



# THE ON GUARD

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Newspaper of the National Guard



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Towse

## Holding to tradition

Sgt. Kevin Krantz, a personnel supervisor with the New York Army National Guard's 27th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB), extends the flag with other servicemembers at the National Hockey League's Winter Classic pregame show. The game between the Buffalo Sabres and Pittsburgh Penguins took place at the Ralph Wilson Stadium in Buffalo Jan. 1. Citizen-Soldiers of the 27th BSTB were among 60 GIs chosen to unfurl a 60 x 30-foot flag while three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the New York Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment performed a flyover prior to the New Year's Day game. More than 71,000 people attended.

## Israeli training facility model for National Guard

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

BALADIA CITY, Israel – National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen could one day exercise at a state-of-the-art urban warfare training center here.

From a distance, the National Urban Training Center (NUTC) looks like a bustling desert town. But it's a purpose-built mock-up on a real-life scale designed as a training ground for military operations on urban terrain (MOUT).

"This is a world-class site that the Israelis have built," LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during a December visit. "We probably should have a facility like that of our own; in the interim, we should explore the opportunities to train here."

Blum and other National Guard leaders toured the NUTC with Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) officers during a four-day visit to bolster the Bureau's relationship with the IDF Home Front Command and discuss joint exercises and other possible exchanges under the aegis of the U.S. European Command.

The 7.4-square-mile NUTC is at the IDF's National Center for Ground Force Training in the Negev Desert, west of the Gaza Strip and north of Egypt. The 4,700-square-mile Negev covers more than half of Israel and includes thousands of miles of open space ideal for the country's premier military training facility.

Some 472 structures line four miles of roads in this concrete town dubbed Baladia City.

"It is the most realistic, extensive replication of the sort of urban area typical of this region of the world that I've ever seen," Blum said.

The NUTC includes high-rise buildings typical of business or high-density residential districts, streets lined with single-

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

A street scene at an Israeli MOUT training facility in the Negev Desert, Israel. National Guard officials visited the facility in December.

## Collective response key to Oregon recovery

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – In the wake of heavy rains, hurricane winds and flooding in early December, Oregon Army and Air National Guard personnel complimented each other, bringing expertise and equipment to bear in their state's recovery efforts.

When Pacific Northwest storms flooded towns, knocked out power and covered roadways with trees and mudslides, making them impassable, the governors of Oregon and Washington called up nearly 800 Air and Army Guard personnel to support recovery efforts. It was bad enough that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, through President Bush, announced major disaster declarations for multiple counties.

When flood waters inundated the small town of Vernonia, about 40 miles northwest of Portland, Oregon Air and

Army Guardmembers used Zodiac boats and specialized trucks to rescue and evacuate several hundred people trapped there Dec. 3.

With their boats loaded on trucks, 24 Guardmembers followed the Oregon Department of Transportation as it cleared a debris-covered roadway leading to the town of about 2,200 residents.

"On our way into Vernonia our



Oregon National Guard photo

Oregon Air and Army Guard members used Zodiac boats to rescue and evacuate several hundred people.

guys cut through some high water and came upon a vehicle that was stranded between two parts of the road that had been washed out," said Maj. Michael Braibish, an Oregon Guard spokesman. The Guardmembers discovered two families stranded there. "They were just illuminated when they saw the National Guard coming through the dark of night to rescue them," Braibish said.

Working from Vernonia's emergency operations center, Air Guard members from the 125th Special Tactics Squadron went door-to-door with the Zodiacs while Soldiers with the 141st Brigade Support Battalion drove their large trucks through high water to get to stranded residents. Throughout the night the National Guard rescued more than 350 people and evacuated 200.

Power outages were widespread. In

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Bringing the commissary to the Guard: Page 7

# How George Washington's criticism helped our militia, and Guard, grow up

**ABOUT THE ON GUARD**

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ARLINGTON, Va. – The myths about our first president, whose 276th birthday we observe this February, are as legendary as his legacy.

Did young George Washington really cut down one of his father's cherry trees and then 'fess up because he could not tell a lie? Nope. Historians are pretty sure it didn't happen – neither the cuttin' down nor the 'fessin' up.

Did the young man really throw a rock, or something else, clear across the wide Rappahannock River, near the Virginia farm of his youth? Again, probably not – even if he did by chance have an arm like Cy Young's.

Was Washington one of this country's colonial militia leaders which made him one of the ancestors, or founding fathers, of the National Guard? Yes, that is true. He cut his military teeth as an officer who was appointed to oversee one of Virginia's four military districts, and his Virginia militia force supported the British during the French and Indian War.

"Washington and his militia joined British General Edward Braddock to clear the French out of the Ohio Valley," states the citation accompanying his portrait in the National Guard's Presidential Series of the 20 U.S. presidents – from Washington to President Bush – who have served in the Guard.

That did not, however, mean that George Washington had a high regard for the militia. Matter of fact, he didn't, and he was not reluctant to say so. That may be one of the best things that could have happened to the force that has grown up to be the modern National Guard.

University of Virginia professor Edward G. Lengel sheds a lot of light on how the father of our country regarded the infantile militia force in his book "This Glorious Struggle: George Washington's Revolutionary War Letters" (Smithsonian Books) that is set to be published in February. The following passages from the book include Washington's spelling and use of capital letters.

"To place any dependence upon Militia, is, assuredly, resting upon a broken staff," Washington wrote to John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, on Sept. 25, 1776, 15 months after assuming command of the Continental Army. "Men just dragged from the tender Scenes of domestick life – unaccustomed to the din of Arms – totally unacquainted with every kind of Military skill, which being followed by a want of Confidence in themselves when opposed to Troops regularly trained – disciplined and appointed – superior

in knowledge, & superior in Arms, makes them timid, and ready to fly from their own Shadows."

This is certainly not the only time in our history that military people have regarded the militia, or the National Guard and other reserve forces, with something less than complete respect – as second-class cousins rather than brothers and sisters in arms.

But Washington did grudgingly acknowledge that he had to have the militia to wage the war for independence against Great Britain. "... what is to become of us in the Spring, when our force will be collected, with the aid perhaps of the militia, to take advantage of an early campaign before the Enemy can be reinforced?" he penned to Henry Laurens, Hancock's successor as president of Congress, on Dec. 23, 1777.

But needing didn't necessarily mean loving. The National Guard Almanac tells us that more than 164,000 militiamen from the 13 colonies served under Washington during the war and that the militia was the primary American force during the battles of Bunker Hill, King's Mountain, Cowpens and Guilford Court House. King's Mountain and Cowpens were American victories, and the Americans made the British pay dearly for their victories at Bunker Hill and Guilford Court House.

Washington's attitude did not change much during the war. "This event ... adds itself to many others to exemplify the necessity of an army – the fatal consequences of depending on militia," Washington wrote to Samuel Huntington, the president of Congress, in September 1780 after the British demolished an American force of militia and Continentals during the Battle of Camden in South Carolina on Aug. 16. That opened the way for a British invasion of North Carolina.

