

THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXII, 8 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD July 2004

Engineers



216th Combat Engineers build command post, save money. See story on page 13.

Honors



Guardsmen pay respects to President Ronald Reagan, assist in ceremonies. See story on page 2.

Responders



131st Medical Squadron executes mass disaster exercise. See story on page 5.

G8 Summit leads to historic command

U.S. Code changes to law, National Guard general commands federal and state troops

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. – This is what Terry Nesbitt would have been doing if he were a major league baseball manager. He'd have been managing the New York Yankees and the New York Mets at the same time and for the first time – during the World Series.

It was not baseball, but Georgia Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt managed, or com-



Nesbitt

manded, two large teams at the same time during a very public international event on coastal Georgia during the first half of June.

It was the Group of Eight, or G8, Sea Island Summit for the leaders of the world's major industrial countries. And the world was

watching. A reported 3,000 journalists from around the globe covered the June 8-10 event. The world, it was said, converged on Georgia.

It was not the World Series, and Nesbitt's teams were on the same side for the 30th G8 Summit. Security against terrorists and demonstrators out to make trouble was their main mission. Overall, it was a quiet, peaceful summit.

Nesbitt was the first National Guard general to ever command Army and Air National Guard troops who were on state, or Title 32, active duty status and Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, who were on federal, or Title 10, status.

Nesbitt commanded about 6,800 service members during the meetings on Sea Island among the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. European Union leaders and heads of state from Africa were also in attendance.

President George W. Bush and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue had to approve the idea of a single commander for all military forces on



Photo by Sgt. Roy Henry

Georgia Army National Guard Pfc. Cassandra Prescott, a military police officer with the 48th Brigade Combat Team, radios for instructions while guarding the entrance to a compound where troops are being housed near Brunswick, Ga., for the G8 Summit.

state and federal duty. After months of planning, the pieces all fit together on June's first Sunday, the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

"The idea is to provide unity of

command and unity of effort for support of the G8 Summit," Nesbitt explained. "It is being looked at, I think, as a model for

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Transformation: Doing what's right for America



Photos by Maj. Mark Brian

LTG Blum illustrates a transformation topic, while Lt. Gen. Daniel James, director of the Air National Guard, explains the issue at hand.

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – It was a year ago in May when LTG H Steven Blum announced his plan to transform the National Guard into a more ready, reliable, essential and accessible force to help defend this country – at home and abroad.

Blum had been chief of the National Guard Bureau for little more than a month when he told Guard leaders in the 54 states and territories, the entire National Guard family, and the national media his concept for moving the 460,000 members of the Guard into the 21st century.

He calls it The Way Ahead. He calls it doing what is right for America.

In a nutshell, Blum has insisted during his first year on the job, the Guard has to change from a strategic reserve that was standing by during the Cold War to help this country fight Warsaw Pact forces attacking Western Europe through the Fulda Gap into an operational force that is

already actively engaged in the global war against terrorism in this country and overseas, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Why? The ways this country's military does business have changed in the past 30 years or so. It has changed from a force bolstered by the draft to an all-volunteer, recruited force. The 9-11 attacks on the homeland hammered home the idea that we have to be ready to march with no, or limited, notice because we no longer have the luxury of time to build up our military forces. We have to be prepared to take on a faceless enemy that employs all forms of terrorism and guerilla tactics as opposed to a standing army.

One thing will not change. The Guard will not give up its "Minuteman" ethos of being ready to roll out on a moment's notice. It will remain a state or territorial military force, commanded by the governors, unless its members are activated for federal duty.

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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 73,500 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.

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DC Guardsmen honor former commander-in-chief

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – Sgt. 1st Class Sylvia Lynch reflected on how her career in the District of Columbia Army National Guard has been closely connected to Ronald Wilson Reagan as she marched in the former president's solemn funeral procession along Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Capitol on a steamy, hot evening in June.

Lynch was a new Soldier, a private first class, when she marched in her first inaugural parade for the 40th president of the United States in January 1981.

She had joined the D.C. Guard in 1980, the year Reagan was elected to his first term as president.

On June 9, she was 18 months from retiring as a fulltime D.C. Guard Soldier, when she helped her country pay its final respects to the former president, who changed many military lives and the National Guard's mission with the end of the Cold War.

"It was very unique marching in his first inaugural parade. I had watched those parades on television when I was a little girl. I had no idea I'd be doing that myself," Lynch recalled.

"This is kind of different," said Lynch about marching past thousands of people before the first state funeral to be held in the nation's capital in 31 years. "Marching in this one is sadder."



Lynch

Nearly 200 Soldiers and Airmen in the D.C. National Guard, in two separate units, marched in the military procession that led the flag-covered coffin on a horse-drawn caisson and a motorcade of dignitaries, including Nancy

Reagan, to the Capitol's Rotunda for that evening's service and for the public viewing that preceded the June 11 state funeral service at the Washington National Cathedral.

The D.C. National Guard takes pride in its designation as the Capital Guardians and in the fact that Army and Air Guard units march in every presidential parade said, Maj. Sheldon Smith, Public Affairs Officer for the D.C. National Guard. The commanding general, now Maj. Gen. David Wherley Jr., is appointed by the president.

Six Soldiers and four Airmen in the D.C. Guard units that marched June 9 had taken part in one or both of the Reagan inaugurations a couple of decades earlier when their hair was considerably less gray and when they had far fewer stripes and ribbons on their green and blue dress uniforms.

The traditional inaugural parade that celebrated the start of Reagan's first term in 1981 was cancelled, because of biting cold, when he began his second term.

Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Barry Mills explained he was 19 and in the active Air Force when he was part of the medical detail for the 1985 inauguration.

Staff Sgt. Kevin Threat, another Air Guard marcher, said he marched in Reagan's first inaugural parade as part of the Navy's Presidential Drill Team.

"I was out of town on vacation when

President Reagan died last Saturday," Threat explained. "I cut my vacation short, so I could take part in the funeral. This is being a part of history. President Reagan was the president when I was here the first time, and now I'm seeing him leave."

The two marching units were the National Guard's most public participants, but several hundred Guard members took part in or were prepared to support the final tributes in California and Washington.

LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, made it clear the Reagan rites were to get top priority.

"I intend for the National Guard Bureau to support the Military District of Washington, the D.C. National Guard and California so as to ensure national success during this time of sincere mourning and extraordinary international attention," he told his joint headquarters staff.

Blum's orders included providing Army and Air Guard escort officers for 32 governors attending the funeral ceremonies in Washington.

A reception was held at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., where some 100 members of gubernatorial delegations gathered the morning before the national funeral.

Blum also alerted National Guard forces in D.C., Maryland and Virginia to be prepared to provide security support for Washington authorities.

All of that attention was directed to the late president whose stand against communism and the Soviet Union redefined the way the National Guard does business.

That's because Reagan precipitated the demise of the Warsaw Pact and the end of the Cold War by increasing U.S. defense spending by 35 percent and by dealing with reform-minded Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to help bring about the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"To the amazement of the world, months after Reagan left office, the Berlin Wall was torn down and the epic U.S.-Soviet conflict that had threatened civilization in the 20th century eased," USA Today reported the Monday after Reagan died of pneumonia on June 5 following a 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

The Guard was part of the U.S. military's large strategic reserve during the decades that this country stood ready to repulse a Soviet attack against Western Europe.

The National Guard, along with other reserve components, began getting the funding for modern tanks, helicopters and planes. And it began deploying to Germany for annual NATO war games and to Central and South America to build roads, schools and clinics, said National Guard Bureau historian Renee Hylton.

Then, as the U.S. military was decreased in size after the Cold War, the National Guard became an operational force that this country needs to conduct major military operations, said Guard Bureau spokesman Dan Donohue.

It has been that way since the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 and throughout the deployments to Bosnia and Kosovo that began during the last half of the 1990s. The National Guard's role in national defense has been accelerated since President George Bush began the global war against terrorism following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley

The District of Columbia Air National Guard's marching unit took its place in the state funeral procession for President Ronald Reagan in Washington on June 9.

Guard forces have trained members of the Afghan National Army and have fought terrorists in Afghanistan. They have fought, and died, along with their active duty counterparts during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The impact that he had on the Cold War opened up a new chapter for the National Guard," said Blum on the national day of mourning for Reagan. "It has made us more essential, and it has driven the need to transform the Guard from a Cold War deterrent force to an operational force that we have matured into today.

"It's changed everything – the way we train, the way we equip, the way we organize, and the way we deploy our Army and Air Guard units" Blum said. "It has taken about 20 years to come to fruition. But if you trace where we are today back to the Reagan years you will see a direct link."

That change was reflected during the Group of Eight Summit that President Bush hosted for international leaders on June 8-10 at Sea Island, Ga.

Georgia Army Guard Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt commanded the joint military task force that was organized for the summit.

It was reported to be the first time that a National Guard general commanded troops from all of the military services on state and federal duty at the same time.

"The conventional type of warfare that we planned and trained for during the Cold War is not applicable anymore. So we're going through a tremendous amount of change in the military to fight a different kind of war," Nesbitt said.

"I think 9-11 accelerated that change. It has also focused our attention more on homeland defense and homeland security," added Nesbitt.

(Editor's note: Staff Sgt. Cheryl Hackley contributed to this report.)

Outstanding Airmen of the Year

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Senior Airman Alexander Sutherland touched the war that has been a part of his Air National Guard life on May 27. He visited the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., two days before the memorial was dedicated to the men and women of America's "greatest generation."

Sutherland visited the crowded memorial in the nation's capital that Thursday morning as one of the Air National Guard's six outstanding Airmen and noncommissioned officers for 2004.

It was a pilgrimage made poignant because he has participated in many military funerals for veterans of World War II, acknowledged the young man from Pennsylvania. Sutherland is the Air Guard's Honor Guard Member of the Year.

"Most of the military funerals that I take part in are for World War II veterans," explained the well-spoken member of the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at the Willow Grove Air Reserve Station.

"I was very stirred by the monuments at the memorial. It's sad that so many of those veterans are passing away, but I find it an honor to render them their final honors," Sutherland said. "And I'm very happy that our nation has recognized those men and women who served this country so well."

