

THE ON GUARD

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National Guard meets its recruiting and retention goals

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The numbers are in, and National Guard leaders announced on Oct. 2 that the Army and Air National Guard recruited and retained more than enough people during the past year to keep the force as large as Congress wants it to be.

The Army and Air National Guard met their end-strength requirements for the 2003 fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30, which marked the end of the second full year of the global war against terrorism, said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

The Army Guard had 350,835 soldiers and the Air Guard had 108,332 members, it was announced. The Army Guard's objective was 350,000. The Air Guard's goal was 106,600.

"This is what sets us apart ... the ability to recruit and retain good people," Blum said. "The National Guard Bureau sees no indication that the homeland security mission or the war on terrorism is having any serious impact on recruiting."

Officials also encouraged members of the recruiting and retention force to keep up the good work during 2004.

"We do not know where this war will take us or how many of our brothers and sisters will be called upon to serve. But we do know that our mission is critical," said Lt. Col. Rich Guzzetta, chief of the Army Guard's Strength Maintenance Division.

"End-strength" is the minimum number of people mandated by Congress so that the Army and Air Guard can be fully funded.

The Army Guard achieved its end-strength requirement for the seventh straight fiscal year. The Air Guard has met or exceeded its recruiting goals for the last four years and for five of the last seven years.

The Air Guard started 2003 with 112,070 members, and its total of 108,332 at the end of the year gives it an overall manning of 101.6 percent, officials explained.

That organization surpassed its recruiting goal of 6,909 for the year by signing up 8,669 by the end of August.

The Army Guard gained a lot of ground to meet its objective, Guzzetta explained, by signing up enough new people since last April to overcome a deficit of more than 4,000 citizen-soldiers.

"The first quarter in fiscal year 04 will be critical to our entire year," he predicted. "Strength fell quickly in the first quarter [of 2003], and we spent the entire year trying to make up for it. We cannot let that happen in FY04. Retention will be a significant issue in FY04, more so than in FY03."

The stakes are high, Guzzetta added. "The Army National Guard cannot fail, because if we fail the Army will fail, and if the Army fails, our nation fails."

The strength maintenance chief praised America's young people for being willing to step up and be counted, because many who have not served before signed up in September.

"We had one of the best non-prior service production months since 1990. Since that time only four months have been as good as September was," Guzzetta said.

Leading the way ...

Tech. Sgt. Homer Walden, a weapons controller in the Oregon Air Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, made history this summer when he became the first Air National Guard enlisted weapons director to graduate from Advanced Weapons Director School.

Submitted photo



Nevada Guardsman becomes the Air Guard's first enlisted weapons controller

By Maj. Donna Prigmore
Oregon National Guard

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. – Tech. Sgt. Homer Walden, a weapons controller in the Oregon Air Guard's 116th Air Control Squadron in Warrenton, made history this summer when he became the first Air National Guard enlisted weapons director to graduate from Advanced Weapons Director School.

The six-month long school—which is held at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada—was established in 2000 for enlisted weapons directors with at least three years of experience and an in-depth knowledge of air control operations. The intent of the curriculum is to give seasoned active duty and Guard airmen an opportunity to train at an advanced level in a high stress, simulated wartime environment with

multiple airframes flying actual combat-style missions.

Weapons directors, whether conducting real-world missions or training, communicate closely with fighter pilots in the sky to help them identify enemies and determine when and where to launch missile strikes. The directors also referred to as controllers use tactical radar units, scopes, and communication modules to scan large airspace for immediate threats to security and take action to eliminate them.

Walden, a ground-based weapons controller with more than eight years of air control experience, served as the class leader for AWDS Class 03-1. He graduated along with a handful of active duty

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AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

Air Guard
This year's best of the best



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SOLDIERS OF THE YEAR

Army Guard
16 soldiers rise to the top



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MOBILIZED

Deployed
North Carolina's
34th Infantry
Brigade gets the call



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About The On Guard

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110th Maintenance Company completes 500th work order

By Sgt 1st Class Michael Euvrard
110th Maintenance Company

TALLIL AIR FORCE BASE, Iraq – Saturday, July 26, 2003 was a momentous day for the 110th Maintenance Company, based out of Ayer, Mass., and currently serving in Iraq; they completed their 500th work order.

Since their arrival at Tallil Air Base on May 28, the 110th Maintenance Company provided critical maintenance to units stationed at and transitioning through Tallil Air Base. The mission of the unit is incredibly diverse; from providing repair parts, to actually performing maintenance, to fabrication and installation, to the recovery of disabled vehicles the 110th has done it all.

The 500th work order was completed on the 100th day in the theater of operations. What makes this even more remarkable is the fact that the unit had only been based at Tallil for 59 days. The unit marked the occasion with a small gathering of individuals involved in the 500th job.

Led by the base maintenance platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Gerard Hill, the team for the 500th job consisted of Sgt. Errick Dubois, Sgt. David Laraba, Spc. Luis Bonilla, and Spc. Andrew Lapre.

The job was accepted and processed into the unit by the Maintenance Control Office, led by 1st Lt. Ivan Sera-Perez. The repair parts for the job were ordered, processed and received by the Class IX Section, led by 1st Lt. Roy Erickson.

The actual job was to repair an M1025 hummer owned by the 933rd Military Police Company - an Illinois National Guard unit also deployed at Tallil. The removal and installation of the transfer case, under the supervision of Chief Warrant Officer James Slater took twelve hours to complete, and Staff Sgt. Donald Smith of the maintenance control section conducted the final inspection.

Since its activation on February 10, the

Getting the job done ...



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Euvrard

Soldiers of the 110th Maintenance Company, based out of Ayer, Mass., and currently serving in Iraq, celebrate the completion of their 500th work order. Pictured are: (Front row left to right) Sgt. Eva Brown, Spc. Kristina Sleeper, Capt. Myles McHugh, and 1st Sgt. Normand Dubois. (Back row left to right) Staff Sgt. Donald Smith, Spc. Luis Bonilla, Spc. David Laraba, Spc. Andrew Lapre, and Sgt Errick Dubois.

110th Maintenance Company has been stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y., Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Tallil, Iraq.

The unit continues to maintain a positive outlook despite the adverse conditions in central Iraq.

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First

students on June 13, to become the first weapons director in the ANG to attend the course.

Due to the complexity of the mission, each class is made up of only six students, with a 50/50 split between ground and air-based controllers. Across the U.S., there are approximately 500 controllers, 300 of which scan the skies using ground-based equipment. The other 200 operate as controllers in the sky while flying on board Airborne Warning and Control Systems aircraft.

According to Walden, the AWDS curriculum was developed, in part, from programs and syllabi already in place at the Fighter Weapons School (FWS), also conducted here at Nellis AFB. The FWS operates a rigorous training program for (aeronautically rated) officers, who pass a difficult screening process and are selected to become weapons officers.

The officer-based FWS and the enlisted-based AWDS are held concurrently in order to maximize training among and between pilots and weapons controllers.

"The staff at the (AWDS) schoolhouse use a building block approach by starting with small (combat) missions before introducing larger and larger ones," explained Walden. "It's a very challenging course that requires a lot of experience."

Before the enlisted students are exposed to combat missions however, they are instructed on operational details of each aircraft in the Air Force inventory, including all bombers, fighters, refuelers and NATO aircraft.

Knowing the different types of aircraft and their capabilities is important, says Walden, because of the partnership they have with fighter pilots in the air. "We control combat aircraft when they are performing their combat mission, whether it be air-to-air combat, combat air patrols, close-air support, or air-

to-air refueling. It's a tough part of the curriculum but it's definitely needed."

According to Tech. Sgt. James Peters, NCOIC of standards and evaluations at AWDS, enlisted personnel were barred from serving as weapons directors until 1993, when the results of a General Accounting Office study spawned personnel changes. Since then, hundreds of enlisted weapons directors have entered the career field and attended the required nine-month basic technical school in Arizona. The school includes six months of training at the Tucson Air National Guard Base and three months of training on modular equipment at Luke AFB.

"The Guard and active duty (enlisted) weapons directors are just about par with each other," said Peters, when asked if any differences exist between the two military organizations. "They (the Air Guard) are getting tasked as much as we are these days and really stepping up to the challenges."

Army Guardsmen to maintain peace in Kosovo

Minnesota's 34th Infantry Division deploys nearly 1,000 citizen-soldiers

By Senior Airman Cheryl Hackley
Minnesota National Guard

SAINT PAUL, Minn. — Nearly 1,000 Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers representing a dozen units in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area have departed for peacekeeping duties in Kosovo. They left for Fort Stewart, Ga., on Oct. 11 to begin training for their specific missions.

"We have built our nation on sure foundations of truth, freedom, justice and the dignity of every person. For these very reasons, we are called upon to help keep the peace in other parts of the world," said U.S. Sen. Norm Coleman in a letter addressed to the deploying soldiers.

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, first lady Mary Pawlenty, Sen. Mark Dayton and the adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Harry Sieben, took part in a deployment ceremony honoring the troops of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Infantry Division, the day before their departure.

The soldiers will train at Fort Stewart for three months to prepare for the peacekeeping mission. The training will include cultural and language studies, conducting presence patrols; maneuvering military vehicles on Kosovo's narrow roads; and identifying and reacting to potential hazards like landmines.

These soldiers will serve in a NATO-led peacekeeping mission with the objective of maintaining peace without further military force. As an independent province of Serbia, Kosovo has been considered a combat zone since 1999 and has required outside services to preserve its stability.

