

# THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXII, 8    NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD    August 2003  
Visit us on the web at: <http://www.ngb.army.mil/onguard>

## National Guard ChalleNGe Program turns 10 this summer

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — There is something special about turning 10.

Few things, including the Roman Empire, last forever. Conventional wisdom, however, has it that anything that survives its first 10 years of trial and error has a very good chance of being around for awhile.

National Guard officials across the country hope the same holds true for the National Guard ChalleNGe Program, which reaches the milestone age of 10 this summer.

What is ChalleNGe?

It is the National Guard's program for teenagers, ages 16-18, who are considered "at risk." They have dropped out of school. Some may have done drugs. Some may even be on probation following a brush with the law.

Someone, however, believes they deserve a second chance because they are kids who are more good than bad. That's what ChalleNGe gives them — a regimented second chance to lead productive lives.

Since the summer of 1993, when 10 ChalleNGe programs were introduced across this land, more than 46,000 students have graduated from the programs. Now, 29 programs are being conducted in 24 states and Puerto Rico.

Within the past year, 71 percent of the ChalleNGe students who took General Educational Development tests attained a diploma. Students in residential programs performed more than 600,000 hours of community service during the same time, Guard officials reported. That represented about \$3.3 million worth of community services.

ChalleNGe is split into two parts. There is a 22-week residential phase that emphasizes education, citizenship, life-coping skills, leadership and physical training in environments similar to basic military training. There is a post-residential phase in which each graduate is paired with an adult mentor,



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Physical training is part of the daily routine for students attending National Guard ChalleNGe programs, including those at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, La.

who guides their development for the next 12 months.

The National Mentoring Partnership presented ChalleNGe with one of its three Excellence in Mentoring awards in 2001.

Here is why one National Guard leader values the program:

"Simply put, ChalleNGe saves lives," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "It's incredibly

rewarding. I can't think of anything better to do for the citizens of this nation than to give them the opportunity to really be all that they can be."

### Louisiana's lesson

Nobody does tough love like Louisiana — when it comes to ChalleNGe.

National Guard officials in the Pelican State have clearly set the standard for giving "at-risk" teenagers a second chance to pick

themselves up and earn high school diplomas and prepare for life.

Consider this: The state that ranks 22nd in population with 4.5 million people, according to the 2000 census, has the highest rate of high school dropouts in the country — about 19,000 during the 1999-2000 school year alone.

See KIDS On Page 6

### MULTI-ROLE

#### F-16s

Fighter wing does more than just air defense

3



### JOURNEY

#### Adventure

Guardsmen retrace famous expedition

11



### BACK HOME

#### W.Va.

Soldiers return from Operation Enduring Freedom

12







# Commentary

## About The On Guard

The *On Guard* is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

## Submissions

E-mail your stories to us by the 15th of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

Editor.OnGuard@ngb.af.mil

## Address

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

## Phone/Fax

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

## Web Site

www.ngb.army.mil/onguard

## Staff

**CHIEF,**  
National Guard Bureau  
Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum

**CHIEF,**  
NGB, Public Affairs  
Mr. Daniel Donohue

**CHIEF,**  
NGB-Public Affairs  
Command Information  
Mrs. Dalena Kanouse

**EDITOR**  
Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks

**SENIOR CORRESPONDENT**  
Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

## From the Chief of the National Guard Bureau

*(Editor's note: The following is a transcript of an interview with Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum with the Washington Post on June 23, 2003)*

*1. We've heard there are discussions underway aimed at significantly increasing the National Guard homeland defense mission, as an outgrowth of Sec. Rumsfeld's interest in transforming the Army and realigning active duty and reserve/Guard forces. Can you describe these discussions and where they are heading?*

**Answer:**

National Security starts with homeland security. Homeland defense is mission one whether it's on America soil or in overseas combat. The overseas fight is "the homeland defense away game."

The National Guard is committed to homeland security. We will leverage the units, training and resources in our existing war fight capabilities to expand and enhance the roles we can perform in homeland security.

The Guard can and will enhance and increase through innovative transformation the depth and breadth of its readiness to perform all national security missions-at home and overseas.

The first steps in our transformation are:  
Unify National Guard Bureau; streamline, flatten, make more efficient-consolidation of functions and responsibilities, aligned with the Joint Staff;

Organize and operate in accordance with Joint Doctrine;

Integrate and coordinate with all services and components;

Use resources wisely and efficiently;  
Consolidate 162 State headquarters organizations into 54; the personnel and cost savings to be invested in readiness;

Creation of a single joint force headquarters in each state for all Army and Air Guard activities;

Joint Force Headquarters (State) capable of meeting NORTHCOM RSOI/C4ISR requirements, and integrator for AC and RC consequence management operations;

Task organize 10 National Guard Chemical, Biological Incident Response Forces (NGBIRF);

NG Civil Support Team  
Enhanced division medical company with 150 person per hour decontamination/treatment capability;

Enhanced engineer company with specialized search and rescue equipment;

Task trained combat units capable of supporting law enforcement;

Meets NORTHCOM request for capabilities;

Expand National Guard involvement in Ground-based Mid-course Missile Defense, Cyber and Information Operations, Space, and, Intelligence;

Build on Nike Hercules Guard model;

Include both Army and Air Guard;

Include Traditional Guard members and M-day units;

Create National Guard Reaction forces through dual missioning and training existing units;

Units immediately available to State and federal governments;

War fight and homeland security capable and

Meets NORTHCOM request for forces requirement.

*2. Will these new homeland defense duties take the Guard away from its more traditional combat and combat support roles, and are these new duties triggering resistance by some in the Guard community?*

**Answer:**

Absolutely not. The Guard will remain an integral part of the first line of defense and a full spectrum force.

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 15 & 16 (The Militia Clause) TITLE 32 CHAPTER 1 Sec. 102. In accordance with the traditional military policy of the United States, it is essential that the strength and organization of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard as an integral part of the first line defenses of the United States be maintained and assured at all times.

There are new asymmetrical threats that call for a different kind of war fighter and new, different weapons systems. We need to be smarter, lighter, more agile, and more lethal.

We, the Guard, must provide the kind of forces that America needs. The Guard force



Blum

structure does not stand alone unto itself, but rather represents a percentage slice of the total Army and Air Force. It is our view that if Army divisions or a certain type of Air Force unit are no longer needed then we, like the active component and the reserves will have to change.

The National Guard's leadership nationwide embraces and supports the Homeland Defense and Security missions.

*3. What are some of the scenarios being dis-*

See INTERVIEW On Page 10

## In the spotlight ...



Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, poses with Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Allen Coe of the Massachusetts National Guard's Headquarters Company, 211th Military Police Battalion out of Reading, Mass. Coe, from East Bridgewater, Mass., was presented with Myers' coin for being the "Oldest Enlisted Military Policeman in Operation Iraqi Freedom" at age 60.

Submitted photo





# In the News

## Air National Guard F-16s do more than air defense

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — The F-16 just keeps on giving. It is the little jet fighter that can.

Members of the Montana Air National Guard demonstrated just how dependably their single-engine Fighting Falcons can function as bombers during the two weeks in June they took part in the Air Force training exercise "Air Warrior" here at the Army's

National Training Center in southern California.

"This is in line with our new mission. We're now a general-purpose fighter wing. We're no longer air defense," explained Col. Pat Pauli, commander of the 120th Fighter Wing based at Great Falls, Mont.

What's the difference? General-purpose wings drop bombs. Air defense wings don't. General-purpose wings fly close air support missions to protect troops on the ground.

Air defense wings, armed with missiles, patrol the skies searching for enemy aircraft.

About 120 members of the Montana wing, flying 11 F-16C model planes, participated in "Air Warrior" for the first time since the wing became a general-purpose outfit on June 1, 1999, Pauli explained. It completed the conversion to modern planes that can drop precision-guided bombs on Jan. 1, 2002, he added.

The pilots dropped 42 laser-guided, 500-pound bombs on a remote and uninhabited part of Fort Irwin while responding to calls for close air support from the North Carolina Army Guard's 30th Infantry Brigade that was also training in the Mojave Desert.

They flew out of Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nev.

"We're doing the CNN bit," said Pauli about the way fighters have most recently been used during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We're flying and bombing during the day, and we're trained and ready to do the same thing at night."

Originally designed as a lightweight fighter, the F-16 has proven to be a workhorse that can carry a half-dozen 500-pound bombs



Photo courtesy of the Montana Air National Guard



A Montana Air National Guard F-16 pilot of the 120th Fighter Wing checks a map before taking off from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

A Montana Air National Guard F-16 pilot settles into his cockpit, with an assist from his crew chief, before taking off from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada on a close air support training flight at the Army's National Training Center in southern California. Members of Montana's 120th Fighter Wing took part in the Air Force training exercise "Air Warrior" that was held in conjunction with a North Carolina Army National Guard training rotation in the Mojave Desert.

or two 2,000 pounders, Pauli said.

"It's just as important for our people to gain confidence in their weapons systems as it is for these soldiers on the ground," stressed the

wing commander about the value of the two weeks of training.

Does this mean that the Montana wing can no longer do the air defense bit? No.

## Government Travel Card mandatory split disbursement policy

### National Guard Bureau memo

Department of the Army received their entrance brief for the AAA Travel Charge Card Audit in June. They identified five major commands that will be audited. The Army National Guard is among those MACOMs selected for audit. AAA has been instructed to audit for compliance with regulations and DoD/DA guidance.

The primary means of ensuring compliance is the complete and accurate reporting of delinquency and apparent abuse, and subsequent command action to eliminate abuse and delinquency based on the information reported.

Most in the Army National Guard have implemented mandatory split disbursement for the military. If you are among those that have not yet implemented mandatory split disbursement, begin immediately. Interim

instructions for implementation of mandatory split disbursement are:

Ensure all travel orders include whether the individual is in one of the following 3 categories:

It is the travel voucher reviewer's responsibility to ensure that a military member that owes money to Bank of America has selected split disbursement and entered an amount that will cover amounts owed. The amount owed must take into account any previous payments that have not yet posted to the member's account. How this amount is best determined will be up to each organization or reviewer.

Ensure all travel orders include whether the individual is in one of the following 3 categories:

1. Has a travel charge card and will use the ATM to make cash advance withdrawals

2. Is exempt from mandatory use of the travel charge card and authorized a travel advance (this includes anyone who falls under the list of exemptions as published in the DoDFMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3, and individuals mobilized under contingency operations where use of the travel charge card is discouraged).

Please note that DoD has rejected the GSA definition of an infrequent traveler being one who travels 5 or fewer times a year. This means that the current definition as published in the DoDFMR will remain. An infrequent traveler is one who travels 2 or fewer times a year.

3. Is not exempt from mandatory use of the travel charge card and is not authorized a travel advance (this includes anyone that is not exempt from mandatory use of the travel

charge card but has refused to obtain a travel charge card.

Default split disbursement only becomes effective if the federal civilian employee fails to make any selections in block 1, Payment, of the DD Form 1351-2.

