

THE ON GUARD

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Missing Man Salute ...

Retired guardsman's art commemorates 102nd Fighter Wing's efforts on and after Sept. 11, 2001

By Cliff McDonald

102FW Public Affairs

COTUIT, Mass. — For all of us, Sept. 11, 2001, will be eternally etched in our minds. The heinous acts of terrorism that were committed that day resulted in the loss of about 3,000 lives, destroyed or damaged many landmarks and ushered in feelings of insecurity across our nation.

For decades people will exchange stories about: where were you and what did you do? Each of us will seal away memories and emotions from that day. This is the story of one man, artist Eric Michelsen of Cotuit, Mass., and how he responded to those events.

He paints boats and trains, but what really excites him are things that fly. It's something Michelsen always knew he wanted to do, photograph, draw and paint aircraft. An uncle took him to an air show at Otis Air Force Base when he was 10. Armed with his first camera, he began shooting away.

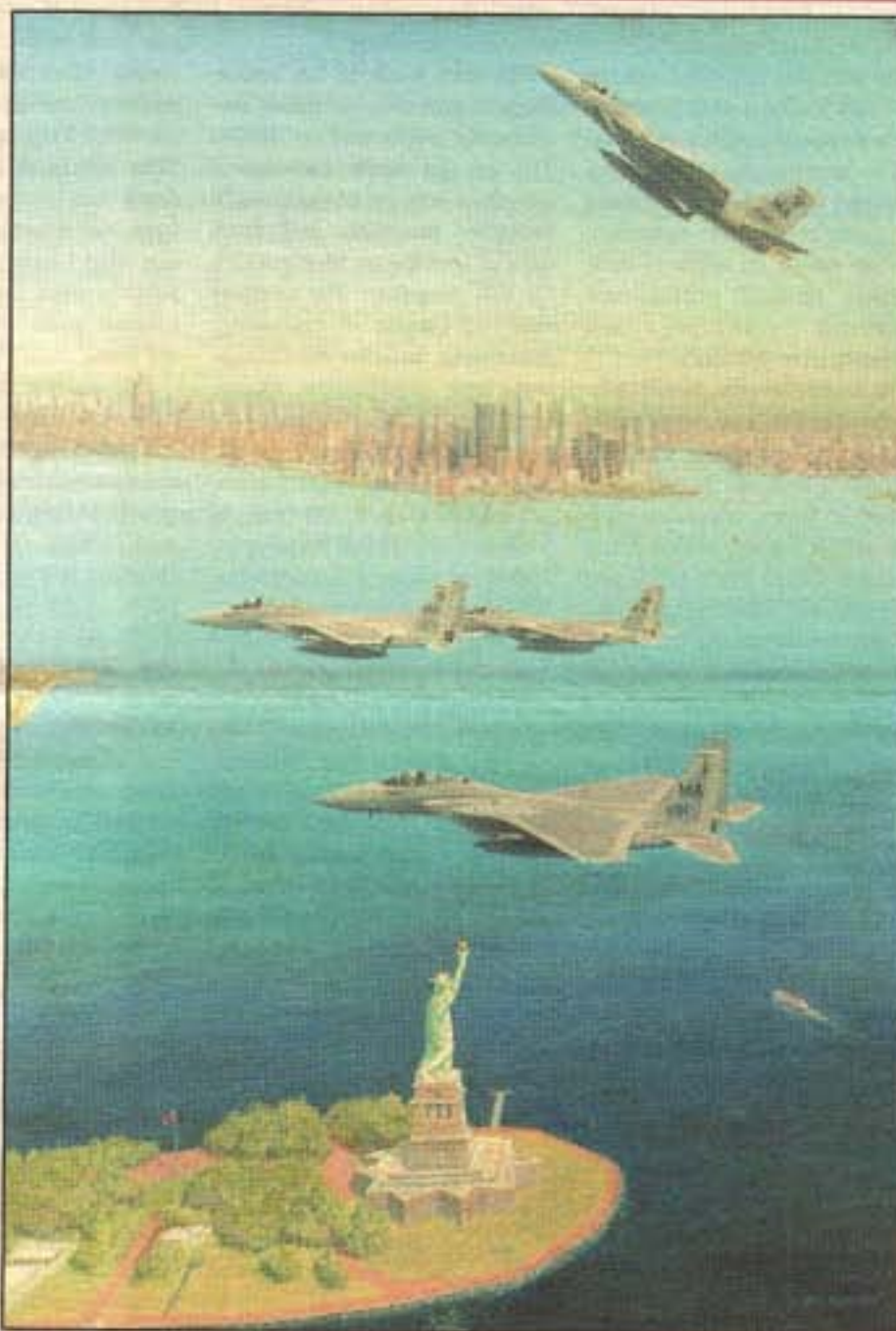
Now, almost 50 years later, it's more than a hobby. He's an accomplished aviation artist who devotes much of his time to painting the aircraft of the 102nd Fighter Wing at Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts.

Michelsen's aviation art stands out for its strong quality and powerful, technically accurate imagery.

Michelsen's latest painting, "Missing Man Salute" depicts four F-15s from Otis performing the missing man maneuver over the Statue of Liberty.

"The art was painted to commemorate the efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing on and after Sept. 11, 2001, for their response to the terrorists attacks on the World Trade Center."

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Eric Michelsen's latest painting, "Missing Man Salute," depicts four F-15s from Otis Air National Guard Base performing the missing man maneuver over the Statue of Liberty. The painting commemorates the efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing on and after Sept. 11, 2001.

Oklahoma Guardsmen to train Afghan National Army

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — More than 500 members of an Oklahoma Army National Guard infantry brigade are transferring the military training skills and cultural lessons they have been mastering this fall in Colorado to the southwest Asian country where they will serve for most of the upcoming winter and spring.



Mancino

The citizen-soldiers and Marines attached to the 45th Enhanced Separate Brigade are moving out this month for Afghanistan to take charge of training the new Afghan National Army. It will become the next Task Force

Phoenix.

The brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Thomas Mancino, will assume the training mission from members of the active Army's 10th Mountain Division in December and will remain in Afghanistan until next June.

Mancino began his Army Guard career in 1968 and has commanded the Oklahoma brigade since May 2001. He holds a master's degree in natural and applied science from Oklahoma State University.

Army Guard soldiers, including members of the Special Forces, have been taking part in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and training Afghan national soldiers since President George W. Bush ordered troops into that country following the terrorist

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Guarding freedom and liberty since 1636: National Guard turns 367 this month

About The On Guard

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Army Guard education services help 184,000 soldiers

By Maj. Troy M. Glpps

Massachusetts Army National Guard
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Education services personnel from 26 states and territories gathered in November at the National Guard Professional Education Center in North Little Rock, Ark. for the second annual Army National Guard Education Services Course to improve their ability to deliver education benefits to 184,000 National Guard soldiers.

The intensive two-week course provides students with a hands-on, web-based training opportunity to improve the strength and readiness of the National Guard by supporting the voluntary civilian education needs of their soldiers through professional marketing, counseling and administrative practices.

"Education benefits continue to be the number one reason why people join and stay in the U.S. military," said to Master Sgt. Robert B. Haley, education services officer for the Maine Army National Guard since 1995, and the national chairman of the ARNG Education Services Officer Committee.

"The success of the course can be attributed to its home-grown roots," Haley said. "It was designed and taught by seasoned education services personnel, and when you combine their commitment to excellence with the enthusiasm of our students, you get a winning combination. It is a transfer of knowledge that will ensure that Guard members across our nation will have the

very best access to education benefits."

"Last year, the course focused specifically on ESOs (Education Service Officers)," said Haley. "This year, we expanded the curriculum from 40 to 80 hours and opened it up to all full-time education services personnel. We now have ESOs, Montgomery GI Bill managers, guidance counselors, education technicians, and tuition assistance managers attending."

The first week of the course focused primarily on duties traditionally performed by ESOs. The second week included a one-day overview of the Guard's incentive programs and three days of training on Montgomery GI Bill programs. The students received classes in marketing, counseling, benefits administration, time management, examination and distance learning programs, earning college credit for military training experiences, accreditation and the use of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for apprenticeship programs. Special emphasis was placed on the impact of mobilization of a soldier's education benefits.

"This type of cross-training is good news for our soldiers," said to Maj. Ronald Schwickerath, director of the Education and Incentives Section at the National Guard Bureau. In the last year alone, more than 20 percent of the ARNG's full-time education services personnel have been deployed.

"This type of knowledge gap can have a very negative impact

on the ability of Guard members to access their education benefits," said Schwickerath. "Deploying ESOs often have very little, if any, time to train their replacements. This course has successfully bridged this knowledge gap."

"Having the opportunity to attend this course is extremely important," according to 1st Lt. Heather M. Cummings who found herself in that position just one week before the start of the course when she assumed the duties of the deployed ESO for the West Virginia Army Guard. "The course is much more in-depth than I had anticipated, and I am confident that I'll be able to use what I have learned to help soldiers work toward their educational goals when I return to my home state."

But it's not just the students who are learning.

"I can't imagine a better source of knowledge and expertise for a new ESO than a seasoned ESO," said Chief Warrant Officer Bradley Nelson, ESO for the Montana ARNG and the Region 6 education services representative. "The students know that we have already traveled the road, so the transfer of experiences and lessons learned between the group and the sharing of our networks of professional contacts is priceless. Everyone, including the instructors, walks away from this course a little smarter."

Deployments also result in increased work loads and a wider range of responsibilities for those employees remaining

in the Guard's education services offices. Sgt. Maj. John P. Hill, guidance counselor and acting ESO for the Florida ARNG, had only a few days to spend with his ESO before he shipped out for a stateside mission.

"I have spoken with my deployed ESO often over the last nine months," said Hill. "But his absence from the office has dramatically increased an already increasing workload."

Thirty percent of the Florida Army Guard is currently deployed, yet the state's Army Guard federal tuition assistance usage increased by 36 percent in the last year.

"I'm a one-man band," said Hill. "The course has given me the chance to learn how other states do business. I'll be borrowing some of their ideas so that I can better serve my soldiers."

"This is the most comprehensive education services course of its kind in all the military services," said Schwickerath. "We've got a top-notch education benefits package, but without fully-trained education services personnel there's no guarantee that our soldiers will be able to access all their benefits. A course like this makes all the difference."

"It's great to think of the positive impact our students can have when they return to their respective states and territories," said Haley. "They represent 184,000 Army National Guard soldiers and we have given them the tools they need to ensure that the Guard keeps its promise to help its soldiers prepare for successful futures."

FROM PAGE 1

Art

Michelsen explained. "And the subsequent 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week combat air patrols over the northeastern United States."

Michelsen's early interest in photography and aviation art also guided him towards a career in the military. He joined the Army Reserve in 1966 as a photographer and later signed on with the Air National Guard in 1977 as a traditional Guardsman.

He is a former member of the 102nd, having served with the unit as noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Communication Flight, Visual Information Section. He retired from the wing in 1990.

Michelsen lives near the base and is accustomed to seeing aircraft flying over his Cape Cod home. The sounds never disturb him; it's one of the things he enjoys most about living close to Otis.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001 he noticed two F-15s scramble from the base heading

south. There wasn't anything unusual about the scramble. After all the 102nd had for the past 30 years been on alert and responsible for the air defense of the northeast sector of the United States and doing both real world and practice intercepts in the area.

However, on this day Michelsen said he had a feeling within him that something out of the ordinary was taking place.

"Perhaps," he said, "it was the high rate of speed that the two jets accelerated as they disappeared high into the clear blue sky."

A short while later Michelsen received the shocking news about the attack on the World Trade Center, and he knew at once where the two F-15s had gone. He was also well aware of the transition.

Michelsen often stayed awake late into the night just to watch the sleek and graceful "Eagles" launching from the base during the following months. Many hours later the jets would return from a combat air patrol, and there were always more jets continuously

coming and going.

Moved by the events, Michelsen began thinking about how he could personally contribute something through his art to the overall sacrifices being made by members of his former unit.