He has taken part in two- or three-member honor guard details for more than 30 military funerals, said Sutherland, who is part of the 111th Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard.

Sutherland was also a prime example of the National Guard's polished Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year who visited Washington during the week before Memorial Day weekend and the World War II memorial's dedication.

They were repeatedly praised as being the "best of the best." They toured the White House and military memorials. They were the centers of attention during an evening banquet held in their honor on May 27.

"Every year, our outstanding Soldiers and Airmen and NCOs raise the bar a little higher and make us all a little prouder to belong to the Guard," stated LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "It is a privilege to honor your individual achievements as well as those of the thousands of other NCOs, Soldiers and Airmen whom you represent."

The six have recorded some remarkable achievements. For example:

Senior Airman Andrea Stover, the airman of the year, is a Western Air Defense Sector tracking technician at McChord Air Force Base in Washington state. She was requested, "by name," by Maj. Gen.



National Guard Bureau photo

The Air National Guard's outstanding Airmen and noncommissioned officers for 2004 were honored in Washington, D.C., during the final week in May. From left are Senior Airman Alexander Sutherland, Pennsylvania, National Guard; Tech. Sgt. Steven Montalvo, Maryland National Guard; Senior Airman Andrea Stover, Washington National Guard; Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa, Kentucky National Guard; Senior Master Sgt. Michael McCrossin, Texas National Guard; and Tech. Sgt. Eric Morse, Michigan National Guard.

Ronald Bath to perform temporary duty for a month at the Air Force Strategic Plans Office in the Pentagon. She was asked to return in 2004.

Senior Master Sgt. Michael McCrossin from Texas, the Air Guard's top first sergeant for 2004, served in the Persian Gulf from March through July in 2003. He oversaw the smooth transition of 900 people in the Combined Air Operations Center from Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia to Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. He made it possible for the people to continue focusing on their war-fighting duties.

Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa from Kentucky's 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, the senior noncommissioned officer of the year, has served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is an airborne jumpmaster and combat diving supervisor who has

trained special operations personnel, including Army Green Berets and Navy SEALs. He is also studying for his master's degree in aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Rosa also appreciated the significance of the World War II memorial to the American military people who served a few generations before he sought his own adventures in military service.

"I found the memorial sobering, humbling and beautiful," said Rosa who does not mince his words. "I can't wait to go back to see it with my daughter, to show her the monuments." His daughter Lauren is 16, Rosa explained. She could not visit Washington with him in late May because she was still in school.

"It's about time," Rosa added, "we had this memorial for our greatest generation."

Air National Guard Airmen, Noncommissioned Officers of the Year

Airman: Senior Airman Andrea Stover, Western Air Defense Sector, state of Washington.

Noncommissioned Officer: Tech Sgt. Steven Montalvo, 104th Fighter Squadron, 175th Wing, Maryland.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer: Senior Master Sgt. Jonathan Rosa, 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, Kentucky.

First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. Michael McCrossin, 221st Combat Communications Squadron, Texas.

Honor Guard Member: Senior Airman Alexander Sutherland, 111th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Pennsylvania.

Honor Guard Manager: Tech. Sgt. Erik Morse, 110th Fighter Wing, Michigan.

FROM PAGE 1

Ahead

It is still an organization with a state and a federal mission which makes it unique among the military services.

"The Guard has been an operational force since 1636 as far as our state missions are concerned. When the governor calls, you've got to be there now," said a National Guard Bureau spokesman.

Since 9-11, we've had to transition from a strategic reserve as a federal entity to what we have always been in the states, an operational force."

Transformation has a lot of moving parts, and it's being done on the move, while the Guard is engaged in one of the busiest times in its 367-year history - while tens of thousands of Soldiers and Airmen are participating in homeland security missions and deployed overseas. One public affairs officer has compared it to changing an engine in a car that is speeding down a highway.

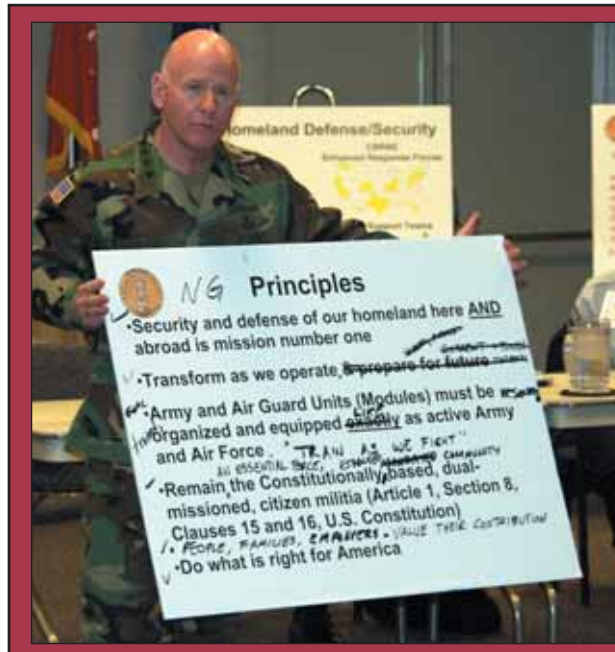
Jointness, leveraging and rebalancing are some of the buzz words that describe how the Guard is transforming.

"Jointness" means combining three separate entities in the 54 states and territories - the adjutants generals' offices, the Army Guard's state area commands, and the state Air Guard headquarters - as well as the National Guard Bureau into joint staff headquarters, including members of other services, which function like the U.S. military's major combatant commands.

"We will be better understood by our active duty counterparts," Blum predicted. "We will then be seen for what we are - ready, reliable, essential and accessible."

The Guard Bureau became a joint staff headquarters last summer. The state and territorial headquarters began functioning as provisional joint commands in October. The intent is to have all of them fully operational by October 2005, the start of the 2006 fiscal year.

They are a powerful tool for the governors during a flood, riot or other emergency, because they can command the activities of their own Guard people and direct the activities of Guard forces that might be brought in from other states



under the provisions of the Emergency Mutual Assistance Compact. They can also provide information to the U.S. Northern or Pacific Commands.

"Leveraging" means using the Guard forces that already exist to meet the new requirements of homeland security and homeland defense. That's important, the spokesman said, because National Guard members are generally the first military people on the scene of a catastrophic event in this country.

Leveraging includes organizing reaction forces in each state, which can instantly respond to natural disasters and civil disturbances, from existing combat-type units. About 22 states have them and 28 more are organizing them. Blum would like to have one such force in every state.

It also means creating 12 Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear high yield Explosive Enhanced Force Response Packages (CERFP) with existing civil support teams, which are trained to detect chemical, biological, and nuclear agents, and with existing ground combat, engi-

Guard Principles

Six principles forged by National Guard leaders form the guideposts for the Way Ahead. They are:

1. Mission No. 1 – Secure and defend our homeland here and abroad.
2. We are an institution of people – Soldiers, Airmen, families and employers.
3. Transform as we operate.
4. Organize, train, equip and resource National Guard units like active duty counterparts.
5. Remain essential - the constitutionally ratified, community-based, dual-missioned citizen militia.
6. Do what is right for America.

neer and medical units.

The CERFPs are being built around civil support teams in California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington state, and West Virginia.

Why are there 12 CERFPs? One would be assigned to each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. Two would be available for overseas deployment if a combatant commander asks for that kind of help.

The ground combat people would be used for security missions during a major emergency. The engineers are being trained for search and rescue with sonar and heat-seeking devices. The medical units are being equipped to perform mass decontamination and mass triage.

"Rebalancing" has many faces. Overall, it means putting the people into the positions where they can do the most good. That includes reorganizing and retraining the force so it can help support the modern war-fight, being available with suitable numbers and equipment to satisfy the governors, and making deployments more predictable.

It is in keeping with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's mandate that the Active, Guard and Reserve components be organized so the active forces can engage any enemy anywhere for between 15 and 30 days before the reserve components have to be called up. (Related story at left.)

Thousands of Army Guard field artillery Soldiers have already been retrained as military police to serve in such places as Germany, Hawaii and Iraq because there is a far greater demand for force protection than there is for the artillery units which were maintained to combat the old Warsaw Pact.

Looking ahead, the Army Guard's divisions will have to be rebalanced across state lines to give the governors the medical, engineer, aviation, transportation, communications and security assets they require.

The way ahead, Blum told the National Governors Association earlier this year, includes making sure that no more than 50 percent of any state's Guard force is involved in the nation's war-fight at any time so that at least 50 percent of the force can be available "on a no-notice, immediate basis" for missions on its home turf.

"We will balance our forces, focusing on the right force mix and the right kinds of units with the right capabilities in every state and territory," Blum vowed. "We are going through a top-to-bottom rebalancing nationwide."

The goal is to have about 25 percent of each state's Army Guard force engaged in the war-fight, another 25 percent training to replace those already deployed, and at least 50 percent available to the governors for state missions, homeland defense and support for homeland security operations.

"It will result in a more evenly distributed burden sharing throughout the Guard, enhanced capabilities in the National Guard in each state, and a better level of predictability for when the force may be needed," Blum said.

Different names, same goal

Army and Air National Guard develop plans to transform

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Transformation is affecting different people in different ways. Therefore, the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard have developed their own ways of transforming their forces to meet The Way Ahead initiatives of LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and to remain relevant to the active Army and the active Air Force.

The Army Guard calls it "Modularity." The Air Guard calls it "Vanguard."

Modularity is like building blocks that all fit together. It means training and equipping Army Guard units so they are just like their Active Army and Army Reserve counterparts.

That way, for example, a brigade can be formed from Army Guard, Reserve and Active units which have been trained to the same standards on the same equipment to fight the same enemy.

"It makes us interoperable," said a National Guard Bureau spokesman. "We're able to shoot, move and communicate in the same manner, with the same doctrine. You can pick a company here, another company there and another company from somewhere else, put them together and go. No matter what their component, they all fit together."

