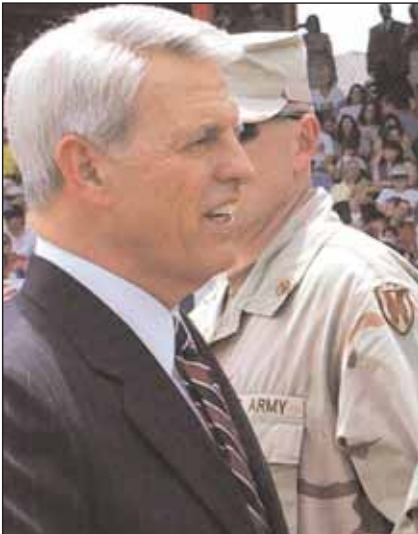


# THE ON GUARD

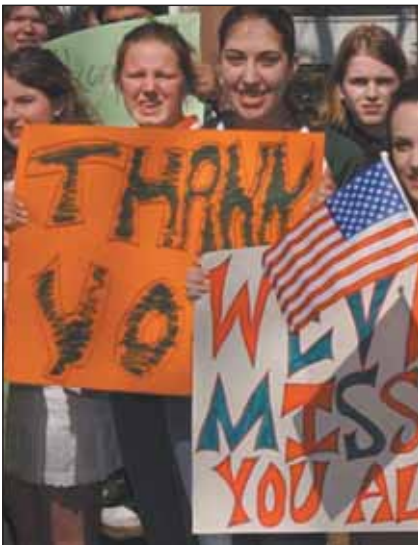
Volume XXXIII, 7 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD June 2004

## Praise



Army leadership praises National Guard. See story on page 2.

## Welcome home



South Dakota welcomes home citizen-Soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom. See story on page 12.

## Flying Shadows



Military Intelligence Soldiers take to the air. See story on page 8.

## 'The honor of a Soldier or Airman is never negotiable'

*(Editor's note: The follow is a message sent to state adjutant generals from LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, concerning the recent alleged abuse of Iraqi prisoners.)*

ARLINGTON, Va. — I ask you to reflect upon the solemn obligations that each of us, as American Soldiers and Airmen, has to our states, our nation and to those with whom we serve.

We are entrusted with the lives of America's sons and daughters—to train them, to lead them and to

act as their role models.

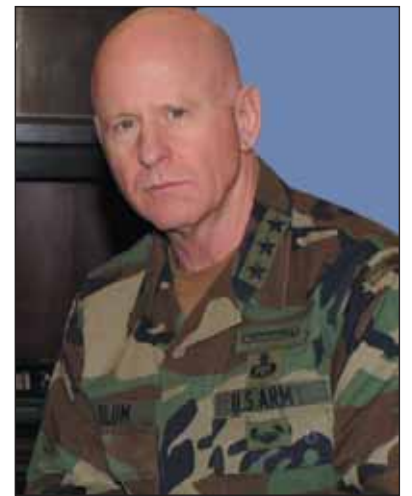
You have heard me say that "when you call out the Guard, you call out America." You call out all of America—its values, its beliefs, its spirit. They are the very values the National Guard helped to create in the fashioning of this great democracy; they are the values for which the Guard and our fellow service members have shed their blood; and, they are the values that give us the moral high ground on the field of battle.

Indeed, they are the values we

have sworn to defend.

The honor of a Soldier or Airman is never negotiable. Their values must transcend time and circumstance; their performance of duty, no matter the difficulty, must be accomplished with honor and distinction; and their responsibilities to the Constitution and each other fulfilled in the highest traditions of the American spirit.

I ask each of you to review with all those for whom you are responsible their solemn obligation to each other, their service and our great nation.



H Steven Blum

## 116th Infantry Regiment has a historical past and future



Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Sheraz Khalid, who was born in Pakistan, is now a medic in the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry preparing to serve for a year in Afghanistan. He helped train other Guard Soldiers in first aid.

**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
National Guard Bureau

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — It would be perfectly all right with Lt. Col. Blake Ortnier if people didn't compare apples with watermelons when talking about how a historic Virginia Army National Guard infantry outfit is again training to go to war.

We're talking about the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment from Winchester, Va., that is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan sometime this summer to spend a year helping to fight the global war against terrorism. Those are the apples.

We're also talking about the same 116th Regiment which paid a heavy price in blood, sweat and tears while fighting its way onto Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, during the first two waves of the great D-Day invasion June 6, 1944. Those are the watermelons.

Ortnier, the 3rd Battalion commander, and the 570 Guard Soldiers he has led since September 2002 are fully aware of their regiment's place in U.S. military history.

But Ortnier likes to keep things in perspective. He knows there is a big difference between a single battalion taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and the entire regiment being at the point of one of the spears that defined Operation Overlord, the greatest invasion the world had ever seen.

"I really find it difficult to compare what we're getting ready to do to D-Day," Ortnier said here in early April as his Soldiers were training to serve in a country where U.S. troops have been seeking out terrorists and weapons caches following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks against this nation.

"The most extreme experience a human

See 29th On Page 4



## About The On Guard

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

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# Army leadership praises Guard contributions

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Army National Guard Soldiers are making an invaluable contribution to the global war against terrorism and are in no way being considered as second-class troops, the Army's highest ranking civilian and enlisted leaders said during April, one of the toughest months that citizen-Soldiers have endured since World War II.

Fifteen Guard Soldiers died in Iraq while engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and another Guard Soldier, from Alabama, collapsed and died at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba while taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston maintained during separate interviews in April that Guard Soldiers are proving their mettle in the two major combat theaters, Iraq and Afghanistan. They are also getting the best individual equipment and training that the Army is providing any of its personnel, sent in harm's way.

"These are all Soldiers. There is no difference, and we want to be sure that they're all trained properly, equipped properly and supported properly," said Brownlee, who became acting secretary of the Army in May 2003. "We don't want any difference in treatment in any way, because we expect the same of them in combat. We depend of them too highly."

Brownlee, a retired Army colonel who has served as the 27th undersecretary of the Army since Nov. 14, 2001, said the Army gave three Guard infantry brigades a higher priority for state of the art combat equipment, including sighting systems for their rifles, than it gave the active components before they deployed to Iraq so the Guard Soldiers would have adequate time to train with their new gear.

Brownlee was referring to the Army Guard's 30th, 39th and 81st Infantry Brigades from North Carolina, Arkansas and Washington state, respectively, that were among 42,200 Guard Soldiers on duty in Iraq and Kuwait in late April, according to National Guard Bureau statistics.

"I think these Soldiers today are members of the second greatest generation," said Brownlee in reference to NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw's 1998 book on WW II's the "Greatest Generation."

"Every one of them is a volunteer during a time of war. I think that is so admirable. They're all my heroes, and I love them to pieces," added Brownlee who clearly knows how thoroughly the Guard has been integrated into the total Army.

He tipped his hat to the Soldiers in the Oklahoma Army Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade, who are training and conducting combat operations with the Afghan National Army in Afghanistan.

Brownlee also praised the 20,000 Active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers who were told in April they would have to remain on duty in Iraq for 90 or so days beyond the full year they anticipated being on the ground.

"Our reports are that they responded quite well to that," he said. "In the final analysis, every Soldier knows that mission comes first. That's a part of the Soldier's Creed and when the mission demands it you sometimes

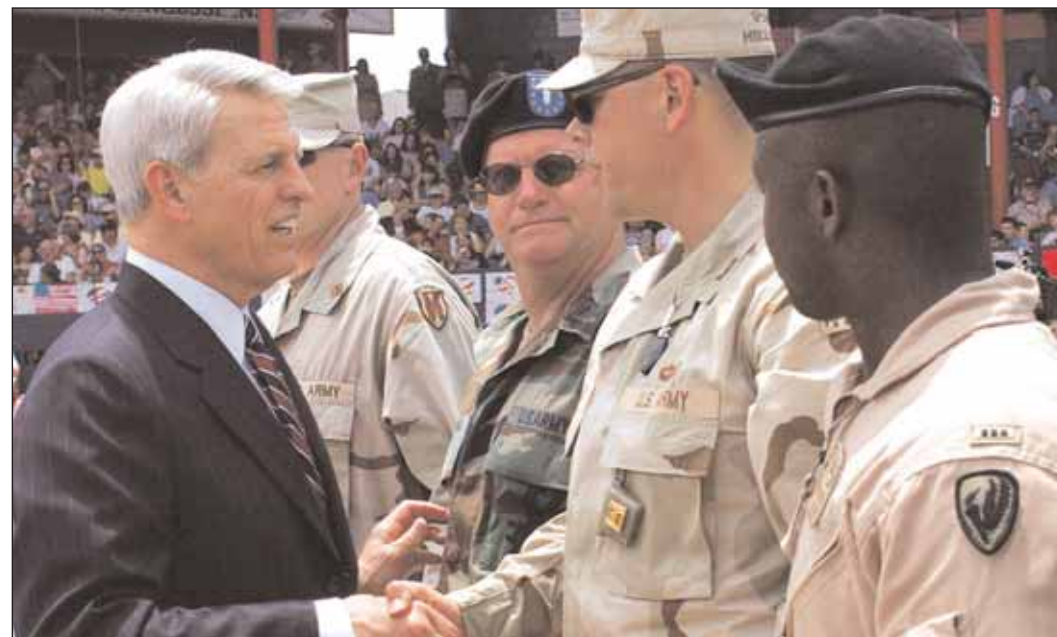


Photo by Sgt. Carmen Burgess

**Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee meets with Soldiers at Chain of Lakes Stadium in Winter Haven, Fla. More than 10,000 people were in attendance to welcome home members of the Florida National Guard.**

have to do things that you hadn't planned to do. In a war, the enemy gets a vote."