If a voucher is submitted to travel with block 1 empty, but the remainder of the voucher is correct and complete, travel will automatically disburse to Bank of America the total amount of lodging, rental car and airline ticket reported on the DD Form 1351-2.

Additionally, DoD has made it clear that default split disbursement was to be effective on April 23, 2003 and all DoD employees are now subject to this provision. Please implement default split disbursement.



# State partnerships support security guidance document

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

MONTEREY, Calif. — States that are affiliated with foreign countries should strengthen those bonds. States that have not forged similar international alliances might want to think about doing so.

That's the message that the new chief of the National Guard Bureau is delivering this summer on behalf of the National Guard's State Partnership Program that is observing its first 10 years of existence.

It is one way that the National Guard is supporting the Security Cooperation Guidance document recently signed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum.

"This program will exist, this program will expand, and this program will be supported," he recently told Guard representatives from the 54 states and territories during the 2003 State Partnership Program Workshop in Monterey, Calif.

"I want to assure you that I remain committed to the State Partnership Program," Blum said. "I ask you to remain a strong proponent for continuing these partnerships and help strengthen those where the relationships may have diminished."

Guard officials in 36 states, two territories and the District of Columbia — from Puerto Rico to Guam — have developed partnerships with 38 countries around the world since the program got its modest start in January 1993.

Those partnerships, which range from military training to suggestions for economic development, form a critical part of the Guard's efforts to help this country maintain

international stability, Blum said.

"It is readily apparent with the global war on terrorism that the United States must remain fully engaged in the international community," said Blum, who became the Guard Bureau's chief last April after commanding a multinational peacekeeping force in Bosnia from September 2001 to April 2002.

"As you know, the National Guard's unique civil-military nature is of great interest to the international community, and the State Partnership Program is a valuable and flexible tool for supporting our nation's Security Cooperation Guidance," Blum told his Monterey audience.

"As we recognize the 10-year anniversary of the State Partnership Program, we are better positioned than ever to offer civil-military expertise to both long-established and emerging global partners, helping them to positively effect changes within their borders," he added.

That emphasis by the chief of the National Guard Bureau will give this program even more credibility, predicted Col. Mark Kalber, the National Guard Bureau's chief of International Affairs that oversees the State Partnership Program.

"It is especially important to reinforce the ties that already exist between the states and their partner nations and to develop new partnerships," Kalber added. "More countries want to get into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and we need all of the allies we can get to help wage the war on terrorism."

Significantly, the seven countries that were

*"I want to assure you that I remain committed to the State Partnership Program. I ask you to remain a strong proponent for continuing these partnerships and help strengthen those where the relationships may have diminished."*

— Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum

invited to join NATO last November all have State Partnership alliances — Bulgaria with Tennessee, Estonia with Maryland, Latvia with Michigan, Lithuania with Pennsylvania, Romania with Alabama, Slovakia with Indiana, and Slovenia with Colorado.

These countries are expected to join NATO next year.

The three newest NATO members also had State Partnership ties before they joined in 1999. They include the Czech Republic with Texas and Nebraska, Hungary with Ohio, and Poland with Illinois.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were the first countries to join the partnership program in 1993. The original intent was to help former members of the Warsaw Pact in Eastern Europe learn the ways of democracy, including the National Guard's concept of the citizen-soldier, and free-market economies.

"It was decided to start military liaison teams in the Baltics with reserve component personnel. This helped avoid a provocative signal to the Russian Federation that may have been sent had the teams been staffed with active duty soldiers," Guard officials explained.

Since then, partnerships have been created in four central Asian countries north of Afghanistan — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Alliances have also been formed with 13 Latin American countries. In East Asia, meanwhile, the Philippines has been partnered with Hawaii and Guam, Thailand is strongly affiliated with Washington state, and Mongolia is expected to be partnered with Alaska very soon.

Relations between Nevada and Turkmenistan provide an example of how the National Guard Bureau chief would like to see the partnerships flourish.

That alliance was re-energized in 2002 after being dormant for six years. Nine exchange programs, including sharing information about fire response and agriculture, are scheduled for this year and will be continued in 2004.

"The key to the program's success has been the high level of commitment from state and local agencies and the University of Nevada, Reno. Almost all of the technical experts used in the exchanges have been civilians," Nevada officials reported. "This has worked very well since the Turkmen military, both Army and Border Service, is learning new roles and missions in areas that are traditionally dominated by civilians."

## First responders

# Mobilization Augmentation Command: The Guard's 911 Command

By Rick Breitenfeldt

National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — During times of crisis, emergency responders are the men and women who come to our immediate aid and are on the scene within minutes. The Mobilization Augmentation Command is the National Guard's 911 go-to unit during times of conflict and world consternation.

In a May 28 ceremony, held at the Pentagon, the Army National Guard's Mobilization Augmentation Command was officially recognized as the unit that has the mission of first response during a national emergency. Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, director of the Army National Guard addressed the attendees and reiterated the importance of such a valuable unit.

"The heart and soul of this unit comes from the D.C. Guard," said Schultz. "We've taken soldiers from across the Guard and we've brought them here. Their drive and dedication to a purpose and a cause is unequalled."

According to Schultz, the unit made an indelible impression upon the Department of Defense when it was activated immediately after the terrorist attacks of September 11.

"We were literally the first unit to be mobilized from the Army Reserve components after September 11th under the partial mobilization authority of the President," said Col. Randy E. Manner, commander of the detachment since December, 1997. "We quickly became the 911 force for the Army Operations Center."

"We are taking a time-out to recognize that we are transitioning formally from a detachment to a command, combined with more than a 100 percent increase in our total strength," said Manner.

Officially assigned to the District of Columbia National Guard, the Mobilization Augmentation Command has grown substantially from when it was first envisioned back in the early '90s.

Originally authorized 48 personnel and intended to support the Emergency Operations Center in the Pentagon, the Mobilization Augmentation Command now has more than doubled in authorized size and taken on more missions in the process.

"Today we have over 80 percent of all the officers and non-commissioned officers on the Crisis Action Team Floor in the Army

Operations Center and more than 30 officers and NCOs working in the Emergency Operations Center," said Manner.

Brig. Gen. David F. Wherley Jr., acting commanding general of the D.C. National Guard said the unit's three responsibilities were supporting the Army operations center and crisis action team, supporting the Army National Guard emergency operations center and congressional liaison support.

Manner added, "This gives us the chance to demonstrate that Guardsmen and members of the Reserve can step up and contribute side by side with our regular Army team members."

"It is exciting during war time to be able to contribute in a meaningful way and be involved in the Army as it supports our national security objectives," said Manner.

"Our number one mission," said Manner, "is to protect the citizens of this country and to do our very best to take care of those soldiers who are spread across the world and in harms way."

Manner said the officers that make up the unit come from nearly all officer branches and enlisted occupational specialties, because positions in the command are all



Manner

branch immaterial.

But, according to Manner, that doesn't mean he isn't looking for most qualified officers in the Army.



# Values prompt guardsman to save life, thwart home invasion

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

107th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. — Water crashed over the honeymooners' falls just a few hundred yards upstream. A man was in the middle of the Niagara River, darkness falling over him and the swift current, which carried a 48-degree chill through him — possibly numbing the pain of the bangs and bruises suffered as he crashed down the walls of the gorge.

June's Friday the 13th wasn't going as planned for Steven Carlisle, but after being chased off of a cliff and into the river, he probably thought the worst was over and that he was close to getting away. But the person on the rim of the gorge had other plans. She held a cell phone high above her head, allowing law enforcement officers across the gorge to pinpoint Carlisle's location in the water directly below.

The person with the cell phone was the same one who interrupted Carlisle as he allegedly assaulted an elderly woman during an alleged home invasion. It was the same person who chased him more than three blocks, hurdling guardrails, across a busy main street, talking on the cell phone as she closed the distance.

Senior Airman Tina Cox, an administrative journeyman with the 107th Air Refueling Wing here, was teaching Carlisle about Air Force core values as she bore down on him. "I really think that the 'service before self' part of core values played a big part in what I did," she said.

Cox was undaunted by the differences in physical stature between her and the alleged assailant: she is 5' 7", 130 pounds;

he is 6 foot, 180 pounds, with a muscular build.

Carlisle's physical presence had demoralized Betty Cross, the woman he had lifted by the throat, feet off of the floor. "As soon as I saw [Carlisle] in my house, I knew I was up against something which would conquer me," Cross said. "Thank God [Cox] didn't leave, she could've just walked away," she added.

"I wouldn't have left her. If I'm willing to lay down my life for my country then why wouldn't I do it for a neighbor?" Cox said.

As Cox chased Carlisle down, talking to a Niagara Falls Police dispatcher on her cell phone at the same time, she saw Carlisle look back a couple of times. "I could see the fear in his eyes. I realized that he was a punk and I wasn't going to let him get away with what he had done," Cox said.

The chase had started at Cross' house several minutes earlier. Cox was getting some things out of her car across the street from Cross' house and heard a scream. Another scream seconds later called her to action. "It was a terrible scream. It was horrifying," Cox said.

Cox darted toward the neighbor's house. "I turned around about half way across the street though. I had a funny feeling, you know, a really scary feeling," she said. She grabbed her cell phone, turned around again, and headed for the screams. Looking in the screen door of her neighbor's house, she saw Cross on her knees — Carlisle was strangling the elderly woman.

Cox's presence startled Carlisle and he fumbled with a statement that Cross owed him money. Cox didn't believe Carlisle, and Cross screamed as best she could how



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Senior Airman Tina Cox was overcome by emotions during an interview with a Buffalo news channel about the incident. She recalled seeing her elderly female neighbor being strangled by an alleged home invader.

Carlisle was trying to rob and kill her. Cox dialed the 9-1-1 dispatcher, and tried to block Carlisle's exit from the house.

The two neighbors were aware each other prior to June 13th, but had never spoken. "I knew she was in the military. I had seen her in her uniform," Cross said. "Thinking back to that night, I remember thinking that it was like a dream when I saw Tina at the door. I felt such a strong positive presence," she added.

With Cox at the door, screaming for an explanation, Carlisle obviously knew that it was time to leave Cross' house — he had already broken two of her ribs. "He barged his way past me and started to walk down the block. I started to follow him so that I could give the police a description," Cox said. Then he started to run so I kicked off my slippers and gave chase.

"I don't like when people do [bad] things and then get away with it. This guy couldn't get away with this and just disappear into the night — I wanted him caught," she added.

With darkness falling — it was 8:30 p.m. — and with only socks on her feet, Cox stayed on Carlisle's heels until he went over the edge of the gorge and police arrived. Her four years of high school track and field had paid off.

This isn't the first time that Cox aided a victim. Just a week earlier, Cox and Senior Airman Joanna Blackburn, 107th ARW Logistics Squadron, were in Cox's apartment when they heard screams outside. A 17-year-old male was pulling his 14-year-old girlfriend's hair. Cox yelled at him and he started to run away. Cox chased him down, gave him a lecture and made him go back and apologize to the girl.

