

THE ON GUARD

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Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Lek Mateo, Texas Army National Guard

(Above) A column of soldiers of the 36th Infantry Brigade, 49th Armored Division along with Texas State Troopers head out to their search area in the Sabine National Forest. National Guard troops are helping FEMA, NASA and other various federal, state and local agencies in the space shuttle Columbia recovery efforts. Guardsmen were called to duty on the day of the tragedy and will remain as long as necessary. (Right) Capt. Lloyd A. Waugh (far right) of the 4th Battalion, 112th Armor Regiment briefs task force commander Col. Eddy M. Spurgin (second from left) of the 36th Infantry Brigade, 49th Armored Division on areas selected to be searched for debris.



Recovering Columbia

Guard members scour the countryside for debris

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — National Guard airmen and soldiers joined the grim and painstaking search for debris from the ill-fated space shuttle Columbia soon after it disintegrated over Texas as Americans were stirring on Saturday morning, Feb. 1.

Two F-15 fighters from the Louisiana Air Guard's 159th Fighter Wing began an aerial search for wreckage over the vast region of eastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana about a half hour after countless pieces of the doomed shuttle began falling across the countryside.

Just as quickly, the Texas National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team, based in Austin, was told to go to east Texas as soon as possible to begin testing pieces of debris for hazardous residue.

Twenty-one members of that team spent much of Sunday testing, photographing and collecting debris around four schools in Nacogdoches, Palestine and Naches so that classes could begin as planned on Monday morning, explained Maj. Michael Dietz, the team's deputy commander.

Army Guard soldiers in both states spent the weekend helping state and local police officers guard pieces of the Columbia. The spacecraft broke apart 39 miles above Texas 16 minutes before it was scheduled to touch down at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida following a 16-day scientific mission.

All seven members of the crew, including five U.S. service members and Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, died.

In all, 184 members of the Texas National Guard were supporting the recovery mission by Sunday afternoon, explained Lt. Col.

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About The On Guard

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Diversity art and essay contests

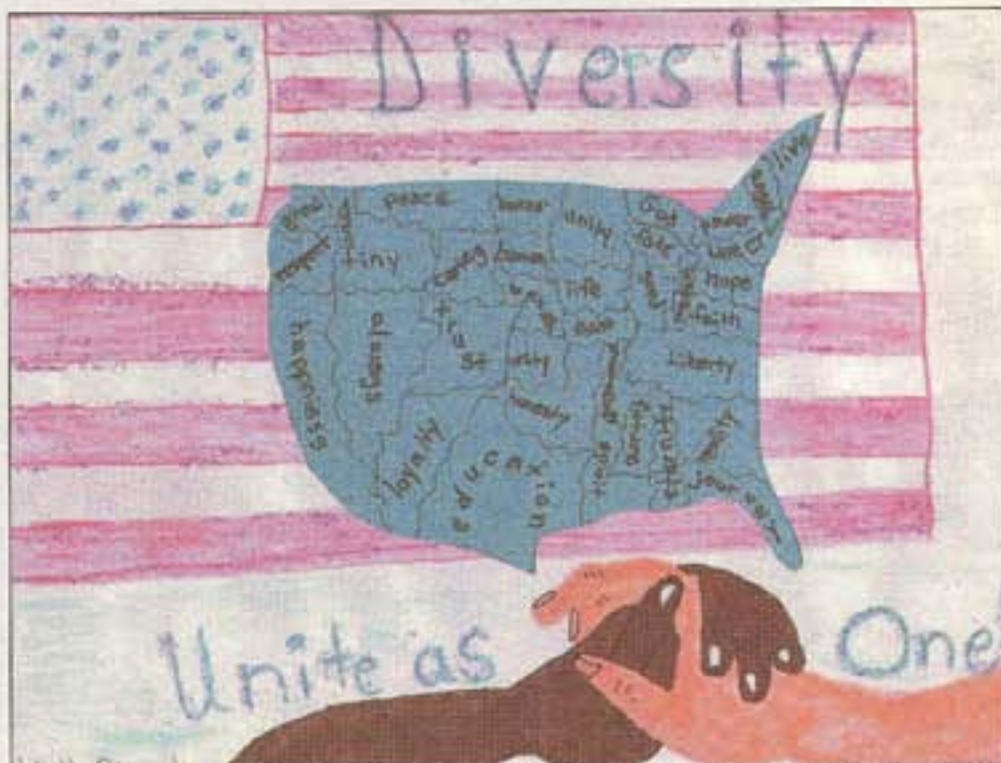
ARLINGTON, Va. Declared as the National Guard's Year of Diversity, 2002 celebrated the wide variety of people that make up the Army and Air National Guard.

Keeping with the theme, the Army National Guard's Diversity Initiatives Office sponsored art and essay contests for children of National Guard members.

The national essay winners are:

Army National Guard: Katie Cuaderes, a junior at Norman North High School, Okla. Her father, Chief Warrant Officer Charles Cuaderes, is a Supply Systems Technician for the Oklahoma National Guard. Katie's essay discussed the diversity at her high school and how having a mix of different people is not enough unless they can come together and share their ideas and experiences with those that are different from them. Diversity works best when there is a sense of unity.

Air National Guard: Morgan Smith, a junior at Elmwood Murdock High School, Murdock, Neb. Her father, Master Sgt James Clark, is the Assistant Chief of Operations for the Fire Department at the 155th Air Refueling Wing and her mother, Chief Master Sgt. Teresa Clark, is the State Human Resources Manager at Headquarters STARC, Nebraska. Morgan based her essay on former President Jimmy Carter's sentiment that the United States is a melting pot. "It's our different beliefs, dreams, backgrounds, cultures, and influences that have made, and continue to make, America strong."



Juliette Palazzolo, the daughter of SGT Hedly Palazzolo of New Britain, Conn. won first place in the 10-14 age group for the Army National Guard. The On Guard congratulates the winners as well as all those who participated.

The essay contest was open to junior and senior high school students and the national level winners are awarded a \$1000 college scholarship.

The art contest was broken down in to three age groups: 5-9 years, 10-14 years, and 15-18 years. A \$100 US Savings Bond was awarded to one Army winner and one Air winner per age group.

The winners in each category are:

Five-to-nine years old:

Esther Aruquete (Army National Guard)
Amy Lane and Kaitlyn O'Brien (Air National Guard)

10-to-14 years old:

Juliette Palazzolo (Army National Guard)
Justin O'Brien and William Coln (Air National Guard)

15-to-18 years old:

Dawn Dyer (Air National Guard)

GUARDTOONS



"Do we count wading ashore as a mode of transportation on our travel claim?"



In the News

Increased border security reduces the amount of drugs entering the U.S.

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa

Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. - A reduction in the amounts of illegal narcotics seized in Florida during the past year is an indicator that border security and homeland defense are hindering drug smuggling operations, according to Florida National Guard officials.

Recent drug-seizure data point to a marked decrease in smuggling operations, said both Florida's Adjutant General and the officer in charge of the Florida National Guard Counterdrug program.

"The numbers we're seeing are showing that the governor's emphasis on denying drug smugglers entry into Florida is having a significant effect," said Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of Florida. "Our presence is helping Florida's law enforcement community identify drug smuggling efforts, and as a result, making our state a difficult entry port for drug operations."

Based on figures from the counterdrug program - which assists law enforcement agencies in drug interdiction and prevention throughout the state - members of the program helped seize more than \$263 million in narcotics and currency during fiscal year 2002. This number is significantly less than the previous fiscal year's totals, which amounted to more than \$818 million.

The reason for this tremendous drop is not because the counterdrug personnel are working less, but because increased security operations in the United States are so successful, said Florida National Guard Counterdrug Coordinator, Lt. Col. Alan Petty.

"Drug seizure numbers were significantly down, but nationwide that's being attributed to increased security on our borders as a result of Sept. 11 (2001)," Petty, who oversees more than 150 National Guardsmen on the program, said. "That added security has forced the drug smugglers to alter their smuggling techniques and find other avenues to get those drugs across our borders."

As of Nov. 20, figures for fiscal year 2002 show the Florida National Guard counterdrug program assisted law enforcement agencies in seizing \$263,253,874.04 worth of illegal narcotics, currency, weapons, and property. A breakdown of those totals include: 9,466 pounds of cocaine, 12,967 pounds of marijuana, 2,014 pounds of methamphetamines, 217 pounds of heroin, more than 103,433 Ecstasy (MDMA) pills, and several thousand weapons totaling more than \$1 million.



Photo by Florida National Guard

According to National Guard officials, Florida counterdrug seizures are down by \$515 million dollars this year due to increased border security. Homeland Defense initiatives have hampered the ability of smugglers to get their drugs into the country. The Florida National Guard Counterdrug program assists in curbing the drug trafficking business in several ways including: working with U.S. Customs agents at major ports of entry to inspect cargo; providing linguistic and intelligence support to drug enforcement agencies; training local and state police in military and surveillance tactics; and offering aerial surveillance support using C-26 aircraft or OH-58 Kiowa helicopters.

Compared with figures from fiscal year 2001, Florida National Guard personnel in 2002 were involved in seizing nearly two-thirds less cocaine, and nearly three-quarters less marijuana.

"While it is still a lot of dope, it is significantly less than last year's (seizures)," Petty said. "Why is that? It is not because the drugs are not being found; it's because the increased security, and the early successes in the fiscal year in interdicting drugs, forced the traffickers to change their techniques and methods. We've had a major impact on it."

"These figures send a signal that the increased security has had a measurable

effect on the success of the smugglers in countering our border security," he added.

Petty also speculated that smugglers have had to resort to transporting smaller shipments of drugs across the borders to get their illicit products to the streets.

Florida is especially susceptible to smuggling, with more than 8,400 miles of open coastline where drugs can be shipped illegally into the state.

"But Florida also has a governor that has targeted drug dealers by detailing more state resources to the Drug War," said Burnett. "So with more law enforcement personnel focusing on illegal drug imports, even the

smaller smuggling operations will have a harder time.