"We could not do this mission without them. They are an integral part of the team and a very valuable asset to the combatant commanders on the ground," praised Preston who became the 13th sergeant major of the Army last January after serving in Baghdad as the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7.

"I've watched National Guard Soldiers across the board perform a wide variety of key and critical missions in combat as well as taking care of other Soldiers," he added in early April. "Unless you recognize the patches on their sleeves, you don't know if they're Active, Guard or Reserve."

The civilian skills that Guard Soldiers bring to the fight are also important, Preston said. Those who have been police officers and corrections officers back home have helped restore order to more than 30 looted and gutted police stations in Baghdad and are right at home guarding suspected anti-coalition insurgents and other detainees at prison facilities.

"A lot of the Guard's military police are police officers in the civilian world, too," Preston said. "They brought a lot of great expertise to help jointly man the police stations with the Iraqi police, train the Iraqi police and watch over the contractors who were rebuilding the police stations. A lot of National Guard soldiers did very, very well in helping to make those police stations operational."

Many of the Army's battalion and brigade leaders understand what the Guard and Reserve Soldiers bring to the table, Preston added, because they have frequently served together since the Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

The Army Guard has taken its licks while supporting the war against terrorism far from home. To paraphrase the poet T.S. Eliot, April has been the cruelest month for Guard Soldiers engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom as it has been for American forces overall.

According to Department of Defense reports, of the 15 Guard Soldiers lost in Iraq, during April, 13 were killed in action.

Five Soldiers from Arkansas's 39th Brigade were killed during the month's final weekend

- four during a mortar attack on their base camp in Taji and the fifth when his convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Maine Army Guard Spc. Christopher Gelineau, who was killed on April 20 in Mosul, was reported to be the 100th American service member to die in Iraq where about 135 of them made the sacrifice in April.

And Wisconsin Spc. Michelle Witmer on April 9 became the first woman Guard Soldier to ever be killed in action, from one of the commonly-used explosive devices and small arms fire.

Army Guard historians do not recall a worse month for National Guard casualties since World War II even though there have been some very bad days.

Seven Kentucky Army Guard Soldiers, most of them from Bardstown, Ky., were killed on the night of June 19, 1969, when Viet Cong troops attacked a firebase held by the estimated 150 members of C Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, said Maj. Les Melnyk, an Army Guard historian.

"The attack was defeated, but that was nonetheless the single worst moment for the Guard in Vietnam," he added.

"I think the Soldiers have always recognized the dangers they were going into. The ones I have talked to seemed very aware of it," remarked Brownlee about how the Guard and other Soldiers he has visited have accepted the idea of serving under fire.

"I think they develop those sensitivities during their training."

Brownlee said the Guard and Reserve soldiers he has met would rather be sent to war if they are mobilized so they feel they are doing something important rather than be "frittered away" on a security mission in this country.

"I've said all of my life that there's only one thing worse for a Soldier than going to war, and that's not getting to go," said the secretary who served two tours in Vietnam during his 22 years in uniform.

His two Silver Stars and his Purple Heart, for being wounded in action, indicate he has learned firsthand the dangers and the pain of combat.



## Combat shopping ...



DeCA Photo by Bonnie Powell

Melissa Myers stops with daughter Ashlee for a peek at the camouflage tent decorating the produce section of the Carlisle Barracks, Pa., commissary. The tent is just one of many decorations and posters at the commissary honoring Guard and Reserve contributions through history. The two-month celebration of "Full Time Finally" is a celebration of the unlimited shopping benefits extended to Guard and Reserve by the 2004 Defense Authorization Act. Myers, whose husband is in the National Guard, drives 45 miles to shop at the commissary.

## Brig. Gen. Frank Grass assumes duty as deputy director of the Army National Guard

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A Missouri man credited with orchestrating the National Guard's security plan for the 2002 Winter Olympics in the wake of the terrorist attacks the previous September has been named the new deputy director of the Army National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Frank Grass was promoted to that rank Feb. 2 at the Army National Guard's Readiness Center and assumed his new job as he was presented his new red flag with the large white star.

"This is a special person. Frank brings some real class to the front office," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, who presided over the ceremony attended by several hundred of Grass's Guard colleagues and other well-wishers including his wife Pat and youngest son Mark.

"This country owes him a debt of gratitude," said Kathy Condon, the Army's assistant deputy for Operations, about the role Grass played in sending thousands of Guard soldiers from across the country to Utah to help keep the Salt Lake City Games secure from terrorist attacks five months after the attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"The Department of Defense had a big part in the security [effort]," Condon recalled. "We made the decision that the National Guard was going to have the lead. I'm here to tell you that there were a couple of people [driving] that train. But most of the things

that happened were because of Frank Grass."

Grass, 52, succeeds a fellow Missourian, Maj. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, as deputy director of the 350,000-soldier Guard force that is now heavily engaged in the war against terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Vaughn became the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's principle advisor on National Guard matters last November.

A St. Louis native who joined the Missouri Army Guard as a heavy equipment operator on Halloween in 1969, Grass has most recently been responsible for Army Guard Operations in Arlington, Va.

"It's meant a lot of hard work, day in and day out, for this staff to support our soldiers across the world," Grass observed. "Right now about 95,000 are deployed. Somewhere around 150,000 have been mobilized since 9-11."

Grass was commissioned as an engineer officer in 1981 after graduating from the Missouri Army Guard's Officer Candidate School. He has earned masters degrees in resource planning and national security strategy from Southwest Missouri State University and from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Grass and his wife have two daughters, three sons and two grandsons.



Grass

## Purple: Air Guard mechanics, engineers join Soldiers in Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Scott Woodham

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va., — As U.S. Army combat support and combat service support units rotate in Iraq, a more purple, diverse force is emerging as a means to remedy shortages in personnel.

For the first time, Air National Guard vehicle operators and mechanics are working alongside U.S. Army Soldiers in convoys—signaling significant changes in the composition of the U.S. war-fighting force in the Middle East and the role of the National Guard in the Global War on Terrorism.

Also operating in concert with their U.S. Army counterparts are Air National Guard civil engineers, who will help set up bare-base operations in Iraq.

"Although in the past the Air National Guard has supported the U.S. Army in traditional roles like tactical air control and weather operations in and around air bases, these new deployments of Guard personnel will break the paradigm," said

Lt. Col. Chris Swadener, chief of Air National Guard deployments at Andrews AFB, Md. "Now, Air National Guard personnel will actually be in the field and supporting convoy operations for the U.S. Army."

Along with the Air National Guard's deployment of transportation specialists and civil engineers, the regular U.S. Air Force is also responding to the secretary of defense's and joint chiefs of staff's directives to find solutions to the Department of the Army's shortfalls in certain skills.

Some of these include transportation, fuels operations, civil engineering, air traffic control, postal operations, and communication electronics.

This recent round of restructuring of U.S. war-fighting capabilities is also in line with the National Guard's commitment to sustaining a ready, reliable and essential force for the 21st century.

As the chief of the National Guard Bureau, LTG H Steven Blum explains, "we are transforming the way we fight, the way we do business and the way we work with others so we can be a more efficient and accessible force."

Enter the purple-suited truck driver.

Transformation is reverberating throughout the National Guard ranks.

Since January of this year, nearly 153 Air National Guard enlisted and officer trans-

portation specialists from 31 flying units have trained for their new purple-suited ground roles with the U.S. Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort Dix, N.J., and Fort Eustis, Va.

Preparation included night vision goggle operations, defensive driving and classroom instruction in basic convoy operations.

"What you may think of as being a benign job (truck driver) has now turned into one of the most hazardous duties in Iraq. This will be a true total joint force effort as our drivers and mechanics will be living and breathing with the Army," explained

Swadener.

Once they arrived at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, the purple suiters integrated into U.S. Army transportation companies and undergo five days of combat convoy operations in the field.

This was followed by another five days of live fire training at Udari Range in Kuwait, to include close quarters marksmanship.

"The key to their success will be providing them the opportunity to work

with their sister service as a unit before they deploy," said Maj. Craig Ellis, U.S. Army liaison officer for the 13th Corps Support Command, Camp Virginia, Kuwait. "I believe the Air Force recruits will be just as successful as any Army unit that is activated and deployed."

Before they deployed to their forward operating locations in Iraq, Air National Guard personnel underwent live fire convoy drills while driving in Humvees and 5-ton trucks coming under simulated attack.

Each individual will fire about 1,000 live rounds during weapons skills training, using the M-16 A2, 50-caliber machine gun and M249 squad automatic weapon.

In addition to the first-ever mobilization of Air National Guard transportation specialists in support of the regular U.S. Army, 14 Air National Guard civil engineers from the 235th Civil Engineering Flight, Baltimore, Md., and several Prime Beef civil engineering units are deploying to Iraq to work alongside U.S. Army units designing and building bare-base facilities.

Since 9/11, the Air National Guard has deployed nearly 3,000 of its 9,200 civil engineers in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"We hope to replace our Guard troops after six months by mobilizing an equal amount this summer," said Mr. William Sinnes, an Air National Guard logistics specialist.



FROM PAGE 1

## 29th



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

### A grass fire set by an artillery simulator meant additional duty for Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers, members of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, on a mortar range at Fort Bragg, N.C., in April.

being can go through is being a combat infantryman, and nowhere in World War II was the combat more extreme than at Omaha in the early morning hours of June 6," wrote the late historian Stephen Ambrose in his riveting, bestselling book "D-Day."

