

# THE ON GUARD

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## Bakken brings home the gold



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

PARK CITY, UTAH – A soft-spoken Army National Guard soldier was hailed as this country's newest military hero – or heroine – the day after driving her two-woman bobsled to a XIX Winter Olympics gold medal in her hometown of Park City, Utah.

Specialist Jill Bakken, 25, of the Utah Army Guard and a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program drove herself and civilian brakeman Vonetta Flowers from Alabama into the pages of Olympic history by winning the first women's bobsled competition ever featured in the Olympic Games.

The unheralded duo's two-run total time in their bobsled, USA-2, of 1 minute, 37.76 seconds at the Utah Olympic Park easily beat the two German teams that walked

away with the silver and bronze medals.

"Specialist Bakken is an Olympic inspiration to the entire National Guard family and to our

entire country," said Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "That is especially true at this time when so many of our military people are engaged in the seri-

ous business of the war against terrorism at home and abroad.

"She has set a high standard indeed for all members of the National Guard and for all Americans who serve their country in uniform," added Davis in a congratulatory statement to Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, Utah's adjutant general.

The better-known American team of driver Jean Racine and brakeman Gea Johnson, in USA 1, finished fifth. Johnson was hobbled by an injured left hamstring and could not push the sled as hard or as fast as she needed to for her team to gain Olympic honors.

"We were the other team," said Flowers.

"It's an amazing feeling. We had a lot of fun today," said Bakken afterwards. "There was a lot of tough competition, so we definitely had our work cut out for us. The Germans are tough teams to beat.

"I just knew that I had to put in two solid, clean runs," added Bakken who has come back from her own significant injuries, including back surgery and two knee operations, within the past four years to become an Olympic champion.

"I knew we had to have a good start, and I knew we were going to do really well on that," she said. "I was thinking about how I needed to get down the track clean."

It was a golden moment for two other Army Guard soldiers, Bill Tavares from New York and Tuffy Latour from Vermont. They are the coaches for both of the women's teams and members of the Army's

See GOLD on Page 4



Bakken

Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Preston Keres, U.S. Navy

Spc. Jill Bakken (right) and teammate Vonetta Flowers begin their historic run that would land the U.S. and the National Guard a Gold Medal in the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

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## In Honor

## About The On Guard

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## Solemn Anniversary ...



*Mementos left by loved ones near the Unadilla crash site memorial which is dedicated to the men who died in a C-23 Sherpa which crashed in rural Georgia on March 3, 2001.*

1st Lt. Steven Alvarez  
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

## C-23 crash victims remembered

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A 30,000-square-foot memorial was dedicated March 3 in Virginia Beach, Va., in honor of 21 National Guard members who died when their airplane crashed into a central Georgia cotton field one year ago.

"They were men of courage, judgment and integrity. But most of all they were men of dedication," said Virginia Gov. Mark Warner on the first anniversary of the accident that killed 18 members of the Virginia Air National Guard and three aviators from the Florida Army National Guard.

"We honor them, and we thank their families for service to Virginia and the nation," Virginia's new chief executive told about 1,000 people who attended the solemn ceremony on a blustery, rainy day that was a stark reminder of the day the Guard members died. It was Warner's first public appearance as commander-in-chief of the Virginia National Guard.

The Virginia Guard civil engineers belonged to the 203rd Red Horse Flight based at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach where the new memorial has been under construction since last September.

The Air Guard members were being flown back to Virginia after completing two weeks of construction work at Florida's Hurlburt Field near Fort Walton Beach when the plane

*"They were men of courage, judgment and integrity. But most of all they were men of dedication. We honor them, and we thank their families for service to Virginia and the nation."*

— Virginia Gov. Mark Warner on the first anniversary of the accident that killed 18 members of the Virginia Air National Guard and three aviators from the Florida Army National Guard.

crashed in heavy rain near Unadilla, Ga. There were no survivors from the worst peacetime aviation tragedy in the National Guard's history.

The memorial was designed by members of the 203rd with help from seven other similar rapid response engineer units from across the country, explained Virginia National Guard officials.

Twenty-two Bradford pear trees circle the memorial that cost a reported \$160,000. The Air Force covered about three-quarters of the expense. Members of the 203rd raised much of the rest by selling coins and dog tags bearing the names of the deceased Guard members.

Plaques placed at the base of 21 of those trees honor each of the deceased Guard members. The 22nd tree bears a plaque honoring the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that occurred four days before ground was broken for the memorial.

The memorial takes the form of a reflection garden and includes the unit's mascot — a

life-size, rearing red horse. The memorial also features a large bronze Minuteman statue rising up from a clear pool in front of a waterfall.

A second red horse kneels in front of a granite marker bearing the names of the 21 deceased Guard members. A walking path meanders around the pear trees.

Dignitaries attending the dedication ceremony included retired Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver, who was the director of the Air National Guard when the airplane crashed, and Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, Virginia's adjutant general.

A U.S. Air Force honor guard and Heritage of America Band from Langley Air Force Base, Va., also participated.

Lt. Col. Thomas Turlip, commander of the 203rd, reflected that the memorial honors "our own American patriots in a very special way," The Associated Press reported.

"We will now feel their presence, and we will always remember," Turlip added.





## In the News

## An Army of One wins big in Salt Lake City

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

PARK CITY, UTAH – Two Army National Guardsmen from Virginia and Oregon, an active Army soldier and an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve helped propel two kamikaze-like civilian bobsled drivers to XIX Winter Olympic glory, four-man silver and bronze medals, at Park City, Utah, in February.

The Total Force foursome, in a landmark day for Army athletics, helped the United States claim its first Olympic men's bobsled medals since 1956 – when a USA team earned the bronze at Cortina, Italy – before 15,000 cowbell-clanking, partisan spectators at the Utah Olympic Park.

Mike Kohn from Chantilly, Va., and Dan Steele from Eugene, Ore., became the Army Guard's bronze medal pusher and brakeman, along with active Army pusher Doug Sharp of Jeffersonville, Ind. They pushed, then rode in the jet-black USA-2 sled that five-time Olympian Brian Shimer from Naples, Fla., rocketed from fifth to third on the next-to-last night of the Salt Lake City Games.

Kohn, 29, and Sharp, 32, are members of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program.

"Forty-six years, and we just ended it today with two medals," said the jubilant Kohn about ending the United States' long bobsled drought with Shimer who locked up the bronze on the last run of his last Olympics.

"There's no better time to be an Olympian and to represent your country than right now," Kohn added. "This has been a phenomenal Olympics, and this is the perfect way to end it."

Army Reservist Garrett Hines from Atlanta, Ga., was the brakeman on the bright red USA-1 sled that Todd Hays drove to the silver medal during the four-man event's second day that abruptly

ly turned from fair weather to foul between the final two decisive runs.

That made Hines, 32, one of just three African American athletes to ever win a Winter Olympics medal, ironically with just five days left in African American History Month. Civilian Randy Jones from Winston-Salem, N.C., was another African American on the Hays team.

The Germany-2 team of Andre Lange won the gold medal with a combined four-run time of 3 minutes, 7.51 seconds. USA-1, which led the field after the first two runs on Friday, finished second in 3:07.81. The Shimer team charged from fifth place on Friday to the bronze medal on Saturday in the combined time of 3:07.86.

Shimer put together the second fastest combined runs of 1:34:21. Only the winning German team roared down the eight-tenths mile track faster – in 1:34.16.

Most people can't blink in the five hundredths of a second that separated the two American sleds which carried the Army component athletes to an unprecedented sweep of the bobsled medals in these Olympic Games.

Utah Army Guard soldier Jill Bakken, another Army world class athlete, set the stage the previous Tuesday by driving her two-woman sled to a gold medal in the first Olympic bobsled event for women.

Her brakeman, civilian Vonetta Flowers from Alabama, became the first African American to ever claim a Winter Olympics medal before Hines and Jones got the silver on Saturday and before Bakken's boyfriend, Dan Steele, got the bronze.

Overall, the five Army component soldiers made up nearly half of the U.S. bobsled team's 13 men and women competitors, and all five get to take home medals following Sunday night's closing ceremony.

Hines, a two-time Olympian, nearly won a bronze with Hays in the two-man event earlier, but they finished fourth, .03 second behind the Swiss-2 sliders.

The

Army World Class Athletes Spc. Mike Kohn holds up a single finger following the awarding of a Bronze Medal during the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Preston Keres, U.S. Navy

USA-2 bobsled team members (from left) Spc. Dan Steele, driver Brian Shimer, and Army World Class Athletes Spc. Mike Kohn and Spc. Doug Sharp show off their newly awarded bronze medal for the men's four-man bobsled after a 2002 Winter Olympic Games medal ceremony in Salt Lake City, Feb. 24, 2002. Steele is an Oregon Army National Guard soldier, Kohn is in the Virginia Army National Guard, and Sharp is in the U.S. Army.

two medals that the soldiers helped claim increased the United States' total to 33 for these Games in which U.S. Olympic Committee officials had originally set their caps for 20. The U.S. finished with 34, including 10 gold medals, after losing to Canada 5-2 and settling for silver in men's hockey.

"The fact that all five of these soldier-athletes earned Olympic medals is almost unbelievable," said Army Guard Col. Willie Davenport, chief of the National Guard Bureau's Sports Program.

He is a five-time Olympian who won a high-hurdles gold medal at Mexico City in 1968 and a bronze medal at Montreal eight years later. He last competed with the USA bobsled team that finished 12th at the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"This is proof that we are one Army," Davenport added. "We come together in war, and we come together in athletics."

These bobsledders have been coming together in different ways for several years.

Kohn and Sharp, who was a practicing chiropractor before joining the Army, became World Cup competitors as part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program in 1999 when they joined Hays' team. Kohn made his first run for the Olympic bobsled team in 1992, when he was 19. He finished sixth.

Steele, 32, competed in the 1998 Winter Games at Nagano, Japan, and replaced Shimer's previous brakeman, who suffered a back injury, about three weeks before the Olympic trials held in late December.