"The drug smugglers have had to go elsewhere," he added.

The Florida National Guard counterdrug program assists in curbing the drug trafficking business in several ways including: working with U.S. Customs agents at major ports of entry to inspect cargo; providing linguistic and intelligence support to drug enforcement agencies; training local and state police in military and surveillance tactics; and offering aerial surveillance support using C-26 aircraft or OH-58 Kiowa helicopters.

Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley:

Striving to help others attain King's dream of equality

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — February is Black History Month, but the tributes and testimonies actually begin about two weeks earlier, around Jan. 15 — birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is impossible for African Americans like Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley to consider the month without acknowledging King's birthday, because he was instrumental in helping attain the rights that many celebrate every February.

That, ironically, is also the birth month of Presidents George Washington, who owned slaves, and Abraham Lincoln, whose Emancipation Proclamation is considered the first significant step toward abolishing slavery.

The holiday weekend in mid-January that honors the American civil rights icon, is when many Americans begin to pay annual tributes to the members of our diverse culture. Special months and days honoring Hispanic and Asian Americans, as well as women, soon follow.

Cleckley enlisted in the Women's Army Corps before the American conscience moved to end segregation. She earned her commission in the New York Army Guard's 42nd Infantry Division in 1976, the year this country celebrated its 200th birthday and anniversary of idea expressed in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal."

Like many African American women, Cleckley strives to help others attain the dream of equality that King advocated for all Americans.

She was promoted to one-star general last September after becoming the first black woman to achieve many milestones in the Army Guard. Not the least of which was her promotion to colonel in the Army Guard's Active Guard and Reserve ranks.

She now serves as the Army Guard director's special assistant for human resource readiness, and chairs the Army

Guard's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Cleckley with its Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award in 1998.

Cleckley addressed a National Guard prayer breakfast honoring King in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 16. She will travel to at least five states during Black History Month to speak about how far civil rights and equal protection has come and where it needs to go from here.

She shared many of her observations during an interview after the prayer breakfast.

On Guard: Why is it important to honor our ethnic groups in this country with events such as Black History Month when we're all said to be Americans?

Brig. Gen. CLECKLEY: "The majority race is not Hispanic or African American. That is coupled with the fact that most of the leaders in American society and in the administration and in all facets of the corporate world belong to the majority race. But we're all intertwined. It's important that the majority race hears and sees what minorities have done to make this country great. A lot of people in the majority race don't know these things. They need to know about the struggles of Martin Luther King Jr. and his part in getting the Civil Rights Act passed. It is important for Hispanics and Asian Americans and African Americans to have a day or a month to celebrate who we are and to show that this is what our cultures have to offer and to show what is important to us. It is important to let everyone else see that."

On Guard: How far have we progressed as far as fulfilling the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Brig. Gen. CLECKLEY: "We've come a long way, but we still have a way to go. Since I grew up in his era, I have, of course, seen progress. Segregation is just not overt now. But we still have some of it in covert ways. I'd say we've progressed to well over 70 percent."

On Guard: Will it take a lot more time to achieve that final



Cleckley

20 or 30 percent than it did to accomplish the 70 or 80 percent?

Brig. Gen. CLECKLEY: "I don't think it's going to take that long. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and look how far we've come. I think we'll get there much quicker than it took us to get to where we are today."

On Guard: Do you have an African American hero other than Martin Luther King Jr.?

Brig. Gen. CLECKLEY: "One of my favorite heroes is the late Barbara Jordan. She was a great orator. She was the first African American woman, who really moved me in terms of her educational philosophy and her professional accomplishments." (Jordan, who died in 1996, was a congresswoman, orator, educator and the first African American woman to win a seat in the Texas state senate.)

On Guard: Is the military still setting the pace for equality?

Brig. Gen. CLECKLEY: "Yes. I have felt that way ever since I was an enlisted person. I think the military is far more advanced in a lot of things than some of the civilian sectors. They include equal opportunity, diversity, and the fact that females can progress as long as we do the job and as long as we punch all of the tickets that we're supposed to punch. That's what I've done throughout my career."

Commissary provides service and savings during deployments

By Carole Young

Defense Commissary Agency

FT. LEE, Va. — Military service members make many sacrifices to defend our country, among them: personal, professional and financial. All three seem to coincide when a service member is deployed or a Guard or Reserve member is activated, sometimes facing a reduction in household income.

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) can help by providing significant grocery savings of 30 percent or more to service members and their families — when they use their commissary benefit regularly. Shoppers can expect to save even more on meat and produce purchases and frequent case lot sales help shoppers realize even bigger savings.

In addition to working hard to ensure exceptional savings for the military community, DeCA is committed to providing excellent name brand products, produce and meats and efficient service that's second to none. Grab-and-Go sections, early bird and assist-

ed shopping and 30-minute parking spaces are conveniences you'll find at many commissaries. Cooking demonstrations, "Meat Made Easy" preparation instructions and recipes are all part of DeCA's commitment to service.

Take note of some of these tips to help make deployments easier — and make the most of commissary shopping.

- Arm yourself with information. Before deploying, make sure family members are provided with the correct information and documentation needed for commissary shopping. Tips for preparing for deployment can be found on http://deploymentlink.osd.mil/deploy/prep/deploy_checklist.shtml.

- Obtain ID cards. All family members (spouse and children 10 years of age and older) should have ID cards. An ID card is required to make commissary purchases and may also be required at the gate if the commissary is located on an installation with increased security precautions.

- Guard and Reserve members should have a commissary privilege card (CPC). Unless activated, Guard or Reserve members and authorized family need to show a CPC along with a military ID card to take advantage of their 24 shopping days at the commissary. Service members should go to their local unit to get information concerning the CPC. DeCA does not issue the CPC; the unit does. For more information on Guard and Reserve shopping privileges visit http://www.commissaries.com/guard_reserve.htm.

- Shop the commissary every day. When serving on active duty or in a training status, deployed service members and activated Guard or Reserve members and authorized family members have unlimited usage of the commissary. Guard and Reserve do not need to use their CPC: Active duty ID or copies of active duty orders are all you need.

- Do your homework. Know the location and gate entry procedures for the military facility nearest you. Check installation entry requirements and directions before traveling to the

commissary. Approaching an installation security checkpoint occupied by armed and uniformed personnel can be intimidating to the uninitiated. Reduce anxiety by being familiar with the gate entry process. Besides the commissary, there are numerous services available on installations for use by families of deployed service members; know where they are located and their hours of operation.

- Do a little shopping homework. Find out what's on sale at the commissary before you even walk in the door. Visit DeCA online at <http://www.commissaries.com> and click on the "Locations" button to find a listing of commissaries. Each store has its own Web page with location, hours of operation, store management and special events. Click on the "Shopping" button to find out what's on sale. Use coupons to save even more!

- Shop smart. Families of deployed service members often eat less "big meals" at home, but eating out at the local pizza parlor or fast food restaurant is not the way to save money.

Prototype saves fuel, money, environment

By Master Sgt. Greg Ripps
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — It's economical. It's environmentally friendly. It's definitely fuel-efficient. And so far, only the 149th Fighter Wing of the Texas Air National Guard is using it.

It's the PH1000EL Self-Contained Fuel Transfer Unit, better known as the "Fuel Buggy." Members of the 149th Maintenance Squadron are using this new piece of equipment to reclaim jet aircraft fuel for use in their Aerospace Ground Equipment.

The F-16 aircraft operated by the 149th FW use JP-8 fuel. Unfortunately, the aircraft have a certain amount of fuel left over. Prior to the Fuel Buggy's arrival, this surplus JP-8 was collected by fuel bowsers and stored in drums.

"When enough drums were full, we called a contractor who was paid to pick them up," explained Chief Master Sgt. Frank Arbizu, the wing's aircraft maintenance superintendent. "The contractor took the fuel to another city and sold it for use in such things as farm equipment."

The chief wondered if his AGE team could reclaim and use the unused fuel themselves. The solution would be a relatively small, portable piece of equipment that could be used to drain fuel, filter it, store it and pump it into other equipment.

"I knew other such systems were out there, but they weren't for fuel," he said. "I thought that if there was a system to reclaim hydraulics, then there ought to be one for

fuel."

Arbizu broached the subject with a representative of a private firm that specializes in repairing and recycling equipment. A short time later, he received a call from a representative of another company, W.E.N. Industries, Inc., of New Hampshire.

"We exchanged e-mails over six months," Arbizu said. "The company was interested in developing the idea, but we had to agree on the specifications."

Specifications included tire rating, safety features, color scheme, a trailer hitch and fuel filters that were easy to obtain and easy to change.

"We got what we wanted," said Master Sgt. John Mead, AGE shop supervisor. "The filters are standard diesel fuel filters available from most automotive parts stores."

The result of the months of communication was the prototype Fuel Buggy, which is essentially a four-foot-wide, seven-foot-long, four-wheel trailer with a 1,000-gallon tank, a hose and an electric pump powered from other equipment.

The Fuel Buggy can be used to drain fuel from either fuel trucks or wing tanks. Prior to using the Fuel Buggy, wing tanks could be successfully emptied only by using additional equipment to raise one end with a sling. The Fuel Buggy can empty a wing tank easily by itself.

The obvious advantage is the cost savings. The prototype cost \$15,000 but can recover \$1,500 worth of fuel per month - or \$18,000 annually.

"We've been purchasing approximately 3,500 gallons of JP-8 per month over the last year. This past month, by using fuel reclaimed by the Fuel Buggy, we reduced the purchased amount to less than 1,500 gallons. At this rate, the Fuel Buggy will pay for itself in less than a year."

— Master Sgt. John Mead

"We've been purchasing approximately 3,500 gallons of JP-8 per month over the last year," Mead said. "This past month, by using fuel reclaimed by the Fuel Buggy, we reduced the purchased amount to less than 1,500 gallons." Noting that the AGE shop has been using the Fuel Buggy for six months, Mead added, "At this rate, the Fuel Buggy will pay for itself in less than a year."

