

THE ON GUARD

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Major Moose: The chief is in the Guard

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

MONTGOMERY, M.D. — Most Americans know him as Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, the leader and national spokesman for the multi-agency task force which tracked down those accused of killing 10 people, wounding three others and terrorizing people around the nation's capital during October.

For the members of the D.C. Air National Guard, he's Maj. Charles Moose, commander of the 113th Wing's 60-member security forces squadron based at Andrews Air Force Base.

Moose, who seemed to breathe a little easier on Oct. 24, after two suspects had been arrested without incident early that morning, has become the new poster person for members of the National Guard and other military reservists who also maintain demanding civilian careers.

Moose, 49, has commanded the 113th Security Forces Squadron since May 2000, a D.C. Air Guard spokesperson explained. He has spent much of the past 13 months dealing with two unthinkable and historic events — the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon and October's hunt for the accused snipers.

Members of the National Guard and the president of the United States praised the no-nonsense Moose for his conviction and his compassion. The imposing police chief in his trademark tan shirt and black tie relayed the sniper's chilling message that "your children are not safe, anywhere at any time," and he repeatedly addressed the cold-blooded serial killer on national television.

"What you see is what you get with Maj.



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Brennan, 113th Wing

Like many other Guardsmen, Maj. Charles Moose (left), commander of the 113th Security Forces Squadron, leads a demanding life by dedicating himself to both his civilian and military careers. Above, Moose talks to Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray during a recent visit to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Moose. He is direct, but he is also a humanitarian," said Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Spear, the senior enlisted member of the security forces squadron who has recently retired from the U.S. Secret Service after 26 years.

"The admiration that he's received from the national and international media and communities comes as no surprise to us," added

Spear about his commander who grew up in Lexington, N.C., and studied American history at the University of North Carolina. Moose has also earned a doctorate in urban affairs, and he clearly knows how to balance his civilian and military obligations.

"He worked around the clock for two or three weeks after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001," Spear recounted. "He would

work all day at Montgomery County and then come to Andrews and work with us late into the night, making sure we had everything we needed to keep our planes and our part of the base secure. He'd spend the night and then go back to work at Montgomery County the next day.

"We're proud of him for what he has done," said Spear about Moose's highly visible participation with the sniper task force. "This is not a role that he would ordinarily relish."

"You have lifted a shadow of fear for many families. God bless you and may God bless the victims," President George Bush praised Moose, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told the *Associated Press*.

"Many police and law enforcement officers still serve their nation in the National Guard while supporting their communities as well. We are proud to count among them the leader of the task force that is even now working to bring this investigation to a conclusion — Police Chief Charles A. Moose, Montgomery County, Maryland," stated Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

The two accused snipers' victims include six who were killed in Montgomery County, next to the District of Columbia, where Moose has been the police chief since 1999.

That's where the killing began on Oct. 3. That's where it ended on Oct. 22. That's where it was determined on Oct. 24 that a Bushmaster XM-15, .223 caliber rifle recovered from the two suspects' car was linked by ballistics to 11 of 14 shootings attributed to the sniper.

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About The On Guard

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Guardsmen in the community

Chief Charles Moose: Law enforcement officer, citizen airman

By Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees

Acting Chief, National Guard Bureau

On behalf of the more than 458,000 members of the National Guard, I wish to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the families of those victims of the recent shooting incidents in the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area.

We also wish to extend our congratulations and our gratitude to the unified task force – comprised of state, local and federal officials – along with all who are continuing to work in this joint effort to bring those responsible to justice, and to return a sense of safety and security to the community at large.

Many police and law enforcement officers still serve their nation in the National Guard while supporting their communities as well. We are proud to count among them the leader of the task force that is even now working to bring this investigation to conclusion – Police Chief Charles A. Moose, Montgomery County Maryland. As a major



Rees

"Across our country, National Guard men and women have put their military training to good use for the benefit of their communities and families. Law enforcement is just one example among many where the public has benefited from skills the individual first learned or honed in the armed services."

in the District of Columbia Air National Guard, Chief Moose commands the 113th Security Forces Squadron.

Across our country, National Guard men and women have put their military training to good use for the benefit of their communities and families. Law enforcement is just

one example among many where the public has benefited from skills the individual first learned or honed in the armed services. Like Chief Moose, they proudly serve, working daily to assure that our ranks are filled with individuals who have earned the honor of being called citizen-soldiers.

GUARDTOONS



"He wants Hazardous Duty Pay, Sir!"



In the News

New Jersey's 119th Fighter Squadron

First squadron to fly 1,000 Operation Noble Eagle missions

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Olson
177th Fighter Wing

NEW JERSEY, — On July 12, Maj. Yarko Sos with the 119th Fighter Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, flew the unit's 1,000th mission in support of Operation Noble Eagle. It became the first fighter squadron in the Department of Defense to reach that milestone.

"It shows the tremendous effort the wing and the maintenance people have put together to support the mission," said Sos, an F-16C pilot and assistant weapons officer, 119th Fighter Squadron.

"This is something our unit is tremendously proud of," said Col. Mike Cosby, commander of the 177th Fighter Wing. "This achievement was the result of a total team effort not only by our members, but by their families and employers who have all have made sacrifices to allow us to do what we do best - defending our country."

Operations at the 177th surged in response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, due to its strategic location between New York City and Washington, D.C.

More than 650 personnel were activated to support 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week combat air patrols (CAPs) over cities that include New York, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia, as well as, other missions tasked to the unit. The 119th Fighter Squadron is a 17-aircraft, F-16C fighter squadron assigned to the 177th Fighter Wing.

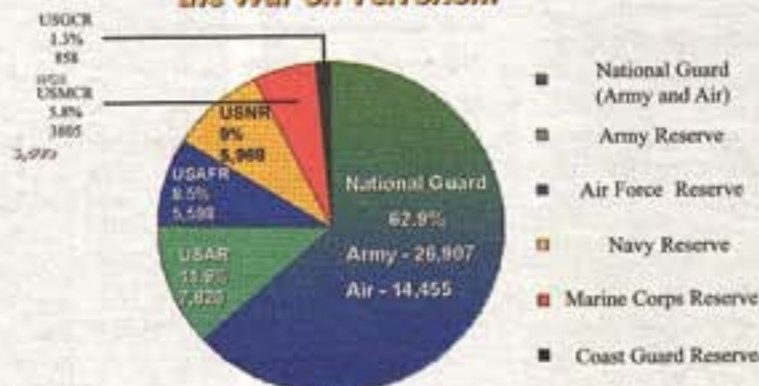
The 177th has played an integral role in the war on terror. In March, Mrs. Lisa Beamer, the widow of the late Todd Beamer, joined the 177th to unveil the "Let's Roll!" nose art on one of the wing's jets. The dedication honored Todd Beamer, a New Jersey resident, for his heroic actions as he and his fellow passengers thwarted the hijackers on United Flight 93.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olson, 177th Fighter Wing

Major Yarko Sos prepares to fly the 177th Fighter Wing's 1,000th Combat Air Patrol in support of Operation Noble Eagle on July 12. The chart below reflects the involvement of the Guard and Reserves in the War on Terrorism as of Oct. 2, 2002

Guard & Reserve Response To the War on Terrorism



(Sources: OASD/PA, NGB/PA. Includes Both Presidential and Gubernatorial Calls to Duty as of October 2, 2002)



Team Northern Command ready to play ball

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The Boston Red Sox have let him down for yet another year, this time by failing to make the American League playoffs even though they won 93 games.

The Detroit Tigers? Forget about it. They wound up tied with Tampa Bay for the worst record in Major League Baseball, 55-106, and finished so deep in the American League Central Division's cellar that they might as well have been playing in New Delhi.

That, sports fans, is how the regular season ended on Sunday, Sept. 29, for a lieutenant colonel in the Maryland Air National Guard named Ty Cobb who grew up in western Massachusetts, Red Sox country, and who has been nicknamed since the fourth grade for the baseball legend who played 22 seasons for the Tigers.

But, hey, no matter. Lieutenant Colonel James "Ty" Cobb was in the starting lineup for this country's newest military team which opened an entirely new season two days later, on Oct. 1, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

That's when the United States Northern Command was activated at Peterson Air Force Base. That's when the new team that Ty Cobb now belongs to officially began defending the American homeland during the war against terrorism.

This Ty Cobb is one of just two Air Guard officers and one of 13 members of the National Guard on the Northern Command's starting team of 200 people led by Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart, the coach and the commander. Cobb is the plans officer for air operations.

That, the man from Pittsfield, Mass., would tell you, is a lot more important than the Red Sox making the playoffs or, gasp, winning the World Series. That is far more critical to

this country's well being, he would insist, than the fact that the Tigers finished dead last in their division.

"This is a daunting task that we will not and cannot fail," said Cobb. "The American people are counting on us. We will not drop the ball."

That was baseball's playoff season, however, and there is a competitive tie that binds athletics and military service. So let the comparisons begin.

This is not, for example, the first time that Ty Cobb has made the team of his choice.

He played three seasons of varsity college ball for St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia before graduating in 1984. He played the outfield, as did that other Cobb, and he had a career batting average of .273.

He also earned an Air Force ROTC commission and flew A-10 fighters during the Persian Gulf War before joining the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing in Baltimore later in 1991.

"Spring training" began last July when Cobb reported to Colorado Springs because he saw "an incredible chance to contribute to such a significant operation," he explained.

He was 40 and still trim enough to rope a single and chase down a fly ball.

He had already left Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he was studying national security, after the terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, Cobb said, "because I wanted to do something different for my country."

His new teammates have come from all five of this country's uniformed services and from all seven reserve components. That's sort of how a new major league franchise gets its talent — from other teams, free agency, the minor leagues and colleges.

Everyone has to learn to play together pretty quickly to form a solid team.



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Maryland Air National Guard Lt. Col. James "Ty" Cobb huddles with one of his new teammates on the United States Northern Command staff in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"This is a joint as it gets," said Cobb who is part of a joint staff for the first time but who has already discovered a common purpose with his new teammates. "This staff has amazing unity and focus. There is total commitment across the board."

