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# OPERATION JUMP START: UTAH GUARD HEADS TO THE BORDER

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## DRIVEN TO WIN

#16 GUARD CAR MOVES  
INTO THE TOP TEN

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PAY FOR COLLEGE  
GUARD STYLE

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NCO OF THE YEAR

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GEORGIA 48TH  
RETURNS TO THE STATES



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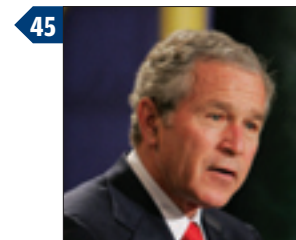
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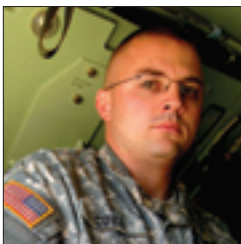
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# Letter from Leadership

Dear Soldiers,

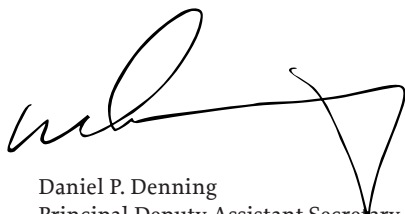
First of all, I want to congratulate you on your outstanding performance over the past year as you deployed and redeployed overseas and here in the United States. You are the Army's best statesmen as you represent us in local communities all over the United States, and carry our message while assisting during disasters or fighting the Global War on Terror.

The Army National Guard has risen to the challenge while executing this year's recruiting and retention missions. You are on stride to make both missions due to the hard work and team spirit of units, recruiters, and Soldiers. In fact, you are having the best recruiting year in many years. This is especially noteworthy given the challenges of recruiting during a strong economy and in the midst of a war. The Guard has shown great agility in quickly pursuing programs to improve exposure and recruiting. A good example of a successful program is the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program. This program is extremely effective, and it shows how Guard Soldiers rally to support their own.

The Army National Guard's retention rate demonstrates the loyalty and patriotism of Guard Soldiers. Retention remains strong throughout the Army and is evidence of the way Soldiers feel about the missions they accomplish every day—whether it be in training for a deployment, fighting insurgents in Iraq, protecting our Nation's borders, or assisting our communities with disaster relief.

## The Army National Guard's retention rate demonstrates the loyalty and patriotism of Guard Soldiers. —Daniel P. Denning

We are one Army with the lines between Active, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers disappearing more every day. The road ahead is still challenging. The Army will remain in harm's way for some time. The Army National Guard will be shoulder to shoulder with their brethren from the United States Army Reserve and the Regular Army as we fight the long war as One Army. I applaud your vigilance and admire your spirit as you continue to execute hazardous duties all over the world. America is behind your efforts both at home and abroad. I offer my personal gratitude for your service and a heartfelt job well done!



Daniel P. Denning  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army,  
Manpower and Reserve Affairs



### BIOGRAPHY:

#### Daniel P. Denning

Daniel B. Denning was appointed on August 14, 2002 to serve concurrently as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Training, Readiness and Mobilization by President George W. Bush. Mr. Denning served as the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs from February 2005 to August 2005. In these positions, he supports Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey with his responsibilities for overall supervision of the functions of the Department of the Army relating to Army manpower and reserve affairs. He is responsible for Army training, readiness and mobilization as well as all issues pertaining to the Army National Guard and Army Reserve including mobilization and deployment of reserve forces in support of operational missions.

Mr. Denning began his public service as a Military Intelligence officer assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency, and served over 20 years as a USAR officer. During the 1980s, Denning held a series of increasingly responsible positions including serving at the Agency for International Development, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), and as a Director with the Department Of Energy's Defense Programs group.

Mr. Denning is a 1967 graduate of Indiana University. He earned an M.P.A. in Management from The American University in 1974 and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh's Executive Management Program. As an Army Reserve officer, he is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

In 1992, he served as Executive Director of the Desert Storm Homecoming Foundation and was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

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# Team Letter

## In the Spotlight, On the Road



**ON THE COVER**  
**SPC David Placencio, 22, of Las Cruces, N.M., who recently returned from service in Iraq, patrols the U.S./Mexico border Monday, June 12, 2006, near Columbus, N.M. about four miles north of the border. National Guard members will be fully armed and equipped but will have little direct interaction with migrants. Their duties are to spot immigrants and relay the information to the Border Patrol.**

(AP PHOTO/LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS, NORM DETLAFF)

Just can't seem to stay out of the spotlight, can you? Once again, the Army National Guard is at the forefront of mass media attention. This time, the networks and papers are clamoring over the Guard's role on our Mexican border.

May 15th, President Bush called for 6,000 Guard Soldiers to support local law enforcement along the southern line. And though this operation is still in its infancy, we want to bring you firsthand information, asap. Many of our readers have mobilized for this mission. Many families are concerned about what to expect.

Fortunately, our friend MAJ Hank McIntire was already on the scene. MAJ McIntire is the public affairs officer for the Utah National Guard and, along with additional Utah Soldiers, was among the first troops answering the President's order. Summing up two weeks work in just over 48 hours, MAJ McIntire graciously penned the opening chapter of the Guard's border mission.

While staying up-to-the-minute this issue, we also slow things down, paying homage to our elders—those grandmas and grandpas who have guided and aided our Soldiers to become the heroes they are today. Our first feature showcases several proud Guard Grandparents and the Soldiers who couldn't have made it without them.

And yes, it's almost back to school time, so with all the benefit and bonus increases going on, we thought we'd give you a brief education guide to help Soldiers maximize what the state and federal levels are offering.

Capping things off is GX Departments Editor Chris West's personal journey into a combat zone, as he embedded for 30 days with the 1/34th Red Bulls in Iraq. For those of you who have followed this online, you know what a fantastic and moving story this is to tell. And, you can expect more of the same as Chris ventures to the U.S.-Mexico border for our next issue. Keep a close eye on [www.GXonline.com](http://www.GXonline.com) for more details.

As usual, it's an exciting time to be in the Guard—and an exciting time for GX as we're looking to be on the road now more than ever. If you've got something going on (i.e., a humanitarian mission to Costa Rica or the Philippines, or even downtown in your city), don't hesitate to toss us an invite at [editor@gxonline.com](mailto:editor@gxonline.com), or pick up the phone and call us toll-free at 866-596-4558.

Thank you,

The GX Team

**MISSION:** To celebrate and support the Soldiers and families of the National Guard. To provide today's Army National Guard members 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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# Letter from Leadership

Dear Soldiers,

On behalf of all Floridians, thank you for your extraordinary dedication and service to our country. Your willingness to make sacrifices in your own lives to answer the call to duty—whether it is serving overseas, responding to hurricanes or securing our homeland—protects our liberties and keeps Americans safe.

As Governor of Florida, I am committed to maintaining the capability and availability of our state's National Guard. The National Guard has long been an integral part of our homeland security. Florida has provided nearly 9,000 Soldiers and Airmen for federal active duty since September 11, 2001.

Florida's geographic location makes it a major gateway for trade, commerce and tourism, but it also makes us vulnerable to destructive hurricanes in both the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The quick response of the National Guard in times of emergency is critical to our safety, our quality of life and our economy.

During the last two years, it has been an honor and privilege to work with our Guard members to respond to the eight hurricanes that impacted Florida in the busiest back-to-back seasons on record. The National Guard was among the first emergency responders on the ground, often before the winds stopped and the waters receded. Our troops provided security and a wide range of humanitarian relief to communities and Floridians impacted by the catastrophic storms. After Hurricane Katrina devastated our neighbors along the Gulf Coast, the Florida National Guard quickly and capably responded to their call for help. I visited storm-ravaged Mississippi a few weeks after the storm and was extremely proud of Florida's emergency responders who were, again, among the first on the ground helping the victims of another natural disaster.

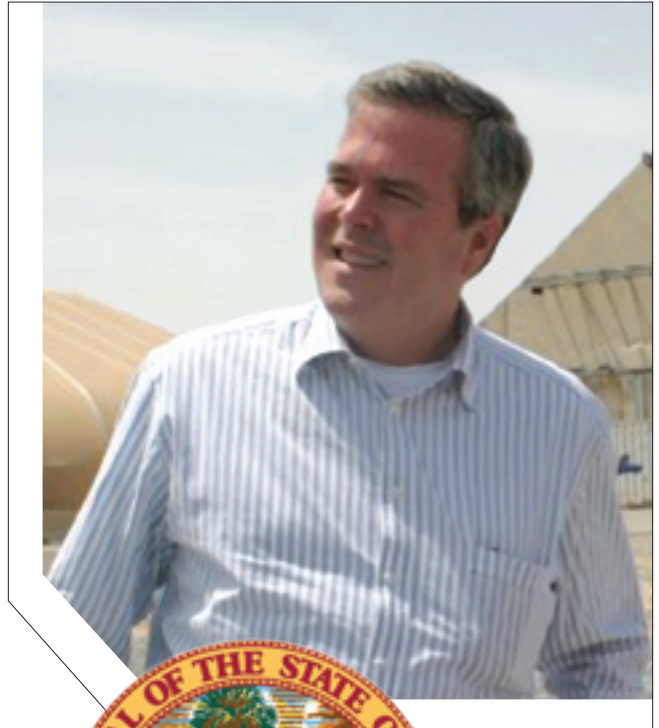
At the invitation of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, I visited our troops in the Middle East during the Easter weekend with Iowa Governor Thomas Vilsack, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin. We traveled to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, meeting with troops from Florida and from across the nation.

The spirit, confidence and sense of purpose among the troops are high and the progress made in the Global War on Terror is undeniable. These men and women are doing heroic work and we must continue providing support for them as they advance the cause of liberty around the world and protect our freedoms at home.

Thank you again for your service and God bless you all.



Jeb Bush  
Governor of Florida



**GATOR PRIDE** Gov. Bush poses with two Gator fans in Afghanistan: LTC Pete Kaye, commander of Task Force Scorpion (left), and COL Norman "Butch" Redding, Task Force deputy commander (right).



# Rants and Raves

## GX DOWN RANGE

Thank you, Chris West, for the great job you are doing. I have had very little communication with my husband who is in the 1/34th. Reading your blog makes me feel like I know a little bit about what is going on there and what he is going through. I cannot tell you how grateful I am. Thank you again.

*Wendy Fetters*

Is there any chance you can keep Chris West in country for the entire deployment?! I have greatly enjoyed his blog. At least consider sending him back every few months.

*Pamela*

## A PRAYER FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Thank you for the insightful copy of the magazine online in my email. I would most definitely like to keep getting it. I think it is chock full of good things, new-age technology, and helpful info we should be sharing.

The Guard experience has been very good for me. My family, I feel is the real hero when I leave to go on these long deployments. The reason I say this is the family makes the ultimate sacrifice. They are answering all the questions from friends, family, and bill collectors. Kids—its harder on them than on us. We know what it cost to be free, they don't really understand, and cannot until they walk in our shoes. So, to all the families with loved ones abroad, my hat is off to you and I am saluting you, because without you we as Soldiers have no real purpose.

I thank GX magazine because we can have another way to say thanks to our families we love and cherish so dear to our hearts.

To those Soldiers on foreign soil, thank you for your continued show of support for a common good. It is true to me that you all are a credit to yourselves and the Guard unit, and state you're serving from. I'm a very proud Veteran who supports your efforts every day, with a prayer:

Oh, Lord in Heaven, please bring the troops home safe and while on mission, keep them out of harm's way. Knowing that always

is not going to be possible, let the experience be good to them and not hurt them to where we lose any more. Thank You, Lord, for the freedom fighters of today and keep them close to Your heart as I will mine. Amen.

Thank you again, GX, for the chance to tell you what is in my brain when I read this magazine.

*Your friend from the Oregon Guard,  
SPC Richard E. Phillips*

## TRUTH BE TOLD

Good morning. My son receives GX magazine, and I usually read it before sending it to him in Iraq. I love the articles and stories and in this particular publication you had an article on employer support and in it, featured Target stores. I've seen numerous e-mails (rumors) about Target stores not supporting Veterans, yet according to your article, they seem to support their employees

*Ms. Benes,*

*Target is a great American company, and based on our research for the article "Great Guard Employers and Guard Members" in our May/June issue, Target wholeheartedly supports our American Soldiers and serves as a remarkable role model for other companies.*

*The GX Team*

## PROUD GUARD DADS WELCOME HOME SONS

Last May, the MD National Guard, B Company 1-115th, deployed to Iraq. Three of the dads of three of the Soldiers placed a sign near the 29th Infantry Division Memorial sign on U.S. Rt. 29 in Ellicott City, MD to show their appreciation for their sons and their service to their country.

You ran the article about the sign in your Oct/Nov 2005 issue in the Rants and Raves section, titled "Proud Guard Dads."

Attached is a picture of those dads with their Soldier sons in front of that same sign. The sons returned home on 11 May 2005, safely, after serving one year in Iraq. The dads again beamed with pride as their sons joined them for a picture in front of the sign on the day they arrived home to MD.

Thank you, Soldier Sons, for your service to our nation. Thank you, Proud Fathers, for showing your love and support to your sons.

*Ruth Williams*



**PROUD DADS** (Left to right) MD Proud Guard Dads with Soldier Sons—SPC Chris Balsam and Fritz Balsam; SPC Pat Carter and Father Tom Carter; SPC Nate Williams and Bill Williams. Below: Photo that originally appeared in GX.



who are service members. Do you have any information about that? Is it true they do not support our Veterans? In conclusion, I would just like some closure to this and would ask if you could please forward the article to me about the employer support that Target has so generously been doing for their employees.

*Thank you!  
Mary Benes  
Proud Mother!*

**AT LONG LAST** Unable to contain their excitement, Amanda and Lyndsay Fisher run out to hug their father LTC George Fisher, logistics officer, Headquarters Company, 48th Brigade, before the formation is even dismissed.



## LAST OF THE 48TH RETURNS TO GEORGIA

By PFC Amanda Luksic and SSG Roy Henry  
124th MPAD, Georgia Army National Guard PAO

FORT STEWART, GA—Dark skies and the threat of afternoon storms over Cottrell Parade Field on May 11th did little to dampen the excitement that raced through the crowd of more than 400 people who had come to welcome home the last Soldiers of Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team. The Soldiers carried out the final mission, packing and shipping the brigade's equipment.

Two hours earlier, the Soldiers had stepped off the last plane bringing the brigade back from its war-time deployment in Iraq to Savannah's Hunter Army Air Field.

The cheers and screams of loved ones echoed non-stop across the parade field as the more than 280 Soldiers of Macon's Headquarters Company, 48th BCT and Dublin's Company A and Hinesville's Company B, both of the 148th Forward Support Battalion, marched toward the

reviewing stands. Also, among them were those Soldiers assigned to the brigade's "trail team" and "port team," as well as Puerto Rico's Company C, 1st Battalion, 295th Infantry.

"It's such a relief to have them all safely back on Georgia soil again," said BG Stewart Rodeheaver, commander 48th Brigade, as he greeted every Soldier with a handshake as he or she stepped off the plane and onto the tarmac outside Hunter's Departure and Arrival Center. "Each and every member of the 48th has been tested, from the time the brigade mobilized until the time it began arriving home, and its Soldiers have been found worthy as war fighters and as peacemakers," he added. "We should all be honored, as I know I am, to have Soldiers such as these among us."

BG Rodeheaver had intended to return here from Hunter to attend the last of the 12 welcome home ceremonies for the brigade. Time constraints, however, made it necessary for him to leave the airfield as soon as he'd

greeted the last Soldier and return to Atlanta to attend to matters concerning the brigade.

Standing in for BG Rodeheaver in accepting the return of the final group was BG Larry H. Ross, commander 78th Troop Command in Decatur. No sooner had BG Ross saluted LTC Jeff Edge, who'd reported the last group back safely from Iraq, and stepped behind the podium, when the cheering from the grandstand became louder than before.

"All of you can be proud of what you've done over the past year," he said looking out over the formation. "You have served with honor and distinction, representing your nation and your state in an outstanding manner."

Turning to the families behind him, he continued, "This is the day we've all waited for . . . the last have come home. To you and to them I say, 'Job well-done.'"

BG Ross had no sooner spoke those words, when one family, who could no longer hold back its joy, bolted onto the parade field and straight into the arms of its Soldier. No

one seemed to mind, though. The crowd in the stands even stood and cheered as the family of LTC George Fisher ran headlong into the formation's first rank and into his open arms.

"This is like the last day of school where you're just waiting for that last bell to ring so you can go," said the logistics officer for the 48th's Headquarters Company. "I know how they feel; I felt like running to them when I saw them sitting there."

LTC Fisher's oldest daughter Amanda made no apologies for her actions.

"We've missed him so much," she said. "They [the brigade] have had him for a year; it's our turn now."

Susan, LTC Fisher's wife, just smiled as she stepped in to hold her husband in her arms and whisper in his ear how much she loved him.

One man, 1SG Barry Smallwood, first sergeant for the brigade's Headquarters Company, had the distinction of being the last man to step off the aircraft and onto Georgia soil.

1SG Smallwood, who hails from the northeast city of Gainesville, GA carried with him the Headquarters Company guidon as he stepped onto the tarmac outside Hunter's Departure and Arrival Center, looked into his

commander's eyes and shook hands with BG Rodeheaver.

"I don't know that being the last guy off the last plane wins me any special honors, but it sure felt good to be back home, or at least as close to it as I'll get for the next seven days or so," 1SG Smallwood said.

What made him feel even prouder is that BG Rodeheaver didn't let the opportunity pass to welcome this last flight back.

"I know he's just as busy now as he was when we left, but you can't imagine how it made me and the others feel when we saw him standing there at the bottom of the steps waiting to welcome each and every one of us home," 1SG Smallwood recalled.

Once off the plane, his attention turned to one thing: getting his people through the process of turning in weapons and other sensitive items, getting accountability for this last group and getting his Soldiers on the buses that would take them to Fort Stewart and the loved ones they'd waited so long to see.

On the 45-mile drive to the post, they could barely restrain their excitement. Not that anyone really wanted to, but "you know how it is—you still have to maintain a military manner," he said with a smile.

When the buses passed the front of Cottrell Parade Field, the feeling of excite-

**It's such a relief to have them all safely back on Georgia soil again. We should all be honored, as I know I am, to have Soldiers such as these among us. —BG Stewart Rodeheaver, commander 48th Brigade**



**NATIVE SOIL** The last members of Georgia's 48th arrive home from Iraq and set foot on American soil for the first time in more than a year.

ment seemed to pass through each bus like a bolt of lightning as Soldiers strained to see whether their families were there in the grandstand waiting for them.

"I don't know that there was a soul among us whose enthusiasm could be restrained by then," 1SG Smallwood said.

And when the families and their Soldiers came together out on the parade field, there was no holding back of the tears of joy, the sigh-filled responses of "God, it's good to hold you again," or "I missed you so much."

The first of over 4,000 members of the 48th BCT returned home April 20, 2006, after a year of combat operations in Iraq. The arrival marked the first of nearly a dozen flights that would arrive over the next four weeks bringing the Soldiers back to Georgia.

"I can think of no job more important than the one that these men and women embraced," said Governor Sonny Perdue, as he greeted the first plane. "These Soldiers are our family members, neighbors, friends and coworkers, and they put their lives on hold to defend our nation in the Global War on Terrorism."

When it's all said and done, and everyone's lives have returned to some sense of normalcy, 1SG Smallwood doubts any will remember that he was the last man off the last plane of Georgia Soldiers from Iraq. What he hopes they will remember are the 26 comrades who lost their lives in the service of their country.

Every time fellow Soldiers recount a story of the time in Iraq, they should remember those who never got to be the last man. **GX**



**WARM EMBRACE** Kim Thompson embraces her husband, SGT Shawn Thompson of Charlie Company, 1/121 Infantry, after a brief welcome home ceremony on April 19 at Fort Stewart, GA.

(LEFT) SPC CURTIS PORTER III; (TOP) COURTESY 48TH BCT



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

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# FL HURRICANE EXERCISE PREPS FOR “WORST CASE SCENARIO”



By SPC Blair Heusdens, Florida National Guard PAO

**CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER**—When disaster hits, the people depend on the government to meet their basic needs of food, shelter and safety. But what happens when the government is temporarily disabled in the middle of a natural disaster by a terrorist attack?

Previously, officials have only talked about what would be done in this situation. In a unique joint exercise in late May at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in north-central Florida, the Florida National Guard and the State of Florida moved the State government and emergency operations center from the capital to an alternate location in the wake of a simulated terrorist attack and a devastating hurricane.

No state has more experience with hurricane preparedness than Florida. With the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west, the state is particularly vulnerable to severe storms.

In the last two years, eight major hurricanes have hit Florida, along with several other severe storms. The State of Florida and the Florida National Guard were involved in the response to these hurricanes by providing humanitarian

**NEW TECHNOLOGY** MAJ Tad Warfel, National Guard liaison for the State Emergency Operations Center briefs Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Adjutant General for Florida MG Douglas Burnett, and other state officials about a new video capability enabling leaders to view real-time aerial video footage of damaged areas after a hurricane.

assistance to those who were affected by these devastating storms. With each new storm, the Soldiers of the Florida National Guard improved their response and readiness.

“Every storm brings a new set of circumstances to work through,” said Florida Governor Jeb Bush, as he addressed Florida Guard and state officials during the hurricane exercise.

This year, in addition to their usual hurricane preparedness exercise, Florida leaders decided to add a twist by creating a mock terrorist attack in Tallahassee, which affected many government buildings, specifically, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). With a mock hurricane on the way, the State EOC and government officials moved their operations to a pre-designated site at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, a military reserve southwest of Jacksonville.

Soldiers from the Florida National Guard hosted the exercise by preparing the facilities and putting infrastructure in place prior to the arrival of the State officials. Mobile operations

vehicles and other new technologies were brought in to be tested during the exercise. The state’s military reserve was chosen as the site of exercise because of the secure location it provides. It also has sound infrastructure and the facilities to provide meals and other vital services for emergency responders.

“Camp Blanding was chosen because it is a safe and secure location away from Tallahassee and is generally not in the storm path,” said MAJ Tad Warfel, the National Guard liaison officer for the State Emergency Operations Center.

Months of planning and days of on-site preparation went into making this exercise as real as possible. Hurricane Zoey—the hurricane simulated in the exercise—was modeled closely to Hurricane Katrina, which hit Louisiana last year. Officials examined what such a massive storm would do if it hit near the Tampa area.

Responding to a large-scale emergency requires the cooperation of both State officials and National Guard leaders. State workers from many different agencies are involved in the coordination of emergency response during a hurricane, and representatives from those agencies come together at the EOC to take the lead in hurricane operations.

“The State and the National Guard train together throughout the year to prepare for hurricanes and other emergencies,” said MAJ Warfel.

The mock hurricane made landfall in the Tampa area at 3:30 a.m. as a category four hurricane and exited on the east coast of Florida as a category two hurricane, with tornadoes following in its path. The storm caused major power outages, communications problems, and damage to infrastructure still vulnerable from previous hurricanes.

Prior to landfall, Florida Guard members were pre-positioned close to the impact area, so they would be able to respond quickly after the hurricane had passed. Immediately after the hurricane-force winds subsided, Soldiers were “notionally” deployed to provide security, assist in search and rescue and distribute food, water and ice at points of distribution.

“We learned from last year to be more proactive and to push resources, equipment

and Soldiers out quickly, rather than to wait for requests,” said MAJ Warfel.

This year, officials will have access to real-time video footage of the impact areas. With the use of satellite equipment, live video can be fed from a helicopter to commanders on the ground to be used in assessment of damaged areas.

“This new technology will provide the State Emergency Operations Center with quicker, more accurate, live impact assessments,” said MAJ Warfel.

The EOC was fully functional and operational before the mock hurricane hit land. During the exercise, state officials in the EOC continued to monitor the real-life wildfires throughout the state, which have affected 46,468 acres of land in central Florida. The exercise provided leaders the chance to assess their ability to function in a remote location and maintain continuity of government.

“If we ever have to move, we’ll have the infrastructure set up,” said MAJ Warfel. “This exercise has given us an opportunity to get a feel for how the plan will operate and how we will all work together. It has validated our plan and given us confidence that it will work.” **GX**



**PRACTICE RUN** FLARNG Soldiers fix an antennae on a state mobile operations vehicle during a hurricane exercise at Camp Blanding Training Center.

# FLARNG ASSISTS IN SAVING AFGHAN CHILDREN

By SSG Thomas Kielbasa, USAF  
Special to American Forces Press Service  
Courtesy of Defend America

JACKSONVILLE, FL—Two Afghan children are receiving life-saving treatment in the United States thanks in part to the efforts of members of the Florida Army National Guard serving in Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, medical personnel working with the 53rd Infantry Brigade near Kabul, Afghanistan, identified two local boys—2-year-old Azad Kofi and 8-year-old Tamin Sawari—with congenital heart defects who desperately needed surgery. Dr. (COL) Ronald Renuart Sr., evaluated the children. COL Renuart was on the medical team assigned to the brigade functioning as lead for Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix IV, at Camp Phoenix.

COL Renuart said the children’s outlook was grim if they did not receive proper treatment.

“Congenital heart defects are such that these children would not be expected to live past their teenage years,” COL Renuart explained. “In the United States, we can usually repair these heart conditions within the first few months of life. Over there, there’s nobody who can do it.”

COL Renuart contacted staff at the Wolfson Children’s Hospital in Jacksonville to find help for the boys. Soon, Azad and Tamin were on their way to the United States for treatment.

Expenses for the medical mission were covered by “Patrons of the Hearts,” an endowment that brings children from foreign countries to Jacksonville for cardiac care.

The children arrived April 27, accompanied by their fathers and an Afghan interpreter. Throughout May, they received medical treatment at the Wolfson hospital. Doctors explained that the goal of the surgeries is to improve the boys’ blood oxygen levels and extend their life expectancies.

From the beginning of the mission, each step has been a partnership of support between various government, commercial and charitable organizations. The 53rd Infantry Brigade Soldiers on the ground near Kabul provided early logistical support for the lifesaving venture. Flight expenses from



**INNOCENCE** Azad Kofi sits on his father’s knee, while doctors discuss his heart condition at Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

Afghanistan to Jacksonville for the children and their escorts were donated by Northwest Airlines and the 53rd’s Afghan Children’s Relief Fund. The children, their fathers and their interpreter are staying at a Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville throughout the duration of treatment and recovery.

“To truly win the Global War on Terrorism, we truly need to win the hearts and minds of the people in Afghanistan, Iraq, and these countries that have been under terrorist control for years,” COL Renuart said during a press conference in Jacksonville on May 1. “And this may be a step toward doing that—maybe only a small step, but it is important to show the goodwill of the U.S. people.”

According to hospital staff, the younger boy Azad has a single functioning ventricle, which has led to severely impaired oxygen levels. Eight-year-old Tamin suffers from a condition called “tetralogy of fallot,” a combination of four specific defects that causes chronically poor circulation.

