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2004**
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GX[®]

THE GUARD EXPERIENCE

VOL ONE ISSUE FOUR

A PATRIOT'S LIFE

GALLANTRY & HONOR AT HOME & ABROAD



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YOU CAN



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A PATRIOT'S LIFE



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DECISION 2004

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RESPOND TO TOUGH QUESTIONS FROM GX

“As it has been throughout our 367-year history, when called, you were there.”



BG Frank J. Grass assumed duties as Deputy Director, ARNG, National Guard Bureau, Washington, D.C. on April 2, 2004. As Deputy Director, he is responsible for assisting the Director, ARNG in formulating, developing and coordinating all programs, policies and plans affecting the ARNG and its more than 350,000 Citizen-Soldiers.

Greetings,

It is my honor to address our great Patriots – America’s Citizen-Soldiers, in this fourth issue of *GX*. But patriotism goes well beyond the Soldiers who serve. We in the Army National Guard consider Soldiers, Families and Employers as the foundation of our force. Each of you serves a unique niche in supporting the defense of our great nation. Looking through the previous issues of *GX*, I realized how timely and important this magazine is to all components of the National Guard: Soldiers, Families and Employers.

Since 9/11, over 212,000 ARNG Soldiers have heeded the nation’s call to fight the Global War on Terrorism. You serve in every corner of the world in support of our federal mission and here at home when called into service by your Governor. I can’t say enough about the quality of this next Greatest Generation of Warriors and Citizen-Soldiers. As it has been throughout our 367-year history, when called, you were there.

Today, the Families of the ARNG carry a heavy burden and are the unsung heroes of every Soldier. Whether Soldiers are deployed overseas or called to duty here in the homeland, the Families join together to pick up the tasks left undone. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Without your support, the Citizen-Soldier could not exist. Without your support, the fighting men and women could not stay focused on their most difficult mission at hand, “defending our freedom.”

The Employers are the third pillar of strength in the ARNG. Many of our Employers have gone well beyond the requirements of the law to ensure Soldiers retain their pay and benefits upon returning from duty, and in some cases while deployed. As with Families, Employers must pick up the slack at the workplace left vacant by a deployed Soldier called to federal or state missions. While many of our Citizens may not recognize your effort and your sacrifice, you are full partners in the defense of our country and our way of life.

Today, the ARNG is faced with rebuilding and transforming our force. As units return home, we face many new and exciting challenges to maintain the strength of our units.

Again, we need your help in retaining our tested Soldiers, and your help in recruiting to fill the ranks left vacant by those who have so honorably completed their tour of duty.

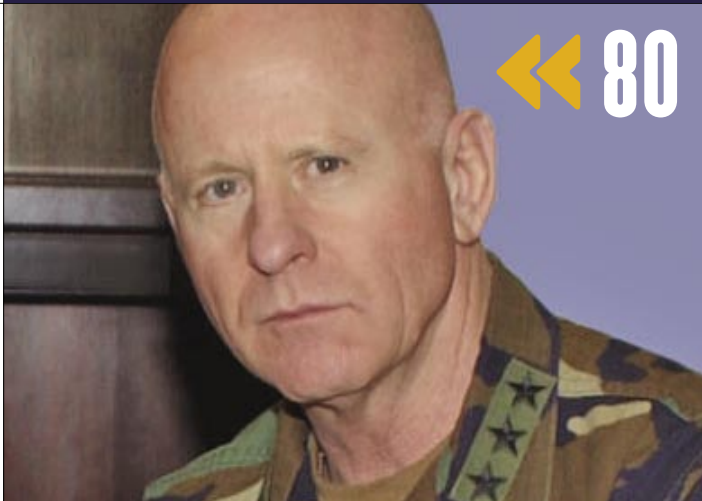
As Soldiers come to that point in their military career where they must make a choice to stay in or hang up their boots, we urge them to reenlist. We will even give you a new pair of boots. Honestly, the Global War on Terrorism is far from over and we must maintain a strong defense so our children and grandchildren can experience the freedom our forefathers created for us.

Families and Employers will play a key role in whether a Soldier decides to stay in the Army National Guard or leave the service. We urge each of you to support our Soldiers’ decisions to continue their patriotic service in the Army National Guard. Your support and sacrifice will be so important to the Soldier and the nation. A sacrifice by each of you now will ensure our freedom is untouched by those who seek to destroy our way of life.

I thank each of you for your patriotism, sacrifice and service to the citizens of the United States of America. I hope you will take time to read *GX* and take advantage of the endless information sources and inspiration presented in this issue.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Grass
Brigadier General
Deputy Director, Army National Guard



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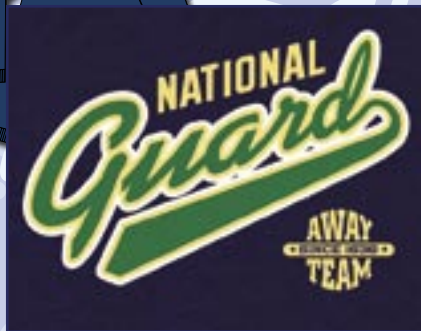
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Just in time for the Holidays!

HOME AND AWAY TEAM SWEATSHIRTS



HGA01



HGH01

Home and Away Team Sweatshirts

The Guard family is one big team. There's those playing the away game – protecting our freedoms abroad – and those playing the home game – keeping the home fires burning.

Take pride in the part you play with these poly-cotton, pre-shrunk fleece sweatshirts (with 2x1 athletic rib knit cuffs and collar). S,M,L,XL Navy & Ash Gray
\$24.50

GUARD GOODIES



HH01

National Guard Home Team "Protecting freedom since 1636" Hoodie

Wear it with pride this winter, as the National Guard celebrates its 368th birthday. This poly-cotton, pre-shrunk fleece hoodie with athletic rib knit cuffs and pouch pocket bears a distressed National Guard design, reflecting all the rugged, tried and true strength of the Guard itself. S,M,L,XL Navy
\$29.50



PTSA01

Vintage "Proud to Support National Guard" Long-Sleeve Shirt

There's no mistaking where your support lies in this heavyweight poly-cotton long-sleeve shirt with ribbed crew neck collar and cuffs, and aged, vintage-style emblem. S,M,L,XL Oxford Gray
\$19.50



PTSB01

"Proud to Support American Soldier" Long Sleeve Shirt

It's our American Soldiers, protecting our homeland, that will make our holiday season possible. This heavyweight poly-cotton long-sleeve shirt with ribbed crew neck and cuffs carries a bold, aged dedication to America's finest heroes. S,M,L,XL Navy
\$19.50



GG01

Retro "Go Guard!" T-Shirt

This retro 80's-era, heavyweight, poly-cotton t-shirt with ribbed crew neck collar shouts your support and just looks rad in the process. S,M,L,XL Maroon
\$15.50

Available exclusively at:  www.gxonline.com



A Patriot's Life

Soldiering is hard work. Just ask any of your buddies, right? Well, we agree, and we think the hard duty of defending America is in the hands of some great Patriots. We began exploring patriotism in the Guard several weeks back and came upon an interesting conclusion – it seems, at least to us, that patriotism is more than the dictionary definition “love of country.” Patriotism, as evidenced by the actions of Guard members, is a way of life.

This GX focuses on some gallant and honorable deeds; even some heroic actions. Lives are saved, aid is given, and Guard members at home and abroad make history each and every day. Every instance seems to come from somewhere near the heart – none required direct orders. Why?

Because the “ordinary” Guard member is an extraordinary person. Because he or she does more than believe the Army values, they live them. That’s how patriotism becomes a way of life; it becomes what a Patriot is.

We hope you will appreciate our humble salute to America’s exceptional Patriots in the National Guard.

- The GX Team

CORRECTIONS AND AMPLIFICATIONS

In our haste to get the last issue out the door and to the Soldiers, we neglected to include any photo credits in the feature. Needless to say, we are embarrassed. If we knew what ‘chagrined’ meant, we’d probably be that, too.

Our photographers are an incredibly talented lot. Like us, they work primarily to show the real-world Guard experience, and encourage and support members of the Army National Guard. Believe us, they can’t be doing it for the money.

The very talented Kathy Williams shot the cover photo, and every photo in the feature except for one. We hope she forgives us.

SGT Scott Matthews, CAARNG, shot the photo on pp. 48-49. We hope he forgives us too, but he got some free tacos out of the deal, so we’re not as worried about him.



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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GX magazine is **not** an official publication of the Army National Guard.



LOCK UP YOUR SWIMSUITS!!!

Thank you for providing a FANTASTIC resource for members of the Guard! The photographs and articles make it difficult to put down until completely read. We're just wondering when the swimsuit issue is going to be printed?
– **SFC Krupa, NYARNG**

GX: Probably the same time the burka becomes all the rave for Paris runway models. The world isn't ready for our Editor in a two-piece just yet.

I just spend the last hour in my home jacuzzi reading your magazine from cover to cover! Wonderful! Keep up the good work and I'm looking forward to the issue next month - almost as much as I look forward to my weekly People subscription!
– **SFC Wenzler, TNARNG**

GX: We're not sure if this is a Rant or a Rave? But, "Thanks?"

REAGAN REQUEST

I have been reading your magazine with great interest, but I was disappointed on the article on Ronald Reagan. The 'Great Communicator' ... deserves more. Not all of our soldiers know how much Ronald Reagan loved America and how the contributions that he made that will influence the Army for generations to come.
– **SSG Plummer, FLARNG**

GX: President Reagan was a favorite for us, too. May his enthusiasm and ability to see the good in all Americans, including Soldiers like you, be part of us forever.

"This is the first magazine that personifies pure pride in the National Guard..."

SFC ELLIS, NCARNG

I ventured onto your web site, but was disappointed that I could not look at a sample issue. I had heard it was a good magazine, but every link required me to subscribe. The truth is I just wanted to see a sample of one of your issues. In your shoes, I would post the most recent publication or a few stories online for viewers to see ... It might help your subscription numbers.
– **zzzGraf3**

GX: A web site, we have a web site? Thanks, and point taken, we hope to make some improvements just as you suggest very soon.

GUARD PRIDE

Volume 1 Issue 3 is a work of art! You guys are doing some great stuff.
– **TSgt Christiansen, NCARNG**

Thank you for GX. I have been in the Guard since 1969, and I have seen lots of Guard-related magazines. Most of these other magazines seem to apologize for the Guard not being enough like the Army. This is the first magazine that personifies pure pride in the National Guard because of all its own unique attributes. Thank you for reinforcing my pride in the National Guard. – **SFC Ellis, NCARNG**

GX: We make no apologies, Sergeant. The Guard and its members are the finest folk on the planet! Rock on!

MY HEART IS IN IRAQ

My love, my soul mate, my heart is in Iraq with the 1-124 CAV out of Waco, TX. He loves being a soldier. We are so very proud of him and all men and women that serve!! I get GX at home, it's a great magazine, Thanks for giving such great information and helpful tips!!– **A. Campbell**

My son has been in Iraq for almost 6 months now. I try not to think of him if I start to worry. Then I change to being very proud of him. I love GX!!! Every time I get an issue, I read and look through it and it makes me cry. It makes me cry because I am happy that my son has chosen to be a part of such major changes that are happening in Iraq. One of the first things he said to me after he landed there was that we have done so much good that is not even reported by the media. He also said that the Iraqis were glad to see them arrive. When unnerving things are reported by the media, he calls or emails to assure me that he is doing fine. [GX] is addressed to my son, but since he is in Iraq, I read it. It is a fine magazine and makes me feel closer to my son and all the other soldiers who are deployed and winning our cause for freedom and democracy
– **From the Mother of SGT Wilkins, NCARNG**

*GX: The Guard and your son are part of many great things happening in our world. Thank you for sharing your Guard Experience with us. **GX***

We want to make this a good 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



A MILLION THANKS FOR SOLDIERS

Like so many Americans, Shauna Fleming, a 15-year-old sophomore at Lutheran High School in Orange, CA was looking for a way to show her gratitude to the men and women serving our nation in uniform. Motivated in part by her father's annual Valentine's For Troops campaign, she decided on a letter writing campaign and set the ambitious goal of collecting and distributing one million letters to service members.

Her first big break came in the form of an introduction to country music artist John Michael Montgomery whose song "Letters from Home" was one of the inspirations for the drive. "We talked about his song and how he feels the same way I do, that Americans need to show more appreciation for what our service men and women do to protect our freedom," Shauna said. Montgomery agreed to help out by making several appearances with Shauna so she could share her message with his fans.

Shauna is also receiving help from NASCAR. She has attended several races, collecting letters in display space loaned to her by Dewalt Tools and Roush Racing.

Shauna has recently expanded her campaign and begun asking for donations of CDs and DVDs that can be sent to deployed troops. She hopes that new music and movies can help Soldiers pass the time in their off-duty hours. "Music is a great form of relaxation for them and after listening to the same music, it gets kind of old," said Shauna. We hope Shauna's kind of enthusiasm never gets old. **GX**



For more information or to make a donation visit:

 www.amillionthanks.org

TOP: Shauna Fleming poses with NASCAR #58 car sponsorship.
ABOVE: Fleming records her monthly show on wsRadio.com.

HHQ COMPANY 108TH ARMOR LEARNS TO WORK A CROWD AT OPERATION DIAMONDBACK



LEFT: Tribal leader Abdul Alibadi (left) communicates through interpreter Basim Hamid (center) to 1LT Eric Thomas, (right) Scout Platoon Leader of the 108th Armor.

ABOVE: Basim Hamid translates the requests of 1LT Eric Thomas to the villagers.

Photos by SSG Mark M. Wojciechowski, Det. 4, 133rd MPAD Nashville, TN

By SSG Mark Wojciechowski

The closer the training is to reality the better. In Operation Diamondback at Camp Blanding, FL, the 108th Armor from Calhoun, GA received training that may save the lives of Soldiers, as well as civilians.

With the help of JMDS (a Department of Defense contractor that trains AD, NG and Reserve Soldiers around the country), over 500 Iraqi-Americans are employed for the purpose of human interaction on the battlefield. This training gives Soldiers a chance to think about how to handle civilians on the battlefield.

“Traditionally Soldiers are taught to shoot a target when it pops up and then that’s it”, said John M. Duffey, president of JMDS. “Soldiers get a ‘deer in the headlights’ look when they are confronted with human interaction situations,” Duffey explains. When civilians approach Soldiers there are the obvious language barriers and cultural differences that add confusion to situations. Soldiers need to know how to deal with crowds, both hostile and non-hostile, since they are part of the everyday situation.

There were seven Iraqi-American citizens on hand to make the training more realistic. One of the Iraqis was acting as an Imam religious leader, two were interpreters, one was a tribal leader, one was a student at the village school and two were assigned to play roles. Twenty-four members of the FLARNG’s 3/24th Infantry Battalion were on hand to role-play as civilians on the battlefield and add bulk to the masses.

The 3/124th Infantry returned from Iraq in February and March of this year. “The best S-2 and G-2 information for Soldiers who are preparing to go over comes from the unit they will be replacing”, said 1LT Luis Sierra of the 3/124th. “The situations over there are constantly changing.”

Operation Diamondback training involves the use of an interpreter who is assigned to the unit commander. The unit is then faced with the challenge of dealing with crowds in a village situation. As the scenario unfolded, the 108th convoy approached the village and encountered the crowd standing in the roadway. The commander then assessed the situation and stopped the convoy at a security halt. At this point the commander utilized the interpreter to communicate with the village leader to allow the setup of a traffic checkpoint and non-hostile passage through the town.

These are the kinds of things Soldiers have to adapt to and react to in order to be as safe as possible while completing their missions. “This training better prepares the Soldiers to stay alive”, said CPT Brad Buek commander of HHQ 108th Armor.

Operation Diamondback also teaches the basics of convoy operations and reacting to various improvised explosive devices. **GX**



Photo by Andy Brankie

HOME DEPOT AND STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA REMEMBER A FALLEN LOCAL GUARD HERO

An unusual memorial has brought a community together. In June, several hundred volunteers gathered in Louis Park in Stockton, CA to build a playground, which will serve to commemorate the sacrifice made by 1LT Michael Vega, who was mortally wounded when his vehicle rolled over during an ambush near Baghdad in early March. 1LT Vega was the first Home Depot employee to die while on active duty.

In just a few hours, using materials donated by Home Depot through its non-profit partner KaBOOM!, the workers were able to turn a bare park into wonderful play area.

Several members of Vega's family were present for

the construction. Laurie Morales, 1LT Vega's sister, said her brother would have been particularly proud that the project had brought so many people together. "[He] just wanted to make a difference."

1LT Vega's mother, Maria Nothnagel, was also on hand for the dedication. "He'd be thrilled to know it's happening for him." Although still deeply pained by the loss of her son, Nothnagel seemed to feel a certain pride and gratitude that he would be remembered in this way. "I have great grandchildren; we'll bring them here to play."

Home Depot and KaBOOM! have built nearly 200 playgrounds around the country at a cost of about \$150,000 each. Home Depot is a recipient of the 2004 Secretary of Defense ESGR Freedom Award. **GX**



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

4TH INFANTRY DIVISION COMMISSIONS SOLDIER MEMORIAL

Earlier this year, Saddam Hussein was cut into pieces and melted down. Well, two massive, bronze statues of him were, anyway. The 555th Engineer Group dismantled the statues at the request of the 4th Infantry Division, who then commissioned Tikrit sculptor, Khalid Alussy,



ABOVE: American Soldier sculpture

Photo: Uncredited

to turn the bronze into a new work of art - an American Soldier kneeling before a Soldier memorial consisting of a pair of combat boots, a rifle, and a helmet. Beside the kneeling Soldier, stands a young Iraqi girl with her hand on his shoulder.

"It's about freedom for this country, but it's also about the children who will grow up in a free society," says SGM Chuck Fuss, 4th Infantry Division. Another interpretation and more obvious purpose of the statue is as a monument to all our fallen Soldiers in Iraq. "Really that's what it's for - a tribute to all the Soldiers over here who lost their lives," says 1SG Mark Anderson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

An interesting side note on the original Saddam statues is that Alussy created them, with the help of another local artist. However, adapting quickly to the true spirit of capitalism, Alussy had no problem sculpting over his previous work for a price. The final cost of the American Soldier and Iraqi girl was \$18,000, paid for by donations from Soldiers, and took Alussy four months to complete.

