

# THE ON GUARD

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## More than 141,000 Guardsmen primed for action



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks, Editor

Puerto Rico Army National Guardsmen Spc. Daniel Garcia of the 892nd Engineer Company is one of more than 141,000 National Guard Troops supporting the war on terrorism. Garcia and his unit were mobilized last month to deploy to an undisclosed location.

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Nearly two times as many members of the National Guard mobilized for the Persian Gulf War a dozen years ago were participating or were primed to take part in the war against terrorism as allied forces surged deeper into Iraq during the fourth weekend in March.

More than 141,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard had been mobilized or placed on alert or identified for possible mobilization by March 24, five days after Operation Iraqi Freedom began, the National Guard Bureau reported. That is about 30 percent of the National Guard's total force.

All told, more than 96,500 Guard troops have already been mobilized to help wage the war against terrorists in countries such as Afghanistan and in Iraq where President Saddam Hussein is believed to be hiding weapons of mass destruction. More than 78,000 Army Guard soldiers and 18,000 Air Guard members have been mobilized.

That's over 20,000 more Army and Air Guard personnel that were mobilized for Desert Shield and Desert Storm duty in 1990-91.

President George Bush, a former fighter pilot with the Texas Air National Guard, announced the start of military operations "to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger" on March 19.

The operation started with a surprise surgical strike against Iraqi leaders in Baghdad and "targets of military importance" that night. It has been escalated as U.S. and British forces have surged across the southern border and toward northern Iraq and as government targets in the Iraqi capital have been hit with numerous air strikes.

Idaho Air Guard Maj. Gregory Stone became the National Guard's first fatality during the war with Iraq. He died on March 25 from injuries he received in Kuwait as the result of a grenade attack on his tent on March 23, according to Lt. Col. Tim Marsano, a spokesman for the Idaho Air Guard.

Stone was the second serviceman to die from the grenade attack blamed on a U.S. Army sergeant. Stone was serving as an air liaison officer with the 101st Airborne Division at Camp Pennsylvania in northern Kuwait when the attack on his quarters took place, Marsano explained.

"The 4,400 members of the Idaho Army National Guard and the Idaho Air National Guard now mourn the loss of a brother in arms and wish to express their condolences to Maj. Stone's family and to others he loved," said Maj. Gen. John Kane, the Idaho adjutant general.

District of Columbia Air National Guard Maj. Charles Moose, who commands the 113th Security Forces Squadron at Andrews Air Force

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## About The On Guard

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## Submissions

E-mail your stories to us by the 20th of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

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## Protect yourself and your loved ones in the event of terrorist attacks

### On Guard Staff Report

The events of September 11th and the numerous anthrax attacks that immediately followed opened America's eyes to the reality of terrorism. In a matter of minutes, the thought of domestic terrorism moved from the backburner of America's conscience to the forefront of our reality.

The threat is real and the consequences can be devastating.

As a military force, we are well trained and prepared to deal with situations such as a nuclear, chemical or biological attack, but are you prepared as a civilian?

Over the next several months, The On Guard will help you become better prepared for such an event by publishing tips and other helpful resources. Our goal is to provide you with the best possible information so you may better protect yourself and your loved ones.

The information provided will be derived from numerous government agencies including: Department of Homeland Defense, Department of Justice, Federal Emergency Management Agency and The American Red Cross to name a few.

Keeping things as simple as possible, we will attempt to break each article down into easy-to-read and easy-to-remember sections beginning with the Office of Homeland Security's Terrorism Advisory System index in this issue.

The terrorism threat index was designed to inform the average American about the probability of a terrorist attack. The index is similar to what we call "THREATCON," or Threat Condition; however, the two are not interchangeable.

Where THREATCON levels dictate force protection measures, the Terrorism Threat Index only predicts the likelihood of an attack. It is up to you, as a citizen, to determine your personal protection level.

Get a jump on being prepared by referencing the following WebPages and by keeping a list of helpful local telephone numbers in additions to the ones listed below:

FEMA 800-480-2520 [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

National Response Center 800-424-8802

Red Cross [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

FBI Operations Center [www.fbi.gov/terrorism/info/terrorism.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/terrorism/info/terrorism.htm)

## Know your threat levels



## GUARDTOONS



Kevin Gligore, Texas Air National Guard





## In the News

# PX reopens days after destructive fire

By Spc. Jim Wagner

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The temporary Post Exchange re-opened for business with its regular hours of operations just three days after a fire razed the original.

Located in Kandahar Kafe near the terminal building, the hours of operation for the PX are from 0800 to 1700 Zulu.

The PX reopened the following Sunday at noon for soldiers, according to Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials, to purchase essential items. Also open for business is the barbershop and gift shop that were also destroyed in the blaze.

Plans are already in the works for a new PX, located just yards from the site of the previous one. Officials expect the project to be completed in the next seven to eight weeks.

The blaze completely destroyed the PX, barbershop, gift and coffee shop and the personal living quarters of 25 AAFES employees. Also damaged was the Morale, Welfare and Recreation computer, movie and telephone tents.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The PX was a complete loss because Air Force fire fighters were more concerned about preventing the fire from reaching a diesel fuel bladder and other critical buildings.

Fierce winds, measured at 26 mph at the time of the fire, and the confined space around the PX compound made saving any part of the building difficult. The fire contin-



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Cory Angell

**Firefighters water down the smoldering remains of the Kandahar PX. The damage is expected to exceed well over \$1 million.**

ued to smolder throughout the night.

"We went to the back and the wind was blowing towards us," said Airman 1st Class Charvis Kali Gordan, an Air Force firefight-

er. "We got there and there was debris, ash, pitch black smoke and my eyes were burning even with my mask on. My helmet started burning up a little bit so I knew it was hot."

**Staff Sgt. Patrick Platt, left, and Sgt. Shawn Mills of the 527th Engineer Company, construct shelves for DVDs and books at the temporary PX.**



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jim Wagner

A quick turnaround time in opening the temporary PX, said Paula Gunderson, AAFES director in Kandahar, was necessary. "When the soldiers see the PX destroyed, it really hurts their morale," she said.

The fire, which took five water trucks, bulldozers and 20 firefighters to contain, destroyed 90 percent of AAFES food at the base as well as all its stock on the shelves. The damage, according to Scott Curran, AAFES field accountant, is well over \$1 million by conservative estimates.

Curran, like the other 24 AAFES employees, lost everything in the blaze - from clothing and his bed to irreplaceable items like photographs, he said. The employees are staying in temporary lodging, and officials at AAFES headquarters are currently looking at reimbursing employees' losses.

But despite personal losses, Curran and other employees concentrated first on getting the temporary PX open for business. "Our primary mission is to take care of the soldiers," he said.

The opening wouldn't have been possible, he said, without the unasked-for aid of the 527th Engineer Company, an Army National Guard unit of Ruston, La.

"I don't think there's ever been a question of not helping (rebuild the PX)," said Sgt. 1st Class Ben Pipes, 527th Engineer Co. platoon sergeant. "Everyone wants to see the PX reopen."



# It's not just a job, it's a family tradition

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

VALDEZ, Alaska — Benjamin Miyasato is a banker by profession and a scout by family tradition.

He lives in Nome, Alaska, where he has most recently worked as a loan officer for the Wells Fargo Bank. He is also a sergeant in the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Infantry Group, commonly called "the scouts." This group is renowned as Alaska's original "arctic warriors."

He is following in his grandfather's World War II footsteps, maintained Miyasato on a cold and windy March day here, where his company from Juneau was honing its skills in homeland security and where the Alaska Pipeline ends at Prince William Sound on Alaska's southern coast.

About 1,100 Alaskan scouts provided most of the ground force for Northern Edge 2003 during their two weeks of annual training this month.

Northern Edge, which concluded March 14, is the state's premier joint training exercise. This year, it included about 1,600 members of all of the military services and it focused on homeland security.

It is no secret that the 800-mile pipeline could be a tempting target for terrorists determined to stop the flow of oil, Alaska's black gold, from the rich fields of Prudhoe Bay off the northern coast.

Many of these citizen-soldier scouts have been training hard should they be ordered to help civil authorities keep that from happening.

"Our new governor, Frank Murkowski,

believes in a strong scout presence in rural Alaska. That's one of his priorities," said Maj. Michael Haller, spokesman for the Alaska National Guard.

The scouts perpetuate two of Alaska's military traditions. They train in face and finger-freezing cold. They train to watch over their homeland.

They are lightly armed with rifles and automatic weapons, and they have no mortars or other indirect fire weapons for prolonged fighting. They can function as military police, while manning roadblocks or as dismounted infantry while patrolling the bush and looking for enemy activities.

The 207th's 1,500 or so infantry scouts come together most years from cities and remote villages across Alaska, from 76 different detachments, to train in what can be harsh winter weather.

They are a cross section and blend of Alaska's diverse people, including the Inupiaq and Yupik Eskimos, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian Indians, and Aleuts, as well as Caucasians, Filipino Americans, African Americans and Pacific Islanders.

They focus on protecting their state as their fathers and grandfathers — and mothers and grandmothers — have done since World War II, said Col. Dennis Kline, the group's deputy commander.

The legacy began with the Alaska Territorial Guard. Teams of four or five of those soldiers were the military's eyes and ears along the state's 4,000-mile coastline when the Japanese gained a toehold in the Aleutian Islands and threatened to invade that part of America some 60 years ago.

The scouts, who became part of the Army



Alaska Army National Guard Pfc. Thomas Skeek, a scout in the 207th Infantry Group, is dressed for the bitter cold while manning a traffic checkpoint near the Alaska Pipeline terminal beside Prince William Sound during Northern Edge 2003.

National Guard, did essentially the same job during the Cold War, when the enemy was the Soviet Union just across the Bering Strait, Kline added.

"They fanned out across the tundra and the mountains. They couldn't defend anything, but they could sure pass along information," Sgt. 1st Class Russell Beal explained with a sense of admiration.

All of that changed beginning in the early 1990s, after the Warsaw Pact fell apart and when the United States and Russia forged a more friendly relationship.

Now the scouts train to perform critical site security to protect the state's pipeline and power plants from terrorists. Although some of the veteran scouts explained that the tactics have changed, the mission is still to safeguard Alaska.