The civil war that erupted among Albanian rebels and Serbian government troops killed thousands of Kosovars. Many Kosovars were displaced after the war and fled to neighboring countries. After several attempts to cease hostilities, NATO took control of the situation. Now many of the displaced individuals have returned to their homes. The active duty components have primarily led this mission since 1999, but Army National Guard combat divisions are now leading operations.

In addition to the 1,000 troops heading for Kosovo, another 1,100 Minnesota Guardsmen are currently deployed to neighboring Bosnia, making this the second largest overseas deployment for Minnesota soldiers since the Korean War.



(Above) Deploying soldiers of the 34th Infantry Division gather at the Twin Cities Air National Guard Base hangar for the deployment ceremony. A hangar was needed because of the large number of soldiers and families attending. Nearly 500 people showed up to support the 200 Minnesota soldiers of Headquarters Company.

Photos by Cheryl Hackley



(Left) Gov. Tim Pawlenty presents a Minnesota flag to Brig. Gen. Rick Erlandson, Task Force Falcon commander, during the ceremony and wishes his troops a safe mission.



(Below) Gov. Pawlenty looks on as his wife, Mary Pawlenty, gives a supportive hug to a deploying soldier. Mary Pawlenty has been instrumental in supporting the Guard and their families during deployments and even created a website to link volunteers with families who need assistance during a member's absence.



Medical Service Officer, Capt. Paul Peterson, and his family stay close to one another during the ceremony. One of his daughters holds a Guardian Bear which is given to children under 16 when their parents are deployed overseas. Inside the bear's vest is a special message from the deployed parent to the child as a reminder that they are thinking of them while they are away from home.

2003's Outstanding Air National Guard members

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A former national collegiate majorette champion, who now manages a 40-member honor guard program in Kansas, and a Florida air traffic controller trainer, who has served in the Marine Corps Reserve and the active Army, are two of the Air National Guard's six outstanding enlisted people for 2003.

Kansas Air National Guard Master Sgt. Christina Hamel of the 184th Air Refueling Wing is the first honor guard program manager of the year. This is the first time that members of honor guards are being recognized as premier members of the enlisted force.

Florida Air Guard Master Sgt. Vincent Corcoran, a member of the Southeast Air Defense Sector that watches over some of this country's most heavily traveled air routes, is the senior noncommissioned officer of the year.

The National Guard Bureau honored the Air Guard's outstanding airman, NCOs and honor guard members in Washington, D.C., in September.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the Guard Bureau's chief, and other Defense Department officials praised them as the best of the Air Guard's nearly 108,000 men and women, who wear stripes.

Others recognized were: Senior Airman Arren Dorman Jr., from the 133rd Test Squadron in Iowa as airman of the year; Master Sgt. William Sprake from the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron in Kentucky as the noncommissioned officer of the year; Senior Master Sgt. Joan Peters from the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va., as the top first sergeant; and Staff Sgt. Terry Cummings from the 184th Air Refueling Wing in Kansas as the outstanding honor guard member.

Dorman spent four years in the Air Force. He is a communications-computer systems operations apprentice with the Air Guard test squadron in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Sprake joined the Missouri Air Guard in 1991, the same year he received a bachelor's degree in accounting. Now he is the noncommissioned officer in charge of terminal attack control and the combat control assistant team leader for the Kentucky Air Guard's special tactics squadron in Louisville.

Peters earned her honor while serving as the first sergeant for Air Guard members, who work for the Air Directorate at the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and here at Jefferson Plaza 1. She initially joined the Louisiana Air Guard in 1986.

Cummings is an information security specialist as well as a member of Hamel's honor guard team at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas.

"There is a great deal of satisfaction to be doing this job at this time — during this war



Photo by Glenn Washington, Air National Guard

The Air National Guard's outstanding enlisted people for 2003 are, from left, Master Sgt. Christina Hamel, Kansas; Master Sgt. William Sprake, Kentucky; Senior Master Sgt. Joan Peters, National Guard Bureau, Arlington, Va.; Master Sgt. Vincent Corcoran, Florida; Staff Sgt. Terry Cummings, Kansas; and Senior Airman Arren Dorman Jr., Iowa.

against terrorism," said Corcoran about his responsibilities for training air traffic controllers at the air defense unit at Tyndall Air Force Base in western Florida. That is the headquarters for the 1st Air Force, which is also responsible for maintaining air sovereignty across the continental United States.

Corcoran explained he had recently become the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Combat Training Branch when terrorists flew hijacked jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We watched the skies empty as all of the commercial airplanes were ordered to land as soon as possible," Corcoran recalled. "Then we began identifying the military airplanes to make sure they were authorized to fly. We had trained for that wartime scenario, but that was the first time we did it for real. We found out what we really had to do to make it work."

Because of those attacks, he added, air traffic controllers now train to watch for potentially threatening aircraft within, as well as outside of, U.S. airspace.

Corcoran spent two years as a longshoreman in the Marine Corps Reserve after enlisting in 1985 and then served more than 9 years, including a tour in South Korea,

mastering the air traffic control business in the active Army. He joined the Florida Air Guard's full-time force in February 1997.

"This makes me a temporary ambassador for the senior NCO corps," said Corcoran about his selection as one of this year's outstanding enlisted people. "This will help me to demonstrate our potential based on the responsibilities that the senior leadership gives to us."

Hamel has also paid her dues during the war on terrorism. She was the financial manager while serving with the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing in Oman for six months beginning in December 2001. She organized a combat honor guard over there.

Now, even though she is a traditional Guard member, managing the Air Guard wing's honor guard program in Kansas is virtually a full-time job. That team is part of the honor guard rotation at the base, she explained. The members are always in demand for such events as change of command ceremonies, parades and funerals.

Serving on the honor guard is an extension of her younger years when she was a baton twirler and majorette, Hamel said.

She began twirling, as well as doing gymnastics, when she was 2, she explained, and

she attended Friends University in Wichita, Kan., on a full scholarship for baton twirling. She was named College Majorette of America in 1984 during her freshman year.

"Baton twirling requires very precise movements, there is a routine for everything, and you do a lot of marching," said Hamel. "It was only natural that I would be drawn to the honor guard."

"This lets me know I am going in the right direction," she observed about her selection as the Air Guard's best honor guard program manager. "Now I want to take it even further."

Outstanding Air National Guard Airmen, and NCOs for 2003

Airman: Senior Airman Arren Dorman Jr., Iowa.

Noncommissioned Officer: Master Sgt. William Sprake, Kentucky.

Senior Noncommissioned Officer: Master Sgt. Vincent Corcoran, Florida.

First Sergeant: Senior Master Sgt. Joan Peters, National Guard Bureau.

Honor Guard Member: Staff Sgt. Terry Cummings, Kansas.

Honor Guard Program Manager: Master Sgt. Christina Hamel, Kansas.

Federal agencies respond to simulated bio-terrorism attack

By Maj. Terry Conder
Nevada Army National Guard

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The unimaginable happened in Las Vegas this summer.

A plague-like epidemic sent thousands of tourists and locals flooding into hospitals, stressing the city's emergency management agencies to the limit. Things turned so bad that Gov. Kenny Guinn quarantined the city, shut down McCarran International Airport and called out the National Guard to help Las Vegas metro police and the Nevada Highway Patrol keep order.

That was the scenario played out in southern Nevada Aug. 16-29 for "Determined Promise 03," a Northern Command exercise focusing on a simulated bio-terrorism attack in Clark County, Nev.

"Determined Promise is a defining exercise, not just for Nevada, but for the whole nation," said Jerry Bussell, the special advisor for homeland security in Nevada. "Starting with the first-line responders — the policemen, the firemen, the medical folks — to the next level, and the next level, and the next level. Determined Promise is going to tell us if our plans will work; or as they say in the military, 'Am I good to go?'"

Based on what happened in Las Vegas, those plans were indeed "good to go."

The exercise started with a secret, simulated bio-terrorist attack in the city. When it became apparent that a mysterious illness sweeping Las Vegas was more than just the flu, a myriad of agencies set up in Clark County to take control of the situation. With a population of more than a million and a typical tourist count of 200,000-300,000 on any given day, Las Vegas is ripe for the kind of mass panic that could lead to widespread chaos.

But even with built-in "fog of war" tests and glitches, agencies at every level performed well, especially the National Guard.

"I couldn't be more impressed with the National Guard," Bussell said. "I'm seeing a level of training and commitment that's top notch. The people in uniform out here clearly understand the gravity of what they're doing. They're pushing as hard as they can because they know that someday they may be called upon to do this for real."

Pushing hard in this case was not just a metaphor. The Nevada Army Guard's 150th Maintenance Company faced one of the most realistic civil unrest exercise situations during Determined Promise. According to the scenario, the key to success was to distribute life-saving antidotes throughout Las Vegas as quickly as possible to prevent mass-hysteria and protect people from the plague. The Nevada Air Guard did its part, flying medicine from a strategic national stockpile into Nellis on a C-130 within its mandated time limit.

Of course, no matter how quickly authorities procured and distributed the medicine, it simply wasn't going to be fast enough for



Photos by Maj. Terry Conder

During riot control training, Nevada Army Guard soldiers from the 150th Maintenance Company protect the simulated a stockpile of antidote from irate civilians attempting to loot the warehouse a Logandale, Nev.

some panic-stricken civilians, who converged on an distribution site in Logandale, 60 miles north of Las Vegas, manned by Nevada Army Guard medical personnel.

The civil unrest exercise started when a few people fell out of line, pushed to the door at the distribution site and began demanding medicine immediately. Attempts by the staff to restore order were futile. As the crowd (played by volunteer airmen from Nellis Air Force Base) grew in number, it became more agitated and more aggressive. The horde was on the verge of pushing into the building and looting the medicine when metro police arrived in riot gear in an attempt to restore order.