Furthermore, annual preventive maintenance cost is estimated to be less than \$50.

"There will be the need to inspect filters, tank, chassis and running gear every 180 days," Mead explained. "This will be a two-hour job to include paperwork for one mechanic - very minimal."

Prior to recovery, Base Fuel Management Office laboratory technicians sample the aviation fuel. The Fuel Buggy filters the JP-8 twice: once when it's pumped into it and again when it's pumped out.

Although the filtered fuel can't be reused in aircraft or some equipment, it has been used in a variety of ground equipment. These

include turbine compressors, air compressors, generators, "jammer" bomb lifts and NF2 light carts, all which previously used diesel.

The prototype will undergo additional improvements. "We need a different kind of siphon hose, because the one we're using sometimes collapses," Arbizu said. "And we need a sight gauge." Nevertheless, the 149th FW maintenance community is already happy enough with the Fuel Buggy that it is ready to share the idea.

It already has piqued interest and earned acclaim from outside the unit. The Air Education and Training Command Operational Readiness Inspection Team cited the Fuel Buggy as a "Best Practice" at the conclusion of its Nov. 12-17 inspection.

"This one-of-a-kind product could potentially be used at all Air Force AGE shops for fuel savings and environmental benefits," Mead said.



Texas Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Elaine Wilson-Burney

Staff Sgt. Pablo Lomas, Aerospace Ground Equipment specialist in the 149th Maintenance Squadron, "evacuates" JP-8 fuel from an F-16 aircraft's wing tank into the unit's Fuel Buggy. The Texas Air National Guard unit uses the reclaimed fuel in various ground equipment.

Troops recovering at Walter Reed

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Between doctor's rounds and physical therapy sessions, Army National Guard soldiers hospitalized at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. enjoyed a visit in mid-January from the top leaders of the Army National Guard.

Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Army National Guard director, and Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Army National Guard command sergeant major, spoke with six Guard soldiers during the morning visit. Four of the soldiers came to the U.S. Army's premier medical treatment center after suffering injuries while serving in Afghanistan or Bosnia. A Louisiana Army National Guard member, Staff Sgt. Michael McNaughton of Denham Springs, La., was the most recently admitted citizen-soldier. In early January, he lost his right leg to an anti-personnel mine.

McNaughton, a member of the 769th Engineer Battalion, was clearing mines at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan when a mine detonated. He was medically evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany before he was flown to Walter Reed for follow-on treatment.

"I was very proud to serve in Afghanistan and with the 769th," he said. "People in that unit are very professional and very close, like a big family."

McNaughton's wife, mother and father flew to D.C. from Louisiana to be with him. Also, standing by his bedside and wearing a desert camouflage uniform, is McNaughton's comrade-in-arms, Staff Sgt. David Silva of Baton Rouge, La.

Besides serving in the 769th together, McNaughton and Silva are close friends back home in the Pelican State. Their commander ordered Silva to stay with McNaughton.

"It was so I had a friendly face with me at all times," McNaughton said. "We both know each other after attending school together, and our children play together back home."

Although McNaughton still must undergo follow-up



Louisiana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Michael McNaughton of the 769th Engineer Battalion, lost part of his right leg and suffered other injuries after stepping on an anti-personnel mine while conducting mine-clearing operations around Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Also pictured is Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz (far right), Staff Sgt. David Silva (center) of Baton Rouge, La., and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever III.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking, National Guard Bureau

California Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Martin (right) of the 12th Special Forces Group chats with Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz (center), Army National Guard director, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Lever III, Army National Guard, command sergeant major, about his condition at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., after being wounded in a grenade attack in Afghanistan.

surgeries, "I'm getting excellent medical care here," he said.

Two other troops at Walter Reed, 19th Special Forces Group Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lyons and Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Martin, both serve with the California Army National Guard. Both men suffered shrapnel wounds in mid-December, when someone tossed a grenade into their truck as the soldiers left a crowded market in Kabul, Afghanistan. An Afghan interpreter sitting in the back of the truck was also injured.

Lyons nearly bled to death after shrapnel nicked an artery in his leg. Martin suffered a head wound and shrapnel lodged behind his eyelid. Both citizen-soldiers can expect a full recovery, officials said.

An initial medical report said both soldiers' protective vests were "riddled with shrapnel" and probably saved their lives.

Lyons told Schultz and Lever that, although his early prognosis seemed bleak, quick and effective medical attention saved his life. "I initially took five units of blood. I was leaking from holes all over the place," Lyons said.

Doctors have opted to leave some of the shrapnel inside Lyons' body, since the fragments are lodged near vital tissues.

"It's going to be fun going through metal detectors at the airports now," Lyons quipped.

Even though they are recuperating on the East Coast, Martin and Lyons said they have received a lot of support from their families and National Guard friends back in California.

Schultz and Lever haven't been their only high-profile visitors, either.

Gen. Richard Meyer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stopped by earlier in the week to visit with the troops recovering at Walter Reed.

"I'm a bit overwhelmed," Martin said.

Martin and Lyons aren't the first casualties suffered by the 19th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan. Last April, Colorado Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero became the first Army Guard soldier to die in Afghanistan, along with four other U.S. troops during the destruction of a weapons cache. Also in April, West Virginia Army National Guard Sgt. Gene Arden Jr. died in action in eastern Afghanistan.

The soldiers at Walter Reed show no bitterness or discouragement. They want to thank everyone across the country for their support. And McNaughton offers this advice to National Guard troops deploying to trouble spots at home and overseas: "Just stay motivated."

During the visit, Schultz and Lever also met Spc. Crystal Terrell-Young of the Virginia Army National Guard, who was injured in a vehicle accident in Bosnia; Staff Sgt. John Merrill of the Maine Army National Guard and Capt. Leslie Smith of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Schultz said he was impressed with the morale of the Army National Guard soldiers at Walter Reed. "We've got some troops out there who have really shown some courage, and they possess positive attitudes," Schultz said to Lever. "That's what it's all about, sergeant major. We've got a team that wants to follow us, and they're good."

Remembering Bill Mauldin and his Guard heritage

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who gained fame for his beloved combat-seasoned dogfaces Willie and Joe who slogged across Europe during World War II, never got the National Guard out of his system. He is, in fact, a part of the National Guard's legacy.

He first put on the uniform as a private in the National Guard's 45th Infantry Division in Arizona. Willie is a caricature of one Army infantryman who originally enlisted in that division as a Guardsman. And the largest single body of Mauldin's Pulitzer Prize winning, original World War II cartoons, 226 of them, are owned by and displayed at the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla.

That, observed Mike Gonzales, the museum's curator, makes Mauldin as much of an icon for the National Guard as he was for the Army.

Mauldin was 81 when he died on Jan. 22 at a nursing home in Newport Beach, Calif., reportedly from complications of Alzheimer's disease and pneumonia. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Jan. 29 with honors appropriate for his rank as a sergeant, a cemetery spokesman explained. That included a 21-gun salute, a bugler playing "Taps," and the folding of the flag that covered his casket.

"I wanna long rest after th' war. Mebbe I'll do a hitch in th' reg'lars," Willie says to Joe while one savors a canteen cup of coffee and the other cuts open a box of K-rations in a bombed out building somewhere on the front.

That line, claims National Guard Bureau historian Renee Hylton, is a clue that Mauldin drew on his own experiences as a National Guard citizen soldier.

There were other clues. Willie, for example, resembled a Native American from Oklahoma named Rayson Billey who Mauldin considered one of the bravest men he ever knew, Gonzales explained. Rayson Billey, who died recently, first joined the 45th Division as a Guardsman in a rifle company in McAlester, Okla.

Joe was drawn in Mauldin's own likeness, Gonzales believes.

"I asked him once who Joe was based on," Gonzales said. "He never answered the question, but he looked down at his shoes, then he looked at me and smiled. If you look closely, Joe looks very much like Sgt. Bill Mauldin."

The division encompassed four states, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma where it had its headquarters and where it now exists as the 45th Infantry Brigade, one of the Army Guard's 15 enhanced separate brigades.

Mauldin originally joined the Arizona National Guard after finishing high school in Phoenix and after studying at the Chicago

Academy of Fine Arts. He had suffered from rickets, a disease caused by a lack of vitamin D, as a child and could not take part in strenuous activities, The New York Times reported.

He got into the Guard, which did not require a physical examination at that time, and wound up in the Army when the 45th Division was federalized in 1940, more than a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mauldin started with Company K of the 180th Infantry Regiment and drew cartoons for the 45th Division News while that outfit was training in this country and then when it shipped overseas to take part in the 1943 invasions of Sicily and Italy.

He became a full-time cartoonist for Stars and Stripes the following year, and his syndicated cartoons began appearing in newspapers across the United States.

"I drew pictures for and about the soldiers because I knew what their life was like and understood their gripes. I wanted to make something out of the humorous situations which come up even when you don't think life could be any more miserable," recalled Mauldin who was 23 when the war ended in 1945 and who won his first Pulitzer for this World War II work that year. He was the youngest person to win that prize.

He received his second in 1959, while working as a political cartoonist for The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, for his illustration of the Soviet Union's treatment of Boris Pasternak who had won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1958.

His war cartoons have a timeless quality that appeal to all combat veterans, said Hylton.

"These were the guys who had to do the fighting, about one in 10 of the people who were in the Army," she observed. "The Army is getting more and more different from the Army of World War II, but Mauldin's work is still relevant to people on the front lines. It is still funny to anyone who has ever experienced military bureaucracy."

Mauldin had a sense of his fate when he was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in May 2000, said Gonzales who was his escort for that event.

"He was as sharp as a tack, but he told me that he was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and that he probably wouldn't know who I was a year after that," Gonzales recalled sadly.

Gladly, old soldiers who saw themselves in Bill Mauldin's cartoons during World War II and younger soldiers who know the fire and fear of today's battles can remember the man who gave them Willie and Joe after joining the National Guard.



"I wanna long rest after th' war. Mebbe I'll do a hitch in th' reg'lars."