"My grandfather was Pfc. Charlie David. He was a full-blooded Yupik Eskimo, and what he did during World War II was definitely personal," said Miyasato. "He was defending his family, his home and his way of life."

Pvt. David lived in a village on the Lower Kuskokwim River near the city of Bethel and patrolled that southwestern region of the state during the war, Miyasato recalled.

"My grandfather was very proud of what he did," said Miyasato, who is not the only one carrying on that family tradition. His uncle, Master Sgt. Kenneth David, Charlie David's son, is a scout in the 2nd Battalion.

"We also have a personal connection with our people and places that we don't want destroyed in time of war," Miyasato added.

This war against terrorism, however, is different from any other war this country has so actively waged. The scouts have been training since 1996, officials said, to provide the kind of critical site security that became very important after terrorists crashed four hijacked jetliners into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

"This is what scouts do since Sept. 11," said Beal about the fact that the scouts were prepared for the right mission at the right time and keep training to get better.

This year, for example, nearly 90 members of Company A from the infantry group's 3rd battalion manned two checkpoints on the

road leading to the pipeline's southern terminal. The scouts from the Juneau unit also patrolled the southern most 10-mile buried stretch of the pipeline on foot and in tracked snow machines during the exercise.

They dealt with a several scenarios. They searched designated vehicles for weapons. They sought information from people riding snowmobiles along the pipeline. One team collared a young woman, who pulled in to a checkpoint claiming that she needed to use a restroom and then bolted away from her escort while yelling "Praise Saddam."

"They will have to deal with females. They did a good job," praised Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Brown, an observer-controller from the active Army's 196th Infantry Brigade in Guam.

Third Battalion scouts also detained four men pretending to be Turks who had maps of Valdez and the terminal, two rocket-propelled grenades, a bomb, and many other weapons in a sport utility vehicle during the exercise. State police troopers arrested the men because they were believed to be members of an al-Qaeda terrorist cell attempting to blow up the pipeline.

Meanwhile, 100 scouts from the 2nd Battalion trained in the same types of security missions with police officers around the Beluga Power Plant that supplies Anchorage with electricity and that is considered one of Alaska's key power grids.

Frigid, hurricane force winds hammered the south-central part of the state around Anchorage and Valdez on March 13-14, the Wednesday and Thursday of the first week. The winds grounded the Guard's helicopters for a couple of days, but the training for the ground scouts went on.

"It sure would be nice to have a warm annual training, but we've got to train like this," insisted Sgt. 1st Class Robert Shaw, a traditional Guard soldier from Juneau, who has been a Marine and a Special Forces soldier during his 27 years in uniform. "This pipeline is a vital position. If we go to war, we could come right back here to do this mission."

Brig. Gen. Craig Christensen commands Alaska's infantry scouts. He is also the assistant adjutant general for the Alaska Army Guard.



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Alaska Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Robert Shaw, a scout leader in the 207th Infantry Group, seeks information from a snowmobile rider at Relief Gate Valve 125 along the Alaska Pipeline during a Northern Edge 2003 training scenario in March.



# Switching places: Guardsman heads north

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

VALDEZ, Alaska — After 12 years of trying, 1st Lt. Mike Jones has finally made the big move to Alaska. He is, furthermore, downright delighted about his move from the relative warmth of South Carolina to the vast state that is still locked in winter.

"The lure is Alaska. It's still the great outdoors," said Jones on a brutally cold March Wednesday beside Prince William Sound about why he has tried for so long to get to where he can savor the great American outdoors.

"There's the hunting, the fishing and the flying. I'm a pilot, so I want to do some bush flying," said Jones, who is the National Guard's alter ego to Joel Fleischman, the young doctor on the television series "Northern Exposure," who did not exactly embrace his new Alaskan home.

Jones, 32, is also a medical man, a physician's assistant. He was working in South Carolina, when the National Guard gave him his chance to go north. He underwent an extreme climatic adjustment to join the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team in time to take part in Northern Edge 2003 during the second week of March.

Northern Edge is the state's premier joint training exercise, which this year included about 1,600 members of all of the military services and focused on homeland security.

It was a balmy 70 degrees in South Carolina on March 4, when Jones flew off to his new home in Anchorage, where the 22-member civil support team is based at Fort Richardson.

It was well below zero, because of an icy gale and gusts of 40 to 50 knots, nine days later the team that is trained to respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical or radiological weapons of mass destruction began taking part in the exercise.

The team commanded by Air Guard Maj. Brett Meyer took on two training missions on March 12:

▶ Three of the members, wearing bulky protective suits and air tanks, examined and retrieved a brief case believed to contain a dangerous biological device after police officers discovered it in the hold of the Bartlett, one of the Alaska Marine Highway's large ferries, at the Valdez terminal.

▶ Three more members later went aboard to secure a can of spray that was discharging its contents inside a men's room. Other members of the team then checked the residue from the two devices to determine if the contents would harm other police officers and emergency people called to the scene.

Jones's job in the terminal building was to monitor the blood pressure and other vital signs of the six men who did their jobs in the suits that made them look like they were walking on the moon and that made them sound like Darth Vader.

It was a good day to be inside. The majestic Chugach Mountains that surround the compact city at the southern end of the Alaska Pipeline were wrapped in winter white, and snow was billowing from every



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

(Above) A member of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team wraps up a briefcase carrying a suspected biological device during a Northern Edge 2003 training exercise aboard the Alaskan ferry Bartlett in March. (Below) Army National Guard 1st Lt. Mike Jones, a physicians assistant, examines one of his new teammates on the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team during a training exercise in Valdez in March.

peak. Jones saw and felt for himself why the place is called "Little Switzerland."

And he knew that the circuitous route he had followed to Alaska had been worth the effort.

"The Navy wouldn't send me," said the Georgia-born Jones, who served for six years as a medical corpsman in San Diego, Calif. "Then I asked the Army if they would send me up here, but they wouldn't give me a guarantee. So, I got here by joining the Guard."

That also took some doing.

First, he joined the Georgia Army Guard. Then he was selected for the Army's physicians assistant program and trained for two years at Fort Sam Houston and Fort Hood, both in Texas.

That led to his job as the physicians assistant with the South Carolina Guard's newly formed 43rd Civil Support Team based at Fort Jackson. He got his break two years later, Jones explained, when the physician's assistant left the Alaska team and he got the

job.

It is not uncommon for veteran members of the Guard's first two groups of civil support teams to join new teams in order to be promoted and to share their experience.

"That happens quite a lot in the lower 48 states," he said. "It's a lot better to have some experienced people on a new team than it is for all 22 people to start from scratch."

The Alaska team is considered a plum assignment because it's in Alaska and it's team is so highly regarded. The 103rd passed its fifth Army evaluation with flying colors in Anchorage in February 2002 and was certified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense the following month.

"It was a go, no-go grading system," said Army Guard Lt. Col. Bradley Jorgensen, the team's first commander, "and they received go's in all tasks and subtasks, which equated to a total of 530 tasks."

Jones knew that was quite an accomplishment and he was happy to learn he could be



the team's physicians assistant for the next three years. But he had never seen Alaska even though he'd spent a dozen years trying to get there.

So, he visited the state for a week last January.

"I had to check it out before I made the big move," said Jones, who quickly fell in love with the place. "It's all that they said it is and more."



# NASCAR's Bodine visits recovering troops

By Staff Sgt. Gail Braymen

National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — NASCAR driver Todd Bodine went to the hospital here this week. He didn't go to see a doctor, but he did have an appointment with several patients.

Bodine, who drives National Guard car 54 in the Winston Cup Series, went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center to visit Army National Guard soldiers and other U.S. troops being treated there.

"This is great!" said Staff Sgt. Michael McNaughton, a Louisiana Army National Guard Special Forces soldier who lost much of his right leg and two fingers of his right hand to a land mine in Afghanistan. "I was saying it would be nice for somebody from NASCAR to come, and here you are."

"I love NASCAR, and I've gotten my wife into it," he said. "On Saturdays we watch Busch (Series) and on Sundays we watch Winston (Cup Series)."

"We watched the Atlanta race last Saturday, and when I heard you coming here, I told my wife 'I have a few tips for him about pit stops.'"

McNaughton said the first race he watched after having surgery on his leg was the Daytona 500.

"I kept flipping on my side in bed, trying to cheer," he said.

In each room Bodine visited at the hospital, he gave away autographed car 54 stickers, hats, T-shirts and denim shirts.

"I'm going to put a car 54 sticker on my leg," said McNaughton, pointing to the sleek, state-of-the-art artificial limb standing next to the bed. McNaughton said he's doing well with his new leg and is looking forward to going for a run with President Bush, who visited the hospital recently and invited McNaughton to go running when he's able.

Bodine had an invitation, too.

"You go running with him," he said. "You go riding with me."

In the next room Bodine visited was another NASCAR fan.

"How's your car running?" asked Sgt. 1st Class Scott Barkalow, an active duty Special Forces soldier who lost one leg below the knee. While talking engines, Bodine signed a T-shirt and hat for Barkalow.

"This means a lot, Mr. Bodine," Barkalow said. "My son is 8 years old and he'll love this right here. He's into NASCAR, and he loves watching the cars go 'round and 'round.'"

Active duty Army Sgt. Nathaniel Tasch also appreciated his new car 54 duds.

"Hopefully I'm just here a short while, and I'm short on civilian clothes," he said. "I'm getting out Friday, and I'm going to take some leave and see my folks."

Out in the hospital hallway, Bodine stopped to talk with Staff Sgt. Burt Aderholt, an Alabama Army National Guard Special Forces soldier who is on crutches after suffering a gunshot wound to his right ankle. Bodine wanted to know if the Alabama native had ever been to the state's famous Talladega Superspeedway.

Aderholt laughed. "If you're from Alabama and you haven't been to Talladega," he said, "they need to check your citizenship."

Bodine's last appointment at Walter Reed was with Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Crystal Terrell-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Gail Braymen, National Guard Bureau

**NASCAR driver Todd Bodine (right) talks with Louisiana Army National Guard Special Forces Staff Sgt. Michael McNaughton and his wife, Kim, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Bodine drives National Guard car 54 in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series. (Below) A cameraman videotapes Bodine and McNaughton as they walk through the halls of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.**

Young, who suffered extensive injuries in a vehicle accident in Bosnia. She's another big NASCAR fan.

