

**GX PROFILE:**  
**FLORIDA GUARD**  
THE EYE OF THE STORM

**2004**  
**YEAR IN REVIEW**  
PLUS A LOOK AT 2005



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**NATIONAL**  
**GUARD**  
A 368-YEAR HISTORY

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VOL ONE ISSUE FIVE

**HOME & AWAY**

*For the Holidays*





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# The Perfect Guard Gift!

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## Fellow Patriots,

**T**his December 13th, the National Guard will celebrate its 368th Birthday. On that date in 1636, the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony authorized the organization of three regiments from existing militia companies in the towns surrounding Boston. These were the first militia regiments on this continent.

The descendants of those first three regiments are still in the Massachusetts Army National Guard today. The 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry Regiment, was already 139 years old when Paul Revere summoned them – as the Middlesex regiment – to defend their towns against a Redcoat raid on the night of April 18, 1775. Two months later, on June 14th, Congress would organize the Continental Army out of the colonial militia and place George Washington, a militia colonel from Virginia, in command – and the United States Army would be born.

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**“We are all intensely proud of what the Guard has accomplished and look forward to another successful year.”**

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The Guard is rooted in our nation’s history and traditions. In every one of the 13 original colonies, at least one current National Guard unit can trace its history in a direct line back to a colonial unit that fought in the Revolutionary War. Since then, the Guard has fought in every single American War as we hold that long tradition of service to State and nation close to our hearts. Even today, we write a new chapter of that history in Iraq, Afghanistan, and here at home.

As Guardsmen, it is particularly appropriate that our birthday falls in the month of December. Most units in the Guard spend the Sunday of their December drill weekend enjoying their annual holiday party. It’s a chance to relax from the normal training routine. Families are invited in to



LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, holds an outdoor town meeting with Army National Guard aviators during his late September visit to Iraq. They are members of the 185th Aviation Task Force from Mississippi, the first Army Guard aviation brigade to be deployed to a combat theater.

Photos by MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

our armories, children run around on the drill floor, and the unit cooks always put forward their best efforts to ensure a fine feast for everyone. Here at the National Guard Bureau, we will celebrate the 368th Birthday of the National Guard with a 2-mile run and a cake. We’re all intensely proud of what the Guard has accomplished and look forward to another successful year.

Our joy this holiday season is tempered, however, with the realization that – as I write this – more than 150 National Guardsmen have made the ultimate sacrifice since 9/11. More than 95,000 are currently serving around the world on federal active duty; tens of thousands more are in a Title 32 or State active duty status, separated from their families and those who love them. We must all reach out to them – through letters, phone calls, email, care packages, and most importantly our prayers – and let them know they are close to our hearts. For those seeking other means to show support for our mobilized Guardsmen, I urge you to visit our “Support the Troops” website, <http://www.ngb.army.mil/features/supportourtroops/> for information on how you can help out.

May we soon see them delivered home safely.

Sincerely,

**H Steven Blum**  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Chief, National Guard Bureau





## Letters from family make the best holiday greeting.

This month a couple of thirteen-year-old Guard kids help us put into perspective what it means to serve, both at home and away. And let's just say we know when we're outgunned, so we'll share their prose with you and return with our regular letter next issue.

May your holidays be filled with love. God bless our Guard members, their families and may God continue to bless America.

The GX Team

### COVER PHOTO:

Our Christmas wreath is decorated with a yellow ribbon in recognition of the Soldiers who will spend this holiday season defending freedom far from home.

Photo by CW3 O'Neil Williams, Jr.

## Freedom's Call

by Beth Thompson, 13, *Beth's brother John, INARNG, is currently serving in Afghanistan*

I lay awake last night looking into the sky when something flew over me.  
At the time I did not know what it was, but later I found out.  
Soon I saw a plane pass by. I thought,  
"Maybe it is an Army plane; maybe, just maybe, it's heading to where my brother is."

I lay there, eyes closed.  
Praying, not dreaming, but praying for the ones left behind.  
They can cry. They can weep, but they know well that they are gone only for now.  
Soon enough they will come home.

The people who have gone, let them know that we love them.  
And we pray for them. Not just at night but also every minute of every day.  
We know, as do they, that they have gone  
To answer Freedom's Call.

## A Different Kind of Hero

by Sarah Alvarez, 13, *Sarah's father, SGT Alvarez, CAARNG, is currently serving in Iraq*

Some people think a hero is some one who saves.  
I know a hero who does more than that.  
In a time of giving up he took one look at his daughters' pictures as was inspired.  
Though not wanting to shoot the enemy, he did.  
Sure, it was hard to have a feeling you shot someone haunt you, but he thought if he did his job  
and protected himself and his team, then he would be protecting his family as well.  
Many times has his life been close to certain death, but he never gave up.  
He said that the only people keeping him motivated are his daughters.  
Hearing that, tears rolled down my cheeks.  
Not only is he a hero to the nation, he is a hero to his daughters.  
He is a hero especially to me. It's hard to live a happy and normal life knowing your father  
could be harmed any moment.  
I try to stay strong and calm though.  
I always keep in mind that my dad is fighting for a great reason.  
My dad is a hero to me because he has great determination and love towards my sister and me.  
Sure, he may not be the fire fighting type of hero, but he's the most brave and understandable  
hero I will ever know.  
He is my hero.



**MISSION:** To faithfully represent the real-world Guard experience. To provide today's Army National Guard warrior with information for becoming a better Soldier and better citizen. To encourage and assist Guard Soldiers in maximizing the benefits of their military career as well as their personal and family goals.

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**“I would like to see stories or features about the good things Soldiers are doing while deployed.”**

**SSG JOHNSON**

[I would like to see a] list of all units that are mobilized, where they are, what they are doing, and how many. Also, feature a state of the month or something similar like division of the month so that we can learn more about what other states are doing, what they have, how they are doing and such. – SSG Schiele, MNARNG

*GX: SSG Schiele, come on down! How about MNARNG as a first state feature?*

### GUARDING THE TERRITORIES

I am the Commander of the two Recruit Holding Units for the Puerto Rico Army National Guard ... the PRARNG strength is approximately 8,400 strong. However, on the subscription site for GXonline the three U.S. territories that have Guard entities do NOT appear. These are Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Can this be corrected? I know that our Soldiers can greatly benefit from this exceptional tool. Thank you!

*GX: Sorry for the oversight, all better now. As a matter of fact, if it would win us a “Visit Puerto Rico this Winter” contest, we’ll change all the selections to PR!*

### BACK TO THE BASICS

I am an instructor for pre-basic training recruits. Articles on basic training and helpful hints for basic soldiering skills would be great. Keep up the good work. – SSG Jensen, VAARNG

It would be a good thing if you added some information on basic training for the new recruits that come into the Guard. – PV1 Anderson, NYARNG

### NEWS FROM THE DEPLOYED

[I would like to see more] topics related to other deployments that are not or have not been making headlines. [For example] Kosovo and Bosnia seem to be forgotten by the media. My unit was part of the first all Guard task force to Kosovo this past year. Bit disappointing that it was not noticed... – SSG Hemphill

*GX: SSG Hemphill, drop an email to editor@GXonline.com and tell us who to talk to about your unit’s deployment. Thanks.*

I would like to see stories or features about the good things Soldiers are doing while deployed. I would like to also see information about groups who are supporting our Soldiers who are deployed. – SSG Johnson

*GX: SSG, this issue has a lot of what you ask for and we hope to do more.*

### MY GX

GX is great! I would like to see a section included that features current Guard members offering testimonials as to why they enlisted in the ARNG and why they have or will re-enlist. It can do a lot for the retention and recruiting efforts of fellow RRNCOs. Keep up the great work, I am proud to offer this magazine to my potential recruits! – SFC Harr

*GX: Two issues back we featured four Guard members from SDARNG in “My GX” sidebar columns, look for us to bring it back in future issues. Meanwhile, anyone interested in being part of a “My GX” profile can go online to [www.GXonline.com/myGX](http://www.GXonline.com/myGX) and sign up!*



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# GX

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# RANTS AND RAVES



**SPC Blystone OHARNG** married Shannon on August 6 and returned to Iraq on August 16, 2004.

**“My husband and brother just happened to get leave at the same time ... and my brother married the love of his life and we all got to see it ... I was wondering if you’d publish a couple of pictures ... both had to return to Iraq.”**

**RITA SAMS, NORWALK, OHIO**



**SPC Sams with his children Robbie and Jenny. He returned to Iraq on August 13, 2004.**

***You bet and congratulations!***

## **I WAS TOUCHED...**

I was touched to see the Soldier sculpture story (*GX* volume 1, issue 4) ... my two daughters, my husband and I had just seen the sculpture [as my husband prepares] for his 12 month mission in Iraq ... I know it would touch my husband and daughters to be in your magazine [before he is] deployed to Iraq. – Carrie



**SPC Watson with daughters Amber and Cassandre. He is preparing for deployment in December.**

## **COVER TO COVER**

Thank you very much for producing this high quality magazine. I have talked to other traditional National Guard soldiers and they are also very impressed with your publication. – SFC Leppala, KYARNG

I love getting your magazine. I wish you had one for each month. I don’t put it down until it is read from front to back. And my husband likes reading it too. So keep up the good work.

– SPC Underwood, OKARNG

Thank you for the outstanding job that you guys are doing. As the LAARNG Recruiter here at LSU, *GX* has become a common fixture in my office, generating countless questions from prospective Guard members. *GX* is a super “ice-breaker.” As for changes ... don’t make any! It is about time someone has taken the right steps to put together a product for the Guard as professional as you have. Again, thank you. I look forward to next month’s issue.

– SFC Conger, GEAX TIGERS

It’s about time that *GX* came along! I’ve been waiting 13 years for this. Three minutes after I picked up your first issue at drill I was looking for subscription information. When I went to your Web site to subscribe and I found that *GX* was free to member’s of the Guard, well, HOOAH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

– SFC Tanner, NCARNG

## **HISTORY BUFF**

I really enjoy reading the information on the history of the National Guard since I am an historian by training. The articles on those subjects are well written and contain a good amount of information in them. Keep up the good work! – SPC Simpson, SCARNG

*GX: SPC Simpson, we hope you, and all our readers, will enjoy this issue’s look at Guard history. Please let us know.*



We want to make this a great magazine, and we need your help. You are the only ones who know what the Guard Experience really is. So tell us.

Send us photos of you and your service buddies – in action or just goofing off. Did we get something wrong (or right)? If so, let us hear about it.



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# INTHELOOP

NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE GUARD EXPERIENCE



## SFC AND SPIRIT OF AMERICA BRING WATER TO IRAQ

Courtesy of Spirit of America

**W**hen SFC Brian Soper of the MIARNG was patrolling his area north of Baghdad, he and his comrades were worried. The canals were drying up, and many people would be in trouble during Iraq's hottest months without clean drinking water. If they could get some barrels, he thought, they could truck out the water to the people in the most desperate need of it.

"The major problem that the rural population faces is the lack of drinking water," SFC Soper said. "For those without a water source at their house, they are faced with either going to a neighbor's house, sometimes miles away, on foot, or using water from the canals - for many reasons, not a good option."

There are a number of projects in place to remedy this situation long term, but unfortunately none are addressing the

**ABOVE: SFC Soper, north of Baghdad, with Iraqi children**

Photo courtesy of Spirit of America

near term. There are water treatment plants in place, but they are fed by the canal systems which for a various reasons are drying up.

Thanks to Spirit of America (a charity organization), 250 water barrels are now being packed up and will be delivered to SFC Soper and his team, whereupon they will distribute them with potable drinking water to the areas in most need where they patrol.

Spirit of America, founded in the wake of 9/11, helps American Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan to assist people in need by fulfilling requests from American personnel for goods that improve the lives of local people. To date, they have provided school and medical supplies, hand tools, water barrels, clothing, and much more, even soccer gear and toys. Fully 100% of all Spirit of America donations go to the specific projects donators choose. **GX**



**SPIRIT**  
of **AMERICA**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

 [www.spiritofamerica.net](http://www.spiritofamerica.net)





## ANA OFFICERS COMPLETE ENGLISH COURSE

**T**wenty-seven Afghan National Army (ANA) officers and non-commissioned officers graduated from the Intensive English Language Course at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC) September 2.

The six-month course was taught by Roberto Farias and Urinda Hernandez, two civilian instructors from the Defense Language Institute (DLI) at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, and CPT Jeffrey Heyse and MSG James Hill, two U.S. Air Force military training instructors. The students were initially grouped by their pre-existing English abilities and then taught using the English-only immersion method.

**“... the one who knows multiple languages is multiple persons.”**

- MG Hamayoon Fauzi, Deputy Minister of Defense for Education Affairs

Addressing the graduating students, BG Ghulam Sakhi Asifi, the KMTTC commander, said that learning English is a critical skill for ANA Soldiers because of the need to understand their coalition embedded trainers who accompany them on combat missions. By being able to communicate with and understand each other, the mission can be accomplished.

MG Hamayoon Fauzi, the Deputy Minister of Defense for Education Affairs, agreed with Asifi about the military necessity of their training and said that they needed to learn not only English but other languages in order to work with the different countries of the coalition.

“We have an expression here in Afghanistan,” MG Fauzi said. “It is that anyone who knows a language is one person, the

**ABOVE: Graduation Ceremony of the Intensive English Language Course at the Kabul Military Training Center**

*Photographer unknown*

one who knows two languages is two persons and the one who knows multiple languages is multiple persons.”

U.S. Army National Guard BG Richard Moorhead, commander of Task Force Phoenix, which is the coalition organization responsible for the training of the Afghan National Army, expressed his appreciation to the KMTTC and the English language instructors for their work. The training will ultimately benefit not only the ANA, but also the embedded trainers of Task Force Phoenix.

“I’m proud of the graduates today who have gone through a different course of training in order to better serve the ANA and their nation,” BG Moorhead said.

CSM Roshan Safi, the Central Corps CSM, said that since he is away from his family, he misses them a lot, but he knows that his country is depending upon him as much as his family does. He also explained what his duty as a non-commissioned officer was: to train Soldiers.

“I know how to pass on the skills I have learned to my subordinates, and they will pass them on to other Soldiers,” CSM Safi said.

The graduates will now be assigned positions within the ANA to take advantage of their English ability. Some will also be considered for attendance at military schools in the United States.

No matter where they go next, they will be carrying out the promise one of their fellow students made when he spoke during the ceremony.

“We will continue to learn,” said 1LT Naserullah. **GX**

# OPERATION OPEN HEART: MSARNG DELIVERS 8,000 BACKPACKS TO IRAQ

**W**ith the Iraqi school year starting soon, Soldiers of the 185th Aviation Brigade, a National Guard unit from Jackson, MS, have chosen to deliver hope and good intentions to the Iraqi children in the form of school supplies.

With the help of the brigade family readiness group and an outpouring of community support, the brigade gathered 8,000 backpacks full of notebooks, crayons, coloring books, pencils and pens for distribution to Iraqi children all over the country by the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force among others.

“We made a visit out to Yathrib on a humanitarian mission we’d picked up from a previous Mississippi National Guard unit that’d been here. We dropped off some school supplies that they had,” said LTC Dane Powell, brigade executive officer.

On this mission, the Soldiers noticed the lack of basic supplies and felt they had to do more. After delivering the supplies and seeing the Iraqi children’s smiling faces, the soldiers communicated their experience to their family readiness group, which then initiated Operation Open Hearts, to collect donations of supplies.

The family readiness group enlisted the sponsorship of various organizations, community groups and churches and has accumulated more than a half-million dollars worth of school supplies. They collected and filled the backpacks in assembly line fashion.

“I think it makes the American public feel better. It makes the communities feel like they’re involved, and it puts them in touch with the Soldiers. They know they’re helping their hometown Soldiers spread goodwill in Iraq,” LTC Powell said.

They even secured the support of Federal Express, which donated the shipping costs.

“You sit back and look at the numbers, and you really realize what a monumental task they’ve done getting this many supplies here. Obviously, it makes us proud that Mississippi rallied behind us to get it over here,” LTC Powell said.

Once the supplies made it to Logistics Support Area Anaconda, the brigade loaded the pallets onto CH-47 Chinook helicopters and delivered them to various units at forward operating bases (FOBs) all over Iraq. All that don’t go to the outlying FOBs, the brigade will distribute to schoolchildren in Balad just prior to the start of the school year.

The brigade’s efforts serve to further the relationship between the Iraqi people and the American Soldiers.

“This is a great humanitarian effort to help the kids out. We’re more a peacekeeping operation in Iraq than anything else,”

said COL Brady MacNealy, brigade commander. “The more connection we can have with the Iraqi children and their parents, the better off America will be and the better off democracy and the future of Iraq will be.”

The brigade is working side-by-side with Soldiers from 26 other states, who contributed to the school supply mission.



Photo by Raye Dene Berry





## SISTERS DEPLOYED TO SAME LOCATION IN IRAQ

By PFC Abel Trevino, 28th Public Affairs Detachment

**M**ost Soldiers stationed in Iraq are 10,000 miles away from their families. But two sisters, SGT Andria Bergner and CPT Mary Louise Bergner, are stationed together on Logistics Support Area Anaconda, in Balad.

SGT Bergner is an optical lab specialist assigned to the 226th Medical Logistics Battalion, while CPT Bergner is commander of the 744th Transportation Company, NHARNG.

"[My sister] found out she was going to be deployed at the same time I found out," SGT Bergner said. "We didn't know for sure she was coming to [LSA Anaconda] until late January, after I was already here."

The sisters will be able to spend 11 out of 12 months together, which gives them an opportunity to make up for lost time.

"I'm very excited [to be stationed together]," said CPT Bergner, "I was glad because, as adults, we haven't been able to spend a lot of time together because she's in the active Army and I live in New Hampshire."

Their parents are proud of them and the service they are doing for their country, but are also worried, CPT Bergner said. "Of course, it frightens them with the war going on, having two daughters in Iraq," SGT Bergner said.

**ABOVE: SGT Andria Bergner, left, and her sister, CPT Mary Bergner (NHARNG), at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, in Balad, Iraq.**

Photo courtesy of Gregory D. Heilshorn

SGT Bergner said her sister was able to be present for some significant milestones in her career. "[Mary] was here to promote me to sergeant. She did my re-enlistment, and she was able to come up to the brigade when I got my award for winning NCO of the Year," SGT Bergner said.

Along with being there for each other during their proudest moments, there is also concern that comes knowing each other is in harm's way. "[When an alarm goes off] I usually always try to make a call to make sure nothing has hit near her," CPT Bergner said. "I'm thinking 'God, please don't let it be anywhere near her'."

SGT Bergner worries about her sister both inside and outside the post. "It makes me nervous because she's the commander of a transportation unit and she goes out on the road a lot," SGT Bergner said.