The late Bill Mauldin expressed the grim humor of war-torn Europe, which all combat veterans can still appreciate, through his beloved dogfaces Willie and Joe. (Reprinted from "Bill Mauldin's Army," Presidio Press, 1983).



"I see Comp'ny E got th' new style gas masks, Joe."

Civil support teams and Guardsmen

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SAN AUGUSTINE, Texas - Texas National Guard troops trained to test for toxic substances dealt with a dangerous piece of history - a ruptured tank from the ill-fated space shuttle Columbia's fuel system - here in the Piney Woods region of East Texas in the rainy chill of Feb. 5.

Two members of the 6th Civil Support Team from Austin, wearing special protective suits, boots, face masks and air tanks, ensured the tank was no longer leaking its highly toxic propellant. They then carried the tank a few yards to an array of lights that heated and evaporated the nitrogen tetroxide that was still inside.

All told, 716 National Guard troops, including civil support teams from the neighboring states of Arkansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, joined Texas and federal authorities in the far-flung search for remains of the seven astronauts and debris from the space shuttle.

"We were pretty sure we would need a large number of troops because of the sheer size of the area that was covered," said Col. Eddy Spurgin, commander of the Texas Army Guard's 36th Infantry Brigade from Houston after taking charge of a 580-member task force.

"We're here for as long as they need us, and we'll do whatever we're asked to do, even though we're sensitive to our Guard soldiers' civilian jobs," added Spurgin after learning that the mission for the Texas citizen-soldiers had been extended through Feb. 12.

Another 104 Louisiana Guard troops were supporting the search for wreckage that landed in that state, and four members of Louisiana's 62nd Civil Support Team were assisting the Louisiana State Police.

"This is it. This is the day," said Air National Guard 2nd Lt. George Pearson about how hard the 6th Civil Support Team had trained for its brush with history.

It was four days since the Columbia had broken up 39 miles over the Texas countryside on Feb. 1 and a titanium tank had crashed into a forest of young pine trees near the San Augustine and Angelina county lines.

The circular propellant tank that stood about three feet high was the first of its kind built for the space shuttles, said John Robinson of United Space Alliance, a contractor for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, after checking the serial number. Columbia carried six of these tanks.

It was also the first of the Columbia's fuel tanks that had been found so far that split open on impact, Robinson added.

Columbia was the oldest of this country's space shuttles. It was built in 1981 and was 16 minutes from completing its 28th successful flight, when it broke apart and the seven astronauts, including six military officers, died.

"We're path-finding here. This is the first time we've ever done this," said Robinson, who praised the Guard troops for their prac-



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Texas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Anthony Buck (in blue) and Sgt. James Cambron get up close and personal to a propellant tank that fell from the space shuttle Columbia and ruptured on impact in the Piney Woods region of East Texas. Both are members of the Texas National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team.

ticed and painstaking work. "This is fantastic support. They were very professional," he said.

They had to be. Although members of that team recounted how they had checked out other tanks from the Columbia, this was the first one in which "the product" inside had gotten out.

Nitrogen tetroxide was described as a "greenish liquid or brownish vapor, stored in tanks, bleach-like odor" in the guidelines for collecting the space shuttle's material that were given to all public service personnel.

"Let's just say it's nasty stuff," said one member of the Texas team that began setting up for the hazardous material mission after arriving at the site about 11:15 a.m. The 112-gallon tank, already cordoned off with red warning tape, was easily accessible from a dirt county road that cuts through the forest.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Buck and Sgt. James Cambron first handled the tank carefully, lifting it to check it over and then carrying it to the lights.

Staff Sgt. Art Phillips and Sgt. David Kuykendall went in next to wrap plastic bags around the electrical connections to keep the light system working.

Robinson and a representative from the Environmental Protection Agency closely watched their progress.

"We were pretty relieved it wasn't any heavier than it was," said Buck, who estimated the tank and remaining propellant weighed about 40 pounds.

Everyone else, including Lt. Col. Brian Attaway, commander of the civil support team that was federally certified in August 2000, was also relieved that the most serious situation that his team has dealt with in relation to the Columbia crash went off without a hitch.

"Nothing happens in a hurry with hazardous materials," explained Maj. Matthew Conde, the team's medical officer. "You map it out and set it up. You take your time."

The Guard's 22-member civil support teams are specifically trained to survey debris sites and test wreckage for toxic substances from weapons of mass destruction that could harm emergency responders. Checking out fuel tanks and many other objects from the Columbia that fell on Texas was totally unexpected.

"Helping to clean up after a space ship disaster," said Buck, "was not on our radar

scope."

The Texas National Guard did everything possible to aid in that effort, according to Lt. Col. John Stanford, the state's Guard spokesman.

More than 200 Guard soldiers were added to the force on Feb. 5, and crews in four AH-64 Apache helicopters from the 49th Armored Division's aviation brigade were using their target imaging systems to look for wreckage, Stanford said.

Thirteen UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and a total of 84 military vehicles were committed to that cause, he added.

Meanwhile, a handful of specially trained Guard troops spent a long afternoon examining and dealing with the propellant tank in the woods near this small town. The sign pronounces that "Texas History Happened Here."

Two groups of cowboys got into a shootout in that town during the late 19th century and the town's sheriff was killed, a Texas state police officer explained.

Members of the National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team can tell you for a fact that Texas history has again happened in and around San Augustine.

from four states respond to crash



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

(Above) Texas Army National Guard Cpl. James Lindholm and Trooper John Byork from the Texas Department of Public Safety examine a small piece of debris believed to be from the space shuttle Columbia. Byork recorded the place where the piece was found and took it away. Byork is among more than 716 National Guard troops helping to search for human remains and wreckage in Texas. (Right) Pfc. Frank I. Allen a soldier of the 4th Battalion, 112th Armor Regiment cautiously observes a piece of the space shuttle found in the forest near San Augustine, Texas.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Lek Mateo, Texas Army National Guard

FROM PAGE 1

Shuttle

John Stanford.

They included 96 Army Guard soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery who were helping to guard debris sites in Nacogdoches and Lufkin. They also included members of a dozen UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crews who were primed to fly a variety of missions for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Gov. Rick Perry and other Texas officials, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Stanford said.

A Texas Guard counter-drug airplane equipped with infrared sensors also joined the search for wreckage that included computer chips, fuel cells five feet in diameter, and "pieces of tile all over the place," one Guard officer explained.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been designated as the lead federal agency for search, find and secure efforts.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command diverted the two F-15s from the

Air Guard fighter wing near New Orleans to look for debris.

"Our pilots spotted numerous debris locations and will provide further information only to FEMA and NASA officials," a spokesman said.

The first two fighters searched throughout the morning and were replaced by two other F-15s at 1 p.m., explained Dusty Shenofsky, spokesperson for the Louisiana National Guard.

That mission was suspended at dark on Saturday, and the wing was not asked to resume those flights on Sunday, she said.

Meanwhile, 24 Army Guard soldiers from Louisiana's 199th Support Battalion were helping to safeguard debris sites in that state by Sunday afternoon, said Shenofsky.

Debris had been located in 13 places within six Louisiana parishes, she added.

Finding the debris will take a lot of time and manpower, predicted Dietz, because it is scattered over some remote and rugged terrain.

"Nacogdoches is the urban epicenter for the debris, and that's where a lot of it has been located, because people live there," Dietz reasoned.

Much of the area where debris has been reported, however, lies in the Piney Woods timber region of east Texas, which is rugged and densely wooded in places, a Texas newspaper reported.

Although it is a dirty job, surveying debris sites and testing the wreckage for toxic substances that could harm other emergency responders and the public is what the National Guard's civil support teams are designed to do.

The Texas team is getting help, Dietz said Monday morning. The Guard team from Oklahoma arrived Sunday evening, and the team from Arkansas was expected to arrive Monday.

The Texas team was federally certified in August 2000, and this is the first time that the entire team has been tasked to perform its mission, explained Lt. Col. Brian Attaway,

the team's commander.

"This has gone better than I ever would have expected," said Attaway about the fact that the first half dozen team members were on duty by 3:30 p.m. Saturday following a five-hour drive from Austin and that 21 people and seven vehicles were in eastern Texas by 8 that night.

"This puts this civil support team at the forefront of the federal response," Dietz observed. "It's taken four years of hard work to get to the tip of the spear."

Despite the magnitude of the situation, it is business as usual for members of the team, including operations Staff Sgt. Bradley Trefz, who have responded to considerably smaller incidents.

"This is no difference for us, because we're dealing with the same people we always deal with," Trefz said. "It's just that now there's a lot more of them."

Rumsfeld: Deploy reserves only when needed

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Members of the reserve forces should be called up only when they are needed to perform real and necessary jobs to support this country during a time of conflict, the secretary of defense told officers from all seven reserve components in Washington, D.C., in late January.

"If we're going to have a total force, if we want that concept to work, we have to be respectful of the fact that people in the Reserves and the [National] Guard have jobs; and that they're perfectly willing to be called up but that they only want to be called up when they're needed and for something that's a real job," insisted Donald Rumsfeld.

"The process in the Department of Defense for alerting, calling people up, and deploying is imperfect," the defense secretary, a retired Naval Reserve officer himself, acknowledged to some 1,000 people attending the Reserve Officers Association's Mid-Winter Conference.

Rumsfeld made those observations about mobilizing the nation's 1.2 million reservists while fielding questions following his keynote address in which he said "as we continue to press Iraq to disarm, we will need the continuing support of the men and women of the Guard and the Reserve."

"At this time of call-ups, alerts, mobilizations and deploy-

ments, and uncertainty, please know that the American people are counting on you and have full confidence in you," Rumsfeld said. "We can all live our lives as free people in this dangerous and still untidy world and in this new century because brave men and women like you voluntarily put your lives at risk to defend our freedom."

He then indicated there is a limit to how much of the defense load reservists should be expected to bear, and he stated that people who are needed early into a conflict should primarily come from the active forces.

"My instinct is that it doesn't make sense to have the people who are required very early in a conflict, in the Reserves. I think we need to have those skills on active duty, as well as in the Reserves," Rumsfeld added.