The Army is putting up the money to make that happen,

because everyone needs the same training and equipment to deploy. It invested \$1.7 billion to make sure that all Active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers in the second rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom were trained and equipped alike.

The Army has pledged another \$2.3 billion to do the same thing for Soldiers designated to serve during the third and fourth rotations, he added.

Vanguard is the Air Guard's long-range transformation program to realign the force and take on other missions while downsizing its fleet of airplanes at the same pace as the Air Force.

"Many of today's capabilities may not be required in the future," states the Air Guard's new Vanguard brochure. "The future Air Force will rely heavily on technological advances ... and the ability to conduct high volume and highly accurate attacks with significantly fewer [airplanes]. We have to plan for the eventuality of fewer [airplanes] and reduced infrastructure."

Considering it will have fewer planes to fly and maintain, the Air Guard is exploring other ways to serve the country, the spokesman added.

Examples include increasing the Air Guard's base defense forces so Army Guard Soldiers no longer have to guard bases in this country and devoting more assets to information warfare, intelligence and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Outstanding Soldiers of the Year

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – It would seem that Sgt. Will Andrews has done extraordinarily well during his 27 months in the Idaho Army National Guard.

At 20, he is one of the Army National Guard's outstanding noncommissioned officers of the year for 2004. He was Idaho's Soldier of the Year in 2003. Now he is about to learn what soldiering is all about.

Andrews and his wife Danae, who is 21-year-old Spc., enjoyed a few days in Washington, D.C., together during the May week leading up to Memorial Day, and the weekend's dedication of the National World War II Memorial, before the young Soldiers begin preparing to go to war.

Andrews, from the 116th Cavalry Brigade, is the NCO of the year for the 5th Army's northwest region. He was among twelve of the Army Guard's outstanding 16 Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from across the country who were honored for their service to their states and to their nation.

Four could not attend because of personal reasons or other military commitments.

Among the other winners, the 5th Army's top Soldier, Spc. Amy Cowan, and top NCO, Staff Sgt. Richard Harp II, both come from Oklahoma. And the Pacific Command's top Soldier and NCO, Spc. Walter Hotch-Hill and Staff Sgt. Kevin Earl, are members of Alaska's 297th Infantry.

"Every year, our outstanding Soldiers and Airmen and NCOs raise the bar a little higher and make us all a little prouder to belong to the Guard," stated LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "It is a privilege to honor your individual achievements as well as those of the thousands of other NCOs, Soldiers and Airmen whom you represent."

On June 7, 11 days after the tributes, the visits to the White House and military memorials, and the May 27 banquet for the National Guard's outstanding Soldiers and Airmen are over, Sgt. Will and Spc. Danae Andrews will report to Fort Bliss, Texas, for a few months of training. They expect to deploy to Iraq late next fall for a year or so with the rest of the 116th Cavalry Brigade.

Both are taking this turn of events in their young lives in stride. They will celebrate their second anniversary in August, and the Andrews have decided to wait until they return from Iraq before starting a family.

"This is why I joined. Someone's got to make sure we keep all of the cool freedoms we take for granted," said Will, a personnel sergeant in the brigade's headquarters company. "There is no greater



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gail Braymen

The 2004 Army National Guard Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers of the Year pose in front of the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. In the front row, from left to right, are Sgt. Will Andrews, Idaho; Sgt. Joshua Devine, Connecticut; Spc. Zachary Cornett, Kentucky; Sgt. Philip Weiser, North Dakota; Staff Sgt. Kevin Earl, Alaska; Spc. Amy Cowan, Oklahoma. In the back row, from left to right, are Sgt. 1st Class Paul Pratt, Maine; Staff Sgt. Richard Harp II, Oklahoma; Staff Sgt. Anthony Sopczak, Florida; Sgt. Wade Joy, Maryland; Spc. Nathan Quinn, Colorado; Spc. Walter Hotch-Hill, Alaska. Not pictured are Spc. Ryan Koniak, Virginia; Sgt. Darren Habermehl, Wisconsin; Staff Sgt. Brian Jukubiak, Minnesota; Sgt. Justin Laughter, New Mexico.

privilege than to take care of Soldiers - to make sure they are fed and equipped and trained right."

"I expected this even before I left for basic training. It was no big surprise," said Danae, an administration specialist in the brigade's 145th Support Battalion. She enlisted 15 months ago, when National Guard Soldiers were serving in Afghanistan and preparing to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She returned to Idaho four days before she and her husband flew to Washington after spending a month at Camp Parks, Calif., and Fort Jackson, S.C., learning to be a mail clerk.

Three years after graduating from Nampa Christian High School, the Andrews are ready to leave their Caldwell, Idaho, home and the First Southern Baptist Church where Will is the youth director for the 15 or so youngsters ages 3 to 12.

"This gives us the chance to spend five days together before we get busy with the deployment. That's a real blessing," said Will of the trip to the nation's capital. "And it's an honor and a privilege to be

with these Soldiers and sergeants major and sponsors."

Army National Guard Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers of the Year 1st Army

North: Soldier - Sgt. Joshua Devine, Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 143rd Area Support Group, Connecticut; NCO - Sgt. 1st Class Paul Pratt, Recruiting and Retention Command, Joint Forces Headquarters, Maine.

South: Soldier - Spc. Zachary Cornett, Company F, 135th Aviation Regiment, Kentucky; NCO - Staff Sgt. Anthony Sopczak, Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 53rd Support Battalion, Florida.

East: Soldier - Spc. Ryan Koniak, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division, Virginia; NCO - Sgt. Wade Joy, Company E, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, Maryland.

West: Soldier - Sgt. Darren Habermehl, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, Wisconsin; NCO - Staff Sgt. Brian Jukubiak, Headquarters-

Headquarters Company, 134th Signal Battalion, Minnesota.

5th Army

East: Soldier - Spc. Amy Cowan, Headquarters-Headquarters Company, Joint Forces Headquarters, Oklahoma; NCO - Staff Sgt. Richard Harp II, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery, Oklahoma.

Northwest: Soldier - Sgt. Philip Weiser, Battery E, 188th Air Defense Artillery, North Dakota; NCO - Sgt. Will Andrews, Headquarters-Headquarters, 116th Cavalry Brigade, Idaho.

Southwest: Soldier - Spc. Nathan Quinn, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, Colorado; NCO - Sgt. Justin Laughter, 316th Combat Service Support Company, New Mexico.

Pacific Command

Soldier: Spc. Walter Hotch-Hill, Headquarters-Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska; NCO - Staff Sgt. Kevin Earl, Company A, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska.

Army Guardsmen visit an Afghan orphanage, deliver donations

By Staff Sgt. Robert R. Ramon

Joint Task Force Phoenix Public Affairs Office

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix Soldiers fighting terrorism in Afghanistan took time recently to brighten the lives of some of the victims hit hardest by the 25 years of war that ravaged this country and Afghan children.

During what would normally have been at least a partial day off for CJTFP Soldiers, several Soldiers used their free time to travel to a nearby orphanage to visit with local children and deliver donations sent by family and friends back home.

"Today we brought two five-ton trucks loaded with food, toys and candy," said Staff Sgt. Tim Wilkens after helping to unload the large trucks in the orphanage courtyard.

Children of all ages watched excitedly as the Soldiers unpacked each box. After organizing all the items, the Soldiers handed out toys and school supplies to the visibly happy children.

"When you see the children when the Soldiers are here, a smile comes across their face," said Mohammad Hafiz Karimi, an Afghan interpreter working with the Soldiers. "These are smiles not seen in many years," he said.

It was arguable as to who was happiest on this day—the children or the Soldiers.

"Personally for me it's great," said Wilkens. "Since I've been here I've gone on over two hundred combat missions. This is the first time I've visited an orphanage and it's great to actually be able to come out here and be with the little kids."

The children waited with great anticipation all morning according to the orphanage employees.

"When the Soldiers are here, the children

forget they're orphans and have no parents," said Karimi. "They know there's someone there to take care of them," he said of the Soldiers. "The kids really appreciate it and I'm very happy about that."

The Soldiers created a makeshift playing field in the courtyard and taught the children to play one of America's favorite sports—baseball. As the game went on, a group of adults stood at the gate and took in the unusual sight of foreign Soldiers playing games with Afghan children.

"It's showing goodwill toward them and letting them see a different side to us other than just combat operations," said Wilkens. "We're able to show that we do care about the Afghan people and their children," he said as a small Afghan boy about two or three years old ran over to give him a high-five.

"That right there makes being here in Afghanistan worthwhile. I'd like to be here (at the orphanage) more often," he said.

If any of the Soldiers had any doubts as to whether their visit made a difference to the children, the Afghan adults in the area were more than happy to let them know just how much their presence meant.

"It's a joy to have the Soldiers here for the children, and the people of Afghanistan are very happy to have the Soldiers here in general as well," Karimi said.

The Soldiers are planning several more trips to the orphanage in the near future and additional donations would be greatly appreciated in order to make these visits successful. If you'd like to participate, please send items including clothing (ages one to 12), school supplies, athletic equipment, toiletries and toys to: "Operation Sandbox," 45th In Bde, Camp Phoenix, APO AE 09356.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert R. Ramon

A Soldier prepares to lead Afghan children in a game of baseball in Kabul, Afghanistan recently.



Staff Sgt. Tim Wilkens from Sand Springs, Okla. prepares to hand out toys and school supplies to children in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix (CJTFP) soldiers unload donations at an orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Soldiers happily unload much needed supplies. CJTFP is comprised mainly of National Guard units from over 20 states, the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, and contingents from seven different countries.

Expeditionary Medical Support brings health care to the field

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

KEYSTONE, Colo. – Col. Randall Falk cut right to the quick when he explained what the modern, mobile medical facilities called EMEDS mean for the Air National Guard.

"They move us from an ambulatory-care mission to a critical-care mission," said the National Guard Bureau's air surgeon during the Air Guard's Readiness Frontiers Medical Conference in mid-May.

Air Guard medical people can now perform surgery and

dental work in the field rather than having to send patients to a rear area.

