covered benefit. Dentists or other professional providers must be licensed and approved to provide anesthesia in the state where the service is rendered.

\* Maximum annual benefit coverage is \$1,200 for all routine dental care. The maximum lifetime orthodontic benefit coverage is \$1,500.

\* Enlisted members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 have reduced cost shares for certain procedures.

\* Complete benefits and cost share percentages are available at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).

**Eligibility:** Family members of all active duty uniformed services members, Select Reserve (SELRES) and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members and/or their families may enroll in the TDP. Sponsors must have at least 12 months remaining of their service commitments at the time they or their families enroll. The 12-month enrollment commitment is waived for families of Reservists called to active duty for certain contingency operations if they apply for TDP within 30 days of entry on active duty. Eligibility is determined based on the service member's military personnel information residing in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The uniformed services personnel office reports the information to DEERS. Active duty personnel are not eligible for the TDP. They receive dental care from military dental treatment facilities. Reservists who are ordered to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days have the same dental coverage as active duty service members. Former spouses, parents, parents-in-law, disabled veterans, foreign military personnel and Uniformed Services retirees and their families are not eligible for the TDP.

**Enrollment** in the TDP is handled by United Concordia Companies Inc. (UCCI), the TDP contract administrator. Enrollment/Change applications are available by calling UCCI at 1-888-622-2256. Online enrollment is available at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). The enrollment application must be received by UCCI not later than the 20th day of the month for coverage to begin on the first day of the next month. If UCCI receives the application after the 20th day of the month, coverage may not begin until the first day of the second month. Incorrect eligibility information in DEERS will cause applications to be denied. Enrollment options are available at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com). Once enrolled, members must stay in the TDP for at least 12 months (with certain exceptions, such as loss of DEERS eligibility because of divorce, marriage of a child, etc.). After 12 months, enrollment continues on a month-to-month basis. The sponsor must contact UCCI to disenroll from the TDP. The first month's premium is due upon enrollment. The premium amount is shown on the enrollment form. After the first month, monthly premiums may be paid by payroll allotment or, in some cases, may be billed directly to the member by UCCI.

**\*Costs:**

Active duty family members and family members of Select Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) (special mobilization category) sponsors on active duty orders for more than 30 days: Single enrollment, \$9.32, Family enrollment, \$23.31

Select Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) (special mobilization category) sponsor: Single enrollment, \$9.32

Family members of Selected Reserve or IRR (special mobilization category) sponsors not on orders for more than 30 days and IRR (other than special mobilization category) sponsors and their family members: Single enrollment, \$23.31, Family enrollment, \$58.27

For more information about the TDP, beneficiaries may access the benefit handbook online at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com) or by calling toll-free 1-800-866-8499, 24 hours a day. Members residing outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS) should call 1-888-418-0466 (toll-free). This number is available in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. At all other locations, members should call 1-717-975-5017.

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# Security provides a better night's sleep to many

**By Sgt. 1st Class Scott A. Ham**

CJTF Phoenix Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – Civilian workers and Soldiers at Camp Phoenix can sleep well knowing they are safe from attacks thanks to a special group of Soldiers.

Charlie Company, 1-151 Infantry Battalion is responsible for the safety of everyone who enters the gates of Camp Phoenix, near Kabul, Afghanistan.

"They have a thankless job that is many times taken for granted, but they do it with great pride, confidence and professionalism," said Lt. Col. Paul J. Grube, the battalion commander.

The security force mans and secures all vehicle and personnel gates and perimeter towers. They further have a sense of the surrounding areas by providing much

needed mounted and dismounted guard patrols.

"There's no one going to get on this base camp that's not supposed to!" said Sgt. John Pendergrass of Fort Wayne, Ind. "We are so tight that there should be no worries about the way we run things around here."

Every person and vehicle entering the camp is closely searched, either visually or with a special truck that x-rays civilian deliveries.

"This is a high-tech, multi-million dollar piece of equipment for Soldier safety," said Staff Sgt. James Wells of New Albany, Ind. "We scan about 100 trucks a day and have no issues of anyone bringing something in here they shouldn't. We are also responsible to check that every manifest matches the cargo."

Day and night, the Soldiers keep watch

and fulfill their general orders. They patiently scan the Afghan desert and mountains surrounding them for any signs of trouble.

"One night we had multiple rockets fired from around our sectors. The guys in the towers did a great job giving distance and direction so that we could track the rockets and send out coalition patrols," said Capt. Gregory Motz of Evansville, a battle captain in the Base Defense Operation Center at Camp Phoenix.

In addition to their Camp Phoenix duties, security forces Soldiers have also been tasked to secure bases throughout Afghanistan and to train with the Afghan National Army. Whether performing their mission during hot summer days with temperatures reaching 120 degrees in the

shade, or during bitter cold Afghan winter nights, they remain vigilant as they guard everything within the limits of their post, so that others may move about and rest safely.



**Sgt. Dale Mull of Salem, Ind., observes an area just outside Camp Phoenix from a guard tower.**



**Soldiers of Company C, 1-151 Infantry, 76th Separate Infantry Brigade, conduct an early morning dismounted patrol as part of base camp security.**

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Scott Ham



**Spc. John Haburne of Loogootee, Ind., receives a call notifying him that a military convoy will be approaching his gate.**

## Classroom turns to combat for professor and students

**By Spc. Kelly Collett**

Utah National Guard Public Affairs

DRAPER, Utah – A former professor of military science will deploy to Iraq soon, taking with him resources he can trust – 12 lieutenants who spent time in his Reserve Officer Training Corps battalion.

Lt. Col. Richard Miller, currently the commander of 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, Utah National Guard, is a former ROTC professor at Southern Utah University. He and 12 lieutenants who studied under him as cadets leave for Iraq in late June.

Miller's former students, recently assigned to the 222nd FA, have formed with their commander a tight-knit group of Soldiers who know what to expect from each other, due to their time in training together.

Their university days now a distant memory, Miller's lieutenants are adjusting to the

realities of preparing for combat.

"I'm pretty excited about it," said 2nd Lt. Warren Matlock. "It makes for a tighter cohesive unit because Lt. Col. Miller knows us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. It helps to build a stronger leadership core to help lead the battalion."

First Lt. Phillip Ogden was equally generous in his praise of Miller as a mentor and commander.

"I don't think I would choose any other person as my commander for this deployment. It's been interesting to see his command philosophy and to see what he's taught us and actually see it be put into play," Ogden said.

"He's been giving us a great example here and leading the way for us. I can see that he is just continuing what he taught us in doing what he is doing now," he added.

One of Miller's more seasoned cadets, six-year National Guard veteran 1st Lt.

Christopher Smith knows that his leader will hold his officers to a high standard.

"Lt. Col. Miller is a good guy and a really good commander. He's been challenging and he pushes you to do the best you can. You have to give him 110 percent," Smith said.

Miller reciprocates the respect given him by his lieutenants and is pleased with how much they have grown professionally.

"These 12 lieutenants we've got in the battalion have done really well. They did well as cadets too," Miller said. "They are able to take those skills and those things they learned and now apply them to the battalion. It's very comforting to know that what we did as (an ROTC) staff paid off."

Miller enlisted as a forward observer with the 222nd FA in 1981. After achieving the rank of specialist, he went to Officer Candidate School, received his commission and fulfilled multiple other positions in the

battalion – from fire direction officer to battalion executive officer.

Miller later spent four years as an associate professor of military science at SUU, starting the program from scratch with a few other Soldiers.

Recognizing a need for getting additional officers commissioned for service in the Utah National Guard, Miller, along with Sgt. Maj. Joseph Spencer and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Fallon, went to the SUU administration to propose the launching of a new ROTC program with an all-National Guard cadre.

"The three of us went to SUU and met with the faculty and put together the charter with the Utah Guard and the partnership with the school," Miller said. "We were the first (all-National Guard) program to start in Utah."

Miller had 32 cadets the first year, and since then the number of Soldiers in the program has remained between 35 and 45.

# Joint Exercise prepares troops for war

**1st Lt. Anthony Deiss**

South Dakota National Guard

RAPID CITY, S.D.— South Dakota's premier Joint Force exercise, known as Joint Thunder 2005, was held June 11-25. More than 2,200 military personnel from the Army National Guard, Air Force, Active Army, Naval Reserve and the Civil Air Patrol participated in the annual training exercise conducted in and around the Black Hills of South Dakota.