"That's just how she is," said Blackburn of Cox. "She doesn't like to see people taken advantage of, she's a really caring person," she added.

Cox agrees with Blackburn's assessment of Cox and also feels that being in the military has a lot to do with Cox's attitude. "I'm sure that she is one of those really good people. But being in the military and having the two parts together gave her what she needed to do," Cross said.

Cpt. John Soltys, chief of detectives for the criminal investigation division of the Niagara Falls Police Department, also gives credit to Cox and her military bearing. "It's commendable what she has done — it's great when people get involved in their communities and it shows what can be done when they do," he said. "I really believe that her commitment to duty went a long way in her choices and decisions to do what she did."

Cox is taking the whole thing in stride. She has no doubt that she would do the same thing again; has no doubts that she could have acted differently; and is humbled by statements from Cross and the police pointing toward a belief that she probably saved Cross' life and is solely responsible for Carlisle's capture.

"I don't know what to say. This is the way I was trained — I learned discipline, integrity first, service before self and excellence in all that we do. I'm positive that my training had a lot to do with what I did," she said.

**(Editor's Note: The victim's name has been changed at her request to protect her identity.)**



Senior Airman Tina Cox, left, is credited with saving her neighbor's life June 13 as she thwarted an alleged home invasion. As of June 25, the suspect was still in jail awaiting grand jury action for determination of the charges against him. The suspect spent the first several days after the alleged crime in the hospital after Cox chased him off of a cliff and into the Niagara River.



FROM PAGE 1

## Kids

Based on National Guard statistics, each at-risk youth will cost society more than \$1.7 million during their lifetime. That is a potential drain of \$32 billion from that year alone.

Here is what the Louisiana National Guard has done to address that problem, based on the premise that "our mission is their future."

— Louisiana is the only state with three ChalleNGe programs, thanks to the support of Gov. Mike Foster Jr., and Maj. Gen. Bennett Landreneau, the state's adjutant general.

— It is the only state with a Job ChalleNGe Program that is designed to introduce ChalleNGe graduates to one of nine trades.

— It is the only state with a separate center, apart from the three ChalleNGe residential facilities, to train and coordinate mentors for graduates, who have completed the 51-month residential program.

Louisiana also boasts the nation's best all-around ChalleNGe program for 2003 — at the Gillis W. Long Center in Carville, La., south of Baton Rouge, which is renowned for a leprosarium that has occupied a former sugar cane plantation since 1894. That was where the cure for Hansen's Disease, what leprosy is now called, was discovered during the first half of the 20th century.

Camp Beauregard in Pineville, La., one of the country's original 10 programs, and Camp Minden near Shreveport, La., are the two other centers with residential programs.

Furthermore, Louisiana programs have earned three best all-around awards during the past seven years. Camp Beauregard won in 1997 and 2000 before Gillis Long won this year's award.

There are a couple of keys to Louisiana's

success.

"The people who work here are qualified, and they care about the young people who come here," said Col. Tom Kirkpatrick, director of the Gillis Long program.

And a lot of parents want to get their teenagers into ChalleNGe.

"We started this program in 1999, because so many parents wanted to get their teenagers into Camp Beauregard. But Beauregard couldn't handle the demand," Kirkpatrick said.

Beauregard and Gillis Long conduct two classes each year for 200 or so students per class. Camp Minden runs two 100-student classes each year.

The students come to ChalleNGe for many reasons.

Rachel Posey, 17, of Baton Rouge wanted to raise her self-esteem by losing a lot of weight, as much as 70 pounds, because she just knew that other students in her high school were making fun of her.

"I discovered I'm not alone," said the young woman, who began sweating off the pounds during the first two weeks that are called "hard core," because they are so physically and emotionally demanding. The students, who complete that grind, earn the right to stay for the 20 remaining weeks.

By week 10, Posey was looking forward to earning her GED and then going to college after perhaps learning something about carpentry at the Job ChalleNGe Program that is also located at the Gillis Long Center.

Besides, Posey said, "My mom wouldn't let me go home even if I wanted to."

Christopher Cole, 17, from Denham Springs, La., saw ChalleNGe as the best way to get his high school diploma, so he could join the Louisiana Army Guard.

"Then I want to go to college and then go on active duty," Cole explained. "I was advised this would be a good start for military service. I have a fiancée."

There are harder cases, but most students are good kids searching for a sense of direction, explained Lucinda Mulmore, who has a master's degree in education and who has been a Gillis Long counselor since that program started.

"They are looking for support that no one ever gave them before," she said. "They are starving for a set of rules."

Students encounter plenty of rules, and a cadre of enlisted military people distinctive in their campaign hats, who are ready to enforce them, during their 22 weeks of residential training. That's the "tough love" part of the program.

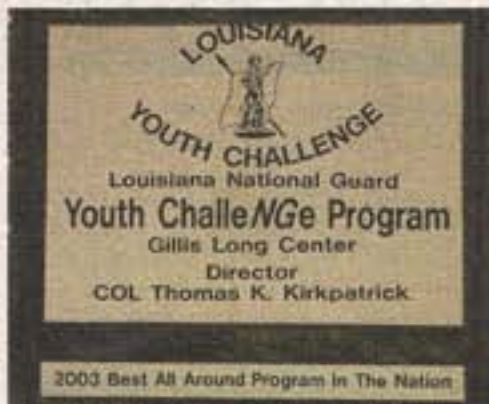
Break the rules. Count on doing pushups. Mess up during physical training. Expect to do some grass drills. Control your temper and show some leadership. Earn privileges, such as buying candy or getting a ride in a helicopter.

The cadre address the young men and women by their last names prefaced by Mr. and Miss as a show of respect, said Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Jones, the Gillis Long commandant.

"We want them to know we will respect them and that we expect the same in return," Jones said.

"The most important thing we're trying to teach them is respect for themselves," said Cpl. Latrisha Powell, who is working with her fourth class of young women at Gillis Long.

"Basic training saved my life," said Powell, who strives to instill the same sense of discipline in those students. At 23, she's young



The sign says it all about the National Guard's best overall ChalleNGe Program for 2003. It's at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, La.

enough to be like their older sister and tough enough to demand their respect.

"I believe this program is good for them, because I know it would have been good for me," said Powell, who admitted she, too, was "kind of rebellious" when she was a teenager.

"I didn't come from a broken home, but I had some problems," she added. "If I had known about ChalleNGe, I would have gone through it first and then gone to basic."

Soldiers, who complete basic, then learn their military job during advanced individual training. The Job ChalleNGe Program gives graduates of Louisiana's three ChalleNGe programs a similar option.

That's a 90-day, federally funded school that the Louisiana Guard runs four times a year. It has grown in the past four years from 24 to about 65 students per class and from three to nine trades and from an annual budget of \$240,000 to \$1.6 million, said Col. Herbert Fritts, the Gillis Long installation commander.

The students can learn the basics about heavy equipment, caring for trees, welding, carpentry, masonry, culinary arts, office skills, landscape and turf management and painting.

"They are all entry-level, high volume and high turnover jobs. Our graduates have a good chance of finding work in Louisiana. Eighty-five percent get hired for higher than entry-level wages," Fritts said, especially since they are trained to Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

Most Job ChalleNGe students come directly from Louisiana's residential ChalleNGe programs, although they do not have to, Fritts said, and nearly 600 of the students, who have begun the job program since September 1999 have graduated. That's an 83 percent success rate.

"When they leave here they've got a resume," said Fritts. "Then, once they've found a job, they have to keep it, just like everybody else."

That is one of the things responsible adults are expected to do. And that, ChalleNGe advocates across the country maintain, is what "at-risk" teenagers are more inclined to do after they have experienced a whole lot of tough love.



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Teenagers participating in the National Guard ChalleNGe Program take pains not to spill a drop of water during lunch at the Gillis Long Center in Carville, La. It is part of their regimented routine during the 22-week residential program.



# Redeployed: Coming home with stress and strain

By Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean  
107th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office

NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION, N.Y. — It was good to be home after six months in the desert — sand and heat and all work.

It was good to be on the drive from the base to the house — her husband chatting away, the two boys giggling in the back seat.

It would be good to be back in the house, but the thought of the next few weeks gnawed at her. She loves her husband, but getting everything at home back into shape would take ages — she could only imagine the piles — which would be higher, the mail or the laundry?

The worst part of the homecoming was an hour later when she realized that there weren't any piles, there weren't any problems — everything was in place, everything was up to date; the family had managed fine (logistically) without her.

Even worse, they bragged about all they had done and how they wanted to keep up with the schedule of chores on the refrigerator.

In war she was indispensable, nothing got done [properly] without her.

But now, her husband and children had unknowingly made it clear — in her mind anyway — that she wasn't really as important at home as she thought she was.

Reentry into home life can easily stimulate or exacerbate problems for service members returning from a deployment: many experience things while away which may be difficult to deal with in themselves; others may return to find stacks of tasks built up; others may return to find that

they are not quite as indispensable as they thought. Some may find that their life plan has been changed, creating anger and resentment.

"A lot of the smaller problems will take care of themselves in time," according to 107th Air Refueling Wing Medical Squadron Commander Dr. (Col.) John Cramer.

Other problems require much more attention. They will only be solved after realization, planning and working toward solutions.

And "there is no cookie-cutter solution," said 107th ARW Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ralph S. English. "[People] must appreciate the fact that a person's reentry is unique and should therefore not be defined by a specific timeline or as 'at certain stages' in the process at 'certain times,'" he added.

The doctor and the chaplain agree that it's important to recognize the potential for problems — in both yourself, if you are the person returning, or in others, if you are a friend or family member trying to reintegrate somebody who has been away. It's important to know what to look for, how to address the issues, and how to reduce or eliminate the problems in the future.

There are at least two sides to reentry, and each person in the process is unique. None of the participants has exclusive rights to the most important problem: those who left experienced a different lifestyle, those left behind found turmoil also.

The person returning is "... coming back from a different mindset. You were in a different world doing a different job. This difference is the same whether your deployment is in peacetime or war. This [returning] and [where you were] are whole structural changes to your life," said Cramer.

Those left at home had to make equally severe changes to their lifestyles: taking on unfamiliar roles, performing tasks which are new or challenging, worrying about the person who is deployed, etc.

So when the day finally comes, homecoming is both a change and a challenge. Things might not be the same as when the person left, but that doesn't necessarily mean that change can't be good, according to English.

When it comes to relationships themselves, regardless of the day-to-day tasks of survival, "A lot of outcomes are driven by the status of the relationship before you [deploy]," according to Cramer. "If you start weak there's a good chance that you'll come back to something worse. The stressors which were there then will still be there, but distance has a way of making these worse," he added.

Easier said than done, the simplest solution to the above is to leave with a solid foundation, understanding and commitment in your relationships, and to communicate as much as possible during the deployment.