"I got hooked on the races over in Bosnia," she said.

The right side of Terrell-Young's body has healed rapidly since the accident, but she doesn't yet have use of her left leg.

"I've got to get this side strong, so when I get to the races I can jump up and down," she said. "If you see a National Guard flag waving up in the stands, it'll be me. But don't look up too quick," she cautioned Bodine, "because I don't want you to crash."

Good advice for Bodine, who would leave D.C. that evening and be back in the driver's seat in Darlington, S.C. the next morning for the Busch Series race on driving car No. 92, and the Winston Cup Series race the next day.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience to go to the hospital and see the soldiers and thank them, and see their courage and conviction," Bodine said. "It's pretty outstanding that our country is in the hands of young men and women like that."

Lynn Bodine joined her husband on the D.C. visit, which included a tour of the Pentagon and a stop at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington.

"It's pretty much an eye-opening experience," she said. "Not everybody gets to see how things are done here. It was very educational to visit the Pentagon and see how National Guard members sacrifice so we can live in our country."

"I appreciate the opportunity to represent the National Guard," Bodine said, and Lynn added, "It means a lot to us and our whole race team."





# State Partnership Program: 10 years of working together

By Walter H. Debany

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When President Ronald Reagan stood before an audience in West Berlin and challenged the Soviet Union to tear down the Berlin Wall, nobody really expected them to comply. Then, stunned by the Wall's destruction, the re-unification of the two Germans and the collapse of the "Evil Empire," U.S. military planners scrambled to develop a new military strategy designed to support U.S. foreign policy objectives in a vastly changed world.

What followed, was a National Security Strategy mandate to shape the international security environment by strengthening emerging nations, promoting democracy, fostering prosperity, and enhancing security. Through strategic engagement programs like the National Guard's State Partnership Program, the United States sought to work with countries in order to prevent and deter wars rather than having to fight them.

In the early 1990s a majority of the nations in the world were either fledgling democracies or unstable governments. The potential for war and conflict had never been greater.

Generally speaking, nations that have stable governments, strong economies and professional militaries develop into prosperous democracies. Consequently, nations with corrupt governments, failing economies and self-serving militaries often devolve into chaos and conflict, thus destabilizing entire regions.

In the spring of 1993, the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, newly free of Soviet domination, sought assistance in developing a national military structure based upon the National Guard's model of a part-time military force that could be used in domestic, as well as, national emergencies. The U.S. National Guard system serves as an excellent example of a professional military force that is subordinate to civilian authority and can be used in domestic emergencies or to fight and win wars.

Another reason for developing a National Guard style military is the cost benefit in savings. The U.S. National Guard costs a fraction of the price to operate than our active

duty component. For newly emerging nations and fledgling democracies, the staggering cost of maintaining a large standing army is prohibitive. By choosing a citizen-soldier based military, countries can invest the savings into their economy and build prosperity while ensuring their security.

Countries engaging in partnership activities participate in a multitude of exchanges ranging in a variety of topics, such as local law enforcement programs, counter drug programs, disaster planning and response, establishing volunteer programs, and environmental protection. The program goes well beyond military-to-military contact and seeks to incorporate local, city and state contacts from all levels of society. Many exchanges have included visits to utilities companies, public works departments and universities.

The partnerships with the Baltic States served as a springboard to further partnerships and engagement opportunities over the years. Bolstered by the successes in Eastern Europe, the State Partnership Program has expanded into Latin-America, Central Asia and the Pacific Rim.

In the Pacific Rim, the State Partnership Program has partnered Hawaii and Guam with the Philippines, Washington with the Kingdom of Thailand and an informal bilateral relationship between Nebraska and Mongolia. "SPP partners in the region have conducted seminars and events in natural disaster planning, drug demand reduction, and WMD," said Maj. Jon McIntosh, NGB desk officer for Pacific Command. "By establishing closer international ties and promoting regional cooperation through SPP, the Guard is helping to fulfill our national security objectives, in the Pacific Rim. By building long-term relationships with these countries, we are helping them promote their own regional security goals, as well."

Throughout the 1970s, democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean were non-existent. Today, with the exception of Cuba, all Latin American countries have made a transformation from authoritarian regimes to proven democracies. United States support through the State Partnership Program can greatly enhance the survivability of these



National Guard Bureau file photos

Maj. Gen. John E. Blair (right), adjutant general of New Hampshire enjoys a lighter moment at the El Salvadoran Special Forces Operations Base with Col. Arevals (left) and Lt. Col. Alvaro (center). New Hampshire's program includes military, business, and political relationships, as well as the establishment of a partnership between the University of New Hampshire and the Salvadoran University system.

new democracies through the establishment of personal and professional relationships.

By working with U.S. Embassy country teams, states partnered with countries have an opportunity to develop and foster military-to-military relationships that build security through professional exchanges; business-to-business relationships that build prosperity through trade-agreements and political-to-political relationships that strengthen the political processes that lead to stable governments.

"One of the great things about the State Partnership Program is that it gives each National Guard the opportunity to be a leader, in facilitating business relationships, that can significantly bolster both the state and partner country's economy," said Major Phil Johnson, NGB desk officer for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Simply arranging a partnership meeting between state economic developers, the U.S. Embassy economic officer and the county's department of commerce, can yield great dividends that helps everyone involved. If states are looking for new markets to sell their products, Latin America is the largest trading partner that the United States has."

The State Partnership Program serves as an excellent means of keeping the spirit of cooperation among nations alive and building future coalition partners in fighting future wars. Until recently, most people have never heard of countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, or Turkmenistan. Yet, in the War on Terrorism, these countries granted exclusive military base rights to the United States, for use during operations against the Taliban and al-Qaeda forces in Afghanistan. It is not a coincidence that these countries are participants in State Partnership.

In a State Partnership visit conducted in Montana, between that state and the nation of

Kyrgyzstan, Lt. Col. Angel Matos, NGB desk officer for U.S. Central Command, recalled a vivid exchange between Maj. Gen. Chotbaev, Commander of the Kyrgyzstan National Guard and a local Montana youth group. The conversation exemplifies the purpose of this program, when Chotbaev told the youths, "Ten years ago, our nations were poised to fight each other as enemies. Now, who would have ever thought that I, as a former military officer from the Soviet Union would be here, in your country, talking to you as friends."

"The partnership is a vibrant one that is not only embraced by the partners, but by the citizens of Montana as well," said Matos. "For example, the citizens of Montana have been sponsoring the construction of a training facility, in Kyrgyzstan, for mentally disabled citizens. They have been doing so by conducting fund raising events, collecting construction materials and building bonds of friendship between their citizens."

The world has changed greatly in the last ten years and, no doubt, it will continue to do so over the decades to come. Through the State Partnership Program, the National Guard is making a difference around the world and in our own communities, one country at a time. Establishing friendships with countries once hostile to our own is the only sure way to achieve world stability. It has been said, that you never truly defeat your enemy until you have made him your friend. If in fact this is true, then the National Guard's State Partnership Program has already made an incalculable contribution to peace.

If there is one thing to be said about a peace dividend, derived from State Partnership Program, it is that after ten years of waging peace, not a single Guardsman has been lost to hostile fire.



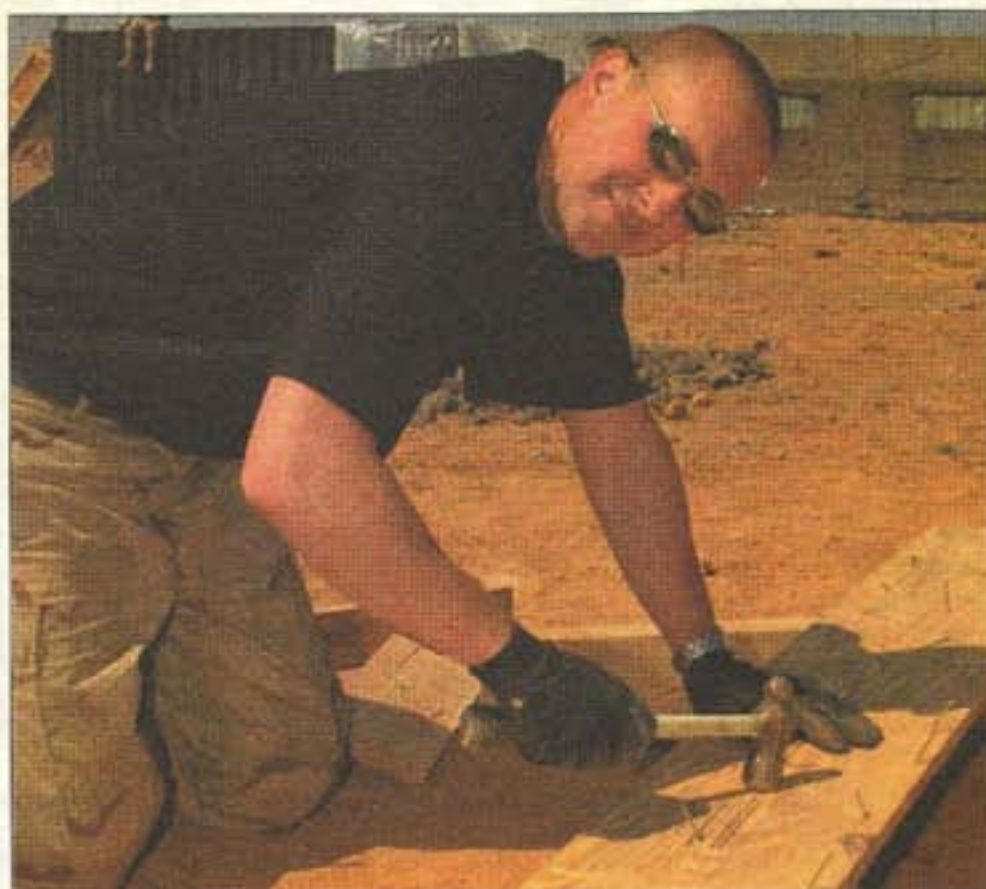
Spc. Ben Johnston (Left) and Spc. Harley Sanford (Right) both of the Montana National Guard's 1-163d Infantry, pose with Sgt. Ulan of the Kyrgyzstan National Guard during maneuvers outside of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June of 1999.