Treatment for this level of cardiovascular care typically costs more than \$40,000, according to the Wolfson hospital. **GX**

(RIGHT) SFC BLAIR HEUSDENS; (TOP) SSG THOMAS KIELBASA, USAF

# 115TH RETURNS AFTER 15 MONTHS



**VICTORY FLAG** CPT Budd Vogrinec, left, and 1SG Wesley Glenn are the first to emerge from the aircraft waving the colors of the 115th.

By MAJ Hank McIntire  
Utah National Guard PAO

SALT LAKE CITY, UT—When Utah National Guard officials arrived at the Salt Lake Air Base on April 14 at 5:30 a.m. in preparation for the 7:30 a.m. arrival of the 115th Maintenance Company, they were greeted by dozens of family members already lined up at the front gate.

Spouses, parents, and children of Soldiers seemed happy to stand and wait in the predawn darkness as efforts were made to open buildings, turn on lights and quickly set up tables and chairs.

Selected members of the 23rd Army Band played “God Bless America” and other patriotic tunes in North Hangar as families continued to arrive and huddle together in anticipation of the arrival of the Southwest Airlines charter jet from Fort Bliss, TX, where the approximately 120 Soldiers of the 115th had spent the previous few days conducting demobilization processing.

The 115th was mobilized in January 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They performed vehicle maintenance and provided

security at forward operating bases and in logistical support areas in Iraq.

“I’m ecstatic. My heart has been pounding all morning. I can’t stop crying, but it’s just tears of joy,” said Lynnae Chilcott as she waited for her husband, SGT Thomas Chilcott, to arrive with his fellow Soldiers.

When the aircraft door opened and the first Soldier stuck his head out, the crowd erupted in a mixture of shouts, applause, sirens and tears as they waved flags and homemade posters.

Making a beeline for each other, Soldiers and families quickly converted the usually orderly flight line into one giant group hug as reporters and photographers threaded their way through the mass to capture those moments for readers, viewers and posterity.

Once the initial emotional rush subsided, Soldiers and families offered their perspective on the deployment, being reunited and what the future holds.

SGT Thomas Chilcott, Radio and Communications Security Repair Specialist, 115th Maintenance Company:

“I was impressed at how well our training went at Fort Bliss and how well and quickly we were able to pick up our responsibilities when we got to the Middle East. I’m glad I had the opportunity to go, but there definitely comes a point when you recognize it’s time for you to go home.”

Lynnae Chilcott, wife of SGT Thomas Chilcott:

“It’s been good, but stressful. Some days were good; some days were bad; some days were horrible; some days were okay—but today is the best day of all.”

SFC Toby Thalman, Food Service Specialist, 115th Maintenance Company:

“It was an excellent experience. We did a lot of things above and beyond our maintenance

jobs: convoy security operations, base defense operations and very little wrench-turning. Hopefully, we helped the Iraqi people and helped get that country back on its feet and get us out of there.”

**Some days were good . . . some were horrible—but today is the best day of all.**

—Lynnae Chilcott, wife of SGT Chilcott

As each newly reunited family made its way home, pride and gratitude were evident in warriors’ and loved ones’ faces alike for the successful and safe return of every Soldier of the 115th. **GX**



# FATHER GOES TO WAR TO FINISH WHAT SON BEGAN

By SPC Rick Phelps, 2nd BN, 137th IR

CAMP SLAYER, IRAQ—Less than seven months after a sniper ended his son's life, SPC Timothy Vandruff of Tonganoxie, KS, who is currently deployed to Iraq with 2nd Battalion, 137th Infantry Regiment, 17th Field Artillery Brigade, opened up about his son's life and death, and maintaining focus while in the country where his son paid the ultimate price.

October 19, 2005 is a day SPC Vandruff says he will never forget. "While we were at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA, we had just completed a training mission. When I got back to the tent, I had messages telling me I needed to call my wife Lorrie," he explained.

The phone call home turned out to be every parent's worst nightmare. "Lorrie told me Lucas had been shot by a sniper and was killed," said SPC Vandruff.

"(The) first sergeant . . . told me everything was going to be okay and that they would get me home," said SPC Vandruff.

SPC Lucas Allen Frantz died on his 22nd birthday, October 18, 2005 in Mosul, Iraq. An infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, he was stationed at Fort Wainwright, AK, where he lived with his wife Kelly.

The flight home was extremely difficult for SPC Vandruff. "The flight from California to Kansas City was rough because I did not know how I was going to react when I saw my wife . . . We had just lost our son," he said.

Pride—that was the word used by SPC Vandruff to describe how he felt at his son's funeral.

"When I saw how many people showed up for Lucas' funeral, I was proud of the support shown by the community, state and this country," he said.

After the funeral, SPC Vandruff was forced to make a decision that would arguably be difficult for any Soldier. The battalion afforded him the opportunity to either stay home with his family or continue with mobilization training and deploy to Iraq.



CPL Lucas Allen Frantz

"My wife and I talked, and agreed that if I stayed home, I wouldn't be able to live with myself," said SPC Vandruff. "Lucas was over here doing something he believed in, and I wanted to finish what he started. I refuse to let my son's death be in vain."

Making the choice to go on with the deployment is one he stands by. "All Lorrie said was 'Come back to me.'"

SPC Vandruff said a "world-wide support system" has made life in Iraq easier. "It is okay because I know I have friends and other Soldiers around me. I miss my family back home, but the support there and here makes it easier for me to go home and put the pieces back together."

Calling up memories of years past, SPC Vandruff laughed while explaining a particular incident. "I got hurt at work one time and was on crutches. Lucas saw me about to go up the stairs. The next thing I knew, he was carrying me up."

SPC Frantz, knew from a young age he wanted to be a Soldier. "He loved the Army. He grew up loving the Army," SPC Vandruff explained. "As a son, he was always there when we needed him. He was a wonderful, good kid . . . Not only did I lose a son, but I also lost someone who had been my best friend."

Money is being collected in Tonganoxie and Rossville, KS to build a monument to honor SPC Frantz, who was posthumously promoted to Corporal. **GX**

**. . . I wanted to finish what he started. I refuse to let my son's death be in vain.**

— SPC Timothy Vandruff

# MONTANA SOLDIER AIDS SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS IN KYRGYZSTAN

By SFC Mike Wetzel, Third Army Public Affairs  
Courtesy of DVIDS

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN—Nadejda Finenko didn't see a whole building—the one with a wood shop, a shoe shop, beds, kitchen, even a computer room—when she decided to do this. She certainly didn't see that man from Montana—the one who would open his wallet and his heart without hesitation—when she decided to do this. Only one object was in her sight, standing right in front of her when she decided to do this. Her daughter was handicapped and wasn't getting the education she needed.

"When I decided to create this school, I found 10 parents with the same problem as mine," Finenko explains, sitting in the office she never expected to have. "We had nobody to help us, so if we wanted to help our children, we had to create a special school for them. And we started."

Unknown to Finenko, another venture started in the late-90's and steered itself on a happy collision course with her humble school. Montana developed a state partnership program with Kyrgyzstan, and these lands came together in military-to-military exchanges. In 1999, the Montana National Guard sought to expand the partnership with military-to-civilian contact. The Guard inquired about projects that needed some help, and through the U.S. Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, they were referred to Finenko's vocational school for the handicapped.

MSG Jim Carney, now retired from the Montana Guard, remembers his first impressions of the school stowed away in the basement of an apartment complex. "It was damp, crowded. There were about 30 students, and the day we first looked at it, they had a new student named Dema who had cerebral palsy. He wasn't able to dress himself, take care of himself, do anything for himself." MSG Carney said he became a believer in the center when he saw Dema on a return visit six months later. "Dema could walk across that room. He had physical therapy, and now he's totally able to take care of himself."

The center's success spurred a commitment from the Guard to help find money

for a modern center. The people of Montana answered the call with donations through the Farm in the Dell Foundation, an agency that works with handicapped children back in Montana. The new Uventus Center opened in 2005.

MSG Carney stayed in Kyrgyzstan after retirement as a consultant for the University of Montana. Third Army Soldiers who visit the country in theater security cooperation exchanges know MSG Carney as the man with the cell phones—he frequently hooks the troops up with all sorts of logistical support. "I know what it's like to come into a country with no support, so I just try to help," said MSG Carney.

Soldiers also know MSG Carney as the man with the pearls—he learned to string bracelets and necklaces to raise funds for the Uventus Center. Soldiers also take MSG Carney up on his offer to tour the vocational school outside the capital city Bishkek.

The Uventus students love to get visitors. They will immediately walk up to troops, shake hands and start conversations, unconcerned that their American guests might not speak any Russian. Pull out a camera and most of the children pose with the ease of supermodels. Anya, a rambunctious blonde girl whose bright lime green shirt matched her personality perfectly, recruits visitors to catch her running at full speed and twirl her around until everyone is dizzy.

Most students are like Anya, who comes to the center weekdays to create art or type on the computers—activities designed to improve concentration and motor skills. She lives with her family on nights and weekends, though some students will live at the center throughout the week and return home

**ONE BIG FAMILY** Some of the special needs kids at the Uventus Center in Kyrgyzstan

on weekends. Parents pay tuition, but since most are poor, they find other ways to pitch in and keep the center running. Some parents work at Uventus for a small wage to keep their child enrolled.

The students produce a variety of goods, including doll-house furniture, toys and shoes. During the last Third Army tour of the center, the students were painting hearts they had molded from clay.

"We hope in the next three to four years to make the school self-sufficient with products they can manufacture and sell," MSG Carney said. Until then, MSG Carney will string and sell his pearl bracelets, the children will make their clay hearts, and everyone involved will pitch in to keep the center open. MSG Carney's heart is firmly on his sleeve for the Uventus Center, its children—and Nadejda Finenko. The couple married in 2003, another thing Finenko certainly didn't see coming when she decided to do this.

"My life is so hectic," said Finenko, who has recently added politics to her education in an effort to address the problems of special needs children at the state level. "When I come here, I can unwind and take my mind off the daily hazards. Children love me. I see warmth and affection in their eyes."

Finenko's eyes have that warmth when she discusses the next big things at the center—holding a wedding party for the first time and organizing a Special Olympics that will bring healthy children to the center for athletic camaraderie with her students. She also loves to talk about the successes, like the 20-year-old student who couldn't read or write when he showed up at the door. "Now he has already created his own family and got a job with very decent salary. He's okay now."

Thanks to the people of Montana, and one retired Guard member in particular, the Uventus students should do much better than okay in the coming years. **GX**



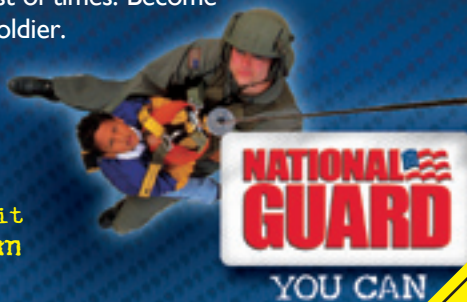


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## TX GUARD, CZECH MILITARY JOIN FORCES FOR CLEAN VALLEY

By TSG Gregory Ripps, TXARNG PAO  
Courtesy of TXARNG

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC—A single boom breaks the spell of the snow-covered scene. Then bright, blue smoke, in stark contrast to the blackish trees and white ground around it, spews from the point of the explosion. Immediately, human activity bursts into view.

A reconnaissance vehicle is the first to appear. This is the warning and reporting cell. It will be the first to detect the agent used in the attack, monitor its effects, and survey and mark the area. Other vehicles arrive in rapid succession. These include a vehicle with its own nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) laboratory; another vehicle equipped and manned to provide security for the area; and a truck to evacuate the attack's casualties, who begin to appear, helping one another, staggering, collapsing into the snow.

The military personnel helping the “attack victims” all wear ensembles to protect them from NBC agents. Those investigating the attack agent wear special blue ensembles, which stand out from the olive drab or forest camouflage of the others. Every one of these people—and the vehicles they use—undergo decontamination before departing the attack area. Those requiring medical attention will be triaged and promptly decontaminated—by being hosed down and scrubbed—before evacuation to a medical treatment center.

This event highlighted two weeks of military training. Quick execution of the scenario demonstrated the planning, preparation and practice of the participants. What made the event unique is that this was the first Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and

Nuclear (CBRN) exercise jointly executed by members of the Army of the Czech Republic and the Texas National Guard. Twenty-five Texans deployed to the Czech Republic to train with the 311th CBRN Defence Battalion under the State Partnership Program.

The demonstration took place April 11 at the Jince training camp north of Prague as part of Exercise Clean Valley 2006. COL Cruz Medina, Texas National Guard Engineer Brigade commander, and COL Jiri Gajdos, 31st CBRN Defence Brigade commander, made a special trip to view the showcase event.

In an interview following the demonstration, COL Medina cited two reasons why Czechs and Texans were training together. “The Czechs may help decontaminate ours or allied troops in the Global War on Terrorism,” he said. “Also we’re both part of NATO, so it makes good sense we learn how they work.”

The Texans included 19 members of the 436th Chemical Company, based in Laredo, TX; five members of the 6th Civil Support Team, based in Austin, TX; and one member of the 36th Infantry Division, also based in Austin.

“Our people integrated into every part of the line,” said the officer in charge of the Texas

**GLOBAL CO-OP** Czech Soldier Pavel Libich (center) checks a simulated victim with the assistance of TXARNG SSG Brenda Pena (left) and SPC Amelia Vaughn, who performed the role of medics during Exercise Clean Valley 2006. The Czech is a member of the 311th CBRN Defence Battalion while the Texans are members of the 436th Chemical Company.

contingent, CPT Edgar Garcia of San Antonio. “Two of our people even played ‘victims.’”

CPT Garcia related that the days leading up to the April 11 demonstration were busy ones: “The Czechs showed their equipment and vehicles and explained how to use them,” CPT Garcia said. “They showed us the iteration of the [decontamination processing] line; they showed us how they do each job at each point.”

Besides readying the gear, the Czechs and Texans together also built the stations for the exercise, including the triage and decontamination tents.

The Texans were already well versed in response to CBRN events, having regularly trained as part of their state’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Team for the past two years. However, Czechs do some things differently.

“They don’t rely on engineers for extraction [of victims], military police for security and medics [from another organization] for triage,” CPT Garcia explained. “They have full integration [in one unit] and don’t have to rely on outside sources.”

Part of the reason the Texas Guard’s CERFP Team draws from different Guard units is because most of its members don’t wear a uniform every day. The exception is the 6th CST, which is a “full-time active duty National Guard unit available to respond to terrorist incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, as well as other disasters.” The CST is responsible for decontamination in the CERFP.

1LT George Pearson, who has belonged to the CST since its formation seven and a half

years ago, is the new operations officer for the team. His specialties include reconnaissance, surveys and sampling hazardous materials, and operation of technical equipment. His duties on this deployment have included observation, technical oversight and coordination among the units involved.

“The Czech army is motivated and educated and supported at all levels by all levels,” said the only Air Guardsman on the deployment. “They have a civilian and a military mission with few people but . . . with a lot of heart.”

Although things are changing in the Czech Republic, the National Guard allows its noncommissioned officers more authority than the Czech military or, for that matter, the military of any other eastern European country.

“They can see the responsibility an NCO carries in the U.S. military,” CPT Garcia said. The old top-down military structure is changing to allow more decision-making at lower ranks, and the Texans provided close-up examples of how it works.

The shared learning experience exceeded the exercise in other ways. The Czech Soldiers allowed the Texans to operate some of their weapons on the firing range. The Texans, in turn, showed and explained some of their own equipment, such as their chemical warfare defense ensemble, protective mask, radiation detector and chemical agent detection tape.

Texans of all ranks expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to deploy to the Czech Republic.

“It was a great experience,” said SSG Adolfo Gonzalez Jr., of Laredo. “It is helpful, especially to younger members of the unit, to experience a different culture, to see the way the Czechs live—even [to encounter] the different rank structure.”

“We welcome the opportunity to show you how we can operate,” said MAJ Karel Dvorc, 311th CBRN Defence Battalion commander, through 1LT Milos Kaltenbrunner, who translated for him.

“The demonstration was excellent. I hope this is just the beginning of cooperation between us.”

COL Medina said he had no doubt the Texas Guard and the Czech armed forces would learn more from each other. “The Czech army is a world-class organization in chemical warfare,” COL Medina said. “We want to host the Czechs next year.”

**TEXAS-CZECH PARTNERSHIP VALUABLE TO DIPLOMACY** The program that pairs the Texas National Guard with the Czech military receives high marks from the U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The State Partnership Program, instigated following the fall of the Iron Curtain and the emergence of fledgling democracies in eastern Europe, links “National Guard states and territories with partner countries for the purpose of fostering mutual interests and establishing habitual long-term relationships across all levels of society.” Although the program has since expanded to other areas of the world, the Texas National Guard has “partnered” with the Czech armed forces since 1993.

“The program is part of our overall relations with the Czech Republic,” explained Ambassador William J. Cabaniss. “It is a military relationship. It is a good connection.”

The Czech armed forces find it very beneficial to train with U.S. military.”

Besides enabling the Czech and U.S. military to train together, he said, the program allows the U.S. military to represent the United States to the Czech Republic with a high degree of professionalism and proficiency.

Mr. Cabaniss said the greatest thing about his job is “representing our country to an inspiring country like the Czech Republic that has come out of the captivity of Communism.”

He first got a close look at a State Partnership Program exercise last year when Czech Soldiers and Texas Guard members trained together in Hohenfels, Germany. “The terrorism [scenario] was very authentic,” Mr. Cabaniss said. “It was real-life training just short of the real thing.”

“I have a great deal of respect for the Texas National Guard, its interest in the Czech Republic and in developing well-trained NATO troops,” added the ambassador. **GX**

**It is helpful, especially to younger members of the unit, to experience a different culture . . .**

—SSG Adolfo Gonzalez Jr



**WARNING SIGNAL** Blue smoke contrasts with its black and white surroundings to indicate a simulated attack with a suspected chemical agent.

TSG GREGORY RIPPES

# NY TIMES JOB MARKET REPRISES SALUTE OUR HEROES

Courtesy of Salute Our Heroes

NEW YORK, NY—There is still one date left for The New York Times Job Market's Salute Our Heroes: The Veterans Job Fair & Career Expo, a series of events designed to connect job candidates who have served in the military with employers who want to hire them. The events attract hundreds of employers and recruiters looking for talented and highly motivated job candidates who have served our country.

The enthusiastic response of both employers and Veterans to the inaugural "Salute Our Heroes" in New York City last year prompted The New York Times to expand its successful program of exciting, celebratory Veteran recruitment events to four U.S. cities in 2006. In May, the event took place in Chicago, followed by Boston in June, and Tampa in July.

The last stop is back in New York on Monday, November 6 at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City.

Each of these events will provide former servicemen and women—and the spouses of active-duty military personnel—with myriad job opportunities, career seminars, résumé-writing workshops and more. They also will offer employers the ability to demonstrate their commitment to hiring Veterans.

"Major companies throughout America recognize that Veterans bring to the workplace many intangibles that go beyond the résumé—communication and technological skills, teamwork, loyalty, a tireless work ethic, attention to detail, and so much more," said Thomas L. Bock, national commander, The American Legion. "That is why Veterans deserve a special opportunity like this to connect with employers who value those qualities in their staff and managers. The Legion is proud to help make that connection as a partner in Salute Our Heroes."

"Salute Our Heroes" is being presented in partnership with leading Veteran's organizations and government agencies. These organizations—including The American



Legion, U.S.O., Hire Vets First, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and the Coalition To Salute America's Heroes—will assist The New York Times in attracting qualified job candidates, lining up a wide variety of public and private sector employers, presenting educational and other programs for attendees, and providing on-site services such as accommodations for disabled Veterans.

"The success of the first 'Salute Our Heroes' last November was extremely gratifying," said Jyll F. Holzman, senior vice president of advertising, The New York Times. "We were able to salute the men and women – and their families – whose courage and sacrifice inspire us all, and to provide many of them with great jobs. Expanding into key markets across America will give many more employers the opportunity to honor those who defended our country and to add great, diverse talent to their workforce."

Interested Veterans or spouses of active-duty military personnel can find more information at [www.nytimes.com/saluteourheroes](http://www.nytimes.com/saluteourheroes), where they can complete the pre-registration required for attendance. Qualified job seekers who are unable to attend also can make their information available to participating employers through the online registration process. **GX**

## ABOUT JOB MARKET

Job Market, the print and online recruitment services offering of The New York Times, provides employers and job seekers with comprehensive resources to streamline the recruitment process. Job Market appears in The New York Times every Sunday and is updated throughout the week at [NYTimes.com](http://NYTimes.com), where job seekers can find job listings, career-related Times articles, exhaustive company research, a résumé database and valuable career resources.

Through the newspaper's national audience, which includes 4.5 million weekday readers and 5.2 million Sunday readers as well as the 1.4 million average daily unique visitors to [NYTimes.com](http://NYTimes.com), The New York Times Job Market reaches a marketplace of high-quality professionals actively seeking new job opportunities or considering career moves.

The New York Times  
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Employers can find more information about participating in "Salute Our Heroes" at

[www.nytimes.com/employercentral/salute](http://www.nytimes.com/employercentral/salute)



**EYE ON THE PRIZE** A contender takes a bead on his target during the Region VII Soldier/NCO of the Year competition, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## NEW MEXICO HOSTS SOLDIER/NCO OF THE YEAR, REGION VII

By SSG David Strobel, NMARNG

SANTA FE, NM—Standing on the grass of the middle school athletic field, the Soldiers didn't notice the silent lightning in the pre-dawn sky over Santa Fe, NM. Instead, they watched a volunteer demonstrate the proper way to perform a push-up. The 11 Soldiers and NCOs knew the drill, but still watched intensely. They didn't want to do anything to jeopardize their chances of winning the Region VII Soldier and NCO of the Year competition.

"Get up there, get up there," one Sergeant Major urged on his troop as two other contenders cranked out push-ups alongside. An evaluator holding a clipboard counted, "...38, 39, 40. Gotta go down a little lower," he guided. The gathered Sergeants Major from the competing states—New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California and Colorado—shouted encouragement from the nearby track. "Got two more in you. Keep pushing!" The Soldiers responded by straining harder, getting another push-up counted.

"None of these Soldiers are marginal in anything." CSM Abel Villesca, coordinator for the event, nodded at the Soldiers returning from shooting their M-16s. "There's not a

Sergeant Major here disappointed with the performance made by his or her troops."

After the firing range and a quick lunch of MREs, the competitors moved to another area of the training site. This was where they would show their ability to perform individual tasks expected from all Soldiers and NCOs, regardless of their job specialty. Each Soldier would move from one point to another, demonstrating his or her mastery of five tasks from the most current Common Task Training notice.

A competitor ran to the first test: a Soldier lying beside a fighting position, the evaluator standing alongside. "Give me your weapon," said SFC Mario Trujillo, acting the part of a shock victim. "I gotta get back to my guys." SGT Kathleen Anderson of Reno's 321st Signal Company asked SFC Trujillo, "How long have you been here?" She turned to the evaluator. "If he were able to move, I'd move him into the shade." Moments later, SFC Trujillo was in the shadows of the fighting position, properly treated for shock.

Next SPC Roger Alicea trotted toward the same test station. "I'm thirsty," said SFC Trujillo, continuing his act. The evaluator,

SGT Timothy Dahl, asked, "What are some of the signs of shock?" SPC Alicea thought and, for a moment, couldn't come up with the answers. "Oh, heck. Uh . . ." Then he remembered, the correct symptoms returning to his mind: "Pale, clammy, perspiring excessively, nausea . . ." he lists. SPC Alicea then treated SFC Trujillo for shock, getting the simulated victim out of the sun.

"The competition was pretty tight," said New Mexico State CSM Kevin Myers. "Land nav was the discriminator. After land nav, we got some separation," and the two winners of the Soldier and NCO of the Year started to stand out.

Finally, the Soldiers met individually in front of the appearance board. Each Soldier was asked questions about the current military situation, military history and current affairs as they relate to the military. Professionalism and bearing can make the difference between simply getting the answer right and making a good impression on the reviewing senior NCOs.

"Everybody was very well prepared," said Arizona State CSM Karen Craig, who sat on the NCO appearance board. "Not as nervous as I thought they would be. Or maybe they didn't show it. Very professional."

"I'm amazed at the breadth of knowledge when you discuss military issues and political issues that affect the military," said CSM Villesca. "When I was this Soldier's rank and age, I wasn't that good."

At the awards dinner, the New Mexico Adjutant General, BG Kenny Montoya

addressed the gathered competitors, their coaches and supporters and the senior NCOs from the represented states. "Thank you for putting a uniform on. Thank you for serving," said BG Montoya. "We hope you enjoyed your stay. You

do look a little sunburned and wind burned."

Colorado's SPC Alicea won the Soldier of the Year honors for Region VII.

Colorado made a clean sweep of the competition, with last year's regional Soldier of the Year, SGT Eugene Patton, earning NCO of the Year.

The two winners each received an Army Commendation Medal from BG Montoya, who announced that both Soldiers will be attending Airborne and Air Assault schools and will represent Region VII for the First Army board at Fort Campbell, KY in July. **GX**

**Thank you for putting a uniform on. Thank you for serving—** NM Adjutant General, BG Kenny Montoya

# UTAH GUARD ENGINEERS AMONG FIRST TO THE BORDER

By MAJ Hank McIntire, UTARNG

SAN LUIS, AZ — On May 15, President George W. Bush called for National Guard troops to provide support to Customs and Border Protection efforts along our Nation's southern boundary.

In his landmark speech Bush outlined a plan to maintain a force of 6,000 National Guard troops for a period of one year to provide support in the form of “operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads and providing training.”

In response to the President's initiative, National Guard Bureau officials crafted a plan in which the bulk of Guard troops sent to Southwest Border States would serve in two or three week increments on Annual Training status with the remainder serving on a longer term volunteer basis.

Less than three weeks following the President's call, 55 members of the Utah National Guard arrived at Arizona's southern border on June 3 to spend two weeks extending the border fence, building a patrol road, and installing lighting—all in the vicinity of the San Luis Port of Entry.

Soldiers of the 116th Construction Support Equipment Company, Spanish Fork; 1457th Engineer Battalion, Camp Williams; and the 489th Engineer Detachment, Springville brought their specialties together under CPT Talon Greeff, commander of the task force organized to fulfill this mission.

This group of Soldiers with combat experience ranging from Vietnam to Iraq—and others going on their very first deployment away from home—received attention from every major media outlet in northern Utah before boarding a Wyoming Air National Guard C-130 at Salt Lake Air Base.

Upon arriving at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, they were greeted by local media and a thermometer reading of 114 degrees. Such a reception proved to be an indicator that the heat and the press would be sticking close to Soldiers for the entire mission.