Of course, the level and access to communication with home during a deployment is usually outside the control of the person deployed, but recognizing the status of interpersonal relationships before leaving can be a comfort or an added stressor. This can be especially true in today's society, where roles are often outside of the "traditions" of yesteryear.

"These days it's not uncommon for the female in a relationship to be the one deploying — leaving the male, sometimes a father, at home. When the female comes back to find that the male has performed admirably in his new role, perceptions of what each role 'should be' can be threatened. It can be hard to integrate this into a relationship," English said. "And whether it's a role reversal, or just concern about 'what will happen when I'm gone?' when the person at home has gone beyond coping, they

may not want to relinquish the newly discovered control that they now have over their lives," he added.

But whether a relationship is strained because of role challenges or other stressors because of deployment, patience and communication are pivotal in the solution.

People returning and those welcoming somebody home need to take the time to think about what it is they've experienced, according to English. He suggests that people take the time to sit down, relax and actually think about things: the experience of the deployment; the experience of being apart; the way that things might have to change, and how to adapt to those changes.

Deployment not only affects married service members or those in committed relationships. College students will often find that their planned path to success has been interrupted because of a deployment. At the very least, courses may have to be made up during the next semester. But sometimes, the interruption could easily cause much longer delays in graduating.

"Landmarks which the student airman has set for himself have moved. Friends which he or she planned on going through school with have kept moving forward during the deployment," said Cramer. This level of change can lead to feelings of anger and resentment.

Like the course toward solutions in relationships, the same advice applies to the student: sit down and think about things — think about where you were, where you need to go, and make a revised plan to get there.

There are many programs and sources of help service-wide for military members and their families dealing with reentry issues. And while the active duty forces may have larger and better funded bases, the National Guard and the Reserves have something more important when dealing with these problems: stability and long-term relationships.

"The biggest of the dynamic differences between the Guard and active duty may be the family atmosphere. The active 'two-year rotations' don't lend themselves to the level of support that we can provide in a Guard unit," said Cramer.

Less turnover and more long-term relationships allows guardsmen and reservists to know each other better — to know when a buddy just isn't the same person for some reason.

Chaplain's offices, family support centers, first sergeants, mentors and coworkers are all places and people to look to for people having problems "getting back into things." In fact, many service-wide programs have overall concepts which embrace opportunities to recognize problems and seek solutions.

First Aid buddy care teaches airmen to look out for one another, not only on the battlefield, but at home after the battle. Mentoring programs reinforce a climate of cooperation and teamwork, where each looks out for somebody else. Family support centers are, among other things, clearing houses for referrals to organizations that can help with almost anything. And chaplains are always available to listen with a non-judgmental and non-denominational neutrality.

But first, English advises, that to be able to help others — to love thy neighbor — you first have to love [take care of] yourself. "Give yourself permission to grieve, to be hurt, to be in pain and to have your own time line for entry or reentry," he said.

And when you are ready, or if you already are, look for the signs of trouble in yourself or others: Changes in behavior, mood changes, depression, withdrawal from family and friends, irritability and sleep disturbances above and beyond those which would normally be expected.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Dean

Members of the 107th Air Refueling Wing, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, arrive back at the base May 9 after an overseas deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# Arkansas sniper team tra

By 2nd Lt. Chris J. Heathscott  
National Guard Marksmanship Training Center

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A team of Arkansas snipers packed up their expertise and headed for Florida in June, offering the 20th Special Forces Group some of the best training in the nation.

Traveling from units in Mississippi, Alabama and Virginia the SF Guardsmen joined comrades from the 20th's 3rd Battalion headquarters in Camp Blanding, Florida. The battalion hosted a Command Readiness Academy (CRA) as this year's annual training for the soldiers.

The CRA offered various courses to include a Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC). The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC) provided a Mobile Training Team (MTT) for the SOTIC, carrying the classroom to the student. The Arkansas team, based out of Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark., instructs and supports the center's Sniper School.

"We have the ability to go anywhere in the United States, or OCONUS if need be, and are able to run the same sort of training that they can get at our home station schoolhouse," said the Sniper School NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Brett Boatright. "We can take our operation and move it to some other location and still be as effective, not only on the ground, but with all the logistical paperwork that has to be done."

"That is invaluable," said Staff Sgt. David Broseus, a sniper instructor with the school who spent six years as an instructor at Fort Benning, Ga. "I mean anytime you have a product that you can sell without having to inconvenience your customer...there is no substitute for that really."

Coupled with his wealth of instructional experience, Broseus has also made a name for himself in competitive circles. Along with SPC. Kristopher Hector, a Nebraskasoldier who joined the team of instructors, Broseus earned 2nd place team honors in the recent Combat Sniper Challenge international competition. The two men comprised one of the three national guard teams placing in the top five.

Master Sgt. Adam Rice of B Company, 3rd Battalion said, "These guys are world class marksmen. I mean they compete internationally in high powered rifle competitions."

The Special Operations Sergeant added, "They're very good. I've been nothing but impressed with them."

Years of experience provided by the school's instructors are the major asset in its

ability to go mobile. According to Boatright, while active and reserve component soldiers are many times forced to abandon their skill for career advancement, reservists can maintain their skill by returning to instruct throughout their careers. "Every one of the skills we teach is perishable...every one of them," Boatright explained. "That's the reason we've maintained a more experienced pool of instructors," he said based on his active duty time as a Sniper Team Leader.

Through this experience, the Center, which is accredited to offer the Additional Skill Identifier, B4 Sniper, altered its own Program of Instruction (POI) to match the needs of the 20th.

"They're down here teaching the Special Forces POI," said Rice. "They're not Special Forces, but they're completely qualified to teach the course. They're doing a great job."

Boatright said the experience level of his instructors allowed the quick adaptation to the differing POI.

"When you're dealing with as much experience as we've got, not only can they take another POI and implement it and run it, but they also have a lot more to add than what's even required," he said.

While the Special Forces soldiers are already very well trained, the advanced training offered by the Sniper School better prepares them for combat, a very realistic need for the 20th.

"Units in the National Guard are at a moment's notice away from being deployed," said Boatright. "I would say these guys are even one step closer. It's a good feeling to know that you're giving the training to the guys that need it the most."

Staff Sgt. Broseus said, "We're getting to train soldiers that have operational need, immediate operational need for this kind of knowledge and experience. Half the class is rotated in and out of Afghanistan and Iraq or wherever, and now the other half is ready to rotate in."

In discussing the importance of having well-trained snipers, Broseus said, "every time you have combat troops on the ground, regardless of where they are, you should have a sniper team overwatching that large element." He added, "the guys on the ground can't see the big picture. The snipers in an overwatch position can. They can see guys pulling rocket propelled grenades out of the trunks of their cars at some of these checkpoints, and they have the ability to take out single targets with very little and no collateral damage."

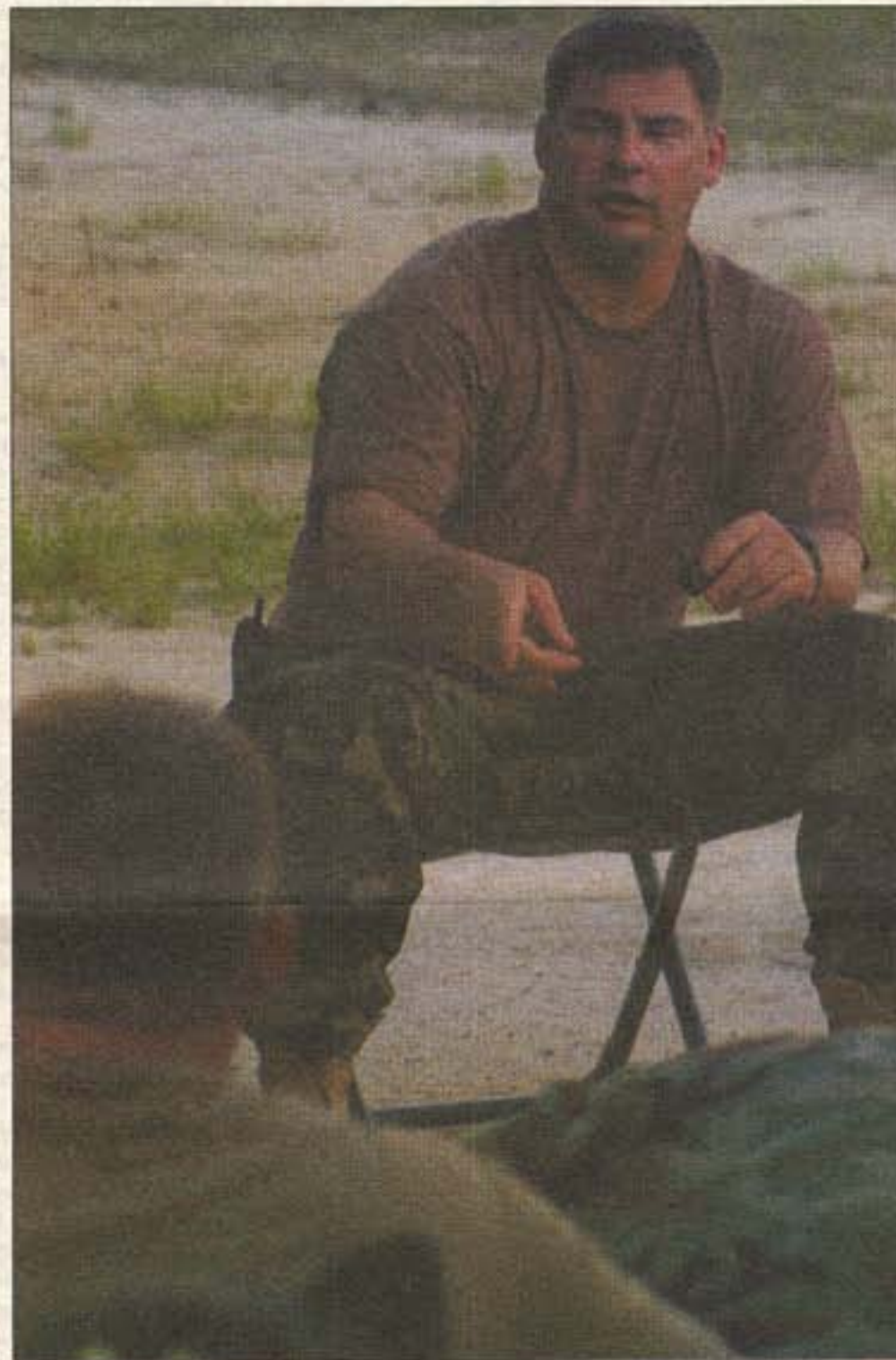


Photo by 2LT Chris J. Heathscott, NGMTC Public Affairs Officer

**Staff Sgt. David Broseus of the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center Sniper School offers "classroom instruction" to the soldiers from the 20th Special Forces Group prior to hitting the range. Broseus, an experienced instructor and competitor, is one asset which makes the schools Mobile Training Team a success.**

Boatright said a commander's initial intent is to get the soldier qualified and fill the slot, but they need to understand a trained sniper "brings so much more to the table."