It was at the suggestion of Brig. Gen. Sam Shiver, then commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, that he consider the missing man maneuver as the subject of his painting.

Michelsen will present the original 51-inch by 36-inch oil on canvas painting as a gift to the 102nd Fighter Wing.

A signed and numbered limited edition of 750 archival 24-inch by 16-inch prints of this painting will be available for sale.

Several other paintings by Michelsen adorn the walls of Otis Air National Guard Base buildings. While still a member of the unit he painted a 30-foot mural in what was then the Massachusetts Air National Guard State Headquarters building on the base.

'Kicking it up a notch:' The Nicotra - Emeril connection

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen
New Jersey National Guard

McGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. — It all started with a letter sent during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Dear Emeril,
Can you please send your favorite recipe for jambalaya to the Defense Dept. This MRE (meal ready to eat) also known as meals rejected by everyone was fair at best. I kicked it up a notch [this is one of Emeril Lagasse's trademark slogans from his TV show] with a teeny, weenie bottle of Tabasco, which came with the MRE.

Your fan in the desert
Master Sgt. John J. Nicotra"

Nicotra, 177th Fighter Wing dining hall supervisor, was deployed along with 17 members of the 177th Services Flight in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 21 through July 3. During that period, he served at both Ar' Ar in Saudi Arabia and Baghdad International Airport.

A case of heartburn prompted Nicotra to write the letter to Emeril Lagasse, a chef at the Food Television Network. At the time of the letter, desperation was in the air and the MREs in general had bottomed out in flavor and appeal for almost everyone in the combat theater. Nicotra sent the letter on the back of a MRE box.

"It was just a joke - I didn't really expect a reply," said Nicotra. "Everyone kidded me about the letter."

When Nicotra didn't get a reply, it really didn't come as any surprise. That all changed when he got to Baghdad.

"I got a letter from his production assistant, Patricia La Monte," Nicotra said. "She

thanked me for the postcard, wished us well, sent me five Jambalaya recipes and some pictures of Emeril. We never put the recipes that she sent to use, because we had no food except MREs and unit group rations."

The Emeril photos proved more useful. The Food Services team posted them in the dining hall with a note stating that Emeril gave the facility five chef hats - his highest award.

"They would usually last a day or so before someone would steal them," said Nicotra. "So I decided to keep this up. I wrote and said that when the 177th Services Flight got back from Iraq, we would like to get tickets for his show and come up to New York for a taping. I also sent Emeril an MRE with a note saying please try it."

Nicotra didn't hear anything further from the Emeril team.

After Nicotra and the rest of the 177th Services flight returned to New Jersey, life returned to the day-to-day routine. Thoughts about MREs, jambalaya and Emeril Lagasse were just part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Then in early September, Nicotra got a call from 2nd Lt. Luz Aponte, the 177th public affairs officer.

"She asked me if I had written Emeril while I was in the desert I said yes. She said that they were going to tape a Thanksgiving with our Troops show at McGuire and that the production team had asked if my wife Louanne and I could attend. I said sure," Nicotra said.

On Sept. 25, Nicotra and his wife arrived at McGuire Air Force Base. The morning and afternoon was spent on the dress rehearsal.

"We chatted with Emeril during the rehearsals," Nicotra said. "He said he'd been

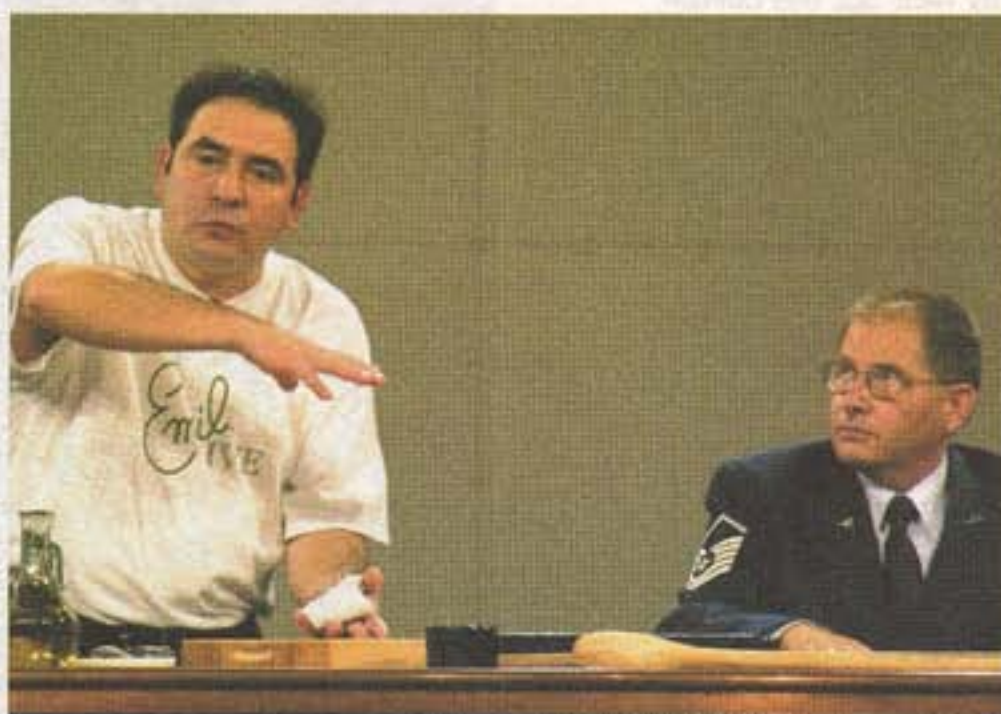


Photo provided by the 305th AMW Multimedia Support Center

Master Sgt. Nicotra of the 177th Fighter Wing was a special guest on Emeril Lagasse's television show on Nov. 16.

approached before by the military to do a show about MREs, but it didn't work out."

At 6 p.m., the actual taping was done. The theme was turkey. For anyone who has not seen the Emeril show, the layout mimicked a New York taping except on a larger scale - approximately 1,200 active-duty, Guard and reserve members attended.

The show revolves around Emeril cooking for people sitting at a counter, as well as a few small round tables while the rest of the audience watches from the bleachers.

For the second segment, Nicotra, along with former POW Pfc. Shoshona Johnson and country music artist Trace Adkins were the guests of honor at the counter.

They were served lobster, corn chowder, sweet potato biscuits, and of course turkey jambalaya.

Also at the counter was a cluster of jambalaya MREs with Nicotra's postcard that had started the whole process.

The show aired on Nov. 16.

All this goes to prove that all it takes is one letter to kick things up a notch.



Proposed FY-04 Basic Pay Table

Monthly Basic Pay Table																
Effective 01 January 2004																
YEARS OF SERVICE																
PAY GRADE	<1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
PROBATIONARY OFFICERS																
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O-8	7711.10	8084.90	8458.70	8832.50	9206.30	9580.10	9953.90	10327.70	10701.50	11075.30	11449.10	11822.90	12196.70	12570.50	12944.30	13318.10
O-7	6440.70	6759.90	7079.10	7398.30	7717.50	8036.70	8355.90	8675.10	8994.30	9313.50	9632.70	9951.90	10271.10	10590.30	10909.50	11228.70
O-6	4773.60	5044.20	5314.80	5585.40	5856.00	6126.60	6397.20	6667.80	6938.40	7209.00	7479.60	7750.20	8020.80	8291.40	8562.00	8832.60
O-5	3879.30	4102.50	4325.70	4548.90	4772.10	4995.30	5218.50	5441.70	5664.90	5888.10	6111.30	6334.50	6557.70	6780.90	7004.10	7227.30
O-4	3033.30	3214.50	3395.70	3576.90	3758.10	3939.30	4120.50	4301.70	4482.90	4664.10	4845.30	5026.50	5207.70	5388.90	5570.10	5751.30
O-3	2018.80	2142.40	2266.00	2389.60	2513.20	2636.80	2760.40	2884.00	3007.60	3131.20	3254.80	3378.40	3502.00	3625.60	3749.20	3872.80
O-2	1593.60	1698.00	1802.40	1906.80	2011.20	2115.60	2220.00	2324.40	2428.80	2533.20	2637.60	2742.00	2846.40	2950.80	3055.20	3159.60
O-1	1253.60	1345.20	1436.80	1528.40	1620.00	1711.60	1803.20	1894.80	1986.40	2078.00	2169.60	2261.20	2352.80	2444.40	2536.00	2627.60
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE SERVICE AT ENLISTED MEMBERS																
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
O-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARRANT OFFICERS																
W-5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
W-4	1119.40	1205.80	1292.20	1378.60	1465.00	1551.40	1637.80	1724.20	1810.60	1897.00	1983.40	2069.80	2156.20	2242.60	2329.00	2415.40
W-3	848.80	907.20	965.60	1024.00	1082.40	1140.80	1199.20	1257.60	1316.00	1374.40	1432.80	1491.20	1549.60	1608.00	1666.40	1724.80
W-2	569.20	608.00	646.80	685.60	724.40	763.20	802.00	840.80	879.60	918.40	957.20	996.00	1034.80	1073.60	1112.40	1151.20
W-1	321.60	340.80	360.00	379.20	398.40	417.60	436.80	456.00	475.20	494.40	513.60	532.80	552.00	571.20	590.40	609.60
ENLISTED MEMBERS																
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E-7	2412.00	2541.20	2670.40	2799.60	2928.80	3058.00	3187.20	3316.40	3445.60	3574.80	3704.00	3833.20	3962.40	4091.60	4220.80	4350.00
E-6	1812.00	1912.00	2012.00	2112.00	2212.00	2312.00	2412.00	2512.00	2612.00	2712.00	2812.00	2912.00	3012.00	3112.00	3212.00	3312.00
E-5	1312.00	1412.00	1512.00	1612.00	1712.00	1812.00	1912.00	2012.00	2112.00	2212.00	2312.00	2412.00	2512.00	2612.00	2712.00	2812.00
E-4	1012.00	1112.00	1212.00	1312.00	1412.00	1512.00	1612.00	1712.00	1812.00	1912.00	2012.00	2112.00	2212.00	2312.00	2412.00	2512.00
E-3	712.00	812.00	912.00	1012.00	1112.00	1212.00	1312.00	1412.00	1512.00	1612.00	1712.00	1812.00	1912.00	2012.00	2112.00	2212.00
E-2	412.00	512.00	612.00	712.00	812.00	912.00	1012.00	1112.00	1212.00	1312.00	1412.00	1512.00	1612.00	1712.00	1812.00	1912.00
E-1	112.00	122.00	132.00	142.00	152.00	162.00	172.00	182.00	192.00	202.00	212.00	222.00	232.00	242.00	252.00	262.00
E-1.5	112.00	122.00	132.00	142.00	152.00	162.00	172.00	182.00	192.00	202.00	212.00	222.00	232.00	242.00	252.00	262.00
E-1.5	112.00	122.00	132.00	142.00	152.00	162.00	172.00	182.00	192.00	202.00	212.00	222.00	232.00	242.00	252.00	262.00

FY2004 Proposed Military Pay Rate

OSD(P&R) Military Personnel Policy

New for '04

Pay Raise

Effective 1 January 2004

Targeted pay raises for career NCOs up to 6.25%

Average increase = 4.1%

Majority will receive 3.7%

Most junior members will receive 3.2%

E-1s will receive 2%

Housing Allowance

Continues Basic Allowance for Housing reduction in out-of-pocket expenses

FY 2004 rate will reduce out-of-pocket expenses to 3.5%

Scheduled to be zero by FY 2005

Arkansas pilot's final flight is a family affair

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Oldham

189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — After flying more than 8,700 hours in Air Force planes, an Arkansas Air National Guard C-130 pilot flew the most memorable two hours of his entire 34-year career on Oct. 28.

Lt. Col. Larry "Rocket" Hill, a 154th Training Squadron pilot, said his last two hours of flying time were the best because he was on board with those he loves: his twin daughters — Capt. Elissa Granderson and Capt. Leslie Hill — who are both C-130 pilots in the 154th, and a hand-picked navigator, flight engineer and loadmaster.

"This is probably my most memorable flight in all my years of flying," he said.