After a brief stay at the 4th Infantry Division's headquarters in Tikrit, the sculpture was transferred to the 4th Infantry Division Museum in Fort Hood, TX, where it can be seen today. **GX**



WHY WE'RE IN IRAQ

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
DONALD RUMSFELD'S
MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS**

Photo courtesy of REUTERS/Gerald Hebert/POOL/Landov

“ More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the President are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues – none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power

...

In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime.

...

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start. But most importantly, your fight – and ultimate victory – against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic – and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it. ”

Donald H. Rumsfeld

MOARNG EXCEEDS CERFP STANDARDS



Sixty-eight members of the Missouri National Guard demonstrated they are ready to help fight the global war against terrorism on a rain-chilled Saturday morning in late July.

They passed, with flying colors, an Army evaluation that determined their ability to care for and decontaminate victims of a toxic chemical agent attack. And they did it two months earlier than originally scheduled.

"Everything here went great. These guys actually surprised me. They surprised everyone on my line," said MAJ Rich Ward, chief of the 5th Army's nine-member team that evaluated the morning exercise.

The 52 Army Guard Soldiers and 16 Air Guard medical personnel belong to Missouri's new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), a group trained to help local, state or federal authorities in case of a terrorist attack. The team will have at least 104 people when fully staffed.

In the exercise, a plane had sprayed a toxic agent over a county fair and crashed into the crowd during its second pass. The incident commander called for the CERFP to

ABOVE: Air (left) and Army National Guard team members of Missouri's new CERFP carry a role-playing "victim" through the decontamination line during their July 24th Army evaluation at the Cole County Fairgrounds near Jefferson City.

Photo by MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

help triage, care for and decontaminate the casualties.

The team arrived at the field, set up a 100-yard decontamination line of 13 tents and shelters, suited up and was ready to receive casualties in 90 minutes.

All told, MOARNG Commander LTC William Johnson reported that his team processed and decontaminated 171 casualties in 2 hours and 11 minutes. That included scanning everyone for chemical and radiological agents and taking the time to make sure that one mother and her two daughters went through the line together.

That number is small compared to the casualties that such a team might be expected to deal with in a real crisis. But it was enough to convince the Army evaluators that the Guard people know what they are doing.

"They easily exceeded the standard that we set for them," said MAJ Ward. **GX**



GUARD REINFORCEMENTS

DC, MD, VA NATIONAL GUARD LEADERS SIGN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT

By MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON - Had terrorists crashed an airliner into the U.S. Capitol or the White House, in the District of Columbia on Sept. 11, 2001, the DCARNG could not have legally asked for National Guard reinforcements from another state.

Likewise, there was no legal means for DCARNG troops on Title 32, or state duty status to roll out to support the VAARNG after the Pentagon was attacked on Virginia soil.

That all changed on July 15 when leaders of DC, MD and VA National Guard forces signed an historic mutual aid agreement making it possible for their people to respond to a "critical incident" in the National Capital Region.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by MG David Wherley Jr., commanding general of the DCARNG, MG Bruce Tuxill, adjutant general for MD, and MG Claude Williams, adjutant general for VA, during a brief afternoon ceremony at Fort McNair in Washington.

ABOVE: MG Claude Williams, the adjutant general for VA, MG David Wherley Jr., commanding general of DCARNG, and MG Bruce Tuxill, the adjutant general for MD, sign agreement.

Photo by MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

The document immediately makes it possible for National Guard troops to serve together, without having to be mobilized for Title 10 federal duty, in the National Capital Region that encompasses DC, the MD counties of Prince George's, Montgomery and Frederick, and, in VA, the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Manassas. **GX**



CHOOSE OR LOSE

T A K E A S T A N D



VOTE

DON'T DELAY. THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM IS IN YOUR HANDS.

With our country at war, the upcoming November election is one of the most important in our nation's history. Not only will America elect the Commander-In-Chief of its Armed Forces, but many state congressional and senate races are just as important in determining the direction of our country and its military.

Every unit should have a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) when activated. To contact your VAO, call the National Hotline at **1.800.438.8683** or go online to the Official Federal Voting Assistance Program web site at: **www.FVAP.gov**

WARRANT OFFICERS CHANGE INSIGNIA

By MSG Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. - On July 9, the Army National Guard's 6,998 warrant officers observed their corps' 86th birthday in an unusual way: most of them replaced their distinctive "Eagle Rising" collar insignia with the insignia for their career branches. And the highest-ranking members of the relatively small corps, the CW05's, pinned on new rank insignia: a silver bar with a single black stripe centered along the length of the bar.

Why the changes?

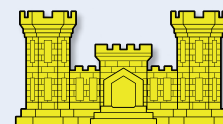
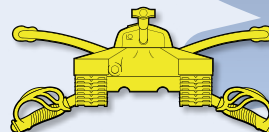
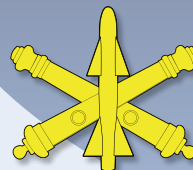
"This is to make us more closely associated with the commissioned officer corps," explained CW5 Poyas Haynes, the Army Guard's command chief warrant officer, "We're a small force, and we do tend to be forgotten. This will improve our visibility."

Most of today's warrant officers come from the enlisted ranks, CW5 Haynes pointed out. "We can't forget where our roots are," he said. "Our inculcated values came from the NCO corps. That's where we were born. We cannot move so far that we forget our birthplace. But the demands being placed on all warrant officers are changing."

"As I have come up through the ranks, warrant officers have changed their roles over time. They have been regarded as expert technicians over a period of years," LTG Roger Schultz, the Army National Guard's director said. "Today we ask more of our warrant officer team. It's called leadership. Warrant officers are serving everywhere, and [their] contributions are unquestioned." **GX**



Most Warrant Officers are replacing the "Eagle Rising" insignia with the insignia of their career branch.



CW01



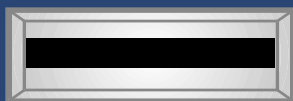
CW02



CW03



CW04



THE NEW CW05
RANK INSIGNIA

CW5 Richard Ernest replaces the "Eagle Rising" collar insignia with branch brass on CW3 Yvette Blake during July 9 ceremony at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.



Photo by SFC Gail Braymen, National Guard Bureau



Illustration by Kenneth White

NVARNG MEDIVAC CREW WINS AWARD FOR LIFE-SAVING IDEA

Pilot Richard Ferguson of the NVARNG and his unit, the 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) were recently given the Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems Award for 2004. The award salutes organizations that improve medicine by the direct use of information technology.

While deployed to Afghanistan, Pilot Ferguson and his team encountered a difficulty familiar to many medivac crews: communicating over the wall of noise generated by a helicopter's massive engine and rotors.

"In the bustle of trauma, a lot of information would get lost because everyone is in such a rush. A lot of times, it would hurt the patient."

Pilot Ferguson came up with the idea of using Palm Pilots to store vital information such as preliminary diagnosis, medications given, the patient's stability and vital signs. Upon arrival at a hospital, all the stored information could be printed out and handed over with the patient, or if the situation was critical, the crew could just give the Palm Pilot itself to hospital staff.

"We'd do what's called a run sheet. It's basically a diagram of the human body, showing, you know, laceration here, hole here, burn here," Pilot Ferguson said.

The hand-held computers made a difference - medics estimated they increased the speed of data transfer by 60 percent. **GX**

In January of 1945, a Sikorsky YR-4 helicopter was dismantled, flown from Wright Field (Dayton, Ohio) to North Burma, and reassembled to evacuate Private Howard Ross, a wounded medical observer. It was the first time an American air vehicle was used for the purpose of rescuing and transporting a wounded patient.



OPERATION PURPLE TAKES MILITARY CHILDREN CAMPING

In August, about 50 children, ages 10-16, with one or more parents serving as active duty, reserve or National Guard members, completed a week's stay in the rustic North Carolina woods at a 4-H camp located outside Ellerbe, NC.

Fifteen-year-old Travis Hellermann told other campers and visiting dignitaries at the camp that he's had "a long, hard year," since his father, a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, was killed in Iraq on Aug. 6, 2003. Hellermann said his father died "doing what he loved." And "instead of sitting around feeling sad," he'd gone to camp and "had fun" while sharing his feelings with other campers.

Initiated by the National Military Family Association (NMFA, a non-profit group in Alexandria, VA), the camp is one of the many Operation Purple camping programs held this summer across 11 states and Guam. Operation Purple was developed to help children cope with the stress of a deployed parent. It is co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and Sears, Roebuck and Co., which donated \$2 million to the NMFA to develop and enhance programs that address the unique challenges faced by military families.

Julia Pfaff, executive director of NMFA, pointed out that it is important for parents to closely observe their children's emotional health while a loved one is deployed.

ABOVE: Military children camping with Operation Purple outside Ellerbe, NC.

Photo by TSgt Brian Christiansen

According to Pfaff, some children don't want to upset their parents, so they try to hide their anxieties.

Camp with Operation Purple offers group discussions, as well as horseback riding, canoeing, and archery. "You have to help your children put words" to their feelings, Pfaff explained, noting that her own son had developed insomnia when her husband had been deployed to Kuwait.

Attendance at Operation Purple's closing ceremony included Mary Easley, wife of NC Gov. Michael Easley; Secretary Bryan E. Beatty, NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety; MG William E. Ingram Jr., adjutant general of NC; Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's Office of Children and Youth; Robert J. O'Leary, Sears' senior public relations executive; and Candace Wheeler, NMFA president.

Witte saluted the great strength of military families, stating that Operation Purple is receiving "wonderful response" from participants and parents. "We're really very excited about all of this," Witte added.

O'Leary said Sears will support an expanded Operation Purple for next year, noting his company's sponsorship of the program "is the right thing to do." **GX**



Proud Supporter of an AMERICAN SOLDIER: Sears voluntarily pays the difference in salaries and maintains all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called-up Guard employees for up to two years.

EAGLE SCOUT SENDS 90 CARE PACKAGES TO THE TNARNG 278TH

To complete his Eagle Scout leadership project, Daniel Tucker, 12, of Tennessee's Boy Scout Troop 406 assembled 90 care packages for the TNARNG 278th Calvary Regiment, which was deployed this past summer.

When asked how he came to this idea, Tucker replied:

"Mom said they [Troop 406] all know *of* someone overseas, but don't *personally* know someone," explains Tucker.

Mom (Shellie Tucker) read about the 278th needing care packages and asked her son if he'd be interested. Tucker took to the idea immediately and stirred up the community for help.

After receiving an overwhelming response from local residents, it was now up to Tucker to package the dozens of notepads, magazines, candy, etc. Undaunted, Tucker drafted his fellow scouts.

"If ya'll have questions, ask," Tucker declared to Troop 406, as they filled shoe box after shoe box for the 278th, currently stationed in Fort Irwin, CA, for desert training.

In an inspiring display of gratitude, the 278th Commander mailed a medallion to Tucker. And since Tucker's packages were sent, articles have popped up in area newspapers, prompting other Boy Scouts troops to do the same.

Well ahead of his peers (the national average age of an Eagle Scout is 15 - 16 years old), this recent care package success is just another notch in Tucker's belt. His USSSA baseball team, the Hendersonville Lightning, are World Series champs two years running, with Tucker alternating between 3rd Base, Catcher, Pitcher, and Short Stop. When he grows up, Tucker plans on becoming a pro ball player.

We're willing to bet that with this much ambition at 12, Tucker will no doubt be a success in whatever road he takes in the years to come. **GX**

TOP RIGHT: Daniel Tucker stands with care packages for the TNARNG 278th Calvary Regiment
RIGHT: Daniel Tucker (center) with friends and family that lent a helping hand in packing the care packages



Photos by Raye Dene Berry

COLLEGE STUDENT QUILTS FOR FAMILIES OF FALLEN HEROES

By SSG Cheryl Hackley, National Guard Bureau

Jessica Porter, 20, of Hudson, FL, was quilting and watching the news on the war with a friend in May 2003. The two, like many others across the country, wanted to do something to support the troops. Together, they decided to make a quilt for each of the families of troops who lost their lives while serving their county. Although the friend moved away before the first quilt was mailed out, their idea stuck with Jessica, and she carried it through.

Jessica, a student at Pasco Hernandez Community College, didn't realize how big Operation Homefront Quilts would become.

To date, over 500 40-inch- by 60-inch quilts have been made and sent. Over 300 are still needed. Out of the 500, nearly 50 quilts have been made for members of the National Guard. Each quilt can take up to 10 hours to make on a machine, longer if all done by hand. Yet, Jessica is determined to finish what she started.

Since May, the operation has grown far beyond the Porter home. Once word got around about the quilts through interviews and ads in quilting magazines, people from around the world wanted to help.

"Many people want to show their support of the troops, but there aren't enough avenues to do so," said Joanne Porter, Jessica's mother.

Money for postage and mailing supplies, quilt-tops, fabric and more arrive daily at the Porter's residence. Supplies have even come in from Guam and Korea. Perhaps one of the most generous donations came from a quilting company. The Porter's were loaned a \$16,000 quilting machine. The company told Jessica to use the equipment for as long as she needed it.

"Jessica has quilted probably around 150 quilt tops so far on it, and we would have never gotten this far without it," said Joanne.

Special thought is put into each quilt,

and none of them are the same. "We don't just pick up fabric and make one," she said.

If they find information on the news or Internet about the deceased Airman, Marine or Soldier, they tailor the quilt and make it more personal.

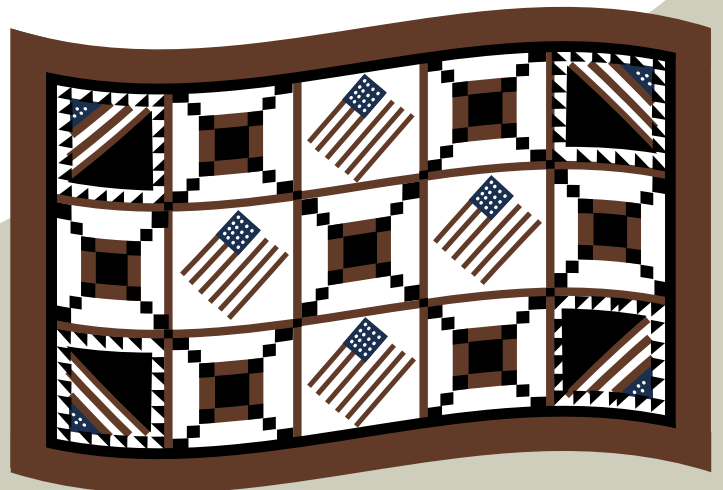
"If the troop had a baby, then we make it a patriotic baby quilt," said Jessica.

"In remembrance and gratitude" with a name, rank and year is also embroidered on each lap-sized quilt. In addition, a hand-written note from the Porters is included with each quilt, showing their appreciation for the sacrifices that the deceased service member has made for freedom.

Recently, the Porter's were granted next-of-kin releases through the Army and are now able to send the quilts directly to the family.

"Jessica is proof one person can make a difference," said Joanne.

Thanks to her skill and determination, a little warmth is brought home to the family members of troops who made the ultimate sacrifice to support their country. **GX**



ABOVE: One of Jessica Porter's quilt designs

Illustration by Keith Kawasaki

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THERE'S A GEICO REPRESENTATIVE
 NEAR MOST MILITARY BASES.

