

THE ON GUARD

Volume XXXI, 08 NEWSPAPER of the ARMY and AIR NATIONAL GUARD Special Edition

United in Freedom



THE GUARD: Always ready, always there

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A state Department of Forestry supervisor, who in late July was far more concerned about wildfires in Oregon than he was about terrorists in airports still summed up, in a couple of short sentences, all that the National Guard has come to mean to America during the last year.

"They're doing meaningful work," observed Joe Misek as National Guard

troops labored to help contain one of the fires that had scorched the Oregon. "Before last Sept. 11, the National Guard didn't have a lot of meaning to a lot of people. Since Sept. 11, the Guard has come to mean a lot more."

The nation's lawmakers seem to agree now that the debate is on about how the National Guard will fit into the new system of homeland defense that has been prompted by that terrible Tuesday of terrorism more than one year ago.

"We have an enormous asset in America in our National Guard," U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., recently told *The Washington Post*. "We have men and women who are dedicated to the country and show it with the sacrifice that they make. But we can clearly use them, I think, more effectively as a part of homeland security."

President George W. Bush's administration had not decided what role the Guard would play in that evolving plan at press

time as the nation observed the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C.

But National Guard leaders and tens of thousands of the rank and file citizen-soldiers and airmen had already made it clear they want to continue to have a piece of that action as well as remain engaged in international and other domestic operations vital to their country's security.

See GUARD On Page 3



Hot Topics

About The On Guard

The On Guard is published monthly using federal funds under provisions of AR 360-81 by the Command Information Branch of the National Guard Bureau's Public Affairs Office for all members of the Army and Air National Guard. The 50,000 copies are distributed to all National Guard units and selected organizations throughout the Total Force. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the Army, the Air Force or the National Guard Bureau.

Submissions

E-mail your stories to us by the 20th of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (200 dpi or more) and e-mailed to:

Editor.OnGuard@ngb.af.mil

Address

NGB-PAI-C
Suite 11200
1411 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington VA 22202-3259

Phone/Fax

(703) 607-2649
DSN 327-2649
FAX: (703) 607-3686

Web Site

www.ngb.dtic.mil/

Staff

CHIEF,
National Guard Bureau
Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis

CHIEF,
NGB, Public Affairs
Mr. Daniel Donohue

CHIEF,
NGB-Public Affairs
Command Information
Maj. Lee Packnett

EDITOR
Staff Sgt. Gary Hicks

SENIOR CORRESPONDENT
Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

STAFF WRITER
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wedeking

Guardsmen to be activated for 24 months following attacks

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Air Force plans to extend the mobilization of more than 14,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members into a second year because of the continuing requirements of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

The plan is to keep these people mobilized just long enough for the active force to realign manpower so that requirements created by the war against terror can be supported by a more predictable steady state process, said John C. Truesdell, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon.

"What has happened is that since America was attacked and we have the increased threat of terrorism, we have increased our presence not just at our bases in the United States but at our bases overseas," said Col. Tony West, the Air Guard's chief of security forces in a recent interview with *USA Today*.

Despite these tour extensions, Air Force leaders are committed to demobilizing these people as soon as possible.

There are several initiatives currently underway to transform the active duty force structure to alleviate its stressed career fields and tailor it to meet the new 21st century requirements.

These initiatives seek to free up active duty airmen from non-military essential tasks and use those assets in stressed specialties such

as security forces.

The Air Force has not been able to meet the increased security forces requirements from within the active duty force and the continued support of the Guard and Reserve is crucial to protecting the force.

Nearly 67 percent of the Air Reserve

"What has happened is that since America was attacked and we have the increased threat of terrorism, we have increased our presence not just at our bases in the United States but at our bases overseas."

— Col. Tony West

Component members who are having their tours extended are filling security forces requirements.

"Senior Air Force leaders understand the concerns this announcement may create among extended Air Reserve Component members and one action they are taking is to seek legislative relief in two bills introduced to Congress," said Truesdell. "The first bill seeks congressional approval to authorize the Air Force to contract out certain adminis-

trative security forces functions to reduce the number of positions that must be filled by active duty or ARC security forces.

"The companion amendment, if passed, would allow Active Guard and Reserve Tours from the Air Force Reserve to be used for security forces functions."

These two bills aren't a cure-all, according to Truesdell, but combined with ongoing initiatives, they will help bring down the number of people that must be extended through their second year and hopefully, return some predictability back to Guard and Reserve members.

"This predictability is important if we hope to retain our people, their families and the employers," Truesdell said. "We are working hard to constantly improve our communication with the many audiences involved with this war effort, especially our people, their families, employers, and every member of Congress. The operative word here is 'retention.' We want our whole team to know that we really appreciate all that they've done for us already but that we still need their continued support to finish the job."

Seventy-six thousand five hundred eighteen National Guard and Reserve troops are currently on active duty supporting the war on terrorism. According to the Pentagon: 36,895 are assigned to the Army; 28,214 to the Air Force; 6,525 to the Navy; 3,788 to the Marines and 1,096 to the Coast Guard.

Terrorist Attacks: Units make plans for anniversary

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. - National Guard leaders and other citizen-soldiers and airmen from Maine to Hawaii are helping to make sure that September's second Wednesday will not be just another day on the job. They, too, have made plans to help the country commemorate the first anniversary of September 11.

It may not be an official national holiday, but the National Guard will take part in events in at least eight states - other than New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania - where Sept. 11 will be remembered in the same way that Americans remember Pearl Harbor Day every Dec. 7.

Among the observances:

• Hawaii - Guard troops will participate in a ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at the Punchbowl.

• Indiana - Guard troops will take part in a memorial service at the State House in Indianapolis.

• Iowa - Major Gen. Gilbert Dardis, the state's adjutant general, will be among four speakers during a Standing Tall! ceremony at Sec Taylor Stadium in Des Moines. Guard troops will march in a parade that will include police officers, firefighters and other emergency responders.

• Kansas - A military parade and displays of military equipment will be part of the Governor's Patriot Day during the annual State Fair in Hutchinson.

• Maine - Major Gen. Joseph Tinkham II, the state's adjutant general, will offer remarks during a remembrance service in Rumford.

• Maryland - Major Gen. James Fretterd, the state's adjutant general, will be a guest speaker at Ripkin Stadium in Aberdeen.

• North Dakota - Guard troops will take part in events in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

• New Mexico - A fly-over by Air Guard F-16s is one way the Guard will support the activities, in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, during the State Fair in Albuquerque.

• Connecticut - The 102nd Army Band and an honor guard will participate in a ceremony scheduled for Sept. 13 at the Big E States Exposition in Springfield, Mass.

On the cover: A painting depicting the first pass by U.S. fighters over the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001 will be unveiled at the Pentagon on Sept. 4, by Dr. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force and Gen. Jumper. See the October edition of The On Guard for the complete story.



In Memory

FROM PAGE 1

Guard

"I'd like to see the Guard have a key role in [the homeland defense command]," said Lt. Gen. Russell Davis.

"The Guard is capable of and should be used for missions at the local and state levels as well as at the national level," Davis added. "We're also deployed overseas. That capability must also be retained in the Guard."

"Homeland security and homeland defense is part and parcel of what we're all about," Maj. Gen. Fred Rees, acting chief of the National Guard Bureau, told *The Washington Post*. "The Guard has performed those duties since colonial times."

The National Guard was already established as a military force immediately available for domestic and international duty long before the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked and nearly 3,000 people were killed in one Tuesday morning last year.

More than 52,000 Army and Air National Guard troops were on duty for Operations Noble Eagle at home and Enduring Freedom abroad late this summer. Many of those were veterans of the Persian Gulf War and peace-keeping operations in the Mideast, Bosnia and Kosovo that have consumed the past dozen years.

The difference is that Guard members have been much more visible to the U.S. people at large than they have been in the past.

A traveler could not pass through a security checkpoint at a commercial airport in this country last winter and spring without seeing a National Guard soldier or airman in a battle dress uniform.