South Dakota's Army National Guard has conducted the training event for 21 years and has developed it into one of the Army National Guard's most prominent training exercises in the nation.

"Units are here to learn more about mobilization and on the current tactics, techniques and procedures being employed by units returning from a combat environment," said Brig. Gen. Ray Carpenter, assistant adjutant general for the South Dakota Army National Guard. "It's a great environment for learning for all Soldiers and units involved."

Soldiers from across the country attended this year's gathering of forces, which included about 50 units from 23 states. About 5,500 Soldiers participated in Joint Thunder 2002, but numbers have dropped considerably over the last two years because most were actively involved in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq. This year's totals are up nearly 1,000 from last year. Since its origin in 1985, this annual exercise has trained more than 62,000 Soldiers.

"Probably 90 percent of the units involved in this year's exercise have deployed to support Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle," said Carpenter. "We're dealing with experienced Soldiers and units who have been in combat. Most of these folks are hometown heroes."

Carpenter said units trained on the latest



Photo by Spc. Shelley Brown - 111th Press Camp

**(Above) A medic from Company B, 109th Medical (Ground Ambulance), SDARNG, assesses the severity of an injured civilian after a simulated car accident. (Right) Members of the 300th Chemical Company out of Morgantown, W.Va. scan the weapons cache and the area around a cave for nuclear, biological and chemical threats. --**

maneuver and survival techniques developed in Iraq such as vehicle convoy exercises and military operations in urban terrain.

"Our military is still at war and our goal has always been for these units to be better prepared for mobilization," said Carpenter. "This is one of the few exercises that trains combat support and combat service support units in a realistic, yet simulated, combat environment."

Carpenter pointed out that two units currently on alert have used this training exer-

cise to prepare for duty in Iraq.

Training highlights included convoy lanes training, cordon and search operations, homeland defense missions, mass-casualty exercises, road repair, building construction, river crossing operations and bridge building.

Each of the Joint Force units employs different skills to sustain operations during the exercise. Engineers build roads and vertical construction projects; aviation units provide troop transport and medical evacuation;

medics treat illnesses and injuries; quartermaster units provide a wide range of supplies and services and water purification; signal units provide the exercise with local and long-range communications; maintenance units keep equipment and vehicles operational; military police are constantly on the move to provide security and control traffic; firefighters train to extinguish fires of all types to include car bombs and rocket attacks; and chemical units react to possible weapons of mass destruction and provide decontamination and smoke operations.

"It's the most realistic training I've ever seen in my 20 years serving in the Nation Guard," said Capt. Kendall Strausser of the 734th Maintenance Battalion, Iowa National Guard. "It's the best annual training event that I've been a part of in my career."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Johnson



Photos by Staff Sgt. Matt Johnson

**A member of the 200th Engineer Company, SDARNG, directs the convoy commander aboard the raft during a river crossing exercise on the Missouri River. (Right) Sgt. Raymond Miller radios recon information back to his company's headquarters after briefly engaging the enemy during a training exercise.**



Shaping the future:

## Guard's Youth Challenge cadre sharpen skills

By Master St. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. – Do you like to browbeat, berate and bully people who are younger and less advantaged than you? Do those three Bs make you feel like a Big Man or a Strong Woman? Is that how you would like to earn your living and impress your friends?

Then you are not - repeat NOT - cut out to care for this country's at-risk teenagers who are looking to the National Guard Youth Challenge Program to help turn around their lives. You are NOT who the National Guard wants to supervise the 4,000 teenage cadets enrolled in its 29 Challenge programs at any given time. You will not make it as a member of the cadre.

But if you believe you have what it takes to help put some of this country's misguided young people on the right track, you may fit in.

Firm but fair. Tough and tender. Lots of persistence and patience. A thick skin and a sense of humor. Those are the qualities that people need to make it in the Challenge cadre program. It is not for those who are weak in spirit or faint of heart or who get their kicks by bullying or bossing people around.

Those caregiving qualities underscored the Cadre Course held at the National Challenge Institute (NCI) in southern New Hampshire during the third week in July. It was the eighth course of its kind conducted within the past two years.

"Fear is a poor excuse for leadership. We want these cadets to respect us," admonished Randall Conrad, the course's training manager who still puts in time in the

*"ChalleNGe takes young people who have been ground up by the system and turns them into productive citizens. It gives them back the life they deserve."*

– Jennifer Buck

cadre ranks. "These cadets have been used and abused for most of their lives. If you use them the same way, they will not learn from you."

Twenty-two Challenge cadre members from Puerto Rico to New Mexico spent that July workweek sharpening their people skills and learning about youth gangs, how and why people bully others, and the dynamics of female cadets during the program run by the Dare Mighty Things Inc.

That firm's name is based on a speech by Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th U.S. president who is a hero of Dare Mighty Things founder David Van Patten, a U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduate and former active duty officer who still belongs to the Coast Guard Reserve.

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those timid spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat," said Roosevelt about a century ago.

Persuading and showing 16, 17 and 18-year-old men and women who have dropped out of school, or run away from home, or come close to breaking the law that they can lead productive and rewarding lives is how the nationally renowned Challenge program's administrators, teachers, counselors and cadre across this country have

been daring mighty things.

More than 59,000 cadets have completed the 22-week residential programs and the mentorship programs that last for another year since the program began in 1994, according to the National Guard Bureau.

The more than 700 members of the cadre are considered the lifeblood of the program.

"ChalleNGe takes young people who have been ground up by the system and turns them into productive citizens.

It gives them back the life they

deserve," said Jennifer Buck, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs who oversees the National Guard program.

"The cadre are the folks who are with these young people 24/7," Buck added. "They are the ones who are instilling discipline in them, who are really demonstrating that they care about them. The cadre are advising these young people about life skills and making it possible for them to reorient their thinking so that all of the other important elements of Challenge can take effect and have an impact."

Without the cadre there would be no Challenge program, but the cadre have the least formal training in understanding and managing at-risk youth, NCI officials explained. That is the reason for the advanced program that has trained about 200 cadre members during 2004 and 2005.

Most cadre members have military backgrounds, officials said. Twenty-one of the 22 in the July course indicated they had served in the active military or in the National Guard or Reserves. Some had served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

They come from many walks of life.

Sean Wilmore from New Jersey is a former inner-city special education teacher who joined the Challenge program at Fort Dix in 1997, he explained, "because I figured I could do more good for young people this way than I could as a teacher. The cadets are with us all of the time. It's a lot easier to get them focused every morning."

Michael Blocker, 24, was an electrician before joining the Camp Long cadre in South Carolina last August. "I was fed up with average jobs," he said. "I wanted something more for myself. I've got a good idea about what these cadets are going through, because I was their age just a few years ago."



Ealey



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**National Guard Youth Challenge Program cadre members got a refresher course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid during a week-long Cadre Course in Portsmouth, N.H., in July.**

## 158th Medical Squadron brings health care to Native Americans

By 1st Lt. Veronica J. Saffo

Vermont National Guard

PINE RIDGE, S.D. – Thousands of South Dakota Native Americans rely on a small reservation hospital for health care and sometimes lifesaving procedures that most Americans take for granted every day. Sometimes the difference between life and death can be just one person – a Guardsman.

Lt. Col. Michael Ricci, a vascular surgeon with the Vermont National Guard's 158th Medical Squadron, is such a person. He and his surgical team of medical professionals arrived at the Pine Ridge hospital just in time to perform an appendectomy and tubiligation. The tiny 35-bed hospital was about to be shut down for lack of an anesthesiologist just prior to their arrival.

Ricci and 29 other Green Mountain Boys descended on the Rosebud Reservation, which is home to approximately 21,000 Lakota (Sioux), as a part of Operation Walking Shield – a program started in 1994 to improve the quality of life for American Indians living on reservations, while at the same time providing important real-life training for military personnel.

158th Commander Col. Sheree Etter spearheaded the humanitarian effort to three primary reservations: Fort Thompson, Rosebud and Pine Ridge. Her squadron consists of a myriad of medical disciplines such as emergency medical technicians, surgeons, an optometrist, a perinatologist, an infection control officer, a dentist and more.