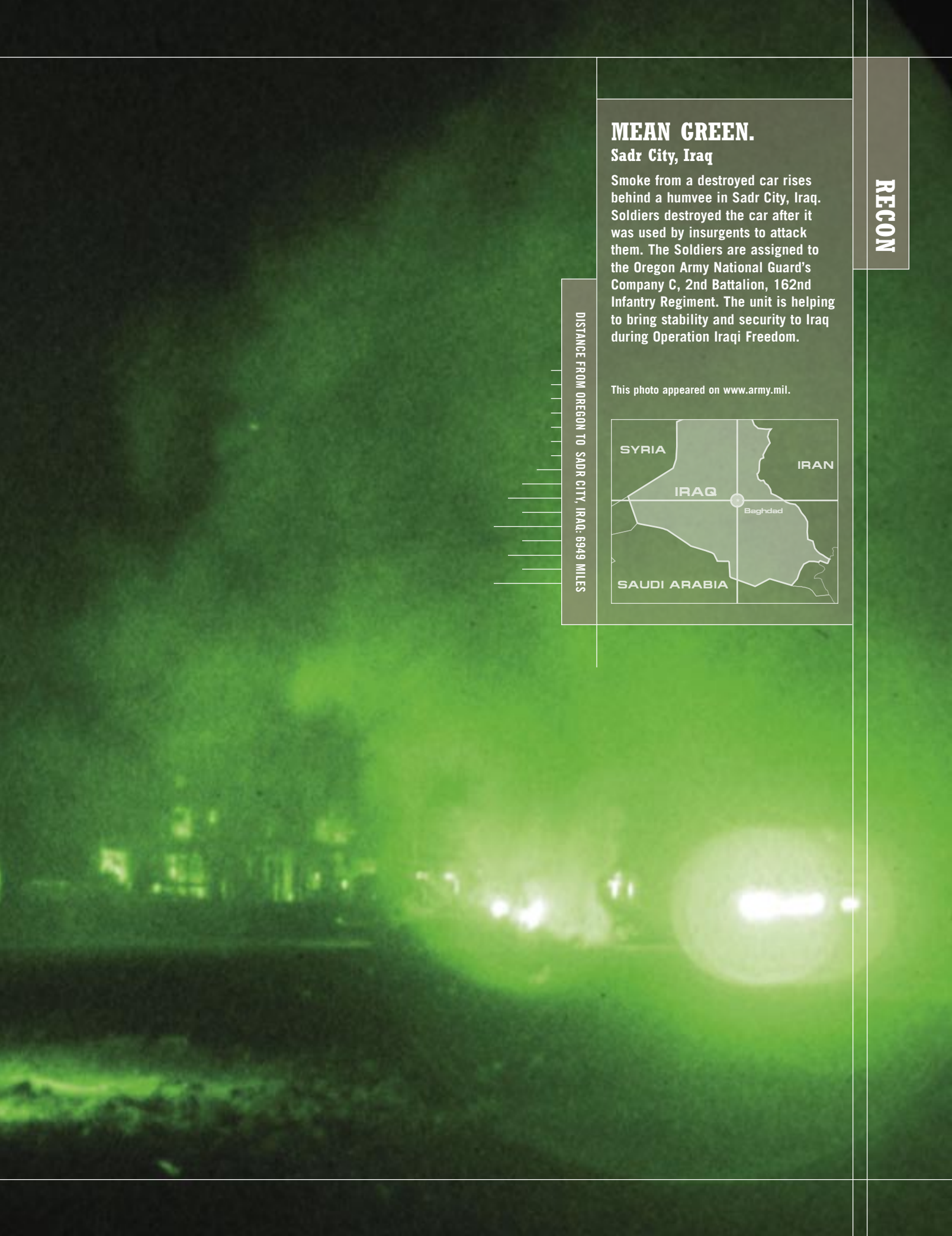
ALABAMA	
Birmingham	205-824-4449
Ft. Rucker*	334-308-0090
Gunter AFB* / Maxwell AFB*	334-260-0755
Redstone Arsenal*	256-837-0551
ALASKA	
Eielson AFB*	907-452-7145
Elmendorf AFB/Ft. Richardson	
840 C Street*	907-278-2647
336 Boniface Pkwy.*	907-338-3884
9191 Old Seward Hwy.*	907-277-7279
Ft. Wainwright*	907-452-7145
ARIZONA	
Davis-Monthan AFB*	520-747-4223
Ft. Huachuca*	520-452-0055
Luke AFB*	623-931-0766
Yuma MCAS*	928-726-9610
ARKANSAS	
Little Rock AFB*	501-982-0514
CALIFORNIA	
All Bases*	1-800-MILITARY
COLORADO	
Air Force Academy, Falcon AFB,	
Ft. Carson, Peterson AFB*	719-622-3080
CONNECTICUT	
New London NSB*	860-446-AUTO
DELAWARE	
Dover AFB*	302-736-1662
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
301-986-2500	
FLORIDA	
Eglin AFB/Hurlburt AFB	
315 A Racetrack Rd. NE*	850-863-4187
Gainesville	352-378-0939
Jacksonville NAS*	904-264-1223
MacDill AFB*	813-259-1142
Mayport NS*	904-246-8650
Orlando*	407-897-7157
Patrick AFB*	321-783-5485
Pensacola NAS, Whiting Field NAS	
1919 Creighton Rd.*	850-494-0052
15 Brent La.*	850-444-9144
Tallahassee	850-385-6047
Tyndall AFB*	850-785-0538
GEORGIA	
Ft. Benning*	706-689-2787
Ft. Gordon	706-793-7290
Ft. Stewart*	912-876-2183
Hunter AAF*	912-352-1271
Kings Bay NSB	912-873-7200
Moody AFB	229-242-3000
Robins AFB*	478-971-1509
HAWAII	
All Bases	808-593-1010
IDAHO	
Mtn. Home AFB*	208-587-4071
ILLINOIS	
Great Lakes NTS*	847-816-3333
Scott AFB*	618-632-7837
INDIANA	
Indianapolis	317-574-0400
KANSAS	
McConnell AFB	316-652-7500
KENTUCKY	
Ft. Campbell	
Oak Grove*	270-439-7770
Ft. Knox*	270-737-9116
LOUISIANA	
Barksdale AFB*	318-742-3600
Ft. Polk*	337-238-2934
MARYLAND	
Andrews AFB*	1-800-645-4827
Ft. Meade*	301-912-2416
MISSISSIPPI	
Keesler AFB*	228-374-1600
NEBRASKA	
Offutt AFB*	402-734-4502
NEVADA	
Nellis AFB	
3315 W. Craig Road*	702-643-0057
90 S. Stephanie St.*	702-565-9198
NEW MEXICO	
Kirtland AFB*	505-265-1600
NEW YORK	
Ft. Drum*	315-629-AUTO
NORTH CAROLINA	
Camp Lejeune / New River MCAS*	910-938-9900
Ft. Bragg / Pope AFB*	910-222-2560
NORTH DAKOTA	
Grand Forks AFB	701-746-4541
OKLAHOMA	
Ft. Sill*	580-353-0773
Tinker AFB*	405-732-4243
RHODE ISLAND	
Newport NS	401-847-3100
SOUTH CAROLINA	
Beaufort MCAS / Parris Island	843-522-0302
Charleston All Bases*	843-863-0016
Ft. Jackson	803-783-1551
Shaw AFB	803-938-8200
SOUTH DAKOTA	
Ellsworth AFB*	605-348-6060
TENNESSEE	
Ft. Campbell*	270-439-7770
Knoxville*	865-219-7988
Nashville*	615-376-2969
TEXAS	
Austin	512-732-2211
Corpus Christi NAS*	361-892-4955
Dyess AFB*	325-892-0440
Ft. Bliss*	915-779-2489
Ft. Hood*	254-526-6696
Ft. Sam Houston*	210-828-5675
Houston	713-665-4667
Ingleside NS*	361-992-4955
Lackland AFB*	210-673-2391
Randolph AFB*	210-658-6268
Sheppard AFB*	940-689-9300
UTAH	
Hill AFB*	801-775-8020
VIRGINIA	
Portsmouth NSY*	757-399-1007
Quantico MCB / Ft. Belvoir	703-441-6600
Newport News*	757-599-9090
VA Beach / Norfolk Area	
Lynnhaven Pkwy*	757-368-9032
Tidewater Dr.*	757-583-2200
Perimeter Pkwy.	757-222-3400
WASHINGTON	
Bangor NSB* / Bremerton NSY*	360-692-1117
Ft. Lewis / McChord AFB	
12525 Bridgeport Way, SW	253-581-2020
12930 Pacific Hwy., SW*	253-584-7755
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704





MEAN GREEN.

Sadr City, Iraq

Smoke from a destroyed car rises behind a humvee in Sadr City, Iraq. Soldiers destroyed the car after it was used by insurgents to attack them. The Soldiers are assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment. The unit is helping to bring stability and security to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This photo appeared on www.army.mil.



DISTANCE FROM OREGON TO SADR CITY, IRAQ: 6949 MILES





A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

Port Charlotte, Florida

Soldiers from the FLARNG patrol a storm-damaged area of south Florida. More than 2,100 soldiers and airmen are directly engaged in disaster relief duties in the area, assisting local law enforcement in the wake of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan.

Photo by Chris O'Meara (Associated Press).



DISTANCE FROM ST. AUGUSTINE, FL TO PORT CHARLOTTE, FL : 272 MILES

OPERATION POT O' GOLD Bulgaria

A rainbow appears following a heavy downpour in Bulgaria as U.S. Army staff officers move to the tactical operations center during Exercise Bulwark 04. The exercise is sponsored by U.S. Army Europe and involves more than 900 Soldiers of the Illinois National Guard who are training on light infantry and urban warfare tactics with members of the Bulgarian military.

This photo appeared on www.army.mil.



DISTANCE FROM ILLINOIS TO BULGARIA: 5344 MILES







PACKING HEAT.

Djibouti

Soldiers rush into position to secure the perimeter during an exercise in Djibouti. The Soldiers are assigned to the Guam Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, deployed in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

This photo appeared on www.army.mil.



DISTANCE FROM GUAM TO DJIBOUTI: 6814 MILES





“EARLY” BENEFITS

On July 23, the Department of Defense announced the start of a new temporary program authorized under section 703 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, which provides Guard members activated in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days and Guard families “early” access to TRICARE medical and dental benefits. Benefits under this program are effective until Dec. 31, 2004, the date the temporary benefit ends, unless extended by law.

To be eligible for the temporary benefit, Guard members and their families must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and be TRICARE eligible. The member’s Service personnel office is responsible for determining eligibility for the early TRICARE benefit. TRICARE eligibility for the Guard sponsor and families begins either on the day the Guard member receives delayed-effective-date active duty orders or 60 days before

the Guard member reports to active duty, whichever is later.

Guard members eligible for the early TRICARE benefit will be notified by their Service personnel office when they receive their delayed-effective-date active duty orders.

Members may verify their eligibility through the secure Guard and Reserve web portal at www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal. Members who require assistance to verify eligibility for the “early” TRICARE benefit may contact their Service personnel office. A list of Service contacts is available on the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reservepoc.cfm.



For more information visit:

 www.tricare.osd.mil

QUICK TIPS FOR GUARD BENEFITS



Guard members and their families who have employer-sponsored health insurance are strongly encouraged to consider retaining the employer’s health care coverage until the Guard member actually reports for active duty, at which time the member and their family would be fully covered by USERRA.



Guard families who are eligible for the “early” TRICARE benefit may receive care under TRICARE Standard, TRICARE Extra and the TRICARE Reserve Family Member Demonstration Project. Benefits under the demonstration, which waives the TRICARE Standard deductible and authorizes higher payments to nonparticipating civilian providers, will end Oct. 31, 2004.



Guard members eligible for the “early” TRICARE benefit who are currently enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) will be disenrolled from the TDP upon receipt of their delayed-effective-date orders.



Guard families eligible for the “early” TRICARE benefit may enroll in the TDP and pay premiums at the active duty family member rate. To enroll, families may contact the TDP administrator, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI) at (800) 866-8499 or www.ucci.com.



UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION on the “early” TRICARE benefit and the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is available on the TRICARE web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/ or the Reserve Affairs Web site at www.defenselink.mil.ra. A list of frequently asked questions is also available by typing in the key word “Reserve” or “Early” at www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs.

ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING

After Sept. 11, 2001, the lives of Americans were changed forever. An attack so close to home by terrorists brought home a new realization, that every man, woman and child is a potential target. How do we know who terrorists are, what they look like or where they will strike? None of these questions can realistically be answered, but everyone should be aware of signs of terrorist behaviors.

"Family members can become the target and need to protect themselves," said a Department of Defense official. "Their vigilance can also be the key in helping commanders protect the mission and resources of the installations and facility."

For interested family members, the Department of Defense offers the anti-terrorism training on-line which can be taken at home from a family computer. The objectives of this training are to understand terrorist threats and how to employ situation-based measures to lower vulnerability, recognize proper responses to threat actions and understand how to support unit security.

The slideshow presentation informs family members on everything from picking a seat on an aircraft to booking hotel rooms to dining out safety measures. "Taking the online course will allow you to become familiar with various techniques to reduce your vulnerability to becoming a target," a department official said.

To take the training, log on the Awareness Web site at www.at-awareness.org and follow the instructions. It will ask for a password that can be obtained from the service member's unit anti-terrorism officer.

"Service family members need to be aware there is a terrorist threat, no matter where they are in the world," the department official said. "They need to be constantly vigilant to ensure the safety of their families." **GX**



FPCON FORCE PROTECTION CONDITIONS DEFINED

FPCON Normal

Normal means there is general threat of possible terrorist activity, but requires only a routine security posture.

FPCON Alpha

Alpha means there is a general threat of terrorist activity against personnel and installations, the nature of which is unpredictable.

FPCON Bravo

Bravo means there is an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity.

FPCON Charlie

Charlie applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and installations is imminent.

FPCON Delta

Delta applies when the immediate areas where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that the terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely.

With each heightened level of FPCON, security entering and leaving base will be greater. Family members should pay attention to the levels and always be aware of their surroundings.



www.at-awareness.org

A PATRIOT'S LIFE

HONOR & GALLANTRY
AT HOME & ABROAD



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Patriots change lives. They are called to serve their country, and in answering that call, they have an effect on the people they encounter.

Patriots serve according to both their mission and their passion. They work to save lives. They work to protect the innocent. They work to spread freedom around the world. Some respond to a moment's need and are rightly called heroes. But others serve, just as honorably, by showing up every day and doing the work that must be done.

Whether or not they are wearing their uniform is irrelevant to these generous souls. They don't think of themselves in terms of "in uniform" or "on duty" any more than they think of possible rewards during their heroic and gallant acts. They see what needs to be done and they act.

What they all have in common is a core belief in generosity, bravery, commitment and all the traits that have made our nation and the Guard great. What sets true Patriots apart is that they live every day according to what they believe.



SSG Ken Weichert of the CAARNG.

ALWAYS PREPARED

SSG KEN WEICHERT

SSG Ken Weichert and his wife Stephanie were driving on I-5 when they came upon the scene of a horrendous accident. One vehicle was burning and several others were smashed up nearby.

SSG Weichert, a trained Combat Lifesaver, told his wife to pull over, leaped out of the car, grabbed his first aid kit and the pair ran to offer assistance. Stephanie began doing assessments looking for critical cases. Her husband had taught her the drill: Responsiveness, Breathing, Pulse, Bleeding, Shock, Bones, Burns, Head injury- don't waste time.

“Slow down, learn first aid, stock up your first aid kit... Be safe, be alert, and be alive!”

The Staff Sergeant ran toward three children who had been thrown from a vehicle and began bandaging wounds. By this time paramedics had arrived on the scene and told him that a helicopter was in route. They prepped the children for transport and loaded them onto the helicopter. As the children flew to a nearby hospital, the Weicherts accepted the thanks of the police and the Med Techs and headed off. They didn't make it very far.

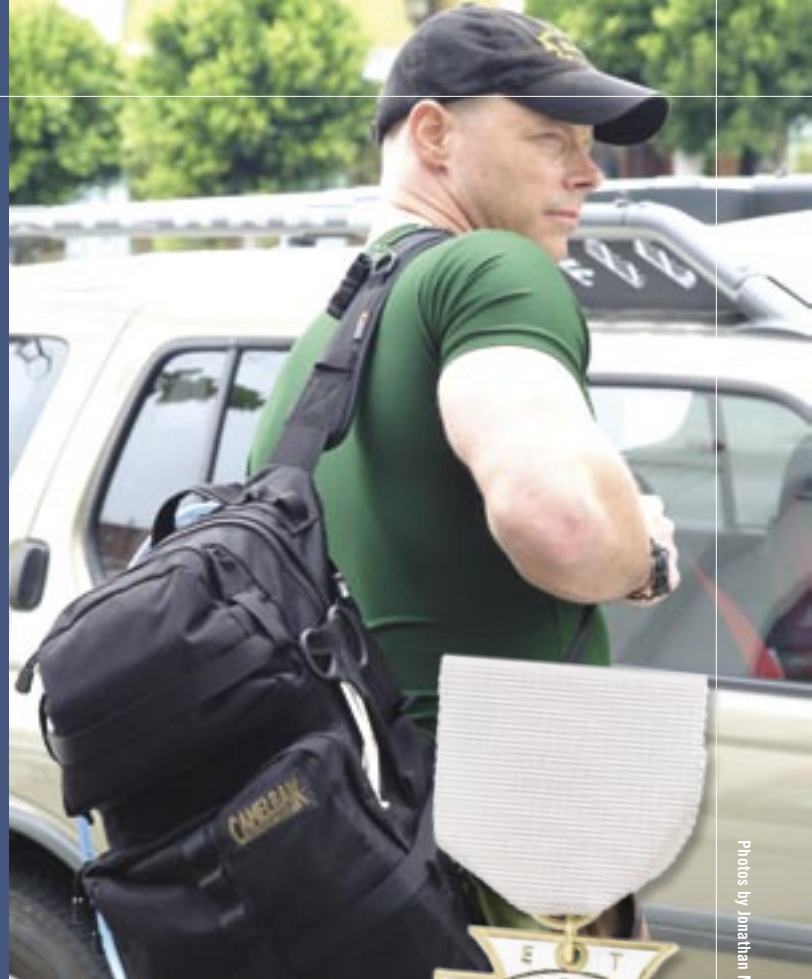
Four hundred meters past the first accident was a second, much worse, multi-vehicle pile-up. The couple unhesitatingly threw themselves into the scene. Stephanie once again began conducting triage and searching for scattered victims. SSG Weichert began treating injuries, directing medically inexperienced police officers and firemen, and even leaving triage cards on the people he had helped.

Although three lives were lost in the two accidents, many more were saved. For their unhesitating service, Stephanie Weichert was awarded the Good Samaritan Medal and SSG Ken Weichert was awarded the Knight of Justice Medal.

SERVICE

SSG Ken Weichert was awarded the “Knight of Justice” medal and his wife, Stephanie, was awarded the “Good Samaritan Medal” by the California Highway Patrol.

SSG Ken Weichert and his wife, Stephanie Weichert, operate START Fitness, the Strategic Army Training Program in San Francisco, CA. (No association with the U.S. Army or Department of Defense). For information, go online to: www.StartFitness.com.



Photos by Jonathan Miller



When SSG Weichert told his wife, Stephanie, about an Iraqi boy who lost his arm in a Fedayeen attack, she knew what she had to do. With donations from friends and clients, Stephanie started Operation Humanitarian Aid. With the generous support of actor Gary Sinise, the California Pacific Medical Group and American Airlines, the boy and his father are going to be flown to San Francisco for medical care. As SSG Weichert says, “That’s what makes Guard families awesome!”

For information on how you can help Operation Humanitarian Aid go online to: www.StartFitness.com

A NEW NATIONALISM

AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL ARMY

Since early 2002, the Army National Guard has been building the foundation for the new free nation of Afghanistan, working towards the nation's first direct presidential election on October 9. This election, described by President Bush as "a critical step forward in Afghanistan's transition to democracy," will be possible, despite terrorist threats, largely because of protection by the Afghanistan National Army (ANA), which has been trained almost exclusively by National Guard Soldiers.

Assembling a unified National Army has proved a significant challenge primarily because the Afghan people's loyalty historically has been first to their tribe. However, Coalition forces are confident that Afghanistan will succeed, as the new ANA is training not only in combat, but also nationalism and its role in the greater good of Afghanistan's future.

Tribal culture, however, is not the only challenge facing ANA training. Combating desertion and instating crucial



THE PATCH OF THE 1ST KANDAK (BATTALION) OF THE AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

Near the top of the patch the words "God is Great" is embroidered with the unit identification inscribed below two sheaves of wheat. Near the bottom of the patch are the colors of the Afghanistan national flag.

ethnic diversity also proves significant. To rectify this, recruitment centers have been established around the nation to draw a force more representative of the Afghan people. Additionally, recruiter training is now underway with recruiters expected to enlist 350 new recruits every three weeks.

"The Afghan people could have no better partners in building their new army than these National Guard units of the United States Army" declared MG Craig Weston, Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation during the Aug. 5 ceremony in which the INARNG assumed control over the ANA from the OKARNG.

