

# THE ON GUARD

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## Diversity: Holding the doors open

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Brigadier Gen. Julia Cleckley vowed to make it possible for others to follow in her footsteps after becoming the first African-American woman to be promoted from colonel to flag officer in the Army National Guard on September's first Tuesday.

"Being the first in anything is not worthwhile if you don't open doors for others," said Cleckley during her promotion ceremony that was punctuated with humor and humility at the Army Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

"Being first is not so important unless there is a second and a fourth and a tenth," the new general told the standing room crowd of some 400 well-wishers, including her two daughters and five other members of her family. They all applauded Cleckley for the barriers she has already broken during her 26 years of military service.

Lieutenant Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, promoted the pioneering career officer from New York to one-star rank during the National Guard's Year of Diversity. Cleckley will now serve as Schultz's special assistant for human resources readiness.

"We're not recognizing what Julia Cleckley has done. We're recognizing what she is going to do," said Schultz. "That's about her potential. That's about the future. That's about what the Army Guard isn't yet but is going to be."

Cleckley is now the third one-star general among the 42,000 women serving in the Army Guard.

Her accomplishments include being the first minority woman to become a branch chief at the National Guard Bureau; the first African American woman to be promoted to colonel in the Army National Guard's Active Guard and Reserve program; and the first woman



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts National Guard Bureau

Lieutenant Gen. Roger Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard, promotes Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley, who vowed to make it possible for others to follow in her footsteps after becoming the first African-American woman to be promoted from Colonel to flag officer in the Army National Guard on Sept. 3, 2002.

and minority member to serve on the Army Guard director's special staff as chief of Human Resources. She has also been a professor of military science at Hampton University's ROTC program in Virginia.

Cleckley has also nurtured her two daughters to adulthood during the two decades she has been a widow. She has helped numerous college-bound students at the Mount Olive

Baptist Church in Arlington obtain tuition assistance. She has been honored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for excellence in mentorship and community service.

Many people praised her during the promotion ceremony and buffet luncheon that followed.

"She's always been a dedicated soldier

because she believed that was God's will," said her youngest daughter, Ellen Cleckley, who is 28 and lives in San Francisco.

"She's also been a great mother and mentor and friend. I don't know how she's done it. She's been able to do everything so graciously."

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## About The On Guard

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## The war on terror: Numerous accomplishments in the past 12 months

By Sgt. Don Dees

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — In every generation there is a decisive moment, an instant in time, against which all other events are measured.

Your parents can tell you exactly where they were when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Your grandparents likely can describe in detail what they felt upon learning of victory in Europe and the final days of World War II.

For those of us who wear the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the United States, our decisive moment is Sept. 11.

As the one-year anniversary of our decisive moment approached, we looked back at a number of accomplishments.

The wounds of Sept. 11 are healing. Workers toil valiantly to repair the site where American Airlines Flight 77 was flown into the Pentagon, claiming the lives of scores of innocents. On year later, Pentagon workers occupy renovated offices at the site of impact.

In the country where these terrorists plotted to take the lives of American citizens, Al Qaeda and the Taliban are reduced to scattered pockets of evil. The Afghan people are free from warped religious tyranny. A

National Army is forming at the Kabul Military Training Center to provide stability and security to the developing Afghan government. Some in the international community decry America's continuing presence in Afghanistan, claiming our job is finished and we should go.

Leaving Afghanistan now would be akin to inviting Al Qaeda, the Taliban or similar organizations to take over. American soldiers are providing security to Afghan President Hamid Karzai in the face of what Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld called, "credible threats." The International Security and Assistance Forces are on the job protecting Afghanistan's seat of government in Kabul. We must not abandon the Afghan people until they can provide for their own security. There are those who accuse the United States of human rights violations in Afghanistan, and claim that our continued presence will result in further loss of life. A report in the July 29 "London Times" quoted preliminary findings by a United Nations investigating team claiming the U.S. attacked innocent civilians on July 1 and then tried to cover up the mistake.

U.S. forces are investigating the so-called wedding party incident at Kakarak and remain committed to preventing civilian

casualties. Our forces are highly trained and disciplined. They will react swiftly and with extreme lethality against enemy threats, but will never intentionally attack unarmed people.

Some claim that Al Qaeda and the Taliban are finished. But reports continue to pour in of former fighters returning to Afghanistan to take up arms against the foreign presence. Reports surfaced July 30 that a man with more than a thousand pounds of explosives hidden in his car was headed for a target in Kabul. One account said the man was in a traffic accident and authorities discovered him before the plot could be carried out. This would-be bomber illustrates that our work is not finished.

Our commander in chief addressed a grieving nation just nine days after the terrorist attacks that set the War on Terrorism into motion. President George W. Bush called on each and every citizen to uphold American values and the American way of life. He called on our Armed Forces to wage war on violence against our people. He inspired us to action saying, "we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

We must remain strong. We must remain steady. We must be committed.

## GUARDTOONS





# In the News



(Above) The Guard Car is being primed to begin racing in NASCAR's Winston Cup Series in mid-October at the Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C.

(Right) The Guard Car team standing behind BH Motorsports' efforts to bring diversity to NASCAR Winston Cup racing include, from left, driver Ron Hornaday, co-owner Sam Belnavis, crew chief Doug Richert, co-owner Tinsley Hughes, and Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau



## Go Guard

### A driving force on the battlefield and the racetrack

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A gleaming new stock car with NATIONAL GUARD lettered in red across its hood will highlight the Army National Guard's emphasis on diversity and speed when the 800-horsepower Chevrolet Monte Carlo, No. 54, roars into NASCAR's Winston Cup Series this fall.

The 350,000-member Army National Guard is a diverse force that includes 27 percent minorities. It has repeatedly and speedily deployed citizen-soldiers to places like Bosnia and Afghanistan, and it flies helicopters and drives 60-ton Abrams tanks across terrible terrain.

Now it is venturing into the "pedal to the metal" world of NASCAR stock car racing to promote the benefits and awareness of the Army National Guard before one of America's largest sporting audiences.

This is the National Guard's Year of Diversity, and the National Guard will be the primary advertiser for a new high-speed team that also intends to bring diversity to America's premier racing enterprise that nearly 90 million people watch in person and on national television from February through November.

BH Motorsports, the team formed by African-Americans Sam Belnavis and Tinsley Hughes, will begin racing the "Guard Car" at Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte, N.C. in October.

The new team plans to compete in three Winston Cup events during the rest of this season before running in the entire 2003 series beginning next February at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Hendrick Motorsports is supporting the new team with cars, engines, crew training and marketing, explained owner Rick Hendrick who already sponsors four Winston Cup teams, including the Jeff Gordon team that has won the Winston Cup championship for four of the past seven seasons.

"There is a partnership of some significance here. It's not just any car. It's this car. It's not just any team. It's this team," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army National Guard's director, who recently told reporters about why his organization is backing BH Motorsports.

It's also about the NASCAR fans, said Schultz during a press conference at the speedway where the Guard Car was dis-

See CAR On Page 5

# Small girl, big message



**By Tech. Sgt. Ed Kelleher**

Virginia Air National Guard

RICHMOND, Va. — The child's drawing had been hanging on Virginia Air National Guard Col. Steve Hicks' office wall for nearly a year, and it kept bugging him. He didn't know who the young artist was.

The watercolor drawing, done on a plain sheet of construction paper, showed a house, a tree, and the U.S. flag. It was signed by someone spelling their first name "DARBY."

At the bottom, in large, underlined script, was the message, "ThaNK YOU."

The drawing had been left with citizen-airmen guarding the heavily fortified front gate of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing base just outside Richmond, Va., in the days immediately after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The security forces in turn made sure the drawing got to their wing commander.

Upon receiving the gift of gratitude, Hicks considered the drawing an inspiration to all members of his unit.

"For the Virginia Air Guard it's been the icon, like 'Let's roll,'" Hicks said.