Fresh out of basic training and advanced individual training, PFC Thomas Carter, 1457th Engineer Battalion, expressed his



**A LINE IN THE SAND** Utah National Guard engineers prepare concrete forms for a new fence along the U.S.-Mexico border near San Luis, AZ.

excitement about the Utah Guard being at the border and what he expects to gain from this mission.

“I'm glad they chose the best. It's great to be a part of history and help out and serve my country. [Being here] I hope to get a better knowledge of my job in the Army and contribute to the security of my country,” PFC Carter said.

The remainder of their first weekend in Yuma consisted of Soldiers getting settled in their accommodations and receiving brief-

ings from unit leaders, the Arizona National Guard and the Border Patrol.

When Soldiers went to their worksites that first Monday morning, their goals were to complete 1,000 linear feet of border fence, construct two miles of road, and emplace conduit for 15 high-intensity lights to illuminate the border area near the port of entry.

Because of the timing of their arrival on the border so soon after the President's announcement, media interest was high. Soldiers were met at worksites with a scrum of cameras,



satellite trucks, reporters, and endless questions. They paused patiently, however, to talk to reporters and photographers as they began running heavy equipment to carve out the new patrol road, laying conduit and setting wooden forms in a trench that temporarily marked the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

One unanticipated mission on that first day was to pull a CNN satellite truck out of the sand when it got bogged down in the detour bypassing the road construction site.

On Tuesday, Soldiers began settling into a steady routine: Up at 4 a.m., breakfast at the Air Station dining facility, on the job site by 5:30, taking short breaks for water and an MRE for lunch, working steadily until 2:30 p.m. and then back to the Air Station for dinner.

On the individual worksites, foremen worked closely with their Soldiers and mentored them through the planning and execution of their projects.

SGT Steve Larsen, 489th Engineer Detachment, oversaw the lighting-emplacement site. He is a 21 Romeo (military electrician), who managed electrical systems and maintenance at Camp Doha, Kuwait, when he was deployed overseas in 2004-05.

SGT Larsen is a licensed master electrician in his day job, and he knows firsthand how important civilian-acquired skills are for a mission like this.

“Going to the military school, you can’t possibly learn everything you need to know about electricity,” said SGT Larsen. “My 12 years of civilian experience are very helpful when my Soldiers ask me questions. I can answer about 90 percent of their questions about electrical work.”

SFC James C. Colledge, a platoon sergeant with the 116th, directs the road building phase of the operation, which is to achieve 95 percent compaction on the natural base material, lay a three-inch sub-base and then apply the finished product, a six-inch top layer consisting of sand and crushed rock.

For the fence project, leaders of the 116th tapped SSG Doug Mecham, who builds fences for a living in Springville, Utah.

SSG Mecham, known for his quick smile and enthusiasm for getting in the dirt, says the environment here is comparable to Iraq where he built roads to support troop and civilian movement. He gushes about his Soldiers’ reputation and dedication.

“The engineers from Utah are precise. We like to set the standard and help everyone understand our methods so that those who

follow after can continue what we’ve done,” he said.

“My Soldiers love to do their job. They all want to learn how to train better so that they can help the next individual down the line to do his or her mission,” SSG Mecham added.

Because of the oppressively hot environment that encompasses most of the Arizona border area, the Utah Guard dispatched medics to be with the troops at all times to treat

construction injuries, monitor Soldiers for signs of heat injuries and ensure that they stay hydrated.

One of those assigned to the force health-protection mission is SPC Cody

Slaugh, a 91 Whisky (combat medic) with the Utah Guard’s Medical Command.

“I’ve been very impressed with these guys. Most of them have been to Iraq, and it looks like they know how to keep themselves well-hydrated. I’m mostly worried about myself, being from Idaho,” SPC Slaugh joked.

Putting all these pieces together was CPT Greeff, an Iraq veteran who also served in the Gulf Coast region last year with the 500 Utah Soldiers and Airmen assisting with relief and reconstruction efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

“Our Soldiers are excited to be here and do this real world mission. They have risen to the challenge, and we’re getting a lot of good-quality work done here on the border,” said CPT Greeff. “Arizona is getting highly skilled operators who do this for a living at home. They will get good quality work at a very good price.”

With all the media attention and opportunities to brief visiting governors and generals at the worksites, CPT Greeff gets his share of grief from his NCOs and other colleagues who see or hear him daily in the national news. But he takes it in stride and reminds interviewers that it’s the Soldiers who deserve the focus.

“It’s always exciting when people pay attention to the work that you do,” said CPT Greeff. “These Soldiers get to do something relevant and use their military and civilian

skills. It’s fun to command a unit that is excited about its mission.”

Providing historical perspective and the behind-the-scenes continuity for these Engineer projects is MSG Jimmie Beard of the Arizona National Guard. MSG Beard has spent the last year and a half making sure that Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen, as well as Marines, have had what they needed to build their portions of the border fence and patrol road. MSG Beard is impressed with what he’s seen of Utah Guard members on the border.

Ronald Colburn, Chief Border Patrol Agent, Yuma Sector, underscores the importance of having the Guard assist them along the Border. “This is very exciting. The assistance of the Guard here will free up our patrol agents to secure America’s border.”

So Utah Soldiers continue their mission under the world’s watchful eye. And despite an environment filled with conflicting opinions about their presence here and some confusion about their official status on the Border, such things are transparent to these Soldiers. They know why they have come to the Sonoran Desert and aren’t afraid to say it.

“The reason I joined the Guard was to do my part for our country. This is a great opportunity. It isn’t just training; it’s an actual chance to do something valid,” said SPC Slaugh.

**This is a great opportunity. It isn’t just training; it’s an actual chance to do something valid.**

— SPC Cody Slaugh



**PRECISION** SGT Tina Frame and SSG Doug Mecham, both of the 116th Construction Support Equipment Company, UTARNG, ensure the proper distance from the border for concrete footings near San Luis, AZ.

“This is our border; this is where we should be. Protecting America is what the Guard is all about,” SGT Larsen added. **GX**

**LOOK FOR** in-depth coverage on the Guard’s border operations in the **NEXT ISSUE: GX Sept/Oct**



## VOLUNTEER PRIDE

### Knoxville, TN

Proud members of Tennessee's 278th march past the famed Tennessee Theatre in downtown Knoxville to the welcoming cheers of onlookers celebrating the Soldiers' return from combat.

PHOTO BY RAYE DENE BERRY



Distance from Knoxville to Baghdad: 6,619 miles



TENNESSEE

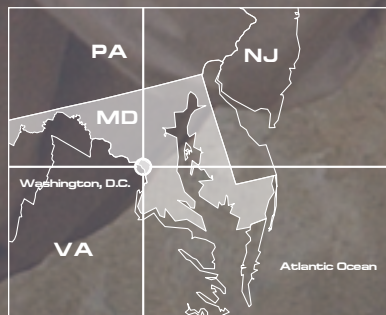


## SIMULATED ATTACK

### Washington, D.C.

Army and Air National Guard troops search the rubble for victims of a simulated nuclear attack during Exercise Vital Guardian in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARMY.MIL





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## QUICK EXIT

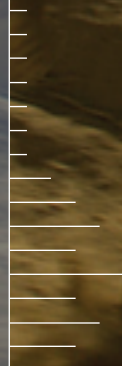
### Near Tal Afar, Iraq

A Black Hawk aircrew from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation, Alaska National Guard extracts Soldiers from 172nd Stryker Brigade near Tall Afar, Iraq, on June 5, 2006.

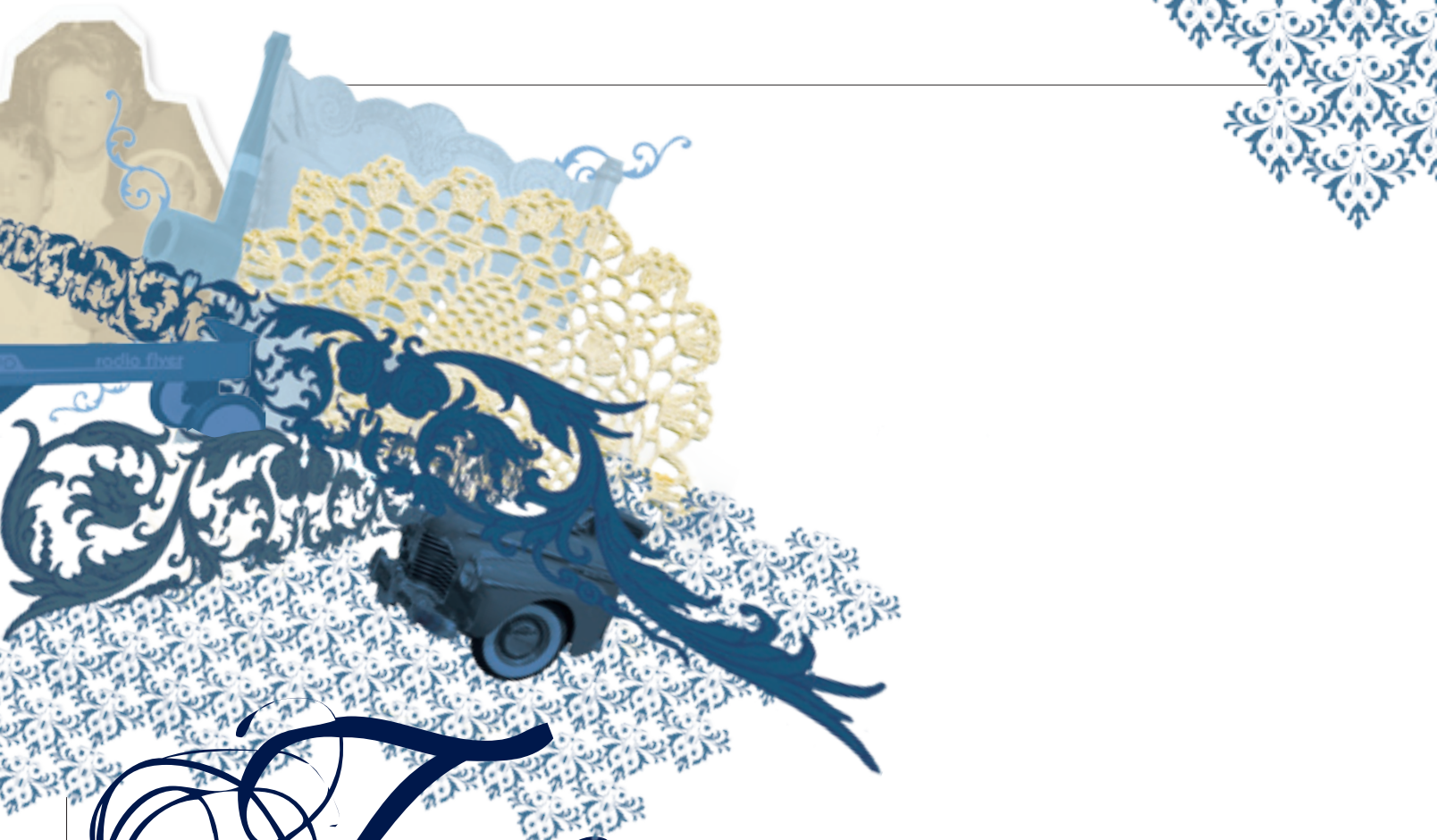
PHOTO BY SSG JACOB N. BAILEY, USAF (RELEASED)



Distance from Alaska to Iraq: 5,883 miles







# Stories that Bind

## **GUARD GRANDPARENTS PROUDLY SERVE FAMILY AND COUNTRY**

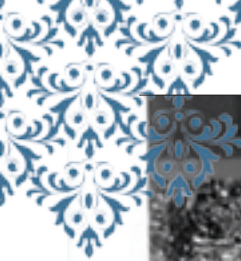
Compiled by Jason West

The burdens of military service can be overwhelming. The support of family members is critical to a Soldier's morale and mental well-being. While spouses and parents are frequently acknowledged for the endless ways they give to their Soldiers, grandparents are recognized less often. The urge to salute the older generations is strong, however, as was evidenced by the response to our recent *GX Echo* call for stories about great Guard grandparents. We received more replies on this topic than we had on any previous request.

The responses fell into three groups. The first group was Soldiers who had been encouraged, supported and inspired by their grandparents. The second was Soldiers whose parents cared for the Soldier's children so the Soldier could serve. The final group was one we foolishly had not expected: grandparents who serve in the Guard. The sacrifice and commitment to family in these stories was overwhelming. On these pages, we feature a few of these amazing, yet not uncommon, tales of great Guard grandparents. >>







**TIE A YELLOW RIBBON** During his year-long deployment in Afghanistan, SGT Daniel Caillouet, LAARNG, knew that his grandmother, Virginia Reames, was decorating a pear tree with a bouquet of yellow ribbons every week. When Caillouet arrived home, he was surprised to find that his grandfather, Eddie Reames (pictured with his grandson), had created a tribute of his own by carrying the traditional yellow of remembrance even further: the Reames' fence line, mailbox, a dozen birdhouses, cattle pen, and even the doghouse had all been painted yellow.

**Knowing that I am following in my grandfather's footsteps of service and that my brother and I made him proud will make me happy the rest of my life.**—SFC Brett Scott, ILARNG

**SFC BRETT SCOTT, ILARNG**

I cannot begin to show the depth of appreciation I have for my grandfather and grandmother. I had an absentee father growing up, so my mother raised me, my brother (SSG Clint Scott) and sister; and [my grandfather] was the pivotal father figure in my life. My grandfather and grandmother supported and encouraged my brother's and my service in the active duty Army and then the Guard. [My Grandfather] was a humble and honest man who won the bronze star for valor during WWII, and fought in the Pacific three years with little break or respite. He never complained, and was the one man in my life who I respected more than anyone.

I am most proud of my Guard Grandparents because they raised my mother to support and honor our armed forces; and she passed that down to me and my siblings. At a young age we learned it is a privilege to serve your country, and you need to do it to honor those who have come before you. My grandfather, who passed away a couple of years ago, along with my grandmother and mother are where I get my strength and motivation to serve. Knowing that I am following in my grandfather's footsteps of service and that my brother and I made him proud will make me happy the rest of my life.

**SFC JARRED MORGAN, ORARNG**

If one couple could be considered for the title Proud Guard Grandparents, I would have to nominate my parents. I separated from my wife, making me a single parent to a nine-year-old and a three-year-old while still maintaining my status as a Recruiting and Retention NCO and Active Guard reserve Soldier with the ORARNG. In AUG of 2004, Troop F 82 CAV received its MOB order and was back-filled . . . mostly from a unit that I had been a part of for most of my Army career. I felt, having trained a significant number of the Soldiers in it and/or recruited Soldiers into it, that I owed my brothers-in-arms my participation. I resigned my AGR position and deployed with this unit as a Cavalry scout.



**TRADITION (right) SFC Brett Scott and his grandfather, Robert "Mickey" McDermand; (above) SGT McDermand received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Bronze Star for his actions in WWII.**



My mother began raising my son Jacob with great enthusiasm, Even though she and my father are in their late 50's. This deployment and newfound parenthood could not have come at a more inconvenient time in their lives.

Lynn Morgan, a.k.a. my mom, had just taken it upon herself to help raise and provide a stable home for my brother Jeff's children, ages three and one, due to a recent divorce. He is a disabled Veteran and was attending voc rehab at the VA. In addition, my father was attempting to start a small business with my other brother (Justin), so they both had to work long hours and were away from home a lot. There was a ripple effect, and my mother found herself providing daycare for Justin's children, ages ten, nine, eight, and six, when his wife was at work. My mother performed admirably.

I deployed in August 2004, and from that time, until January 2006, Mom became the primary caregiver of my son Jacob. She became a mother all over again, while maintaining a full-time job, acting as my power of attorney, and caring for all the above.

The support they provided me and Jacob is a debt that can never be repayed. It gave me real peace of mind while deployed in the Sunni Triangle. I knew my son was well cared for and treated with the love that he needed and deserved. If it were not for my parents, their strong family values, and unfathomable generosity, I would not have been able to serve my country in a time of war, nor continue to serve in peace-time on active status with the National Guard.

**STEPPING UP Lynn Morgan with her grandson, Jacob, whom she cared for during his father Jarred's deployment.**



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## KRISTINE REVAK, WIARNG

On February 14, 2003, the alert order came down from 1st Army telling my unit that we would be reporting to Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, on March 17, 2003, for duty in Southwest Asia. Several months after I deployed, my mother-in-law, Jean Revak, felt it would be better to support her son not only on the weekends, but to also retire from her job at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation five years early, and move into our home 100 miles away until I came home.

Grandma Jean chose to sacrifice the leisure of retirement for us. She retired early, losing some financial benefits and moved into a new town. Her decision to help us changed everything. Her world was turned completely and totally upside down! We didn't even have enough rooms to give her one, so she slept on our pull-out couch in the rec room. She didn't complain once.

When I finally returned to my family, I was to start work with 64th Troop Command S-1 in Madison, WI. Unfortunately, my new unit, although not a deployable unit, was responsible for deploying the units within its command; so I found myself on the road several times a month. When I was on the road Grandma Jean would drive two hours back to our home to step in. I started thinking of her as my family's replacement for me. In July when we bought a new house, we made sure Grandma Jean had her very own room equipped with a brand new bed and TV. She has been the backbone of our family support system.

Grandma Jean is a Soldier in her own right. She displayed a "never give up" attitude during my family's time of need. Just as I answered the call when my country needed me, Grandma Jean also answered the call when her family needed her.

**DEDICATION** Grandma Jean took early retirement and moved 100 miles to care for grandchildren Kaleb (pictured) and Eavin.

## SHAFONIA JOHNSON, KYARNG

My name is SGT Shafonia M. Johnson, and I'm a member of 198th MP Battalion from Louisville, Kentucky. I have been in the National Guard for 16 years. I'm a single mother of a four-year-old daughter, Christina Marie Carter, who is being cared for by my loving mother, Carol D. Johnson. I'm currently on my second deployment in four years fighting the War on Terrorism.

My mother is my rock. She has taken on sole responsibility of guardian and caregiver for my daughter, along with taking care of her own mother. She has been very instrumental in all of my military decisions since day one. When I decided to enlist in 1990, she was right by my side. When I became pregnant and had my daughter, she knew and assured me that continuing in the Guard would better my career and my daughter's way of life. If it were not for my mother, I could never have left my four-month-old daughter to support this War on Terrorism. When I felt the need to go home and be with my child, my mother provided me the same steady and calm reassurance that has made me the person I am today.

So when my unit came up for a second deployment in four years, there was no doubt that I would be right there to support and defend my country. As the time got closer, I spoke with my mother about her taking care of my grandmother at the same time as a four-year-old, and like the rock my mother has always been, she said, "You go and do your job well; we will be fine." As I reflect back on all the things my



**GRANDMOTHERLY LOVE**  
SGT Shafonia M. Johnson's daughter, Christina Marie Carter, with grandmother Carol D. Johnson

mother has done for me, the most important is being the foundation that my life has been built on.

The service my mother has given to the country has not been physical—anyone can do that. My mother has served every single day of my military career with me emotionally. The day I joined the military, my mother asked, "Are you sure you know what you are getting into?" She then followed that up with, "I want you to do what makes you happy." Sixteen years and two deployments later, my mother is still there serving with me. She makes me so proud to say she is a Guard Grandparent because of all the support and sacrifices she has made for me, just like an American Soldier. Mom, I love you.

## SFC FREDERICK COE (RET.), MAARNG

I, SFC Frederick A Coe Jr of the 211th Military Police Battalion, Lexington, MA have recently retired (January 22, 2006) at age 62 from the Massachusetts Army National Guard as the oldest enlisted Guardsman. As a grandfather myself, I am presenting a different side to your solicitation for a story about grandfathers.

I was deployed three times after September 11, 2001, including Operation Noble Eagle (Airport Mission), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq). I wanted to serve so my grandchildren will not have to put themselves in "harm's way." Being the oldest enlisted MP in Afghanistan and Iraq, I became a grandfather to many younger



**ELDER STATESMAN** SFC Coe (ret.) is the oldest enlisted Guard member to serve in two combat theaters of operation.

Soldiers and understood their fears, concerns and resolve during a difficult war. The grandfathers at home and the grandfather Soldiers on active duty are a link to our traditions and heritage that continue on with the younger Soldiers. The image of your grandfather at home sitting in his chair, waiting for your return home is a powerful image. As one young Soldier said to me, "everything seems all right when Grandpa is around."

I have had the privilege to serve with these young Soldiers, and many of them ask me questions only a grandfather could answer as they witnessed the horrors of war in a country far from home.

### **PV1 BROOKE SEIMEARS, MOARNG**

The hardest person for me to tell when I joined the Guard was my grandma Mary Bates. When Grandma Bates found out I joined, she got really mad and cried for days. The two of us did not speak for a couple of weeks. My grandma resented my choice for a long time, until she came to my monthly drills with me. That weekend, my grandma got to see what Guard Soldiers really go through. After that weekend, my grandma has respected me and supported me 100%. She even got a bumper sticker that says "Proud Parent of National Guard," but she wrote "grand" over the word "Parent." My grandma is more than just a grandparent to me; she is also my best friend. She talks to



**COMING AROUND** PV1 Brooke Seimars with her mother and grandmother, Mary Bates, who, after initially disapproving of Brooke's enlistment, is now her biggest supporter.

me when nobody else will listen. She is part of the reason I became the woman I am and the Soldier I will be. I know when I graduate from AIT in November, my Grandma Bates will be one of the first people there to cheer me on.

### **MSG CHARLOTTE REID, WAARNG**

My parents have been a huge influence on my career in the Washington National Guard. My parents have never said they could not take care of my two boys when it came to performing my military duty. They have always been there with support, letting me know if I had to deploy, they would be there for my children. When my boys were really young, my parents would take care of them every drill weekend and during my annual training. They were, and are, always there for me and my family; and I would not have made it to Master Sergeant without them.

My older brother was in the National Guard and was sent to Desert Storm. My parents were there to help his wife, write letters and send care packages. My mother is very proud to have her "National Guard Proud Parent of a Soldier" bumper sticker on her truck, and always asks for another yellow ribbon magnet when her's goes dull.

I am able to serve because of my wonderful parents, Neil and Elizabeth Reid. I NEVER have to worry about my children if duty calls.

### **SGT CHRISTOPHER HARRISON, ALARNG**

I serve for many reasons: for my country, for honor, and to give a little back. However, one of the biggest reasons I serve is for my grandfather, Broadus Bunce. As a young man, he served as a private in the U.S. Army during World War II. In Saarbucken, Germany he was badly wounded in the shoulder by shrapnel, and he never regained complete usage of his arm.

My grandfather is the greatest hero I know, and was my inspiration when I first joined the Navy. Four years later, all my cousins were out of the military, or about to get out, so I decided to join the Army National Guard. It is my way of saying "thank you" to him for what he did for our country and for the inspiration he has been to me. Not only to say "thank you," but also to say, "Okay, it's my turn. I'll carry that torch from here." Trying to fill a pair of boots that can never be



**INSPIRATION** SGT Christopher Harrison with his grandfather, Broadus Bunce, whose valiant service in WWII gained him a Purple Heart and inspired four of his grandsons' to join the military



**The service that my mother has given to the country has not been physical—anyone can do that. My mother has served every single day of my military career with me emotionally.**—Shafonia Johnson, KYARNG

filled, to me that's an honor and a privilege. He and my grandmother support what I do fully. He, as well as my father (SMSGT, USAFR, ret.), taught me about the pride that comes from serving this great nation of ours. My commitment as long as my grandfather is living, and as long as I am physically able, is to carry that torch onward. He defended our way of life, and the rest of the world's. All I can hope for is to return the favor.

**SFC DOUGLAS MALLARY, NMARNG**

My story actually involves my wife's parents, Joe and Cristella Ortiz. Both my wife (1SG Brenda L. Mallary) and I are in the National Guard. We live in my wife's hometown, and I don't have any family here. Without the support of my wife's parents, especially my mother-in-law, we both might not be able to serve in the National Guard.

A good example was in May of 2000 when New Mexico was being ravaged by wildfires. The phone rang, and we were told we had been placed on State Duty. My wife called her mother, explained the situation to her, and said we would be dropping off our two daughters shortly. My mother-in-law told my wife to keep getting ready and she would come to our house. She arrived about 15 minutes later, and my wife and I were on duty in less than 45 minutes after receiving the alert. My mother-in-law stayed at our house and cared for our children until we were relieved for a rest period. When it was time for us to report back to the Emergency Operations Center, my mother-in-law was already on duty at our house again.

My wife and I normally drill the same weekend. It's my mother-in-law who cares for our daughters, Melissa (14) and Crystal (9). She not only watches them, but takes them to their scheduled events like softball, soccer, etc., and out for ice cream, swimming, or ice skating during those weekends our daughters are free.

One of my wife's sister, Paula Herrera, is married to another National Guard Soldier, SGT Leroy Herrera. My mother-in-law gives them the same support



**SURROUNDED BY LOVE** SFC Douglas Mallary's mother-in-law, Cristella C. Ortiz, sits among four of her eight grandchildren (clockwise from upper right) Crystal Mallary, Terrance Herrera, Serena Herrera, and Elisa Herrera. Grandma Ortiz takes care of them regularly as all have parents in the NMARNG.



**y grandparents are truly my "brother-and-sister-in-arms."**

—CPT Ken Wisniewski, MAARNG

she gives us. This made a huge difference after their youngest daughter, Serena, was diagnosed with leukemia (the treatments are going well), and then Leroy was deployed to Iraq. My mother-in-law may have never served in uniform, but she still serves.

one. The word caught fire and led to her taking part in producing and sending nearly 5,000 handkerchiefs to troops serving abroad. I and the many other troops who carried them are very thankful for the work and dedication of my Mimi. Though she wants NO credit or recognition, she deserves it! Anyone carrying that amazing verse on an old rag, serving anywhere in this world would definitely agree.

**SPC WESTON GORDON, WVARNG**

In February '04 while I was deploying to Iraq, my Grandma (who I and most of my buddies call as Mimi) had Psalm 91 screen-printed on two handkerchiefs and presented them as gifts to me and my buddy just days before we left. While waiting at Fort Bragg, several of the other guys in my section noticed them and commented they would like to have one. So in my next conversation with Mimi, I put in a request for "just a few." Soon after our arrival in Iraq, I caught word that a package was on its way. It would be the start of what came to be known as "Operation Psalm 91." The package we received was filled with enough Psalm 91 handkerchiefs for the entire battalion. Those were all printed and shipped thanks to contributions and donations Mimi received from the community, allowing every Soldier who wanted one to receive

**CPT JOY L. ALEXANDER, MSARNG**

My mother has been a vital and necessary part of my Guard career. I did not have children until I had been in the Guard ten years. My daughter was born in 1998, and my son came along in 2001. Since their father is also a member of the Guard, it was difficult for us to manage childcare on drill weekends. My mom proudly volunteered for this chore, and has been very dedicated to this responsibility ever since. She plans her schedule around my Guard weekends, AT, and schools. This allows me to continue my career without worry for my children. Who will take better care of your children than your own mother?