"The 116th Regiment and the 5th Ranger Battalion ... experienced war at its most horrible, demanding and challenging."

German defenders virtually wiped out isolated Company A of Bedford, Va., in 15 minutes. Wrote Ambrose: "Of the 200-plus men of the company, only a couple of dozen survived, and virtually all of them were wounded."

Other Soldiers in the 116th, however, survived the German's deadly fire to help secure the beachhead and begin the liberation of France and Europe.

World War II veterans and others interested in history commemorated the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy in June.

"I think we are so dwarfed in comparison to what they did when they landed on the beaches," Ortner said. "So, I think [we're] just trying to live up to the honor that they accomplished and to do the best we can to show the same kind of pride and the same kind of duty that they showed when they landed on those beaches in France."

There is plenty to live up to - personally, historically and professionally. For example, Ortner's deceased father, Henry Ortner, was an Army Air Corps crewman on one of the C-47 transports that dropped 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers behind German lines during the night before the June 6 invasion began.

There's also Bosnia and Cuba ... and Bull Run.

About 147 members of the 116th, which is part of the Army Guard's 29th Infantry Division, spent the winter of 1997-98 in Bosnia-Herzegovina guarding a bridge over the Sava River. They served with Co. C, from Leesburg, Va., which is part of the same 3rd Battalion that is now preparing to deploy to Afghanistan.

Members of the 2nd Battalion guarded suspected terrorists from Afghanistan at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba from November 2002 to October 2003.

Bull Run? That's where the 116th earned its nickname as the "Stonewall Brigade" while enduring its baptism of fire during the first major land battle of the Civil War on July 21, 1861.

Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson commanded the Confederate brigade from Virginia that gained immortality when Gen. Barnard Bee, another Southern general, said: "Yonder stands Jackson like a stone wall; let's go to his assistance."

Bull Run. Omaha Beach. Bosnia. Cuba. All are part of the 116th Infantry Regiment's legacy that the 3rd Battalion's Soldiers are determined to honor and uphold as they train here, and at Fort Polk, La., for two weeks in June, to serve in Afghanistan.

They are, for the most part, young men who are far more focused on this new mission than they are on their regiment's past.

"Afghanistan is a better mission for us. We're light infantry. We don't deal well with tanks, but we could go anywhere we're needed," said Ortner after watching his 60mm mortar

teams conduct a protective fire drill with live rounds at a Fort Bragg range.

For many, serving in a combat zone seems to be the right thing to do.

"I used to play G.I. Joe in the woods when I was growing up, but I never really thought about joining the military. September 11th motivated me to join the Guard," said Spc. Oscar Martinez, 20, who put on hold his college education plans and his hopes to go to helicopter flight school when his infantry unit was called up March 1.

"I joined when I was still in high school. I knew there was a likelihood I would be deployed," Martinez added. "Everyone here knew there was a chance we'd have to go, and everyone in my platoon is totally motivated."

Many, including 22-year-old Spc. Daniel Laurion, are already seasoned Soldiers even though they belong to the Guard.

"This will be my second overseas deployment. I spent 10 months at Guantanamo Bay," said Laurion, who carries an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon as comfortably as many men his age carry a backpack. "I've been in the Guard for four and a half years. I've been on active duty for three of them. I'm getting all of it I can."

Spc. Sheraz Khalid, 25, is getting his chance to return to the part of the world that he knows better than most of his fellow Soldiers. He was born in Pakistan, near the Indian border. He came to America with his parents and a younger sister when he was 11. He became a U.S. citizen in 2001.

He has been back to Pakistan several times, and he married his wife Sadia there in 2001. He has been in the active Army and the Guard for eight years. Now he is a medic who is prepared to leave his wife and 16-month-old son in Virginia to help defend his American homeland.

Khalid is anticipating the chance to help his comrades apply the cultural and linguistic lessons they are learning in classrooms to a part of the world they know little about.

"It's going to be different," he predicted. "You have to respect the differences in the culture. You don't just walk up to a woman and start talking to her. You have to ask her father or her husband for permission first."

"We're going there to help them, not to make them fear us or show disrespect to them," Khalid added.

"I've never been to Afghanistan, but I'm a Soldier. I've got to go where they send me," he said. "I was born in Pakistan, but now I'm an American."



Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, fired 60mm mortars at Fort Bragg, N.C., in April while training for duty in Afghanistan.



# Colorado partners with Jordan

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A new landmark alliance between the Kingdom of Jordan and the Colorado National Guard may be one more step toward bringing peace and stability to the Middle East.

That is what Prince Feisal Ibn Al-Hussein, a member of Jordan's royal family and commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, said he hoped for while visiting the National Guard Bureau's joint headquarters on April 1 to endorse the new State Partnership Program between his country and the Centennial State.

It's the first time the National Guard's 11-year-old State Partnership Program has formed an alliance with a Middle Eastern country to exchange military, civil and cultural ideas.

The Jordan-Colorado partnership is the 45th affiliation between states and countries since January 1993. Previous partnerships have been forged with Eastern European nations, which were former members of the Warsaw Pact, 13 countries in Latin America and the Philippines.

The National Guard's State Partnership Program aligns states with nations around the world to help them develop modern military forces, learn the concept of civilian control of the military, and establish civil-military relationships that benefit the public during civil emergencies.

"Our part of the world is quite often misunderstood. Understanding can't but help [lead to] greater stability, greater security and a greater opportunity for peace," said Feisal following a breakfast meeting with Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, director of the Air National Guard, and Air Guard Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, Colorado's adjutant general.

"Although we come from different cultures, we all face very, very similar challenges in life. Being able to work together, to be able to address issues together and understand each other is to the benefit of everybody," said Feisal, the younger brother of Jordan's King Abdullah II.

"You don't lose out from being able to understand each other and work together," added Feisal, a two-star general, who has flown military helicopters and jet fighter planes.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

**Prince Feisal Ibn Al-Hussein, right, of Jordan emphasizes the importance of participating in the National Guard's State Partnership Program with Colorado during a breakfast meeting on April 1 in Arlington, Va. Feisal met with Maj. Gen. Mason Whitney, left, the adjutant general for Colorado, and Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, director of the Air National Guard.**

He wore a lapel pin of the U.S. and Jordanian flags on his gray suit to signify his support for the partnership.

Feisal, 40, has learned much about American culture, because he was educated at prep schools in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C., and earned an electronic engineering degree from Brown University in Rhode Island in 1985.

Jordan asked to participate in the State Partnership Program last December and asked to be affiliated with Colorado.

LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, recommended that partnership to the commander of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. John Abizaid, on March 23.

Central Command is expected to endorse Blum's recommendation.

"We are building on a friendship that already exists between our two countries, between Jordan and Colorado," James said.

Feisal agreed. "We already had a good relationship with Colorado from previous exercises," he said. "When we looked at the Guard assets in Colorado, [we saw] there is actually a very, very good fit between what we have in Jordan, whether it is in the Air Force and Army, and what there is available in Colorado."

The partnership will encompass civil defense and disaster response issues as well as the more traditional military relationships, predicted Feisal. "I think there is a lot that both sides can learn."

"Our strategic interests in the Middle East are enormous, and we have seen by virtue of the State Partnership Program that we can open a lot of doors in terms of common interests," Whitney said.

"We feel it's a great learning opportunity for our United States military, not only the Colorado National Guard, to be involved in relationships with Middle Eastern cultures similar to Jordan."

Colorado, he pointed out, has maintained a partnership

with Slovenia since 1993.

"We feel that has been a great success for Slovenia and for the Colorado National Guard. We're looking forward to having that similar success with Jordan," Whitney said.

Slovenia was admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with six other countries March 29, three days before Whitney met Feisal to discuss the new partnership between Jordan and Colorado.

"We fly the F-16 and Jordan flies the F-16. We feel that our Air National Guard has similar interests with similar missions," Whitney added. "We have special forces in the Army National Guard. We have aviation in the Army National Guard. Jordan also has those missions within their military organizations. We feel there's going to be a great opportunity to exchange information."

Jordan has already asked that two of its Army helicopter pilots train at the Colorado Army Guard's High Altitude Army Aviation Training Site, the only one like it in the world, at Eagle County Airport, Whitney said.

Jordan is also familiar with the Air National Guard, because of its exchanges with the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, Ariz.

Eight Jordanian pilots were trained to fly F-16s in Tucson in 1997 and about 50 Jordanian troops received maintenance training there in 1998. Pilots in the 162nd delivered the first F-16s that Jordan purchased from the United States to the Middle East nation in January 2003.

Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and is now considered to be one of the countries promoting peace and stability in that part of the world.

Prince Feisal said he hopes that participating in the State Partnership Program will help.

"I wish that this would be the solution to the Arab-Israeli problem and to all of our problems in the Middle East," he said. "In a small way, maybe it can help. We will not know until we try it."





# Massachusetts Guard explores Paraguayan partnership

**Capt. Winfield Danielson**

Massachusetts National Guard

MILFORD, Mass. – The Global War on Terrorism is fought on many fronts.

On one front, National Guard and other service members from across the country risk their lives, fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq and other foreign countries.

But there is another front to this war – often ignored, but also critically important.

Ultimately, to win the war on terror, we must win the peace. By supporting stable governments across the globe, we will defeat terrorist organizations, which cannot easily recruit and train in a nation with a stable government, a productive economy and an involved population.

The National Guard State Partnership Program is an excellent tool to help win the peace.

The program, which began in 1993 with a National Guard Bureau proposal to pair the National Guard in three states with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, is designed to leverage the unique civil-military nature of the Guard to exchange knowledge with both military and civilian people from foreign countries participating in the program.