"My view is that we need to come up with a proposal where we shift some of those skills and see that we have on active duty people who may be needed, for example, in an instance like this where it's not clear what's going to happen instead of having those critical skills only, only, in the Reserves," said Rumsfeld.

The defense secretary said he has asked top Pentagon officials, including Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to review the call-up process based on lessons learned from previous mobilizations.

Reservists, he added, "prefer not to be jerked around and

called up two or three or four months before they're needed and then find they're not needed and be sent back home with a 'sorry about that,' " stressed Rumsfeld who was interrupted several times by enthusiastic applause.

He knows the demands of balancing reserve duty with a civilian career. He spent about 18 years in the Naval Reserve as an aviator and in administrative assignments after serving on active duty from 1954-57 following his graduation from Princeton University. He retired as a captain in 1975 when President Gerald Ford named him secretary of defense.

"I made a command decision that I couldn't call myself up," cracked Rumsfeld, who became the youngest defense secretary in this country's history.

While he was in the Naval Reserve, however, he led a demanding civilian life. He was a congressman from Illinois from 1963 to 1969. He was the U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium. He was White House chief of staff.

Rumsfeld told the reserve officers that the National Guard's and the Reserves' "contributions have been vital to our success thus far in the global war on terrorism."

And he spoke from first-hand experience when he stressed the importance of skillfully managing the call-ups so that the "threads come up to the needle head in a way that is respectful of the circumstances of the Guard and Reserve."

1438th Engineers support Operation Enduring Freedom

By Ron Holbrook
Missouri Army National Guard

ROLLA, Mo. — For Elizabeth Godfrey, the War on Terrorism has hit painfully home. She is feeling first hand the pain of separation and loneliness that follows when not one, but two Guard soldiers left her home to answer the president's call.

"I'm proud of them, but a little nervous too about them going," said Elisabeth.

Her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Billy Godfrey, and her daughter, 18-year-old Pfc. Jennifer Godfrey, were called to active duty with the 1438th Engineer Multirole Bridge Company in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Godfrey is the unit's food services sergeant and is proud of the unit he has served in for 23 years. "It's a tight group with a lot of unit cohesion and comradie. We have a lot of people in the unit who have grown up together."

He is fortunate, as he has received excellent support from his employer, Briggs and Stratton in Rolla, Missouri. "When I notified them that I was being called up, they asked how they could help," said Godfrey. "They have been just great."

The 183-member 1438th, headquartered in Rolla, with detachments in Salem and Warrenton, departed for its Fort Leonard Wood mobilization station after a departure ceremony held on the University of Missouri-Rolla campus.

Beneath the brave faces of many of the family members present to say good-bye, Teresa Murdie, wife of Sgt. James Murdie, express in words what all the family members were feeling deep inside and exclaimed, "I'm just scared."

Reflecting upon the duty ahead, 1st Sgt. Paul Kennedy stated proudly that the unit members were "well trained and prepared mentally" for any type of mission.

"If I could go with any unit, I would want to



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Ron Holbrook, Missouri Army National Guard

Sgt. 1st Class Billy Godfrey, a 23-year veteran and food services sergeant for the 1438th Engineer Multirole Company, Rolla, gives his sons Justin, 13, Brian, 16, and Brandon, 18, a big hug just before his departure for active duty on Jan. 24. The 1438th will support Operation Enduring Freedom for one year.

go with the 1438th. Everyone knows their jobs and we have a great NCO corps," said 1st Lt. Marie Orlando, the 1438th executive officer, who served in Desert Storm with a medical unit.

"This unit is like a family," explained Staff Sgt. Joe Jimmerson, a 17-year member of the unit.

"I live in Jefferson City and could have transferred to a unit there, but I have driven

here all these years because I love this unit."

"I'm ready to go do the mission that I was trained for and come home safe to my family," said Jimmerson. "Our duty is to protect our nation and accomplish our mission."



News Makers

Civil Support team trains with other agencies

BOSTON, Mass. — Training to improve the preparedness of the country's military and communities to weapons of mass destruction threats, a 'dirty bomb' exercise drew the Massachusetts National Guard's 1st Civil Support Team (CST) and 50 local, state and federal agencies to Boston's Logan Airport.

As the cold winter wind bit into their eyes, they faced an even chillier threat — a simulated radiological dispersion caused by the explosion of a device in the cargo area of an aircraft as it taxied from a terminal.

Guard members joined first responders and local, state and federal agencies in the continuing effort to train a team of teams in a complex multi-agency plan.

Contributing their technical and professional National Guard skills with their countrymen's — they fought with a simple shared goal to minimize the loss of life and property.

This type of interactive state-lead exercise, is an example of National Guard Homeland Security Training Operations that are being conducted nationwide, where the CST's mission is to support civilian authorities at WMD events site by identifying WMD agents or substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for additional support.

The National Defense Authorization Act for 2003 calls for 23 additional CSTs, ensuring that there would be at least one team in every state, territory and the District of Columbia.

Soldiers Medal ...



Photo by SFC Paul Moulesseaux, National Guard Bureau

Lt. Col. Alan C. Saunders receives the Soldiers Medal from Acting Chief of National Guard Bureau Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees for heroism above and beyond the call of duty. On June 1, 2002, Saunders rescued two people from a fiery auto crash on Interstate 81, near Winchester, Va. The vehicle they were traveling in had crashed through a guardrail, became airborne, careened down an embankment, and then erupted into flames. Saunders went to the flaming vehicle and pulled the people to safety just moments before a catastrophic explosion engulfed the entire vehicle. Saunders' quick thinking and smart action, undoubtedly saved two lives, at great risk to his own. "I'm honored and humbled to receive this award, I feel that every citizen-soldier has the responsibility to act when they can make a difference. I'm very happy that that day I made a difference". The Sterling, Va., native and Kentucky Guardsman, is the Chief of Investigation at the Office of the Inspector General, National Guard Bureau.

Child support and deploying troops

Special to the American Forces Press Service
CLEVELAND, Ohio — Guard and Reserve members who have child support obligations and whose civilian income is larger than their military one should review their rights before they get orders.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Garnishment Operations Directorate has been working with the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement to address child support payment issues related to activated reservists.

One scenario of concern, said Rod Winn, director of garnishment operations, is a reservist whose child support order is based on civilian income and doesn't take into account a possible loss of income caused by military activation. Neither the obligation nor the payment due is affected automatically by military service except as the support order may state.

Reservists who need relief have to ask for a review and modification of the child support obligation from their appropriate state child support agency, he said. For more information, he said, visit the web sites below:

- State child support enforcement agencies gateways at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta>
- Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement Information Memorandum (IM)-01-09 at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pol/im-01-09.htm>
- DoD guidance, provided under "Family Law Matters" at the secure Web site operated by the Army Judge Advocate General's Office at <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/LEGAL>

"This issue can have serious consequences for the reserve military member and dependent children relying on the support," Winn said. "All reservists with support obligations are urged to review the garnishment guidelines."

Campbell takes over as Alaska's Adjutant General

CAMP DENALI, Alaska — Col. Craig Campbell was recently promoted to the rank of brigadier general — becoming Alaska's newest adjutant general and commissioner for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"As we speak, there are Alaskans facing danger and improving the wellbeing of the state and the country," said Gov. Frank Murkowski during the ceremony. "Today that includes two dozen Alaskans deployed around the world fighting for freedom. Tomorrow, approximately 30 Alaska Army Guard soldiers will be called up to provide security at Kulis Air Guard Base, in Anchorage. Next week, teams from the Department of Emergency Services will be assessing damage in Fairbanks from flood-

ing. Craig's role is key to these decisions. I could not have picked a better trained person to lead this department."

The ceremony was attended by many state, municipal, and political leaders, as well as military officials.

The role of the adjutant general for the state of Alaska includes providing ready, relevant, and quality military and disaster relief forces to meet the needs of the people of Alaska and for worldwide deployment in support of the nation's defense interest.

"I want to express my appreciation of the hard work and outstanding leadership Maj. Gen. Philip Oates provided the state of Alaska for the past four years," said

Campbell an adjunct professor of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, teaching aviation and management courses at Elmendorf. "It is an honor and privilege to be appointed to this position by Gov. Murkowski. During this time of uncertainty, the role of this department cannot be underscored and I look forward to this great opportunity."

Campbell has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a master's of arts from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Campbell, 50, has been an Alaska resident since 1981 and a military officer for the past 27 years.

He served nine years as an officer in the

U.S. Air Force, seven years in the California Air National Guard, and the past 11 years in the Alaska Air National Guard. Most recently, he served as vice commander of the 168th Air Refueling Wing, where he helped oversee more than 700 personnel and nine KC-135 air refueling tankers.

In his civilian role, Campbell served on the Anchorage Assembly from 1986-96, including two terms as chairman.

As director of the Office of Planning, Development and Public Works, he worked under Anchorage Mayor George Wuerch and was responsible for more than 450 municipal employees in six departments, with a budget of more than \$90 million.

STARBASE reaches out to Nation's youth

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — On her 11th birthday, Catherine Newcome gripped the yoke of a Cessna airplane and learned a lot about flying. She crashed the first time she tried to land. But she quickly regained her composure, paid attention to her coach from the West Virginia Air National Guard, and took off and landed safely on her second try.

Catherine did all of this while sitting before a computer terminal in a classroom at the James Rumsey Technical Institute in Martinsburg, W.V., for an hour Jan. 29.

She is one of many young people in this country who the National Guard wants to help explore math, science and technology.

The program is called STARBASE, and Catherine and her two dozen fifth-grade classmates from the Eagle Intermediate School had just completed the first month-long STARBASE Academy conducted in the eastern West Virginia city with the support of the Air Guard's 167th Airlift Wing.

Two of the Martinsburg wing's C-130 pilots, Captains Kelly Wight and Jon McCullough, helped the youngsters get a feel for flying on the computer simulators. They monitored a half dozen gauges, including the artificial horizon, that would be found in most cockpits.

