



THE ON GUARD

Volume 34, Issue 10

December 2005

Newspaper of the National Guard

Reaching
the
Pacific

Page
16



"The values that inspired Lewis and Clark inspired all American veterans. Those values are love of country, commitment to duty, courage to walk in the valley of the shadow of death and willingness to sacrifice."

– Gov. Ted Kulongoski



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Maj. Gen. John Libby, adjutant general of Maine, makes a point as National Guard leaders discuss the recent hurricane season and the possibility of dealing with an influenza pandemic while meeting in Arlington, Va., on Nov. 14.

Guard prepares for possible avian flu outbreak

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The country's National Guard leaders huddled near the nation's capital on Nov. 14 to review the way their forces responded to this year's catastrophic hurricane season and to contemplate the Guard's role for a potentially bigger calamity - a pandemic outbreak of the avian flu.

Adjutants general or their representatives from 50 states and territories attended the day-long meeting hosted by LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, at the Army National Guard Readiness Center.

Representatives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the United States Northern Command and other defense agencies were among the 100 or so people who attended the session. Much of it dealt with lessons the National Guard has learned from the hurricanes of the recent past and

PANDEMIC: Page 6

Homecoming:

First 200 of New York's 42nd Infantry Division return home from Sunni Triangle

By Staff Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess

Army News Service

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – Two hundred members of the New York Army National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters returned to Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield Nov. 5 from a deployment to north-central Iraq.

It was the first time since the Korean War that a National Guard division headquarters has deployed into combat.

"This will be the first time since World War II that a National Guard Division Headquarters can wear its patch on both shoulders. They can now proudly display the 42nd's 'Rainbow' shoulder sleeve insignia on the left because the Soldiers belong to that unit and on the right because they have earned that

honor having served with that unit in a combat zone," pointed out LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

42nd: Page 10

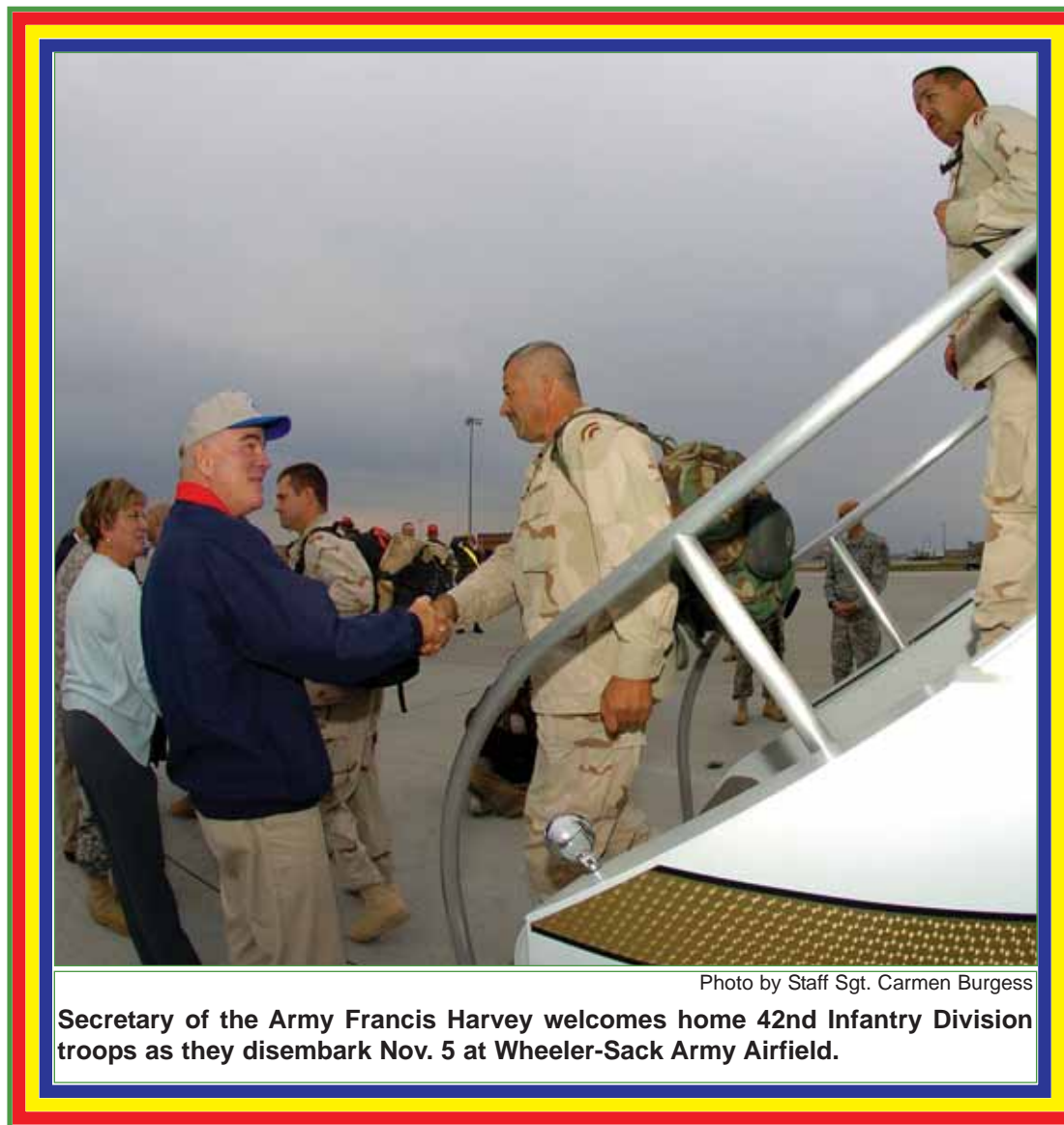


Photo by Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey welcomes home 42nd Infantry Division troops as they disembark Nov. 5 at Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield.

Six Medal of Honor recipients honored on Veterans Day

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va.– Six former National Guardsmen who received the nation's highest award for valor were honored during two Veterans Day ceremonies on Nov. 10.

Nicky Bacon, Frederick Castle, Merritt Edson, John Moran, Alfred Rascon and Theodore Roosevelt were Guardsmen and Medal of Honor recipients. On Nov. 10, their names were added to panels honoring 115 other Guardsmen who received the medal.

Bacon and Rascon attended the ceremonies at the

National Guard Memorial Building in Washington and at the Army National Guard Readiness Center at Arlington Hall.

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, expressed wonder at the Medal of Honor recipients and at the Guard members packed into Arlington Hall to honor them.

"You are a generation of Guardsmen to be remembered," Vaughn told the audience, noting that 2005 has seen the National Guard's largest wartime commitment since World War II and

MOH: Page 12

Happy Birthday

The National Guard celebrates its 369th birthday Dec. 13. On that date in 1636, the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered that militia companies be organized into three regiments. The militia drilled weekly and provided night guard details and marking the foundation of today's National Guard.

Retire from the Guard at age 50 and collect pay; it may happen Page 4

About The On Guard

The On Guard is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 and AFI 35-101 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 70,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

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:

Editor:OnGuard@ngb.ang.af.mil

Address

NGB-PAI-CI
Suite 11200
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202-3259

Phone/Fax

(703) 607-2649
DSN 327-2649
FAX: (703) 607-3686

Web Site

www.ngb.army.mil/onguard

Staff

CHIEF,
National Guard Bureau
LTG H Steven Blum

DIRECTOR,
NGB, Public Affairs and
Strategic Communications
Mr. Daniel Donohue

CHIEF,
NGB-Public Affairs
Command Information
Maj. John Toniolli

EDITOR
Tech. Sgt. Gary Hicks

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT
Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

CORRESPONDENT
Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Former boss backed this Guardsman

Welcome to Page 2. We're introducing this feature to *The On Guard* as a venue for exploring the National Guard Bureau newspaper's monthly themes.

Yes, we have themes: Diversity. Transformation. Environmental stewardship. Salutes to those who have served. Themes like that.

December's theme is employer support. It's a salute to the countless civilian bosses who make it possible for Guard men and women to leave their jobs for a few weeks or a few months, or a year or more, knowing those jobs will be waiting when they return so they can keep on sustaining their families. We could not serve without the employers' support.

The 4,000 or so people who support Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, at the national headquarters in northern Virginia and in our states and territories, champion that cause. They are the heart of what we know as ESGR.

I can't tell you for sure that Bud Leavitt ever heard of ESGR. I can't ask him because he died in 1994, 11 years ago this month, after a noble and stubborn fight against the killer cancer.

But Ralph W. Leavitt Jr., "Bud" to all who knew him, certainly embraced the spirit of ESGR during the years that I worked for him when he was executive sports editor for the Bangor Daily News in Bangor, Maine - from 1979 to 1988.

He was a big man with a deep, resonating voice and a larger-than-life personality in that part of our country. He wrote the News's daily Outdoors column - about hunting and fishing and how sports people should respect their environments - for 46 years. "The Bud Leavitt Show" was a Saturday evening staple, with baked beans and biscuits, in Bangor's television market for 20 years. He was best friends with baseball legend Ted Williams. He "went national" with his program "Woods and Waters" on the Public Broadcasting System in 1979.

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a program to promote job opportunities for those leaving military service.

"Fulfilling the Commitment - Coming Home to Work" is a new VA initiative focused on veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The initiative taps into existing federal, state and private-sector resources to help the 200,000 service members who separate from active military service each year.

R. James Nicholson, the VA secretary, cited alarming unemployment rates among young veterans and said the nation owes them assistance as they leave military service. Currently, young veterans face unemployment rates three times the national average.

Almost 15 percent of veterans in the 20-to-24 age group were unemployed during the

Page 2

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Senior Correspondent

He was also as patriotic a boss as you could ever meet. He had done his bit during World War II, from 1942-46, as a civilian employee for the Army Air Corps. He had served his time in his way. That's why Bud never challenged me - not once - when I had to leave the News for two or three weeks to go on annual training or to pull REFORGER duty in Germany or to write about Guard people who were building roads and schools and clinics in Panama.

I was gone quite a lot - sometimes during my vacations, sometimes when I had no vacation time coming - because there were many chances to serve and supplement my family's income during the Reagan years. Bud understood about service and supporting a family. He and his wife Barbara raised two daughters. Think about it. This was years before Desert Storm and Bosnia and Kosovo and the Global War on Terrorism. This was before ESGR and the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment

Rights Act, that Congress enacted during the year of Bud's death, had become the force that it is today.

Bud didn't need some law to persuade him to do the right thing. If I had to go, I had to go. Period. Yes, I also had the support of Richard J. Warren, the newspaper's publisher, and V. Paul Reynolds, the managing editor, when it came to performing my military duties. Mr. Warren had been an officer in the Maine Air National Guard. Paul Reynolds was a Naval Reserve officer.

But it invariably fell to Bud to explain and defend my absences in his gruff and straightforward manner. "No, Haskell's not AWOL. He's serving his country. What about it?" he would challenge anyone who asked. They rarely asked a second time.

You could argue that Bud set the standards for employer support before a lot of us knew what those standards were. That's why I thought of him, and the timing of his death, when I contemplated this column.

Bud died on Dec. 20, 1994, in California. He was 77. His wake was held in Bangor on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. His funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 26, the day after Christmas. Leave it to Bud Leavitt to upstage Christmas in my part of the world. And leave it to Bud to leave a legacy for caring about traditional Guard members.

Tens of thousands of National Guard men and women are a long way from their jobs and their families during this holiday season. They are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and in many other places. They are counting the days until they can return to their homes and their civilian work.

My hat is off to their bosses in the corporations and convenience stores who have made the same commitment to put them back to work after they come home that Bud Leavitt made to me so many times, so many years ago. They are not AWOL. They are serving their country.
Happy Holidays.

VA program promotes employment among new veterans

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a program to promote job opportunities for those leaving military service.

"Fulfilling the Commitment - Coming Home to Work" is a new VA initiative focused on veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The initiative taps into existing federal, state and private-sector resources to help the 200,000 service members who separate from active military service each year.

R. James Nicholson, the VA secretary, cited alarming unemployment rates among young veterans and said the nation owes them assistance as they leave military service. Currently, young veterans face unemployment rates three times the national average.