Hines, who holds a master's degree in edu-

cation, was perhaps the hungriest of the four. He was on Shimer's four-man team that missed the bronze medal by .02 second in Nagano. He got his silver medal four years later on his middle daughter's birthday.

"This is something she will probably never forget, and neither will I," he beamed.

Meanwhile, Shimer's team members were ecstatic about helping their driver win his first Olympic medal considering that he was a decided underdog coming into these Games. He was 39. He had undergone two knee operations. The brakeman was relatively new to the team.

"Shimer is a great, great driver. I'd love for him to finally get an Olympic medal," said Steele before the Games began. "We jelled right away. From the very first practice, the three of us had very good timing and our loads were right on the money."

In the end, however, it was Shimer's driving that made the difference, because the push starts, while consistent, were not as fast as the USA-2 sliders would have liked.

"We didn't need to talk about it," Kohn explained. "We just knew we needed to go out and run our race and good things were going to happen."

"Shimer deserves that medal more than anyone, and to be honest, he won the race today," said Kohn. "We had one of the slowest starts, but he drove phenomenally, and he finally got that elusive medal."

The United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation contributed to this report.



# Islam in the ranks

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa  
Florida Army National Guard

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — For nearly 1,500 years Islam has preached peace and altruism. It formed the basis of several enlightened Middle Eastern cultures while much of Europe wallowed for centuries in the shadows of the Dark Ages.

But last September, when Islamic-terrorists attacked New York and Washington, some Muslims felt the religion had been — in the words of President George W. Bush — "hijacked."

To many of the estimated six million followers of Islam in the United States, including some members of the National Guard, the attacks were a cowardly twisting of their own religious beliefs into a deadly political agenda.

"I was irate that someone would do this," said James, a Florida Air National Guard citizen-airman and Muslim with the 125th Fighter Wing. He asked his real name not be used. "Islam is a religion that emphasizes peace as a way of life. It doesn't condone any of those types of actions. It is a very structured and very disciplined religion," the technical sergeant said.

James requested an alias for this story to prevent unwanted or adverse attention for himself and his family. He and leaders at the 125th noted that following the attacks some Muslims throughout the country were targeted and harassed because of their religion.

They wanted to avoid any possibility of that happening to James.

"A lot of what you see on television about the Middle East and Islamic extremists goes against the very tenets of the religion," said James, a Jacksonville resident and convert to the religion. "It is upsetting to see these people claiming they are fighting a 'jihad' or holy war ... The prophet (Mohammad) said that jihad can be a holy war, but the great jihad is the battle within yourself to try to live your life in the proper way and follow the tenets of your religion."

"That is the greatest Jihad," he added. "It is not fighting others to spread what you think you believe."

James, 30, converted to Islam from the Baptist religion as a child when his family discovered the centuries-old faith. The conversion included changing his middle and last names, and adhering to the tenets of Islam explained in the holy book the Koran.

He explained the Koran neither condones the thousands of murders committed by the terrorist hijackers, nor justifies their "cowardly acts of suicide."

James lauded President Bush's remarks on the "nature of Islam" made shortly after the terrorist attacks. In a speech at the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C., on Sept. 17, the President affirmed: "The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace. These terrorists don't represent peace. They represent evil



An Islamic citizen-airman holds a copy of the Koran while explaining the difference between Islam and other religions.

Photo by By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa  
107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

and war."

Islam, derived from the Arabic word for peace, teaches there are five primary things that a believer needs to practice be Muslim: pray five times a day; fast for a month during the period of Ramadan; give a percentage of earnings to the poor; make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime; and live in peace and harmony. About 850 million people worldwide are practicing Muslims.

Although his last name is Islamic, James said few people think he is Muslim because he is African-American. He added he has "very rarely" experienced discrimination or intolerance because of his religion during his life or his 11-year military career, and his co-workers have always been supportive of his

faith.

And sometimes if he can't fit his daily prayers into his busy work schedule, he waits until he gets home to practice the traditional Islamic prayers.

"Yes I am Muslim, and I say my five daily prayers, but I am also a member of the Armed Forces and I have a job to do," James said. "I wake up everyday and put on this uniform. And it means something, because everyday that I go to work it is a chance I could be called up and be sent somewhere to preserve our way of life as Americans."

"As Americans we have the right to believe in any faith and practice that faith without persecution or discrimination," he added. "I respect other people's rights to believe whatever they want to believe."

FROM PAGE 1

## Games

World Class Athlete Program.

Tavares, the head coach, is a three-time Olympian who competed in the luge during the 1992 Winter Games. Latour is the driving coach. His grandfather was a two-man bobsled driver for the United States in the 1948 Games.

History was in the winning team's corner.

Vonetta Flowers, an assistant coach and former seven-time All-American track and field athlete at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, became the first African American to ever win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics, ironically during African American History Month. Their medal was the 21st overall for the U.S. team whose goal was 20 medals when the Salt Lake City Games began on Feb. 8.

They were the first Army affiliated athletes to ever medal in bobsledding, according to World Class Athlete Program spokesperson Harriet Rice. They gave this country its first Olympic bobsled medal since 1956 when the U.S. men claimed the bronze and its first bobsledding gold medal since 1948. And the sixth gold medal that they won for the U.S. tied their country's Winter Olympic record from four previous Games.

"They were double trouble," said a delighted Col. Willie Davenport, chief of the National Guard Bureau's Sports Program and a five-time Olympian who won a gold medal

in the high hurdles during the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City.

"This is proof that we are one Army. We come together in war, and we come together in athletics," Davenport added. "This is also proof of how strong the National Guard is in athletics."

Bakken joined the Utah Guard's 115th Engineer Group headquarters in Draper in March 2000 before becoming an Army world class athlete after completing her basic and advanced training the same year.

"She went from boot camp back to bobsledding," beamed her mother, Peggy Smith, adding, "I knew she had it in her. I'm so happy for her. She's gone through a lot of injuries and come back to do this."

About 40 members of Bakken's family, including her mother and older brother Joel, and 10 family friends witnessed the gold medal efforts that included a track record time of 48.81 seconds during the first run. Many of her followers wore ornate red and white hats and clanked cowbells.

Bakken is one of America's bobsledding pioneers. She was born in Portland, Ore., and she attended the fledgling U.S. team's first training camp in 1994 when she was a high school junior. That made her, at 17, the youngest bobsledder in the sport's history, although she did play soccer for Oregon.

Within the past four years, her mother recounted, Bakken has undergone back surgery and operations on both knees.

She has withstood the pain and repair of a torn Achilles tendon, and part of a bone has



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Utah Army National Guard soldier and bobsled driver Jill Bakken (left) and brakeman Vonetta Flowers won the gold medal when women's bobsledding made its Winter Olympics debut on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at Park City, Utah.

been removed from her foot.

"I had a ton of relatives there. It was awesome," said Bakken, admitting that she thought she was dreaming.

"They've supported me through the whole thing — not just this race — but ever since I started sliding."

"There were tough times injury-wise, but I never wanted to quit. I wanted to go to the Olympics, and now I'm here," said America's newest National Guard citizen-soldier with an Olympic gold medal.

The United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation contributed to this report.



# Brubaker: Piloting the Air National Guard

By Maj Ellen G. Krenke

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Brig. Gen. David A. Brubaker may be new to the general officer ranks, but he is no stranger to the Air National Guard.

"The Air National Guard has been at the center of my life for over 30 years," he said. "I went from being a kid, who just wanted to fly jets, to an old guy, who still wants to fly jets but knows there is more I can and must do."

As the new deputy director of the Air National Guard, Brubaker will assist in implementing the vision and policies of the director, which affect more than 106,000 citizen-airmen in 88 flying wings throughout the country.

Before Brubaker was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver, Jr., had started his terminal leave. Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, the adjutant general of Texas, has

been nominated by President George W. Bush as the next director of the Air National Guard. He is still awaiting Senate confirmation.

"I am very optimistic that he will bring incredible leadership to the Air National Guard," Brubaker said. "I don't see General James doing a complete overhaul of the Air National Guard. I expect him to provide the level of leadership that a three-star can bring. I think he will be great for us."

Until James is confirmed, Brubaker will serve in a dual role. "This position may be more valuable to the director, because of the experience that I have gained," he said.

Brubaker, who began his career as an enlisted member of the Indiana Air National Guard in 1971, said his previous experience at the National Guard Bureau enabled him to transition faster.

"When interviewing with the secretary of the Air Force, he felt the previous experience

was an important qualification," he said. "I wonder now if he knew something I didn't. I'm just thankful I didn't have to begin from scratch."

Since his confirmation last November, Brubaker has watched the Air Guard mobilize more members in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle than it did in the Persian Gulf War.

As of early February, almost 15,000 citizen-airmen deployed surpassing the 12,428 number set during the Persian Gulf War.

Brubaker, who is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours, said the Air Guard will continue to perform Combat Air Patrol missions "as long as we're asked to. It is a drain, but we expect to do a lesser amount as the threat decreases."

In the last three months, F-16 "Fighting Falcons" in the Air National Guard have flown more than 35,000 hours. By comparison, these F-16s flew 6,000 hours during the

same time period last year.

"We are using our equipment and people much more," Brubaker said, which requires more inspections.

He said the tenacity and ingenuity of Air Guard maintenance crews enabled the units to get more out of the aircraft.

"How long can we do this? I don't know, but right now they're doing a great job," he said.

The increased operations tempo affects the continued training of Guard pilots. "We're putting a lot of highway miles on these aircraft, but it's not the same as a training mission," he said.

Fortunately, this situation is manageable. Brubaker said when a unit receives a deployment order, it is freed from performing the CAP missions in order to begin deployment training.

Asked about other challenges facing the Air National Guard, Brubaker said the recruiting picture is fairly strong. However, "we need more people and we're working with the Air Force to increase our end strength in areas very critical to us," especially the support career fields, he said.

Brubaker said one resource that has been stretched to its limit is security forces. As of late January, 6,003 trained security forces personnel in the Air National Guard have been deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

"They're all gone," he said. "Definitely, as a result of current operations."