A sports enthusiast could not get into a Winter Olympics venue in Utah last February without being scanned for metal objects by someone wearing a hooded, camouflage parka.

Travelers still cannot drive into this country from Canada or Mexico without seeing someone in uniform checking trunks or asking motorists where they are going.

Other people may also have seen National Guard men and women standing watch at bridges, tunnels and power plants.

People may also know that Guard people still fly combat air patrols over New York, Washington and other cities and that several hundred troops have been certified to serve anywhere in the country on the Guard's 27 full-time civil support teams trained to respond to attacks with nuclear, radiological, chemical or biological weapons.

Meanwhile, National Guard troops have gone to Afghanistan to help root out members of terrorist cells on the ground and from the air. Others with the Army Guard's Mountain Warfare School in Vermont have trained American troops how to serve in that mountainous terrain.

Still others, commanded by Rhode Island Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus, are part of a joint task force that is

guarding and caring for nearly 600 suspected members of al-Qaida being detained at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Not as high-profile to folks in the United States, but gaining international exposure, Air Guard citizen-airmen are with West Virginia Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Wayne Lloyd in far-away Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, commanding a coalition air wing comprised of 1,500 people from the United States and seven other countries.

And members of the Air Guard's security forces have gone to Lackland Air Force Base in Texas to train new military policemen for the Air Force.

Some Guard members have paid the ultimate price - with their lives.

Colorado Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero and West Virginia Sgt. Gene Vance, members of the Army Guard's 19th Special Forces Group, were killed while performing their duties in Afghanistan last April and May. Vance, who was shot during a patrol, is reported to be the first Army National Guard citizen-soldier to die because of direct combat since 1969.

"We've had our share of casualties, unfortunately," acknowledged the Guard Bureau's retiring chief. "But that's because we're part of a great team that America puts forward when it's in a crisis."

To be sure, if there is a military operation involving Army or Air Force personnel anywhere in the world, the chances are extremely good that Guard members are part of the total force.

That seems to fit in with the long-range intent of commander in chief, who earned his wings as a Texas Air National Guard fighter pilot when he was a younger man.

"The National Guard and Reservists will be more involved in homeland security, confronting acts of terror and the disorder our enemies may try to create," said Bush while visiting an Air National Guard base in Charleston, W. Va., in February 2001, seven months before the attacks.

Now that many Guard troops are fully engaged, some members of Congress want to make sure they receive the same benefits to which all other military people on active duty are entitled.

A proposed Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Equity Act is one example. That, the *Army Times* reported, would make all Guard members mobilized for more than 30 consecutive days for operations authorized by the president or secretary of defense and paid by federal funds eligible for benefits under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

One benefit would be to put a 6-percent cap on interest rates for loans taken before a service member was called to active duty.

There is little doubt that more Guard people

Fallen Guardsman



Photo by Samir Maslini. Eagle, Courtesy: Gilbert

Army Chaplain (Capt.) Terry Jarvis blesses fallen soldier Sgt. Gene Vance, 19th Special Forces Group, West Virginia Army National Guard, May 20 on a C-17 Globemaster prior to the fallen soldier ceremony at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Sgt. Gene Arden Vance Jr.: Husband, father, citizen-soldier

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. - Members of the West Virginia National Guard and hundreds of others who remembered him as a husband and father, as a bicyclist and music lover, as a soldier and friend, saluted and paid tribute to slain Army Guard Sgt. Gene Vance Jr. earlier this year on Memorial Weekend.

"He was a quiet professional, a dedicated soldier willing to die for our freedom," praised Maj. Gen. Allen Tackett, West Virginia's adjutant general and state military leader, when U.S. citizens traditionally honor the departed men and women who have served their country in uniform.

Tackett spoke to more than 800 people who jammed into the Mountainlair Ballroom at West Virginia University in Morgantown for a memorial service honoring

Vance who had lived and taken college classes there since 1991 and who was killed one week earlier.

They honored the Army National Guard Special Forces soldier who was the most recent member of the American military to die during the war against terrorism prompted by the attacks of last Sept. 11.

It was a melancholy Memorial weekend for the National Guard because Vance was the second Army Guard soldier to be killed in Afghanistan in just a little over a month.

Yet another Guard soldier has returned to his wife and two children in Texas to recover from a bullet wound to his face after he, too, became a casualty in the same dangerous land.

These were not casualties from past wars.

See VANCE On Page 7

will be needed and that their long-range mission will be better defined.

Homeland Security Director Thomas Ridge, the former governor and National Guard commander-in-chief in Pennsylvania, has indicated that will begin to happen this fall after the new Northern Command, which will oversee the defense of the continental United States, stands up.

Major Gen. H. Steven Blum, former com-

mander of the multi-state National Guard 29th Infantry Division, has been named chief of staff for that command that will be based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

That's one more way the Guard has proven itself to people like U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond, R-Mo., who last March predicted: "Our Guard forces will continue to play a pivotal role in our nation's security."

Multi-tasking for air superiority-

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An Air National Guard unit is proving that "multi-tasking" can be done successfully.

The District of Columbia Air National Guard's 113th Fighter Wing's F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighters immediately flew combat air patrol maintaining air superiority over the nation's capital following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

After flying 60 consecutive hours following Sept. 11, the unit stood down during October and November to prepare for their upcoming Air Expeditionary Forces deployment overseas. However, the 113th was tasked again to fly more combat air patrol missions in support of Operation Noble Eagle, which it did until spring 2002 when it returned to its alert role. The unit flew nearly 2,000 hours during that period.

For pilots, a normal combat air patrol sortie lasts several hours and flying the patrols were not the most exciting mission they are trained for. It is, however, an extremely important mission and the pilots approached it with professional seriousness and determination.

The 113th often flew the local patrols with fighters from other units, mostly from the East Coast, that were also tasked to support the mission. Air patrols were flown continuously over New York City and Washington, D.C., however, there were many other areas where the CAP was flown randomly.

"Flying so many hours with so few problems is a testament to our maintainers' professionalism," said Maj. Frank Woodslawsky, a 113th pilot. "We couldn't do the mission without the maintainers and other support personnel and their dedication to these missions. They're out there in bad weather as well as good, through the night, 24 hours a day."

In mid-March the 113th Wing undertook a new mission and can have aircraft, pilots and maintenance personnel ready to go around the clock if needed.

One pilot likens it to firefighters in their firehouse ready to go. When operating on alert, the crews pull duty for 24 hours at a time and remain in the crew alert shelters or in operations or the hangar. Their normal work activities are restricted to guarantee adequate crew rest. Previously, aircrews had only practiced alerts during unit operational readiness inspections; now they do it for real.

When called upon, the pilots and F-16s scramble and are airborne within minutes. Standing alert minimizes the response time and ensures preparedness. There are number of reasons why one of our F-16s might be called including the aircraft designated to fly a patrol couldn't make it due to weather or



Photo by Master Sgt. Sean Brennan, District of Columbia Air National Guard

F-16 "Fighting Falcon" jet fighters with the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 121st Fighter Squadron fly over the National Mall as part of a post-Sept 11 combat air patrol mission.

maintenance problems.

When this happens, typically one or two times a week, one of the 113th's F-16s launches replacing the other aircraft in the combat air patrol.

Pilots are often asked to check airborne contacts with irregular flight patterns that radar had not previously identified.

To accommodate the alert mission, four air-

craft shelters were built in minimum time with a fifth shelter to be built in June 2003.

These shelters protect not only the alert aircraft during periods of inclement weather, but also the people who maintain them.

Lt. Col. Steve Chase, a 113th pilot, points out these combat air patrol and alert missions are not flown without a cost.

"These missions have been taken on without any reduction in the requirements to maintain proficiency in all of the combat-related missions of the F-16 fighter, overseas deployments in support of Aerospace Expeditionary Force, delivery of laser-guided munitions, close-air support and fighter-versus-fighter air combat tactics," Chase said.