COMMITMENT

Operating under the name Task Force Phoenix II, the OKARNG grew the ANA to almost

14,000 Soldiers - a huge step up from the ANA's humble beginnings of just 350 in their first 2002 graduating battalion. The long-term plan set by the U.S. administration and the UN organizers is for U.S. and Coalition forces to train up to 18 battalions for the ANA (70,000 Soldiers by 2009).

One Guard Soldier who recently visited the Kabul ANA recruitment camp reports, "The recruiter has no car and is totally reliant on COIs and VIPs to help bring kids in. Once he gets them to sign, he houses them in the recruiting station until he has, literally, a bus load, and then he takes a 12-14 hour bus ride to get them to MEPS. The record, here in Kabul, is 29 enlistees for one recruiter in a day." He added, "The recruiters here are doing a tremendous job, and it is an honor to be able to assist, even in small ways, to help build the first National Army in this country."

With Afghanistan's first presidential election just over the horizon and boiling tensions erupting in violence, the importance of the ANA is underlined. Dozens of civilians and electoral workers have died this past summer in election-related, terrorist attacks carried out by the Taliban, who continues to "warn" the Afghan people against voting. October 9, 2004, will no doubt prove to be a monumental day in Afghanistan's history - whether or not that is in infamy or celebration has yet to be seen. However, the ANA, backed by the Army National Guard, are determined to give freedom and democracy a chance to take root.

"The Afghan people could have no better partners in building their new army than these National Guard units of the United States Army"

MG Craig Weston
Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation

US Army Photo by MAJ William S. Wynn

“If we can make five people happy, more healthy, and can influence their life, this is what makes a difference.”

Texas Army National Guard COL Charles Killingsworth, a six-year veteran of OLS, gets a little motherly help to examine a young patient's throat.

GENEROSITY

THE GIVING HEART

★ OPERATION LONESTAR ★

BROWNSVILLE, Texas - Residents of the Rio Grande Valley waited in line, some since the early morning hours, to receive free medical and dental services provided to them by trained health care providers during Operation Lone Star 2004.

Many of those waiting were border area residents who lack the financial resources to obtain regular and complete medical care.

Once again, Operation Lone Star (OLS) was in full swing. The annual training event – which took place this year between July 25 and Aug. 7 -- includes members of the Texas Army National Guard, U.S. Naval Reserve and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

OLS offers general medical care, adult dental care, sports physicals, eye exams, immunizations, diabetes screening, high blood pressure screening and pharmacy service -- all without charge.

For SPC Tiffany Carrion, this medical training mission provided her with valuable health care experience. Accustomed to assisting National Guard soldiers during fast-paced military medical processing, SPC Carrion welcomes the chance to mingle with civilian families, especially the children.

“I think it's good to help people who are less fortunate,” SPC Carrion said. “We give them the best of what we have to offer. I enjoy helping people and this is a good thing for the community.”

The hard work and dedication of all the military and civilian personnel involved made it possible to perform more than 15,000 medical and dental services.



THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD IS MORE THAN 350,000 MEMBERS STRONG - WITH ARMORIES AND TRAINING FACILITIES IN MORE THAN 2,800 COMMUNITIES.

Photo by SSGT Tad Browning, 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, TXARNG



THE ONE PREDICTABLE THING ABOUT A DISASTER.

Whether it be hurricanes or wildfires, earthquakes or a terrorist attack, one thing will always remain the same – the people of our nation count on the Army National Guard in times of crisis. Well-equipped and quick to respond, the sight of our Soldiers has given

comfort, time and again, to those in desperate need. You, too, can join the men and women with the skills and courage to take on the toughest of challenges. Find out more by visiting our web site today.

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YOU CAN

Join the National Guard
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DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

“Weekend Warrior... I have always felt those two words are the most insulting thing one can say to any Soldier.”

Excerpted from a piece by Trudy Marshall-Bowler, wife of a serving Guard Soldier:

One Sunday evening [my husband and I] were driving home. Somehow we ended up on the topic of my greatest pet peeve: the phrase “Weekend Warrior.” I have always felt those two words are the most insulting thing one can say to any Soldier. I knew the men and women of his unit; I knew about their past military history. They had served in combat, and still most Americans had no idea that any of them have ever done anything but assist during a flood or a local crisis.

Somewhere in that conversation my husband had become very quiet. He looked over at me, “A Weekend Warrior but a full-time Soldier. When I was at BNOC, there was a Colonel there who spoke at graduation. He told us that he saw his civilian job as his part-time job and the Guard was his full-time job. At the time I thought he was crazy. The check I got each month didn’t feed my family or pay my bills. But now...”

This man is a Soldier at heart. It is who he is; it defines him. He is a carpenter by trade, an incredibly talented craftsman, yet he does not take even a fraction of the pride in his skill as he does when he puts on his uniform and shines his boots. When a friend questioned his reasoning for choosing a unit that is already on alert, he explained: “The easiest thing in the world is knowing what is right; the hard part is doing what is right.”

CHECKPOINT
GX

MORE THAN 200,000 MEN AND WOMEN IN THE RESERVES AND THE NATIONAL GUARD HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED SINCE THE SEPT. 11, 2001, ATTACKS. TODAY, JUST UNDER 150,000 ARE SERVING.

SACRIFICE

Soldier from the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade, NCARNG, saying goodbye on his way to Southeast Asia.

Photos by CPT Robert Carver and TSgt Brian Christiansen, NCNG Public Affairs



SGT Adam Crenshaw on watch while his convoy travels through Iraq.

DUTY

A LIFE OF CHANGE

★ SGT ADAM CRENSHAW ★

Excerpted from a piece by SGT Adam Crenshaw

I absolutely believe in the cause of why we are here. Each time a young kid gives me thumbs up, or an old man shakes my hand amiably, I feel absolutely that we are doing something right...

[Before being deployed to Kuwait], a war was watching Platoon or Full Metal Jacket. It never really occurred to me that a simple guy from Utah would be sent into the lions' den. But this is not just my story. I came over here with a battalion of Soldiers from Utah, to join 140,000 troops already on the ground...

Regardless of the politics and the opinions of the men who sent us, the fact is that we are here right now, and "right now" is all that matters.

None of the different views and beliefs that we've encountered, nor the ones that have been expressed about us, are worth a damn. When it comes down to it, the moment you stare through the crosshairs of your rifle, politics don't really

TO READ MORE OF THESE STORIES, VISIT:

 www.gxonline.com



apply. It's a moment when training and adrenaline take over. Shots are coming in your direction; you respond by quickly identifying your target, followed by two quick taps on the trigger; identify a new target and repeat until all threats are eliminated. You must be lethal when you shoot. There is no exception...

The Iraqi way of life seems unchanged by Soldiers who have walked these lands for thousands of years. But I feel changed. Many of us over here have changed. Most friends we had before we left have simply become old acquaintances. The "Dear John" letters from home have changed us. Adjusting and adapting to each new occurrence changes us. Saddam has been captured, yet our main mission continues.

Ours is a life of constant change. Our roots come from the military code that bonds us. It's a connection that has made brothers and sisters out of everyone who wears the uniform. Someday we will leave. Other soldiers will take our place, just as they have throughout the ages.



VICTORY MAP



PUT YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE



All we seem to hear about is the bad news. The evening news and the morning paper are filled almost exclusively with tales of death and destruction. No one seems to be interested in telling about the victories, big and small. We at *GX* have decided it's time for that to change.

We continually get letters from the field telling us of life-changing accomplishments completed by Guard members. Each of you knows about the good your unit is doing. But, somehow, you never hear about the school that was rebuilt or the lives that were saved by the Soldiers just over the horizon.



Alaska
ALARNG UH-60 Blackhawks and C-23 Sherpas along with 53 Guardmembers are activated to help fight wildfires in the state's interior.

New York
Over 1,000 NYARNG members assist New York PD with security for the Republican National Convention

Massachusetts
MAARNG units work with state and federal agencies to provide security for the Democratic National Convention

Pennsylvania
SPC Damian Smith, PAARNG, rescues two young boys trapped by a late-night roadside accident.

STORY ON PAGE 45

California
SSG Ken Weichert, CAARNG, provides critical medical aid to civilians injured in an interstate crash.

STORY ON PAGE 36

Texas
TXARNG units provide free health care to thousands of residents in the Brownsville area as part of Operation Lonestar.

STORY ON PAGE 38

Georgia
ARNG BG Nesbitt and GAARNG lead the state and federal security task force for the G8 Summit.

Gulf Coast
4,600 Members of the FLARNG are activated to assist with disaster recovery after hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan lash the area.

As you have read through this feature, you probably found yourself thinking, "My unit's done that" or "I know a soldier who went that far." This isn't surprising. Guard members are working every day, all over the world, to better lives and spread freedom. Your stories are just as heroic and noteworthy as the ones in this article, and we want to share them with other Guard members.

Send us the real news from your part of the world. Tell us what you and your fellow Soldiers have done so that we can pass it on.

In future issues of GX look for a special section called "The Victory Column" detailing the accomplishments that are the true Guard Experience.

Send your news to:

 editor@gxonline.com

Kosovo

Guard units continue to serve in Operation Joint Guardian to ensure a secure environment for the citizens of Kosovo.

Iraq

Members of a medical assessment team from the NCARNG assist the Multi-National Forces irrigations project in Diyala province.

STORY ON PAGE 44

Afghanistan

Over 100 members of FLARNG Special Forces serve on the front lines of the Global War on Terrorism.

STORY ON PAGE 47

Sinai

Soldiers from the 125th INF are tasked to report treaty violations between Egypt and Israel, ensuring stability in the region.

Afghanistan

VTARNG, INARNG, OKARNG and others train and mentor the newly formed Afghan National Army to protect and serve a free Afghanistan.

STORY ON PAGE 37

Iraq

Over 75,000 ARNG Soldiers are currently deployed here. Many are assisting with the rebuilding of schools, hospitals, ports and other vital infrastructures.

STORY ON PAGE 41

BACK TO BASICS

IRRIGATING DIYALA

“It’s very rewarding to know that you can make a difference” said CPT Hazel Williams, NCARNG, part of a medical assessment team that came to the remote village of Docker, Iraq. One of his duties is coordinating contract work and purchases within the local community.

During a community outreach project at Docker, CPT Williams was searching for laborers needed for the upcoming Multi-National Forces irrigation canal project in the Diyala province. “I needed about 100 men” said CPT Williams. Although more men applied than CPT Williams had positions for, he did his best to employ them all, saying, “My intent is to try to hire all of these men and find a way to pay them.”

Funding for the project, like many others, comes from Multi-National Forces funds that are spent on improving the Iraqi infrastructure and, whenever possible, using local labor and contractors.

Diyala is an agricultural region in Iraq, and the network of irrigation canals are critical for the farmers. However, years of neglect have left the canals in need of repair and overgrown with weeds. “The weeds and grass are creating a lack of water flow for the farmer’s fields” added CPT Williams. The completion of the canal repairs will help feed and employ Iraqis in the region.

The rate and effects of unemployment in this remote area are evident. Young men between the ages of 18-25, who are not working are prime recruits for militant extremists in Iraq. “When we can hire them and give them a job, we are giving them another choice” added CPT Williams.

“A lot of news shows violence in Iraq; however, there are lots of good projects that don’t make the news. Projects like renovation of schools for example,” stated CPT Williams. “We are also starting a trade school to help offer masonry training and that will provide local contractors with skilled labor,” said CPT Williams.

Growth and prosperity are choices Iraqi citizens are free to make now. Multi-National Force projects like these managed by CPT Williams are destined for success as Iraqi community leaders add their support.



Photo by MERAN DOHERTY/Reuters /Landov

HUMILITY

An Iraqi woman washes herself at a broken water pipe at the Diyala Bridge — the main water source for an area that has over 50,000 homes.



OVERCOMING FEAR

SPC DAMIAN SMITH

Heading down Route 873 on a pre-dawn Pennsylvania morning, SPC Damian Smith (HHC 213th Area Support Group), 20, was on his way home after a night out when flames caught his eye in the road ahead. As SPC Smith drove closer, he saw a silver SUV, wrapped in fire against a tree. Without hesitation, SPC Smith dialed 911 and slammed a U-turn.

"The driver was unconscious and totally pinned against the dash," SPC Smith recounts. "I was talking to the dispatcher... when I heard these boys screaming... saying 'Help! Help!'"

Despite any fear of flames igniting the SUV's gas tank, SPC Smith pulled at the doors where two young boys, 9 and 10, were trapped in the back seat. Their father, Michael McCormick, Sr., 38, lay unconscious in the front of the car.

Unable to release the SUV doors, SPC Smith managed to pull the boys through a side window one by one, and set them down safely away from the vehicle. With his Guard instincts racing, SPC Smith gave the boys a once-over for injuries and turned his attention back to the remaining passenger.

By now, the flames had risen waist-high. SPC Smith reached for McCormick anyway, burning his hand. Armed with fire extinguishers, a nearby resident ran to help. Yet despite the two men battling the flames, McCormick could not be rescued.

The two boys were unharmed, except for minor injuries. SPC Smith, who had returned from a tour in Afghanistan this past April, remained distraught for not being able to get to their father in time.

"It was a nasty fire," said Barry Reitz, the property owner where the crash occurred. "If anyone deserves to be commended, he's the guy," Reitz said of SPC Smith. "He risked himself to get the two kids out."

To SPC Smith, it was just the natural thing to do; "If you see two boys screaming in a car on fire, I don't know how anyone could not try to help them."

SPC Smith has been recommended for the Soldier's Medal and the Pennsylvania Cross for Valor, the highest PAARNG award.

THERE ARE MORE THAN 130,000 ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SOLDIERS CURRENTLY ON ACTIVE DUTY.

COURAGE

"If you see two boys screaming in a car on fire, I don't know how anyone could not try to help them."
— SPC Damion Smith



BUILDING UNITY

SPC DONALD PRICHARD

SPC Donald Prichard (FLARNG) is a 22-year-old combat wounded veteran returning home from a 14-month deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Jordan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Ar Ramadi. Skills and experience from his civilian job as a deputy sheriff for the Broward County Sheriff's Office prepared him well for his mission working with Iraqi police, but more than anything else SPC Prichard says, "You've got to have respect."

"When we first arrived in Ar Ramadi, I developed a relationship with the local police force," said SPC Prichard. "Others were criticizing me for developing relationships with the Iraqi police, but whenever I needed something, I was able to get it within minutes."

"The Iraqi police were volunteering to go on walking tours with us, provided us with vehicles, information pertaining to possible Syrian or Fedayeen insurgence, brought me home-cooked meals and even invited me to their homes," he explained. "In our area of responsibility we experienced much more cooperation because we developed relationships with the police."

SPC Prichard served on a Mobile Task Training Team created to reproduce the results that were achieved with the Ar Ramadi police force. The team was tasked to train police officers in Fallujah, Ubaiti, Usable and Al Chiem.

SPC Prichard explained that the team noticed a significant increase in the confidence and self-esteem of the police officers they trained. "It made me feel good seeing the difference. When we first took the police out on patrol in the city with the local force, the people would hide, but when they realized we were here to help, they started coming to us, telling us their problems and reporting suspicious people," he said. "We assured them that if they needed anything, to call the police, and they did."

SPC Prichard returns home a hero, his actions merited submission for a Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star and Flying Cross. While he appreciates the awards, they were not his motivation. "I was just doing my job," stated SPC Prichard.

RESPECT

SGT Jerard Thomas, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 252nd Armor, escorts a local boy from Qara Tapa, Iraq at a medical assessment service provided by Multi-National Forces.

CHECKPOINT
GX

U.S. EFFORTS IN IRAQ HAVE HELPED REHABILITATE 2,351 SCHOOLS; PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED 8.7 MILLION REVISED MATH AND SCIENCE TEXTBOOKS FOR GRADES ONE THROUGH 12; TRAINED OVER 32,000 TEACHERS AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE WORKERS; AND DISTRIBUTED 1.4 MILLION SECONDARY SCHOOL KITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

ONE IN FOUR AFGHAN CHILDREN DIES BEFORE THE AGE OF FIVE, AND ADULTS FACE A LIFE EXPECTANCY OF ONLY 46 YEARS.

UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE

★ FL SPECIAL FORCES ★

For more than 100 Special Forces soldiers from the Florida National Guard, serving in Afghanistan on the “frontlines” in the Global War on Terrorism was a grim, dangerous reality.

Two members of the Ocala-based A Company – CWO Mark Jensen and MSG Dan Kinkel – were among the unit’s Green Berets who were scattered throughout Afghanistan’s remote eastern provinces. Their mission: aid the Afghan National Army in combating insurgent guerillas and establish friendly relations with the local population.

According to both CWO Jensen and MSG Kinkel, they accomplished both objectives. As a two-person team they operated mainly near the border with Pakistan, first serving as advisors to the Afghan National Army, and later conducting combat operations in the dangerous area.

“I was really surprised to get there and realize ‘They’re going to give us opportunities and let us do our mission,’” recalled CWO Jensen, a 12-year veteran of the Guard.

“Places that no one could ever go before without getting attacked became peaceful.”

“We got to do some unconventional warfare,” MSG Kinkel, a 20-year-military veteran, noted. “We actually got to do what we were trained to do: take indigenous forces on combat operations.”

Those operations took the team into about a dozen fire-fights with enemies. Eventually the number of attacks by enemy insurgents dwindled off, due mainly to the Special Forces’ increasing reputation in the area.

Members of the FLARNG Special Forces on patrol in Afghanistan.



Photo courtesy of Sr. Airman Thomas Kielbasa, FLARNG

DEVOTION

“Our goal was to deny sanctuary to the enemy by going into this unfriendly area and living there,” MSG Kinkel said, “and making the people there stand up and fight against the insurgents who were putting pressure on them.”

The Special Forces and the Afghani Soldiers moved deep into the lawless regions on the eastern frontier of Afghanistan and established a small camp where they lived with the locals and began developing relationships. There they helped develop a rudimentary village council and encouraged the locals to elect a mayor and police chiefs.

“We used those tactics to the best of our ability to create... law where there was none,” CWO Jensen said.

“At first they wouldn’t even look at you, but eventually locals were inviting us over for dinner at their houses,” MSG Kinkel explained. “We definitely won over their trust.”

“Places that no one could ever go before without getting attacked became peaceful,” CWO Jensen said.