Brubaker, who was director of the acquisitions division for the Air National Guard from 1996 to 1999, said other challenges in modernization and equipment issue are being worked with the Air Force. Air Guard airframes are the oldest in every category, except for C-130 aircraft.

"We're working to keep our fleet relevant. And we will continue to work with the Air Force as new aircraft come into the inventory," he said. "The Air National Guard and Air Force are mutually engaged on this."

Brubaker said the Air National Guard and Air Force are "models of cooperation" between the reserve and active components. He added that he believes the events of Sept. 11 have pulled the two components even closer together. "We're more energized than ever before," he said. "It sometimes takes adversity to bring people together."

Brubaker said he does not believe the Air National Guard's role will change as Homeland Security evolves. "The National Guard has always had a dual role," he said. "We're used to serving a number of masters. We are ideally suited to adapt to this new world and participate in every major conflict."

For about two years, the Air National Guard has operated under the Air Expeditionary Force structure, which has been "very helpful" to citizen-airmen, Brubaker said, because it provides more stability for employers and families. "It is much easier than just running off to war," he said.

Our role has not changed, but the pace has definitely picked up.

## An International Guard ...



Photo by Maj. Phil Johnson, National Guard Bureau

The Royal Norwegian Air Force Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Tomas Archer (right) and the Norwegian Defense Attache, Maj. Gen. Olav Bjerke (left), recently discussed the possibility of expanded training opportunities between the Norwegian Air Force and the Air National Guard with Brig. Gen. David A. Brubaker (center), acting director of the Air National Guard. The Air Guard currently trains Norwegian pilots in the F-16 "Fighting Falcon" at the 162nd Fighter Wing in Tucson, Ariz. The meeting was Archer's second visit to the Air National Guard. During his visit to the United States, Archer also visited the Boeing Company in Seattle, Wash., and received program briefings on the C-17 "Globemaster" and new 767-air refueling tanker.



Stepping up:

# Minnesota Air National Guard

By Senior Airman Anna Lewicki

Minnesota Air National Guard

MINNEAPOLIS — In the Minnesota National Guard's largest deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, more than 100 airmen with the Minnesota National Guard's 133rd Airlift Wing and three C-130 "Hercules" aircraft recently departed for an undisclosed location somewhere in Southwest Asia.

The 133rd will provide airlift support for U.S. Forces throughout Southwest Asia. The length of the deployment is unknown, but Guard leaders hope to rotate 133rd members every three months.

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura attended the early-morning deployment ceremony, which was opened as 10-year-old Amanda and 6-year-old Brianna Best, daughters of Maj. Sandy Best, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Best is the 133rd's executive support officer.

"On behalf of everyone in the state of Minnesota, we are so proud of you and the job that you do because you are the best National Guard in the United States," Ventura said, as crowd responded with a roar. "And that is why you got the call. The best get the call."

Ventura was referring to the 133rd Airlift Wing's C-130H aircraft, some of the newest in Air Force inventory. The 145th Airlift Wing from North Carolina is also equipped with C-130H models and will work jointly with the 133rd in Southwest Asia.

After the governor finished speaking, Ventura presented Col. Terry Heggemeier, the wing commander, with a Minnesota state flag to be flown over their base in Southwest Asia. The flag presentation has become a tradition for the governor, who has made an effort to attend all the major deployments since he assumed office.

"We look forward to the day that we can bring that [flag] home," Heggemeier said. "We are mobilized again to serve and fulfill that oath we all took to defend our nation. We are mobilized to go to Southwest Asia for what may be a long time... We need to remain flexible... as America fights this war on terrorism."

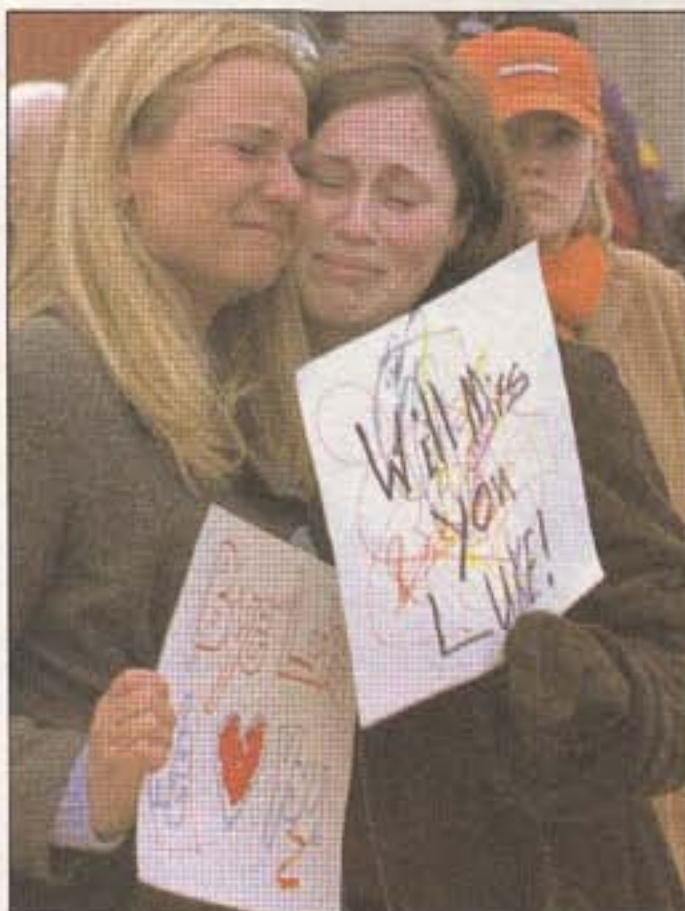
Minnesota's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Eugene Andreotti, U.S. Sens. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and Mark Dayton, D-Minn., U.S. Reps. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., and Mark Kennedy, R-Minn., and state Rep. Jim Rhodes, R-St. Louis Park, Minn., and state Sen. Steve

See DEPLOYED On Page 7



Photos by Senior Airman Anna Lewicki, Minnesota Air National Guard

Master Sgt. Byron Todd gets a good-bye hug from son Christopher, 5, prior to his unit's deployment.



Family of Senior Airman Luke Olson say farewell.



Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura and U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., offer words of encouragement and best wishes to citizen-airmen as they board a C-130 "Hercules" aircraft as they prepare for deployment



# deploys to Southwest Asia



*Family members wave farewell to their loved ones as a C-130 prepares to depart.*

From Page 6

## Deployed

Murphy, DFL-Red Wing, also spoke at the ceremony.

As the final chords of "God Bless America" faded the chaplain led the audience in prayer, the hanger fell silent. Minutes later, the bell sounded and the hangar doors opened. The C-130 airplanes waited, engines silent.

Senior Airman Luke Olson, an operations resource manager for the 109th Airlift Squadron, hugged his brother and parents one last time. This is Olson's first major deployment.

"When I first heard we were being deployed, I was excited. It's an honor to go

over there, but I'm nervous too," Olson said.

Andrea Ward said goodbye to her sister, Staff Sgt. Amy Gibson. Ward said she was proud of her sister, but "worried, very worried."

Nearby, another family was saying tearful good-byes. Rick, a crew chief for the 133rd, huddled with his wife and three young boys. Rick, a real estate agent and mortgage banker, found out he would be part of the deployment a week earlier. He and his wife, Kate, a stay-at-home mom, worry about bills and finances.

"It's a little overwhelming," Kate said, taking a deep breath. "After I found out (about

the deployment) I moved into autopilot to get ready."

That meant making copies of Rick's orders for employers, making sure she and the boys had health insurance through the Guard while Rick is deployed, putting other insurance policies on hold, getting uniforms ready, and the list goes on. But mostly, Kate said, she was "trying to stay put together for the kids."

As the 133rd members filed out to the waiting aircraft, families moved to the edge of the hangar, waving small flags and holding up signs.

Media and dignitaries attending the cere-

mony accompanied the 133rd members to the aircraft.

Skirting his own security and the media, Ventura hopped aboard one of the three C-130s preparing to depart. Ventura moved to the back of the aircraft, clapping several people on the back, saying: "Give 'em hell, give 'em hell. And bring that flag back. I've never lost anyone on a deployment yet during my watch and I don't plan to this time."

Ventura remained by the aircraft door, shaking hands and saying goodbye as Minnesota citizen-airmen climbed aboard the plane, some glancing back towards the hangar where their families were already anticipating their return.



# Guardsmen paramount in keeping Olympic Games safe

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

SALT LAKE CITY — In the end, the only explosions that amounted to anything were the fireworks themselves — the ones that punctuated the opening and closing ceremonies of the XIX Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It would be hard to find anyone happier about how the National Guard and other military personnel contributed to that happy turn of events during those 17 days in February than Army National Guard Col. Ronald Senez — except, perhaps, Mitt Romney.

"The safety and success of these Games are in part due to the participation and tireless efforts of the National Guard," said Romney, the dynamic president and chief executive officer of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, on the Sunday that the Games were declared closed. "We thank the men and women of the National Guard."

He offered "a very special thanks to the military and workers who came from across the globe," during the closing ceremony. "You guys were great."

"Our gratitude also goes to the security forces who did such a professional job," echoed Dr. Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee.

"People of America, Utah, and Salt Lake City. You have given the world superb Games," Rogge added. "You have reassured us that people from all countries can live peacefully together. Thank you. Thank you."

There were no riots other than a single brawl during the final weekend that police quickly contained. There were no incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. There were no acts of terrorism that could have disrupted these Winter Games which took place five months after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C.

There was, however, an abundant amount of goodwill among the spectators and the 2,500 athletes from 77 countries. There was also a tremendous amount of cooperation among the people, including nearly 5,000 members of the National Guard from 25 states, who labored long and hard to keep the Games safe, secure and successful.

"We had an incredible mix of military components that worked together extremely well," said Senez, the National Guard Bureau's chief liaison officer.

The man from Massachusetts worked with the Olympics' joint military task force whose 1,000 members were charged with routine

support, and he saw firsthand what nearly 4,000 citizen-soldiers contributed to the massive security force that was headed by the U.S. Secret Service.