Almost 15 percent of veterans in the 20-to-24 age group were unemployed during the

first three quarters of 2005, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The national rate is closer to 5 percent.

Nicholson said he hopes the effort will help improve veterans' job prospects by educating employers about veterans' job needs as well as the benefits veterans bring to the workplace.

"People who just come off active duty, who volunteered, who submitted themselves to all that training and regimen and discipline are outstanding prospects for employment," Nicholson said. "We just need to get them linked up with prospective employers, and that's what this initiative is doing."

In a related move, the VA and General Services Administration has signed a formal agreement expanding GSA's efforts for veterans who own businesses. The agreement commits GSA to put more emphasis on programs for veteran-owned businesses, particularly those with service-related disabilities.

"People who just come off active duty, who volunteered, who submitted themselves to all that training and regimen and discipline are outstanding prospects for employment."

- R. James Nicholson

By law, all federal agencies are required to strive to award 3 percent of their contracts, by value, to businesses owned by service-disabled veterans.

The new VA-GSA agreement commits the agencies to co-sponsor seven regional conferences for veterans who own businesses during the next year. The Small Business Administration and other federal agencies will also participate.

District of Columbia Guard members honor Parks

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
and Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Parnell

National Guard Bureau and DC National Guard

WASHINGTON – Eleven members of the District of Columbia National Guard helped the nation pay tribute to the late Rosa Parks, acclaimed as "the mother of the civil rights movement," during the final two days of October. Parks, 92, died on Oct. 24.

The seven Soldiers and four Airmen on the Selected Honor Guard from the district's National Guard Forces Headquarters were pallbearers for Parks who lay in honor in her cherry-wood coffin in the Capitol Rotunda on Oct. 30 and the morning of Oct. 31. And afternoon memorial service was held at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington.

The honor guard members shared a piece of history by carrying Parks into the Capitol on that Sunday and then out to the hearse on Monday. The Washington Post reported that Parks was the first woman and only the 30th American to lie in honor in the Rotunda.

Thousands of people, including President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush, came to pay their final respects after the Guard members from the "Capital Guardians" respectfully set the coffin in place.

"The turnout was overwhelming. The lines were incredibly long when we left at 9:30 Sunday night," said Sgt. 1st Class Ernesto Rodriguez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Guard pallbearers.

DC Guard officials formed the honor guard that Sunday after receiving the request for ceremonial support from district Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, according to Col. Timothy Spriggs.

"We worked the request through the proper channels, and we were able to get our honor guard stood up to answer the call," Spriggs said.

Seven of the pallbearers were members of the DC Guard's honor guard, but four had never served in that capacity, Rodriguez explained. All of them, however, were ready for the high-profile mission after practicing for two hours at the DC Armory and for two more hours at Capitol, under the direction of the Thurston Lewis from the U.S. Capital Police Ceremonial Unit.

Parks was celebrated as one of the most important American citizens of the 20th century. She was a seamstress in Montgomery, Ala., when she refused to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger on Dec. 1, 1955. The bus driver had her arrested. She was tried and



Photo by Dewitt D. Roseborough, U.S. Capitol

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from the District of Columbia carry the coffin of civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks from the Capitol to the hearse on Oct. 31 after it had been lying in honor in the Rotunda.

convicted of violating a local ordinance.

Her act sparked a citywide boycott of the bus system by African-Americans that lasted for more than a year. The boycott elevated an unknown clergyman named Martin Luther King Jr. to national prominence and resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation on city buses.

Rodriguez was humbled to serve as a pallbearer "This is the one of the most significant events in my life. It's an honor and privilege to carry the remains of Rosa Parks, an icon of the civil rights movement," he said. "I was saddened by the fact that she passed, but to be one of her pallbearers at the Capitol gave me a happiness I will never

forget."

Other Guard pallbearers were: Senior Master Sgt. Raynard Edwards, Sgt. 1st Class Terry Williams, Staff Sgt. James Childs, Tech. Sgt. Fuller Dodson, Tech. Sgt. Latricia Long, Tech. Sgt. Santos Ramirez, Sgt. Reginald Carmichael, Spc. Josef Douglin, Pfc. Marinez Cadet, and Pfc. Wayne Logan. It was the first time that the honor guard members performed as a joint unit.

"What a tremendous honor to be in the presence of Rosa Parks and be part of that history," said Ramirez. "By carrying her remains to the viewing area, we not only represented the DC National Guard but the Armed Forces as a whole."

Utah National Guard bobsledder makes Team USA, looks to Olympic bid

By Jack L. Gillund

Army News Service

CALGARY, Canada – Spc. Steve Holcomb and Spc. Michael Kohn moved one step closer to qualifying for the 2006 Winter Olympics during the U.S. National Bobsled Team Trials in October.

Holcomb, a combat engineer with the Utah National Guard, won the 2005 U.S. National four-man bobsled championship Oct. 23 at Canada Olympic Park. 2002 Olympic silver medalist Todd Hayes was his closest competitor during the two days of competitions that featured eight sleds.

"It was a little bit of a surprise," said U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team Head Coach Sgt.

Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour. "Holcomb was just on fire this week and Todd [Hayes] was playing catch-up."

Holcomb, along with teammates Brock Kreitzburg, Curt Tomasevicz and 2002 Olympic silver medalist Bill Schuffenhauer placed first during day one of the trials. Their sled and the sled piloted by Hayes each had a best two-out-of-three combined time of 1 minute, 51.28 seconds.

Following tiebreaker rules, Holcomb was awarded first place for posting the fastest run time of the day – 55.50. No tiebreaker was needed during day two. Holcomb posted a combined time of 1:55.48 with teammates Kreitzburg, Tomasevicz and Ivan Ratcliff. His closest competitor, Hayes, was .34 sec-

onds slower.

Placing third in the four-man bobsled trials, Kohn will pilot USA III during World Cup competitions. The 2002 Olympic bronze medal holder posted his quickest start time of the event on day two. He had a 5.18 second push after putting fellow WCAPer Capt. Lorenzo Smith in his sled.

Strong winds Oct. 16 at Lake Placid, N.Y., forced the postponement of two-man bobsled competitions. The final race was held Oct. 27 in Calgary – 12 days after day one. Coming into day two, Hayes and teammate Pavle Jovanovic were first and Holcomb and Curt Tomasevicz were second. The team of Joe McDonald and Hoy Thurman III were in third. Kohn and Alex Sprague were in fourth.

"I know it's there, it's just a matter of making it happen," Kohn said about his drive to earn a spot on the U.S. national two-man bobsled team.

The change of venue didn't slow Hayes' momentum, though. He won day two with a combined time of 1:52.35. Kohn fared better, placing second with a combined time of 1:52.76. Holcomb placed third with a combined time of 1:52.98.

As a result of their two-day totals, Holcomb won the right to pilot USA II in two-man World Cup competitions, Kohn will pilot USA III.

"I'm happy with a third place in that race," Kohn said. "The real races are going to be on the World Cup circuit."

Guardisman instrumental in major Florida drug bust

By Staff Sgt. Stephen Hudson

Florida National Guard Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A drug ring that reached into Florida, Texas, Mexico, and throughout the Southeast was broken up due to the language skills of a Soldier working in the Florida National Guard's Counterdrug program.

A Spanish linguist with the Guard's Miami-based 260th Military Intelligence Battalion and assigned to the Florida National Guard's joint Counterdrug program, was able to listen to the coded Spanish conversations and provide critical information to detectives.

"Everything was done in Spanish and my job was to keep the detectives informed," the five-year Counterdrug veteran said.

Detective Leon Ortagus of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said the taped conversations the linguist heard were crucial in understanding the ring's movements of drugs and led to 17 arrests and seizures of more than \$1.9 million in marijuana, \$1.1 million in cocaine, with \$68,000 in cash, numerous vehicles and weapons.

"The conversations used were complicated

"The training we receive in my National Guard unit was a huge help because we learn slang from so many different Spanish speaking areas. I am just glad the training allowed me to better serve this case."

– Counterdrug Soldier

and coded," Ortagus said. "If it wasn't for him this wouldn't have happened."

Ortagus smiled as he recollected how the Spanish speaking drug smugglers thought they were one step ahead of law enforcement because they spoke exclusively in Spanish. Because of one Soldier's understanding of the Spanish language he was able to break their coded messages and help detectives bring down an entire drug smuggling operation.

Dubbed Operation Poppy Seed the international drug smuggling operation was broken apart by a multi-jurisdictional task force and involved officers from 10 law enforcement agencies and the Florida National Guard.

When officers raided a tractor-trailer in Kissimmee and a home in Orlando, they found appliances from Mexico with the inside components removed and stuffed with vacuum-sealed packages of drugs. The appliances were shipped through Texas, into Atlanta and then to Tampa, where the drugs were sold across the state.

The case unfolded in April when six pounds of cocaine and two pounds of marijuana were purchased in Clay County. Several arrests were made and dealers began to reveal their suppliers. After realizing there was a larger ring responsible for bringing drugs into the area, a multi-agency task force began the surveillance that was responsible for bringing down the group of drug runners.

"The training we receive in my National Guard unit was a huge help because we learn slang from so many different Spanish speaking areas," the linguist said. "I am just glad the training allowed me to better serve this case."

(Editor's note: Full name and assignment location of Soldiers involved with National Guard Counterdrug operations will not be released.)

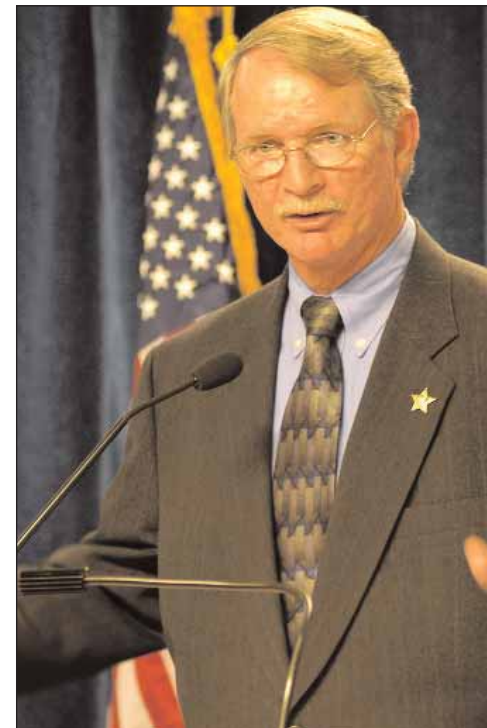


Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Hudson
Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford speaks to the media about the second largest drug bust in the city's history which was broken by a Florida National Guard Spanish linguist.

Senate approves National Guard retirement amendment

WASHINGTON – The Senate approved an amendment offered by U. S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which would lower the

retirement age for members of the United States National Guard and Reserve. The amendment passed by a 99-00 vote.

"The way we are using the Guard and

Reserve has fundamentally changed," said Chambliss. "Based on this fact, I think it is only appropriate to consider that the way we compensate and reward our Guardsmen and Reservists also needs to change."

Currently, after 20 years of service members of the National Guard and Reserve can begin receiving retirement pay when they reach age 60. The Chambliss amendment reduces the age requirement by three months for every 90 days of active service a reservist performs in support of a contingency operation in a fiscal year, retroactive to September 2001, and sets the minimum age to collect retirement pay at 50.

This amendment makes Guard members and Reservists, currently fighting the war on terror, eligible for earlier retirement pay based on the amount of time they spend activated in support of a contingency operation.

"When we are a nation at war, as we are right now, there is no more important legislation than that which works to improve quality of life issues for all of our American soldiers," said Chambliss. "Whether it's pay raises, looking after their families, or making sure they have better than adequate housing, we need our soldiers to know that we stand behind them and honor the great sacrifices they make on behalf of our country.

"We will continue to provide them with the best weapons and training available in the world today to make sure that the United States Armed Forces remain the strongest military in the world."

The Reserve Officers Association of

America, the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Reserve Enlisted Association also support this amendment and see it as an important, responsible step forward in support of our Guardsmen and Reservists, Chambliss said.

Chambliss, R-Ga. and Senate Reserve Caucus member recently met with members of the Commission on the National Guard and Reserve to discuss issues relative to the needs and role of the United States National Guard and Reserve.