However, despite the worries, the sisters said they wouldn't have it any other way. "We're just really, really lucky. I know there are a lot of people out there that come over here and maybe their family members are out here, but [not on the same camp] ... it's an extra support network to have here," SGT Bergner said. **GX**



Photo courtesy of Schneider National

## SCHNEIDER NATIONAL EXTENDS BENEFITS FOR SOLDIERS

**G**REEN BAY, WI —Sept. 7, 2004— Schneider National Inc., a premier provider of transportation, logistics and related services, has announced that it will extend differential pay and benefits from six to 18 months for its associates who have been called to active duty by the National Guard and Reserve components of the armed forces. Deployed associates now receive differential pay and benefits, including medical, dental and retirement savings, for up to 18 months. Schneider National also offers a number of initiatives that provide support to associates' families during their absence and guarantees jobs for all associates serving with the National Guard or Reserve upon their return from active duty.

Schneider National has extended differential pay and benefits from the previous six months to 18 months to support its associates as they serve and protect the United States. Military professionals play an integral role in the success of Schneider National.

"Schneider National has a long, positive history of support to the military. Transportation and logistics often are natural career choices for exiting active-duty military

personnel who also select to become members of the Guard and Reserve," said Tim Fliss, vice president of human resources at Schneider National Inc. and a former Captain in the Army Corps of Engineers. "Extending benefits is a way to show our appreciation for the sacrifice and dedication these Guard members and reservists make on behalf of our country."

"By extending benefits and providing differential pay for a full 18 months, Schneider National alleviates the financial burden that many service personnel and their families face when they are called to active duty," said Dan Ammerman, a senior financial analyst at Schneider National and a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves. "This will help Schneider National associates who are serving their country in the military to focus on military duties without worrying about financial strains and the additional turbulence of changing medical care providers for our families during our absence." LTC Ammerman served as commander of the 432nd Army Civil Affairs Battalion in Iraq in 2003.

Schneider National is the nation's largest private employer of separating military personnel. The company actively recruits military professionals and offers training programs that complement previous military experience. **GX**



Proud Supporter of an AMERICAN SOLDIER: Please support the businesses that proudly show their support for our National Guard.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**DOD**  
 RECOGNIZES  
 EMPLOYERS  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**ABOVE:** Thom Clark, President and CEO of Saints Memorial Medical Center, exuberantly shouts “God Bless America.”  
**INSET:** The ESGR “America’s Car”

Photos courtesy of [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)

**W**ith nearly 180,000 reserve-component members on active duty, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz called on employers of National Guard and Reserve members to continue their support.

Wolfowitz was the keynote speaker at a Sept. 21 dinner during which this year’s Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards were presented. The awards program recognizes employers who have made significant contributions to support Guard and Reserve members.

With representatives from some of the nation’s largest employers seated before him, Wolfowitz said it is a “great tribute to our country that we attract such men and women to volunteer their services to our nation.” He added that “it’s also a tribute to the good sense of their civilian employers to recognize them as the kind of individuals they want working for their companies.”

**“Each of these companies deserves our thanks.”**

- Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Defense Secretary

However, according to Wolfowitz, now that those employees have been called up, their employers must set aside their own interests to help support reservists and National Guard members on their payrolls.

The event was sponsored by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Defense Department organization mostly staffed by volunteers. ESGR’s mission is to gain and maintain active employer support for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

Wolfowitz acknowledged that many of the companies being recognized during the event have already gone the extra mile to support Guard and Reserve members, extending medical benefits, making up salary differences, and establishing support mechanisms for family members of deployed servicemembers.

The Home Depot, the Atlanta-based building-supply company and one of the companies recognized, set up a program to give hiring preference to injured servicemembers looking for jobs with the company.

“These companies have shown a willingness to bear financial hardship, to cope with organizational disruptions, and they have done so, according to one company manager, because it’s the right thing to do,” Wolfowitz continued. “Each of these companies deserves our thanks.”

Besides Home Depot, companies recognized for their support this year were:

American Express, New York City; Bank One Corp., Chicago; Colt Safety Fire and Rescue, St. Louis; Adolph Coors, Golden, Colo.; General Electric, Fairfield, CT; Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Monterey Park, CA; Northrop Grumman Corp., Los Angeles; Fisk Corp./One Source Building Technologies, Houston; Saints Memorial Medical Center, Lowell, Mass.; Sprint Corp., Overland Park, KS; The State of Minnesota, St. Paul; Strategic Solutions Inc., Walnut Creek, Calif.; and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Bentonville, AR, which co-sponsored the event. **EX**

# HOME DEPOT AND GOVERNMENT LAUNCH CAREER INITIATIVE FOR VETERANS



**H**ome Depot executives and senior government leaders launched a new public-private employment initiative for military veterans and their spouses in Washington on September 21.

Operation Career Front – co-sponsored by the 25-year-old building supply company, the Defense Department, the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs -- was unveiled during a kick-off ceremony held at the National Press Club.

The initiative, according to Bob Nardelli, Home Depot's chairman, president and chief executive officer, was created to provide job opportunities for military veterans, retirees, National Guard members, reservists, and military spouses and other family members. A group of people who, Nardelli noted, make exceptional employees who bring "focus, discipline and a commitment to excellence" to the workplace.

They "have never let me down," Nardelli asserted, noting there are now more than 15,000 military veterans among Home Depot's 300,000 employees at more than 1,800 stores. He said the company is expected to create more than 20,000 new jobs this year.

Private-public programs like Operation Career Front, Nardelli said, demonstrate patriotism and are a win-win situation for business and military veterans alike.

David S.C. Chu, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness noted that the joint initiative was a year in the making and saluted Home Depot's desire to

**LEFT: (l to r) Dennis Donovan, Home Depot's Exec. VP for Human Resources, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness David S.C. Chu, and Bob Nardelli, Home Depot's Chairman, President and CEO**

**RIGHT: David S.C. Chu, standing, addresses participants at the Operation Career Front ceremony held Sept. 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., as Bob Nardelli, looks on. Photos by Gerry J. Gilmore**

support military veterans and spouses. However, he said, Operation Career Front "is much more than just providing job opportunities at the Home Depot." It is also, he said, "a reaffirmation of our commitment and resolve to support the men and women who wear the uniform."

Near the end of the ceremony, Nardelli introduced Glen Sykes, a retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant, and Dana Chango, the wife of an Army staff sergeant stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. MSG Sykes and Chango, Nardelli pointed out, are exceptional Home Depot employees. Chango, the manager of a Home Depot outlet in Clarksville, TN, credits Home Depot with providing her the opportunity to work at different stores as her husband has been transferred across the country.

Operation Career Front, she said, affords Home Depot "the opportunity to get some good associates."

MSG Sykes, the hardware department supervisor at the company's Sandy Springs store in Atlanta, noted that Operation Career Front presents "a great opportunity" for former service members "to utilize their leadership and management skills." **GX**



**Proud Supporter of an AMERICAN SOLDIER: Please support the businesses that proudly show their support for our National Guard.**



# RETAINING SOLDIERS

## MSG BOB COSSEL AND THE AMERICAN HERO BAND

By MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

**A**LEXANDRIA, VA - MSG Bob Cossel has had a bellyful of the boo-birds - the people who have loudly lamented during the last year that the Army National Guard will lose all kinds of Citizen-Soldiers after they return from their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army Guard does not have to take a hit in its retention numbers because of the global war against terrorism, Cossel believes, so long as the troops can be convinced that people care about them when they come home. To that end, Cossel is promoting programs designed to retain Army Guard Soldiers - to persuade them to continue serving their country and not to store their uniforms in their attics.

The 40-year-old Cossel has taken on that mission as the senior marketing NCO for the Army National Guard's Strength Maintenance Division. He is an intense air assault Soldier who served for three months in Kuwait last summer as a spokesman for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve - explaining to reserve component troops what their reemployment rights are after they complete their tours of active duty.

Now Cossel has returned to Northern Virginia where he is working long hours attempting to talk Soldiers into keeping the Guard as part of the lives they are putting back in order after being away for a year or more.

Retaining people is the key to keeping the Army Guard's strength at the congressionally mandated 350,000 men and women, he is convinced. Keeping people who are already trained and who have already borne arms for their country is just as important as recruiting new blood, Cossel said.

"We are pitching the Guard to people who are already in



**ABOVE: The American Hero Band**

Photo by Raye Dene Berry

the Guard," he explained. "If we take care of the people we already have, they will bring us the new recruits we need."

One of the programs that Cossel is promoting is the American Hero Band.

The American Hero Bands resemble the wrist bands that many people still wear in honor of U.S. service members who are still believed to be missing in action since the war in Vietnam.

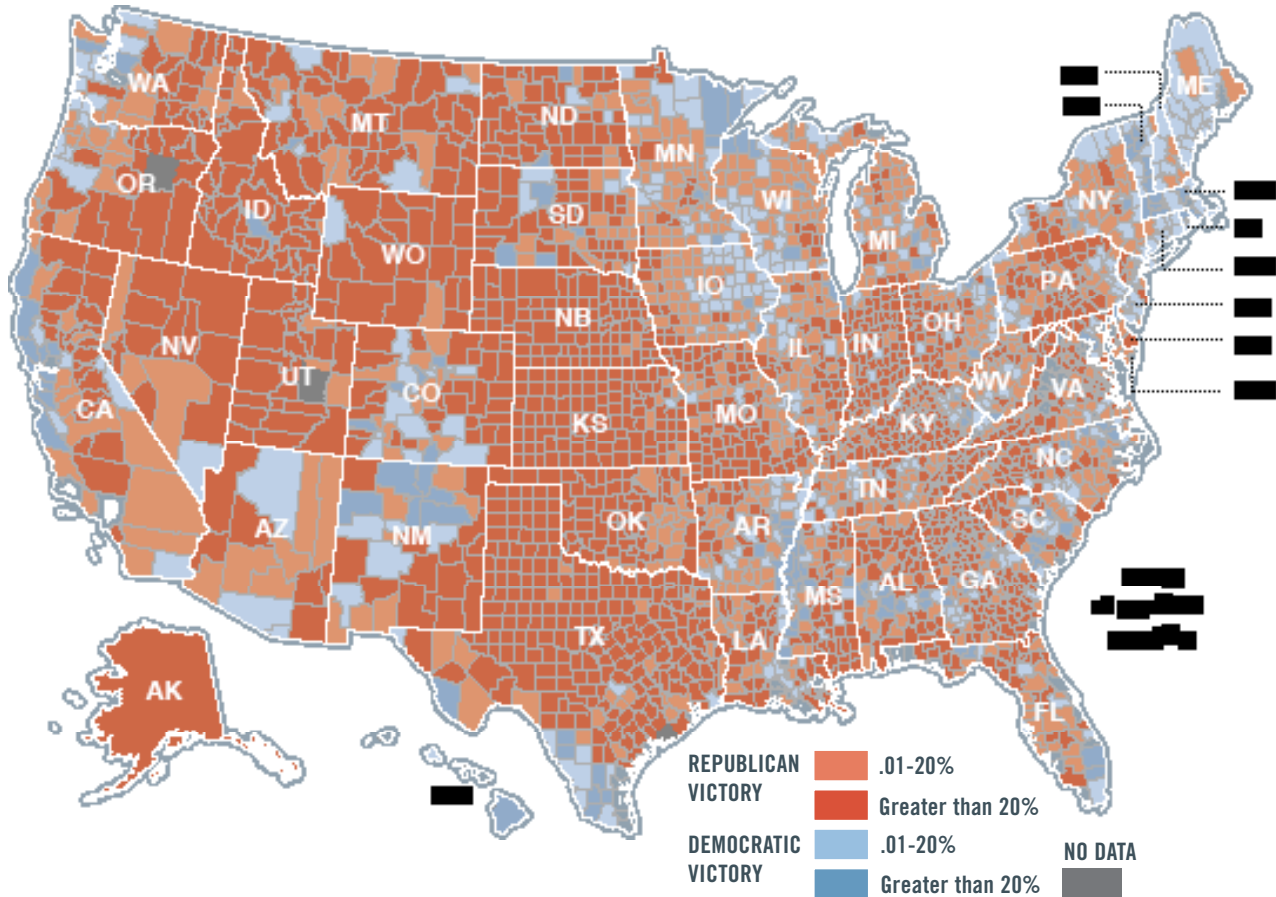
"These new bands do not have specific names on them, but they honor American heroes who are serving in the Army National Guard," explained Cossel. The bands will be available to anyone who wants them, he added, because the Army Guard is ordering several thousand of them.

Why does MSG Bob Cossel believe that recognition programs are so important for Army Guard Soldiers and those who love them? He tells a story about a highly-regarded retention NCO whom he replaced a few years ago when that sergeant retired. Everybody liked the guy, Cossel said, because he took care of Soldiers. Cossel asked the sergeant why so many Soldiers spoke so highly of him. The sergeant pointed to an old poster on his office wall. It read: "If you think something is more important than a Soldier - think again!" **GX**

For more information, visit:

 [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com)

# PRESIDENT BUSH WINS ELECTION 2004



J. Balasterri, D. DeLorenzo/AP

PRESIDENT BUSH WON BY MARGINS OF MORE THAN 20 PERCENTAGE POINTS IN THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES WHERE HE WON THE POPULAR VOTE, LEAVING THE OTHER HALF OF THE COUNTRY SEEING RED.

## ELECTORAL VOTES

BUSH	286
KERRY	252

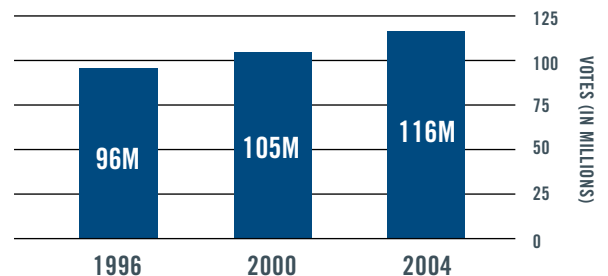
## POPULAR VOTES

BUSH	60,582,647
KERRY	57,270,384

## PERCENTAGE OF VOTES

BUSH	51%
KERRY	48%

## CALLING OUT THE VOTE



MALE VOTERS FAVORED BUSH 55% TO 44%.  
 FEMALE VOTERS FAVORED KERRY 51% TO 48%.  
 19% OF VOTERS THOUGHT TERRORISM WAS THE BIGGEST ISSUE.  
 15% THOUGHT IRAQ WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE.



# 2004

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## FREEDOM SALUTE CEREMONIES



**T**o properly recognize Guard Soldiers and those who supported them during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, the Guard initiated the Freedom Salute Campaign.

Each Soldier receives an encased American Flag, a sequentially numbered commemorative coin, a "Defender of Freedom" certificate signed by LTG Roger C. Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard, and CSM A. Frank Lever, III, 7th Command Sergeant Major, Army National Guard, and a lapel insignia.

The Soldier's spouse will receive a lapel insignia while Soldiers, with children, will receive a Future Soldier Footlocker Kit that includes a variety of Guard related items that are of interest to young people (only one kit per family).

Photos courtesy of Soldiers and their families

**Freedom Salute Ceremonies are taking place across the nation.**





# WHAT MAKES A FREEDOM SALUTE?



1

ENCASED AMERICAN FLAG

2

SEQUENTIALLY NUMBERED  
COMMEMORATIVE COIN



3

"DEFENDER OF FREEDOM"  
CERTIFICATE, SIGNED BY ARNG  
LEADERS



4

SPOUSE LAPEL INSIGNIA



5

FUTURE SOLDIER  
FOOTLOCKER





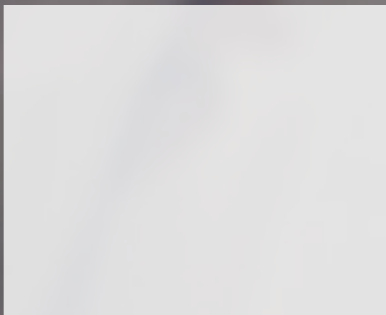


## **EVERY MOTHER'S SON**

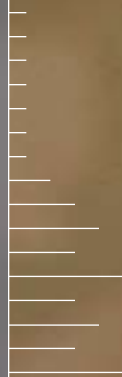
**Pope AFB, North Carolina**

Carla Pipkin gives her son, SPC Matthew Pipkin a tearful goodbye before he leaves for Iraq. Matthew is a Military Policeman assigned to the 105th MP Battalion, Asheville, NC.

Photo by TSG Brian Christiansen, NCARNG Public Affairs



DISTANCE FROM POPE AFB, NC TO BAGHDAD, IRAQ: 6588 MILES





RECON



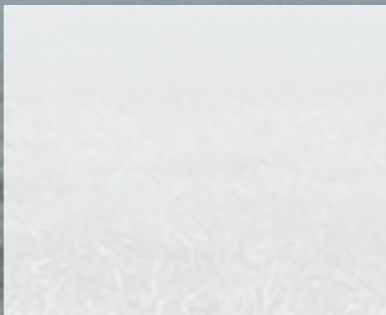
## DAVID & GOLIATH

### Afghanistan

An infantryman connects a humvee to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during an operation in the Arghandab Valley of south central Afghanistan. The Soldier is assigned to the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, and the helicopters are operated by crews of Company F, 131st Aviation Regiment, ALARNG.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Army/SGT Jeremy A. Clawson.

DISTANCE FROM ALABAMA TO AFGHANISTAN: 7496 MILES







RECON





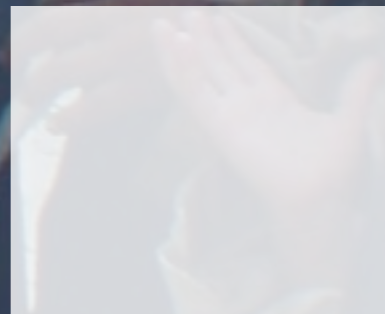




## **BLOWING BUBBLES** Jegdalek, Afghanistan

SPC Allison Sabo, UTARNG, entertains a group of children while doing humanitarian work in Jegdalek, Afghanistan. SPC Sabo is with Delta Company, 1/211th Aviation Group (Attack), currently stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Photo by SPC Donald Chandler



DISTANCE FROM UTAH TO AFGHANISTAN: 7258 MILES



MA  
AIR NATIO

## GO BOSOX!

Westfield, Massachusetts

An A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 104th Fighter Wing, MAANG sports new markings in tribute to the 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. The wing's maintenance squadron renamed the aircraft the "City of Boston" and created special commemorative markings to salute the Red Sox victory.

Photo: SMSgt Robert J. Sabonis, 104th Fighter Wing



YEARS SINCE THE BOSTON RED SOX WON A WORLD SERIES: 88 YEARS

ASS.  
ONAL GUARD











## TRUE PATRIOTS

### Foxborough, Massachusetts

The MAARNG enlists 60 new recruits on the 50 yard line at the September 9th Patriots vs. Colts game. The new Soldiers celebrated in style by staying for the game in a seating area underneath the 2003 Super Bowl Champion Banner.

Photo: MAJ Tom Stewart

DISTANCE FROM FOXBOROUGH TO SUPER BOWL XXXIX: 995 MILES





## MILITARY HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND: HELPING GUARD FAMILIES ACHIEVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

Courtesy of American Forces Information Service (AFIS)

**A** nonprofit organization, Military Housing Assistance Fund (MHAF), is helping servicemen and women who want to buy a home but can't afford the down payment or closing costs.