The Citizen-Airmen took those skills and traveled to remote locations providing high



Photos by Whitney Hughes

**Senior Airmen Carrie Mousseau, a phlebotomist with the 158th, draws blood from Myra Dunn, a Fort Thompson resident, during Operation Walking Shield at the Lakota Sioux Indian reservations in South Dakota.**

quality, and much needed, medical care not often available to residents.

"The optometrist helped us to catch up on two years of lost time," said Interpreter Liaison Chris Bourdeaux. "It is a blessing that we had these people to fill in."

For several of the Guardsman, humanitarian work is nothing new.

\*Maj. Gordon Davis, a 158th dentist, worked with the United Nations Humanitarian Commission for Rights during 1991-1992 in Vietnam to support the repatriation of Vietnamese from Hong Kong.

\*Capt. Jack Cook, a physician's assistant, has

completed three rotations of Operation Walking Shield – two as a Louisiana Guardsman and one as a Green Mountain Boy.

"The thanks you get, is knowing you made a difference in someone's life," Cook said. He also praised the operation for its "real world training" that provides Ready Skills Verification for the unit as well as make the members more deployable.

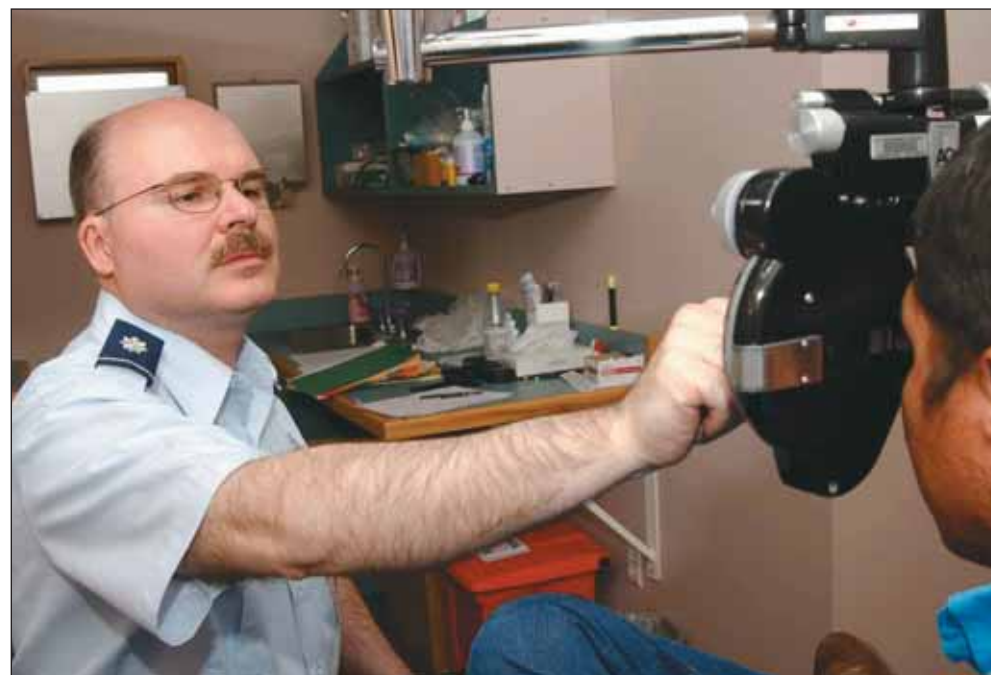
Carol King, a full-time registered nurse on the Rosebud Reservation, also believes the presence of military personnel benefits her medical staff as well.

"The military imparts knowledge and tools

used to provide future training and often offer simple solutions to ongoing problems," she said. "The short visits leave a lasting impression."



**Maj. Gordon Davis, a dentist with the 158th, conducts a dental exam of Tori-Anne Odegard, a five-year-old Fort Thompson resident.**



**Lt. Col. John Bell, an optometrist with the 158th, performs a complete eye exam on Bernard Redcloud at the Pine Ridge clinic.**

### Reservation life

\* The Rosebud Hospital is located in the south central part of South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation (Todd County), and is the primary health care provider for the Rosebud Sioux people.

\* The reservation is spread among 20 communities and encompasses some 1,500 square miles.

\* The hospital is a 35-bed comprehensive medical/surgical facility. The hospital serves approximately 21,000 Lakota (Sioux) members.

\* The median age is 21 years old.

\* The major economic occupations on the Rosebud Reservation are cattle ranching and farming.

\* Major employers are the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Sinte Gleska University, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service and the Rosebud Casino.

\* There is a 80 percent unemployment rate.

\* Climate: Winter temperatures can range from 30 degrees below zero to 40 degrees. Summer temperatures can range from 50 to 110 degrees. The elevation is 2,647 feet and it is very arid.

\* The Lakota heritage is rich with many traditions, and many are happy to share and explain their culture.

FROM PAGE 1

## WMD

The teams were transported about 20 miles south to Camp Upshur where they conducted a mass casualty exercise orchestrated and supervised by the Federal Center for National Response that is also based in West Virginia.

The Air Guard wing flew the units back to West Virginia as the final part of the exercise. It flew six hour-long sorties each way.

"It was a positive first step. We've never done this before – bringing in an outside force. Now we need to build on this," said Navy Cmdr. Luis Molina, chief of logistics planning at Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region at Fort McNair in

Washington.

"It was positive to work with the National Guard. We've started new friendships that will pay off in the future," added Molina who hopes that future training exercises will involve many more people, including the U. S. Northern Command, and be even more realistic.

The idea for the exercise originated during the presidential inauguration in January 2005, he explained.

How would officials bring in reinforcements should an incident be so catastrophic that it exhausted all of the resources in the National Capital Region?

"We were concerned that if we have to bring in a sizeable force because of an emergency, do we have the right tactics, tech-

niques and procedures to support the troops," Molina said.

"This tested our planning, pre-arrival, arrival, sustainment and redeployment phases for accommodating outside forces," he added. "West Virginia volunteered to provide the test units. I envision that we will be working with the Guard more and more."

It made sense for the West Virginia units to take part because Washington is part of their territory, explained Maj. Gen. Allen Tackett, West Virginia's adjutant general, who observed the exercise with LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"Part of our assignment is the National Capital Region," said Tackett. A Memorandum of Agreement makes it legal for West Virginia to move Guard troops into the District of Columbia if they are requested, officials explained.

"Getting the chance to load these aircraft, come here, unload them and actually work an event gives these teams the confidence that they will be able to do this when the real thing happens," Tackett said. "It's training like you fight."

"Let's face it. Terrorists have hit in London. They've hit Spain. September 11 is a long way behind us. But the bottom line is that it's going to happen again. The most probable target is our National Capital Region – Washington, D.C. And we have to be prepared to take care of the American public."

The scenario at Camp Upshur involved extracting 80 people from a building after they had been exposed to the deadly nerve gas sarin, the same agent that terrorists released in several Tokyo subway cars in March 1995, and then cutting off their outer clothing and washing down the victims in a decontamination line.

Both teams were on duty for West Virginia's gubernatorial inauguration and for the presidential inauguration last January. But the August exercise tested them in many ways.

It was the first time that the 96 members of West Virginia's CERFP, which was organized in March 2004 and validated last August, were transported on airplanes as a team and operated outside West Virginia.

Furthermore, 39 of them were new to the team. They had received 10 days of training in hazardous materials and the incident command system before flying to Camp Upshur, explained Lt. Col. Larry Wheeler, the CERFP commander.

"This was their first training event. It was a steep learning curve for them," Wheeler said.

CERFPs are relatively inexpensive to maintain, it was pointed out, because they are additional duty for the Guard members who belong to other units. The West Virginia team members train together every three months so they can function as a unit when they have to, it was explained.

The 3½ -year-old fulltime civil support team, which flew on a C-5 to train in Florida two years ago, tested its ability to fly a strike team of seven members and two vehicles to a location, roll off a C-130 and drive right to an incident site, explained Maj. Jeffrey Price, that 22-member team's commander.