Psychological Warfare:

Winning hearts and minds across the world

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

HARRISBURG, Pa. — First Lieutenant Ed Shank has a manila folder thick with newspaper clippings about the Pennsylvania Air National Guard unit that he serves in Harrisburg, Pa. Shank is the public affairs officer, the guy who talks to the news reporters, for the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing.

His two-inch thick folder is one indication of how this war on terrorism has been different for that 1,800-member wing whose principle mission of broadcasting radio and television messages and music from EC-130 "Hercules" airplanes to the people in combat areas was once shrouded in secrecy.

It is called "Commando Solo," and it is the only wing in the entire Air Force that does that job of psychological warfare that it took on during the Vietnam War. It is also one of the most frequently deployed wings in the Air National Guard.

Formerly Top Secret, the 193rd has now gone public. It was the only U.S. special operations outfit the Department of Defense permitted to tell its story and take media representatives on missions over Afghanistan while engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom from last September until March.

"This was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate what we're capable of doing and how effectively we do it," said Brig. Gen. Steven Speer, the wing's commander since November 1999. "Psychological operations is just one part of what the aircraft was designed to do. Information warfare is really what we are about."

Special operations people are, by nature, a closed-mouth lot. They do not talk about what they do or where they do it for fear they will tip off the enemy about their objectives, themselves and their families.

That makes those special operations units involved in a special operations war, as the search for terrorist cells in Afghanistan has been described, prime candidates for curious journalists anxious to report on and photograph every aspect of every conflict.

Therefore, journalists jumped at the chance to cover this war from the 193rd's perspective after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld publicly praised the wing last winter.

The articulate Shank, 33, spent a week in Southwest Asia last winter working with people from The New York Times, The Associated Press, MSNBC, and The Discovery Channel.

He put Senior Master Sgt. Mike Kovach, one of the wing's veteran-electronic communications systems operators, in front of the



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Senior Master Sgt. Mike Kovach has frequently explained to members of the media the unique mission of "Commando Solo" and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing based in Harrisburg during the war against terrorism. He works in the back of the airplane as one of the wing's electronic communications systems operators.

cameras as often as he could to explain in layman's language the unclassified missions of the people who work in the back of the planes.

"We don't shoot bullets. We don't drop bombs. We use electronic messages to persuade people," explained Kovach of the humanitarian messages that are prepared by the Army's 4th Psychological Operations Group at Fort Bragg, N.C., and broadcast by members of the 193rd.

"We have no wish to hurt you, the innocent people of Afghanistan," was among those messages. "Stay away from military installa-

tions, government buildings, terrorist camps, roads, factories or bridges. Seek a safe place, and stay well away from anything that might be a target."

"Every one we persuade is one more person who doesn't have to be dealt with in other ways," Kovach said. "We also learned that the Afghan people liked the cultural folk music we played because the Taliban rulers had not allowed them to use radios for 10 years."

There was plenty to talk about, Shank and Kovach related, because the wing's rotations of experienced aircrews and maintenance

people completed 100 percent of the 307 assigned sorties in two of the wing's 1963-vintage EC-130 aircraft for six months. The 193rd's air mission ended in March after the Army set up broadcast facilities on the ground, they explained.

"COMMANDO SOLO: When America Went to War in Afghanistan, Radio Went Too," was the headline for a story in the Feb. 1 edition of Radio World, a newspaper for radio managers and engineers, that is part of that wing's publicity windfall.

See WARFARE On Page 11

Benton leads ANG through post 9-11 events

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - Ninety-six days. Three months and change. A single summer season.

That defines the amount of time that Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton had to adjust to her new life as the high-profile leader and spokesperson for the Air National Guard's enlisted force of 93,000 men and women before every American's life changed last Sept. 11.

That's how long she had to come to grips with the job as command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard and to make her way as the first woman and first African-American to ever hold that job.

September 11th signaled the end of the Air National Guard's old era as it had been known by the seven men who had preceded her since 1975 and the start of a new era that Valerie Benton would help to define.

America was no longer engaged in somebody else's wars on distant shores. The National Guard was no longer primarily engaged with training or with seasonal hurricanes, floods and wildfires or the occasional civil disturbances that temporarily disrupted our domestic tranquility.

America had been attacked by an enemy force. Americans had been murdered on their home turf by terrorists with ties to foreign lands. The new war on terrorism changed many of the rules, including what the National Guard could do for this country. That altered Valerie Denette Benton's perception of who she is and what she does.

That's when she decided that she simply did not have the time to get hung up on issues such as her gender and her race because a lot of people needed her attention and her help.

"I haven't had time to think about those other things. I've had other concerns. I've had work to do," insisted Benton during a recent interview on a rare day in her office in Arlington, Va., when she was not visiting Guard members in some other place.

"I was glad I had this job last Sept. 11. It really put my life in perspective," said the 42-year-old mother of three. "In my 22 years in uniform I had never really gotten the essence of what it is to serve until that time when our freedom and our liberty was truly threatened."

"At first I was very nervous. It was a scary moment," recalled the woman from Wisconsin who could see the smoke billowing above the Pentagon from her new home at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., on that terrible Tuesday.

"I had been in the position for three months, and I sensed that we were about to be tasked to do what we had never done before; that it would be our men and women who would be fighting this war."

She knew she had to be much more than a role model for other women and African Americans who considered her an inspiration. She had to step up on behalf of the entire enlisted force. Her first priority, Benton explained, was to make herself available to the troops she believed needed her



Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton has encountered many challenges because of the war on terrorism during her first year as the eighth Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air National Guard Bureau. She is the first woman and African American to hold that position.

most.

"I didn't wait for people to call me. I put myself where I thought I needed to be and where we were the busiest," said Benton who got to New York City as quickly as she could.

She attended the funeral of an Air Guard member from the 106th Air Rescue Wing who was killed in the line of duty as a New York City firefighter. She listened more intently than ever to the concerns that Air Guard members had about being called to arms. She bolstered their beliefs that they were doing the right thing.

"I realized that I didn't have a lot of time to learn what I didn't know," said Benton after acknowledging she would have been content to retire as the Air Guard's representative to the Air Force's First Sergeant Academy at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., before being tapped for the top-enlisted spot.

"Then I realized that this job is about our enlisted men and women and that it's not

about Val Benton. I knew I had to get out and visit with our troops. They needed to know I was there to help and bring their issues and concerns back to Washington, D.C. They needed to know we were concerned about their well-being at this level," she said.

"It was also important for them to know how great it is to serve our country in this way, and that not everyone is afforded that opportunity. This is not just about educational benefits, and it's certainly not about money. It's deeper than that. It's about preserving the freedoms and liberties that we want to have in our country for our children."

The Noble Eagle missions in this country and the Enduring Freedom operations have taken Air Guard troops in many diverse directions - from combat air patrols over New York and Washington, D.C., to last winter's security details at domestic airports, to duties in Afghanistan.

More than 21,000 Air Guard members

remain on duty or on call during the first weekend in August, according to the National Guard Bureau.

It is a sign of the times that she has been able to perform her new duties that keep her on the road 90 percent of the time without having to prove her abilities because she is a woman.

That would not have been possible had it not been for other women who made their way in what used to be a man's world and for former Air Guard Command Chiefs Ed Brown and Gary Broadbent, who believed she had the potential to do that job, Benton explained.

"I'm very thankful for the people who have paved the way," said Benton. "What they have done makes it possible for me to focus on the issues that are important now, including sharing information about the National Guard."

"It's an indication," she added, "of how far we have come."

FROM PAGE 3

Vance

These are casualties from America's war that is going on now. Nearly 55,000 National Guard troops, including 30,477 Army Guard soldiers, are now serving at home and abroad because of that war, according to the National Guard Bureau. Also, many troops learned that their military services will be required for another two years, an unprecedented announcement in recent U.S. military history.

The 38-year-old Vance was killed on May 19 during a patrol in eastern Afghanistan when his unit came under heavy fire, military authorities reported.

Colorado Army Guard Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Romero, 30, was killed on April 15 with three other U.S. soldiers when a 107mm rocket exploded as they were destroying captured weapons near Kandahar, said U.S. Central Command officials.