Chambliss encouraged the commissioners to continue considering ways to equalize benefits for guardsmen and reservists in order to increase morale and retain current members and attract future members to service in the Reserve Components.

"If we continue to call on the Guard and Reserve as we are today, we need to seriously consider ways to equalize their benefits closer to those of active duty service members," said Chambliss.

During an August 2005 visit to Iraq, Chambliss met with members of the Georgia National Guard's 48th Brigade. He relayed his experience to the commissioners saying that he observed a seamless integration between Guard and active duty Soldiers relative to training programs and encouraged the commission to continue thinking of ways to maintain and encourage cooperation between the groups.

Chambliss is co-chairman of the Senate Reserve Caucus and a member of the Guard Caucus.



Photo courtesy of the Sen. Chambliss' office

U. S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, traveled to Iraq late this summer to visit with Georgia troops serving with the 3rd Infantry Division, 48th Brigade.

Congressman thanks Soldiers in New Braunfels

By Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada
Texas National Guard Public Affairs

CAMP MABRY, Texas – Texas Army National Guardsmen in New Braunfels, Texas, received two certificates of special recognition from U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, Oct. 18 for their efforts during Hurricane Katrina.

The congressman, whose district includes New Braunfels, which is home to the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery, stopped by the local armory to thank the men and women who had worked so hard to assist their Louisiana neighbors after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans and again after Rita blew through the Gulf Coast.

Lt. Col. Jose Figueroa, battalion commander; Maj Reginald Barnes, battalion deputy commander; and the Soldiers greeted Congressman Smith, who noted that he had attended the Texas Military Institute and had undergone training at Camp Bullis, but ultimately was unable to pursue his career because he could not hear high frequencies. He said he regretted not having been able to pursue a military career.

Congressman Smith also said that, on the way to the armory, he had conducted a radio interview in which he lauded the accomplishments of the Soldiers who, just after returning from Romania for a training mission, were deployed to Louisiana for 33 days and subsequently assisted after Hurricane Rita struck.

"You go where you are needed – regular people with regular jobs but still you responded in a timely manner, and you represent the best of the best," Congressman Smith said. "Because of that I want to give you two presentations: one for Katrina and one for Rita.

The congressman asked one of the female Soldiers who had deployed to Louisiana whether she had received special treatment while in New Orleans.

"No, we did not," she responded. "And we like it that way. We slept in strange places like parking garages and on rooftops, and the ultimate in luxury was having a cot to sleep on."

"Sometimes we had to take a shower with a flash light," the Soldier added. "So, no, I do not think that we received special treatment. We would be upset if we did."



Texas National Guard photo

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, enjoys the interchange with Lt. Col. Jose Figueroa and other Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, in New Braunfels, Texas.

Soto brothers stay close during Balad deployment

By Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Deployments often mean working long hours thousands of miles away from family and friends. But that is not the case for two Air National Guard members from Puerto Rico. The Soto brothers are deployed with the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Tech. Sgt. Orlando Soto and Senior Airman Saul Soto deployed from the 156th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Muniz Air National Guard Station, Puerto Rico.

They are continuing a family tradition started by their father, who served in the Army for 25 years.

"My father inspired me to join the service," Sgt. Soto said. "I grew up traveling around other bases. It was the life we knew, and I enjoyed it."

A supply manager, the sergeant's job is to provide maintainers with the parts they need to keep their aircraft flying.

"We also take care of the ground troops; providing them with the tools to accomplish the mission," he said.

The career path Sgt. Soto chose influenced his younger brother to join the Air Force 10 years later.

"My brother is really the one who got me into this," said Airman Soto, a supply technician who has served his entire career with his older brother. "He told me it was a good job. I look up to him because he is really sharp. So I took his advice."

Sgt. Soto said he always talked to his younger brother about how joining the armed forces would help him to mature.

"It is an honor that my actions inspired him to join the Air Force," he said.

This is the brother's second deployment together.

"The times I deployed without my brother, I have been alone - which was kind of tough," Sgt. Soto said. "I knew coming here that I would have him here, so it would not be that bad."

Airman Soto shares his brother's feelings about being deployed to Balad.

"I'm really happy my brother is here with me because he means a lot in my life. He is my mentor," the airman said.

The bothers confess that their joint deployment made some of their family members in Puerto Rico a little nervous. In particular, their mother was worried about her sons going to Iraq at the same time.

"She told me to take care of the 'little one.' But, really, we are taking care of each other," Sgt. Soto said.

Though assigned to the same squadron, the brothers work at different locations on the base. But that does not hinder their ability to spend time together.

"We don't see each other at work much, but outside of work we see each other all the time," Sgt. Soto said.

Airmen Soto said they have the same duty hours and same day off. So when not working, they are together.

"Every day we do something," the airman said. "We might go to the gym, exchange or just hang out. I play for our basketball team, and my brother will come to watch the games."

Having one another is important to the brothers because they come from a close family.

"As a family we are very close. Having my brother here with me has been very good, because we have given each other support throughout the deployment," Sgt. Soto said.

The younger Soto agrees.

"Having my brother here means I have somebody here I trust, speaks my language and helps in everything," Airman Soto said. "Even though we miss our family, we still have each other."

Guardsmen dole out millions in cold, hard cash

By Suzanne M. Fournier

Army Corps of Engineers

BAGHDAD, Iraq – How is it possible to give someone a million dollars? The largest U.S. bill in circulation is the hundred dollar bill, and it takes 10,000 of those to make one million dollars. Ten thousand bills!

How about \$22 million? That is the amount of cash that Roberta "Bobbie" West, an accountant at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Southern District, and three young Soldiers from the Massachusetts Army National Guard paid in cash to hundreds of Iraqi contractors during eight months.

Sgt. Craig Chisholm, Spc. Luis Alvarez and Spc. Theodore Giannino of the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 747th Finance Detachment prepared the transfer of the cold, hard cash. Chisholm and Giannino took turns acting as the paying agent and certifying officer. Alvarez reviewed all documentation submitted for payment to ensure accountability.

West is responsible for paying a contractor who completes a contract to construct or renovate a school, hospital, road, police station, fire station, water or electrical system or any of more than a thousand contracts awarded in the southern nine provinces of Iraq. She prepared paperwork for the transfer of cash after engineers notified

her that the work was completed at the construction site.

"This payment system is a bit out of the ordinary, but it gets the money into the hands of small contractors who otherwise couldn't compete," said Nick Ash, resource manager for the corps' Southern District. "These cash payments helped prevent work stoppages and developed lasting positive working relationships with the Iraqi people."

In order to boost the fledgling Iraqi economy and provide entrepreneur contractors with the opportunities to compete, the corps arranged to pay contractors in cash after they completed a certain portion of the contract. In this way, more small contractors are able to bid and complete for construction contracts to enhance the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Small contractors hire local Iraqi workers, so the money goes back into the local economy.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Sgt. Chisholm, Spc. Alvarez and Spc. Giannino since my arrival at Camp Adder in July. They've made the process of cash payments flow smoothly and exhibited a high level of professionalism and customer service," said West. "I am particularly impressed with the respect they've shown to Iraqi businessmen."

Chisholm, Giannino and Alvarez returned to Massachusetts with the rest of the 747th on Oct. 22.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Spc. Luis Alvarez, Spc. Theodore Giannino, and Sgt. Craig Chisholm (from left) of the Massachusetts Army National Guard and Roberta "Bobbie" West, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, watch Iraqi contractors complete the paperwork to accept a cash payment after completing their part of a reconstruction contract.

FROM PAGE 1

Pandemic

what the Guard might have to do should a lot of Americans fall victim to an influenza pandemic, an epidemic of national or worldwide scope, in the future.

"We're here to get smart on something that I hope never happens in this country - the avian flu," Blum said.

"Your response to the hurricanes was magnificent. Not flawless, but magnificent, nonetheless," Blum praised the Guard leaders about their efforts to send a total of 58,000 Guard Soldiers and Airmen from across the country to support hurricane relief missions in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Alabama and Texas because of the August and September storms named Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"No one in this room balked. Not a single governor said 'no.' It was the National Guard's finest hour," added Blum of how Army and Air Guard members rescued 18,000 hurricane victims and evacuated 70,000 whose homes were damaged or destroyed. Guard members also distributed food, water and ice to countless others and helped keep communities secure.

"Puerto Rico sent 1,200 members of its National Guard force to the Gulf Coast. That's remarkable because Puerto Rico sits in 'hurricane alley,'" Blum told Brig. Gen. Francisco Marquez, Puerto Rico's adjutant general.

"You know you're having a hurricane if Alabama shows up. Alabama went everywhere, in every direction," said Blum to that state's Guard leader, Maj. Gen. Mark Bowen.

"It worked well. But we'd rather not have to do it during the football season," retorted the affable Bowen from the land of legendary college coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and

the Crimson Tide.

Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau and Maj. Gen. Harold Cross, the adjutants general from Louisiana and Mississippi, thanked the Guard leaders for all that their troops did to help those hard-hit states during video presentations.

"They came to the sound of the gunfire," said Cross as his video hammered home how badly Katrina devastated southern Mississippi.

Blum and other Guard Bureau staff members also focused on the possibility of having to support this country should the H 5 N 1 avian influenza, the "bird flu" in Asia, change form so that it becomes contagious among humans and preys on people in this country.

Guard leaders were reminded that pandemic influenza has occurred three times in the last century, most recently in 1967, and that one-third of the people in the U.S. got sick during the worst one, the 1918 pandemic that killed tens of millions of people worldwide.

Guard Bureau staff members explained the medical issues, a concept of operations, legal considerations, and public affairs guidelines should Guard forces have to help civilian authorities respond to an outbreak.

Three things would need to happen, explained Lt. Col. Daniel Bochicchio, a medical doctor.

A new, novel flu strain has to develop somewhere in the world, as H5N1 did among birds in Asia in 1998.

The flu must cause disease in humans.

It must spread from person to person.

So far, more than 100 people in Southeast Asia have gotten bird flu, and most of them have probably had direct contact with infect-



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, adjutant general from Hawaii, listens to other National Guard leaders discuss the recent hurricane season and the possibility of dealing with an influenza pandemic while meeting in Arlington, Va., on Nov. 14.

ed birds or their droppings, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

About half of those people have died from bird flu, the department has stated.

Although there have been no cases of bird flu reported in this country, the National Guard is already getting ready to respond.

The National Guard is aware of the significant impact a pandemic outbreak would have on the nation, and on the Guard as a whole, and is working through several scenarios that would allow it to support the war effort overseas and support communities at home at the

same time, officials said.

The National Guard would be fully involved at the local, state, and federal levels in the planning and execution of the nation's response to a potential pandemic outbreak. It has unique capabilities such as civil support teams and medical and decontamination teams that could provide additional resources to combat a pandemic.

More than 350,000 National Guard are available to state governors to support any crisis, even while approximately 70,000 Guard members remain deployed overseas.

Citizen-Soldiers find oasis in the desert

Sgt. Kara Greene

115th Area Support Group PANCO

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Eight Soldiers gathered in the early morning around the Camp Arifjan, Kuwait pool. They arrived for their first practice with swimsuits under their shorts, sporting flip flops and swim caps, with towels in hand and smiles on their faces.

"How do the horses get in the water?" asked 1st Lt. Sally Gill, a member of the 115th Area Support Group water polo club. A buzz of laughter broke out among the group. The team started practicing in October under the coaching of 1st Lt. Keegan Smith, 115th headquarters commander.

"About four of us have played water polo before, mostly in high school," said Smith, who started the water polo club in an effort to expose Soldiers to a new sport. "When we started this program, it was like bringing a part of my life with me to Kuwait," said the California native.

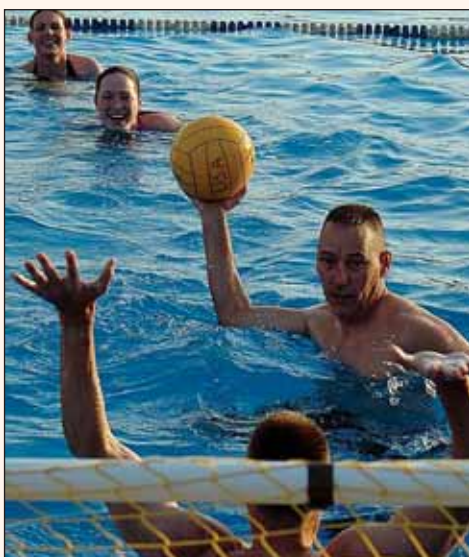
Three days a week for over an hour, the team practices their eggbeater, a technique of treading water, their pump-fake, and how to catch and throw a water polo ball.