The civil support team took the point and determined that sarin had stricken the people in the building. The CERFP moved in to extract and decontaminate the 80 "victims," volunteers from Bolling Air Force Base in Washington. It was hard work on a hot and humid day.

"This is the most dangerous battlefield in the world because you cannot see or hear your enemy," said Wheeler about why the teams need all of the training they can get to help people cope with weapons of mass destruction. "And we need to be able to mesh with other first responders and deal with incident command systems and work with people we've never worked with before."

"This training event," he added, "is an important step to get us ready to do that."



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**Members of the West Virginia National Guard's decontamination unit, part of the state's CERFP, wash down volunteer "victims" of a sarin nerve gas attack exercise.**

## Servicemembers Group Life Insurance to increase

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 effective Sept. 1, 2005, and allows reduced elections in increments of \$50,000 or cancellation of coverage on or after the effective date Sept. 1, 2005. All members eligible for SGLI are affected by this increased coverage and will have \$400,000 in coverage until they make a valid election to reduce or decline coverage.

No election before Sept. 1, 2005 will apply with respect to the member's level of coverage. New SGLI elections continue to become effective the first day of the month after an otherwise valid election. Thus, all members will be fully insured for \$400,000 throughout the month of September 2005, regardless of any election filed that month.

**Premium Liability:** The monthly SGLI premium remains \$3.25 per \$50,000 of coverage. Therefore, \$26.00 will become the monthly premium for full coverage beginning in September. Should a member desire less than the automatic maximum coverage, that member should complete a new SGLV 8286 (September 2005 version) indicating the amount of coverage desired (including

no coverage if applicable) and submit that election as soon as possible. If such a member properly completes and submits the form before September 30, 2005, the member will not be liable for the September 2005 premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage. This gives members 30 days to reduce or decline unwanted coverage without charge.

Military personnel should process elections as expeditiously as possible to avoid the necessity for corrections in financial transactions.

**Married Members Designation** of a Beneficiary other than their Spouse: If a married member designates a primary beneficiary for their SGLI coverage other than their current lawful spouse, on or after Sept. 1, 2005, the member's spouse will be informed that the member has made such a designation. MPFs will ensure notification is made as quickly as possible (objectively within 30 days of the date such election is submitted by the member), but such notice shall not include the name(s) of the actual designated beneficiary (ies). Notices shall be sent by first class postal service to the spouse's current address of official record.

A copy of the notification letter will be attached to the SGLV Form 8286 and provided to the member.

The revised Form 8286 is available on the DVA Website: [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov). It is a fillable form for which entries can be made on the page and then downloaded.

### FAQ

#### How much will SGLI increase?

The maximum SGLI coverage will be increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 effective 1 Sep 05. The 6.5 cents per \$1,000 coverage remains the same and coverage election increments will change from the current \$10,000 to \$50,000.

#### Who will be affected?

By law, anyone in the service on 1 Sep 05 will have their coverage increased to \$400,000, even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. If they still desire no coverage or less than the maximum, they will have to make a new election.

#### What coverage amount will be available?

Members can only elect coverage in increments of \$50,000. Previously, members could elect coverage in increments of \$10,000. Therefore, the only SGLI coverage amounts available will be: \$50,000 -

\$400,000.

#### Will I need to fill out a new SGLI form?

You will need to fill out a new form if:

- (1) You reduce your coverage
- (2) You decline coverage
- (3) You want to update/change your beneficiary designation(s)

Your existing beneficiary designations remain effective in the same proportion to \$400,000 as the proportion of total benefits. Previous beneficiary designations remain effective until a new SGLV 8286 is properly completed on or after Sept. 1, 2005.

#### What if I don't want the maximum coverage of \$400,000?

Any member who wishes to decline or elects less coverage should go to the MPF (or to the Commander Support Staff) and complete a new SGLV 8286 (September 2005 version).

If you complete and submit the new form before 30 Sep 05, you will not be liable for the September 2005 premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage. You have 30 days beginning 1 Sep 05 to reduce or decline unwanted coverage without charge.

# Missouri's Recruit Sustainment Program mo

By SPC Katherine L. Collins  
Missouri National Guard

FORT LEONARD, MO – "Beating defeat is but half the goal," said Master Sgt. James Walters.

Walters, a member of the cadre of the Missouri Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program was speaking of the fierce but fun competition experienced by Missouri's RSP Soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood on June 24-25.

Citizen-Soldiers from the eight RSP platoons across Missouri gathered at the Army base for two days of competition against one another as platoons. The goal of the program and particularly the weekend's competition, said Walters, is to push the Soldiers beyond the physical and mental limit of what they ever thought they could accomplish, as well as build comradeship and teamwork and to simply have great fun.

The weekend competition is just one event in the overall structure of the program, created to reduce training pipeline losses, said Sgt. 1st Class Shane Spellman, RSP Manager of the 27th Recruiting and Retention Battalion. Spellman explained that typically 30 percent of Missouri's split-option Citizen-Soldiers drop out of the Guard in the period between attending initial entry training (IET) and advanced individual training (AIT). The desire is to lower the loss rate to no more than 12 percent by equipping the Soldiers before they depart for IET and AIT with the physical and mental skills and basic soldier knowledge needed to succeed in the National Guard.

Many of the Soldiers participating in the weekend competition were attending their very first training period as a MOARNG Soldier. In addition, some attendees have not yet joined the MOARNG, but plan to in the near future.

Entering into Saturday's events at dawn's first light, the eight platoons engaged in standard physical fitness training, which is composed of timed push-ups, sit-ups and running. After hygiene maintenance and lunch, the day's highlights began. Citizen-Soldiers experienced the expansion of themselves as individuals and teams through engaging in a Confidence Course and a Leadership Development Course. The afternoon sights and sounds of wet and dirty faces, hot, exhausted bodies and teamwork as Soldiers encouraged and

congratulated one another on the Confidence Course and collaborated

thinking skills on the Leadership Development Course bore witness to the program's goal success. The Soldiers endured the hot summer heat, enjoying and growing from a variety of other activities which continued into late evening. These evening events included competitions such as a tug-of-war.

Many Soldiers expressed their enthusiasm for the day's experience, noting in particular the enjoyment of overcoming challenges as a team. This was encountered most during the leadership course, said Pvt. Ben Johnson, of Jefferson City. He explained it by saying, "Solving the puzzles as a team was great fun because it was not just physically challenging but it really made me think."

Pvt. John Morten, of Wayneville, agreed. "It's been a real challenge, but we got through it all as a team."

In addition, the Soldiers agreed that the day's events and the overall program are greatly preparing them for success in IET and AIT. Pvt. Karen Crowson, of Montgomery City, said she has been learning great teamwork and to really push herself.

Pvt. Thomas Havens, of Bolling Green, also said of the day, "It was great. I had a blast," and of the overall program, "It's really preparing me for basic training."

Amber Kinther, of Jefferson City, added, "It's been exhilaratingly fatiguing." Kinther was one attendee engaging in the experience as a MOARNG guest. She plans to join the MOARNG in two months.

Sunday's events included other courses and activities designed also to strengthen individual physical and mental skills as well as teamwork and individual and collective morale. The winning platoon finished the weekend holding high a trophy, and each Soldier

walked away physically and mentally exhausted, but only from the day.

These soldiers, as intended, returned home stronger in in body, mind, spirit and comradeship, expressing confidence in succeeding in IET and AIT and enthusiasm for joining and remaining a team player of the Missouri Army National Guard.

The regular RSP training in the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the Guard consists of the Soldiers attending drill one weekend each month at one of eight armories around the state with 30 to 50 other Soldiers also preparing to attend IET or AIT. The training includes classes and activities in physical training, drill and ceremonies, movement techniques, map reading, first aid and team building. Also each Saturday night generally consists of a fun time of building comradeship and strengthening these skills through a game such as dodgeball.

For more information on the Missouri National Guard or Recruit Sustainment Program call 888-GO-GUARD, or log on to [www.moguard.com](http://www.moguard.com).



Photos by SPC Katherine L. Collins

(Top) A Missouri Citizen-Soldier descends from the tower via a rope suspended high above the ground testing his skill and self-confidence. (Above) Santana Dios, of Trenton, weaves between the beams of an obstacle testing his strength and endurance. (Right) A soldier climbs the ropes toward the top of a tower.