"No Militia will ever acquire the habits necessary to resist a regular force – Even those nearest the seat of War are only valuable as light Troops to be scattered in the woods and plague rather than do serious injury to the Enemy ..." the American commander added.

"The chances of War are various – and



**By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell**  
Senior Editor

the best concerted measures, and the most flattering prospects may, & often do deceive us, especially while we are in the power of Militia," Washington wrote to Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, the American commander at Guilford Court House, in April 1781, six months before the British surrendered at Yorktown.

He did give credit when it was due; especially to militiamen who captured Maj. John André, adjutant general of the British army, who conspired with Maj. Gen. Benedict Arnold during the ill-fated plot to turn over the American fort at West Point, N.Y., to the British in September 1780.

"I do not know the party that took Major André, but it is said, that it consisted only of a few militia, who acted in such a manner upon the occasion as does them the highest honor and proves them to be men of great virtue," Washington wrote to Huntington on Sept. 26. "Their conduct gives them a just claim to the thanks of their country, and I also hope they will be otherwise rewarded."

Now, please ask, why I am focusing this month on George Washington's generally low opin-

ion of the militia as portrayed in his Revolutionary War letters?

It's because people and organizations, even those with the best of intentions, can stand to be improved. But they probably won't unless someone tells them what is wrong and what needs fixing.

There is no evidence in his letters that Washington offered any advice about improving the militia. I suppose you could argue that his critical comments were intended to help persuade Congress to increase the size of a more thoroughly-trained standing army.

Still, it seems logical to suggest that these less-than-kind observations about the militia by the great Washington were bound to get the attention of people interested in raising the bar and improving the status of America's militia force. He did recommend a major overhaul for the militia system, a "National Militia" better prepared to respond to the young nation's needs after the war, explained Michael Doubler in his book "I Am The Guard."

The Militia Act of 1792, which was passed about nine years after the war officially ended, three years after the U.S. Constitution went into effect, and during the same year that Washington was elected to his second term as president, began addressing those issues.

That act required the states to enroll men between the ages of 18 and 45 into companies, regiments and brigades. Each state appointed an adjutant general and brigade inspectors.

It is one of many pieces of legislation that has gradually transformed the militia, which the Father of Our Country did not have much use for, into the National Guard that is so highly regarded today.

**Offline** By SSG W. Michael Houk

**Done your maintenance checks lately?**

# Meals on wheels

## Nevada Guard delivers MREs to residents of flooded town

By Lt. Col. Steve Ranson and Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
Nevada National Guard

RENO, Nev. – The Nevada National Guard worked with other military services to provide some quick relief for residents of a Nevada town flooded after a levee break.

The Nevada Guard delivered more than 93,000 Meals Ready to Eat to a fire station Jan. 6 for the more than 3,000 displaced residents of Fernley. The town, located about 30 miles east of Reno, was flooded with icy water when a levee holding back the Truckee Canal gave way Jan. 5 after a severe winter storm.

Three U.S. Coast Guard C-130 transport planes picked up the MREs at Moffett Field near San Jose, Calif., and flew them to Fallon Naval Air Station, Nev., to await the 45-minute drive to Fernley.

The Nevada Army Guard's 593rd Transportation Company, based out of the Washoe County Armory north of Reno, was tasked with the ground transportation.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Marshall,



Nevada National Guard Soldiers unload two pallets of Meals Ready to Eat for the more than 3,000 displaced residents of Fernley, Nev., Jan. 6. Inset photo: The town is about 30 miles east of Reno.

convoy commander, was one of about 40 Soldiers and Airmen activated on state active duty orders to assist Fernley residents.

"All of our Soldiers volunteered for this mission," Marshall said.

About 800 homes and businesses

were hit by the flood. Waters rose to eight feet in places.

Gov. Jim Gibbons declared a state of emergency, which gave the county help from the state.

Nevada U.S. Sen. Harry Reid inspected the flooding aboard a

Nevada Army Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Jan. 7. Reid said during a post-flight news conference at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno that he would make it his priority to get the town's residents back into their homes as quickly as possible.

Photos by Lt. Col. Steve Ranson

# Recent disaster exercises helped in recovery efforts

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all, the Oregon Guard distributed 60 generators. Braibish said that when the AM radio station KAST in Astoria, still broadcasting through the storm, said they might lose power, the Guard responded. Within minutes, a knock at the door brought Guardmembers carrying a generator. "There were a lot of little stories like that," said Braibish.

Together, Oregon Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen also evacuated five teachers and ten students who were stranded at their high school by fast-flowing water. They transported supplies, potable water and sandbags. At Camp Rilea Military Reservation, on Oregon's Pacific coast, the Guard fed 1,169 people and lodged 74.

Along with Army and Air Guard teamwork, Braibish said the Guard units worked with a number of state agencies and had liaisons stationed in the state's emergency operations

center. "That includes the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Red Cross and communities in five counties to provide support," Braibish said.

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski said that the state's recent disaster exercise, which integrated Guard, federal and civilian responders, helped in the storm response.

"Thanks to the practice we received in the TOPOFF 4 (Top Officials 4) exercise, Oregon had a head start in dealing with this disaster," said Kulongoski in a Dec. 5 press release.

TOPOFF 4 was a Department of Homeland Security, multi-agency response exercise held

earlier this fall in Oregon, Guam and Arizona. During the exercise, the Oregon Guard stood up its first-ever Joint Task Force. The exercise also joined Guard and civilian agencies in disaster recovery efforts.

"It enhanced the mindset that we have had in the state that we can



Oregon National Guard photo

Top: Tech. Sgt. Stefano Guadagnuolo of the 125th Special Tactics Squadron gets directions from a child to the location of one of her siblings during quickly-rising floodwaters in Vernonia, Ore. Right: The coastal town of Vernonia was hard hit by heavy rains Dec. 2-3. Oregon Gov. Theodore Kulongoski reviewed the damage from an Oregon Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on Dec. 4.

anticipate that there are going to be disasters," Braibish said. "Exercises like TOPOFF help us coordinate and prepare and see things beyond the scope of what we just do."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy

# Oregon's F-15s to fly again

KINGSLEY FIELD, Ore. – After more than two months of being grounded, the F-15s from the 173rd Fighter Wing were expected to start flying again Jan. 10.

The jets have been grounded since Nov. 2 after a Missouri Air National Guard F-15 from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport broke apart during flight and crashed.

Since then, all F-15 units around the country have been conducting a series of inspections to look for potential cracks that might have caused the plane to come apart.

"It will be good to be back flying, getting the mission done," said Col. Tom Schiess, 173rd FW commander. "We have been utilizing our simulators every day to keep students and instructors up to speed. However, nothing replaces getting in the jet."