The metro police were successful in controlling the crowd, but by this time the temperature was nearing 110 degrees. The police were wearing body armor, shin guards, helmets, and carrying shields. The mob decided to wait it out, taunting the officers as the sun beat down on the police perimeter.

The arrival of the 150th to relieve the police re-energized the crowd. In a scene as realistic as any real-life event, a number of agitators massed together and smashed into the National Guard line. Both soldiers and protesters went down. For a moment it looked like a rugby scrum. The mob tried to flow into the breach, but National Guard soldiers adjusted their formation and held the line.

"That was as real as any real-life situation," said Capt. Dean Martin, the 150th's commander. "This helped us a lot."

Members of the 91st Civil Support Team had their hands full too. After law enforcement agencies discovered the site where terrorists prepared the plague attack, the 91st answered the call to investigate.

"We launched the initial entry response team into the hot zone," Lt. Col. Mike



The 192nd Airlift Squadron from the Nevada Air National Guard unloads a push package of simulated antidote off a C-130 at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas.

Lynch, commander of the 91st said.

They found themselves in a literally hot and dangerous place, both in terms of their biological and temperature situations. Wearing multi-layered, completely sealed protective suits, the members of the 91st worked in triple-digit heat.

Determined Promise was a tough test for emergency response agencies and the National Guard units that took part.

Intense desert heat and a real flash flood that paralyzed Las Vegas added to the difficulties already built into the exercise.

"We have quality soldiers," Lynch said. "We had more than 200 people interview to get into this unit. Once you're in the 91st you eat, sleep, and breathe WMD. We have the latest gadgetry and a lot of expertise. When we show up at a WMD scene, we're a force multiplier."

2003's Outstanding Army Guardsmen

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A Tennessee citizen-soldier, who has already been named this year's top noncommissioned officer for the U.S. Army's largest major command, and a New York sergeant, who is preparing to help wage the global war against terrorism in Iraq, are two of the Army National Guard's 16 outstanding soldiers and noncommissioned officers for 2003.

Staff Sgt. Jamey Murphy, the full-time military school and training coordinator for the 278th Cavalry Regiment in Knoxville, Tenn., is the NCO of the year for the 1st Army South region.

He brought the title of outstanding NCO for the Army's Forces Command here to the National Guard Bureau, where the Army Guard's best soldiers are being honored.

Murphy earned the Forces Command distinction during the first week in August and competed against 10 other major command winners for the Department of the Army's outstanding NCO award in September.

Sgt. Thomas Olsen, a member Company A in the New York Army Guard's 1st Battalion, 145th Infantry, is the 1st Army North's top NCO. He will deploy to Iraq with his company to support the North Carolina Army Guard's 30th Infantry Brigade next year.

He and his new wife, Lenora, rescheduled their wedding, originally planned for Nov. 15 to Aug. 9, eight days after learning that Olsen's company would be spending much of next year overseas.

The 16 soldiers are being told many times by people, such as Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Defense Department officials that they are the best of the Army Guard's 311,000 enlisted members for this year and the leaders of that force for years to come.

"The people who will be our leaders for the next generation are all around us. They need leadership. That starts with this group right here," Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, praised the winners during a Sept. 23 awards ceremony here at the Army Guard's Readiness Center.

Murphy, 29, already has a good grip on that responsibility.

Even though he did not win the overall Army prize, he said it was an honor "to carry the torch for the Forces Command soldiers, who have proven themselves in combat during Operation Iraqi Freedom." Those soldiers include members of the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

The 15 men and one woman, who are this year's Army Guard winners, represent the four regions of the 1st Army in the eastern half of the country, the three regions of the 5th Army for the area west



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gail Braymen

The Army National Guard's outstanding soldiers and noncommissioned officers for 2003 pose for a group photo outside of the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington Va.

of the Mississippi River and the U.S. Army Pacific.

They are committed to helping their country and the Guard soldiers with whom they serve.

Spec. Scott Campbell from Utah's 1st Battalion, 148th Field Artillery, is the top soldier for the 5th Army's Southwest region. He joined the Guard two years ago, when he was 30.

"I was not making an impact. I was not making a difference," said Campbell, who owned and operated four businesses before signing up. "I had always talked about patriotism, but I have never served my country."

"All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing," added Campbell, who graduated from basic training two days before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "I want to be actively involved in the service of the American people and the defense of the Constitution."

He trained more than 300 state-licensed security people for two corporations that supported the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and he served on the Utah Army Guard's task force.

Lenora Olsen made it clear she shares that sentiment for service. She is Sgt. Thomas Olsen's new wife, and she accompanied her husband to the nation's capital for the September tributes.

She believes that serving in Iraq is the right thing for him to do, even though it means postponing his attempts to get

into law school.

"There is always a certain amount of sadness with any separation," she said. "But when you believe in something as strongly as we believe in this country, you do what you have to do. We are both very proud of everyone who is already serving over there."

Outstanding Army National Guard Soldiers for 2003

1st Army North: Soldier, Spec. Gregory Gustavson, Connecticut; Noncommissioned Officer, Sgt. Thomas Olsen, New York.

1st Army South: Soldier, Sgt. Terry Horn, Kentucky; NCO, Staff Sgt. Jamey Murphy, Tennessee.

1st Army East: Soldier, Sgt. Daniel Stasney, Maryland; NCO, Sgt. Brian Morrow, Maryland.

1st Army West: Soldier, Spec. Daniel Jackan, Wisconsin; NCO, Staff Sgt. Richard Christianson Jr., Pennsylvania.

5th Army East: Spec. Christopher Russell, Arkansas; NCO, Staff Sgt. Craig Hale, Texas.

5th Army Northwest: Soldier, Sgt. Jason Groon, South Dakota; NCO, Staff Sgt. Gary Neal, Idaho.

5th Army Southwest: Soldier, Spec. Scott Campbell, Utah; NCO, Sgt. Anthony Burton, Colorado.

U.S. Army Pacific: Soldier, Spec. Kimberly Ruffner, Alaska; NCO, Sgt. Charles Hooper, Alaska.

The PT Uniform

The Army's old, gray physical fitness uniform is no longer authorized

On Guard Staff Report

ARLINGTON, Va. — On Oct. 1, the Army's old, gray physical fitness uniform became obsolete and is no longer authorized for wear.

All soldiers must now own the improved PT uniform, which hit the shelves three years ago. The decision to put soldiers in a uniform that was lighter, washes better and sharper looking was made in 1999 by retired Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, former chief of staff of the Army.

The improved physical fitness uniform includes a t-shirt, long sleeve shirt, jacket, pants and shorts. The suit costs almost double the old uniform that was first issued to soldiers in 1986.

The total cost is about \$140, according to a price list on the Army and Air Force Exchange Service web page.

For more information visit the following web address:

http://www.military.com/NewsContent?file=usa2_092303

Security forces complete tour in 'area of operations'

By Tech. Sgt. Gregory Ripps
149th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Mile after mile of desert. Only several checkpoints and a few burned-out vehicles break the monotonous scene.

"You can travel for hours," said Master Sgt. Robert Johnson, leader of a 13-member team from the 149th Security Forces Squadron. "After a while, it all begins to look the same."

The heat is stifling, but the convoy and its escort continue. The only sounds are the constant drone of truck and HMMWV engines and the occasional spoken words of team members. Their weapons locked and loaded, they keep their eyes on the horizon.

A speck appears and grows. It is another vehicle moving at a high rate of speed toward the convoy. To the relief of the convoy and its escort, the vehicle stops and keeps its distance. It was another uneventful day, for which they were thankful, but it was a day too much like too many others without any days off for Johnson and the 12 other members of the team.

The Texas 13, as they called themselves overseas, is a fire team of the 149th Fighter Wing's security forces squadron from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Before they escorted convoys, they had been elsewhere in the Operation Iraqi Freedom area of operations. Their first mission was to help convert a small civilian airfield into a military base.

"It was a real bare-base situation," said Master Sgt. John Worch, their supervisor back home. "They had to take with them everything they needed to be self-sufficient."

This meant building a pallet that included such items as weapons, ammunition, night-vision equipment, flak vests and even an all-terrain vehicle before they left.

"The active Air Force has full-time people to ensure the items are ready to go," Worch explained. "The National Guard has to rely on traditional Guard members to do the job, sometimes coming in on their own time."

Setting up at the base required the team to dig ditches and establish a secure perimeter. There was no heat for the early-spring desert nights, and air conditioning for daytime came later and then only for some tents. Although the "cops" were accustomed to real-world deployments to fully operational bases, their training paid off.

"The situation really brought us together as a team," said Tech. Sgt. Duke Soriano, an assistant team leader. "We had to work together to get the job done. We had weekly meetings in a tent. Just getting together and having soft drinks together became special times."

The team spirit would serve the security forces members well when, after two months, they were picked for convoy duty.

"We escorted two kinds of convoys," said Johnson, who as team leader also served



Texas Air National Guard photo

Members of the 149th Security Forces Squadron take a break from convoy duty.

as convoy commander. "One kind was to escort military members to an airfield. This was easier and more frequent. The other kind involved escorting convoys of food and medical supplies, small-arms munitions, water and fuel to an Army staging area. We drove to it one day and came back the next. We alternated in this duty with another air security forces unit."

The two Air Force units found themselves responsible for Army convoys. They used three HMMWVs to escort between 12 and 30 18-wheel trucks. One HMMWV took the lead, the other the end, and the third traveled in the middle.