"They don't realize how much a combat multiplier that a sniper is," he said. Boatright continued in saying you want to "conflict as much damage to the enemy without having to put any of your people in immediate danger." A Sniper can do this because, "not only is he going to have eyes on the target to reduce targets, but more so importantly is, here's a guy that you can send out that can give you detailed information on the target situation or the enemy situation

prior to sending your elements forward."

Sgt. 1st Class Boatright says the school's Mobile Training Team is the best method to build the Sniper assets under your command. Offering the ability to train 30 to 40 soldiers at one time, the MTT can build your assets much more efficiently and effectively than the normal Army Training Requirements and Resource System (ATTRS). Held at your location, the mass training offers a faster overall train up time, as well as allowing your soldiers to train with the teams they will actually serve with on the battlefield.

As well as a pre-site survey to ensure the proper logistical needs are met, a thorough



# Travels to train Guardsmen



(above) Sgt. 1st Class Brett Boatright, NCOIC of the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center Sniper School, watches the line as soldiers from the 20th Special Forces Group send rounds downrange.

(below) A member of the 20th Special Forces Group, prepares to fire during limited visibility portion of the Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC) at Camp Blanding, Ariz. A Mobile Training Team from the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center, from Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark. Provided the training for the soldiers.

A psychological evaluation is conducted on the students by a certified psychologist to ensure they are mentally fit to perform these duties.

For more information on the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center's Sniper School or its Mobile Training Team, you can contact the school's OIC by calling (501) 212-4518, or the NCOIC at (501) 212-4519, or by visiting the MTC on the web at [www.arguard.org](http://www.arguard.org).





FROM PAGE 1

## Interview

*cussed for increasing the Guard homeland defense duties, and will they involve greater coordination with the Dept. of Homeland Security?*

**Answer:**

The National Guard Bureau and the National Guard are engaged in myriad initiatives designed to enhance the scope and timeliness of a National Guard response to a WMD incident.

The National Guard Bureau delivered to Congress in July 1999 a comprehensive study entitled "Enhancing The National Guard's Readiness To Support Emergency Responders In Domestic Chemical And Biological Terrorism Defense." The study, directed by Congress, identified gaps and shortfalls in the Nation's capabilities to respond to a terrorist incident and identified numerous roles and missions that the Guard could potentially perform.

The Congress authorized and resourced the current 32 WMD Civil Support Teams and the Guard fielded those units. They have made major contributions to our national readiness and those CSTs are responding to civilian authorities on a daily basis. We have been in close coordination with the Department of Defense to prepare an effective fielding plan for the additional 23 WMD Civil Support Teams called for in Section 1403 of the FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The National Guard Bureau, with Congressional support, developed the "Comprehensive Review and Report of September 11th" outlining actions taken throughout the emergency management and response communities in the minutes and days following 9-11. Its purpose was to make available to the civilian and military communities an overview of actions taken, so that all could be aware of the challenges faced, areas of need and opportunities to further refine response and support capabilities.

The "Automated Exercise and Assessment System" (AEAS), was funded by the Congress in response to the NGB Report to Congress referenced above, and initially fielded in April 2003. Our primary objective in developing the AEAS was to create a fully automated and integrated electronic tabletop exercise tool that allows Emergency Responders and Emergency Managers to prepare and assess their communities' readiness to respond to incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). The exercises rely on realistic WMD scenarios that capture proper interagency coordination, the latest accepted procedures and protocols, and the most complete scientific data. AEAS thoroughly exercises the emergency response community and assists the Guard in identifying potential mission support requirements by individual jurisdiction.

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training for the Guard was funded by the Congress and conducted during the past year. The National Guard trained 500 personnel as certified CISM trainers, doubling the number of internationally certified and recognized trainers in the world. These CISM qualified personnel are available to

assist communities as well as their military organizations in time of need.

I announced as part of my "Transforming the Guard" initiative, that the Guard would organize itself as a truly joint organization beginning at the National Guard Bureau on 1 July 2003 and effective 1 October 2003 in the Several States. It is the right thing to do for America and it is critical for the Guard to ensure that we are fully capable of operating across the full spectrum—from the combat war fight, through Homeland Defense and Security to responding to the Governors in times of natural disaster or civil disturbance. Further, this initiative will allow the Guard to quickly and efficiently respond to the requirements of Northern Command either as the force provider, and/or as the Joint Force Headquarters coordinating a follow-on federal military response.

The second element of the transformation initiative is to leverage our existing war fight capabilities. We must leverage our existing structure and capabilities to ensure our forces are never late to need.

We will

Task organize 10 National Guard Chemical, Biological Incident Response Forces (NGCBIRF). The task forces will consist of a National Guard Civil Support Team, an enhanced division medical company with 150 person per hour decontamination/ treatment capability, an enhanced engineer company with specialized search and rescue equipment and a task trained combat units capable of supporting law enforcement. These task forces will meet a previously identified NORTHCOM request for capabilities.

Expanded roles and missions of National Guard involvement in Ground-based Mid-course Missile Defense, Cyber and Information Operations, Space, and Intelligence by including both the Army and Air Guard. We will build on Nike Hercules Guard model and intend to include Traditional Guard members and M-day units.

Create National Guard Reaction forces through dual missioning and training existing units. These units will be immediately available to State and federal governments and for Homeland Security purposes are already forwarded deployed throughout the United States. The units will retain full war fight and homeland security capabilities. These forces will also meet a previously identified NORTHCOM request for forces requirement.

At the federal level, the ASD (HD) is the interface between all federal DOD organizations and the Department of Homeland Security. The National Guard Bureau is a federal agency of the Department of Defense and works through the ASD (HD).

The State Adjutants General serve their respective Governors in a different statutory and Constitutional role. Twenty six (26) of the TAGs are also the State Directors of Emergency Management and 17 are the State Directors of Homeland Security. Obviously, the states have an active, direct and ongoing relationship with the Department of Homeland Security.

4. Could Guard forces end up under the

*command, or co-command, of the Dept. of Homeland Security, or would the Department of Homeland Security have some direct operational relationship with NORTHCOM, which would retain the command function.*

**Answer:**

No. National Guard forces remain under the command and control of the respective Governors unless and until called into federal duty.

The President and the Secretary of Defense are in charge of all federal military forces to include mobilized National Guard units and personnel at all times.

Federal forces would be under the operational command of NORTHCOM for the purposes of Homeland Defense and Homeland Security.

Joint Forces Headquarters at the state level will provide NORTHCOM and other federal entities with C4ISR and RSOI capabilities that are currently not available.

The Joint Force Headquarters will provide a seamless transition and escalation from the almost immediate response by National Guard Forces in State Status to the later arrival of federal forces.

This will provide for continuity of operations and full integration of federal military support in response to and in support of the emergency management, response and elected official communities.

5. Are there legal impediments to any of these options or scenarios being discussed?

**Answer:**

No. Actually, some of these actions are necessary to come into full compliance with existing law.

6. Gen. Pace told the House Armed Services Committee yesterday that many Guard units now train to take over in the sixth month of a major war, but this makes little sense now that the wars the nation finds itself fighting, as in Afghanistan and Iraq, typically takes only weeks to execute. Does this mean that Guard units will no longer have specific missions related to standing war plans?

**Answer:**

No. The National Guard is and will remain a critical element of the war fight capability of the United States.

911 and Transformation has had and will have profound positive effects on each of these areas.

Smarter use of force structure, leveraging capabilities and making minor modifications to mission essential task lists to geometrically increase capabilities.

We must change the Army's go-to-war protocols. It is no longer practical to follow cold war regimens of train, alert, mobilize, train, certify, deploy. We must move to train, certify, alert, deploy.

We must organize to operate in peacetime and fight in wartime in a joint and potentially multinational environment.

Training must produce enhanced readiness, immediate accessibility, and individual and unit capability to conduct operations at home and abroad.

Readiness is a product of resources and training. We must focus our training on the myriad of missions we will be asked to perform and we - the National Guard Bureau -

must obtain the resources necessary for the soldiers and airmen to accomplish the mission.

September 11 Lessons Learned

First lesson learned -- The Guard was there when it was needed - 8,500 soldiers and airmen on the streets of New York in less than 24 hours and 30,000 incident free combat air patrol missions over the United States since September 11th.

Most important lesson learned - The Guard can operate across the full spectrum of national security missions from close quarters combat in Iraq and Afghanistan through international peacekeeping in Bosnia and Kosovo to airport and border security operations in the United States while simultaneously responding to the calls of the Governors to minimize human suffering in the face of natural or manmade disasters.

We the Guard must transform. We must leverage our existing structure and capabilities to ensure our forces are never late to need.

7. Army Lt. Gen. Ron Helmly gave us a good brief this morning on what he's planning to do to make the Army Reserve more ready, more agile, more deployable, and more in line with the MOSs (Military Occupational Specialties) most in need. But I'm not sure we understand how this relates to the active duty side of the Army, since he did not leave us with the impression that capabilities are necessarily being transferred from the reserves to active duty forces. Is it basically correct to say that capabilities will be added and subtracted on both sides of the house, but not necessarily transferred from one side to the other?

**Answer:**

Transformation is a state of mind. It is about how we think, organize and approach the future.

The National Guard's vision is based on these three priorities.

1) The security and defense of our homeland, at home and abroad, is the number one priority of the National Guard.

2) The National Guard's second priority is to support the Global War on Terrorism here and abroad.

3) America insists on a relevant, reliable and ready National Guard that is transformed for the 21st Century

The National Guard is committed to Transformation. We will aggressively work with the Army and the Air Force to integrate into their transformation plans.

It is imperative that we focus on the right force mix, the right kinds of units and develop maximum readiness across the full spectrum of national security requirements - from a full scale war fight overseas to the myriad homeland security missions.

Effectively leveraging the existing forces, streamlining forces and organizations, creating or changing forces to meet near and long-term needs, making organizations leaner, smaller and more effective; and, training and equipping to full readiness levels are the critical components of transformation.





## News Makers

# Guardisman to retrace expedition

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — A Montana Army National Guard soldier is determined to spend the next three years following the trail that Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery blazed across this country 200 years ago.

Staff Sgt. Scott Mandrell, 37, who actually lives near St. Louis, Mo., is recreating the Lewis and Clark Expedition — hour-by-hour and day-by-day — during the bicentennial celebration of the historic journey that charted the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase and the Northwest to the Pacific Ocean.

Mandrell is re-enacting the role of Lewis whom President Thomas Jefferson chartered to find a water route across the continent to improve the young country's prospects for commerce. The expedition did not discover such a route of rivers, but it is still regarded as significant a chapter in this country's history as sending men to the moon.

"This was the first great American adventure that opened up the country to westward expansion. People need to know that this was a peaceful and scientific military expedition — that it was a lot more than two guys in coonskin caps paddling a birch-bark canoe," explained Mandrell, who is representing the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles.

St. Charles, Mo., was the Missouri River village where the expedition said goodbye to American civilization when the explorers headed west in May 1804.