# Team motivates split-option Citizen-Soldiers



Soldiers of the Missouri Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program work together to move themselves and their equipment from one side of a river to another, as part of a team building exercise on the Leadership Development Course. The course is part of a Missouri Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program competition designed to strengthen physical and mental endurance and teamwork in an effort to prepare Citizen-Soldiers for success in their initial entry training and advanced individual training.



Pvt. Mallory Schnase, of Columbia, strives to complete the Confidence Course.



FROM PAGE 1

## Training

will make it possible to train entire battalions for combat duty in such places as Iraq and Afghanistan without having to go to one of the Army's permanent combat maneuver training centers in California, or Louisiana, or Germany.

Instrumentation and mobility are the hallmarks of the new system.

Instrumentation: The Soldiers, the members of the opposing force, and the role-playing civilians on the battlefield (COBs) all wore the antennas and butt packs.

The tanks, trucks and Humvees were equipped with complimentary devices so that every movement could be monitored and recorded within the exercise box that covered nearly 11 square miles.

That's small by Army standards for training a brigade combat team, but it is large enough to train a battalion. It was big enough to determine that the XCTC can be used to train squads, platoons, companies and battalions of Soldiers in a contemporary operational environment – in this case an Islamic environment like the ones that many Soldiers and Marines encounter when they deploy for the Global War on Terrorism.

The Ford facility was big enough to include the five pillars, or elements, of training found at any of the Army's bigger centers. Those pillars are the training unit, an operations group, an opposing force, instrumentation, and room to maneuver.

This year, three companies from the infantry battalion, the battalion's staff, and members of the 149th Brigade's staff took part in the training. In all, about 700 Citizen-Soldiers were trained during three company rotations from early June through early July.

Next year, the plan is to train an entire battalion at a National Guard center at the same time, said Col. Ernie Audino, chief of the Army Guard's Training Division.

That's the real revolution, pointed out Audino and Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, commanding general of the First U.S. Army who observed the training on July 6, the final day of training for the Kentucky troops.

Mobility: The entire system, developed by the California-based defense contractor SRI International, can be moved from one place to another so that the training can be taken to the troops instead of having the troops and their equipment taken to it. That includes transporting instrumented modular structures to form the communities for urban warfare training.

It is the wave of the future, officials said, because it is all but impossible to schedule traditional rotations for National Guard units at the Army's combat maneuver training centers at Fort Irwin, Calif., at Fort Polk, La., and at Hohenfels in Germany. They are maxed out with mission rehearsal exercises for troops who have been mobilized for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, Guard officials said.

The XCTC could be used to train six Army Guard brigade combat teams every year, officials added.

"I'm very happy and satisfied with the force-on-force training that is focused on the fight we have today during the Global War on Terrorism. The training environment that's been created here at Wendell Ford is one we can model in a lot of other places," Honoré said.

"Combined with the effects of the instrumented after-action reports, I think we've got a winner that is going to serve us well in the years to come. It has all of the indications



**An M1 Abrams tank rolls toward the village of Medina Jabal that was set up at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in western Kentucky to train Citizen-Soldiers on the Army National Guard's new Exportable Combat Training Capability.**

that it would be successful as a battalion trainer," he added.

"What is different is the capability for it to be this transportable. We can move it to where we want to train as opposed to going to a central fixed station such as one of the combat training centers," Honoré said. "If we can do this at a regional training area or at our unit's home station, I think this is how we will have to train in the future, particularly when we look at how we're going to have to train the National Guard."

"This exercise surprised me in that it went ahead so flawlessly. The instrumentation was well ahead of schedule," said Audino of the training program that was put together within eight months. "The theater level of immersion went well beyond what we had expected. It was, in fact, a very realistic replication of the contemporary operational environment.

"It is reported that Gen. Patton once said that an ounce of sweat today saves a gallon of blood tomorrow," Audino related. "This is the ounce of sweat."

The Guard's new program "is very cost effective," he added. "It is far less expensive than sending a unit to a combat maneuver training center."

"Carrying the antenna and butt pack didn't affect our training. We wear MILES gear at the combat training centers anyway," said Agnew of the system that tells if Soldiers and their vehicles have been killed on a training field.

He is a third-year law student at the University of Kentucky who has experienced lots of training during his 11 years in uniform.

He has been a Ranger who finished third in the Army's grueling, 60-hour Best Ranger Competition in 1998. He has been a long-range surveillance Soldier with the 101st Airborne Division. He has been a Kentucky Guard Soldier since leaving the Army in 1998.

"The observer-controllers told us what we did right and what we did wrong. It was a team thing. This was excellent training," Agnew said.

The Soldiers trained as they ordinarily would. They set up defensive perimeters with tanks and Humvees. They met with vil-

lage leaders portrayed by civilians wearing Arabic clothing. They captured suspected terrorists and weapons caches. They returned fire when they were ambushed. They evacuated their dead and wounded. They cared for wounded civilians.

"That's the way it would be over there," said Staff Sgt. Russell Adams, a medic, after treating a civilian who portrayed a wounded man during one of the scenarios.

But the instrumentation certainly helped the Soldiers' commanders and the 29 active Army observer-controllers from Camp Blanding, Fla., who monitored and mentored the Guard troops. At least 90 percent of the observer-controllers, from the 2nd Battalion, 351st Infantry Regiment, have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, it was reported. They were more than willing to share their knowledge with the Kentucky Guard troops.

Being able to watch themselves in 3-D, as well as on videotape, after an exercise made it perfectly clear what the Kentucky troops had done.

"This instrumentation makes it possible for the Soldiers to see exactly what we observer-controllers want them to see during an after-action review," explained Capt. Jay Blakley. "There is no room for argument. It weeds out the excuses. It also allows them to see what they did right and the ramifications of it."

The ramifications were obvious to Col. Charles Jones, a 27-year Kentucky Guard veteran who is the 149th Brigade's commander.

"We have provided Star Wars technology normally available at a combat training center right here in Greenville, Ky.," said Jones. "That enhances my ability to teach, coach and mentor Soldiers – right here."

Jones indicated the training met all three of his objectives:

- To improve the Soldiers' readiness and ability to mobilize, deploy and then return to their homes.
- To train them in the tactics, techniques and procedures being employed in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- To enhance recruiting and retention with tough, realistic training.

"I've never heard of a Soldier getting out of the Guard because he was trained too hard," said Jones. "That is not going to happen."



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers guard a suspected terrorist they have captured during infantry training at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in western Kentucky. They were participating in the first exercise with the Army National Guard's new Exportable Combat Training Capability.**

## Guard aides Border Patrol from air, ground

By Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

NGB Counterdrug Public Affairs

LAS CRUCES, N.M. – Working alongside the United States Border Patrol, members of the New Mexico National Guard Counterdrug Task Force are helping to protect the 180 miles of New Mexico border between the United States and Mexico from transnational threats, illegal aliens and drug trafficking attempting to come into the country.

Using air and ground surveillance capabilities, the task force has directly contributed to the seizures of over \$23 million worth of narcotics in the last six years.

"The working relationship between the National Guard and law enforcement agencies is unprecedented by any other civilian and Department of Defense organizations," said Air Force Col. Earl Bell, chief, NGB-J3 Counterdrug Division. "Working with the Border Patrol is one of our most successful relationships."

State Counterdrug headquarters are located in Albuquerque, N.M. About 70 percent of their 100 personnel on full-time Counterdrug orders are deployed along the Southwest Border.

Guardsmen monitor the Remote Viewing Surveillance System located at the Deming Border Patrol Station in Deming, N.M., roughly 40 miles from the border. The Guard was asked to control the sophisticated camera surveillance system in 1999 when it became outfitted there.

"Having the Guard operate the technical equipment frees up our agents to be out in the field making the apprehensions," said Mr. Richard Moody, patrol agent in charge, Deming Border Patrol Station.

This is important as the Guardsmen do not have the authority to arrest anyone.

"We are here to support the local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, not to take over their jobs," stated Colonel Bell.

They also man the Forward Looking Infrared equipped trucks owned by the USBP. Soldiers scout the border from inside the trucks looking for illegal aliens crossing the border into the United States at night. They call the Border Patrol when they have them in sight and track them until they are able to come in and apprehend them or push them back past their own boundaries.