And Colorado 1st Lt. Gregory James Miller, 36, who lives in College Station, Texas, was wounded in the cheek during a presence patrol along a crowded city street on April 17. His jaw has been wired shut since April 20, said Miller, who is prepared to return to Afghanistan after he heals.

Those three citizen-soldiers were deployed to Afghanistan as members of the Army Guard's 19th Special Forces Group to take part in this new war that is putting a premium on air power and relatively small ground units highly trained in special operations instead of a large force of occupation.

Miller, furthermore, has had to come to

terms with the idea that Romero died in his place. That's because Miller, a physicians assistant, was originally scheduled to provide medical coverage for members of the active Army's 710th Explosive Ordnance Detachment who were sent out on April 15 to destroy the captured weapons.

"Dan said he wanted to provide the medical support because he was tired of being around the base camp. He wanted to do more than he was doing. So he went in my place," explained Miller on Memorial Sunday. "The fact that he was killed was tough to take, but another soldier was injured in that explosion, and it helped that I was able to care for him when he was brought back to the base camp."

Romero is survived by Stephanie Wendorf, his wife of five years, and his parents. He was posthumously awarded eight medals, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Legion of Merit, and his funeral mass was celebrated in Louisville, Colo., on May 9.

"These soldiers exemplify the essence of service to others. Members of the Guard have always been willing to go into harm's way and, if necessary, make the ultimate sacrifice for this country and the freedoms we cherish," said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

"They are heroes who deserve our respect and gratitude during this Memorial season and every day of the year," added Schultz, an Iowa Army Guard officer who earned a Silver Star during his combat tour in



Photos by Franka Bruns, Morgantown Post-Gazette

Staff Sgt. Gene Arden Vance Jr.'s widow, Lisa, kisses the American flag presented to her during a memorial service for her husband. Pictured right, is Gene Vance's mother, June.



Vietnam.

National Guard Bureau historians claim that Vance is the first member of the Army Guard to die as the result of direct combat since several New Hampshire Army Guard soldiers were killed in Vietnam in 1969.

Vance was posthumously promoted to staff sergeant and awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Legion of Merit and the West Virginia Distinguished Service Medal. Gov. Bob Wise and U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller presented them to Lisa Selmon Vance who married the soldier last fall.

West Virginia University gave him an honorary bachelor of arts degree, and a student rang the bell on the armored cruiser U.S.S. West Virginia 21 times in honor of Vance

who, besides his wife, is survived by his mother and a daughter from a previous marriage.

He also earned the nation's respect.

"Sergeant Vance's death reminds us of the sacrifices being made, every day, by the dedicated men and women of our armed forces," said Assistant Secretary of Defense Victoria Clarke. "His death, as well as his dedicated service, strengthens our resolve in pursuit of terrorists, terrorist networks and those who harbor and support them."

"They knew the risks of their profession, and they were proud of what they did for their country," said Miller of the two slain Guard soldiers. "They died doing what they wanted to do."

Staff Sgt. Gene Vance's daughter, Amber and brother, David Vance receive a West Virginia flag from Gov. Bob Wise at the Memorial Service.

U.S. troops respond to tra

By Maj. Mike Paoli, USAF

Special to the American Forces Press Service

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, 2001 -- They don't stand out, but many National Guard and Reserve members are here at "Ground Zero." They wear the uniforms of firefighters, city and state police officers and other public services.

Sparsely scattered among hundreds of volunteers are also those in battle dress uniforms. They are distinguished from each other only by the words above their pockets -- "U.S. Marines," "U.S. Army," "U.S. Air Force," "U.S. Navy."

Most of those in uniform are individual guardsmen and reservists on the volunteer "chain hauls," the human chains that remove rubble or bring in supplies. Some are active-duty military members from local recruiting stations or civilian school assignments.

One airman took leave, drove 12 hours from his duty station in Missouri and, by early morning the day after the Sept. 11 attack on

the World Trade Center was just another shadowed worker on a hill of rubble.

Sgt. 1st Class Earl Peebles of the Army Reserve had been looking forward to some sleep the morning of Sept. 11. He was leaving his night job as an operations analyst at Citibank in the Wall Street area when the first hijacked airliner slammed into the nearby trade center's north tower.

A communications expert with the 112th Field Artillery in Toms River, N.J., Peebles immediately drove the 86 miles home to retrieve his uniform, gloves, web harness and other useful gear. By Tuesday evening Peebles was assisting New York City police officers in setting up a security perimeter around the disaster area.

He then joined the chain hauls in the 16-acre area of devastation, passing buckets of debris throughout the night and much of the following day before exhaustion set in.

"I found a nice, quiet spot in Battery Park where I could lay my head," Peebles said. He

was up again a few hours later, conducting a search of the damaged American Express Building before again joining the "guys" atop the rubble.

"I think everyone was a little afraid at first," said Capt Brent Unger, an instructor with the 440th Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment in Columbia, Mo. "We started out slow, but once we got together out on the pile and started working, we got momentum."

"The camaraderie I felt, it was like we were all in the military," said New York native Navy Petty Officer 1st class Shannon Smith. "People constantly bringing water to drink or pour over your neck, or sandwiches."

Smith recalled his high school summers working in the World Trade Center. Now an active-duty administrator at the Undersea Warfare Unit in Brooklyn, he and fellow sailors joined a debris chain haul near the tall, silver-frame remains of the south tower.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Andre Alston walked the

perimeter of Ground Zero. A reserve chaplain with Marine Air Wing Group 49 in Willow Grove, Pa., he stopped rescue workers who seemed in need of comfort and encouragement.

"If they want to talk, we talk," said Alston, an eighth-grade teacher and former New Yorker. "If they want to pray, we pray, right in the middle of the street. A firefighter just cried, and I held him."

Alston said the most common question he received was, "Why?" He said he doesn't have an answer, but he did have a response.

"Out of tragedy there's always a purpose," Alston said. "I hope the tragedy of the loss of all these lives will unify our nation and break down the barriers that divide us."

After seven days, 50,000 tons of debris had been removed from Ground Zero. The volunteers were at work then, they are at work today, and they will be tomorrow and likely many more tomorrows to come. Individual soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are putting their military training to use while others provide physical and moral strength.

"We're not heroes, we're just Americans trying to help other Americans," said Brooklyn resident Air Force Senior Airman Edward Blunnie, a reservist and full-time U.S. Postal Service employee. "Until everyone is accounted for, we're going to work night and day to find our countrymen."