CWO Jensen explained his team’s presence in the region was needed to pave the way for upcoming national elections in October – the country’s first post-Taliban elections. Without the lasting peace in the region that had been established by the U.S. forces, he said, “They’re not going to hold an election in an area that is dangerous.” **GX**

PROTECT YOUR EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

FILL OUT THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION DATABASE

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S NEW ONLINE DATABASE FOR GUARD EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

A Defense Department (DoD) reporting system has begun so members of all seven reserve components can register their employers.

The database is called the Civilian Employment Information Program, and it is the way for all Guard and Reserve members to comply with the law that requires them to inform DoD of who employs them and how they are employed when not performing their military duties.

"DoD decision-makers need to know [about your] employers," officials explained. The database will, among other things, give DoD a better idea of who should, and should not, be mobilized for national emergencies.

"This program will make it possible for defense officials to know who can be called up for active military duty without jeopardizing the civilian forces responsible for safeguarding our country," explained David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

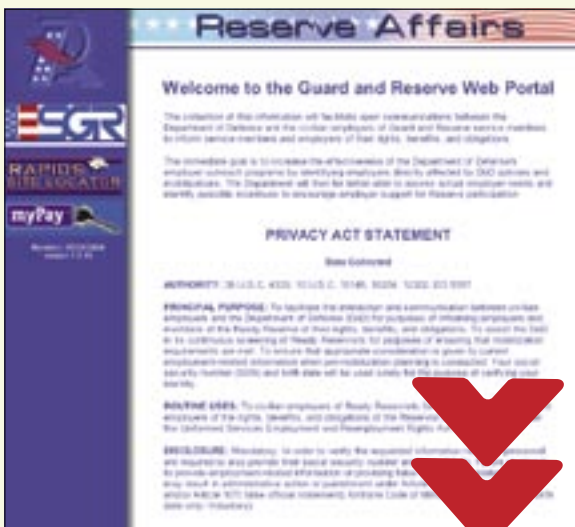
Members of the ARNG, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Navy Individual Ready Reserve can now enter their employment data on the new Defense Manpower Data Center Web site. Members of the Army Reserve, Navy Selected Reserve, Marine Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve will be able to enter their employment data on their existing personnel reporting systems.

"The goal is to maintain a 95% accurate data base for the Selected Reserve," explained Thomas Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, "and to maintain 75% accuracy for the Individual Ready Reserve database. The department is required by law to maintain adequate and current personnel records on members of the reserve components, including each member's civilian occupational skills." **GX**

For more, see "Reserve Component Civilian Employment Information Program Begins" by MSG Bob Haskell at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2004/n03312004_200403311.html

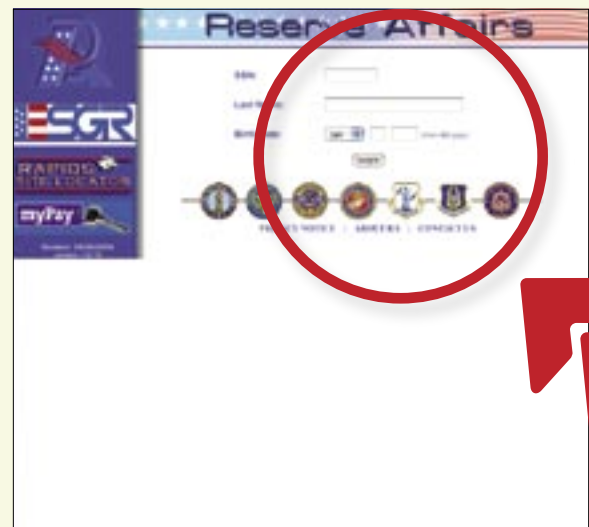
STEP ONE:

Log on to: www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal
Then read the Privacy Act Statement and click "Agree", followed by clicking on "Continue".



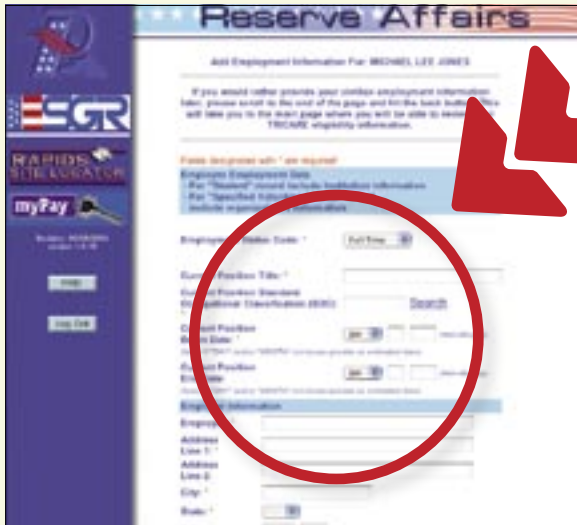
STEP TWO:

Enter your social security number, last name, and birthdate, then click "Log In".



STEP THREE:

Fill out the form and click "Save".



SEND A SALUTE TO YOUR EMPLOYER



STEP FOUR:

Double-check your information.



HOME FRONT HEROES EMPLOYER SALUTE: A FREE SERVICE FOR GUARD SOLDIERS

The Home Front Heroes (HFH) program has been established so you can show your appreciation to those individuals and employers who are supporting your decision to serve. The HFH web site will allow you to submit the names of these Heroes so they may receive some small portion of the thanks and respect that they so richly deserve.

EACH INDIVIDUAL SALUTE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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

TO SEND YOUR EMPLOYER A FREE SALUTE, VISIT:

 www.virtualarmory.com

TEAM MOBILIZATION

SUSTAIN TEAM COHESION AND COMMITMENT DURING MOBILIZATION



TRUST»EMPOWERMENT»ATTITUDE»MOTIVATION

TEAM Mobilization is a leadership training program designed specifically to address the challenges presented to Army National Guard (ARNG) leaders, Soldiers, and family members during the decisive stages of pre- and postmobilization.

The program provides targeted leadership concepts, techniques, and tools that will help leaders to:

- » **BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE WARRIOR ETHOS WITHIN THEMSELVES AND THEIR TEAMS DURING PRE- AND POST-MOBILIZATION**
- » **KEEP THEIR SOLDIERS STRONG, MOTIVATED, AND COMMITTED TO THE MISSION, THE UNIT, AND THE ARNG DURING THE DEPLOYMENT CYCLE**

COMPLETE INTERACTIVE TRAINING SYSTEM

The cutting-edge, interactive training materials in the TEAM Mobilization series integrate the proven TEAM concepts with feedback, lessons learned, and leadership input to enhance unit cohesiveness and retain quality soldiers. TEAM Mobilization allows units to attain a high level of mission focus and training effectiveness through multi-echelon training conducted for State Leadership, Senior Unit Leadership, and First Line Leaders with new and improved features, including:

- » Relevant and motivational content
- » Unit-level team-building tactics, techniques, and procedures
- » Dynamic, focused, and easy-to-use training materials
- » Engaging multimedia presentations
- » Comprehensive training outlines
- » Video testimonials from leaders who have overcome the challenges of mobilization

THE THREE PHASES OF THE TEAM MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

1

STRATEGIC TEAM EXEC

(1 - 2 HOURS)

Provides Senior State Leadership with a big-picture view of leadership and retention issues relevant to the mobilization period and demonstrates how TEAM Mobilization will help address retention/attrition issues at all levels

2

TACTICAL TEAM EXEC

(2 - 4 HOURS)

Provides Brigade/Battalion Leadership and Staff with tactics, techniques, and procedures on organizational commitment and strength maintenance, as well as general leadership strategies and applications important to the mobilization and reintegration phases

3

TEAM BATTALION TRAINING

(2 - 4 HOURS)

Trains Battalion Leadership through Squad Leaders on specific tactics, techniques, and procedures for providing world-class leadership, communication, and team building to enhance Soldier and family member commitment to the ARNG

WITH TEAM MOBILIZATION, LEADERS CAN:

- » Enhance Unit and Soldier morale to help ensure mission success
- » Maintain the commitment and spirit of their soldiers during mobilization
- » Improve their own leadership skills
- » Promote strong leader-troop working relationships
- » Build the character and competence of their Soldiers
- » Communicate effectively as leaders
- » Sustain family readiness during mobilization
- » Optimize employer support of the ARNG during mobilization

TEAM Mobilization is only one of several high-impact ARNG retention and attrition programs:

Retention Now/LEAD - An approach that gives Unit leaders the cutting-edge tools they need to assess Unit retention issues, develop a focused retention strategy, and conduct sustainment training.

DSRO (Director's Strength Readiness Overview) - A web-based tool providing State and Unit leaders with a current overview of their strength readiness posture and deployability as well as customized e-mail reports and much more.

LEAD Mobilization Modules - A series of Unit-delivered, modules that encompass essential mobilization leadership factors and Soldier/family care issues.

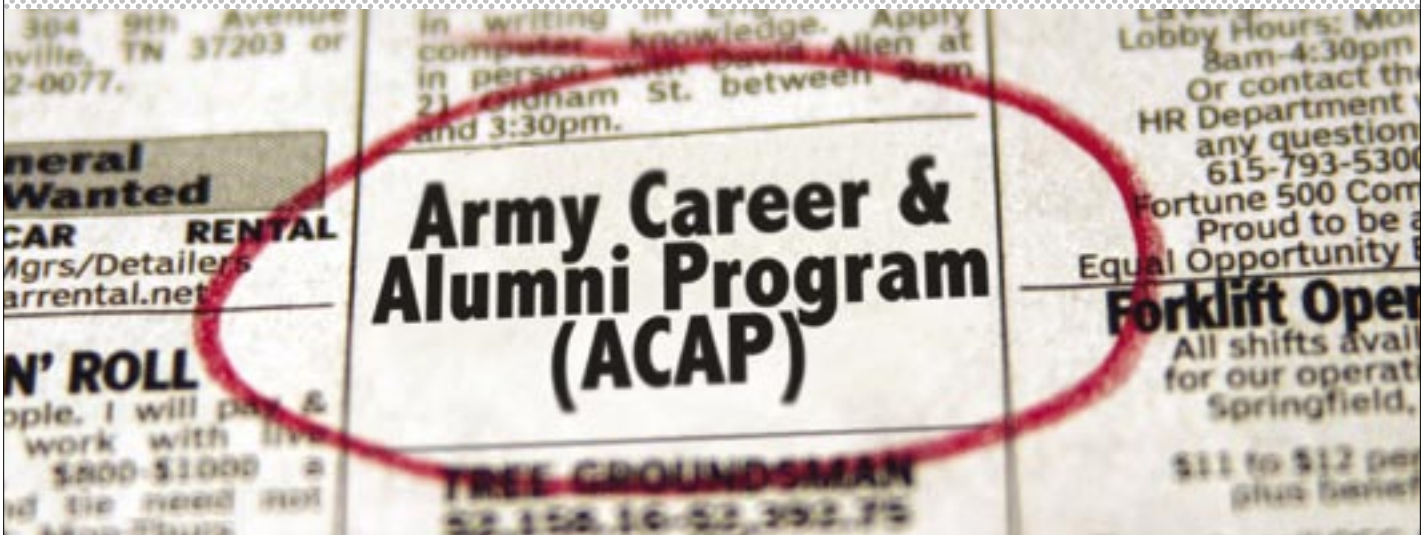
Attrition and Retention Feedback Surveys - Web-based feedback tools that allow state and Unit leadership to assess their command climate, recruit preparation, RSP effectiveness, and Soldier and family member issues during mobilization.

RSP/SEAR (Recruit Sustainment Program/Soldier Empowerment And Readiness) - A modular curriculum with 100 hours of RSP cadre and recruit training aimed at reducing Training Pipeline Losses.

Vulcan RSP Database - A web-based recruit training and pre-shipment tracking tool that provides visibility on the current status of recruit preparation and provides automated alerts to RRF and Unit leadership.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TEAM MOBILIZATION:  asm.retention@ngb.army.mil



ACAP TURNS JOB HUNTING INTO SMOOTH SAILING

What is the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)?

Think of them as your own personal public relations firm. ACAP will take the military skills you have and turn them into marketable talents, practically guaranteed to land you a successful career in the civilian working world.

ACAP will coach you on interview techniques, salary negotiation, crucial business fashion, and the all-important world of networking. And don't forget resumes. ACAP will help you solve that puzzle, while tossing in a few tips on cover letters, too. And once your big career makeover is done, ACAP won't throw you out in the cold. ACAP will reveal a whole world of job hunting resources where you can show off that great stuff you just learned.

Still not convinced?

ACAP is your personal benefits guru and will show you the way to receive your due benefits and services for your time on Active Duty. Whether it's counseling or career training, ACAP can help. Are you a Reservist? Do you know about all the employment rights you have? What, you don't have the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act memorized? Don't worry; ACAP can be your legal jargon translator and clue you in.

But what's the catch?

Ouch, right. It's not a perfect world. Beginning at the date of your discharge, you can only use ACAP services for 180 days. Also, you must have completed 180 days of Active Duty to qualify for ACAP services.

Let's recap those positives...

- Skills Assessment
- Translating Military Skills
- Constructing Resumes and Cover Letters
- Networking
- Interview Techniques
- Negotiating Salaries and Benefits
- Dress for Success
- Job Search Techniques
- Job Assistance Workshops
- Resume Writer Software
- Counseling/Job Search Support
- Self-paced Learning Using Automated Systems
- Access to Job Openings Through ACAP's Automated Job Listings
- DoD Job Search

**VISIT YOUR LOCAL
ACAP CENTER OR:**



1.877.722.2270



www.acap.army.mil



SUCCESSFUL GUARD RECRUITING

A FAMILY TRADITION

By JOHN FITZGERALD of The Billings Gazette Staff

The Gilmans are an army of three when it comes to recruiting. A Gilman has been Montana's top Army National Guard recruiter seven of the last 10 years. And twice, a Gilman has been the top recruiter in the nation.

Corey Gilman recently returned from Washington, D.C., where he was awarded that top honor. His brother, Barry Gilman, was the Guard's most successful recruiter in 1997. That's among the roughly 3,600 Army National Guard recruiters in the nation. Their father, Leonard Gilman, was Montana's top recruiter in 1994. He also was named top Soldier in the state in 1984.

Recruiters are chosen not only because of the numbers of Soldiers they attract, but also their service record, their community involvement and their contributions to the Guard, Leonard said. Barry said they try to take care of recruits even after the recruiting is done.

"The active Army, they put you into boots and send you on your way. With the Guard, sure you're going to basic (training), sure you're going to train for war, but we want to make sure you have a successful transition into military life. Then you'll come back out and represent the Guard in the community. They're the best salesmen we have."

All three credit their wives with helping them achieve their goals. "We couldn't have done it without them," Leonard said. **GX**

TOP: Award-winning Army National Guard recruiters from left, are Leonard Gilman and sons, Corey and Barry.

Photo by Larry Mayer, Billings Gazette Staff.



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MTU: MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING UNIT

GX GOES TO SCHOOL

“Our history teaches two very profound lessons about marksmanship. First, it is an acquired skill which is developed through practice and training. Second, a battlefield is a very unforgiving classroom.”

- NGB Pam 350-7, posted on the MTU “Schoolhouse” wall

“ There are no ‘born shooters.’” A flat statement of fact from SFC William C. Rayner. “It’s all about trigger time.” The Sergeant should know. He’s one of the dedicated instructors at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas, whose job it is to make sure that soldiers aren’t trying to learn weapons skills while under enemy fire. GX was invited to the base to observe training exercises and see a little of what it takes for troops to become combat ready.

MTU builds weapons proficiency and thus battlefield survivability through a dual mission: Marksmanship Competitions and Training.

Competitive Shooting plays a key role in the development of critical marksmanship skills at MTU. Since any serving Guard member has a chance to participate, competitions like those building up to the Winston P. Wilson National Championships stand as an open invitation to improve proficiency in pistol, rifle and light machinegun. As such events gain in popularity and participation, spreading the

competitive spirit to units across the country, more and more soldiers choose to spend time on the range sharpening their aim.

Recently, Guard shooters and teams have also been using their range skills to claim some hard-earned respect from their “full-time” service compatriots. The All-Guard team took 1st and 2nd in individual and 2nd in team at the Interservice Rifle Championship, beating out the Marines and finishing close behind the Army team.

Training, which takes the form of a number of courses covering subjects from small arms expertise to advanced sniper skills, is provided to members of all service branches not only at Camp Robinson but throughout the country and around the world through the use of Mobile Training Teams. [See Recon, GX1] These programs are a mixture of intense classroom study, field training, and live fire exercises.

The two most impressive class-related displays we were present for were a night fire exercise and a trip to the M-203 grenade launcher range. While sights like this may be commonplace to trained warriors, as outside observers, we were impressed. The night fire (M-16s with tracers every 3rd round) took place under a moonless sky rendering the targets invisible to our eyes, but not to the shooters. Although clearly a difficult task, we were able to see some impressive hits when phosphorous rounds would lodge in a pop-up target and ignite it.

In stunning contrast, when we saw the same class on the grenade range, they made firing the M-203 look simple. They seemed to think nothing of lobbing rounds through a window-sized opening at 50m or dropping them onto mark-

ers at 100-150m. It seemed almost absurd when more than a few smashed into an APC at 300m. After a synchronized airburst volley which formed a near perfect line over the target, all we could do was shake our heads in wonder at the weapon mastery being exhibited.

“We spend a lot of time on weapons maintenance as well as actual marksmanship,” SFC Rayner explained, “The best marksman in the world isn’t much good if his weapon won’t fire.” Since several of the rotating staff of instructors have recently returned from deployment, the curriculum is able to go beyond basic instruction and adapt to actual field conditions. Whereas it might take months or years to update official field manuals, MTU trainers can easily pass on the latest life-saving tips from the field like the advantages of graphite over grease in a desert environment (sand can accumulate in a wet lubricant).

As the war on terrorism has expanded and more Guard members have been deployed, the need for combat weapons training has grown dramatically. The committed professionals at MTU have risen to the challenge, going to great lengths, working long hours at home and abroad trying to ensure that every soldier they can reach is a confident and professional warrior. **GX**

GX would very much like to thank SFC Rayner, LTC Sandra Lane, and all the soldiers at Camp Robinson who took the time to contribute to this story.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Stalking with an M24
BELOW: (Clockwise from top left) Teaching the MK 19 grenade machine gun; Range time with the M82; Breaking down the M249 SAW; Coordinated M203 fire



SHOOTING FOR A PROMOTION

Under the Select, Train, Promote, Assign Program (STPA), you can earn points toward promotion by qualifying on most weapons systems. The different levels of qualification and the corresponding are: Marksman - 25 points, Sharpshooter - 50 points, Expert - 75 points.