# The National Guard: Doing every



Two members of the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, set up equipment at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia last week. Approximately 450 personnel from the 104th are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for an undetermined amount of time.



(Left) A member of the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, works to prepare facilities at an undisclosed location in the Middle East. (Above) A Massachusetts National Guard A-10 from the 104th Fighter Wing (Westfield, Mass.) prepares to refuel over the Atlantic before heading overseas in March. The picture was taken from a New Hampshire Air National Guard refueling aircraft out of Pease AFB. A-10s from the 104th are deployed overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



# Everything, everywhere, at any time



Members of the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Westfield, Mass., wait to unload a truck burdened with their luggage as they arrive at an undisclosed location in the Middle East recently.

Photos by 104th FW Multimedia Branch

## National Guard Support During Time of War

### 1991 Gulf War

Army National Guard



63,050

Air National Guard



12,428

### 2003 Iraqi Freedom

Army National Guard



78,412

Air National Guard



18,481

or = 10,000 Troops

As of 25 Mar 03



A member of the 104th Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, Westfield, Mass., operates a piece of heavy equipment as he prepares an undisclosed location for personnel and aircraft from the wing.



# Guard teams sweep military marathon

By 1st Lt. Kevin Hynes

Nebraska Air National Guard

PENSACOLA, Fla.—Propelling themselves through wind gusts that hovered around 25 miles-per-hour, members of the National Guard Marathon Team cruised to impressive victories during the 20th Annual U.S. Navy Blue Angels Marathon, held Feb. 23 in Pensacola, Fla.

Along with sweeping the top three military team titles, the National Guard runners grabbed five first-place age category finishes including the overall masters title in the annual race that saw more than 600 military and civilian runners compete in the 26.2-mile race. Winning the master's title was Master Sgt. Mike Zeigle of the Wisconsin Air National Guard who registered a time of 3:01:38.

According to the runners, this year's race was grueling.

"I really expected to do a little better than I did," said Sgt. Troy Harrison, an infantry team leader with Company B, 2-112th Infantry, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. "I just broke out a little too fast. It was a lot hotter and definitely a lot windier than what I thought."

"I really thought I could've and should've run better," added Harrison, who ended the race with a time of 2:42:22. That time was good enough to earn Harrison first place in his 25-29 Male Category and third place overall. He also ran the best time of any of the 24 National Guardsmen competing in the Florida race.

The race was extra special for Harrison. A power train technician with Mack Trucks in Hagerstown, Md., Harrison was scheduled to deploy to Kosovo for a peace-keeping mission with his fellow soldiers from the Everett, Penn.-based unit shortly after he returned home from the race. He said that he felt an extra sense of pride wearing his National Guard Marathon Team uniform while running through the streets of Pensacola as tens of thousands of Guardsmen from across the United States prepare for similar peacekeeping and war-time missions around the globe.

"You feel proud to wear the uniform, just like you feel proud wearing any military uniform or being on any military team,"

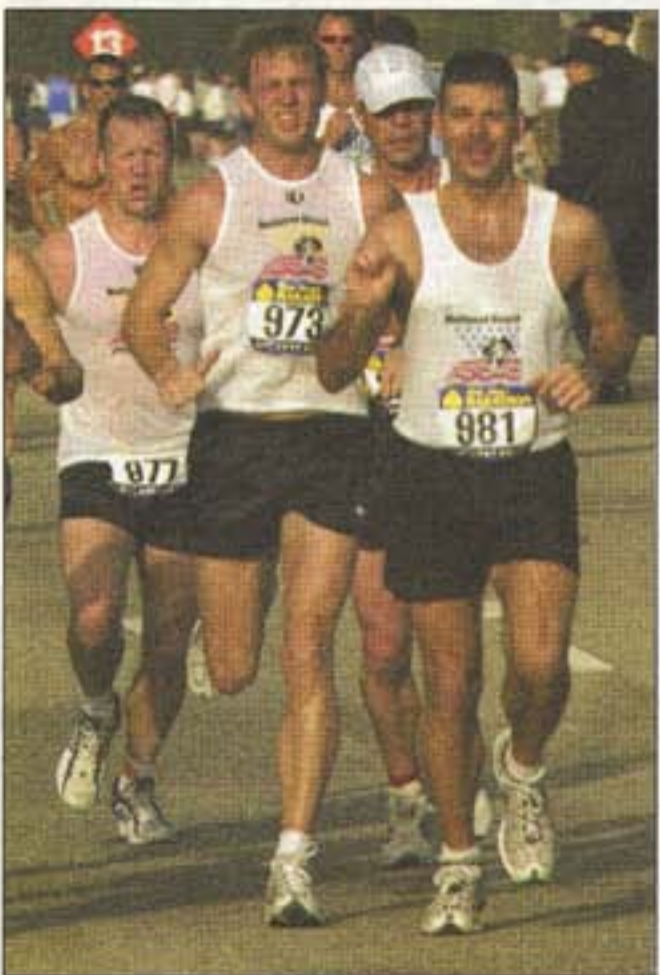


Photo by 1st Lt. Kevin Hynes, Nebraska Public Affairs

National Guard runners swept the top three military team titles and grabbed five first-place age category finishes.

*"It's almost awe-striking to think how lucky I am. You definitely feel a certain amount of pride being able to say that you're a member of the National Guard."*

—Spc. Amy Sas, Minnesota National Guard

Harrison said.

Harrison is actually a contradiction to the idea that success in marathon racing requires many years of hard work and gathering race experience. His climb to the top rung has actually been more like a sprint.

Harrison first started running a little over a year ago at the encouragement of a fellow worker at Mack Trucks who had remarked that the Pennsylvania Army Guard soldier's two-mile run time was really good. After tackling several five and ten-kilometer races, Harrison ran his first full-fledged marathon in 2002 when he competed in the Baltimore-Annapolis Marathon.

To his own amazement, he won the race. And the rest, as they say, was history.

Following the Baltimore race, Harrison traveled to Lincoln, Neb., for the National Guard Bureau Marathon trials where, despite finishing slower than he would have hoped, he was named to the "All Guard Marathon Team." He then followed that up by competing in Hartford, Conn., marathon, finishing the race with a time of 2:38. Harrison said that he is somewhat shocked at the level of success he's already obtained in such a short amount of time.

"I owe a lot of my success to the other team that I run with," said Harrison, referring to his civilian running counterparts. "A lot of them have run professionally. They have given me a lot of advice in how to train."

Harrison, in turn, has taken his knowledge of running and worked to help prepare his fellow Guardsmen for their own physical fitness tests.

"Most of them think I'm super fast," he said. "They don't practice the right things. So, I'm trying to talk them into running better and maybe perhaps even running a marathon someday."

Harrison said that he has also helped worked with Pennsylvania recruiters to help them find other young runners who might be interested in joining the Guard.

Harrison wasn't the only young National Guardsman making his impact on the Florida Panhandle, either. Leading the pack for the women runners was Spc. Amy Sas of the Minnesota Army National Guard's Company A, 134th Forward Support Battalion, of Minneapolis, Minn. Along with capturing the Women's 20-24 age group title with a time of 3:29:34, Sas' time was good enough for tops among all National Guard women.

Sas, who serves as a supply specialist with the Minnesota Army National Guard, said that while the race was windy, she didn't think it affected her too much.

"The first mile I ran too fast," said Sas, who recently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Elementary Education. "(But the wind and hot weather) really didn't affect me until the very end."

Like Harrison, Sas is relatively new to the marathon scene. She ran her first race, the Twin Cities Marathon, in 1999 with her sister. She did so well, in fact, that she actually qualified for the prestigious Boston Marathon while running in Minnesota.

Finding that she had a natural talent for the distance, she was encouraged by her boyfriend, Sgt. Tyrell Heaton of the Minnesota Army Guard, to run in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. That experience, Sas said, helped her fall in love with the sport. It also spawned a desire within her to join the National Guard so that she could pursue a spot on the All-Guard team.

"It was just an opportunity I couldn't pass up," she said.

After making the team on her first try, Sas began competing in races around the country as a member of the Guard team. During one particular race, she actually posted a time that was so good that she earned a spot on the University of Minnesota cross country and track teams.

While competing for Minnesota, Sas took a two-year hiatus

from the Guard team. That ended last year when she again tried out for and made the All-Guard Marathon team.

Sas said that she also felt extremely proud running in Pensacola, wearing her Guard team colors while thousands of other Guardsmen across the United States are being called up.

"It's almost awe-striking to think how lucky I am," said Sas. "You definitely feel a certain amount of pride being able to say that you're a member of the National Guard."

Just being able to race in Pensacola, one of the year's earliest marathons, proved especially tough for Harrison and Sas. Both are from northern states where this winter's snows and sub-zero temperatures made training especially difficult. Because of that difficulty, both had to find alternative methods of getting in their required running.

For Harrison, that meant spending countless hours running on the treadmill in his basement, the heat turn up so as to simulate the potential temperatures of the Florida gulf coast. He said that even that strategy failed to adequately prepare him for the race.

"And I come down here and it was 66 degrees before we even started out," he said. "And it was so humid. And then that wind...whew."

"It made it feel like you were just crawling," he added. "The humidity really made it difficult."

Sas, on the other hand, relied on the training she received during the abnormally warm November and December months to make up for the running she lost in January when the temperatures in Minnesota dipped to potentially dangerous levels.

"It was really difficult in Minnesota because we just got a whole bunch of snow and the sidewalks were terrible," she said. "I was lucky because we didn't get the snow until January. From November to December I had a great train up. I was getting a lot of good quality runs."

"And then in January it wasn't as good," Sas added. "I even did a couple of treadmill runs even though I hate treadmill runs. But the weather was just too cold."

Harrison and Sas weren't the only Guardsmen overcoming challenges. For every runner, it seems, there is an equally interesting personal story filled with challenges and victories.

For example, Staff Sgt. Shawn Moreland of the Missouri Army National Guard's Company A, 203rd Engineer Battalion, the Navy Marathon required him to not only overcome the weather, but also a severe injury he had received just a week earlier.