In August, with the Sept. 11th anniversary approaching, Hicks worked with a military affairs reporter at the local newspaper to have an article published describing his desire to find the little boy named Darby. However, those efforts failed.

The payoff came through the Henrico County school system, which ran a database search for pupils named Darby in the county near the air base.

The youngster Hicks was searching for what turned out to be a blonde, blue-eyed 6-year-old girl named Darby Hill.

She was in for quite a ride with the Virginia Air National Guard unit.

Within days, the story of the little morale booster was featured in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, carried all over the nation on The Associated Press news wires, and read by the military in Air Force Times. Later, Hill also appeared on television and was the talk of the town.

But that wasn't all. On Sept. 6, Darby and her parents were guests of honor when Virginia Gov. Mark Warner visited the base to thank members of the National Guard, other reservists and their employers for the sacrifices they had made during the past year.

Darby sat in the cockpit of an F-16 "Flying Falcon" jet fighter, met Hicks and Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, the state's adjutant general, and sat with the governor as he signed a proclamation lauding the employers for their support.

The governor made a point of noting the inspirational effect of Darby's drawing.

"The message was clear," he said, "and it symbolized the feelings of millions of Virginians - 'Thank you' to the men and women of the National Guard for being there in time of crisis."

(Above) Col. Steve Hicks, Base Commander for Virginia Air National Guard's 192 Fighter Wing shows Darby Hill around his workplace. Darby gained prominence in the hearts and minds of the members of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd in the weeks following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. (Left) Her drawing, given to the base commander Col. Hicks, was framed and hung in the headquarters building where it boosted morale in the hectic weeks that followed. (Right) Darby was on hand to witness Virginia Governor Mark Warner's signing of a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserves sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve at the hangar Friday Sept. 6, 2002.



FROM PAGE 3

## Car

played for the first time.

"They're very loyal. They're very dedicated. They love this sport. And they're all patriotic," Schultz said. "Just look on race day. Watch the flags and their reaction to what goes on during the national anthem."

National Guard officials also like the marketing statistics that add to NASCAR's appeal as this country's most popular and fastest growing spectator sport. Nearly a third of the fans are between the recruitable ages of 18 and 34. Forty percent of the fans are female. The fans are 94 percent more likely than non-fans to have positive feelings about NASCAR sponsors.

The Guard Car's No. 54 represents all of the 50 states and four territories where Army Guard units are located, Schultz said. The team's show car was recently on display in Long Beach, Calif., during the National Guard Association of the United States' annual conference. It will also be displayed at other locations such as high schools and shopping malls.

Veteran driver Ron Hornaday, a two-time champion in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, will pilot the Guard Car in the UAW-GM Quality 500 on Oct. 13 as well as at Atlanta, Ga., and in Rockingham, N.C., or in Homestead, Fla.

The new team intends to put a minority driver behind the wheel as soon as possible. BH Motorsports and the National Guard are collaborating in a Driver Development Program for minorities and women beginning this fall.

"This has been a long, long journey," said Belnavis who praised Hendrick and the Army Guard for helping make his and Hughes' dream come true. "The Guard's agenda is diversity, and we were in the right place at the right time."

Belnavis is a former director of sports marketing for Miller Brewer Co., and Hughes is co-founder of Mansion Motorsports.

"This is a great opportunity and a great cause. Patriotism in our country today is where it ought to be," said Hendrick. "I can't imagine a better combination than to have the Guard behind this team. We will open our resources to [BH Motorsports] and let them use what we have to make this work."

FROM PAGE 1

## Diversity

"Work has always been work, and home has always been home," Ellen added. "As busy as she was, we always had our weekends."

"You have demonstrated exemplary skill and a commitment to the highest standards of military service," wrote Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP who presented Cleckley with the Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award in 1998.

"As the first African-American woman to achieve the position of line general in the Army National Guard, you bear not only the responsibilities of your new office but the mantle of a role model others will emulate," Mfume stated. "I am confident you will meet every challenge in your new career."

## Car driver

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

LONG BEACH, Calif. - Morty Buckles is an African-American mechanical engineer who is preparing to take the ride of his life in a stock car promoting the National Guard, even though he is not sure when, or if, he will get that ride.

A "ride" is racing lingo for driving a stock car. The ride Buckles wants most to get is in a red, white and blue Chevrolet Monte Carlo and racing before the millions of people who watch the Winston Cup Series - the major league of stockcar racing.

"That would be a high point of my life, to start my first Winston Cup race," said Buckles, 31, who recently became a celebrity of sorts in Long Beach, Calif., during the National Guard Association of the United States' 124th annual conference.

Car No. 54, with "NATIONAL GUARD" prominently painted in bold red letters across the hood, was displayed as the flag car for BH Motorsports from Charlotte, N.C., a new team that is attempting to bring diversity to America's premier spectator sport. Hendrick Motorsports, which includes four-time Winston Cup champion Jeff Gordon, is supporting the new team with cars, engines, and crew training.

The National Guard is the primary advertiser for the "Guard Car" that is intended to promote its benefits and diversity to the 90 million or so people who watch Winston Cup races every February through November, explained Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard. The car's number, 54, signifies the 50 states and four territories where Guard units are located.

Schultz has championed greater diversity throughout the Army Guard. He also knows a thing or two about stock car racing because he built and raced a 1949 Chevy for a couple of years on dirt tracks in the Sioux City, Iowa, area as a young man.

"I liked the challenge of competing that

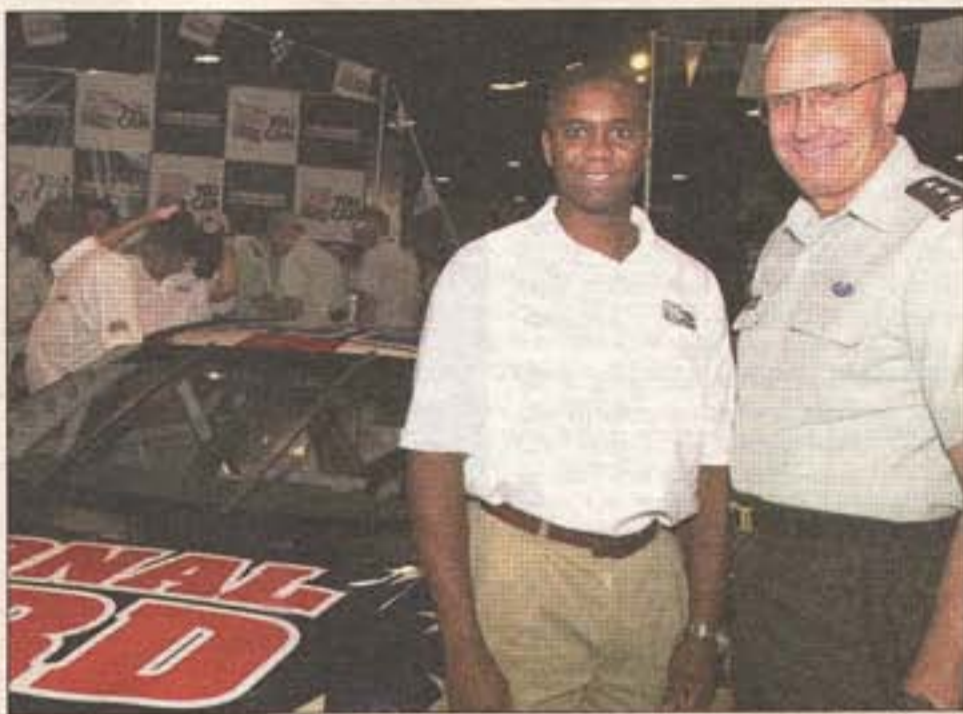


Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Morty Buckles, car No. 54's driver-in-training, and Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, take their stand in Long Beach, Calif., beside the new Winston Cup stock car for which the National Guard is the primary advertiser.

was combined with a little risk," Schultz recalled. "Racing is a good, clean sport. It's a lot of fun."