When my unit the 890th Engineer Combat Battalion, Heavy, was put on alert, my mother quit her job, packed her things and set up camp at my house. When orders came, there was no arguing with her. Her mind was made up, and she





When orders came . . . she was set to raise my children, her grandchildren, while I proudly served. She has done more to support the Guard than is asked of most Soldiers, and for that I, as a Soldier, thank her.—CPT Joy L. Alexander, MSARNG

was set to raise my children, her grandchildren, while I proudly served. My mother did an excellent job. She was there when my daughter started kindergarten and first grade. She was able to wean my son off his bottle and get him potty-trained. Halfway through my deployment, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to undergo a mastectomy and chemotherapy. I could have come home on a hardship, but she would not hear of it. She rallied my sisters and brothers to help until she finished her chemotherapy three months later. Once finished with the chemo, she resumed her duty over her grandchildren until I returned after 14 months.

If it were not for her, I would not have been able to serve in the Guard and continue my career as I have. She has done more to support the Guard than is asked of most Soldiers; and for that I, as a Soldier, thank her.

#### **SSG PAMELA STILLINGS, SCARNG**

My name is SSG Pamela Stillings and I am in the South Carolina Army National Guard. I am also a proud single mother of a 12-year-old son and a 15-year-old daughter. I am also blessed with parents who are both retired and willing to help me at the drop of a hat in the event of deployment or training with the military.

I deployed to Iraq and Kuwait when I was called to Active Duty while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard from 2002 to 2003. When I was notified I was due to go overseas, my parents immediately volunteered, not only to watch my children, but to move into my home in South Carolina so my children's lives would not be disrupted. Even though they were in the process of moving from Alaska to Missouri, it was important to my parents that my children not experience too many changes in my absence. They felt it was bad enough that the only parent who had been involved in their lives was leaving for deployment overseas, and they did not want them to be removed from their home, their school, and away from their friends.

This was a huge sacrifice for my parents because they put their lives on hold for an entire year to care for their grandchildren. I will never be able to repay them for the generosity they have shown toward me and my children. By submitting this story, I want my parents to know how much I truly appreciate their help, their dedication to me and my children, and for being supportive of my military career.

**GENERATIONS** CPT Ken Wisniewski with his grandparents, Donetta and Vincent Saccone. She was a lieutenant and an Army Nurse and he was a Combat Medic who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned four bronze stars.



#### **CPT KEN WISNIEWSKI, MAARNG**

Both my grandmother and grandfather were instrumental in my decision to enlist, having both served in the Army during WWII. My grandmother was a lieutenant and an Army Nurse. My grandfather was a Combat Medic who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and earned four bronze stars. He later served about 36 years in the Guard, and today is still active in various Veterans' associations.

When I was growing up, I sometimes heard my grandparents speak of the military. I could see a twinkle in their eyes and detect a strong sense of pride. My grandparents were both very hardworking, honest, and dedicated to their large family. These were values they learned while in the military. I could tell the Army and Guard made them stronger people.

When I enlisted at the earliest possible age, it was not due to any prodding from my grandparents. Instead, it was because of patriotism and a desire to learn the same values, from the same teacher, that my grandparents did. This was one of the best decisions of my life. I am proud of my grandparents for their selfless service, their solid values, and for always being positive role models for our family.

My grandparents are truly my "brother-and-sister-in-arms." **GX**



## **WE WANT YOUR STORIES!**

All of the stories contained in this article were submitted by Guard members from across the country through GX Echo, an email we at GX send out periodically to solicit stories, ideas, etc. from Guard members like you. Sign up to receive GX Intel today and you'll automatically be signed up for GX Echo. Don't miss the chance to share your stories with the world! **VISIT GXONLINE AND SIGN UP TODAY!**

[www.gxonline.com/subscribe\\_intel](http://www.gxonline.com/subscribe_intel)



**VIRGINIA**

By LTC Chester C. Carter, III  
Courtesy of VAARNG PAO

The first VAARNG Recruiting Assistance Program check was presented by MG Robert Newman and CSM Bob Huffman to SGT Troy Catterton. The \$2,000 check was presented to SGT Catterton during the Enlisted Association of the National Guard annual conference held in Roanoke on April 28. SGT Catterton is assigned to Detachment 1, 266th Military Police Company. As of May, the program has resulted in 59 enlistments for the Virginia Guard.

**ALASKA**

By Kalei Brooks  
Courtesy of AKARNG PAO

The first Soldier of the Alaska Army National Guard to reap the rewards of the new Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) has received his first check for \$2,000, after his friend enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard under his encouragement.

PVT Joshua Savo, 18, joined the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry in December 2005, and in just four months in the Guard, he has already recruited his friend, Thomas Noden, to join as well.

"I didn't realize I was the first one [to receive a G-RAP check]," said PVT Savo, who enlisted to become an infantryman. "I've already got another friend going through and enlisting, too."

PFC Kalfus has already received payment for two of her enlistments, and she is working to ensure that her other registered referrals complete the process.

When G-RAP started, PFC Kalfus was inspired. She explained, "I was up for a challenge and that's exactly how I see this program. So far, I've received \$6,000, and I'm awaiting payment on two other Soldiers for a possible total of \$8,000."

She has seven other individuals enrolled in the G-RAP program, so she is actively involved in their recruitment. "I wouldn't be able to live the lifestyle that I do without the extra money that drill weekend, G-RAP incentives and the bonuses have provided."

**MASSACHUSETTS**

By CW4 James Girard  
MA Recruiting and Retention Command

SSG Sergeant Bruce Bortolini of Ashland, MA, a member of the 1164th Transportation Company, received his first check for \$2,000 for his participation in G-RAP. SSG Bortolini has recruited five people into the Guard, bringing his total earnings to \$10,000. SSG Bortolini is a 20-year veteran of the National Guard. He is a high school teacher and is in constant contact with potential recruits. According to SSG Bortolini, he buys jackets and Army rings with some of the money he has received for his new recruits so they can show their pride around school.

PFC Joseph Golden of Fitchburg, MA, a member of the 101st Field

## G-RAP Update: Success Across the States

Noden will ship to Basic Training in August; and Savo, new to the Guard as well, will ship to Basic Training in July.

"That's the beauty of this program; you can get your friends to join you and go through this process together," said LTC Beth Law, commander of the Alaska National Guard Recruiting and Retention Division. "We're happy to present as many of these checks to Recruiting Assistants as we possibly can."

**NEW YORK**

By Kent Kisselbrack  
Courtesy of the New York  
Division of Military and  
Naval Affairs

PFC Joelle Kalfus, of the New York Army National Guard's 101st Signal Battalion, is on a roll. Since the inception of the G-RAP, she has 11 Soldier submissions for enlistment in the New York Army National Guard. The potential payoff—if all applicants graduate from Basic Training—is \$22,000.

"I joined the National Guard initially because I couldn't afford college costs," she said.

But her motivation changed quickly. "The first time I put on a uniform I stood a little bit taller. From that point on, my mind was made up to make this a career. The Army National Guard is a whole different world, a whole different feeling . . . you represent a group of amazing and heroic people. You have to earn the right to wear the uniform and earn the respect of other Soldiers."



Artillery, has recruited three new Soldiers into the Guard.

Also topping the list is PFC Chad Garlisi of Leominster, MA a member of the 26th Aviation Company. PFC Chad has enlisted three new recruits. He attributes his success to "working on a golf course where I can talk to my fellow workers." PFC Garlisi has been in the Guard since November 2005, and he says the money he has earned helps to pay his bills.

**MISSOURI**

By SGT Katherine L. Collins  
Courtesy of MOARNG PAO

Since Missouri began participating in the program in December 2005, the Missouri Guard has risen in its recruiting and retention numbers and in its place among the national ranks for recruiting.

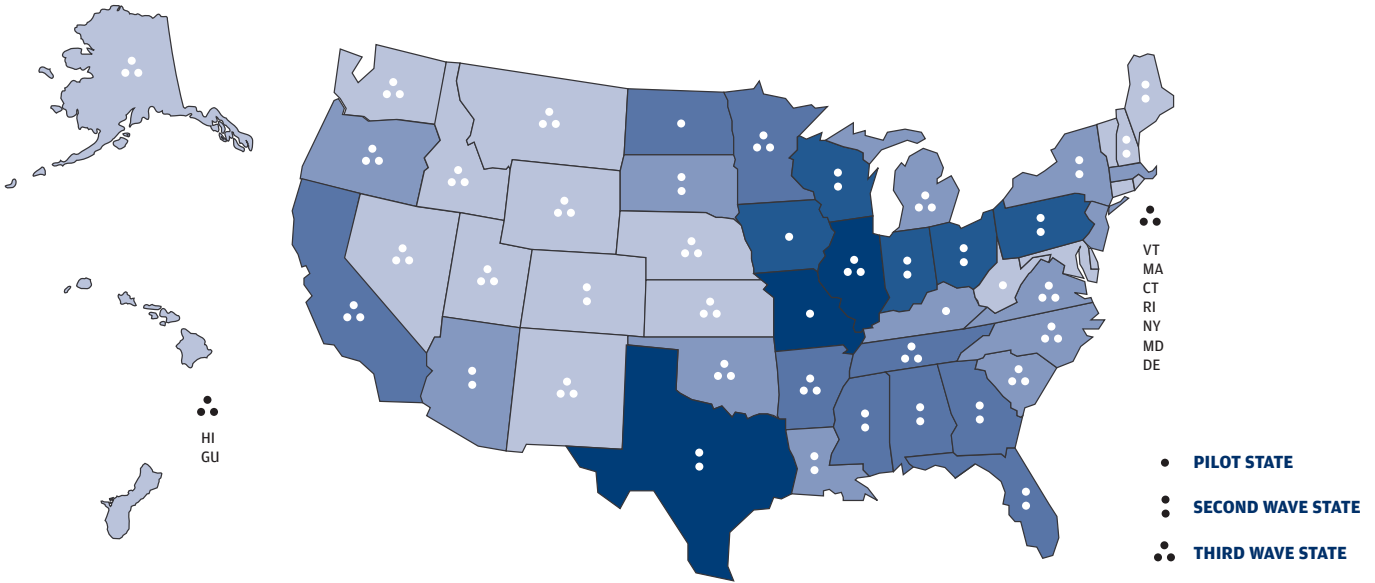
The Missouri Guard has enlisted 414 Citizen-Soldiers through the program. This ranks Missouri second nationally for G-RAP enlistments. In addition, 2,198 Missouri Guard members have signed up as Recruiting Assistants, nationally ranking the state eighth in the number of RAs on board.

While many Missouri Guard members are just beginning to serve as RAs, some have been actively inspiring co-workers and neighbors to join the Guard. Missouri's leading RA is PFC Kyle Ballew. PFC Ballew has enlisted seven Citizen-Soldiers.

Missouri is currently ranked second in accessions and fourth in end strength. It stands at 102 percent of authorized end strength.

The state is also ranked first in "write rate," which is the average number of recruits per recruiter per month. **GX**





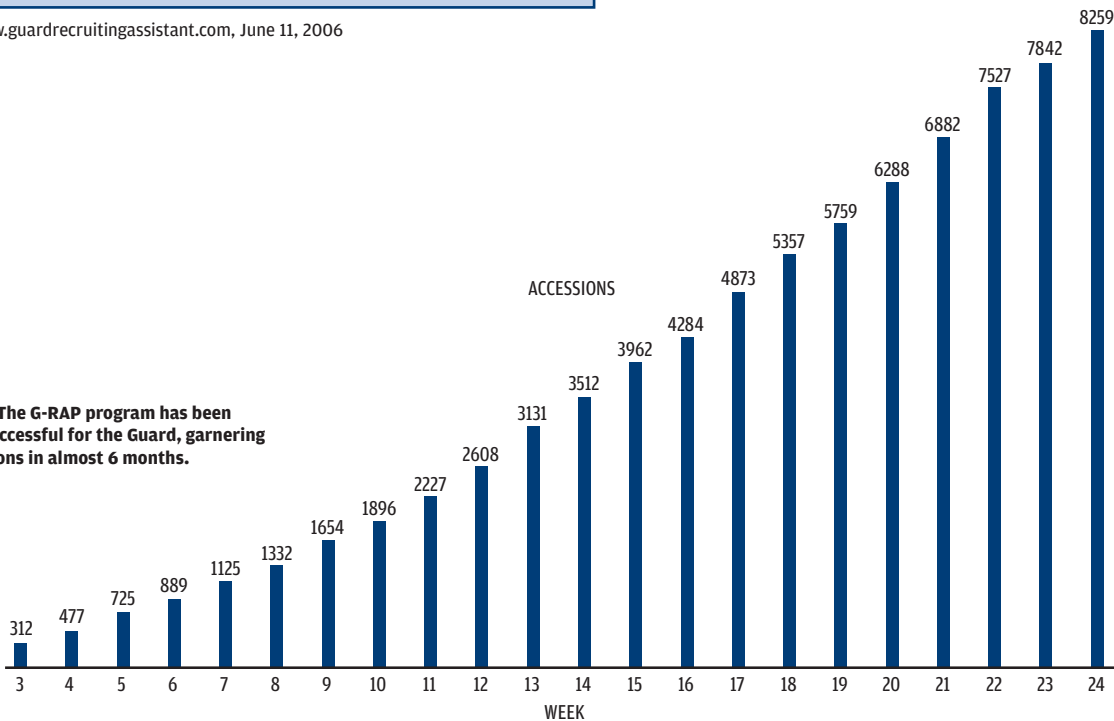
**STATE TO STATE** Shown above are the number of accessions state by state. Of note, Illinois was a third wave state, but has still managed to raise it's G-RAP numbers above 400!

	PILOT STATES	SECOND WAVE STATES	THIRD WAVE STATES	ALL STATES
Active RA's	7766	30968	31345	70079
Potential Soldiers	3243	11005	12650	26898
NPS Accessions	1074	3121	2463	6658
Prior Service Accessions	305	781	515	1601
<b>Total Accessions</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>3902</b>	<b>2978</b>	<b>8259</b>
BCT Shipments	564	1614	1100	3278

## The Numbers Tell the Story

SOURCE: www.guardrecruitingassistant.com, June 11, 2006

**RISING TIDE** The G-RAP program has been extremely successful for the Guard, garnering 8259 accessions in almost 6 months.





# Shouldn't You Put College First?

The National Guard College First program is a new enlistment option which makes it possible for you to secure your college goals while serving in the Guard. This enlistment option provides qualified high school graduates and graduating seniors, with no prior military service, the opportunity to complete up to two years of full-time schooling, uninterrupted by federal deployment/mobilization, while serving in the Guard. Enlist in the Army National Guard today and put college first. To find out more, contact a Guard Recruiter to see if the College First Enlistment Option is available in your state.

## THE COLLEGE FIRST ENLISTMENT OPTION OFFERS:

- >>> Up to two years of non-deployment following completion of Initial Active Duty Training (IADT, which is where you learn the skills required for the military job, or MOS, you selected when you enlisted)
- >>> Up to a \$20,000 Enlistment Bonus
- >>> \$20,000 Student Loan Repayment (must have pre-existing loans)
- >>> Basic educational assistance of \$297 per month — Montgomery G.I. Bill Selective Reserve (MGIB-SR)
- >>> Additional educational assistance of \$350 per month—MGIB Kicker (the Kicker is in addition to the MGIB-SR, and is available to those enlisting in a critical MOS and assigned to a qualified unit)
- >>> 100% College Tuition Assistance, up to \$4,500 a year
- >>> Up to 100% State Tuition Assistance (varies by State)

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- >>> Non-prior service high school graduate or graduating high school senior
- >>> Score 50 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
- >>> Agree to complete Advanced Individual Training (job training) immediately following Basic Training (Note: the Split Training option is not authorized for College First enlistments)
- >>> Accepted at a college or university accredited by the U.S. Department of Education, remaining a full-time student in good standing for the duration of your non-deployment period
- >>> Join a Guard unit in a State or Territory participating in the College First Program
- >>> Meet all other applicable enlistment criteria as required

Contact your local recruiter to learn more about the College First Enlistment Option plus other valuable educational opportunities in the Army National Guard. **GX**



## TIME FOR A CAREER CHANGE?



**The Title 10 AGR Program supporting the 54 States and Territories may just be what you are looking for!**

**Consider applying your skills and experience while supporting our Nation in this rewarding career program.**

Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Title 10 positions are federal level careers supporting the Army National Guard and its Soldiers. AGR Title 10 Soldiers serve full-time and enjoy the same benefits and entitlements as Active Component Soldiers, including full commissary and post exchange privileges, medical care for themselves and their immediate family and the opportunity for immediate retirement after 20 years of Active Federal Service. AGR Title 10 Soldiers are stationed world-wide, however the preponderance of opportunities are at the National Guard Bureau located in Arlington, VA.

### ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE SOLDIERS WORK IN THESE AREAS:

**AVIATION  
LOGISTICS  
PERSONNEL  
OPERATIONS  
HLD/DSCA  
FINANCE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
RECRUITING & RETENTION  
MILITARY POLICE  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE  
MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS OPPORTUNITY:**

**[www.arng.ngb.army.mil/soldier\\_resources/GuardJobs/t10.asp](http://www.arng.ngb.army.mil/soldier_resources/GuardJobs/t10.asp)**



**SPLENDID HISTORY** From First Muster in 1636 to the South Pacific during WWII to current events (inset), the National Guard Memorial Museum is a rich, informative walk through the contributions of America's Citizen-Soldiers.

## Preserving Your Legacy

by Richard Arnold

"National Guardsmen are citizens most of the time, Soldiers some of the time, patriots all of the time."

Never before has this 1928 quote from Washington National Guard BG James Drain been more true than today. But it's an enduring statement. And it's the first thing visitors see upon entering the National Guard Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The 5,600 square-foot facility is the only national museum dedicated to the Guard. It's run by the National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF), a nonprofit organization devoted to telling all 369-plus years of the Guard story.

Now in its fourth year of operation, the museum is located in the National Guard Memorial on Capitol Hill and is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

While many of the stories inside have been told before, the museum couples them with authentic sights, sounds and artifacts to create an experience that connects visitors with the people and events that shaped not only Guard history, but American history.

Today, Guard members around the world are writing a new chapter in their story. To keep pace, the NGEF is preparing a new permanent exhibit to recognize Guard contributions to operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

"We have received some exciting items for our new OEF/OIF exhibit that will highlight the actions and accomplishment of a new generation of Guard heroes," says Jason Hall, NGEF director.

Featured artifacts include uniforms, a ballot from the first Iraq free election, one of original decks of playing cards featuring the "most wanted" from Saddam Hussein's regime and several items taken from an insurgent.

Visitors will also have access to hundreds of digital images of Guard members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**WHAT TO EXPECT** Upon entering the museum, montages of the 20 U.S. presidents who served in the National Guard cover the wall.

The tour begins with a 15-minute film, "America's Citizen-Soldiers," which surveys the history of the Guard in the introductory

video theater. Afterwards, visitors move to a self-guided chronological tour through nearly four centuries of Guard history.

First stop is a diorama depicting the First Muster of 1636. Most historians trace the Guard's birth to this initial organization of Massachusetts Bay Colony militia units.

Maps and battle pictures cover the walls as the scenes shift to the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the conflicts of the 19th and 20th centuries deeper into the museum.

Much of the story-telling is presented in special object theaters, where light and audio combine with rare artifacts to transport visitors to such sacred places as Yorktown, Gettysburg and Omaha Beach.

Some of the object theaters tell personal stories. One chronicles the 400-day World War I odyssey of 18-year-old Thomas Dale Reno, a member of the 11th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division, American Expeditionary Force. Several items from his family collection are on display.

Another shares the experience of CPT Lewis Millett, who was one of five Guard Soldiers to earn the Medal of Honor in the Korean War.

The final exhibit room guides visitors through current times, including post-Sept. 11 homeland security. This section also covers Operation Desert Storm.

"It is my hope that every visitor to the museum walks away with a greater appreciation of the sacrifices and achievement of each and every member of the National Guard, from 1636 to now," Mr. Hall says. **GX**

**YOU CAN HELP** The National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) needs help to make the new exhibit a reality. It's currently a little more than two-thirds of the way to its goal of getting 100 pledges of \$500 to raise the \$50,000 required for the project.

The NGEF is always on the lookout for new artifacts. Those interested in contributing in any way to the new exhibit should visit [www.ngef.org](http://www.ngef.org), the NGEF section of [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org) or call Mr. Hall at (888) 226-4287.

**PRESIDENTIAL VISIT** President George W. Bush addresses the National Guard Association of the United States, this past February at The National Guard Memorial on Capitol Hill.

**“For 128 years the National Guard Association has been fighting for the Citizen-Soldiers who fight for America.”**

—President George W. Bush

**NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES (NGAUS)**

America's oldest military/Veterans service organization continues to provide a unified voice in Washington, D.C. for nearly 45,000 current and former National Guard officers.

In their first productive meeting after the Civil War, militia officers from the North and South formed the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) to petition Congress for better Guard training and equipment.

More than a century later, NGAUS has the same mission. Today, the association owns and occupies The National Guard Memorial, a Capitol Hill landmark at One Massachusetts Ave., N.W., that has hosted presidents, governors and many members of Congress.

“For 128 years,” President George W. Bush told a national television audience from the memorial in February, “the National Guard Association has been fighting for the Citizen-Soldiers who fight for America.”

NGAUS carries out this fight by linking the members of Guard associations in 54 states and territories with lawmakers. Conduits include a Web site at [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org) and full-time legislative team of retired Guard officers and former congressional staffers.

The legislative staff members present the association's priorities directly to members of Congress and their staffs while keeping members involved in grassroots political action via several electronic media.

They also work closely with the National Guard Bureau, the adjutants general, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and appropriate industry representatives.

Critical to this effort is NGAUS communications staff, which tells the Guard story in general, and the NGAUS story in particular, through a monthly magazine, a weekly electronic newsletter and regular contact with the press.

NGAUS is also known for its general conference and exhibition, which annually attracts hundreds of industry exhibitors, prominent speakers and more than 3,000 Guard members to discuss Guard issues and set the association's legislative agenda.

This year's conference is set for Sept. 15 through 18 in Albuquerque, N.M. **GX**





# PAYING FOR COLLEGE NATIONAL GUARD STYLE

Source: *The You Can Guide to Paying for Your College Education*



**M**OST OF COLLEGE GOT YOU SCARED? Not sure how you can even begin to pay for it? With all of the challenges that life throws at us, don't let paying for college be one that overwhelms you and keeps you from reaching your goals. The National Guard offers an array of programs to help you earn money for college while gaining real-world experience serving your country. With just one weekend a month of service, you can earn some extra spending money and have more time to focus on school instead of your empty wallet. The new College First enlistment option allows you to complete up to two years of full-time schooling, uninterrupted by federal deployment/mobilization. Whatever your financial needs or challenges, the National Guard can help you find a solution to jump start your future.

These Army National Guard education programs were created to help you manage the spiraling costs of a college degree.

## ARNG EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTER

As a Guard Soldier, your cheapest and most direct path to a degree, any degree, begins at the National Guard Education Support Center (ESC) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The ESC offers its vast array of services, free of charge, to both Guard Soldiers and their spouses. The ESC can start you on the road to your personal academic goals by helping you develop a detailed plan for educational success.

The training and education you have received through the National Guard are equivalent to college-level classes, and the ESC can help you maximize the number of credit hours you receive from your chosen school. The ESC offers you the opportunity to further increase the number of credits you receive for your real-world experience through free College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests. These three-hour tests can earn you three to six semester hours of credit at over 2,900 colleges and universities.

The dedicated, professional staff at the ESC is committed to helping you maximize your college, vocational, or professional education opportunities. To learn more about these and the many other services offered at the ESC, contact them directly at (866)628-5999 from 6am to 6pm CST or on the web at <http://www.pec.ngb.army.mil/esc/>.

## MONTGOMERY GI BILL - SELECT RESERVE

The Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance to Army National Guard Soldiers. In exchange for a six-year service obligation, you can receive up to \$10,682 to help pay for undergraduate, professional, vocational or graduate study. The MGIB-SR pays \$297 per month for full-time study for up to 36 months. This money is paid directly to the Soldier. Other restrictions do apply. For more information go to [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) or talk with a recruiter or educational counselor.

## GI BILL KICKER

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Kicker is an incentive offered to eligible Army National Guard Soldiers who enlist, reenlist or extend in a qualifying critical unit or skill. The Kicker pays \$200 per month for up to 36 months for full-time enrollment. For Officer Candidates and ROTC SMP, the Kicker can go up to the maximum \$350 per month. This is an incentive, not an entitlement, and must be qualified for. Consult a recruiter to learn more about qualifying specialties and units.

## FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE

The Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance Program pays 100% of tuition up to \$250 per credit hour with a \$4,500 maximum payment for tuition and fees per fiscal year (Oct. 1–Sept. 30). This payment applies to both traditional classroom and distance learning and may be used with the MGIB-SR if the student is enrolled at least half-time. This benefit is available immediately upon enlistment and does not require completion of basic training or advanced individual training prior to use. Term of service must extend past course completion. For more information visit [www.VirtualArmy.com](http://www.VirtualArmy.com).

## STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) offers up to \$20,000 for the payment of previously existing college-related student loans.







## 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.

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



YOU CAN

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

# EXTRA BENEFITS BY STATE

- AL** { Tuition reimbursement up to \$500/semester; max. \$1,000 annual.
- AK** { Tuition scholarship pays up to 100% for courses in U of AK system. Tuition reimbursement pays up to 100% tuition and fees at universities and trade schools other than U of AK (\$1,000 max. annual).
- AZ** { Priority reimbursement pays tuition and fees up to \$250/semester hour (\$6,500 max. annual). Payments awarded based on priority criteria.
- AR** { Up to \$1,000 per semester at AR public and private institutions for full-time enrollment; pro-rated for less than full-time. Benefits depend on funding availability.
- CA** { No state tuition assistance.
- CO** { 50-100% tuition only at State-funded schools depending on funding availability. Min GPA 2.0
- CT** { 100% tuition waiver for full-time at any CT public university (undergrad. only) or technical/vocational school
- DE** { Tuition reimbursement at state or private institutions up to 100% pro-rated (not including fees) depending on available funding.
- DC** { Reimburse up to \$1,000 per semester at approved institutions.
- FL** { Pays up to 100% at any state school (undergrad only) or VOTECH or community colleges. Three-year service obligation after last use of funds.
- GA** { Loan up to 100% tuition; \$1,819 per semester max; first undergrad degree only; min. 2.0 GPA; loan paid through Guard membership.
- GU** { No state tuition assistance.
- HI** { Pays for successfully completed credits up to 100% tuition pro-rated at any U of HI institution up to rank of CPT; may be used for master's degree including medical and law programs.
- ID** { \$125 per semester hour for full-time public or private school.
- IL** { Grant provides up to 100% tuition at any state supported school after 1 year of service; may be used through Ph.D. level.
- IN** { Up to 100% tuition grant at state-funded schools; first associate's or bachelor's degree only.
- IA** { At least 50% cost of attendance at state school; funds may be used at approved IA private schools up to 100% pro-rated.
- KS** { Up to 100% tuition and fees at state institutions based on available funding; additional 3 months service required per semester.
- KY** { Up to 100% tuition pro-rated at any state institution based on available funding.
- LA** { In a 6-year enlistment may pursue degree at next higher level, up to master's or professional; may be used for additional 4 academic years or until receipt of degree.
- ME** { Up to 100% tuition and fees pro-rated at any ME-based accredited institution.
- MD** { Tuition waiver up front; 50% tuition at state schools. 50% tuition and fees reimbursement available upon completion and verification of min. 2.0 GPA.
- MA** { Tuition and fees waiver up to 100% at state schools; available for associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.
- MI** { 50% tuition reimbursement up to \$2,000 per year at MI-based institutions; many state schools offer 45% tuition discount to Guard Soldiers.
- MO** { Reimburses O5 and below up to 100% tuition pro-rated at approved schools.
- MS** { Up to \$375 for community colleges and \$750 for colleges and universities for tuition per semester. Min. 2.0 GPA; associate's and bachelor's only.