Although the program usually begins with military cooperation and exchange, it is designed to evolve into civil-to-military and, eventually, a civil-to-civil relationship.

Today, the program partners 38 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia with 42 countries from around the world. Over the past year, Massachusetts has been developing its relationship with Paraguay.

Paraguay is a very young democracy, having

endured a 35-year military dictatorship before Alfredo Stroessner was overthrown in 1989.

Though regular presidential elections have been held since then, there isn't much experience in democratic government at the local level. Additionally, the Paraguayan military does not have a long tradition of subservience to civilian government, and isn't experienced in developing an open relationship with its community and the media.

Senior Massachusetts National Guard officials first visited the country in June of 2002. Last November Maj. Gen. Jose Kanazawa-Gamarra, the commander of the Paraguayan armed forces, and Brig. Gen. Luis Alberto Faria Portillo, the commander of the Paraguayan Air Force, visited Massachusetts and met with senior military and state government officials.

Most recently, the Massachusetts National Guard sent specialized teams to Paraguay during the week of March 22 to meet with their Paraguayan counterparts and discuss specific ways to work together.

Teams representing eight specialties from both the Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard traveled to Paraguay: legislative affairs, medical, fire fighting, education, media relations, security, aviation maintenance, and communication.

The legislative team, led by Massachusetts National Guard Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Col. Thomas Sellars, from Randolph, Mass., discussed legislative advocacy programs with Paraguayan government and military officials, and how to effectively work with legislators to secure mutually desirable outcomes. Sellars said this is important because the Paraguayan military doesn't have



Photo by Capt. Winfield Danielson

**Lt. Gen. Jose Kanazawa-Gamarra, commander of the Paraguayan military, presents Maj. Gen. George Keefe, the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard, with a small gift in honor of his visit.**

professional organizations that can act as an advocate for them.

The situation has led to something of a budget-crisis. The Paraguayan military's annual budget is equivalent to approximately \$125 million U.S. dollars. This compares to roughly \$272 million for the Massachusetts National Guard, which has a similar number of service members.

The vast majority of the Paraguayan military's budget pays the salaries of their service members. Little is left over for purchasing equipment. Though the Paraguayan troops are well trained, their equipment is often outdated and in disrepair.

The medical team, led by Col. Bruce Moore of East Longmeadow, Mass., was divided into two sections. One section provided trainers to share our CPR, first aid, and combat lifesaver techniques with Paraguayan military medics.

The second section conducted a site survey to complete planning for a medical readiness training exercise scheduled for August. This future trip will send approximately 35 medical professionals to work with the Paraguayans for 13 days on the ground in selected villages.

The group visited a military health clinic located at the Paraguayan Army Headquarters and civilian health facilities to determine where the medical exercise can have the greatest benefit.

Local civilian physicians and military doctors discussed common medical problems. Parasitical and childhood illness concerns topped the list, particularly in the "red zones" where sanitation is poor.

At a village clinic in Santa Ana, the problems included maintaining proper hygiene, getting antiseptics, sterilizing equipment, and a lack of anesthetics.

Maj. Raymond Feeley of Winthrop, Mass. said that although the clinic gets ample medical supplies (needles, vaccinations, bandages, etc.) from Christian charities and other relief organizations, it is desperately short of food, running water, sheets and blankets for the patients.

The firefighting team consisted of Massachusetts Air National Guard firefighters Master Sgt. Robert F. Cross of Somerset, Mass. and Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Buell, of Springfield, Mass. They spent time exchanging knowledge and techniques with local volunteer fire departments, the international airport fire department, and Paraguayan Air Force firefighters. The team worked with the Paraguayans on both general and aircraft firefighting operations.

In keeping with current Army advertising strategy, the education team was an "Army of One," except that he was Air Force. In his full-time civilian career, Chief Master Sgt.



Photo by Capt. Winfield Danielson

**Members of a Paraguayan Special Forces team led by Navy Lt. Oscar Chamorro rehearse breaking contact with an enemy force. Paraguayan Special Forces SENAD (counter-drug) commander Lt. Col. Oscar Pavon noted that Special Forces soldiers join not for the pay, but for the training opportunities. A noncommissioned officer in the unit earns approximately \$80 U.S. dollars per month.**

**See PARTNERS On Page 11**



# Air Defenders become MPs for duty in Afghanistan

By Jon Myatt

Florida Department of Military Affairs

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. – Air defense artillerymen always train and deploy with their eyes to the sky, so when the Soldiers of the Florida National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery were informed they were being deployed to Afghanistan as military policemen, many were surprised.

The Florida National Guard received word two months ago that the battalion would be retrained as military police (MP) officers at Fort Dix, N.J., because the Army needs more military policemen in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and in Europe to help wage the global war against terrorism.

That's why guardsmen from the battalion's Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Headquarters batteries in Melbourne, Fort Pierce, and West Palm Beach, Fla., will leave behind their HMMWV-mounted Avenger air defense systems.

Nearly 380 citizen-Soldiers from the south-Florida battalion will be affected by the deployment. They will spend the next year-and-a-half protecting deployed American military personnel and Afghani civilians, replacing active duty military police officers and other security units, which have provided security in the region for more than a year.

Fort Dix has been designated a mobilization and training center for field artillery, air defense and armor units that are being deployed for MP missions. Other artillery units have been training in MP skills at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., home of the Military Police School.

Since January, nearly 4,500 Army Guard Soldiers from Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Missouri, Illinois, Texas and Tennessee have been called up to retrain as MPs. The field artillery units from Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, and Texas will be serving as MPs in Europe to free up active duty MPs there for duty in Iraq.



**Spc. Young La, a medical specialist in Detachment 3, STARC Medical Company, based in Miami, prepares vaccinations for 265th ADA Soldiers. Spc. La has provided medical processing support for every Florida National Guard unit deploying from south Florida since January 2003.**



Photos by Jon Myatt

**Members of headquarters battery, 2nd Battalion, 265th ADA, in West Palm Beach process for overseas movement in April. The unit is training to become military police officers for duty in Afghanistan.**

Florida's battalion will join nearly 800 Soldiers from Pennsylvania, Vermont and New Hampshire for duty in Afghanistan.

National Guard units chosen for this new mission will be designated "in lieu of" MPs, meaning that they will serve in place of certified military policemen trained by the active duty military police school. They are considered "provisional" MPs, because they will become air defense Soldiers again when they finish their tours of duty.

While at Dix, the units will complete the mobilization processing they began at home station, then for the next 40 days, they'll focus primarily on MP training specific to the combat theater they'll be working in, said the battalion's operations officer, Maj. Jeff Strickle. The Soldiers will be training in two aspects of the MP operations: maneuver and mobility support operations, and area security operations.

"Some of the tasks include route reconnaissance and surveillance, convoy escorts, mounted and dismounted patrols, and cordon and search techniques," Strickle said.

They will also qualify on much smaller weapons than they are used to, including the M-9 9mm pistol, MK-19 40mm automatic grenade launcher, M-203 grenade launcher, AT-4 anti-tank weapon and M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, known as the "SAW."

With their deployment to Afghanistan in April fast approaching, the unit's mobilization and readiness processing began in earnest Saturday in West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce.

Battalion planners centralized the Soldier readiness processing, sending a processing team to Fort Pierce, and setting up another team at the West Palm Beach armory. About 200 Soldiers processed at each site, said Capt. Mike Kuszpa, the battalion's personnel officer.

"We should have everyone finished (soon)," he said. "Then we can focus on the little personnel issues; getting our unit equipment in order; and leaving more time for Soldiers to spend with their families before they depart."

Standing out among the Soldiers in the processing line were four female sergeants. They are among nearly 40 women that will form the two 180-person Florida

National Guard MP companies. The women will retrain along with the men to become temporary military police officers.

"I am excited about it, I have no problem with this at all," said Sgt. Connie Blocker, a supply sergeant in headquarters battery and soon-to-be MP. "I think it will be a challenge, but it is a challenge I am looking forward to."

That same attitude was visible across the drill hall floor as Soldiers moved from table to table working through the detailed personnel forms and medical screens that is required as reserve Soldiers become active duty Soldiers.

Now that the personnel processing has been wrapped up, the unit is focused on getting their equipment and weapons ready to go. Then they fly to Fort Dix and into a mission unlike any they've faced before.

"We're ready to go," said the battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Troy Ratliff. "We've still got some issues to work through, but we're going to put qualified, motivated and professional Soldiers on the ground."



**1st Lt. Craig Fournier, of HHB, 2nd Battalion, 265th ADA, and his wife Stephanie, share soldier readiness processing Saturday afternoon at the West Palm Beach Armory. Fournier is the battalion's intelligence officer.**



# Maryland and Pennsylvania Guard

By Capt. Rick Breitenfeldt

Maryland National Guard

ARLINGTON, Va. – Ask commanders on the ground either in Iraq or Afghanistan what the absolute "must have" item is this year, and most will tell you they want a small, tactical, unmanned aerial vehicle (TUAV) called the Shadow, along with the trained Soldiers to operate it.

Army National Guard Soldiers from Maryland and Pennsylvania are responding to that need, and have been mobilized for up to two years to learn to fly and maintain this highly sought-after piece of battlefield equipment.

Twenty-four Soldiers from Maryland's 629th Military Intelligence Battalion as well as 20 Soldiers from Pennsylvania's 56th Infantry Brigade are currently undergoing an extensive training program at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., before being deployed overseas sometime later this year.

"I'm really looking forward to this mission," said Spc. William J. Sowa, who was called away from his job as an intelligence analyst assistant at the National Ground Intelligence Center in central Virginia. "I'm very proud to be flying these UAVs."