That, Falk added, is in keeping with the National Guard's resolve to quickly bring its best resources to the front lines of the nation's global war against terrorism - at home or abroad.

EMEDS, short for Expeditionary Medical Support Systems, is the newest thing in Air Force field hospitals, and the Air Guard has spent the past 16 months organizing 25-bed EMEDS in this country's 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions, Falk said.

The 400 people, who attended the conference in Colorado,

got a close look at an EMEDS from the United States Air Force Academy courtesy of Col. Doug Robb, Maj. G. Mike Bailes and a dozen members of the 10th Medical Group, which provides the medical support for the academy's cadets and staff.

The EMEDS began replacing the more cumbersome Air Transportable Hospitals in the late 1990s, Bailes explained.

"Before, we had to take the entire hospital to a theater. Now we can take what we need," Bailes said.

The basic package includes three Alaska shelters that include an emergency room and an operating room, which is staffed by 25 people, including two surgeons, a dentist and three nurses, according to the Air Force manual. An EMEDS-plus-25 features nine shelters and has an 86-member staff.

"EMEDS-plus-25 is normally the biggest size we deploy," Bailes explained. "But you can go up from there. You just need more modules."

The intent, he said, is to stabilize patients in the EMEDS before they are transported to military hospitals in Germany or the United States.

Bailes knows the EMEDS system works, because members of the 10th Medical Group have already functioned in them for four months in Oman, beginning in October 2001 as part of Enduring Freedom operations in Afghanistan, and for three months in Kuwait in 2003 during the early stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 25-bed EMEDS give the Air Guard the resources to help the civilian medical community deal with catastrophic disaster or terrorist attacks in this country as well as the ability to treat victims overseas, Falk said.

"We don't have the critical care beds and personnel in this country that we used to," Falk said. "These EMEDS systems can help provide those services."

"The EMEDS are the equivalent to the International Medical Surgical Response Teams," said Dr. Susan Briggs, a surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital who led a U.S. team to southeastern Iran following last December's devastating earthquake.

"Our mission is no different here or in a foreign theater," Falk told the medical people attending the Readiness Frontiers conference. "We will become more active in the away as well as here at home," he added.

The EMEDS, he believes, will help make that possible.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Dr. Susan Briggs, a surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital, explains the advantages of mobile, modular EMEDS, the modern field hospitals called Expeditionary Medical Support systems, which the Air National Guard has established in Federal Emergency Management Agency regions across the United States.

Physical fitness increases mission success, reduces illness

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

KEYSTONE, Colo. – Qatar is not as hellishly hot in November and December as it is in July and August. But the 80-90 degree days and the 40-degree nights in that small desert land between Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf can raise havoc with people who are not physically fit.

That is a lesson that some members of the New York Air National Guard out of upstate Syracuse learned for themselves in Qatar during the last two months of 2003, said Col. Reid Muller, commander of the 174th Fighter Wing's medical group. He is also a practicing cardiologist.

"There was a period of adjustment, and it would have been a little easier for some of the people if they had been paying better attention to their physical fitness," recalled Muller, who appears to be superbly conditioned himself and who is a staunch advocate for the Air National Guard's new fitness program.

Muller helped prepare the program that Col. Sylvia Nye is administering for this

country's 108,000 Air Guard members. Nye is a nurse and fitness advocate who maintains that good physical fitness enhances people's overall health and quality of life.

That is the long-range benefit of the program that the Air Guard started last year and that focuses on five areas – body composition, cardio-respiratory, flexibility, muscular strength and endurance, explained Nye in mid-May during the Air Guard's Readiness Frontiers Medical Conference high in the Colorado Rockies.

"This isn't just about taking an annual physical fitness test," Nye said. "This is about enhancing our Guard members' lifestyles. We can help people who do not do well in the tests improve their diets and exercise programs so they will feel better about themselves and perform better in their everyday activities, thus improving their test scores."

The more pressing objective, however, is to improve the physical fitness of Air Guard personnel who are being deployed, sometimes on short notice, to harsh terrain during the global war against terrorism.

"Physical fitness is a command program,

because commanders need to know the fitness of their people as well as their airplanes and other equipment," Nye said.

"We have to become a more fit force. We are deploying to rugged and remote areas. We're serving under austere conditions. We're not going just to Ramstein Air Base in Germany or to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland that have all of the creature comforts, advanced medical support, and neighborhood pharmacies," said Col. Randall Falk, the National Guard Bureau's air surgeon who is a doctor and Nye's boss. "A fit force suffers fewer occupational injuries and illnesses," he added.

That message has come from the top. Gen. John Jumper, the Air Force chief of staff, is emphasizing improved fitness for all Air Force personnel in the active and reserve components, Nye explained, so they are ready to deploy.

That has led to a standard physical fitness test for people in the active, Guard and Reserve forces, Nye added, as well as the idea that everyone develop a workout schedule for at least three times each week.

The test includes running or a three-

minute step test, abdominal circumference measurements, pushups, sit-ups and stretching, Nye explained.

The Air Guard goes a step further, she said. It's called the Fitnessage Program. It is a way of determining how each member's fitness scores compare with their chronological ages.

The average age for the 67,000 people tested last year was 36, Nye said. The average fitness age was also 36, she added.

That is a pretty good sign that, overall, Air Guard people are in pretty good physical condition. But fitness is a personal matter, Nye pointed out, and some people are in considerably better shape than others.

Those who are not physically fit may find the adjustment considerably harder in hot or cold or high-altitude environments than those who are, Nye and Muller indicated.

"If you want to thrive and make your life a lot more enjoyable, it's better to be in shape and stay in shape," Muller said. "There is no excuse for not being fit. If you are not in shape, you will be mission ineffective."

Guard prepares for the worst d

By Lt. Col. Theresa Votinelli
2nd Lt. Bridget Zorn

131st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Just one month after their Wing's Operation Readiness Inspection, the 131st Medical Squadron participated in what NBC News referred to as the "largest disaster exercise in the Midwest since 9/11."

Operation Community Assistance Response Exercise '04, a multi-echelon medical mass casualty exercise with weapons of mass destruction scenarios, took place May 16-22 in Columbia, Mo. In the scenario, both civilian and military entities were activated in response to terrorist events.

This exercise was designed to integrate state and local plans, policies, procedures, systems, and facilities for responding to simulated WMD events with Region 7's National Guard assets.

Lt. Col. Theresa Votinelli, deputy commander of the 131st Medical Squadron, was chosen by the National Guard Bureau as Region 7's first regional medical exercise planner. As a result of extensive coordination with outside agencies, CARE '04 was put together in less than a year.

"CARE '04 broke ground as the very first regional exercise ever attempted in the country, and was a huge success", Votinelli said. "The exercise occurred over a one week period at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Columbia, Mo. Normally, medical units must go to Alpena, Mich., to obtain expeditionary medical system training, but this time, we were able to perform this training on our own turf."

Two days of intense classroom and equipment hands-on training were followed by a 48-hour mass casualty exercise. The exercise, which produced over 200 casualties with chemical, biological, radiological and conventional injuries, tested EMEDS capabilities to the maximum extent.



Brig. Gen. Edith Mitchell, Missouri Assistant Adjutant General -Air, speaks with local news media about the CARE '04 exercise.



A member of the 71st Civil Support Team readies his equipment prior to responding to an incident exercise during the CARE '04 regional exercise.

"Everyone knew their part and did it well. I was truly impressed with how smooth everything went given how large the scenarios were," said Maj. David Barton.

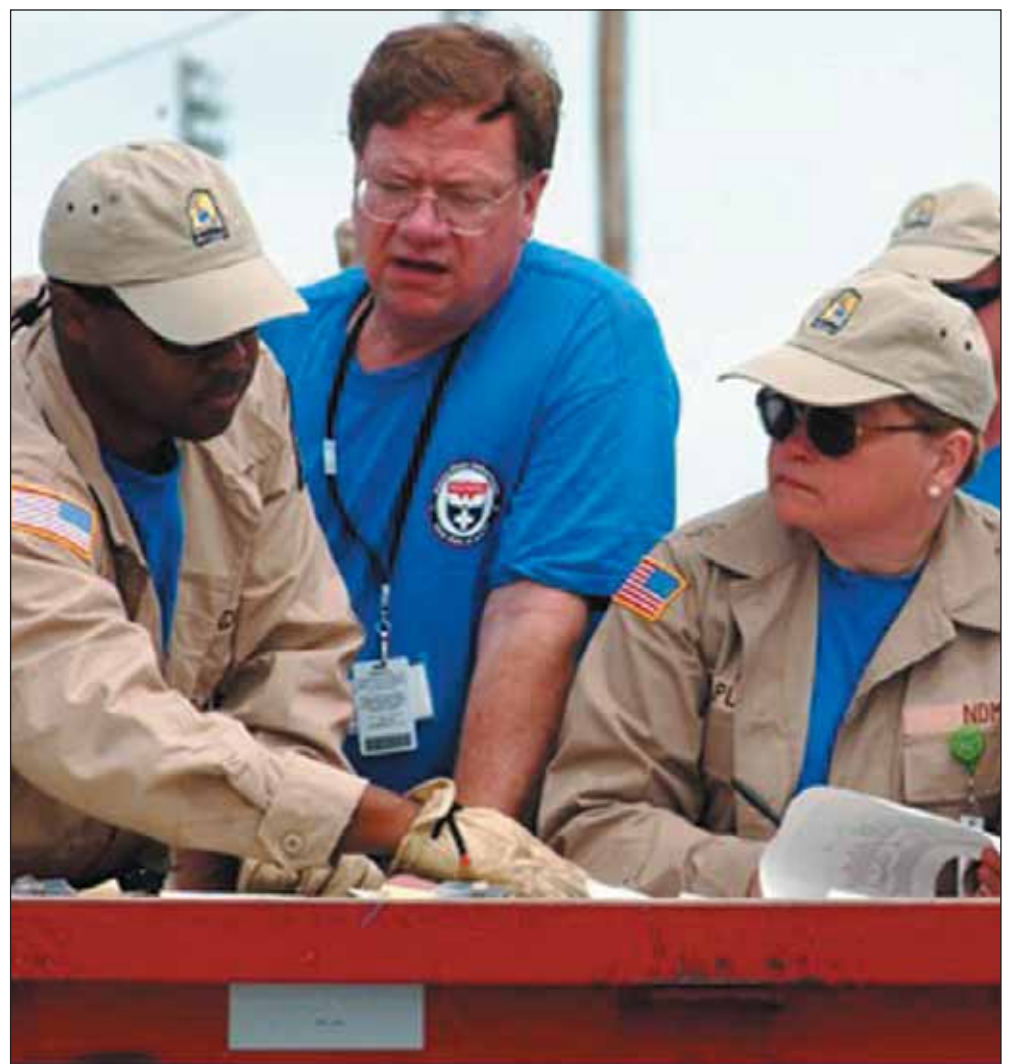
Joining the 131st MDS in the exercise was a 442nd Air Force Reserve unit from Whiteman Air Force Base and the 139th Airlift Wing from St. Joseph, Mo. medical units from Des Moines, Iowa; Sioux City, Iowa; Lincoln, Neb.; McConnell, Kan.; and Topeka, Kan., also participated in the exercise, which was supported by a C-130 and a UH-1H helicopter.