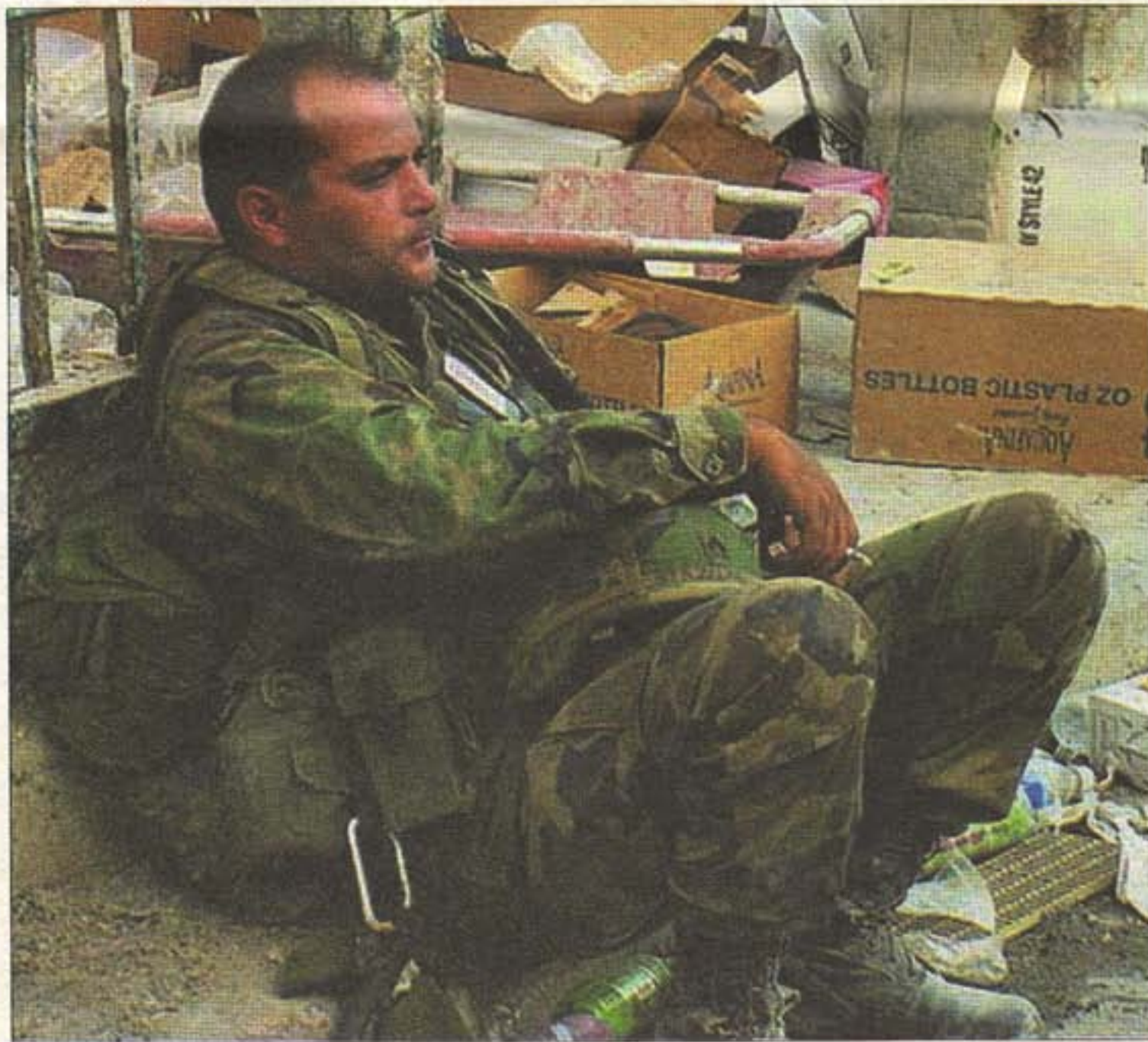
Photos by Capt. Jim Fabio, USAF.

(Left) A weary New York Army National Guard soldier takes a break from clearing debris resulting from the terrorist airliner crashes into the twin 110-story towers of the World Trade Center in New York City Sept. 11, 2001.

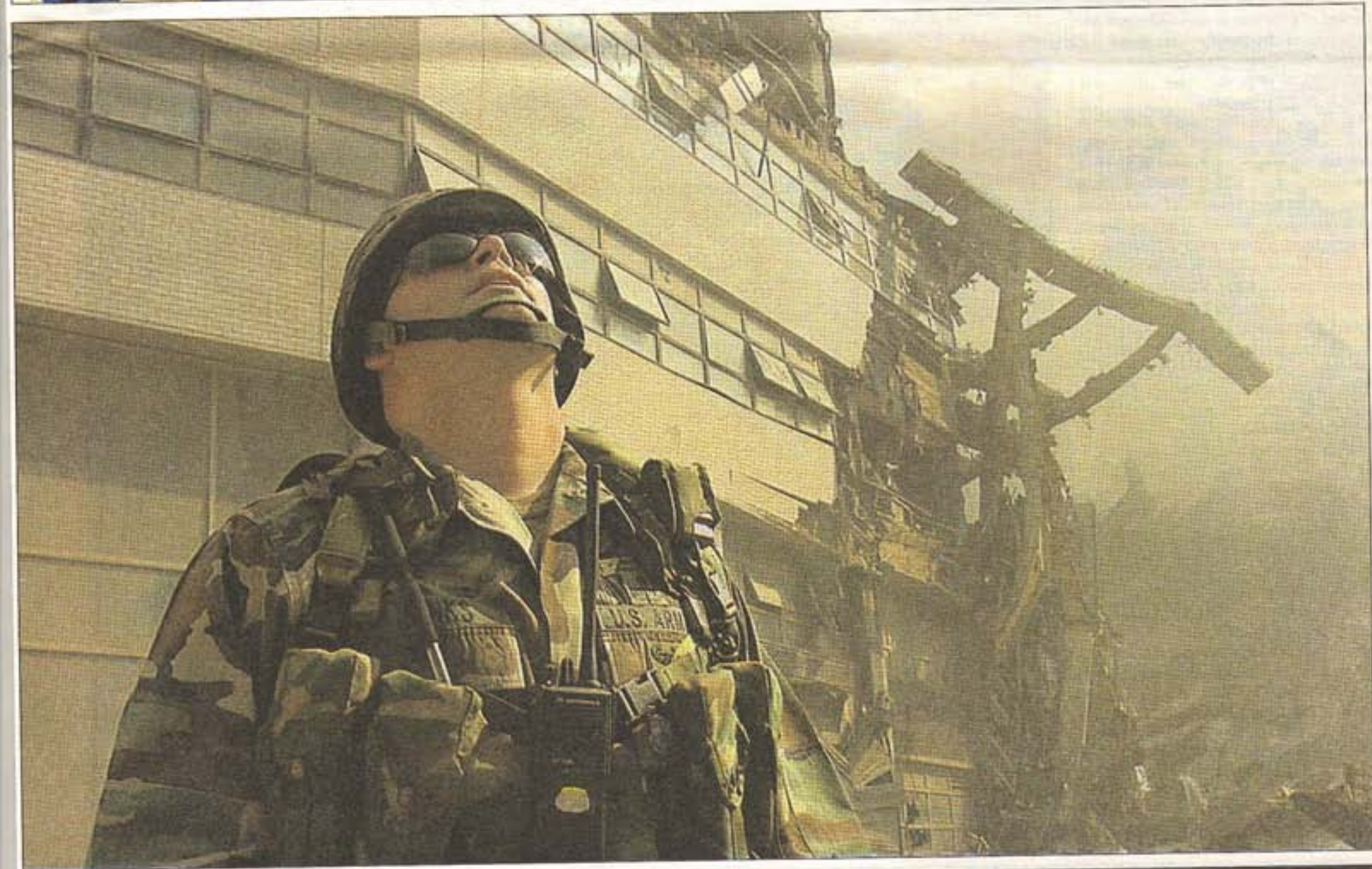
(Top Center) Senior Airman Edward Blunnie waits his turn on a chain-hauling line moving medical supplies to a church several blocks away from Ground Zero.

(Top Right) The Stars and Stripes fly on a makeshift flagpole over the remains of the south tower of the World Trade Center in New York.

(Right) A National Guardsman takes in the mountain of destruction caused by the terrorist airliner that crashed into the towers.



agedy as units, individuals





Deployed

Bearing the responsibility

By Staff Sgt. Romano Cedillos

384th Air Expeditionary Group

SOUTHWEST ASIA - Members of the Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing, Fuels Management Flight are playing an important role in America's fight against terrorism while on duty in a forward-operating location in Southwest Asia. Their mission: to support the U.S. Air Force's 384th Air Expeditionary Group and its fleet of air-refueling tankers flying the Middle-Eastern skies in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Tucson-based flight's deployment was a direct result of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks and they have been tasked with ordering, receiving, storing, testing and issuing the jet fuel the air group requires to carry out its mission.

Aside from being the first time many of these fuel technicians have used rubber fuel bladders to store jet fuel in the harsh environment of their area of responsibility where temperatures frequently rise above 120 degrees, they're also experiencing a heightened sense of pride and achievement compared to past deployments.