**MO** { Up to 100% tuition pro-rated for max. of 39 credit hours per fiscal year; first bachelor's degree only; based on available funding; min. cumulative GPA 2.5.

**MOB** { \$100 per credit hour up to 12 credits/semester at state or approved institutions; Based on available funding.

**NE** { Pays 75% tuition pro-rated at approved institutions; first bachelor's degree only.

**NV** { 100% tuition waiver at seven state schools; traditional classroom only; not available for medical, dental or law schools; min. 2.0 GPA.

**NH** { Up to 100% tuition waiver at state-supported schools on a space available basis.

**NJ** { Up to 100% tuition waiver at state-supported schools; max. 15 credits/semester.



**NM** { Pays up to 100% tuition per semester; first degree only; min. avg. 2.0 GPA; 130 hours max.

**NY** { Pays 100% tuition only at state institutions; limits apply to total enrollment period

**NC** { Pays up to \$4,515.02 per academic year for state-approved institutions; based on availability of funds; min. 2 years service after last use of funds

**ND** { Reimburses up to \$500 per semester; schools waive 25% tuition benchmarked

**OH** { Pays up to 100% tuition and fees benchmarked at state-supported and private schools; for enlisted Soldiers up to bachelor's degree

**OK** { Waives tuition at state-supported institutions; one bachelor's degree only

**OR** { Waives tuition for degree related courses at public schools; min. 4 years service after last funded course

**PA** { 100% tuition funding for PA residents at SHEAA schools; annual max. \$4,906; min. 6-year enlistment

**PR** { Graduate degree up to six credits, max. \$75/cr, \$450/semester; undergrad or vocational at U of PR up to nine credits, max. \$40/cr, \$360/semester; MD up to \$1,000 per year, 2 year max.

**RI** { Tuition waived for up to five courses at state schools; 1 year of service required for each 12 credits.

**SC** { Loan repayment grants \$18,000 for 4 year, \$9,000 for 2-year programs, MOS specific; min. 6-year enlistment.

**SD** { Pays up to 50% tuition benchmarked; available for grad and undergrad degrees.

**TN** { No state tuition assistance.

**TX** { Reimburses 100% tuition prorated, up to 12 hours per semester for 10 continuous semesters or 5 years.

**UT** { Pays 100% tuition and fees pro-rated, max. \$4,500 per year; 100% tuition waiver at state schools; for drilling undergrads; subject to limited funding.

**VA** { Interest-free loan for tuition and fees at state schools; two years service required for each full academic year.

**VI** { 32 free credits at U of VI grad or undergrad; based on available funding.

**VA** { Pays 100% tuition pro-rated, up to \$6,000 per year at VA based-schools; min. 2 years service after last funded semester.

**WA** { \$100,000 per year program loans money to WA Guard Soldiers; debt is forgiven if Soldier completes service obligation; 1 year additional service for each award.

**WV** { 100% tuition assistance at in-state institutions for undergrad degrees.

**WI** { Grant of up to 100% tuition, max. \$2,809, at approved schools; enlisted members and warrant officers without bachelor's only.

**WY** { Pays up to 100% tuition and fees at all state schools; pays up to \$962/semester for private schools; one degree only; min. 2 years after last funded class.

**GENERAL CAVEATS**

Programs assume Soldier is in good standing. There may be additional requirements. There may be minimum enlistment terms. These benefits may only be available for limited number of years of service. Pro-rated means maximum payout is tied to either average state school costs or the costs of a particular school. State benefits are subject to change; check with your recruiter for full details.



# VICTORY MAP

Sharing the good news from  
Guard units around the world.  
Send your news to [editor@gxonline.com](mailto:editor@gxonline.com).



## UNITED STATES

### ALASKA

AKARNG received a call for assistance at 4:45 p.m., May 23 to support the firefighters confronting a growing fire near Otter Lake on Fort Richardson. An AKARNG Black Hawk helicopter crew was able to jump to the task and begin attacking the fire with their water bucket. The fire began in an approximate five-acre area and quickly expanded to more than 50 acres. The Guard's Black Hawk crew remained on station fighting the fire, along with Ft. Richardson, Elmendorf and Fire Service Hot Shot crews until nearly 10:00 p.m. that evening.

### GEORGIA

Georgia's 48th Brigade Combat Team led by BG Stewart Rodeheaver, received the USO's 2006 Patriot Award during the Atlanta Regional Military Affairs

Council's 54th annual Military Affairs Luncheon. BG Rodeheaver told an audience of more than 500 military and civilian onlookers "It's an honor and a very humbling experience to accept this award on behalf of the 48th. It's been said 'it takes generals to win battles, but it takes Soldiers to win wars, and for 18 months I had the privilege of leading some of the best warriors we have. From them, and from me, we say 'thank you' from the bottom of our hearts for your support and for honoring us in this way."

### MARYLAND

Citizen-Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1/115th Infantry have returned home after completing their mission in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit arrived at Fort Stewart, GA where they were demobilized before returning to Maryland. There was a welcome home ceremony held at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland College Park. The ceremony was on May 13.

### MICHIGAN

Approximately 47 Soldiers from the 263rd Personnel Services Detachment, Lansing, MI, were recognized May 20th, at a Freedom Salute ceremony for their 14-month deployment in support of

Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit was called to active duty October 2004 and arrived home November 2005.

The 263rd served under the Coalition Forces Land Component Command located in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The Soldiers performed personnel actions including Red Cross messages, emergency leaves, awards and evaluations.

The ceremony also recognizes and honors the families, employers, and other centers of influence of each Guard member.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

More than 400 NH Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen were deployed throughout the state to augment emergency operations in as many as 15 communities socked

by record-breaking rainfall and flooding. The NH National Guard's role in supporting local police, fire and emergency personnel expanded from traffic control and evacuations to include filling and delivering tens of thousands of sandbags. In total, nearly 800 NH Guard members were directly involved in the statewide disaster response. Many more were on stand-by.

### OHIO

The OHARNG has been selected by the Department of the Army as the Fiscal Year 2006 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Special Category Winner. The ACOE award recognizes the OHARNG's effort in improving their overall performance and capabilities.

**Guard officials in 43 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia—from Puerto Rico to Guam—have developed partnerships with 50 countries around the world since the National Guard State Partnership Program started in 1993. The program's goals reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard using its unique civil-military nature to interact with both active and reserve forces of foreign countries.**

The Ohio Army National Guard enlisted 235 new recruits in May 2006, continuing an upward trend in recruiting that began last summer. SGT Sonny Hernandez, a recruiter based in Dayton, is leading the charge for Ohio and is currently ranked second nationwide in Army National Guard recruiting. Assistant Adjutant General for Army BG Matt Kambic recently presented Hernandez the Army's Meritorious Service Medal for enlisting 10 Soldiers in January, 2006—the first such award presented since 2001.

**RHODE ISLAND**

On May 12th, the 172nd Infantry Company, Rhode Island Army National Guard, returned to Rhode Island after spending the last 11 months in Iraq. The 172nd Infantry, which is headquartered at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich, left Rhode Island in January 2005. The 172nd deployed to Iraq where over the last 11 months they have been involved with anti-insurgency operations throughout the country. During the deployment, the unit did not suffer any casualties.

**TEXAS**

Bank of America donated \$1 million to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund to help finance a 60,000 square foot rehabilitation center for servicemembers critically wounded in war.



**BAHAMAS**

In May, a delegation of representatives from Rhode Island visited the Bahamas. This delegation of Law Enforcement officials was led by CPT Michael Manning, the State Partnership Program Coordinator, for the Rhode Island Guard.

The purpose of their mission was a cultural exchange of ideas and methods pertaining to how the Royal Bahamian Police Force and the Providence Police and State Police Force operate in apprehending and incarcerating law breakers. Since the Bahamas and Rhode Island are "partner states" in the State Partnership Program, they are both sharing ideas and techniques with their various Law Enforcement Agencies.



**IRAQ**

Before March 2003, only 5.5 million of Iraq's 25 million citizens had access to a safe and stable water supply. Today, 19 potable water treatment facilities have been built or rehabilitated, providing a standard level of service to about 2.7 million more Iraqis.

On May 1, two Soldiers assigned to Alpha Company, 164th Engineer Battalion, NDARNG, attached to the 110th Engineer Battalion in Iraq, dove into a local canal and saved the life of a young Iraqi teenager who was drowning.

SGT David Mabey, who is serving in Iraq with the 144th Area Support Medical Company, UTARNG, was inducted May 10 into the Army's Audie Murphy Club. Organized in 1991, the club was created to recognize outstanding leadership demonstrated by Army noncommissioned officers. Criteria for nomination to the club include demonstration of exceptional leadership attributes and personal achievement.

While conducting multiple assaults May 23, Coalition Forces captured 10 suspected terrorists and destroyed two vehicles and one tent that was used as a terrorist safe house. The troops also found ammunition and electronic equipment used for making improvised explosive devices at the terrorist camps.



**THAILAND**

Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Indonesia and the U.S. participated in the Cobra Gold exercise held in Thailand from May 15-26. The exercise involved National Guard Soldiers, including the 35th Infantry Division out of Fort Leavenworth, KS. Cobra Gold 2006 is the latest in a series of exercises, promoting regional peace and security. This exercise marks the 25th anniversary of this training event. Training consists of a computer-simulated staff exercise, field training exercises and humanitarian/civic assistance projects.

**ZARQAWI "OUT OF BUSINESS"**

Jordanian terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi died in an air strike north of Baghdad June 7th.

Tips and intelligence led forces to Zarqawi and some of his associates who were conducting a meeting approximately eight kilometers north of Baqubah when the air strike was launched.



"Iraqi police were first on the scene after the air strike, and elements of Multinational Division North arrived shortly thereafter. Coalition forces were able to identify Zarqawi by fingerprint verification, facial recognition and known scars," announced Army GEN George W. Casey Jr., commander of Multinational Force Iraq.

Zarqawi and al Qaeda in Iraq have conducted terrorist activities against the Iraqi people for years in attempts to undermine the Iraqi national government and coalition efforts to rebuild and stabilize Iraq, U.S. officials in Iraq said. He is known to be responsible for the deaths of thousands of Iraqis.

"Now Zarqawi has met his end, and this violent man will never murder again. Iraqis can be justly proud of their new government and its early steps to improve their security," said President George W. Bush in a statement on June 8. "And Americans can be enormously proud of the men and women of our armed forces, who worked tirelessly with their Iraqi counterparts to track down this brutal terrorist and put him out of business."

**WVARNG SELECTS FIRST FEMALE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**

A 20-year veteran of the West Virginia Army National Guard is the state Guard's first female command sergeant major, the Army's highest rank for enlisted members.

ISG Cindy L. Todorovich was promoted June 6 by Adjutant General Allen Tackett and her husband, Mike, a lieutenant colonel in the Army Guard, at a ceremony in the Charleston Armory War Room.



"I'm so honored," CSM Todorovich said. "When I joined this organization more than 20 years ago I never would have expected to make it to this level. The NCO is truly the backbone of the Army. It's an awesome responsibility, and I look forward to the opportunity," she said.

"Today's ceremony marks another first in the history of the West Virginia National Guard," said GEN Tackett. "ISG Todorovich's promotion demonstrates to our Soldiers that through hard work and dedication they can achieve their goals and become leaders in the Army Guard."

CSM Todorovich enlisted in the West Virginia Army National Guard in 1984, beginning her career as a 71L20 clerk typist in the 111th Engineer Group. She progressed through the enlisted ranks while working at all levels in the organization, culminating in her assignment as the first sergeant in the Joint Forces Headquarters in Charleston.

"The Guard has provided a good life for my family," CSM Todorovich said.





International

WELCOME TO JACKSON

# An early morning fog had and shrouded the Mississippi airfield where we

The plane that would soon be taking us to war was half visible

on the tarmac, its doors open and welcoming. The Soldiers of the 1/34th BCT were mostly sacked out, sprawled across the concrete floor on one side of our assigned hangar. Only a handful of troops were awake and wandering around. A few men stood under the enormous American flag hanging from one end of the building, making last minute calls home. A couple of guys were drinking coffee and talking. Several others were playing cards.

**LOAD UP** Soldiers of the 125th Battalion prepare to load their body armor onboard the plane that will soon transport them to Iraq.



rolled in  
were waiting.

# INTO THE SANDBOX

Story and photos by Chris West



Members of the 125th Battallion spend time training in the Kuwaiti desert preparing for their mission.

The Soldiers around me didn't seem nervous, just ready to get on with it, ready to get on the plane and get to "The Sandbox." They had been training hard for the last six months, and they were anxious to get started. After all, as one Soldier told me, "The sooner we get there, the sooner we come home."

I had received the call to grab my gear and get to Camp Shelby at the last possible minute. My paperwork had been approved, and I was going to be allowed to embed with the troops while they were still in the United States. I was cleared to travel with the 1/34th in order to tell the story of their first thirty days. This would allow me to cover the trip into theater, the acclimatization process, the move into Iraq and the beginning of the hand-off from the unit they were relieving.

The next twenty-four hours were a blur of sleep, in-flight movies, good chow and the occasional chat with a nearby Soldier. We stopped briefly in Bangor, Maine, where we were greeted by two groups of dedicated and wonderful civilians: the Maine Troop Greeters and the Freeport Flag Ladies. These folks take the time to greet every flight of troops that travels through Maine. They form a gauntlet at the gate, and every Soldier is thanked, hugged, has his or her hand shaken and is generally made to feel like the heroes they are.

**The new troops have been well trained, but training can never replace experience. It's all too easy for things to go wrong at this stage.**

There were free snacks, reading material and best of all, free cell phones the Soldiers could use to call home one more time. This would be the last time the troops would set foot on American soil for many months, and they simply could not ask for a better send off. As we reboarded the plane, it was to the sound of cheers of gratitude and support. The 1/34th had a definite spring in its step.

All told, from our formation in Mississippi to our formation in Kuwait, it took us more than thirty-six hours to arrive at what would become our home for the next two weeks: Camp Buering, Kuwait. After being briefed, we unloaded the trucks and stumbled to our billets, huge white tents that were shaped like WWII-era Quonset huts. However, these buildings had fabric sides and metal frames that creaked in the desert winds like an old wooden sailing ship.

The reason we were hanging out in Kuwait for two weeks was pretty straight-forward: acclimatization. When I first heard of this, I thought it meant we would be getting used to the heat. While that is a critical part of the process, it is only one element. One of the hardest things to get used to is the new time zone. It's surprising just how jet-lagged you get traveling to the other side of the world.

It took three days in country before I came close to sleeping through the night. Our bodies were still convinced that we were in Mississippi on Central/Standard Time. Unfortunately, we were now eight hours ahead of CST. That means that at around six in the morning, we were ready for bed instead of reveille. When we were active, this really wasn't a problem, but when we stopped for any time at all, our confused internal clocks would try to put us to sleep.

Standing orders were for no sleep during the day. We are all supposed to wait for 2200 and lights out in order to force our bodies to acclimatize to the new time zone. Everyone tried, but there's a fair amount of down time during those first two weeks.

We would sit still for just a minute and our eyes would grow heavy. The mind would start to get fuzzy, and whether we wanted to or not, we would begin nodding off. It wasn't uncommon to walk through the barracks and find someone who had fallen asleep sitting up.

It affected our thinking as well. Several times, I misspoke or just took forever to get around to figuring out what it was I wanted to say.





For complete coverage of Chris's embed with the 1/34th BCT go to

[www.gxonline.com/redbulls/blog/](http://www.gxonline.com/redbulls/blog/)



In a combat zone, this kind of mental fatigue is extremely dangerous. You have to be on your toes at all times, and, as a result, the process of acclimatization is vitally important to getting the unit ready for its mission.

Fortunately, there was plenty here to keep us busy in our off time. The MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) facilities are varied and excellent, offering a wide variety of activities. Physical fitness and sports are naturally very big. Volleyball courts, basketball and a superior gym are all available for those of a mind to get some exercise. The Soldiers have a lot of other ways to fill their time. Movies, TV, books, internet, pool tables, board games and many more activities are provided. Tournaments, clubs and special events show up on a regular basis as well.

The chow halls provide an excellent variety of food. Burger King, Taco Bell and Baskin Robbins provide a little taste of home for those missing their fast food fix. It may seem strange, but something as minor as a Whopper can have an enormous impact on a Soldier's morale. One of the guys came in chomping on the remnants of a cheeseburger. The smile on his face and look of sheer contentment made it clear just how important these establishments are. None of it makes up for being away from home, but it does make the separation a little easier.

In addition to getting used to their new environment, the troops have a fair amount of additional training to accomplish during these first weeks. They spend a good deal of time at the range zeroing their personal weapons (setting the sights so the weapon fires accurately), getting briefed on the latest intel and training for their mission in Iraq.

The move into Iraq itself is usually described in terms of "flowing into country." The popular conception of 4,000 Soldiers marching en masse across the border is an artifact of earlier wars. The reality is that small units work their way through the military transport system, a few at a time. They travel over a period of weeks, flowing into place in a carefully orchestrated movement.

However, getting from one place to another in a war zone isn't exactly a straight forward proposition. Roads can be closed, flights cancelled and convoys re-routed—all at a moment's notice. War simply doesn't abide by schedules. This means that a trip of only a few hundred miles as the crow flies can sometimes take days as the Soldiers ping-pong around Iraq. The facilities at the bases where they stop are uniformly good, but temporary housing is usually crowded and uncomfortable. Combine this with the fact that the Soldiers are moving from place to place with 120 lbs or more in gear in 100 degree plus heat, and you'll begin to realize that this is not a fun process.

Finally, after a seeming eternity, the units find their final destinations: their homes for the next twelve months . . . sort of. For the next few weeks, they will most likely still be living in temporary quarters.



(Top to bottom ) CPT Paul Rickert in front of Camp Buering's sandwich shop; Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities keep troops entertained during the acclimatization process; Soldiers spend time at the firing range making sure everything is in perfect working order before moving into Iraq.

Their permanent billets are being used by other troops. You see, the Soldiers they are relieving are still in place, and for the next month, the bases are going to be a little overcrowded. The wait for a phone seems interminable. Lines at the chow hall stretch out the doors. Getting online to check email can require a wait of hours.

It's a pain in the neck, but you won't hear much in the way of serious complaints. The new troops are glad to have their replacements still in residence. They have something the 1/34th wants and needs: knowledge. The unit about to go home has been executing their missions—soon to be tasked to 1/34th—for the past year. They have detailed first hand knowledge of the challenges that lie ahead. They know the people, the terrain and the mission. By passing on what they know, the learning curve for the incoming troops is dramatically lessened.

This “hand-off” of lessons learned and operational responsibility is known as “right-seat / left-seat” training. This means that for the first few weeks the new troops ride in the right, or passenger's, seat and observe the veterans going about their duties. They participate in the missions, but they do not lead them. Their role during this phase is that of student and assistant.

After a short time, the positions are switched, and the fresh troops take the left, or driver's, seat, planning and leading the missions they've been observing. The vets take the right seat and observe and consult with their replacements, making sure they've got all of the information and skills they need to successfully carry on the mission.

In the case of the 1/34th, the troops leading them through this training are the 48th, an Army National Guard unit headquartered in Georgia. The 48th took their responsibilities as trainers very seriously. They not only carried out the right-seat/left-seat phase with all the Hooah spirit one would expect from the Guard, but they also seemed

to take a personal, one-on-one interest. It was a fairly common site around my base to see Soldiers from both units huddled together exchanging intel. I even saw a couple of guys from the 48th chase a Soldier from the 1/34th down the street in order to make sure that a critical safety point was conveyed. These weren't just replacements; they were brothers in arms, and the 48th was going to do everything in its power to ensure its friends would return home safely.

I can't stress enough the importance of this transfer of knowledge. “Relief in Place” (a new unit taking over the duties and responsibilities of another unit without any interruption of ongoing operations) is, according to COL Elicerio, one of the most difficult and dangerous operations that a military unit can undertake. New troops, inexperienced in this theater, are replacing ones that have been living, eating and sleeping the mission for a year straight. The new troops have been well trained, but training can never replace experience. It's all too easy for things to go wrong at this stage. The sharing of lessons, combined with a gradual hand-off of operational responsibility, is critical to its success.

This is the last step in the training and preparation of the 1/34th. From here on out, it's their show. For the next year, they will be guarding convoys, providing force protection, managing logistics and working with the native Iraqis in order to make a difference on the ground every day. They will be in the fight, facing down the enemy, putting themselves at risk in order to free the Iraqi people. By the time this article is published, the 1/34th will have taken over operational responsibilities from the 48th. They will have been in country for two months, executing the missions they have been tasked with. From everything I have seen, they will perform their duties with distinction and honor. **GX**

Roads can be closed,  
flights canceled and  
convoys re-routed—  
all at a moment's notice.  
War simply  
doesn't abide  
by schedules.



# Darby's Rangers

## WWII in North Africa and Italy **PART 1**



by Ed Brown

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, America's entry into WWII could be postponed no longer. The US Army selected the 34th Infantry as the first American Division to deploy to Europe. Their Commander, MG Russell P. Hartle, departed immediately for Northern Ireland to prepare for the arrival of the main body of the Division.

MG Hartle's aid-de-camp, CPT William O. Darby had only recently transferred to the 34th. Under orders to report to Pearl Harbor in November of 1941, the 31-year-old Darby's fate, along with the rest of the world's, changed when the Japanese attacked in early December. Ordered to report to the 34th as aid to MG Hartle, by January of 1942, he was among the first American troops to arrive in Europe.

Among the challenges confronting the US Army in the early part of the war was a lack of any real combat experience. If a cross-channel invasion was to occur, as Army Chief of Staff George Marshall was convinced would be necessary, how best to provide the green US forces with the experience they needed to insure success? Our friends the British would provide the answer.

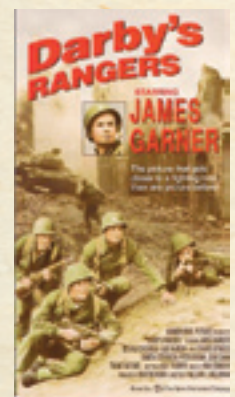
Conceived of by Winston Churchill as a means of continuing the fight against the Nazis after the evacuation of France in 1940, British Commandos had achieved demoralizing victories over the German coastal forces and celebrity status among the British population. In May of 1942, MG Lucian K. Truscott proposed to GEN Marshall that "we undertake immediately an American unit along the lines of the British Commandos." The War Department quickly authorized formation of the First US Army Ranger Battalion and assigned MG Hartle to select it's leader. MG Hartle looked no farther than Darby.

Now a Major, Darby had recruitment posters up within weeks of the rest of the Division's arrival. Pulled mainly from the 34th Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division, thousands of volunteers were weeded out to six hundred. Of those, only five hundred made it through the Commando training provided by the British in Scotland. By August of 1942, fifty Rangers were ready to participate in a British-

led raid on Dieppe. They were among the first US troops to see action in Europe.

The 34th Division continued its rigorous training in Ireland and Scotland while Allied commanders debated the first step in the liberation of Europe. The Allies ultimately decided that before attacking the "soft underbelly of Europe," they would have to get Rommel out of North Africa. The 34th were to see action for the very first time as part of Operation Torch.

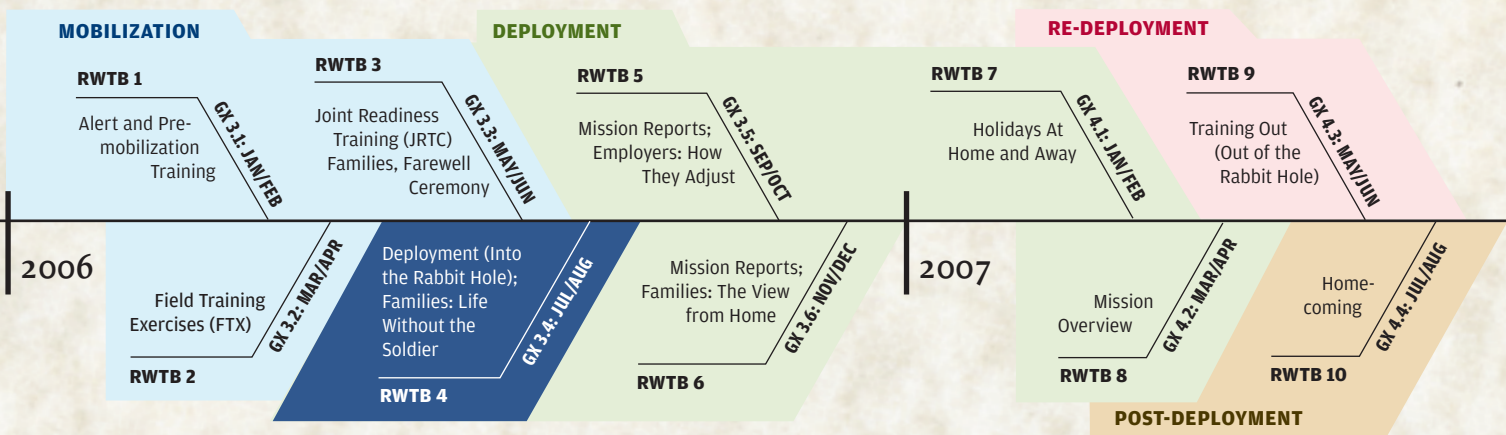
*NEXT ISSUE: WWII in North Africa and Italy, part 2*



**DARBY'S RANGERS (1957)**  
In his first starring role, James Garner portrays William Darby in this screen adaptation of the book by MAJ James Altieri.