There is, however, no off-season.

"There are no vacations for the foreseeable future," Cobb said, "and nobody cares."

Oh yeah. This is not a game. This is the deadly serious business of defending the American people on their own turf. Funny thing is, the original Tyrus Raymond Cobb did not think of baseball as a game. To him, it was war.

"Baseball is a red-blooded sport for red-blooded men," stated the man who was called "The Georgia Peach." "It's no pink tea, and mollicoddles had better stay out. It's a struggle for supremacy, survival of the fittest."

It was that attitude, that drive, that earned Ty Cobb 12 batting titles, including nine in a row, and the distinction of becoming the first player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1936.

It is that same attitude and drive, Lt. Col. Ty Cobb would tell you, that defines his new team — the U.S. Northern Command.

U.S., South African medics make history

By Capt. Erin Bradley

458th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The first U.S./South African medical air evacuation exercise kicked off at Air Force Base Waterkloof in Pretoria, South Africa, Monday.

More than 50 medical personnel from the U.S. and South African air forces, as well as several South African civilian medics, participated in the three-stage exercise utilizing one South African helicopter and two U.S. aircraft.

"The first time we worked with U.S. military medical personnel was four years ago on the Masibambisane Project," said General Rinus Van Rensburg, Surgeon General for South Africa. "This is a Zulu word that means 'working together,' which is exactly what we were doing to combat HIV and AIDS in this country. Since then the U.S. Air Force has done a lot to sponsor our medical efforts."

The multi-national medical team loaded up

three Oryx AS-332 helicopters with one nurse and technician from the U.S. Air Force on each, along with a physician, two nurses and a technician from South Africa and then flew to the Institute of Aviation Medicine near Waterkloof. Once the choppers landed, medical personnel immediately disembarked and began to search for patients from a simulated bus accident.

Medics assessed the patients, gave them immediate care, loaded them onto the Oryx in litter harnesses, and continued to treat them as they flew back to Waterkloof.

At Waterkloof a C-130 Hercules was ready and waiting to go. U.S. and South African medics worked hand-in-hand to do a tail-to-tail transfer, then continued to stabilize patients during the one-hour flight north to Louis Trichardt. Patients were then trans-

ferred to a C-9 Nightingale at Louis Trichardt for the final leg of their simulated journey to a medical facility.

"We are very pleased that this exercise was able to happen, and especially incorporate both the C-9 and the C-130," said Lt. Col. P.W.L. Murray, chief medical officer in the South African Air Force, senior aviation medical examiner and second-in-command for the Institute for Aviation Medicine. "We don't have any aircraft specifically dedicated to the medical mission, so we were impressed with the C-9

and how well the medical personnel manage patients on it. We tend to operate on a smaller, local scale, but we also use C-130s, so it was fascinating to watch the Americans work medical air evacuations from a perspective we have more experience with."

Each aircraft used in the exercise specializes in different kinds of missions, which helped broaden the training scope for the medical personnel who participated.

Oryx helicopters are usually first responders to get patients out of dangerous areas and to local hospitals quickly, but its capabilities are limited because of space and the amount of equipment it can hold.

The C-130 is a multi-role aircraft that can be reconfigured for several different missions, such as aero-medical evacuation, cargo, and dropping paratroopers. It is a more tactical airframe, so it can fly into combat areas with short runways, and can hold 130 litters versus 5 on the Oryx and 70 on the C-9, but it doesn't have any integrated medical capabilities, so all equipment must be carried on.

The C-9 is designed specifically for medical evacuation, and is literally like a flying hospital, because everything is self-contained and pre-positioned.

State-of-the-art communications installed in Cuba

On Guard Staff Report

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — Two Air National Guard cable teams from the 216th, and 212th Engineering Installation squadrons and one active duty team recently finished installing a 9.6 mile fiber communications backbone at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

In two months of backbreaking work, the teams trenched the hard coral and granite-laced ground under a hot blazing sun to get the job done. The weather and harsh environment were so severe that some of the cable installers experienced prolonged sunburn and backaches for the first time in their military careers.

To make matters worse, there was a possibility of striking land mines. The area had been swept for mines, but the threat was a considerable concern. Fortunately, no mines were detonated during the 60 days of digging.

The units also had to deal with local inhabitants: iguanas, banana rats, boa constrictors, pythons, and tarantulas during the project, which included both direct burial and aerial implementations based on rugged terrain in a potentially hostile environment. The cable teams also installed more than two miles of 24-strand fiber off the backbone allowing 22 disparate locations access to this high-speed cable system.

The new telecommunications infrastructure on the island will provide military personnel with high-speed Internet access, local area

networks, SIPRNET (secure) connection, video teleconferencing capabilities and allow the use of video surveillance cameras along the watchtowers overlooking Camp Delta.

Camp Delta currently houses more than 500 detainees captured since the War on Terrorism began over a year ago. American and British press are currently on the island covering news stories and awaiting possible trial dates.

The state-of-the-art communication system may or may not speed up the judicial process, but it gave units a sense of accomplishment and direct contribution to the war against terrorism.

They coined the phrase: "No comm, no tribunals!"

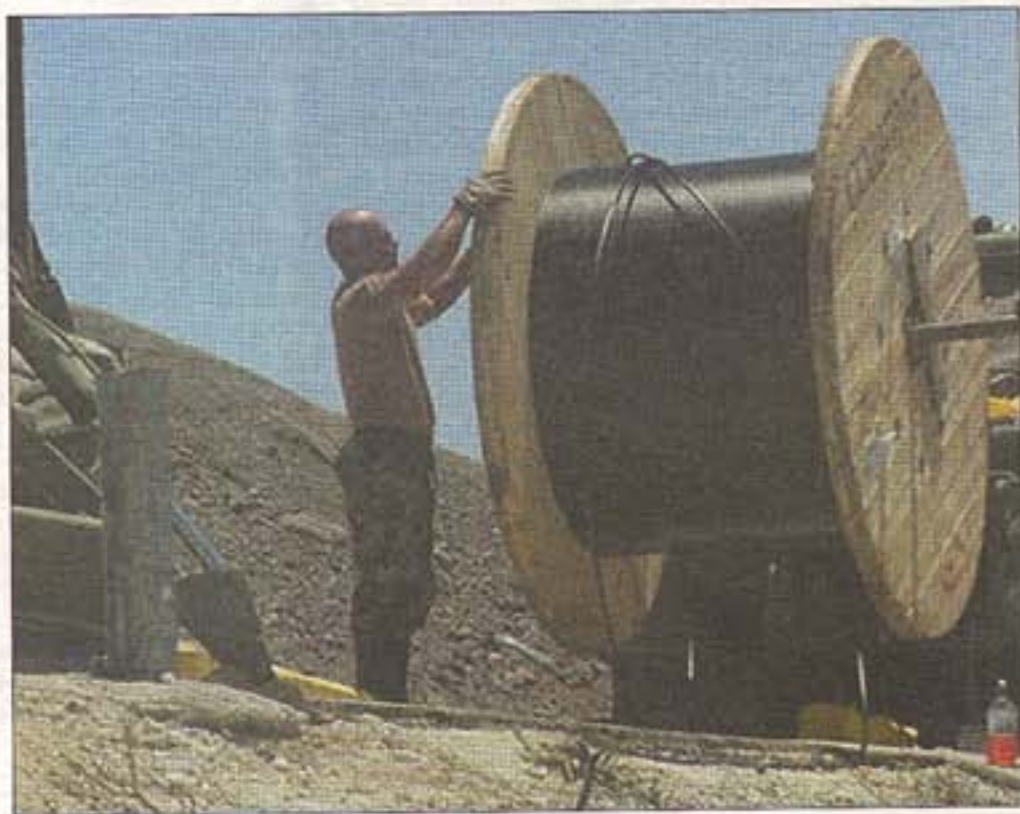
The units were federally mobilized in October 2001 and deployed to Diego Garcia before being sent to Guantanamo Bay. Brigadier Gen. Rick Baccus presented the teams with letters of appreciation before they departed the island this summer to return to their home states of California, Massachusetts, and Mississippi to await demobilization orders and be presented with Air Force Commendation and Achievement medals.

(Editor's note: Public Affairs Officer Maj. Jodelle A. Finnefrock provided the information for this report.)