"I think the major difference is that here we have more responsibility," said Staff Sgt. Leonard Moreno, 162nd Fighter Wing assistant supervisor of bulk fuel storage. "Last year when we went Aerospace Expeditionary Force, we went to Kuwait. In the two weeks we were there, we weren't given any responsibility because we were (Air National) Guard or what have you. We were referred to as 'the Guard guys.' I left that (deployment) without a sense of accomplishment. But it's like the minute you get here, you're not a 'Guard guy,' you're here to do the work."

Fuel technicians work around the clock - much of the time in the blazing heat and humidity of the Middle Eastern desert - to maintain the several earthen fuel-containment dikes as well as the several bladders lying side-by-side like giant waterbeds in the scorching sun. This is done while air-to-air refueling tankers launch from a sand-swept runway 200 yards from where the bladders lay on their way to rendezvous with U.S. fighters, bombers, helicopters and surveillance aircraft on duty throughout the Southwest Asian theater. The critical importance of the mission was punctuated recently by a visit to the forward-operating location from U.S. Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command headquartered in Miami.

"No matter if you're flying in and out of Afghanistan, naval operations in the Persian Gulf, Operation Southern Watch in Iraq or Northern Watch out of Turkey, the job just doesn't get done without the airmen at (this

forward-operating location)," said Franks.

But it hasn't been all work for the men known as "fuelers." On their one-day off per week, they've been able to enjoy some of the creature comforts of home thanks to the people of group's services flight.

"We're keeping busy accomplishing something important. I like that," said Staff Sgt. Richard Quezada, bladder-storage supervisor. "But I like what we do on our days off too. We're all active. We're all in the gym and most of us are losing weight."

The AEG has made the quality of life for its personnel a high priority. Nothing represents that priority better than the multi-purpose recreational facility known as the K-span, where personnel can take advantage of gym equipment, play video games, catch up on the news from home on satellite television or keep in touch with family and friends via telephone or e-mail.

"We set some goals so that we have something to look forward to when we're off of

work, and we have something to look forward to when we're on," said Quezada.

But not only have the Air National Guard members been able to enjoy a raised sense of pride about their career field and the role it plays in Operation Enduring Freedom, the U.S. Air Force active-duty personnel they've been assigned to work with have also experienced renewed appreciation for their Guard counterparts.

"(The Guard) has folks that are maybe a little older in their lives, or should I say that there aren't many real-young 19 and 20 year olds," said Chief Master Sgt. Scott Baker, superintendent of 384th. "On the active-duty side, we sometimes get younger folks that are a little green. I know I can count on the Guard to bring a lot of experience and a lot of maturity to the team."

The group dynamics of the closely knit 162nd Fighter Wing citizen-airmen has also caught the attention of the rest of the Air Force fueling crews. The stress of such a dis-

tant and austere conditions in the Middle East can lead to short tempers and ill feelings among co-workers. But the team from Tucson has operated with nothing less than conspicuous professionalism.

"Somebody (mentioned) to me how professional we were and how we're not always getting on each other's backs," said Senior Airman Anthony Francisco, refueling unit operator. "People say, 'You guys act different than active duty. You're not always (complaining) all the time.' I think it's because we come from different backgrounds and have different (civilian) jobs. We have a lot of respect for each other."

The job of directly supporting America's fight against terrorism is an extremely important honor few Americans experience. Fortunately the Tucson Air National Guard has put its best foot forward and selected a very diverse, considerate and professional group of its members to represent the 162nd FW in the AOR.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cheresa D. Clark, 384th Air Expeditionary Group

The Arizona Air National Guard's 162nd Fighter Wing, Petroleum Oil and Lubcrants section personnel are deployed to a forward-operating location somewhere in the Middle East: (From left to right): Senior Airman Anthony Francisco, Staff Sgt. Leonard Moreno, Staff Sgt. James Rollins, Master Sgt. Brian Reed, Staff Sgt. Romano Cedillos, Tech. Sgt. James Gentry, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Larrivas, Staff Sgt. William Garcia and Staff Sgt. Richard Quezada.

Guard detains suspects captured during 'Enduring Freedom'

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba - Rick Baccus has been in the news quite a lot lately. He has been covered and quoted by such esteemed media organizations as The Associated Press, CBS, Newsweek and The Providence Journal since last April.

He is a one-star brigadier general in the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He will observe his 50th birthday on Aug. 30 in Cuba, far removed from his home in Bristol, because he is responsible for one of the more unusual and sensitive operations in this country's war against terrorism.

He is in charge of the suspected members of al-Qaida and Taliban terrorist cells who are being indefinitely detained at Camp Delta, a heavily secured and isolated compound on the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. There were 564 detainees from more than 30 countries at that newly constructed facility on "Gitmo" in mid-August.

They were captured in Afghanistan and a few other places where they were allegedly plotting terrorist activities against the United States. They have been flown to the U.S.

base, where they are not considered prisoners of war and where they do not fall under U.S. legal jurisdiction.

They are, however, there and Baccus must make sure they are treated humanely, within the spirit of the Geneva Convention, and guarded day and night as commander of Joint Task Force 160 that includes members of all U.S. military services, including other Rhode Island Army Guard soldiers.

National Guard troops from Maryland and several other states have been part of that task force since the detainees began arriving at Guantanamo Bay in January. Now Rhode Island Guard personnel are directing the entire operation.

"The individuals were detained for a reason," Baccus told The Providence Journal.

He has brought help from home since taking command of that 1,700-member task force on March 28. One hundred members of the Rhode Island Army Guard's Warwick-based 43rd Military Police Brigade which Baccus commanded before heading to Cuba to lead the command element for the task force on May 20.

The 43rd replaced the active Army's 89th Military Police Brigade from Fort Hood,

"The individuals were detained for a reason."

- Brig. Gen. Rick Baccus

Texas, and, it was reported, became the first National Guard military police unit to assume command of a joint task force.

It is the largest group of Rhode Island Guard troops called up for the war against terrorism. Twenty-six Air Guard security police officers were sent to McDill Air Force Base in Florida last October, said Lt. Col. Michael McNamara, a Rhode Island Guard spokesman.

Although he believes they are all hard cases, Baccus stresses the importance of treating the detainees, who wear orange jump suits, like human beings while they are confined separately in small cells. Each cell features a flush toilet, a sink with running water and a metal bed frame.

"Humane treatment means we have to provide them clothing, food, shelter and allow them to practice their religious beliefs," Baccus told the American Forces Press Service. "However, what we don't allow them to do are things like live in groups, use the canteen or work on work details."

He also said "the detainees are accepting their incarceration as a matter of course."

The fact that the detainees are allowed to practice their Muslim faith, including praying five times a day, and receive medical care from U.S. military doctors has led some people to observe they are being treated far better than terrorists would treat American military prisoners.

That, Baccus maintained, goes with the territory of holding enemy combatants.

"All of the service members here recognize the fact that they need to treat the detainees humanely," he said. "Any time anyone lays down their arms, our culture has been to treat them as noncombatant and humanely."

The Associated Press reported in April that Baccus addressed the detainees, urging them to be patient while the U.S. government considers their cases and explaining why some had been removed from the camp.

He began his comments by saying "Peace be with you," the AP reported, and he closed by saying, "May God be with you."

FROM PAGE 5

Warfare

"The results from this mission were immediate and I have been hearing nothing but rave reviews on this outstanding media event," praised Lt. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, commander of the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces, in a letter to Shank. "Telling our story to the American people is an important part of what we do during contingencies such as Operation Enduring Freedom."

That's not the end of the story.

Other members of the wing are still serving far from home. Three members of the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron are currently working with members of the Army's 101st Airborne Division in Pakistan, and about 20 citizen-airmen of the 271st Combat Communications Squadron have been deployed to Kyrgyzstan.

"We're not just a flying unit," Speer stressed. "We still have troops overseas and stateside supporting the war on terrorism."

Meanwhile, the wing's security force has been doubled to safeguard the compact base located at the Harrisburg International Airport from terrorist activities and to work more closely with local law enforcement agencies.