Watching and waiting for threats to come across the border may be tedious, but the Guardsmen on patrol are always patient and alert. After calling in a group of aliens and the Border Patrol responds, the Soldiers move on and look for the next group.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

**A Border Patrol agent at Deming Border Patrol Station in New Mexico speaks to Ms. Mary Beth Long, deputy assistant secretary of defense for counternarcotics, and several Guardsmen about the joint operations between the National Guard and Border Patrol along the United States and Mexico border.**

When surveying illegal aliens in the field, they pay attention to whether they are carrying bags or not. They refer to some of these individuals as "mules" when they come through with drugs in homemade rucksacks. Up to 80 pounds of marijuana are carried on an illegal alien's back, according to Counterdrug officials here. Once they are aware they have been spotted, they may try to ditch the sacks.

Additionally, the Guard used to have a trained team available to dismantle vehicles at checkpoints where agents suspected narcotics or cash were hidden. They were actually getting pretty smart about hiding their drugs, said Army Sgt. Rodriguez, a former Counterdrug Guardsman. He explained how they balanced their tires to hide narcotics and money inside. Under the dashboard and in seat cushions are other areas in the vehicle where they have found items hidden. Some even go so far as using their own trained dogs to see if they pick up any scent after hiding them, he added.

"I would love to have that mission operational again," said Mr. Moody.

As far as air capabilities, they use the OH-58 Kiowa Helicopter, one of two National Guard Counterdrug aircraft used through-

out the nation. The Reconnaissance and Interdiction aircraft is equipped with a camera system and radios used to interact with the LEAs while patrolling the border from the sky.

"We are able to provide airborne scouting and reconnaissance support for drug interdiction and homeland security missions in a wide spectrum of geographical locations, during both day and night operations," said Army Capt. Gutierrez, RAID commander.

The task force here has a close proximity to the El Paso/Juarez Drug Movement Corridor (about 100 miles).

"The central drug related threat facing our state is the transshipment of large amounts of illegal narcotics through the state by Mexican drug trafficking organizations," said Army Col. James Keefner, state Counterdrug coordinator. "One of our main drug control strategies is to interdict the narcotics as close to the border as possible."

Some of the different narcotics the Guard have assisted local, state and LEAs in seizing include heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine and cocaine. And those drugs are just the subset of what else can potentially cross the border. By placing the Guardsmen in areas most beneficial to the

LEAs and Community Based Organizations, the Guard plays a vital role in disrupting the flow of drugs from coming across the border and into the hands of Americans.

"Every day, illegal aliens and drugs are coming across the border. Those same routes they take could be used to transport other transnational threats like weapons of mass destruction into our country," said Colonel Bell. "That is why the support we offer to LEAs along the border is critical to the safety and security of our nation."

Other drug interdiction tactics and missions the Guard provides in New Mexico are investigative case and analyst support to federal LEAs like the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the Drug Enforcement Agency; Counterdrug related training to law enforcement officers; and a Drug Demand Reduction program aimed toward at-risk youth in the communities.

"The Southwest Border is a unique threat to the nation," said Colonel Bell. "But with the Guard supporting Counterdrug operations with the LEAs, we are doing our part to minimize that threat as much as possible."

*(Editor's note: For security purposes, full names of Counterdrug personnel working in the field will not be released).*

# Coping with deployments and mobilizations

By Senior Airman Thomas Kielbasa  
Florida National Guard

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. – When a National Guard unit deploys, the families left behind can easily be overcome by the stress of everyday life.

Because anything from a busted air conditioner to a problem at school can feel overwhelming to a family when their loved one is serving an extended tour overseas, the Florida National Guard is pioneering a program to help mitigate the stresses of deployment.

On Saturday, July 23, nearly 250 military spouses, children, parents and other family members attended the *Coping With Deployment 101* seminar at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Pinellas Park. Presented by area National Guard Family Assistance Centers, this first-of-its-kind seminar hosted a day of speakers to help families handle challenges associated with military mobilizations.

"I've been through many deployments, so I know what the missing pieces are," Family Center Support Specialist Shira Callahan said during the seminar. "From a spouse's standpoint I can tell you this is what I would

need in this situation."

Callahan, who helped organize and host "Coping With Deployment," explained the majority of problems faced by families of deployed Guard members are emotional issues.

The presentations by Florida National Guard and Veteran's Administration officials were designed to address a variety of concerns including those emotional issues, with topics such as: The Changing Role of the Guard, Navigating the Turbulent Waters of Separation, and tips for turning the deployment into a positive one of self-growth.

Currently more than 1,200 Soldiers from Callahan's area – which includes Tampa and Lakeland – are deployed to Afghanistan, and another 300 are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this year.

"This is our pilot program," Callahan explained to the attendees during the opening session. "We've never done this before, but if it's successful we hope our State Family Readiness will utilize it throughout the state."

One spouse attending the seminar who has been dealing with the ups and downs of a military deployment since last December is

Julie Lofreddo, who serves as the Family Support Specialist for the Crystal River-based 690th Military Police Company. Her husband's unit is in the middle of a year-long deployment to Afghanistan, and she has already helped spouses and families deal with crises that run the gamut from simple to complex.

She gave one example of an issue she helped a family member deal with in June: the wife of a Soldier attached to the 690th called Lofreddo in a panic because her husband's brother had passed away. The brother had died in a remote area of Tennessee, and because of heavy rains a coroner was unable to get to the site and confirm the death for the Red Cross. This caused a delay in the Red Cross message being sent to the Soldier in Afghanistan.

"She was pretty upset, and she was afraid her husband would call home and find out over the phone from somebody else that his brother had passed away," Lofreddo explained. "But she called me, so I was able to call my husband (in Afghanistan), who sat down with the Soldier and had him call home to his wife. The Soldier was very distraught over it because he had just lost his mother a

few months before."

Lofreddo said the seminar's focus on strengthening communications between the deployed Soldier and the family back home was one of the areas that would be most helpful to families struggling through the rigors of a lengthy deployment.

The Area 6 Family Assistance Centers offered the following important tips:

\*Take care of yourself – It's easy to get mentally, physically or emotionally "out of shape," so exercise and eating well are important.

\*Talk to your children about the deployment – Communicate thoughts and feelings about the separation with children, and be open and honest at all times.

\*Stay connected – Letters, care packages, and telephone calls remain important. Try to end all correspondence on a positive note.

\*Avoid arguments prior to a deployment. Often any marital or family issues cannot be resolved via long distances during a deployment, so consider waiting until the spouse returns home to work them out. Understand that the dates of departure and return are often fluid, and could be earlier or later than expected.

## Family Programs: Changing to meet the needs of today's Guard families

By Michelle Bohlen

National Guard Bureau Family Program

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Guard Bureau Family Program (NGBFP) has embarked on a new and exciting time of transformation. As Guardsmen continue to transition from Citizen-Soldier to positions at the forefront of the Global War on Terrorism, family support has become a critical factor – and the NGBFP is rising to the occasion.

The highest priority of 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 Sept. 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 states and units can readily communicate with each other ensuring 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 service component.

The National Guard Bureau Family Program: Changing to Meet the Needs of Today's Guard Families

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. FACs are the primary entry point providing 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, NGBFP 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 on 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 National Guard Bureau Family Program: Changing to Meet the Needs of Today's Guard Families

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, the NGBFP has taken steps towards addressing the needs of youth, having recently launched the development phase of its National Youth Program. The NGBFP 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.

To help in servicing geographically dispersed families NGBFP has recently launched the National Guard Outreach and Partnership Program. Formed in December of 2004 the program is designed to strengthen and enhance support for National Guard Families and Service members by building and reinforcing the capacity of resources from federal, state and local government agencies along with veteran, volunteer and private organizations. "The National Guard Outreach and Partnership Program is not meant to replace existing military support programs or circumvent the chain of command, but augment assistance to families and service members," said Baker.

The National Guard Bureau Family Program: Changing to Meet the Needs of Today's Guard Families

Baker's vision calls for an NGBFP made up of "a strong network of volunteers allied with the Active and Reserve components including 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, the NGBFP strives to establish and maintain communication, involvement, support and recognition between National Guard Families and the National Guard. To learn more about the NGBFP, or to locate your State Family Program Office, please visit the NGBFP Web site at [www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org).