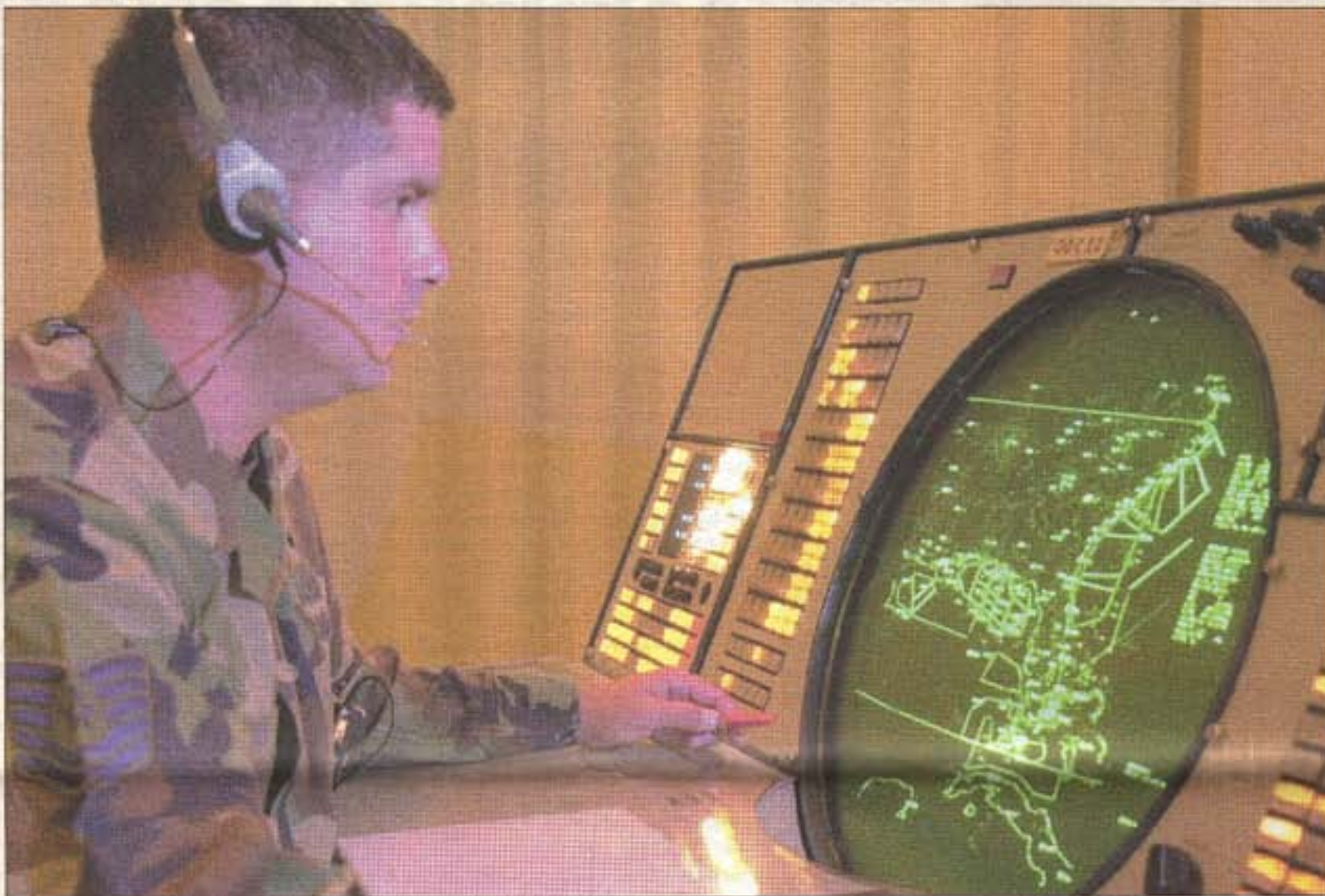


Photos submitted by the 112th Engineering Installation Squadron

Above: 212th members (Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Joseph Monfette III, Master Sgt. Dane Bishari and Tech. Sgt. Mark Faucher drag cable.



Beyond the scope



Tech Sgt. Caesar Kellum, SEADS enlisted weapons controller, monitors an air defense mission inside the sector air operations center. Kellum was named one of the Air Force Association's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2002 for his superior leadership, job performance, community service and personal achievements.

Photos by
Master Sgt. Roger
W. Tibbetts

SEADS NCO earns outstanding recognition for excellence

By Master Sgt. Roger W. Tibbetts

1st Air Force Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A Southeast Air Defense Sector Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer is one of the Air Force Association's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2002.

Tech. Sgt. Caesar Kellum, an aerospace control and warning systems enlisted weapons director, earned the elite recognition for his superior leadership, job performance, community service and personal achievements.

"I was floored," said Kellum, describing his reaction when told he had been selected. "I tell you, just to be nominated is an honor in itself."

An Athens, Ga. native and former regular Air Force member, Kellum notes that today's Air National Guard is much more than it used to be.

"The personnel in the sector, I believe, are some of the most professional people in the Air Force," commented Kellum. "The outstanding way our unit carries out its air combat command mission is a fine example of the dedication and commitment folks here have to the sector's 24-7 air defense job."

The Florida Air National Guard member was also a top nominee for the Air National Guard's NCO of the Year award, and over the past year was ultimately selected as the best and brightest out of 95,000 National Guard enlisted airmen.

Kellum is one of only four enlisted weapons directors at the sector who provides close control to air defense fighter aircraft. Among 36 NCOs and officers tested, he was the only weapons director to be rated "exceptionally qualified."

"His communications skills are what really set him apart from his peers," said Chief Master Sgt. John E. Smallman, SEADS operations superintendent. "He definitely capitalizes on these strengths while executing his duties as a weapons controller."

Following the terrorist attacks against the United States, he enforced airplane-grounding orders and monitored civilian aircraft, helping to ensure air traffic safely reached the nearest airport.

"As a weapons controller, he is exceptionally qualified," said Lt. Col. Norbert Madera, SEADS sector operations director. "He constantly volunteers for the challenging missions."

While assigned to the sector training shop, Kellum developed train-the-trainer techniques to build more effective instructor teams. He also created five realistic scenarios for initial and secondary operations training.

Kellum's wife, Tiffany, is also an NCO with SEADS and says he is aware of the possible pit-falls of working with a spouse, but points out that is not the case with Tiffany.

"Tiffany is awesome!" exclaimed Kellum. "She is the very structure and foundation to our personal and working

relationship. We are an air defense team."

This past year has also been very busy outside of the work center for the 30-year-old, who lives in Callaway, Fla.

Ever the dedicated "Citizen-Airman," Kellum organized the sector's participation in the American Cancer Society's

annual Relay for Life, forming the only military team from Tyndall Air Force Base to help in the 24-hour fundraising event. The Florida Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. also volunteers for the Salvation Army and supports the local Meals on Wheels program.

"I have a great deal of respect for Tech. Sgt. Caesar Kellum," said Madera. "He exemplifies the citizen-soldier of the Florida Air National Guard. I'm very proud of all his accomplishments."



Kellum

Promoting the Guard:

Army Guard specialist gets F-16 ride of a lifetime

By Sgt. 1st Class Dave Schmidt
Colorado Army National Guard

COLORADO – It's not every day an Army soldier gets to blast over the Rocky Mountains at speeds approaching Mach-1 in an Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon. But Spc. Stephen Hughs of the Colorado Army National Guard got the chance of a lifetime.

Hughs, a personnel staffing assistant in the human resources office at headquarters, Colorado National Guard, cashed in on the Colorado National Guard's "Leads to Enlistments" incentive program which offers a familiarization flight on an F-16 as its grand prize.

The program is the brainchild of Lt. Col. Hans Kallam, who was the strength maintenance commander when it was first implemented two years ago. It is a 10-tiered prize package that culminates in an F-16 ride after ten people who are referred to the recruiting command actually enlist. It had to be approved by the state's adjutant general as well as the wing commander.

"I thought we might get one or two a year

that would reach 10 enlistments," Kallam said. "I got the approvals I needed and I was excited to launch the program. Hopefully, more people will be motivated by that incentive now that they see somebody actually did it."

Hughs has accounted for more than 40 leads to the recruiting force, 20 of which have turned into actual enlistments. Hughs said his approach is a simple one. He just talks to young people that are either working in jobs that are similar to what the Army offers or finds out they are going to college and tells them the Guard is a great way to help pay for the hefty price of higher education.

"The key is to be friendly, open and honest and just share your knowledge about the Guard and all the benefits," Hughs said.

Hughs had to clear a flight physical and undergo egress training before being given his incentive flight. The morning of the flight, Hughs and his family met with the pilot who would be showing him – up close and personal – the power of the Air Force's



Colorado Air National Guard pilot, Maj. Craig "Lobo" Wolf, left, and Spec. Stephen Hughs, familiarization flight recipient, prepare to leave Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., on board an F-16D on loan from the Montana Air National Guard.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Schmidt Colorado Army National Guard

Spc. Stephen Hughs of the Colorado Army National Guard gives a thumbs up signal to his family moments before a familiarization flight aboard an F-16D Fighting Falcon at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. He earned the once in a lifetime experience by promoting the National Guard.

most agile jet fighter.

Maj. Craig "Lobo" Wolf, a full-time flight instructor with the Colorado Air National Guard, was selected as the pilot for the mission; a role he relishes.

"I've done dozens of these familiarization flights," Wolf said. "But he's my first Army passenger."

In the pre-flight briefing, Wolf said they would be going just under the speed of sound and at altitudes varying from 1,000 feet to 18,000 feet. "We're going to do a vertical take-off, climb to 15,000 feet and finish that with a rollover," Wolf told Hughs, who seemed to be getting more giddy by the moment.

Wolf also planned on performing a few other rather radical maneuvers including a 9-G turn which has a force equivalent of 9 times a person's body weight. "The whole flight should be around 40 minutes," Wolf said, "and I'll let you fly it a little and teach you some maneuvers when we get up there."

After donning the requisite flight suit, extremely tight in places to prevent blackouts during heavy-Gs, Hughs walked out on the runway, kissed his wife and kids goodbye, and climbed into the cockpit. After some instructions from the crew chief and the pilot, Hughs put on his helmet and short-

ly thereafter, the F-16D taxied onto the runway.

Once the tower gave clearance, Wolf gunned the F-16 down the runway and blasted up towards the clouds in a deafening vertical takeoff. As promised, Wolf banked the aircraft over at the apex of the launch and headed towards the mountains.

Forty minutes later the F-16 returned to base and, after a couple harrowing "touch-and-goes," finally landed and taxied over to where Hughs' family and friends had gathered.

"I recommend that flight to everybody," an elated Hughs bellowed as he set foot on solid ground with an empty air sickness bag. "Wow! Elitch's couldn't top that," he exclaimed, referring to Six Flags Elitch Gardens amusement park.

Hughs said it was an amazing adrenaline rush and he was kept pinned to his seat for most of the flight. "There were people on top of Pikes Peak waving at us," he said. The plane's computer system at one point indicated Wolf and Hughs achieved a maximum of 9.1Gs.

"The best part was doing my own loops and rolls," Hughs said. "It was a blast. Major Wolf is an excellent pilot, and I felt safe with him at all times."

Guam Guardsmen vital after typhoons

2nd Lt. Ken Ola

Guam Public Affairs Officer

FT. JUAN MUÑA, GUAM - After being called to Territorial Active Duty more than a month ago, following the devastation caused by Typhoon Chata'an on this westernmost American island, elements of the Guam National Guard completed the last of recovery missions and are returning to their regular jobs.