Schultz has thrown his support behind African-Americans Sam Belnavis and Tinsley Hughes, who have formed the BH team that intends to begin Winston Cup racing at Lowe's Motor Speedway near Charlotte on Oct. 13.

Morty Buckles, meanwhile, has joined the Driver Development Program that BH Motorsports has organized for minority drivers. He hopes to become car No. 54's first African-American driver after he gets some seasoning in the lesser-known but equally fast-paced Automobile Racing Club of America - ARCA for short.

"I hope to race an ARCA car for BH Motorsports this year or next," Buckles said. "After I get some seat time in ARCA races and get used to the speed and the pit

stops, I hope to sprinkle some Winston Cup starts into the next couple of seasons. For now, it is better for the BH team to go with a more experienced NASCAR driver."

Buckles knows there is much more at stake than driving fast and qualifying for the main-event Winston Cup races. This represents his chance to help re-open the Winston Cup door for other minority racers.

"This is huge," said Buckles. "This support from Hendrick and NASCAR for minority drivers is what it takes to change the perceptions about this sport."

Only six African-Americans have raced in the Winston Cup, and none are racing on the circuit now. The Associated Press recently reported.

"We've got a diversity program working, but this is a very difficult sport to get into," NASCAR Chief Executive Officer Bill

College in 1992 and studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in Boston.

Cleckley acknowledged many people - sergeants and civilians and general officers including recently retired Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, the former chief of the National Guard Bureau - for helping her to obtain her own silver stars.

"I am humbled by how other people have made a difference in my life," she said.

"I am certainly honored to be a general officer. I realize what a select group I have become a part of," said Cleckley who pledged to "continue my work at the next

level; to look at where we are and to be part of a team that will get us to where we need to be."

"We must give diversity more than just lip service, and we're doing that by establishing methods to achieve acceptance for all people, regardless of race and gender," added Cleckley who recalled the early days of her career when white males dominated the Army National Guard.

"Today, more women and minorities are advancing to key leadership positions throughout the National Guard," she said. "We've got a long way to go, but we're moving in the right direction."

# Sisters share the same date of rank

Staff Sgt. Erick Studenicka  
Nevada National Guard

CARSON CITY, Nev. — A Nevada Air National Guard promotion ceremony hosted by Nevada National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Giles Vanderhoof became a family affair as sisters Shelly Assiff, Robin Tibaduiza and Wanda Martinson-Castro were recognized simultaneously in a ceremonial pinning of their new rank.

During the short military ceremony in the adjutant general's headquarters, Assiff and Tibaduiza were pinned as majors and Martinson-Castro received her new rank of senior master sergeant.

Dozens of the trio's friends and relatives, including their mother Rose, crammed into Vanderhoof's office in Carson City to witness state history. The ceremony marked the first time in Nevada Air National Guard history that three sisters went through a pinning ceremony together.

"It was very special to share the experience of the ceremony with so many members of my family," said Assiff, who had her husband and children in attendance. "I was very honored that so many people showed up for a ceremony that really wasn't advertised."

Assiff, 37, who serves as the Air Guard's military personnel management officer, devised the idea for a simultaneous ceremony a few months ago when she realized the three sisters were all eligible for promotion within just a few days. The official date of rank for the three Air Guard members is now separated by just two days.

"It was a very unique ceremony," said Tibaduiza, who received her new rank with her daughter looking on. "Three sisters receiving their promotion on the same day is something you don't see very often."

Martinson-Castro echoed her sisters' senti-



Staff Sgt. Erick Studenicka, Nevada National Guard

(Above) Major Robin Tibaduiza, Senior Master Sgt. Wanda Martinson-Castro and Maj. Shelly Assiff pose for their newly-promoted family photo. (Below) Nevada's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Giles Vanderhoof takes a photo with two of the sisters and their families.

ment.

"It was an emotionally beautiful moment for our family, friends and colleagues," said Martinson-Castro, whose daughter stood

beside her as she received her new rank. "It was very overwhelming, but in a good way."

The three sisters grew up in Kaneohe, Hawaii, as part of a military family. Their

father, Robert, was a U.S. Army master sergeant awarded the Silver Star following World War II and, despite taking different paths, all eventually settled in northern Nevada and became members of the Nevada Air National Guard "High Rollers" 152nd Airlift Wing based in Reno.

Tibaduiza, 41, started her career as a Navy data systems technician. After four years there she transferred to the Air Guard and possesses a total of 23 years of military service. She is currently the Nevada Air Guard budget officer. Martinson-Castro, 44, is now in her 20th year of military service. She began serving as a Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, reservist as a civil engineering inspector. From there she transferred to a Air Force Reserve position at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif., and now works with the security police squadron in addition to her traditional Air Guard position as the wing's human resource advisor. Assiff also began her military career at Hickam working in the passenger terminal. According to Assiff, the potential for another promotion ceremony featuring the three sisters exists in the future once the trio has enough time-in-grade in their current ranks. "I can't see a reason why it couldn't happen," Assiff said.





(Above) General William J. Begert, commander, of Pacific Air Forces, and air component commander for the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii details the paintings of the F-16 over the Pentagon to Senator Byron L. Dorgan of South Dakota. (Right) Senator Dorgan speaks during the Air Force unveiling. (Below) An F-15 fighter of the 102nd Fighter Wing, Massachusetts Air National Guard, flies over the World Trade Center in this painting by Rick Herter.



## History recorded in art

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

Two large paintings portraying what Air National Guard pilots saw as they first flew over the flaming Pentagon and the smoking World Trade Center towers last Sept. 11 were unveiled by the Air Force on September's first Wednesday at the Pentagon.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper praised the paintings for capturing the tragic event in American history, and the members of the North Dakota and Massachusetts Air National Guard who scrambled skyward to defend their country.

Jumper said that the paintings, which will hang in Corridor 9 of the Pentagon, illustrate the horror and spirit of the moment.

"In those airplanes were pilots who had to contemplate doing the unthinkable," Jumper said. "It's what all of us are trained to do, but none of us ever thought we might have to do someday. And that is, to deal with the imponderable situation of having to confront one of our own airplanes, in our own skies, filled with our own citizens."

Major Dean Eckmann from North Dakota's 119th Fighter Wing is the pilot in the painting of an F-16 jet fighter making a low pass over the Pentagon about five minutes after a hijacked airliner crashed into the west side. That painting is titled "First Pass, Defenders Over Washington."

"This is like looking at a picture. It's just like I saw it," marveled Eckmann who said he was vectored to the Pentagon after taking off from Langley Air Force Base on coastal Virginia where the unit nicknamed the "Happy Hooligans" maintains an alert detachment.

Lieutenant Colonel Tim Duffy from Massachusetts' 102nd Fighter Wing, based at Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod, is the pilot in the painting of an F-15 banking left over the smoking towers of the World Trade Center in New York City before they collapsed. That painting is titled "Ground Zero, Eagles on Station."

"The whole morning was very surreal," said Duffy, a pilot for 19 years and a veteran of Desert Storm. "It felt like we were in the middle of a bad movie. Here we were flying combat air patrols over Manhattan. Never in our wildest dreams did we ever picture ourselves doing that."

The artist, Rick Herter of Kalamazoo, Mich., presented the 75 by 44-inch paintings to the Air Force one week before the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

The paintings, sponsored by Rolls-Royce North America and Boeing Integrated Defense Systems, are now part of the Air Force Art Collection.

Herter said the paintings are tributes to the military men and women who put in long hours defending America.

"Most of us go to bed each night and don't give those people a second thought," he said. "We live in a country that has been safe and secure for so long, and we have taken it for granted because our warriors are so good at what they do."

"It's very appropriate that these paintings are featured here at the Pentagon," Herter added, "because it is this building and many of the individuals in this building that bears the scars of that morning."

Other members of the Air Guard wings, among the first members of the American military to respond to the crisis, were also present when the paintings were displayed for the first time.