"A concerned group of Denver and Memphis business people started MHAF this year when they realized how few military people own their own homes," said William Dugger, fund chairman.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development reports homeownership at an all-time high, with 68.3 percent of all Americans owning their own homes. "Unfortunately, our men and women in uniform are being left behind," Dugger said.

A Rand Corporation study, Dugger said, cited that 27.3 percent of military families own their own homes. When military families were asked why they do not own their own

homes, nearly half said, "because they cannot afford to purchase a home."

The fund gives U.S. servicemembers a chance to realize the American dream of home ownership, Dugger added. It also gives private citizens a way to contribute needed support to those in military uniform who protect our country's freedom every day.

MHAF is one of the very few, if not the only, major charities in the United States that gives 100 percent of the funds it receives to the intended beneficiaries, Dugger noted.

MHAF also assists members of National Guard and Reserve units whose activation and deployment have caused them extreme financial hardship. "Many members in the Guard and Reserve have had their incomes cut in half or more, and MHAF is determined that they will not lose their homes while they are defending our country," he said.

MHAF is a fund of Financial Counselors of America (FCA). FCA is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization founded in 1991, with headquarters in Memphis, TN. FCA is a member in good standing of the Better Business Bureau and is an approved mortgage counselor for both Fannie Mae and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. **GX**

**"MHAF is determined that [ARNG] will not lose their homes while they are defending our country."**

- William Dugger, MHAF Chairman



For more information, visit:

 [www.MilitaryHousingAssistanceFund.org](http://www.MilitaryHousingAssistanceFund.org)

# 411: ARMY LODGING

## WHAT IS IT? WHO'S ELIGIBLE? WHERE CAN YOU GO?

### What is it?

The Army Lodging Program's mission is "to provide quality lodging and hospitality services for America's Army." Lodging facilities are comparable to limited-service commercial hotel standards and represent quality and consistency from installation to installation.

And quality and consistency isn't something the Army Lodging Program takes lightly, either. The Program enforces three major groups of quality assurance to its managers. Under each group are a total of 14 categories, outlining the 68 standards supported by over 400 standard criteria. So we guess it's safe to say, these are pretty nice hotels.

The Army Lodging portfolio currently consists of 22,000 guestrooms at 109 hotels, primarily serving business travelers and families changing assignments.

### Who's eligible?

#### Priority 1 (Authorized confirmed reservations on an unlimited basis):

- Guard members on a special tour of active duty or on active duty for training and during periods of scheduled inactive duty training at an installation
- Families, relatives, and guests of hospitalized Armed Forces members or their family
- Medal of Honor recipients

#### Priority 2 (Authorized on space-available basis):

- Guard members in a non-duty status or their family
- Retired Guard members
- Surviving spouses and their family; former spouses when accompanied by dependent children

For a complete list of eligibility, visit:

📍 [www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/eligibility.asp](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/eligibility.asp)



ABOVE: Exterior and interior photos of the new Northern Lights Inn at Fort Wainwright, Alaska

Photos courtesy of armymwr.com

### Where can you go?

How about Germany? The 100th Area Support Group (<https://www.100thasg.mwr.army.mil/armylodging>), located in Bavaria, offers three different hotels. Two of the three are multiple Army Lodging of the Year Award winners, and all three are located close to over 700 museums and over 30 theaters.

Or, how about Alaska? The first hotel in the Army Lodging Wellness Plan (the Army's initiative to ensure all installation lodging operations adequately meet transient lodging requirements) opened on August 6 at Fort Wainwright. The \$18M, 90-room Northern Lights Inn features 45 extended-stay studio suites and 45 extended-stay family suites, a conference room, connecting suites for large families, and a playground area.

These are just a few suggestions. For a complete database of at home and overseas locations, visit:

📍 [www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/locations.asp](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/locations.asp)



For more information, visit:

📍 [www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/](http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/)





EVERY STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM



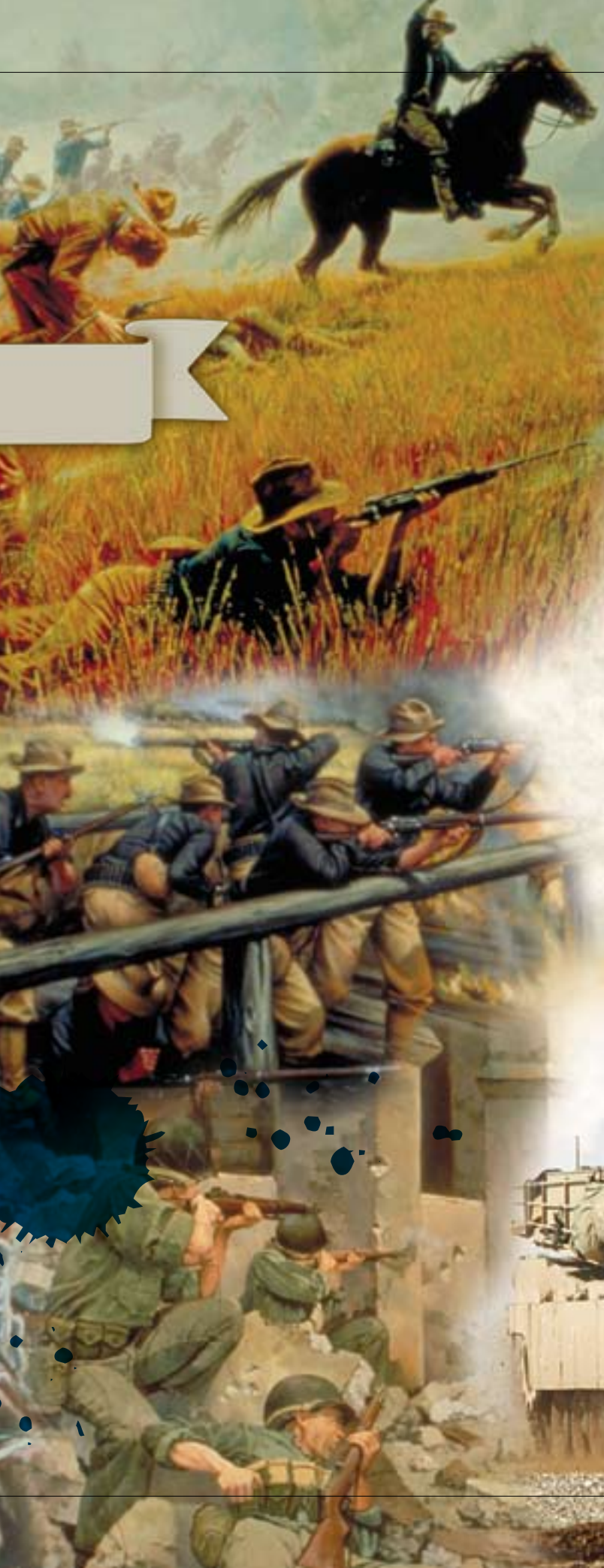
*Since 1636*

**THE NATIONAL GUARD**

*Was there.*







Since before its founding, our nation has faced adversity. We have been threatened by hostile forces from the very beginning. As these dangers have arisen, a special breed of Americans have, again and again, laid aside their daily work and taken up arms to protect their homes and their fellow countrymen. Before there was an Army, there were Citizen-Soldiers who kept us safe. From the earliest militias to the Soldiers serving today in the Army National Guard, these proud Warriors have defended us against every menace for the last 368 years.





# 368 Years of NOBLE SERVICE

**On** December 13, 2004, the Army National Guard will celebrate its 368th birthday even though the country it now defends is only 228 years old. This fact might seem odd to those unfamiliar with the Guard's history, but the simple truth is that the United States would never have been founded were it not for the Citizen-Soldiers whose heritage is carried on by today's Guard Warriors.

Coming to colonize in new and sometimes hostile territories, the British brought with them their concept of Militia. Because of the small, scattered, and vulnerable nature of the early settlements, every male between the ages of 16 and 60 was required to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. It is from this first large scale organization in December of 1636 that the Guard marks its beginning (see facing page).

Although the militias were formed to defend the colonies against foreign invaders, when it came time to throw off the tyranny of English rule, it was Citizen-Soldiers who comprised the bulk of the fledgling nation's military force. The founding fathers, recognizing the critical importance of this ready but largely self-supporting force, inscribed the existence of the National Guard into the very foundation of our nation by defining its unique dual federal and state roles in the Constitution.

Early concerns that militia troops could not stand against battle-hardened full time armies were put to rest in the war of 1812. With a large portion of its forces composed of state militias and short-term volunteers, the United States fought off an invasion by what was at the time the strongest Army in the world.

With their role in American defense firmly established, Guard Warriors played a major role in every conflict in which our nation engaged until Vietnam. The Guard's role in this war was limited by a political decision by President Lyndon B. Johnson who refused to call up reserve-component troops feeling that drafting a few men out of a community would go unnoticed, while mobilizing a Guard unit, often with a hundred men or more leaving at once, would not.

In 1990 with the onset of Operation Desert Storm, the Guard once again reclaimed its full and rightful place in the field along with full-time military components and has remained there since. On the following pages, you can read about a few of the units that helped build the noble Guard tradition and how they continue to serve today.

## THE HERITAGE SERIES

The noble story of the Army National Guard has been captured in the Heritage Series. This collection of paintings depicts great moments from the 368 year history of the American Citizen-Soldier spanning from First Muster, before our nation was founded, to the conflicts of the modern day.

This timeline, assembled from the Heritage Series, portrays the unbroken line of service by the Warriors of the National Guard in every significant conflict in our Nation's history.

To view the full collection visit:  [www.ngb.army.mil/gallery](http://www.ngb.army.mil/gallery)



# Then

## DECEMBER 13, 1636 THE BIRTH OF THE GUARD

The General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the establishment of the first militia regiments in North America. Units organized under the English militia system, which obligated all males between the ages of 16 and 60 to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community, were common throughout the colonies but not organized on this scale. The regimental system, which became the basis for modern armies, allowed these citizen soldiers to train for and respond more efficiently to the growing threat of the Pequot Indians.

The proud heritage of these original units is carried on in the Massachusetts Army National Guard by the 181st and 182nd Infantry, the 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery and the 101st Engineer Battalion.

## — — « NOW » — —

In late June, the 1-181st returned home from Guantanamo, their second post 9/11 deployment (The first was in support of operation Noble Eagle). For 11 months they had provided external security around the detainee detention area.

The small size of the base meant a lot of time going over the same ground, but rather than allowing themselves to become bored or complacent, the soldiers took advantage of the access to advanced training facilities to improve their weapons' skills. Access to large quantities of ammunition and advanced live fire exercises meant that they returned home more confident and more prepared Warriors.

**1636**  
BIRTH OF THE GUARD

**1756**  
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY,  
WEST VIRGINIA

CPT Jeremiah Smith led a band of twenty brave men to fight off a force of 50 Indians under French command who were intent on destroying British settlements in West Virginia.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense.

An infantryman scans the Caribbean Sea while conducting a dismounted patrol of the Camp Delta perimeter in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Soldier is assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, Massachusetts Army National Guard.



### 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The 29th Infantry Division adopted the nickname "Blue and Gray," which reflects the coming together of Civil War adversaries. A 1917 division order directed that the insignia be based on the Korean symbol of Life.





# Then

“THE GREATEST TACTICAL VICTORY  
EVER WON ON AMERICAN SOIL”

JANUARY 17, 1781

The Battle of Cowpens, fictionalized in the Mel Gibson movie *The Patriot*, set 1,100 crack British regular troops against 700 militia and 300 Continentals on the American side. Brigadier General Daniel Morgan chose his defensive position carefully and spent the night before the battle personally explaining his battle plan to the assembled troops. Morgan’s plan played brilliantly upon the British belief that Militia troops could not stand against Redcoat regulars.

As British Cavalry charged, the entrenched Militia delivered two devastating volleys and fell back. The British forces, believing the Americans were fleeing, broke formation and began to charge up the hill after them. The Militia fell back 150 yards behind a second American line which opened fire on the disorganized Brits, devastating their infantry and pushing them into wholesale retreat.

When the battle was over an hour later, the British had lost 100 dead, 229 wounded and 600 captured while the Americans had 12 killed and 60 wounded. The units that fought are perpetuated by the 175th Infantry, MDARNG, and the 198th Signal Battalion, DEARNG, and the 116th Infantry, VAARNG.



On March 1, 2004, the 116th Inf. VAARNG, returned to active federal service to take part in the Global War on Terror. They deployed to Afghanistan on July 15.

The unit has since been split with one group providing perimeter security at Bagram Airbase and the rest deployed “down range” in the southeastern province of Ghazni at Camp Tiger. Their missions have included intelligence gathering and security patrols. Perhaps their greatest contribution to Afghanistan was securing one of the most violent regions in the country to allow the first ever free national elections.



*The Patriot* offers an excellent fictionalization of the Battle of Cowpens.



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures, Inc.



## 1775

### THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

Facing seven crack British regiments, colonial militiamen, admonished by an officer not to fire “until you see the whites of their eyes,” waited with discipline and courage until the redcoats came into range. When their shots rang out, the War of Independence had begun.



## 1776

### THE BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND

Delaware and Maryland troops, holding fast, prevented the capture of Washington’s troops which likely would have ended the American Revolution.

## 1781

### BATTLE OF COWPENS





# THESE SOLDIERS DON'T CALL THEMSELVES HEROES, THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE NATIONAL GUARD.

You hear it again and again: "I'm just doing my job." Today that job is helping people in need. Our soldiers don't do it for the ribbons or medals. They do it because it is their duty. The Army National Guard offers an exceptional

opportunity to serve, while providing extensive benefits in areas like career skills and college tuition reimbursement. To learn more, contact us today, by phone or on the web.

[www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com](http://www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com)



YOU CAN

Join the **National Guard**  
visit us at  
[www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com](http://www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com)



In the morning of January 8th, 1815, British troops advanced across a muddy field to do battle with the assembled American force standing between them and New Orleans. They intended to capture the city and then proceed north to overrun the Mississippi River valley, effectively cutting off trade and travel for much of the United States and leaving the republic surrounded by hostile British forces.

“Old Hickory,” General Andrew Jackson, was determined that this would never happen. The General recruited what has been called the first truly American army, a diverse collection of citizen soldiers from hometown militias in Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana and prepared to meet the British a few miles south of the city.

States worldwide respect. The international community now viewed our country as a military power to be reckoned with. More importantly, it renewed our nation’s faith in itself and in our manifest destiny as a world power.

These soldiers were the forefathers of our modern National Guard, dedicated men standing against foreign aggression to defend their homes and families.

**ATTACK ON THE RIGHT FLANK**  
British forces advance quickly under cover of the morning fog and sweep over the advance redoubt. Every British soldier who enters the redoubt is killed or captured.

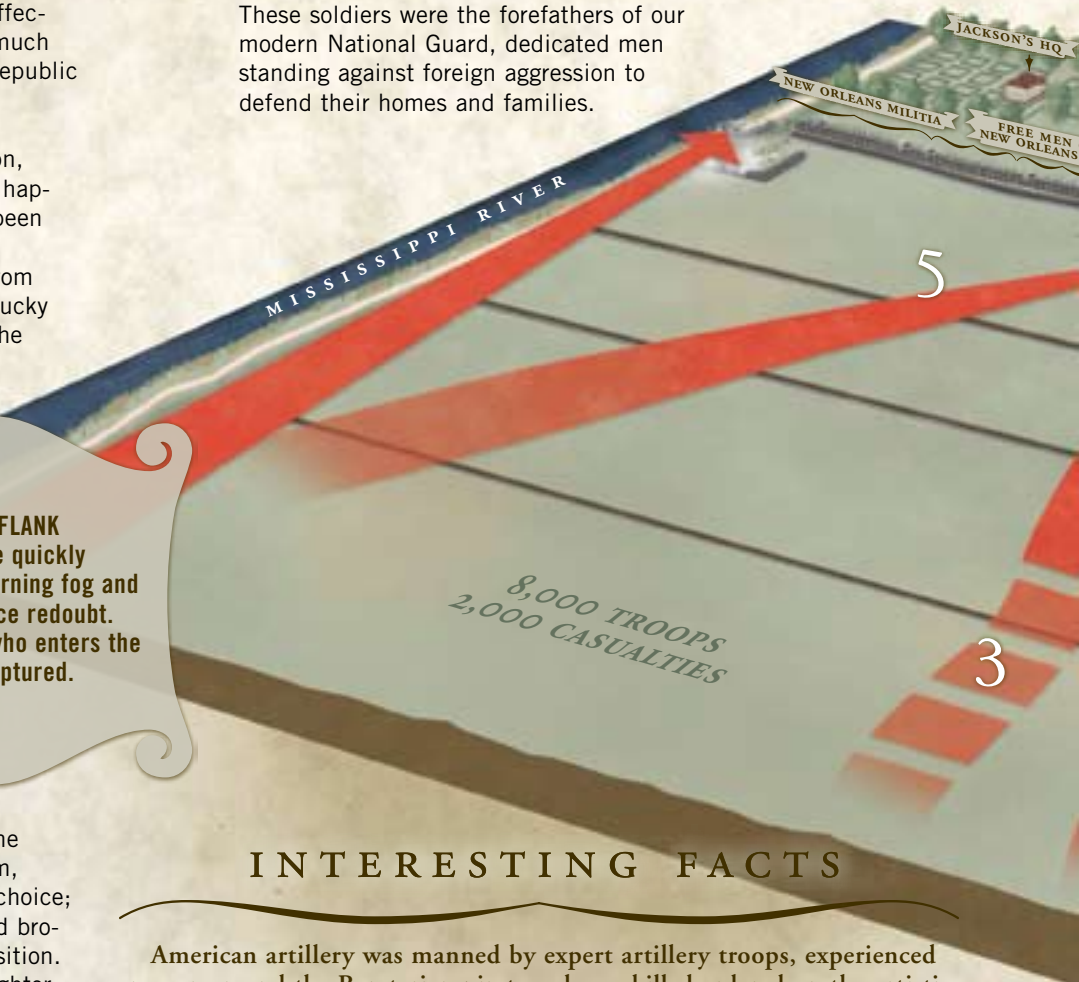
After weeks of fruitless skirmishing, the British commander, General Pakenham, found himself with only one possible choice; a full frontal assault over confined and broken ground onto a heavily fortified position. He was marching his army into a slaughterhouse. When the smoke finally cleared, the mighty British Army had been crushed and driven from the field by a force less than half its size.

This astounding victory made an instant hero of Jackson and earned the fledgling United

## INTERESTING FACTS

American artillery was manned by expert artillery troops, experienced navy men and the Baratarian pirates whose skills bordered on the artistic. Their fire was so devastating that it was reported that a single cannon shot killed 200 British soldiers.

The American lines produced such an overwhelming volume of fire that one of Pakenham’s aides, a veteran of the Napoleonic wars, commented that he had never in his life witnessed a more destructive fire poured upon a single line of men.



### 1813 THE BATTLE OF THE THAMES

As part of a larger force, Kentucky Mounted Riflemen led by Col. Richard M. Johnson, scattered an enemy army composed of British regulars and Indians led by the famed Tecumseh. This victory helped restore U.S. dominance in the northwest region.