The 149th SFS members carried M-16 rifles, M-9 pistols, M-60 machine guns and M-203 grenade launchers. Although truck drivers carried side arms, they relied on the team to protect them. The convoys traveled at a high rate of speed, stopping for nothing except the checkpoints.

According to Soriano, if they were attacked, one HMMWV would lead the convoy to safety while the other two would oppose the attackers. Although their convoy was never attacked, they received intelligence reports about threats — and about other convoys that had been attacked.

"Sometimes we wondered if we would make it," Soriano conceded.

Potential attacks were not the only concern.

"The heat was the most difficult part of it," said Staff Sgt. Manuel Mauricio, another assistant team leader. "It would get

up to 130 degrees during the day. In the convoys, there was no way to get away from it."

Another concern was harder to measure.

"Once a group of boys threw rocks at us," Mauricio said. "It brought home to me that we were in a foreign country where some people considered us an enemy."

Soriano had a different impression of the people. "Everywhere we went, I could see a look of appreciation. I felt honored to serve my country."

They felt handicapped by their inability to communicate with the civilian populace. They were directed not to initiate communication. "But we were given cards with some phrases, such as 'Stop' or 'Stay away,' if a situation arose," Johnson said. "As it turned out, our team never had to use one."

A copy of that card, along with a considerable amount of other useful information they had obtained and compiled as a result of their own experiences, became part of continuity binder that they left for the unit that would succeed them.

One moment stood out near the end of the team's tour when, between convoys, a member received news from his brother in San Antonio, Texas, that the home team had won the 2003 National Basketball Association championship.

"The Spurs are the world champs!" shouted the member from atop a vehicle. Another member, who had packed a Spurs T-shirt, fetched the item, which they proudly displayed in a photograph taken in

front of a poster of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

The news was a happy reminder of home but also a heavy reminder they had been in the area of operations for months without a day off.

"We didn't know when we were going home," Mauricio related. "We were told we would go home after another team did, but the order would constantly change. When we finally got the word we would be leaving in a few days, we didn't know whether to believe it."

But finally it was true. At last they were going home. And their welcome after their arrival in San Antonio was even more gratifying than some had anticipated.

"We expected our family members would show up," Mauricio said. "We didn't expect so many people — other unit members, news media — plus all the signs, flags and packages."

"It was one of the best things I've ever seen," Soriano added. "I sighed in relief to be home."

Like many other Air National Guard security forces members, the 13 Texans had been on duty somewhere in America's war on terror since October 2001. Before they ended up in the OIF area of operations, they had performed force protection duties at other locations, either within the United States or abroad.

"We know we did a good job," Soriano said. "Now that they know what we can do, they'll probably call on us again."

The Moving Wall: Never fo

By 1st Lt. Anthony Falvey

Massachusetts National Guard

During the summer, I was at the Leominster Library, returning several historical novels that I had borrowed.

While waiting patiently in line, I noticed a small sign that read, "Moving Wall." Next to the sign were handouts that explained that the Moving Wall was a tribute to the actual Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall that is presently located in Washington D.C.

The Moving Wall appeared at Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, Mass., late September.

Before paying a visit to the Moving Wall, I was present at the National POW-MIA Recognition Day, held on September 19, at Boston City Hall Plaza.

Although a fierce rain continued to fall throughout the ceremony, soldiers volunteers to perform color guard duties and participate in a 'missing man platoon' marched boldly in step, eventually making their way to a designated area within a good portion of the ceremony tent.

Maureen Dunn, master of ceremonies began to speak.

She reminded the crowd of the importance of not forgetting about our service members who are prisoners of war or missing in action. She continued to remark that an event such as this should have more recognition and assistance.

Maureen's husband Joseph, a colonel and Navy pilot was shot down in Vietnam, and has been missing since 1964.

In 1968, Maureen became involved with her first POW/MIA recognition organization. These days, Maureen is an active voice with recognition, honor and respect for POW's and MIA's.

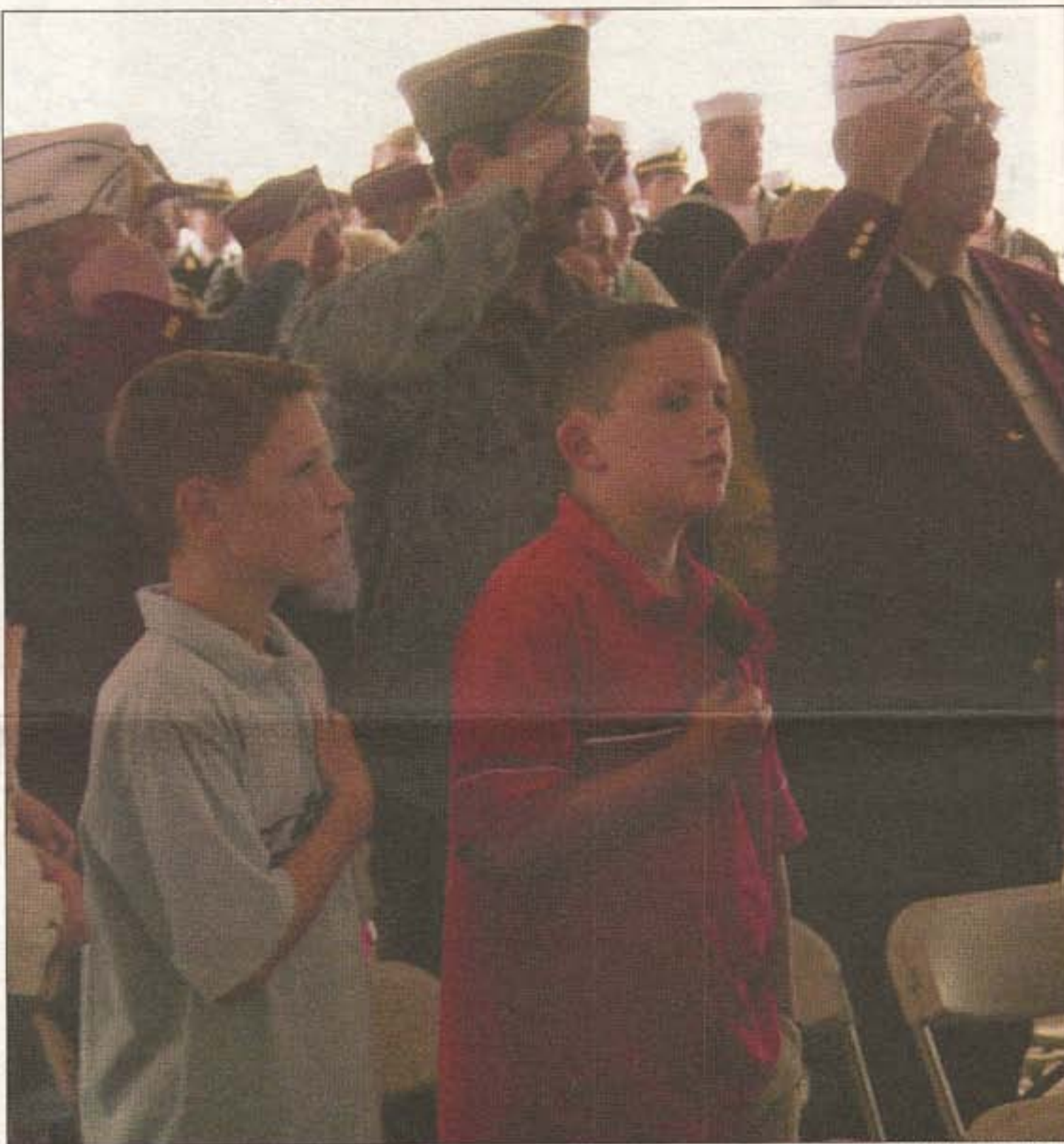
She is a key leader with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing In South East Asia. The POW/MIA event in Boston was the eighteenth occasion that Maureen has successfully organized and recognized our nation's imprisoned or missing service members. She is truly a remarkable and caring woman.

Plenty of caring, dedicated guests and volunteers were present. Leo D. Agnew, a retired (Army) Korean War Veteran, was in attendance with the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Leo and fellow former airborne soldiers contributed with numerous volunteer color guards (of the Armed Forces), which marched in the ceremony. The 82nd Airborne Division Association takes tremendous pride in assisting with recognition events.

The organization has participated twice with the Boston POW/MIA event. "We look forward to performing again next year," said Mr. Agnew.

Soldiers from the 79th Troop Command also took great honor portraying missing soldiers (along with other branches of the



Photos by 1st Lt. Anthony Falvey

Two young visitors participate in POW/MIA Recognition 2003.

Armed Forces) symbolized by the 'missing man platoon.'

"Portraying a missing soldier- gets you to think how much your loved ones will miss you," commented Spec. Laura Berry, an Operations Technician with the 79th Troop Command.

The POW/MIA event was a very emotional experience for all present. On September 22, I made my way to Gardner to view the Moving Wall. I arrived at Mount Wachusett Community College around 5 p.m. A small crowd was present.

When I was commissioned as an Army officer in May 2001, I received a notable gift from my father. My father, a Vietnam

Veteran (Air Force), presented me with a POW/MIA bracelet.

I had seen them before, and have always been intrigued by them. My father explained to me that he wanted me to have this bracelet, so I would never forget the awesome responsibility that comes with being a soldier.

"Wear this bracelet to never forget about this soldier and what it takes to be a great soldier." He continued, "Wear this bracelet with honor and respect for him and yourself." Those were incredible, moving and unforgettable words that my father shared with me.

I made my way over to a military tent that was constructed at the site. At the tent, were

a good number of helpful volunteers.