Those from the North Dakota wing included two other pilots, Maj. Brad Derrig and Capt. Craig Borgstrom, as well as Tech. Sergeants Jay Jonson, Tom Lawrence and Brad Jernberg, the crew chiefs who launched the jet fighters from Langley.

Others from the Massachusetts Air Guard wing were Maj. Dan Nash, the pilot who flew with Duffy, and Master Sgt. Wing Ng and Staff Sgt. Jim Stiers, the two crew chiefs.

"It's a once in a lifetime honor to be invited to something like this by the Secretary of the Air Force," said Lawrence, who had previously experienced the horror of terrorism.

He was serving with the active Air Force in Saudi Arabia when the Khobar Towers were bombed in the military complex near Dhahran and 19 American servicemen were killed on June 25, 1996.

"The training kicked in when the horn went off and we did our job to launch those planes," recalled Lawrence about the memorable morning of Sept. 11. "We didn't have time to reflect about why we were doing this until after the planes had taken off. Then it all set in."

# PJ puts a new spin on commuting

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking  
National Guard Bureau-Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Living and working near the nation's capital for most people means having to battle some of the worst road congestion seen anywhere in the United States.

Some people go to great lengths to avoid the infamous I-495 "Beltway" by moving close to where they work, riding the Metro subway or regional train, hopping a bus or carpool, while still others ride their bicycles on hike and bike trails.

However, one ingenious Air National Guard citizen-airman who lives on Bolling Air Force Base in southeast Washington, D.C., and works in Arlington, Va., in a high-rise office area known as Crystal City, uses the waters of the Potomac River to his advantage.

Instead of getting in his car and driving across the river on one of a few bridges that span the wide river, Chief Master Sgt. David Power, a pararescue and combat control functional manager for the National Guard Bureau, plunges his yellow-plastic sea kayak into eastern shore waters of the Potomac. He then paddles north in site of the towering Washington Monument and beaches his craft on the other side near his offices where he finishes his commute by walking the kayak and other gear with improvised wheels for the craft on a nearby bike trail.

"It normally takes me about one hour and 10 minutes to do the entire route. It's about two and a half miles across the Potomac and then a 20-minute walk to the office in Crystal City," Power said. "It's a great commute and it's a great physical workout at the same time."

While other commuters in and around the Beltway region are stuck in traffic amidst angrily tooting horns, and others are crammed into subway cars like sardines, Power on an almost daily basis in the spring and summer gets to savor the beautiful skyline of the nation's capital while waves gently wash over his bobbing craft powered his shoulders and arms using double-kayak paddles.

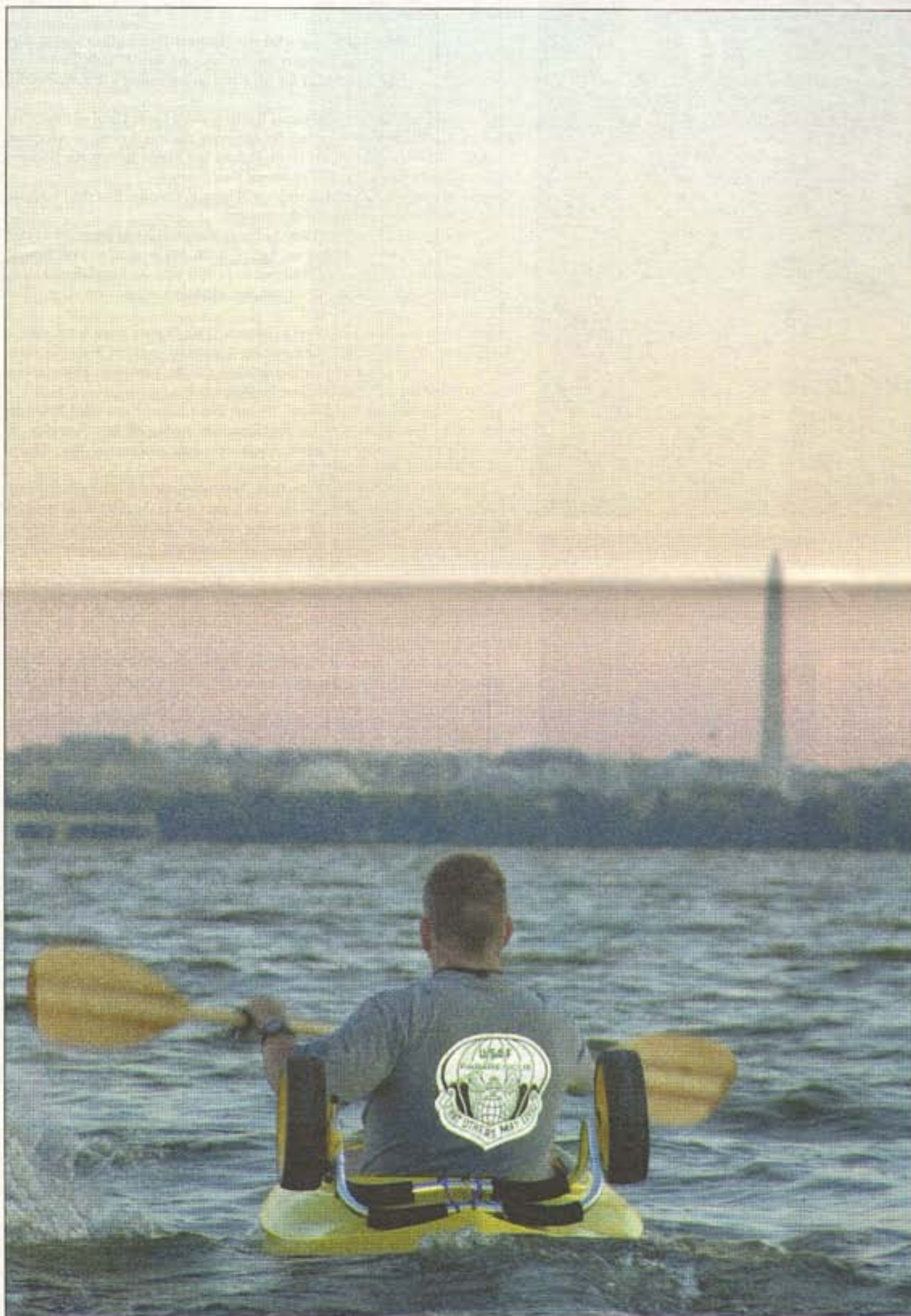
"You get to see all of the monuments in Washington, D.C. It's quite a site," Power added. "I think about all the traffic that's backed up on the bridges every morning and I laugh about it how I'm not there stuck on the clogged roads."

Power could use the peace and solitude of paddling back and forth over the Potomac River everyday. He and two, nine-person teams affiliated with the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing were credited with saving the life of a young woman the day after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks felled both the World Trade Center towers. Their rescue was one of only a handful of survivors that were saved.

Despite that one bright note on Sept. 12th, days later the pararescuemen also brought out the bodies of slain firefighters and other law enforcement officers killed while they were trying to rescue victims before the collapses.

It was an emotional time for the Air Guard citizen-airmen as they recovered remains at Ground Zero in New York City.

"We were just a small number of guys working with thousands of other doing the same thing they



# around the Washington D.C. area



Photos by Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks, National Guard Bureau

Chief Master Sgt. David Power, an Air National Guard pararescue jumper, doesn't get in a car, or hop a train to get to work everyday – he paddles. Starting at Bolling Air Force Base, Power slides his bright yellow kayak into the Potomac River and departs (upper left) the marina, heading toward (left) Arlington, Va., where his National Guard Bureau office is located. Along the way (opposite), he gets to enjoy the scenery of the Washington monument and other memorials that dot the Washington skyline. Once on shore, he attaches a pair of wheels to his small water craft and hikes for another 20 minutes to Crystal City where he showers and dons the uniform of the day.

were," Power said.