Typhoon Chata'an, packing some 100-mile-per-hour winds, barreled through the 35-mile long island on July 5, uprooting age-old trees, felling concrete power poles and demolishing wooden houses, forcing some 3,000 residents into storm shelters. The typhoon also caused a lengthy island-wide power outage and shut down water service to several villages.

The day following the typhoon, after weather conditions improved, members of the Guard were activated. Approximately 470 men and women of the Guam Army National Guard began working to help the island recover from the devastation. The call-up followed Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez's declaration of a state of emergency for the island.

Recovery assistance began with unit members delivering 400-gallon water buffaloes to six different sites around the island.

Early the second morning after the typhoon, close to 40 members of A Co, 1-294th Infantry Battalion, were dispersed to provide traffic control at 10 critical intersections, mainly located along Route 1, the island's main thoroughfare. Many of the traffic lights were damaged by the typhoon.

During the first few days after the typhoon other members of the Guam Guard conducted key tasks that included debris clean-up, overnight security at debris transfer stations as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency, refilling and redistribution of water buffaloes and feeding evacuees staying at the storm shelters.

Other essential missions such as providing

much needed water to villages in the southern part of the island and dispatching a roving medical team were added on. The Guard used its four Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units for the water distribution mission.

To help provide medical care to families in the various shelters throughout the island, the Medical Detachment created a roving team consisting of a doctor, a nurse and two medics. The team was capable of providing care for minor to major ailments.

A second typhoon in five days

Recovery operations, however, quickly came to a halt on the morning of July 10 as another stronger typhoon was projected to hit the island. Guam is in what is known as the Western Pacific's "typhoon alley."

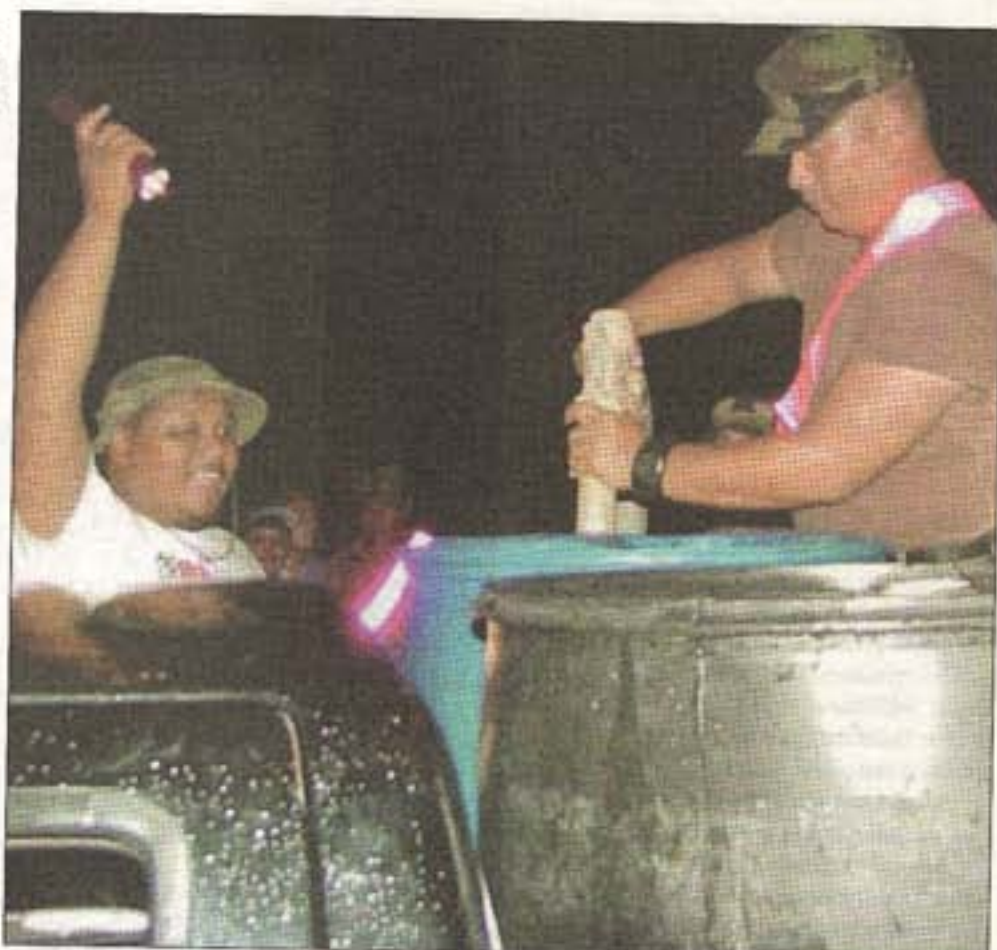
Despite the stand down for Typhoon Ha Long, six soldiers volunteered for a mission to support first responders, if the new typhoon was to also thrash the island. Among them were Pvt. 1st Class Brian Martin, a TOW-shooting infantryman, and Cpl. Roberto Laanen, a combat medic. Both are trained combat lifesavers.

The six members, split into three teams and assigned two ambulances and a hardtop humvee, were dispatched to directly support the Guam Police Department. A team was posted at each precinct in the northern and central part of the island. Another team was assigned to a high school used as a typhoon shelter in the south.

The Guard volunteers said they were confident and ready to complete their mission under any conditions.

"If we have to go out, we're ready. I'm up to the challenge... I've always wanted to help people. It's one of the reasons I joined the Guard," said Martin, a computer operator for the local government.

Martin said his family was well cared for and secure for the coming typhoon, which was one of the reasons he did not hesitate to volunteer for the mission.



Photos by SrA Jo Blas

Residents from the southern part of the island line up at the Guam Army Guard's water distribution site to fill their drums. That part of the island had no water service for several days after Typhoon.

Laanen, a nurse at a local clinic, also expressed confidence about members of the teams being ready for any emergency.

"We've upped our training mode. The military always trains for chaos as far as medical events are concerned. Medical-wise and evacuation-wise, we're ready," he said.

Thankfully, Typhoon Ha Long spared the island from its 120 m.p.h. wind gusts and decided to take a more southerly route. It ended up passing some 90 miles south of the island bringing only a few inches of rain and moderate gusts. Guam Guard members returned to their assigned recovery missions the following day.

Traffic control key to normalization

Despite the high humidity and 80°F tropical heat, vehicle exhaust and a few uncooperative drivers, Guard members manning traffic control points remained in high spirits. A couple of soldiers said they were proud of their involvement in the traffic control mission and were having fun.

"I think it's great... This is part of what we enlisted for. I think it's an honor to serve the people this way," said Pvt. Anthony Palacios, who enlisted in April 2001 as a mortar man for Co A.

"We've gotten comments from motorists saying there would be more accidents if we were not around to direct traffic," he added.

Generally, motorists were cooperative and appreciative, according to Pvt. Gregory Fejeran. Some have even stopped to drop off food and water to show their appreciation.

"We've got a lot of honks and waves... There were a few motorists that cussed at you for making them wait too long," Fejeran said. Both soldiers emphasized how proud and

honored they were to be in the Guard. They had gone to basic training together and found themselves working at the same intersection.

Palacios related what he said to a friend who asked him why he joined the Guard, even pointing out the fact that the unit can be called up for either its state and federal missions. "I told him, 'Why shouldn't I. This is where I'm from. Why should I be hesitant to serve the community I live in.'... I think more people should join the Guard," he said.

From saltwater to freshwater

About a week after the Guam Guard's activation, the 909th Quartermaster Detachment needed to provide water for the southern residents. The unit set up their Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPUs) at a marina and established a water distribution point. A specialized water purification team consisting of three soldiers operated each ROWPU, which is capable of producing up to 60,000 gallons of clean, non-potable water per day, taken from seawater. Water was available to residents for 24 hours, seven days a week.

Shortly after setting up, residents were already lined up waiting to receive water. The marina location was ideal as it afforded ease of traffic flow in and out of the site. The residents received the amenities not unlike a full service gas station. More than 300 residents came to draw water at the site and some 19,000 gallons were distributed.

On July 21, amidst all recovery operations, the island celebrated Liberation Day commemorating the island's liberation from the Japanese Imperial Army's occupation in World War II in 1944.



Despite intermittent heavy rain and moderate gusts that day, the Guam National Guard marched on during the island's Liberation Day Parade.

All-Guard basic training flights help to eliminate backlog



U.S. Air Force photo by Yolanda S. Hunter

Senior Master Sgt. Michael Galifaro, an Air Force liaison officer for reservists, gives members of an Air National Guard basic military training flight their first-week briefing Nov. 6 at Lackland AFB, Texas. Photos of some of the 90 Guard wings across the nation decorate the walls.

By James Coburn

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS — For the first time since the 1980s, Air National Guard troops are undergoing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in all-Guard or mostly Guard flights.

The special training flights will help the Guard catch up on a backlog of members who need basic training.

Chief Master Sgt. William Seiler, Guard liaison superintendent for basic military training and technical schools at Lackland Air Force Base, said Guard, Air Force Reserve and active-duty airmen have been combined for basic training since the 1980s as part of the total force concept.

For this occasion, however, he said four flights of Guardsmen, including one flight with 18 Air Force trainees, who are holdovers, began basic training together.

These four flights will have a special graduation on Dec. 13 that Chief Seiler said will attract representatives from Guard units from across the nation as well as spouses, parents and friends.

Rather than just four flights, graduations normally feature 14 to 20 flights of 50 to 60 airmen, said basic military training superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Billy Blackburn.

Seiler said the backlog developed because retention of the active-duty force has increased since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Instead of a majority of Guard members coming from people leaving active duty, the majority of new Guard members had no prior service. He said that deviation resulted in the Guard needing about 5,500 basic training slots this year when only 4,500 slots had been projected, "which means we would be 1,000 short."

To help alleviate some of the shortfall, Air Education and Training Command offered the Air National Guard 200 slots for what originally was slated to be a non-accession week. Seiler said the balance of the shortfall will be resolved by giving the Guard more basic training slots.