"The story of Lewis and Clark tells of intelligent officers and men collecting and recording scientific information about the new country and making friends with most of the Native American people they met," Mandrell said. "I hope it appeals to bright young people who may be interested in military service."

The National Park Service, private citizens and communities along the route are underwriting the project, said Mandrell. The operational expenses of \$1,000 a day and the costs for equipment, including a 55-foot keelboat and the period uniforms and weapons that re-enactors will use during commemorations along the way, will push the price tag to about \$2 million, he added.

The Park Service also donated \$125,000 this year to support the educational part of the project.

Although the Guard is not helping to fund the venture, National Guard leaders are enthused that a Guard soldier is undertaking this 21st century adventure, especially since Lewis and Clark were former mem-

bers of the Virginia and Kentucky militias, Mandrell said.

His background in the Illinois theater and in television as well as in public relations and journalism and the active Army make him uniquely suited for this mission, said Robert James, the National Guard Bureau's Lewis and Clark Bicentennial coordinator.

Mandrell, who lives with his wife and their two small children in Alton, Ill., has been preparing for the journey since 1996. He is a drama teacher at the Wydown Middle School in Clayton, Mo., and a former managing editor for a group of suburban newspapers in Illinois.

His theatrical credits include "Hamlet" and "A Few Good Men," and he has worked on such television productions as C-SPAN's Lincoln-Douglas Debates. He was also a member of the Presidential Escort while serving with the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer in Arlington, Va., from 1986-89.

His educational milestones include a bachelor's degree in playwriting and directing and a master's in theater history from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Mandrell has already begun his remarkable re-enactment. He was at Monticello, Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va., last Jan. 18 to observe the 200th anniversary of the event that led to the expedition. That was when Jefferson sent a secret letter to Congress asking for \$2,500.

He has also completed the first 250 miles of the journey in an early 19th century Army uniform exactly like one worn by Lewis. Mandrell rode his horse, Mr. Doc Sniper, out of Washington D.C., on July 5 and arrived at Fort Pitt, in Pittsburgh, Pa., at 2 p.m. on July 15.

He immediately posted a letter to Jefferson announcing his arrival because that is what Lewis did when he reached that western outpost. He plans to resume the journey, as Lewis did, on Aug. 31, when he casts off from Pittsburgh in a keelboat.

The next destination, down the Ohio River and then up the Mississippi, will be a camp near St. Louis where Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1803-04 before resuming the voyage into the unknown wilderness on May 14.

That is when the Guard soldier plans to continue the trip — by boat, by foot, and on horseback — that the 35-member Corps of Discovery took more than two years to complete. The explorers returned to St. Louis on Sept. 23, 1806.

Mandrell estimated he will cover more than 6,000 miles and that at least 250 people, including National Guard members, in



Photo by Jim Sturm, Discovery Expedition of St. Charles

Montana Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Scott Mandrell leads his horse, Mr. Doc Sniper, across a Pennsylvania bridge during his 11-day ride from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh. Mandrell is portraying Army Capt. Meriwether Lewis during his three-year re-enactment of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

24 states will act as soldiers and other members of the Corps of Discovery that Meriwether Lewis organized and then led into history.



# Streets of Sand

By Capt. Theodore A. Sobocienski  
726th Maintenance Battalion

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq — At the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Yawkey Way, very few things resemble the Back Bay Fens of Boston, but the soldiers from the 726th Maintenance Battalion try not to notice. Simple things like naming the dusty streets of Tallil Air Base in Iraq can be very therapeutic.

The Natick-based unit, with the help of the 110th Maintenance Company out of Ayer, has been keeping the base of about 15,000 troops operating by maintaining weapons, communications equipment and vehicles. They have also assembled support teams that traverse war-torn Iraqi roads to recover damaged and disabled vehicles.

"This is the first time the unit is changing from a maintenance mission to a support operations mission," said Maj. Mark C. Favazza, a Georgetown native and maintenance officer for the unit. "It's challenging having to balance maintenance, quartermaster and supply missions." The 726th covers almost 600 miles of open roadways, with teams stationed at stops all along the main supply route from Kuwait.

Arriving in early May, the unit has had to

get used to bulletproof vests, loaded weapons and canteen water that quickly becomes undrinkable due to the heat. Fortunately, the soldiers have improvised, wrapping moist socks around their canteens to keep them cool and naming the blast-cratered streets to keep their spirits high.

The unit has found a way to modify almost everything they have touched. Their office at the base now boasts new front and back porches, picnic tables circle the buildings,

and they made improvements to the floors, power system and lights.

"The soldiers are doing great," said Lt. Col. William Callahan, commander of the 726th. "I'm proud of the part the battalion has played in Operation Iraqi Freedom."

*"Members of the battalion are proud to be doing their wartime mission. It's a highly positive experience, being here in Iraq and helping out."*

— Lt. Col. William Callahan

Since arriving at the base, the battalion has completed over 200 maintenance job orders, and recovery teams have already conducted over 20 missions into areas of Iraq that are still considered hostile.

For the Marines also stationed at the base providing close air support in the area, the unit's work has been vital to their success. It is a high profile job that the unit likes doing.

"Members of the battalion are proud to be doing their wartime mission," said Callahan. "It's a highly positive experience, being here in Iraq and helping out."

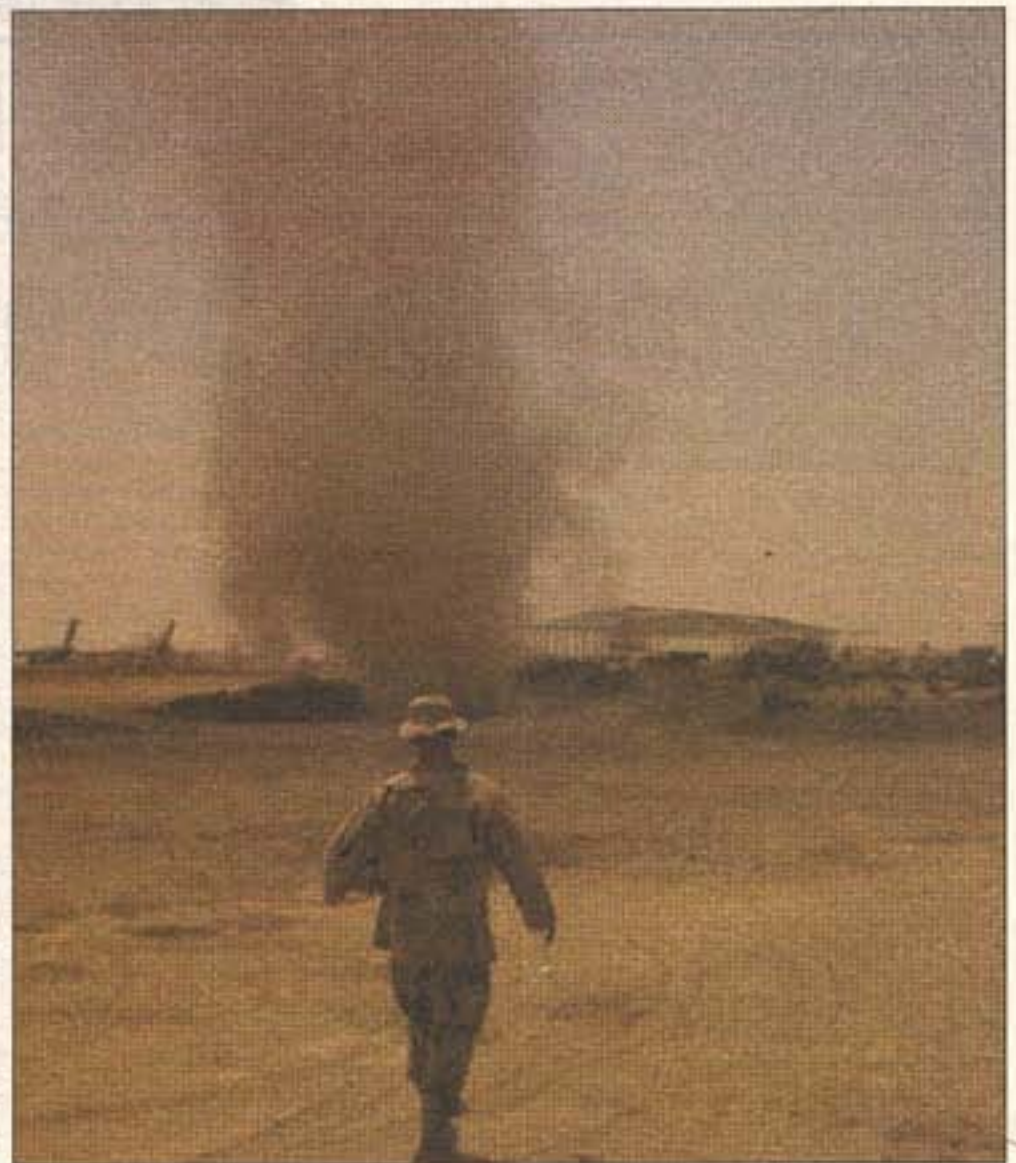


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Ring, 726th Maintenance Battalion

A soldier from the 726th Maintenance Battalion approaches a dirt devil at Tallil Air Base in Iraq. The heat of the desert often produces these mini-tornados, sending dust into the air and blowing over any tents that get in the way.

## W.Va. soldiers on OIF mission detained by Iran

By Maj. Mike Cadle  
WVNG State Public Affairs Officer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — U.S. forces were sent to southwest Asia to gain freedom for the Iraqi people, but four West Virginia National Guard soldiers lost their freedom during a brief encounter with Iranian forces on June 1.

The 1092nd Engineer Battalion soldiers were detained for 29 hours when Iranian forces intercepted two civilian vessels transporting the soldiers and U.S. Army contractors along the Shatt Al Arab River, a waterway that forms a natural boundary between Iraq and Iran.

The soldiers: Staff Sgt. Shawn R. Justice, 30, of Clarksburg; Sgt. James K. Robinson, 39, of Moundsville; Spc. Steven W. Bliss, 24, of St. Clairesville, Ohio; and Spc. Bill Z. Powell, 23, of Huntington — were providing security for the boats, which were en route to an oil platform in the Persian Gulf.

The Iranians blindfolded and interrogated the soldiers before releasing them back onto the civilian boats. The soldiers were picked up by a U.S. Navy vessel in the area and were taken to Kuwait for debriefing.

Justice praised his fellow soldiers for their conduct during captivity. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of men," he said.

"It's hard to say in great detail to make you understand what kind of men they are. You're just going to have to take my word for it."

Gov. Bob Wise, Adjutant General Allen Tackett, family members and fellow guardsmen gave the soldiers a hero's welcome when they returned to West Virginia on July 1.

"It's great to be home," said an emotional Justice. "I mean that."

Wise told the soldiers that all of West Virginia is proud of their service. "You probably saw yourselves as doing just what was routine. We see you doing something everyday that is heroic."