After that experience in New York, Powers said the daily kayak trips back and forth across the historic Potomac River provide him with time to reflect.

"I really enjoy doing it. It keeps me sane and keeps my head clear," he added.

Although his total commuting time on the kayak can add up to more than two hours and 20 minutes, Power said that by combining

both his commuting time and physical fitness regimen as stringently required by the U.S. military, he believes he actually saves time.

Instead of being stuck in traffic on the Beltway and then having to go to a gym to work out, Power said he can "kill two birds with one stone."

Obviously his family – which includes wife Jennifer and his three sons Dalton, Collin and Nolan approve of his voyages on the Potomac.

As a birthday present, they recently purchased the hard plastic sea kayak.

For four previous summers, he used a more unwieldy inflatable boat to get back and forth.

"I really enjoy it because I get to spend more time with my family," Power added.

Despite the cleverness of his commuting efforts, Power said he still receives quips from passers-by when they see him walking his "kayak on wheels" along the Mount Vernon

bicycle trail or while dutifully locking it up alongside a bike rack outside of Jefferson Plaza One where he works.

"You wouldn't believe the looks I get from people," he added.

But as the summer rolls by, Power keeps paddling despite the jokes and hopes that a thunderstorm or high wind gusts blow up while he's underway.

"I haven't flipped the kayak yet," Power said.

# Air Guard units: The total force in action

By Staff Sgt. Nate Hler

363rd Aerospace Expeditionary Wing

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia – More than 90 percent of the 363rd Expeditionary Services Squadron at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia is made up of citizen-airmen from Air National Guard units – an excellent example of total force in action.

"We currently have the largest percentage of Air National Guard troops on base – 90 percent of the unit," said Maj. Steven Whitney, 363rd Expeditionary Services commander. "The breadth of experience our Air National Guard counterparts bring to the flight is amazing; it's allowed us to maintain the excellent daily support at every facility."

From running three dining facilities, the base pool and the fitness center to putting on bingo, weekly tournaments, intramural sports leagues and other nightly events, the Guard is making it all happen.

Oklahoma native Senior Airman Roy Dozier works with three other Air National Guard airmen to keep equipment ready for check out at Outdoor Recreation.

"I'm basically a hired hand to take care of the troops," said Dozier. "We got in here and got things organized. I enjoy taking care of the troops and have a good time doing it."

Dozier isn't the only Guard member enjoying what he's doing. New York Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Mark Kearns sees about 120 to 220 people using his facility each night – the Oasis Pool.

"We try to greet everyone with a smile and make everybody's stay here as enjoyable as possible," said Kearns. "That's what being in services is all about. We try to make the time people have to spend away from their families as enjoy-

able as it can be."

The Learning Resource Center is one of the most-used facilities on the base. The staff takes care of about 10,000 customers per week, according to Tech. Sgt. Karla McClure, a Washington Air National Guard citizen-airman normally based out of Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. The staff maintains a computer room, the morale phone room, videos for checkout, the library, the education center, and the ideogram and videophone software programs.

"We've all come from different locations and backgrounds, and we've really come together as a super team," said McClure. "I love working at the Learning Resource Center because we get the chance to help brighten so many people's lives. It's wonderful to see people leave here smiling when they've just finished talking with their spouses either via e-mail or the morale phones. It's just a great feeling to be able to help people stay connected with their families."

While the Services Squadron make-up is unique, it certainly isn't the only unit with Guard and Reserve members playing big roles in mission accomplishment. The 363rd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, the 363rd Expeditionary Transportation Squadron, the 363rd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, the 8th Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron and Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia all have many Guard and Reserve troops working alongside active-duty members to accomplish the mission.

**Oklahoma native Senior Airman Roy Dozier works with three other Air National Guard airmen to keep equipment ready for check out at Outdoor Recreation.**



## Air National Guard chief operating officer retires

By Master Sgt. Ren Willie

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Brig. Gen. Paul S. Kimmel, chief operating officer for the Air National Guard recently retired from the National Guard Bureau with more than 33 years of military service.

Kimmel was responsible for overseeing the daily operations at state and federal levels of 88 flying units, 200 geographically separated units and more than 112,000 citizen-airmen.

His assignments were varied and included: chief operations officer and director of plans and programs. He also was the readiness assistant to the chief of staff for the director of the Air National Guard and assistant director of operations responsible for mobilization and deployments.

"Lieutenant Gen. (Daniel) James (III) affectionately calls me the 'Warlord,'" Kimmel said. His job has entailed future strategy and current crisis type of operations, which crosscut every other directorate. He also served as a member of the Air Force Board as the Air National Guard representative and helped develop and monitor the five-year planning process.

Kimmel supported units, in real-world deployments by traveling extensively to visit and maintain personal contact with wing commanders and state staffs.

Kimmel began his military career after receiving his commission through Officer Training School in 1969. Upon completion of undergraduate-pilot training, he was stationed at Thai Royal Air Force Base, Thailand, flying C-130 "Hercules" tactical airlift, and airborne command and control aircraft during the Vietnam War. He flew more than 120 combat sorties, logging more than 1,100 hours during his year in Thailand. He also facilitated rescue missions during Operation Linebacker II in 1972 while on temporary duty from Okinawa Air Base, Japan, to Clark Air Base, Philippines.

He transferred to the Utah Air National Guard in May of 1976.

"The Utah Air National Guard was my introduction to the Guard after serving seven and a half years active duty," said Kimmel. "The first drill I attended we lined up in the parking lot and reported in. It took a little getting used to."

"I started flying the KC-97L as a young pilot. I affectionately remember it as a fly-by committee plane. I remember getting the KC-135, and going through model conversions and scheduling (Strategic Air Command) alerts at Hill Air Force Base, (Utah)," Kimmel added. "I was chief of maintenance for six years and began to understand how the Air Guard worked. I had

a great group of aircraft maintainers and the finest managers, Chief Master Sgt. Jack L. Jones. As Operations Group Commander I was proud of how the unit performed."

During the Persian Gulf War activation, Kimmel was assigned to Jeddah Air Base, Saudi Arabia, where his primary missions included mission development and launch and recovery of more than 20 tanker sorties per day. It was the largest tanker task force ever assembled in Air Force history.

Prior to the conflict in the Middle East, it was in the late 1980s when the military draw down began and the Air Force began to feel the loss, Kimmel said. It became evident that the Guard would be called on to play a bigger and bigger role as the Air Force realized they would have to use the Guard, as cutbacks made it a necessity.

"I am proud of the professionalism in the Air National Guard," Kimmel said. "Our combat capabilities match the active Air Force. I would like to think that I had a small part in making that happen."

Recently Kimmel flew his final flight, in an F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighter from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., with the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Fighter Wing.

Gen. Kimmel has served at National Guard Bureau for the past eight years.



Kimmel

"It has been a privilege to work with so many great minds who are dedicated smart people," Kimmel added. "I will take away with me, after eight years at Guard Bureau, an appreciation how the nation works and an appreciation of the Constitution."



# News Makers

## Leapfest XX

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

WEST KINGSTON, R.I. — People who ride motorcycles know about South Dakota. People who soar in balloons know about New Mexico. Military people who jump out of perfectly good airplanes — or helicopters — know about Rhode Island. They know where the best action is year in and year out.

"A lot of German airborne soldiers want to come here," said Capt. Andreas Von Weihe of the German Army's 31 Airborne Brigade in August while taking part for the first time in Leapfest.

Leapfest is the short name for the International Military Parachute Competition that is the only event like it in the world and is hosted every August by the Rhode Island Army National Guard with the blessing of the National Guard Bureau.

Leapfest turned 20 this year, and word has certainly gotten around among the international airborne brotherhood that West Kingston, R.I. is the place to be.

Forty-two teams competed. Fifteen of them came from 11 foreign countries. That was the largest international turnout in the event's history.