Sowa, who spent some active duty time in the Air Force before joining the Maryland Guard, said he likens his mission as a UAV pilot to that of the Air Force's famous flying sergeants of World War II.

"It has been a long time since an NCO has climbed into an airplane and flown a combat mission in a war," said Sowa. "UAV pilots don't actually climb into a cockpit and take off, but we are flying that aircraft. It is the closest an Army enlisted soldier can get to piloting an aircraft in a combat environment,



Photos by Rick Breitenfeldt

**A tactical, unmanned aerial vehicle, also known as the Shadow, takes to the air during a joint training exercise. Twenty-four Soldiers from Maryland's 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, as well as, 20 Soldiers from Pennsylvania's 56th Infantry Brigade are currently undergoing an extensive training program at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., before being deployed overseas sometime this year.**

and I think that is a really high honor."

Each Shadow TUAV system consists of four air vehicles, two ground control stations and associated components and support equipment. Each UAV is intended to provide coverage of a brigade area of interest for up to four hours at 50 kilometers from the launch and recovery site and its highly sophisticated camera system can identify vehicles up to 8,000 feet above ground.

"It's a lifesaving device," said Staff Sgt. Gabriel Golden of Hagarstown, Md. "It's a way to keep people from getting killed on the battlefield, and this piece of equipment is much easier to replace than someone's life."

Lt. Col John Kelleher of the office of the assistant secretary of the Army, said in Operation Iraqi Freedom the Shadow has been flown at more than four times its projected operational tempo and commanders continue to ask for more UAV's.

Army officials are working hard to meet this demand.

In a training program that would normally take 23 weeks and three days to complete, these Army National Guard Soldiers have been told they need to be fully qualified and mission ready in just over 16 weeks.

"It's very hectic. I've already been to the two-way shooting range once," said

Golden." But this is a different environment. I'm just waiting to do my part."

During the course, Soldiers receive instruction from FAA certified instructors on flight line operations, military intelligence, pre-flight operations as well as several weeks of actual flight training – the equivalent of 34 undergraduate college credit hours.

"They are handling it extremely well," said Charles M. Rossman, chief instructor at the U.S. Army UAV Training Center. "We were given an end date for this group of soldiers and in order to meet that date we had to make things happen."

Soldiers completed their training and graduated on June 3.

Rossman said the Army currently has fewer than 300 trained UAV pilots in the force and these citizen-Soldiers are the first to receive this training and equipment.

Operating under a newly created Mobilization Program of Instruction, these Maryland and Pennsylvania Army National Guard Soldiers are in training 12 hours a day, six days a week, said Rossman.

"These National Guard Soldiers are seasoned and mature. They have been through all these things before and they recognize the importance of what they are doing," said instructor Jerry Dryer. "They step up to the plate and know exactly what is expected of them and they meet and exceed that in every way."

"We're set up, we have a mission and we know what we're doing," said Sgt. David Bogle, a King of Prussia, Pa., native and Pennsylvania Guardsman. "That is what keeps you awake at 6:30 p.m., on a Saturday night after 12 hours of power point slides."

"That's what the National Guard is," said Spc. Thomas W. Gregg, "We're more mature, and we've had a lot more life experiences than most Soldiers."

Gregg, a University of Maryland student who was just one semester away from a degree in history and ancient studies and married just 10 days before being mobilized,



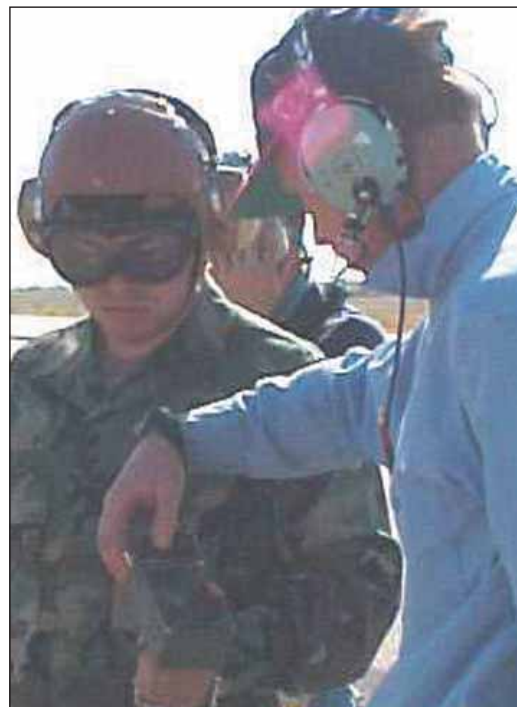
**Sgt. Mark A. Baker of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard maintains one of the Shadow UAV's immediately after it returned from a mission.**



# ardsmen prepare to fly the Shadow



(Above) Spc. Morrongoillo of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard connects the antenna to the top of the ground control station before flight operations can begin. (Right) Sgt. Christian V. Villalva, a UAV crew chief with the Maryland Army National Guard, is handed the launch control panel during a training flight. (Below) Fly-by-wire takes on a new meaning when operating the Shadow from a keyboard.



(Above) Spc. Steven N. Feeney of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard hones his skills as a new UAV pilot on the flight simulator. (Below) Sgt. Christian V. Villalva, a UAV crew chief with the Maryland Army National Guard, places a Shadow onto the launch platform to ready it for flight.



compares his deployment to that of the character Odysseus in Homer's "The Odyssey." "I have my loved ones back home waiting for me and I have to go through this odyssey before I can come back," he said.

In what will likely be a two-year mobilize, train, deploy scenario, these Soldiers are part of a historic transformation initiative announced last spring by LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Blum said America insists on a relevant, essential and ready National Guard that is transformed for the 21st century. "We, the Guard, must provide the kind of forces that America needs," he said.

"The National Guard is a real breath of fresh air to work with," said Dryer. "They bring real world experiences with their jobs back home in terms of performance, in terms of logistics and in terms of knowing what it takes to make things happen."



# Air National Guard says goodbye to Starlifter

By Lt. Col. Ken Jones

Tennessee National Guard

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis, Tenn., said goodbye to the last C-141 Starlifter in the Air National Guard fleet in a ceremony at the Memphis airport May 2, 2004.

"The retirement of our last C-141 signifies the end of an era for this unit," said Col. Dave Burton, the wing commander. "For more than three decades the Starlifter was the work horse of strategic airlift and has served our State and the Nation with distinction."

The 164th Airlift Wing in Tennessee and the 172nd Airlift Wing in Mississippi were the only Air National Guard units to fly the C-141. The 172nd has transitioned to the C-17 and the 164th will receive the C-5.

The C-141 Starlifter has achieved a seen-it-all, done-it-all reputation during its 30 plus years of service to the United States. It has carried troops, supplies, vehicles, weapons, refugees, and huge high-powered NASA telescopes as well as providing support for a number of disaster relief missions.

It has seen duty in operational areas from Southeast Asia to South America to the Persian Gulf. It has provided rapid lift for our wounded in an aeromedical role and has even brought our fallen heroes home to their

final resting place.

The C-141 Starlifter has become a part of the history of this great nation. In 1973, the Starlifter returned more than 500 American prisoners of war from North Vietnam to the waiting arms of their loved ones.

In 1983, the mighty bird evacuated 78 wounded Marines from the barracks in Beirut. It was the C-141 that provided support for flood relief in Minnesota in 1979, the Azores in 1980 and Louisiana in 1983. In 1985, she carried 39 former hostages from a hijacked airliner to freedom. During Desert Shield/Storm, the Starlifter made more than 37,000 on-time departures.

The first C-141 was delivered to Tinker AFB, Okla. in October 1964 and began operations in April 1965. The Air National Guard received its first Starlifter in July 1986 at the 172nd Airlift Wing in Jackson Miss. The 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis received their first C-141 in January 1992.

According to Col. Mike Brock, commander of the 172nd Airlift Wing, the C-141 was truly a workhorse aircraft for the unit.

"When we received our C-141s in mid-1986, we converted to a new aircraft and adopted a mission changing from a tactical air land and air drop capability to strategic airlift; it literally opened up a whole new flying era for the wing," said Brock. "As some



Photos by Lt. Col. Ken Jones

**Elvis 73 makes its last flight over the 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis on the way to the bone yard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.**

of our pilots said, we literally stayed 'on the road' until the day the last C-141 left for Memphis."

The 172nd Airlift Wing logged over 72,000 accident-free flying hours. During Desert Storm, the C-141s from the unit were the first aircraft into the area delivering critical defensive capabilities.

"The aircraft helped gain our unit a worldwide reputation for excellence and earned us

the privilege of becoming the first Air National Guard unit in the country to receive brand new C-17s," said Brock.

The C-141 fleet has logged more than 10 million flying hours. The majestic Starlifter will continue to fly in the Air Force and Air Force Reserves.

However, for the Air National Guard, this large, gray bird, tail number 60157, has made the last flight to its final resting place.



Members of the 164th Airlift Wing salute the last C-141 in the Air National Guard fleet as it taxis out for its last flight to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Unless earmarked for sale, the plane will live out the remainder of its days in the boneyard.



FROM PAGE 6

## Partners

Theodore Morin, of Sutton, Mass., is a vice-principal at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School. As the only member of the education team, Morin traveled to several different Paraguayan vocational education facilities to determine ways to establish a cooperative partnership with them.

### School produces quality workers

Morin's first stop was the Dr. Pedro P. Pena Trade School in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay. Students who graduate usually go on to higher-paying skilled jobs, so demand to get into the school is high. Applicants must test to get in, and the school receives nearly two or three times the number applicants that it can accept.