The decision to fly again follows detailed information briefed on Jan. 4 to Air Combat Command from the Air Force's F-15 Systems Program Manager, senior engineers from Boeing and the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, as well as a briefing received Jan. 9 from the Accident Investigation Board president.

The information included an analysis of the health of the Air Force's F-15 fleet from findings from the Nov. 2 mishap investigation, maintenance inspections and actions completed and taken to date as well as historical science and engineering trend data from F-15 fleet management.

Inspections are more than 90 percent complete for the entire F-15 fleet. Kingsley Field is 100 percent complete with all required inspections. Remaining inspections have primarily focused on the forward longerons. The longerons are a critical support structure, officials said.

"The 173rd Fighter Wing has 25 jets in our inventory, but we currently have four F-15s that are released to fly on base tomorrow," said Schiess Jan. 9. "From here, jets will be cleared to fly based on further engineering analysis. Four of the 25 aircraft here have cracked longerons that will require at least six months to repair."

Additionally, Schiess added, approximately 40 percent of inspected aircraft in the entire F-15 inventory have at least one longeron that does not meet blueprint specifications. Kingsley Field has 15 aircraft in this category. This is a problem caused 25 years ago when the aircraft were built, but is just now being realized with this accident.

Deviations in these longerons will be analyzed at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center. The analysis is expected to take approximately four weeks to complete.

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# Guarding America

## Indiana

Joint Force Headquarters in the Hoosier State activated 15 Soldiers Jan. 9 at the request of the Indiana State Emergency Operations Center because of a strong rainstorm system that moved through the state.

## Maine

The Pine Tree State's 11th Civil Support Team responded after white powder was found at the Public Works facility in Holden Jan. 6. The team tested several samples for use in an ongoing investigation.

## Maryland

The Old Line State's Board of Public Works authorized the use of state land Jan. 2 to erect a Fallen Warrior Memorial at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown. The official dedication is tentatively scheduled for Memorial Day 2008. The memorial will pay tribute to all of the state's Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have given their lives during the

Global War on Terrorism since 9/11. Seven members have fallen in the line of duty while serving in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The memorial will serve as a sanctuary for families and loved ones to remember and honor these great heroes.

## Missouri

Soldiers from the Show Me State's 35th Engineer Brigade stationed in Camp Liberty, Iraq, received a visit from LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, Dec. 30. Blum saw an equipment display that showcased the capabilities of each unit and was informed about the missions they perform. The 35th includes Army National Guard units from Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Minnesota, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

## New Mexico

Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 12 personnel from the Land of Enchantment Army National Guard helped search for two missing

hikers in the Santa Fe ski basin area Jan. 8. The hikers were rescued by hoist extraction.

## New York

Members of the Empire State's 105th Airlift Wing donated blood Dec. 21 as part of the Stewart Air National Guard Base's annual holiday season blood drive. Approximately 100 Airmen donated blood to the Hudson Valley Region of the New York Blood Service.

## North Carolina

The Tar Heel State's 1132nd Engineering Detachment is currently deployed to the African nation of Djibouti to drill wells for 12 months. The Army Guard well drillers are deployed from Mooresville, N.C.

## South Dakota

The last Vietnam veteran pilot in the Mount Rushmore State retired in January. Helicopter pilot Col. Dennis Miller, with 37 years of flying, was one of dozens of veteran

pilots who returned from Vietnam and joined the South Dakota National Guard. Flying 513 hours in combat zones, he went on to accumulate 4,700 hours in the air.

## Texas

The Lone Star State recently unveiled a new Special Forces unit, Charlie Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, during a ceremony at the Texas National Guard headquarters in Austin. The need for a special operations unit arose because of the continuing transformation of the state's Army Guard.

## Virgin Islands

Nineteen Army Guard members of the 104th Troop Command and 661st Military Police Company were called up by the governor to support the Virgin Island Police Department during the St. Croix Crucian Festivals Jan. 4-5. The Citizen-Soldiers supported local law enforcement efforts with traffic control and post security during parades in Frederiksted in St. Croix County.



Indiana National Guard photo

## HETS up

A Soldier assigned to the 205th Infantry Brigade, First U.S. Army, prepares to unload more than 32 Heavy Equipment Transporter Systems (HETS) off a rail flatbed that arrived at Indiana's Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center in December. The HETS came from Fort Riley, Kan., and will be used by a transportation company. The 205th is a multi-component team consisting of active, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians. The HETS transport and evacuate combat-loaded M1 tanks and other heavy vehicles to and from the battlefield.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner

Arkansas Master Sgt. George Russell (right) gives a hospital tour at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany to the 36th Infantry Division's commander, Maj. Gen. Jose S. Mayorga (far left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy L. Broyles.

## Guard medical liaisons care for wounded

By Sgt. 1st Class Brenda Benner  
Texas National Guard

LANDSTUHL, Germany – Imagine arriving at a hospital in winter wearing nothing but a T-shirt and shorts and having only blankets covering you on a gurney. You have no identification, no money and no personal belongings of any type. Worse yet, you don't have that precious little book of phone numbers for your family and friends.

A small percentage of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen arriving from battle for advanced medical care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) are in such a dire predicament, but a team of medical liaisons is there for the sole purpose of assisting in every way possible.

Arkansas Army National Guard Master Sgt. George Russell is one of the liaisons at the LRMC. During the past two years, he has greeted many fellow Guardmembers – some arriving on gurneys or in wheelchairs – from their medical evacuation flights from the Middle East.

According to Russell, approximately 25 percent of the National Guard patients he encounters are battle wounded. Others, who are experiencing injuries or illnesses not treatable at their duty locations, come from all over the world for LRMC's first-class medical care.

Russell, who has been a medic and a licensed practical nurse for 36 years, said his current assignment as a medical liaison is "the best job the Army has ever given me." Prior to his Germany assignment, he was with the North Little Rock-based Medical Detachment, State Area Command.

"I meet the Guard patients as

soon as they get off the bus or ambulance," said Russell. "I let them know that we're here to help them solve their issues so they can put all of their concentration on getting better. We'll help with getting new uniforms, their pay issues, any business with their home units ... just about anything they need. We also make sure they make it to their doctor appointments, lab tests, X-rays and other procedures."

That alone is a great help as travel-weary patients negotiate more than three miles of hallways branching in all directions inside one of the U.S. military's largest medical facilities.

Another medical liaison helping patients through the system is Nevada Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Ilda Cruz. A medic for the past eight years, Cruz is new to her liaison position at the hospital. She said she can already

**"I'd say about 95 percent of them beg the doctors to give them clearance to go back to the theater and join their buddies"**

*-Master Sgt. George Russell*



Courtesy photo

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany has more than three miles of hallways.

tell that she enjoys the assignment.

"I take them to the chaplain's closet so they can pick out a few warm clothes to wear instead of their hospital gowns," Cruz explained. "It gives me a good feeling to help lower their stress levels by settling their clothing and hygiene needs. After that, we can work on things such as pay problems and other paperwork."