Although the soldiers couldn't discuss the incident in detail due to an ongoing investigation, Justice said faith and thoughts of family helped get them through the ordeal.

"Obviously, we were scared," said Powell. Praying and thinking of family, especially his 5-year-old sister, helped him deal with the situation, he said.

Justice made a promise to himself to come home to his daughter, Shawna, and looking at a photo of her when his captors weren't around helped ease the burden, he said. "I pulled my strength from that 3-year-old little girl," he said.

"Most of my thoughts were with my family," Robinson said. His wedding band also



Photo by Maj. Mike Cadle, W.Va. public affairs officer

Adjutant General Allen Tackett and Gov. Bob Wise welcome the four West Virginia National Guard home. The soldiers were detained by Iran last month during an Operation Enduring Freedom mission.

brought comfort. "I did a lot of playing with my wedding band, thinking of my wife and daughter. That's pretty much what got me through it," he said.

Bliss was so excited to be back in West Virginia that he announced, prematurely, an engagement to his girlfriend, who attended the ceremony. When asked by a reporter if he would like to make the engagement official by proposing to her on the spot, he replied, "No, I have a better way of doing it."

Justice thanked the families attending the ceremony for their support. "No one could ever understand how important it is to a sol-

dier's morale to have a family and home support," he said.

Both Justice and Tackett asked those attending to remember the soldiers still in harm's way. "This was just one incident," Justice said. "Thousands of U.S. forces, many of whom are your fellow West Virginians, are serving in harm's way every day. We ask that you remember their sacrifice and that of their families."

"I won't sleep easy until the other almost 2,000 men and women of the West Virginia Army and Air National Guard are home safe with their families as well," Tackett said.



# Ft. Indiantown Gap is proactive in caring for the environment

By Lt. Col. Chris Cleaver

Pennsylvania National Guard

FT. INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — Indiantown Gap prides itself as a premier military training installation, featuring some of the most advanced programs in the Department of Defense. This installation — home to the Pennsylvania National Guard — is also home to one of the most proactive environmental programs in the military.

The 1998 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's action closing the active-Army presence on the installation and transferring post operations to the National Guard was a move some considered a death knell for the post. Instead, Guard officials viewed ownership with an eye for expansion and enhancement.

"We met with our leadership and built a list of proposed programs and projects," says Col. Joseph Laneski, former installation commander. "We came up with a list of 42 different actions — from aircraft hangars to firing ranges. These actions required an Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, the environmental office was embarking on its own multi-pronged attack to upgrade and expand programs.

"The active Army had completed several important environmental projects including major tank trail upgrades," says John Fronko, who at the time specialized in environmental compliance. "We relished the opportunity to take it to the next level."

This small team of environmentalists set out to more than double its staff; write and implement the Integrated Natural Resource Plan — a detailed 238-page document that inventoried natural resources, prescribed best management practices, and evaluated and rotated training areas to lessen negative environmental impacts; fielded an Environmental Impact Statement; upgraded ranges; and began a series of proactive research programs to document flora and fauna on the 17,440-acre post.

The team hired several key members including a forester, wildlife biologist, forest research technician, cultural resource manager, geographic information systems manager, compliance specialist, air/water quality specialist, hazardous waste manager, fuel tank specialist and a technical support specialist.

Realizing that more assistance was required to implement their environmental projects, the environmental staff branched out even further and contracted with Pennsylvania State University, The Nature Conservancy and the United States Geological Survey to study and monitor environmental projects.

"We joke that Fort Indiantown Gap is one of the most studied land parcels in Pennsylvania, but there is some truth to it," says Joseph Hovis, wildlife biologist for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Hovis, with the assistance of Penn State University's Cooperative Wildlife Unit, is currently working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to trap and tag black bears, and capture and attach radio telemetry units on white-tailed deer found on the



Submitted photo

**Contracting with the USGS to conduct stream survey work, this team is collecting aquatic insects to help determine the health of the streams as they flow out of the training corridor. It has been found that Fort Indiantown Gap has some of the healthiest streams in the entire region.**

installation. Earlier in the year he worked with Penn State scientists to complete a detailed macro invertebrate and fish survey on the installation's two trout streams.

In addition to projects highlighting fish and game species and in support of the training mission, the wildlife division, with the assistance of summer biology aides, has established over 150 songbird survey points; herpetological surveys — snake, turtle and vernal pool locations, which are important amphibian breeding areas; and fieldwork has just commenced on one of the largest terrestrial insect surveys in Pennsylvania.

"The environmental programs we implemented require a buy-in from the entire National Guard team," says Carl Magagna, environmental program manager for the Department. "While our primary mission is training soldiers, it is important to ensure we are environmentally compliant or no training occurs."

The most difficult "buy-in" was the setting aside of 250 acres of prime training land for butterfly habitat. Fort Indiantown Gap is home to the last known colony of the Regal Fritillary east of the Mississippi. Today, yellow signs delineate grassland areas that are off limits to mechanized training, even though it was military training that created and/or maintained this rare habitat crucial to the life history of this particular butterfly.

The Nature Conservancy continues to monitor the butterfly's progress year-round. "It's a matter of being able to juggle two balls at the same time," says Laneski. "You have to provide quality training and you have to take care of the land and the water for future training needs."

Ensuring clean water flows throughout the installation is an important priority. Pennsylvania is home to the 28th Division

Mechanized and its centerpiece the M1 Abrams tank. The M1 and other tracked vehicles train throughout the installation. Fort Indiantown Gap's steep terrain and shale soil is susceptible to erosion and water runoff. In order to enhance training, reduce maintenance needs and protect waterways, engineers began a multi-year program to enhance tank trails, upgrade culverts, build stream crossings and construct sedimentation holding ponds. With leadership provided by the Department's forester, Shannon Henry, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation was empowered to create forested buffers along numerous small streams and a 5-acre wetland was restored.

Today, two USGS stream monitoring devices stand as sentries monitoring water quality 24-hours a day, seven-days a week. "Our water quality is really remarkable, especially when one compares data from our streams to that outside our boundaries," says Hovis. "Our micro invertebrate and fish surveys show natural reproduction of trout; good size structure and age; and a high level of diversity among the insects upon which our trout feed."

The installation's environmental efforts have not gone unnoticed. In 2001, the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for work including recycling residual wastes, reducing waste generation through product substitution, controlling spills, remediating contamination and reducing air pollution. It is the only state government agency ever to receive the award.

With this milestone achievement, the Department is preparing to kick off another Environmental Impact Statement — this time for the Stryker Brigade, the Army's most

advanced weapons program.

"Stryker is the most exciting program in the Army today," says Magagna. "This will ensure that our soldiers have a quality training opportunity as we continue to enhance the environment at Fort Indiantown Gap — and we are honored to be part of it."

While there have been many changes and additional challenges at Fort Indiantown Gap, the environmental division continues to work on a multitude of statewide environmental issues at over 90 readiness centers, 30 organizational maintenance shops, two flight facilities and dozens of local training areas.

With 56 of our facilities on the National Listing of Historic Places, challenges continue to be present including spill management plans; National Environmental Policy Act documentation; hazardous waste handling; environmental cleanups and monitoring; and cultural resources documentation.

By partnering with stakeholders like the military trainers in these projects or program areas; leveraging our resources with grants; using interns to offset workloads; and contracting with specialists like the USGS to bring the best information to bear on a problem, we are seeing great successes in both achieving the military mission and protecting the environment.

"Fort Indiantown Gap is not taking any short cuts concerning the environment," says former Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz. "They've set a standard for both government and business when it comes to involving the community and completing environmental impact statements. In short, Fort Indiantown Gap is a good neighbor in terms of the environment as well as providing jobs for citizens living in the Lebanon Valley."



# On the road with a state champion

By Spc. David Claffey

Massachusetts National Guard

MILLFORD, Mass. — Nine months removed from the humidity and the heat of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Senior Airman Sean Cahill raised the temperature and opened eyes at the U.S. Military Road Race Championships, in the rolling hills of western Pennsylvania.

Cahill, a member of the Massachusetts National Guard's 212th Engineer Installation Squadron in Milford and a resident of Melrose, finished first among military riders, completing the grueling 120-mile course in just over five hours.

"It was, by far, the hardest race I have ever done," said Cahill, about the course that featured 12,000 feet of climbing and steep downhill sections where the cyclists reached speeds of 65 m.p.h. "Some of the best amateurs in the country were on hand, and with the level of climbing, I was hanging on for dear life."

While the course might not have been life threatening, it was taxing on the riders. Only 57 of the starting 140 cyclists completed the race.

The military portion of the race was only a small section of the larger, U.S. National Championship race, in which he finished 30th overall, said Cahill. He stuck with the peloton (the lead group of cyclists) for most of the race, but dropped off at the tail end with only 30 miles to go. Still, he was ahead of the other military riders by five minutes.

This is the first attempt at a military title for Cahill, who had just qualified two weeks before the race. In his short, five-year racing career, the 30-year-old Cahill has risen the ranks to become one of the top amateur cyclists in the country.

"I started out in mountain biking," said Cahill, "racing semi-pro for three years." Unfortunately, mountain biking was facing an economic decline. "Races got shorter, the competition thinned and the money dried up."

Cahill felt it was time to move on. He switched over to the road racing circuit two years ago, and has quickly made an impact. He has raced in events all along the East Coast, from Maryland to Maine, becoming the Massachusetts State Champion along the way. Even with his past accolades, the military title is what he is most pleased about.

"I never knew the race existed until a year ago," said Cahill. "I was stationed in Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), and a friend emailed me information about the event." After returning from the yearlong deployment to both Cuba and Qatar in August 2002, he began training for the race.

He described his training schedule, which runs throughout the year. "I usually ride for 40 to 60 miles a day, for as long as three hours." And when the weather isn't cooperating, Cahill hits the weights or cross-country skis to keep up his endurance, though he

prefers to be on his bike.

He is also a part of the Pro Cycles / Giant Cycling team, which has been a factor in his success.

"Racing is not an individual sport," he said, "it is a team sport. Other riders on the course are scared of strong teams. You have to be fit and ready to race, but the strongest guy doesn't always win. Most of the time, it is a rider from the strongest team that wins."

During a race, teammates set the pace, break wind for team members and retrieve supplies for their top rider. Techniques like this have been used in cycling for years, with famous professional riders like three time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong relying heavily on his supporting cast. On Cahill's team though, there is no one stand-out.

"We have no superstars, and when we race there is no firm plan," he said. "The team is very flexible, so we wait to see how the race develops."

While there is no one rider that stands out above the rest, each has strengths during the race.

"I am a climber," said Cahill. "I tend to be skinny, so I don't generate as much body power as some of the bigger guys for sprints, but I do well in the hills and in longer races." Which is probably why he did so well in Pennsylvania. "If I have a good day, I can race with any amateur in the country."

There is an All-Military team, featuring cyclists from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, but Cahill has yet to be named a member because he is unable to attend the World Military Championships in September.