The squadron received Air Force approval in early October for his daughters to join Hill on his final flight. Officials here believe it may be the first time a father was accompanied by twin daughters on a final flight.

Before takeoff, all three were looking forward to flying together, cracking jokes and reminiscing about their years together. However, once it was time to plan the mission and discuss the colonel's final flight, it was all business for the trio and the rest of the crew.

On board the cargo plane, typical aircrew banter filled the headsets as the crew ran through checklists to prepare for takeoff.

After a two-hour flight that took the crew from Little Rock AFB to Memphis, Tenn., south to Greenville, Miss., west to Texarkana, Ark., and back to the base, they slipped into the local pattern for a final pass over the base.

As the huge plane zoomed over the airfield one last time, Hill said he felt a lump in his throat as he saw his fellow aircrew members and maintenance personnel lined up on the tarmac, awaiting his arrival. He didn't have much time to take it all in because he was in a steep left turn that would take him back to the runway to land.

As the crew taxied the plane to its parking spot, it had to navigate between a cordon of maintenance troops who snapped to attention and saluted as the aircraft taxied past.

"That was quite an honor," Hill said afterward. "You don't know how hard those guys work, the conditions they have to work in — the cold and the heat — to keep those airplanes going. And to think enough of me to come out there and stand at attention while I finish my last flight. That's wonderful."

A self-described relic, the colonel began his flying career in a version of the Lockheed Constellation that was a radar surveillance aircraft. Later, he transitioned to the KC-135 refueler and finally to the C-130 Hercules in 1986 when the squadron changed from a refueling mission to a C-130 training mission.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Bob Oldham

Lt. Col. Larry "Rocket" Hill, a 154th Training Squadron pilot, is all smiles as he flies C-130 cargo aircraft for the final time in his 34-year career Oct. 28 at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. The colonel and his twin daughters — Capt. Elissa Granderson and Capt. Leslie Hill — flew his final flight together, after receiving Air Force approval earlier in the month. Leslie was in the co-pilot seat with him for the first half of the two hour flight.

While the flight was memorable for Hill, it was also fun for his daughters.

"We didn't think it was going to happen until a few weeks ago," Leslie said.

The squadron received Air Force approval in early October, clearing the way for the family to fly together.

"I was a little nervous [as the flight began]," she said. "I know how he's picked us apart in life, and I thought he'd critique us, but he didn't."

As with just about any father, he sometimes offers his daughters his opinion.

"He tends to come through the squadron and give us some unsolicited advice," she said. "We're like, 'Hey, we're not at home, we're at work.'"

Perhaps the only break in radio discipline came when Elissa identified his position in the local pattern.

"She said you're No. 2 behind that one, dad," he recalled. "That's not how we're supposed to do it ... but that's pretty cool."

"Oh, my gosh, did I say that?" she asked later, laughing. "There's no telling how many times I said that today."



A crowd of 189th Airlift Wing members wait for Hill to exit his C-130 cargo aircraft for the last time in his 34-year career.

'Camp Bob' remembers its namesake

By Maj. Stan Zozotarski

California National Guard

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif. — "Camp Bob," the nickname soldiers affectionately bestowed upon Camp Roberts, California is the only military camp in America named after Entertainer Bob Hope, so quipped the legendary comedian during his 1952 radio broadcast from Camp Roberts.

"It's always a special personal thrill to play at Camp Roberts," opened Bob Hope during his live broadcast from the camp in 1952. "I've played a lot of Army camps but this is the only one that they named after me."

More than 10,000 troops were at Camp Roberts at the time conducting basic training and preparing for deployment to Korea—including the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized). The training conditions at Camp Roberts were harsh, hot, and unforgiving. The scenery included rolling hills, and trees, and plenty of open ground where the torturous sun could pound down on soldiers. But with just one quick quip, Hope made soldiers forget about all of that.

"This camp is located in the heart of the lettuce country," Hope said. "I haven't seen this much green since (Bing) Crosby dropped his wallet."

Of course Hope touched on the fact that soldiers of the time didn't have much on which to spend their money given life at Camp Roberts, which was a traditionally male-orientated installation in 1952.

"While they are in basic training, these guys are supposed to forget completely about girls," Hope joked. "These guys must



Photo by Jack Halbin

Bob Hope on KP? The King of Comedy apparently spoke from experience when he joked that, "Camp Roberts now has garbage disposals in every mess hall. They're known as KPs."



California National Guard file photo

Bob Hope greets guests attending a dinner in his honor at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in 1980. More than 500 Guardsmen attended the dinner sponsored by the National Guard Association of California.

not even think about girls. In fact every night the MPs go through the barracks with a flashlight and wakes up anybody that has a smile on his face."

The legendary entertainer was at Camp Roberts with special guest actress Jane Russell, promoting their recently released movie, "Son of Paleface." Hope and Russell played the lead characters. Hope, portrayed Junior Potter, who returns to claim his father's gold. Russell leads a gang of thieves, and Roy Rogers portrayed a federal marshal hunting for Russell's gang. Hope and Russell performed radio spoofs on the movie and on attending the premier, "Son of Paleface."

Hope's self-effacing humor generated an enormous response from the crowd of soldiers. But his ability to appeal to soldiers' lifestyles and sense of humor won their admiration and respect. It was no different at Camp Roberts. Hope joked that Camp Roberts was undergoing renovation at the time—especially the mess halls.

"They now have garbage disposals in every mess hall," Hope wisecracked. "They're known as KPs."

He related to the soldiers' love of sports at the camp.

"They have a wonderful athletic program here," he said while setting his audience up for the quick one liner. "A guy here set a new world record for the 100 yard dash—He backed into a bayonet."

The entertainer's visits to Camp Roberts, Camp San Luis Obispo, and March Base in

Riverside are well documented. Hope enjoyed his reception at all three facilities. Hope's agent recently revealed that the beloved entertainer was so appreciative of his response at Riverside—now March Air Reserve Base and home of the California Air National Guard's 163rd Air Refueling Wing—that it inspired a multi-decade, multi-war global tour entertaining troops.

Author and radio talk show host Spencer Leigh recently claimed, however, that Camp Roberts also inspired the entertainer.

"In 1941, Bob Hope entertained soldiers at Camp Roberts and he was so exhilarated by his reception that he became a compulsive entertainer for the forces, first in the Second World War, then in Korea and Vietnam, and finally in the Gulf," Spencer wrote.

Hope's charity for lifting troop morale was not lost upon the California National Guard. In a special dinner sponsored by The National Guard Association of California on Dec. 10, 1980 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles, entertainers and military personnel thanked the King of Comedy in person for his service. The 40th Infantry Division Band, and the 146th Tactical Airlift Wing's 562nd Band provided music for an evening in a tribute to a man who lifted the spirit of the American serviceman.

"Bob Hope's entertainment of GIs is never to be forgotten," read the testimonial dinner brochure. "It is doubtful if anyone in the annals of show business ever made a more

endearing hit than Hope did when he stepped before American servicemen—lonesome for home—and quipped: "Hi, fellow tourists."

At the same time the public showers accolades upon Hope and echoes his theme song, "Thanks for the Memories," Camp Bob is remembering the star in several ways. Tucked away in a sacred corner of the Camp's museum is a special dedication to Bob Hope—Camp Bob to the Army fans visiting it—with a CD recording of his and Russell's 1952 radio show from the post. The CD is available to the public for a \$10 donation to the Camp Roberts Historical Museum, Camp Roberts, California 93451-5000, (805) 238-8288.

Camp Roberts chose to lower the post's flag to half mast in honor of the star on July 27th, in fond recollection that Hope once jokingly referred to "Camp Bob" as his personal namesake. As Camp Roberts begins its journey to become part of a power projection platform—an upgrade that could bring as many as 60,000 additional mobilized soldiers through Camp Roberts, Fort Hunter Liggett, and Camp San Luis Obispo—the California National Guard not only thanks the star for the memories, but also for the hope that future stars will follow his historic footsteps and begin their military entertainment tours through "Camp Bob's" magic gates.

Kentucky airman receives Silver Star

Tech. Sgt. Amy Mundell

123rd Airlift Wing

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Kentucky Air National Guardsman received the Silver Star from the secretary of the Air Force on Nov. 1 in recognition of the airman's heroic acts while deployed to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tech. Sgt. Keary J. Miller, a pararescueman of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, was praised by Dr. James G. Roche for his bravery under fire during a mission on a remote Afghan mountain in 2002.

"When faced with the well-entrenched and committed enemy force, when faced with the reality that men around him were receiving mortal wounds, when confronted with the prospect that he, too, might suffer the unfortunate fate that others endured on that 10,000-foot mountain, he courageously stepped into the breach to risk his life to save his fellow warriors," Roche told an audience of nearly 350 gathered at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base.

"Because of the actions of this intrepid airman, Keary Miller, with his teammates on the mountain, 10 gravely wounded Americans came home — home to their units, home to their families and home to an ever grateful nation. Our nation is so very blessed to have professionals of his character and courage."

Miller, the first Kentucky National Guardsman to receive the honor while serving in the unit, distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against al-Qaida and Taliban forces near Marzak, Patkia Province, Afghanistan, on March 4, 2002. Miller was the Air Force combat search and rescue team leader assigned to a quick reaction force tasked to recover two American servicemen evading capture in austere terrain.

Just before landing, his MH-47E helicopter received rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms fire, severely disabling the aircraft and causing it to crash land. Miller and the remainder of the assault force formed a hasty defense and immediately suffered four fatalities and five critical casualties, according to the award citation.

Despite intense enemy fire, Miller moved around the battlefield, crossing open areas on numerous occasions, to assess and care for critically wounded servicemen. As the battle went on, Miller removed ammunition from the deceased and, in multiple acts of extraordinary courage, proceeded through some of the day's heaviest rocket-propelled grenade, mortar and small-arms fire, while distributing the ammunition from position to position.

Shortly thereafter, another attack erupted — killing one pararescueman and compromising the casualty collection point.

Miller braved the barrage of fire in order to move the wounded to better cover and concealment. His intrepidity and skill led to the successful delivery of 10 gravely wounded Americans to life-saving medical treatment and to the



Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Terry Lutz.

Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche, pins the Silver Star on Tech. Sgt. Keary Miller on Nov. 1 at the Kentucky Air National Guard Base in Louisville, Ky. Miller received the medal for his heroic acts during Operation Enduring Freedom.

recovery of seven servicemen killed in action, his citation stated.

"If we are to prevail in this global war on terrorism, it will be because of the bravery and selfless sacrifice of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who are cut from the same cloth

as Keary Miller and his colleagues in the 123rd STS," Roche said. "And we will prevail."

Kentucky's adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, expressed his appreciation for what he called "the personal valor and professional excellence of a great warrior." He also praised other members of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, who have been actively engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as combat operations in Afghanistan.

"What you do and what you have done, and the support and sacrifices of your families, makes more of a difference to most Americans than they will ever know," he said.

To date, the Air Force has approved 18 Silver Stars for airmen who participated in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Tech. Sgt. Keary Miller is honored at a ceremony at the Kentucky Air National Guard base in Louisville, Ky., on Nov. 1. Among those in attendance were the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche, Kentucky's adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. D. Allen Youngman, and more than 350 family members and friends.



Photo by Master Sgt. Charlie Simpson

Colorado National Guard missile defense activated

By Senior Airman Carolyn Frankovich
Colorado National Guard

DENVER, Colo. — The Guard and Reserves are stepping up to the plate and swinging hard. No longer mere supporters of their active duty brethren, they are leaders in technology. They are military members who are constantly called to action — for war and for defense.

The most recent event in Colorado Springs on Oct. 17 chalks one more revolutionary and historic mark on the board for the Colorado National Guard. On that Thursday morning, Lt. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, adjutant general for the state of Colorado hosted a ceremony to announce the activation of a new unit for the Colorado Army National Guard. The Ground-based Midcourse Defense Brigade (GMD) is a first for the U.S. Army and will be part of the Colorado Army National Guard, staffed by both Guard soldiers and active Army soldiers.