Sgt. Devon Hand, of the Missouri Army National Guard's 129th Field Artillery, is a new patient at the LRMC who just arrived from Afghanistan. Since he is totally mobile, he has volunteered to help the medical liaisons, citing what a great help they've been since his arrival.

"I want to give back because the staff here at Landstuhl is great," Hand explained. "I thought I'd give them an extra hand – literally. Besides, this way I can be with more of the troops every day while I'm waiting on my status."

It's clear while talking with Hand that he is eagerly waiting for the opportunity to catch the next plane to Afghanistan.

Russell said he is inspired daily by the commitment his fellow Guardmembers show toward their missions and to their unit members down range.

"I'd say about 95 percent of them beg the doctors to give them clearance to go back to the theater and join their buddies," said Russell. "They don't want to let them down with their absence. I tell them to worry about their own health situation first ... to concentrate on getting better, and then they can return to duty when it's time." 🇺🇸



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Litchfield

Capt. Christopher Cook (right) is recognized by Gen. Richard Cody, the vice chief of staff for the U.S. Army, in December after Cook helped a woman give birth.

## Special delivery Oklahoman helps woman give birth outside hospital

FORT BLISS, Texas – In the early hours of Dec. 6, two Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers prepared for another day of post-mobilization training in preparation for their upcoming deployment with the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Little did they know that they were about to bring a new life into the world.

Spc. Dicky Guerrero, an English teacher, and Capt. Christopher Cook, a registered nurse, left Camp McGregor, N.M., shortly after 6 a.m. en route to William Beaumont Medical Center at Ft. Bliss. Cook had to attend to some medical paperwork and asked Guerrero to accompany him.

As they arrived at the medical center, the sun had just risen and they opened their doors to exit the vehicle. Guerrero asked Cook for his cell phone number in case they were separated. Before Cook could answer, they heard a man and a woman screaming. The man yelled, "Somebody get my wife a wheelchair! She's about to have a baby."

The only thing that crossed Guerrero's mind was his girlfriend, whose due date was rapidly approaching. Cook also looked toward the calls for help and began to wonder why no one was coming to the couple's aid. When the man yelled for help once more, Guerrero ran into the hospital for help. Finding none, Cook realized what he needed to do.

The woman was about to give birth, and there wasn't time to escort her to a comfortable room or administer an epidural. He ran over to the woman, took off his black fleece jacket and laid it on the ground beneath her feet. The baby's head had already crowned and no hospital workers were on the scene. Cook cradled his arms and began to assist the baby into the world. Guerrero ran back out of the hospital with doctors and nurses behind him and an EMS team in tow. They watched as the woman gave birth *standing up* on the sidewalk of the hospital. Cook knelt and held the baby tight. The mother, in all her pain, asked how her baby was doing. With the baby crying, nurses draped towels and blankets around the newborn and her mother. They rushed the baby inside. Just as quickly as the situation had developed, it ended.

About 10 minutes later, Cook came out of the hospital and picked up his interrupted conversation with Guerrero.

"So anyway, Guerrero, my number is..."

"Sir, do you realize that you just saved that baby, let alone brought a life into this world?"

"Yeah, I guess. It is pretty cool, isn't it?"

With all the military and civilian training that Cook had undergone, he became a model Citizen-Soldier. Without the need or desire for pats on the back and applauding crowds, Cook became a champion in the hearts of those who witnessed his selfless act. 🇺🇸

-OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD

# Guard family gets 'Extreme' dream home

By Staff Sgt. Mary Flynn  
National Guard Bureau

RICE, Va. – Spc. Michael Lucas received an extra-special homecoming during his mid-tour leave from Iraq in December when he and his family discovered they had been selected for a total-home renovation, courtesy of the popular reality-TV show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.”

The show’s premise involves combining the efforts of a team of designers and hundreds of local workers and neighbors. Together, they renovate an entire home – from furniture to landscaping – for a deserving family nominated by friends and family, all within seven days.

The Lucas family includes Michael, 37, his wife Jean, 33, and boys Michael Henry, 11, and Joseph, 6. Jean studies ancestry and genealogy research and works with a therapist for Joseph, who has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She’s currently helping to write grants to open a sensory playground facility for autistic children.

Spc. Lucas is currently deployed to Iraq with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, Virginia Army National Guard. He and fellow Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion trained at Camp Shelby, Miss., from June to early August, before arriving in Kuwait in late August. In early September, the unit moved into Iraq to begin its mission, which includes providing convoy security.

Spc. Lucas, a lifelong history buff, had begun constructing a house on property that is the site of the Civil War’s Battle of High Ridge near Rice, Va. Lucas was deployed before he could finish the home, and the family moved into a



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Flynn

“Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” host Ty Pennington (left) joins the family of Virginia National Guard Spc. Michael Lucas in cheering “Move that bus!” allowing the family their first look at their totally renovated home Dec. 10.

rental property in Cullen, Va.

Jean home-schools both of her children, and the nomination for the home makeover came through members of the home school cooperative where she is a member.

“Jean and her family are such a wonderful family,” said Nancy Baker, who knows the family through their home-school group. With a husband in Iraq and an autistic child who requires so much of her time and effort, she has a lot of obstacles to overcome on a daily basis, Baker said.

Enter the Extreme Makeover team: After surprising the newly-reunited family with the news of their selection, they

sent the Lucases off for a weeklong vacation to Disney World as they went to work. Hundreds of local workers and volunteers joined Ty Pennington and the rest of the design team in a total overhaul of the property. About 50 National Guard Soldiers were quick to lend a hand.

“I think this is such a wonderful opportunity for the Soldiers to come out and participate in helping another Soldier,” said Sgt. Shaena Hall, of Company B, 116th Brigade Troops Battalion, who drove more than three hours from her unit’s location in Alexandria, Va., to help with the project.

Hall has never met any of the Lucas family, but she said that didn’t matter. “All Soldiers are family,” she said.

The big reveal of the new home came Dec. 10 when hundreds of volunteers, Soldiers, workers, neighbors and on-lookers gathered on the property and cheered “Move that bus!” allowing the Lucas family a first look of their dream home.

“It’s wonderful. It’s incredible just to see all those people here and what they

did for us,” said Jean.

The family also received several substantial gifts from local businesses.

“I can’t say how appreciative I am of this community and how much I love these people,” Spc. Lucas added. “[I appreciate] the state and the community for how much they’ve given me.”

The Lucas family’s episode of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” is tentatively scheduled to air in February or March on ABC. The program is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding.

## Alaskan Soldiers fulfill convoy security roles

By Spc. Thomas Keeler  
316th Exped. Sustainment Command

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq – The Alaska Army National Guard’s Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion has successfully assumed the convoy security mission here.

The unit, known as the 297th Combat Support Company in Iraq, left Alaska in October for an estimated 10 months in Iraq.