Somewhere between the initial organized stretching, the numerous laps swam and cleaning up equipment, the Soldiers grow an understanding of the sport as well as develop a sense of teamwork.

"Through it all, they're always smiling," said Smith.

And the individual efforts of the team members don't go unnoticed according to Master Sgt. Derrell Hill, one of the more experienced members of the team. "Every day after practice, Lt. Smith sends an email out thanking us for our hard work and telling us what went well and how proud he is. His excitement is contagious, even through email," he said.

The team has grown to nearly 15 members. However, because of around-the-clock staffing at work, not all Soldiers can attend every practice. "I offer incentives to



Master Sgt. Derrell Hill takes a shot on goalie and coach 1st Lt. Keegan Smith.



Photos by Sgt. Robert Scott

Staff Sgt. Christina Petersen (blue cap) looks for an open teammate as two defenders attempt to block her pass.

keep the Soldiers excited," said Smith.

After attending three practices, a Soldier officially becomes a team member. There's no paperwork or fancy ceremony, but the team member earns a USA Water Polo shirt.

"I give these guys credit for practicing at six in the morning when it's so cold," said Smith. The team stopped practice for winter break as the water in the Arifjan pool is teetering around 60 degrees and the pool is closed for maintenance. Practice will resume at the end of February, coinciding with the reopening of the pool.

Smith coached at Jesuit High School in Carmichael, Calif., before deploying. He also has experience in the pool at both the high school and collegiate level. While finishing his bachelor's degree at Sacramento State University, Smith started a water polo club, leading his team to a top ten rating in collegiate clubs by USA Water Polo in 1995-96.

"I've received support from USA Water Polo and S & R Sports," said Smith. He gained donations of swim caps, shirts and balls from the two groups.

And the water polo club is gaining national attention in the media. USA Water Polo published an online article about the club. Read more about the team at www.usawaterpolo.org or in USA Water Polo the Magazine in the coming months.



Back Row: Sgt. Kara Greene, 1st Lt. Keegan Smith, Sgt. Justin McCauley, Master Sgt. Derrell Hill, Sgt. Darrin Miller, Capt. James Mendoza. Front Row: 2nd Lt. Walter Wade, Capt. John Ochwart, 2nd Lt. Erik Underwood, Spc. Danielle Mchugh, 1st Lt. Sally Gill.

Air Guard redeploys hi-tech systems

By Van Williams

Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service

Air National Guardsmen went to the ends of the earth to move 12 microwave landing systems (MLS) from Alaska to Antarctica.

Their story is worthy of a Jules Verne or Jack London novel, with characters crossing the globe from the Middle East's hot deserts to Alaska's frozen tundra.

The tale involves civilian government workers and folks in uniform teaming up to save American taxpayers \$60 million, moving equipment that could save lives.

The abandoned dozen

The tale begins in the early 1990s, when an Alaskan regional airline went out of business, leaving the landing systems behind.

Each system is housed in three red and white buildings, each about the size of a backyard shed. The advanced guidance systems inside those sheds help planes and helicopters land in difficult terrain and poor weather.

The systems meet international standards, and most commercial airlines use some version.

But no one was using the dozen in Alaska.

In August 2003, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) decided it was time to get rid of the equipment. Kim Doner – a civilian contractor and former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) employee working with the FAA at the time – suggested taking advantage of DRMS' expertise at handling surplus equipment.

While DRMS checked with federal and state agencies to see who needed the landing systems, the FAA sought the money to move them.

Two of the systems were needed in Schenectady, N.Y., where the Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing uses unique LC-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with skis as landing gear to transport supplies and people to the National Science Foundation's U.S. Antarctica Program.

An operations officer at that unit suggested other systems could go to the McMurdo and Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. The 109th Air Wing was using mobile versions of the landing systems on loan from the National Guard Bureau, but the portable systems weren't built to withstand wind-driven snow or such extreme temperatures; refurbished systems from Alaska would be better.

Between Iraq and a far place

Meanwhile, in Southwest Asia, Senior Master Sgt. Gordon Cariveau and his team from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 210th Engineer Installation Squadron were serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom when the request came to move the 2,000 lb. to 5,000 lb. systems.

"I guess the biggest challenge was coordi-



Photos courtesy of the 210th EIS

Members of the Minnesota Air National Guard's 210th Engineer Installation Squadron secure microwave landing systems to a flatbed truck.

nation," Cariveau said. "I was on conference calls in the middle of the night from the desert, trying to work out a schedule."

Eleven of the 12 members of Cariveau's team are traditional Guardsmen with full time civilian jobs. Cariveau had to plan the logistics of getting cranes, forklifts, trucks and other equipment to remote sites in Alaska – and he also had to coordinate time off from work for most of his crew.

Cariveau wasn't working alone. He praised the FAA for help with regional airline and motel reservations and vehicles and personnel for local transportation of some of the systems from Homer and Valdez to Anchorage. And Minnesota's 133 Air Wing flew Cariveau's team, gear and six-passenger van on a C-130 from Minnesota to Anchorage.

At the edge of the world

The team arrived in Alaska on June 6, 2004, with a big job ahead of them: 12 sites, three shelters per site, 36 buildings in all.

Cariveau divided his crew into three teams. Those teams moved out to places like Cold

Bay, Dutch Harbor and St. Mary's. Part of one system was on St. Paul Island, in the Bering Sea. The island is about eight miles long and four miles wide, just big enough to get lost on.

Out-of-the-way places were just one of the challenges facing the Guardsmen.

"One team came upon a shelter that sat on a cliff overhang with no way to get under it with a forklift," Cariveau said. "The crew improvised and placed plywood skids under the building, and a bulldozer crawler pulled it to a safe position to be taken out."

One by one, the MLS units were packed and shipped to Anchorage, where Raytheon technicians overhauled the units and fitted them with skids to make them easier to handle in snow and ice.

From Anchorage, it was off to Schenectady and Antarctica, where the U.S. Antarctic Program coordinates almost all U.S. scientific research in the Antarctic. Scientists are working to understand the Antarctic and its ecosystems and the region's impact on global problems such as climate change.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Defense Logistics Agency, DRMS, the Air

National Guard, and the FAA, the New York Air National Guard and the U.S. Antarctica National Science Foundation have radar systems better suited to hostile environments – even if it meant going to the ends of the earth.



Destination: Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

systems from ends of the earth



Photos courtesy of the New York National Guard
A New York Air National Guard LC-130 lands at the South Pole.



Air Guard members unload supplies.



Two local residents check out one of the new microwave landing systems.



Minnesota Air National Guard 210th EIS members commemorate the completion of their mission.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota National Guard

FROM PAGE 1

42nd

The Secretary of the Army was there to welcome the Soldiers home.

"Perhaps your greatest achievements are intangible," said Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey. "You vividly demonstrated to the country what we in the Army have known for a long time, and that is the National Guard is a very competent organization that is very well-led with Soldiers who are dedicated, courageous, disciplined and professional."

New York's Rainbow Division worked in the heart of the Sunni Triangle where they captured or killed more than 2,000 insurgents, conducted more than 4,500 raids and captured more than 400 enemy weapons stockpiles.

About 3,000 Soldiers from the 42nd deployed to Iraq where they were part of Task Force Liberty, providing a foundation for the Army to build a combat task force for operations. They also provided the command and control, logistics and operational base for combat brigades to succeed in their missions.

Harvey praised the role the division played in the successful referendum on the Iraqi Constitution that took place in October.

"During the referendum on the new constitution, voter turnout in the 42nd area of operation was well over 70 percent," said Harvey. "This is a clear testament to the level of security your Soldiers provided. It also underscored your hard work in giving the Iraqi people confidence in the political process for the new Iraq."

Since February, Task Force Liberty assisted the Iraqi forces in becoming more capable of planning and executing independent operations against the insurgency. Nine forward operation bases in their area were closed or transferred to Iraqi control.

Before the transfer of authority Nov. 1, Task Force Liberty engineers supervised nearly 1,400 projects worth \$757 million and initiated more than 800 projects that are still underway.

"These Soldiers represent all that is right and good about our Nation," said Harvey, "and clearly they have helped advance the cause of freedom."

Force generation requires four R's

By Col. Randy Pullen

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – An all-star panel discussed the Army's evolving force-generation system last month and the four R's that it addresses: rebalancing, resetting, recapitalizing and redeploying.

Gen. Dan McNeill, commanding general of Forces Command, led the panel on Army Force Generation, commonly called ARFORGEN, at the Association of the United States Army's Annual Meeting Oct. 4.

Explaining the genesis for the Army's restructuring, McNeill said that the Army's leadership had recognized early that the War on Terrorism would last a long time and that the 33 brigades the Army had Sept. 12, 2001, would not be enough to wage that war.

Resetting comes first

The Army is taking its existing formations, pulling them apart into pieces and then putting them back together in a new way, McNeill said, thus creating more formations which are also more powerful.

"We started with the 3rd Infantry Division," he said, "then continued doing this with the 101st Airborne Division, the 4th Infantry Division and the 10th Mountain Division."

Along with the flexibility that

comes with having modular units and more of them, ARFORGEN also entails a sequential approach to readiness that synchronizes unit capabilities and readiness reporting with equipping and resourcing strategies, McNeill said. He said this improves predictability for commanders, Soldiers and their families.

Three force pools

The ARFORGEN system places units in one of three force pools:

- an initial Reset/Train pool for units redeploying from long operations;
- a Ready pool that includes modular units assessed as "ready" to conduct mission preparation and training;
- and an Available pool that includes modular units assessed as "available" to conduct missions in support of any regional combatant commander or serve as rapidly deployable contingency forces.

If required, units in the Ready pool can be resourced and committed to meet surge operational needs, McNeill said.

All active- and reserve-component units pass through the Available pool under this cyclical approach, McNeill said. Active units are in the one-year window of the available pool every three years, Army Reserve units are available every five years and Army National Guard units are available every six years.

McNeill said he envisioned having 12-16 active brigade combat teams and three to four National Guard BCTs in the Available pool.

"The process has to result in relevant output: trained and ready forces that could do the job," McNeill said. unit's go-to-war strength.

Guard must balance force structure

The director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, echoed Helmly's concerns on reducing cross-leveling and solving the imbalance in authorized strength and force structure. He saw great benefits from the ARFORGEN system in addressing these issues.

"We are 100 percent behind ARFORGEN," Vaughn said.

Vaughn said the Army National Guard must be a full-spectrum force, with modernized combat support and combat service support. Although there will be some specialized forces, the focus will be on the 34 modular brigade combat teams.

McNeill wrapped up the panel by saying that the ARFORGEN process would be value added to the Army, giving improved predictability of available forces and decreasing the joint force commander's uncertainty whether or not needed units will be ready when called upon.

Wounded but still serving ...



Spc. Timothy Banks (right), a 188th Air Defense Artillery Soldier, is awarded the Purple Heart by 116th Brigade Combat Team Commander Brig. Gen. Alan Gayhart Sept. 16 at FOB (Forward Operations Base) Warrior, Iraq. Banks received the award for wounds received when an improvised explosive device detonated on his patrol en route to FOB Warrior earlier this summer. Banks serves with F Battery, 188th Air Defense Artillery.

National Guardsmen assisting in Wilma's wake

By Army Capt. Steve Alvarez

American Forces Press Service

ORLANDO, Fla. – National Guard soldiers from the Carolinas and New York are providing air and communications support to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Wilma.

Aircrews have airlifted hospital patients in the Florida Keys, and communications teams are providing satellite, video and radio communication capabilities to assist emergency workers in their operations, Guard officials said. The communications packages provide "crossband" capability, enabling emergency workers with incompatible communications equipment to talk to one another.