The brigade, a result of a presidential directive, worked long and hard to meet the ambitious time schedule of activation that was changed from 2006 to the fall of 2004. The soldiers, recruited nationwide, changed their primary focus from testing and preparing to being operators. They will continue to test and improve the procedures as they constantly participate in training missions with U.S. Northern Command.

A part of the integrated Ballistic Missile Defense System, the brigade brings additional capabilities to NORAD/NORTHCOM. Previously, the nation had only the space warning system capabilities. Now, with GMD, the nation has the capability to defend against possible missile strikes that may be intentional or a result of a mistake. The brigade's technology, once notified by NORAD, deals with missiles in space before they reenter the atmosphere. As a result, the missile is destroyed without harm to anything living. Col. Gary Baumann, commander of the Missile Defense Brigade, announced with confidence, "We are prepared to deal with any threats."

The Colorado Guard, already establishing itself in the space system with the 137th Space Warning System based in Greeley and the 193rd Space Support Battalion, are



Photo by Senior Airman Carolyn Frankovich

Maj. Gen. Mason C. Whitney, the Colorado Adjutant General, addresses the audience during the activation ceremony of the Colorado Army National Guard Missile Defense Brigade.

eager to carry out the primary mission of homeland defense.

"We are tremendously proud to be part of this mission. It continues in direct descent the role of the Guardsman in protecting our nation," stated Whitney. He pointed out that Colorado is the nerve center of space for the entire world.

Cosumano summed it up succinctly when he stated that, "The Guard is a perfect fit for this mission, with the genesis of their role in national defense dating back to the 1600s. That makes them a natural for this mission, just as Colorado, the hub and nerve center of Space for the nation, is the most logical site for command and control."

Ohio State faculty teach two students serving in Kuwait

Amy Murray
University Relations, The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Two Ohio State University students are unable to attend classes in Columbus this quarter, because they are serving with the U.S. Army in Kuwait. So Ohio State is bringing their classes to them, across the ocean and desert, thanks to the Internet and "distance learning" courses that are designed to be taken by students outside of Columbus.

Specialists Brian Yeager and David Hatcher, members of the Army National Guard since high school graduation, were forced to postpone their Ohio State education in mid-January when they volunteered to transfer together to a unit where they could support the U.S. war in Iraq. They are now assigned to Camp Virginia, Kuwait, as unit supply specialists in the 371st Corps Support Group.

They have Internet access and check Ohio State's website occasionally to keep up on things at the university.

In early September, the two learned they would remain in Kuwait until April 2004. Yeager, a junior political science major from Westerville, contacted his advisor via e-mail about registering for classes. Wayne

DeYoung, academic advisor in the Department of Political Science, was able to enroll Yeager in two courses that apply directly to his degree requirements.

"I never thought it would be possible to take classes while this far away," says Yeager. "When the war first started, classes were the last thing on my mind. But now, even though my first obligation is to the mission, things have calmed down a bit and I've got some time on my hands."

After registering Yeager, DeYoung asked him if there were any other soldiers that needed help. Before long, Hatcher, a sophomore history major from Worthington, wanted DeYoung to help him sign up for Ohio State's distance learning classes.

Yeager credits DeYoung's initiative and persistence in making it possible to continue working toward his degree while serving in Kuwait. "He has played an instrumental part in setting all of this up and has many times went out of his way to assist me in my educational goals. I honestly don't know if this would have been possible with any other advisor," says Yeager.

Hatcher says the two had talked for a while about trying to take on the additional respon-

sibility that college course work demands. "Our work load, though still heavy, allows us some free time to do personal activities. I decided I wanted to continue my education. We have always had Internet access over here, so I knew that it would be possible. It just took getting in touch with the right people."

From an administrative standpoint, Hatcher's enrollment was more challenging. After transferring from Ohio Dominican University, he was deployed just as he was beginning his first quarter at Ohio State.

DeYoung said the situation is extraordinary. "I can't say whether they are the only service members taking courses from over there, but I'm pretty sure this is the first time in history that people on active duty near a combat zone have ever enrolled in their home institution for course work that will apply toward their degrees," he said.

Technology enhanced learning courses are an option open to more and more Ohio State students, as the number of departments offering e-learning courses is increasing each year. At one end of Ohio State's e-learning spectrum is distance learning, where instruction is totally or predominantly online and

students may be on or off campus. Currently, there are 6,712 students enrolled in 211 distance learning courses like the ones that Yeager and Hatcher are taking. At the other end of the spectrum, Internet resources supplement and complement classroom instruction.

Between those is a blended use, a mixture of face-to-face and online learning. According to Ohio State's Office of the Chief Information Officer, which designs and maintains the e-learning facilities, two thirds of all Ohio State students take courses that use WebCT (web course tools).

One of the two courses that Yeager is taking, Congress and Interest Groups (Political Science 367), is designed to be taught exclusively over the Internet. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Vernal Riffe Professor of Political Science, has taught many innovative distance learning courses in the past, although none that have crossed an ocean. "I've had other students in a desert — in Arizona, but never anyone on active duty near a combat zone," she said.

Steffensmeier said distance learning courses expand educational opportunities to students in a variety of situations.

Task Force Phoenix: Turning combat



Photos by Tom Gilbert, Tulsa World

A soldier of the 700th Support Battalion practices live fire convoy operations in support of Task Force Phoenix II during mobilization training.

FROM PAGE 1

45th

attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

This, however, will be the first time that one of the Army Guard's 15 enhanced separate brigades is taking charge of the mission to train Afghan soldiers to keep their own country safe from terrorists.

"When Headquarters, Department of the Army asked us to assist in this effort, we jumped at the opportunity," said Col. Roosevelt Barfield, chief of training for the Army National Guard in Arlington, Va. "The Afghan National Army is a major part of post-hostilities in Afghanistan and the cornerstone for winning the peace."

"Many of these Afghan troops are already combat veterans. Our job is to turn them into a professional army that is already engaged in combat operations," said Maj. Eric Bloom, a spokesman for the 45th Brigade.

"That includes teaching them what officers do and what noncommissioned officers do

because the Afghan Army has not had an NCO corps in the past," Bloom added.

To that end, Army Guard senior sergeants, captains, majors and lieutenant colonels from 19 states have been at Fort Carson, Colo., since late September boning up on how to train their Afghan National Army counterparts.

The Guard force includes citizen-soldiers from Army Guard regional training centers in Rhode Island and Texas. They will conduct nine-week basic training courses for about 4,000 Afghan nationals at the Kabul Military Training Center outside of the country's capital city.

They will also supervise programs for training new officers and noncommissioned officers and combat leaders at the center as well as courses in managing ranges and training areas, said Maj. Tom Hanley, a member of the Army Guard's Training Division.

About 50 members of the Vermont Guard's regional training center have been conduct-

ing that training for the 10th Mountain Division, Hanley explained.

"After that training they will be able to fight terrorists with U.S. Special Forces," he said.

Other Army Guard soldiers with the 45th Brigade will be embedded as trainers within two Afghan light infantry brigades and an armor and mechanized infantry brigade that have already been organized at Pol-e-Charki and Kamari, bases that are also located in the vicinity of Kabul in the western part of the country, near the Pakistan border.

Marines will help train Afghan soldiers assigned to a quick reaction force, Bloom said.

High-ranking Guard soldiers will also train members of the Afghan corps headquarters on how to lead those brigades, said Bloom who explained that the Afghan corps headquarters is equivalent to an American division.

The intent, Bloom added, is to have the corps and brigade staffs trained in time for

the national elections that the transitional government has scheduled for next June.

The lessons for the Afghani soldiers range from personal hygiene, including shaving and brushing teeth, to cleaning dining facilities to combat tactics, he explained.

"Patience and understanding cultural differences is the key to this kind of training," Bloom observed.

There is, for example, the matter of pay.

Most Afghan soldiers do not have bank accounts and direct deposit, he pointed out. They live in a country where the winters can be harsh and where the 27.8 million people have just 67,000 passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

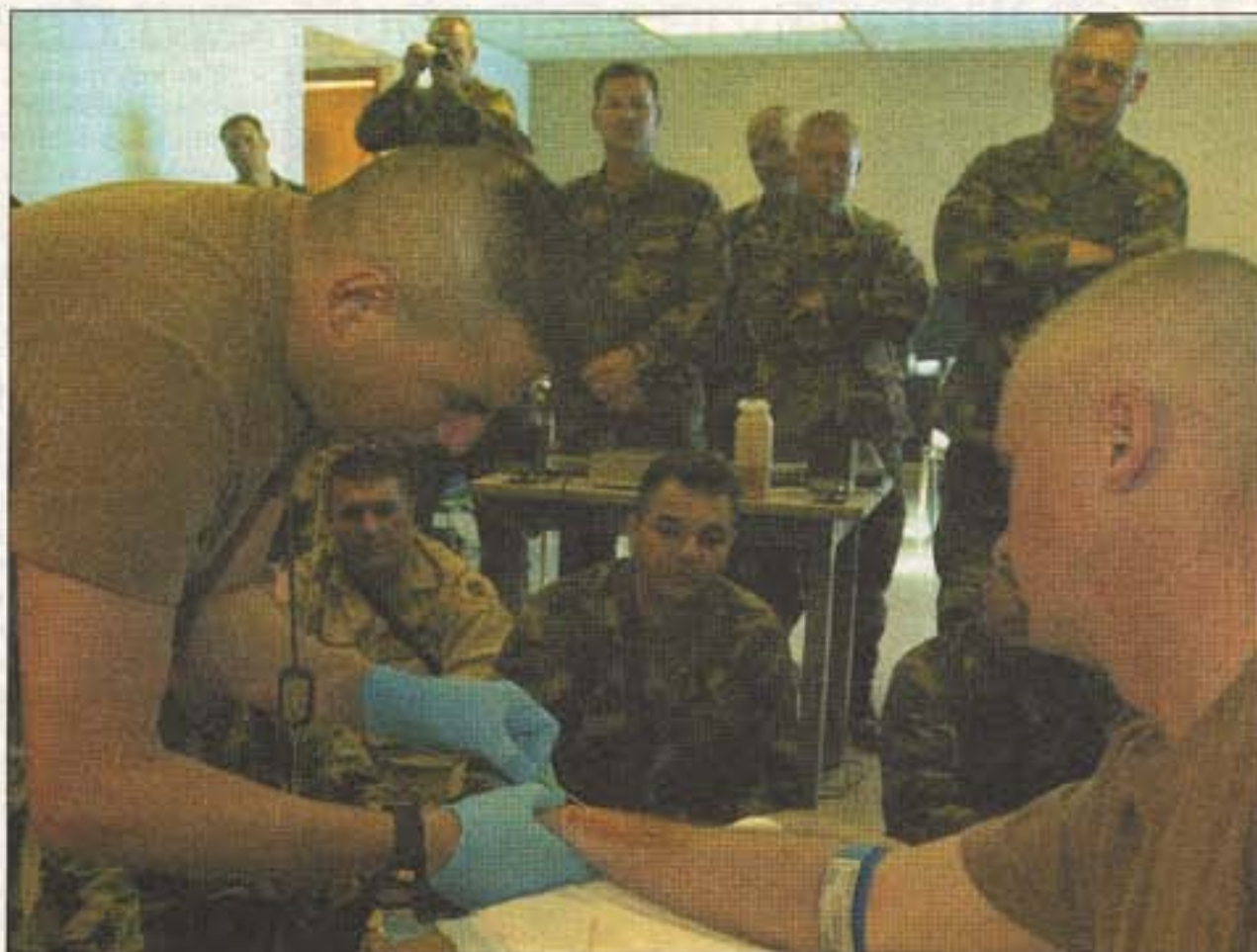
That means that after receiving their monthly pay, the soldiers have to be given a few days to take the money to their families in villages throughout the country, Bloom said. And they have to be given a few days to get back to continue the training that is essential for keeping the soldiers' families safe.

at veterans into a professional army



1st Sgt. Michael Turley is taken to the mat by Capt. John Sherrill during combative training at Ft. Carson. Both men are members of the 1st Embedded Training Team, Task Force Phoenix III. from Tulsa, Okla.