About half of the Soldiers in the unit are infantry, said 1st Sgt. Shawn McLeod, the company first sergeant and team leader of the 297th. But, he said, everyone in the company, not just infantry, contributes to the convoys.

“We’ve got cooks, mechanics and clerks that are out on the road,” McLeod said. “Supply, logistics – they’re gunners and drivers – and 11 medics who are out there as gunners and drivers as well.”

For a few Soldiers in the unit, the two-month mobilization at Fort Richardson last fall was their first experience performing convoy operations or driving military vehicles. But

Soldiers like Cpl. Brian Christopherson, a truck driver in his civilian life, took well to driving the long hours required for convoy security.

Spc. Enrico Sanchez is a gunner and said convoys rarely stay overnight at their destination, instead turning around when their mission is done. A convoy might not return to its base until as late as 10 p.m., he explained.

Pfc. Jeanette Derry, a mechanic, stands ready for the vehicles when they come back.

“The operators come in and perform preventive maintenance checks and services,” Derry said. “Any faults that they find we fix there on the spot.”

By late afternoon, the mechanics are finished with their essential work. As one infantry platoon is making their final preparations for that evening’s convoy, the platoon for the next night’s run comes to pick up their vehicles.

Most convoys leave the wire sometime after sunset, and Christopherson’s crew runs about two or three missions a week.

Overall, McLeod praised his Soldiers. So far, the Alaskans are adapting well to Iraq and completing their missions.

## Wyoming wing wins Air Force environmental quality award

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Air National Guard’s 153rd Airlift Wing has been selected to receive the Air Force’s Gen. Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award for the Reserves and Air National Guard.

The award recognizes the efforts of installations and individuals for environmental quality, restoration, pollution prevention, recycling, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

Some of the notable contributions that the wing personnel have made:

- Authored two Environmental Baseline Surveys for the Wyoming and Colorado Joint Air National Guard Recruiting Center and a 640-acre military drop zone, saving more than \$80,000 in engineering survey and contractor consulting fees.

- During ongoing construction projects, recycled 2,700 tons of concrete; donated 4,000 tons of excess materials for non-profit projects, and 4,200 tons of asphalt to improve the base perimeter road, improving safety.

- Reuse of construction/demolition materials by contractors diverting an additional

13,000 tons from the landfill.

- Redeveloped the design for a spill detention pond project saving more than \$450,000 in design and construction.

- Established a hazardous waste pharmacy in civil engineering, reducing the waste stream by 73 percent, eliminating unauthorized hazardous materials.

“The Wyoming Air National Guard is truly fortunate to have such dedicated men and women who implement these projects that safeguard the environment while continuing to set standards,” said Lt. Col. Rob Miknis, the 153rd AW’s environmental manager.

Miknis was also recently recognized by the Air National Guard bioenvironmental engineering office for being the first officer in ANG history to participate and lead a team in the Air Force Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive Challenge. The team was selected two weeks before the competition, making the competition the first time members had met and worked together.

- WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD



# Bringing the commissary to the Guard

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency is bridging the gap between installation-based commissaries and the community-based Guard.

Some 258 commissaries worldwide sell groceries and other household goods to U.S. servicemembers, families and retirees.

Guardmembers have had the same commissary privileges as their active duty counterparts since 2004. But using the installation-based benefit can be a challenge for the community-based Guard.

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), which delivers the commissary benefit to servicemembers and their families, is making the benefit more useful to Citizen-Soldiers and –Airmen.

And the industry that supports the commissaries recently donated \$95,000 to reduce the stress on our Guardmembers.

Instead of forcing the Guardmember to go to a distant commissary or miss out on the benefit, DeCA is bringing the commissary to the Guardmember.

“We’ve been asked to ... improve delivery of the benefit to National Guard members and their families,” said Richard S. Page, acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency at Fort Lee, Va. “This is a key initiative for DeCA this year that has been emphasized by our Board of Directors as well as the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness). With the Guard providing more value to our national security, we are doing what we can to increase the value of the benefit that we deliver to the National Guard.”

Since 1991, DeCA has delivered the commissary benefit to active duty servicemembers concentrated on installations. Guardmembers serve part-time between deployments and live in almost every community in the nation, sometimes hundreds of miles from the nearest military base. DeCA seeks Guardmembers’ ideas on how to get the most from commissaries.

“It’s open season on good ideas on how to expand the benefit,” Page said. “Help us get more of the benefit to you.”

The commissary industry did just that in time for the 2007 holiday season by contributing money for \$100 CertifiChecks that Guardmembers could redeem at commissaries.

## CertifiChecks

“They heard about the need in the National Guard due to increased operational tempo and pace of deployments,” Page said. “With the length of deployments and families left behind, they thought it fit to



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

Patrick B. Nixon, president of the American Logistics Association (ALA); Richard S. Page, acting director of the Defense Commissary Agency; LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau; and Russ Moffett, chairman of the ALA’s consumer awareness team, stand with an oversized CertifiCheck in Blum’s Pentagon office during a Dec. 20 visit to discuss improving Guardmembers’ access to the commissaries. ALA members contributed more than \$95,000 in time for the holidays to pay for \$100 CertifiChecks that Guardmembers can use at commissaries.

## The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is reaching out to the Guard. Here’s how:

- Truckload sales at 21 Guard and Reserve locations exceeded \$1.6 million in 2007
- Sent out \$100 CertifiChecks that Guardmembers can redeem at commissaries
- Seeking Guardmembers’ ideas on how to get the most from commissaries

raise some donations in the form of CertifiChecks.”

LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, accepted a symbolic CertifiCheck on Dec. 20 to mark the industry initiative. The CertifiChecks were sent to states across America for distribution to Guardmembers.

“You have made a big difference,” Blum told officials of DeCA and the American Logistics Association, the trade association that represents companies conducting business with commissaries. “I was amazed – and what a beautiful time of year to do this.”

The extent of industry support for the Guard surprised even DeCA officials.

“I was overwhelmed with the generosity of our suppliers and our manufacturers,” Page said. “There are a lot of patriotic Americans who really appreciate what the Guard is doing for our country, and they

stepped up for them.”

Commissary savings mean that \$95,000 is actually worth more than \$120,000, with each \$100 CertifiCheck more useful than its face value.

“It’s not only \$100,” Page said. “It’s \$100 at the commissary, which is 30 percent more than what you’d get if you were spending it downtown – so it’s kind of \$130.”

## Commissaries

How can \$100 be \$130 at the commissary?

“We sell grocery and household items at cost,” Page explained. Appropriated funds pay for commissary labor and operational expenses, so there is no profit markup. A five percent surcharge pays for construction and maintenance of commissary buildings. Even with adding the surcharge, commissary prices average 30 percent lower than commercial supermarkets.

In late December, for example, commissary shoppers stood to save 31.2 percent compared with shopping off post. Page said that figure was derived from an across-the-store, barcode-to-barcode price comparison.