Under the national Emergency Management Assistance Compact, troops from the North Carolina, South Carolina and New York National Guards have deployed to Florida to help in hurricane-relief operations. The compact establishes a partnership among states to provide aid and assistance during emergencies. When states request assistance through EMAC, the compact makes it easier for member states to send personnel and equipment to help in disaster-relief operations.

"New York State's Emergency Management Office and National Guard continue to answer the call for assistance whenever or wherever help is needed," New York Gov. George Pataki said as the storm approached.

More than 3,000 Florida National Guard members are on state active duty, mobilized by Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the wake of the storm.

State officials say the storm is responsible for at least six deaths and knocked out electrical power to roughly six million people in southern Florida. Officials estimate damage to be in the billions of dollars. Some Floridians are expected to be without electrical power for several weeks.

As Wilma trekked eastward to Florida's Atlantic Coast soldiers deployed to Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier counties, locales that appeared to be the hardest hit.

At Homestead Air Reserve Base, located about 30 minutes south of Miami, the Air Reserve's 482nd Fighter Wing was assessing damage to the base. Before the storm the Reservists had relocated their F-16C Fighting Falcons and F-15 Strike Eagles to Georgia and Texas.

Patrick Air Force Base, four hours north of Miami, closed as Wilma swept across the peninsula but has been given the all-clear, and personnel have begun to report back to work.

Aside from communications and airlift support, Florida has not asked for assistance from the Defense Department, Air Force officials said.

New York Guard's Brainstorm earns Defense award

By Maj. Nahaku McFadden
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – A groundbreaking New York National Guard counterdrug program that focuses on schoolchildren has been recognized by the Department of Defense as the best Drug Demand Reduction Program in the National Guard. The program, "Brainstorm," provides important anti-drug information to 9,000 third and fourth-graders.

The annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Awards ceremony was held Oct. 24 at the Pentagon to kick off "Red Ribbon Week," an annual week-long national celebration that focuses on keeping young people off drugs.

Host Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said the program was created 15 years ago to promote excellence among Department of Defense anti-drug organizations and encourage volunteer efforts by service members.

"These awards recognize the best demand-reduction program in each service, the National Guard and the defense agencies," O'Connell said.

The New York Guard's "Brainstorm" program received the award for its unique way of reaching out to children. This program shows school children what drugs do to their brains and highlights the fact that just one use of drugs can cause addiction.

Air Guard Tech Sgt. Marlene Frankovic, an administrator with the counterdrug program for nine years, accepted the Defense

award on behalf of 30 fellow New York Counterdrug Task Force members.

"I can't describe the feeling," said Frankovic. "I enjoy making a difference with the kids.

"The unique aspect of this program is that we see the same third and fourth graders on four different occasions," she added, "This allows us to establish relationships. After a few times, if the children see us on the streets, they come up to us and say 'Hello.'" Frankovic said the four-part "Brainstorm" program warns youngsters of the dangers and effects of alcohol and marijuana on the brain. Each time they meet with the students, they receive new practical exercises and watch a video.

The series is divided into four, one-hour blocks of instruction: Your Brain - What's Going on in There?; Communication Breakdown; The Good, the Bad and the Ugly; and Brain Drain.

A question and answer session follows each program, allowing the students to apply what they have learned to their personal experiences.

"This program is very effective. We are seeing kids who have participated in the program waking up their parents and peers to the dangers of drugs," Frankovic stated. "If you know the dangers of drugs, you won't do them."

Red Ribbon Week is a tribute to the life of Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique S. "Kiki" Camarena, who was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico in 1985. This year marks the 20th anniversary of his



Department of Defense photo

National Guard Counterdrug Soldiers and Airmen pose with Miss USA, Chelsea Cooley, after the New York Guard members received the Department of Defense award for the National Guard's best Drug Demand Reduction program at the Pentagon on Oct. 24.

untimely death.

Citizens in his hometown of Calexico, Calif., began wearing red ribbons to remember him and honor his sacrifice. The anti-drug message spread quickly and is now the most far-reaching and well-known drug prevention event in the country. The red ribbon symbolizes a continued commitment to reducing the demand for illegal

drugs through prevention and education programs.

As the lyrics of a Whiney Houston song state, Frankovic believes the children are our future. Armed with Brainstorm, she insists, New York's Counterdrug Task Force is committed to spreading the anti-drug message and keeping Kiki Camarena's spirit alive.

Indiana Guard members respond to tornado's wrath



Photo by Sgt. Mike Krieg

Spc. Karl Davis, of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery, Evansville, Ind., searches through the wreckage of a mobile home in Vanderburgh County. An F-3 tornado ripped through the mobile home park at 2 a.m. on Nov. 6. A total of 23 people died as a result of the storm.

By Sgt. Mike Krieg
Indiana National Guard

EVANSVILLE, Ind. - The Indiana National Guard responded to a state emergency in southwest Indiana after a destructive tornado and high winds killed 23 people on Nov. 6.

The Indiana National Guard assisted in the recovery efforts following the devastating tornado and direct line winds that swept through Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties.

More than 150 Guard members were ordered by Gov. Mitch Daniels to assist in the recovery mission.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery based in Evansville, the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment based in Jasper, the 181st Fighter Wing based in Terre Haute, and members of the Indiana Joint Forces Headquarters were among those called to serve.

The Soldiers and Airmen worked to support state and local emergency management officials moving household debris and helping to providing security for communities.

"We hear so much on the news about missions we're conducting overseas," said Master Sgt. Scott Cowling, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery.

"But, many Indiana residents feel that a lot of the Guard's responsibility should be local. And anytime we get the opportunity to aid the public – especially in a disaster of this magnitude – it makes me a lot more proud to be a representative of the National Guard and aid in the rebuilding efforts of one of our own local communities and help to put people's lives back in order."

"90 percent of everybody will just stop and thank us, even if we haven't directly helped them out," said Pfc. Ross Pierson, Company B, 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment. "They really appreciate us being here. You know you're doing your job then and that's what we're here for."

The Citizen-Soldiers employed various military vehicles and equipment to assist in mobility and clearing afflicted areas. That included using 5-ton trucks, Humvees, wreckers and lighting equipment.

"During my previous deployment to Iraq, the devastation in that war zone didn't compare to the rubble that I am seeing here. This is worse in scale to some of what we saw in Iraq," said Sgt. Matthew Brown, Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 163rd Field Artillery.

FROM PAGE 1

MOH

largest disaster response since 1906.

"The call to duty can sometimes only be answered by the ultimate sacrifice, and yet you still answer," Vaughn said.

Turning to the Medal of Honor recipients, Vaughn said, "For these unique service members, there were no questions. When the chaos of battle unfurled in front of each of them, they responded, 'I will.'"

The son of Arkansas sharecroppers, Bacon dropped out of high school to help his family after his father contracted polio. The Bacons survived bad weather, crop-destroying insects and unreliable prices.

In 1963, the 18-year-old Bacon and nine friends shaved each other's heads before they enlisted. In Vietnam, Bacon found himself at what Vaughn called "the intersection of happenstance and hell" when the staff sergeant and his fellow Soldiers faced withering enemy fire during an operation west of Tam Ky.

It wasn't until he was back at Fort Hood, Texas, that Bacon learned the full consequences of his decisions during those brutal hours near Tam Ky.

"Everybody was looking for me," he said. "It was really weird. Gen. Westmoreland had called - his secretary had called for me. Everybody wanted to know what it was about.

The general told Bacon he would receive the Medal of Honor.

"It's a lot harder to wear it than it ever was to earn it," Bacon said. "It is something you can't take off once it's put on. There are a lot of expectations that come with it. You don't own it, you just wear it. It's something that everybody understands that wears the uniform."

Since President Richard Nixon gave him the medal in 1969, Bacon has spoken at numerous ceremonies on national holidays and other occasions nationwide. He has served on presidential commissions and led a state agency.

"The Army National Guard was good to me," Bacon said. He enlisted in the Arizona National Guard, then transferred to the Regular Army, retiring as a first sergeant in 1984.

Alfred Rascon did it the other way around, serving in the Regular Army before he joined the District of Columbia National Guard. Rascon originally intended to spend six months with the Guard but stayed more than two years and served in Afghanistan and Iraq before retiring as a major from the Army Reserve.

"You end up being this country's silent warriors," he told Guard members at the National Guard Memorial Building where he was honored by the National Guard Association of the United States. "Lots of people don't pay attention to that."

After the morning ceremony and lunch at the Massachusetts Avenue memorial, Rascon drove his Jaguar across the nation's capitol, where he has served at the highest levels of power as director of the Selective Service



Photo by Richard Arnold, National Guard Association of the United States

Retired Army Reserve Maj. Alfred Rascon and retired 1st Sgt. Nicky Bacon, former members of the Army National Guard, were honored as Medal of Honor recipients during Veterans Day ceremonies in Washington and Arlington, Va., on Nov. 10.

System. But he didn't dwell on his Medal of Honor, his presidential appointment or other lifetime achievements.

He remembered where he came from.

"You've got to remember how you got there," he said. "You have individuals who forget, and all of a sudden they're elitists when they're just like everybody else."

He still marvels at his nomination and appointment to the Selective Service System. "I was looked at based on my skills," he said. "It was incredible. Those skills were taught to me by the military."

Rascon was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. He was 3 when his parents immigrated. Growing up in Oxnard, Calif., he heard about the ongoing Korean War and idolized the Airmen, Sailors and Marines who served at nearby installations.

But his real reverence was reserved for paratroopers. The young Rascon crafted parachutes from bed sheets and made believe until he could enlist.

Rascon said would-be Guard members need the heart and will to succeed. "Not everybody is made out to be in the military," he said. "The National Guard is a great opportunity. It's an opportunity to do what you want based on who you are and what you've done. You can end up doing whatever you think you can do."

Like Bacon, Rascon describes the Medal of Honor as more of a responsibility than a reward. "The day they put that blue ribbon around your neck, your life changes completely," he said. "You end up being an individual who is looked at - through no fault of yourself or others - as a national hero, some say as a national treasure. You have an obligation to carry it with dignity.

"It's not yours. It ends up being for every man and woman who has been or is serving in the military."

Rascon and Bacon on Nov. 10 joined the ranks of men such as William "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Charles Lindberg and Audie Murphy, men honored on the walls of the National Guard Memorial Building and at Arlington Hall as Guardsmen and Medal of Honor recipients, 121 of them since 1898.

Rascon said he was scared during his life-changing minutes in Vietnam, the minutes when he received wounds grave enough to earn him the Sacrament of Last Rites as he saved the lives of brothers in arms. "The training you've had makes you put that aside and do the things that you were supposed to be doing," he said. "After it's over, you say, 'Jesus, I'm going to die.'

"Your peers and your noncommissioned officers found you to be an exceptional person that day," Rascon said. "In reality, you were just doing your job."

The medal's history

On Dec. 9, 1861, Iowa Sen. James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor." On Dec. 21 the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and Marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War)." President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.

Two months later on Feb. 17, 1862, Massachusetts Sen. Henry Wilson introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize "the President to distribute medals to privates in the Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle." Over the following months wording changed slightly as the bill made its way through Congress. When President Abraham Lincoln signed S.J.R. No 82 into law as 12 Stat. 623-624 on July 14, 1862, the Army Medal of Honor was born. It read in part:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand "medals of honor" to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of the Congress, to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other Soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection (Civil War)."

With this simple and rather obscure act Congress created a unique award that would achieve prominence in American history like few others.

The Navy medal was the first to be struck, followed quickly by the Army version of this award. There are three different types of Medals of Honor today: the original simple star shape established in 1861 which the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have retained; a wreath version designed in 1904 for the Army; and an altered wreath version for the Air Force, designed in 1963 and adopted in 1965.

Medal of Honor Gallery: Six Citizen-Soldiers Honored

By John Listman
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The National Guard Association opened its Memorial Building in 1991, including a special area called the Medal of Honor Gallery.

The gallery spotlights Guardsmen who earned the nation's highest honor for valor. The men fit one of three classifications.

"Those serving in the Guard before entering active duty for the period when the Medal was awarded.

"Those who were drilling members of a Guard unit when it was mobilized for the conflict during which the Medal was awarded. The recipient may or may not still have been serving with his original Guard unit when the Medal was earned.

"Those who earned the Medal and then joined the Guard.

The names of 115 Guardsmen are included in the gallery, listed by state.