Competing in the annual National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championship in Vermont, Moreland took a nasty spill while skiing downhill during the 20 kilometer race. He suffered torn cartilage and a hairline fracture to his ribs.

Moreland said that he contemplated pulling himself out of the Florida race as early as the night before, but decided to at least attempt running to see if he could withstand the pain.

"When I ran on the treadmill at night I could feel the injury," said the military construction supervisor. "But my training had been going really well. I had been doing 90 mile weeks. I just didn't want to give up all that work."

"So, I thought this morning that I would go out and if I felt bad, I just wouldn't continue," he said. "But I kept going. I kept feeling okay. I was breathing kind of shallow and I kept a good rhythm down."

Moreland did so well, in fact, that he broke the three-hour wall by registering a time of 2:58:15. That was good enough to earn Moreland third place in his 30-34 age group.

"I guess that was my gutcheck and character-building experience today," he said.

Like Harrison and Sas, Moreland agreed that being a member of the Guard's marathon team in an age of heightened





# News Makers

## Bronze Star ...



Milford, Mass. — 1st Sgt. William "Bill" Davidson, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Mass., was recently awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service while on active duty in Uzbekistan.

A first sergeant in the 972nd Military Police Company and a civilian police officer in his hometown, Davidson was deployed for approximately eight months in support of Central Command with his Melrose based unit.

Davidson was assigned to perform security missions at Logan Airport shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. Upon his release from the airport mission he was re-activated by the U.S. Army for duty in Uzbekistan.

Davidson returned home the March 7, 2003.

## New Tricare policy for Guardsmen

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Defense Department officials announced March 12 policy changes to Tricare Prime and Tricare Prime Remote programs for members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families.

Starting March 10, family members of Guardsmen and reservists on federal active-duty orders for more than 30 days are eligible to enroll in Tricare Prime and use the access standards and cost shares associated with the program.

"Previously, sponsors had to be eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and activated for 179 days or more before family members were eligible to enroll in Tricare Prime," said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "The Department of Defense recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by these families each and every day. Our commitment is to continue making improvements to the Tricare benefit to enhance access and quality of care these families receive."

Guard and Reserve family members who reside with their sponsors in a Tricare Prime Remote location at the time of the sponsor's activation can now enroll in the Tricare Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members program.

For family members to be eligible to enroll in this program, sponsors and their family members must reside at a location that is at least 50 miles or more, or approximately a one-hour drive from the nearest military treatment facility. Sponsors and family members also must be identified as eligible in DEERS.

"It's important that we take care of the families of our

reserve component members," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. "We want to ensure that our mobilized National Guard and Reserve members aren't worried about who's caring for their families while they're gone and to return them to families whose health care needs have been met by the military health system."

Contract changes are under way at Tricare Management Activity to implement the new remote policy. Once the changes are accomplished, family members of the Guard and Reserve sponsors activated for more than 30 days may start using the benefit, which has no co-payments, deductibles or claim forms to file, and which offers providers who meet rigorous standards for providing quality health care.

Guard and Reserve family members who choose not to enroll in either the Tricare Prime or remote program may still use the Tricare Standard and Extra benefits, with applicable cost shares and deductibles.

Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify that DEERS information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They can contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center support office toll free at (800) 538-9552. Sponsors and family members can also update their addresses in DEERS on the Tricare Web site:

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

Future updates regarding benefits for members of the Guard and Reserve and their family members will be posted on the Tricare Web site:

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve>

FROM PAGE 10

## Troops

military operations was something he would always remember.

"It's a huge, huge honor," he said. "I really feel privileged."

"It really makes you think about how important being in the National Guard is," he added. "Plus I think it's great that our citizens out there get a chance to see National Guard runners other there right at the top. It's good for everybody."

The National Guard's All-Guard Marathon Team is made up of the nation's top Guard men and women marathoners as chosen during the Guard Bureau Marathon held in conjunction with the Lincoln, Neb., Marathon annually. This year's Guard Bureau Marathon Trials are set for May 4.

### Results

#### Female Age Group 20-24

Spc. Amy Sas, MN ARNG, 3:29:34, 1st Place in Age Group

Senior Airman Stacy Fagan, KS ANG, 3:55:33, 2nd Place in Age Group

#### Male Age Group 25-29

Sgt. Troy Harrison, PA ARNG, 2:42:22, 1st

#### Place in Age Group, 3rd Place overall

Sgt. Tyrell Heaton, MN ARNG, 3:15:35, 3rd Place in Age Group

#### Male Age Group 30-34

Staff Sgt. Shawn Moreland, MO ARNG, 2:58:15, 3rd Place in Age Group

#### Female Age Group 30-34

1st Lt. Kristine Cambre, LA ARNG, 5:03:41, 10th Place in Age Group

#### Male Age Group 35-39

Staff Sgt. Michael Streff, SD ARNG, 2:45:31, 1st Place in Age Group

Sgt. Curt Carey, IN ARNG, 2:56:15, 3rd Place in Age Group

Maj. Ross Shales, LA ARNG, 2:56:30, 4th Place in Age Group

Maj. Troy Frost, MT ANG, 2:59:05, 6th Place in Age Group

Capt. John Plunkett, LA ARNG, 3:10:37, 9th Place in Age Group

Capt. Eric Petersen, UT ARNG, 3:11:47, 11th Place in Age Group

Maj. James Mann, AR ARNG, 3:32:37, 22nd Place in Age Group

Master Sgt. Stanley Coats, MS ARNG, 3:44:21, 33rd Place in Age Group

#### Female Age Group 35-39

Maj. Shelly Buhlinger, OK ANG, 3:33:44, 3rd Place in Age Group

Lt. Col. Jill Lannan, WA ANG, 4:16:12, 16th in Age Group

Lt. Col. Tricia Anslow, AR ARNG, 4:28:07, 21st in Age Group

#### Male Age Group 40-44

Sgt. 1st Class Trent Sinnett, IN ARNG, 2:55:12, 1st Place in Age Group

Maj. George Graff, UT ARNG, 3:11:47, 5th Place in Age Group

Sgt. 1st Class John Crotwell, MS ARNG, 3:20:40, 8th Place in Age Group

#### Female Age Group 40-44

Maj. Holly Scott, DE ARNG, 3:34:17, 4th Place in Age Group

Lt. Col. Mary Louise McEwen, ME ANG, 3:50:05, 5th Place in Age Group

Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Niebuhr, MT ARNG, 4:21:30, 10th Place in Age Group

#### Male Age Group 50-54

Master Sgt. Mike Zeigle, WI ANG, 3:01:38, 1st Place in Age Division, Master's Division

Winner



Harrison



# You may now kiss the soldier

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

AUGUSTA, Maine – The bride wore camouflage green. So did the groom. So did the best man, the matron of honor and the chaplain when Pfc. Jesse Quirion and Spc. Mary Welch exchanged wedding vows here at the Augusta State Armory on March 1.

It was a National Guard drill weekend, and Jesse and Mary were married in their Army uniforms in the presence of the members of the 152nd Maintenance Company, their Maine Army National Guard unit, that was preparing to go to war.

The company has been alerted to get ready for duty in the current war against terrorism and a possible war against Iraq, but it had not yet received a mobilization order that would send it to Fort Drum, N.Y., to await further orders, Maine Guard officials said.

The first weekend in March was a high point during the war on terrorism. Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks against the United States, was arrested in Pakistan. Iraq began destroying its Al Samoud 2 missiles as

ordered by the United Nations.

That, optimists believed, indicated the war was going well against al Qaeda terrorists and that a war with Iraq might be avoided. That, in turn, meant the maintenance company might not have to leave Maine after all.

Still, it seemed like a good idea to tie the knot in case they did get the call to move out, the Quirions explained after the ceremony officiated by Chaplain (Maj.) Andrew Gibson of the Maine Army Guard's 52nd Troop Command. They had already planned to be married in July, they said.

"We wanted to know that God would be watching over both of us in case we get over there and it gets ugly," Jesse said. "We want to be as one as much as possible."

That is a common emotion among people in uniform faced with the uncertainties of serving their country during troubled times, said Gibson, who spent nine months of 1997 on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia. Knowing that his wife and three children were waiting back home was a big comfort.

As many as 25 Maine Army Guard soldiers were married during February, said Gibson,

*"This is a time when lives are so destabilized and the future is so unknown that they want to gain a sense of stability. So they turn to the one they know best for that stability. It gives them a sense of peace because the love they have for each other is strong."*

– Chaplain Andrew Gibson

who performed seven of the services. The Guard soldiers belong to two units that have actually been mobilized and to the 152nd Maintenance Company that has been put on alert.

Two soldiers in the 112th Medical Company from Bangor and four members of the 1136th Transportation Company from Bangor and Sanford were married by Gibson in private ceremonies before those outfits departed for mobilization stations at Fort Drum, N.Y., and Fort Dix, N.J., respectively.

"This is a time when lives are so destabilized and the future is so unknown that they

want to gain a sense of stability," said Gibson about the desire of so many people to get married. "So they turn to the one they know best for that stability. It gives them a sense of peace because the love they have for each other is strong."

Legal issues also come into play, Gibson said. Marriage ensures that dependents back home are entitled to health care, insurance benefits and exchange and commissary privileges provided by the government.

Most of the citizen-soldiers married civilian dependents. The Quirions are unique, because they are both traditional Guard soldiers and, so far, the only two newlyweds, who could both be mobilized for active duty, Gibson said.

It also is a trying time for them, because they have a six-month-old child.

"I don't want to leave him, but you've got to do what you've got to do," said the anxious mother, who wrestled with the idea of getting a hardship discharge so she could stay home with her new baby.

Instead, the Quirions have decided to leave their child with relatives so they could deploy with their company.

"I know I'll miss her a lot while I'm gone, like the first birthday and helping with the first steps and learn to talk," said Mary.

"This would probably be the only time when I would have to serve my country so far from home. And I have had all of that training," reasoned the young mother, who has trained to operate a 22ft-ton crane. "When I get back my child will be right there waiting for me."

That decided, Spc. Mary Quirion would like to get on with the deployment that could last for a full year or longer, so she and her new husband can get it over with.