Senez witnessed how well both elements performed during crunch time and what the National Guard can offer to the future of homeland defense.

"During the first weekend, we held our collective breath," Senez added. "We had some real concerns early on because there were so many moving parts, including transportation and housing the troops close to the venues. But we got into our battle rhythm by the first Monday of the Games, and we began to breathe a little easier."

"I thought 'Holy mackerel! We're really doing this thing.' Any differences that we had not only melted away, but we all developed a bond for each other. At first we were excited that it was working, and then we remained resolved to see it through to the end."

The security operation received rave reviews. USA Today reported that police and "combat-ready National Guardsmen patrolling the Olympic Village perimeter managed to be reassuring without becoming a constant reminder that danger has been part of the Olympics since the dark days in Munich in 1972."

No one, Senez added, let their guard down. Late into the second week, he reported, Guard soldiers detained one vehicle after a police dog smelled something suspicious. The police officers who investigated, Senez added, were very impressed that the Guard soldiers did not merely wave the vehicle through.

The case could be made that the National Guard personified the entire country, from ground to gold, during the Salt Lake City Games.

Utah Army Guard Spc. Nicholas Elmer spent much of his duty time helping to examine vehicles and passengers at a vehicle screening area before they could proceed to the Salt Palace, the main media center in downtown Salt Lake City.

"This is definitely nothing like I've ever done before," said Elmer who ordinarily works on aircraft electrical systems. "We take turns working on the 'clean team' that checks the insides and the 'dirty team' that looks underneath."

Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, Utah's adjutant general, carried the Olympic flame during one leg of the torch relay in Salt Lake City after taking the handoff from Brig. Gen. J.D. Johnson, the Olympic task force commander.

Vermont Army National Guard Sgt. and biathlete Kristina Sabasteanski was one of eight U.S. athletes who carried the World Trade Center American flag into the hushed Olympic Stadium during the Opening Ceremony.

National Guard athletes, most of them on active duty with the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program, distinguished themselves after the international attention switched from security to sports.

The Guard's eight athletes made up 4 percent of the United States' 211-member team and helped their country earn three medals, 9 percent of the record Winter Games harvest of 34.

Spc. Bill Tavares from New York and Sgt. Tuffy Latour from Vermont were the coaches for the United States' two-woman bobsled teams, including Jill Bakken's.

Elsewhere, Vermont Army Guard Staff Sgt. Matt Sabasteanski, Kristina's husband, managed the Soldier Hollow biathlon and cross-country skiing venue near Heber City for the Salt Lake Organizing Committee.

About a dozen National Guard soldiers from Vermont, Minnesota and Utah helped conduct the biathlon competition as unpaid volunteers.

And Vermont Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Steve Hall served as one of the ski waxing coaches.

As far as Col. Ronald Senez is concerned, the lessons that National Guard members learned about Olympic security and the doctrine they will help write in the name of homeland defense are just as important as the honors that the Guard's athletes garnered.

"We saw the tremendous strength in the Guard and how we can react on short notice for homeland defense," he observed. "Should we develop our homeland defense doctrine based on what the Guard has to offer? I may be biased, but I believe the answer to that question is 'Yes.'"



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Army National Guard soldiers on duty in downtown Salt Lake City and at competitive venues in northern Utah did not let down their guard while thoroughly checking vehicles and passengers and while performing other security missions during the 17 days of the XIX Winter Olympics in February.



## Guard couple serves in Cuba

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

GUATANAMO BAY, Cuba — Their dream home is not your ordinary house, and Maryland Army National Guard couple Doug and Sherry positively glow when they talk about their plans for the place back in rural Maryland.

They are converting their 18-room Federal-style house, with nine fireplaces, that was built in 1830 into a bed and breakfast. They will resume that labor of love when they return to their normal lives across the Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore.

That may be awhile, they acknowledged recently because they are currently serving as personnel sergeants at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

Their last name and the location of their home has been withheld for their protection, but they are examples of how America's war on terrorism has altered the lives of many National Guard members and families. At least they are together, and they have no regrets about having to spend a few months away from their five children from previous marriages and their six grandchildren.

They are senior sergeants in the 115th Military Police Battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company from Salisbury, Md., and they are part of the U.S. military force that is guarding and caring for the al-Qaida and Taliban detainees at Camp X-Ray.

"It's our job. We've been paid for all these years to do this," said Sherry who has put 14 years into the Maryland Army Guard. "This is what all of the weekend drills and two weeks of annual training are about."

"You don't belong to an organization like the National Guard and back out when something like this happens," said Doug, a 20-year veteran.

They have been married for 11 years. They are the only married couple in the Maryland unit that is spending the winter in the tropical place where the detainees have become the subjects of worldwide attention.

Sherry, who works for a Veterans Administration medical clinic, supervises a 12-member Guard team that processes the detainees who arrive at the compound. The job includes making sure the detainees have the chance to send four postcards and two letters to their own families each month.

Doug, a full-time Guard soldier and former recruiter, looks after the Maryland citizen-soldiers' personnel matters and maintains the records for the detainees.

They had waited for several years to get jobs close enough to their home so they could lead normal lives and not have to travel long distances to work.

"It was a few weeks of absolute bliss," laughed Doug who transferred to the military police battalion last August. The terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 changed that in a hurry.

They insisted on being mobilized with others in the battalion who were originally sent to Fort Stewart, Ga., in October.

# Guarding terrorists

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

GUATANAMO BAY, Cuba — Two Maryland Army National soldiers who helped guard thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war in northern Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War have been reunited for a similar, and considerably higher profile, mission a decade later at a U.S. Navy base on the eastern tip of communist Cuba.

The accused Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists flown from Afghanistan to Camp X-Ray at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, better known as "Git-Mo," during this U.S. war against terrorism have forged the new but familiar tie that is binding Sgt. 1st Class Robert Wood and Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Smith.

"We hadn't seen each other since the Gulf War, even though we both belong to the Maryland National Guard," said the tall, imposing Wood. "I called Sergeant Smith in August to see if I could get into the detachment in Parkville so I could get promoted. And he brought me along for this Caribbean 'holiday.'"

Twelve-hour shifts of guarding and caring for some of the world's most notorious suspected terrorists have hardly been a holiday for about 80 members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Maryland Army Guard's 115th Military Police Battalion based in Salisbury.

The Maryland Army Guard soldiers form part of a battalion-size force of soldiers and Marines committed to guarding and looking after the multi-national detainees confined in separate, temporary cells at Camp X-Ray.

"With the resources we have, we're giving very good treatment to these people," said U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., one of 20 members of Congress who visited Camp X-ray earlier this year.

"Quite frankly, I personally think it's better than they deserve. We're dealing with terrorists," added Inhofe, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Maryland Army Guard troops had processed and were helping to guard the 158 detainees who had been flown to Guantanamo Bay and transported to the camp by boats and buses.

The first 20 arrived on Jan. 11, exactly four months after the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that initiated America's new war in which National Guard forces have been so heavily engaged.

Why the National Guard? "Why not," countered Lt. Col. Bernard Liswell, the Maryland battalion's commander. His

Guard soldiers were in the right place, Fort Stewart, Ga., at the right time to be deployed to Guantanamo Bay.

Furthermore, an estimated one-third of the Guard members on duty at Camp X-Ray are civilian correctional officers or police officers who know all about dealing with murderers, rapists and other hard cases.

Some of the Guard soldiers do indeed help guard the detainees within the compound. However, the Marylanders are principally responsible for keeping the detainees' personnel records.

It has been a remarkable odyssey for Maryland citizen-soldiers during the nearly five months since Sept. 11.

Army Guard military police soldiers from that state joined the security force at the still-smoldering Pentagon on Sept. 12 and remained there until the end of that month. The battalion's 300 troops were then sent to Fort Stewart in October to replace active Army military police who were given the Pentagon mission.

Then came word that the most dangerous and violent of the alleged Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners captured in Afghanistan would be shipped to Camp X-Ray. They would be confined in individual 8-by-8-foot chain-link fence cells under maximum security conditions until a permanent facility could be constructed elsewhere on the 46-square mile naval base.

That was a perfect fit for the Maryland Guard soldiers whose specialty is enemy prisoners of war, the assignment that took many of them to Saudi Arabia for the Persian Gulf War 10 years ago.

"When we got this mission, the morale went sky high," recounted one senior sergeant.

"I think the National Guard, for a century, was sort of the unseen, unsung heroes of America. It participated in all of our wars and did extraordinarily well," said U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, R-Md., who also visited the camp and the troops from his home state. "The fact that the National Guard now is much more high profile lends an enormous degree of legitimacy to the National Guard."

The Maryland Guard soldiers arrived on Jan. 9 to join forces with members of the 401st Military Police Company from Fort Hood, Texas, and members of the 2nd Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, N.C. The detainees began arriving two days later.

They range in age from early 20s to mid 30s, Liswell explained. Most are in their 20s. Shaved of their beards, they look like Peter Pan's lost boys in orange clothes — until you look into their eyes.

They show no remorse. They are not afraid. They are waiting.

Everyone who feeds them three meals a day, who escorts them to the clinic within the compound, and who ushers them to the showers understands they are dangerous young men.

"Given the chance, they would hurt you or me," said Maryland 1st Sgt. Eric Bokinsky, ordinarily a seventh-grade language arts teacher in Frederick. "In Saudi we guarded about 20,000 Iraqi prisoners at a camp in Hafar al Batin. They wanted to surrender. They arrived hanging off our trucks. These guys are not nearly as willing to be here."

The Guard soldiers and others watching over the detainees are also fully aware of how al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners revolted against their guards and killed a CIA agent in northern Afghanistan during a three-day uprising in late November.

"The high level of security at Camp X-Ray is intended to protect the guards as well as the detainees," said Maryland Sgt. Maj. Bruce Cottman, who is normally a lieutenant at the Eastern Correctional Institution. "If security stays as tight as it is now, we will never lose control of Camp X-Ray."

How the Maryland Guard soldiers deal with the duty has much to do with their own backgrounds.