Over the past decade, the records of other Medal recipients were scrutinized for possible inclusion in the gallery. Six fit the criteria, and on Nov. 10 their names were added on an addendum panel.

When the Medal of Honor Gallery was opened it was found to be so impressive that the National Guard Bureau soon had an exact duplicate installed in the Army National Guard Readiness Center at Arlington Hall.

On Nov. 10, a duplicate panel – fabricated at the same time by the same firm that made the addendum panel for the Memorial Building – was also added at the Arlington Hall.

The six men whose names were added include an American president, a general whose valor saved his comrades but cost him his life and a first-generation American so badly wounded he was given the Sacrament of Last Rites but survived and went on to head a federal agency.

Theodore Roosevelt



Theodore Roosevelt is the only president awarded the Medal of Honor.

Roosevelt joined the 8th Regiment, New York National Guard, as a captain in 1886, but resigned in 1888 to enter politics.

Soon after America declared war against Spain in 1898, Roosevelt -- with the rank of lieutenant colonel -- joined the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, commonly known as the "Rough Riders."

In Cuba, on July 1, 1898, the Rough Riders were assigned to capture Kettle Hill, to the right of San Juan Hill, which was to be attacked by other American troops.

Roosevelt, leading his dismounted men from horseback, charged up the hill into heavy Spanish fire. Forced to dismount because of a wire fence running across the hill, Roosevelt continued on foot, encouraging his men to take the summit. Just as they captured it, he looked at San Juan Hill and saw the American assault was tied down by concentrated enemy fire.

The future president ordered his men to charge across a saddle between the hills and hit the Spanish flank. This attack proved so successful that the enemy was soon in flight and the Americans held the hill.

Roosevelt was recommended for the Medal in 1898 but because of political rivalries it was only awarded by Congress in 2000.

John Moran

While the Rough Riders were making history half a world away, Capt. John Moran, commanding Co. C, 1st Montana Volunteer Infantry landed near Manila, in the Philippines, as part of the invasion force to take the islands from Spain. This was accomplished with little bloodshed. The U.S. soon annexed the islands as an American colony; leading Filipino guerrillas to launch attacks against the Army in a bid for freedom.

Like other Guard units still in-country, the 1st Montana found itself engaged in pitched battles against the insurgents. By the spring of 1899 the Guard units were being sent home and a call went out from the Army looking for volunteers to fill the ranks of newly organized regiments.

Capt. Moran volunteered and was assigned to the 37th Infantry, U.S. Volunteers. On September 17, 1900, he earned the Medal by "fearlessly (leading) a small body of troops under severe fire and through water waist deep in the attack against the enemy." Moran received the Medal in 1901 and returned home to a career in law enforcement.

Merritt Edson

Serving in the 1st Vermont Infantry on the Mexican border in 1916 was Pvt. Merritt Edson. He enlisted in the Guard in 1915 but upon his return home from the border in 1917, he transferred to the Marines.

By 1942 America was embroiled in World War II and Col. Edson commanded the First Marine Raider Battalion.

On the night of Aug. 13-14, 1942, his men were securing what later came to be called "Bloody Ridge," overlooking Henderson Airfield on the island of Guadalcanal.

Vicious Japanese attacks collapsed part of

the Marine position, causing the men to fall back. Under the calm direction of Edson, they soon reestablished a new defensive line and despite repeated enemy assaults the Marines held their ground.

All during the night Edson "was all over the place, encouraging, cajoling and correcting as he continually exposed himself to enemy fire." He was awarded the Medal in 1943. When Maj. Gen. Edson retired in 1947, he held two Navy Crosses besides the Medal of Honor, making him one of the most decorated men in Marine Corps history.

Frederick Castle

Another private getting his start in the Guard was Frederick Castle, who served in New Jersey's 173rd Motor Transport Company, 44th Division, from October 1924 until his acceptance to West Point in July 1926.

After graduating in 1930, Castle was assigned to the Air Corps, rising to the rank of brigadier general in 1944. He was the Assistant Commander, 4th Bombardment Wing, 8th Air Force, flying missions over Nazi-occupied Europe.

While leading a 2,000-strong bomber mission on Christmas Eve, 1944, over enemy positions in the Ardennes Forest of Belgium, one of the four engines on Castle's B-17 lost power.

Rather than risk the mission, Castle dropped out of formation, lagging further behind with each mile. As his plane -- still full of the bombs he did not want to drop on Allied troops below -- came under repeated German fighter attacks, two other engines were set ablaze.

When it became apparent his aircraft was going to crash, Gen. Castle remained at the controls, allowing the rest of the crew to bail out but costing his own life. He was posthumously awarded the Medal in 1946.

Alfred Rascon

Alfred Rascon, an immigrant from Mexico, enlisted in the Army in 1962. He was a medic assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade when it deployed to Vietnam in 1965. On March 16, 1966, his unit came under a concerted attack by more than a battalion of enemy soldiers.

Several members in the point (lead) position were wounded in the opening moments. Spec. 4 Rascon, with no regard for his own safety dashed through a hail of bullets to reach one of the injured. Covering the man with his own body, he dragged him to safety, being wounded himself in the hip.

Rascon then exposed himself again to take ammunition to a machine gunner who was running low. Several more times he journeyed into hostile fire to retrieve wounded comrades, each time suffering more wounds.

By the end of the action, Rascon had suffered so many wounds he was given the Last Rites, but recovered.

Originally awarded the Silver Star for his actions, members of Rascon's unit -- including those men whose lives he saved -- fought for years for him to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Finally in 1999 Congress approved and in February 2000 he received the Medal from President Bill Clinton.

On July 12, 2001, Rascon joined the Mobilization Augmentation Detachment Four, District of Columbia Army National Guard. He retired as a major from the USAR in 2005.

Nicky Bacon



Eighteen-year-old Nicky Bacon joined the Arizona Army Guard's Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 158th Infantry in 1963.

By 1964, Bacon decided to enlist in the Regular Army. On August 26, 1968, near Tam Ky, Vietnam, Staff Sgt. Bacon -- then a member of the 23rd "Americal" Infantry Division -- and his platoon came under withering machine gun and rifle fire from well concealed enemy positions.

Bacon organized his men and led them forward, destroying a bunker single-handedly. Soon his platoon leader was wounded and Bacon took command, directing covering fire as they moved the wounded. When a second platoon attempted to come to their relief, its leadership was also wounded. Bacon, without hesitation, assumed command of it too and established a defensive perimeter. In the process he is credited with killing four enemy soldiers and destroying an antitank weapon.

Bacon then climbed on top of a destroyed tank and directed his men from its exposed location, allowing several wounded men to be removed. Soon, he had his men moving forward, and the enemy broke contact, ending the battle. For his inspired leadership and selfless courage, he was presented the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon in 1969. After retiring as a First Sergeant from the Army in 1984 he served as the Director, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs.

Contacting a Family Program Coordinator near you

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

Alaska

State Family Program Director
Jan Myers
P.O. Box 5800
Fort Richardson, AK 99505
Office/DSN #: (907) 428-6663 / 384-4663 or 1-(888) 917-3608

168ARW
Nola Barnes
2680 Flightline Ave. Ste. 117
Eielson AFB, AK 99702-1794
Office/ 907-377-8715

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

Alabama

State Family Program Director
SGM Hubert Chance
1720 Cong WL Dickerson Dr.
Montgomery, AL, 36109-0711
Office/DSN (334)-271-7283 / 363-7283 or 1-(800) 231-2846

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

187FW
Sharon Hubbert
5187 Selma Hwy.
Montgomery, AL 36108-4824
Office/DSN: 334-394-7119/ 358-9119

Arkansas

SGT. 1ST CLASS Mary Myers
Camp Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72119
Office/DSN: (501) 212-4102 / 962-4102 or 1-(800) 446-4645

188 FW
Eva R. Patton, CIV/FAM
Family Readiness Support
Coordinator
188FW AIR NATIONAL GUARD
4850 Leigh Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72903-6096
Office/DSN: 479-573-5167 / 778-5167

189AW
Juanita Owens
189th AW Family Program
112 CHIEF MASTER SGT. Williams
Drive
Little Rock AFB, AR 72099-4802

Arizona

State Family Program Director
CW4 Jan Finney
5636 E. McDowell Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85008-3495
Office/DSN: (602) 267-2593 / 853-2593 or 1-(800) 233-7758

161 ARW
Glen Klassen
3200 E Old Tower Rd.

Phoenix, AZ. 85034-7263
Office/DSN: 602-302-9094/
853-9094
162 FW
Jolene Helt
1650 E Perimeter Way
Tucson, AZ
Office/DSN: 520-295-6566/ 844-6566

California

State Family Program Director
Steven Read
CAJS-FP Box 54, 9800 Goethe
Sacramento, CA 95827
Office/DSN: (916) 854-3252 / 466-3252 or 1-(800) 449-9662

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

144FW
Barbara Draughon
5323 E. McKinley Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727-2199
Office/DSN 59-454-5383/ 839-5383

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

163 ARW
Debbie Hambrick
1620 Graeber Street
March ARB, CA 92518-1624
Office/DSN 951-655-2165 / 447-2165

Colorado

State Family Program Director
Debbi Blackburn
6848 S. Revere Parkway
Centennial, CO 80112
Office/DSN (303) 677-8844
877-8844

140 WG
Mandy Romero
Buckley Air Force Base/140 S Aspen
St Stop 37
Aurora, CO
Office/DSN:303-677-9116/ 877-9116

Connecticut

State Family Program Director
Kimberly Hoffman
Connecticut National Guard
Office of Family Programs
360 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105-3795
Office/DSN: (860) 493-2745/636-0745 or 1-(800)858-2677

103 FW
Donna Rivera
100 Nicholson Rd.
E Granby, CT
Office/DSN: 860-292-2730/ 220-2730

Washington DC

State Family Program Director
SGM Patricia Williamson
2001 East Capitol St.
Washington, DC 20003
Office/DSN: (202) 685-9826/ 325-9826

113 FW
Connie Moore
Family Readiness and Support
Office (FRSO)
Room 106
3252 E. Perimeter Road
Andrews AFB, MD 20762-5411
Office/DSN: 240-857-9746/None

Delaware

State Family Program Director
LTC Willie Barnes
1st Regiment Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19808-2191
Office/DSN: (302) 326-7268 / 440-7268 or 1-(877) 482-7333

166 AW
Yolanda DiVirgilio
2600 Spruance Drive
New Castle, DE 19720
Office/DSN: 302-323-3327/445-7327

Florida

State Family Program Director
CW4 Bobbi Hall
DCSPER-FR, P.O. Box 1008
St. Augustine, FL 32085-1008
Office/DSN: (904) 823-0360 / 860-7360 or 1-(800) 226-0360

125 FW
Beth Eifert
FL Air National Guard 125 FW/FR
14300 FANG Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32218
Office/DSN: 904-741-7027/ 641-7027

Georgia

State Family Program Director
LTC LaNita (Rene) Kuhn
935 E. Confederate Avenue
S.E., Building 21
Atlanta, GA 30316-0965
Office/DSN: 404-624-6454/ 338-6454

116ACW
Eileen Byrd
280 First St
Bldg 155, Robins AFB,
GA 32218
Office/DSN: 478-327-6180/ 497-6180

165 AW
Frank Baker
1401 Robert B. Miller Jr. Dr.
Garden City, GA
31408-9001
Office/DSN: 912-966-8363/ 860-8363

Guam

State Family Program Director
LTC Michael Martinez
622 E. Harmon Industrial Park Rd
Ft. Juan Muna,
Tamuning, GU 96911-4421
Office/DSN: 671-647-2717/ 271-2722

Hawaii

State Family Program Director
Lorna Souza
360 Harbor Drive
Hickam AFB, Hawaii 96853-7049
Office/Cell#: 808-448-7049 or 818-341-7608

154 WG
Loretta Hales
360 Harbor Dr.
Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5517
Office/DSN: 808-448-7282/None

Iowa

State Family Program Directors
Catherine Luther
Camp Dodge, 7700 NW Beaver Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131-1902
Office/DSN: (515) 252-4416 / 431-4416 or 1-(800) 294-6607

132 FW
Amanda Wicker
3100 McKinley Ave.
Des Moines, IA
Office/DSN 515-256-8786
256-8786

DeAnna Pennings
185ARW
2920 Headquarters Ave.