An impressive aspect of CARE '04 was the involvement of civilian agencies, which included Iowa's 71st Civil Support Team, a urban search and rescue team, Federal and state emergency management agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Health, Missouri Department of Transportation, Civil Air Patrol, public works, Boone County's emergency response agencies, Titan Corporation, Nextel, Raytheon Corporation, as well as four area hospitals.

This exercise satisfied a new requirement for all medical squadrons to participate in a regional exercise every two AEF cycles. It also provided continuing education to participating members.

The exercise ended with a video teleconference by Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, Northern Command surgeon general, who emphasized the importance of introducing agencies who have never before worked in concert.

"CARE '04 was a much-needed, highly visible, and highly looked upon exercise in today's era of uncertainty," said Votinelli.



Emergency personnel plan the setup of their facilities at the Boone County fairgrounds during the CARE '04 regional exercise.

luring mass casualty exercise



Be prepared ...

Mass disasters could happen anywhere at any any time. Review the following websites to be prepared in the event of an incident in your area:

Homeland Security:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland/>

Terror Alert Levels:
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?theme=29>

Disaster survival kits:
http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_3_00.html

Center for Disease Control:
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>

Family Support:
<http://www.deploymentlink.osd.mil>



(Above, clockwise) EMEDS Personnel prepare one of the many patients they saw during the CARE '04 exercise to be medivacted via helicopter; an elevated view of the EMEDs facility used during the CARE '04 exercise in Columbia Missouri; a doctor records her evaluation of a patient and medical personnel treat a patient inside the large tent serving as a medical facility.



DCANG receives its 11th consecutive unit award

By Tech Sgt A. Skegee Powell

DC Air National Guard

WASHINGTON – The 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard, received its 11th consecutive Air Force Outstanding Unit Award May 2.

"Numerous successful and high profile missions contributed to the award," said Master Sgt. Monica Brown, Wing executive assistant.

The award reflects the commitment and outstanding performance of the Guard members in both military and civilian capacities. Members contributed to the award through maintenance, civilian professions, logistics, volunteerism, security forces and flying.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, a volunteer force of 300 unit members mobilized and deployed to a location in Southwest Asia while simultaneously maintaining the Operation Noble Eagle air sovereignty mission at home.

"This is the first time an Air National Guard fighter unit maintained a continuous alert at a home station," said retired Col. Michael Redman, former 113th Wing commander.

Contributing significantly to the award, during OIF, the 121st Fighter Squadron, a component of the 410th Air Expeditionary Wing, flew 1,345 flight hours in support of the operation, said Master Sgt. Jeffrey A. Thacker, 113th Equipment Maintenance Flight, a munitions specialist.

Additionally, while evading enemy anti-aircraft artillery and surface to air missiles, the 121st FS pilots carried out their primary mission of offensive counter-tactical ballistic missile operations, as well as, support for coalition special forces, non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance without a single loss or casualty, said Redman.

The selection committee also recognized DC Air National Guard's ability to contribute and adapt to the Total Force concept.

"The 113 LG aircraft maintainers, composed of ground crews, technicians and managers serving with the 410 AEW, contributed to the overwhelming successful achievement of flying 1,962 aircraft sorties with no maintenance non-deliveries (the inability to launch because of mechanical problems)," said Chief Master Sgt. William Jones, 113th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, superintendent.

In another initiative, the 113th Security Forces Squadron



The 113th Wing operates three aircraft: the C-40, C-22 and F-16, seen here above the District of Columbia.

deployed a team to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They also deployed a team to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, to provide perimeter defense and force protection.

Additionally, the 113th Logistics Squadron's transportation flight deployed a 5-person team to Prince Sultan to conduct vehicle operations within Saudi Arabia in support of OEF; however, members of this volunteer team eventually conducted operations across Iraq.

"The 113th Wing was recognized for many sustained exceptional performances and practices resulting from the Unit Compliance Inspection," said Redman.

"Successfully converting from C-22 to C-40C passenger

airlift aircraft contributed greatly as well," said C-40C pilot Capt. Suzanne Schultz of the 201st Airlift Squadron. "The 201st AS became operational in the new aircraft a full year earlier than planned, and initial operation capability achieved within two weeks of receiving the new aircraft."

The squadron has 57 accident-free flying years. They now have more than 169,520 total accident free flying hours since the unit's activation in 1946.

"The D.C. Air National Guard, also known as 'The Capital Guardians,' is one of Andrews' premier units," said Sgt. Powell. "The record setting accomplishment of receiving its 11th consecutive Outstanding Unit Award has demonstrated that the 113th Wing is truly exceptional."

Air Assault training held at Camp Atterbury

By Spc. Joe McFarren

Indiana Public Affairs

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. – Since February of 2003, Camp Atterbury has been a mobilization station for the 1st Army to train National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers.

In the past two years, thousands of Soldiers flooded the base to prepare for deployments or in-process on their return home.

But suddenly, in the midst of all the regular training and hustle and bustle on post, something new caught the eyes of many Soldiers. Something distinct and admirable: helicopters circled the airfield, picking up and dropping off trucks, equipment and Soldiers.

A Mobile Training Team from the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Ga., held an Air Assault course here May 12-22. The WTC specializes in Mobile Training Teams moving to certain sites to provide quality, accredited training for Guard and Reserve Soldiers.

Usually, the AAC is held at Fort Campbell, Ky, home of the 101st Airborne.

"The most significant reason we were brought here was for the basic cost effectiveness," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Slater, the first sergeant for the MTT. "It's far more expensive to send 120 Soldiers to Fort Benning than to bring 20 of us up here."

The 10-day school is broken down into three phases, each about three days long, Slater said.

Phase I consists primarily of combat assault, helicopter orientation, medical evacuation procedures, and pathfinder operations.

Pathfinder skills include preparing and clearing a helicopter landing zone, and the 17 appropriate hand and arm signals to direct a helicopter landing, according to the Air Assault School Web site.

"During the second phase, Soldiers learn proper sling loading procedures for helicopter pickup. They are taught six types of sling loads and how to properly inspect them," said Master Sgt. Thomas Siter, the senior infantry proponent for the ARNG at the U.S. Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning.

The third and final stage is comprised com-

pletely of rappelling techniques. From the first day of the phase, the Soldier's time is spent on the rappel tower going up and down all day, learning belay and lock in techniques, and learn how to combat rappel, Siter said.

"Each phase culminates with some sort of involvement with an aircraft," said Siter. "In Phase I, it is an orientation flight. Phase II is actual sling loading of the helicopter. And after the third phase, the Soldiers actually rappel out of the helicopter."

Soldiers commonly put in 12 to 13-hour days. Once they are released from training, they have study halls at night to prepare them for the tests and the physical demands on the body.

"This course was incredibly challenging, both physically and mentally," said Staff Sgt. Norman Black, a student in the course. "(The course) really provided a good simulation of the physical and mental balance we will have to maintain on the battlefield."

The students are Ranger-qualified Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers from the WTC. The fact that the Guard can be capable of

putting together a school of this caliber says a lot for their training and mission readiness, said Maj. Kevin Extine, assistant training officer for the Indiana National Guard.

"The school really brings a level of credibility to the base," Extine said. "With the base's multi-mission agenda with mobilization and demobilization, it really goes a long way to show what we can do here."

The school also allowed Soldiers from the 1-13th Support Battalion to train with the school during the sling loading phase to learn skills needed for their regular jobs with their unit without having to enroll in the school.

This is the third time in the past 10 years Camp Atterbury has had an Air Assault school, and is scheduled to play host to another one in 2005.

"We are an Army of One," Extine said. "The Guard has to be able to perform the same missions as active duty, so there is a need for us to utilize this school and there is a need for the Guard to get the opportunity to go to the school."

WWII Guardsmen present for memorial dedication

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - Three men who are pushing 80 or who have already passed that milestone of longevity and who were soldierly trim on Memorial Day weekend represented the way young men served and fought in 19 National Guard infantry divisions during World War II.

They were present and accounted for, with tens of thousands of comrades in arms from their youth and other members of the "greatest generation," during the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on sunny, somber May 29.

David Mealor, 81, of Newnan, Ga., recalled enlisting in the Guard's 31st Division in November 1940 after being told he would be able to go home after training for a year and that he would not be drafted.

Pearl Harbor changed everything. Mealor served in the Pacific, in New Guinea, with his field artillery battalion for 10 months before "jungle rot" forced him to return stateside where he was assigned to a Signal Corps outfit.

Paul Malone, 80, from Sullivan, Ind., was drafted in March 1943 and wound up in the Guard's "Texas Division," the 36th, in Italy. He trained to be a sniper and took part in the breakout at Anzio and the liberation of Rome on June 4, 1944. He was discharged as a private first class in November 1945, rejoined the Army in 1947 and retired as a sergeant first class in 1966.