Commissary operations are paid for with congressionally-appropriated funds. About \$1 billion pumped into the system each year generates about \$2 billion in savings for military shoppers.

“We think that’s a good deal,” Page said. “A commissary can save a family of four \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year if they do all their shopping at the commissary.”

2006 saw about \$5.4 billion in commissary sales.

“If everybody who shopped at the commissary had to do that same shopping downtown, it would have cost about \$7.4 billion instead of \$5.4 billion,” Page said.

But studies show that 30 miles

is about as far as anybody wants to go to shop for groceries, and Guardmembers often live much farther from a commissary, so DeCA’s dilemma is how to maximize Guard access.

“With a business model like DeCA’s, where you’re selling at cost and there’s no profit margin, there are some unique business challenges,” Page said. “We’re looking at innovative ways to deliver at least some portion of the commissary benefit to those who are far away from a commissary.”

DeCA has already found some ways.

Truckload sales started about three years ago. DeCA brings a generic assortment – in case lots and regular shelf-units of popular items – to Guardmembers at drilling units.

“Those have been very well-received,” said Page. “Certainly it’s not a full commissary, but it provides a lot of good, high-value items.”

A truckload sale requires teamwork, Page said. DeCA’s industry partners take care of the distribution. DeCA performs the actual sales. The hosting Guard unit gets the word out to Citizen-Soldiers and –Airmen, then provides the ground support for the event.

Truckload sales at 21 National Guard and Reserve locations exceeded \$1.6 million in 2007. In one example, Citizen-Soldiers and –Airmen helped to airlift products to Guardmembers for a truckload sale in Nome, Alaska.

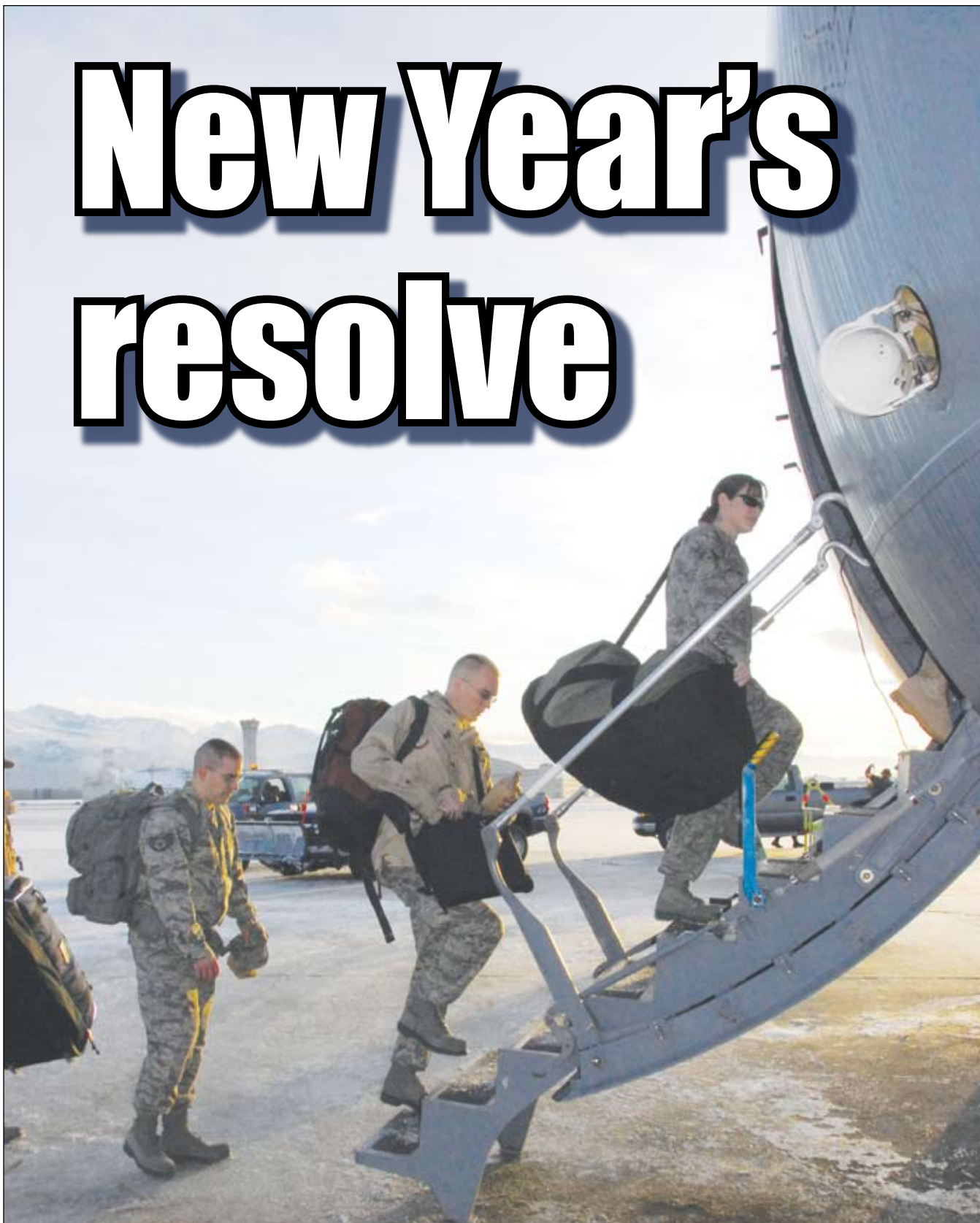
DeCA is attempting to increase future truckload sales by improving cooperation between the commissary and Guard units. For example, collecting specific orders in advance could allow DeCA to deliver packages tailored to each Guardmember’s needs. Another idea is to maximize access for family members left behind by scheduling sales following mobilization events.

“I want to thank all the Guardmembers and their families for all they do for this great nation,” Page said.

DeCA is thanking Guardmembers by making commissaries more accessible, and its supporting industry has done so in cash.