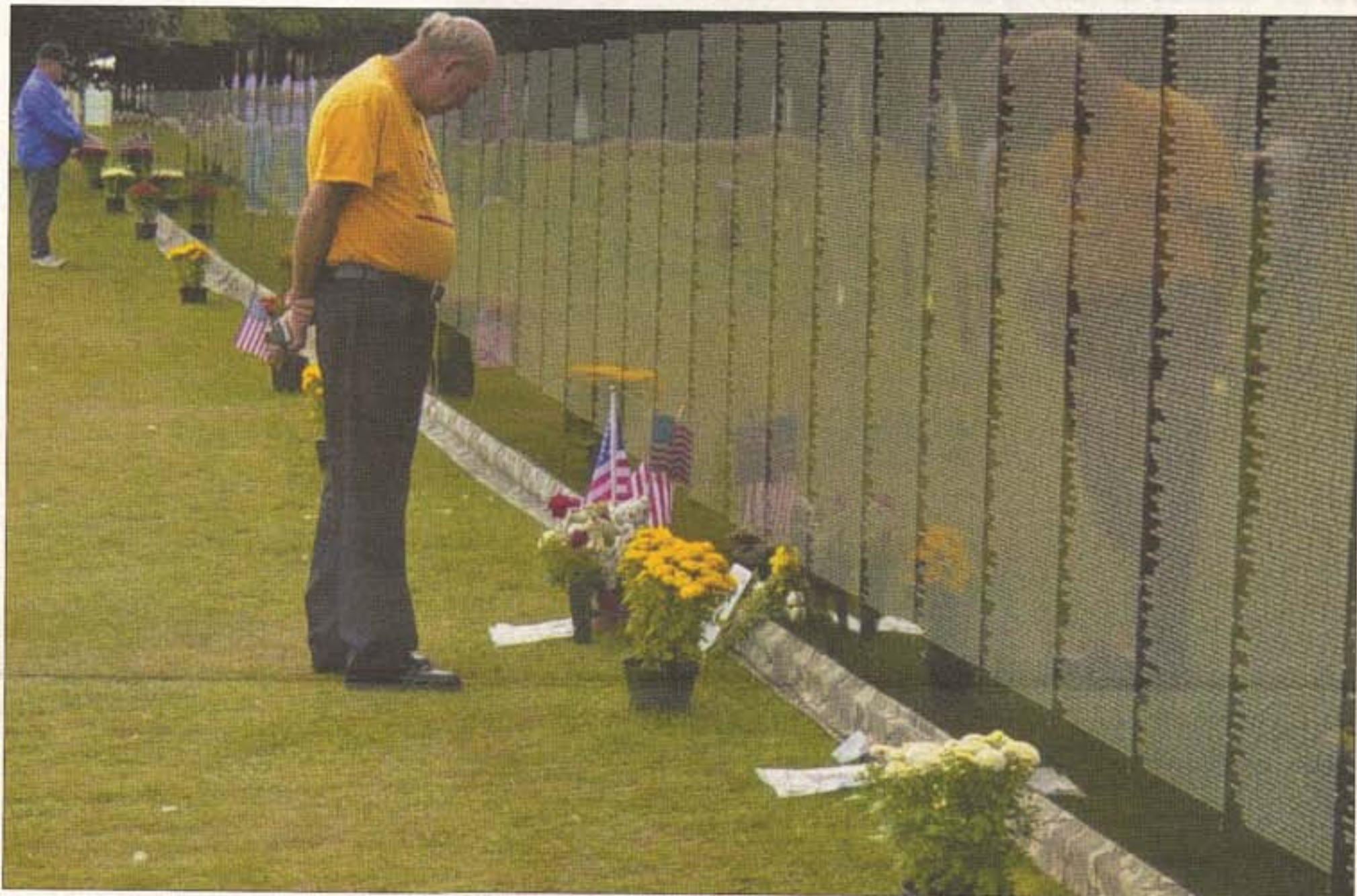
The volunteers ensured that visitors would be able to find their specific soldier. Paper and black chalk were available for impressions from the wall. I made my way over to the wall.

When I found my soldier on the wall, my thoughts and emotions were suddenly rushing through my mind.

I understood that I have a genuine care for this soldier, even though I have never met him. I will not forget him.

I want to make this soldier - and myself, proud. I want to be proud of being a good soldier and a good person.

Don't forget our American heroes



(Above) The Moving Wall, on display at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Mass.



(Left) Members of the Airborne Division Association march during the POW/MIA Recognition 2003.

(Below) Soldiers from the 79th Troop Command, stand at attention during the ceremony.



Heading to Iraq:

N.C. Guard brigade receives official mobilization order

By Cpt. Robert Carver

North Carolina National Guard

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Army has officially ordered the nearly 4,800 soldiers of the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade (HSB), North Carolina Army National Guard, headquartered in Clinton, N.C., and supporting units in other states, to federal active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as of Oct. 1.

The mobilization is the largest of North Carolina National Guard soldiers since World War II. The 4,800 number most accurately reflects the brigade's authorized strength including its out-of-state components. Nearly 3,500 of these soldiers are based in North Carolina.

"This unit is trained and ready to take on this mission," said Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram, Jr., adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard. "They have been through the toughest training the Army has to offer and proved themselves to be an effective force."

The soldiers called to duty include the nearly 700 of the 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry, New York Army National Guard, which will join the 30th HSB for this mobilization. Two other out-of-state units, the 1st Battalion, 150th Armor from West Virginia, and Battery G, 202nd Air Defense Artillery from Illinois, are part of the 30th HSB despite not being headquartered in North Carolina.

The Army announced the 30th HSB is expected to spend 18 months on active duty with 12 months of that in the Iraqi theater supporting the combatant commander. The active-duty period allows time for training, equipping, mobilizing, taking leave and demobilizing the unit.

Soldiers will spend the next week to 10



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ed Eudy

Families and friends gathered at the Charlotte Coliseum on Oct. 5 for an official going away ceremony for members of the 1/113th Field Artillery Battalion.

days training at their home armories before moving on to train at various Army installations around the country. After the holidays, the unit will take part in a mission rehearsal exercise at another active-duty post some-

where in the United States.

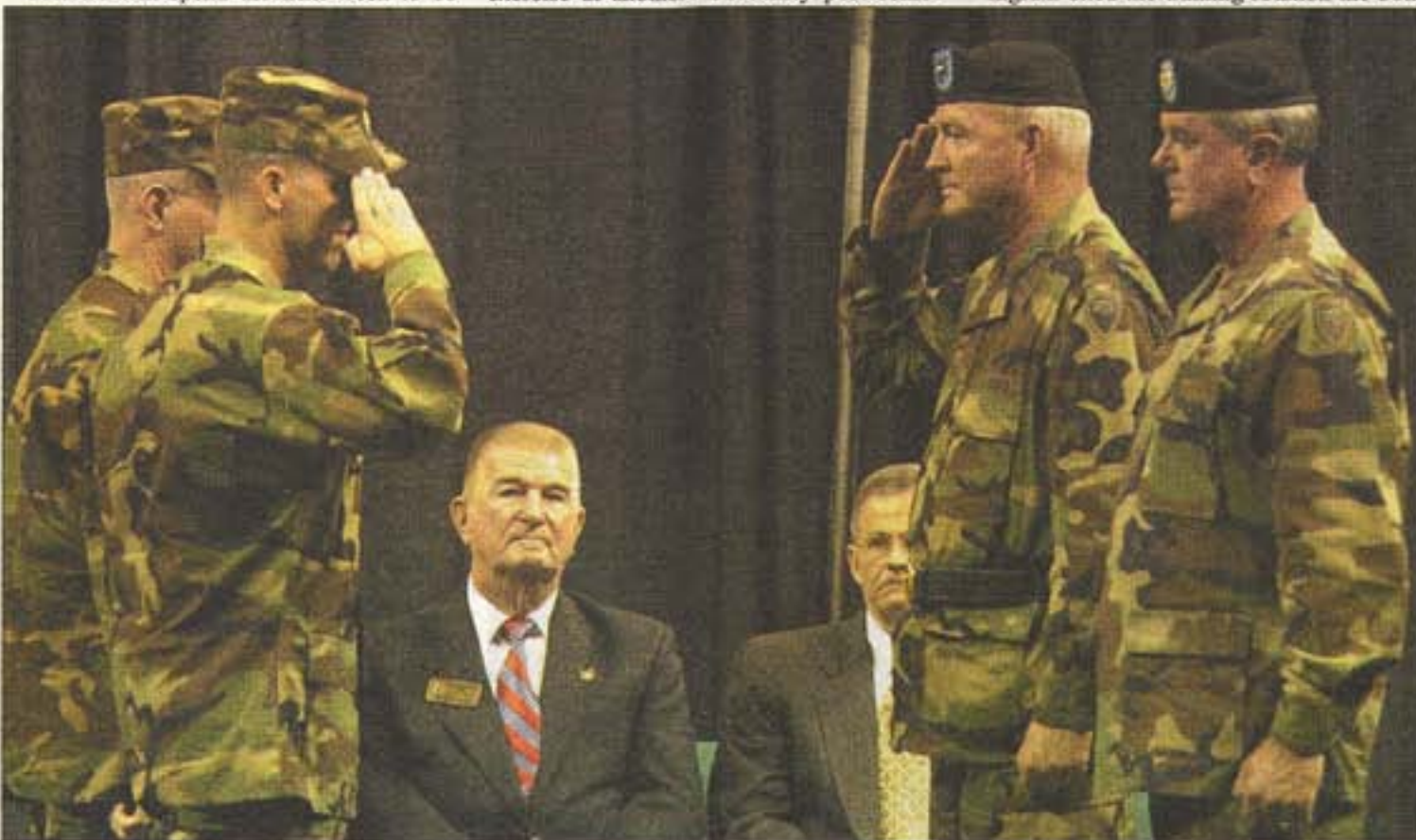
The brigade is expected to deploy to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the February to April timeframe.