Robert Dornblaser, 78, of Lander, Wyo., volunteered for duty when he was 17 and joined the 32nd Division as a replacement Soldier in early 1944. He served for about eight months in New Guinea and the Philippines. He still carries shrapnel close to his lung from a wound in his back in New Guinea which earned him a Purple Heart. He recovered in time to land on Leyte Island during the Philippines invasion and was sent home after getting blown out of his foxhole.

It's not as if the World War II veterans have been forgotten for the past 60 years. But the nation as a whole has never turned out to say "thank you" as it did to that entire generation during Memorial Day weekend. That's what dedicating the memorial of bronze and granite on its 7.4-acre site on the National Mall accomplished for those who have lived to see it.

"It is a fitting tribute, open and expansive like America itself, grand and enduring like the achievements we honor," said President Bush. "They gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission their country ever accepted."

"More young people have thanked me than have other older people," Dornblaser said. "It makes you feel proud of what you did. I congratulate them for feeling like they do and for understanding."

Retired Mississippi Congressman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, known as "Mr. National Guard," was the first of many members of Congress credited with laboring during the past 17 years to create the National World War II Memorial. It is as much a tribute to members of the National Guard's divisions as it is to other Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and those who served in the Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

Why?

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

Here's what National Guard Bureau historians have to say about the way things were more than six decades ago.

The first of 300,034 National Guard Soldiers reported for active duty, "for one year of training," in September 1940. The Guard's 18 infantry divisions, 80 separate regiments,

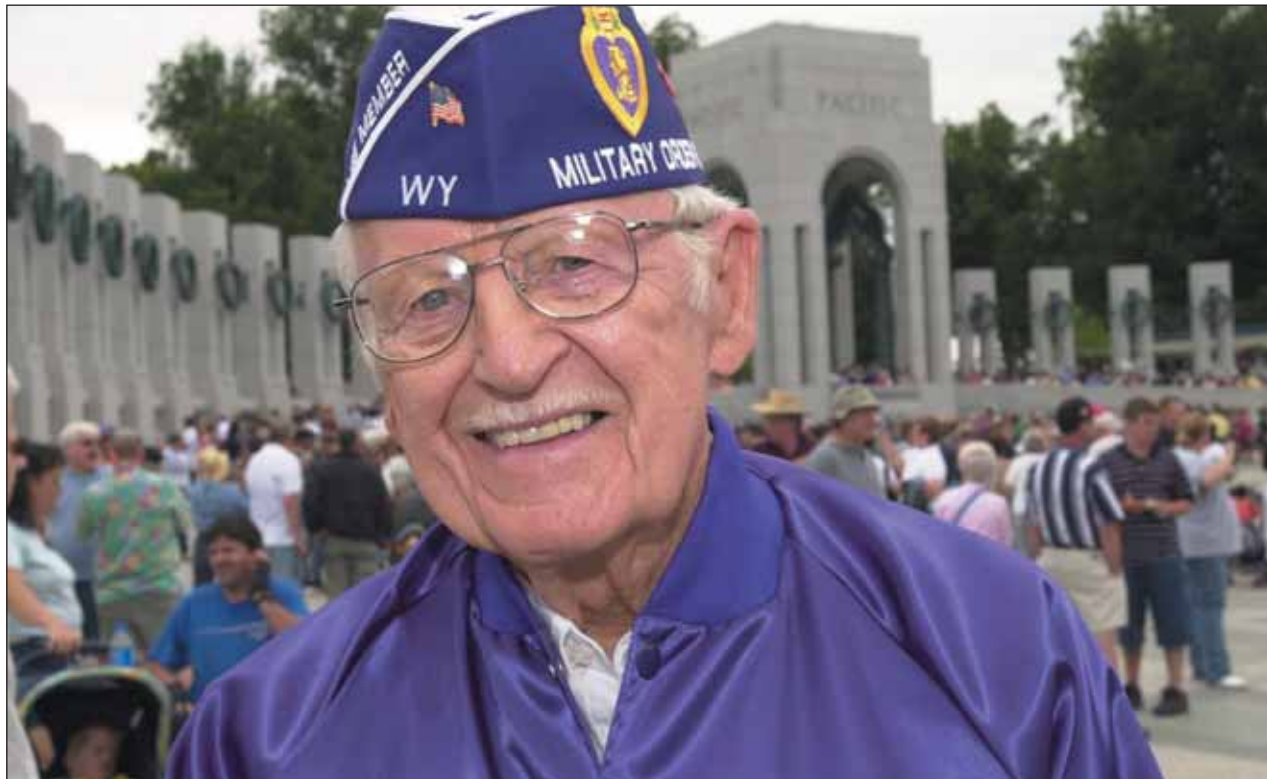


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Robert Dornblaser of Lander, Wyo., in his Purple Heart hat and jacket, reflects on his service with the National Guard's 32nd Infantry Division in the Pacific Theater the Sunday after the National World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington on May 29. "I think it's wonderful, absolutely tremendous," he said.

and 29 Army Air Force flying squadrons doubled the size of the U.S. Army.

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

In all, 19 Guard divisions took part, and the nation's first peacetime conscription put another million men in Army uniforms. Congress extended the term of service for mobilized Guardsmen and draftees by one year in August 1941.

California's 251st Coast Artillery had already been stationed in Hawaii for a year on Dec. 7, 1941. Those Soldiers took part in the defense of Oahu as did the Guardsmen in Hawaii's 298th Infantry Regiment.

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

North Dakota's 164th Infantry, sent to reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal in October 1942, became the first U.S. Army regiment to fight offensively during World War II. They were soon joined by their sister Guard infantry regiments, the 132nd from Illinois and the 182nd from Massachusetts, in the new Americal Division.

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

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

National Guard flying squadrons were among the first to reach the combat zone. Three observation squadrons, the 111th from Texas, the 122nd from Louisiana, and the 154th from Arkansas arrived in North Africa in the fall of 1942.

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

Five Guard divisions were the first in the Army to deploy overseas, all in 1942. They were the 34th, Americal, 27th, 41st and 32nd.

Three Guard divisions were the first of the Army's divisions to enter combat - the 32nd in New Guinea, Americal at Guadalcanal, and 34th at North Africa.

Four Guard divisions were among the 10 Army divisions to suffer the most casualties. The 29th was fourth with 20,327 casualties; the 45th was sixth with 18,521; the 30th was eighth with 16,892; and the 36th was ninth with 16,828.

Guardsmen received 20 of the 464 Medals of Honor bestowed on World War II service members.

Those who did not live to savor the fruits of their labors or to see their memorial were also remembered in Washington in late May. One was an infantry medic who was killed about two months before the fighting ended.

"Father killed in Philippines June 19, 1945. Buried in military cemetery @ Manila," wrote Sandra Hayes about her father, Sim Ellis of Alabama, in a message posted on a bulletin board for the 31st Division in the Reunion Tent.

But the veterans who have lived to see their memorial like it and wonder what took so long to get it.

"It's very impressive. I don't know why anybody would say anything detrimental about it," said David Mealor, who was accompanied by two of his sons and a grandson. Another grandson, Thomas Mealor-Russell, is a corporal in the Florida Army National Guard, they related.

"I think it's great. But 59 years is a long time to wait," said Paul Malone who still believes that what the 36th accomplished in Italy was overshadowed by the landings at Normandy, France.

"We liberated Rome on June 4, 1944. D-Day was two days later. D-Day. That's all you hear about is D-Day," he added. "The whole year we spent in Italy got by everybody."

Now, American's everywhere are remembering what Paul Malone and David Mealor and Robert Dornblaser and more than 16 million others like them did during World War II thanks to the new memorial in Washington.

FROM PAGE 1

Summit

future homeland defense and homeland security operations so that same unity of command can be put in place to support other homeland security operations or other special events."

President Bush hosted the summit that was held in this country for the fifth time. Security was one of the biggest concerns while those world leaders discussed economic, political and security issues on the exclusive, secluded Georgia island about 80 miles south of Savannah. The summit was designated a National Security Special Event, as was the Super Bowl last February in Houston.

The security force, led by the U.S. Secret Service, was reported to number about 10,000 people. Nesbitt's Joint Task Force G8 included a large percentage of that force.

The National Guard was one of the major participants. About 4,400 Guard troops came from Georgia and 12 other states, Nesbitt said. They were split into two major task forces to support local law enforcement agencies in Savannah and in the Brunswick area, where Sea Island is located.

Guard members staffed vehicle checkpoints and helped to keep traffic flowing along the coastal highways. They flew helicopters. They guarded the perimeters of sensitive sites. They were drivers for foreign dignitaries. They were prepared to help control crowds if they had to.

It was the National Guard's largest national security event since the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, officials pointed out. It was the biggest such event for the Georgia National Guard since the 1996 Summer Olympics in and around Atlanta.

It was also a test in command for Nesbitt who cut his military teeth as a Special Forces officer in Vietnam in 1967-68 and who joined the Georgia Army Guard in June 1973.

Thirty-one years later he was responsible for two different teams that played by essentially the same rules – with some specific differences. It was like baseball's designated hitter rule: The American League has it.; the National League doesn't.

National Guard troops on Title 32 state status can assist police forces within their state.

Troops on Title 10 federal status can't perform law enforcement duties. It's against the law. They performed other missions in Georgia.

Having one commander responsible for both groups only made sense, said Dan Donohue, spokesman for the National Guard Bureau. "As opposed to setting up two parallel headquarters, you had one focal point and a single commander who could respond to the U.S. Northern Command, the federal military force that oversees homeland defense, and to the governor," Donohue explained.

Nesbitt had staff members monitoring the state and federal groups to make sure that everyone did what they were supposed to and that nobody crossed the state-federal duty line.

The average person in south coastal Georgia saw more troops in state status working with deputy sheriffs and local and state police than they saw troops operating in federal status. But it was hard to tell the difference. The troops did not wear signs on their uniforms.

And everyone had essentially the same mission at heart, to keep the world leaders and their staffs safe, to keep the peace, and to work together.