"If we're going to go, let's go, she said. "I'm tired of waiting around."

Both realized that being called up for a war could be part of their Guard obligation.

"I wanted to do something for my country. And I wanted to get some respect," said Jesse, a civilian heating and air conditioning technician, who joined the 152nd two and a half years ago.

"Joining the Guard and going through basic training helped square me away. I think that serving in the military gets people ready for the world," said the 24-year-old husband and father, who also has come to grips with the idea of serving with his bride in a part of the world that could be a long way from their child.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Maine Army National Guard Chaplain (Maj.) Andrew Gibson blesses the marriage of Spc. Mary Welch and Pfc. Jesse Quirion at the Augusta State Armory in Augusta, Maine, on March 1.



# Called to active duty

(Editor's note: Listed below is a partial list of units which have National Guard members on active duty. We wish all of our fellow Guardsmen well and pray for their safe return. Until then, look for the remaining list in future editions of The On Guard. Duty locations will NOT be release)

## Army National Guard

**Alaska**  
3d Bn 297th Inf  
207th Inf Scout Group

**Alabama**  
1st Bn, 131st Armor  
201st Eng Bn  
1st SF Bn 20th SF Group 1st Special Forces  
167th Support Command  
20th SF Group  
Co E 131st Avn  
81st Regional Support Command  
Gsc SF Group  
1670th Trans Co  
900th Maint Co  
Troop E 31st Cav  
1st Bn 131st Armor Co  
1128th Trans Co  
1st Bn 167th Inf  
142d Sig Brigade  
167th Eng Co  
1103d Combat Support Bn HHD  
168th Eng Co  
1165th MP Co  
1151st Eng Det  
781st Trans Co  
1166th MP Co  
877th Eng Bn  
200 Cs Center Material Management Center  
441st EOD  
778th EOD  
2025 Trans Co  
167 Inf Reg Co  
1208th Quartermaster Co  
31st Support Bn  
1/131 Avn Bn  
226th Field Depot HHC  
161 1st Med Bn  
1st Bn, 131st Avn  
1156 MP Co  
1009th Eng Det  
1310th Eng Det  
1308th Eng Det  
HHC, 111th Ord Group  
1st Bn, 131st Armor  
167 Inf Reg  
217th MP Co  
1st Bn 131st Armor  
Troop E 31st Cav  
1st Bn 167th Inf  
STARC  
Camp Robinson Institute Support Unit  
296th Med Co  
935th Support Bn  
2d Bn 142d FA HHB  
2-142 FA  
1123d Trans Co  
224th Main Co  
25th Support Det  
935th Support Bn  
149 Med Co  
0223 Reg (Rti)  
2d Bn, 142d FA

**Arizona**  
2222d Trans Co  
258th Corps Support HQ  
285th Avn Bn, HHC  
Company D 245 Avn Co  
1st Bn 180th FA  
HQ 158 Reg (Rti)  
363d EOD

**STARC**  
2220th Trans Co  
285th Avn Reg  
356th Sig Co  
1404th Trans Co  
855th MP Co  
3d Bn 144th FA  
578th Eng Bn  
1st Bn 149th Armor

**California**  
3d Bn 144th FA  
69th Public Information HQ  
223d MI Bn  
1106 Avn  
578th Eng Bn  
578th Eng Bn  
40th Inf Div Support Command HHC  
5th SF Bn 19th SF Group 1st Special Forces  
5th Bn 19th Special Forces  
640th MI Bn  
1/140 Avn Bn  
40th MP Co  
640th MI Bn  
40th Div Artillery  
578th Eng Bn  
126th Med Co Air Ambulance  
132d Eng Bn Co B  
670th MP Co  
870th MP Co  
132d Eng Bn  
1498th Trans  
STARC  
270th MP Co  
132d Eng Bn  
2632nd Transportation Co  
649th MP Co  
250th MI  
1st Bn 149th Armor  
140th Avn  
349th Quartermaster Co  
3d Bn 144th FA  
132d Eng Bn

**Colorado**  
2d Bn 135th Avn Bn  
2d Bn 157th FA  
3650th Maint Co  
220th MP Co  
5th SF Bn 19th SF Group 1st Special Forces  
126th Med Co  
35th Inf Div  
109th Med Bn

**Conn.**  
1109 Avn Co  
143d MP Co  
Groton Ct Acft Classification & Repair Dep  
247th Eng Det  
248th Eng Co  
250th Eng Co  
242d Eng Bn  
Co G 104th Avn

**Washington, D.C.**  
276th MP Co  
547th Trans Co  
121st MP Det  
273d MP Co  
104th Maint Co  
260th MP Command  
148th Medl Co Air Ambulance Det 1  
280th Sigl Bn Georgetown  
249th Eng Det

**STARC**  
832d Med Co

**Florida**  
221st Ordnance Det  
3rd Battalion 20th Special Forces HHD  
1st Bn 265th ADA  
3rd SF Bn 20th SF Group 1st Special Forces  
743d Maint Co  
930 Headquarters Team

146th Signal Bn  
Co E 111th Avn  
2d Bn 116th FA  
269th Eng Co  
144th Transportation Co  
1st Bn 124th Infantry  
260th MI Bn  
124th Inf  
HHB 32d Army Air & Missile Defense Command  
3d Bn 265th ADA 107th PA Det  
FI Op Support Air Det  
161 1st Med. Bn  
153rd Finance Bn  
STARC  
0211 Reg Rti HQ Fwd  
631st Combat Support Co S  
20th SF Support Element  
HHD, 927th Support Bn S

**Georgia**  
Mob Support Det Atlanta  
221st MI Bn  
878th Eng Bn  
1230th Trans Co 372d Support Bn  
265th Eng Group HHC  
171 Avn Bn GS  
28th PSB  
STARC  
202d Ord Det  
93d Sig Brigade HHC  
3rd Inf Division Detachment  
75th Eng Det  
190th MP Co  
1177th Trans Co  
878th Eng Bn Co C  
48th Inf Brig HHC  
161 1st Med Bn  
277 Od Co  
178th MP Co  
878th Eng Bn Co A  
1148th Trans Co  
148th Med Co Air Ambulance

**Hawaii**  
HHC US Army Pacific Ascc

**Iowa**  
1st Bn 194th FA  
2d Bn 135th Avn Bn  
Co D 109th Aviation  
434th Support Det  
186th MP Co  
534th Support Det  
1034th S&S Co  
234th Sig Bn  
2133rd Trans Co  
234th Sig Bn  
106th Avn Det  
0185 Reg Rti  
1555 Quarter Master Det  
1st Bn 194th FA  
229th Eng Bn  
109th Med Battalion  
185 Support Det  
3657 Od Co  
1133d Trans Co  
1168th Trans Co

**Idaho**  
116th Armor Brigade  
Idaho ARNG RTI  
1/112 Aviation Bn Co B  
938th Eng Det  
2d Bn 116th Cav  
116th Engineer Bn  
1st Bn 148th FA  
708th Medl Co

**Illinois**  
341st MI

## Air National Guard

**Alaska**  
176th Wing  
168th ARW

**Alabama**  
187th FW  
117th ARW

**Arkansas**  
189th AW  
188th FW

**Airzona**  
161st ARW  
162nd FW

**California**  
144th FWO  
129th RQW  
163rd ARW  
146th AW

**Colorado**  
140th FW

**Conn**  
103rd FW

**Washington, DC**  
113rd Wing

**Deleware**  
166th AW

**Florida**  
125th FW

**Georgia**  
116th ACW  
65th AW

**Guam**  
254 ABG

**Hawaii**  
154th Wing.

**Iowa**  
132nd FW  
185th FW

**Idaho**  
124th Wing

**Illinois**  
126th ARW  
183rd FW  
182nd AWing

**Indiana**  
181st FW  
122nd FWing

**Kansas**  
184th BW  
190th ARW

**Kentucky**  
123rd AW

**Louisiana**  
159th FW

**Mass**  
102nd FW  
104th FW

**Maryland**  
175th Winge

**Maine**  
101st AFW

**Michigan**  
110th FW  
127th Wing

**Minnesota**  
133rd AW  
148th FW

**Missouri**  
131st FW  
139th AW

**Mississippi**  
172nd AW  
186th ARW

**Montana**  
120th FW



# Training intense, but morale high for mobilized Florida Guardsmen

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa

Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office

FORT STEWART, Ga. - "Ma'am, keep your hands where I can see them!"

With M-16 rifles at the ready, members of Third Platoon circled a late-model pickup truck and instructed the civilian driver and passenger sitting in the front to prepare for a vehicle inspection at the makeshift checkpoint.

When the passenger's hands dropped back to her lap, a soldier in camouflaged body armor barked another staccato command: "I said 'Keep your hands where I can see them!'"

The passenger sheepishly returned her hands to the air, and the soldiers resumed their inspection.

The soldiers - members of the Florida National Guard's 1st Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment - were among the thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists mobilized to Fort Stewart, Ga., on Feb. 11, and were honing their force protection and vehicle inspection skills during a training exercise at a desolate motor pool.

Since December 2002 nearly one-third of the Florida Army National Guard - approximately 3,200 soldiers - received mobilization orders to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle; most of those citizen-soldiers have received processing and additional training at Fort Stewart before deploying to their missions at home and overseas.

But despite the large numbers of personnel involved in the often-intense training, morale is high and preparations for mobilization are running smoothly, according to soldiers on the ground at the active-duty Army post near Savannah, Ga.

"Everybody is really bonding together and paying attention to the training. Morale is high," 1st Lt. Alvio Dominguez said as his platoon completed their checkpoint-security

training.

Dominguez explained that the 39 men in his platoon have put in long hours of training and Soldier Readiness Checks (SRC) since their arrival at Fort Stewart on Jan. 16, and so far the process has been fast and steady. The training consisted mainly of basic rifle marksmanship and infantry skills, and the SRC involved additional medical, financial, and legal processing.

"We're unique because Third platoon has some members from our headquarters and the Puerto Rican National Guard with us," he said. "About 85 percent of our platoon is Hispanic, so that helps in interactions with Puerto Rican National Guard. And most of our leadership has about 12 years of military experience...Many of us have been mobilized for Desert Storm or Panama, so we know the deal."