Ingram cited the training rotation the 30th

spent at the nation's premiere mechanized combat training facility this past June, the National Training Center (NTC) located at Ft. Irwin, Calif., in the heart of the Mojave Desert, as evidence of the unit's level of readiness to take on its new mission. The NTC trains soldiers in conditions as close to actual combat as possible and leaves them as prepared as they can be to deal with hostile situations.

One of only 15 "Enhanced" brigades in the Army, the unit is designed to primarily be self-sufficient. The brigade has two armor battalions, one infantry battalion, one engineer battalion, a field artillery battalion, a support battalion, a cavalry troop, a military intelligence company and an air defense artillery battery.

The 30th HSB was in the process of holding mobilization ceremonies for its soldiers in anticipation of receiving the mobilization order, and those ceremonies will continue through Oct. 6 at armories around the state.



1/113th Field Artillery Battalion Commander, Maj. Mark Strong salutes Deputy Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Ronnie Griffin during the ceremony. Members of the 1/113th are now at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Former President Clinton visits Bosnia:

Minnesota Guardsman coordinates security

By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood
135th MPAD

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA — As the Brainerd, Minn., city planner, 1st Lt. Michael Brethorst, intelligence officer for Task Force Bearcat, is always trying to identify problems to future developments in the city.

Last month near Potocari, Bosnia and Herzegovina, he and the rest of the task force was responsible for the possibility of identifying something much more important, threats to former President Clinton.

This task force is among about 1,100 Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers, most from the 34th Infantry Division based in Rosemount, Minn., deployed to Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge as Stabilization Force 14.

Brethorst, who has been in the Guard for almost six years, assisted in the coordination of providing security before and during Clinton's dedication ceremony of the Srebrenica Memorial and Cemetery. The site was the final resting place for many Srebrenica men and boys killed during the Bosnian War.

Brethorst's task was to relay information received from the Brigade Recon Teams "Nightstalker" and air surveillance to his higher command. The surveillance started the night before the ceremony, where approximately 20,000 people attended, and lasted until the end of the ceremony.

"The Nightstalker teams and aerial reconnaissance were trying to identify things that don't look right such as people jumping over fences and people who have been known to provoke other incidents," Brethorst said. "These are traditional scouts who are trained observers to identify things that are out of the ordinary."

The scouts relied on their vision plus high-powered and highly sophisticated telescopes attached to the back of their Humvees. Brethorst said these scopes that magnify the human eye 25 times (equal to a 1,250 mm lens for a 35 mm Single Lens Reflex camera) are a very important asset in the U.S. Army. They were fielded specifically for the task force's use in this mission.

Staff Sgt. Richard Babineau of Blaine, Minn., one of the team leaders, said his team members are able to read a vehicle's license plate from 200 meters with this mast-mounted scope, which can be raised to 18 feet.

During the ceremony, Brethorst said the "Nightstalker" teams tried to identify where trouble would be.

"And tried to help the local police do their jobs," he said. "Help them provide security or send people to locations where they needed to go to if there were issues."

Some of the issues could have included

people jumping over fences or odd packages located at places they shouldn't be, he said.

These trained observers set up at various observation points surrounding the site in full view of the audience.

Sgt. Bradley Randall's observation point was in the seventh floor of a building.

"We could see the whole valley," he said, noting that he climbed 220 steps to his location.

Brethorst noted that the scouts made a point of showing the crowd that they were there.

"We want people to know that we're watching," he said.

Brethorst's mission started the night before where he and the "Nightstalker" teams and others slept outside near the dedication site.

"It was cold too," he said. "We set up these things prior to the mission occurring just to

"The Nightstalker teams and aerial reconnaissance were trying to identify things that don't look right such as people jumping over fences and people who have been known to provoke other incidents. These are traditional scouts who are trained observers to identify things that are out of the ordinary."

— 1st Lt. Michael Brethorst

make sure things were safe and secure. In cooperation with the local police department."

He said the reason for the increased force participation in this exercise was because of Clinton attending the event.

"When you have a former president there,

it steps it up a notch," he said.

But for any intelligence service member, helping identify potential threats is their task.

As Brethorst said, "You want to make sure you do your job the best you can and ensuring those standards are maintained."



Intelligence Officer for Task Force Bearcat, 1st Lt. Mike Brethorst (right), discusses the details of the high-powered telescope mounted on the back of the Humvee with Staff Sgt. Richard Babineau.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

Massachusetts' 181st Infantry kicks off Cuba rotation

By **Spc. Rick Fahr**

JTF Guantanamo Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO, Cuba – Security is an integral part of the Joint Task Force's (JTF) mission here in Guantanamo. Providing security and force protection at Camp America and Camp Delta is perhaps the highest profile mission along those lines. It's fitting, then, that the first unit of the JTF's fourth rotation here focuses on providing force protection and security.

When the 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment of Virginia turned over its authority to the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment of Massachusetts, the JTF completed its third rotation and began its fourth.

The 1-181st has a simple, yet important, mission within the JTF. "Our mission is to provide external security for Camp Delta," explained Capt. Gregg Langevin, the administrative officer of the 181st.

The 181st can trace its security roots to pre-revolutionary days and has been part of nearly every major military conflict undertaken by the United States at home and abroad. Formed in 1636 as part of the Massachusetts Bay Colonial Militia, the unit fought during the King Phillips War, repulsing various raids by Native Americans. In 1775, the regiment fought against British forces on Lexington Green and in Concord. During the Civil War, the unit was the first to defend the nation's capital and later campaigned in Virginia. The 181st made its first trip to Cuba in 1898 to fight in the Spanish-American War, but never set foot on the island as they were recalled and sent to Puerto Rico instead.

The unit participated in both World Wars I and II, specifically in the Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Alsace 1918 and Ile de France 1918 campaigns during World War I; and in Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes Forest and throughout Central Europe during World War II as part of New England's 26th "Yankee" Division. Its most famous hero, Sgt. Alvin G. York, who won the Medal of Honor for his actions during World War I, is a fitting example of the unit's long and storied history.

The unit became the 181st in 1921 and was assigned to the 26th Infantry Division in 1923, remaining in that division until 1991, when the "Yankee" Division was inactivated. In 1996, the 181st became part of the 29th Infantry Division,



Photo by Spc. Rick Fahr

Lt. Col. Joseph Noonan Jr., battalion commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Hurlburt unfurl the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry colors during the transfer of authority ceremony at Camp America, Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. The storied Massachusetts unit replaced the 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment of Virginia. This is the first overseas deployment and unfurling of the colors for a Massachusetts Infantry Battalion since World War II.

where it remains today. The 181st is headquartered in Worcester, Mass., and also has companies in Cambridge and Gardner. The unit's soldiers hail from throughout New England.

More recently, as part of Operation Joint Forge, C Company of the 181st deployed to Bosnia, and was serving there during the September 11th attacks. The battalion also mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle, performing homeland defense missions in the Northeastern United States.

More than 100 years after its first trip to the island nation, the unit has returned to Cuba as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. This time they weren't diverted.

Langevin said that the battalion can perform a variety of missions. "We are a light infantry battalion and have expertise in conducting tactical road marches, patrols, establishing battle positions, integration of indirect and direct fires, obstacle replacement, manning control points and riot control," he said.

Oklahoma's C-130 unit deploys for second time this year



File Photo

Oklahoma National Guard

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – Several members of the Oklahoma Air National Guard from Will Rogers Air National Guard Base departed for Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Approximately 90 members of the 185th Airlift Squadron and the 137th Maintenance Group deployed on Oct. 3 and will serve for about 60 days.

This is the second time this year the Oklahoma Guardsmen have deployed for this mission. More than 200 airmen returned from Qatar in August and September after serving almost six months in Southwest Asia. Most of those departing this weekend were part of the initial deployment.

While deployed, the 185th AS will

provide tactical and intratheater airlift support for the U.S. Central Command.

The rest of the group will provide maintenance and other support functions for the unit's C-130H aircraft.

The C-130H is capable of operating night vision missions from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas.

Operation Enduring Freedom encompasses all anti-terrorism military operations currently underway outside the borders of the United States. The United States currently has troops stationed in Afghanistan, Yemen, Kuwait, the Philippines and numerous other countries in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ground Mid Course Defense Brigade activated

By Maj. Laura Kenney

Colorado Springs Public Affairs Office

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A newly formed Colorado National Guard defense brigade is the first-of-its-kind in the United States.

Col. Gary Baumann announced the formal activation of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade during a ceremony recently. He spoke of the new command's upcoming mission and responsibilities at a luncheon given by Army Space and Missile Defense Association.

The activation of the GMD Brigade, which is manned by Colorado Army National Guard and active component soldiers, is an historic event. The brigade will operate the first part of the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System, which, in concert with sister services, is designed to protect the nation from accidental or intentional limited ballistic missile attacks.

The brigade will provide expertise to Northern Command's command and control operations from the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center. The Alaska Army National Guard Missile Defense Space Battalion, will activate in December and will provide operational control over ground-based interceptors located in Alaska.

Baumann addressed the mixed crowd — civilians and military members and guests of the Colorado Springs "Rocky Mountain" chapter of the association — at the Officers' Club here. The ASDMA, headquartered in Huntsville, Ala., is dedicated to fostering communications and relationships between government activities with responsibilities for or interests in Army space and missile



Photo by By Maj. Laura Kenney

Col. Gary Baumann announced that the ceremony marking the formal activation of the new brigade is scheduled for Oct. 16 at a luncheon given by Army Space and Missile Defense Association.

defense.