Thailand sent a Royal Air Force special operations team half way around the world. Other teams came from South Africa and Tunisia, Ecuador and El Salvador. Poland participated for the first time. So did Jordan. The United Kingdom sent two teams from its reserve Territorial Army. Three Canadian teams jumped.

"This is what we hoped this would grow to. We wanted to foster these relations with the international teams," said retired Maj. Gen. N. Andre Trudeau, who helped bring Leapfest to life in 1982.

This was Canada's year.

One of the two teams from the 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment Parachute Company in Quebec took home the team championship, Canada's first. And Cpl. J.P.A.M. Dufour from that outfit was the individual champion.

Army Guard teams from Georgia's 121st Infantry and Maryland's 20th Special Forces Group finished second and third on the sweltering Saturday when the heat index climbed to an estimated 103 degrees.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Skipper from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., finished second, and Kentucky Army Guard Lt. Col. Wayne Burd took third. They were among the 168 parachutists who dropped off the back ramps of four CH-47 "Chinook" helicopters from the Pennsylvania Army Guard.

## Alaska scout honored in D.C.

Alaska National Guard  
Public Affairs Office

CAMP DENALI, Alaska — An Alaska National Guardsman from Nikiski has won national recognition for his military achievements by winning the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award for U.S. Army Pacific.

Staff Sgt. Troy M. Zimmerman, who is with Company B, 3rd Battalion 297th Infantry (Scouts), traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive his award and be honored along with 16 other soldiers and airmen recognized for outstanding achievements. The NCO of the Year award was the final result of winning many smaller competitions.

In December 2001, Zimmerman found out he won the battalion NCO competition, which meant he only had one month to prepare for the state-level contest in January 2002. The two-day state event took place at the Alaska Guard Armory on Fort Richardson and consisted of five events: physical training test, drill and ceremony, common task tests, 50-question written exam, and appearing before a board of six to seven command sergeants major.

With such a short period of time to prepare, Zimmerman explains he had to change his routine in order to have enough study time.

"I'm a schoolteacher, so I would be up at 4:00 a.m., head to school and study for two hours before class," he says. "Then at night after putting my boys to bed, I'd crack out the study guides again. My wife was very patient with me."

The studying paid off and Zimmerman advanced to the U.S. Army Pacific competition held in Hawaii in April. Unlike the state-level contest, this one was a "one-shot deal," Zimmerman says. He'd get one appearance before a board of the highest ranking enlisted members in the Pacific Command of the Army and his appearance, military bearing, and answers to questions ranging from customs and courtesy to military history would determine if he won.

Though he only had to make a single appearance, Zimmerman explains the soldiers who make it to the U.S. Army Pacific level get to spend a week in Hawaii.

"The whole idea of bringing the candidates to Hawaii is to make it a reward for successfully competing up to that level," he says. "I brought my wife with me and we made a mini-vacation out of it."



Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki congratulates Staff Sgt. Troy Zimmerman on being chosen U.S. Army Pacific Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

Using the same routine that brought success at the state competition, Zimmerman says he got up two hours earlier than his wife to study every day before the competition and then spent the rest of the day enjoying Hawaii.

After four months of intensive studying of field manuals and common tasks, plus working hard to stay in shape, Zimmerman was chosen the top NCO for the U.S. Army Pacific competition. His next stop was the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where he says he and his wife enjoyed reaping the rewards of his hard work.

"The Army Ball topped off a whirlwind week of award ceremonies, banquets, luncheons, a cocktail party at (Lieutenant) General (Russell) Davis' (chief of the National Guard Bureau) quarters, and a tour of the Pentagon," Zimmerman says. "The sergeant major of the Army, Jack Tilley, awarded me his coin, which is one of my most prized awards that I received in D.C."

Zimmerman began his career in the Alaska Guard in 1989 after serving in the Minnesota Army Guard. He works as an infantry scout team leader and has volunteered to support several disasters while serving in Alaska. He went on active duty during the Kenai River Flood in 1995 and then again in 1996 for the Big Lake Fire. More recently, during annual training 2001, Zimmerman supported the Special Olympic Winter Games in Girdwood.

In addition to being a soldier in the Guard, Zimmerman also teaches Spanish and history at the high school in Nikiski where he lives with his wife, two sons and a daughter.

## Spaatz Trophy

By Lt. Col. Phyllis E. Phipps-Barnes  
District of Columbia Air National Guard

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The District of Columbia's 113th Fighter Wing excelled again as it was named the recipient of the 2002 Spaatz Trophy that is awarded to the overall outstanding Air National Guard flying unit.

The trophy, presented by the National Guard Association of the United States, was named for Gen. Carl Spaatz, the first chief of staff of the independent Air Force.

The award criteria includes six areas: events of national and international significance, exercises and deployments, operational airlift missions, human resources, accident-rate history, unit awards and community involvement. Although the 113th excels in all of these areas, Brig. Gen. David F. Wherley, Jr., commander of the 113th, believes that the unit was recognized primarily for two major events that occurred last year.

"Another reason is that we have been able to take advantage of the talents and skills of our very diverse force," Wherley added.

The first event was a very successful deployment in April 2001 to Argentina, at the request of the U.S. State Department. The unit deployed eight F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighters, 44 tons of cargo and 143 citizen-airmen for Operation Southern Falcon in South America. The F-16s flew 118 sorties totalling 278-flying hours against Argentine Air Force Mirage and A-4 fighters during the exercise.

Lt. Gen. William Hobbins, commander of 12th Air Force and Air Forces for U.S. Southern Command, said in a memorandum to the Air National Guard director, that the unit deployed and redeployed for the mission despite numerous challenges.

The 113th deployed "flawlessly in spite of the many obstacles that seemed to plague this mission. As a result, the Air National Guard far exceeded the highest standards set for this deployment," Hobbins noted. "More importantly were the positive impressions and relationships formed with the local community, the Argentine Air Force and the country's senior military leadership including President Fernando de la Rúa."

It also didn't hurt that 20 percent of the Guardsmen who deployed were fluent in Spanish, including two of the pilots.

More particularly, the second event marking awarding of the trophy was the unit's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Minutes after the airliner struck the Pentagon, an F-16 fighter was launched to intercept the terrorist controlled airliner headed toward Washington, D.C., that eventually crashed in Pennsylvania. Also, a combat air patrol was immediately established and maintained by 113th's F-16s which flew continuously for the next 60 hours.

# NGUAS told of a lighter National Guard

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

Some armor brigades in the Army National Guard will be transformed into lighter, more mobile outfits that will be similar to the leaner, lighter, more lethal units that the active Army is converting to, the Secretary of the Army told National Guard leaders in September.

Thomas E. White explained the broad scope of the new Army National Guard Restructuring Initiative to the 1,800 delegates in Long Beach, Calif., during the National Guard Association of the United States' 124th annual conference.

The restructured units will remain fully capable of conducting combat operations wherever they are needed and will not be reclassified as support elements, the Army's civilian leader insisted. They will also be more beneficial to governors for state active duty, he said.

These units will be "first and foremost, war-fighting formations that are prepared for the full spectrum of operations that range from major combat to our duty here in the homeland," he explained. "We are not walking away from our current mission set. We're simply better preparing our Army for the future, and you, the Guard, are a critical part of that future."

Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, has endorsed that program.

"We're talking about the Guard turning in tanks. I'm not worried about it. The tanks we're turning in wouldn't go to war anyway," Schultz told Army Guard leaders. "I just want you to know that the Army Guard will be part of the transformation. I would have us accelerate some of the new ideas that the secretary outlined."

The new program will introduce two new types of organizations - mobile light brigades and multi-functional divisions - to the force structure, White said.

The restructuring will reduce the Army Guard's tracked combat vehicle fleet by about a third, approximately 2,400 vehicles, with commensurate savings in maintenance and other costs, White said.

The restructuring process will begin in 2008 and should be completed by 2012, he projected.