Increased retention of active-duty forces is a good thing, he said. "It protects our country, and that's a great thing."

The Air Force Reserve is being given more basic training slots because it is also enlisting a greater number of non-prior-service people for the same reason, said Chief Master Sgt. David Morris, Reserve liaison superintendent.

"It's a total force thing," Seiler added. "They have worked together and resolved the majority of the shortfalls for the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard."

Brigadier Gen. Clyde Vaughn: New deputy director of the Army National Guard

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — A former Missouri high school football coach who has since devoted nearly two decades toward molding National Guard soldiers into a respected global force through deployments to Latin America is settling into his new position as deputy director of the Army National Guard.

"One of the critical periods in this nation's history is staring us in the face. We are going to evolve into something that is considerably different than what we are now," predicted Brig. Gen. Clyde Vaughn about how the Army Guard will be restructured for the new period that is being defined, in part, by last September's terrorist attacks and the war on terrorism.

"We are going to have to see change. The face of warfare has really changed. We can't be caught with an irrelevant force," said Vaughn about the Army's new restructuring proposal intended to convert four of the Army Guard's heavy armor brigades into mobile light brigades that can be sent to combat zones and used for peacetime operations beginning in 2008.

Vaughn, 56, became the deputy director of this country's 350,000-member Army Guard at the Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., on Sept. 15 after spending 31 months as the Army's deputy director for operations, readiness and mobilization at the Pentagon.

Vaughn's appointment marks the first change in the Army Guard's senior leadership since the war on global terrorism was launched in September 2001.

Nearly 30,000 Army Guard soldiers were

participating in Noble Eagle missions at home and in Enduring Freedom operations abroad the day he took over.

The man from Missouri has succeeded Brig. Gen. Michael Squier who has been the Army Guard's deputy director since March 1998 and who is expected to retire shortly following 39 years of National Guard service.

Vaughn's new assignment will require him to work the full spectrum of Army Guard issues with Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, the Army Guard's director, and to "take the things that the director can't cover on because of his busy schedule," Vaughn explained.

"This is a daunting job. I've been in operations all my life," said Vaughn who will now deal with such matters as the Army Guard's annual budget. There is also the major restructuring initiative that is intended to replace about 2,400 of the Guard's older, Cold War era tanks and other armor vehicles with lighter vehicles for transporting soldiers to the action. Meanwhile, there's a war to help fight.

"It is a formidable task to pick up and execute everything that Mike Squier did so well for many years," added Vaughn who has come a long way since 1974 when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and wondered if he could someday command a battalion.

Those who know him believe he is up to the new task, considering how he helped the Guard grow up during repeated missions to Latin America.

Vaughn began overseeing Army Guard deployments to assist Panama and other

Latin American countries in 1984 as a full-time Guard officer after spending seven years coaching high school football teams in Dexter, Mo., where he grew up. His teams won four conference championships and was state runner-up one year, he said.

Latin America captured his heart, Vaughn quietly recalled, because it was the ideal place to help people in need and to train Guard soldiers in the ways and means of deploying to foreign lands. Some 200,000 citizen-soldiers, he estimated, built roads and schools and clinics in Latin American during the 13 years he helped the U.S. Army South direct that program.

He commanded a task force, Fuertes Caminos 91, from 1990-91. He was the Army Guard's advisor to that command and he commanded the exercise support element for more than three years beginning in July 1994.

"We needed to project our force, to deploy our soldiers out of the country and train them," Vaughn recalled. "Latin America was the perfect place to do that. You can get there in a day, be at work the next day, and get nearly two full weeks of training. That time was an exciting time, and it will be hard to replicate."

That training, officials contend, helped build the Army Guard into a force that could quickly deploy for duty in the Persian Gulf in 1990-91, for peacekeeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo beginning in late 1995, and for the new war on terrorism.

"He is one of those people you respect not only because of his rank but for what you've seen him accomplish," said Master Sgt. Carl Legore who served with Vaughn in Panama



Vaughn

for about four years.

"I served with him when he commanded the task force and then when he was the advisor to U.S. Army South," Legore said. "Knowing he was coming back made you feel good because you knew you would be in good hands."

"He looked out for people and he truly cared about the mission," Legore added. "He told the people he worked with what the Guard could do, the Guard did it, and the respect for the Guard increased significantly."

Vaughn and his wife, Carol, have been married for 34 years and have two children. Their son Chad is a Marine Corps F-18 pilot, who recently returned from combat operations in Afghanistan and is stationed at Miramar, Calif. They have two grandsons by their daughter, Kristi Meltvedt, who lives in Front Royal, Va.

Georgia Guardsmen level drug labs

TALLAPOOSA, Ga. — Georgia's Counterdrug Task Force, working in close cooperation with local law enforcement authorities and the county district attorney's office coordinated the demolition of eight abandoned dwellings that housed makeshift laboratories capable of producing sizable quantities of methamphetamines.

Thirty Georgia Army Guard engineers along with heavy earth-moving equipment from Georgia's 878th Engineer Battalion headquartered in Augusta, were called in for the demolition project. The task lasted more than a week and Guardsmen performed this duty on a volunteer training basis.

The dilapidated structures collapsed easily with several swings of crane's huge arm. Once down, a huge claw grasped bricks and broken timbers and deposited them in dump trucks before being hauled to the county landfill.

"We are pleased to work with local officials in making our communities safer," said Lt. Col. Stan Crowder of the Counterdrug Task Force. National Guard resources have been made available to local communities for several years in combating the war on drugs, he said.

Over the past four months, the resources of the Georgia National Guard have been used to demolish three structures in metro Atlanta identified by authorities as locations of significant drug activity.

On hand to visit with the National Guard at the Tallapoosa demolition project was Tom Murphy, Georgia's speaker of the House of Representatives and State Senator Nathan



Photo by Spc. Jeff Lowry Georgia National Guard

A Georgia Army National Guard highex pummels a derelict house in Tallapoosa as Staff Sgt. Eric Holmes and Sgt. 1st Class John Price of the 878th Engineer Battalion observe.

Oklahoma Army National Guard hosts 'Sooner Stand Down'

By 1st Lt. Scarlet Tyler

Public Affairs Officer

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A hand-up, not a handout was the theme for Oklahoma Army National Guard's summer 2002 *Sooner Stand Down* held in Oklahoma City.

Stand Down 2002's mission was to offer a variety of services to military veterans including medical screening, food, counseling, lodging, clothing, VA benefits, employment, housing, and legal assistance at one centralized location.

The Oklahoma Guard provided a spacious armory in Oklahoma City to house the numerous federal and state agencies and private businesses that provided such services.

As early as November, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs teamed up numerous federal and state agencies to include the Oklahoma Guard to sponsor Stand Down 2002. The 90th Troop Command of Oklahoma City provided personnel and logistical support to include security, meals, lodging, clothing, and chaplain services. The 645th Personal Service Company provided initial registration and identification cards.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provided medical and dental screenings in addition to mental health counseling. Also, the VA provided personnel to assist veterans in determining eligibility and filing claims.

A number of private veterans service organizations such as Disabled Veterans of America, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Paralyzed Veterans of America had representatives available to assist veterans in understanding their VA entitlements. Several private companies offered personnel, services, and goods. For example, Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma provided free legal services. Grace Rescue Mission provided spiritual counseling.

Lt. Col. Phillip Burgess, 90th Troop Command executive officer, coordinated the National Guard's support efforts.

"The ultimate goal of the Stand Down is to assist veterans in getting back on their feet. If the assistance we have provided helps even one veteran, our efforts have been worthwhile," Burgess said.

Many veterans received a hand-up, and not merely a handout.

"This Stand Down makes me feel very much appreciated as a veteran. I am very excited to learn about benefits and programs that could help me have a better quality of life," said Malcolm Taunah, an Oklahoma Army National Guard veteran. Taunah served in Desert Storm with the 1/158th Field Artillery Battalion in Lawton, Okla..

According to Disabled Veterans of America, one-third of the adult homeless population is a military veteran. As many as 250,000 vet-

"This Stand Down is very close to my heart. Veterans are the individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice of life and limb to preserve the American way of life. Offering programs like the Stand-Down is the least we can do."

— Bob Earhart, a Vietnam Vet and Blinded Veterans Coordinator for ODVA

erans sleep on the street or in shelters each night. The myth that homeless veterans choose to be homeless remains highly inaccurate.

In fact, according to the United States Conference of Mayors, one out of every five homeless veterans is employed full or part-time. Furthermore, less than six percent choose to be homeless.

Many homeless veterans are victims of a prolonged medical and psychological disability.

The exact number of homeless veterans is unknown. "Tracking veterans can be very difficult. Programs like this Stand Down are an ideal environment to educate veterans on their benefits and get them input into the VA data system," added Burgess.

Bob Earhart, a Vietnam veteran and Blinded veterans coordinator for ODVA, coordinated the Stand Down.

"This Stand Down is very close to my heart. Veterans are the individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice of life and limb to preserve the American way of life. Offering programs like the Stand Down is the least we can do."

A stand down is traditionally known within the military as a time of rest and relaxation for soldiers after a battle. Sooner Stand Down 2002's objective is to improve the quality of life for veterans.

By the end of the Stand Down, more than 400 veterans had walked away with a better understanding of their rights and benefits, and ultimately with opportunities for a better quality of life.

"The Oklahoma Guard's role in Stand Down 2002 was instrumental to its success. I look forward to working with the Oklahoma Guard for Stand Down 2003," added Earhart.



News Makers

Loadmaster training

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Oldham
Arkansas Air National Guard

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. — The Air Force has chosen the Arkansas Air National Guard to train all its active-duty C-130 loadmasters.

Under a plan to consolidate similar training functions, Gen. Don Cook, commander of Air Education and Training Command, announced in June he's realigning several technical training courses, including transferring all entry-level C-130 loadmaster training here. That training began in August.