(Right) Medics of the 2nd Brigade, 91st Reserve Training Division (TS) instruct soldiers of Task Force Phoenix II, during a combat lifesaver course, how to administer IVs. Staff Sgt. Mario Gonzalez-Ochoa of Denver, Colo., inserts an IV into the arm of Sgt. Richard Walker of Sioux Falls, S.D.



(Below) Spc. Tom Bui of Task Force Phoenix II Security Force fires his weapon during the M-4 short range marksmanship training. Soldiers practiced walking and turning movements while engaging targets.



Supporting America's Homeland Defense :

Rhode Island's 13th WMD Light Civil Support Team fights the good fight

By Spc. Ken Hall

Rhode Island National Guard

HOPE VALLEY, R.I. — The waning days of the Clinton Administration saw America's way of life shaken by acts of sabotage and terror.

One of the reactions to these events was the creation of civil support teams (CST) for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in 1999.

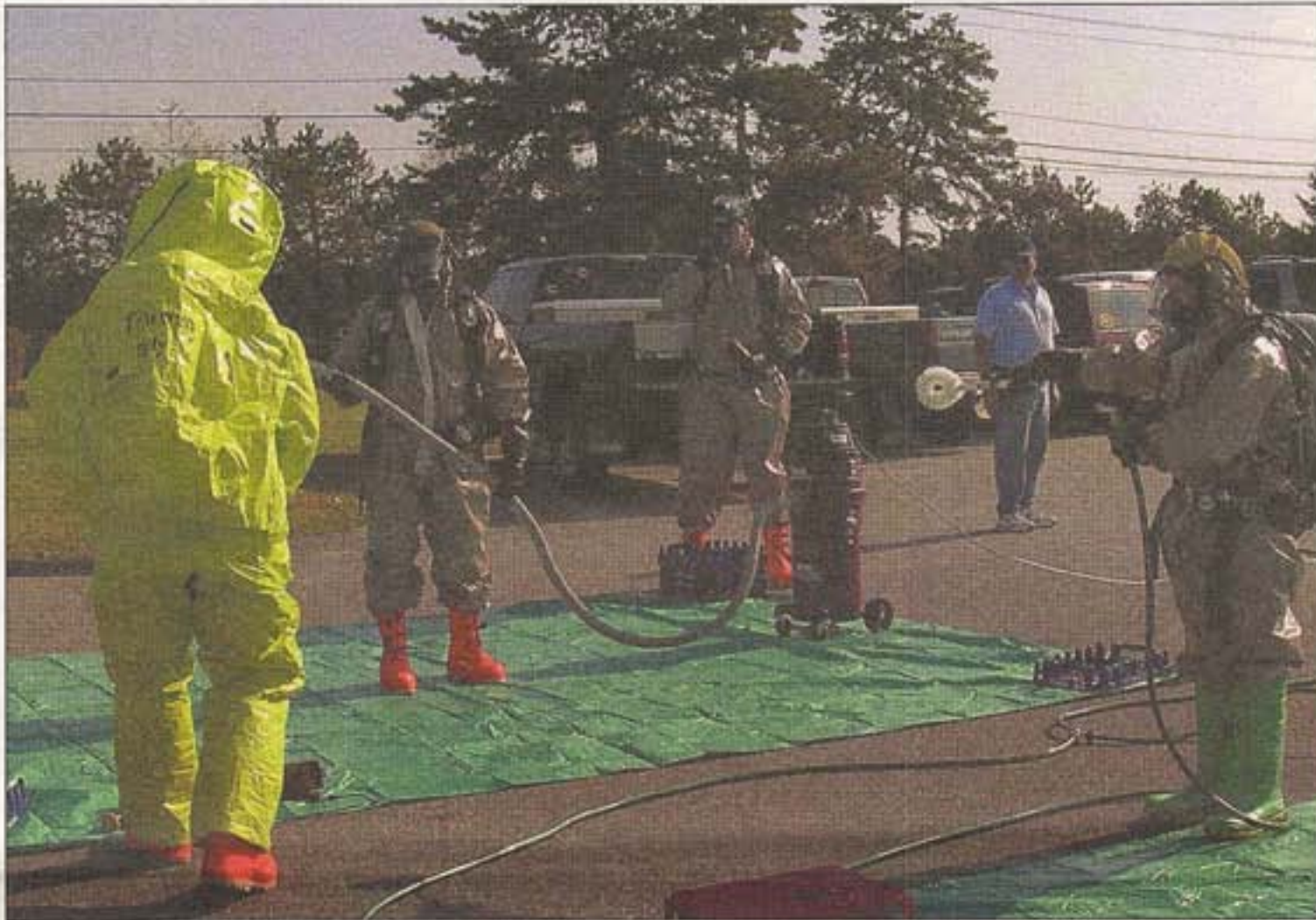
The initial goal of this new military organization was to support each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency regions with a full-time, fully operational WMD 'heavy' CST.

Each heavy CST comes with about two dozen uniquely trained and specially equipped National Guard men and women who are ready to support local, state, and federal agencies if called upon during a WMD attack.

In January 2000, the formation of WMD CST's began to take place at the state level. These 'light' CSTs are made up of the same number of National Guard men and women who, unlike their full-time, heavy team counterparts, train on a part-time basis.

And though light CST's can provide similar manpower support as the heavy teams, there is one major difference that plagues the light forces — the lack of WMD testing and vital equipment caches that are typically found in heavily funded civilian first responder teams.

"Currently, we don't have the critical WMD agent classification and identification instruments needed to give proper analysis support to the civilian HAZMAT teams in the state," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Beaupre, from the 13th WMD Light CST, Rhode Island National Guard. "Without the high-end



Photos by Pfc. Jennifer Marquis

Hope Valley Volunteer HAZMAT Team members prepare to decontaminate Sgt. Paul D'Braccio of the 13th WMD Light CST after exiting the WMD exercise incident scene.

responder equipment that heavy teams possess, we are not considered mission capable."

Part of the \$6 million price tag to fully

implement a WMD heavy CST includes a mobile biological, radiological and chemical agent analytical lab, a mobile satellite communications vehicle, and funding to employ 22 full-time National Guard personnel.

"If we were requested, we could show up at the scene of an incident, but we will not have the equipment we need to do what needs to be done to help save lives," said Beaupre.

One significant shortfall of WMD CST readiness is distance from a potential incident scene in Rhode Island. Currently, the closest team is Natick, Mass., which has the responsibility for all of southern New England, he said.

Six states: Two teams

"In the event of a WMD incident in Rhode Island, it would take more than several hours for the nearest Heavy Team from central Massachusetts to get here in time to help prevent further injury and save lives," said Beaupre, currently the only full-time National Guard member of Rhode Island's 13th WMD Light CST.

And there's no guarantee that WMD heavy CST's from a neighboring state would be available if called on by another state's Governor for help in a crisis.

Since 9-11, Congress has passed new legislation authorizing the creation of more WMD heavy CST's but the funding to create these desperately needed civil support operations is slow in coming.

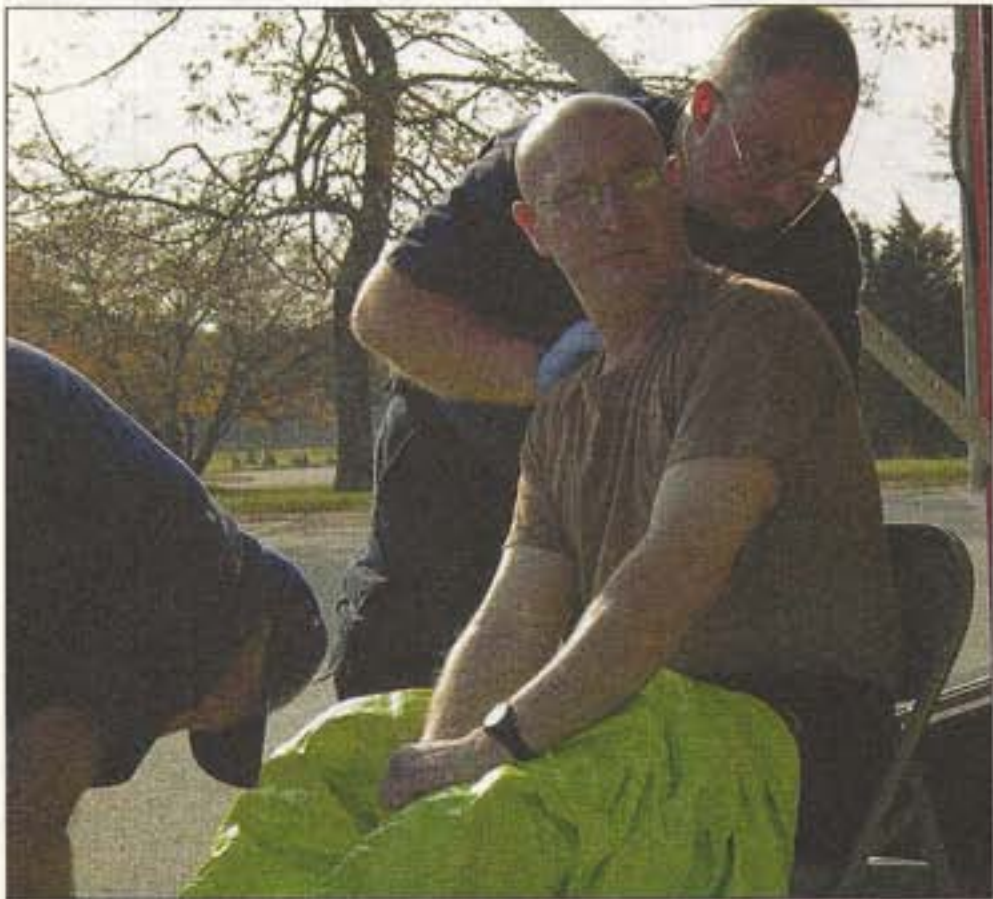
A new hope

As Rhode Island's 13th WMD Light CST awaits the latest round of Congressional funding approval to upgrade their manning and equipment needs to full operational WMD Heavy CST status, they make time to train with local HAZMAT teams that work with Rhode Island's Emergency Management Agency.

"They all work on the same type of format throughout the state," said Beaupre. "What we want to gain from them is how they set up on scene. We would generally show up a few hours later, and seeing how they set up makes it easier for us to guide off them. If we know what they're doing ahead of time, it makes everything that much easier to get accomplished. We don't just come in and take over - we come in and join them."

During November, Rhode Island's 13th WMD Light CST trained with a group of

See CST On Page 11



Sgt. Paul D'Braccio, 13th WMD Light CST, gets his vital signs checked by Eric Bucland, Hope Valley Volunteer HAZMAT Team medical officer prior to suiting up for entry into the WMD exercise incident scene.

FROM PAGE 10

CST

HAZMAT first responders from the Hope Valley, Volunteer Fire Department.