Dominguez is a Dade County fireman and said he is helping ensure his soldiers are gainfully employed in their civilian lives when they return from their deployment.

"I am actually working with a lot of the soldiers who are going through the hiring process for Dade County," the 17-year military veteran said. "I am working closely with the union president and vice-president for Dade County - faxing soldiers' orders over to them - to make sure that when (the soldiers) come back they can pick up the hiring process where they are at. They are being very supportive of the military."

Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Pallango, platoon sergeant for Third Platoon, said perhaps the biggest concern the men have is "if they will get to see their families again" before they deploy.

"We've been here working for three weeks straight, waking up at 4 o'clock in the morning and training all the way until (10 p.m.)," he said. "They really haven't had any time with their families, which is what they're wishing for."



Soldiers from the Florida National Guard's 124th Infantry Battalion practice basic infantry tactics during training recently at Fort Stewart, Ga.

Photo by Spc. Thomas Kielbasa, Florida National Guard Public Affairs

Approximately 1,800 soldiers from the 124th Infantry Regiment have been mobilized since December, and on Feb. 9 nearly 300 of those soldiers from 2nd Battalion departed from Fort Stewart for southwest Asia.

Spc. Samantha Johns, a medic from the Florida National Guard's Company A, 161st Medical Battalion, said the readiness processing at Fort Stewart has also gone smoothly for the 60-plus members of her unit. The Camp Blanding-based medical unit arrived at the Georgia staging base on Feb. 2.

Johns' brother, a member of the Florida National Guard's 146th Signal Battalion, was also deployed recently to provide Air Force base security in Florida.

"We come from a military family, so my parents are really proud of the both of us," she said. "And a lot of us just miss our families, but I think that is the biggest concern with any soldier who is deploying."

According to 1st Sgt. Joseph Deitz, whose 743rd Maintenance Company from Fort Lauderdale arrived at Fort Stewart on Feb. 9, the mobilization process is going smoothly for his unit because they were well prepared prior to receiving their mobilization orders.

"We've done everything that we could

beforehand to prepare for a mobilization, without disrupting our training and maintenance, and it's paying off now," Deitz said.

Deitz and more than 200 members of his unit reported to their Fort Lauderdale armory on Feb. 3; coincidentally this date was the first sergeant's 20th anniversary in the National Guard and also his 38th birthday.

"I've got a big responsibility on my shoulders to bring everybody back safe, and the commander feels that way also," Deitz said. "The 743rd is a big unit, but the 201 people here are my family. So it is a big challenge for me to make sure everybody here is safe during this deployment. Hopefully I have done everything right during the last 20 years to be ready for this mission."

Other recent Florida National Guard mobilizations to Fort Stewart include: more than 200 soldiers from the 631st Maintenance Company, of Starke, Fla., who will arrive Sunday; approximately 200 soldiers the 269th Engineering Company, of Live Oak, Fla.; and 20 members of the 107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, of St. Augustine, Fla.

According to Fort Stewart Public Affairs, estimates show that more than 5,400 National Guardsmen and Reservists will have mobilized at the Army post at the end of February.

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## Troops

Base in Maryland, has been mobilized for active duty, it was announced late last week. It is not yet known where he will go or what he'll do, said a D.C. Guard spokesman.

Moose left his civilian job as police chief for Maryland's Montgomery County where he gained international renown as spokesman for the multi-agency task force that hunted down the two sniper suspects who terrorized Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia last October.

The Guard force in Southwest Asia includes Senior Airman Richard Marks from the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Security Forces Squadron. He is the Air Guard's Outstanding Security Forces Airman for 2002. The Air Force News Service reported that this is Marks' second deployment to that region.

On the home front, National Guard troops helped tighten security at nuclear power plants and other critical sites after Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge again raised the national threat level to code orange the

Monday before the attacks on Iraq began. Guard troops also helped federal officers maintain security along the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico.

Code orange indicates a high risk of attack and is just one level below the highest threat level, which is red.

The California National Guard's 9th Civil Support Team from Los Alamitos supported the Los Angeles Police Department's efforts to beef up security for the 75th Academy Awards in Hollywood.

The 22-member team was on standby to detect biological, chemical or radiological elements should a weapon of mass destruction have shattered the evening. Team members also performed sweeps and other detection duties, said Lt. Col. Terry Knight. That team has previously served during two World Series, a Super Bowl and during last year's Winter Olympics in Utah, Knight added.

Hundreds of New York Guard troops were on duty in New York City, supporting the police department's efforts to keep rail stations, bridges and tunnels secure and open to the public, a New York Guard spokesman explained.

The Associated Press reported that National Guard troops were dispatched to the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Arizona in the wake of reports that it may have been a target for terrorists.

A nuclear power industry survey indicated that more than a half-dozen states have sent Guard personnel to nuclear power plants, it was also reported.

Preparations to wage war with Iraq unless that country agreed to disarm prompted the call-ups that have steadily increased since the start of this year. The National Guard is providing more than half of the reserve component troops who have responded.

The number of Army and Air Guard people alerted for or participating in the war against terrorism vaulted from nearly 52,000 on Friday, Jan. 10, to nearly 99,000 by the following Monday, the Guard Bureau reported. That was the largest Guard force since terrorists attacked the American homeland 16 months earlier.

The total first surpassed 100,000 on Jan. 29 and climbed to approximately 120,000 by Feb. 21 and exceeded 141,000 in March.

The Guard has weighed in with some of its

premier units, and some states and territories have contributed heavily to the cause.

About 200 members of the F-16 fighter squadron in the District of Columbia Air Guard's 113th Wing departed for an undisclosed location in the desert on Feb. 21. The wing has earned nine consecutive Air Force outstanding unit awards and the Spaatz Trophy as the Air Guard's top flying unit for 2002.

"We want to make sure that Sept. 11 never happens in our backyard again, so we have to take care of business elsewhere," reasoned one of the wing's veteran airmen.

More than 150 members of the Alaska Air Guard's 176th Wing in Anchorage, including members of the elite 210th Rescue Squadron, had also received mobilization orders but had not been flown out of Alaska by the second day of the campaign in Iraq.

Puerto Rico has contributed a large percentage of its Guard force to the war against terrorism. Their Guard force numbers more than 8,500 citizen-soldiers and its Air Guard includes about 1,300 people. Since January, 4,195 Army Guard soldiers and 690 Air Guard personnel have been called to active duty.





## History

# Lafayette, Where are you now?

**Renee Hylton**

National Guard Bureau Historian

In August, 2002, Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Rich Gilbert Du Motier, better known as the Marquis de Lafayette, was made an honorary citizen of the United States. The honor is rare: only four others have ever been voted citizens by the U.S. Congress.

Almost coinciding with the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Lafayette's citizenship received no public ceremonies. A year later, the French government's opposition to proposed U.S. policy toward Iraq had aroused a storm of anti-French protest in the U.S. French fries were renamed, and bottles of Burgundy and Bordeaux were poured into gutters. Some World War II veterans tried to return their French medals, and Americans asked: after all we had done to liberate them in 1944-45, how could the French be so ungrateful?

The French responded with a question of their own: didn't Americans remember that French aid was crucial to our victory in the Revolutionary War? And the symbol of that aid, during the Revolution and today, was the Marquis de Lafayette.

## Revolution in America

Lafayette was a 22-year-old captain in King Louis XVI's royal army when he offered his services, free of charge, to the American cause. Other young French noblemen had also volunteered, but Lafayette's wealth and close ties to the French court got him a Major General's commission and, after he proved himself militarily, command of troops.

The young Marquis wintered at Valley Forge before visiting France to lobby the King for recognition and military aid for the Americans. In 1781, while Lafayette led a light infantry corps that helped bottle up the British Army at Yorktown, a French fleet in the Chesapeake Bay bottled them up by sea - partly due to Lafayette's successful appeals to the French government, and a critical factor in the British surrender.

During his years in America Lafayette grew very close to George Washington, who thought of the young Marquis as a son. Lafayette named his own son after Washington, and when the French Revolution broke out in 1789, sent the key to the liberated Bastille to Mount Vernon, where it still hangs in Washington's study.

Revolution in France

In the French Revolution's early days, Lafayette's military experience made him the obvious choice to command the revolutionary government's military forces. Lafayette's

years in America had shown him the value of trained citizen-soldiers, and he used the example of the American militia to set up a force organized by neighborhood, uniformed in red, white, and blue, and known as the "Garde National," or National Guard.

The citizen-soldier idea, long suppressed as a threat to the monarchy, spread like wildfire throughout the country, and soon almost every city and town in France had their own National Guard. In Paris, Lafayette presided over huge public ceremonies where National Guardsmen swore before their fellow citizens to uphold the Revolutionary ideals of "liberty, equality, and fraternity" - radical ideas in a country formerly organized under a rigid hierarchy of class and aristocratic status.

Within a year, however, the idealistic opening months of the Revolution had given way to violent radicalism, culminating in the mass guillotine executions of "the Terror." Lafayette was caught in the middle between those who wanted a return to absolute monarchy, and the radicals who wanted to eradicate every vestige of the "Old Regime." Fleeing to Austria to avoid execution, Lafayette (to the Austrians a dangerous radical) was imprisoned in a dungeon for some three years, as a frantic President George Washington tried desperately to gain his release.

Lafayette returned to France to oppose Napoleon, and for the rest of his life his moderate politics of "liberty" made him an increasingly old-fashioned figure. His money was gone, a great deal of it spent on the American cause in the Revolution. A grateful American congress voted him grants of money and land, but Lafayette never took up residence: to move to the United States would be to give up on France.

## Farewell to America

But the country which he had helped to create still called, and in 1824 the Marquis arrived for a 13-month farewell tour. Americans hailed Lafayette as a Founding Father, a "hero of two worlds." Everywhere he went there were huge crowds; at balls and receptions, fellow Revolutionary War veterans were the guests of honor.

In many towns and cities young American militiamen provided the military escort for the last surviving general officer of the Continental Army. When Lafayette sailed from New York at the end of his final visit to his adopted land, he shook the hand of every member of the New York militia battalion which lined the pier. In his honor, the men



renamed themselves the "National Guard," a name which soon began to replace "militia," and which almost a century later was codified into law.