The 189th Airlift Wing's Enlisted Aircrew Academic School will train an additional 143 loadmaster students in fiscal year 2003. Student production numbers will increase in the out years to around 300 per year.

In 1988, the Enlisted Aircrew Academic School here began entry-level training for loadmasters and flight engineers for all the services, including a limited number of active-duty Air Force members.

Known as the Centers of Excellence in Technical Training, the general's plan redistributes training courses and associated resources at AETC bases to align the technical expertise associated with a training discipline at one location, officials said. This change will allow students, instructors and training equipment used for similar courses to be concentrated at a single training center.

C-130 loadmaster training will now be taught here, and C-17 and C-5 entry-level loadmaster training will go to Altus Air Force Base, Okla. Previously, Sheppard AFB in Texas provided the entry-level training.

The general said the reason for the change is "to bring our training centers into a better functional alignment, save money by not duplicating similar training processes at several locations and to make best use of our experienced instructor pool."

Making the grade ...

Maryland Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Frank Inglima recently graduated from the Defense Intelligence Agency's Master's Degree program at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. In a class of senior ranking civilian intelligence specialists and Reservists, he was the only enlisted member graduated in 2002. Inglima is a traditional Guardsman at the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, where he is the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Intelligence Analysis Section, and also holds a



Inglima

full-time position as a research assistant for Science Applications International Corporation at Ft. Meade, Md.

FROM PAGE 1

Moose

That's where Moose led the multi-agency task force that included members of the FBI, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Secret Service, D.C. Metropolitan Police, Maryland and Virginia state police, the U.S. Marshals, and a half-dozen other county and municipal police forces.

"This is a very complex investigation. The unprecedented cooperation has made this case possible," Moose said, cautioning that much more work remains to be done. "It's been very, very honorable to work with all of the men and women involved in this matter."

"We have not given in to the terror," he said to everyone the sniper has afflicted. "Yes, we have all experienced anxiety, but in the end resiliency has won out."

Blended unit

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — Two wings became one in an unprecedented first for both the Air Force and Air National Guard at Robins Air Force Base when the 116th Bomb Wing and the 93rd Air Control Wing become the first "blended" future total force wing in a special activation ceremony attended by Air Force Secretary James Roche on Sept. 30.

The 116th Air Control Wing — comprised of both Air National Guardsmen and active duty members — is the first of its kind as part of the Future Total Force initiative.

This new initiative focuses on active duty, guard and reserve members working side-by-side in all mission types. And this merger is expected to increase the combat effectiveness and organizational efficiency of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System.

Both unit commanders are optimistic about the integration.

"We are making history and defining how the Air Force of the future will look," said Col. Tom Lynn, 116th Bomb Wing commander and future 116th Air Control Wing commander. "The outstanding professionals in both wings have worked extremely hard to make this a reality."

"Our two organizations consist of highly trained and highly motivated people who serve with distinction," said Col. David Fadok, 93rd Air Control Wing commander. "Our people are professionals who will exceed expectations and set the standard for future total force wings."

Last year, it was announced that the 116th would transfer its B-1B flying mission to active duty units due to the consolidation of the B-1 aircraft fleet. In October, Roche announced the 116th BW would transition to the Joint STARS mission, creating a first-of-its-kind future total force organization.

Operating as one, the unit will support the Joint STARS mission. Joint STARS' primary mission is to provide dedicated support to air and ground theater commanders in order to gain and maintain control of the battle space.

Camp Edwards' natural resource plan chosen as best in nation

By Lynda Wadsworth
Environmental Readiness Center
Massachusetts Military Reservation

The National Guard Bureau has given one of its top awards to the Massachusetts National Guard's Natural Resource Program for its Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at Camp Edwards.

The INRMP, which won the Minuteman Award, is an adaptive plan that Army installations of more than 500 acres are must implement.

Its purpose is to manage natural resources to support the military mission while protecting and enhancing ecosystems and resources for multiple use and biological integrity.

Out of 90 plans reviewed by National Guard Bureau, the Camp Edwards INRMP was judged to be the best in the nation.

Headed by Dr. Michael Ciaranca, the program at Camp Edwards was completed in October, 2001. It took more than two years to complete and used ten years of data collected at Camp Edwards by the Natural Resources Program.

At more than 400 pages long, the INRMP outlines land management practices that will benefit both the military and the environment through coordination with various federal and state agencies, such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Mass

achusetts Department of Environmental Management.

"The Minuteman Award represents incredible cooperation and teamwork between those training at Camp Edwards and those protecting the natural resources here," Ciaranca said.

"Headquarters, Camp Edwards assisted us in creating a plan that all personnel can interpret with ease so that the natural resources of Camp Edwards will be properly managed and protected while providing the best, most realistic training experience for the soldiers training here."

The user-friendly nature of Camp Edwards' INRMP is one of the many features of the plan National Guard Bureau favored.

"National Guard experts in areas such as

natural resources, cultural resources, law, logistics and training reviewed Camp Edwards' INRMP and collectively determined it deserved a Minuteman Award," said Shaun Cody, Director of Environmental Affairs for the Massachusetts Army National Guard. "The Program set out to do their best when they created this plan. It was no great surprise to me when their best achieved the gold standard for the National Guard. We have some of the top professionals in their fields working at Camp Edwards."

If you would like to learn more about the Massachusetts Army National Guard's Natural Resource Program, visit their website at www.EandRC.org or www.cceenvironment.net.

Weather: Essential element of battle

By Senior Airman Kevin Kilgore

Texas Air National Guard

UZBEKISTAN – Going to lunch every day with an assault rifle slung on his shoulder and a 9mm pistol on his hip, was not the way Senior Master Sgt. Al Williams usually dined. But at K-2 airfield in Uzbekistan that was the appropriate attire.

Williams, a weather forecaster with the 181st Weather Flight, wasn't only in a foreign country, he was with a foreign service ... the Army!

The 181st is a geographically separated unit of the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard. Although they drill with the 136th Airlift Wing, they train and deploy with the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

In February of 2002, after a week at Fort Campbell, Ky., Williams and three other

members of the weather flight stepped off of a C-17 and into the wind-driven snow of K-2. Their mission was to provide detailed and accurate weather forecasts for Army Special Forces' teams operating in Afghanistan.

"Tents, everything was tents!" said Williams, describing the living conditions at K-2. "You eat in tents, your bathrooms are in tents, your showers are tents – you work in a tent!

"The worst thing about the place was the dust – dust was everywhere," He said. "Dust would eat up a floppy disk, it wouldn't last a week there if you didn't put it in a plastic baggy."

"We were real isolated out there; there was 20-foot high berm all the way around the base for sniper prevention," Williams added. "In Uzbekistan it was pretty safe."

"My greatest fear was that the Uzbeks flew old MIG-17s around, and did low approaches across the base all the time; and I was

"I was giving the briefing and the colonel turned around and said, 'So are we going to have gunship support for this?' I had to give him an answer. I said, No, I don't think you will. So, they delayed it again on my weather forecast."

– Senior Master Sgt. Al Williams

always worried that something was going to fall off one of them – and that'd be the end of me."

When not fearing MIG-17 debris, Williams worked 12-hour shifts preparing and updating weather forecasts.

"There were no holidays, no weekends. You just work your shift every day until you lose track of what day of the week it is," he said.

Williams worked from 2 p.m. until 2 a.m., gathering weather data from various agencies in preparation for the afternoon weather briefing he gave to the battalion commander. The rest of the shift was spent preparing information for the next shift.

"I would update 14 location forecasts that we were doing throughout Afghanistan – every major city in Afghanistan, plus a few of the minor ones," Williams said.

"Wherever we had a team, we put out a forecast for that area every day," he added.

The importance of the forecasts was felt in early March when US and allied troops launched an offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida forces.

Williams delayed operation Anaconda, one of the largest operations in Afghanistan, with a weather forecast.

An active duty forecaster, who's briefings had previously delayed the start of the operation, went to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, leaving Williams and his team to brief the operation's commanders.

"I was giving the briefing and the colonel turned around and said, 'So are we going to have gunship support for this?' I had to give him an answer," Williams said. "I said, No, I don't think you will. 'So, they delayed it again on my weather forecast,' he said."

Before rotating back to the States, Williams was given the chance to fly in one of the AC-

130 Specter gunships assigned to K-2.

"I got to sit in the seat where they have the optics, the targeting stuff – it was incredible," Williams said. "We were two-miles high, and I could not only see my tent, I could see the University of Tennessee symbol that was painted on a plywood door of the tent."

"Al-Qaida wasn't getting away from those guys!" Williams said with a laugh.

Befriending his fellow Airmen brought more than just a free AC-130 ride, Williams and Senior Airman Douglas A. Nickerson got a little taste of home thanks to their Air Force connection.

Walking back to the Air Force section of K-2, the two weather forecasters ran into an Airman with a Pizza Hut box.

"He was a flier, and he had picked it up in Oman," said Williams. "They ended up getting me one, about two weeks later. It was cold, but it was great!"

The harsh reality of war came to K-2 when two soldiers from the 19th Special Forces Group were killed during operations.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero, Colorado National Guard, and Staff Sgt. Gene A. Vance Jr., West Virginia National Guard, were mortally wounded in separate incidents "down range" in Afghanistan.

"I knew both of them," said Williams, who sat in front of Romero in the command center. After more than a decade of being attached to the 19th SFG, it was hard for him not to know someone who was killed or wounded down range.

In early June, Williams boarded a C-17 to begin his three-day journey home, with a stop in Turkey before heading to Texas.

Williams, who is a manager with CENTEX construction company, was proud to have participated in Operation Enduring Freedom.



Submitted photo

Senior Master Sgt. Al Williams, a weather forecaster with the 181st Weather Flight, stands in front of a traditional sign post erected at K-2 Airfield in Uzbekistan. Williams and three other weathermen deployed to the remote location in support of special operations.