### 1814 THE BATTLE OF NORTHPOINT

Ordered to delay 9000 advancing British troops so that defenses around Baltimore could be completed, Maryland militia withstood two hours of bombardment and inflicted over 300 casualties on the advancing redcoats. This victory directly contributed to the end of the War of 1812.



# BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS HOMELAND SECURITY IN 1815



**ATTACK ON THE LEFT FLANK**  
British troops mount a diversionary attack and are ignominiously routed in less than 10 minutes.

1. British main column advances towards Line Jackson under withering fire. The all important 44th has forgotten its scaling ladders and are nowhere to be seen.
2. The attack begins to waver and break into smaller detachments. Many troops begin to desert the field.
3. General Pakenham personally takes command of the 44th and rushes forward. Rallying his remaining troops he charges the American lines once again.
4. The British troops advance sporadically stopping to fire ineffective volleys. Their casualties are staggering and they soon flee. In the end, only a handful of British troops makes it to the top of the wall.
5. The 93rd arrives to find a sea of carnage where the main attack once was. Their commanding officer is shot dead, and without orders they stand motionless under the murderous volleys from the American lines.
6. Pakenham is mortally wounded by grapeshot.
7. The remaining high command is soon killed, and the attack devolves into confused knots of desperate men advancing on all fours or running from the field as fast as they can. After suffering over 600 casualties, the 93rd finally breaks and runs. The attack is over and the elite British Army has been decimated in less than two hours.

**1815**

THE BATTLE OF  
NEW ORLEANS

## 30TH INFANTRY BRIGADE

Organized as a division during WWI, the 20th Infantry Brigade was named after president and soldier Andrew Jackson. His nickname, "Old Hickory," is represented with the initials "O" and "H." The Roman numeral XXX represents its numerical designation.





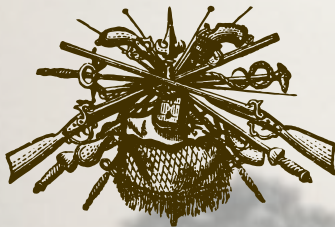
# Then

In 1861 two days before the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, S.C., President Abraham Lincoln ordered the mobilization of the D.C. Militia. As the only militia directly under presidential control, the D.C. Militia provided the first man, first company and first regiment mobilized for the war.

## — — ◀ NOW ▶ — —

Today the D.C. National Guard, known as the Capital Guardians, not only carry on their historic duty of protecting the capital, they have also deployed in support of overseas operations. The 547th Transportation Company returned home this past summer after serving a year in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Capt. Malik Freeman led his troops in the simultaneous missions of providing external convoy security and delivering critical logistics to our supported units. Their missions had them driving thousands of miles through the most hazardous routes in this theater of operation, enduring harassment from enemy small arms fire, frequent mortar and rocket attacks, and the constant threat of improvised explosive devices. Their convoys encompassed the entire central region of Iraq, including the absolute heart of the Sunni Triangle.



### 1847 BUENA VISTA

Fighting in a foreign land, facing an enemy many times its own strength, the Mississippi Rifles, commanded by Colonel Jefferson Davis, were ordered to attack Mexican cavalry and infantry advancing on the Americans. The "hard-fighting Mississippi gentlemen" moved up, fired, then drew Bowie knives and closed in.



### 1863 GETTYSBURG

The First Minnesota was ordered to attack a charging Confederate brigade. Despite overwhelming odds, the heroic Minnesotans gained enough time for the Union line to reform. Only 47 of the 262 members of the regiment answered roll that evening, incurring the highest casualty rate of any unit in the Civil War.

### 1861 CAPITAL GUARDIANS

# Then

JULY 15, 1918  
COUTHIEZY, FRANCE

In the early hours of July 15, the German 36th Division crossed the Marne River and attacked the Allied front which included two companies from the 109th Infantry PAARNG. When the adjacent French units fell back, L and M Companies were surrounded. Wave after wave of Germans attacked the Pennsylvanians. Despite the overwhelming odds, the two companies stubbornly held their position and inflicted heavy casualties. At 0800 the remnants of L and M Companies withdrew and fought their way back to the front line of the 109th, five kilometers away. Of the 500 assigned officers and men, only 150 remained. The brunt of the German offensive now fell on the 109th Infantry and the other units of the 28th Division. For three days the 109th held its positions while under heavy attack. Fighting in ravines, woods and trenches, the doughboys fought like veterans. A German after-action report described the battle as "the most severe defeat of the war."

For its staunch defense the 109th was nicknamed "Men of Iron," and the 28th was later dubbed the "Iron Division." Today's 103d Engineer Battalion (The Dandy First) and the 109th Infantry continue the proud heritage of the "Men of Iron."

## ← ← now → →

On Aug 29, 2002, the 109th arrived in Bosnia to begin a 7 month tour supporting local police and authorities. The modern day "Men of Iron" provided both the Heavy and Quick Reaction Forces for Multinational Division-North. Conducting 24 hour operations, they covered approximately a 1300 sq. mile area.

MAJ Cane, the Battalion's Operations and training officer reported, "We are a much stronger unit for having been on that deployment. I can still see the difference two years later. Morale is better. We were strong going in, but we were better when we left."

## 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Organized in 1879, the 28th Infantry Division is the oldest division in the U.S. Army. The "Keystone" Division adopted their home state's motto on its patch. During WWI, the fury of its attacks led the German Army to bestow it the title "Bloody Bucket."



Blue Steel 5 patrol stopped along the side of the road overlooking the Drina river (the other side of the river is Serbia), ultimately headed to Forward Operating Base Connor enroute to Srebrenica.

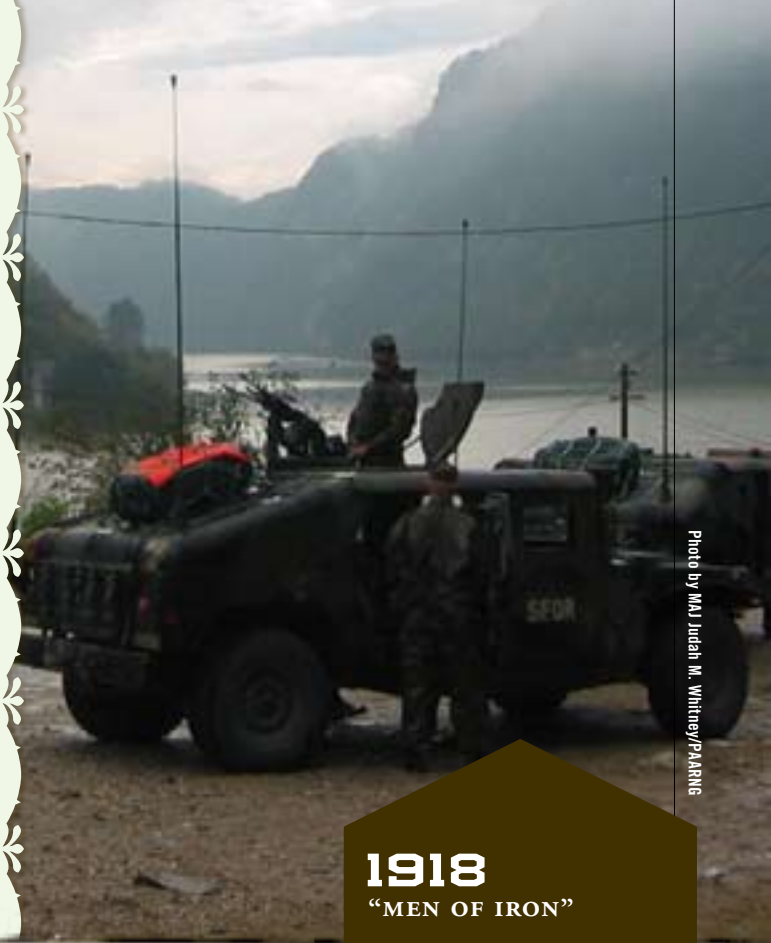


Photo by MAJ Judah M. Whitney/PAARNG

**1918**  
"MEN OF IRON"



**1899**  
LUZON

Having survived an attack on 300 insurgents days before, the 22 members of Young's Scouts discovered that an important bridge had been set on fire. Despite fire from 600 insurgents, the Scouts rushed forward and held off the enemy long enough to put out the flames. Ten members of the unit received the Medal of Honor.



**1918**  
SECHAULT, FRANCE

The 369th Infantry Regiment, comprised of black Guard members from New York and nicknamed "Hell Fighters" by the enemy, engaged in a fierce struggle for Sechault. Despite heavy casualties, the 369th took and held the town and earned the Croix de Guerre for the entire regiment.



# Then

JULY 14, 1943  
THE RAINBOW DIVISION  
IS REACTIVATED.

Originally formed of a mixture of Guard units from all over the US, the 42nd Infantry established an enviable record of service during World War II. Attacking through the Hardt Mountains, they were the first Allied force to penetrate the Siegfried line. They took part in the capture of Schweinfurt, engaging, at points, in hand to hand combat. On April 29, 1945, just one week before VE Day, the 42nd, along with the Guard's 45th Infantry Division, liberated the infamous Dachau concentration camp. By the war's end, the Rainbow Soldiers had captured over 6,000 square miles of Nazi held Territory.



The 42nd has been training for the last six months at Ft. Drum in preparation for deployment late this year to Kuwait and eventually into Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 as a part of Task Force Liberty Resolve. This is the first time that the division in its entirety has deployed since WWII.

Soldiers from HHC, 42nd Infantry Division maneuver through a building at the Fort Drum, NY MOUT (military operations in urban terrain) site. The exercise is part of the unit's pre-deployment training for Operation Iraqi Freedom 3.



Photo: SSG Peter K. Towse, 42nd ID Public Affairs

## 42TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The hard-fighting 42nd Infantry Division was organized from National Guard units across the country during WWI. GEN MacArthur said it covered the country "like a rainbow." Nicknamed the "Rainbow Division," the patch symbolizes the MacArthur moniker.



**1943**  
RAINBOW DIVISION



## 1943

PANTANO, ITALY

The 168th took and held Mount Pantano against a full German Battalion for five days until relieved. Transport was so difficult and supplies so limited that casualties were treated on the firing line, and the US forces resorted to throwing rocks and C-ration cans. The unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.



## 1944

NORMANDY

On July 15, the 134th Infantry, commanded by future chief of the National Guard Bureau, Butler B. Miltonberger, began an attack on hill 122 to allow the capture of St. Lo. By nightfall they took the hill, fought off a counter attack, and launched a counter-attack of their own. The 1st Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.



Debbie Coutts and her son Christopher, 6, watch as the plane carrying the 116th Cavalry Brigade of the Idaho Army National Guard takes off from Boise, Idaho.

## Then

The only Army Guard unit to see combat duty during both the Korean and Vietnam wars was the 116th Engineer Battalion (Combat) from Idaho. It was the second Army Guard unit to arrive in Vietnam -- and with 811 personnel, was by far the largest.

The 116th's duties included establishing and upgrading defenses, providing for clean water and a range of other routine functions. The largest part of their missions, however was maintaining and improving roadways and bridges. While working outside of base camps, the Engineers frequently came under enemy fire with 6 Guard members killed and 71 wounded in action.

The unit was also involved in humanitarian missions in Vietnam. These included supplying Vietnamese civilians with nearly 6 million gallons of potable water, thereby cutting the sickness rate by 75 percent in Montagnard villages. They also provided medical aid to hundreds of Vietnamese. After 11 months in Vietnam the unit returned home in September 1969. The 116th Engineer Battalion remains part of the Idaho Army Guard.

## Now

The 116th Combat Engineer Battalion was called back into Federal Service June 28, 2004. They have spent several months training at Ft. Bliss, TX for a 12-18 month deployment in Iraq scheduled for late this year. At this point they are intending to deploy to Kirkuk in northeastern Iraq. The area had been considered quiet until terrorists recently blew up a section of a major oil pipeline.

The Engineer's mission will likely focus on the reestablishment of basic services: potable water, functioning sewers, and the stabilization and expansion of the power grid.

### 116TH CAVALRY BRIGADE

In 1920, the 116th Cavalry organized in the valley of Idaho's Snake River. Nicknamed the "Snake River Regiment," the unit patch features a yellow snake on a blue river. Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers have a long and honorable history dating back to the Nez Perce Indian Wars of 1877.



**1969**  
116TH ENG BN



### 1951 SOUTH KOREA

Ordered to take two hills being held by the Chinese, the 65th fought intensely for three days. On the morning of the third day two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged straight at the enemy positions. The Chinese fled. The "Borinqueneers" were both awarded the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations.



### 1969 SOUTH VIETNAM

Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry, INARNG arrived in Vietnam in December 1968. Operating deep in enemy territory, Ranger patrols engaged enemy units while conducting raids, ambushes and surveillance missions. "Delta Company" unit members were awarded 510 medals for valor and service.





*Then* **AND NOW** 

**DESERT STORM**

On August 2, 1990, the forces of Iraq invaded Kuwait. Even before unit activations began, Army National Guard soldiers began volunteering to serve. During this period, the Guard went through its largest mobilization since the Korean War with more than 62,000 Guard members mobilized, and of these, nearly 39,000 deployed to Southwest Asia.

After decades of frequently unheralded homeland service, Guard soldiers and their families vindicated the trust that the nation had placed in them. They served both in combat and in support roles, proving themselves more than equal

to any task assigned to them. The professionalism and dedication shown by the troops during combat and in the aftermath clearly demonstrated that they were as prepared and capable as their full-time brethren.


Most of the units that served in Operation Desert Storm have since been deployed, on federal and state missions, at home and abroad, defending our nation in the Global War on Terror.



**1991**  
SAUDI ARABIA

When the Allied ground offensive into Iraq began, the 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery, OKARNG, was armed with the Multiple-Launch Rocket System. This battalion launched responsive, accurate and devastating fire throughout the campaign. The MLRS rockets were so deadly that the Iraqi soldiers called them "steel rain."

*...defending all*

 n September 11, 2001, our world changed. War was brought to the shores of the United States, not by a nation or alliance but by a group of extremists as intent as any previous aggressor on the destruction of our great country. This new enemy was not confined to a single nation or region but rather draws support from many who hate America because we are strong and free.

Our enemies have learned that they cannot stand against us as a military force, and so they have resorted to guerilla tactics. They have spread themselves thinly knowing that when we find them, we can destroy them. We have obliterated the last of the rival standing armies in this war, and now our military is restructuring itself into smaller, integrated, fast reacting units to hunt down and crush all those who would do us harm.

In this war, perhaps even more than in those our nation has faced in the past, the Army National Guard is playing a critical role. We will not win this war through firepower alone. Although there are a handful of clearly defined battlefields, most of this conflict will be played out on city streets, among frightened civilians.

If these people are to stand against their oppressors, our enemies, whom they have feared for so long, we must bring them freedom and help them to rise to the challenge. This is where the unique qualifications of Guard Soldiers truly shine. Through their dual nature as Citizen-Soldiers, they are particularly qualified to win the hearts and minds of the inhabitants of the regions where our enemy hides.

First, as trained professional Warriors, Guard members carry the weight of the U.S. military, projecting confidence and a sense of authority in otherwise chaotic locales. Unlike civilian workers, they are capable of defending themselves and therefore can travel more easily through troubled areas. And, should it fall within the mission's parameters, when they encounter hostile forces, they are fully capable of engaging and defeating the enemy.

Second, and possibly more important given the current conflict, Guard Soldiers bring a vast array of work and social skills from their civilian lives that allow them to relate to and work easily with the inhabitants of regions we occupy.

# THE WAY AHEAD RELEVANT & READY

In the past, to attack our country, someone would have to mass a force on our borders and come at us head-on. This is no longer the case. Today, we live in a world where we are not assaulted by armies, but rather by individuals or small groups. Our enemy has changed tactics and so must the Army.

The new "The Way Ahead" website ([www.army.mil/thewayahead](http://www.army.mil/thewayahead)) is intended to provide you with a clear picture of the Army's evolving mission and the return of focus to the Warrior Ethos.

 [www.army.mil/thewayahead](http://www.army.mil/thewayahead)

They are more accustomed to non-military interaction and have a clearer understanding of the stress locals must be feeling as their daily lives are disrupted. Coming from every civilian occupation from police officer to school principal, Guard members carry with them real world experience with all of the building blocks of a free society.

For longer than we have been a nation, selfless citizens have protected us when threats have arisen. America is once again threatened, and today's Army National Guard Soldiers, with their unique combination of military and civilian virtues, carry on the noble 368 year tradition of the Citizen-Soldier by taking up arms and defending all that we hold dear. **GX**

*that we hold dear.*





# TRUCKING & THE MILITARY

## A LONG & SUCCESSFUL HISTORY TOGETHER

**I**n 1935, Al Schneider sold his family's car and used the proceeds to start a trucking company, recruiting some of his buddies from the Wisconsin Army National Guard to be the first drivers. Today, Schneider National is North America's largest truckload carrier and the nation's largest private employer of separating military personnel. Nearly 25 percent of its 21,000 associates have some form of military experience.

Members of the armed services retiring from active duty and Guard members considering a civilian career change often seek careers that will enable them to incorporate the skills they have honed during their service in the military. Opportunities for advancement, income potential and benefits as well as quality of life are important, too. For Guard members, it is vital to find a company that has established time-off policies for monthly drill, annual training and active duty call-ups.

Professional truck driving often is a top career choice for exiting military personnel, Guard members and reservists. Some exiting service members may have served in logistical roles during their tenure with the armed forces, while others enjoy the variety of work that trucking affords and are attracted by the opportunity to work outside of an office or factory environment. Military personnel also possess discipline, self-sufficiency and other traits that bode well for a successful career in transportation.

Currently, the transportation industry is experiencing an unprecedented demand for capacity, and drivers are needed across the United States. According to estimates by the American Trucking Associations earlier this year, the trucking industry will need to hire nearly 100,000 new drivers over the next few years.

Transportation carriers are offering competitive wages and benefits in an effort to attract and retain new drivers. Typically, new drivers can expect to earn \$32,000 to \$39,500 in their first year while experienced drivers might earn as much as \$43,500 to \$54,000 annually. Companies, such as Schneider National, provide company-paid training for all new drivers. Schneider is also rolling out its largest pay increase in its history.

Lifestyle improvements across the industry include more opportunities for drivers to balance their work and personal lives. Regional and Dedicated driving opportunities, for instance, allow drivers more predictable work schedules and greater amounts of time at home. Technology is enhancing driver comfort and making it easier to stay connected to family while on the road. Many drivers have laptop computers with in-cab Internet capability, and many truck stops are offering Internet access. **GX**

**“For Guard members, it is also vital to find a company that has established time-off policies for monthly drill, annual training, and active-duty call-ups.”**

# GETTING STARTED ADVANCING YOUR CAREER



To operate a commercial vehicle in the United States, you must obtain:

**» A COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE (CDL)**

Even if you have previous experience driving trucks and operating heavy equipment in the military, a CDL is required. There are many programs available across the country to help you prepare for a successful career as a professional truck driver.