For available classes, or competition shooting click on the MTU link at: www.arguard.org



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(E1-E6)*

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JUST THE FACTS

THE TRUTH ABOUT PROMOTIONS WHILE DEPLOYED

OFFICERS

- Mobilized officers failing to complete Officer Education System (OES) prerequisite training for promotion remain non-promotable while mobilized.
- Exceptions to policy of OES system training requirements are considered for Warrant Officers on a case-by-case basis. Reference ARNG PPG Annex F.
- Reserve Component Officers are not authorized to attend professional education courses while deployed OCONUS.
- ARNG officers may continue to be considered for promotion under the unit vacancy promotion process IAW NGR 600-100. However, only officers within the mobilized unit may be considered for unit vacancy promotion while the unit is mobilized. Note: ARNG officers are not authorized unit vacancy promotions in non-deployed units.
- ARNG officers DA selected for promotion by a DA mandatory promotion board, but not promoted before being mobilized, or who were selected for promotion by a DA mandatory promotion board while mobilized, will have the following options:

(a) Officers may be promoted immediately when appointed in the state against a position, of the higher grade, the officer will occupy upon demobilization. This policy applies only to DA mandatory promotion selectees; it does not apply to unit promotions or to officers selected for promotion to Captain who do not possess a baccalaureate degree. While this is authorized, the states are not required to promote individuals utilizing this procedure. Guidance on the procedures to be utilized for promotion of officers was published in the Memorandum, NGB-ARH, subject: Promotion of Mobilized ARNG Officers who are Selected for Promotion by a Department of the Army (DA) Mandatory Promotion Board, dated 30 January 2004.

(b) Delay the promotion for up to three years for LTC and below. Upon approaching his/her maximum time in grade (TIG) date while still mobilized, the officer can request a delay of promotion IAW AR 135-155, Chapter 4, Section IV. This may be to the officer's advantage if the officer's maximum TIG date is late in the period of mobilization,

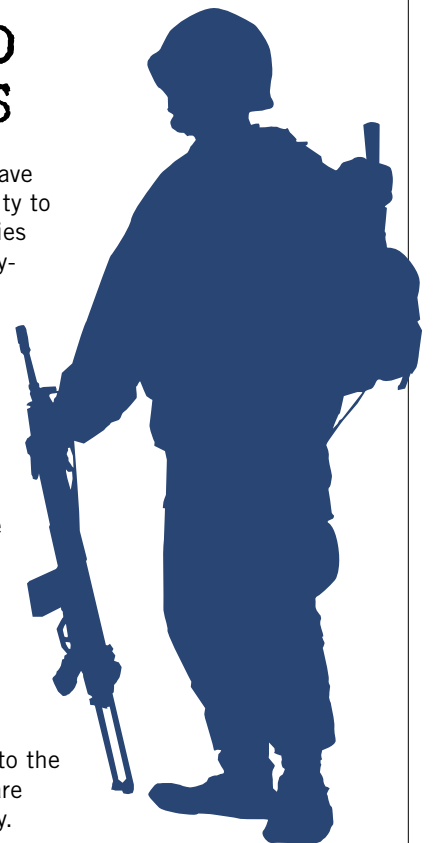
affording the officer a longer period to find a suitable position in the selected reserve. Those officers DA-selected for promotion to COL (O-6) should refer to the Memorandum published on an annual basis.

(c) Decline the promotion. At any time prior to or upon reaching maximum TIG date, the officer can choose to decline the promotion. Upon doing so, the officer's name will be removed from the promotion list and the officer will be considered to have been non-selected for promotion. The provisions of AR 135-155, paragraph 4-28, apply.

(d) A mobilized officer who is selected for promotion by a DA mandatory promotion board and is on an approved promotion list shall (if not promoted sooner or removed from the promotion list by the President or declination) be promoted without regard to the existence of a vacancy, on the date on which the officer completes the maximum years of service in grade as indicated on table 1. (The reference for this is section 14304(b) title 10).

ENLISTED SOLDIERS

- Enlisted Soldiers have the same opportunity to compete for unit vacancies regardless of their deployment status. Deployed Soldiers have an even greater advantage for vacancies within the deployed unit; they only compete with Soldiers assigned within the deployed unit. However, deployed Soldiers on the States' enlisted promotion lists remain eligible for unit vacancies based on their elections on the NGB Form 4100. If selected, they will be promoted against that vacancy and reassigned to the new position after they are released from active duty.



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➤ The time required to produce promotion orders is the same during deployment as for Soldiers in units that are not deployed. Commanders of mobilized units must coordinate and receive approval from the United States Army Human Resources Command-Alexandria (referred to HRC-Alexandria), before States may issue promotion orders. The coordination process normally takes 2-3 days.

➤ Soldiers assigned to a non-deployed unit in the rear, can only compete for promotion against vacancies within non-deployed units in their assigned State.

➤ Only deployed Soldiers in grade E3 are authorized advancement to E4 without regard to duty qualification or position vacancy upon reaching 26 months time in service.

➤ ARNG Soldiers either deployed or non-deployed must be selected and promoted against a valid vacancy.

➤ Mobilized SGT through SFC who are fully qualified in their current grade, including NCOES, are authorized to be promoted while mobilized without completion of the next level of NCOES. However, they must complete the NCOES requirements for their new grade within 24 months after REFRAD before eligible for further promotion. The first general officer in a Soldier's chain of command may extend the time requirement for one additional year based upon extenuating circumstances. Reserve Component Soldiers with reporting dates greater than two months will deploy with their unit and may be rescheduled for a course upon tour completion. Mobilized Soldiers may attend NCOES courses while deployed with approval of their commander in theater.

➤ All NCOES requirements for the rank in which promoted must be fulfilled before further promotion consideration.

➤ Soldiers who completed the common core (Phase 1) of BNCOC or ANCOC prior to being called to active duty under 10 USC 12302 or 12304 will attend the next phase with 24 months after REFRAD. Waivers are authorized for an additional one year. **GX**

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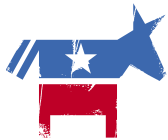
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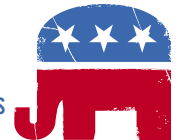
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Photos by Mark Lyons/EPA/Landov (John Kerry) and Jason Reed/Reuters (George Bush)



SINCE BEFORE OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED, GUARD MEMBERS HAVE FOUGHT AND DIED TO GIVE THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS THE RIGHT TO VOTE. TODAY, SOLDIERS ARE LABORING TO OFFER THIS SAME FREEDOM TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. EVERY AMERICAN HAS A PATRIOTIC DUTY TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES PAST AND PRESENT BY BECOMING AN INFORMED VOTER. IN AN EFFORT TO HELP OUR READERS MAKE AN EDUCATED DECISION IN NOVEMBER, WE ASKED BOTH CANDIDATES 12 QUESTIONS ON MILITARY ISSUES AND CONCERNS. THEIR RESPONSES ARE PRINTED HERE UNEDITED.



1. The Global War on Terrorism has seen the greatest use of the National Guard since WW II. How do you see the National Guard's Mission evolving over the next several years?

JK: In order to lead abroad we must be secure at home. The National Guard has played an important role in our operations both in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have made tremendous sacrifices, all in the name of freedom. When I am Commander in Chief, I will make sure the National Guard, as an important additional duty, is part of an integrated homeland security strategy.

GB: The war on terror has helped transform the mission of our military, and we are actively working to enhance our readiness, responsiveness, and capabilities. There is an ongoing process of moving some skill sets from the active force to the National Guard and Reserve while taking other skill sets that are in the National Guard and Reserve and moving them to the active force. We are looking at the long-term implications of longer deployments to help us understand adjustments in programs and forces that may be needed.

2. Do you favor expanding the U.S. Military in order to better respond to the Global War on Terrorism?

JK: Yes, I believe we must add 40,000 troops to the active-duty Army to prevent and prepare for other possible conflicts and win the war on terror. As President, I will ensure that our military has sufficient troop strength to protect our national security without placing an undue burden on the men and women of our armed forces. As part of this increase, I will double overall Army Special Forces capabilities, and I will increase by 1,200 the number of civil affairs personnel - 200 active-duty and 1,000 reserves.

Currently, the Bush administration is relying on temporary solutions including "Stop Loss" orders, recalling the Individual Ready Reserve and extending tours to meet our commitments. These temporary measures have increased the burden on our troops and their families without addressing the underlying reality: we need more troops.

GB: Military commanders in the field tell me they have the personnel and resources they need. If they need more, I will make sure they get it. We have the resources now to meet current and potential threats. I have great confidence in the men and women of our armed forces, and our nation greatly appreciates their service and honors their sacrifices. In my role as Commander in Chief, my pledge to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines is that they will have what they need to get the job done. Our enemies need to know that we are determined, and any effort to test us will draw a strong response. We will meet any test with all the might of this great country.

3. How do you propose to deal with Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, and how does our involvement in Iraq help or hinder that growing threat?

JK: The Bush administration has been on the sidelines while Iran has advanced their nuclear program. America needs to lead - a nuclear armed Iran is unacceptable.

I have proposed a realistic strategy for international action against Iran -- organizing a group of states that will offer the nuclear fuel they need for peaceful purposes and take back the spent fuel so they can't divert the nuclear fuel to build a weapon.

We must make clear to Iran that we will lead an international effort to push for tough measures including sanctions if they do not accept this offer and give up their uranium enrichment program and allow verifiable assurances that they are not trying to develop nuclear weapons.

We rushed into war with Iraq because George Bush told the American people that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction and had ties to Al Qaeda - neither proved to be true. The Bush administration has demonstrated time and time again their incompetence in dealing with the real threats that we face, and we are less safe because of it.

GB: The United States has been very actively and aggressively mobilizing the international community to join in our efforts to eliminate the threat of nuclear proliferation that Iran poses to the world. Already our allies have begun to respond. Through the influence of European countries, we have obtained a commitment from Iran to comply with the additional International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) demands. And the IAEA is beginning to take stronger action against Iran, bringing us closer to ending its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.

A free Iraq will send a clear message to people in Iran that free societies are possible. As we pursue the war on terror, our actions prove our resolve, and we will continue to work with the international community to eliminate these threats.

"A free Iraq will send a clear message to people in Iran that free societies are possible."

- President George W. Bush

4. How do you propose to reduce the threat of North Korea's nuclear capability, and in what capacity should our allies in the region (such as Japan and South Korea) participate?

JK: I will not ignore growing nuclear dangers. As President, I will work with our allies to reduce tensions and get the six-party talks back on track - I applaud the efforts of South Korea in trying to move this process forward. We must be prepared to talk directly with the North Koreans as part of the six-party talks. This problem is too urgent to allow China, or others at the table, to speak for us. We must work together with our allies to get a comprehensive agreement that addresses the full range of issues of concern and with rigorous verification for the complete and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

GB: We are also pursuing threats posed by nuclear arms proliferation in North Korea. We have created the six-party framework in which all of North Korea's neighbors have firmly stated that North Korea must end its nuclear weapons programs in order to be a part of the international community. We are pleased that China, which has long been North Korea's only benefactor in the international community, has joined its fellow nations in placing diplomatic pressure on North Korea.

5. The current administration has announced its intention to remove troops from Germany and South Korea. How should those troops be redeployed?

JK: As for President Bush's plan to withdraw 70,000 troops from Asia and Europe, nobody wants to bring troops home more than those of us who have fought in foreign wars. But it needs to be done at the right time and in a sensible way. This is not that time or that way. Let's be clear: the President's vaguely stated plan does not strengthen our hand in the war against terror. And in no way relieves the strain on our overextended military personnel. And this hastily announced plan raises more doubts about our intentions and our commitments than it provides real answers. For example, why are we unilaterally withdrawing 12,000 troops from the Korean Peninsula at the very time we are negotiating with North Korea - a country that really has nuclear weapons? This is clearly the wrong signal to send at the wrong time.

GB: As part of our entire global posture realignment process to meet new and emerging threats, our military leaders have determined that the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry will be relocated from South Korea to Iraq. Any redeployment of a brigade from South Korea does not in any way diminish our commitment to South Korea and the region. We believe the remaining forces along with our South Korean partners are in a high state of training and readiness and can address any threats on the peninsula.

Continued page 62 >>

6. What, if any, role should the U.N. play in shaping our foreign policy?

JK: I will never give any nation or international institution a veto over our national security. However, I will launch and lead a new era of alliances to defeat terrorism. We can not win war on terror without allies and without help from institutions like United Nations.

“I will never give any nation or international institution a veto over our national security.”

- Senator John Kerry

GB: I have great respect for institutions like the United Nations that promote our shared international goals of peace, security, and prosperity.

The U.N. must fulfill its mission by holding outlaw states to account, by aiding the rise of stable democracies, and by encouraging development and hope as alternatives to stagnation and bitterness. The U.N. is serving these great purposes in many places. America supports all of these efforts, and we know that more will be necessary. We will work closely with the U.N. to confront terror and to fight the suffering and despair that terrorists exploit.

Protecting the American people and our homeland is my most important job and responsibility as President. I am all for united action, yet America must never outsource our national security decisions to the leaders of other countries.

7. How do you see using the U.S. military for ongoing peacekeeping/humanitarian missions in Somalia, the Sudan, and similar countries that may not directly affect our national interest?

JK: I believe that U.S. engagement in Africa should reflect the continent's vital significance to U.S. interests as well as the moral imperative to help a continent struggling with the scourge of disease, persistent poverty, and instability.

As President, I will work with the United Nations and Africa's regional organizations to address Africa's persistent, disproportionate share of the world's weak, failing states and chronic armed conflicts. I will support effective relief efforts when there is a humanitarian crisis - particularly at this moment in Darfur, Sudan, where genocide is underway. In this case, we should contribute sufficient funds and the logistical support the African Union needs to accomplish this mission.

GB: Our nation condemns the atrocities that have occurred in nations such as Sudan and Somalia and encourages an international diplomatic approach to pursuing freedom and peace in these nations. The State Department is pursuing a comprehensive approach to creating peace in Africa that does not, at present, include a major commitment of U.S. troops. We played a key role in negotiating the April 8 ceasefire in Darfur and in negotiating the entrance of African Union monitors. We are working with the United Nations to organize an international humanitarian force, and we will consider sanctions on the Sudanese government if they fail to cooperate with international peace efforts.

8. How do you balance the pursuit of greater domestic security with the threat it imposes on personal privacy rights?

JK: I believe in an America that is safe and free. I believe we must always remember that terrorists do not just target our lives - they target our way of life. As President, I will defend our liberty and our security at home and will appoint an Attorney General who values and protects civil liberties.

“My administration is preserving the rights of Americans while protecting them from the acts of terrorists.”

- President George W. Bush

GB: My administration is preserving the rights of Americans while protecting them from the acts of terrorists.

The PATRIOT Act, passed with sweeping bipartisan support, is helping to track down terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks. By extending to terrorism investigations the same tools that have been used for years to fight organized crime, drug kingpins, and child molesters, this law is proving to be a powerful tool in the fight against terror. Safeguards for civil liberties are built into the PATRIOT Act every step of the way, such as requiring prosecutors to obtain advance approval from a judge, and the Inspector General of the Department of Justice has reported to Congress that the Act has not been shown to be responsible for a single documented civil liberties violation. In August, I created the new President's Board of Safeguarding Americans' Civil Liberties, which will add even more focus to my commitment.

9. How do you balance the wartime needs of the nation and the emergency preparedness needs of the states with regard to the use of the National Guard?

JK: As President, I will integrate the National Guard into our broader homeland security strategy. To accomplish this goal, I will make homeland security an important additional mission of the National Guard. Large deployments of Guard members to Iraq have actually weakened local defenses because so many members of the Guard are first responders in their communities - fire fighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians.

“As President, I will integrate the National Guard into our broader homeland security strategy.”

- Senator John Kerry

GB: Across the country, the men and women of the National Guard are answering the call of duty, fighting the forces of terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, and helping Americans contend with natural disasters here at home. I know that call-ups and mobilizations are difficult for Guard members and their families. America is grateful for the service of the Guard, their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of their families. Since the attacks of September 11, thousands of Army and Air National Guard members have been called up to provide important homeland security measures, such as additional airport security, flying air patrols, and protecting critical infrastructure and nuclear facilities. My Administration is working to reduce the stresses being placed on members of the Guard and Reserves. We are minimizing the number of extensions and repeat mobilizations by cross-training and retraining some of our forces. Our strategy also includes making use of available military personnel assets, civilian personnel at the Department of Defense, and contractors.

10. Several states have implemented a tuition-free partnership between state universities and the National Guard, and in some cases, the Reserves. Would you support a bill that guarantees all Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty Members of the military free education at state universities, colleges, and community colleges?

JK: Almost every state has some form of post-Secondary educational incentives for qualified members of their National Guard. I understand that the few states that do not have this incentive are working on it and I applaud and support these efforts. As President, I will fight to improve Guard and Reserve educational benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill to better reflect the realities of service and shared sacrifice.

GB: I value the courage and honor the sacrifice of the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and I strongly support the Montgomery G.I. Bill education assistance programs since it demonstrates the nation's gratitude for service. I signed into law H.R. 1292 – the 21st Century Montgomery G.I. Bill Enhancement Act – which increased the rates of basic educational assistance for eligible veterans and active-duty personnel. I have also called on Congress to increase the monthly educational benefit for Guard and Reserve forces mobilized for more than 90 days in the war on terror by 40 to 80 percent, depending on the length of their mobilization. Congress must pass this piece of legislation.

11. Would you support a bill that provides all National Guard members and their families free health care regardless of whether or not the military member is employed?

JK: TRICARE must be expanded for members of the National Guard and Reserves. Anytime a Soldier is called to active duty only to discover an untreated illness is a waste of taxpayer dollars. It disrupts the units with which he or she has trained. And it makes us less ready. I have been proud to co-sponsor measures in the Senate to expand TRICARE to the Guard and Reserve and have great difficulty understanding the administration's willingness to veto defense spending over this issue. In cases where it is impractical for Reservists to use TRICARE, I support government payment of COBRA fees so reservist families can keep their civilian insurance. This is a readiness issue that we must address.