"This is a big learning experience for me. We're putting our lives on the line to take care of them when they'll do anything they can to kill us," said Spc. Rochelle Williams, a young mother and supply clerk who helps make sure each detainee gets their allotted bedding, towels and toiletries.

On the other hand, it's business as usual for people like Sgt. 1st Class Robert Wood who, at 53, has a bachelor's degree in mass communications and who spent eight years as a correctional officer at the Baltimore City Jail. He has also served tours of duty in Vietnam and Saudi Arabia.

"I'm not here to judge," said Wood who works 12-hour shifts for a week at a time with his old buddy Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Smith. "I can't let my feelings come into play about what crimes they've committed," Wood added. "I can't take it personally. I have to be a professional."

So what does he tell the citizen-soldiers who do not have the experience of dealing with criminals that he has?

"I tell them to do the best they can," Wood said. "I tell them to come to us if they have problems. I tell them to watch their back and to watch their buddy's back," Wood said.





# Sports

## Tough as nails and ready to rumble

By 1st Lt. Shannon Scherer

Ohio Air National Guard

MANSFIELD, Ohio – The expectant 31-year-old mother spoke with a gleam in her eyes about her glory days. The days she spoke of were not the days she enlisted in the Air Force and served her country during the Persian Gulf War, nor were they the days when she decided to marry and begin a family, but rather she told of her glory days when she was named the Mansfield, Ohio, area "2001 FX Toughwoman" champion.

Ohio Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Heather A. Gremling, the 179th Airlift Wing's information security manager, is not what you would think of when you conjure up the image of a "toughwoman." Her 5-foot, 7-inch frame sports an athletic 136 pounds when she wasn't carrying a child, and her shoulder-length brown hair, hazel eyes and beaming smile make her less intimidating than your average security police officer.

But Gremling had a goal to fight her way to victory in an extremely male-dominated sport and that goal recently became a dream come true.

"All I wanted was to win a trophy," Gremling said. "I had never won a trophy in anything and that was my original goal."

For Gremling, boxing was in her blood. Gremling was the only girl in a house with five brothers and she said roughhousing was common among her siblings. Although Gremling herself had only been in one fight in her life as a high school student, her older brother Rod Wiseman had developed a taste and talent for the boxing ring. He competed four times for the Toughman title and won runner-up twice.

When she expressed an interest in competing too, her brother offered to coach her because he figured if he couldn't win, maybe someone else in the family could.

The Toughman contest is conducted in 44 states and abroad and is strictly boxing, so no biting, wrestling or kicking is allowed. The events consist of two-day elimination tournaments with categories for men and women. The worldwide championships can be seen on pay-per-view television.

Wiseman put his little sister on a rigorous exercise and diet schedule for a year prior to her night in the ring. Gremling trained on the heavy bag, punching mitts, sparring, speed bag, reflex bag and treadmill. Her brother made sure her diet consisted only of proteins and carbohydrates weeks before the fight.

Gremling said her brother made her train for three, three-minute rounds so she wouldn't get tired during the actual three, one-minute rounds. But almost a third of the way through her training, and only months before the fight, a family hardship stopped her



Photos provided

Heather Gremling (above left) fights in a preliminary round of the Toughwoman competition while hoisting her two trophies (below).

training cold. Gremling took off from everything for nearly three months. When she returned to her training with only two months before the championship, she remembered technique, but had totally lost all of her physical endurance.

"I was really worried that I wouldn't be prepared," she said. "But my brother kept telling me not to give up. I did it for myself, but I did it for him more than anything."

When her first fight came up, Toughman promoters almost didn't let Gremling take the ring. Her opponent outweighed her by roughly 40 pounds, a huge weight mismatch in boxing. But Gremling refused to let her weight ruin all her dreams so before the official weigh-in, she strapped on leg weights and put sandbags in her warm-up suit. It only made a difference of 10 pounds, but that was enough to allow her to fight.

Gremling entered the ring at Richland County Fairgrounds before a sold-out audience of thousands to fight against Katrina Moore. Moore's streetfighting technique didn't compare to Gremling's professional training and the match was called in favor of Gremling in the third round with 32 seconds still left on the clock.

"She was bigger than me and had a boxing glove tattoo on her neck. I thought she was going to kill me" Gremling said. "Walking out to the ring I actually heard people saying that my competition would defeat me because I was so small. I was definitely the

underdog."

After the Friday-night competition, Gremling was excited about her next match on Saturday knowing she had a shot at a trophy. But her one dream was quickly shattered when she learned no trophies would be presented that year because of an incident the previous year.

Gremling was crushed. But Toughman promoters promised to see what they could do for her if she won the following evening.

With one victory under her belt, her brother Rod in her corner and her family and friends cheering her on, Gremling took the ring the next night against Veena Johnson. Again, weight would be an issue.

"She hit me so hard in the first round the force threw me across the ring like a rag-doll," Gremling said. "But I had heart and I wasn't quitting."

By the end of the first round the judges were worried Gremling was taking too much punishment at the hands of her much-larger opponent. But as in Friday night's fight, her training would come back as her biggest advantage. Gremling didn't let up in the second round causing her opponent to forfeit the third round after which Gremling was declared the undisputed champion.

Gremling's fighting techniques not only won her the victory, but it caused three professional boxing promoters to approach her after the matches to ask her to consider professional boxing.



Gremling turned them down, saying she was just in it for the trophy. There would be no trophies presented that night, but just one week later her father and her sponsor surprised her with two large trophies.

Gremling said the desire to compete again will always be there but her priorities have changed being a mother to her baby girl. "I know it (boxing) doesn't make me somebody, but it sure made me feel like somebody. I finally got my 30 seconds of fame."





# News Makers

## Environment friendly force

ARLINGTON, Va. - The Air National Guard's Environmental Division, headquartered at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., recently announced winners of its 2001 environmental awards.

The 181st Fighter Wing, Hulman Regional Airport, Ind., won the Air Force General Thomas D. White Award for a Reserve Component and the Air National Guard's Environmental Quality Award. The wing reduced energy consumption by nearly 22 percent even as the workspace increased more than 23 percent. The wing was also noted for using a portable aircraft washing system that captured all wash water and has not received any regulatory "Notices of Violation" in the past decade.

The 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base, Mass., winner of the Pollution Prevention Award, was also nominated for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's, Region I, Merit Award. The base recycled nearly 12 tons of ferrous metals as part of a comprehensive metal recycling program and reduced hazardous waste generation by 2,524 pounds a year by installing closed-loop solvent recycling machinery.

The 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Memorial Airport, Mo., received the Environmental Restoration and team Recycling Awards. The Missouri-based unit was a test facility for reusable non-hazardous, corrosion control sealant tape, which was eventually approved for Air Force-wide use with projected Department of Defense savings between \$5 million and \$8 million annually. Additionally, it provided oversight for extensive soil and groundwater sampling at five Environmental Restoration Projects, (or ERP) sites, that resulted in the projected closure of all ERP sites by 2005.

Two Alabama Air National Guard units, the 117th Air Refueling Wing at Birmingham Airport, and the 187th Fighter Wing at Montgomery Regional Airport, won the Individual Pollution Prevention and Natural Resources Awards respectively.

Changes in procurement and operations by aerospace ground equipment personnel at the 117th Refueling Wing reduced the hazardous material inventory by 60 percent and generated 50 percent less hazardous wastes.

The 187th Fighter Wing incorporated natural and cultural resource considerations into the base master plan and the unit's Earth Day team played a major role in developing and maintaining natural resources at the installation.

## Life savers ...



Photo by Terry Way, Commonwealth Media Services

**Pennsylvania Gov. Mark Schweiker applauds five Pennsylvania Army National Guard citizen-soldiers who saved an airport traveler's life.**

By Lt. Col. John Maletta  
Pennsylvania Army National Guard

PHILADELPHIA - Gov. Mark Schweiker recently recognized five Pennsylvania Army National Guard soldiers who saved a traveler's life when he suffered a heart attack at Philadelphia International Airport.

"The quick thinking and decisive response of these citizen-soldiers are a tribute to the high caliber of the Guard in Pennsylvania," said Gov. Schweiker. "As we have seen so often - not just since September 11, but throughout our history - the people of the commonwealth are well served by the training and commitment which our Guard represents."

Acting in his capacity as commander in chief of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Gov. Schweiker awarded the Army Commendation Medal to 2nd Lt. Kenrick Cato of Philadelphia, Staff Sgt. Robert Monahan of Phoenixville, Pa., Sgt. Keith Pogash of St. Clair, Pa., Spec. Eric Hatton of Ardmore, Pa., and Spec. Antoine King of Blain, Pa. The Army Commendation Medal is one of the highest awards a soldier can receive for meritorious service in peacetime. Also, present for the award ceremony was Morris Richardson of Eastampton, N.J., whose life the soldiers saved.

The five Guardsmen were serving on security duty at the airport when a person's cry for help alerted them to the fact that

Richardson had passed out after suffering a heart attack as he was walking between concourses to catch a holiday flight to visit his son.

First on the scene were King and Monahan, who immediately began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Hatton then grabbed an automatic-external defibrillator mounted on a nearby wall for emergency use. Assisted by Pogash, he "shocked" the victim twice, restoring his heartbeat. Meanwhile, Cato ensured that airport police and paramedics were quickly notified.

When they are not serving as citizen-soldiers, Hatton, Pogash and Cato are certified as civilian emergency medical technicians. Also, King specialized his military training as a combat lifesaver. When a paramedic arrived, the Guard citizen-soldiers continued helping assess Richardson's condition, started an intravenous line and provided oxygen to revive him.

The Guard men and women serving security duty at the Philadelphia Airport are among some 130 soldiers who have been augmenting security at 16 commercial airports throughout Pennsylvania along with joint patrols with about 65 Pennsylvania State Police troopers. The soldiers and troopers were deployed by then-Gov. Tom Ridge, serving now as homeland defense czar, at the request of President George W. Bush, to provide a highly visible deterrent and reassure the traveling public.