Four brigades will be affected, according to Army Guard officials familiar with the plan. The armor outfits with Cold War-era equipment will be turned into mobile infantry units with enough light vehicles, such as HUMVEES, to carry them to the action.

The lighter, more mobile units will be more beneficial to governors who White acknowledged "have become more and more concerned about the security of critical infrastructure over the past year" since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"Clearly, the threats to our infrastructure



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**Secretary of the Army Thomas White and Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, enjoy a light moment in Long Beach, Calif., where White explained the Army Guard's new restructuring initiative to delegates attending the National Guard Association of the United States' annual conference.**

(such as bridges and power plants) are not going to go away anytime soon," he added.

White said it is too early to know which specific brigades would be changed from heavy to light units, but he indicated it would be the ones with older equipment that would be among the last to be mobilized for war.

The restructuring will not affect the Pennsylvania Army Guard's 56th Mechanized Brigade that will be transformed into one of the more mobile, wheeled Stryker brigades that the Army is fielding or the Army Guard's 15 enhanced separate brigades.

The restructuring program is not a response to the terrorist attacks, said one Guard official who explained "we were talking about homeland security requirements long before 9-11. September 11 just put an exclamation mark on it. It sped things up."

"The National Guard has been in the homeland defense business since 1636," observed Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"These multi-purpose brigades and divisions would be of much more use, not only to war-fighting commanders because we can get them to the war-fight quicker, but, I think, for governors and for peacetime

deployments under state control," White said.

Change, he observed, is inevitable. "Even as the armed forces fight the present war against terrorism, we are also transforming to meet the challenges of future wars," White told the conference. "This should come as no surprise to you because the history of the Guard is literally a history of transformation."

The Militia Act of 1903 began transforming more than 1,000 local units into the modern National Guard, he pointed out, and the Army Guard took part in the Army's division redesign study in 1996 that advocated changing some combat units into support elements.

Now some of the Guard's heavy armor units need to be changed into more mobile combat units to support the new defense strategy summed up by the phrase "Four-Two-One." That requires the Army to deploy to four areas at the same time, to swiftly defeat adversaries in two of those areas, and to decisively defeat an enemy in one of them.

"Transformation is an imperative, not an option," White stressed. "I know I can count on the Guard to deliver its part."

The Army secretary praised the Guard as being "the bedrock of our Army" for well

over 300 years and pledged to work closely with the National Guard Bureau and the states' adjutants general to get this transformation right.

"Our current relationship is one of trust and confidence, and our very future depends on sustaining that," White said. "I have no intention of losing the strong working relationship that we have developed over the years."

Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta praised members of the National Guard for responding so quickly and completely to last September's terrorist attacks.

He presented plaques of appreciation to Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III and to Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton, command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard.

"I am particularly appreciative for the assistance the National Guard provided in protecting America's airports," Mineta told the National Guard Association's conference. "I suspect very few of you [had] received specific training in airport security."

"Yet, when the commander-in-chief called, you stepped forward. Your contribution to airport security in the weeks and months following the terrorist attacks was visible and valuable, immeasurable and undeniable."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking, National Guard Bureau

Fighter pilot Maj. Billy Hutchison of the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Wing folds the U.S. flag he carried upon returning to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., after piloting F-16 "Fighting Falcon" in a Sept. 11th memorial flyover the Pentagon. It was exactly one year ago Hutchison had flown over a burning Pentagon.

## Guardians remember the victims and heroes of 9-11

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, Sgt. 1st Class Jack Holt, Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — One year to the day after he saw the Pentagon burning below his jet fighter plane, Air National Guard Maj. Billy Hutchison flew over the rebuilt structure to help Americans remember the day that will forever be known as "September Eleven."

Hutchison was part of the fighter formation from the District of Columbia's 113th Wing that flew over the Pentagon after President George W. Bush, a former Air National Guard pilot himself, addressed the nation in front of the west wing that had billowed fire and smoke 365 days earlier.

Hutchison carried a U.S. flag, his squadron's flag and a unit guidon in the cockpit for the event watched by millions.

"I was the first one there that day a year ago flying above the Pentagon," Hutchison recounted after landing at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on September's second Wednesday. "It brought back a lot of memories."

So did the day for a lot of National Guard people, many of whom vowed to get on with their lives following a year of national mourning but to never forget their brothers and sisters who died at the hands of terrorists in hijacked airliners.

The National Guard remembered Sept. 11, one of this country's most bittersweet anniversaries, in many ways.

About 300 members of the Army Guard family attended a memorial service at their readiness center in Arlington, Va. One hundred or so members of the National Guard Bureau's military and civilian staff attended Protestant and Catholic services at Jefferson Plaza One in Arlington. Members of the Air National Guard stayed on duty at Andrews and talked among themselves during lunch or whenever they could.

"This is an emotional time for us. Each person is looking for direction and not looking to a memorial for the sake of mourning," said Chief Master Sgt. Samoris Hall at the Air Guard Readiness Center. "We are memorializing those people who were lost by remaining mission ready."

All told, more than 47,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard were taking part in Noble Eagle missions at home and Enduring Freedom operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the world as they tried to find time to catch their breath and reflect on a traumatic year.

"It is appropriate that we pause for just a few minutes and remember and, yes, strengthen our

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## States

# Northern Command: Defending our nation

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

LONG BEACH, Calif. — The new U.S. Northern Command will strive to help defend the homeland against terrorism in the same spirit that the National Guard has dealt with homeland defense, natural disasters and civil disturbances for centuries, the recently-appointed commander told Army and Air Guard leaders recently.

And there is no way the Northern Command can perform its new job without the Guard, Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart told the 1,800 delegates gathered in Long Beach, Calif., for the National Guard Association of the United States' 124th annual conference.

"We can't have a Northern Command, we can't provide for the homeland defense and the homeland security of this great nation and this area of responsibility without the National Guard," said Eberhart to loud applause during a 30-minute address that he delivered without a script.

"We will have to continue to do those things that you've done forever, in terms of mitigat-

ing the circumstances surrounding floods, fires, hurricanes, and the list goes on," said Eberhart. "Yes, mitigate what might happen in terms of a terrorist attack."

"My view is that the Guard is going to play, has played and will continue to play squarely in every mission of our armed forces, from peacekeeping and peace making to, God forbid, global war," he added.

It was the first time that many of the Guard leaders from the 50 states and four territories heard first-hand how the Northern Command headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., will function and how much their 460,000 citizen-soldiers and airmen are valued by the general who was named the new homeland defense command's first commander in June.

Eberhart, a 1968 Air Force Academy graduate who flew 300 combat missions in Vietnam and who has since served for two years as the Air Force vice chief of staff, will officially assume his new command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. in October.

However, he has clearly done his homework about the National Guard's contribu-

tions to the nation's defense, at home and abroad, and shaped the Northern Command for the task ahead.

Two of the first three Army divisions that deployed for World War I came from the National Guard, Eberhart pointed out, and three National Guard observation squadrons based in England were given Spitfires in September 1942 as part of the United States' participation in World War II.

He vowed to select the best people who apply for the Northern Command's positions regardless of their military affiliations, including the junior enlisted people and junior officers.

"We will not accept from the personnel community (the idea) that this has to be an active-duty Army person or that this has to be an active-duty Air Force person," Eberhart stressed. "If a Guard member is best suited to fill that position and he or she is available, that's who we will hire, I assure you."

He has already, for example, selected Maj. Gen. H Steven Blum, former commander of the Virginia and Maryland's Army Guard's

29th Infantry Division, as his chief of staff following Blum's successful tour as commander of allied forces in northern Bosnia last winter.

"I thought it was very encouraging. He clearly has a great grasp of the history of this country and the role the National Guard has played over the years and how much we are integrated with the entire military structure," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau.

"We're going to have 23 other Army and Air National Guard officers and noncommissioned officers working there, and we want to make more positions available for the National Guard on that staff," said Rees during his State of the Guard address the following morning. "We're looking for state contributions — individuals with skills needed at Northern Command."