GB: Our nation has called on the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve more than ever in the war on terror, and we honor their service. My administration has also worked to address the effects of active duty on members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. We have expanded health care benefits for Guard and Reserve forces and their family members, giving them access to the military's TRICARE system for up to 90 days before they report and 180 days after deactivation – and I will ask Congress to make that expansion permanent.

Continued page 64 >>

12. What would you tell a recently deployed member of the National Guard to encourage them to continue their enlistment after having endured the hardship of months away from their families?

JK: You are now members of a group of heroes which enrolled its first members on the Lexington Green in my home state of Massachusetts, on the morning of April 19th, 1775. Your recent service to the Nation is as meaningful as all those who entered this hallowed society before you.

Your country still needs you. We need your skill, your experience, your courage. We need the National Guard to keep America strong and free. Every president has a responsibility to the men and women of the American military, and to you I make this solemn pledge: to lead this country as best I can, to employ every tool of American power with the wisdom the Lord shares with me; and to act decisively when America is imperiled. But our security begins with you, and the men and women like you who wear the uniform and serve our country.

GB: Our Reservists and National Guardsmen and women are serving superbly, and their sacrifice and courage are honored and appreciated by the American people. When tragedy came on September 11, 2001, the response of the Guard was outstanding. A thousand Guard volunteers came forward to help that day, and by sunrise on September 12, 2001, more than 5,000 Guard volunteers were on the job. In the past three years, Guard units have defended the American homeland against further attack and taken the battle to our enemies abroad. The National Guard has played a critical role in every aspect of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 185,000 Guard members have been called up to serve on every front in the war on terror.

Being separated from family is one of the most difficult sacrifices that a person can make, and we are maintaining our commitment to our troops by ensuring that they have the resources they need to fight and complete this mission as quickly as possible, and that their families are provided for in their absence.

To the men and women of the National Guard and Reserves: your cause is just and your sacrifice has earned you the gratitude of your nation, and the respect of the entire world. **GX**

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TOO FAST

GREG BIFFLE WINS THE GFS MARKETPLACE 400 IN MICHIGAN

Brooklyn, MI (August 22, 2004) Greg Biffle may not hold the title of the fastest man alive, but this weekend behind the wheel of the No. 16 National Guard/The Flash Ford Taurus, he was the fastest man in Brooklyn, Michigan and that's where it counted.

After rain cancelled qualifying, Biffle started 24th on the grid, but that couldn't stop him from taking 10 positions in the first three laps.

By lap 43, the No. 16 National Guard/The Flash Ford had sped past the No. 97 car of his teammate, Kurt Busch, to take the lead. Biffle led for 73 out of the 200 laps.

"I'm really excited to get the National Guard car into Victory Lane," said Biffle. "I know all of the Soldiers over in Iraq watch the race. They can't wait to see NASCAR Nextel Cup racing on TV. It's really exciting to get them in Victory Lane for the first time [this season]... I'm pretty excited about it-with the Flash on the car, the fastest man alive, maybe he brought us some luck today." **GX**



Photo by SSG Helen Miller, MIARNG

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NOBODY BEATS A SUPER HERO

All Armed Service Members Receive 15% OFF on all Greg Biffle Merchandise.

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AVAILABLE IN 1/24 AND 1/64 SCALE:

1/24 Pit Stop Series Car (GB4-W2-16FH): \$20.00

1/64 Pit Stop Series Car (GB4-W6-16FH): \$6.00



Try as they did, this mischievous band of villains could never overtake our super heroes. Grabbing another checkered flag, chalk up a win for Greg Biffle and The Flash™ in the #16 National Guard Ford Taurus. Justice always prevails when the Injustice Gang™ is in town. Instead of running away with the win, the likes of Lex Luthor™, Cheetah™ and Copperhead™ are running away in shame. Blown engines. Bad setups. And evil in their hearts. Their conniving ways were no match for the co-pilots of the Justice League™. Superman™, Batman™, Wonder Woman™, Martian Manhunter™, The Flash™ and the Green Lantern™ showed who rules the NASCAR nation. Meanwhile, the Joker™ earned a new job on pit road—making sure the cars of the Justice League were washed and waxed before heading back to the shop.



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(S04)

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BRISTOL

DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED TO YOUR PAINTJOB

Photos by Mitch Powers



“ Each one of us is no good without the other. You might think so, but unless you have everyone, it won't work.

We feel good about what we're doing. We know these guys are watching and that makes us so proud. We're not supporting a product, we're supporting our troops all across the country – this means a lot to us, it means a lot to our crew. ”

Doug Richert

Crew Chief, National Guard #16 Ford, Roush Racing
30 years experience including as Crew Chief for
1980 Winston Cup Champion, Dale Earnhardt.



GUARD SPORTS



Dustin Waters, the bullriding son of SFC Gary L. Waters, IAARNG, at the Iowa High School Rodeo in Menville, IA.
Photo by Bruxvoort Action Photography

NATIONAL GUARD RODEO

The Army National Guard saddles up in support of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and the National High School Rodeo Association.

The Army National Guard has signed on as the official U.S. Armed Services partner of both the NIRA and NHSRA. As part of its one-year program, the Army National Guard will set up recruiting booths at various NIRA and NHSRA events around the United States in the coming months. **GX**

For more information visit:



www.collegerodeo.com
www.nhsra.com



KEEP YOUR CAREER IN HIGH GEAR



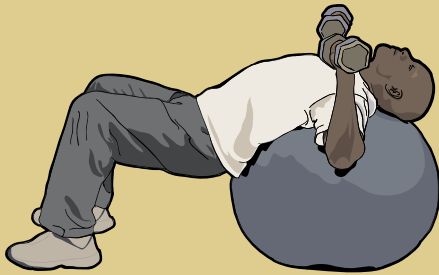
Visit the
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Guard Almanac** sent
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www.VIRTUALARMORY.com

DUMBBELL CHEST PRESS

1 Lay back on an exercise ball, keeping your head back. Balance your weight between your legs and shoulders.



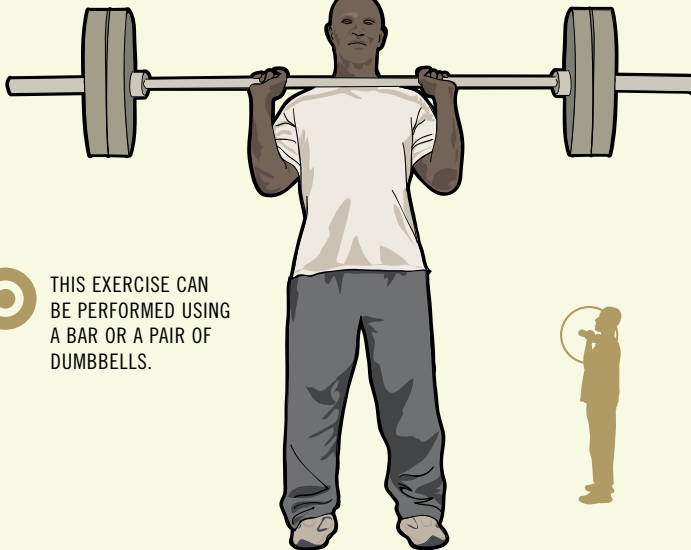
2 Push weights straight up with a controlled movement and exhale. As you slowly bring the weights back down, inhale. Repeat for 12-15 repetitions.


 GOOD FORM IS THE KEY TO THIS EXERCISE, BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ADVANCE IN WEIGHT.

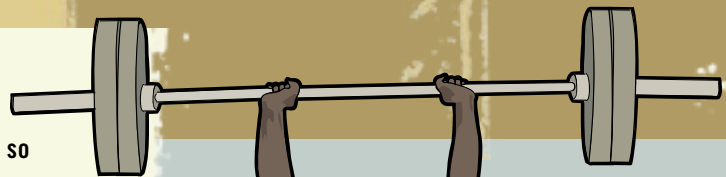


PUSH JERK


1 Begin by holding the bar or dumbbells at the shoulders so that it is in line with the clavicle.



 THIS EXERCISE CAN BE PERFORMED USING A BAR OR A PAIR OF DUMBBELLS.



2 Keeping your head and back straight, push the bar overhead by using a slight hop followed by straightening the arms and landing in a partial lunge position. Your arms should be straight above your head while one leg is in front of the other as shown.

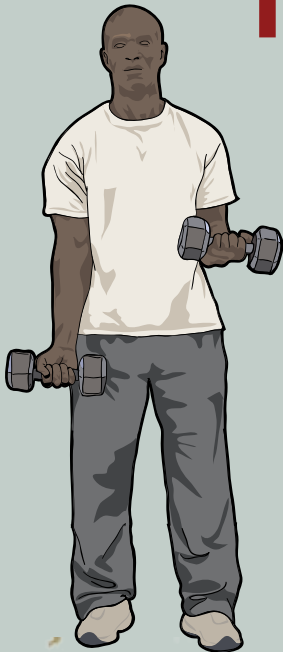
 WHEN PERFORMING THIS EXERCISE FOR THE FIRST TIME BE SURE TO START WITH A VERY LIGHT WEIGHT AND LEARNING THE MOVEMENT FIRST BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ADVANCE IN WEIGHT.

3 Return to the start position by going to the standing position first and lowering the bar back to the shoulder position. Repeat for 6-8 repetitions.

Illustrations by Keith Kawasaki

DUMBBELL CURL

1 Begin by standing with your stomach in and your chest out, hold one arm at a 90° angle.



2 Perform a dumbbell curl with the other arm. Complete 8-10 repetitions or 12-15 repetitions with lighter weight. Repeat the same procedure by reversing positions.



BE SURE TO SUPINATE THE WRIST (TURN THE THUMB AWAY FROM THE MIDLINE OF THE BODY) AT THE TOP OF THE MOVEMENT AS YOU PERFORM THE MOTION TO GET A BETTER BURN.



\$3000 OCTOBER BASIC TRAINING BONUS

Soldiers, if you have already graduated from high school, you may be eligible for a October Basic Training Bonus if you agree to attend Basic Training during the month of October 2004. This benefit is in addition to the traditional off-peak enlistment bonus and is extremely time-sensitive, so you must act quickly.

The States are authorized to provide a Basic Training Bonus, totaling up to \$3,000 for applicants agreeing to ship in the month of October 2004.

If you're interested, see your recruiter today or visit:

 www.virtualarmory.com

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

POP FILMS

WE SAY, THEY SAY

DOES GX AGREE WITH THE CRITICS ABOUT CURRENT POPULAR FILMS?



GARDEN STATE ★★★★★

Starring: Zach Braff, Natalie Portman, Ian Holm. Fox Searchlight Pictures

WE SAY: We love Zach Braff. We love his quirky sense of style. We love his realistic writing. We love the subtle hilarity of his shots. We love that he accomplished most scenes in just one or two takes. We love the music. We love Natalie Portman's natural appeal. It's safe to say – we love it.

THEY SAY: They're split. They like Zach Braff's first attempt as writer/director, but they think it can get better from here.

POPULAR OPINION: Hey twenty-somethings . . . this one's for you.



SUSPECT ZERO ★★★

Starring: Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley, Carrie-Ann Moss. Paramount Pictures

WE SAY: Well, we were creeped out. But mostly because we know that psychos really do exist, not necessarily because of the flick's characters or plot. However, we will say the unnecessary love story between Agent Mackelway (Eckhart) and Agent Kulok (Moss) did us in. Not sure we needed that.

THEY SAY: They're all comparing it to *Seven*. And despite its best efforts, it just doesn't quite match up.

POPULAR OPINION: Ben Kingsley – from Ghandi to this. Cree-eeepy.



WICKER PARK ★★

Starring: Josh Hartnett, Rose Byrne, Matthew Lillard, Diane Kruger. MGM and Lakeshore Entertainment

WE SAY: Don't be fooled by the trailer – what you see is not what you get. This movie is full of superfluous subplots and extraneous details that attempt to cover up its many flaws. Thank goodness for Matthew Lillard – at least he made us laugh.

THEY SAY: As a remake of the French film *L'Appartement*, its twists, mood, secrets, and visual tricks end up leading to nowhere.

POPULAR OPINION: "More drama than a Mexican soap opera." (Luke, Wicker Park)



RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE ★★★

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Screen Gems, Inc.

WE SAY: If you love the video game, you'll love this movie. Its visuals, fight scenes and stunts convince you that you're in the game. And the zombies....oh the zombies.... thousands of walking Undead just waiting to break out into *Thriller* dance moves.

THEY SAY: If you want to see a big screen version of the video game - it's worth the value.

POPULAR OPINION: Its got babes in action - that may be all you need.



SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW ★★★★★

Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow. Paramount Pictures

WE SAY: It's a creative, funny and entertaining story with great acting and intriguing visual effects. Other than the occasional blurriness and hard-to-focus filters, the film's elements are beautiful. It purposely mimics a post-WWII adventure film with its dialogue and style, and we loved the references to a certain 1939 movie.

THEY SAY: It's a great imaginative and visual experience that slightly trails off in the middle.

POPULAR OPINION: Finally, a movie where live action and CGIs (computer-generated imagery) look like they go together.



MOVIE CONTENT KEY



HISTORICAL



ROMANCE



BLOODSHED



DRAMATIC



BATTLE



FANTASY



TEARJERKER



CHASE SCENE



HEROISM



SPECIAL EFFECTS



CHILLS & THRILLS



COMEDY

POPPING UP IN THEATERS



LADDER 49 Our prediction: ★★★★★
 Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, John Travolta

It's getting hot in here! We're hoping for an intense, action-packed, edge-of-your-seat thriller about Baltimore's everyday, civilian heroes. We hear there may be some "hot" spots - don't say we didn't warn you.

WHAT MAKES IT POP:

Finally! We've been waiting for another *Backdraft*.

Release date: 10.1.04
 Touchstone Pictures



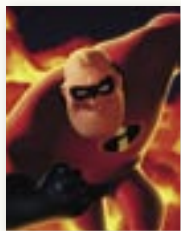
SHARK TALE Our prediction: ★★★★★★
 Starring: Will Smith, Robert DeNiro, Renee Zellweger

Do-doot. Do-doot. Do-doot-do-doot-do-doot-do-doot. DreamWorks has gone and done it again. We foresee another entertaining film meant for the kids, but really for the adults.

WHAT MAKES IT POP:

Will Smith - he's never been more animated.

Release date: 10.1.04
 DreamWorks SKG



COMING SOON: November 5

THE INCREDIBLES
 Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter
 2004 Buena Vista Pictures

ALEXANDER
 Collin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer, Anthony Hopkins
 2004. Warner Brothers Pictures

DVD RELEASES

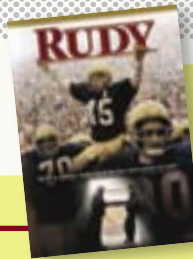


HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN:
 Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson
 Release date: 11.23.04 2004, Warner Brothers

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND:
 Starring: Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet
 Release date: 9.28.04 2004, Focus Features

THE DAY AFTER TOMMOROW: Starring: Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal
 Release date: 10.12.04 2004, 20th Century Fox

SHREK 2: Starring: Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz
 Release date: 11.2.04 2004, DreamWorks, SKG



POP QUIZ

FOOTBALL MOVIES



NUMBER THE MOVIES IN ORDER OF RELEASE DATE

- ANY GIVEN SUNDAY
- BRIAN'S SONG
- WILDCATS
- NECESSARY ROUGHNESS
- THE PROGRAM
- RADIO
- REMEMBER THE TITANS
- VARSITY BLUES
- RUDY
- THE REPLACEMENTS



MATCH THE QUOTES WITH THE MOVIES

- "LET'S OPEN UP A CAN OF KICK *** AND KILL 'EM ALL, LET THE PARAMEDICS SORT 'EM OUT."
- "NO ONE, AND I MEAN NO ONE, COMES INTO OUR HOUSE AND PUSHES US AROUND."
- "HEY YOU WANNA SEE THE NEW TWEEDER END ZONE DANCE?"
- "SHOW ME THE MONEY!"
- "IF YOU CAN BUILD AN OFFENSE AROUND A GUY WHO THROWS LIKE EDWARD SCISSORHANDS, WE'RE GONNA BE PLAYING A HELL OF A LOT OF DEFENSE."

- A. JERRY MAGUIRE
- B. THE PROGRAM
- C. RUDY
- D. VARSITY BLUES
- E. NECESSARY ROUGHNESS



EXTRA CREDIT

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS
 STARRING: BILL BOB THORNTON
 2004, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

OUT NOVEMBER 8, *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS* IS BASED ON A BEST-SELLING BOOK ABOUT A TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM. *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* NAMED THIS AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE GREATEST SPORTS STORIES OF ALL TIME, SO HOPEFULLY THE FILM LIVES UP TO ITS EXPECTATIONS.



ANSWERS IN ORDER OF RELEASE DATE: 1. BRIAN'S SONG 2. WILDCATS 3. NECESSARY ROUGHNESS 4. THE PROGRAM 5. RUDY 6. VARSITY BLUES 7. ANY GIVEN SUNDAY 8. THE REPLACEMENTS 9. REMEMBER THE TITANS 10. RADIO
 ANSWERS IN QUOTE ORDER: B. THE PROGRAM C. RUDY D. VARSITY BLUES A. JERRY MAGUIRE E. NECESSARY ROUGHNESS



Illustration by Keith Kawasaki

“Defend Your Actions” was blinking on the wall sized projection in front of us. We glanced quizzically at SFC Rayner. He was shaking his head in disgust. “Good job guys, you just violated the Geneva Convention,” he sighed. The younger brother looked puzzled then responded slowly, “But we aren’t signatories to the Geneva Convention. Heck, we’ve never even been to Switzerland.”

“Riiiiight,” SFC Rayner answered after a brief pause, “Let’s check the playback”. A few clicks later and it was painfully apparent that we had just rained hell down on an irate but unarmed civilian (but he looked really guilty). The elder brother quipped: “Ah well. I hear that the Hague is nice this time of year.”