Sioux City, IA, 51111
Office/DSN: 712-233-0817/585-0817

Idaho

State Family Program Director
Bill Shouse
4749 Kennedy St. Bldg 902
Boise, ID 83705
Phone: (208) 422-4361
DSN: 422-4361

124WG
John Spurny
3787 W. Areonca St.
Boise, ID 83705
Office/DSN: 208-422-5374/422-5374

Illinois

State Family Program Director
MAJ Joe Schweickert
Office (217) 761-3622
joseph.schweickert@us.army.mil

126 ARW
Anne Nowak
126 Air Guard Way
Scott AFB, IL 62225
Office/DSN: (618) 222-5784/760-5784

182 AW
Amy K. Quimby
2416 S. Falcon Blvd.
Peoria, IL 61607
Office/DSN: 309-633-5339/ 724-5339

183 FW
Perry Jackson
3101 J. David Jones Pkwy.
Springfield, IL 62707-5001
Office/DSN: 217-757-1569/ 892-8569

Indiana

State Family Program Director
Susan Richards
2002 S. Holt Rd. Bldg #3
Indianapolis, IN 46241-4839
Office/DSN: (317) 247-3192 / 369-2192

181 FW
Johnny Saylor Community manager
800 S. Petercheff St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803-5000
Office/DSN: 812-877-5658/ 724-1658

122 FW
Connie Douthat
3005 Ferguson Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46809-0122
Office/DSN: 260-478-3409/ 786-1409

Kansas

State Family Program Director
CW3 Valerie Garcia
AGKS-HRO-SFPC, 2800 SW
Topeka, KS 66611-1287
Office/DSN: (785) 274-1171 / 720-8171 or 1-(800) 432-2447

190ARW
Tonya Van Sickle
5920 SE Coyote Dr.
Topeka, KS 66619-5370
Office/DSN: 785-861-4940/ 720-4940

Kentucky

MSG Thomas Combs
KG-DCSPER-FP, Boone NG Center,
100 Minuteman Parkway
Frankfort, KY 40601-6168
Office/DSN: (502) 607-1549 / 667-1549
Toll Free#: (800) 372-7601
123 AW
Paula McLain and Darlene Swanner
1101 Grade Lane
Louisville, KY 40213
Office/DSN: 502-364-9647/741-4647

184 ARW
Evelyn McSwain
52955 Jayhawk Dr., #28
McConnell AFB, KS 67221-9000
Office/DSN: 316-759-7092/ 743-7092
Louisiana
State Family Program Director
CPT Susan Bush
Jackson Barracks. Bldg 57
New Orleans, LA 70146-0330
Office/DSN: (504) 278-8325 / 278-8325
Toll Free#: (800) 541-5860

159 FW
Carrie Matirne
400 Russell Ave., Box 27 NAS-JRB
New Orleans, LA 70143-0027
Office/DSN #: 504-391-8505/457-8505

Massachusetts

State Family Program Director
Maureen Serrecchia
Family Program Office, 14
Minuteman Lane
Wellesly, MA 02481
Office/DSN #: (508) 233-7222/256-7222
Toll Free #: (888) 301-3103 ext 7222

102 FW
Erin Creighton
158 Reilly Street Box 70
Otis ANGB, MA 02542-5028
Office/DSN #: (508) 968-4855/ 557-4855

104 FW
Sandra Wakefield
175 Falcon Dr.
Westfield, MA 01085
Office/DSN #:413-568-9151
EXT1183/ 698-1183

Maryland

State Family Program Director
MSG Ann Weih-Clark
29th Division St. 5th Regiment
Armory
Baltimore, MD 21201-2208
Office/DSN #: (410) 576-6019 / None
Toll Free #: (877) 399-6221

175 WG
Karol Yox
2701 Eastern Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21220
Office/DSN: 410-918-6768/243-6768

Maine

State Family Program Director
SGT. 1ST CLASS Barbara Claudel
DVEM, ATTN DPA-FP, State House
Station #33
Augusta, ME 04333-0033
Office/DSN #: (207) 626-4410 / 476-4410

101 ARW
Pattie Reynolds
103 Maineiac Av. Ste 505
Bangor, ME 04401-3099
Office/DSN #: 207-990-7494/7225/698-7494/7225

Michigan

State Family Program Director
MSG Janet Weber
2500 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48913-5101
Office/DSN #: (517) 702-5116 / 623-0116 or 1-(800) 616-0128

110 FW
Robin Berry
3545 Mustang Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49015-5509
Office/DSN #: 269-969-3493/ 580-3493 or 1-(800)-753-6201 ext 3493

127 WG
Pam Harris

29423 George Ave., #101
Selfridge ANG Base, MI 48045
Office/DSN # (810)-307-5583/ 273-5583

CRTC
Justin Dyess
5884 A Street
Alpena, MI 49707-8125
Office/DSN: 989-354-6220/ 741-3220

Minnesota

State Family Program Director
MAJ Jim Swanson
8180 Belden Boulevard, ATTN:
MNAG-JCEFO
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Office/DSN #: (651) 268-8208 / 825-8208 or 1-(888) 234-1274

133 AW
Ms Jill Lawrence
133AW/GFN, Bldg 631, 631
Minuteman Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55111-4116
Office/DSN #: 612-713-2367/783-2367

148 FW
Jennifer Kuhlman
4680 Viper St
Duluth, MN 55811-6031
Office/DSN #: 218-788-7833/825-7833

Missouri

State Family Program Director
CW4 Michael McGuire
2302 Militia Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Office/DSN #: (573) 638-9827 / 555-9827 or 1-(800) 299-9603

131 FW
Kathy Fitzgerald
10800 Lambert International Blvd,
Stop 2
St. Louis, MO 63044
Office/DSN #: 314-527-6362/824-6362

139 AW
Jane Lackey
705 Memorial Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64503-9307
Office/DSN #: 816-236-3517/356-3517

Mississippi

State Family Program Director
CW3 Melissa Tanksley
P.O. Box 5027
Jackson, MS 39296-5027
Office/DSN #: (601) 313-6379 / 293-6379 or 1-(866) 369-6506

172 AW
Marianne Breland
141 Military Dr.
Jackson, MS 39232
Office/DSN #: 601-405-8211/828-8211

186 ARW
Connie Myers
6225 M St.
Meridian, MS 39307-7112
Office/DSN: 601-484-9623/ 778-9623

CRTC
Charles Carrigan
4715 Hewes Ave., Bldg 1
Gulfport, MS 39507-4324
Office/DSN #: 228-214-6018
363-6018

Montana

State Family Program Director
Dorrie Hagan
P.O. Box 4789, 1900 N. Williams St.
Helena, MT 59604-4789
Office/DSN #: (406) 324-3239 / 324-3239

See LIST on Page 15

FROM PAGE 14

List

120 FW
Susan Fairhurst
2800 Airport Avenue B
Great Falls, MT 59404-3750
Office/DSN #: 406-791-0867/ 781-0488

North Carolina

State Family Program Director
CPT Sherrell Murray
4105 Reedy Creek Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27607-6410
Office/DSN #: (919) 664-6324 / 582-9324 or
(800) 621-4136

145 AW
Kathleen Flaherty
5225 Morris Field Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28208-5704
Office/DSN #: 704-398-4949/231-4949

North Dakota

State Family Program Director
MAJ Jackie Huber
P.O. Box 5511
Bismark, ND 58506-5511
Office/DSN #: (701) 333-2058 / 373-2058 or
1-(800) 242-4940

119FW
Jody Harms
1400 28th Ave
No. Fargo, ND 58102-1051
Office/DSN #: 701-451-2112/ 362-8112

Nebraska

State Family Program Director
MAJ Drey Ihm
1234 Military Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68508-1097
Office/DSN: (402) 309-7332 / 279-7332 or
1-(800) 432-6778

155 ARW
Nicole A. Effle
2420 W. Butler Ave.
Lincoln, NE 68524-1885
Office/DSN: 402-309-1588/279-1588

New Hampshire

State Family Program Director
2LT Kenneth Leedberg
State Military Reservation, 4 Pembroke Rd.
Concord, NH 03301-5652
Office: 603-225-1215 or DSN: 684-9215
Hotline: 1-800-472-0328

157 ARW
Bonnie Lee Rice
302 Newmarket St
Pease ANGB, NH 03803-0157
Office/DSN: 603-430-3545/852-3545

New Jersey

State Family Program Director
CW4 Ralph Cwieka
Joint Force Headquarters, 3650 Saylor's Pond
Rd.
Springfield, OH 45502
Office/DSN: (609) 562-0668 / 944-0668 or
1- (888) 859-0352

108 ARW
Tiffany L. Colby
3327 Charles Blvd.
McGuire AFB, NJ 08641
Office/DSN: (609)754-4479/650-4479

177 FW
Joan Searfoss
400 Langley Rd.
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234-9500
Office/DSN: 609-645-6248/455-6248

New Mexico

State Family Program Director
MAJ Robert Wilson
10 Bataan Blvd.
Santa Fe, NM 87508-4277
Office/DSN: (505) 474-1220 / 867-8220 or
1- (866) 460-4100

150 FW
Therese Sanchez
2251 Air Guard Rd., SE (Fam Prog)
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117-5875

Office/DSN: 505-853-5668/263-5668

Nevada

State Family Program Director
MAJ Joanne Farris
2460 Fairview Lane
Carson City, NV 89701
Office/DSN: (775) 887-7328 / 830-5328

152 AW
Larry Miller
1776 National Guard Way
Reno, NV 89502-4494
Office/DSN: 775-788-4585/830-4585

New York

State Family Program Director
Beverly Keating
Attn: MNHF-FP, 330 Old Niskayuna Rd.
Latham, NY 12110-2224
Office/DSN: (518) 786-4525 / 489-4525

105AW
Open Position
One Militia Way, Stewart ANG Base
Newburgh, NY 11978-1201
Office/DSN: 845-563-2062/636-2062

106 RQW
Lisa D'Agostino
150 Old Riverhead Rd
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-1201
Office/DSN: 631-723-7133/456-7133

107 ARW
Carole Adamczyk
9910 Guardian St
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-6001
Office/DSN: 716-236-3411/238-3411

109AW
Open Position
Stratton ANGB, 1 Air National Rd.
Scotia, NY 12302-9752
Office/DSN: 518-344-2357/344-2357

174FW
Terri Scanlin
NYANG, 6001 E. Molloy Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13211-7099
Office/DSN: 315-454-6577/489-9577

Ohio

State Family Program Director
LTC Robert Bramlish
2825 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, OH 43235-2789
Office/DSN: (614) 336-7352 / 273-7352
or 1- (800) 589-9914

121 ARW
Carolyn J. Ebert
7370 Minuteman Way
Columbus, OH 43217
Office/DSN: 614-492-4417/696-4417

178FW
Jane Esprit
706 Regula Ave.
Springfield, OH 45502
Office/DSN: 937-525-2583/346-2583

179 AW
Faline Rowland
1947 Harrington Memorial Road
Mansfield, OH 44903-0179
Office/DSN: 419-520-6600/696-6600

180 FW
Judy York
2660 S. Eber Rd.
Swanton, OH 43558
Office/DSN: 419-868-4550/580-4550

Oklahoma

State Family Program Director
CPT Kenneth Iverson
3501 Military Circle
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-4839
Office/DSN: (405) 228-5591 / 628-5591
137 AW
Jennifer Lain
5624 Air Guard Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73159
Office/DSN: 405-686-5683/720-5683

138 FW
Connie Hurt
4200 N. 93rd E., Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74115-1699
Office/DSN: 918-833-7732/894-7732

Oregon

State Family Program Director
Diane Gooding
P.O. Box 14350, 1776 Militia Way
Salem, OR 97309-5047
Office/DSN: (503) 584-3543 / 355-3543
or 1-(800) 452-7500

142FW
Mary Bell
6801 Ne Cornfoot Road
Portland IAP, OR 97218-2797
Office/DSN: 503-335-4193/ 638-4193

173 FW
Tamra Narramore
211 Arnold Ave, Suite 30
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
Office/DSN: 541-885-6112/ 830-6112