**DARBY** William Orlando Darby, Brigadier General (Posthumously), Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, British Distinguished Service Order, Combat Infantry Badge

## GX Red Bulls Coverage



■ CURRENT ISSUE

# RED BULLS FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

## Catching up with the families of the 1/34th



By Keith Kawasaki

The Red Bulls Soldiers have been deployed for a few months now, and it seems appropriate to check in on how our Guard families are holding up. Last issue, we introduced seven families of Red Bulls Soldiers. Here, we touch base with the fiancée of SGT Clint Michael Mack and the parents of SSG's Jeff and Joe and 1LT Brian Douty.

**HOPE EVERS**, fiancée of SGT Clint Michael Mack; student at University of Minnesota at Morris.

**GX: How much contact have you been able to have with SGT Mack? Daily? Weekly? Is it primarily through email, letters, or phone calls?**

H: I've been really lucky with this. We usually talk every other day on the phone, and I can send emails as often as I want. Sometimes the [phone] connection is bad or we get cut off, but he is usually able to call back again.

At first, I really didn't know what to expect, but I never thought we would be able to talk this much. It makes it so much easier being able to talk to him frequently so I know he is doing okay. I worry less this way. Letters and packages take quite a while to reach him, and it varies each time you send something. But, it's always great to get something in the mail, so I try to send him a card every once in a while.

**GX: Based on your conversations with SGT Mack, how do you think his morale is holding up? How is your morale? Has it changed since the deployment began?**

H: I think Clint is holding up pretty well. I can tell there is some frustration with the uncertainty of his job, but he handles it well. I just keep telling him to look forward to the day he comes back home and get through this day by day until then.

I think I'm actually doing better than I was when he first left. Before I didn't know what to expect or how often I'd be able to talk to him. Now, we are on a schedule for talking, and like I mentioned before, I feel better being able to talk to him so often. The days are flying by, and I dream of the day he comes home.

**GX: In our last conversation, you mentioned that for the most part, you didn't really talk about your fiancée's deployment and you relied on friends for support. Does this still hold true, or has your methodology**

I still rely on my friends and family for support and occasionally a shoulder to cry on. I just try to focus on the future.

**GX: Please describe an average day for you in relation to your Soldier. Do you check email often? Do you calculate the time in Iraq to know what time of day it is for SGT Mack? Basically, what about your day-to-day living has changed or altered (if anything) since SGT Mack deployed overseas?**

H: I received a forward from a wife of a Soldier listing ways you could tell your loved one was deployed. Reading the list, I said "Yes" to almost every one\*.

I find myself checking the time and then seeing what time it is for him. I sleep next to my phone every night and set my alarm to wake me up in the morning when I'm expecting a call from him.

I check my email three times as often and find it hard to concentrate because I'm always thinking of him.

I've also had to rely on myself for things I used to have Clint help me with. I learned how to change a flat tire, and moving out of my apartment was a lot harder without him to help carry the heavy boxes!

**GX: Have you been involved with any Family Readiness Groups?**

H: No, I haven't joined any Family Readiness Groups. I'm not in the New Ulm area, and I haven't gotten around to locating more in my area.

\* *"The Patriette: You Know Your Husband is Deployed When..."; see it online at <http://www.gxonline.com/gxintelnews?id=29336>*

**changed to help you endure this deployment? Please describe.**

H: I believe this has also changed. I talk to my friends more often about Clint being gone, and I often catch myself telling customers at work about it. Now, every time regular customers come into the restaurant [where I work], they ask how he is doing, which makes me feel good that others are thinking about him. I am more comfortable with this deployment now that the initial shock is gone and I am getting used to having him gone.



COURTESY OF HOPE EVERS



**HOSPITALITY** At the home of an Iraqi Sheik, SSG Joseph Douty (center) with SSG Nate Winzer (left) and CPT Colin Fleming (right) were there to discuss reconstruction projects in the local area.

**MAJ (RET.) ROBERT AND MIEKO DOUTY**, parents of SSG's Jeff and Joe and 1LT Brian Douty, owners of Wilson Manufacturing in Pipestone, Minnesota.

**GX: How much contact have you had with your boys?**

D: A lot. On a weekly basis, for the most part, we have heard from at least one of our sons. If there has been a week where no one has called, Mieko and I are fortunate enough to have receive updated information from our daughters-in-law (Kristie or Alison) or Brian's special friend (Laura). Most of the communication has come from phones, but there is information being passed via the internet as well.

**GX: Judging from your conversations with them, how do you feel their morale is holding up?**

D: I think it important to stress to all your readers that our sons are no different than any other Soldier. They miss home and their families, but they have never, not once ever, have indicated that their morale is wavering, not one bit. They are always are upbeat and talk with a positive spin, but you would have to know our sons to understand that. They very seldom complain, unless they feel that have been taken advan-

tage of or wronged by individuals. They will tell like it is, and if it is okay, they truly mean it.

**GX: How is your morale holding up, and that of the rest of your family? Please describe.**

D: The morale of the families in Minnesota and North Dakota are also upbeat. We as families are realists, knowing that it is a difficult job to be a true family when half of the family members are gone. There are sacrifices on both sides.

Both Mieko and I are very fortunate to have two very wonderful daughters-in-laws and a special friend who are very strong. We can personally relate to the two daughters-in-law where we have observed their demeanor with and without their children. It takes a very strong person to work full-time and still take care of her children on a 24/7 basis.

**GX: During our last conversation, you expressed that your family is**

**pulling together to help each other through this deployment. Does this still hold true? Are you finding this support sufficient to endure the deployment? Please describe.**

D: The interaction of our families pulling together is a constant topic that we don't talk about a lot, but it just happens. There are questions that we ask all the time as we see each other. At that point, information is passed back and forth to ensure we all receive the most recent details of everyone's lives. Because we have so much in common, it is not hard to ask questions of each other: "What can we do for each other? Is there something we can help out with?"

**GX: Being the matriarch and patriarch of the Douty family, do you feel a responsibility for your daughters-in-law and grandchildren to serve as role models in this deployment, to lead by example, so to speak, on how best to handle this deployment and all that it entails? If so, please describe how this scenario might relate to you both.**

D: As the matriarch and patriarch of the Douty family, I think there is a duty (and both Mieko and I don't think about it; we just do it) that is given to us as

their parents to provide the ear to listen and the open hand to help out when necessary.

All of us, in our own personal way and time, think about how our sons/husbands/friends are in harm's way and what could possibly happen. It is natural, but we don't dwell on it—knowing that a lot of other sons and daughters before Jeff, Joe and Brian served their country in that same way. There hasn't been one day that goes by without people in our community who have stopped and asked us how the boys are doing and that they are praying for them to return home safely. They send cards, drop off personal items and just want to express that they also are thinking about the boys. It is truly wonderful how all of us, family, friends and the community have pulled together. **GX**

Read about GX's five additional featured Red Bulls families online at

[www.gxonline.com/redbulls](http://www.gxonline.com/redbulls)

# Make Your Service, Experience and Diligence Work for You

By Johanna Altland  
Grantham University

Does this sound like you? “Right after high school, I enlisted in the military, and now I want to earn a college degree. Can I get college credit for my military training?” OR “Over the years, I have completed some college classes and employee training courses, and now I would like to earn a Bachelor’s degree. Will my previous coursework count toward college credits?”

Whether you are entering college for the first time or returning to college after taking some time off, minimizing the amount of time it will take you to earn your degree is important. Below are some simple tips designed to help you make the most of your previously earned college credits, prior military training and work-related experience. Your college degree may be closer than you think!

## GET CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS COURSEWORK

If your first thought when thinking about returning to college or transferring colleges is “will my credits transfer,” you are not alone. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, attending more than one college or university during the course of undergraduate enrollment is common practice among college students. In fact, in 2001, almost 60 percent of college students transferred from one institution of higher learning to another.

When considering transferring credits, most institutions will evaluate your credits based on a few main factors: the grade you earned in the course, whether or not the course is comparable with courses in their curriculum and how long ago you completed the course. Generally, you may be awarded credit if the course’s content is equivalent to the institution’s corresponding course, and if you have a grade of “C” or better in the course. The important thing to remember is to do your research because each institution has its own policy regarding transfer credits.

## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WORK-RELATED TRAINING

Work-related training comes in many forms from the class you completed on Access Database Management to the professional certifications you earned throughout your career. In order to minimize the time spent enrolled in courses that you may already be familiar with, find an institution that will evaluate training certificates along with the knowledge and skills you acquired through training and educational programs, such as seminars and conferences for college credit.

## MAXIMIZE YOUR MOS

Many colleges and universities award military students credit toward a degree based on military training, coursework and Military Occupation Specialty (MOS).

The American Council on Education (ACE) is a great resource for questions about transforming your military training into college credit. Since 1945, ACE has been counseling colleges and universities about awarding credit for military training and military courses. ACE has a team of evaluators who routinely assess new military training programs for college credit.

Currently, there are over 1,500 colleges and universities who are ACE members. As participating members, institutions agree to consider ACE’s credit recommendations when evaluating military training; however, a college or university may award fewer transfer credits than ACE suggests or may award more credits. A survey conducted by ACE found that the average number of academic credits awarded from an Army AARTS transcript in 1998 was 14 semester credits (AARTS, <http://aarts.army.mil/faqs.htm>). Each institution has its own guidelines for granting credit, so it is important to look for a “military friendly” school that is guided by ACE’s recommendations.

ACE also publishes the *Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*, which is used as a tool for universities to evaluate credits earned through a MOS. To create the guide, ACE’s evaluators worked with the US Department of Defense and the armed services to identify the skills, competencies, and knowledge required of occupational specialties and related them to the same characteristics acquired by students who have completed a comparable college course or curriculum. The Guide outlines the occupational specialty, provides a detailed description of the MOS and gives the credit recommendations based on the skill level attained. Here are a few examples ACE credit recommendations:

### Indirect Fire Infantryman (MOS-11C-005)

Skill Level 30 : : 11 possible credits toward a degree

- ✓ 3 semester hours in military science
- ✓ 3 in personnel supervision
- ✓ 2 in records and information management
- ✓ 3 in map reading/interpretation

### Interior Communications Electrician (NER-IC-002)

IC2 : : 17 possible credits toward a degree

- ✓ 3 semester hours in basic electronics laboratory
- ✓ 3 in AC/DC circuits
- ✓ 3 in electrical/electronics systems troubleshooting and repair
- ✓ 3 in electromechanical systems
- ✓ 3 in digital principles
- ✓ 2 in maintenance management

### Port Securityman (CGR-PS-002)

PS3 : : 14 possible credits toward a degree

- ✓ 3 semester hours in maritime regulations
- ✓ 3 in law enforcement
- ✓ 3 in fire suppression
- ✓ 3 in warehousing
- ✓ 2 in environmental safety

### Cannon Crewmember (MOS-13B-004)

Skill Level 30 : : 16 possible credits toward a degree

- ✓ 2 semester hours in communications systems operation
- ✓ 1 in computer familiarization
- ✓ 2 in hydraulic and electromechanical systems maintenance
- ✓ 2 in map reading and land navigation
- ✓ 2 in applied mathematics
- ✓ 3 in principles of supervision
- ✓ 3 in oral communication skills
- ✓ 1 in technical report writing



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To view your ACE MOS credit recommendations using the online version of the Guide, visit [militaryguides.acenet.edu](http://militaryguides.acenet.edu).

### UTILIZE COLLEGE CREDIT EXAMS AND PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENTS

Now that more and more adults (over the age of 25) are returning to college to further their education, colleges have begun to consider on-the-job knowledge and life experience for credit.

One way to minimize the time and money spent on a class is to opt out of it by taking a test to demonstrate that you have already mastered the material. Tests can be taken for college credit through the College-Level Examination Program® (CLEP) or Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

Anyone can take a CLEP exam for credit, and over 2,900 colleges grant credit and/or advanced standing for CLEP tests. Be sure to check your university's credit guidelines before taking any exams. For more information on CLEP exams, please visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

DANTES sponsors a wide range of examination programs for college credit to

help service members meet their educational goals. These exams are offered at no charge to military personnel and can be taken at more than 560 military installations. Each year, over 150,000 DANTES sponsored exams are taken by military personnel. For more information on DANTES, please visit [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil). Again, please check your university's policy regarding these tests before investing in them.

In addition to the testing options above, some colleges and universities will evaluate a portfolio of your life experiences for credit. Typically, this option is for students who have been working in their professions for years and have the experience and credentials that could be applied for college credit.

By following the simple steps in this article and researching your university's transfer credit policy, you could save valuable time and money and be that much closer to earning your college degree. **GX**

[militaryguides.acenet.edu](http://militaryguides.acenet.edu)  
[www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil)  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)



### QUICK RESOURCE LINKS:

- ➔ American Council on Education (ACE)  
[www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu)
- ➔ ACE Online Military Guide  
[militaryguides.acenet.edu](http://militaryguides.acenet.edu)
- ➔ CLEP Exams  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ➔ DANTES  
[www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil)

### MILITARY TRANSCRIPT LINKS:

- ➔ Army ACE Registry Transcript (AARTS)  
[aarts.army.mil](http://aarts.army.mil)
- ➔ Marine/Navy ACE Registry Transcript (SMART)  
[smart.cnet.navy.mil](http://smart.cnet.navy.mil)
- ➔ Community College of the Air Force (CCAF)  
[www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/active\\_transc](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/active_transc)
- ➔ Coast Guard Institute (CGI)  
[www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/forms](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/forms)

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# The Patriette

## Blogging for the Greater Good

By Keith Kawasaki

If you are a Guard family member and are looking for deployment news and information from a source that can actually *relate* to what you're going through, GX recommends The Patriette.

The Patriette is a personal Web log (or blog) serving Guard families with frequent updates including stories on deployment, editorial commentary, and hundreds of links—making the site a massive one-stop shop for family news, support groups, Veterans groups, Department of Defense releases, healthcare info, finance info, education info, and more—all delivered with incredible wit and intelligence. The forefront of The Patriette's mission includes dispersing the good news about our Military, connecting Guard family members, and celebrating the joy and honor of being the wife of an American Soldier. In fact, The Patriette was created and is maintained by the proud wife of a 1/34th Red Bulls Soldier of the Minnesota Army National Guard. Her husband is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and is expected to return home toward the early part of next year.\*

The Patriette took some time to chat with us recently and shared a bit about herself and her dedication to our Military.

### **GX: Is there a history of Military service in your family?**

PAT: My father served in Vietnam as a hospital corpsman and was active duty Navy for 30 years. My husband went with the Army. He served seven years active duty and now he's with the Army National Guard. My husband is an infantry officer.

### **GX: Have you ever considered Military service?**

PAT: Yes. I ended up not pursuing it because my husband and I decided to start our family. So, we decided I had a different job to do here at home. I'm pregnant right now and due at the end of May 2006, so that kind of changed my thoughts of joining either the Reserve or the Guard.

### **GX: What prompted your consideration of service?**

PAT: Seeing things going on in the world, trying to look for a way to make a difference and do my part. Instead of joining the service, however, I think I can make a difference through being the wife of a deployed Soldier and through supporting him and our troops. I think the things that our Military is doing right now are very important and vital to our country and supporting them and their mission can make a difference.

### **GX: What is your day job?**

PAT: I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota. I am also a graduate assistant in the College of Education and I volunteer at the Veteran's Transition Center at the University of Minnesota.

[My husband] is an MBA student at the University of Minnesota. I have to say that his program did a great job in handling his mobilization and his deployment. He will return to courses after he returns from deployment.

### **GX: Have you and your husband endured a deployment in the past?**

PAT: Not an actual deployment. There was a time period while we were dating that he was in Korea. He was active duty there and extended there—he spent almost three years there. They extended him twice. I keep thinking back to that experience and it's helped me deal with the current situation, knowing that we've made it through a similar challenge before.

### **GX: What kinds of lessons were learned during the Korea experience?**

PAT: I think the biggest thing I learned is to appreciate even the smallest contact from him, whether it's a phone call, letter, or email. I learned not to let myself get too panicked or worried because I know what he's doing (his mission) keeps him busy. I also have faith that he will be contacting me again at some point, whenever he is able. I hear a lot of concern from other wives who don't hear from their husbands very often. I appreciate having a husband who understands how much it means to hear from him—even when there is nothing exciting to say. He's actually really, really great about that. It makes a total difference—even if he just sends me a one sentence email.

### **GX: When did you start The Patriette blog and why?**

PAT: Well, I started The Patriette maybe two and half years ago. It was originally started as a place for me to vent—about the news, about politics. It was actually about six months after the war had started and I was working in Texas. I was really getting frustrated about things and I wanted a place to vent. So I started reading some other people's blogs and thought, "you know, this might help me deal with some of my frustration."

It started off with a mostly political focus, but over time and as my life has changed over the past few years, it has turned to more Military-related issues.

### **GX: It's an amazing resource. I'm able to find a great deal of information on not only the Red Bulls deployment, but sometimes even other branches of service—really bringing home the basic idea that no matter what the service, many effects and elements endured by a family during deployment are universal and it's important to band together, help each other out. What sort of feedback have you received from family members?**

PAT: So far, I've found it most interesting that some of the family members in different parts of the country (not in Minnesota) are trying to find information about the [Red Bulls] brigade. They will sometimes stumble upon my Web site and send me an email saying, "keep posting news about the brigade because I can't find it anywhere!" So that's been rewarding. Occasionally, I even hear from Soldiers who are glad that I'm trying to share news of some of the good things they are doing. And that's been rewarding as well.

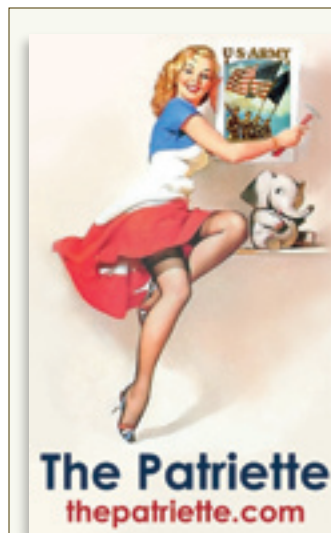
### **GX: How are you involved with the Family Readiness Groups?**

PAT: I attend the meetings regularly. My husband has actually been attached to two different units since his mobilization. I am on the contact list for both and

regularly get updates from two Family Readiness Groups. I've also done some volunteer work with the Family Readiness Group currently associated with my husband's unit—helping to edit the newsletter and providing input on the Web site. The Family Readiness Group has been great at putting the families in touch with community resources and specifically supporting me through my pregnancy since my husband has been away. He won't be here when our baby is born, but I have had lots of offers of help from other family members. That's been great.

### **GX: What keeps you strong; where do you find your support? You're so great about getting information out and helping others. Who's helping you?**

PAT: Actually, I think just helping other people and helping people find the information they need keeps me going. I've really enjoyed getting involved in the Veterans Transition Center at the University of Minnesota. I've enjoyed meeting and assisting returning Vets—talking to them and their family members—that gives me a lot of strength. To hear about those men and women coming back, who've been there, made it through, are returning to their regular lives—it reminds me that eventually my husband and I will be there, too. And in a strange way, I'm really glad that I've been pregnant since my husband has been away [laughs]. Being pregnant gives my husband and me something really exciting and positive to focus on through the deployment. When he calls, it's not just filled with, "I miss you and you're not here and I'm lonely." These days it's, "So, what's the baby doing this week?!" Talking about and looking forward to the birth of our daughter reminds us that even with the distance, we're still connected, still a family, and still have lots to look forward to beyond this deployment. **GX**



### **Who is The Patriette?**

Daughter of a Vietnam Vet and the wife of a Minnesota Army National Guard officer, The Patriette is a proud American who loves her family, country, the U.S. military, wit and sarcasm, supports the Second Amendment, lower taxes, weekends, puppies, ice hockey, NASCAR, polar bears, and cookies. She is not fond of high taxes, Communists, religious extremists, antiwar protesters, most reality television, mosquitoes, terrorists, much of the mainstream media, many politicians, and eggplants.

*Courtesy of ThePatriette.com*

*\*The opinions and viewpoints expressed in this herein are exclusive to the author and are not to be taken as official statements of the Army National Guard.*



# Our Military Kids Making a Difference in the Lives of Guard Children

Courtesy of Our Military Kids

When an Air Force officer was asked what he needed in Iraq he said, "Please don't send cookies, care packages or socks. Just help take care of our children." Our Military Kids is heeding his plea. Our Military Kids is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) dedicated to making essential extracurricular activities, including tutoring, available to school-aged children of deployed and severely injured Reserve and National Guard military personnel. When a military parent is deployed, extracurricular activities become all the more important for keeping kids involved and on track. In the case of Reserve and National Guard personnel, family incomes often shrink when a parent is deployed, thus making it more difficult for a child to participate.

The program is a true public/private partnership. Our Military Kids received its first funding from major defense contractors including General Dynamics, The Boeing Company, Rolls Royce and Lockheed Martin. These contributions were followed by the commitment of public funds from both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Congress. The program has received funding from individuals and other companies, unrelated to the defense industry. Thus far, Our Military Kids has provided grants to children in 30 states.

People donating to the Our Military Kids program can be assured 100% of their contribution is going directly to funding the activities of the children. Our Military Kids has a strong, involved board of directors that governs an ethical and prudent operation. There is also an impressive advisory board that includes a former defense secretary, generals, and other people with a strong commitment to the military and the military family.

Families who have used the program have remarked it is easy to access and has a very fast turnaround time. To submit a request for a grant, eligible families are encouraged to apply for funding through the Our Military Kids Web site or by calling the Our Military Kids office to receive an application. Each applicant is required to provide documentation that confirms his or her eligibility as a child of a deployed or severely injured Reserve or National Guard service person. Applicants must also specify the qualifying extracurricular activity for which funding is requested, and identify the organization that provides the activity. Upon approval, a grant check is issued on behalf of the child and mailed directly to the designated organization. The child is sent a congratulatory letter, a certificate and an Our Military Kids patch. The maximum grant award is \$500.00.

The Our Military Kids program has been able to award grants to children like Kayla, a charming six-year-old who was experiencing emotional difficulties stemming from separation from her deployed father and her worry for his safe return. Kayla's mother was aware of her academic difficulties, but was nonetheless shocked to find out at the end of the school year that Kayla's teacher had recommended she be held back and not advanced to the second grade.

This was yet another crushing blow to an already distressed child. Not only was Kayla missing her father, but she would also no longer be in the same class as her friends. Her mother applied to Our Military Kids for a grant to help pay for tutoring services during the summer months, hoping this extra attention and academic guidance would put Kayla back on track for the second grade in the fall. It was reported that Kayla, now in the second grade, is receiving excellent grades on her report card!

Cain and Colton, two brothers from West Virginia, are another of Our Military Kids' favorite success stories. When we met Cain and Colton, Cain was eight-years-old and Colton was ten. Their father



had been in Afghanistan for over a year, and their older brother was serving in Iraq. As is sometimes the case when family members are deployed, these boys had become the "men of the house," taking over many chores, including chopping and stacking firewood, mowing the fields and shoveling snow.

All this added responsibility was not lost on their mother. She came to Our Military Kids in search of a grant that would allow both boys to attend a camp so "they could be children for just a week." Thanks to the generosity of Our Military Kids' corporate sponsors, she got her wish. The boys attended a sports camp that included horseback riding, something both boys loved.

In responding to a post-grant survey taken by Our Military Kids, Cain and Colton's mother wrote that, while her boys liked the Our Military Kids patch and award certificate, "what impressed them most was that someone acknowledged them and made them feel important." **GX**

Our Military Kids believes every child of deployed military personnel is important. For more information:

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

6861 Elm Street, Suite 3-F, McLean, Virginia 22101  
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**FORT GREELY**

**QUICK FACTS:**

Alaska has played a vital role in the strategic defense of the U.S. since the mid-twentieth century. Its location at the northwestern tip of the nation has allowed it to serve as a base of operations for U.S. military forces, most notably during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Cold War. Fort Greely, one of these Alaskan bases, was established in 1942 on a 640,000-acre expanse approximately 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks, or 350 miles northeast of Anchorage. During World War II, it became a staging area for U.S. aircraft being transported to the Soviet Union as part of the "Lend Lease" program.

In 1955, the U.S. Army turned Fort Greely into a cold weather training and testing facility, taking advantage of the base's remote and sparsely populated surroundings.

In 1962, the Army constructed a SM-1 nuclear reactor at Fort Greely and, four years later, began testing biological and chemical weapons as well as other ordinance on the site itself.

Although the power plant was decommissioned in 1973, testing and training continued throughout the 1980s.

In 1995, however, the Pentagon was forced to close down Fort Greely as part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act.

On December 13, 2001, President George W. Bush informed the Russians he planned to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty, which forbade the construction of a U.S. missile defense shield. One year later, Bush announced his intention to begin deploying ground-based anti-ballistic missile defenses by the end of 2004.

# The Tip of Freedom's Spear

8 MAY 2006 - Command of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) changes hands as LTC Edward E. Hildreth assumed command of the historic unit by accepting the unit's colors presented by COL Michael L. Yowell, commander of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (GMD) – higher headquarters for the 49th (pictured right, page 67). Looking on is outgoing commander, LTC Gregory S. Bowen, the first commander of the unit that stood up by presidential directive Jan. 22, 2004.

by Mitch Powers

In a land where temperatures can swing from 90 above to 60 below and baseball is played at midnight without lights, 200 Army National Guard Soldiers proudly stand on the tip of Freedom's spear.

Home to parks bigger than many states, this is Alaska, vast and wild. Here you'll find the 49th Missile Defense Battalion defending the homeland. Thousands of tourists come to Alaska every winter to glimpse the Northern Lights, but the mission of the 49th makes them stargazers of a different order. From recently completed high-tech facilities at the re-energized Ft. Greely, the 49th scan the heavens in an ever-vigilant watch for incoming ballistic missiles. When we go to sleep at night, we don't think about these things, do we? Well, these men and women are the reason why.

Since beginning its presidentially directed mission almost three years ago, the battalion was led by LTC Gregory S. Bowen. During the Change of Command ceremony, brigade commander COL Michael L. Yowell, praised the immense effort it took to build such a unit, saying that LTC Bowen started "virtually from

scratch." According to BG Thomas H. Katkus, Assistant Adjutant General for Space and Missile Defense (and also a native Alaskan and career Guard member), LTC Bowen "showed up with a clipboard and a Chaplain, so they gave him somebody who could pray for him and said 'Here's your clipboard, now go to work,' so he had the two right things for the job."

LTC Bowen addressed his troops saying; "It was a tremendous honor to be able to impact on a mission I passionately believe in. We know that the President is aware of what we do. As long as I live, I will never forget the great Soldiers I served with, and the great things we did here."