SFC Rayner, the combat weapons instructor for Camp Robinson’s Marksmanship Training Unit (MTU) had been running us through scenarios on the latest and greatest in virtual training devices: the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 (EST). The EST is not something you can buy down at your local computer store (we checked). It is available only in advanced training facilities like the MTU. It takes up an entire room and consists of a 14m by 4m projection screen, an integrated computer system that details your success or failure in nauseating detail and actual decommissioned weapons that have been equipped to recoil like the real thing, as our sore and bruised shoulders will attest.

The EST scenarios run the range from “Shoot, Don’t Shoot” missions like the one we Ramboed our way through to free fire simulations of an armored assault on your position (we

highly recommend the rocket launcher). They simulate weather and lighting conditions which, along with a brutal sound system, go a long way to recreate combat conditions in a controlled environment.

“Let’s try you guys out on something a little easier.” SFC Rayner suggested as he pointed the younger brother to the 240 Bravo and the elder to an M-16. “Anyone coming over that hill is a bad guy. Hold this position!” he ordered. A new scenario flickered into existence in front of us. Nine minutes later we grinned at each other over blistered trigger fingers. Mighty warriors we were, holding back wave after wave of vicious pixelated enemies. Our chests swelled with pride.

Then SFC Rayner ran the playback. “That’s pretty good shooting boys,” he said. “Of course, you expended the battalion’s ammunition allotment for the year, but you did stop them.” Our egos promptly resumed their normal size as we realized this sort of work is best left to the experts in uniform.

While virtual training is no substitute for real trigger time it provides a unique opportunity to train for various situations that you may not get elsewhere. If you get a chance to spend any time on one of these simulators we highly recommend it. Not only is it an excellent training aid that will allow you to sharpen your skills before you need them on the battlefield, it is without a doubt the best video game. Ever. **GX**



DOOM 3

Turn the lights off, crank up your surround sound and get ready to be scared out of your wits! Doom 3 is here in all its creepy goodness.

Fighting through the nightmarish environments of this shooter has been one of the most immersive gaming experiences we've ever had. The graphic engine, level designs, and lighting and sound effects work together to create an environment that sucks you in from the moment the lights go out and keeps your pulse pounding well after you've shut your computer down for the night.

Be warned, the A.I. on this game isn't really all that great. The bad guys charge at you; you duck around a corner and greet them with a 12-gauge in the face when they follow. Events feel heavily scripted and after several hours of game play, it tends to get a bit repetitive.

Finally, what almost ruined the game for us: You start alone in the dark with a handgun and a flashlight, but you can't use both at the same time. Our grandmother, God rest her soul, could use her pearl handled .25 and a Ray-O-Vac flashlight to plug varmints in the middle of the night, so why can't a marine work it out? Download one of the mods available on the internet to fix this or it'll wear you out.

Overall, this is a good game and despite the flaws we recommend it to anyone whose PC can handle the hefty system requirements. **GX**

WIN A **GX** T-SHIRT



Tell us what platforms you play on and something about a game you love or hate. We'll pull a name out of all the entries and send the winner a GX t-shirt. Email us at:

 BROTHERSWEST@GXONLINE.COM

PREVIEW: Metroid Prime 2: Echoes

We've been playing Metroid since the early 90's (yeah, yeah, we're old... so what?). So when the new demo for Metroid Prime 2: Echoes landed on our desks, work ground to an immediate halt.



ABOVE: Screen shot of Metroid Prime 2

This looks to be a fine addition to the venerable Metroid series. Its distinctive visual style and arcade like game play set it apart from your run of the mill shooter. Some cool new environments and puzzles along with a leap forward in graphic quality ensure that we'll be impatiently awaiting the November release.

Is it done yet? How 'bout now? Now? <Sigh>. **GX**



TAILGATE



Photos by Raye Dene Berry

**ROADTRIP™
GRILL LX \$170**

This portable grill is usable on either its stand or a table top, and it has a variety of great features. We dare you to find something wrong with this thing. www.coleman.com.

Speaking of Coleman: In our last issue, we listed the price of the RoadTrip Beach Shade as \$200. Good news - it's actually only \$50! That's a lot of shade and a lot less price.



**GRILL ALERT™
TALKING REMOTE
THERMOMETER \$75**

You tell this thermometer what you're cooking and how you want it cooked, and the sensor literally tells you when it's done. Now you can't complain about being lonely - at least the thermometer will speak to you. www.brookstone.com



**PLATYPUS
BEVERAGE BAR \$35**

If only you could bring your bar with you... but wait, you can! Inside this padded case are four collapsible, easy-to-stash plastic beverage bottles. www.platypushydration.com



**PERSONAL
WARM+COOL
SYSTEM™ \$50**

It's like controlling Mother Nature yourself. Flip the switch, wear it around your neck, and enjoy as it cools or warms your body. We have no idea how this works, but the concept is just cool... or warm. Visit www.sharperimagine.com for more info.



THE ANTARCTIC CHAIR \$40

What makes this chair any different from other folding chairs? Who cares, it just is. The Antarctic Chair is rust proof and won't get those annoying puddles of water in the seat. It was developed for field researchers in Antarctica, so it should last for you. www.travelchair.com



CANYON TABLE EL GRANDE \$70

This 12-pound table comes in a bag and becomes... you guessed it - a table. The legs adjust from 27.5" to 33.5" tall, also allowing you to adjust the table legs for uneven ground. Believe us, it's worth it. www.travelchair.com

THE LOUNGE LIZARD \$170

Who knew a 20-pound chair could offer loads of comfort. If you don't "ooh" and "ahhh" when you take a seat and recline into this thing, you need to seriously re-evaluate your level of gratification. \$170 Check out www.travelchair.com for your next mobile party!





GOURMET TAILGATING

By STEPHEN GREEN

It's football season, baby – and that means tailgate parties. So forget the usual witty introduction, we'll have to pass this month on saluting all you fine National Guard men and women, because we need to get straight to the food and drink.

Everything here is easy, and you can do it all with nothing more complicated than a mini grill, a hot plate, and a gas-powered blender. That's right – a blender with a pull-starter. But we'll get to that later.

You already know to bring plenty of burgers and bratwursts

to grill, but what are you going to munch on while you wait for the charcoal to burn?

Answer: Paula's Football Cheese Dip.

You'll need:

- ✓ 1 cup each of shredded Cheddar and Velveeta
- ✓ 1 small can of good red salsa
- ✓ 1 chopped jalapeño
- ✓ 1 or 2 or 9 dashes of Tabasco
- ✓ 2 big bags of sturdy corn chips

Heat it, stir it, dip your chips in it. It's that simple. And when no one is looking, feel free to pour a little of your beer in there. Doing so adds a certain special something: Genuine beer flavor.

Everybody already knows how to grill burgers and brats, but not everyone knows how to make them great. The secret is in the onions, and Shel-Bar Onions are the best.

You'll need:

- ✓ 1 large white onion, sliced thin
- ✓ 1 stick unsalted butter
- ✓ 1 tablespoon (guestimate is fine) Lawry's Seasoning Salt
- ✓ 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- ✓ A small cast-iron skillet
- ✓ More of your beer

Put the skillet over the fire and wait for it to get hot. Drop in the butter, wait for it to bubble, and throw on the onion, Lawry's, and Worcestershire. Stir every now and then while you keep an eye on the burgers. When the onion starts to caramelize, pour about a half can of beer in there and stir some more. Add some more Lawry's and Worcestershire if you like – with Shel-Bar Onions, more is almost always better. When the beer has mostly boiled off, take the skillet off the fire and let people serve themselves. With onions this good, however, tell them it's okay to stack them up high on the burgers.

Yet nothing says "Tailgate Party" like a pitcher of margaritas. And nothing announces to the whole world that you're throwing the party like a gas-powered blender. Several companies make them now, so shop around a look for the best deal. If the guys in the motor pool haven't seen one of these yet, they'll flip.

The secret to a good, cold-weather margarita is adding a little special something to help keep you warm. Look no further than brandy, the secret ingredient to the Tailgate Margarita.

You'll need:

- ✓ 9 ounces gold tequila
- ✓ 3 ounces brandy
- ✓ 1 6-ounce can frozen limeade concentrate
- ✓ 3 cans of water (use limeade can)
- ✓ 3 ounces Cointreau
- ✓ Salt

That makes a good-sized pitcher, but feel free to double it. Measure it at home, make it at the stadium. Pour everything but the salt into a sealed container and put in the cooler.

Fill the blender with ice, pour in the mixture, and let'er rip. If you're really using a gas blender, 10-15 seconds on high speed is all it takes. Behold the power of the internal-combustion engine. Salt the rims of your cups or margarita glasses, pour and enjoy.

Add some good company and your favorite team to the mix, and that's all there is to throwing the biggest, baddest tailgate party ever. Don't forget to bring plenty of soft drinks for the kids, and make sure you've got a designated driver.

One last thing. To everybody at the Denver National Guard Armory: Go Broncos! **GX**

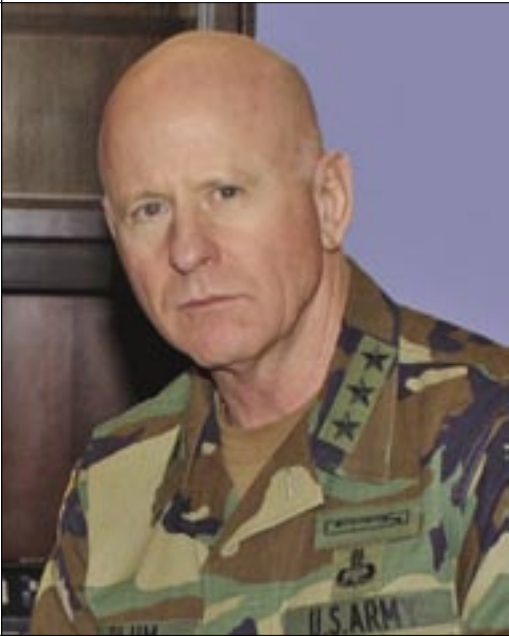


Photos by Raye Dene Berry

Stephen Green lives with his wife in Colorado Springs, where he invests, writes and enjoys the occasional vodka martini. Read him daily at:



www.vodkapundit.com



STATE OF THE GUARD

LTG H STEVEN BLUM TALKS CANDIDLY ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF THE ARNG

In September, GX sat down with Chief of the National Guard Bureau, LTG H Steven Blum, presidentially appointed principal advisor on all National Guard issues to the Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff of the Army and of the Air Force. We interviewed LTG Blum for a “State of the Guard” report and an update on “The Way Ahead” - LTG Blum’s initiative to handle the reorganization of the Guard as an operational force, rather than a strategic reserve.

“We have Citizen-Soldiers deployed all over the world doing everything from support for civil authorities to high-end, close combat, joint operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Soldiers are also involved in peace-keeping operations and all these things are happening simultaneously and being done in the most superb manner. So, if you can’t tell, I’m awfully proud.

We’re talking about a force where people used to question whether the Guard was relevant. And now they answer that question by saying, ‘They’re essential. We couldn’t do what we’re doing without them.’ We are operating

and deploying at a rate unprecedented in the history of our organization. And the Guard’s been an all-volunteer recruited force since day one, for 367

“The main thing I want them to know is how proud I am of their extraordinary performance.”

- LTG H Steven Blum

years. Not one single Army or Air Guard Soldier that’s been called to duty has failed to show up since 9-11. And we have called upon over 200,000 since 9-11. They’ve signed up to be the 21st Century Minuteman. They’re willing to transition from Citizen to Soldier in a matter of minutes, especially if it’s for protecting their hometown America.

Homeland Defense is the Guard’s number one priority. They’re really ensuring that we have 4th’s of July in the years to come. They are the guardians of free-

dom. And we like to defend our freedom as far away and in as much depth as we can, in what I call the ‘scheduled away game against the terrorists.’ But sometimes you’ve got to be ready for an ‘unscheduled home game,’ like 9-11.

The Guard was magnificent on 9-11. We had 8,300 respond in New York, most of them without orders. The first people who responded at the Pentagon were D.C., Virginia, and Maryland National Guard. They didn’t wait to be mobilized; they just reported and did what needed to be done. The Air National Guard went from single-digit, I think it was six or seven airplanes on alert around the whole country, to 400 armed combat air patrols over every populated part of our country within 24 hours. There’s not another air force in the world that can do that. It’s just remarkable. They called in and said, ‘We’re ready. Tell us what you want us to do.’ These kids are a national treasure; there’s no question about it.

When you call out the Guard, you’re calling out America’s hometowns. And when America’s hometowns send their

Guard unit to war, the churches, the schools, the businesses, their friends, and neighbors all go there to fight with them. That's a very strong message to send to our adversaries; and it's a great combat multiplier for our troops. It really sustains our troops, knowing that somebody cares and values what they're doing. Almost everybody knows somebody that's over there. The Guard connects the American people with the American military.

These are great kids. They don't quit. These young men and women that are answering the call to the colors are showing patriotism and commitment. They truly live the Army and Air Force values every day. There's the man who pulled the kids out of the car and saved them, he's applying his war-fighting skills and training to add value to his community here at home [See "Overcoming Fear," Page 45]. Whether they're back here in the communities, in their hometowns or when they're serving overseas, they're invaluable.

Now, my job is to make sure they get the money, the training, and equipment that they need to get the job done and make the right changes to the promotion policies, and the enlistment and reenlistment bonus policies, benefits and compensation to become more realistic for an operational force. The Guard was built for a strategic reserve. We're no longer a strategic reserve. The same skills and the same training and equipment that you need to be successful in accomplishing your mission overseas are exactly what you need to be able to defend the homeland or to respond to catastrophes brought on by Mother Nature.

I think I owe these young Citizen-Soldiers and their families and their employers some predictability as to what they can expect, how frequently they can expect to be called. We need to work very hard to shorten the length of tours ... maybe boots on the ground for six to nine months. They should have some predictability in their lives so they can manage their careers and their families and their education. I think, if we can get equity on the benefits and entitlements to reflect the amount of sacrifice and service they're making, I think the National Guard will be a strong and viable organization forever."

And in 25 words or less, a summation of "The Way Ahead"?

"I can do that in probably four words. A Guard that is *ready*; a Guard that is *reliable*, *accessible* and *essential*. If we're ready, reliable, accessible to the governors and to the President, and essential to the Air Force and Army, the future of the National Guard looks very, very bright to me. The opportunities for these young Soldiers are enormous. There are opportunities for experience and training that were unavailable to their Guard predecessors. This is a whole new world opening up for them." **GX**

LTG BLUM

GX BRIEF



LTG H Steven Blum serves as Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB), Arlington, VA. As Chief, LTG Blum is the senior uniformed National Guard officer responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting more than half a million Army and Air National Guard personnel.

Appointed by the President, LTG Blum is the principal adviser to the Secretary and Chief of Staff

of the Army, and the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force on all National Guard issues. LTG Blum is the Army's and Air Force's official channel of communication with the Governors and Adjutants General. Prior to his current assignment, LTG Blum served as Chief of Staff, United States Northern Command.

LTG Blum has commanded at every level to include a Special Forces Operational Detachment-A, a Light Infantry Battalion and an Infantry Brigade, and a Division Support Command. Prior to commanding the 29th Infantry Division (Light), LTG Blum served as Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Commanding General, MDARNG and Assistant Division Commander (Support), 29th Infantry Division (Light). LTG Blum served as the Commanding General for Multinational Division (North) SFOR-10 in Operation Joint Force, Bosnia Herzegovina.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- » Legion of Merit (with 2 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
- » Army Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
- » Army Commendation Medal (with 1 bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)
- » Army Achievement Medal (with 1 bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)
- » Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (with 1 silver Oak Leaf Cluster)
- » National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star Device)
- » Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- » Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with "M" Device and gold Hourglass Device)
- » Army Service Ribbon
- » Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon
- » NATO Medal
- » Special Forces Tab
- » Expert Infantryman Badge
- » Master Parachutist Badge
- » Air Assault Badge
- » Army Staff Identification Badge
- » Canadian Parachutist Badge

SPECIAL FORCES CHALLENGE



A large group of Taliban soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand dune: "One U.S. Special Forces Soldier is better than ten Taliban."

The Taliban commander quickly sends 10 of his best soldiers over the dune whereupon a gun battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence.

The voice then calls out "One U.S. Special Forces Soldier is better than one hundred Taliban."

Furious, the Taliban commander sends his next best 100 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gunfight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.

The American voice calls out again "One U.S. Special Forces Soldier is better than one thousand Taliban."

The enraged Taliban commander commands one thousand fighters across the dune. Cannons, rockets and machine-guns ring out as a huge battle is fought. Then silence.

Eventually one wounded Taliban fighter crawls back over the dune and with his dying words tells his commander, "Don't send any more men, it's a trap. There's actually two of them."

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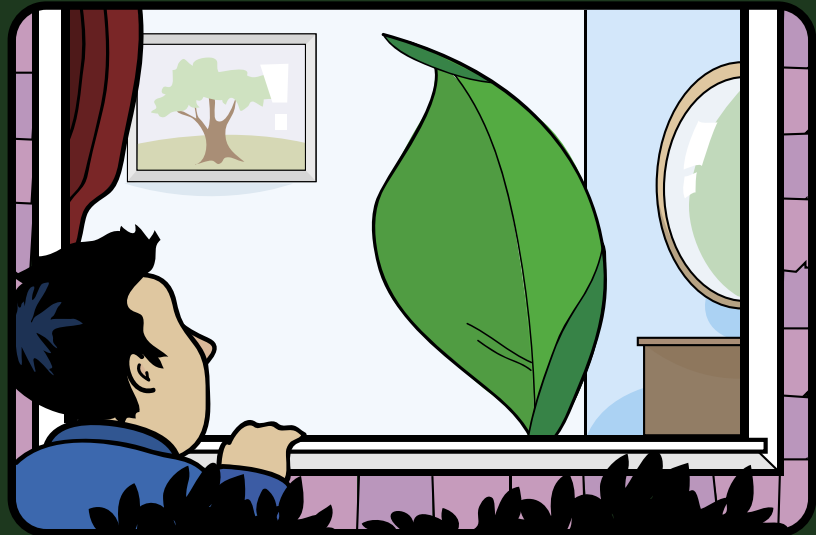


Illustration by Keith Kawasaki

leaf peeper

n. A person who, at the appropriate time during autumn, seeks out an area where many or most of the tree leaves have turned color.

dark-sky preserve

n. A park that displays little or no artificial light in order to give the best possible view of the night sky.

beforemath

n. The events and situations that lead to a particular end



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