Guard members, reservists and retired military personnel hold a variety of positions in transportation and logistics organizations. Some enjoy the freedom of the open road and excitement of meeting new people so much that they make over-the-road driving their lifelong second career. Others transfer to Dedicated routes or consider team driving with a friend, family member or spouse. Some drivers elect to become owner-operators and manage their own small fleets while others choose to transition into training and management positions for their carrier employer.

Information courtesy of:  
Don Osterberg is a retired U.S. Army Colonel.  
Contact Osterberg at 920-592-6000 or [osterbergd@schneider.com](mailto:osterbergd@schneider.com).

Schneider National is a corporate sponsor of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), and Al Schneider is the namesake for an EANGUS award presented annually to an employer who demonstrates support for employees in the National Guard and Reserve.

For more information about a career as a Schneider National professional driver:

 **1-800-44-PRIDE**

 **[www.schneiderjobs.com](http://www.schneiderjobs.com)**





# RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAMS

## COMBATING TRAINING PIPELINE LOSS (TPL)

**E**very year the Guard loses over 25% of its recruits before their feet ever get into boots. These Training Pipeline Losses (TPLs) account for nearly three brigades (9,700 Soldiers per year) and cost the Guard over \$700 million per year in marketing, recruiting, and training costs. However, the greatest loss may be in terms of intangibles like unit morale, cohesion and readiness. The Guard needs your help to prevent these losses. Start or contribute to the effectiveness of a Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) in your unit.

There can be a variety of factors that will cause a recruit to drop out (*see Top Five list to the right*). Simply addressing the issues openly with new recruits can decrease TPLs. By ensuring that recruits know what's expected of them, you can help reduce their fear of the unknown and allow them to prepare mentally and physically for the challenges of BT/AIT. **GX**

### TOP FIVE CAUSES FOR RECRUIT LOSS:

- » LACK OF PHYSICAL READINESS
- » ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS
- » ATTITUDE PROBLEMS
- » MOMENT-OF-TRUTH ISSUES
- » "WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?" ISSUES

### FIND OUT HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR RSP!

Contact your state Recruiting and Retention Manager, the NGB-ASM Retention/Attrition Branch below or visit:

 [www.virtualarmory.com/sear/](http://www.virtualarmory.com/sear/)

Retention/Attrition Branch Chief MAJ Gregg Bliss:  [Gregg.Bliss@ngb.army.mil](mailto:Gregg.Bliss@ngb.army.mil)

RSP Program Manager SFC Darius W. Perry:  [Darius.Perry@ngb.army.mil](mailto:Darius.Perry@ngb.army.mil)  (703) 607-3571

# TOOLS FOR THE BATTLE OF ATTRITION

**I**n addition to recruiting and retaining quality Soldiers, the “third leg” of strength maintenance is Attrition Management, or reducing losses of Soldiers serving in their first term of service.

The Strength Maintenance Division of the National Guard Bureau (NGB-ASM) provides guidance, assistance and tools to help reduce first term losses.

Two of the tools specifically designed to enhance attrition management programs are:

## FIRST LINE LEADER TRAINING (FLLT) (TEAM #1):

- 4-hour block of instruction designed to assist leaders in attrition management
- Can be taught by Mobile Training Team (MTT)
- Can be taught by the NGB-ASM MTT for MACOM and higher units
- All states/territories have certified instructors for FLLT.
- States who have embraced FLLT have shown great improvement.

## LEADERSHIP STRENGTH READINESS (LSR) (TEAM #2):

- 4-hour block of instruction designed as a follow-up for FLLT
- Can be taught by Mobile Training Team (MTT)
- Can be taught by the NGB-ASM MTT for MACOM and higher units
- Most states/territories have certified instructors for LSR.

For more information, visit the National Guard Public Education Center at:

 <http://pub.ngpec.org/>



## RACE FOR RECRUITS

GUARD HOSTED LINCOLN MARATHON TO BOLSTER RECRUITMENT

Photo courtesy of [lincolnrun.org](http://lincolnrun.org)

**T**his past May, the Army National Guard was the title sponsor for the 27th annual Lincoln Marathon held in Lincoln, NE. A primary supporter of the event for the past 19 years, the Guard took a title sponsorship to gain national recognition for the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Marathon Program, which utilizes members of the “All Guard” Marathon Team to promote the National Guard.

“Until now, we were the only branch of the service who didn’t have our name on the title of a marathon,” said SFC Jack Murphy of the NEARNG, coordinator for the National Guard “All Guard” Marathon Team. The Lincoln Marathon’s name was changed from the “Lincoln All Sport Marathon” to the “Lincoln All Sport/National Guard Marathon.”

In preparation for the event, Guard members from all 50 states, three territories and D.C. attended recruiting and retention workshops and competed for a place on the “All Guard” team.

The majority of manpower and support for the Lincoln Marathon was made up of NEARNG members. Guard volunteers were responsible for running the finish line, providing a medical tent, and helping out at water stations. The NEARNG’s 43rd Army Band also volunteered to play the National Anthem and old favorites to keep the crowds pumped up.

In the 2004 fiscal year, the Marathon Program produced 625 quality leads for both the Army and Air National Guard recruiting forces. Dates for next year’s marathon are yet to be announced. **GX**

For more information, visit:

 [www.lincolnrun.org](http://www.lincolnrun.org)



1

**GO**

ON AN ACTIVE DUTY SPECIAL WORK TOUR FOR 30 DAYS TO ONE YEAR AS A RECRUITING AND RETENTION NCO. (E1-E6)\*

- ★ No pending adverse action
- ★ Not in a mobilization status or pending mobilization
- ★ Recommendation of the state recruiting and retention manager

2

**BECOME**

AN AGR RECRUITING AND RETENTION NCO AND KEEP THE ARNG "RELEVANT AND READY" IN THE 21ST CENTURY. (E4-E7, TITLE 10 OR 32)\*

**WAYS TO SERVE FULL-TIME IN YOUR HOMETOWN and get paid for it.**

3

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TO SERVE IN YOUR OWN UNIT IN YOUR HOMETOWN FOR A ONE-YEAR TOUR ON ACTIVE DUTY ASSIGNED TO THE FULL-TIME RECRUITING AND RETENTION FORCE AND RECEIVE ALL THE PAY AND BENEFITS OF ACTIVE DUTY WHILE YOU SERVE AT HOME. (E4-E6)\*



**RECEIVE GREAT BENEFITS FOR YOUR SERVICE**

- ★ Full-time pay in your grade and time in service
- ★ Housing allowance
- ★ Full medical coverage for yourself and family
- ★ Commissary privileges to lower your food bill
- ★ Accrue 30 days of paid leave annually
- ★ Many paid holidays
- ★ A chance to support your fellow Soldiers serving around the world
- ★ Make a difference

\*All applicants must qualify for these tours prior to being placed on orders.

For more information, visit:  [www.guardrecruiting.com](http://www.guardrecruiting.com)

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Dow AFB	302-736-1802
<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>	
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<b>FLORIDA</b>	
Fort. McCoy / Hurlburt AFB	888-888-4187
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MacDill AFB	813-338-1222
Melbourne	321-238-1222
Orlando	407-887-7157
Patrick AFB	321-739-0485
Pennington AFB, Whiting Field NAS	904-494-0232
1819 Clearing Rd.	904-494-0244
15 Brent Ln.	904-992-6047
Tallahassee	904-785-0268
Titusville AFB	321-268-0268
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Kings Bay Naval	912-473-7300
Roby AFB	504-942-0200
Spalding AFB	478-871-1208
<b>HAWAII</b>	
All Bases	808-598-1210
<b>IDaho</b>	
McClellan AFB	208-887-4871
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	
Great Lakes MTO	847-416-0200
Scott AFB	618-850-7857
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Indianapolis	317-474-0400
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Fl. Campbell	502-856-7770
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Shirley's AFB	519-749-0400
Fl. Post	337-258-0264
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2211 S. Stephanie St.	702-949-0200
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Kirtland AFB	505-962-1800
<b>NEW YORK</b>	
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<b>NORTH CAROLINA</b>	
Camp Lejeune / New River MTO	919-858-0800
Fl. Davis / Pope AFB	919-822-0260
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Fl. Still	405-432-0200
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<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>	
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<b>SOUTH CAROLINA</b>	
Marbleton MTO / Pargis Island	843-622-0200
Charleston All Bases	843-893-0216
Fl. Jackson	803-739-1201
State AFB	803-868-0200
<b>SOUTH DAKOTA</b>	
Sioux Falls AFB	605-948-0200
<b>TENNESSEE</b>	
Fl. Campbell	615-894-7373
Knoxville	615-278-7696
Nashville	615-878-0999
<b>TEXAS</b>	
Austin	512-738-0211
Corpus Christi NAS	361-428-2811
Dyess AFB	254-820-0440
Fl. Bell	254-778-0489
Fl. Brown	940-338-4999
Fl. Fort. Hood	512-833-3291
Houston	713-892-4887
Inglewood NAS	281-492-4252
Lackland AFB	512-473-3201
Waco AFB	817-873-3201
Wheeler AFB	940-838-0200
<b>UTAH</b>	
Hill AFB	801-773-0200
<b>VERMONT</b>	
Rensselaire Navy	737-696-1207
Guards MTO / Ft. Belknap	737-441-6600
Wentworth Navy	737-596-6290
W. Beach / North Pole	737-698-6200
Lynnhaven Navy	737-698-6200
Townsend St.	737-698-6200
Putnam River	737-698-6200
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	
Bangor Navy / Bremerton Navy	360-892-1117
Fl. Lewis / McChord AFB	360-892-1117
11800 Robinson Way, SW	360-892-1117
Puget Sound Navy	360-892-1117
Whidbey Is. Navy	360-871-6150

\* Office open on Saturdays

7/04

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FEATURED RECRUITING ITEM

# AMERICAN SOLDIER DVD



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It means you will make a difference.

As part of its ongoing effort to aid recruiting efforts across the country, the Strength Maintenance Division has produced the American Soldier DVD 2-Disc Set featuring:

- » Heroic scenes and stories from America's Army National Guard Soldiers
- » Never-before-seen footage and images from actual Guard missions
- » Guide to Becoming an Officer in the ARNG
- » National Guard Guide (Almanac)
- » The YOU CAN Guide to Paying for College
- » ARNG Battle Disc - Check out the interactive uniform, digital army, screensavers and more.
- » A FULL VERSION OF GUARD FORCE, the interactive PC game
- » Plus much more

Contact your local Unit RRNCO for more information.

For more information:

**Contact your local Unit RRNCO**



# COMMON TASK SURVEY

A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE U.S. ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS AND TRAINING



**D**ata collection began on the morning of October 15, 2004 with a mass email notification to over 565,000 officers, warrant officers and enlisted active and reserve component Soldiers with additional notification through various communication networks around the Army. Every Soldier in the Army is encouraged to participate and share his or her experience. This survey will help the Army identify task performance lessons learned from officer, warrant officer and enlisted active and reserve component Soldiers and their leaders on common tasks critical to Soldier and unit survival in a combat environment or supporting combat readiness. Results will be aligned horizontally and vertically by rank (Commissioned Officer, Warrant Officer and Enlisted) to determine the level of task responsibility. From this the Army will determine adjustments in training to increase battlefield effectiveness. Critical task identification will begin in January 2005. Data is expected to impact all levels of officer, warrant officer and enlisted entry and advanced training and the officer, warrant office and enlisted and NCO professional education systems. RCERT-CONUS reviewed the survey and WEB link. **GX**

## U.S. ARMY RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR THE BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

"The Army's Center for Soldier-Oriented Research and Development"

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### Welcome to the United States Army 2004 Common Task Survey

Please click on the statement below that best applies to you. If none of them apply to you, you do not need to take this survey. Thank you for your support.

[I am an Enlisted Soldier.](#)

[I am a Commissioned Officer.](#)

[I am a Warrant Officer.](#)

Comments or questions should be addressed to:  
W.T. Badey

✉ [william.badey@hqda.army.mil](mailto:william.badey@hqda.army.mil)

and/or SGM Steve Merrill

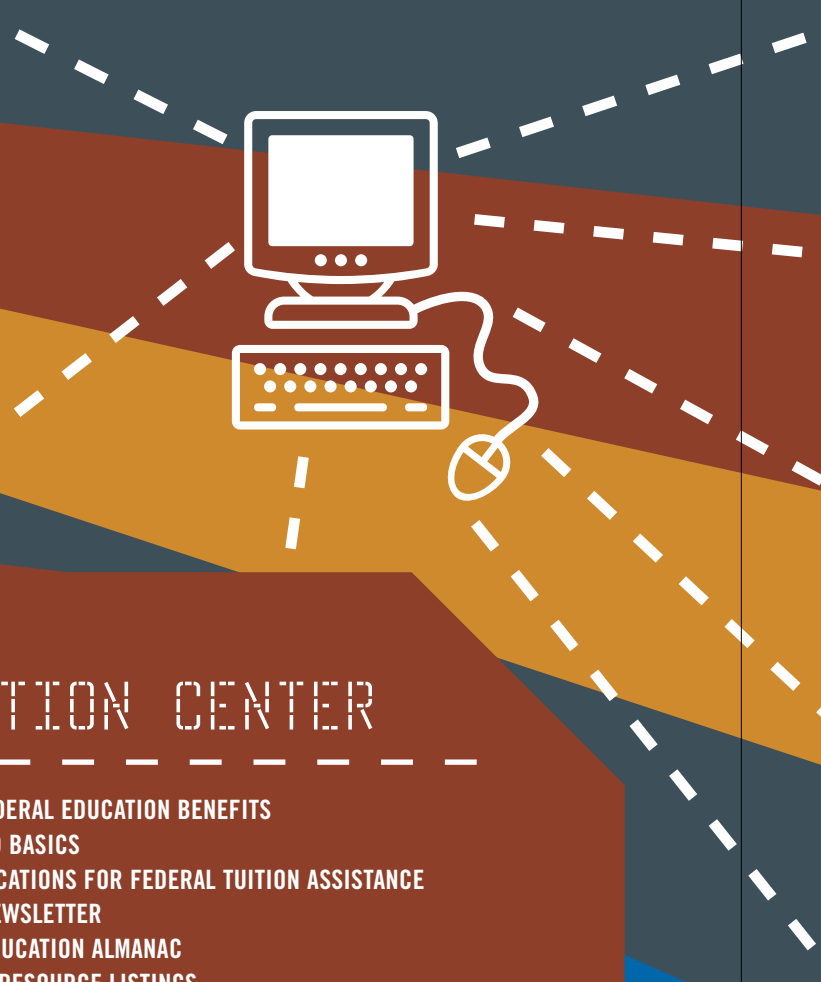
✉ [steven.merrill@monroe.army.mil](mailto:steven.merrill@monroe.army.mil)





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## GUARD EDUCATION CENTER



- STATE AND FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS
- FINANCIAL AID BASICS
- ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE
- QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- THE GUARD EDUCATION ALMANAC
- EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE LISTINGS
- CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

Educational assistance has always been one of the Guard's greatest benefits. Now, with these benefits expanding, there's even more to know and the Education section of the Virtual Armory has it all. Here you will learn about the continuing education opportunities available to you and your family through the Army National Guard. Opportunities include state and federal college benefits, tuition assistance, scholarships, and a variety of other programs.

## THE NEWLY REBUILT VIRTUAL ARMORY IS READY FOR INSPECTION.

This unbelievably deep website still has all of the information that a serving Guard Soldier needs, but now all those facts, publications and forms are easier to get to. Starting with a clean, crisp new interface design, the site has been reorganized to make use faster and more straightforward. Clearer navigation with intuitive icons makes finding what you're looking for virtually effortless. If you need it, and it's Guard related, it's at [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com).

## NEW SOLDIER CENTER



SOLDIER'S CREED  
BASIC COMBAT TRAINING  
FROM CITIZEN TO SOLDIER IN 9 WEEKS

The New Soldier Center will provide you with important information and help you prepare for Basic Combat Training (BCT). You will find here interesting facts about the Army National Guard (ARNG), including its history, customs, and traditions.

## RECRUITING ACTION CENTER



EVERY SOLDIER IS A RECRUITER  
WAYS TO SHOW YOUR GUARD PRIDE  
RAISE THE TEAM

Are you ready and willing to show your Guard pride? Think you could give a boost to recruiting but don't have any cool Guard stuff? Well, we do and will send some to you if you will agree to become a part of the team. Visit the Recruiting Action Center and see all the ways you can show your Guard pride.

## THE LATEST GUARD NEWS



LOCAL & GLOBAL NEWS ABOUT THE WAR ON TERROR  
WHITE HOUSE & JOINT FORCES BULLETINS  
STATE & FEDERAL MISSION REPORTS

Catch the latest news directly from the source. On the Virtual Armory you get instant access to releases from the Guard as well as stories related to events honoring our Homefront Heroes. Link to news nationwide from the Department of Defense, the White House, the U.S. Army and many other valuable resources.

## MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT



PRE-MOBILIZATION CHECKLIST  
UNIT FAMILY ACTION PLAN  
FAMILY ASSISTANCE

In the Army National Guard, you must always prepare for possible mobilization. Getting ready for a federal or state mission is a job that all Guard members and their families take seriously. It requires thoughtful research, planning and execution.

## RETENTION CENTER



STRENGTH MAINTENANCE PHILOSOPHY  
READINESS: THE FINAL MEASURE  
HELPFUL HINTS FOR UNIT LEADERS

In the Retention Center, you'll find information on Guard retention programs and procedures, responsibilities and duties of Guard members, and much more.

 [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com)



5

THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR IN 2004

**With the battering tides of the 21st century, positive surfaces are too often washed over. We at GX feel it important to reflect on a few of those positive turns. And in doing so, we express our sincere gratitude to those fighting for and safeguarding freedom at home and abroad. That being said, here's the GX list of Five Things To Be Thankful For In 2004.**



Photo courtesy of EPA/Olivier Matthys/Landov

2

**FREE ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN**

**10.09.04 Afghanistan** Millions of Afghan men and women take to the polls and vote in the first-ever presidential election in Afghanistan. Voting security is provided by Coalition forces and the Afghanistan National Army - a force trained largely by National Guard in Task Force Phoenix.

**11.03.04 Kabul, Afghanistan** Hamid Karzai is officially declared president after weeks of fraud investigation came up empty in attempts to overturn Karzai's landslide victory.

Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Handout/Landov



1

**SADDAM BROUGHT TO JUSTICE**

Nabbed in a hole in the ground at the tail end of 2003, Saddam Hussein is finally brought down by the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and special operations forces of Task Force 12.

**07.01.04:** Custody of Hussein is transferred to the Iraqi interim government. The countdown to his trial is underway and expected to take place within the next year. If convicted, Hussein could face a firing squad.



Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Ahmad Masood/Landov

Photo courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov



**3**

**REMOVAL OF AL QAEDA**

**11.03.04 Washington, DC** In his post-election acceptance speech, President Bush acknowledges the good work of the armed forces during the War on Terror: "Our military has brought justice to the enemy and honor to America."