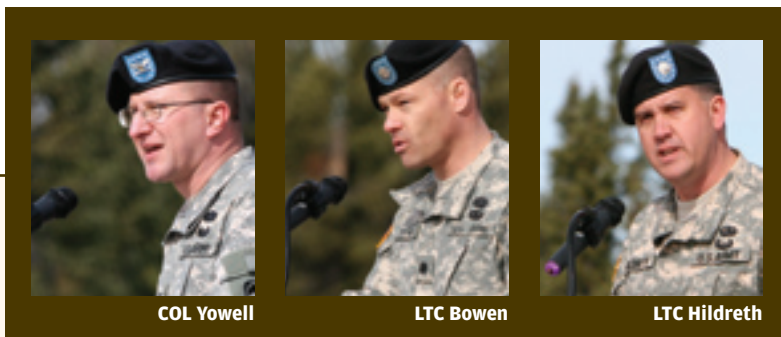
BG Katkus points out the significance of the Change of Command ceremony by explaining that the 49th was started and stood up under LTC Bowen, its first commander, adding; "This is the first change of command for the 49th; it's brand new. Less than two years ago, there were trees covering the 800-plus acres of missile field and now it is a complete facility that looks great." In his role as a liaison between Active Army and the National Guard, BG Katkus has oversight for

## FT. GREELY CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

### SPEECH EXCERPTS

**COL MICHAEL L. YOWELL, COMMANDER OF THE 100TH MISSILE DEFENSE BRIGADE**

Today, in the time honored tradition of professional Soldiers, we bid farewell to one commander and welcome another. But the 49th Missile Defense Battalion is unlike any other unit in our nation's military, and the same can be said of the outgoing and incoming commanders as well.



COL Yowell

LTC Bowen

LTC Hildreth

Literally starting from scratch, Greg has recruited Soldiers and molded his command in three short years to the premier battalion it is today. A battalion that is trained, certified and ready right now to defeat a limited ballistic missile attack against the United States. He did this by pouring his blood, sweat and an occasional tear into what is right for his Soldiers and our nation's defense.

Now rumor has it Greg may have stepped on a few toes in the process. Well, knowing him as long as I have, I'm sure it was more than a few toes. But in my Brigade's mission to protect the American people, you can't move like pond water and achieve the phenomenal success he's had with this presidentially directed mission.

National Guard Missile Defense responsibilities and maintains that the right Soldiers for the job require the right support from leadership; “We’re continuing to improve facilities, housing and shops. We’re getting the right support for our families and our Guard members enjoy a tight-knit community plus hunting, fishing and the great outdoors, which we have in abundance in Alaska. It is critical because we hope to keep them here long-term as it is expensive to train these folks and we intend for them to become very proficient at what they do, and have a wonderful family experience, too.”

Incoming commander, LTC Edward E. Hildreth, commented on his privilege to command the 49th; “[A]s an officer, it is the ultimate privilege to be entrusted with command, it’s what you work for from the day you become a Second Lieutenant. I’ve been in air defense my whole career and there are many exciting things happening here. The Missile Defense Program is a presidential program begun in the Reagan administration, and the capabilities demonstrated here are critical parts of our national missile defense strategy. We have trained and ready crews, and if asked we’re prepared at a moments notice to do our job and defeat any missile threats that might come our way.”

Regarding the Change of Command ceremony, LTC Hildreth observed; “Holding this ceremony on the anniversary of VE Day (when Germany surrendered unconditionally May 8, 1945) is appropriate, because the Soldiers here today have the same unwavering commitment to the defense of our nation as did those great heroes. They all represent the Army values, and I am proud to be standing in their ranks, defending the homeland.” **GX**



**LTC GREGORY S. BOWEN, OUTGOING COMMANDER, 49TH MISSILE BATTALION**

I think it is every outgoing commander’s desire to turn over a unit that is better than it was when he or she arrived. Ted, I can quite honestly tell you that the 49th is better today than when I arrived! But, the credit for that goes largely to the Soldiers you see standing here today. They did the “heavy lifting” necessary to stand this battalion up from scratch.

And I knew coming into this job that it would not be easy. The responsibility has been mine, and the buck stopped with me. On balance, the positive things far outweigh the negative, and if given the chance, I would do it again in a heartbeat. My only regret is that I will not be here the day the system is put on alert.

To the Soldiers of the 49th, I must tell you it has been the greatest honor of my career to serve as your commander. Now it is time for a change, and change is a good thing. LTC Hildreth is going to be an outstanding commander, but he will do some things differently than I have. The Army changes commanders for a very good reason. New ideas prevent a unit from becoming stagnant. I know you will support him just as you supported me, and that the unit will continue to grow as a result.

**LTC EDWARD E. HILDRETH COMMANDER, 49TH MISSILE BATTALION**

It is truly a privilege to accept the Battalion colors of this great unit. It is without a doubt one of the most significant occasions for my

Army National Guard career and one I take with a great sense of pride and profound humility.

These are truly historic times. Your sacrifices and service to the United States of America and the Alaska National Guard support a national security imperative . . . we are the tip of Freedom’s spear.

Together we will face new challenges, a changing strategic landscape and evolving global threats. Combat readiness, Discipline, Fitness and a Soldier’s Ethos will be this Battalion’s watchwords and will provide the azimuth that will defeat any and all emerging threats.

I am proud to stand in your ranks, defending the Homeland. **GX**

**RIGHT** Greg Biffle driver of the #16 National Guard Ford celebrates after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Dodge Charger 500 on May 13, 2006 at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, South Carolina. **BELOW** Biffle fights to keep Jeff Gordon behind him as he collects the season's first win.



# Driven to Win

Greg Biffle's determination finally pays off at Darlington

Story by Amber Moody/Roush Racing



Greg Biffle and the National Guard team have been in a position to go to victory lane a couple of times this year, but in Darlington it seemed that nothing would stop them from getting there. From the start of the race, it was clear that Biffle had the car to beat. He took the lead early and was rarely seen running outside of the top five. Pit strategy put Biffle in the lead, where he remained and eventually fought off a hard-charging Jeff Gordon in the closing laps for the win and a gain of six positions in the point standings.

The green flag dropped just as the sun was beginning to set on a calm South Carolina evening. The 43-car field roared into turn one, and by lap 18, Biffle had made his way into the top five. He soon reported that the car was a little tight and a caution on lap 27 allowed him to pit for four tires, fuel, a wedge adjustment and an air pressure adjustment. The National Guard crew knocked out the stop in just over 13 seconds and sent Biffle back out in the fourth position for the restart.

Kasey Kahne had led every lap of the race up to lap 37, but Biffle easily maneuvered by him. After a round of pit stops, Biffle reported the car was a little loose, but maintained the lead until a caution on lap 94 allowed him to pit for four tires and fuel. Kahne narrowly beat him off pit road, and Biffle restarted second on lap 99. Five laps later, Biffle was back in the lead.

By lap 127, it was clear that the car was now incredibly loose, and Biffle relayed that to the team. They began to calculate changes as Ryan Newman, Jimmie Johnson and Denny Hamlin got by Biffle to put him fifth on the board. A caution flag on lap 147 brought the National Guard Ford to pit road for four tires, fuel, a wedge adjustment and an air pressure adjustment.

Biffle got back by Newman and Hamlin before a caution for debris came out on lap 211. He pitted for four fresh tires and fuel as he was happy with the handling of the car. He had received his "Darlington Stripe" during that green flag run, so the team checked and repaired the minor damage to the fenders during the stop. They sent Biffle back out in the fourth position for the restart on lap 216.

Biffle made his way by Newman for third, and by the time the next caution flag flew on lap 247, he had also overtaken Kenseth for second. Biffle brought the National Guard Ford in for four tires, fuel and an air pressure adjustment. The team completed the stop in just over 13 seconds and sent Biffle back out in the second position.

By lap 302, tire wear was beginning to necessitate green flag stops for the field. Biffle, crew chief Doug Richert and team engineer Dave Winston made a quick decision to short pit, so Biffle came in a couple of laps before they anticipated most of the field would stop. The decision paid off and Biffle was in the lead when the round of green flag stops was complete on lap 319. He maintained the lead for the final 48 laps and took the checkered flag just ahead of Jeff Gordon for the win.

"We never give up," said Biffle as he climbed from the National Guard Ford. "We won the pole last week and finished fourth. Everyone has stood behind us, like the National Guard . . . A lot of guys showed respect out there tonight. A few more laps and Gordon would have gotten there, but I'm pretty excited."

The win in Darlington moved the National Guard team up six positions to 14th in the point standings. **GX**

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**Army National Guard**

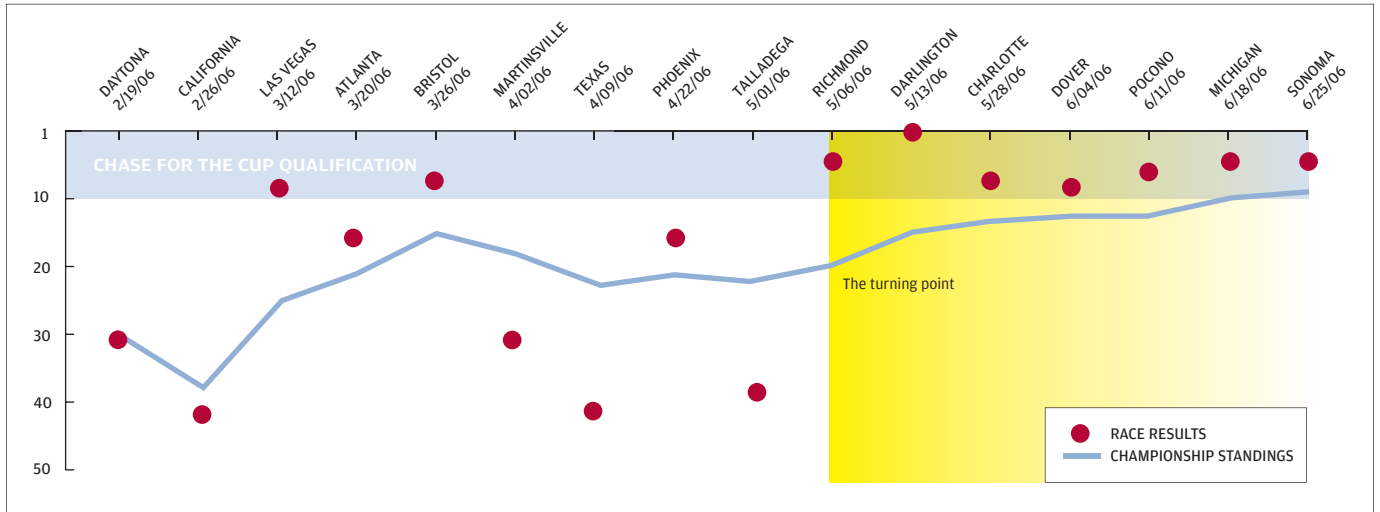


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### Back in the groove

After a long series of heartbreaks for fans of National Guard Racing, Greg Biffle and the #16 Ford Fusion have finally turned the corner. The driver, the team, the car, and even luck seem to be in sync. With ten races left before the cut-off for the Chase for the Cup—10th place or better in the standings in order to qualify for the championship—anything can happen. **GX**

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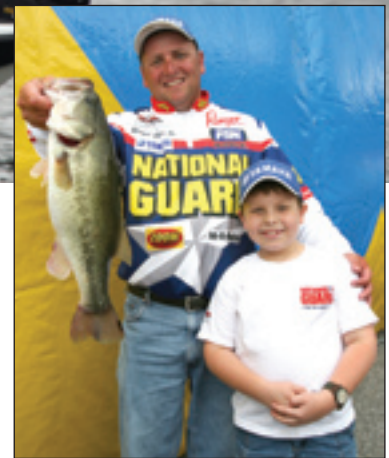
**A SPEEDY RECOVERY** Greg Biffle drives the #16 National Guard Ford during the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Crown Royal 400 on May 6, 2006 in Richmond, Virginia. He ended his streak of bad luck with a 4th place finish, his first top-5 of the season. At this point last year, he had won three races and had one top-five finish.



DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES



**HOME ADVANTAGE:** Ramie Colson Jr. fishes on an old road bed at his home lake, Kentucky Lake during the first day of competition during the FLW Tour stop. **BELOW:** Ramie Colson Jr. holds up one of his fish with his son Douglas after Colson's first day of fishing.



## Guard Anglers Move up in FLW Tour Points after Kentucky Lake Tourney

by Kathy R. Williams, Through Our Lens, Special NGB Correspondent

The National Guard FLW Tour angling team had a great showing at its fifth bass fishing tournament of the season at Kentucky Lake May 10 and 11. Ramie Colson, Jr. of Cadiz, Kentucky; Jonathan Newton of Rogersville, Alabama; and Tim Klinger of Boulder City, Nevada, all finished in the top 55 at the Kentucky Lake event. Team mate Derek Jones finished 178th out of the field of 200 pros.

At the end of the first day of fishing, Colson and Newton had spanked the competition, finishing sixth and fourth respectively. Colson, fishing at his home lake, had a first day five-bass stringer weighing in at 19 pounds. Newton had a five-bass limit after day one weighing 19 pounds, 14 ounces. It looked as though they would advance to the finals if they could keep up those weights on day two. However, Colson weighed in a five-bass stringer at 12 pounds, 3 ounces on day two, just missing the top ten. He finished 14th overall in the competition. Newton's second day three-bass stringer weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce. Newton finished 29th overall.

Colson said, "I wanted to make the top ten, but I didn't hold anything back." I had a great prefish, and I'm pleased with my performance. I fished half deep and half shallow this tournament—my strong point is ledge fishing. The second day, the 20 - 30 mph winds limited the places I could fish by half, cutting the quality."

Colson moved up to 17th place in the point standings. The top 48 anglers in points will fish in the championship in August after the next tout event.

Newton was also hoping to make the top ten, but said he had a good tournament anyway. "My first day was awesome when I came

in fourth. But, the wind blew out of the west on day two and changed things. On day one, I had all my fish by 8:30. On day two, I didn't have a single fish by 12:30. I was getting a little nervous," said Newton. "Pre spawn, post spawn—I know this lake pretty well," he said. "I went up to fish shallower on day two. I went for the guard daddies guarding the fries and then caught three in an hour." Newton said he knew he had enough to make the top 50 with those three, so he went back out on the river drops. "I just couldn't get bit," said Newton. Newton used crankbaits during this tournament.

Klinger weighed in a two-day ten-bass limit of 23 pounds, 14 ounces, finishing 55th in the tournament. "My first day was a disaster. I lost some fish, and I was hitting the panic button," said Klinger. "On the second day, I decided not to hit the panic button and decided not to drive. I just fished and did pretty well," he said. Klinger said he used tubes, jigs, and worms for his stringers.

"I fished two areas on day two. The second area I fished I found a lot of fish. I had 10 keepers throughout the day. Overall, it was an okay tournament," said Klinger. Klinger moved up to the 16th place in point standings after this tournament.

Jones said he is still learning something new every day in his rookie season on the FLW Tour. "I had seven days of practice—the best practice I've ever had. I was confident and catching them. I'm not sure what changed on the first tournament day," said Jones.

The final FLW Tour season tournament is scheduled for Lake Champlain in Plattsburgh, New York, on June 21 - 24. The championship for the top 48 pro anglers is scheduled for August 1 in Birmingham, Alabama. **GX**

# START Fitness™

## OPERATION HEAVY OR NOT



Part 1 of 3  
By SSG Ken Weichert

**SGT Ric Merrill,**

*Hello. Thanks for your email, SGT! Judging from recent emails, Stephanie and I have noticed that many Soldiers and family members stationed all over the world wish to acquire the same information — “How do we put it all together, gym and no gym? When is the best time to use weights or no weights? How do I bulk up? How do I tone up or sculpt down?”*

### Heavy or not, here are some answers.

**HEAVY OR NOT RULE #1:**

Weight training alone will not help you get a better score on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

Exercise example: Bottom line is that push-up training will help you with the APFT push-up event. Although there are great chest and triceps weight training exercises to develop upper body strength and endurance, some are often counterproductive to the APFT. I add weight training to my fitness routines after the scheduled APFT to strengthen slightly different muscle groups, and to change my fitness patterns for a while. This way my body is forced to react to change. The theory is if you maintain identical fitness patterns for a long period of time, your body will adapt and stop progressing.

I stop weight training six-weeks prior to the next scheduled APFT and intensify my Push-up, Sit-up and Crunch, and Running program in order to be properly prepared for the APFT exercises.

**HEAVY OR NOT RULE #2:**

Weight training will help you develop mass muscle tissue if you perform a few full sets of high weights for low repetitions for each set.

Exercise example: If I wanted to bulk up my chest muscles, I would perform three sets of the highest weights possible, as long as I could perform 4-6 repetitions for each set.

**HEAVY OR NOT RULE #3:**

Weight training will help you develop lean muscle tissue (sculpt down) if you perform a few sets of low weights for high repetitions for each set.

Exercise example: After I bulked up my shoulders and chest a bit, I changed my routine by gradually lowering the weights and increasing the repetitions. I noticed this helped me develop a great deal of muscle definition. At the peak of this strategy, I was performing three sets of a weight at which I could achieve 15-20 repetitions for each set.



**RECEIVED**

SSG Ken Weichert a.k.a. “SGT KEN,”

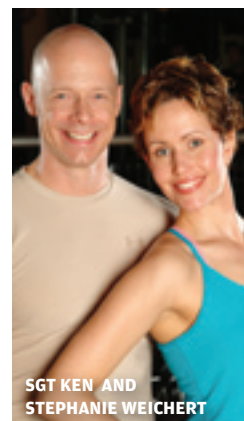
I am currently doing two full-body workouts a week and running. I want to incorporate weightlifting into my program. What kind of schedule and exercises for weights do you recommend? What is the best way to incorporate weightlifting into my schedule without jeopardizing my body weight. Only exercises and running? Also, what are the best exercises I should do for weightlifting? I want to get stronger, not bulk up. I want all my exercises to compliment each other without overloading myself.

Thanks, Hooah!

- SGT Ric Merrill

**HOOAH!**  
Let us hear from you.

[askthetrainer@startfitness.com](mailto:askthetrainer@startfitness.com)



SGT KEN AND  
STEPHANIE WEICHERT

SSG Ken Weichert, six-time Soldier of the Year and veteran of both Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm, began the START Fitness™ program in 1997. Now partnered with his wife Stephanie, Strategic Director of START Fitness and a certified personal trainer, the Weicherts are conquering the fitness industry.

**SAFETY NOTE:** It is best to have someone spot you during weight training exercises.

**SPECIAL REMARKS:** We encourage you to request additional information by emailing us at [askthetrainer@startfitness.com](mailto:askthetrainer@startfitness.com) and to exercise with us while watching our FIT TO FIGHT DVD series. If you are ever in San Francisco, come to our studio where Military and Family members are always FREE. Our new Military line of tubing by SPRI Products is now available at [www.startfitness.com](http://www.startfitness.com).



ILLUSTRATION BY SEAMAS GALLAGHER, NICOLE SYLVESTER



## After the APFT: Weight Training Time

### PECTORALS AND TRICEPS

In that period after the APFT, ending six-weeks prior to the next scheduled APFT, I add weight training, yoga, kickboxing, and hiking to my fitness program. I like to perform whole body weight training workouts with aerobics for most of the each week, and focus special attention on one specific muscle group twice a week. I switch the focus to other specific muscle groups each week, while performing this strategy for several weeks. I schedule one or two days off from performing any intense fitness activities each week for proper recovery.

### MUSCLE EXPLOITATION DAY

Here is one of my chest and triceps fitness plans that I perform in the following order:

1. **Warm-up** (6 Minutes Jump Rope and 30 Push-ups)
2. **Bench Press** (Flat—No Incline or Decline)
3. **Bench Press** (Incline)
4. **Bench Press** (Decline)
5. **Tubing Push-ups**, Normal Grip
6. **Push-ups without tubing**, Normal and Wide Grips
7. **Standing Chest Fly with tubing**

*Start:* Stand hip width apart, knees slightly bent. Grasp the handles of the Ultratube or Xertube folded in half and place behind back below shoulder blades, hands just outside shoulder width, palms facing down.

*Finish:* Press arms forward, rotating shoulders, arms fully extended and palms facing down. Return to start position and repeat.

*Bulk Up*—3 sets of 8 repetitions each with high resistance

*Sculpt Down*—3 sets of 15-30 repetitions each with Light to Moderate resistance

8. **Standing Overhead Triceps Press with tubing**

*Start:* Stand in a staggered lunge stance, place Xertube under back foot and soften knees. Grasp the handles and position hands behind head, palms facing inward, thumbs down, and elbows above shoulders. Keep upper arms as close to your head as possible.

*Finish:* Slowly straighten arms upward while rotating forearms outward. End with your arms straight, hands above the head, elbows slightly bent, and palms forward. Return to start position and repeat.

*Bulk Up*—3 sets of 8 repetitions each with high resistance

*Sculpt Down*—3 sets of 15-30 repetitions each with Light to Moderate resistance

9. **Triceps Extensions** (Pictured in issue 3.2, page 72) with tubing
10. **Triceps Push-downs with tubing**
11. **3 Minutes Crunches**
12. **5 Minutes Aerobics** (Treadmill or Elliptical Machines)

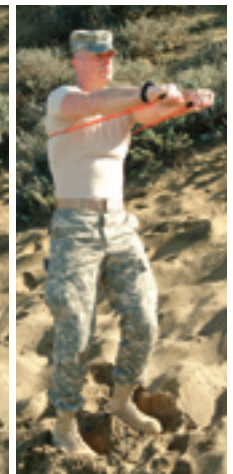
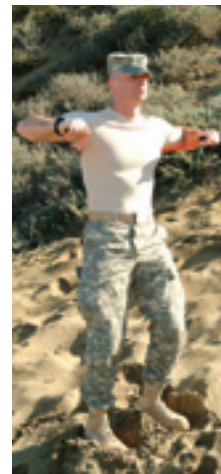
### REPEAT CYCLE TWICE MORE

TOTAL TRAINING TIME = 75 MINUTES (Depending on Repetitions per set and Rest Periods)

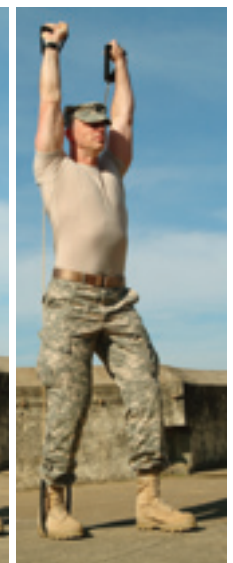
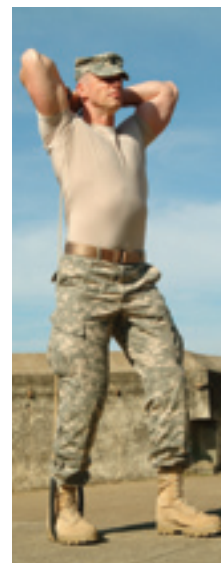
**DO NOT PERFORM THIS FITNESS PLAN FOR ANOTHER 36-48 HOURS (Recovery Time)**



Tubing Push-ups (above)



Standing Chest Fly with tubing (above)



Standing Overhead Triceps Press with tubing (above)

Pectorals and Triceps Muscle Exploitation Day is an aggressive approach to a chest and arms strength training plan that incorporates weight training with APFT preparation (see START Fitness in GX issues 2.6, 3.1 and 3.2).

Remember that low weight and high repetition will provide you a sculpting result while high weight and low repetition will provide you a mass building result. I always bring my SPRI Products tubing with me to my workouts.

Tubing requires little weight or space in my gym bag. Notice that I am pictured with a short 'figure 8' piece of tubing in some of the pictures. If you do not have this particular piece available yet, simply hold a long strip of tubing at the same width as seen. If you have no tubing at all, you may perform some of the exercises with Dumbbells or with no equipment.

**UNIFORM REMARK:** SSG Ken Weichert is pictured in the Army Combat Uniform (ACU) with Field Cap and without the ACU Shirt in order to show you what muscles are employed during each exercise.

## KNIFE REVIEW

# GERBER® LMF™ II A.S.E.K.

by the Brothers West

Soldiers love their knives. Get a couple of them together for more than a few minutes, and the steel will come out. Not in anger, just to show off and compare. It's a sort of game, and the rules are subtle. Folding knives are good, but they just don't command the respect of a good sheath knife. A big knife is better, but if you go too far and whip out a bowie knife that would better qualify as a cavalry saber, everyone is just going to point and laugh. The key to coming out on top in these competitions seems to be a combination of factors including the knife's size, the overall look, quality of the steel, how it feels in the hand and most importantly its functionality. The ultimate question is whether it works or not.

“That's not a knife.  
Now this,  
this is a knife.”

—Crocodile Dundee

## GERBER® LMF™ II A.S.E.K.

## FEATURES

- Rugged, versatile survival tool
- Safety knife included
- Low-profile sheath with built-in sharpener

## SPECS

- Overall Length: 10.59"
- Length of Blade: 4.84"
- Weight: 11.4 oz.
- Blade Material: 12C27 Stainless
- Handle Material: Glass-filled nylon with TPV overmold
- Blade Style: Drop Point
- Sheath Material: Ballistic nylon with fire retardant coating
- Blade Type: Serrated



This seems a simple matter on the surface. It's a knife. Its job is to cut. Pretty straight forward, right? Well, not so much. If you've ever been in the service or even done a lot of camping, you know that your knife is an all-purpose tool. A good knife can cut, pry, pound, pierce, whittle, filet and with a really good edge, provide a close shave.

Given these criteria, we think we may have found the perfect knife. Gerber® sent us a fantastic tool that belongs in every Soldier's kit: the LMF II ASEK Knife. It's not the prettiest knife we've ever held, but as a practical tool, it's unbelievably tough and versatile.

ASEK stands for Aircrew Survival and Egress Knife, and it is designed specifically to help military personnel survive unexpected events. Its 5-inch 12C27 Stainless Steel blade is capable of slashing through aircraft fuselages, punching through helicopter canopies and performing a wide variety of survival-oriented tasks. It can be easily lashed to a stick or tent pole to create a makeshift spear, and its .188"-thick blade is beefy enough to cut firewood or even act as a pry bar. The handle is comfortable to hold, and is isolated from the blade and butt cap in order to insulate the user against both impact and electrical shock.

In addition to the knife itself, the system includes several other features. The sheath comes with a dizzying array of mounting options allowing it to be carried in almost any position a Soldier can dream up. It also features a built-in sharpener that makes maintaining a good edge in the field a simple matter.

A second knife is also included. This one is a "J knife" or a "safety knife" designed for cutting ropes and nylon straps such as seat belts. The design of the knife shields the blade from the user, ensuring that it can be used without worrying about punctures or unwanted cuts. The knife itself is flat and easily attaches to almost any gear. The handle design makes it a snap to handle even with heavy gloves on. The blades are razor sharp and glide through straps like they weren't there.