Florida Air Guard members help save two young lives

By Maj. Richard C. Sater

Joint Task Force 510

CAMP NAVARRO, Zamboanga City, Philippines – Quick response from a Florida Air National Guard member and two Philippine Air Force airmen saved two young girls from drowning Aug. 5.

Florida Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Samuel Flecha, Philippine Air Force Capt. Basilio Remegia, and Philippine Air Force Airman 1st Class Edward Valdez responded at the same time to the girls' cries for help and brought the frightened pair safely back to shore.

The rescue took place at the beach by the Zamboanga Naval

Station. The girls – Mary Laurence Guanzon, 7, and Lea Gail Batiancila, 9 – were swimming some distance from the shore when the waves started rolling in and scared them. But when the girls called for help, friends on the beach thought it was a game. When they realized the danger, they began shouting for assistance.

"I looked around, and no one was doing anything," Flecha said, who was on the beach at the time. He headed into the water. "I heard the shouts for help," Remegia said. "The two kids were drowning, and I immediately reacted."

Valdez was close behind. "Capt. Remegia rushed to the scene, and I also ran," Valdez added. Valdez reached the girls first. "I grabbed them. They were scrambling" in panic, he

explained. "I couldn't hold two."

"They were holding each other very tightly," Remegia recalled. "They were confused. They feared for their lives."

Working together, the three airmen quickly separated the girls. Valdez took charge of Lea Gail and headed for the shore. It took both Flecha and Remegia to bring in Mary. "It wasn't easy," Flecha said, because the water was deep enough that they couldn't touch bottom. "She was struggling." They managed a safe return to the beach, to the great relief of the crowd that had gathered to watch.

Flecha was attending a farewell beach party on Sunday. He was about to head back to the barracks when the incident occurred.

Walkway of Heroes

By SFC Steve Tedeschi

Massachusetts National Guard

SALEM, Mass. — More than 365 years of military service to this country is now etched in brick at Salem, Massachusetts.

Located on the grounds of the Peabody Essex Museum is the Armory Park Walkway of Heroes, which was created as a historical, cultural institution to commemorate the long and proud history of the Massachusetts National Guard.

When winding your way through the park, a historical timeline traces Essex county's military heritage and unfolds before you. Interpretative panels that tell the earliest stories of our citizen soldiers are clearly visible.

A replica of Old Glory, which was originally named by a native of Salem resides there as well as inscriptions dedicating the park to all branches of armed forces and to the citizens of Essex County.

Carved into the walkway is a roll call of officers of the east regiment of Mass Bay Colony Militia that eventually became today's Massachusetts National Guard.

Also listed are men from Essex County who responded to the 1775 Lexington alarm, every Medal of Honor recipient from Essex county, every citizen-soldier unit of Essex county and other honored veterans. They range from generals to seamen, have fought overseas and have served at home supporting war efforts.

"All of these elements are interesting, informative and appropriate for a memorial park," said Bonnie Hurd-Smith, consultant for the Peabody Essex Museum. "What really matters is the people. The people of Essex County who have served our nation for over three centuries, who have fought and died to defend our homeland, who have secured our freedom to insure our way of life. It was important to us that we remember them and honor their memory."

It was also important to evoke the memory of the old Salem armory that used to stand on this site. So many young men trained here to prepare for what was to come and so many of them as we know left the armory and never came home.

"All of them are what really matters. We have started calling the walkway, 'Walkway of Heroes' and indeed it is. All of them, whether listed by name or represented in spirit, are a hero. We are proud to have this park as a memorial," she said.

"We also are so grateful to (retired) Col. Leonid Kondratuik Massachusetts National Guard historian, (retired) Brig. Gen. Albert Mangone, Veterans Affairs for the office of the adjutant general and to all the veterans agencies and historical societies who helped us make this park personal and meaningful."

Retired Col. Thaddeus Buczek said, "This

brick walkway will remind countless residents and businesses of the extraordinary sacrifices our individual veterans have made on our behalf. The museum is deeply grateful and gratified that the Essex County Community has embraced Armory Park and all that it embodies."

The park has already begun to serve the purpose for which it was conceived — a fitting memorial, as a gathering place for visitors, as a beautiful public space for veteran ceremonies and community events.

"We must also remember the fact that not only is this a day of paying honor and tribute, of recalling with deep pride the many valorous acts performed by so many patriotic Americans on the battlefields throughout the world, but actually this is a day of dedication," Buczek said. "We dedicate our minds, our hearts and our lives to the cause for which so much has been sacrificed. Let us, by remembering the honor of noble death, reinvigorate the nobility and dignity of life. The struggle for freedom never ends. It was purchased with blood and must be preserved by devotion."

"So Armory Park dedication day is indeed a day of honor, a day of remembrance, a day of reckoning, a day of accounting, and above all a day of high resolve. We resolve anew today that these men shall not have died in vain."

Three people spoke about the honor of receiving a brick in their name or in the name of a family member.

The first was Salem honoree Jay Alex Neescho, who served as a PT boat commander under Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

"This park is dedicated to the people who fought and died for the very core of who we are as a nation," said Biff Neescho, representing his father.

The second honoree was citizen-soldier and Marine Corps World War II veteran, Lawrence F. Kirby of Manchester, Mass.

"I have a brick there with my name on it and this makes me very proud, but prouder still is the fact that the brick next to it bears the name of my son who was wounded and decorated in Vietnam," he said. "I am so proud of him ... I am honored to be here today, not for myself, but for my comrades. Remembering the bravery of those men who sacrificed their freedom for the freedoms of others."

The third walkway honoree was Maj. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., represented by his daughter-in-law, Joanne Holbrook Patton.

"I would like us and everyone we influence to remember as we step on those bricks, admiring them as we go, that they represent our neighbors and our ancestors who have served and died for us," she said. "Now it is up to us to make our lives and our world worth their sacrifice."

Representing the adjutant general of the Massachusetts National Guard was Brig.



Retired Brig. Gen. Albert Mangone points out Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.'s name etched in brick, to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Joanne Holbrook Patton

Photos by: SFC Steve Tedeschi

Gen. Arthur Wyman, the deputy commander of the 29th Infantry Division. He expressed what the Armory Park means to the Massachusetts National Guard.

"The freedoms we enjoy today are provided in large part by the sacrifices of past and present day National Guard. From the earliest conflicts to present day, many have made the ultimate sacrifice and many more will bear the burden as we continue to battle those who intend to do our nation harm," he said. "What better way to pay tribute, to honor the national guard— while walking in Armory Park where kindred spirits speak to us, where names are touched of friends and fellow military never forgotten."

"Armory Park was designed to be a place to honor the National Guard and its heritage — 'Where it all began. The walkway is a reminder of selfless service and of past heroes. This gives new meaning to the actions of present day soldiers and airmen. On behalf of all soldiers at home, on the battlefield, or at posts throughout the world, I'd like to thank the citizens of Salem and Essex County for making the spirit of the guard's militia ancestry and its present role in America's freedom more apparent to residents and visitors alike."

In one combined ceremony, next Patriot's Day, five events important to the Guard will be observed:

- the organization of the North, South, and

- East Regiments of Massachusetts Militia;
- the First Muster of East regiment on Salem Common;
- Leslie's Retreat (the first armed confrontation);
- the start of Revolutionary War and
- observing the deaths of the first men killed in action on April 19, 1775, and the founding of the Second Corps of Cadets Massachusetts volunteer Militia.

"Every Patriot's Day we are going to honor the heritage that General Mangone described and the fact that the National Guard started here in Salem. A fund has been established to support this annual event. It is such an honor that Brig. Gen. Mario DiCarlo (commander of the Massachusetts National Lancers) gave us a check of \$20,000 and the plan is to match his donation. The interest from that money will pay every year for the celebration," said Bonnie Hurd-Smith. Brigadier Gen. Mangone announced that the fund will be called the National Lancers' Guard Anniversary Fund and concluded the ceremony with the walkway ribbon cutting.

Wyman reflected after the ceremony that "the event was a great success as it honors a lot of past National Guardsmen and the fact that the Peabody Essex museum and the city of Salem donated this space to the National Guard is a great tribute to our soldiers."



States

379th Engineers clear a path in West Virginia

By SPC Christopher Dowd

Massachusetts Army National Guard

WEST VIRGINIA — The 379th Engineer Co. traveled to Benedum Airport in West Virginia for annual training with a mountain of a task ahead of them.

With an increase to air traffic in the area, the airport needed to expand into the rolling terrain beyond.

For the second year, the 379th responded to the challenge of digging through the natural fortress to create a new runway.

First platoon was in charge of cutting through the rock and dirt of the mountain-side.

Led by Sgt. 1st Class James Slattery, the cutting involved many pieces of equipment and all the manpower the platoon could manage.

They used 20-ton dump trucks, pan scrapers, bulldozers and loaders. Much of the time was spent pushing tons of dirt into piles for the loaders to drop into the back of the dump trucks, which would transport the dirt to a fill site on the other side of the air strip. Scraper machines were also used to dig up dirt.

Approximately 23,000 square cubic yards of earth was removed from the mountain.

The transported dirt was sent to their fellow soldiers in third platoon who were in charge of the fill site.

Led by Staff Sgt. Kevin Taylor, the fill project involved the proper placement and leveling of the dirt from the cut site and filling the enormous hole next to the runway. As the fill came into the pit, soldiers on foot would guide their equipment, leveling off the pouring dirt.

The beautification project fell on second platoon's shoulders, which consisted of removing approximately a half-acre of trees and shrubs along with underbrush.

Soldiers used several pieces of hand equipment such as chainsaws, handsaws, and branch cutting tools to go along with a small



By SPC Christopher Dowd, Massachusetts Army National Guard

Members of the 379th Engineer Battalion traveled to Benedum Airport, W.Va. this summer to aid in the airport's expansion. The unit removed more than 23,000 square cubic yards of a mountain in order to create usable ground space.

dozer to help remove the large trees.

Many of the trees removed were over thirty feet in height.

During the annual training, soldiers simulated a battlefield environment. Soldiers were expected to conduct business while maintaining proper security levels around the base camp and all projects.