Over 75 percent of al Qaeda's known leaders and associates have been eliminated. Operational and logistical terrorist support cells have been disrupted in Europe, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Southeast Asia. Nearly \$140 million in terrorist assets have been blocked in over 1,400 accounts worldwide.

Photo courtesy of EPA/Jim Hollander/Landov



**4**

**PEACEFUL U.S. ELECTIONS**

**11.03.04 Washington, DC** George W. Bush is officially re-elected President. After months of campaigning and conventions held in major cities, the entire election process is carried out without terrorist incident or mass civil unrest.

**PREVIOUS PAGE (clockwise):** Afghan citizens rejoice over election; Afghanistan National Army Soldiers; a recently captured Saddam Hussein

**ABOVE (clockwise):** President Bush reviews FBI's list of 22 Most Wanted Terrorists; an NYARNG Soldier stands guard on 9/12/01 at site of World Trade Center in NYC; Guard Soldiers stay vigil on 8/25/04 at Grand Central Station in NYC, as security is increased for the Republican National Convention



**5**

**A SECURE HOMELAND SINCE 9/11**

**10.18.04 Washington, DC** In a continuing effort to ensure that America will never again experience the atrocities of September 11, 2001, President Bush signs the FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which provides \$28.9 billion in net discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security.

**07.12.04 Washington, DC** President Bush signs Project BioShield Act, which authorizes \$5.6 billion over 10 years for the government to purchase and stockpile vaccines and drugs to fight potential agents of bioterror.

Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton/Landov



# VICTORY MAP

## PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE



### Missouri

MOARNG builds baseball complex, as part of their Innovative Readiness Project.

### Washington, DC

Guard Soldiers provide security for the IMF and World Bank annual meeting.

### Colorado

COARNG leaders build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

### Ohio

80+ OHARNG units partner with local schools for Guard members to mentor and tutor students.

### Delaware

DEARNG aid in relief efforts by evacuating families, rescuing trapped residents, providing transportation for damage assessments after a tornado and flooding tear through the state.

### Utah

UTARNG's Drug Demand Reduction Program educates Utah youth (grades 6-12), religious organizations, and community on physical and psychological consequences of drug abuse.

### Arkansas

ARNG can now get tuition paid if they attend Henderson State University.

### Connecticut

CTARNG teams with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board to bring About Face Academy (program that teaches academic and job skills to disadvantaged youth) to Waterbury, CT.

### Alabama

frogg toggs® Chairman of the Board, MAJ Phil Fowler (Ret. ALARNG) is donating 500 samples of the company's newest product, the Chilly Pad™ Sports Towel, to ALARNG's 711th and 279th Signal Battalions in Iraq.

### Florida

35 FLARNG filled in for the St. Lucie School District bus drivers when drivers were stranded by hurricane damage.

### Virginia

VAARNG set up over 600 new computers at Battlefield HS in Prince William County.

### Nicaragua

UTARNG set to build four schools and two medical clinics early next year.

Send your news to:

 [editor@gxonline.com](mailto:editor@gxonline.com)

**Iraq**

217th Military Police Company of the MOARNG provides law and order training to nine Iraqi police stations.

**Iraq**

ALARNG's HHC 711th Signal Battalion teams with Polish Army to conduct military and civilian aid program. The 711th also adopts 12 schools in an effort to rebuild and supply the community.

**Iraq**

AKARNG's 39th Brigade Combat Team, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, delivers 156 tons of wheat seeds to a central distribution point for farmers, as part of Operation Amber Waves - a three-phase plan to help strengthen the agriculture community within Taji.

**Iraq**

141st Engineer Combat Battalion found its 200th Improvised Explosive Device, as part of Task Force Trailblazer.

**Iraq**

MSARNG's 185th Aviation Brigade delivers 8,000 school supplies to Iraqi children with help from the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, among others.

**Iraq**

CAARNG fill shortage of police officers on streets of Iraq. National Guard Bureau reports that more than 4,000 Guard members are being trained to do policing.

**Latvia**

MIARNG has lead role in RESCUER/MEDCEUR 2004 - an anti-terrorism exercise hosted by Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. Also, MIARNG's 107th Engineer Battalion assists Latvian Soldiers in renovating an elementary school.

**Iraq**

MEARNG's 2nd General Construction Platoon, with the help of the 416th C/A Battalion, builds school for war-torn village and in the process, teaches them how to do it for themselves.

**Tunisia**

WYARNG partners with Tunisian government to provide military exchanges and training opportunities.

**Afghanistan**

Volunteer group of Marines, Airmen, and Soldiers from Kabul Compound worked with The Mobility Project to provide wheel-chairs and personal energy transportation to the community.

**Afghanistan**

As the command section of Task Force Coyote, the SDARNG's 109th has more than 1,800 Soldiers from the U.S., Korea, Poland, Slovakia, and Australia under its command to rebuild Afghanistan. Part of that task is ridding the country of its estimated 10-15 million land mines.

**Iraq**

UTARNG's 115th Engineer Group works with local contractors to rebuild schools in the Dhi Qar Province of Southern Iraq.

**Iraq**

CAARNG's 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment builds bridges, buildings, and culverts while helping maintain security, as part of civil-military operations to rebuild communities



5

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2005

**GW's back for another four years. The War on Terror's still sure to be the hot topic. And what can the Guard expect in 2005? So far, it's looking pretty good: pay increases, tax relief, tuition assistance, re-enlistment bonuses, Iraq's presidential election; and we're sure to see much more. For now, here's a sneak peek in GX's list of Things to Look Forward to in 2005.**



Photo courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov

1

**100% FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE**

National Guard funds up to 100% of tuition costs and fees, not to exceed \$250 per semester hour and will be limited to \$4500 per person per fiscal year. Consult your local recruiter for the policy for the current fiscal year. Tuition Assistance may be used in addition to the GI Bill. Pell Grants may be used with Tuition Assistance. For more information, visit: [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com).

2

**WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF**

**10.04.04** President Bush signs Working Families Tax Relief Act. Many Soldiers' taxable incomes were lowered by serving in combat zones, making them unable to qualify for Child Tax Credit (CTC) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Now combat-zone income can be added to taxable income if it qualifies Soldiers for CTC and EITC.

3

**NEW RE-ENLISTMENT BONUSES**

**10.28.04** Congress ups the maximum re-enlistment bonus to \$15,000, \$10,000 more than the previous cap. A six-year commitment is required for the full \$15,000. \$7,500 is offered for a three-year commitment.

It is up to the individual services to decide when and if to offer the incentives.

**ABOVE RIGHT: President Bush signs Tax Relief Act**



Photo by PFC Elizabeth Erste



4

### 2005 PAY INCREASES

**Effective 01.01.05** The National Guard will get an across-the-board pay raise of 3.5 percent. A result of the 2005 defense authorization bill, the raise is claimed to be larger than 2004 private-sector wage increases and consumer price increases.



Photo courtesy of EPA/Mohammed Messara/Landov

5

### FREE ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

**11.10.04** President Bush hosts an Iftaar dinner (Ramadan celebration) at the White House and announces in his speech:

"The elections in Afghanistan and Iraq will be counted as landmark events in the history of liberty ... Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world."

Iraqi elections are set for January 2005.

**ABOVE: Iraqi man reviews campaign poster for the January election**





## OPERATION:

# DECK *the* HALLS

30 WAYS YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAYS

*plus* STORIES FROM GUARD HOLIDAYS PAST

Deployment is never easy. And deployment during the holiday season is especially hard. Our Soldiers are thousands of miles from their children, their wives, husbands, mothers, and fathers. Now more than ever, Home Front Heroes - Guard families and supporters - are called to duty. It's up to us to don the Santa suit, pack those care packages, and ship our Soldiers some of that good ol' holiday spirit. Let our troops know they are not forgotten, our hearts are there with them, and no amount of ocean or desert can separate the American family.

To help you out, *GX* put together our list of 30 Ways You Can Show Your Support During The Holidays.

ABOVE: Task Force Falcon - 10th MTN and Task Force Panther - 1-130th AVN celebrate with a Christmas parade

Photo by CW3 O'Neil Williams

## 1. SOLDIER'S ANGELS

Spear-headed by Military moms, this organization lets you adopt Soldiers or whole platoons of Soldiers, send care packages, and emails. You can even help the wounded Soldiers as they come back from overseas.

 [www.soldiersangels.org](http://www.soldiersangels.org)

## 2. STOCKINGS FOR TROOPS CAMPAIGN

Donate a stocking and an AT&T phone card so military members can call home and share the holidays with their families. Soldier's Angels, partnered with a local VFW, will pack the stockings and mail them out.

 [www.vfwpost4927.com](http://www.vfwpost4927.com)

## 3. OPERATION HERO MILES

Donate your unused frequent flyer miles for a Soldier to visit his or her family.

 [www.heromiles.org](http://www.heromiles.org)

## 4. OPERATION GRATITUDE

A site where you can send care packages to troops in Iraq

 [www.opgratitude.com](http://www.opgratitude.com)

## 5. BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS

Donate new and used books or DVDs. This organization ships books, DVDs and supplies to deployed Soldiers and Soldiers in VA hospitals.

 [www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com)

## 6. OPERATION AC

This charity sends 110v single phase air conditioners to our troops in Iraq. They also send medical supplies to the Combat Support Hospitals for both injured American Soldiers and for the staff, as well as care packages to our troops overseas.

 [www.operationac.com](http://www.operationac.com)

## 7. KEYSTONE SOLDIERS

Keystone Soldiers offers Soldier adoption, matches pen pals, and sends care packages.

 [www.keystonesoldiers.com](http://www.keystonesoldiers.com)



## Guard Holidays Past:

### "Uncle Sam was on the job..."

*PVT Thomas D. Reno spent Christmas 1918 recovering from wounds received in October during a battle in France's Argonne Forest near the Belgian border. Having joined Pennsylvania's 28th Infantry Division as a teenager, the 18-year-old maintained a diary and corresponded with his family over the 14 months he was involved with World War I.*

**Tuesday, December 24:** Slept in German barracks last night. Get poor eats here. Anxious to get back to the outfit. Loafed around all day. Went to bed at 8 p.m.

Christmas morning and the first snow of the season is drifting down in sodden masses. ...Dinner we had steak & mashed potatoes, prunes, tobacco. Hiked to Company eight kilos away. Met Duke. Damn glad to see him.

*On Jan. 3, 1919, Reno received his first letter since September and immediately responded to his mother:*

I received the Christmas box you sent. A million dollars would not have suited me as well. I got it just two days after Christmas which shows Uncle Sam was on the job to try to make our Christmas a happy one.

Courtesy of [www.ngaus.org/ngmagazine/lastword1202.asp](http://www.ngaus.org/ngmagazine/lastword1202.asp)



## Guard Holidays Past:

### "Santa Claus wears combat boots!"

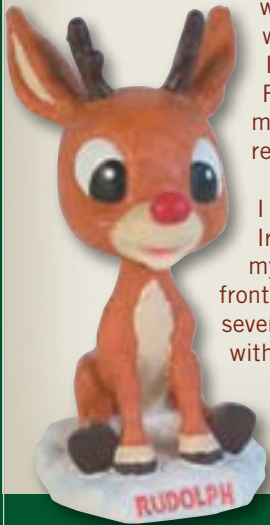
The following is an excerpt from the personal journal of SSG Ken Weichert of the CAARNG's 223rd MI BN(L).

**Christmas, 2003:** Saddam Hussein was found a week ago, however our search for the remaining bad guys was far from over. We were exhausted to the point of not knowing what day it was. It didn't really matter. In a war zone, holidays simply became I.O.U.'s to loved ones far away.

I remember waking up with the sun squeezing through my window causing me to sweat on the left side of my face. I fell asleep sometime the night before writing a report. I peeled myself off of my cot and meandered outside of my quarters.

The first thing I saw was a couple of Soldiers strolling by with all of their protective armor and bright red Christmas hats where their helmets used to sit. I went to my wash basin and splashed some cold water across my face. "Christmas? I don't believe it," I said aloud. Fortunately, it seemed to be the first morning in quite a while that the Iraqi resistance left us alone.

I couldn't believe it. Christmas in Iraq! Just then, I looked up and saw my Company Commander standing in front of me with a bright red felt hat and several red and white stockings filled with gifts. I thought that I was seeing things. I was stationed far away from my Headquarters and



have not seen my Commander in quite some time. "Merry Christmas, Staff Sergeant Weichert," Captain Artiga said. "You too, sir. I can't believe that you are here," I replied. "I wouldn't miss my chance to play Santa Claus in Iraq," he said.

Captain Artiga knew that our teams were overwhelmed with intelligence missions and could not rotate to Headquarters for R&R. He found some volunteers and made an impromptu two-hour convoy on Christmas morning just to deliver gifts and three months worth of mail for my team. It was, by far, the most morale building effort that I have ever seen from a Commander in my fifteen year career with the Army. Each one of my team members had huge smiles from ear to ear that lasted all day long!

At the end of the night my translator looked at me and said, "Santa Claus wears combat boots!" I just smiled and said, "You're right!"

---

**"I wouldn't miss my chance to play Santa Claus in Iraq."**

- CPT Artiga, Christmas 2003

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### 8. ANY SOLDIER

A great organization that provides Soldier contacts. You can read through the names and select the ones you wish to support. They list what they want, and even have a search capability so you can easily identify what units need.

 [www.anysoldier.us](http://www.anysoldier.us)

### 9. OPERATION MILITARY PRIDE

A volunteer organization that works to boost the morale of our troops deployed overseas in a number of ways, including care packages

 [www.operationmilitarypride.org](http://www.operationmilitarypride.org)

### 10. HELP OUR TROOPS CALL HOME

This is a Department of Defense program that allows anyone to buy phone cards for Soldiers at Military Exchange prices.

 <https://thor.aafes.com/scs>

### 11. OPERATION E.L.F.

Operation E.L.F. (Embracing Lonely Families), helps CTARNG families during the holiday season. New, unwrapped toys, grocery gift cards and phone cards, Christmas trees, snow removal services, and financial contributions are being sought.

 [www.ctngfoundation.org](http://www.ctngfoundation.org)

## 12. ADOPT-AN-MIARNG FAMILY

The Michigan National Guard Adopt-A-Family Program is an opportunity for organizations and families to reach out and support a family. Adopt-A-Family Program, coordinated through the State Family Program Office in Lansing, MI, is seeking organizations and families interested in sponsoring a Michigan National Guard family.

Your support may be in the form of money, food, or mentorship.

 [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

## 13. TREATS FOR TROOPS

Sends care packages to troops. Website includes Treats for Troops Gift Shop that offers everything from freshly baked cookies to hand and face wipes and phone cards.

Treats for Troops also offers a Foster-A-Soldier™ Program, which automatically matches you with a registered Soldier, or you can choose to sponsor a group of Soldiers.

 [www.treatsfortroops.com](http://www.treatsfortroops.com)

## 14. FREEDOM BRACELET

The handmade Freedom Bracelet from Colorbox Creative provides an easy and inexpensive way for customers to show their patriotism while helping support soldiers. \$5 from each bracelet is donated to Operation USO Care Package, an organization that assembles and distributes much-needed personal items to troops.

 [www.colorboxcreative.com](http://www.colorboxcreative.com)

## 15. ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK

St. Mary's is a non-profit organization, based in Arizona. They recently sent 100 turkey dinners to AZARNG families for Thanksgiving. Now they are shipping care packages to deployed AZARNG.

 [www.smfb.org](http://www.smfb.org)



**“Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness! I was so surprised! And it was a stocking! I never even got a stocking stuffed with stuff as I was growing up. It was wonderful and the treats (yum!) and games will be put to good use!”**

- Treats For Troops "Thank you" note from a Guard Member

## 16. OPERATION: ANGELS AMONG US

Initially set up as a support system for the Company A 1-163rd Infantry BN of the MTARNG, Operation Angels Among Us ships letters from home and seasonal packages to Soldiers and recently expanded its reach to include the following sub-divisions:

**White Cloud:** Provides toilet paper relief to deployed Guard members.

**Girl Talk:** A support system for Soldier's wives, daughters, mothers, sisters, girlfriends and friends of deployed Soldiers.

 **(208) 667-4103**

 **2990 E. Gotham Bay Rd.  
Harrison, ID 83833**



# Guard Holidays Past:

## "For God's sake, keep by your officers!"

### AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF CROSSING THE DELAWARE WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON IN CHRISTMAS 1776

*During the night of December 25, Washington led his troops across the ice-swollen Delaware about 9 miles north of Trenton. The weather was horrendous and the river treacherous. Raging winds combined with snow, sleet and rain to produce almost impossible conditions. To add to the difficulties, a significant number of Washington's force marched through the snow without shoes.*

*The next morning they attacked to the south, taking the Hessian garrison by surprise and over-running the town. After fierce fighting, and the loss of their commander, the Hessians surrendered.*

*The news of the American victory spread rapidly through the colonies reinvigorating the failing spirit of the Revolution. The battle's outcome also gave Washington and his officers the confidence to mount another campaign. On*

**"We marched on and it was not long before we heard the out sentries of the enemy..."**

- Elisha Bostwick, Continental Army Soldier, 1776

*December 30, they again crossed the Delaware, attacked and won another victory at Trenton on January 2, and then pushed on to Princeton defeating the British there on January 3.*

*These battles were a decisive turning point in the Revolution. The victories pulled the languishing Revolution out of the depths of despair, galvanized colonial support, shocked the British and convinced potential allies such as France, Holland and Spain, that the Continental Army was a force to be reckoned with.*

*Elisha Bostwick was a soldier in the Continental Army who took part in the battle and published his memoirs shortly after. Here is his eyewitness account as he's about to cross the Delaware with Washington (whom he refers to as "his Excellency"):*

[Our] army passed through Bethlehem and Moravian town and so on to the Delaware which we crossed 9 miles north of Trenton and encamped on the Pennsylvania side and

there remained to the 24th December. [O]ur whole army was then set on motion and toward evening began to re-cross the Delaware but by obstructions of ice in the river did not all get across till quite late in the evening, and all the time a constant fall of snow with some rain, and finally our march began with the torches of our field pieces stuck in the exhalers. [They] sparkled and blazed in the storm all night and about day light a halt was made at which time his Excellency and aids came near to the front on the side of the path where soldiers stood.

I heard his Excellency as he was coming on speaking to and encouraging the soldiers...

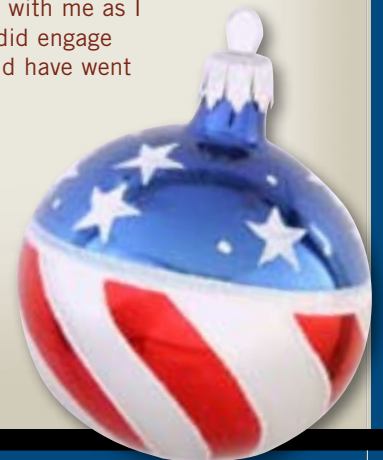
"Soldiers, keep by your officers. For God's sake, keep by your officers!" Spoke [Washington] in a deep and solemn voice.

While passing a slanting, slippery bank his Excellency's horse's hind feet both slipped from under him, and he seized his horse's mane and the horse recovered...