National Guard and National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials observed the pupils from several locations thanks to the Guard's two-way television system that it uses for distance learning programs.

Retired Navy pilot Pete Thomas instructed the class from NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. He told the pupils that aviators wear flight suits to protect them from flash fires and that most people in aviation do go to college.

"I've always been interested in the unknown, and I like the exacting nature of flying. Hey, flying's a blast," Thomas told the attentive class.

"These are all at-risk kids. You want them to think they've done something more than



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

(Above) Capt. Jon McCullough, a C-130 pilot in the West Virginia Air National Guard, offers some helpful hints to fifth-grader Catherine Newcome while she flies a small plane on a simulator. (Below) Zachary Corley, 10, is a serious student of flying.

sit at an arcade game. You want them to think that they can become a pilot, too," explained Joe Padilla who oversees the STARBASE program for the National Guard Bureau.

They are at risk, it was explained, because they live in a rural part of the country that may not have the educational resources of an urban school system. They are also at risk because of their age.

"Fifth graders, kids who are 10 or 11 years old, are the most impressionable. It's the beginning of their peer pressure years," explained Evonne DeNome, a former elementary teacher who is deputy director of the new STARBASE program in Martinsburg.

"This is the best time to start stressing the dangers of drugs," she added. "Our philosophy is to get them interested in something else, such as math, science and technology."

There are 1,200 fifth graders in Berkeley County, where Martinsburg is the county seat, and DeNome anticipates conducting 20 STARBASE academies for 650 of them through the rest of this school year. Classes two, three and four had already started the day the pupils in the first class discovered

what it is like to soar like eagles.

The 20 hours of instruction spaced over four weeks for each class includes lessons on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Pupils get to see and touch cows' lungs that are healthy and that have been damaged from smoking.

They also learn about Bernoulli's Principle that explains how the shape of an airplane's wing makes it possible to fly, and they build and launch their own rockets. The academy's motto, in the form of a mathematical equation, states "Dreams + Action = Reality."

"It's fun and it's challenging," Catherine related. "It's good for kids to be able to do things that we don't get to do in school."

That's what STARBASE instructors have been striving to do for pupils since the National Guard began sponsoring the academies in 1993. So far, Padilla explained, 30 academies have been established in 23 states and territories, and approximately 1,000 young people complete the four or five-week programs every year. That is 30,000 young people who the National Guard has a hand in helping.

Catherine's mother, Virginia Newcome, is convinced the program works.

Catherine wore a T-shirt proclaiming "My Mommy is in the Air Force" the day she went flying.

That's because Virginia is a staff sergeant in the Martinsburg Air Guard wing as well as its full-time civilian property manager, responsible for the buildings, the installed equipment and the 200 acres that the Air Guard facility occupies.

"Watching these kids learn to work as a team was just amazing," Virginia explained. "It brought out the quiet ones who didn't say very much in class. It was really neat seeing them come together like they did."

The academy also rekindled Catherine's academic interests, her mother said.

"This is the first year she has attended a public school because she's gone to private schools since she was 4," Virginia explained. "She used to talk about becoming a veterinarian. Then she got into the social mix of the public school and all she talked about was becoming a cheerleader."

"Now, thanks to STARBASE, she's started to talk about being a vet again."



Taking care of their own

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

National Guard Bureau

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Howard Adams probably shouldn't be alive.

In June, he broke nearly every bone in his body in a tractor-trailer pileup on Interstate 78 in Pennsylvania. His body was so badly mangled, he missed out on deploying to Bosnia with more than 1,100 of his fellow Pennsylvania Army National Guard troops.

But in December, sporting a cane with his battle dress uniform, Sgt. Howard E. Adams Jr. was back at drill.

Adams, a vehicle driver for the 28th Infantry Division's Division Support Command, celebrated his unit's holiday luncheon by thanking his Army National Guard family for their selfless assistance. Pennsylvania troops donated money and helped with Adams' recovery after the accident.

Adams was driving his semi-truck west-bound on busy Interstate 78 on a day-long job for his employer, Swift Transportation Co. On his way from New Jersey to Harrisburg, he became part of a chain-reaction pileup involving another tractor-trailer and four other vehicles.

At the time of the accident, Pennsylvania State Police didn't know what caused the accident. Adams still can't remember what happened. The pile-up was so severe the interstate was closed for four hours.

Emergency medical technicians questioned whether Adams would survive the helicopter flight to a nearby trauma center.

"Basically, I pretty much broke every bone in my body," Adams said. "The force was so severe my legs went through the floorboard of the truck." The only major bones he didn't break were the ones in his back.

With the support of countless Pennsylvania Army National Guard troops, Adams' first sergeant, 1st Sgt. David Gui, collected enough money for Adams' mother, Barbara Hartley, to come from Harrington, Kan., to Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown, Pa. Hartley cared for her son for several months, because he still required several follow-up surgeries and around-the-clock medical care.

It's been a "tough row to hoe," said Adams, who is missing part of his right calf, still has pins in his legs and whose jaw is still wired after it was shattered in the collision. The Keystone State soldier says his recovery has been frustratingly slow at times. But he has already met one of his goals.

"I told the first sergeant back in July that



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking, National Guard Bureau

Pennsylvania Army National Guard Sgt. Howard E. Adams Jr. poses for a photo with his mother Barbara Hartley of Harrington, Kan., after the two ventured from Kansas to Adams' unit with the 28th Infantry Division's Division Support Command in Harrisburg, Pa., to thank troops who donated their time and money to helping him recover from injuries he suffered six months before following a tractor-trailer collision.

I would be here in December, and I fulfilled that goal," Adams said. "My next goal is to get over to Bosnia to see the guys over there. I was training with them for a whole year (before the accident) to get ready to deploy. My next goal is to be running on these legs by April."

No one is saying how much money the Pennsylvania soldiers donated to Adams, but it was enough to pay for extended hotel stays and transportation between Pennsylvania and Kansas.

Adams' mother is grateful for the generosity of the Pennsylvania citizen-soldiers.

"The support is unbelievable, and they're still helping us six months later. This is like a true family, being in the Guard. It's just unreal," Hartley said. "I don't know where to begin to thank all of the people. Will you please let them know how thankful I am for all of their help?"

Her son is lucky to be alive, Hartley said, but his special personality is making his recovery possible. Adams has had to

relearn previously simple tasks, such as walking, talking and opening doors — things he used to take for granted.

"I don't think he would be like he is without his determination," Hartley said.

Adams said he couldn't have done it without the camaraderie of his unit.

"The moral and financial support has been absolutely amazing," he said. "They took up a collection for me just yesterday. How do you say 'thank you' for something like that?"

Division Support Command troops gave money "with their hearts on their sleeves," Gui said, after seeing their fellow soldier's grueling rehabilitation process. Gui said the soldiers' National Guard "can-do" attitude encouraged Adams' recovery, the speed of which has amazed medical experts.

"He's very gung-ho and very ambitious and he wanted to help out the unit in any way he can," Gui added. "The fact of the matter is, he's one of ours and we want him to know that he's one of our soldiers."

This is a big family; we all work together and we all share in responsibilities. This is one of those — taking care of troops."

Besides the weekend get-together in Harrisburg, Adams was also honored by receiving a coin from Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, who was visiting the unit from Army National Guard headquarters in Arlington, Va.

"This sergeant's determination is testament to the entire National Guard non-commissioned officer corps," Lever said.

After posing for photos with the Army National Guard's seventh command sergeant major, Adams said he still had much left to do before he achieving his ultimate goals.

"After the accident, I felt let down because I couldn't go to Bosnia. I trained with those troops and I feel like I let them down," Adams said. "But my long-term goal is to stay in the Guard and retire at the age of 60."

200 years ago: Two former militiamen charted a new frontier

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. — Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees clearly appreciates American history. So, apparently, do the reported 3,000 other hardy souls who withstood the unusually bitter cold to witness the beginning of the 200th anniversary celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition here on the west lawn of Thomas Jefferson's hilltop home on Jan. 18.

Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau, explained that the National Guard will play a significant role in the events that will commemorate the Corps of Discovery's exploration of the United States' new western region, from 1804-1806, during the next three years.

"This is a significant event for our country. When you look at what's going to go on as far as the communities that will participate in this, it's natural that the National Guard would represent the military, the Corps of Discovery, all across our country," Rees observed. "We're going to support these community events every place they're going to be held."

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation held the commencement ceremony, complete with Native Americans in colorful tribal clothing and men wearing Army uniforms like those from the early 19th century, at Monticello, Jefferson's famous home.

That was the date in 1803 that President Jefferson sent a confidential letter to Congress asking for \$2,500 to fund the expedition intended to seek a navigable route to the "western ocean" across this young country's vast, new frontier. Jefferson's intent was to encourage commerce with the natives and to prevent the British from taking control of the expansive territory with its rich resources of fur.

Congress approved the request. The 30-member Corps of Discovery, led by Army Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, both former militia soldiers. They actually left St. Louis, Mo., on April 7, 1804, to begin exploring the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase that the United States had recently acquired from France.

At that time, the expedition was as significant and daring for this country as sending men to the moon would be in the 1960s, historians have claimed.

The expedition returned to St. Louis more than 29 months later, on Sept. 23, 1806, after



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees (left), acting chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Gene Prendergast, adjutant general for Montana, met Capt. William Clark, portrayed by Craig Rockwell of Clarkston, Wash., during the Jan. 18 commencement for the Lewis and Clark Expedition's bicentennial at Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's famous home, in Charlottesville, Va.

having crossed all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The Corps of Discovery spent the winter of 1805-06 at the mouth of the Columbia River at the northwestern corner of what it is now Oregon.

President George Bush hailed Jefferson, the United States' third president, as "a man of extraordinary vision" in a letter read by Interior Secretary Gale Norton. "He knew that the future of the young and untested nation he was leading depended on the accumulation of knowledge and westward expansion," the president added.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition is one of America's greatest adventures, Bush added.