## Movie brings back memories for airman

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Amy Vincent was watching television earlier this month when she saw an advertisement for the movie "Black Hawk Down."

"My God," the West Virginia Air National Guard staff sergeant remembered thinking. "I was there!"

The movie, which opened recently, tells the story of a failed U.S. mission in Somalia in October 1993. Army Rangers were to helicopter into the stronghold of Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid and snatch two high-ranking officials.

Instead, the mission went awry. Two helicopters were shot down, 18 American soldiers were killed and 78 were wounded. When his Black Hawk helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and shot down, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Durant was captured by the Somalis and held for 11 days.

While Vincent, 27, doesn't know much about the film "Black Hawk Down," she knows quite a bit about Durant. "It was the most tear-jerking experience of my life when we actually got there and put him on the plane," said Vincent, who was on the Air Force flight crew that picked Durant up after his release and flew him to Germany.

Amy Vincent was then Amy Clark and a loadmaster on a C-141 cargo plane when she met Durant on Oct. 14, 1993.

She and the crew were given three hours to unload the plane and convert it into a flying hospital. Landing in Somalia, Vincent, the flight crew and about 500 Rangers waited for Durant.

Durant was brought in by helicopter and gingerly moved to Vincent's plane through the group of Rangers, which formed a corridor of honor for the returning soldier.

He was brought inside the C-141, clutching his red beret. He had suffered a broken leg, jaw, arm and an injured back. Though obviously in pain, Durant was conscious. Vincent and other crewmembers took turns talking to him, holding his hand on the way back to Germany.

As the flight crew and Rangers toasted Durant, those on the ground began to sing "God Bless America." "I don't think there was a dry eye in the place," Vincent said.

She was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for her role in Durant's return.

Vincent is a Staff Sgt. and currently serves with the 130th Airlift Wing at Yeager Air National Guard Base in Charleston, W.Va.

(Editor's note: The Charleston Gazette and the AP contributed to this report.)



# Military members raise flags to celebrate freedom

By Maj. Ed Larkin and Staff Sgt. John House

TUZLA, Bosnia — More than 100 soldiers, sailors, and airmen braved frigid temperatures and deep snow New Year's Day at Eagle Base to pay a flag-raising tribute to the 54 states and territories of the United States.

The commander of Multi-National Division-North, Maj. Gen. H. Steven Blum, wanted an event during the holidays that demonstrated the union of America and the pride of the peacekeeping soldiers.

"Each time we show our unity, we clearly make a powerful point to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina," said Blum. "We have a diverse force that represents all races, religions and cultures. Everyday we are here our diversity shows our strength."

From 1861 to 1865, the United States itself was divided and engaged in a civil war, over, among other things, states rights. In the end the union was preserved, the practice of slavery was abolished.

More than a century later at the start of 2002, each state flag was raised and flew proudly over Eagle Base in a land that owes much of its day-to-day peace to the American military and its Stabilization Force partners. Although a relatively simple gesture, the raising of the flags demonstrated deeply held feelings of patriotism for many soldiers.

"It is amazing the pride I felt pulling my state flag up the pole here at Eagle Base," said Pfc. Thomas Kozlowski. "Yes, it is hard to be away from my family and friends, but I realize how proud I feel and how important it is to serve my country."

Blum requested a flag be sent to Bosnia from each of the states' governors and adjutant generals. In that request, he also asked that the flag first be flown over the state capitol or state military headquarters before being sent to Bosnia, thus strengthening the



Photo by Staff Sgt. John House

**More than 100 soldiers, sailors, and airmen braved frigid temperatures and deep snow New Year's Day at Eagle Base in Tuzla, Bosnia, to pay a flag-raising tribute to the 54 states and territories of the United States.**

connection to home. The flags and the names of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen will become part of the 29th Infantry Division's permanent history. In the future, the state flags will fly at division changes of command and other division military ceremonies.

"I believe in the strength and resolve of America and I believe in the strength and resolve of these young service members. They are truly the best of our great country," said Blum. The SFOR 10 rotation is referred

to as the "Team of Teams". Composed of 75 percent reserve forces and 25 percent active duty, it is the model for the one-Army concept.

Service members cheered each state flag as it was raised up the flagpole while they waited to unfurl their own. After all the flags were raised, the 29th Division (Light) band aptly played a spirited rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner*, as the American flag was hoisted.

The Area Support Group and the Morale,

Welfare and Recreation teams provided hot drinks and food for the event to ward off the chill.

"When I look back, I will remember this day as one of the high points of my tour in Bosnia," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda.

"This is truly one of the many things that makes our country great, we have so many different people and thoughts. Yet we all stand together from different places in the United States but, under one flag."

## Florida Guard provides cover for an American symbol

By 1st Lt. Steve Alvarez

Florida National Guard

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Florida National Guard has been protecting people for the past four months as they travel into the skies and onto the seas, but now it is protecting astronauts as they head into space.

On Dec. 5, high above the Kennedy Space Center, F-15 "Eagle" fighters, the namesake fighter jets of America's symbol of freedom, flew vigilantly over another American symbol: the space shuttle.

"When you know there are people in the shuttle and there's something on the ground, it feels important — you put your effort into it," Maj. John "Homer" Black said. Black, a Jacksonville pilot, was one of several who flew during the shuttle launch. He said the mission was a one of the more memorable sorties flown during Operation Noble Eagle.

Fighters from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing patrolled the

skies over the space center as the shuttle Endeavour thundered into space. It was the first shuttle mission since the Sept. 11 attacks.

At a Cape Canaveral airstrip, Black talked about protecting space assets.

"We're always doing something important when we're up there," Black said as launch pads towered behind him. "But when it's some of your own down there, it's important. This is our state. There are a lot of points of interest here — obviously."

The 125th's wartime mission is to provide armed aircraft capable of intercepting, identifying, and if necessary, to destroy unknown aircraft that penetrate sovereign U.S. airspace. Black said that F-15s cover roughly 10 miles in a minute. The unit has been flying random combat air patrols since Sept. 11.

"What this shows is that personnel in Operation Noble Eagle have the ability to protect civilian assets as well as American space assets," 2nd Lt. Warren Comer, of the



**Fighters from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing patrolled the skies as the space shuttle Endeavour thundered into space.**

Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Withers, Florida Air National Guard

45th Space Wing said. The 45th provides shuttle launch support to NASA. "The amount of cooperation between Guardsmen and active duty personnel is unprecedented." Endeavour returned safely to earth on Dec. 17 after 12 days in space and another shuttle

mission launched in February.

"The active duty Air Force is carrying on their mission and the Air Guard is helping us carry it out without a hindrance," Comer said.

"We're all supporting one mission."





(Left) Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers get ready to mount up and operate the unfamiliar Leopards before heading to the Chilean desert for three days and two nights of field training. (Below) A Minnesota guardsman checks out the wheels before blasting through the desert.

Photos by  
Spc. Jeff Gardunio,  
U.S. Army-South

## Minnesota armor rolls through Chilean desert

By Spc. Jeff Gardunio  
U.S. Army-South Public Affairs

Rolling through deserts of Chile in South America, Army National Guard citizen-soldiers and tankers from the Chilean Army took part in a small-unit exchange, which marked the first armored unit to take part in the program.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 94th Armor of the Minnesota Army National Guard and Regimental Command 9th Battalion "Vencedores" of the Chilean Army recently participated in U.S. Army-South's Small Unit Familiarization program.

The ongoing familiarization program is a two-week-long exchange of personnel who learn and interact with the host nation's weapons, logistics, tactics, culture and soldiers, said Sgt. 1st Class Victor Rivera, operations noncommissioned officer for U.S. Army-South's deputy chief of staff - National Guard.

"The reason we do this familiarization program is to build good relations with our allies in U.S. Army-South's area of operation (in Central and South America and the Caribbean). We coordinate the efforts between the host nation, which is Chile, and the National Guard Bureau."

Rivera said the deployment to Chile allows soldiers to become well-rounded in their knowledge of other militaries.

"The word 'training' is not what we are doing," he added. "We familiarize ourselves with the way they operate and do things as well as operate their weapons. Next year a small group (from Chile) will go to Minnesota and do the same thing there."

The U.S. soldiers performed simulated battles and learned how to operate German-made Leopard I tanks following a demonstration by Chilean tanker Sgt. Primera Ismael.

The Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers trained for the first four days on how to

drive and operate the unfamiliar Leopards before heading to the field for three days and two nights of field training.

During the field training exercise, a battle scenario of airborne troopers dropping in was the main exercise for two days. One of the drills the tankers were able to practice was the "Sagger drill."

"The Sagger drills are named after Russian missiles called 'Sagger' that would be dropped from airplanes," said the 94th's officer in charge, 1st Lt. Eduardo Suarez. "We basically move the tanks like snakes from one side to another to avoid anything falling from the sky."

Because of training limitations back home in Minnesota, the citizen-soldiers said their armor training in Chile was invaluable.

"That was one of the best things because we normally aren't allowed to do the drills in the United States due to environmental restrictions," said tank gunner Sgt. Scott Johnson. "Out in the desert of Chile there is nothing to hold us back. We could go almost full speed, catch air off of smaller hills and basically rip up the terrain with no worries because nothing grows out here."

"We trained under real battle scenario. I mean when we are out in the field we are told of things a lot sooner," Johnson added. "Here it was more like you have 10 minutes to undo your camouflage net and be ready to roll out."

Driving German-made armor and trying to communicate in Spanish did pose trilingual challenges for the mostly English-speaking Minnesotans.

"It was interesting because the instructors spoke only Spanish and the instructions on the tanks were in German," Suarez added. "Although we thought coming in that the language barrier was going to be a problem it turned out to be just a second concern. There were soldiers from U.S.



Army-South that were able to interpret as well as soldiers from Minnesota."

One of the soldiers that was not tasked to interpret, but took on the task was Sgt. Mirael Colon, a communications team chief.

"When soldiers from two countries interact, both sides need help interpreting," Colon said. "I love talking to people, being able to interpret in that kind of environment where two armies come together and I'm in the middle ensuring that the two are talking to each other. It gives me a sense of pride."