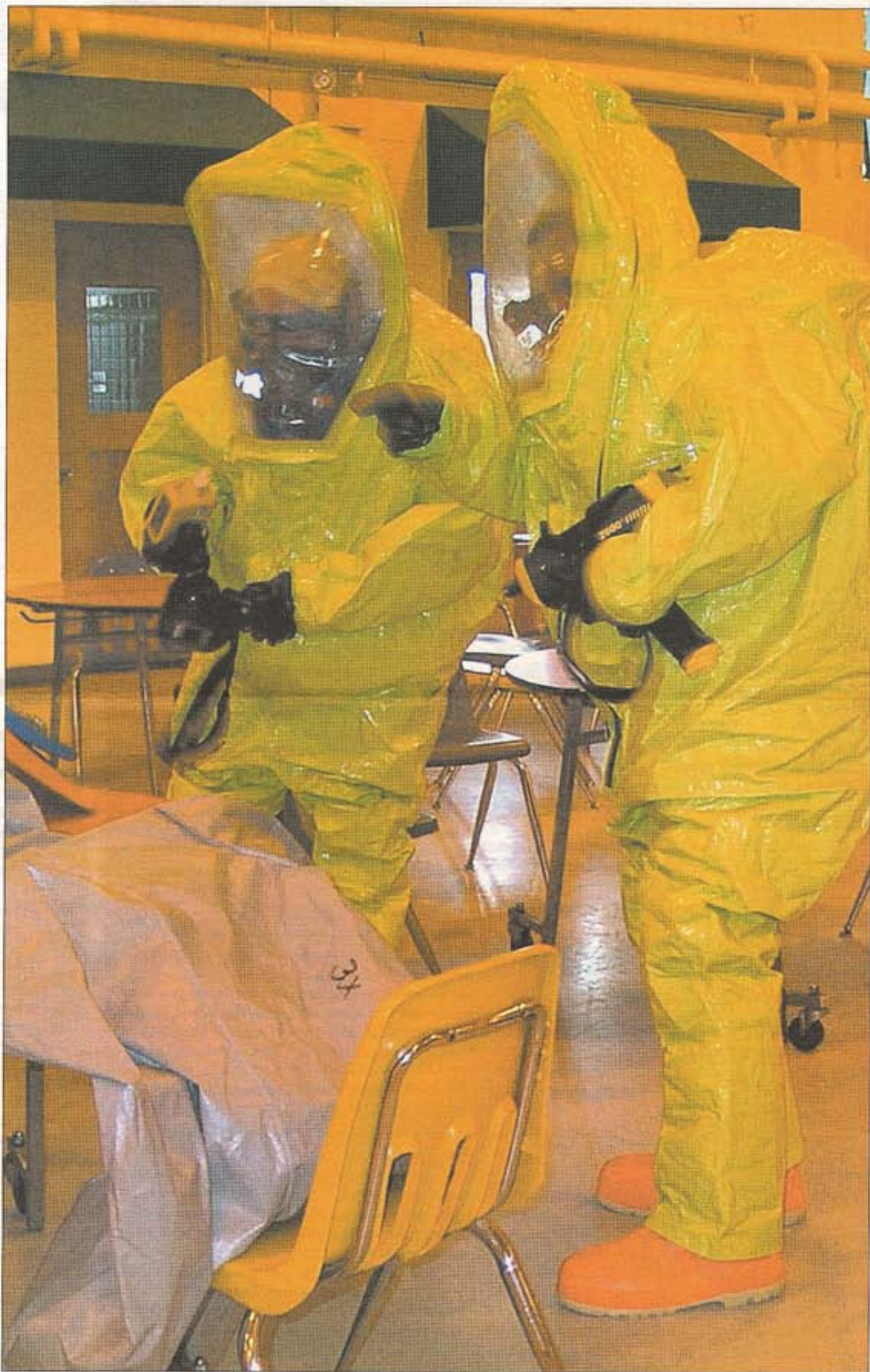
"They gave us their knowledge and helped train us on the use of critical HAZMAT analysis equipment," said Dave Dumsar, assistant fire chief, Hope Valley Fire Department. "We want to continue to develop a great relationship with them. They've made their position very straightforward as to what their mission is, and they're not coming down here to take over. They're coming here to be a resource. That's what it's all about. I can't stress enough how much we look forward to training with them."

The 22 National Guard members of the 13th WMD Light CST logged more than 2,500 classroom training hours in a complete array of WMD response disciplines to keep its members up to speed with current technologies and mission readiness on equipment they have yet to possess. But until the U.S. Army chooses to include Rhode Island in their final roster of heavy team funding, the 13th WMD Light CST must stand by and hope that one of the most densely populated states in America is not caught off guard by a potential WMD terrorist attack.



(Above) Firefighter Paul Cahill, a Hope Valley Volunteer HAZMAT Team member, lifts equipment into place for Cpl. Jose Torentino of the 13th WMD Light CST.

(Below) Sgt. Paul D'Braccio, 13th WMD Light CST, gets decontaminated after exiting the WMD exercise incident scene.



Cpl. Jose Torentino (left) and Sgt. Paul D'Braccio review analysis readings from the WMD exercise incident scene.

Helicopter shot down, three Guardsmen killed

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Three Army National Guard aviators from America's heartland became a grim part of National Guard history after their Illinois Army Guard transport helicopter was shot down in Iraq on Nov. 2.

First Lt. Brian Slavenas, 30, from Illinois and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bruce Smith, 41, from Iowa, were among the 16 soldiers who were killed in the Sunday morning attack against the CH-47 Chinook that the two aviators were operating.

Another crewmember, Sgt. Paul Fisher, 39, from Iowa died of his injuries in Germany on Nov. 6.

Twenty U.S. troops, including two more Iowa Army Guard soldiers, were injured in the attack and crash near Fallujah as the helicopter was carrying soldiers, who were going on leave, from bases in western Iraq to the Baghdad International Airport.

Slavenas was a member of Company F, 1st Battalion, 106th Aviation in Peoria, Ill. Smith and Fisher belonged to that company's Detachment 1 located in Davenport, Iowa. The aviation company was mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom duty last February.

Slavenas, Smith and Fisher are believed to be the first Army Guard aviators to ever be killed during action after deploying to a war zone with their National Guard unit, according to Maj. Les Melnyk, an Army Guard historian in Arlington, Va.

"There may have been other Army Guard aviators in Vietnam or Korea who were mobilized as individuals, served in Regular Army units, and got killed, but we are pretty sure this is the first time that Army Guard aviators who have deployed with their own unit have been killed in combat," Melnyk said.

It is also believed to be the first time that an Army Guard helicopter has been shot down by hostile fire, he added.

"We've lost pilots and aircraft over the years to training accidents, but never, to our knowledge, to hostile fire," the Guard historian said.

Another Illinois Army Guard helicopter was also fired upon but was not brought down, Guard officials reported.

It has been a hard year for National Guard troops, and their families, who are engaged in the global war against terrorism.

Thirty-eight National Guard personnel had died during Operation Iraqi Freedom as of Nov. 17, according to the National Guard Bureau. Seventeen of them have been killed in action or died of wounds.

Four other Guard members have died while taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom this year. They either died in Afghanistan or in Kuwait or Qatar before the U.S.-led coalition forces launched the war against the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein last March.

All told, 44 National Guard members, including two members of the Air National Guard, have died while on federal active duty during the war.

Members of their families and those with whom they served paid tribute to Slavenas and Smith during November's first week. Their aviation unit has been supporting the Army's 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq, it was explained.

Slavenas loved his job of flying dignitaries, soldiers, prisoners of war and equipment, his father, Ronald Slavenas, told the Associated Press.

"He described to me seeing all of those places from the air, pointing out archaeological sites like Babylon. For him it was like sightseeing," Slavenas's father added.

Slavenas, who was not married, joined the active Army in



Slavenas

Fallen Guardsmen

1st Lt. Brian Slavenas, 30, from Illinois and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bruce Smith, 41, from Iowa were among the 16 soldiers, who were killed in the Sunday morning attack against the CH-47 Chinook that the two aviators were operating.



Smith

1991 after completing high school in DeKalb, Ill. He earned his officer's commission and became a helicopter pilot after joining the Illinois Army Guard in June 1995, said Stacey Rieger, an Illinois National Guard spokesperson. He had recently earned an engineering degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"This is a very sad day for Illinois and the men and women of the Illinois National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Randal Thomas, the Illinois adjutant general. "The men and women of F Company, 106th Aviation are highly trained professionals. However, the missions that our military personnel are performing in Iraq and in other places as part of the global war on terrorism are inherently dangerous," he added.

"My heart, and the hearts of all Illinoisans go out to Brian and Brian's family today," said Illinois Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich. "I commend his bravery and the bravery of all of our soldiers fighting to end terrorism in the world."

"I am very proud of my husband for his service to our country," stated Olivia Smith, the warrant officer's widow, in West Liberty, Iowa. "He touched a lot of lives in his unit and in our local schools. He will be sorely missed by all of us."

Smith joined the Iowa Army Guard in April 1980 and began flying helicopters in 1987. He was a command pilot with more than 2,000 hours of accident-free flight time in Chinooks and UH-1 Hueys. He was also a full-time instructor pilot at the Iowa Army Guard Aviation Support Facility in Davenport.

His injuries on Nov. 2 were initially considered to be non-life threatening, but Smith died at a combat medical unit near the crash site, according to Col. Robert King, spokesman for the Iowa National Guard.

Other members of the Iowa aviation detachment sustained injuries from the attack, King said. Sgt. Gerald Santos, 35, and Spc. Chad Baetke, 31, were transported with Fisher to Germany for treatment, King said.

National Guard Casualties

Following are the names of those who have died while participating in Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom operations. The list includes their ages, states or territories in which their Guard units are based, and the dates and countries of their deaths. KIA indicates they were killed in action. DOW indicates they died of wounds. All were members of the Army National Guard except for two who belonged to the Air National Guard.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Spc. Robert Wise, 21, Florida, Nov. 12, Iraq, KIA.
Staff Sgt. Nathan Bailey, 46, Tennessee, Nov. 12, Kuwait.
Sgt. Paul Fisher, 39, Iowa, Nov. 6, Germany, DOW.
Spc. James Chance III, 25, Mississippi, Nov. 6, Iraq, KIA.
1st Lt. Brian Slavenas, 30, Illinois, Nov. 2, Iraq, KIA.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bruce Smith, 41, Iowa, Nov. 2, Iraq, DOW.

Pvt. Algernon Adams, 36, South Carolina, Oct. 28, Iraq.
Sgt. Aubrey Bell, 33, Alabama, Oct. 27, Iraq, KIA.
Pfc. Paul Bueche, 19, Alabama, Oct. 21, Iraq.
Spc. Michael Williams, 46, New York, Oct. 17, Iraq, KIA.
Staff Sgt. Harold Best, 47, North Carolina, Oct. 7, Fort Stewart, Ga.
Pfc. Kristian Parker, 23, Louisiana, Sept. 29, Qatar.
Sgt. Darrin Potter, 24, Kentucky, Sept. 29, Iraq.
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Rooney, 43, Massachusetts, Sept. 25, Kuwait.
Capt. Robert Lucero, 34, Wyoming, Sept. 25, Iraq, KIA.
Spc. Michael Andrade, 28, Rhode Island, Sept. 24, Iraq.
Sgt. Charles Caldwell, 38, Rhode Island, Sept. 1, Iraq, KIA.
Staff Sgt. Joseph Camara, 40, Rhode Island, Sept. 1, Iraq, KIA.
Spc. Darryl Dent, 21, District of Columbia, Aug. 26, Iraq, KIA.
Staff Sgt. Bobby Franklin, 38, North Carolina, Aug. 20, Iraq, KIA.
Pfc. David Kirchoff, 31, Iowa, Aug. 14, Germany.
Staff Sgt. David Perry, 36, California, Aug. 10, Iraq, KIA.
Sgt. Floyd Knighten Jr., 55, Louisiana, Aug. 9, Iraq.
Pfc. Brandon Ramsey, 21, Illinois, Aug. 8, Iraq.
Staff Sgt. David Lloyd, 44, Tennessee, Aug. 5, Kuwait.
Sgt. Heath McMillin, 29, New York, July 27, Iraq, KIA.
Spc. Jon Fettig, 30, North Dakota, July 22, Iraq, KIA.
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Willoughby, 29, Georgia, July 20, Iraq.
Spc. Joshua Neusche, 20, Missouri, July 12, Germany.
Sgt. Roger Rowe, 54, Tennessee, July 9, Iraq, KIA.
Sgt. 1st Class Craig Boling, 38, Indiana, July 8, Kuwait.
Spc. Jeffrey Wershow, 22, Florida, July 6, Iraq, KIA.
Spc. Richard Orengo, 32, Puerto Rico, June 26, Iraq.
Spc. Jeremy Loveless, 22, Alabama, April 28, Fort Benning, Ga.
Cpl. John Rivero, 23, Florida, April 17, Kuwait.
Spc. Richard Goward, 32, Michigan, April 14, Iraq.
Spc. William Jeffries, 39, Indiana, March 26, Spain.
*Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, Idaho, March 25, Kuwait.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Sgt. Christopher Geiger, 38, Pennsylvania, July 9, Afghanistan.
*Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazier, 24, Illinois, March 29, Afghanistan, KIA.
Spc. Brian Clemens, 19, Indiana, Feb. 6, Kuwait.
Sgt. Michael Barry, 29, Missouri, Feb. 1, Qatar.
Sgt. Gene Vance Jr., 38, West Virginia, May 19, 2002, Afghanistan, KIA.
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero, 30, Colorado, April 15, 2002, Afghanistan, KIA.
(* Member of the Air National Guard.)