We marched on and it was not long before we heard the out sentries of the enemy both on the road we were in and the eastern road, and their out guards retreated firing, and our army, then with a quick step pushing on upon both roads, at the same time entered the town. Their artillery taken, they resigned with little opposition, about 900, all Hessians, with four brass field pieces; the remainder crossing the bridge at the lower end of the town escaped...

... on the first of January 1777, our years service expired, and then by the pressing solicitation of his Excellency a part of those whose time was out consented on a ten dollar bounty to stay six weeks longer, and although desirous as others to return home, I engaged to stay that time and made every exertion in my power to make as many of the soldiers stay with me as I could, and quite a number did engage with me who otherwise would have went home.

"Washington Crosses the Delaware, 1776,"  
EyeWitness to History,  
[www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com)  
(2004).





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## 17. ADOPT-A-PLATOON

A great source for adopting Soldiers who do not have someone back on the homefront

 [www.adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org)

## 18. USO CARE PACKAGES

Enables individuals to write a personal message and financially support care packages that will be delivered overseas.

 [www.usometrodc.org/care.html](http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html)

## 19. CARE PACKAGE GUIDE

The Iowa National Guard offers a large list of ideas for care package contents, as well as addresses for deployed Soldiers.

 [www.iowanationalguard.com](http://www.iowanationalguard.com)

## 20. GI PIZZA

Believe it or not, you can send pizza and Pepsi to Soldiers overseas. Also available is an optional message and certificate to go with your pizza delivery.

 [www.gipizza.com](http://www.gipizza.com)

## 21. GIFT CERTIFICATES

Purchase gift certificates for Soldiers from a list of thousands of vendors, distributed through the Fisher House Foundation.

 [www.certifichecks.com](http://www.certifichecks.com)

## 22. OPERATION MOM

Purchase a t-shirt and proceeds go toward care packages for Soldiers. Or provide names and addresses of Soldiers for Operation Mom to add to their care package mailing list. You can also donate your time to put the care packages together.

 [www.operationmom.org](http://www.operationmom.org)

## 23. VOICES FROM HOME

Voices From Home™ allows serving military members and their families and friends to send and receive immediate voice e-mail messages to hear the actual voices of their loved ones, regardless of the schedule difficulties, in remote locations around the world.

 [www.voicesfromhome.com](http://www.voicesfromhome.com)

## 24. CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

Started by a 12 and 13-year-old brother and sister, this organization provides phone cards for Soldiers and is planning on providing cell phones.

 [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)



## Guard Holidays Past:

### "From guilt to sadness to thankfulness"

*The following is a letter GX received from SSG Ken Weichert's wife, Stephanie Weichert, in which she reflects on Christmas 2003.*

Christmas just didn't seem as important last year as it normally does. I love to spend the holidays with as many family members as possible. I love to find joy in the faces of loved ones after you give them gifts; I love the crisp smell

### "It didn't feel like Christmas."

- Stephanie Weicher, wife of SSG Ken Weichert

outside and the faint smell of smoke from chimneys in the air. I try to always remember the reason for the holiday and celebrate Christ's birthday in church.

Last year, I felt a deep void in my heart and life with my

brother and my husband across the world. As I sat on the floor next to the tree opening up the presents from my Mom, I felt a great mixture of feelings ranging from guilt to sadness to thankfulness. I didn't notice all of the things that normally make me feel excited. It didn't feel like Christmas. I felt tremendously guilty that my family members should be being attacked and there I was sitting on the floor ... opening presents. With the looming fact that Ken would not be home until after our first anniversary, I felt sad and lonely.

Last year was like going to school and learning how to grow as a person. I don't look at it as a lost year, but it most certainly wasn't my best. As always, I should remember the reason for Christmas is not spending time with family OR opening gifts. It is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. I must admit that last year I got a little caught up with my own darkness and self centeredness...



#### 25. INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND

The Fund provides unrestricted grants to the families of military personnel who have given their lives in the current operations in defense of our country.

 [www.intrepidmuseum.org](http://www.intrepidmuseum.org)

#### 26. EMAIL A THANK YOU

Defend America offers the opportunity to just send a quick "Thank You" to our troops.

 [www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html](http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html)

#### 27. FREEDOM CALLS FOUNDATION

A \$50 contribution by just 1 million Americans will enable the Freedom Calls Foundation to offer its state of the art communication services to virtually every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan free of charge.

 [www.freedomcalls.org](http://www.freedomcalls.org)

#### 28. CAROLINA TROOP SUPPORTERS

A student led organization at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill that offers a wide variety of ways to show your support. Options include care packages, pen pals, donations, and "Thank You" messages.

 [www.carolinatroopsupporters.org](http://www.carolinatroopsupporters.org)

#### 29. A MILLION THANKS

A Million Thanks is a year-round campaign to show our Soldiers, past and present, our appreciation for their sacrifices, dedication, and service to our country through letters, emails, cards, prayers, and thoughts.

 [www.amillionthanks.org](http://www.amillionthanks.org)

#### 30. KIDS FOR OUR TROOPS

An organization that helps kids get involved with support events and fundraisers.

 [www.kidsforourtroops.org](http://www.kidsforourtroops.org)



# Guard Holidays Past:

## Christmas in Afghanistan, 2003

Task Force Falcon - 10th MTN and Task Force Panther - 1-130th AVN celebrate the season with a parade.



Photos by CW3 O'Neil Williams

## Ideas for Businesses

Businesses are in a position to show their support on a larger scale, while increasing their visibility. Sign your company up as a sponsor, plan an event, or make a donation of your product or service. Here's what some companies have done already:

### GOLDEN CORRAL'S FOURTH ANNUAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONDAY

To show their thanks, Golden Corral Restaurants offered a free dinner to our nation's military, past and present. For the fourth Veterans Day in a row, all 400+ Golden Corral restaurants spanning 39 states joined together to offer these patriots a thank you for their willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

[www.goldencorral.net](http://www.goldencorral.net)

### HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Members of the Army National Guard can now get their tuition paid if they attend Henderson State University. Dr. Charles Dunn, president of HSU, along with Major General Don C. Morrow, adjutant general for Arkansas, signed the agreement that allows men and women in the National Guard to participate in the program at Henderson.

[www.hsu.edu](http://www.hsu.edu)

### FROGG TOGGS

frogg toggs® Chairman of the Board, MAJ Phil Fowler (Ret. ALARNG) is donating 500 samples of the company's newest product, the Chilly Pad™ Sports Towel, to ALARNG's 711th and 279th Signal Battalions in Iraq.

[www.froggtoggs.com](http://www.froggtoggs.com)

### HOME DEPOT'S PROJECT HOMEFRONT

Originally created to help over 1,700 of our associates currently serving, Home Depot has extended this program, in coordination with Rebuilding Together and USA Freedom Corps, to help the families of all active duty military. This effort will help these families keep up their home lives and their homes while their loved ones are away. One million volunteer hours and \$1 million in home improvement materials and support are being donated.

[www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com)

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Get behind the No. 16 car driven by Greg Biffle—it was built through teamwork and fueled by pride. For over 367 years, the Guard has answered the call to protect our country and community. If you're ready to answer the call and join an elite fighting force—in the Army National Guard, **YOU CAN.**



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# THE HFH WEB SITE

A WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR SALUTING YOUR FAVORITE HOME FRONT HERO

A FREE SERVICE TO GUARD MEMBERS

So, by now you've thought of your Heroes: the people in your life who've helped you serve and who deserve a little gratitude.

The Guard understands how important these friends and family are. Your commanders want to thank them and make it a little easier for you to show your appreciation.

All you need to do is log on to [www.VirtualArmory.com](http://www.VirtualArmory.com) and follow the links to nominate your own Home Front Heroes and the ARNG will handle the rest.

## A Soldier's Salute to HEROES

Home Front Heroes take a stand for freedom every day and pledge their greatest asset – their time. Now Guard members can recognize a special family member, parent, employer or volunteer for his or her selfless service and dedication to duty.

Go online to [www.VirtualArmory.com](http://www.VirtualArmory.com) and click on the link for Home Front Heroes and nominate your hero today.

“Alpha Company, you know you're only as good as the families who support you. The real heroes, in a Soldier's opinion, are the ones they left back home.”

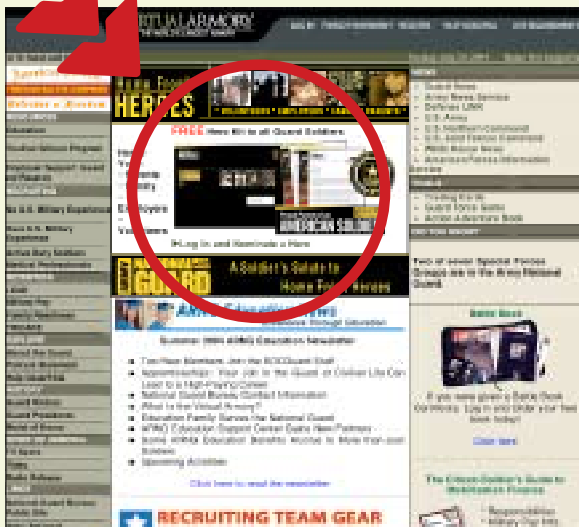
MAJ Joe D. Hargett  
890th Engineer Battalion, MSARNG

 [www.virtualarmory.com](http://www.virtualarmory.com)

## STEP ONE:

Go online to [www.VirtualArmory.com](http://www.VirtualArmory.com) and click on the link that says:

“Log In and Nominate a Hero”



## STEP TWO:

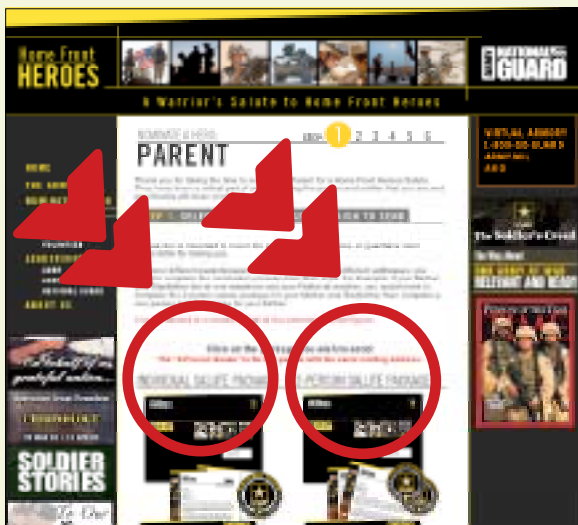
Enter your User Name and Password to go to the Home Front Hero Web Site home page.

Then choose the kind of Hero you wish to nominate: Parent, Family Member, Employer or Volunteer.



## STEP THREE:

Choose either an "Individual Salute Package" or a "2-Person Salute Package."



## STEP FOUR:

Follow the on-screen instructions through the nomination process.

Each Soldier is allowed to nominate a total of:

- » Four Parents or Parental Figures
- » Six Family Members (such as Wife, Husband, In-Laws, Aunt, Uncle, Niece, Nephew, Sister, Brother, Grandmother, Grandfather, Great-Grandmother, and Great-Grandfather, Sons and Daughters\*)
- » Four Employers or Managers
- » Two Volunteers

\* NOTE: The Home Front Heroes package is intended for adults only. We DO NOT recommend nominating minors (under 18 years old).

## A FREE SERVICE TO GUARD MEMBERS



### EACH INDIVIDUAL SALUTE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- » Custom Designed Presentation Envelope
- » Personalized Letter from National Guard Leadership
- » Personalized Letter from Army Leadership
- » Home Front Heroes Bumper Sticker
- » Home Front Heroes Engraved Lapel Pin (not shown to scale)

### EACH 2-PERSON SALUTE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- » Custom Designed Presentation Envelope
- » Personalized Letter from National Guard Leadership
- » Personalized Letter from Army Leadership
- » 2 Home Front Heroes Bumper Stickers
- » 2 Home Front Heroes Engraved Lapel Pins (not shown to scale)

**"With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."**  
President Abraham Lincoln's words are as true today as they were in his own time, and as America's Soldiers – Active, Guard, and Reserve – face the great challenges of the war on terrorism, our success will depend on the support of the American people.





Photo courtesy of MARTIN FRIED/UP! /Landov

ABOVE: Greg Biffle (R) celebrates with car owner Jack Roush (L) after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup Ford 400 at Homestead Miami-Dade Speedway, in Homestead, FL on 11/21/04

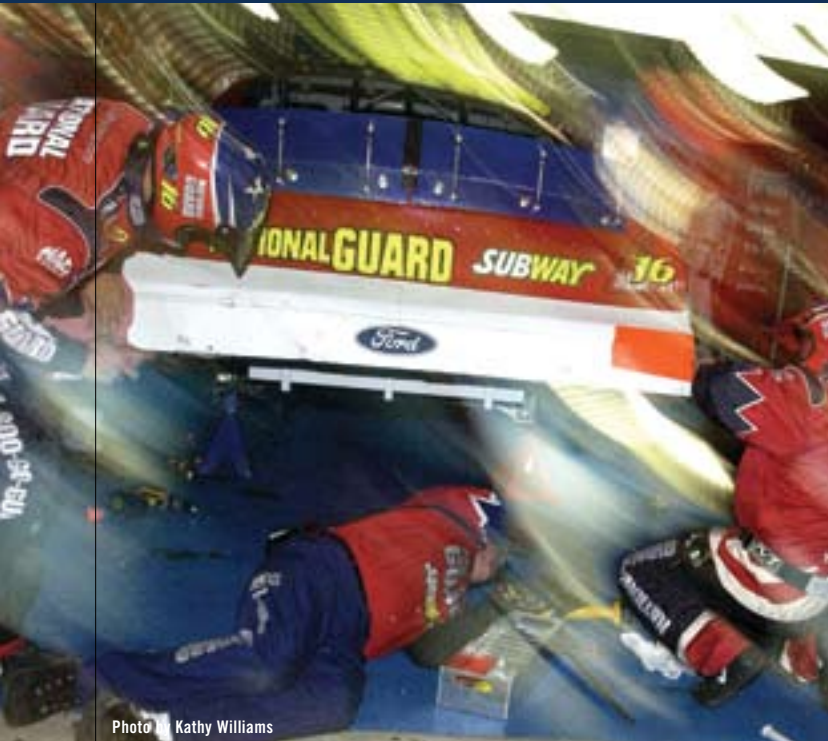


Photo Kathy Williams



Photo by SSC Helen Miller MARRIS

ABOVE: Biffle celebrates his victory at the GFS Marketplace 400 in Brooklyn, MI on 8/22/04



# 16 GREG BIFFLE

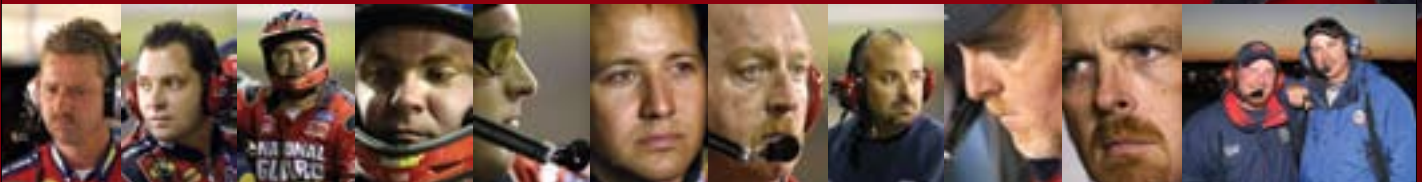


## NATIONAL GUARD FORD SEASON RECAP

RANK:	17	TOP-FIVE FINISHES:	4
STARTS (Points Events):	36	TOP-10 FINISHES:	8
WINS:	2	TOP-20 FINISHES:	19
POLES:	1	DNF'S:	5
POINTS:	3902	AVERAGE START:	14.2
WINNINGS:	\$3,439,842	AVERAGE FINISH:	19.2
LAPS COMPLETED/TOTAL:	10210/10752 (95%)	RACES LED:	10
LAPS LED:	356		

Biffle photo courtesy Rousch Racing

Photos by CW3 O'Neil Williams, Jr.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREW

Bobby Bakeef	Car Chief	Harry McMullen	General Manager
Rod Bussard	Truck Driver/Pit Support	Jeff Merkel	Jackman
Jim Byrne	Mechanic/Pit Support	Dave Nichols	Second Gasman
Keith Eads	Tire Specialist/Pit Support	Donnie Ratledge	Gasman
Joel Edmonds	Spotter	Doug Richert	Crew Chief
Adam Emmert	Front Tire Changer	Robin Richert	Scorer
TJ Hamilton	Rear Tire Carrier	Amber Moody	Account Manager
Mike Hillman Jr.	Rear Tire Changer	Jeff Silver	Front Tire Carrier
Justin Hines	Engine Specialist/Windshield	Dave Winston	Chief Engineer
		Zak Yarnot	Gas Runner
Alan Howard	Shock Specialist/Pit Support		







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WASHINGTON

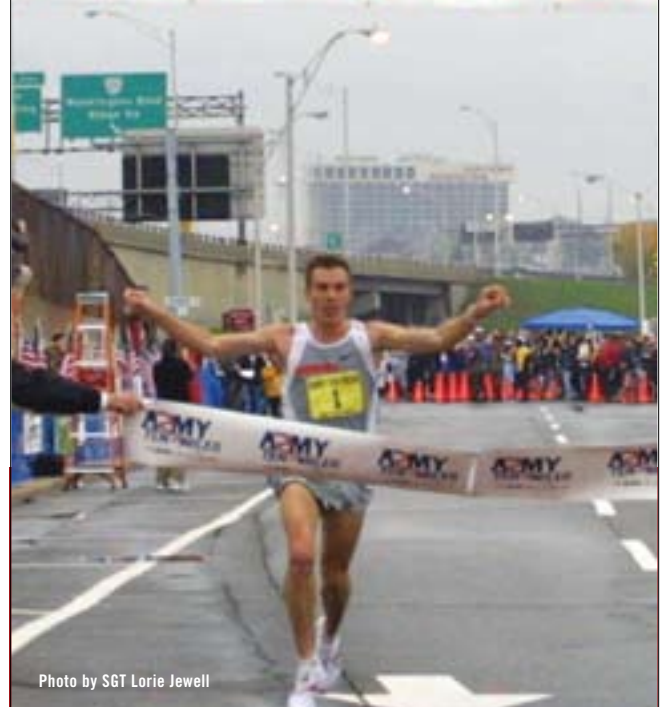


Photo by SGT Lorie Jewell

# CPT BROWNE SETS NEW RACE RECORD

**R**ain and temperatures in the 40's did little to prevent more than 13,000 runners from finishing the annual Army Ten-Miler, including CPT Dan Browne, who set a new record.

Three-time winner Browne, a member of the ORARNG and an Olympic long-distance runner, broke through the race ribbon at 47:29.

Browne set a pace of 4:45 per mile to beat the race record he set in 1997 of 47:44. He also ran the 10-miler in 1998, claiming first place with a time of 48:52.