"We're sharing a lot more information with these police departments and with the active services than we ever have before," explained Master Sgt. Steven Hile, the wing's anti-terrorism officer, who is convinced that "security is never measured by its success; it's measured by its failures."

Sabrina Lengner has been hired as the wing's full-time civilian family readiness



First Lieutenant Ed Shank, can do his job as a public affairs officer easier now that the mission of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing is no longer top secret.

Photo by
Master Sgt. Bob
Haskell, National
Guard Bureau

coordinator to help care for the spouses, children and other loved ones that the deployed members of the wing leave behind.

She is certainly qualified because she's been a volunteer for about four years and because her husband, her son, and her sister and brother-in-law are members of the wing. Her daughter wants to join as well.

"I understand most of the concerns because I'm a spouse and a mother," said

Lengner, who has discovered that "working nine or 10 hours a day here is not enough." The wing is that busy.

It can expect to stay busy for quite a while. The first of six modern EC-130J aircraft, built within the last five years, is expected to arrive in October to begin replacing the older airplanes, Shank said.

To be sure, the wing was in the process of hiring a full-time family readiness coordina-

tor and was preparing to receive new planes before the terrorists attacked last Sept. 11, he added.

The war on terrorism has emphasized the importance of those efforts, Shank said. It has also led to a much better understanding about what this Air National Guard special operations wing - whose longstanding motto is "never seen - always heard" - is all about.

Wolfowitz Thanks Guardsmen for Their Service

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md., July 31, 2002 — Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz visited with and thanked the members of the 113th Fighter Squadron here for their service in protecting the nation's capital since Sept. 11.

The squadron is part of the District of Columbia Air National Guard. Minutes after the hijacked jet struck the Pentagon on Sept. 11, the squadron had planes in the air looking for a second jetliner that ultimately crashed in Pennsylvania.

"I've been meaning for some time to come out and see what these guys are doing and express our appreciation," Wolfowitz said. "It's an incredibly important job, and it's incredibly demanding."

From Sept. 11 to Sept. 22, 2001, the squadron flew 128 F-16C sorties, logging in almost 400 hours. "That's two months worth of flying in two weeks," said Air Force Lt. Col. Rudy Kenzel, squadron maintenance officer.

Col. Mike Redman, 113th Air National Guard Wing vice commander at Andrews, told Wolfowitz that the spirit and morale of the Guardsmen was high. He said that before the end of Sept. 11, more than 80 percent of the Guardsmen were on duty without having to be called.

Wolfowitz said the squadron's mission has true strategic importance, "because there is no question that Washington, D.C., is the No. 1 target for the terrorists." He toured a squadron hangar, ready rooms and the flight line. He met with pilots, weaponeers and maintenance personnel and thanked them for their service.

"Some of these guys were called 'Weekend Warriors' before Sept. 11, and they are doing a fantastic job," he said.



Photo by Jim Garamone

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz speaks to maintenance personnel of the 113th Fighter Squadron at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., July 31, 2002. The deputy secretary thanked the Air National Guardsmen for their service since the terrorist strikes of Sept. 11, 2001.



(Above) Wolfowitz and Army Maj. Gen. Warren Freeman, adjutant general of the District of Columbia National Guard, speak with F-16 pilot Lt. Col. Gordy Dexter of the 113th Fighter Squadron.

(Right) Lt. Col. Rudy Kenzel explains the cockpit of an F-16 to Wolfowitz during his visit to the D.C. Air National Guard Unit.



Military police safeguard the Pentagon

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22, 2002 — The mission began with fire and smoke, chaos and confusion. For the first time in history, terrorists had attacked the Pentagon. In the immediate aftermath, defense officials called on the Army's military police to help restore security and safeguard the military headquarters.

Since Sept. 11, Army National Guard and active duty military police have been standing watch, manning Humvees and guard posts, helping to protect the Pentagon. While some units are now standing down, others are taking over this vital national security mission. Such rotations are a routine part of military service around the world.

"It was an amazing thing to be part of," Army Sgt. Robert Glasgow Riley IV said today after a redeployment ceremony at the Pentagon. "(The attack) was one of the biggest things to happen in American history in a long time. It's awful that it happened, but it's a big honor to be a part of it and knowing that we helped out as much as we could."

Prior to the attack, Defense Protective Service guards manned the Pentagon's entry points. By the morning of Sept. 12, military police had deployed to augment the protective service. Riley's unit, the 200th MP Company, and Maryland's 290th MP Co., were the first military police on the scene. They secured the crime scene and provided security for the Pentagon for the next 20 days.

In mid-October, both Maryland National Guard companies traveled to Fort Stewart, Ga., to mobilize for the force protection mission. They returned to the Military District of Washington on Dec. 15 and have been performing their duties here ever since.

Today, military police from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 759th MP Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.; 300th MP Co., Fort Riley, Kan.; and 144th MP Co., Michigan Army National Guard, are also taking part in the force protection mission.

Capt. Eric Ogborn, adjutant of the 759th, praised the National Guard members. "They're absolutely the finest soldiers," he said. "We don't see any difference between

the National Guard and active duty. There's no rivalry as some units may think. These people are true professionals."

Capt. Jon David Black, 200th MP Co. commander, said the mission has been stressful for the National Guardsmen.

"It was a very critical mission," Black said. "I felt that this area here, in perspective, is just as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than the missions in Afghanistan right now." Historically, he noted, terrorists tend to return if they don't succeed, "so we had to be on our toes the whole time. It wasn't an easy mission."

Marshall McCants, special assistant to the director of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, Defense Protective Service, thanked the outgoing units for their "courageous, professional and timely support in response to the Defense Protective Agency's urgent call for law enforcement assistance in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack."

McCants said the men and women of 200th and 290th "truly fall into the category of first responder, for they rallied and deployed from their families, homes, jobs and arrived at the Pentagon in less than 24 hours. ... Our request for assistance was answered without

band's selflessness and valiant contributions to our effort." Like the other military police, McCants said, Cropper was determined that nothing would happen to the men and women of the Pentagon on his watch.

Army Maj. Gen. Gerald Rudisill, assistant to the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for National Guard matters, noted that the military police had contributed "a tremendous dimension of security, confidence and stability."

"That's something the National Guard has been doing for hundreds of years, and you have done it well," Rudisill said. "As we look across at the serenity surrounding the

Pentagon today, you had a lot to do with that. You ought to be awful proud. Thank you for your service to our nation. You're a tremendous asset and I applaud your effort."

Army Major Gen. James Fretterd, Maryland's adjutant general, thanked the group for putting their lives on hold for almost a year. "This is total force at its finest," he said. The general noted that many of the guardsmen "were pulled out of colleges and universities, pulled off your jobs, away from your families" yet they did their jobs as professionals.

"I want to thank you all on behalf of the governor, the lieutenant governor and all the people of Maryland for what you have done for your country," Fretterd told the MPs. "We can't be any more proud than I am today. I hope on the 15th, when you have your homecoming, when all your families can join us and, hopefully, your employers, that we can pay proper tribute to you and all that you have done."

Fretterd also offered to help anyone who encounters problems with their employers. "When you get back, if you have any problems with employer conflicts," he said, "please give me a call through the chain of command so that we can help you. We're there to do that."

The general asked those who served in such previous operations as Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Vietnam to raise their hands. Seeing several dozen hands raised, he concluded. "You've held up your hand when your country needed you and that's so important. We call you Maryland's finest and there's a reason for that. Because you're the best."



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn.

Army Maj. Gen. James Fretterd, Maryland National Guard's adjutant general, thanks members of the Guard's 200th and 290th Military Police companies for providing security at the Pentagon for nearly a year. Fretterd, who has worn the uniform for 51 years, visited his troops often during their deployment.

One of the commander's greatest challenges, he added, was keeping the troops focused. "We're so close to home, the soldiers tended to try to take care of their home business," he said. "I had to keep them focused on the mission here." Eventually, he added, schedules were worked out that allowed people to go home when they were off-duty.