"Our people have not dealt with these other agencies, such as the Secret Service, the FBI, and 50 state and local police departments, since the '96 Olympics," explained Brig. Gen. Stewart Rodeheaver, the new commander of the Georgia Army Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team and the commander for the Brunswick task force.

The real challenge, he said, was to maintain command and control of his troops spread over a fairly wide area and "to not disrupt the rhythm of civilian life" for the inhabitants who wanted to shop and get to work and back home while the summit was going on.

His Soldiers were in place the Sunday before the summit began, Rodeheaver reported, and the only serious situation he encountered was that local people kept asking to have their photos taken with the Soldiers. That was a situation that any commander could live with.

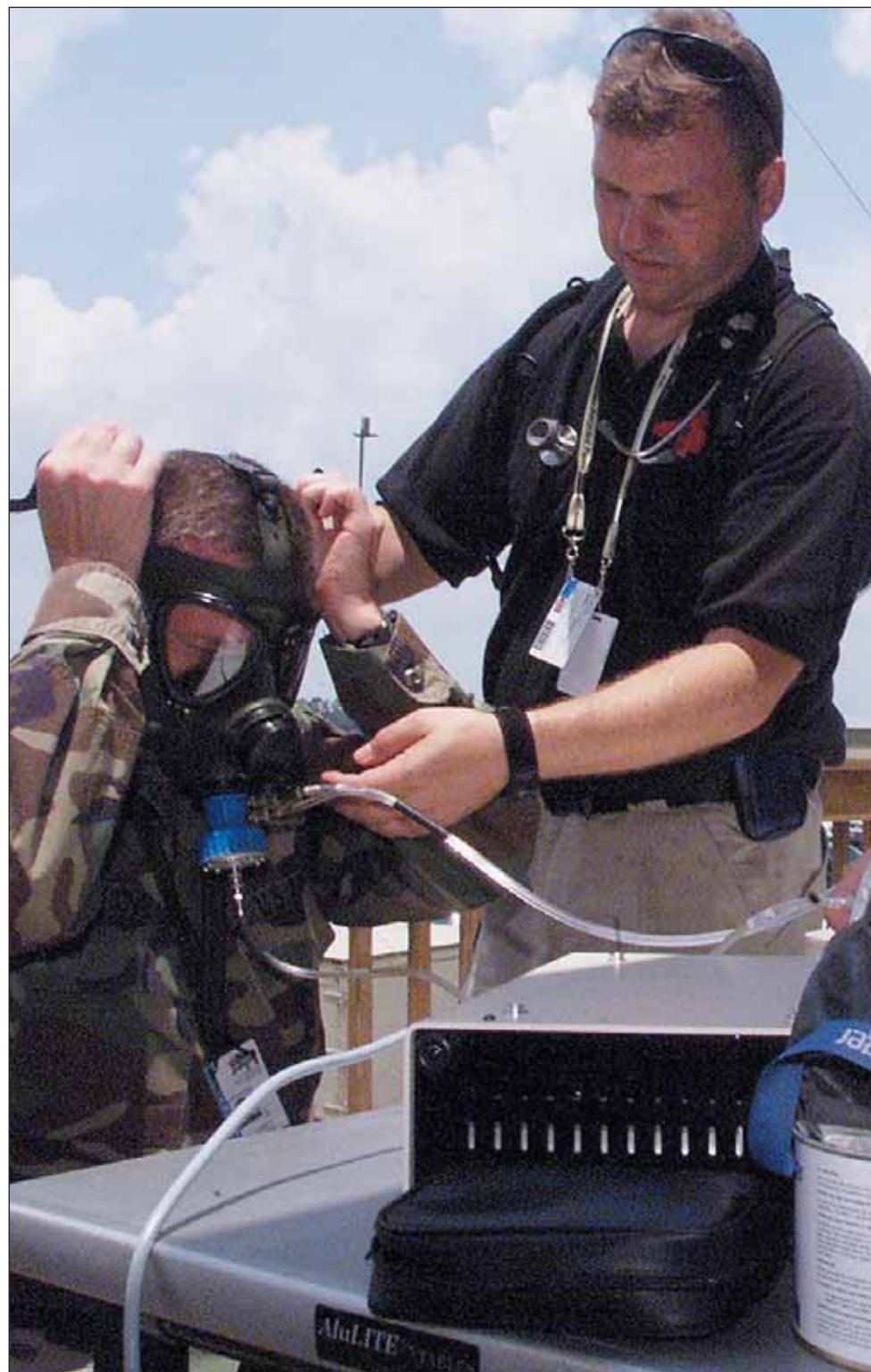


Photo by Sgt. Roy Henry

Maryland Army National Guard Lt. Col. Jim Grove tested his protective mask with the help of Capt. Steve Conley, a physicians assistant with the Georgia Army Guard's 4th Civil Support Team, while preparing for duty during the G8 Summit in southern Georgia.



Staff Sgt. Hopkins

Small players play a big part in G8 Guard detail

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga.— There is something different about this security detail for most of the National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, who took part in the annual Group of Eight Summit.

Georgia Army Guard Staff Sgt. Robbie Hopkins is a case in point. He didn't actually go to Sea Island, but he helped to keep secure.

Hopkins and other citizen-Soldiers from his Army Guard unit out of nearby Brunswick were on duty a few miles away at the Georgia Ports Authority complex on Colonel's Island.

"It's always a privilege to be called up for such a big event," said Hopkins in his matter-of-fact Southern manner.

But he served at a distance because Sea Island is off limits to everybody, who does not reside there except for the dignitaries and their staffs and the security personnel, who possess the proper credentials to be there.

If you're Robbie Hopkins, you can't just drive on over to see what all of the excitement's about.

But Hopkins took the week's somewhat detached duty in stride, because he's one of the Georgia National Guard's old hands at this business

He worked Georgia's devastating floods of

1994, he said, when he helped to retrieve caskets that were floating down overflowing rivers. He was on duty during the '96 Olympics. He pulled airport security duty in Albany, Ga., for nine months after the terrorist attacks.

He had barely finished a vacation following a year of active duty as a medic in the Washington, D.C., area when he got the call to help support the G8 Summit.

But there is also the satisfaction of doing a vital job for a historical event such as the G8 Summit, Hopkins observed.

"You may play a small part, but you've got to look at the big picture, and security plays a big role," Hopkins said.

Soldiers share combat life saver skills

By Sgt. Jon Soucy

29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – Medics attached to Minnesota's Alpha Company, 2/136th Infantry have been teaching combat survival skills to members of the Kamenice / Kosovska Kamenica Fire Department, which includes teaching the Heimlich maneuver.

Since mid-April, Soldiers have been spending two hours each Monday teaching the firefighters.

"We really hope to raise their level of confidence and competence with their medical skills," said Spc. Logan Haller, a medic who taught a class on airway management.

The firefighters at the station had about two weeks of training on medical tasks about five years ago, said Sgt. Jerome Brodmarkle, a medic who was largely responsible for organizing the training.

"The fire chief stated he was concerned with the perishable skills that his fire department has," said Brodmarkle. "He wanted to make sure they stayed trained and perhaps grow in some training and expertise rather than lose them," said Brodmarkle.

The classes are largely based on the Army's Combat Lifesaver Course.

"What we're doing is a modified form of the Combat Lifesaver Program, gearing it more toward the firefighter," said Haller.

For example, the Soldiers don't cover how to give intravenous injections, part of CLC training, because of health and safety con-

cerns, said Haller.

The response from the fire department members has been very positive.

"It's been great," said Haller. "They've got a lot of enthusiasm. They really want to learn. Practically every time we teach them they want to know more, and then we run out of time."

The experience has been equally positive for the Soldiers involved in teaching the classes.

"It's been really enlightening and rewarding," said Brodmarkle. "This is what I came to Kosovo to do, to teach and to help out."

But perhaps more importantly, the Soldiers are taking steps to ensure the program continues on after they rotate out of Kosovo.

"I'm trying to put this program together so it can be taught years from now," said Brodmarkle. "My goal is to make sure the fire chief has a copy of it, and to make sure that the task forces that come after us can teach it too and keep the recertification going."

As for the Soldiers, this is a way to make a lasting, positive change in the region.

"I have something concrete I can do," said Haller. "I can leave guys with skills. It really helped me see the difference I'm making here. We have something out there that says 'Hey, we came here, we helped them out and now their lives are better. Now they can help their fellow men out.'"

And that, according to the Soldiers, is the ultimate goal of the program.



Photos by Jon Soucy

Using a volunteer, Spc. Logan Haller, a medic attached to the 2/136th Infantry, demonstrates techniques for clearing an obstructed airway.

Big savings ...



Photo by Capt. L. Paula Sydenstricker

Sgt. Raymond Boso with the 216th Engineers, a National Guard unit based out of Youngstown, Ohio, trims a window section to place in the division tactical command post at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq.

Engineers save military \$30,000

By Capt. L. Paula Sydenstricker

West Virginia National Guard

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Efforts by an Ohio Army National Guard engineering unit deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom recently saved the 1st Infantry Division about \$30,000.

The 1st ID would have required that money to hire a civilian contractor to construct the Division Tactical Command Post. Instead, the money was saved when Charlie Company's 2nd platoon, 216th Combat Engineer Battalion took on the project in April.

Now that money will instead be used for more important projects that will directly benefit the Iraqi people, officials said.

Construction of the DTAC took about six days. But in a normal situation, the DTAC would have been constructed within six hours and operational in 18 hours, said

Maj. Larry Reeves, DTAC's officer in charge stationed with the 1st ID in Germany.

In addition to constructing the facility, the engineers, stationed at Forward Operating Base Speicher, did the electrical wiring. Also, the platoon of 31 Soldiers built four 16 foot by 16 foot offices attached to the main DTAC tent to serve as dual purpose bunkers, said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Lewis of Youngs, the platoon's noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The engineers make this a more livable and serviceable place to work," Reeves said.

The DTAC will house several groups to include the division engineers, intelligence unit, Fire Support Element, aviation, air defense and communications, Reeves said, adding that about 100 people will work in the structure.