Staff Sgt. Tracy Siers jokingly noted the instructors also used a lot of hand gestures to get the point across.

"When we get back to Minnesota we are

going to be the charade champions of Minnesota," Siers said. "When we were being taught the different things and we didn't know the word they would just point, act out and say what would seem something like 'missile ballistico' and get the point across."

The Minnesota Army National Guard citizen-soldiers and Chilean tankers emotionally exchanged hugs and handshakes, along with trading personal belongings, before heading back home, for the long airplane ride from South to North America.

Before parting, Chilean Col. Max Steinmeyer-Celis, the regimental commander of the Vencedores, said the two armor units formed a heartfelt camaraderie.





## States

# 'Hot zone' warriors honored for anthrax crisis duty

By Spc. Thomas Kielbasa  
Florida Army National Guard

CAMP BLANDING, Fla. — As many Americans watched their televisions with horror when anthrax was discovered at a publishing company in South Florida this past October, some highly specialized members of the Florida National Guard were already in the "hot zone."

Twelve members of the 44th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team deployed to the contamination site in support of local emergency operations. This year they will receive commendations for their efforts during the anthrax crisis.

According to officials from the Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management, who will recognize the unit, the 44th was instrumental in helping avert "the potential public health crisis caused by the anthrax contamination" and "assured an efficient response effort in the safety" of Palm Beach County residents.

The 22-person unit based here is designed to augment "first response" agencies in incidents involving hostile use of chemical, biological, or radiological agents. The team is required to deploy within two hours of notification to support civil authorities in the event or suspicion of such an attack.

"We're not first responders," said Maj. William Spengler, commander of the 44th. "We're next level — the state level — as a state response force when the first response community is overwhelmed. In the (Boca Raton) case they were clearly overwhelmed."

Spengler was already in the area on Oct. 5 when the first anthrax-related death occurred at the American Media building. When the second anthrax case was identified a few days later, members of the 44th were asked to assist emergency officials in testing for anthrax spores throughout the county.

"All the reports of any kind of white powder or foreign substance were being called in to 911; over a week their 911 center-fielded

about 2,000 calls," Spengler said. "We were down there primarily to track what was going on, and the Director of Emergency Management for Palm Beach County requested we stay on board for about a week to respond to more serious and suspect incidents."

Equipped with biological agent field detection kits and airtight protective gear, 44th personnel reacted to seven incidents of suspicious substances in cooperation with local Hazardous Materials teams.

"Thankfully, all of the tests turned up negative," Spengler said. "A lot of times you have suspicions up front, but based on what had happened we had to treat everything as real."

Six of the deployed Guard personnel donned self-contained protective suits and entered the anthrax-tainted environment of the American Media building.

"This was really a live-fire exercise for us," Spengler said. "All the team members have been through the U.S. Army Chemical Defense training, and have been in environments with nerve agents and chemicals, but for pretty much everybody it was the first opportunity they had to operate in an anthrax-contaminated environment."

The multi-agency response to the contamination gave Florida's 44th Civil Support Team a unique opportunity to work side-by-side with other experts from federal, state and local agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention based in Atlanta.

"We knew that the building itself was contaminated, and the FBI turned over to us the areas in the building in which they had found anthrax," Spengler said. "Our job was to go in with these other agencies and conduct sampling missions to determine the exact extent of the contamination. And that was the starting point for determining the cleanup."

The full-time unit is comprised of both Air and Army Guard soldiers and airmen, one of 27 such units that entered service since 2000, when Congress authorized 32 of the



Spc. Thomas Kielbasa, Florida Army National Guard  
**Wearing special protective suits, Spc. Denise Stuart (left) and Sgt. Randall Stover of the 44th Civil Support Team use chemical detection paper to sample a leaking artillery round during a training exercise at Camp Blanding. During the summer the inside of the suits can reach 125 F and up to 100-percent humidity.**

teams. Besides detecting chemical or biological threats, the 44th Civil Support Team was created to advise civilian agencies during emergency operations, and "facilitate requests for assistance of additional state and federal assets to help save lives, prevent human suffering, and mitigate great property damage."

Civil Support Team members are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and live within 35 miles of their headquarters at

Camp Blanding. The members always keep packed bags to deploy at a moment's notice.

"It is an immediate response posture ... It creates a lot of challenges, but it really shows the commitment of the team members," Spengler said.

Early last year the unit received extensive training in areas of chemical, biological and radiological materials, as well as courses on emergency management and medical treatment at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. The 44th Civil Support Team met the school's certification requirements December 2001 and is awaiting unit certification by the Department of Defense.

Capt. John Wilson, survey team leader for the 44th Civil Support Team, said his unit uses a wide range of low and high-tech devices — including the latest military hardware and commercial off-the-shelf equipment — when performing their missions. That inventory includes a two-person all-terrain vehicle with mounted chemical detection alarms. Team members encapsulated in their protective suits can use the vehicle to quickly enter and depart nearly any scene of contamination.

At an incident site the team has the ability to sample and identify everything from nerve and blister agents, to deadly biological diseases like anthrax while other state-of-the-art equipment can quickly identify other types of agents.

"These team members only have one hour of air on their backs," Wilson added. "So if we can get them as quickly as possible to the incident site, that gives them more work time on the site."



**Sgt. Randall Stover of the Florida National Guard's 44th Civil Support Team observes changes in chemical detection paper during a training exercise at Camp Blanding, Fla. The Guard teams can identify more than 150,000 volatile organic compounds within just 12 minutes of obtaining a sample.**





## History

## Fort Mose: A diversified past

By 1st Lt. Steve Alvarez  
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

The fabric that comprises Col. Horace Tucker's uniform is much different than the one his Florida National Guard predecessor's wore more than 260 years ago. But there is a common thread that bonds him to the soldiers of the past, and particularly to one of the soldiers of an old Florida post, Fort Mose (pronounced mo-zay).

Tucker shares similarities with an 18th century officer named Capt. Francisco Menendez. Like Menendez, Tucker is the commander of a North Florida military installation. He commands Camp Blanding Training Site in Starke, Fla., a sprawling 72,000-acre military training post where service members from all over the world come to hone their military skills. Each year nearly 250,000 troops train at Blanding.

In 1738, Menendez was also a commander of another North Florida military post located in St. Augustine, several miles east of Starke. Originally established as Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose and later renamed, Fort Mose was the first free black community in what is now the United States, according to the National Park Service. Black slaves fled to Mose to escape slavery in British territories and served in the community's militia.

But what links Tucker and Menendez goes beyond the positions of authority that both men held and their service in Florida's militia - what binds them more closely throughout the span of history is that they are both African Americans.

"I feel very proud and very connected to the leadership and the many accomplishments of Capt. Menendez," Tucker said. "I think his leadership illustrates what people of color can do, if given an opportunity."

Born in Mandingo, Africa, Menendez fled slavery in the British territories and escaped through Georgia to Florida's Spanish occupied lands in 1724. In exchange for emancipation, he joined other blacks in the Spanish

militia and converted to Catholicism. His community thrived for several years until the British came to Florida.

In May 1740, Gen. James Oglethorpe, founder and governor of the British colony of Georgia, marched on St. Augustine and captured Fort Mose. The post was abandoned without resistance to protect civilians

day," a British soldier who fought at Mose wrote of the battle, according to the Florida Park Service and the Fort Mose Historical Society.

The post was reclaimed and rebuilt by the Spanish (blacks) and prospered until 1763, when Florida was ceded to Britain by treaty.

African Americans.

The famed 54th Massachusetts Regiment, Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers are popular heroes of U.S. military culture. But Tucker feels that the soldiers of Fort Mose are in the same category.

"I think the soldiers of Fort Mose are just as important to America as those soldiers recognized in other armed conflicts throughout our history," Tucker said. "These soldiers demonstrated their loyalty and love for our country, and our way of life. They showed that they were willing to die to maintain freedom and independence."

Some historians recognize that the nation's first militia was mustered under the Spanish flag in 1565 near St. Augustine, and that those citizen soldiers were the first Florida National Guardsmen to serve the state and the country. Robert Hawk, author of the book, "Florida's Army", wrote that Florida's Spanish militias, not the English, would become what is today



**American military history is full of notable accomplishments and contributions by African Americans. The famed 54th Massachusetts Regiment, Tuskegee Airmen and the Buffalo Soldiers are popular heroes of U.S. military culture. But some believe the soldiers of Fort Mose**

**are in the same category. Florida National Guard lineage recognizes that the nation's first militia was mustered under the Spanish flag in 1565 near St. Augustine, and that those citizen soldiers were the first Florida National Guardsmen to serve the state and the country.**

that lived there.

The former residents regrouped inside the nearby walls of St. Augustine.

On June 26, the attack known to the British as "Bloody Mose" devastated Oglethorpe's forces and caused them to retreat to Georgia. The soldiers of Fort Mose and soldiers from a local garrison charged the post in one of the fiercest battles involving a Florida militia unit.

"At length they came on again sword in hand and entered the gate. At the same time another party entered one of the breaches so that the fort was at once full of Spaniards, it being then about half and hour before the

Today, although most of the fort has been reduced to only remnant shell stone foundations, the battle is a reminder of the resolute character of African American soldiers and their contributions to the U.S. military.

Florida's Governor, Don Manuel de Montiano, wrote shortly after the battle that he had "sent out 300 men to make an attack on the Fort of Mose ... Our people swept over it, with such impetuosity that it fell with a loss of 68 dead and 34 prisoners." According to historical records, only two dozen British soldiers survived.

American military history is full of notable accomplishments and contributions by

known as the National Guard and "America's oldest militia." History often credits the English colonists with forming the nation's first militias in the early 1600s.

"They are all great patriots. The actions of the soldiers at Fort Mose were important in improving the perception of blacks as good citizens and very capable fighting men," Tucker said. "Leaders come in all colors, shapes, and sizes. That is the true essence of diversity. Many times the full depth and breadth of a person's leadership ability is not apparent until they are tested under stressful situations. This was true back in the day of Capt. Menendez, and it is still valid today."