Currently the school has approximately 100 students in four programs: electro-mechanical, civil construction, electrical and mechanical.

The school is government funded, but the funding only covers the building maintenance and teacher salaries. Like the military, the school has little remaining funds for purchasing equipment.

Vicente Hzwaga, a teacher at the school, said that most of the trade and vocational equipment used by the students originally came from the U.S. and was donated by Spain through "Project Espanol." Additionally, the school often holds fund-raising events to purchase equipment. Many of the school's computers were paid for this way.

Morin next visited the Pio XII Vocational School in Villarrica. The school specializes in adult education, catering to non-traditional students who want to learn a trade. It is a public school that also receives funding from the Catholic Church. As in the Dr. Pedro P. Pena Trade School, most of the school's equipment was donated.

At the Paraguayan-American Cultural Center in Villarrica, Morin and Lidia Sarubbi, director of the center, sorted through boxes of educational supplies donated by the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School.

"At American schools, older books and equipment are often just thrown away. But I think they are still useful and could be a big help here," Morin said.

### Developing media relations

The public affairs team divided into two sections. The first section consisted of Dr. Dean Schulz, Dean of Boston University's College of Communications. His task was to meet with senior Paraguayan government and military officials and discuss the benefits of fostering a more open and honest relationship with the media.

Schulz brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the task. In addition to his position at Boston University, Schulz had a distinguished career as a journalist and war correspondent, was a professor at the National War College and served as a combat fighter pilot in Vietnam. The unique blend of military and journalistic experience came in handy during the visit.

After suffering 35 years of repression under the Stroessner regime, the Paraguayan press corps has a somewhat adversarial attitude towards the Paraguayan military.

For its part, the Paraguayan military has little experience with a free press and doesn't really know how to cooperate with them. The result is an atmosphere of mutual suspicion that doesn't benefit either party.

The Massachusetts National Guard's visit to Paraguay made the suspicion painfully clear. Almost as soon as he stepped from the plane at the Paraguayan International Airport, Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Mass. National Guard, was confronted by media representatives convinced he was there to try and solicit Paraguayan military participation in Iraq.

Keefe was prepared for the questions. He answered in a straightforward manner, explaining that the purpose of the visit was an exchange of knowledge between Paraguay and Massachusetts, adding that any decision about whether or not to send troops to Iraq is the Paraguayan government's decision alone, and was entirely outside the scope of the visit.

The second section of the team facilitated embedded Massachusetts media representatives who came along to cover the visit. Latoyia Foster and Donald Sutherland from Channel 22 in Springfield, and Dana Dunham from the Somerville News, flew with the Massachusetts National Guard delegation from Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee and traveled with the teams during the week-long stay.

In addition to unique photos, footage and stories, the Massachusetts media representatives also provided the Paraguayans with a real-world example of the military and media working together for mutual benefit.

Paraguayan military members were somewhat shocked to see the Massachusetts National Guard teams and media arrive together as a group. Their experience has typically been to avoid the press corps, not bring them along to observe training.

Paraguayan media representatives were similarly surprised. Indeed, the presence of Massachusetts reporters became news, and a reporter from Paraguayan National Radio interviewed Foster.

### Security operations

The security operations team divided into three sections. The first section, led by Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Johnson, from Worthington, Mass., worked on base security operations with the Paraguayan International Airport and the Paraguayan Air Force Base. The team brought non-classified manuals and training aids from the 104th Fighter Wing as examples of American force protection procedures.

The second section, led by Somerville, Mass. resident Maj. Richard Johnson, from the 211th Military Police Battalion, met with the Paraguayan Army to show how the army can work together with civilian law enforcement agencies, in order to provide better security for the civilian population.

The third section consisted of two 26th Infantry Brigade Soldiers, Master Sgt. Robert Marsh from Belchertown, Mass. and Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Couture from Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The pair exchanged standard operating procedure information with Paraguayan Special Forces SENAD (counter-drug) teams. The exchange program with Massachusetts pleased SENAD commander Lt. Col. Oscar Pavon. "Our training is based on American Ranger training, so the exchange is very useful," he noted. "We are excited to be working with the American Soldiers so quickly, we expected them only to observe during this visit. We hope to work with the same Soldiers in the future, so we can build on what we have accomplished so far."

### Aviation plays a key role

The aviation maintenance team traveled around the region, meeting with a different unit each day. Presentations included information on quality assurance programs, maintenance techniques and aviation safety.

Aviation maintenance is a particular challenge to the Paraguayan military, who are caught in something of a Catch-22. They cannot afford new aircraft and most are well over 20 years old. Because the aircraft are so old, however, they require extensive maintenance the Paraguayans also cannot afford.

The result is that operators perform most maintenance, as opposed to the specialized maintenance personnel that are found in the U.S. military. Also, aircraft are often grounded because of an inability to get repair parts. The crisis is of such concern that the Massachusetts Guard Soldiers were forbidden from flying on Paraguayan helicopters during the visit.

### Creating reliable communications

The communications team, led by Maj. James Hoyer of the 253rd Combat Communications Group, assessed the radios and other equipment being used by the Paraguayan military. The goal was to determine what communication and diagnostic equipment would be needed to provide the Paraguayan forces with reliable communications over long distances.

As with aviation, Hoyer said the lack of specialized maintenance personnel and diagnostic equipment proved to be a significant challenge.



Photo by Capt. Winfield Danielson

**Master Sgt. Robert F. Cross describes the features of the Paraguayan International Airport Fire Department's combination spreader cutter rescue tool to Col. Michael Akey (left) and Paraguayan Fire Chief Adolfo Dominguez (far right) looks on.**

While the Guard teams shared their knowledge and experience with their Paraguayan counterparts, they in turn learned a great deal about operating with limited resources; a skill that could prove useful in an emergency.

Everyone was impressed with the Paraguayan people and their ability to make do with the limited equipment they had available, but there was a great deal of concern about the scope of the task ahead.

"We need to ask ourselves where we can make a long-term impact. If we send a medical team down and do a bunch of procedures and go home, what have we accomplished?"

Air National Guard Lt. Col. Ernest Silva, from North Dighton said, "Nothing! They are right back where they started. We have to identify ways we can help them, help themselves for the program to be successful."

Sellars agreed. "We can't make promises we can't keep, and we have to keep the promises we make," he said. "For the program to succeed, it is going to require a long-term partnership. Not two years, but more like ten. Otherwise it won't make a lasting impact on either organization."

### Civilian participation

For the program to be truly successful, it is also going to require civilian participation in the partnership. The creators of the State Partnership Program recognized this, and designed it to begin with military coordination and then grow to include civil-military and civil-to-civil cooperation.

Morin, Schulz and others laid some of the groundwork for this future growth. There were discussions of possible teacher exchange programs, civilian medical partnerships, setting-up a non-profit aid fund and perhaps a new course at Boston University.

The purpose of the partnership between the Massachusetts National Guard and Paraguay is an exchange of knowledge and personnel whereby each becomes stronger from the experience.

The hope is that the program will also help the young Paraguayan democracy continue to develop into a dynamic, stable trading partner with a military that is comfortable in its role as a servant of the people; a country where the citizens are involved in their government at the local and national level, and where terrorists are unwelcome.



# South Dakota Soldiers complete tour of duty in Iraq

By Spc. Mark Watson

129th MPAD

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Tears of joy trickled down many faces in late March as 361 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard returned to their families after serving for more than a year on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Members of the 727th Transportation Company, 200th Engineer Company and Company B, 109th Medical Battalion all arrived safely and received a heroes' welcome complete with hugs, parades, welcome home ceremonies and the thanks from thousands of supporters, who lined parade routes and packed auditoriums.

"It's wonderful, absolutely wonderful to be home," said Staff Sgt. Shane Toupal, Company B. "The welcome we received, and to be able to spend time with my family is just fantastic. To see my family again is indescribable. I dreamed for more than a year to see them again, and when I did, it was one of the happiest days of my life."

The first unit to return in the recent arrivals, the 122-member, 727th Transportation Co., arrived March 26 in Brookings, where it was met with the open arms of family members at their armory and then by hundreds of supporters, who lined the several mile-long parade route and packed the Swiftel Center.

During the welcome home ceremony, Maj. Gen Michael A. Gorman, the adjutant general, said it was great for the Soldiers to be back in South Dakota.

"On the 18th of January of last year, there were a lot of tears of concern, tears of apprehension, and what I see today are tears of joy and thanks that you all came home safely," he said. "Ladies and gentlemen, the 727th answered the call and rose to the occasion. Every report that I heard from over in theater was good."

Leadership of the 727th echoed the general's comments and said their Soldiers' performance was outstanding.

"They are the best anyone could ask for," said Sgt. Maj. Mike Bekaert, the company's

first sergeant.

The unit, which was one of the first South Dakota units called to active duty, drove more than 1.1 million miles and completed 505 missions hauling supplies and equipment into Iraq with its palletized load systems.

Attached to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, the unit earned the Navy Presidential Unit Citation. Individual unit members earned nine Bronze Stars, 20 Army Commendation Medals and six Navy Achievement Medals. Three Soldiers were also injured when they were struck by a vehicle while at a rest halt. Fortunately, they were able to make recoveries.

Three days later, another 170 Soldiers saw their homes as the 200th Engineer Company returned to Pierre, the unit's headquarters.

After enduring a summer with temperatures far exceeding 100 degrees, 90 degrees was "pretty nice."

Spc. Leighann Dunn reflected on her introduction to Iraq.