60 years ago in history:

## Guard Soldiers spearheaded WWII campaigns

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – He was in northern Germany, close to the North Sea, wondering if, and when, his National Guard outfit would ship out for Japan, when Francis Thomas learned that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. The atomic blast at Nagasaki three days later hammered home the hope.

"That's when we knew the war was over. Before that, we really didn't know what would happen. Our big worry was that we would be sent to the Pacific theater," said Thomas on Aug. 6 – 60 years after the first big bomb hastened the end of the big war – World War II.

Even though the war in Europe had ended three months earlier, it was the news of the atomic bombs, followed in short order by Japan's surrender, which made a young man from New Orleans believe he would finally be going home.

Thomas was 20 then, a staff sergeant in the 29th Infantry Division. He was not one of the division's original Guard Soldiers. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and trained in antiaircraft artillery. He was reassigned to the infantry in 1944 and joined B Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment in England. That's where the 29th was preparing for its fateful day on Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. That's where Francis Thomas first encountered the combat that would define his world for nearly a year.

"I was wet behind the ears. I didn't know it was a National Guard division. But I got the idea it would be better to join the 29th than the 1st Infantry Division because the 1st Division was already in combat," Thomas recalled in his Annandale, Va., home on one of this year's days when many men and women like him reflected on the end of their global war.

There have been the 60th anniversaries of Germany's surrender on May 7 and Victory in Europe Day on May 8; the atomic bombs on Aug. 6 and 9; Japan's agreement to surrender on Aug. 14; the ceremony in Tokyo Bay that officially silenced all of the guns on Sept. 2.

Those who belonged to National Guard Divisions and separate National Guard regiments and National Guard aviation observation squadrons had much of which to be proud. The National Guard took the point for the U.S. Army.

This is the history gleaned from National Guard Bureau records, including the National Guard Almanac, and the 2001 book *I Am the Guard* by historian and retired Army National Guard Col. Michael Doubler.

Had it not been for the National Guard, this country would not have had the Army it needed to go to war after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and after the U.S. declared war against Germany and Italy four days later.

The first of 300,034 Guard Soldiers had reported for active duty, for one year of training, in September 1940. The Guard's 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments, and 29 Observation Squadrons doubled the size of the U.S. Army. The nation's first peacetime draft put another million men in Army uniforms. Congress extended the term of service for mobilized Guardsmen and draftees by one year in August 1941.

"The entire National Guard was already on active duty when the United States entered World War II," according to a Guard Bureau fact sheet.

In all, 19 Guard divisions took part. Their nicknames – such as Yankee, Empire, Prairie, Texas, Old Hickory, Santa Fe, and Blue and Gray – told much of their heritage

and where they came from.

California's 251st Coast Artillery had been stationed in Hawaii for a year on Dec. 7. Those Soldiers took part in the defense of Oahu as did the Guard members in Hawaii's 298th Infantry Regiment.

When Japanese troops invaded the Philippine Islands three days later, U.S. troops there included the New Mexico Guard's 200th Coast Artillery and two tank battalions made up of Guard units from various states. Half of those men died as prisoners of the Japanese.

Five Guard divisions were the first Army divisions to be deployed overseas, all in 1942. They were the 34th, Americal, 27th, 41st, and 32nd. The 32nd in New Guinea, the Americal at Guadalcanal, and the 34th at North Africa were the first Army divisions to enter combat.

North Dakota's 164th Infantry, sent to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal in October 1942, became the first Army regiment to go on the offensive. It was soon joined by its sister Guard infantry regiments, the 132nd from Illinois and the 182nd from Massachusetts.

The Guard's 32nd and 41st Infantry Divisions became the first Army divisions to fight and defeat the Japanese, in late 1942 and early 1943.

The 34th was the first Army Division to sail overseas, and, in North Africa, it became one of the first two U.S. infantry divisions to fight in the European theater. The 34th spent more days in combat than any other Army division.

National Guard flying squadrons were among the first to reach the combat zone. Three observation squadrons – the 111th from Texas, the 122nd from Louisiana, and the 154th from Arkansas – arrived in North Africa in the fall of '42.

In July 1944, Michigan's 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Group became the first Army Air Force unit to operate from the European continent after it had flown missions before the June 6 landings at Normandy.

Guard units participated in 34 separate campaigns and numerous assault landings in the European and Pacific theaters. They received 148 presidential citations. Guard Soldiers received 20 of the 464 Medals of Honor bestowed on World War II service members. They also received 50 Distinguished Service Crosses, 48 Distinguished Flying Crosses and more than 500 Silver Stars.

It was grim and deadly duty for many of the Guard Soldiers.

Take the members of the "Lost Battalion" – the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery from Texas. The Japanese captured them in Java after Pearl Harbor. No one knew where they were or what happened to them. They spent three years as slave laborers in Japan and Southeast Asia, Doubler reported. They worked on the infamous Burma-Siam railroad, and 163 of them died in captivity before the "Lost Battalion" was liberated.

Casualties totaled 185,561 for all of the Guard divisions. Four of them were among the 10 Army divisions to suffer the most casualties. The 29th was hit the hardest. It was fourth among Army divisions with 20,327 casualties.

"Veterans grimly recalled that in reality three separate 29th Divisions existed during the war – one on the front lines, one in the hospital, and one in the cemetery," Doubler wrote.

Francis Thomas got a Purple Heart. He is 80 now. He has retired as a lieutenant colonel and as a state employee from the Louisiana National Guard. But a shadow box and a well-worn history of the 29th Infantry Division instantly trigger memories of his war.

The box with his Purple Heart contains a blue and gray



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**Francis Thomas of Annandale, Va., holds some of his mementoes from World War II when he served in Europe with the National Guard's 29th Infantry Division. The display includes a division patch with a bullet hole at the top, the bullet that punctured the patch and wounded him and his Purple Heart. Thomas enlisted in the regular Army and joined the 29th Division's 175th Infantry Regiment from Maryland while it was training in England.**

29th Division patch with a bullet hole at the top. The bullet is beside it. It ricocheted through the patch and into his left shoulder on Sept. 14, 1944, Thomas explained. He spent a couple of months convalescing in England before returning to his outfit.

There is a list of 21 names neatly penciled into his copy of the division's World War II history, *29 Let's Go!* They are Thomas's friends from Company B who were killed in action.

Pvt. Thomas Marullo and Pvt. John Spendolini are two of the names. They were buddies, replacement Soldiers from Chicago. They had dug their foxholes close together on the night of Sept. 13, 1944.

"One large shell scored a direct hit on their foxholes, blowing them and their equipment to shreds," Thomas noted. "When dawn broke ... I saw that I was covered with bits and pieces of flesh and blood – Marullo and Spendolini's. I reported their deaths to the first sergeant. Had I not, they would have been reported as missing in action instead of KIA."

Thomas said he still sees those men in his sleep 60 years after he fought for this country in one of its National Guard divisions.

"I don't want to be called a hero," he said. "I'm one of the fortunate ones. I'm not under one of those white crosses."





# Bill Mauldin book to highlight famous Guard Soldier's work

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Denise Neil-Binion may be surprised but she is not at all disappointed that no one has ever written a book about the late Bill Mauldin, the cartoonist whose timeless characters Willie and Joe portrayed a generation of GIs during World War II.

That's because Neil-Binion has written the text for a new book about Sgt. William Henry "Bill" Mauldin herself. The National Guard Bureau's Office of Public Affairs will publish the 50-page book later this year. It will feature about 20 of Mauldin's cartoons. It will be distributed to National Guard members.

Besides its entertainment value, the book is intended to remind this generation of American military people that as much as things may change, they still remain the same; that infantry Soldiers still live a hard, hazardous life.

The publication of *Bill Mauldin's War: Some Things Never Change* coincides with the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. It celebrates the wartime work of Mauldin who was a National Guard Soldier from Arizona and who served with the National Guard's 45th Infantry Division in Europe before he achieved international fame with the newspaper *Stars and Stripes*.