Baumann described the evolution of what is

"On a timetable that's been pushed up two years, we will have six interceptors at Fort Greeley, Alaska and four in California by Oct. 1, 2004. Greeley's mission will not only be operational, but that of a testbed mission to continue missile development. The battalion there will 'stand up' in December of this year, and we've already stationed security forces there. Eventually, that site will be as secure as any other very sensitive installation."

— Col. Gary Baumann

known today as Layered Missile Defense, through previous incarnations as the Strategic Defense Initiative and National Missile Defense. He spoke of the speeding-up, at President George W. Bush's request after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, of the timetable for having the system operational.

"It's been challenging. But I think everyone involved can feel very good that we are on track to meet our commander-in-chief's objective of having this system fielded as soon as humanly possible.

"GMD is one piece of the framework either in place or expanding, to assist in keeping our nation safe."

"And of course this is a joint effort. The Army is joined at the hip with the Air Force and Navy in the development of the system. Both services are providing the radars and the Air Force is providing some of the battle command and control systems," said Baumann.

"But make no mistake, the Army is deeply

and critically involved. To quote former Secretary of the Army Thomas White in March of this year — "Missile Defense ... has always been a core competency of the Army."

"On a timetable that's been pushed up two years, we will have six interceptors at Fort Greeley, Alaska and four in California by Oct. 1, 2004. Greeley's mission will not only be operational, but that of a testbed mission to continue missile development. The battalion there will 'stand up' in December of this year, and we've already stationed security forces there. Eventually, that site will be as secure as any other very sensitive installation," said Baumann.

The ceremony on Oct. 16 was hosted by the commanding general of U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command, Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., and the Adjutant General of the Colorado National Guard, Air Force Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney.

177th receives its first Outstanding Unit Award

New Jersey National Guard

The 177th Fighter Wing received the award for exceptionally meritorious service from January 1, 2000 thru December 31, 2001. This is the first time the 177th has received this award.

"I'm honored and extremely proud of the wing for receiving this award," said Col. Michael Cosby, 177th Fighter Wing commander seconds after the unveiling. "We have great people, and this award is testimony to the important role we play in the war on terrorism."

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, established by the Department of Defense in 1954, recognizes units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

The 177th Fighter Wing was one of the first units to have its aircraft generated with live missiles and flying shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Other 177th Fighter Wing achievements include deploying combat ready personnel to support Aerospace Expeditionary Force Nine.

Additionally, numerous unit members volunteered to support other units that were part of the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Expeditionary Combat Support.

The wing has also been recognized nationally for its outstanding environmental stewardship, recruiting efforts and community support.



In an informal ceremony held Oct. 5, members of the 177th Fighter Wing, located at Egg Harbor Township, N.J., watched as Senior Airman Matthew McCune, a crew chief, unveiled the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) emblem on the tail of one of the wing's F-16C Fighting Falcon jet aircraft.

Photo by
Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen

Hard work pays off: Comm flight earns 2 top ANG awards

By 2nd Lt. Pamela Montelepre
Mississippi National Guard

BILOXI, Miss. — Members of the 116th Communications Flight had a challenging year, but their efforts were rewarded at the National Guard Association of the United States conference in Biloxi, Miss., Sept. 17 for their outstanding achievements during 2002.

The flight was awarded the 2003 Air National Guard Outstanding Communications Unit Award, a functional area award given to the best communications flight in the Air National Guard.

The unit was also awarded the 2003 Air National Guard Distinguished Mission Support Plaque, an award given to the top five outstanding ANG mission support squadrons and flights.

These are extremely significant awards considering they were competing against 88 wings in the Air Guard, said Col. Tom Lynn, commander of the 116th Air Control Wing.

The flight was recognized for its impact on the successful standup of the U.S. Air Force's first Total Force "blended" wing.

"This award is special because it recognizes our comm flight Total Force team comprised of ANG, active duty, civil service, and contract personnel," said Capt. Fred Massey, commander, 116th CF.

"Our team led the way for the transformation of the 93rd Air Control Wing and 116th Bomb Wing into the 116th Air Control Wing ... by being the first organization in the wing to physically incorporate people from both sides into one cohesive unit," said Massey.

New System: Mobilization faster, easier

By Mr. Reggie Saville
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — The National Guard Bureau recently completed the acquisition phase of a \$2.3 billion project that integrates databases supporting planning, administration, and mobilization of Army Reserve forces.

The Reserve Component Automation System, or RCAS, greatly assists commanders in managing and mobilizing their troops, according to Maureen Lischke, the Chief Information Officer for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

The National Guard established RCAS in 1988 and restructured it in 1996. In March 2001, RCAS completed the fielding of more than 57,000 personal computers, with the associated hardware and communications capabilities, within cost and 18 months ahead of schedule.

"The RCAS program has been a great success story," Lischke said. "It allows soldiers to have one computer station that connects to most existing DOD and Army core business programs." The Army National Guard and the Army Reserve use this software in all 50 states, three U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

"This integrated system provides timely and accurate information — an especially crucial factor for troop mobilizations," she said. The final piece of RCAS functionality includes mobilization software. Operational use shows it dramatically increases the speed and ease of unit mobilization. It is estimated that RCAS will reduce mobilization station processing time by 60 percent or more.

Environmental soldiers



Photo by the U.S. Forest Service

By Rick Breitenfeldt

National Guard Bureau
Col. Wilson Torres, Chief of Staff and Col. Isabelo Rivera, Supply-Logistics Management Officer, both members of the Puerto Rico Army National Guard, plant a tree on Sept. 20, 2003, in observance of National Public Lands Day.

Puerto Rico designed and built a new arboretum located at Camp Santiago, P.R. In all, five Guard installations in Minnesota, Arizona, Hawaii, West Virginia and Puerto Rico were awarded up to \$6,000 to improve the quality of public lands on their installations and to educate the public about natural resource issues and stewardship this year.

Since 2000, 21 National Guard installations have been awarded grants and participated in the annual event which is typically held the last Saturday of September. Next year's observance of NPLD is scheduled for Sept. 18.

National Guardsmen work to improve their living conditions in Baghdad

By Spc. Anthony Reinoso
372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers may be spending at least a year with their boots on the ground in this theater of operations. In other words, soldiers better make themselves comfortable; it's going to be a long deployment.

Soldiers from the 119th Military Police Company, an Army National Guard unit from Warwick, R.I., have brought a little bit of home to Baghdad. Camp Cavallaro, located near Baghdad International Airport, has been enhanced to provide a comfort zone for the soldiers.

The soldiers of the 119th have built shower stalls, a small-but-efficient Post Exchange and established a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) tent. The MWR tent officially opened Oct. 5 during a barbeque.

The MWR tent includes a television with satellite capabilities and a DVD player, a regulation-sized ping-pong table built from scratch, a homemade pool table built with wood panels, used Humvee timing belts for the bumper, green canvas material for the top, and nylon netting for the pockets.

Friends and family members of the soldiers shipped the cue sticks and billiard balls overseas. A bar was also built using shards of marble from one of Saddam's palaces to make its countertop.

"The guys went all out because it is from the troops for the troops," said Cpl. Michael Wilson Sr., unit armorer.

Many soldiers were not initially accustomed to the extreme changes of climate or the harsh living conditions in Iraq.

"The diversity of knowledge and abilities of the National Guardsmen allow us to improvise and adapt to these challenging circumstances," said Capt. Robert Martin, commander of the 119th MP Company. These skills have also enabled the soldiers to provide themselves with a better standard of living during their deployment, he said.

"As National Guardsmen, we all have full-time jobs on the outside. We have a wealth of experience and a wealth of knowledge here. If you want an example of resourcefulness, look around the camp," said Wilson. Acting as a single unit, the 119th soldiers realized their ability to cope with working in a hostile environment, and to bring a little bit of home with them.

New Military Spouse Award

By Bonnie Powell
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Know a military spouse who exemplifies support to the community, volunteerism, selflessness, or strength?

A new military spouse award is now open for nominations and time is of the essence. Nominations are due by Nov. 9 for four new awards honoring active duty, retiree, Guard or Reserve, and veteran spouses. The active duty category includes Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard spouses.

Nominations can be made online through a front page link at the Web site of the Defense Commissary Agency at <http://www.commissaries.com>, at <http://www.militaryshoppers.com>, or <http://www.avashow.com>. Nomination forms will also be available Nov. 1 on Procter & Gamble product displays in commissaries, or the form can be downloaded now at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

The nomination process includes a requirement for a 500-word essay.

Massachusetts mourns soldier lost in Kuwait

Massachusetts National Guard

The Department of Defense announced last month the death of Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. Rooney, 43, of Nashua, N.H. Rooney died September 25th from injuries following an incident that occurred while moving material at Shuabai Port, Kuwait.

Rooney was a member of the 379th Engineer Company, U.S. Army National Guard, based in Bourne, Mass., which was mobilized in January to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The 379th Engineer Company's primary mission is to construct and re-contour secondary and main roadways.

Sgt 1st Class Rooney was a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm where he served with the 181st Engineer Company, the predecessor of the 379th.

He began his military career in 1982 and served as a full-time employee of the Mass. National Guard at the Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES) on Camp Edwards, Cape Cod for 20 years. UTES services all Mass. National Guard units, providing and maintaining vital equipment for training throughout year.

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Sgt. First Class Rooney. The loss of a soldier is a tragedy felt by all of us, from his fellow soldiers to those whose lives he has touched in the community," said Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, the Adjutant General for the Massachusetts National Guard. "Sergeant Rooney was a devoted husband, father and a respected colleague. We mourn his loss. He honors his family, his unit and the National Guard with his dedication, service and sacrifice for our nation."