Pennsylvania

State Family Program Director
MAJ Joseph Conrad
Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs, Attn:
MP-FAO
Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003
Office/DSN#: (717) 861-8841 / 491-8841
or 1- 800-634-1790

111 FW
Nicholas Monatesti
1151 Fairchild St.
Willow Grove ARS, PA 19090-5300
Office/DSN#: 215-443-1409/991-1409

171 ARW
Deb Krall
300 Tanker Road, #4221
Coraopolis, PA 15108-4221
Office/DSN#: 412-474-7365/ 277-7365

193 RD
Sabrina Lengner
81 Constellation Ct.
Middletown, PA 17057
Office/DSN#: 717-948-3155/ 423-3155

Puerto Rico

State Family Program Director
SGT. 1ST CLASS Nydia Garcia
P.O. Box 9023786, San Juan, PR 00902-3786
E-Mail: nydia.garcia@pr.ngb.army.mil
Office/DSN#: (787) 289-1516 / None

156 AW
200 Jose A. Santana Ave.
Carolina, PA 00979
Office/Fax: 787-253-7443/ 787 253-5166

Rhode Island

State Family Program Director
LTC Robert Behm
TAGRI.DP/FC, 645 New London Ave.
Cranston, RI 02920-3783
Office/DSN#: (401) 275-4194 / 247-4194
or 877-440-7994

143AW
Tina Scully
1 Minuteman Way
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Office/DSN: 401-886-0148/ 476-3148

South Carolina

State Family Program Director
SGT. 1ST CLASS Kathy Maffet
TAG-FP-Stop 1, 1 National Guard Rd.
Columbia, SC 29201
Office 803-806-2908

169FW
Doris Luellen
1325 S. Carolina Rd., #28
Eastover, SC 29044-5028
Office/DSN: 803-647-8089/ 583-8089

South Dakota

State Family Program Director
LTC Steve Dunn
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, SD 57702-8186

E-Mail: steve.dunn@sd.ngb.army.mil
Office/DSN#: (605) 737-6728 / 747-8728
or 1-800-658-3930

114FW
Rebecca Anderson
1201 W. Algonquin St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Office/DSN#: 605-988-5962/ 798-7962

Tennessee

State Family Program Director
MAJ Ronald Strahle
601 Fitzhugh Blvd.
Smyrna, TN 37167
E-Mail: ronald.strahle@tn.ngb.army.mil
Office/DSN#: (615) 355-3996 / 683-3996
or 1-877-311-3264

118AW
Sherri Weathers
240 Knapp Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37217-2538
Office/DSN#: 615-399-5504/ 778-6504

134 AW
Stephen Latham
134 Briscoe Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37777-6203
Office/DSN#: (865) 985-3107/ 266-3107

164 ARW
Betty Gaskins
2815 Democrat Rd., Bldg 402, Rm 26
Memphis, TN 38118-1510
901-291-7125/726-7125

Texas

State Family Program Director
Laura L. Contreras
2200 Democrat Rd., Bldg 402, Rm 26
Camp Mabry, TX 78703
E-Mail: Laura.Contreras@tx.ngb.army.mil
Office/Fax: (512) 782-5771/ 782-6953

136 AW
Kristie Jo Buckler
300 Hensley Ave., #201
Fort Worth, TX 76127-1673
Office/DSN#: 817-852-3558/874-3558

147 FW
Terry Guidry
14657 Sneider St
Houston, TX 77034-5586
Office/DSN#: 281-929-2056/ 454-2056

149 FW
Shanita Lanier
107 Hensley St. Suite 1
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-0103
Office/DSN#: 210-977-6171/945-6171

Utah

MAJ Patrick Osmond
PO Box 1776
Draper, UT 84020-1776
E-Mail: patrick.osmond@ut.ngb.army.mil
Office/DSN#: (801) 523-4533 / 766-4533
Fax#: (801) 523-4685

Wing Family Coordinator
Jill Lukes
765 N 2200 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-2999
E-Mail: jill.lukes@utsalt.af.mil
Office/DSN#: (801) 245-2524 / 245-2524
Fax#: (801) 245-2578

Virginia

State Family Program Director
Timothy Baer
Attn: VAPA-FP, Bldg 316, FT Pickett
Blackstone, VA 23824
Office (434) 298-6336

192FW
Angie Wade
50 Falcon Rd., Suite 6
Sandston, VA 23150-2524
Office/DSN#: 804-236-7036/ 864-7036

Virgin Islands

State Family Program Director

Ms. Linda Todman
4031 La Grande Princesse, Lot 1B
Christianstead, VI 00820-4353
E-Mail: linda.todman@vi.ngb.army.mil
Office/DSN#: (340) 712-7787/ None
Fax#: (340) 712-7782

Vermont

State Family Program Director
Mrs. Lynn Bedell
789 Vermont National Guard Road
Colchester, VT 05446-3099
Office/DSN#: (802) 338-3347 / 636-3347
or 1-800-607-8773

158FW
Angela Prive
88 NCO Dr., Suite 114
South Burlington, VT 05403
Office/DSN#: 802-652-8035/ 220-8035

Washington

State Family Program Director
LTC Diane Williams
Bldg 97 Camp Murray
Tacoma, WA 98430
Office/DSN# (253) 512-7754 / 512-7881
Or 1-800-364-7492

141 ARW
1403 W. Wainwright Blvd.
Fairchild AFB, WA 99011
Office/DSN#: 509-247-7009/ 657-7009

DET-1
Angela Rivera
Building 106, 41st Division Way
Camp Murray, WA 98430
Office/DSN#: 253-512-3397/ 370-3397

Wisconsin

State Family Program Director
1LT Daniel Hanson
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53708
Office/DSN#: (608) 242-3480 / 724-3480
or 1-800-292-9464

115 FW
Vicki Edgren
2625 Hoffman St. Bldg. 307
Madison, WI
Office/DSN#: 608-245-4654/ 724-8654

128ARW
Debbie Schultz
1919 E. Grange Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207-6199
Office/DSN#: 414-944-8249/580-8249

West Virginia

State Family Program Director
COL Glen Diehl
1701 Coonskin Dr.
Charleston, WV 25311-1085
Office/DSN#: (304) 561-6380 / 623-6380
or 1-800-794-8273

130AW
Sharon Peters
1679 Coonskin Dr.
Charleston, WV 25311-5000
Office/DSN#: 304-341-6625/ 366-6625

167AW
Susan Sanders
222 Sabre Jet Blvd.
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Office/DSN#: 304-262-5590/242-5590

Wyoming

State Family Program Director
William Breckenridge
5500 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3320
Office/DSN#: (307) 772-5208 / 388-5208
Toll Free#: 800-635-4917

153AW
Denise Rampolla
217 Dell Range Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Office/DSN#: 307-772-6063/388-6063

Guard helps celebrate Lewis and Clark's arrival at the Pacific

By Spc. Patrick Lair

Oregon Army National Guard

WARRENTON, Ore. – In the winter of 1805, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a group of weary men down the Columbia River to their journey's destination: the Pacific Ocean.

According to their journals, the weather experienced on the Oregon coast by the men of the Corps of Discovery 200 hundred years ago differed very little from what visitors encountered during the commemoration at Fort Stevens on Nov. 11.

It rained and hailed, and then it rained some more.

More than 1,000 people attended the bicentennial celebration of Lewis and Clark's historic journey across the continent in search of a river passage to the West. The party arrived at the confluence of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean in November 1805. It seemed fitting that Oregonians and Washingtonians celebrated the Corps of Discovery's accomplishment on Veterans Day.

The ceremony, which opened a week-long celebration, "Destination: The Pacific," was filled with patriotic fervor. Many veterans of past wars and prior service members attended. Members of Oregon and Washington's Army and Air National Guard were on hand as were members of every active duty service.

The ceremony, sponsored by the Oregon and Washington National Guards, began with Oregon's 234th Army Band and Washington's 133rd Army Band performing an array of military classics. Keynote speakers at the event included Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski, a former Marine; Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire; Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, the Oregon National Guard's adjutant general; and Maj. Gen. Timothy Lowenberg, adjutant general for Washington.

Members from Native American tribes around the country also participated in the Friday commemoration. Tribal members from as far away as Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma carried flags in honor of their vet-



Re-enactors from many states come together for the ceremony.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett

Charles Tailfeathers, a member of the Warm Springs Tribe of Oregon, hands his staff to Washington Army National Guard Maj. Phil Osterli during the "Destination: The Pacific" opening ceremony at Fort Stevens in Oregon on Nov. 11. The Oregon and Washington National Guards sponsored the event.

erans or Soldiers currently serving overseas.

Dick Basch, a direct descendent of Chief Cobboway, upon whose ancient village site the ceremony took place, gave a tribal blessing.

"It was on these grounds that our people met Lewis and Clark, and it was a friendly meeting," Basch said, adding he was happy to be among so many veterans.

Kulongoski then took the microphone and thanked the tribes for their participation. "We're very honored to be part of this celebration with you," he said.

The governor called the commemoration one of the greatest moments in Oregon's cultural history.

"If ever there was a day to celebrate courage and the human spirit, this is it," Oregon's governor announced to the crowd's applause. Though battered by freezing rain, onlookers continued to cheer the speakers' references to veterans and the Corps of Discovery.

"The values that inspired Lewis and Clark inspired all American veterans," Kulongoski continued. "Those values are love of country, commitment to duty, courage to walk in the valley of the shadow of death, and willingness to sacrifice."

The governor added that he sees the same values in the Soldiers serving overseas today as in the generation that fought during World War II. The only difference, he noted, is that the public today does not carry as much of the burden as the troops.

The adjutants general from Oregon and Washington thanked the Native Americans for participating and praised the service of America's veterans.

"The Corps of Discovery was a military expedition. It was of great consequence to this country, and we thank all veterans of all backgrounds," Rees said.

Continuing with the theme of America's military being comprised of people from different ethnic backgrounds, Lowenberg remarked, "This exemplifies our nation's motto: E Pluribus Unum. From many: One. And we're still an army of one," he added.

A large number of Lewis and Clark re-enactors also attended. Some of the actors were from as far away as Virginia and played the roles of members of the Corps of Discovery that President Thomas Jefferson originally dispatched westward from St. Louis in 2004. Some of the actors had followed the corps's exact route up the Missouri River from St. Louis, through Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas and Montana, over the mountains into Idaho and down the Snake and Columbia Rivers to be at the Veterans Day event.

Warren Keller of Lebanon, Ill., spent the last two years tracing the route with the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, dressed as John Shields, the group's blacksmith.

"At 35 years of age, Shields was the oldest member of the group," Keller said. "At 77, I'm also the oldest member of our group."

Other groups brought ponderosa pine canoes, hollowed from trees 30-feet long and 5-feet wide. The group paddled them along the Columbia River the same way the corps did. The only difference, according to one member of the canoe-building Bitterroot Corps, is that the original explorers traversed the major rapids of the Columbia in their canoes. Today, the rapids have been replaced

by hydroelectric dams.

Representatives from the Clatsop-Nehalem tribe of the Oregon coast brought hand-carved redwood canoe paddles which they used to paddle a handmade canoe out into the Pacific to commemorate an ancient tradition.

The ceremony concluded with a joint force flyover consisting of two Oregon Air National Guard F-15 Eagles from the 123rd Fighter Squadron, two Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 1042nd Medical Company from Salem, Ore., and a Coast Guard UH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Astoria.

Even though the storm increased in strength, casting a barrage of hail and rain on the audience, the crowd cheered as the aircraft cut a path across the cloudy sky.

Finally, the Oregon Army Guard's 2nd Battery, 218th Field Artillery Battalion from Portland fired 10 rounds from the ramparts of historic Fort Stevens as part of a 21-gun salute. The Washington Army Guard's 2nd Battery, 146th Field Artillery Battalion, from Olympia answered with 10 shots from their side of the Columbia. Re-enactors from the Friends of Fort Stevens fired the final round with a black powder cannon, bringing the commemoration to a close.

Unlike the Corps of Discovery, which spent a long winter fighting the rain and wind along the Pacific coast, the visitors at Fort Stevens hurried off to heated buses and automobiles after the two-hour ceremony, though probably with a little more respect for those who came before them.