CertifiCheck contributors included 3M, the Alberto Culver Company, Alcoa, the American Pop Corn Co., Barilla, Bissell, Del Monte, Dial, Discovery Foods, Energizer, Hanes, Heinz, Imperial Sugar, Jack Links BeefJerky, JFC International, Johnson & Johnson, John Soules Foods, Kellogg, Kikkoman, Knouse, Kraft Foods, Maruchan, Mead Johnson, National Industries for the Blind, Novartis, Nestle, Oram Sylvania, Pictsweet, Playtex, QTG, Ruiz Food Products, S&K Sales, Sara Lee, Schick Wilkinson Sword, Schwan’s, SC Johnson, Shasta, Spectrum Brands, Welch’s and White Wave Foods. 1

# New Year's resolve

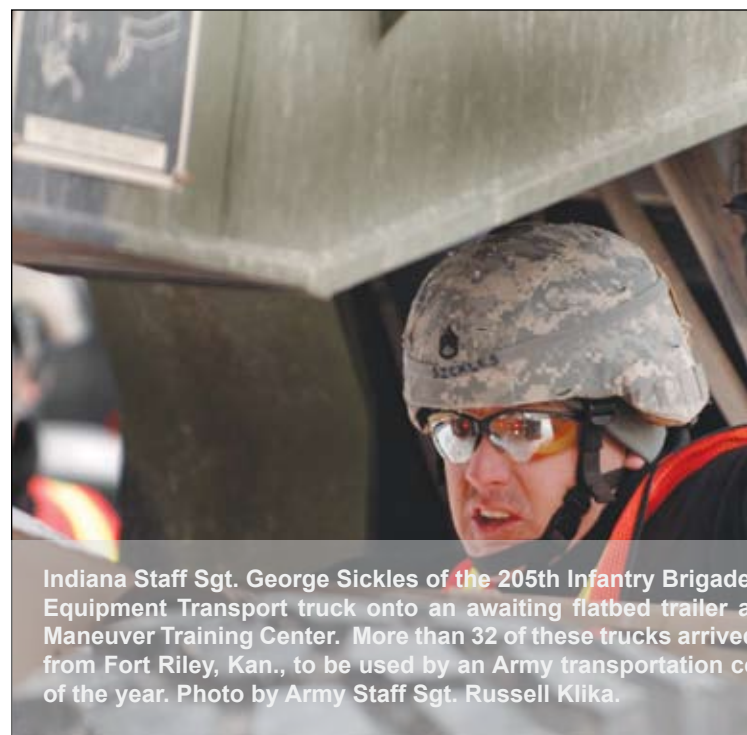


Members of the Alaska Air National Guard board the aircraft that will carry them and their gear to Afghanistan for rotations lasting from 60 to 180 days. Leaving on New Year's Day, the Airmen will put critical skills gained from Alaska training and rescue missions to use overseas. Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Eric Hamilton.

The Guard continues its mission of securing and defending the homeland, supporting the Global War on Terrorism and always being relevant, reliable and ready.



Cpl. Joseph Arevalos makes his way into the RCA Dome in Indianapolis for the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The 76th IBCT's deployment to the RCA Dome is the longest continuous deployment since World War II, with more than 3,400 Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard since World War II, with more than 3,400 Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard since World War II, with more than 3,400 Soldiers from Iraq for 12 months. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika.



Indiana Staff Sgt. George Sickles of the 205th Infantry Brigade is loading an Equipment Transport truck onto an awaiting flatbed trailer at a Maneuver Training Center. More than 32 of these trucks arrived from Fort Riley, Kan., to be used by an Army transportation company for the year. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Russell Klika.





Indianapolis Jan. 2, for a unit departure ceremony. The largest deployment is the Indiana National Guard, which is sending about 30 Indiana communities deploying to Afghanistan.



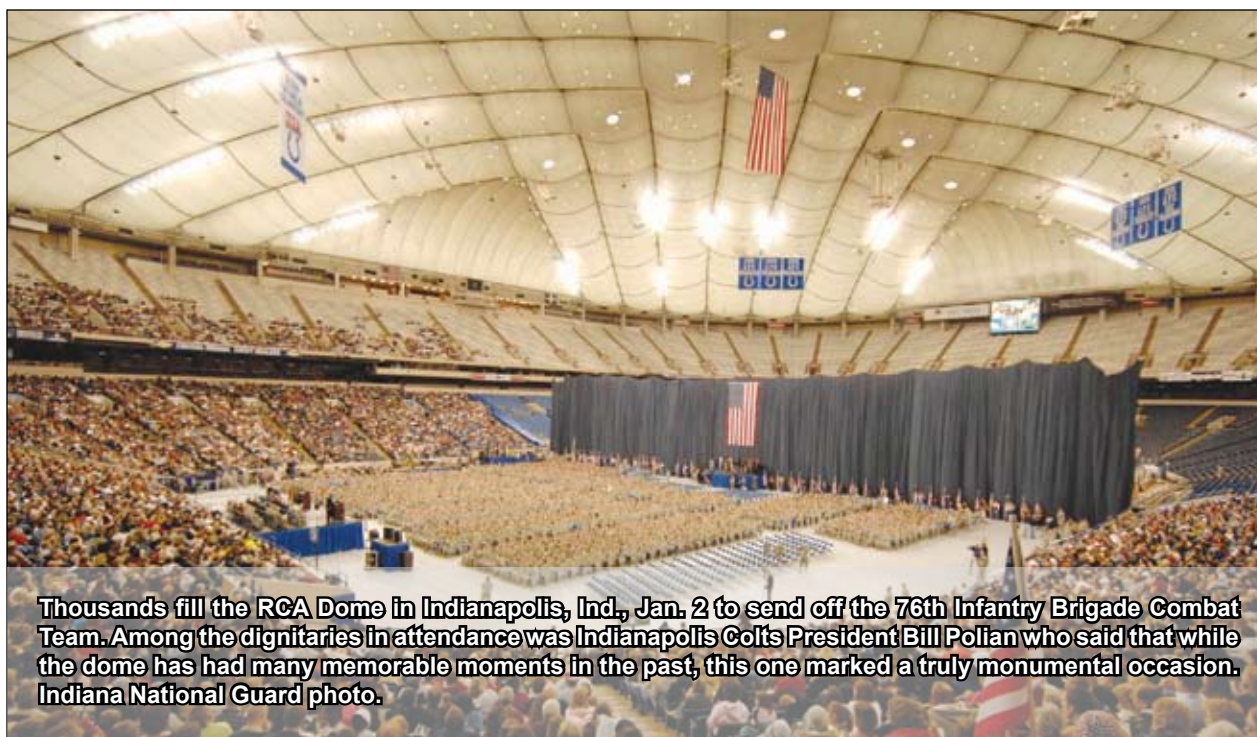
1st Lt. Tyler Cox of the 123rd Fighter Squadron, 142nd Fighter Wing conducts a post-flight inspection of his F-15 Jan. 9 at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Ore. Cox is among the first pilots at the base to be airborne after a series of stand downs that kept F-15 models A-D on the ground. Photo by Senior Airman John Hughel Jr.



After finishing repairs on convoy vehicles, Pfc. David Noy (left) and Pfc. Manuel Caguiat, both mechanics with the 297th Combat Support Company, perform routine maintenance on a M998 utility vehicle. Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler.



A soldier guides a Heavy Equipment Company at the Camp Atterbury Joint Training Center at Camp Atterbury recently during the first part of the deployment.



Thousands fill the RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 2 to send off the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Among the dignitaries in attendance was Indianapolis Colts President Bill Polian who said that while the dome has had many memorable moments in the past, this one marked a truly monumental occasion. Indiana National Guard photo.

# At Masada, a glimpse of Israel's soul

By Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill  
National Guard Bureau

MASADA, Israel – This ancient fort atop a Judean Desert butte 1,300-feet above the Dead Sea offers a glimpse into the Israeli soul.