Rooney resided in New Hampshire and is survived by his wife and three children.

State-of-the-art fence enhances security, protection

Maj. Scott W. Normandeau
New Hampshire National Guard

PEASE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, N.H. – The 157th Air Refueling Wing at Pease is using a state-of-the-art fiber optic intrusion detection security fence to enhance the protection of its aircraft fuel storage facility.

Security of Air Force and Air National Guard assets are a major concern. Heightened security put an increased demand on the already stressed security forces.

The challenge now is to find ways to reduce the strain on manpower while maintaining tough security measures. This new low cost fiber optic security fence boosts security measures by sensitizing the perimeter of an existing high security area.

At a cost of around \$10,000 a mile this simple system consists of an Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) and a tough all weather fiber optic cable. The cable is mounted on the outside of an existing chain-linked fence in a continuous loop around the perimeter.

The control unit, which contains the OTDR, is located in a nearby building and is continuously monitoring the fiber with an infrared light pulse.

Should a security event occur the control unit would pinpoint the location of the disturbance or intrusion and report it to a remote computer screen.

The Fiber Fence, developed under a joint technology project between Sandia National Labs and the FIS Corporation of Oriskany, NY, uses the interruption or attenuation of an infrared light to sense an intrusion.



Photo by Maj. Scott W. Normandeau

Tech. Sgt. Gregory Carr, intrusion detection specialist for the 157th Communication Flight, installs the high tech fiber fence at Pease Air National Guard Base, N.H.

This radar-like technology measures the fiber length, immediately recognizing any tugs on or breaks in the fiber. To enhance the fiber optic fence FIS developed mechanical trip devices creating a reliable and tunable system. These adjustable spring-loaded sensors require no electrical power and increase the overall system's sensitivity.

The fiber is routed through these mechanical devices. If tripped by a force applied to the fence they simulate a break in the fiber

by attenuating the light.

An additional feature of this system allowed the Fiber Fence TM control unit to be easily integrated into the existing security system used at Pease. Using this already proven security system, the Fiber Fence TM becomes just another alarm to monitor with very little additional training for the operator.

By using the Fiber Fence TM security personnel are not required to be physically present to watch a fence line, therefore freeing

them for use on other important security tasks.

If the need arises an individual or team could be dispatched to checkout a reported alarm.

Future plans are to install the Fiber Fence TM on the remainder of the base perimeter fence line. In all, Pease Security Forces expect to save up to two man-years of labor using this new system.

Massachusetts's Guardsman is 'On Point' at the State House

By Spc. Matt Benedetti
Massachusetts National Guard

On a hectic afternoon in the historic Massachusetts House of Representatives, Scott Brown engages in an animated phone conversation with a colleague during the all-important budget season. With the professional bearing of both an attorney and an Army officer, State Representative Brown concludes the dialogue by indicating he will not bend on a contentious issue. Despite pressure from both sides of the aisle, Brown will hold his position.

It becomes clear that the republican representative from Wrentham is determined to make his mark. As one of few elected officials serving in the military, Brown finds himself in a rare position, representing his district and his nation.

Brown has been a guardsman for 23 years and a state representative for five. Representing Wrentham, Millis, Norfolk and Plainville, as well as sections of Walpole and Medfield, he is constantly busy with constituent issues, but he always ensures that Guard and veterans affairs remain a priority.

Now a Major, Brown, enlisted in the Army during the Iran Hostage crisis in 1980 while a student at Tufts University. A Boston College Law School graduate, he serves as a JAG officer providing legal counsel for Guard soldiers. Undoubtedly, his impressive record in defending his clients has made several soldiers breathe easier.

Brown believes his experience as an enlisted man gives him a better understanding of his role as a JAG officer.

"Knowing what is expected of enlisted personnel and officers allows me to perform my duties with a balanced perspective," he said.

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of his duties involved pre-deployment exercises for soldiers.

"The prospect of discussing a will or power of attorney with a healthy soldier is difficult. The uncertainty of deployment can affect soldiers during the process and my role becomes counselor as well as attorney," he said.

Legislative issues relative to Guard projects and funding are always important for the representative. He is encouraged by the

improved performance and rating of the Massachusetts Guard in recent years. "General Keefe has done a great job and I think we are headed in the right direction."

Recently, Brown co-sponsored a bill providing for the annual observance of a World War II Commemoration Day. This legislation seeks to honor veterans of the World War II with a day honoring their service in a manner similar to the current Veterans Day. "We must honor the brave soldiers of World War II and today and this is one way we can help," said Brown. In June, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his work with soldiers during the mobilization process from January 2002 to February 2003.

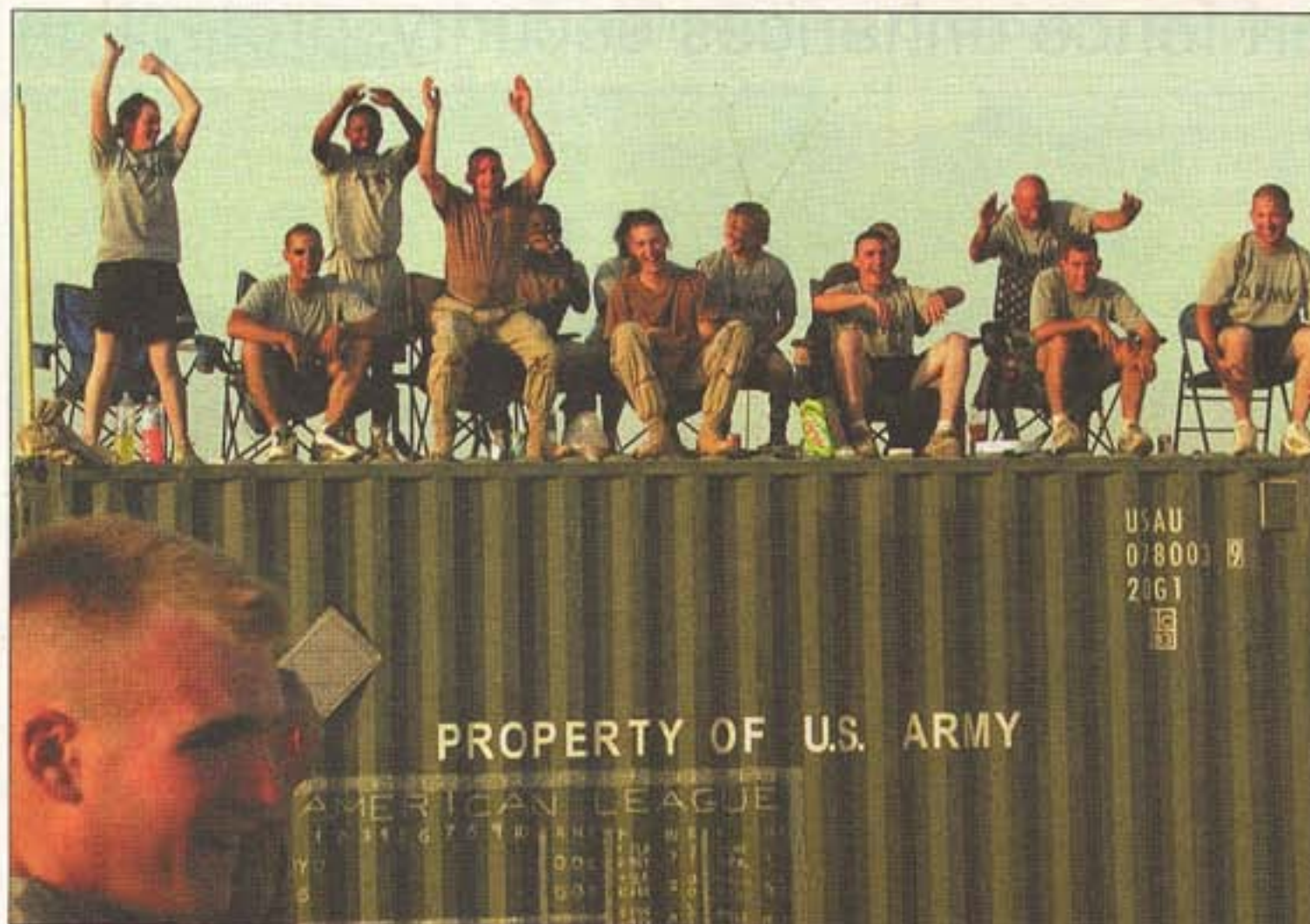
He is married to TV reporter Gail Huff and is the father of two daughters, Ayla, 14 and Arianna, 12.

Despite his many responsibilities, he is proud to continue serving in the Guard. "I have been in the Guard longer than anything else, before I became an attorney or an elected official. When I wake up I think about what I am going to do with the Guard and when I go to bed – I do the same."



By Spc. Matt Benedetti

Brown has been a Guardsman for 23 years and a state representative for five. He is constantly busy with constituent issues, but he always ensures that Guard and veterans affairs remain a priority.



Fenway Park, Iraq: Build it and they will win

Massachusetts National Guard

The 1058th Transportation Company, of Hingham, Mass., constructed their own Fenway Park in Iraq.

The park is a little piece of home for the soldiers in what is otherwise about as far away from home as they can get.

The park even features a "Green Monster" and the famous CITGO sign.

The 1058th played wiffle ball against the 180th Transportation Battalion, an active Army unit also serving in Iraq after completing their version of Fenway Park.

The 1058th was victorious. However, the Boston Red Sox (center photo) weren't so fortunate in their World Series quest.