"The explorers ventured into the unknown," he stated. "They recorded in detail their scientific observations and measurements. They mapped uncharted lands, rivers and mountains. And along the way they encountered nearly 50 Native American tribes."

"This bicentennial is a chance for Americans to think like Thomas Jefferson, to envision an America hundreds of years into the future," Norton said.

"The Lewis and Clark Expedition, of course, was a military expedition, and they were both militiamen. So this is key to the core and values of the National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Gene Prendergast, the adjutant general for Montana. "And as each state gets involved, it's going to indeed be an opportunity for the National Guard to show what we do in this nation."

Montana people will have many chances to celebrate the expedition because they live in the region that the Corps of Discovery

explored most extensively. It was the only part of the long journey in which Lewis divided the corps in order to explore different regions at the same time. That happened during the return trip in 1806.

Montana is the fourth largest state of the United States, and it was the largest of what became the western states to be explored by the corps.

And Lewis, who authored the majority of the journals that recounted the corps' discoveries, loved that part of the country, according to the passages quoted in "Undaunted Courage," the best-selling book about the epic expedition by historian Stephen Ambrose.

"I had a most pleasing view of the country particularly of the wide and fertile valleys formed by the Missouri and the Yellowstone rivers, which occasionally unmasked by the wood on their borders disclose their meanderings for many miles in their passage through these delightful tracts of country," Lewis wrote after first seeing that part of the country on April 25, 1805.

"The whole face of the country was covered with herds of Buffalo, Elk & Antelopes; deer are also abundant, but keep themselves more concealed in the woodland," Lewis added.

At least 15 other states will be able to claim pieces of the bicentennial celebration because they are also along the entire route. The corps' route, mostly along major rivers and over the Rocky Mountains, crossed or passed land now called Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota,

Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

But consider this. Lewis, later joined by Clark, followed the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers from Pittsburgh to the starting point in St. Louis from Aug. 31 to Dec. 7 in 1803. States along that route are Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois.

Obvious locations for major celebrations 200 years later include St. Louis, central North Dakota where the corps spent the winter of 1804-05 at Fort Mandan, and Oregon and Washington state where the expedition wintered and hunted in 1805-06.

There is another tie to the National Guard. Both men began their military careers in the militia.

Lewis was a planter, a gentleman farmer, from Virginia when he enlisted as a private in the Virginia militia to help put down the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 by farmers in western Pennsylvania who protested a proposed federal liquor tax.

Lewis was commissioned as an ensign, the Army's most junior officer rank at the time, in the militia in October or November of that year, Ambrose reported, and he joined the regular Army as an ensign on May 1, 1795.

Clark initially joined the Kentucky militia and participated in conflicts against Indians in that state during the 1780s and early 1790s before joining the Regular Army as a second lieutenant. He again fought Indians during the Battle of Fallen Timbers in northwestern Ohio on Aug. 20, 1794, under Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne.

History: Becoming the Chief

By Maj. Les' Melnyk

National Guard Bureau Historian

We learned in early January that President Bush nominated Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum of Maryland to serve as the next Chief of the National Guard Bureau. If confirmed by the Senate, he will be the 31st man to serve as Chief or Acting Chief since a separate Division of Militia Affairs was established in the War Department in 1908.

The first six men to serve in this position were Regular army officers, generally perceived as conscientious men, but not responsive enough to the needs of the Guard out in the states. Following World War I, there was a feeling among many Guardsmen that the Regular Army had treated them poorly during the war. Congress was sympathetic to its hometown heroes, and one of the victories that the Guard gained after the war was a change to underlying law governing the Army. Beginning in 1921, according to Section 81 of the National Defense Act of 1920, the officer in charge of overseeing and administering the National Guard would be a Guardsman. He would direct the offices of the Militia Bureau and some 25 Regular Army officers and 80 or so clerks, as well as two or three Guard officers brought onto federal active duty to serve as "Assistants to the Chief, Militia Bureau" (the forerunners of today's Title 10 - Active Guard/Reserve officers).

The National Defense Act stated the Chief of the Militia Bureau would be selected by the president from a list of eligible candidates nominated by state governors. The president's choice (which, in practice, was made for him by the Secretary of War with the assistance of the General Staff) would then be confirmed by the Senate before taking office. This is essentially the same process used today. However, there were some problems the first few times around that make for interesting reading today.

The campaign in late 1920 to determine which Guardsman would become Chief seemed to justify the fears many regular officers had that the position would degenerate into a political favoritism contest. Initially, it appeared that President Wilson wanted to select the man who many felt was the obvious and most-qualified choice, Maj. Gen. John O'Ryan of New York. O'Ryan had been the first Guardsman permitted to attend the Army War College, he was the only Guard division commander in the AEF during World War I, and he was a close friend of influential Sen. James Wadsworth, a fellow New Yorker, which would assure that his nomination would sail through the Senate. O'Ryan, however, perhaps disillusioned by disagreements he had with other prominent Guardsmen, quickly decided he wasn't interested in the job. He instead asked New York's governor to nominate his subordinate, Col. Franklin Ward, the wartime commander of the 106th Infantry, for the position.

In addition to Ward, there were two other nominees who received serious consideration. The first was Col. George C. Rickards of Pennsylvania, a veteran of 43 years continuous service and the wartime commander of the 112th Infantry and the 56th Brigade, 28th Division. Since July 1920, Rickards had been serving on active duty as a member of the general staff. The other nominee was Brig. Gen. Charles Martin of Kansas, the adjutant general of his state and the president of the Adjutants General Association of the United States.

Martin was a controversial figure. He had been relieved of brigade command and replaced by a regular officer just prior to the Meuse-Argonne offensive during World War I, a move which Martin (and others) concluded was motivated by a desire to preserve choice combat command assignments for regulars. Martin, who was already politically active, returned from France and immediately helped mobilize the powerful adjutants general to lobby Congress for changes in the laws governing the Guard. He was particularly interested in separating the Guard as much as possible from the control of the regular Army, while at the same time maintaining the Guard's status as a federal reserve in time of war. Martin was one of the key figures who preserved the Guard's status as a dual force - both state and federal - in 1920, when the Army and several influential members of Congress wanted to convert it to an entirely federal reserve component.

With the passage of the National Defense Act in June, 1920, Martin gained a new concern - "there will be a scramble for political endorsements to procure this appointment which will damn the National Guard, and put it in the position of becoming a mere political machine." To prevent such an occurrence, Martin called for the members of the Adjutants General Association to meet in Chicago, with the hope that AGs would come to a unanimous agreement on which Guardsman was best suited for the job. Twenty-two states were represented at the Chicago meeting, with seven more voting by proxy. The result of the meeting, not surprisingly, was that Charles Martin was selected as the adjutants' general choice for the first Guardsman to be Chief of the Militia Bureau. Ultimately, based on this recommendation, thirty-five governors nominated Martin for the job.

But President Wilson was not obligated under the law to select the officer with the most nominations. Rather, the president was only obligated to make his selection from the list of officers nominated. Martin was an outsider to the Army staff; if anything, as the leader of the fiercely independent adjutants general, he was viewed as an enemy of the regular Army and the General Staff in particular. Furthermore, his accumulation of endorsements smacked of precisely the kind of political maneuvering that regulars

despised in the Guard.

Col. Rickards, on the other hand, had won the approval and admiration of his associates during his tour on the General Staff. Since a special committee of the General Staff was responsible for reviewing all the candidates, it seemed clear that Rickards' would be somebody they could work with - the most important factor in determining the final outcome. President Wilson appointed Rickards, subject to Senate confirmation, to the post of Chief, Militia Bureau on December 30, 1920 - one day before the deadline.

Martin's supporters were outraged. Gov. Henry Allen of Kansas declared that ignoring the recommendations of two-thirds of the governors was a clear indication "that the intent of the law has been violated." Sen. Arthur Capper of Kansas railed against the choice, and managed to delay the Senate's confirmation of Rickards until after a new Congress - and new Republican president - was in place. But the new president, Warren Harding, nominated Rickards a second time (to have done otherwise might have established the precedent that the president was restricted to selecting the officer nominated by the most governors) and his nomination was finally confirmed by the Senate. Rickards took his place, on July 1, 1921, as the first Guardsman to be Chief of the Militia Bureau.

The choice of Rickards' successor, Col. Creed C. Hammond of Oregon, was not nearly as controversial. Of the five candidates for the position in the spring of 1925, Hammond not only secured the most gubernatorial nominations, 34, but he also possessed the most General Staff and Militia Bureau experience of those nominated. Hammond had impeccable credentials for the posting as Chief, Militia Bureau. A veteran of 32 years (nine of which were on active duty, to include service in the regular and volunteer forces) he saw action in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and World War I. In addition to this breadth of staff experience, Hammond was a westerner, and sources who were informed about the Secretary of War's thinking noted that Hammond's selection was in part intended to recognize the contributions of the western States to national defense.

Hammond proved so popular as chief that replacing him in 1929 required an indisputable statement of presidential privilege in the selection process. In order to guarantee himself a second term as chief, Hammond gained every governor's nomination - except one. Only the Governor of Maryland declined, at the request of his AG, Milton Reckord. Reckord feared that a dangerous precedent would be set if chiefs could, in effect, get themselves elected by the unanimous consent of the governors rather than selected by the President, and urged the selection of a different man. The Secretary of War heeded this advice, and informed

Hammond that a "rotation policy" was being put into effect, and requested that the governors of the various States submit new nominees for the appointment. Several months later, the War Department recommended, and the president selected, Brig. Gen. William Everson of Indiana to be the next chief.

Hammond's non-selection aroused significant resentment, and requests that the National Guard Association take action were widespread. Fortunately, the president of the association in 1929, Brig. Gen. Ellard Walsh of Minnesota, had the good sense to clearly state that the Guard association was strictly neutral in the matter. Walsh proclaimed that the association was "not concerned in the appointment of any individual by the executive branch of the government, but were concerned with the administration of that individual after appointment." Walsh, who during and after World War II would become the fiercest defender of the Guard and its place in the military establishment, went so far as to warn the members of his association in 1929 that it might be preferable to return to the pre-1920 practice of having a regular Army officer serve as Chief, since the manner of selecting the chief under the present law "tends toward division and dissension."