"I wasn't prepared for what we were going in for," Dunn said. "I didn't think it was going to get that hot. I didn't think it was going to be that tough living without normal things we take for granted, like laundry machines or showers. That was pretty hard. Living in a small tent with nine other females was pretty hard and eating MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) every day – that was pretty different. They don't get any better, you just learn to mix certain foods with cheese or salsa."

While at Camp Warhorse, near BaQuba, Iraq, the unit constructed an Army assault ribbon bridge, which provided vital access across the Tigris River.

The unit was then tasked with guarding the bridge for the duration of its 333 days in Iraq. During that time, Soldiers were on the receiving end of more than 400 mortar rounds, six rocket attacks and multiple firefights with Iraqi insurgents. Soldiers earned four Purple Hearts, nine Bronze Stars and two Army Commendation Medals with V devices.

Throughout their time in the desert, Soldiers said they faced many challenges. One member of the unit said they overcame the challenges with flying colors.

"It was difficult and there were a lot of challenges that we came across," said Sgt. John Karn, a unit medic. "At first it was, 'we can't do that. Well, we discovered there were a lot of things we can do if we really put our minds to it. The upper echelon said it needs to be done, and well, we're the South Dakota National Guard and we'll get the job done. Sometimes it isn't according to their rule



**A daughter of a 727th Transportation Company Soldier wipes away a tear as she searches for her dad.**

book, but we do it and do a good job at it. Our reputation preceded us wherever we went."

As a licensed practitioner nurse in his civilian job, Karn said the locals loved having medical help so near to them.

"They came in droves right off the bat," he said. "It was a big change from working in a nursing home to working on the streets with the local civilians. There were a lot of things that we couldn't help them with, but to give them a little comfort and tell them what they needed to do or who they needed to see was interesting."

"Fortunately, we didn't have any major trauma with our Guard members," he added. "That was something that worried me a lot, getting an improvised explosive device or a mortar round. I was dreading (it). We are

all one big family."

Although four members of the unit were wounded, two by shrapnel from a mortar round and two when a rocket propelled grenade struck their Humvee, their wounds were not life threatening and they made full recoveries.

The latest unit to return to their families, Co. B, 109th Medical Battalion, arrived in Vermillion on April Fools Day. Families of the 69-member unit lined the road in front of the Coyote Medics' armory with flowers, tears and welcome home signs.

**See WELCOME on Page 13**



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald J. Matthews

**Members of the 727th Transportation Company depart the plane and touch South Dakota soil for the first time, as a unit, in 14 months.**





(Left) Spc. Nathan A. Christopherson waves to the supporters who lined the parade route, as part of the Vermillion, South Dakota's Welcome Home celebration for Company B, 109th Medical Battalion.

(Below) Students of Vermillion, S.D., welcome home Soldiers.



FROM PAGE 12

## Welcome

One family made two signs, one read, "Welcome Home," and the other read, "April Fools, Ha Ha."

During their tour, the medics treated nearly 40,000 patients to include 12,000 coalition troops, 1,500 civilians and 26,500 Iraqis. They also completed 628 ambulance missions that involved more than 1,000 patients.

Toupal added that the locals appreciated the help that the Soldiers were able to provide for them.

"The civilians were very grateful," Toupal said. "We represented health care that they hadn't seen in a long time."

For one member of the unit, Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Anderson, this marked his second war as he was deployed during Operation Desert Storm. Although he said this deployment was more difficult in some ways, he said his fellow Soldiers performed remarkable.

"This time I went with a bunch of young troops, and I really think they grew up a lot over there," Anderson said. "They did a fantastic job. We treated close to 40,000 people,

worked 12 hour shifts at first, seven days a week."

Anderson said they treated a wide variety of people from U.S. Soldiers to Iraqi civilians.

"If they were there, we treated them," he said. "Once they walked through that door, we didn't ask who they were, they all got the same treatment."

Two Soldiers assigned to Company B received Bronze Stars and there are several Bronze Star awards under recommendation.

During the Soldiers' deployment they faced many difficult tasks in difficult positions, but

their leaders said the Soldiers performed remarkably.

"All the Soldiers in this great unit deserve our eternal gratitude for the part they played in Operation Iraqi Freedom," Gorman said. "In this, the first war of the 21st Century, you defended your fellow citizens against ruthless enemies, and because of your sacrifices, you made this country a safer place to live. Because of your service, because of your bravery and dedication, the world is better off today and the people of America are more secure."



## The Longest Commemoration:

# National Guard celebrates 60th anniversary of D-Day

By Renee Hylton

National Guard Bureau Historian

At the 40th anniversary of the Allied landing on the coast of Normandy, France, "Operation Overlord," Ronald Reagan made his famous "boys of Point du Hoc" speech about the Army Rangers.

The 50th anniversary in 1994 was supposed to be the last, and drew a huge crowd of veterans. Then, in 2000, veterans by the thousand turned out for the opening of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, billed by CNN as "the last hurrah" for the World War II generation. But that was followed in 2001 by President Bush's dedication of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va. — hometown of Company A, 116th Infantry, most of whom died in the first wave of the assault on Omaha Beach.

This month some 75 D-Day veterans of the 29th Infantry Division of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Army National Guard, accompanied by 250 family members, will return to Normandy. There, once again, they will be honored by the French government and the French people.

Will the longest commemoration ever end?

Probably not. Like Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, and other great battles of the Civil War, Americans will always be fascinated by their countrymen's role in the largest amphibious invasion ever undertaken. And while the French welcome all the veterans of the multi-national invasion force, they seem to save their warmest welcome for the Americans.

Forget the image of the haughty French looking down their noses: this June the Gallic welcome mat will be out, as the Normans thank the veterans of what they call the "debarquement." The French don't consider the landings of June 6th an invasion. To them it was the beginning of their liberation from the Germans.

Liberation didn't come easily. On D-Day the 116th Infantry lost 247 killed in action, 576 wounded, and 184 missing in action. But those figures pale when counted against



Historical photo

**The National Guard Association Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach was built atop the ruins of a German pillbox and dedicated on June 6th, 1969, the 25th anniversary of the invasion and its first major commemoration. The monument has several inscriptions, one of them by Charles de Gaulle: "War is the worst of plagues, but it has made the world as we know it ... at once shameful and magnificent, its history is the history of the human race."**

the casualties as the fighting moved inland. The campaign to drive the German Army from the entire province of Normandy, fought mainly by the Americans and the British, lasted two months. In terms of casualties among the troops engaged, it ranks very high on the list of the bloodiest single campaigns of the Second World War. In addition to the 29th, three other Guard infantry divisions, the 28th (Penn.), 30th (N.C., S.C., Tenn., Ga.) and 35th (Ks., Neb., Mo.) fought in Normandy; these four Guard divisions accounted for 5,175 of the approximately 22,000 Army troops killed in action in Normandy.

The French suffered too. Many of Normandy's beautiful medieval cities were destroyed by Allied bombs and artillery, and thousands of civilians were killed. At the 50th anniversary ceremonies in the town of Vire, where 300 citizens were killed because the leaflets warning of Allied bombings the next day blew off course, one middle-aged Frenchman described to the wife of a 29th Division veteran how he and his 11-year-old brother watched the Americans advance against the Germans on the outskirts of town, and how later that same day his brother was killed by U.S. artillery. When the American expressed her horror at this, the Frenchman replied, "Oh no, madame, it was necessary. My brother died so we could be liberated."

This June, the veterans of the 29th Infantry Division will again be honored by the citizens of Vire. And there will be ceremonies in the village of Vierville-sur-Mer, where the

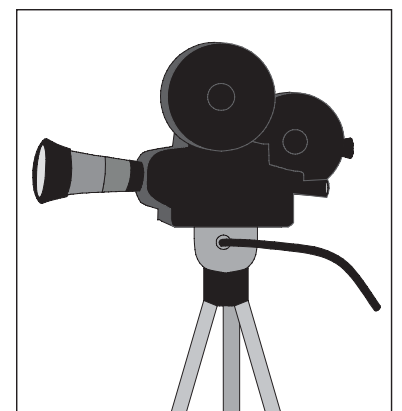
memorial put up by the National Guard Association in 1969 overlooks the beach code-named "Omaha," and at the American Cemetery at Coleville, where so many of the D-Day dead now rest.

D-Day's 65th anniversary falls in 2009, and

the 70th anniversary will take place in 2014. You can bet there will still be a handful of veterans at both ceremonies, the very youngest of those who struggled ashore at Omaha Beach so many decades ago.

The longest commemoration is not over yet.

## D-Day : At ... the ... movies



By Renee Hylton

National Guard Bureau Historian

*Saving Private Ryan* benefited from special effects and computerized imagery which allowed director Steven Spielberg to recreate in graphic detail the death and destruction at Omaha Beach. Unfortunately, the plot which follows was fantasy. Private Ryan wouldn't have been "saved" and certainly not on orders from Army Chief of Staff George Marshall.

After identification as a sole surviving son, a message directing his return to the states would have come from Washington through command channels, to eventually reach his platoon leader, who would have sent a runner to order him back to the rear.

It lacks *Private Ryan's* realistic blood and gore, but in terms of historical accuracy, the nod goes to 1962's *The Longest Day*, an old-fashioned Hollywood epic, shot in black and white to match the 1944 footage used in the film. Perhaps the movie's greatest strength is its depiction of the Germans, in Normandy and in Berlin, as they respond to what Field Marshall Erwin Rommel knew would be "... for the Allies and for the Germans ... the longest day."