Gerber was gracious enough to provide us two knives for testing. We used the first one for our standard in house tests. The second we sent to a Special Forces Soldier serving overseas in the Global War on Terror. While

**J KNIFE:** The included safety knife cuts ropes and straps safely and easily.



the nature of his job precluded him from giving us too much information about the actual use he put the knife to, he made it clear that the knife saw use on numerous combat missions. According to what he told us, in very short order, it became an indispensable piece of his kit.

He was very impressed with the knife's heft, balance and durability. He loved the built-in sharpener and the multiple mounting features available with the sheath. His one and only complaint was that there were almost too many mounting options. There were no included instructions on how best to secure the sheath to your gear, and it took a fair amount of experimentation in order to get it worked out. Lastly, he raved about the safety knife. Once again, he couldn't give us details, but it apparently saw a lot of use and performed flawlessly.

The knife soon became an object of envy for the other SF Soldiers in his unit. They repeatedly expressed their admiration of the knife. These were immediately followed up by comments expressing a desire to own one for themselves. That, my friends, is a clear winner in the knife comparison contest. When an entire unit of knife-proud SF Soldiers concedes the superiority of a particular tool, you can rest assured it's a quality piece of work.

He put the knife through hell and it came through in great shape. If it can stand up to the scrutiny of some of the toughest Soldiers in the Army and the stress of combat, it is well worth your consideration. The LMF II ASEK Knife is an excellent tool that will perform well for years to come. But perhaps just as importantly, the next time you get to comparing knives, all of your friends will have only one thing to say; "Cool, where can I get one?"

**“The knife feels good and substantial in the hand. We like the pointed butt for breaking glass or faces. The built-in sharpener is a nice touch.”**

—Special Forces Soldier



Our Special Forces Soldier sporting his new knife mounted inverted on his left shoulder. (His face is blurred to protect his identity.)

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Check out  
[www.gxonline.com](http://www.gxonline.com)  
 this August for a  
 special announcement!

Six Flags has long been a family favorite for summer fun, and this year we are celebrating our 45th anniversary with new shows, parades, the Justice League, and now an association with The Army National Guard!

Six Flags owns and operates 30 theme and water parks across North America, and this year, there is more fun than ever at Six Flags. From thrill rides to family rides, games to food, Six Flags gives your group the chance to kick back and relax. This year brings new opportunities to dine and interact with the Looney Toons characters as well as experience the Six Flags “streetmosphere.”

The association between Six Flags and the Army National Guard is designed to assist the Guard in generating leads, maximizing exposure, and providing additional recruiting opportunities. We are working together to execute several initiatives, many of which visitors will see in the parks this year. Examples are as follows:

- ▶▶ Army National Guard Mobile Event Teams will be on display in many of the parks throughout the season. These teams are intended to entertain, educate, and recruit the thousands of guests who visit the parks each day. Local Guard personnel will also make appearances throughout the season.
- ▶▶ Within larger Six Flags parks, the Army National Guard will sponsor some of the country’s most exciting roller coasters. The Guard will be represented with signage at the entrance of the designated rides and also through in-line and exit displays to inform park guests about the benefits of serving in the Army National Guard.
- ▶▶ The Army National Guard will appear on the Six Flags website at [www.SixFlags.com](http://www.SixFlags.com), within the park map/guide and appearances on “Six Flags TV” in five parks across the country.
- ▶▶ Initiatives and events designed for high school seniors are also being explored. These items would focus on education and interest for learning more about the Guard.

## JOINING FORCES: SIX FLAGS AND THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Striving for service to our  
 country and summer fun!

In addition, a number of in-park initiatives are planned to provide benefits for existing Guard members and their families, such as:

- ▶▶ Billboard-sized “Thank You” cards that guests can sign over July 4th weekend to thank the troops for all of their hard work and service. These cards will then be collected and shared with the troops in the field.
- ▶▶ A 15% discount off one-day park admission for all active Army National Guard members and their families (applicable for adult, one-day general admission) to any US Six Flags theme or water park.
- ▶▶ And on an exciting note, a spectacular offer will be unveiled for Army National Guard members and their families during the month of August. Check back with [www.gxonline.com](http://www.gxonline.com) for more details!

Six Flags is proud to be working with the Army National Guard to raise awareness and recognition of the Guard and all it has to offer to its members and the community. The role the Guard plays in serving and protecting our country, states, and communities is unparalleled. **GX**



# GET YOUR PULSE RACING.

Join the Army National Guard.



Watch Greg Biffle and the No. 16 Ford roar into the 2005 NEXTEL Cup season. As a member of the Army National Guard team, Greg represents the men and women who serve their country and community with great distinction. In the Army National Guard, YOU CAN!



YOU CAN

**1-800-GO-GUARD • [www.1-800-GO-GUARD.co](http://www.1-800-GO-GUARD.co)**

National Guard used by permission of the National Guard Bureau. Roush Racing and Greg Biffle's name and/or likeness used by authority of Roush Racing, Livonia, Michigan.

It was 8 a.m. and the sun was already hot as I pulled up to the South Carolina Army National Guard recruitment office, tucked away in the small country town of Fountain Inn. On the steps loomed 1LT Roberto Di Giovine, an incredibly tall Italian Reserve officer who would join the South Carolina Army National Guard and my photographer for the day. We made our way to the office of our host and the 1LT's recruiter, SSG Brent D. Cobb. Our mission: to shadow the staff sergeant throughout the day and disclose to GX readers yet another bold American hero driven to make a difference. Aside from being an award-winning recruiter, SSG Cobb has risen above and beyond his regular duties to counsel and guide hundreds of youth in his community.

The office walls were plastered with awards, commemorative flags, and what seemed like 8,000 certificates. On the windowsill sat a pyramid of commanders' coins. I felt myself tense up. Sure, I'd talked with SSG Cobb a thousand times in emails, yet seeing the wealth of recognition packed into this room, I have to admit, I got nervous.

Of course, two minutes in, it was smooth sailing thanks to the staff sergeant's good-natured, joking personality. It quickly became more like hanging with an old college buddy rather than a high-brow interview with the accomplished Soldier who's earned the respect of top Guard leadership and the Secretary of Defense.

On our way to breakfast, SSG Cobb tossed me his cell phone, sharing a call he received. The fastest-talking man in the Carolinas immediately blasted me with a 10-minute proclamation, all but naming the staff sergeant to be the greatest human being alive.

"A man of action," shouted the voice on the phone. "He does things from the heart! He has a way with people! We make up the 'White-Black Diversity Dream Team!'"

The enthusiastic gentleman was Wayne Wright of the Media Group, an African American newspaper in Greenville. SSG Cobb partners with Wright to reach out to troubled areas of the community, promoting education and career planning. Wright cares deeply for his community, and his respect for SSG Cobb is sky high. "He's a man of action," repeated Wright. "You'll see!"

#### GETTING PERSONAL

Our first stop was J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, where SSG Cobb contributes to the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). One hundred and sixty-nine students currently participate in the J.L. Mann JROTC program, which is overseen by Senior Army



## SSG BRENT D. COBB:

# SERVING GOD AND COUNTRY, EMPOWERING THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

By Keith Kawasaki

Instructor James T. Lamb, a retired Georgia National Guard lieutenant colonel.

SSG Cobb chooses to go far beyond the requirements he must meet as a SCARNG recruiter, increasing his involvement with students by supporting JROTC, teaching classes, and helping out the school's athletic programs. He is the assistant coach for J.L. Mann's two-time championship girls' track team and a coach for the school's wrestling team. Last fall, SSG Cobb set up the First Annual Southeastern Drill Championship for 40 participating high schools (see *GX* 3.1, Jan./Feb. 2006, p. 12). The event earned SSG Cobb a commander's coin from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

"I was in ROTC in high school," said SSG Cobb. "When I left high school, I was a lieutenant colonel. I went from being saluted to a maggot in like one day (laughs)—I went through the Marine Corps. But, you know how much trouble that probably kept me out of, being involved with a sports group or ROTC? I had people help me and mentor me. If someone didn't take the time to do that for me, I wouldn't be where I'm at. And you know, if you can change one person's life, that's what it's all about."

SSG Cobb knows a big key to that ability is building relationships. And at 29 with just four years of recruiting experience, SSG Cobb has already fostered amazing bonds with several high schools, businesses, and the community as a whole. The Soldier has built a solid reputation grounded in honesty, integrity, and service. Everywhere we went, he was greeted with open arms and admiration—and without an appointment. We stormed in on all sorts of folks in the middle of their busy day, yet not one came off disgruntled by our charge and

program. "He supports our summer camps. Quite often, I see him there. They have 300 cadets there at any given time. They do high ropes, low ropes . . . They stay there for a week, do formations, PT's. If it weren't for the Guard, that wouldn't happen. One, they give us a place to do it. Two, they give us the people to run it. All we do is manage the kids. They're the ones that do all the training. That type of thing helps my recruiting."

"He's always for the kids, you know? Not only on the National Guard side of it, but he hits the kids on the civilian side of it," added 1SG George R. Moss, JROTC instructor and head coach of the girls' track team. "I can trust him with my life. The kids love him. He can get kids that the average recruiter can't get because he knows how to relate. [He] sells the program from the heart. He's got the respect of these kids because they know he cares about them. That makes a difference. I spent 24 years in the military, and I left the military and came straight to this job. I've been here 13 years, so you know, I can tell good recruiters from bad. He's a good man."

As we walked the J.L. Mann halls, students grabbed SSG Cobb for a quick hello, nervous about 1LT Di Giovine's snapping camera, yet anxious to greet the Soldier. Many know SSG Cobb personally, and not just as the Guard Soldier, but also as a neighbor and friend. He and his family attend church with several families of the students. He sees them around, shopping, at restaurants and

benefits we could get. One day, I said, 'All right, I'm ready.' My mom also liked him, too. That helped us a lot!"

"See, we had that relationship for three years," interjected SSG Cobb. "We met with mom. The thing about dealing with high school kids is if you don't get the family support and family involvement, it's heartaches for everybody. Even if they're 18 and in high school, we still like to talk to families to get that support. It's important to us. And we met with mom and the kids—we're all family now!"



**CATCHING UP**  
(Left to right) National Guard Recruiter and J.L. Mann student La Toya Sanders with her recruiter, SSG Brent Cobb, outside J.L. Mann High School. Sanders actually by chance was wearing her Guard t-shirt, as well as several other students on campus, the day *GX* visited unannounced.

## He's got the respect of these kids because they know he cares about them. That makes a difference.

—1SG George R. Moss, JROTC Instructor, J.L. Mann High School, Greenville, SC

gave endless time for SSG Cobb.

"Couldn't be any better," raved LTC Lamb. "Unless he wants to give us money—and he tries that! He's always here at the school. He's always willing to help—right on down to teaching class."

"He took a group of my Raider Cadets down to Clarkhill. No cost to us. Fed the kids MRE's. They loved it," said LTC Lamb, continuing to describe SSG Cobb's influence on his JROTC

every day places. He's not solely invested in the Guard's overall recruiting numbers. SSG Cobb is here working for the lives of his fellow townspeople—to improve things for Small Town South Carolina.

"I've known him since I was a freshman here, and we talked about [joining the Guard]," said Jesus "Reuben" Hernandez, a junior at J.L. Mann, recruited by SSG Cobb. "Actually last year, I told him I had a son. He told me all the

### GOING GUARD

Growing up in the small town of Seneca, not too far from Greenville, SSG Cobb admired his older cousin Larry Hughes—a decorated, three-time combat Veteran who served in Vietnam and is now retired at the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. Larry shared stories of his noble service with his little cousin filling his heart and mind with the foundations of patriotism, duty, and honor. "I wanted to be just like him," reflected SSG Cobb. Immediately after high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, turning down several academic scholarships in the process.

After two years of service in the Marines Corps, SSG Cobb switched gears to the Guard in 1998, enlisting as a then 16S, shoulder fire missile systems.

"It is a very big transition from the Marine Corps to the Guard," explained SSG Cobb, describing his Military history. "A family friend, MAJ Doug Diamond, harassed me long

enough until I said, ‘fine, I’ll try it for one year’ (laughs).”

Three years later, while working construction on I-85 in Georgia, “it all happened”—September 11, 2001. SSG Cobb called the unit and said, “If there’s anything I can do, I’m ready to go.” The then-corporal was stationed as airport security at Greenville-Spartanburg International, serving from October 2001 to April 2002.

While stationed there, a man in the concourse suffered a massive heart attack. CPL Cobb and CPL Michael Arflin (now a sergeant) raced into action, performing CPR on the man until paramedics arrived on the scene, ultimately saving his life. “We were trained in life-saving skills and used them,” said SSG Cobb, “and helped a guy out who was in trouble. I think anyone would do the same thing if he or she had the training.”

“During that period, I was approached by a colonel. He told me I had good people skills,” added SSG Cobb, describing his transition into recruiting. “He thought I should apply for a recruiting job, and so they hired me. April 22, 2002, I became a recruiter. It’s a little different with the Guard being a recruiter than the active duty or reserves, because they get thrown into recruiting duty. You have to *want* to be a recruiter in the National Guard. And to be successful, you have to get out there and *want* to do it. You have to keep your priorities straight: number one God, then family, then to help and motivate these young people.”

#### ANSWERING THE CALL

If you spend some time with SSG Cobb, you can easily see he is a man who has found his calling. You’ve met those types. They are passionate about what they do. What they do defines them, gives them confidence, grounding, and focus. They are limitlessly successful at their work, without an ounce of bravado or showmanship.

You cannot define SSG Cobb without including his Christian foundation. And he believes firmly in the foundation of this country on Christian principles.

“Did you know, as you walk up the steps to the U.S. Supreme Court,” asked SSG Cobb, quoting journalist and commentator Andy Rooney, “you can see a row of the world’s law givers. Each one is facing one in the middle, who’s facing forward with a full frontal view—it’s Moses and he is holding the Ten Commandments.”

Faith spurs the root of his patriotism and every day living. He is serving the country founded on God’s law, and he is serving the community to serve God’s people.

“I hope that everybody has some type of faith and takes care of his or her family. You

know, if you take care of everything in general, it’s going to come back,” said SSG Cobb. “The things I do, I don’t do ‘em for rewards. I do them because it’s the right thing to do. And if all that comes with it, that’s great. If I get an award, it gives me an opportunity to glorify God and the support that my family gives me on a daily basis.”

#### SHARING THE EXPERIENCE

Sheryl Taylor, principal of Eastside High School in Greenville, describes the institution as a “very Military-friendly school” that encourages recruiters to visit. One problem is that many recruiters come and go, each time a different service member. Once again, this is where SSG Cobb is making a difference.

“He is unique,” describes Taylor. “He’s been here a long time. He’s seen a whole class go through. He’s been in our classrooms; he’s been in there in a teaching capacity; he’s been in there presenting. He’s even assisted in proctoring tests. He also knows our kids. He’s always asking, ‘what else can I do?’ Because we know each other so well, there’s a lot of trust there. I think he trusts me with stuff, too—bounces ideas off me.”

“We come in here to cry together,” interjects SSG Cobb, laughing. “I told you, she’s one of my greatest mentors. She’s a role model

**I hope that everybody has some type of faith and takes care of his or her family. You know, if you take care of everything in general, it’s going to come back. The things I do, I don’t do ‘em for rewards. I do them because it’s the right thing to do.**

for me to follow—because of her faith and the position she’s in this school district. Her religion and her drive toward God, it keeps me in check a lot, too. We can come in here and get emotional together and talk about our families, our problems. We’re family!”

“Yeah, I think that’s unique,” confirms Taylor. “A lot of [students] think he’s on staff here. He’s really been able to come in and plant seeds and see things come to fruition.”

We headed back to the recruitment office and settled back in the staff sergeant’s office, seated again before the mass display of awards and certificates. The latest addition, by the way, is an honor from the West Point Society of the Upstate of South Carolina, which he received in late March.

“It is with great pleasure that I am able to recommend Brent D. Cobb for the Community



**DEDICATED TO THE YOUTH** SSG Brent Cobb stands with just a few of the many trophies earned by the JROTC program at J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, SC.

Leadership Award,” announced Mike Ungar, host of the award banquet, presenting SSG Cobb at the ceremony, according to a press

release. “Through Mr. Cobb’s voluntary efforts, enthusiasm, dedication, and pride,” continued Ungar, “he has become a vital asset to our families and lives.”

This statement echoes and summarizes the words the dozen people whom we’d met with throughout the day—students, educators, administration, and Soldiers. All repeated sentiments complimenting the heart of this man—endless in generosity and with a proactive energy, always going beyond what is required or even expected. And as Wayne Wright declared earlier that morning: “a man of action!”

I asked the staff sergeant how he maintains his level of drive. SSG Cobb replied joking and good natured as always, “I’ve been doing a lot of extracurricular activities all my life. So, if I stop, I’ll die.” **GX**



**START BUILDING**

“We are only given one opportunity at life, and I want to ensure that I experience all that I can—with no regrets,” explained SSG Cobb. “Any uninformed decisions or mistakes that I have made in my life to this point, I consider them learning experiences and life lessons that I can use to help other people when dealing with the same type of decisions. Life is what we make of it. I want my life to be one that I, and my family, can be proud of.”

This philosophy drives SSG Cobb’s recruiting strategy. It pushes him to build relationships not only with the high school administration, but also with the students themselves. It enables him to serve as a positive role model where many kids today cannot

for JROTC). SGT Richard Murphy, a fellow SCARNG recruiter who works with SSG Cobb (and who was actually recruited by SSG Cobb), confirms the effectiveness of this method. “We know that if we help them,” said SGT Murphy, “it will come back to us.”

When a recruiter first enters a school or is in the beginning stages of building that relationship, coming with gifts is always a nice ice breaker. “It’s those little, small things that have allowed us to start a conversation,” adds SGT Murphy. “Then it lets them see us, that we’re human beings. We’re out there trying to help them in the school system.”

Don’t be afraid to enter the classroom either. SSG Cobb has found great success furthering relationships by instructing two-day career direction seminars, sharing the ideas of the Guard’s You Can program (see *GX* 3.3, May/June 2006, p. 16, 17). These seminars are designed to give all students, apart from anything Guard-related, job-finding skills and guidance on how to make well-informed decisions with their future in mind.

“[The students] seem to like it. It’s really different for them. I think it’s good,” said Donna Fish, a teacher at Eastside. “It gives them a chance to think about where they might want to go. Sometimes it peaks interest as to what the National Guard can do for them.”

**SELL THE SERVICE**

SSG Cobb has never deployed overseas for a combat mission, though he fully understands and accepts the possibility. And this understanding helps him field the inevitable question that comes up with every recruit: Will I go to war?

“I don’t sell bonuses. I don’t sell education. That’s all benefits,” shared SSG Cobb. “Service to country and belonging—if we can sell that, we won’t have a retention issue. People are going to stay in there, and we’re going to have a quality Soldier. We’re not going to have people who are in there for their college money and once they’re done with their college money, try to get out. As a National Guard recruiter, we wear two hats. We’re recruiting NCO’s and retention NCO’s. If we can do that with one shot, that makes our lives a lot easier.”

“You know, anybody who joins the Military and doesn’t think he or she is going to be deployed, he or she is doing it for the wrong reason,” adds SSG Cobb. “I did it because I feel it is my duty to my country, because of all the freedom we have. With having children now, it’s even more crucial. I would not volunteer for deployment because of my family. But, if I am asked to do so, I will go graciously, and

I’ll do my job. I’ll do my duty for my country. That’s the way it is.”

**LOVE YOUR JOB**

To be fully successful in your line of work, you must be fully dedicated. And to be fully dedicated, you’ve got to love what you do. Without the love, you couldn’t work to your absolute breaking point day after day, maintaining your patience and drive. You certainly couldn’t coordinate 40 high schools to participate in a JROTC drill competition, which was your idea to begin with. And you certainly couldn’t earn the respect and trust of hundreds of teenagers, many with serious personal challenges.

“I love all the aspects of my job,” explains SSG Cobb. “The benefit of getting to see somebody’s life change—especially, somebody who wouldn’t be able to go to college or anything else. And, watching him or her go to training and come back a changed person—that’s very rewarding, being able to interact with the community the way I do. If I had any other full-time job in the National Guard, I wouldn’t be able to interact with the kids the way I do, my community people the way I do. But, you’ve got to be motivated to do that. And if you’re not, then this isn’t place for anybody to be.”

SSG Cobb’s strategy is a proven strength multiplier. Not only has it earned SSG Cobb a respected place in the community, but also has paid off in recruiting numbers as well. In 2005, SSG Cobb achieved Bronze Level in the Chief’s Freedom Challenge, a recruiting push initiated by LTG H Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard. In recognition, SSG Cobb received a personal letter and the Director’s Medallion of Excellence from LTG Clyde Vaughn, Director of the Army National Guard. **GX**


## THE COBB STRATEGY

SSG Brent Cobb describes his method of service-driven recruiting

find one. According to SSG Cobb, a number of the students he interacts with could not qualify for Guard service, either for physical or academic reasons. However, SSG Cobb still makes a point to help these students any way he can. He considers it to be his duty as a citizen and a Soldier. This giving personality builds trust in the community. The parents of the Greenville area do not look at SSG Cobb as someone trying to steal their children off to war. They see him as someone giving their children a bridge to a brighter future, a positive influence, and in many cases, a personal friend.

SSG Cobb takes time with every person who crosses his path, often leading to an open door. As we visited the schools, I noticed each person was important—each secretary, each teacher, each student. SSG Cobb spent time with folks individually, joked with them, asked them how they were doing—as opposed to just brushing by to get to someone “higher up.” Obviously, much of this is just the personality of the man. However, there is a brilliant mind at work too, and there’s got to be strategy involved as it works wonders for him. Guard brochures and even *GX* magazines are abundant in the schools on desks, on shelves, on display racks, all very visible to the student body. Rarely, if ever, did I see another branch of service advertised.

Another big help to this building is the giving. SSG Cobb sees to it that the schools are well supplied with Guard-branded mousepads, calendars, pens, pencils, etc.—materials that are actually valued and accepted happily by schools. He brings Guard support for sponsoring school functions and events (i.e., bringing the rock wall to the school



**NOMINATE A GX HERO**

If you know somebody who goes above and beyond in their dedication to your community, our country, or our freedom, please nominate this person to become a featured *GX Hero*.

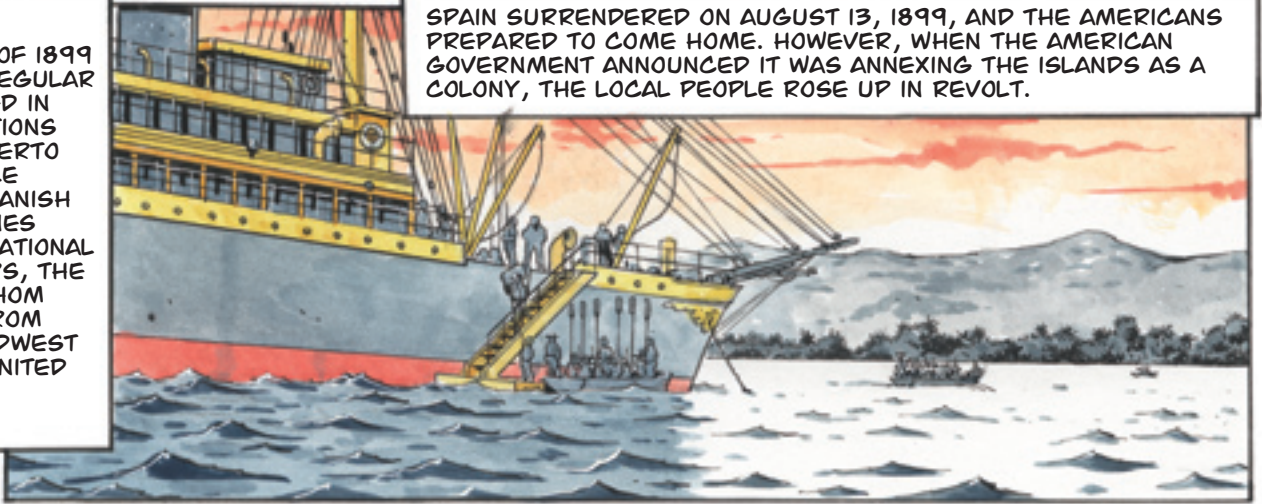
A *GX Hero* can be a Soldier or a civilian.  
A *GX Hero* can be any age.  
The criteria is based on inspiration.

- ★ Do the efforts of your nominee stir a grand tide of patriotism in others?
- ★ Have their efforts changed people’s lives for the better?
- ★ Does their story need to be told?

**Email: Editor@gxonline.com.**  
**Please put “GX Hero” in the subject line.**

# YOUNG'S SCOUTS

IN THE SPRING OF 1899 WITH THE U.S. REGULAR ARMY EMBROILED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN CUBA AND PUERTO RICO, THE BATTLE AGAINST THE SPANISH IN THE PHILIPPINES FELL TO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE DRAWN FROM UNITS IN THE MIDWEST AND WESTERN UNITED STATES.



SPAIN SURRENDERED ON AUGUST 13, 1899, AND THE AMERICANS PREPARED TO COME HOME. HOWEVER, WHEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IT WAS ANNEXING THE ISLANDS AS A COLONY, THE LOCAL PEOPLE ROSE UP IN REVOLT.

A CIVILIAN, HENRY YOUNG, WAS CALLED ON TO ESTABLISH AN ELITE RECON FORCE OF 25 SELECT SOLDIERS, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS "YOUNG'S SCOUTS." THEY QUICKLY BECAME THE SPEARHEAD OF AMERICAN OPERATIONS INITIATING AND MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE VASTLY, NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR PHILIPPINE FORCE.

ON MAY 13, 1899, YOUNG AND ELEVEN OF HIS SCOUTS ENCOUNTERED A FORCE OF 300 REBELS NEAR SAN MIGUEL. CHARGING HEAD-ON INTO THE ENTRENCHED ENEMY, 150 YARDS OVER OPEN GROUND, THEY DISLODGED THE FORCE AND SENT THEM FLEEING. TRAGICALLY, DURING THE FIGHT, YOUNG WAS INJURED AND DIED FROM HIS WOUNDS.



THREE DAYS LATER WHILE ON A RECON MISSION, 22 OF THE SCOUTS ROUTED A FORCE OF 600 ENEMY GUARDING A VITAL BRIDGE. AS THE REBELS WITHDREW, THEY TORCHED THE BRIDGE. UNDER HEAVY FIRE, THE SCOUTS PUT OUT THE FIRE AND SAVED THE STRATEGICALLY VITAL BRIDGE.

IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR HEROIC ACTIONS, TEN OF THE GUARD MEMBERS IN YOUNG'S SCOUTS WERE AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR. THEY WERE CPL FRANK ANDERS, PVT OTTO BOEHLER, PVT WILLIS DOWNS, PVT GOTFRED JENSEN, PVT JOHN KINNE, PVT RICHARD LONGFELLOW, PVT FRANK ROSS, PVT FRANK HIGH, PVT EDWARD LYON, AND PVT MARCUS ROBERTSON.



the  
End



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