For more race results, visit:

 [www.armytenmiler.com](http://www.armytenmiler.com)

# NEW DOWNLOAD GUARD FORCE: SPECIAL EDITION



Download the new *Guard Force: Special Edition* game today and see if you have what it takes to lead America's finest into combat, stealth and humanitarian missions.

- » Includes two new exciting and challenging missions.
- » Play through eight unique campaign missions.
- » Highly detailed environments.
- » This special edition features enhanced AI and pathing performance.

Only available at:  [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com)

# PRISM: GUARD SHIELD

The Army National Guard and Rival Interactive are creating a high-end, 3D, first-person shooter game based on homeland defense called *Prism: Guard Shield*.

The game will use futuristic US military weapons, equipment and technology as part of a secret new team to combat terrorists on US soil. Players will battle individually or in teams against the game's advanced artificial intelligence (AI) terrorists and react to a wide range of homeland terrorism scenarios.

*Prism: Guard Shield* will concentrate on introducing weaponry and fighting technology destined for US military use in the year 2010, to include Computer Guided Assault Rifles, Active Camouflage, Hover Cameras, etc. The player will enter a realistic combat environment with the weapons of the future. This is a hi-tech fighting environment where players can stretch their imagination and enter a futuristic world...which, given current intense technology research and development by the US military, is not too far in the future!!!







# ROME: TOTAL WAR

## TO-GA, TO-GA, TO-GA!

**Elder Brother West:** “At my signal, unleash hell.” Every since I saw *Gladiator*, and the battle that followed that line, I’ve been wanting to play a game where I commanded the Roman legions in battle against the unwashed barbarian hordes. With the release of *Rome: Total War*, I finally have that chance!

**Younger Brother West:** <Yawn>

**E:** What’s your problem?

**Y:** It’s a cool game and all, but it takes a lot of... what’s that stuff that makes my skull itch?

**E:** Thinking?

**Y:** Yeah, that’s it.

**E:** In that case, maybe I should handle this one, why don’t you mosey on over to the *Call of Duty* review and we’ll meet you there.

**Y:** Hooah! Where’s my Tommy Gun?

**E:** Ok, now that he’s gone, we can get back to the swords and sandals. He does have a point though, you won’t be hacking off arms in the arena for this one. Instead you take on the role of the leader of one of Rome’s great noble families. Your mission: Conquer the enemies of Rome and eventually lead your family to follow in the footsteps of Julius Caesar and seize the throne as Emperor.

You accomplish this mission in two different ways. First, by strategically controlling your empire along with its troops, resources and leaders on a world map that is reminiscent of a Risk board. The second, which makes up the bulk of the game, is to personally command the tactics of your troops on the field of battle.

These troops aren’t just the faceless legions of Rome either. In your quest to conquer the known world you’ll employ mercenary forces of Greek phalanxes, Roman war dogs, Thracian gladiators, Carthaginian elephants and of course, my favorite unit in the game, flaming pigs. Yes, I said flaming pigs. Historically, the only way the Romans found to consistently defeat Hannibal’s elephants was to douse a bunch of pigs in pitch, spark them up and then stand back and watch the fun.

The historical accuracy of this game is astounding. So much research has gone into its developments that the History Channel is using it in game battle footage as the basis for new show “Decisive Battles”. The detail is not just cosmetic either; the tactics and strategy that worked for Alexander, Caesar, Hannibal, Leonidas and Xerxes work in these battles, and straying too far from the lessons of those military geniuses can only lead to disaster.

Don’t let this history deter you though; the game is remarkably fun and very easy to pick up. The excellent tutorial will quickly take you through everything you need to know in order to get on with smiting your enemies. The controls are intuitive, and in short order you’ll be wheeling thousands of troops around the field in tight disciplined formations.

This title is, without a doubt, one of the best strategy games I’ve played. Whether you want to jump right in and fight a quick hour long historical battle or spend days building a mighty world spanning empire, this game can accommodate you. If, on the other hand, you would like something with less skull time and a more action, my brother has an excellent alternative waiting on the next page. **GX**

ABOVE AND RIGHT:  
Screen shots from  
*Rome: Total War*



# CALL OF DUTY: UNITED OFFENSIVE

## WHO DON'T LIKE SHOOTIN' NAZIS?

Garand, check. Grenades, check. BAR, check. Time to hammer the Hun!

Welcome to the Battle of Bastogne. You are hip deep in snow, shells are bursting over your head and Jerry is closing in. Your mission is pretty simple: grab your gun and start blasting. There's not a lot of strategy or deep thinking required here; just keep up with your buddies and shoot anything that smells of sauerkraut.

I love this franchise. The enemy AI alone is worth the price of admission... if you shoot at them, they duck. It sounds like a small thing, but in almost every shooter out there, the bad guys charge directly at you until they, or you, are dead. I can't tell you how fun it is for suppressing fire to work. Crack a round past Fritz's head, and he'll be eating dirt behind the closest cover faster than you can say "Zeig, Heil".

The game uses scripted events quite a bit, but some brilliant level designs and adaptive AI makes each skirmish feel fresh and new, even if you have to reload that damned sniper mission ten times in a row. Through the course of the game you get to fight with a variety of weapons and tactics as you serve alongside the American, British and Russian armies. All this makes for a game that never gets old.

And to put the cherry on top of it all, Call of Duty is the only first person shooter game out there that gives you the feeling of actually being a small cog in a much larger war machine. You fight as a part of a squad, taking orders from your officers and providing support for your brothers in arms. In fact, that's the key to this game, fighting as part of a team, not as Rambo. Now, that's not to say you don't get to crack open a 1945 vintage can of whup-ass... you just do it as part of a team. **GX**



ABOVE: Screen shots from Call of Duty: United Offensive

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A GAMER TO WIN A FREE HOODIE

### TWO WAYS TO WIN:

1. For the gamers: Send us an email telling us what platforms you play on and something about a game you love or hate

2. If you're not a gamer:

We understand not everyone plays computer games. So, what would you like to see us review? Firearms, cars, outdoor gear? You name it, we'll see what we can pull off.



We'll send a hoodie to four lucky winners from the first 500 entries.

 [BROTHERSWEST@GXONLINE.COM](mailto:BROTHERSWEST@GXONLINE.COM)

OR WRITE TO:

1625 BROADWAY, THIRD FLOOR, NASHVILLE, TN 37203



# Holiday Gifts for

# SOLDIERS



Photos by Raye Dene Berry



# MEMBERS

▶ WHAT TO BUY AND  
WHERE TO GET IT



## RECON WRAP

Multi-Season, Multi-Functional Head Gear

Think of it as a multi-tool for your head! This is the only item of its kind that will adapt to all field conditions as a single piece. Sweat band, Balaclava, neck gaiter, helmet liner, contour-conforming face cover, dew rag, dust filter and more. Add military approved camouflage patterns and this product stands alone. No other piece of gear serves as many functions (except for maybe an actual multi-tool!). Replaces several pieces of conventional headware ... so functional, we call it gear!

MSRP \$19.95

[www.specopsbrand.com](http://www.specopsbrand.com)



## READY - FIRE MODE - BUTTSTOCK MAGAZINE POUCH

Top mounting of the sling allows the wearer to suspend his or her weapon under the arm in the Ready-Fire Mode! Additionally, the stock mounted magazine pouch puts the ammo where you need it for instant, hassle-free access - on the weapon.

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**OAKLEY S1 BALLISTIC MILITARY M-FRAME SUNGLASSES**

These sunglasses have an amazing compatibility list - they meet standards for helmets. If that's not enough, they're ultra-lightweight. The ballistic kit includes frame, gray and clear stike lens, microclear storage/cleaning bag and storage case.

MSRP \$160  
www.oakley.com



**BETTER BDU BELT**

Finally, a BDU belt that actually works! The "Better BDU Belt" is made to fill the loops on BDU pants. It has enough thickness to keep its shape and the custom designed buckle facilitates easier adjustments and its one piece design eliminates noise!

MSRP \$19.95  
www.specopsbrand.com

**NINTENDO DS**

Brand spankin' new from Nintendo is the Nintendo DS. It provides users with a unique game-play experience using features never before offered by any other home console or hand-held game system. This portable personal entertainment and communications unit provides owners with new perspectives on dual screens, new control using both touch and voice, and new connections with two kinds of wireless game play. It comes with a demo version of Metroid Prime Hunters and has instant messaging capabilities ... wow!



MSRP \$150  
www.nintendo.com



## **THE LOST BATTALION**

Starring Rick Schroder as a Citizen-Soldier, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for keeping his outnumbered troops alive and fighting in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

(2001, A&E Television Networks)



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## **FIRST INVASION: THE WAR OF 1812**

*The First Invasion* illuminates every important facet of the war that secured the young nation's dominance in the New World. A&E Television Networks (A&E Television Networks)



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## **NATIONAL GUARD ORNAMENT**

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Arlington, VA 22204

For more info call:  
(703) 607-7062



## **TIPS FROM YOUR SUPPLY SGT**

Non-standard issue items can be ordered through your Company's Supply Sergeant.

With a NSN or GSA number, chances are it can be bought through your Company Fund Code. Or, sometimes your S4 can set-up an account through the company that sells the gear (for example, [www.actiongear.com](http://www.actiongear.com) or [warfighter.com](http://warfighter.com)).



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## WE SAY, THEY SAY

THE LADIES' CHOICE ON POPULAR FILMS - TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.



### ALEXANDER ★★★★★

Starring: Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, Warner Brothers  
Rated R

**WE SAY:** Blood, guts, gore - this is the beginning of the civilized world? But at least it has great, authentic battle scenes. Besides, who can really tell what's going on with Angelina's lips taking up a third of the screen space.

**THEY SAY:** Oliver Stone and Hollywood's "bad kids" on History - I can't look... ...but I can't look away!

**POPULAR OPINION:** Once again, we've got a great epic of the grandest proportions.



### NATIONAL TREASURE ★★★★★

Starring: Nicolas Cage, Sean Bean, Diane Kruger, Touchstone Pictures / Jerry Bruckheimer Films  
Rated PG

**WE SAY:** Diane Krueger keeps showing up with some of our favorite leading men, and so far we're not that impressed. If she's going to take up screen time with our fantasies - then at least be more than eye candy.

**THEY SAY:** Wait. Haven't I seen this before? Who cares. I love a good action film.

**POPULAR OPINION:** Wait. Haven't I seen this before? Who cares. I love a good action film.



### BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON ★★★★★

Starring: Renee Zellweger, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Paramount Pictures  
Rated R

**WE SAY:** Cute, funny and sassy, just the way we like it. Even if you're not a fan, Renee's physical humor will win you over.

**THEY SAY:** Strangely, you won't mind the plot insanities.

**POPULAR OPINION:** Don't worry guys: if you're forced to see this, you'll laugh too -- and well, there is hand-to-hand combat...or plenty of "physical" action.



### ALFIE ★★★★★

Starring: Jude Law, Paramount Pictures  
Rated R

**WE SAY:** The movie really shines when pretty boy Jude Law unleashes his seductive powers on Manhattan's unsuspecting women. And producers, here's a hint: we'd rather see Jude shirtless.

**THEY SAY:** It's a long way from the original...but in which direction?

**POPULAR OPINION:** The spicy cast is what really heats up this otherwise bland story.



### THE INCREDIBLES ★★★★★

Starring: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel Jackson, Buena Vista Pictures and Pixar  
Rated PG

**WE SAY:** It might be slow at first, but Pixar sure knows how to do it right! We learned two important lessons: if you're going to try the superhero thing -- don't do the cape; and with all those men in spandex, thank your lucky stars it's a cartoon.

**THEY SAY:** It's a movie that can make us all happy.

**POPULAR OPINION:** "Here they come to save the day!"



## MOVIE CONTENT KEY



HISTORICAL



ROMANCE



BLOODSHED



DRAMATIC



BATTLE



FANTASY



TEARJERKER



CHASE SCENE



HEROISM



SPECIAL EFFECTS



CHILLS & THRILLS



COMEDY

# POPPING UP IN THEATERS



## OCEAN'S TWELVE

Our prediction: ★★★★★

Starring: George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon

We're thinking this is the ultimate date movie. Between the plot line, the heists, the intrigue, the scenery, the action, and most importantly, the cast - it's gotta work.

### WHAT MAKES IT POP:

Everyone's back - and it's gone International!

Release date: 12.10.04  
Warner Brothers Pictures, Rated PG-13



## MEET THE FOCKERS

Our prediction: ★★★★★

Starring: Ben Stiller, Robert DeNiro, Dustin Hoffman, Blythe Danner, Barbra Streisand

We've been waiting for this! We loved the first one with Ben and Bob, but now add Barbra and Dustin. Can you imagine the possible insanity?

### WHAT MAKES IT POP:

Previews of a blue dog leads us to believe more unfortunate events to domesticated pets.

Release date: 12.22.04  
Universal Pictures, Rated PG-13



### COMING 2005:

## STAR WARS: EPISODE 3 REVENGE OF THE SITH

20th Century Fox

5.19.2005

## DVD RELEASES



### DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY

Starring: Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor, Ben Stiller

Release date: 12.7.04 2004, 20th Century Fox

### I, ROBOT

Starring: Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan

Release date: 12.14.04 2004, 20th Century Fox

**NAPOLEON DYNAMITE** Starring: Jon Heder

Release date: 12.21.04 2004, Fox Searchlight

**ANCHORMAN: THE LEGEND OF RON BURGUNDY** Starring: Will Ferrell, Christina Applegate, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell Release date: 12.28.04 2004, Dreamworks, SKG



# ALEXANDER

## History's Greatest Conqueror

"Alexander was perhaps the greatest warrior of all time." - *Alexander* director/screenwriter Oliver Stone.

Oliver Stone's highly-anticipated film *Alexander* is based on the true story of one of history's most luminous and influential leaders, Alexander the Great - a man who had conquered 90% of the known world by the age of 25 and was never defeated in battle.

In order to achieve the extreme level of realism that Stone was looking for, Captain Dale Dye, USMC (Ret.), Stone's longtime collaborator and perhaps the film industry's foremost military expert, was brought in to train star Colin Farrell and the rest of the key performers who portray Alexander's comrades in preparation for the film.



During a long, hard month of work, the cast gained expertise in such archaic specialties as sword fighting, wielding shields, bows and arrows, slings, javelins and sarissas (fearsome lances that measured up to 18 feet long), as well as mastering cavalry horsemanship, standard bearing and military formations. "I don't train actors," states Captain Dye unequivocally. "I train people who become soldiers, and hopefully they have some talent as actors. These kids came in and the first thing they did was learn that there is something more important than themselves. They learned to live with

other gents who were in a military unit and support the mission of that unit. My job was to turn them into credible Macedonian soldiers, with an emphasis on the word 'soldier.' They had to understand that concept before they could understand anything else."



Captain Dale Dye trains the actors who portray Alexander's Macedonian troops.

"Captain Dye worked us all day," recounts Farrell, "Then every night we would stand down and he would talk to us about Alexander's tactics and strategies, the history of various battles, and explain the mind of the warrior. We definitely got stronger physically, and it got us ready."

*Alexander* will be released on November 24, 2004, and distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, and Intermedia.





# THE EYE OF THE STORM

## FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

Photos by Chris West

“ We got hit pretty hard, but Punta Gorda...” SGT Guerrero stops here and shakes his head sadly as he remembers, “... It looked like that place had been bombed. Nothing was standing.” You would almost think that he is talking about Iraq or Afghanistan, but he was speaking about his home state of Florida.

The Sergeant, along with thousands of his fellow Florida National Guard soldiers, was mobilized to carry out disaster relief operations in the wake of the storms that scourged the state from early August until the end of September. First Bonnie, then Charley, Frances, Ivan and finally Jeanne took their turns pummeling the state. The damage done was truly epic with millions of Floridians left without homes, power or running water.

Even now, two weeks after the last storm has passed and well into the cleanup, the destruction can be seen everywhere. Entire stands of trees have been knocked flat. Boats lay capsized on land, far from the water. Many businesses still have their windows boarded as if they are waiting for the next storm, not quite believing that it is finally over.

It was in the midst of this havoc that the Citizen-Soldiers of



the Florida National Guard and fellow Guard members from surrounding states were called to service. These troops were already short handed and tired due to the demands of the war on terrorism, but they stepped up without complaint to care for the needs of their neighbors, friends and family.

It is this mission that separates the Guard from the rest of the armed services; the ability and the mandate to respond domestically to emergencies, whether man-made or natural.

During the storms the Florida National Guard seamlessly coordinated their efforts with local, state and federal agencies to conduct security operations, traffic control, electricity generation, debris clearing, aviation assistance and humanitarian missions such as delivering food, fresh water and ice. They struggled for long hours in the aftermath of the hurricanes with a determination and tenacity usually only seen in wartime. But this should come as no surprise, after all these brave men and women were protecting their own homes.

Walking his early morning patrol past the the ranks of antique bronze cannons shining brightly in front of the St. Francis Barracks, SGT Guerrero carries on the proud heritage of the the citizen soldiers from St. Augustine who have been protecting this area continuously for over 400 years. From the first Spanish muster in 1565, held during the onset of a hurricane, to the modern soldiers who stood against nature's fury for two months straight, there is an unbroken line of duty, loyalty and service. The weapons and uniforms have changed, but the local soldier standing *ready* to protect home, state and nation remains the same. **GX**

**PREVIOUS PAGE (clockwise): St. Francis Barracks; SPC Lee and SGT Guerrero**

**BELOW: Castillo de San Marcos**

**RIGHT: View from St. Francis Barracks; St. Francis Barracks**

**ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS**



During the 2004 hurricane season the headquarters of the Florida National Guard was converted to an Emergency Operations Center that coordinated Guard activities throughout the state. These barracks have stood since 1588 when the building was constructed to house Spanish missionaries.

It served this function until Florida was handed over to the British in 1763. At that point it was converted to a company sized barracks. Throughout its life, the building has seen numerous additions and expansions and has housed troops under four different flags; Spanish, British, Confederate States and of course the U.S.A. The St. Francis Barracks has served as the headquarters for the Florida National Guard since 1907.





TOP TEN

Ways to tell you've been in Baghdad too long...

10. You call your tent "home"
9. You go to Fallujah or Mosul for R&R
8. A Gloc or 9mm on a lady's hip is considered sexy
7. Hit-and-run fender benders are treated as mere "warnings"
6. You get upset that you don't get C-130 frequent flyer miles
5. You think bullet holes in the roof of your trailer is just another form of ventilation
4. Forgetting your badge makes you feel naked ... but pants are optional
3. Cardboard boxes have become substantial pieces of furniture
2. You realize it is Saturday or Sunday because no one from DC has called
1. You start to think,  
"It's not so bad here."

WORD SPY [www.wordspy.com](http://www.wordspy.com)



Illustration by Keith Kawasaki

big hair house

n. A house that has a garish style and that is overly large compared to its lot size and to the surrounding houses.

dorito syndrome

n. Feelings of dissatisfaction and mental bloatedness after spending an inordinate amount of time performing a task without tangible benefit.

wave a dead chicken

v. To attempt to resolve a problem by taking steps that one believes to be futile but are nevertheless necessary so that others are satisfied that an appropriate degree of effort has been expended.



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