*D-Day plus 60:***Guardsmen past and present link up in Normandy****By Maj. Les' Melnyk,**

National Guard Bureau Historian

For Norman Grossman, a private first class in the Virginia National Guard's Company L, 116th Infantry, running for his life across the sands of Omaha beach on D-Day was not a particularly heroic action. "We did what we had to do" he related matter-of-factly, expressing surprise sixty years later over the outpouring of affection showered on him and other veterans of the 29th Infantry Division as they returned to Normandy.

The French greeted Grossman's return, and that of nearly seventy other "Blue and Gray" Division veterans, as if they were aging rock stars on a final concert tour. These humble, ordinary men were met at each stop during their week in Normandy by cheering crowds. French men, women, and especially children swarmed them, shaking their hands, asking for autographs, or requesting they pose for pictures. Speaker after speaker lauded their exploits during a week's worth of ceremonies in cities and small towns across this picturesque corner of northwestern France.

The French also extended a warm welcome to a hundred current members of the 29th Infantry Division hailing from Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and North Carolina. This fortunate group, led by their division commander, Maj. Gen Daniel Long, Jr., got a unique opportunity to not



only participate in the 60th anniversary commemorations, but to conduct a staff ride of the Normandy battlefield led by noted D-Day historian Joseph Balkoski. Balkoski, who earlier this year saw the publication of his new book "Omaha Beach: D-Day, June 6 1944," to rave reviews, has a long association with the National Guard and D-Day, having conducted a similar staff ride in 1999 for the 29th Infantry Division, and authored histories of both the Maryland National Guard and the 29th Infantry Division. But just as informative as Balkoski's lectures was the chance for these soldiers to meet their predecessors who wore the Blue and Gray patch during one of the hardest days of fighting - and hardest campaigns - ever experienced by the US Army.

"This is a priceless opportunity - probably the last of its kind - to link today's soldiers, most of whom will deploy to a combat zone during their National Guard service, with men who fought here in Normandy," noted Lt Gen H Steven Blum, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who also took part in the D-Day ceremonies. "When you visit a Civil War battlefield like Gettysburg or Antietam, you can't turn to a Civil War veteran and ask him what it was like to fight there, or how he resolved a particular tactical problem. Here in Normandy this weekend, we could do just that by listening to and learning from real American heroes."



Soldiers of today's 29th Infantry Division pose with veterans of the World War II 29th Infantry Division in the town of Isigny, liberated by members of the 175th Infantry regiment a few days after D-Day.

It was an opportunity many will not soon forget. Normandy in many places is a land that seems frozen in time. All it takes is a quick trip off the paved highway down any one of the numerous dirt farm roads to instantly be transported sixty years into the past. Impenetrable hedgerows seal off each field from the next, and often block out the daylight overhead. Traces of foxholes still remain alongside many roads, and a search by hand - or better yet, with a metal detector - often yields the debris of distant battles: helmets, canteen cups, brass casings, a long-lost toothbrush, weapons.

But even here in the idyllic French countryside, where the battles are long distant and former enemies now embrace as allies, the current war against terror was not far from everyone's mind. Security was exceptionally tight for the key international commemorative events, and the force protection plan developed by US Army Europe required the soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division to sleep

in a guarded "Life Support Area" in the vicinity of Utah beach rather than out in the local towns and villages. But these inconveniences did not dampen their enthusiasm for being in France on this historic occasion.

One theme several speakers repeated during the ceremonies here marking D-Day were the common bonds America and France share, and how these bonds far outweigh the current political differences between our nations over the war in Iraq. General Blum, speaking in French as well as English, made this point on the afternoon of June 6th in ceremonies held at Vierville sur Mer, where monuments honor the sacrifices of both the 29th Infantry Division and all National Guardsmen on D-Day. "Today we face a new and terrible threat. It is one that will require both America, France and the rest of the world to fight together to ensure we remain a free people. We owe this to our future generations, and our valiant veterans demand no less from our generation."



(Upper photo) A sand sculpture was created to honor those who fought in the trenches of Normandy to liberate France. Normandy veterans of the 29th "Blue and Gray" Division, accompanied by family members, gather for a ceremony.



Flags of two nations stand side by side as a color guard of French veterans joins Guardsmen of the 29th Infantry Division (Light).

Photos by Maj. Les' Melnyk

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 hotline at 1-800-336-4590 and on-line at www.esgr.org.

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Bi-Centennial of the West:

Guardsmen begin journey to explore American west just as Lewis & Clark did 200 years ago

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

HARTFORD, Ill. – A National Guard Soldier's eight-year dream to recreate the Lewis and Clark Expedition's exploration of the American west got underway with considerably more pomp and ceremony and media attention on May 14 than the original departure attracted precisely 200 years earlier.

"We are on schedule. We are ready to go," said Montana Army Guard Staff Sgt. Scott Mandrell before a 55-foot keelboat and two smaller pirogues – exact replicas of the craft in which the Corps of Discovery began its epic 28-month journey of more than 6,000 miles in 1804 - cast off from this Mississippi River town at exactly 4 o'clock on that Friday afternoon.

"The nation is ready. It has been hearing about those men. Now it's time to go do what they did and be the conduit for their story," added the determined Mandrell from nearby Alton, Ill., who is spearheading the effort to recreate one of this country's most enduring adventures.

He has spent eight years researching the expedition and exploring the route.

About 40 men, many wearing bear skin hats and bright blue early 19th century Army coats trimmed in red, cast off to a 21-gun artillery salute courtesy of the Illinois Army National Guard.

They departed on the same date and time

two centuries after a similar size band of American Soldiers, frontiersmen and French-Canadian boatmen commanded by Army Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Lt. William Clark began their epic exploration of the newly acquired Louisiana territory - to the Pacific Ocean and back.

Even the weather cooperated. It rained during the morning just as it had 200 years earlier, according to Clark's May 14, 1804, entry in his journal. Threatening clouds hovered over the region as the boats, powered with inboard motors this time, cut across the Mississippi north of St. Louis toward the mouth of the Missouri River.

There was even something like the same "jente brease" that Clark, who held the honorary rank of captain, described as the three boats, occasionally discharging their guns, disappeared up the river in perhaps the most ambitious undertaking during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration.

"Lewis and Clark's exploration of the western two thirds of the continent was our epic voyage, their account of it is our epic poem," wrote the late historian Stephen Ambrose in the Foreword for "The Journals of Lewis and Clark" edited by Bernard DeVoto.

"What they experienced we cannot, because there is no unexplored continent left," added Ambrose whose own book about the Corps of Discovery, "Undaunted Courage," became a No. 1 New York Times bestseller.

Mandrell, however, is doing his best to help this country understand what the Lewis and

Clark Expedition endured and accomplished during the exploration and how much the country has changed.

Clark had a slave named York, who served his master throughout the journey. African American Kevin East portrayed York during the May 14 departure ceremony at Hartford and when the boats arrived at St. Charles, Mo., to the cheers of thousands the following afternoon.

"York was a slave. Kevin East is a highly-skilled, licensed river boat captain," Mandrell pointed out. "That in itself shows where we were as a nation then and where we are today."

Those are the kinds of lessons that Mandrell, who is portraying Capt. Lewis, and others taking part in this modern odyssey will beam to schools and other interested Americans via a satellite link with the help of middle school teachers Tom Gore and Jim Sturm.

The arrival in St. Charles, a day earlier than it originally occurred, coincided with the city's annual Lewis and Clark festival. It also occurred on Armed Forces Day, a fitting reminder that the expedition was a military mission funded by the young United States government.

The modern expedition is being supported primarily by the National Park Service and the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles. It is expected that volunteers from that 281-member organization will take turns manning the boats and following the trail over the Rocky

Mountains through September 2006.

"Our objectives are to meet the public's expectations, to tell the Lewis and Clark story, and to get them to appreciate what this group is doing," explained retired Army Lt. Col. Norm Bowers. "We hope to make all of these people very capable Lewis and Clark instructors."

Many already know a great deal about the early American men they are portraying. Three descendents of William Clark and two descendents of George Shannon are among the volunteer "instructors."

There are some striking differences in the then and now.

The average age of the Corps of Discovery was about 27, according to retired Army Reserve Col. Ed Scholl of Warminster, Pa. The average age of the men who embarked from Hartford on May 14 was about 55, added Scholl who, at 73, was the oldest of the lot.

The re-enactors will have to work around dams, locks and other manmade obstacles as they navigate the Missouri and Columbia rivers and other waterways, Mandrell pointed out, but they will not be cut off from American civilization as was the original group after it left the village of St. Charles on May 21, 1804.

"The biggest thing facing the original corps was the absolute unknown and the potential for encounters with hostile Indians," Mandrell added.

There are also some significant similarities.

Many members of the original crew were American soldiers. Eighty-seven percent of the re-enactors, from 32 states, have military experience, Scholl said. That cast includes Montana Army Guard Sgt. Larry McClain, who lives in St. Charles, and Naval Reserve Petty Officer 1st Class Noel Stasiak from South St. Louis.

Furthermore, 17-year-old Josh Loftis, from Belleville, Ill., is the youngest of the volunteer re-enactors. He is one of the descendents of William Shannon who, at 18, was the youngest member of the Corps of Discovery.

And J. Steven Griles, deputy secretary of the Department of the Interior, maintained that the military spirit and discipline that Lewis and Clark instilled in their men is alive and well today.

"What Lewis and Clark started with that expedition is a great reflection on the mission and the purpose of the National Guard and the Army Reserve today," said Griles, one of the principle speakers during the bicentennial festival in Hartford. Griles served for seven years in the Virginia Army Guard during the 1970s. Lewis, coincidentally, was a Virginia militiaman before receiving his Army commission and becoming President Thomas Jefferson's captain of discovery.

"They went on an expedition for the betterment of this country," Griles said. "Today our reservists, our Guard men and women, are doing the same thing. They are on an expedition for freedom, for democracy, for the world."



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Re-enactors wearing early 19th century uniforms brought their 55-foot keelboat into St. Charles, Mo., on May 15 while recreating the Lewis and Clark Expedition.