After nearly a year at the Pentagon, the 200th and the 290th are now being replaced by the 258th MP Co. of the 519th MP Battalion from Fort Polk, La. Defense officials and Maryland's adjutant general addressed the military police at a redeployment ceremony at the Pentagon's River Parade Field.

hesitation and by an immediate and professional deployment."

Throughout the deployment, he said, "professionalism, constancy, devotion to duty and devotion to country" marked the Maryland guardsmen's performance.

"We know that we disrupted your families' lives," he added, "and I would be remiss if I didn't thank your family members, neighbors and friends who courageously maintained your households and neighborhoods while you came here diligently to defend ours."

McCants also paid homage to Staff Sgt. Kenneth Cropper, 49, a well driller, who died March 20 while doing physical training at Fort Myer, Va. McCants told Cropper's wife, Laverne: "We have not forgotten your hus-

Observances to mark Sept. 11 anniversary

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23, 2002 -- A year ago, the World Trade Center's Twin Towers stood tall on the New York City skyline, people at the Pentagon barely noticed the planes flying low overhead, and a rural field south-east of Pittsburgh was just a field.

A year ago, more than 2,800 people in the World Trade Center, 189 Pentagon personnel, and 220 airline passengers were still alive. A year ago, the nation was not at war against terrorism.

Today, the Twin Towers are gone, people at the Pentagon notice the approach of each low-flying plane, and that farm field in Somerset County, Pa., is now a historical site. Today, the families of those who died in the terrorist attack on American soil continue to grieve their losses.

Soon, the nation and the world will commemorate the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States. Observances are planned in New York City and Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon.

In New York City, plans call for bagpipe and drum processions to march toward the World Trade Center site from each of the city's five boroughs. They will be led by the pipe and drum corps of the New York Fire, Police, Corrections and Sanitation departments, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The joining of processions will mark the start of a memorial service that will last 102 minutes -- the amount of time it took before both towers fell.

A moment of silence at 8:46 a.m. will mark the time hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center's north tower. New York Gov. George E. Pataki will then read Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani is slated to lead New Yorkers and people from around the world in reading the names of the 2,823 people from 90 countries who died at the World Trade Center. Taps will be played after the names have been read.

New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey is to

read from the Declaration of Independence. Another moment of silence at 10:29 a.m. will mark the time the World Trade Center's north tower collapsed. Houses of worship will then toll their bells.

President Bush is scheduled to visit the World Trade Center site later that afternoon. At sunset, heads of state from around the world will gather at The Sphere in Battery Park, where an eternal flame will be lit. Pataki will read Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms."

Each of the five boroughs plans to have 90-minute candlelight gatherings, and commemorative concerts are slated at parks throughout the area. New York City officials are asking people everywhere to light candles and join families and neighbors on street corners or in front of their homes.

In Stonycreek Township, Somerset County, a memorial service will be held near the temporary memorial site on Skyline Road. A community memorial concert featuring traditional hymns, patriotic songs and original arrangements is scheduled at the Somerset

Alliance Church.

The Pittsburgh Symphony has scheduled a memorial concert at the city's Heinz Hall to pay tribute to the heroes of Sept. 11. Tickets cost \$50 and net proceeds will benefit the Somerset County Flight 93 Memorial Fund. Postal officials in Shanksville, Pa., will hold an opening ceremony at the Boulevard of Heroes Station.

The Defense Department has planned a one-hour ceremony at 9 a.m. at the Pentagon Phoenix Project site, the area damaged in the attack. The ceremony will not be open to the general public.

President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers are slated to speak at the Pentagon ceremony.

Pentagon officials will unfurl the large U.S. flag on the side of the Pentagon where it was flown after the attack. A moment of silence at 9:37 a.m. will mark the time American Airlines Flight 77 hit the building.

America's Heroes Memorial dedicated to the 189 people killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

The Pentagon's America's Heroes Memorial is dedicated to the 189 people killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon. The names of the victims are engraved on black acrylic panels inside the horseshoe-shaped memorial. A book containing photographs and biographies of each of the victims is at the center of the memorial under the "United in Memory" seal.



DoD photo by Helene C. Stikkell

Air Force attempts to address increased operations tempo for National Guardsmen

by Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom have increased operations and personnel tempo, placing tremendous strain on the Air Force's air expeditionary force construct.

At the height of operations, more than 30,000 additional Air Guard and Reserve members were activated to help fulfill mission requirements in the global war on terror.

As the campaign changed and the operations tempo decreased, the number of Guard and Reserve members deployed has also decreased. But still remaining are a steady-state requirement to continue supporting ongoing operations and, along with it, tough decisions on how to establish and maintain that level.

The Air Force's Human Capital Task Force is charged with developing a plan to assist senior leaders in making the tough decisions required to establish that steady-state force. The importance of their job cannot be understated, said Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert H. Foglesong in an Aug. 7 memorandum.

"It is imperative that we quickly come to closure with a comprehensive human capital plan that accounts for our current and future manpower ceilings and the realities of recruiting, training and retaining a sustainable workforce," Foglesong said. "Failure to gain control of this situation will result in both short- and long-term recruiting and training failures that are not recoverable."

This will require the Air Force to make some "tough implementation decisions," he said.

The task force's job entails more than just balancing the manpower books. It will also monitor the many initiatives and personnel actions that will help relieve the career field stresses caused by the increased operations tempo and revalidate the service's long-term manpower projections.

"The purpose of the task force is to try to put our arms around the new steady-state situation facing our AEFs and normalize it," said Mike Aimone, director of the Air Force's Human Capital Task Force at the Pentagon. "Our goal is to reduce the extended tour lengths facing many of our AEFs and bring them back down to the 90 days that our force is familiar with."

Getting back to that standardized AEF "rhythm," said Air Force Chief of Staff



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Senior Airman Kelly Kim, from the 376th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's petroleum, oil and lubricant flight, watches a gauge on the top of a fuel truck to ensure the proper level of TS-1 aircraft fuel is uploaded. Kim, a member of the Arkansas Air National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing, is deployed to Ganci Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

Gen. John P. Jumper, is critical to the day-to-day operations of the service.

"Everyone in the Air Force must understand that the day-to-day operations of the service are absolutely set to the rhythm of the deploying AEF packages," Jumper said. "The natural state of our Air Force when we are 'doing business' is not home-station operations but deployed operations. That process needs to be the focus of our daily operational business, and we must work to change the process-

es within our own service that drive requirements not tuned to the deployment rhythm of the AEF."

There is no "silver bullet" solution to the manpower challenges facing the Air Force's AEFs, Aimone said. It will take a combination of short-, mid- and long-term fixes.

One short-term solution came out of the Air Force Core Competency Review conducted earlier this year.

The CCR examined all Air Force posi-

tions to determine the missions that had to be done by airmen and looked for opportunities to free up airmen from tasks that do not require a "bluesuiter."

"We found almost 6,300 military positions that could be converted to free up manpower positions for our most stressed career fields and to fix short falls that exist in our squadrons," Aimone said.

The Air Force's fiscal 2004 budget sub-

See TEMPO On Page 16

Homecoming

Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Sobczyk Jr.

An aircrew member from the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing embraces his family upon returning home from Operation Enduring Freedom.



FROM PAGE 15

Tempo

mission will ask the Defense Department to fund military to civilian conversions and some contract actions that would allow the Air Force to move these positions to stressed career fields where they are needed most, said William H. Booth Sr., the task force's deputy director.

Other possible short-term fixes include redirecting basic military training graduates and officer accessions to the most

critically stressed career fields and examining the positions airmen fill at defense agencies to see if it is better to bring them back to do Air Force jobs. Another fix involves reviewing various Air Force functions to identify more opportunities to convert non-military essential tasks to civilian or contract positions. Almone said. "The task force is in business because some hard choices have to be made," he said.

A primary concern, Booth added, is ensuring Air Force senior leaders have a complete understanding of the full effect of these decisions.

"That's why this effort is vital in transforming our skills mix so that we can live within the current recruiting and retention realities," Booth said. "We need every good person that we have, and our leaders are well aware of that."