Their time was broken down into three

groups: security, project work and sleep management.

Each group had a specific work time in which to conduct their missions.

The shifts were broken into eight-hour shifts so that a project worker would work for eight hours, maintain security for eight hours then sleep for eight hours.

During this 72-Hour operation, state evaluators posed as terrorists trying to infiltrate the base camp and disrupt the project — simulating a life-like terrorist attack.

The annual training for the 379th was a success. Many of the projects conducted helped the Benedum Task Force come one step closer to completing the project which began in 1994.

Florida's National Guard key in the comeback of the red-cockaded woodpecker

CAMP BLANDING, Fla. — The Florida National Guard's 73,000-acre training site nestled in the northeast corner of the state is a unique mix of wildlife and military firepower.

There are more than 40 protected plant and animal species living on Camp Blanding and the thousands of soldiers who work and train here every year are committed to protect the fragile ecosystem.

At the crux of the Florida National Guard's efforts to protect the environment, while balancing the mission of staying trained and ready to complete its war-fighting mission, is the red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) federally protects this rare bird.

"The type of forest the red-cockaded woodpecker likes is best for our training because it's an open kind of forest," Mike Adams, natural and cultural resource manager with the Florida Department of Military Affairs, said. "Rather than

overgrown with a lot of understory and subcanopy you could almost drive a vehicle through it and not hit anything — that's what both soldiers and RCW like."

Once a very populous species, the nearly eight-inch tall black and white striped bird is down to less than one percent of the pre-European settlement numbers, and Camp Blanding has Florida's second largest red-cockaded woodpecker population.

"The bird inhabits a very specific ecosystem called the long-leaf pine and if the habitat is in good shape then you'll have the red-cockaded woodpecker. If it's in bad shape then you won't have them," Adams said. "The bird is an indicator species of a forest's health."

According to Paul Catlett, Forest Area Supervisor at Camp Blanding, there are more than 5,000 acres of long-leaf pine on Camp Blanding. Through prescribed burning and by

planting new trees the Guard is increasing the number of long-leaf pine trees on Blanding, Catlett added.

Working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Florida, and the U.S. Army, the Florida National Guard has embarked on the leading edge of natural resource management of the red-cockaded woodpecker.

At Camp Blanding the Guard is working to replenish the population of red-cockaded woodpeckers on the installation. By removing hardwood trees in the long-leaf pine forests, moving birds from another state to Blanding, or simply creating new "cavities" in the trees, the number of woodpecker clusters has increased.

Starting in 1999 Camp Blanding was the first National Guard facility to move a red-cockaded woodpecker from a healthy, stable population to a needy recipient site.

First official history of Army National Guard

By Maj. Ellen G. Krenke
National Guard Bureau Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Everything you ever wanted to know about the Army National Guard may be good way to describe a new book by retired Col. Michael D. Doubler.

The book, "I Am The Guard: A History of the Army National Guard, 1636-2000," is the first official history of the Army National Guard.

"It's an interpretative history of the National Guard," Doubler said. "It's not only the facts, but an analysis of what was done during different times in history."

With a forward by Gen John W. Vessey, Jr., the book is a comprehensive account of the service and sacrifices of American citizen-soldiers since colonial times.

"The book is a good read, one that should give pleasure and pride to every Guardsman," Vessey writes. "Far more important, it brings invaluable lessons from history to policy makers of today. It should be required reading for defense policy makers in both the executive and legislative branches of our government and for military officers dealing with force structure and mobilization planning."

Doubler said he hopes "I Am The Guard" will be used as a "source book" in armories around the country. The book, which took about 3 1/2 years to write, includes over 70

photographs.

Planning for the book began in 1998 when Maj. Gen. William A. Navas, Jr., the director of the Army National Guard at the time, discovered the Army Guard didn't have an official history.

"It was General Navas' vision to write this history," Doubler said. "And it was Lt. Gen. (Roger C.) Schultz (the current director of the Army National Guard) who had the wisdom and determination to complete the project."

Doubler, who served on active duty for 14 years before joining the Delaware Army National Guard, was a speechwriter for Lt. Gen. Edward D. Baca, chief of the National Guard Bureau, when he signed on for the project.

A military history professor at West Point for three years, Doubler said he was motivated by the fact the Army National Guard did not have a book that told its complete story. "It had to be started ... and finished," he said.

The previous standard work on the Army National Guard was a book, entitled "The Minuteman in War and Peace" by Jim Dan Hill. The book begins with the Civil War leaving out about 250 years of Army National Guard history.

Doubler said his book offers "complete, balanced coverage from beginning to end. I also wanted to make it relevant to today's

"The book is a good read, one that should give pleasure and pride to every Guardsman. Far more important, it brings invaluable lessons from history to policy makers of today. It should be required reading for defense policy makers in both the executive and legislative branches of our government and for military officers dealing with force structure and mobilization planning."

— Gen John W. Vessey, Jr.

National Guard member," he said. "This book fills that void. It ends with the 49th Armored Division's deployment to Bosnia."

"I Am The Guard" focuses on the Army Guard's role as a whole because it would be impossible to track the history of each state, Doubler said.

However, he encourages the states to compile their own history. "Not enough states have a good history," he said. "I would encourage each TAG to do what General Navas and General Schultz did. Go to the staff and see what you do have. A lot of states have a rich military history, but they're certainly not written down adequately."

In his research, Doubler discovered that the National Guard was very slow to integrate. "Even after President Truman signed the integration order, the argument

was that it applied to active duty units," he said. "We know of certain instances when a unit came back from a deployment and re-segregated."

As a result, the National Guard did not have significant minority participation until the early 1970s. "Without the participation of all minorities, including women, the Army National Guard would have been greatly crippled," he said.

While "extremely satisfied" with the book, Doubler said a few things ended up on the cutting room floor such as the Guard's involvement in the creation of the National Rifle.

During his research, Doubler said he uncovered surprising facts about the National Guard and its involvement in the nation's history such as:

- * The Continental Army could not have won the Revolutionary War without the militias, and
- * The National Guard was involved in all of our nation's wars. "Most people view the National Guard as an emergency service," he said. "It's not. The National Guard has made a great contribution in all of our wars."

For that reason, Doubler said it is even more important for the National Guard to remain at the center of national defense.

"The National Guard has always been a part of defending our Homeland," he said. "It has always been a big part of what the National Guard has done in peace time and in war time."

"I Am The Guard: A History of the Army National Guard, 1636-2000," is currently available for \$48.50 through the Government Printing Office at www.gpo.gov.

Doubler released another book this month through Brassey's, Inc., entitled, "The National Guard: An Illustrated History of America's Citizen-Soldiers." The book includes 450 photographs with text, and is available for sale in bookstores nationwide and on the internet.

His next projects consist of a book on the Civil War's western theatre and a supplement to the ARNG history book on the individual contributions of National Guard members throughout history.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carl Legore, National Guard Bureau

Col. Michael D. Doubler (Ret.) poses in front of a National Guard Heritage Painting.

Defender Challenge:

Airman 1st Class Kevin Reid, 89th Security Forces Squadron, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., assumes an ambush position during Air Mobility Command Defender Challenge team tactics training.

Photo by Kevin Mann

Guardman leads Air Force team to victory

By Capt. Joye Haun
149th Fighter Wing

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS — An Air National Guardsman led the Air Mobility Command team to a first-place victory in the prestigious Sadler Cup competition during Defender Challenge, the annual Air Force Security Forces competition.

The team was led by an Air National Guardsman, Tech. Sgt. Mike Rakauckas, a civilian police officer in Mount Laurel, N.J., who was activated in September 2001 for Operation Noble Eagle.

Rakauckas' team placed first in the Sadler Cup competition, an event that requires teams to plan and execute a challenging tactical operation on short notice. Considered the toughest event in the competition, it requires detailed planning, tactical know-how and strong leadership.

"It was a good feeling," Rakauckas said about winning the event. "I knew we did well in the tactics."

Defender Challenge is an annual exercise designed to showcase the ground-based defense skills of Air Force security forces personnel. First held as a marksmanship contest in 1952, the competition was modified to an Olympics-style

series of events in 1981.

Defender Challenge 2002 pit 10 all-star security forces teams from U.S. Air Force major commands worldwide, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Royal Air Force Regiment in head-to-head team competition in the craft and tools of their trade — weapons employment and tactics.

Rakauckas, stationed at McGuire AFB, N.J., was selected to compete for the AMC team.

The four-day competition included shooting tests, physical fitness assessments, and other events. The MAJCOM team then trained together for two weeks to prepare for the world-wide challenge.

According to Rakauckas, his teammates had no qualms about having a "Guard guy" as their team chief. "They just want the most qualified person," he said. "I led by example, so they accepted me."

Rakauckas noted that, in fact, his Air National Guard experience actually helped him in the team competition.

"I flew Raven missions with the Air National Guard, and I had already worked with several of my team members on those missions," said Rakauckas. "Ravens" are two- to four-person teams specially trained in antiterrorism, protocol and negotiation measures. They provide security for AMC air-

craft and people when traveling to "hot spots" around the world.

Teams competed in three events testing combat equipment, combat readiness skills training and employment. This year's competition also served as a test-bed for new weapons and equipment, including the M-4 rifle, which is replacing the legendary M-16 rifle in the security forces arsenal, and as a proof-of-concept evaluation for the Close Precision Engagement day and night sighting system.

Rakauckas is eager to share his new skills with his home unit. In addition to his Raven missions, he also does training for his unit.

"We trained on the M-4; that will help out," he said. "The training and competition is great experience to give back to the unit."

Rakauckas is prior active duty, and participated in Defender Challenge in 1997 with the 305th Security Forces Squadron and in 1998 with the Air National Guard team. Because he's activated, the 10-year veteran could serve this year as an active duty representative.

Overall, Rakauckas has enjoyed the past year of active duty, but he said there was an initial period of adjustment. Many of the unit members were traditional Guardsmen.