# TRAINING

## Guardsmen reach for the sky at Mountain Warfare School

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

Army 1st Lt. Jennifer DeBruin felt on top of the world when she completed a National Guard school that is clearly on top of its game.

DeBruin, 25, proved that her heart is bigger than she is when she finished the two-week winter course at the Mountain Warfare School in northern Vermont. She became one of its 20 newest recipients of the coveted Rams Head that is presented to graduates of the winter and summer basic mountaineering courses.

DeBruin, who stands 5-foot-4ft in her winter socks, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1999. She is a Medical Service Corps officer assigned to the 10th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Carson, Colo. Now she is among a handful of Army women who have earned the distinction of being mountain soldiers.

Moreover, it makes no difference to this younger soldier who conducts the military training, including the National Guard, so long as the training is good.

"I had heard nothing but good things about this school," shrugged DeBruin after spending five hours climbing up and rappelling down one side of 4,393-foot Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak, four days before graduation. "The fact that it's a National Guard school didn't faze me at all."

"This was the most unusual training available, and I knew I would probably never get a chance to do it again," added DeBruin more than four years after completing the

school's two-week summer course in August 1997 when she was a West Point cadet.

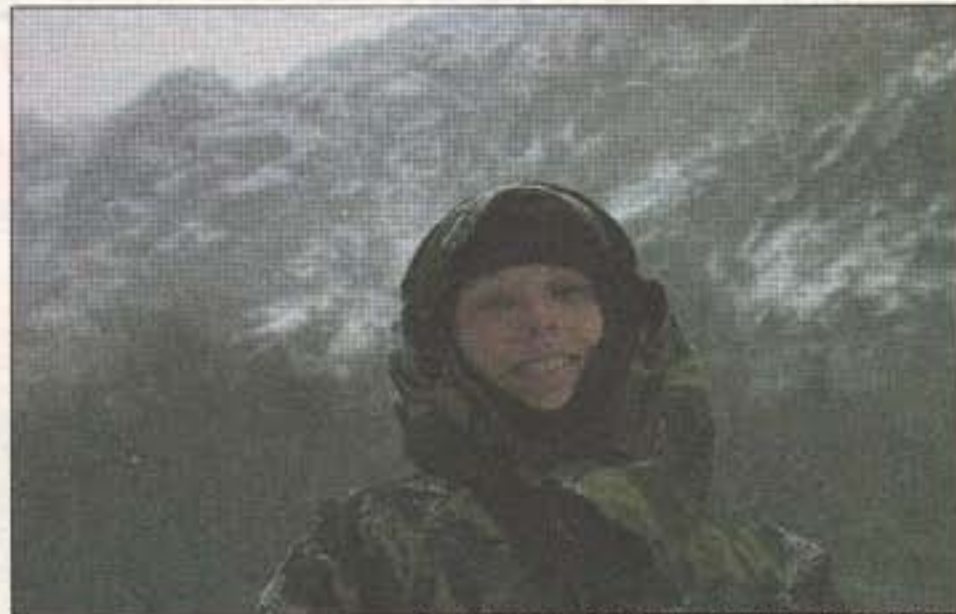
That validation by a young woman Army officer is considered important for the only school of its kind in the entire Army. The Mountain Warfare School based in Jericho, Vt., has already received a great deal of national exposure during the past two months because it has trained soldiers to survive in the Rocky Mountains before they began serving in the mountains of Afghanistan during the new war against terrorism.

It would seem that the 19-year-old school that the Army designated as its only trainer for military mountaineers in 1994 has come of age. Active Army Special Forces troops and Rangers as well as Guard soldiers from Vermont's own mountain infantry battalion are regular customers.

C-SPAN, CNN and other national media organizations have reported on or asked about the school's contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom since Sept. 11 even though the specific details about who the school trained and where they went afterwards cannot be publicly discussed to safeguard those soldiers and their missions.

"We have had increased requests to conduct special training since Sept. 11. Some of that training has been for operations in Afghanistan," Lt. Col. Terry Lambert, the Mountain Warfare School's commander, has guardedly acknowledged.

Col. Gary Varney, the Vermont Army Guard's deputy chief of staff for operations, and Lambert briefed the Pentagon press corps about the school's mission for 50 min-



Photos by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**Army 1st Lt. Jennifer DeBruin learned the ways of mountain warfare at the Vermont National Guard school.**

utes on Nov. 20. Varney carried the same message to CNN in Atlanta a couple of weeks later.

Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville, Vermont's adjutant general, Lambert and the school's entire staff led media people from Vermont and Boston, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., through a demanding, first-hand look at the tough winter training on Jan. 15.

That included spending a few hours at frigid, forbidding Smugglers Notch, a stretch of the Green Mountains beside Mount Mansfield where, according to local legend, bootleg whiskey was smuggled into the United States from Canada during Prohibition.

That is where the students get tested in the lessons of survival and combat mobility they have learned from National Guard instructors who are considered among the world's premier mountaineers, Lambert explained.

Four of them, for example, are the only soldiers in the Army certified by the American Mountain Guides Association, explained Col. Michael Gately, the school's former

commander. Two of them were attending an advanced avalanche rescue course in Switzerland in January, he added.

Another instructor, Staff Sgt. Bill Pelkey, holds the U.S. record for the highest winter ascent of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

The school has embraced the Russian philosophy of small-team mountain warfare.

"Surprise, resoluteness, and audacity play an especially important role in mountainous operations," stated Gen. Yuri Maximov. "Even a small sub-unit can decide the outcome of a whole battle by unexpectedly maneuvering around a defender's flank or capturing a dominating height... in mountain combat the sub-units should operate independently of the main body."

The training that includes knot tying, crevasse rescues and bivouacking in troop tents dug into the snow can help all kinds of soldiers, observed DeBruin, an executive officer in the combat support hospital, who was determined to complete the school.

"I wanted to finish what I started as a cadet, and I want to bring this outdoor and cold-weather training back to my unit," added DeBruin who grew up in southern California and who has come to love skiing and snowshoeing in Colorado.

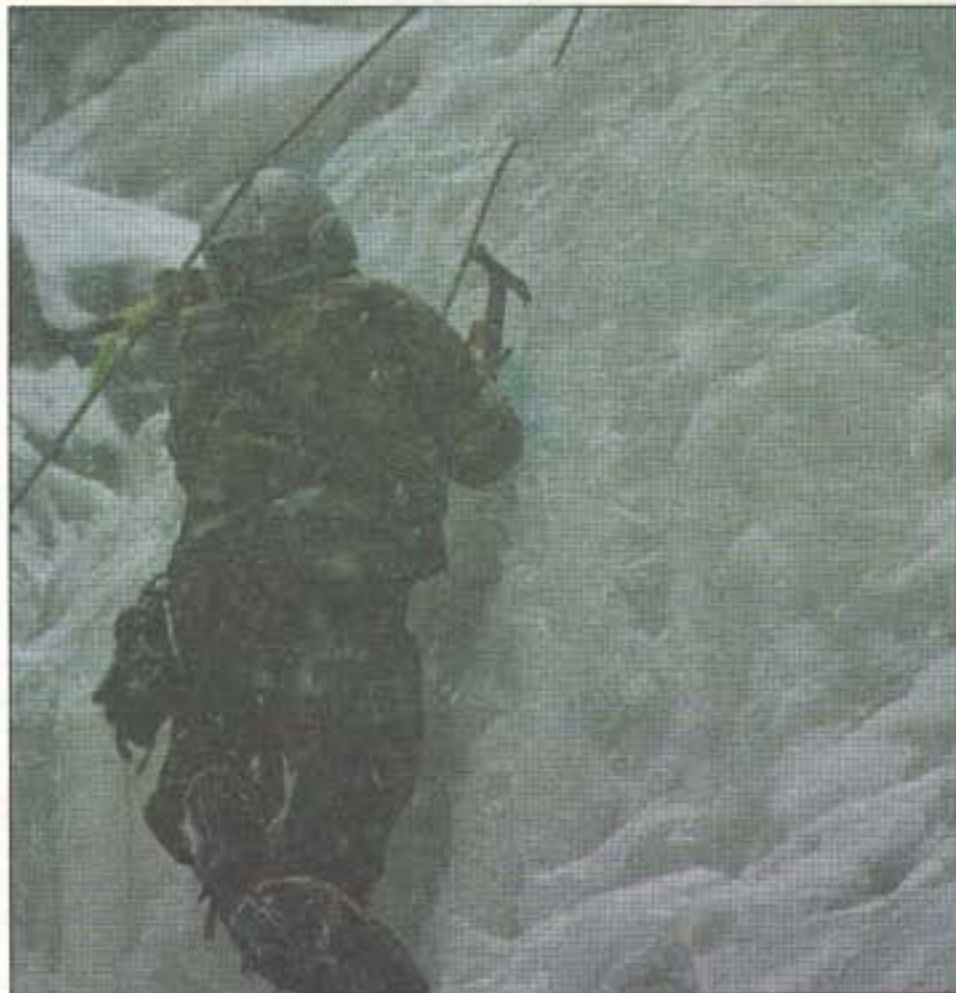
She will have much to offer to the medical soldiers at Fort Carson, indicated Master Sgt. Stephen Lunna who said DeBruin is only about the fifth woman to complete the program in his 15 years as an instructor.

"She's one tough nut," Lunna praised. "She's doing just great."

So, it would seem, is the school.

There were some lean years when the Army didn't seem terribly interested in mountain warfare and cold-weather training, explained Maj. Gen. Rainville, an Air Guard officer who has become one of the school's principal advocates during her five years as Vermont's adjutant general.

But that has changed, she and others indicated, since the Army began rotating peace-keeping troops into the Balkan lands of Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia six years ago.



**Staff Sgt. Larry Garner, (above) a Mountain Warfare School instructor, grades a student's performance on Mount Mansfield in Vermont while (left) a Mountain Warfare School student scales a nearly vertical ice wall while passing one of his tests in combat mobility at Smugglers Notch in Vermont.**