Such a suggestion must be seen purely as a warning to Guardsmen - perhaps one specifically aimed at his good friend Milton Reckord - to stop interfering in the selection process. It is doubtful that many in the Guard, to include Walsh, wanted to give up control of the Militia Bureau. Walsh himself certainly engaged a little lobbying when, after only two years as chief, Everson resigned to become pastor of a large Baptist church in Denver. Everson's successor was Brig. Gen. George Leach, a former two-term mayor of Minneapolis and a lifelong friend of Walsh. Walsh had the honor of swearing Leach into office at a special ceremony preceding the 1931 National Guard Association convention.

Despite the somewhat rocky start depicted here, subsequent decades have demonstrated the continued avoidance of clearly political motivations in the selection of the Chief. Presidents have wisely steered clear of using the appointment to reward officers from their home States, or to gain favor with important political allies. Guardmembers, following General Walsh's lead, understand the wisdom of this. While every general officer appointment is, by law, made by the politicians who oversee the military, the Guard has always come under greater scrutiny than the Regular forces because of its close connection to state governments. For this reason Guardmembers realize that, like Caesar's wife, the Guard must always remain above the slightest suspicion of impropriety.

(Major Melnyk is the Army National Guard historian at NGB. He is currently completing his doctoral dissertation on the influence of the National Guard on defense legislation from 1916-1933.)

The Guard shifts into high gear

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

DAYTONA, Fla. — Millions of stock car racing fans have yelled and screamed themselves hoarse while watching fast cars gleaming with familiar names and numbers — such as Home Depot 20, Bud 8, DuPont 24, and Lowe's 48 — in Winston Cup races across this country.

They got their first look at a brand new red, white and blue Ford on Feb. 8, when NASCAR's premier racing circuit roared to life for the 2003 season at the Daytona International Speedway in Florida. It was National Guard car No. 54.

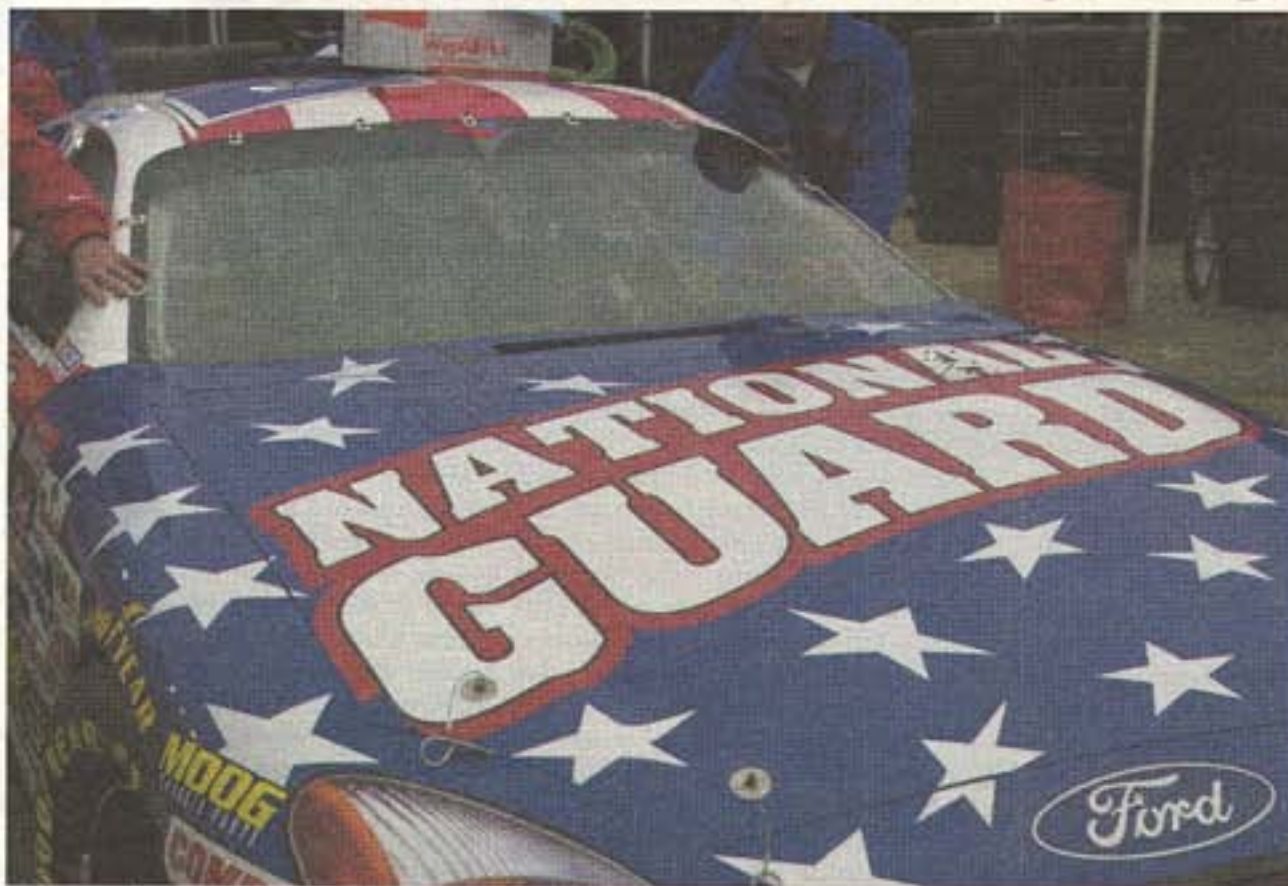
Twenty-year racing veteran Todd Bodine, 38, drove the new car that is bearing this country's colors and the National Guard name for a new team, BelCar Racing, into the new season of major league racing that officially began with the 45th Daytona 500 on Feb. 16.

The Guard car started in the sixth place after finishing third in the second of two 125-mile qualifying races and finished the rain-shortened main event in 18th. He ran with the frontrunners for most of the 109 laps around the 2.5-mile track.

The National Guard is the primary advertiser, and the car's number represents all 54 states and territories where Army and Air Guard units are located.

"This is a great opportunity. I feel like I'm driving for the whole country," said the younger brother of Winston Cup star Geoff Bodine before racing in the 70-lap Budweiser Shootout for drivers who started Winston Cup races in the pole position, the number one spot, last year.

"Guard men and women are serving all over the world," added Bodine. "The car is red, white and blue. It's like I'm driving the American flag."



The National Guard's new Winston Cup stock car rolls out for its first race, the Feb. 8 Budweiser Shootout, at Daytona International Speedway in Florida.

The team honored the seven astronauts who perished with the space shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1 by sticking STS-107 mission decals to the Guard car. All of the cars that raced in the Daytona 500 bore those decals.

The directors of the Army and Air National Guard were among the 75,000 who flocked to the 25th annual Shootout that was run under the lights and on prime time television for the first time.

Bodine is driving for the BelCar team that is striving to bring racial diversity to the world of big time auto racing by developing drivers and crew members from minority races, including African and Hispanic

Americans.

Bodine started eighth among the 19 cars and finished 13th among the 18 that finished the non-points race that was not slowed by a single crash and that allowed some of America's most closely watched drivers to test their wheels for the season's first big, 500-mile race.

The field of stars included Dale Earnhardt Jr., who started last and finished first, defending Winston Cup champion Tony Stewart, who finished 15th, and Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson.

The drivers and their teams devoted Speed Week to qualifying for the 43 starting positions for the Daytona 500 that will launch the new season for this country's hugely popular and fastest growing spectator sport.

"NASCAR is a team sport and a family event. That's why it's exciting to be a part of it," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard director, who built and drove his own stock car for a couple of seasons when he was a young man in Iowa. "It's a way to reach the American people and tell the Guard's story. And NASCAR fans are very patriotic, very patriotic."

"So many Americans are watching these cars, and they will see that red, white and blue car," observed Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, the Air Guard director, while taking in his first stock car race. "Once again the National Guard is connecting with the communities."

That, everyone agreed, involves connecting with all members of the communities, including the African and Hispanic American NASCAR fans whose numbers have increased by an average of 26 percent since 1999, according to the Daytona Beach News-Journal.

That is what African-American Sam Belnavis, the majority owner of BelCar, hopes to accomplish from his new partner-

ship with Travis Carter who has 32 years of NASCAR racing experience.

Carter has been the crew chief for Winston Cup champions Benny Parsons and Cale Yarborough. He was co-owner of the team that Todd Bodine raced for last year. Carter scored his sixth career Bud Pole Award when Bodine started first at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Belnavis is a marketing and advertising executive who brought the Miller Brewing Company into NASCAR racing in 1981, when he was director of sports marketing, by signing Bobby Allison to run the No. 22 Miller High Life Buick.

"We're trying to change the face of racing. That's the challenge before us," explained Cherise Belnavis-Johnson, Sam's daughter and the team's director of sponsor relations.

"Travis brings the racing experience to the team that we need. My father brings the marketing experience that Travis needs," assessed Belnavis-Johnson.

The BelCar team has started a Motorsport Diversity Development Program that intends to develop minority drivers in the Hooters Pro Cup Series as well as to bring racial diversity to the pit crew.

"We want to open up all parts of racing to minorities, not just the drivers," Belnavis-Johnson explained.

That is important to National Guard leaders who are also striving to attain more diversity in the Army and Air Guard ranks. The National Guard declared 2002 as its Year of Diversity, and Schultz has insisted that cause is still alive.

"Diversity is not about a year. It's about a journey," said the Army Guard director before watching National Guard car 54 begin the NASCAR part of that journey at Daytona International Speedway.



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Lt. Gen. Daniel James III and Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, directors of the Air and Army National Guard, get acquainted with stock car driver Todd Bodine before he piloted the National Guard's new Winston Cup car in the Budweiser Shootout at the Daytona International Speedway in Florida on Feb. 8.