Born in New Mexico, Mauldin studied for a year at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts before enlisting in the Arizona Guard's 120th Quartermaster Regiment. That was part of the 45th Division that was mobilized in September 1940, about 15 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged this country into the world war. Mauldin drew cartoons for the 45th Division News before joining *Stars and Stripes*.

"I have always found it odd that no one wrote a book on his work while he was living," stated Neil-Binion, whose text has been taken from the 165-page thesis that she wrote about the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist for her master's degree in history at the University of Oklahoma.

Mauldin did publish books about his wartime experiences, including the best-selling *Up Front* in 1945 and his autobiography *The Brass Ring*.

Neil-Binion, however, is the first person to write about Mauldin. She is 39. She has been studying his work for four years. She received her graduate degree in 2003, the same year that Mauldin, 81, died in California and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

She has been the assistant curator for the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City since 2002 and the national secretary for the 45th Infantry Division Association since 2003.

She had plenty of material at her disposal because the museum has 226 of Mauldin's original World War II cartoons, the largest collection of the artist's work in the world.

Many of the cartoons for the book were selected because they still depict National Guard troops who are serving on active duty in a war zone. Mauldin's captions such as "I wanna long rest after th' war. Mebbe I'll do a hitch in th' reg'lars" and "One more crack like that an' you won't have yer job back after th' war" are bound to strike a chord with America's Citizen-Soldiers.

The book will be distributed to National Guard troops who are now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan during the Global War on Terror, explained Army National Guard historian Renee Hylton. She has requested an initial press run of 20,000 copies.

Neil-Binion and Hylton believe that today's Soldiers serving in the desert will identify with Mauldin's images of Willie and Joe enduring Army life in the mud and cold of central Europe's killing fields six decades ago.

"The war in Iraq has shown us that despite high-tech weapons that were unimaginable in World War II, in many ways, life in a combat zone remains remarkably the same," stated Hylton.

"Renee and I like to think that Mauldin's work is timeless, and we believe today's Soldiers can still relate to his cartoon subjects and characters," Neil-Binion wrote. "A lot has changed in the Army (National Guard) in the past 60 years, but, in many respects, the Soldier's life has remained the same."

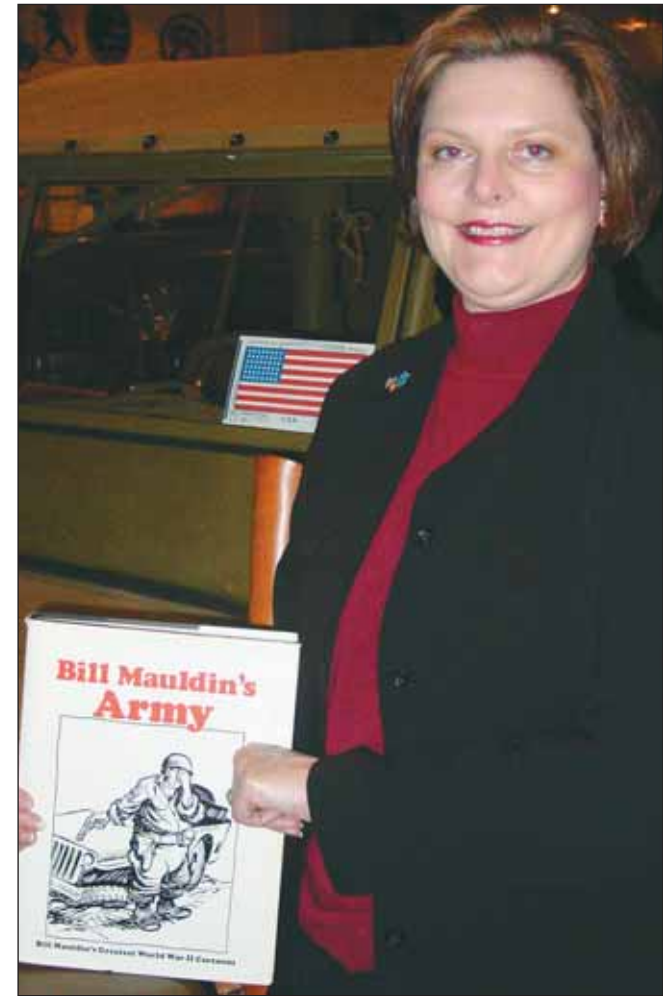


Photo courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division Museum

**Denise Neil-Binion, assistant curator for the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, has written the text for a book about the late Bill Mauldin, the famous World War II cartoonist who originally was a Soldier in the Arizona National Guard. The National Guard Bureau's Office of Public Affairs will publish the book later this year.**

# Massive homeland defense exercise wraps up in Alaska

By Capt. Amy Hansen

Special to American Forces Press Service

FORT RICHARDSON, Alaska – A massive homeland defense exercise in Alaska wrapped up Aug. 19 after five days of simulated natural disasters and terrorist events, including earthquakes, aircraft crashes and anthrax attacks in 21 communities statewide.

Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05 allowed local, state and federal agencies to respond effectively to a wide range of emergencies.

Nearly 5,000 people from the local, state and federal government – the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Defense, Alaska Army National Guard and Air National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10, Transportation Security Administration, Federal Aviation Administration and the FBI – took part in the exercise.

One of the last scenarios of the exercise, a simulated DC-10 airplane crash at Anchorage's Kincaid Park Aug. 18, was a sort of grand finale. More than 100 "victims," bedecked in fake blood and simulating injuries, presented a triage challenge to more than 50 emergency responders.

"People can walk away from this exercise,

after seeing what happened at that grand finale event, with a lot of confidence that years of preparation, practice and tabletop exercises have resulted in a terrific team that is ready to respond to these kinds of disasters," said Army Maj. Gen. Charles Jacoby, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Alaska.

"It's been terrific to reinforce our relationships with state and local officials," Jacoby said. "It's been a tremendous learning event for the staff and their processes."

JTF-AK coordinates the land and air defense of Alaska, as well as defense support to civil authorities when an emergency exceeds the response capabilities of local, state and other federal agencies, like in this exercise. It is made up of representatives from the Air Force, Army and Navy, and reports to U.S. Northern Command.

The joint task force's exercise director, Air Force Col. Steven Hatter, agreed that Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05 was an interagency success.

"Before the exercise, we went through a deliberative planning process with more than 30 federal, state and local agencies to develop training objectives, and then we built the exercise scenario based on those objectives," he said. "We are very pleased we were able

to meet those objectives and were able to communicate, integrate and synchronize activities across the state."

"I think overall, it went well," agreed David Kang, emergency program manager for training and exercises for the state government. "We met all our objectives, and we also generated areas for improvement. In those aspects, it was a tremendous success."

In an exercise of this size, a team of people, commonly referred to as the white team, plans a detailed schedule of exercise scenarios that are designed to challenge participants, who are known as blue players. A major component of the white team for Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05 was the Joint Exercise Control Group, which managed all the exercise inputs, provided simulated terrorists, produced simulated media reports, and otherwise challenged the blue team to react to situations ranging from damaged local infrastructure to major security threats.

"Whenever you do an exercise of this scale and magnitude, like a terrorist attack overlaid on a natural disaster, you're practicing for a worst-case scenario," Hatter said. "But it's like going to the gym – if you don't train regularly, you'll slide backwards."

"I've done several (U.S. Northern

Command) exercises, and due to (the joint task force's) thorough and detailed planning, this one went extremely well," said Marine Col. Robert Hedelund, Joint Exercise Control Group director. "Team Alaska hit a home run with this one."

One possible reason for the exercise's success was an innovative committee that brought top-level agency leaders together to tackle crisis management.

"The Antiterrorism Advisory Council Alaska brings together federal, state and local officials to share information, coordinate activities, and look for ways to work together, both day to day and in an emergency situation," Hatter said. "ATACA is all about the power of habitual relationships. ATACA played extremely successfully in Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05 and is being looked at as a best practice for export to other U.S. states and territories."

Another success in Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05, according to a state representative, was an innovative interagency communications tool called the "Common Operating Picture." The COP is an Internet-based tool that allows users to click on a map for details in an emergency situation.

**(EDITOR'S Note: Air Force Capt. Amy Hansen was assigned to public affairs for Exercise Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 05.)**