Vaughn accpets the Joint Chiefs of Staff position

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff promoted Clyde Vaughn to major general and warmly welcomed the Missouri Army National Guard soldier to his staff on Nov. 10 at the Pentagon.

"You're coming in at a time when there'll be no shortage of work, but you're used to that," Gen. Richard Myers told Vaughn, who has been appointed as the chairman's assistant for National Guard matters.

"These are important times for our reserve components," Myers told Vaughn in the company of his family and many friends, who gathered in the chairman's dining room. "In the next couple of years, we're going to see some real changes in how we do business.

"We're promoting him, because a lot of people think he's got a lot more to give for his country," Myers added.

Vaughn, 57, has assumed the two-star position on Myers's staff after serving as deputy director of the Army National Guard since September 2002.

He will advise Myers on such matters as resourcing and deploying people from the nearly 460,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard for duty during the global war against terrorism.

Vaughn will serve as principle adviser on National Guard matters to the chairman and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, act as the chairman's personal liaison with National Guard components, and participate when National Guard matters are brought before such defense forums as the Joint Review Board.

More than 125,000 Guard soldiers and airmen were serving around the world or were alerted to be called up on the Monday afternoon before Veterans Day — when Vaughn assumed his new duties.

He has succeeded North Carolina Army Guard Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill Jr., on Myers' staff.

"We're excited about this, and we will do the very best that we can," Vaughn promised Myers during brief remarks after Vaughn's wife Carol, his son Chad, daughter Kristi Meltvedt and grandsons Drew and Parker Meltvedt helped pin on the his new silver stars.

Vaughn is a former Missouri high school football coach,



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Newly promoted Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Clyde Vaughn repeats his oath of office administered by Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during Vaughn's promotion ceremony on Nov. 10 at the Pentagon. Carol Vaughn stands beside her husband.

who began overseeing Army Guard deployments to assist Panama and other Latin American countries in 1984 as a full-time Guard officer.

He served for 31 months as the Army's deputy director for operations, readiness and mobilization at the Pentagon before becoming the Army Guard's deputy director.

He has influenced countless young Army Guard soldiers as well as other young people, especially during the seven years he coached high school football teams in Dexter, Mo., where he grew up. His teams won four conference championships and was state runner-up one year.

Vaughn's son, Chad, is a Marine Corps captain and F-18

fighter pilot, currently based at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station in San Diego, Calif., following an eight-month deployment aboard the USS Carl Vincent.

"I saw the values he lives his life by, and I love this lifestyle," said the younger Vaughn about how his father helped influence him to become a Marine.

"He loves the fact that I'm a Marine and that I'm doing what I want to do. He supports me 100 percent."

Captain Vaughn celebrated his 29th birthday on Nov. 10, the date of his father's promotion. That, coincidentally, was the Marine Corps's 228th birthday.

Army Guard recruiters ready for challenging year

By Rick Breitenfeldt

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — After seven consecutive years of surpassing their year-end strength goals in recruiting and retention, the Army National Guard is stepping up its efforts to ensure another successful year in 2004.

This year, the Army Guard had 351,091 soldiers as part of its force, slightly above their goal of 350,000.

"We really made a pretty good comeback over the final months of the fiscal year," said Maj. Robert J. Howell, chief of the Strength Operations Branch at National Guard Bureau. "Our recruiting and retention force in the field really picked it up and got us above 351,000."

Sgt. 1st Class Jim O'Ferrell, who works in the Alexandria, Va., recruiting and retention office was one of many who helped the Guard surpass its goal.

"We are concentrating on our high school programs even more aggressively than last

year," said O'Ferrell, who works with students from 11 Northern Virginia high schools, teaching life skills and helping students become familiar with the Guard.

According to O'Ferrell, there are several strong programs working right now, including the Virginia Army National Guard website, which had more than 14,000 hits last year alone.

"The key for our station's success," said O'Ferrell, "is that we talk to everybody we meet about the Virginia Army National Guard. Everybody"

There is concern that the upcoming year could prove to be even more challenging because of the uncertainties of the soldiers who are currently mobilized.

"We hear the same anecdotal media reports that say big losses will take place, and we're certainly wary of the readiness impacts," said Howell. "Fortunately, we haven't seen large losses nationwide among units that have returned from deployments. Our retention rate is a testimony to the dedication and pro-

fessionalism of our traditional Guardsmen."

Howell said that he and the teams in the Army Guard are unique because they have a three-part mission, which includes recruiting, retention and attrition management.

According to Howell, the retention and attrition management components are being very aggressively worked.

"We have been getting inside the deployment cycle before it happens and working some of our attrition and retention programs prior to mobilization," said Howell.

Currently the Army Guard has several programs in place to help address the needs and concerns of soldiers who are coming off deployments.

Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) and Trust, Empowerment, Attitude and Motivation (TEAM) are training programs that focus on very specific issues that can impact soldier retention. Both of these programs, according to Howell, have produced great results, but the number one complaint from all soldiers is the amount of time

spent away from their families, which is difficult to attack in a structured training program.

Keeping trained and experienced soldiers in the Army Guard is critical to maintaining combat readiness. The knowledge and experience that the individual soldier develops are very difficult to replace, said Howell.

Howell estimates it costs more than \$11,000 to pay, clothe, feed and transport each new recruit from the time they enlist through the time they finish with their advanced individual training, adding that roughly 2,500 new enlistees each month volunteer for service in the Army Guard. Adding in the fixed costs at each training installation would raise that cost exponentially.

Howell and his team said they continue to focus their efforts this year.

"With the current rate of employment of the Guard worldwide, there just isn't any time to relax in recruiting or retention," said Howell. "This fiscal year will be even more of a challenge than last year."

The Guards biggest killer: Privately owned vehicles

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — The fact that he was wearing his seatbelt was about the only thing going for the 38-year-old Army National Guard soldier at 10:30 on that Saturday morning last April. It wasn't enough.

He was off duty and driving home following annual training, when he changed lanes to pass a tractor-trailer truck. He ran into the back of another tractor-trailer rig that was traveling at a slower speed, according to an Army Guard report.

He had helped clean the armory before turning in at 2:15 a.m. He slept for about three hours and attended a 5:30 a.m., safety briefing before leaving for home at about 7:30.

Witnesses reported he was weaving in and out of traffic at an excessive speed. "Fatigue, speed, following too close, and get-home-itis," were listed as the causes of his death 19 days later.

The National Guard had lost another soldier to the biggest killer of them all — accidents in privately owned vehicles.

Sixteen Army Guard soldiers died that way during 2003, said Agnes Eisenhart, the Army Guard's Safety and Occupational Health manager. Ten of the 16 were not wearing seatbelts.

"The Army National Guard is committed to doing everything possible to protect the U.S. from the threat of terrorism. However, the greatest danger we face as a nation is motor vehicle crashes," said Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, the Army Guard director.

Guard leaders are making a concerted effort to do something about that situation which, they acknowledge, is the most challenging to resolve.

Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, is stressing safety — for personnel on and off duty — as part of his push for transforming National Guard headquarters into joint staff operations.

He has ordered Air Guard Col. Wayne Gallo to organize a Joint Safety Office here at the National Guard Bureau's headquarters.

"Safety is truly a joint activity, and combining the Army Guard and Air Guard safety programs will eliminate duplication and devote more resources to accident prevention," Gallo said.

That office, coincidentally, is being organized during one of the busiest periods

in National Guard history, officials pointed out. Guard members are deploying to places in this country and around the world, where they do not know the terrain and all of the rules of the road.

Blum has made it clear that the National Guard will comply with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's directive to cut all levels of military accidents by half during the next two years.

Rumsfeld, who formed a new Defense Safety Oversight Council earlier this year, has challenged all Defense agencies to reduce the number of accidents and injuries recorded in 2002 by 20 percent during fiscal year 2004, which began in October, and by 50 percent in 2005.

That includes accidents in the private vehicles driven by the men and women in the National Guard when they are on and off duty, as far as Gallo and other Guard Bureau safety people are concerned.

"Our facilities are safe. Our military vehicles and aircraft are safe. It's the private vehicles that are the biggest challenge, especially when the Guard members are off duty and away from our installations," Gallo observed.

Furthermore, Guard safety officials are aggressively pushing an Army Guard defensive driving program that is available on the Internet, orientations for people new to an area, and stricter compliance to regulations, such as "The U.S. Air Force Traffic Safety Program."

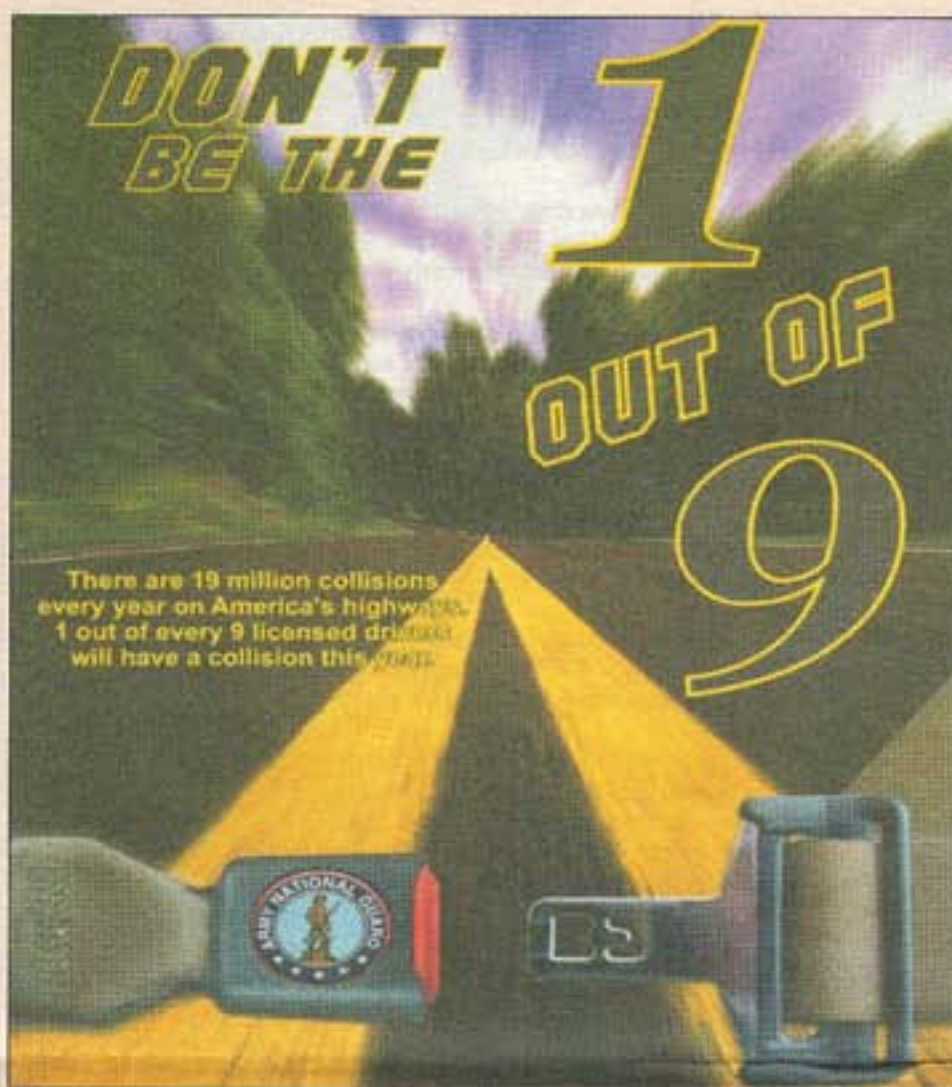
"Safety is not something we can leave to chance," Eisenhart said.