### National Guard units in "Operation Overlord"

6-7 June 1944

Unit	State
29th Inf Div	DC, MD, VA
987th FA Bn	OH
112th Engr Cbt Bn	OH
HHC, 1121st Engr Cbt Gp	OH
254th Engr Cbt Bn	MI
HHT, 102d Can Recon Gp	NJ
102d Cav Recon Sqdn	NJ
187th FA Bn	NY
HHC, 190th FA Gp	PA
190th FA Bn	PA
200th FA Bn	PA
635th Tank Destroyer Bn	KS
HHC, V Corps Arty	CA
Btry B, 980th FA Bn	CA
Trp B, 125th Cav Recon Sqdn	IA



# 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.

**Information about Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve resources can be obtained by calling the ESGR's hot-line at 1-800-336-4590 and on-line at [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).**

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# C-130J community comes together

By Maj. Nahaku McFadden

135th Maintenance Group

BALTIMORE, Md. – PD&E is not simply another military acronym to the men and women of the 135th Airlift Group, it's standing between them and a chance to get into the fight.

Procedures, Development and Evaluation (PD&E) is one of the last steps before the C-130J aircraft is mission capable. Recently nearly 50 members of the 135th, armed with five years of hard-fought experience, traveled to Little Rock AFB, Ark., to participate in the month-long PD&E process.

They were joined by the 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Island, Calif., 403rd Airlift Wing, Keesler, Miss., 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock AFB, Ark., 143rd Airlift Wing, Rhode Island, and Headquarters, Air Mobility Command.

"PD&E maps out how we are going to fly this aircraft and what steps are necessary to achieve full operational capabilities," said Maj. Mark Ruane, 135th maintenance operations flight commander. "It is a total force effort."

The C-130J is in the third phase of a multi-stage process, stated Ron Contreras, a Lockheed Martin Corporation systems field support specialist.

"We will be testing multiple airship formations, combat off loads at night, and the Station Keeping Equipment (SKE) to develop testing and procedures," said Contreras.

In the first phase, Contreras noted, the aircrew went through simulator training. Each base with C-130J aircraft provided two pilots and two load masters. They then went back to their bases and trained the rest of the crews.

In the second phase, the crews flew single aircraft sorties, off loads and air drops.

"In the third phase we will be able to concentrate on flying with night vision goggles and the SKE," he said. The SKE, Contreras noted, is where the "master" aircraft takes the lead and the rest of the planes, called the "slaves," position themselves in relation to it.

The aircraft can take unlimited positions with both lateral and vertical separation.

"What is unique about the J-model is that this can be done both manually and in auto-pilot," explained Gary Sims, a Lockheed field service representative. The master aircraft sends out signals to the slaves on its air speed and altitude, and the slaves adjust accordingly."

After every flight, an in-depth debrief occurs between the air crews and maintenance. Each write-up or discrepancy on the aircraft during the sortie is logged into the newly-automated maintenance database system, called GO81.

This thorough documentation allows air crews and maintenance types to evaluate, develop, and hone procedures and policies. It also helps them to identify and correct any deficiencies within the system. Re-evaluation of the procedures and tests occur over and over to ensure the best possible product is produced.

At the completion of PD&E, a new aircrew-training system courseware for future C-130J crew members will exist.

"Success will be measured by when we put everything together, so the aircraft can go into combat," said Lt. Col. Chris Hair, chief of the operations modernization division at Headquarters, Air Material Command (AMC).

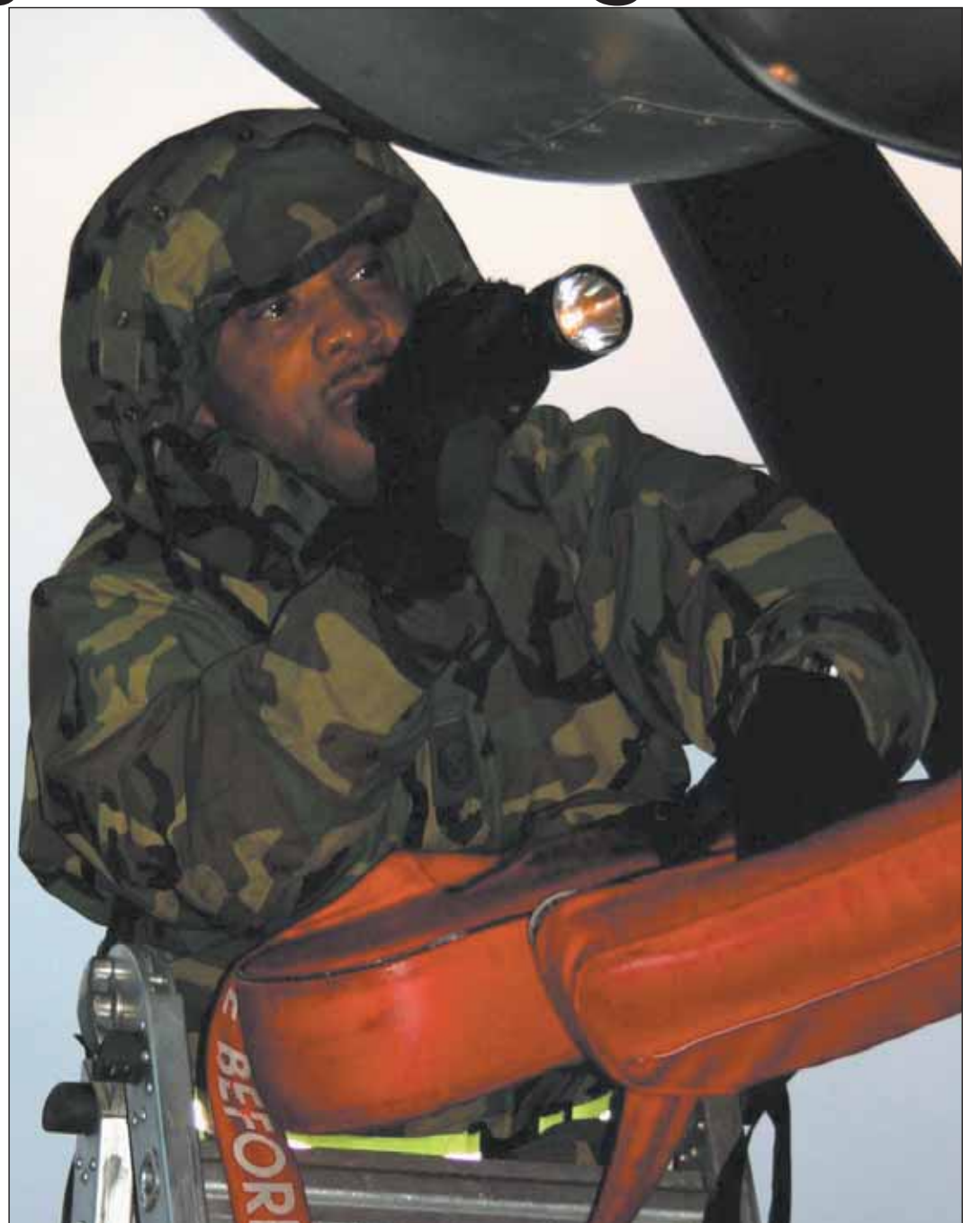
"We're all a team here -- active duty, Guard and Reserves together. It doesn't matter what patch you wear. Everyone brings something to the table."

Despite the optimism shared throughout the participating units, the testing hasn't been without challenges.

In the history of Air Force acquisitions, Hair noted, the purchase of the J-model aircraft stands alone in being the first commercial off-the-shelf aircraft brought into the fleet. In short, there was no template.

"Despite the challenges, the J has exceeded our expectations. It is performing beyond what we thought it could."

"Procedure development," echoed Maj. Joe



**Master Sgt. Michael Sykes, a crew chief with the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Maintenance Squadron inspects the intake of the propeller during pre-flight checklist. Six Guard, reserve and active duty flying units participated in a month long Procedures, Development and Evaluation testing of the C-130J model aircraft.**

Brophy, 135th standards and evaluation, "has been a rough and hard road."

PD&E, he added, signifies the coming together of a whole community. He was especially pleased with what the National Guard, and specifically the 135th, offered to the process.

Others also noticed the 135th.

"The Maryland Air National Guard's participation in this whole process has been huge. They have the most experience," said Maj. Steve Stater, AMC's chief of C-130 standards and evaluation. "As the lead unit, they have set the standard for the program and done a wonderful job."

Many attributed the 135th's success to a team of maintainors who battled frigid weather and bone-chilling winds to keep the mission on schedule. They also had to adapt to a new system.

"If they don't know the answer, they get the books out, research, make phone calls and then they get back with you," Brophy said. "I have a lot of respect for our maintenance crews. They are willing to go above and beyond."

"They are the best maintenance unit that

I've ever worked with without a doubt," he added.

Setting the standard is nothing new to the 135th Maintenance Group. Their reputation is so well established that maintainors from other units participating in PD&E made certain to train with 135th experts, such as Tech. Sgt. Shane Price.

"In technical school, I learned about the C-130H model. It is a lot different than the J," said Senior Airman David Deutsh, a crew chief with the Mississippi Reserve's 403rd Maintenance Squadron. "Tech. Sgt. Price is helping me to become qualified with core tasks. I'm trying to take advantage of as much training as I can, while I'm down here."

Training has been another significant challenge for the C-130J program. The lack of aircraft and shortage of trained aircrew has been an issue. PD&E brings the J, one step closer to the finish line.

Following PD&E, Stater said, the information will be transferred to the J-model Maintenance and Aircrew Training System (JMATS).



Photos by Maj. Nahaku McFadden

**C-130Js all in a row. Four J-model Hercules aircraft lineup to takeoff for formation flying during the Program Development and Evaluation phase toward certification.**