The Northern Command in almost every case will support another agency, "in most cases a lead federal agency that's been asked for help by your governors," said Eberhart.

The assignments could come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FBI, or the Coast Guard, he said, adding "we will take tasking authority or taskings from the lead federal agency or from whomever is in charge."

The major difference between the Northern Command and the commands established for Europe, the Pacific, and for Central and South America after World War II, said Eberhart, is that the homeland, the United States, is in the new area of responsibility.

That means the Northern Command will have to provide unified support for civil authorities as well as for the president and the secretary of defense, he added. That, in turn, will require building relations with local law enforcement agencies to detect and deter terrorist acts and to train and work with emergency responders.

"This should not be a sandlot pickup game. And I don't know of anything more important to do as we invest our money in equipment, in training, and in exercising," Eberhart said. "We can't let the culture of 'the way we've always done it' stand in the way. I'm not satisfied with trying to keep a bad situation from getting worse. I would much rather prevent that situation. And we have to do that together."

Rees explained that a series of experiments and exercises during the next year will "instruct us on how these forces will be brought together."

"We've been working together pretty darned good," Eberhart pointed out. "We know how to work together to solve the problem."



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart (center), the first commander of the new Northern Command, is flanked by two Army National Guard generals expected to play key roles in the new homeland defense mission — Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau and Maj. Gen. H Steven Blum from Maryland, Eberhart's new chief of staff.

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## Remembered

resolve to carry on," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard, at the readiness center. "One of the things that you and I can do today is to share an obligation as we walk out of this place to follow the lives, to follow the example of those who we remember today."

"This is to help the healthy," observed Lutheran Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tom Minor following the Guard Bureau's Protestant service that was soothed with song by Air Guard Master Sgt. Artri Sherrod.

"Apprehension has been pretty high with armed Humvees and combat air patrols in the news," Minor said, "and we are all hopeful we can soon get back to the lifestyle we used to enjoy."

Some National Guard people will not have that chance. They were among the 3,025 who died in New York City and Arlington, Va., and near Shanksville in southwestern Pennsylvania during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and who have died during the year since.

Colonel Canfield "Bud" Boone, Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Ruth and civilian employees Carrie Blagburn, Peggie Hurt, Diana Padro, Cheryle Sincock and Sandra Taylor were at work at the Pentagon when they were killed.

Four members of the New York National Guard died because they were doing their civilian duties at the World Trade Center. They were Army Guard 1st Lt. Gerard Baptiste and Sgt. Larry Bowman and Air Guard Staff Sgt. Andrew Bunn, all New York City firefighters, and Air Guard Staff Sgt. Jerome Dominguez of the New York Police Department.

Sergeant 1st Class Daniel Romero from Colorado and Sgt. Gene Vance Jr. from West Virginia, both members of the Army Guard's 19th Special Forces Group, were killed last spring in Afghanistan.

Life does, however, go on, and some Guard people got the chance to demonstrate how and why they believe America will endure.

A dozen members of the New York National Guard helped open the New York Stock Exchange two days prior to the anniversary to show that the nation's financial center is still full of fight in the area where New York Guard troops distinguished themselves amidst the rubble of the twin towers.

Lincoln University on Wednesday paid tribute to Army Guard Lt. Col. David Richardson, one of its graduates, in Jefferson City, Mo. Richardson, now serving with the Guard



Bureau, received a Soldiers Medal for heroism at the Pentagon.

Major John Grote reminded Wednesday's hushed gathering at the Army Guard Readiness Center what it is that military people do best.

"What I remember from 9/11 with absolute clarity is my fellow soldiers, civilians and friends coming to the aid of those who needed it," said the medical operations officer from Iowa who remained at the Pentagon for five trying

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tom Roberts National Guard Bureau hours after the attack.

"The strength and resolve shown by our country and its citizens in what was indeed one of our darkest hours is the real story," Grote added. "The willingness to risk one's life for a family member, a fellow soldier, a fellow human being...I believe that is what we are all here to do."

Grote said he learned that lesson from his father, a retired Army Guard warrant officer. He has already instilled it in his young sons.

"I think my dad's a hero," said his oldest son Collin, 12. "But I don't think he thinks of himself that way."

A Memorial Wall honoring the National Guard's victims of Sept. 11 is in the works at the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., announced Col. Charles Baldwin.

It will be located at the end of the atrium leading to the first floor of the west wing, said the Army Guard's chief of staff, and will include an historical perspective of the events etched in granite.

The Smith Group of Washington, D.C., is donating its architectural expertise to the project that, Baldwin said, "will serve as a constant reminder of the sacrifices of our comrades."

(Above) Military and civilian employees of the National Guard Bureau join hands in a circle of unity and prayer at the exact time of impact of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. (Left) Army National Guard Col. Nancy Fortuin reflects on her comrades who were victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon during the first anniversary memorial service at the Army Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.



## TRAINING

# Keeping pace with high operations tempo

By Tech. Sgt. Deb Smith

Colorado Air National Guard

McCHORD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. — While many National Guard units may find it tough to keep up with new homeland security demands, the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Fighter Wing not only keeps up, it continues to train for its Air Expeditionary Force mission as well.

Operation "Provide Puget Sound" is the name given to the recent Colorado Air National Guard summer training deployment to McChord Air Force Base. Teamed up with fighter units from both the Oregon and Washington Air National Guard, as well as the U.S. Navy and the Western Area Defense Sector, wing citizen-airmen received a two-week break from their domestic Operation Noble Eagle alert mission to hit the books and get back to training for Operation Southern Watch slated for deployment in the Persian Gulf region.

But it was far from training as usual.

For this assignment, about 250 troops and 10 F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighters winged their way to Washington state to build up and deliver live ordinance — something they don't always get to do.

"This was our first opportunity to drop live ordinance using precision guided munitions in other than a combat zone," said Col. Mike Edwards, 140th Wing vice commander. "It was a chance for our pilots to see how and where they're hitting the target — a lot different than the standard 'dumb' bombs we normally use in peacetime training."

Colorado Air National Guard leaders said the training in high-tech munitions makes the Guard more relevant to the warfighting effort.

"The training munitions we normally drop are small 2,500-lb bombs that don't explode," added Lt. Col. "Buck" Buckingham, chief of wing safety. "These

can take us through all the basic steps of dropping a bomb, but the end result is not there unless you've actually guided that ordinance in and seen how it interacts with its intended target."

Although the deployment was indeed a break from the wing's usual business fare, the pace was just as demanding — and not just for the pilots. Maintenance personnel supported more than 120 successful sorties in just under 14 days.

Munitions crews built bombs on site to be dropped later at the nearby Yakima Valley Firing Center, a government-owned area approved for the delivery of live conventional and tactical weapons.

But training didn't stop on the flight line. There was something for everyone. Logistics, communications, information management, services, personnel, finance, medical, supply, weather, fuels, intel and operations all contributed to the deployment's success. In addition to working the two-week mission, many citizen-airmen conducted academic training to complement the hands-on experience.

But even with the wing deployed, the homeland security missions continued, thanks to the dedicated individuals who remained at home in Colorado. Buckingham said that since the air-to-air alert commitment had been reduced, the wing was now able to dedicate a smaller force to Noble Eagle activities and free up the remaining assets and personnel for continuation training and that's part of what made Operation Provide Puget Sound possible.

"Life changed for a lot of people after September 11th," added Buckingham. "It's that old adage of 'doing more with less' and we're working hard here in the wing to keep a sense of balance between our two very important missions."



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Deb Smith Colorado Air National Guard

(Above) Teamwork is a critical part of working with live munitions. These airmen work closely and quickly to ready this Colorado F-16 for its next sortie. (Left) Precision guided munitions are an essential part of the 140th Fighter Wing's "general purpose fighter" mission. Here, two Colorado airmen carefully remove a laser guided targeting pod for inspection.