"It's unfortunate we won't be able to consider Cahill for our team that will compete," said Klaus Wolf, Armed Forces Cycling Team Coach. "He and his wife have a child due in early September so we understand his priorities. Sean would certainly be an asset to our team and we hope to make him a part of the program beginning next year."

Cahill hopes he can, too.

"It has been a goal of mine to get on the team since I first heard about it," he said, "but with school and a baby on the way, my wife Theresa and I didn't see it happening this time around." A student at UMass in Lowell, Cahill is pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

In a short period, Cahill has worked his way from being a Category 5 rider to a Category 1 rider, the last level before becoming a professional, but for Cahill, turning pro is not one of his goals.

"I plan to finish my degree, go to graduate school, get my commission in the Guard and race for the military team," he said. Until then, he has a new champion's jersey and child soon to follow. For that, he is happy.



Photos by Spc. David Claffey

In only five years of competitive racing, Senior Airman Sean Cahill captured the U.S. Military Championship, after a grueling 120-mile race that climbed more than 12,000 feet. The Melrose, Mass. native qualified for the race only two weeks prior, coming from nowhere to win the title.







## History

# Early National Guard aviators take to the skies

By Charles J. Gross, Ph.D.  
National Guard Bureau Historian

ARLINGTON, Va. — As we celebrate the centennial year of powered flight, it is important to recall the nearly forgotten struggles of pioneer National Guard flyers during the early development of American military aviation. Guard aviation had emerged during the period of organizational and technological innovation in the Army between the Spanish-American War and World War I. In April 1908 a group of flying enthusiasts had organized an "aeronautical corps" at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City to learn ballooning. They were members of the 1st Company, Signal Corps, New York National Guard. In 1910, the unit raised \$500.00 to finance its first aircraft. In 1911, the Curtiss Aeroplane Company loaned it an aircraft and a pilot named Beckwith Havens. Later, Havens joined the unit as a private and is celebrated by many as the National Guard's first aviator.

Before the United States entered World War I, there were many efforts to form Guard aero units in various states by civilian flyers, businessmen, and National Guardsmen. They were as interested in promoting the general development of American aviation as they were in establishing Guard aviation. The Missouri National Guard established a small aero detachment in 1909. The California Guard established an aeronautical detachment in its 7th Coast Artillery Company in February 1911. Eugene Ely, the earliest man to launch an aircraft from the deck of a warship, was the detachment's first private. Before being killed while in civilian

status during an air show in Macon, Georgia in October 1911, he became the first pilot to be commissioned in that state. In May 1912, Lt. Col. Charles B. Winder of Ohio attended the Army's Aviation School at Augusta, Georgia and became the first Guard officer to win a Reserve Military Aviator (RMA) rating.

Several states had established small aviation branches within their National Guard organizations by 1916. Aside from New York, none were able to provide those fledgling air organizations with anything approaching adequate financial support. Nebraska's experience was probably typical in that respect. The state's experiment with military aviation began in 1913 when members of its Signal Corps branch assembled a Curtiss Model D biplane. The plane probably participated in the branch's annual encampment that year but there was no official recognition of aviation's existence in the Nebraska Guard. Formal acknowledgement came on July 15, 1915 when the state issued an order organizing its Aviation Corps. Captain Castle W. Schaffer was assigned as its chief. A little later, he was joined by Ralph E. McMillen, a qualified pilot. After enlisting, McMillen was commissioned as a captain. Each of the officers provided their own airplane. To raise money for the aviation branch, the governor "decided that the aviators should give exhibitions at county fairs and other public gatherings to supplement the very small funds that could be made available from the state."

There was little financial support for those grassroots aviation efforts by either the states or the federal government. World War I



The first aero Company, New York National Guard, was called to Federal service during the border crisis with Mexico on July 13, 1916. This was the first time a National Guard aviation unit was mobilized. The unit was commanded by Capt. Raynel C. Bolling.

began to change that. Because of governmental inaction, a group of wealthy businessmen and sportsmen founded the Aero Club of America in 1905. It was a private organization headquartered in New York City devoted to promoting the development of American aviation.

It sponsored legislation passed by Congress in July 1914 which established an Aviation Section in the Signal Corps. It was the principal source of the clamor for National Guard aviation units in New York on the eve of World War I. In 1915, it inaugurated a subscription campaign to raise funds to buy airplanes and train aviators for the National Guard and Naval Militia of each state. To launch the "National Aeroplane Fund," the Curtiss Airplane Company donated a flying boat and made provisions to train a pilot and a mechanic in the New York Naval Militia. Several large corporations, especially those tied to aircraft production, donated thousands of dollars. The Aero Club provided funds to train Guardsmen as pilots in New York, Massachusetts, California, Arizona, Rhode Island, and Texas. That same year, several National Guard organizations were given aircraft by private philanthropists while others secured aircraft by public fund drives.

The Army began sending Guardsmen to flight school in late 1915. In August 1916, Congress appropriated \$13.88 million for military aviation. The legislation also mandated that flight training would be provided to one Guardsman from each state. That initiative had been promoted by Reuben Fleet, a prosperous businessman, member of the Washington state legislature, and a Guardsman. While a legislator, he had sponsored a bill to require the state of Washington

to spend \$250,000 on aviation in its National Guard, far more than the federal government had appropriated in any one year up to that point for all aviation throughout the nation. His audacious action was approved by the lower house of the state legislature and attracted the interest of officials in the nation's capital. But, Fleet's appropriation bill ultimately died in the state legislature. In the spring of 1917, Fleet was one of eleven Guardsmen selected for such training. He transferred into the Army and won his wings after the U.S. declared war.

During the next four years, he helped manage the production and procurement of Army aircraft from his Washington, D.C. office. Fleet was selected to organize the nation's first airmail service in May 1918.

Fleet left the Army in 1922 and established the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo, New York the following year. Consolidated became one of the leading American aircraft manufacturers during the interwar period.

Raynal Cawthorne Bolling also played a key role in the formative years of National Guard aviation. The socially-prominent New York Guardsman was the chief attorney for the United States Steel Corporation. In the summer of 1915, he began taking flying lessons and attended a military training camp for businessmen at Plattsburg, New York.

After returning from Plattsburg, Bolling and several other prominent New Yorkers began to organize a National Guard aero company with the support of Major General John F. O'Ryan, the state's Adjutant General.

Aided by an initial \$12,500 gift from the Aero Club of New York City and other contributions, the fledgling Guard aviators rented two aircraft and financed the training of student pilots at private flying schools.



Eugene Ely, the earliest man to launch an aircraft from the deck of a warship is seen here with the captain of the USS Pennsylvania on Jan. 18, 1911 after landing on his ship. Ely later joined the California National Guard.



# Nebraska Guardsmen rescue stranded man

By Capt. Kevin Hynes  
Nebraska Air National Guard

LINCOLN, Neb. — Members of the Nebraska Army National Guard put their rescue skills to the test on June 28, when they plucked a stranded Nebraska man from the roof of his house as flood waters from the Blue River surrounded his home.

The man, a 64-year-old resident of rural Gilead, Neb., was stranded after an evening thunderstorm dumped inches of rain on Thayer County and turned local streams and creeks into roaring rivers.

According to 1st Sgt. Donald Austin, 24th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), members of the Nebraska Army National Guard were notified that their services might be needed early in the morning. After making initial preparations to their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, the soldiers were told to stand down.

"We were told that the State Patrol had figured out another way to get to him," said Austin.

Several hours later, the Guardsmen were told the mission was back on.

Austin said that the initial rescue effort was unable to get to the man.

"The State Patrol had called together its dive team, which was going to try and get to the man on jet skis," said Austin. "After surveying the situation, the dive leader decided it was too risky to attempt the rescue."

Because many of the initial preparations had already been completed, Austin said that the Guardsmen had only a few remaining items to complete before they were airborne. The flight to the rescue site took about 30 minutes, Austin added.

Along the way, the helicopter crew — made up of 1st Lt. James Siedenburgh, Chief Warrant Officer Marcus Groezinger and Sgt. 1st Class Charles Lang — received constant reports from Nebraska State Patrol helicopter and fixed wing aircraft crews that were orbiting above the flooded farm.

"We were told that he was pretty much standing in the middle of a lake," said Austin. "When we got there, that's exactly what it looked like... a man standing on house surrounded by around eight feet of water."

*"We were told that he was pretty much standing in the middle of a lake. When we got there, that's exactly what it looked like ... a man standing on house surrounded by around eight-feet of water."*

— 1st Sgt. Donald Austin

The Nebraska Army Guard helicopter arrived on the scene at around 11:15 a.m. and immediately went into a hover above the home. Initially, Austin said, the Guardsmen hoped to pull to within 75 feet of the roof. However, as wash from the UH-60's enormous rotor began to strip shingles away from the house, the pilots quickly increased their altitude to around 100 feet.

At that point, Austin went into action.

Standing in the rear of the Black Hawk, Austin and Lang prepared the hoist and jungle penetrator (a large metal anchor designed to penetrate through tree foliage) for the mission. Although either one could have ridden the penetrator down, Austin volunteered for the job.

"We've both trained on the penetrator, but Lang is a little bit better on the hoist than I am," said Austin.

The ride down to the rooftop took mere seconds. It was the first time that Austin had ever put his peacetime training to the actual test.

"It zinged right along. It was real smooth," he said. "As soon as I touched down, the guy came right over to me. He was real ready to get out of there."

According to Austin, when the man was

notified by the State Patrol that he was going to be rescued by an Army National Guard helicopter, he told the officials that he thought he could handle it. He'd spent time in the military and had received airborne training.

"He was a little nervous though," Austin said.

After connecting safety harnesses to the man and himself, Austin looked up at Lang and gave him the thumbs-up sign. The entire operation took less than 45 seconds, Austin estimated.

Although the operation was quickly completed, one member of the State Patrol flying crew, Nebraska Army National Guard Sgt. Jeremy Strack, who was piloting the fixed wing airplane, had time to snap a few photos of the rescue.

Once in the aircraft, the man quickly thanked the crew.

"He was very grateful for us getting him out of there," Austin said.

Siedenburgh agreed.

"He said 'It's one hell of a way to get a helicopter ride,'" Siedenburgh told a reporter from the Associated Press. "He personally thanked everyone in the crew, which made us feel good."



1st Sgt. Donald Austin, 24th Medical Company, Nebraska Army National Guard, dangles beneath a Nebraska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a successful rooftop rescue of a man trapped on top of his home surrounded by flood waters from the Blue River near Gilead, Neb., on June 28.



Photos by Sgt. Jeremy Strack, Nebraska Army National Guard

1st Sgt. Donald Austin, 24th Medical Company, Nebraska Army National Guard, escorts a man he rescued from the roof of his home near Gilead, Neb., on June 28. The man became trapped by the flooding Blue River after much of Thayer County was beaten, June 27, by a massive thunderstorm that dropped nearly a foot of rain, spawned a tornado that killed one, and produced the largest hailstone ever in the United States.