Army Guard statistics highlight the problem. Ninety-nine Guard soldiers were killed in ground accidents during the past six years. Seventy-two of them died from accidents in private vehicles, which is an overwhelming 73 percent.

The causes are as old as the automobile and as new as modern technology: speed, fatigue, alcohol, traffic-rule violations, not using seatbelts, and inattention caused, in part, by distracting devices such as cell phones, car radios and CD players, claim Eisenhart and Chief Master Sgt. Don Williams, the Air Guard's chief of Occupational Safety.

Sometimes, they add, it is the other driver who is the culprit and the Guard member who is the victim.

The cures can only be measured by comparison, Gallo pointed out. If more people are driving their vehicles safely, fewer people are getting injured or killed. So Guard



safety people are stressing the cures.

"It is imperative that we expand our effort in attacking these incidents," Schultz stated last February. "Accidents do not discriminate against age or rank. A person's attitude and self-discipline have a great effect on their driving habits, and poor self-discipline and safety attitudes must be addressed."

To that end, all Army Guard personnel, who have a military drivers license, are required to complete four hours of instruction in traffic safety. All Army Guard soldiers and civilian workers are being urged to undergo that training.

An on-line Defensive Driving Course is available anytime at no cost to Army Guard soldiers and Army Guard federal civilians by clicking on www.safety-serve.com/armg. It takes three or four hours to complete.

It meets the training requirements, and some auto insurance companies offer reduced rates to those who take it, Eisenhart said.

The Army Guard also produces stickers, pamphlets and videos that encourage people to buckle up all of the time and address "Sobering Facts About Drinking and Driving."

The Air Guard is placing more emphasis on the Air Force's Traffic Safety Program explained in Air Force Instruction 91-207. It applies to just about every member of the Air Force in or on moving motor vehicles

and bicycles while on and off base as well as to "foreign students in training with the Air Force (who must complete applicable traffic safety courses)."

"It's always been there, but we're focusing on it and advertising it more than we have in the past," Williams explained.

The Air Guard's safety office sends seasonal core messages to ground safety managers at every wing and smaller separate unit. The managers then tailor those messages to their areas.

"We don't have as big a problem in the Air Guard compared to the active Air Force, because our members are a little bit older and because we are, by and large, oriented to our hometowns," Williams said. "We are not seeing as many alcohol-related accidents as we did 10 or 12 years ago."

The biggest problem, he added, is the fact that so many Air Guard people are serving away from their homes.

"In the past year or so, it has seldom been a problem with the operator. It's been the unfamiliar environment," Williams added. "That's why we are stressing orientations for newcomers."

Command Sgt. Maj. John Leonard, who has recently become Lt. Gen. Blum's senior enlisted advisor, believes that the lessons Guard people learn about military safety can also be applied to their civilian lives and loved ones.

Safety tips

The Army National Guard offers tips about driving safely in a brochure entitled "Don't Be The 1 Out Of 9."

Myth: Safety belts trap you in a car during an accident.

Truth: The safety belt keeps you secured and eliminates the chance of getting knocked unconscious. When conscious, there are better chances to escape, as it takes only a second or less to take off the safety belt.

Myth: Safety belts are for long drives but not needed for quick, local trips.

Truth: 50 percent of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Death can even occur when drivers are traveling at speeds of 40 mph or less.

47th annual Operation Santa Claus begins

Alaska National Guard and community partners spread holiday cheer in rural Alaska

By Maj. Mike Haller

Alaska National Guard

CAMP DENALI, Alaska – Christmas season starts in November as the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron prepares Santa's C-130H turboprop Hercules sleigh for the annual trip to Savoonga to deliver toys, clothing, books, school supplies, and even water. For the children and families of this remote community on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, it's a special treat that they're looking forward to.

"We're excited about this mission every year," says Brig. Gen. Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "This really gives us an opportunity to reach out to families in the communities across Alaska and say 'thanks' for all you do. We'll visit more than 15 communities this season."

Santa's Guard gift-lift began in 1956 supporting a request from St. Mary's Mission. They needed toys for their children. Alaska Air Guardsmen received new and used toys from the Anchorage community. After fixing any worn parts, they handed them over to Saint Nick for delivery aboard a C-123J Provider. Over the years, more villages, schools and groups invited Operation Santa Claus to drop in on their communities. Tens of thousands of Alaskan schoolchildren have enjoyed the jolly old man's company.

This year's Operation Santa Claus will visit Shishmaref, St. Michaels, Stebbins and Wales during the first half of November. Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves will also visit Little Diomed, Mekoryuk, Chalkyitsik, Russian Mission, Napaskiak, Cooper Landing, and about a half dozen communities in Southeast

Alaska in their annual preparation for Christmas Eve. Elves point out that when all is said and done, they and the Claus's will have visited more than 3,000 youngsters, prior to the big day.

Robbins Headlines Santa Show. Well-known radio personality Jim Robbins will emcee this year's entertainment programs at Savoonga, Shishmaref, St. Michaels, and Wales. He'll be joined by Matt Valley at several of the communities. The Santa Claus Show typically features members of the Air Force Band of the Pacific and local performers as well. This year, Brigham Young University's Living Legends, a Native American song and dance performance group, will join the troop for shows at St. Michaels and Wales. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be joined by well known Alaskan artists Barbara Lavalley, Chad Carpenter, and James Morris.

Warming the Spirit. Toys, toys, toys! What would Christmas be like without special toys for the children? With the Salvation Army at the lead of collecting toys, and with support from Canadian Forces, the Elmendorf Air Force Base Top Three Non-Commissioned Officer's group, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Cosco, and many others, toy collection is a great success. At least the kids think so.

Warming Heart & Hand. About eight years ago, we began collecting new and slightly used clothes to add to our gift list. We found Anchorage's school children and young adults to be very generous - most people refer to it as lost and found - we like to think of it as generous gift giving. We're able

to acquire some 20,000 unclaimed items annually with the help of the Anchorage School District.

Volunteers sort through and organize mountains of clothing that arrive at Operation Santa Claus' Workshop. It's moved on to one of a half-dozen volunteer cleaners that include: the military's QuarterMaster Laundry on Ft. Richardson, American Linen, Peacock Cleaners, Candy's Cleaners, the McLaughlin Youth Center, Alaska Regional Hospital, Providence Hospital, and the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Once cleaned, pressed, and sorted, clothing is distributed in balanced amounts to some dozen or more villages. With a smile of appreciation, a volunteer or group within the community takes it from there.

Warming the Mind. Seven years ago some of the elves took note of literacy challenges facing youth in our communities. Operation Santa Claus added books to the gift list. When Santa arrives, whether aboard a C-130 Hercules or his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, he can be seen handing off large boxes of books to school or community librarians - more than 7,000 books, new or slightly used, each year.

Title Wave Books handled the bulk of the book mission for four years. Three years ago, Amazon.Com jumped into the act and added several hundred more. A year later Scholastic Books began helping as well.

All of this is a key part of the Guard's Literacy Project focused in rural Alaska. The Elmendorf AFB Chapel Community and Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, continues



Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron prepares Santa's C-130H turboprop Hercules sleigh for Saturday's trip to Savoonga to deliver toys, clothing, books, school supplies, and even water. For the children and families of this remote community, on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea.

to provide significant seed money that yields dynamic returns with the literacy efforts. Artique Limited, Alaska National Guard Officer's Association and the Enlisted Association, make generous donations. KBear-FM and KQEZ-FM, and many others generously donate time, effort, and products in support of Santa's journey across the Tundra.

In the past two years, Southside Bistro, several local auto dealers, Office Depot, and several church and youth organizations have added to efforts to provide school supplies for rural youngsters through the auspices of Operation Santa Claus.

Signal soldiers:

New partnership in Florida brings cost effective training

By Senior Airman Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

FORT GORDON, Ga. – A new partnership between the U.S. Army Signal School and a Florida community college is being viewed as a first step in helping Florida Army National Guard soldiers train more cost-effectively in their career fields.

Commandant of the U.S. Army Signal School, Brig. Gen. Janet Hicks, signed an agreement with the Florida Community College at Jacksonville (FCCJ) on Oct. 23. The civilian community college will provide technical training at its Jacksonville campus for reserve soldiers in the Signal Corps. In this pilot program, FCCJ would be accredited to train warrant officers in the Information Systems branch (251A) and enlisted soldiers as Basic Information Systems Operators/Analysts (MOS-74B).

One of the expectations of the initiative is that it will be more cost-effective to train soldiers locally in their military specialties, than send them to the signal school at Fort Gordon. The partnered school - FCCJ - is located in Jacksonville, where the Florida National Guard's 146th Signal Battalion is headquartered.

Hicks lauded the initiative as "expanding the boundaries of military training" during the signing ceremony at Fort Gordon's Signal Corps Museum.

"It benefits the state of Florida by providing cost-effective alternative training to soldiers at local technical schools, colleges and universities," Hicks said. "It benefits all soldiers by providing training on a flexible schedule, and we all know that flexibility is about the most precious commodity we have these days."

Florida's adjutant general, Maj. Gen.

Douglas Burnett, members of the Florida Army National Guard command staff, and representatives from FCCJ attended the ceremony in support of the agreement.

"This is unique and it's the right thing to do," Burnett said after the signing. "And it (could) save taxpayers' money."

According to a prospectus, the program (where students would train locally in area colleges or technical schools) could save more than \$306,000 for every 12 students trained. The cost for training military personnel in residence at Fort Gordon is an estimated \$28,000 per student, as opposed to an estimate of less than \$2,000 per student through the program.

One of the program initiators, Chief Warrant Officer Dwayne Jensen of the U.S. Signal School, explained the Florida initiative will act as a test program, and after a

successful trial it will be pushed out to other National Guard units throughout the country. He said he is considering expanding the program to include the technical sections of both the basic and non-commissioned officer courses for signal soldiers.

"The biggest challenge is getting the word out," Jensen explained. "I've already talked to the National Guard Bureau and all the states command chief warrant officers and they're just waiting for me to get the word out and let them know how they can do it in their state."

Jensen said the first soldiers could be training in the pilot program as early as this year. According to plans, the civilian training modules will either meet or exceed the Army Training Standards for the 74B training, and allow for shortened training periods for specialty qualification.

Nearly 300 Guardsmen tackle record setting wildfires



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Koenig

A Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) equipped C-130E aircraft from the 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, drops a fire retardant drop on the Simi Fire in Southern California.

Army and Air National Guardsmen from five states pitch in to save land and lives

California National Guard

ARLINGTON, Va. — Several hundred National Guard troops got in theiricks against the firestorm that showed no mercy on Southern California in late October, when the countryside was ripe for the burning.

Nearly 300 Army and Air Guard personnel helped firefighters in Los Angeles and San Diego counties battle and take control of the worst wildfires ever recorded in that state.

At least 10 of the fires consumed more than 745,000 acres, or 1,164 square miles, and destroyed over 3,400 homes.

"We're facing some of the most severe conditions we could face on the ground," said John Winder, the California Department of Forestry battalion chief. "This is the tail end of the fire season, and fuel is as dry as it can be."

California, Nevada and Oregon Army Guard Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters drowned their share of flames and hotspots with 494,212 gallons of water, while flying 590 missions, California Guard officials reported.

Gov. Gray Davis declared a state of emergency on Oct. 26.

Six Air National Guard C-130 transports

and two more from the Air Force Reserve bombed the blazing Simi Valley countryside with 129,600 gallons of retardant during 48 missions after the fires grew too big for civilian aircraft to handle.

The helicopters carried water buckets that could hold between 660 and 2,000 gallons.

The eight C-130 Hercules are equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems that can hold up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant. They are based with Air Guard airlift wings in California, North Carolina and Wyoming and an Air Force Reserve wing in Colorado.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Dennis W. Goff

C-130E aircrew members discuss attack routes for making fire retardant drops on the Simi fire in Southern California in late October.