As Lafayette sailed away, he took with him a trunk full of American soil to put on his grave, and when he died in 1843, an American flag was raised over the gravesite. The Star Spangled Banner still flies there.

(Above) The Marquis de Lafayette as commander of Paris' Garde National in 1790, wearing the uniform he designed. (Below) In 1825, Lafayette bids farewell to the battalion of New York militia (later the 7th Regiment) who became the first Americans to adopt the name "National Guard."





# Honor and Professionalism:

## 2nd Platoon, 772nd Military Police Company in Kabul

By Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe

Coalition Task Force Public Affairs

Kabul, Afghanistan – When they departed their warm northeast community of Taunton, Mass. in early July, the 772nd Military Police Company of the Massachusetts Army National Guard set out for a deployment they knew was going to test their skills and challenge their readiness.

The 772nd MP Co. took on some of Operation Enduring Freedom's biggest security challenges. Known by the nickname "Outlaws," they were tasked with the responsibility of providing personnel and perimeter security at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Task Force (CJCMOTF) compound, the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) and Bagram Air Base in the war-torn country of Afghanistan.

Securing the CJCMOTF compound in Kabul would fall to the company's 2nd Platoon, and thanks to a unique combination of military and civilian skills, initiative and situational awareness, it proved to be a challenge they were ready for.

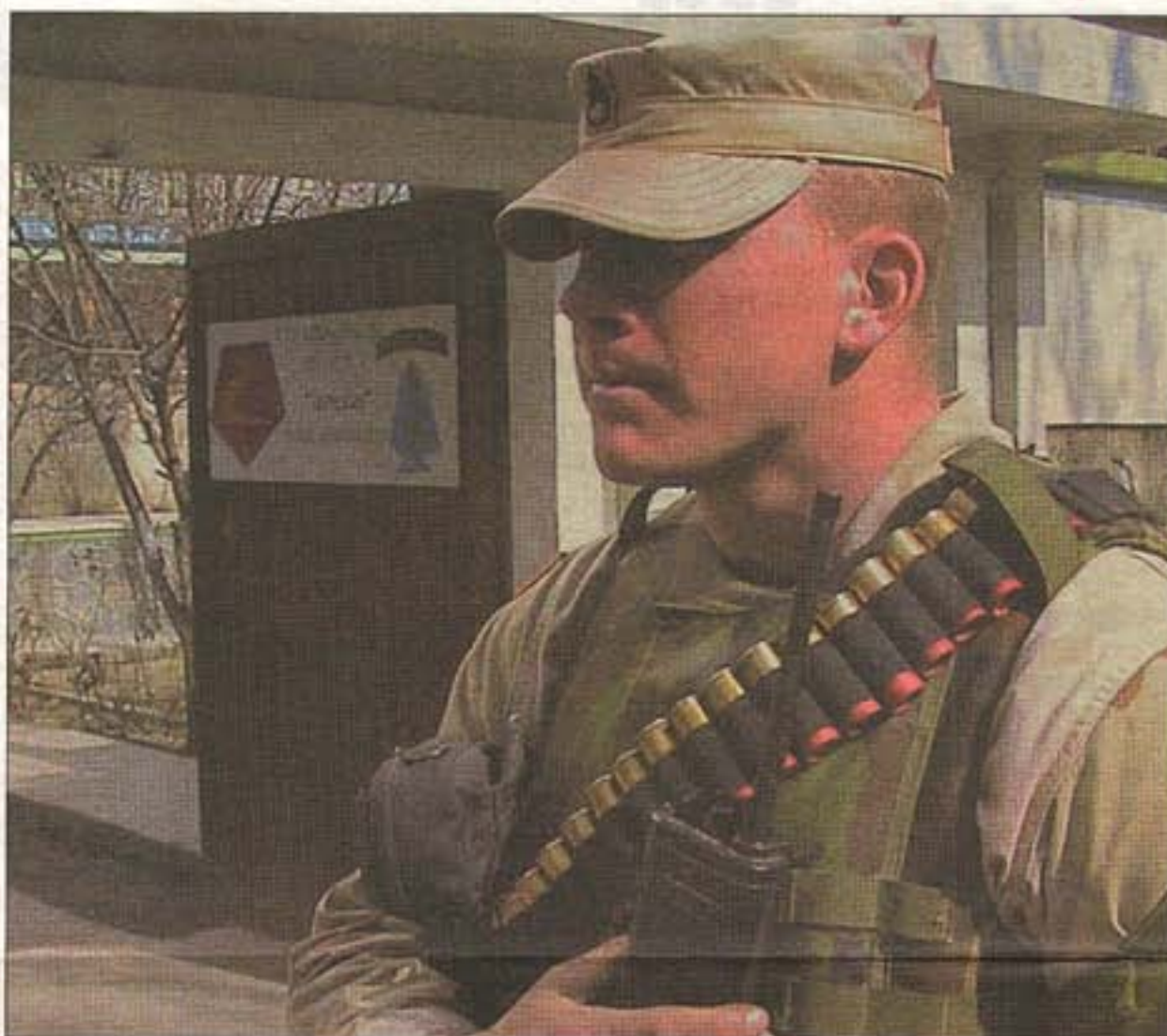
Organized in 1638 in Taunton, Mass., the 772nd is one of the most highly decorated military units in the Army, possessing a rich lineage dating back to the Revolutionary War and subsequent action in the Civil War, World War II and the Desert Storm.

After the month-long mobilization process was completed at Ft. Drum, NY, the company, touted as "America's First," boarded military planes bound for Bagram Air Base. Sgt. John A. Dankievitch, 28, team leader for 2nd platoon, recalls a day filled with excitement and anxiety. "Many in the company had never been on a real-world deployment before and were naturally nervous about the uncertainty and dangerous nature of being deployed to Afghanistan."

Once they arrived in mid-August, the company was divided by platoons to cover Bagram Air Base, KMTC and CJCMOTF. The CJCMOTF compound is centrally located on two city blocks in the heart of Afghanistan's capitol city of Kabul, in close proximity to most of the national government's ministry offices, foreign military compounds and non-governmental organization headquarters.

Immediately upon arrival at CJCMOTF, 2nd Platoon personnel began assessing the needs of the compound to ensure its overall safety. The non-traditional living and workspace is located in a notoriously dangerous area with warlords living in and controlling nearby city blocks.

"One of the most unique things we've had to deal with has been keeping the balance between the local warlords," Dankievitch said. That's something the soldiers neither expected, nor been trained to deal with. "It's mostly common sense and quick thinking that has quelled any potential incidents," he said. And there have been tense moments – but luckily most of the platoon's members have worked, or are currently employed, in the law enforcement field. Dankievitch



Staff Sgt. Johnson, 2nd Platoon, 772nd Military Police Company, mans a checkpoint at the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Task Force compound in Kabul, Afghanistan, to ensure unauthorized people and equipment do not get inside the facility. The 772nd is based in Taunton, Mass., and has been in Afghanistan since August 2002.

By Staff Sgt. Amy L. Forsythe, Coalition Task Force Public Affairs

believes that many situations needing a quick, levelheaded response were solved professionally and without incident because of this civilian experience.

Dankievitch works as a Correction Officer at the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater, Mass. Through his training he has gained an extensive background in firearms, close quarters battle tactics, and interaction with hostile individuals. "He brings a vast amount of knowledge to our unit because of his training in state law enforcement courses," said 1st Lt. Jason Oberton, 26, the platoon leader from Sterling, Mass.

Because the compound is located in such a highly populated and urban area, the MPs must maintain close control of personnel and equipment moving on and off the compound. Every time service members enter or leave the compound, they must request permission to leave in writing, report where they are going and the nature of their outing. It's their fellow MPs on duty who track their departure and arrival to ensure maximum accountability for the personnel on the compound. Additionally, anyone wishing to visit or come onto the compound is thoroughly screened and searched before they are allowed access.

The compound was established in February 2002 to support civil affairs missions directed by U.S. Central Command in an effort to help Afghanistan with rebuilding efforts. The compound's central location is key to its

success because civil affairs soldiers can get to and from project sites with ease, local media can inquire about newsworthy events, and non-governmental and international organizations' representatives can make face-to-face contact with someone from CJCMOTF.

In addition to guarding the main checkpoint 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, the soldiers of 2nd Platoon man several observation points throughout the compound. The MPs also support many additional missions requiring them to leave the security of the compound and venture out into the uncertainty of the city – and beyond. They play an integral part in the CJCMOTF mission by providing convoy security, establishing en route checkpoints, escorting VIPs and fielding personal security detachments for general officers.

"They are a real asset and without them we'd be paralyzed because a majority of our movement within the country relies on their force protection," said Maj. Thomas Schmitz, civil affairs officer from Rochester, NY. "In a city still regarded as unstable, they are the first line of defense in protecting us while we sleep at night," he added.

Second platoon implemented several improvements to guard the security of those living in the compound. For example, when they arrived seven months ago, the main entry for personnel and vehicles was facing an open and busy thoroughfare street. They immediately shut down through traffic and

established weaving roadblocks, called 'serpentines,' to limit access and slow down any vehicle traffic approaching the entrance to the compound.

The Massachusetts MPs also installed a metal detector for the main passageway for pedestrians to better monitor the scores of local nationals contracted by the U.S. government as interpreters, drivers, laborers, etc. Recently, 2nd Platoon participated in a mass casualty exercise, testing soldiers assigned as Combat Lifesavers on readiness skills during an Anti-Terrorism Base Defense Plan exercise. The MPs, medical personnel and other participating units coordinated efforts in reacting to a simulated car bomb explosion in the motor pool that resulted in 20 simulated casualties.

When the 772nd MP Co. begins packing their bags to head back to the snow-covered streets of their New England suburbs, 2nd Platoon can attribute many of the safety procedures currently in place at the CJCMOTF compound to their junior soldiers' initiative, keen situational awareness and overall knowledge of law enforcement strategies, said Oberton.

"Our platoon conducted and completed the mission in a professionally, honorably and tactically sound manner, especially in dangerous times of random bombings, shootings and mortar fire near and around the compound, and while out on missions," Dankievitch concluded.