“Masada is roughly analogous in importance to the Israelis as the Alamo is to Texas,” said LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

An NGB delegation visited Masada in December during a four-day mission in Israel to bolster the Bureau's relationship with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) Home Front Command and discuss joint exercises and other possible exchanges carried out under the aegis of the U.S. European Command.

Masada was a convenient stop en route to a modern military complex, the IDF's National Center for Ground Force Training. The modern facility offered insight into current Israeli military operations; the ancient ruins offered a glimpse into a nation's psyche as reflected in one of its most-cherished myths.

“It really helps you understand the history of this region, the millennium-long struggles that have gone on for democracy and individual rights and freedoms,” Blum said. “It's almost spiritual for Israel.”

Here's how important Masada is: Modern Israeli soldiers swear “Masada shall not fall again” and make nighttime pilgrimages to the site as part of their initiation into the military.

“Masada is ... part of our Israeli and Jewish conscience,” said Shraga Kelson, tour guide. “We still are involved in a battle for survival.”

Masada may have first been fortified about 2,200 years ago, according to Masada National Park accounts. Herod the Great, a Roman client king of Judea, enlarged and reinforced it. After he died, a Roman garrison moved in. In the year 66, the Sicarii, a zealous sect of Jews, captured it, triggering a seven-year nationwide revolt that the Romans crushed – a revolt that had serious consequences for Israel's modern history, including the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Less than 1,000 defenders at Masada held out against some 8,000

Roman soldiers who laid siege before the Romans breached the wall in the year 73.

“It's really hard to imagine what either party went through,” Blum said. “The amount of determination and courage and perseverance that those that defended it had to display to stay there and to defend that desolate spot was extraordinary. On the other side, the Romans' genius and tenacity and leveraging of their contemporary technology were quite impressive. The whole thing is a case study that any modern practitioner of military arts should take the time to study.”

We know about the Roman siege thanks to Josephus Flavius, a Jewish historian who wrote a contemporary account and thanks to modern archaeology that Masada National Park officials say supports Flavius' account.

We can see the story in the outlines of the eight Roman camps encircling Masada that are still visible from the ancient, breached fortress. The camps and Roman walls that snake across the desert floor prevented rebel escape.

The Romans built an earthen ramp to the base of Masada's walls. They used a wooden tower and a battering ram to breach the walls. Upon entry, they found the rebels had killed each other – thus sidestepping a religious prohibition against suicide – rather than be taken alive.

Here are remains of Herod's palaces, hot baths, possibly the world's oldest synagogue and a sophisticated system of dams, canals and cisterns to capture and store water.

Masada was invoked as German forces approached Egypt in World War II. Though Israel was not yet a nation, immigration had been underway since the late 19th century. Alarmed at possible German conquest of the future Jewish state, Israeli leaders made a secret “Masada Plan” to fortify Mount Carmel and fight to the end, Kelson said.

Forgotten for centuries, Masada's renaissance in the public conscience came in the 20th century, Kelson said, and modern Israel's founders were among its archaeologists.

“It shows the irrepressible desire for freedom that inhabitants of this area have and their absolute, unwavering commitment to maintaining their freedom and their rights,” Blum said.

-DK Eyewitness Travel Guides and other sources contributed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

**Masada was a mountain fortress held by Jewish rebels in revolt against Rome in the year 73. LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, spent four days in Israel recently to bolster the Bureau's relationship with the Israeli Defense Forces Home Front Command.**

## MOUT has 472 buildings lining 4 miles of roads

From page 1:  
DESERT MOUT

story buildings, a complex tunnel system and labyrinthine areas typical of some older Middle Eastern city centers. A stripped vehicle blocking a road adds to the realism.

“It is just such a superb training facility for all the nuances and the situational awareness and the battlefield conditions that Soldiers face in this part of the world,” Blum said.

Soldiers have lost their way training here. They are found thanks to force-identification and location systems built into the training area. Every movement is recorded, every building bristles with sensors and every troop is wired for after-action review.

“I'd like to see Soldiers go through a facility like this somewhere before they deploy to counterinsurgency missions abroad,” Blum said. “You get the advantage of the identical climate, the same geography, topography. You have the benefit of being in the environment, yet you're totally secure and you're able to train.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

**LTG H Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau (center), and other Guard leaders and members of the Israeli Defense Forces visit an Israeli MOUT training facility.**

When the topography doesn't exactly match training requirements, the Israelis bring in bulldozers that move the desert sand until it more closely resembles what trainers need.

“It's a first-rate place,” Blum said. “It

couldn't be more realistic unless you let people actually live there.”

-Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, the Marine Corps Times and other sources contributed to this report.

## HEADS UP!

### BAH increase

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) paid to servicemembers living off base in stateside areas will climb an average of 7.3 percent to keep pace with local rental costs, pending the passage of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. In an effort to reduce the BAH disparity between members with dependents and those without, officials with the Department of Defense agreed to increase the BAH rate for members without dependents an additional \$34 million during 2008.

[www.military.com/features](http://www.military.com/features)

### Online Language Training

Language training, using Rosetta Stone on Army e-Learning, is available to all Army active, Guard, and Reserve Soldiers. The online lessons are self-paced and active-duty Soldiers earn one promotion point for each five-hour training credit completed, while reserve Soldiers earn one retirement point for each three-hour training credit completed. Rosetta Stone's learning method makes it easy for Soldiers with no previous language experience to begin learning. A new Arabic military version is also available. For more information on the Army Rosetta Stone language training, visit the U.S. Army's Learn Languages With Rosetta Stone Web site.

<http://usarmy.rosettastone.com>

### TSP limits

For 2008, the IRS permits contributions up to \$15,500 in tax-deferred money to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). If a servicemember is in a designated combat zone during the year, the maximum total contributions from all sources (tax-deferred and tax-exempt) can be \$46,000. Members that will be 50 or older in 2008 and have made or will make the maximum amount of tax-deferred contributions for the year (\$15,500) may also contribute up to \$5,000 in additional “catch-up” contributions.

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

### Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private nonprofit organization whose sole mission is to provide financial assistance to Soldiers and their families. AER provides interest-free loans and grants for: emergency assistance to include rent, food, travel, car repair, funeral, medical and dental expenses; children and spouse scholarships; incidental expenses for Soldiers medically evacuated from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom; and support to families of fallen Soldiers. AER assistance is available 24/7 and worldwide. For more information, visit the Army Emergency Relief Web site.

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

# Air Guard recruiters press on through major changes

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Tech. Sgt. Dianna Bowen understands and embraces the challenges of recruiting people into a transforming Air National Guard.

Bowen became one of the Air Guard's top recruiters in the nation in 2007 by enlisting members into an integrated Air Force wing, co-operated by Guard and active duty Airmen: the 116th Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., which flies the JSTARS (Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System) aircraft.

"Out of 409 [Air Guard] recruiters, I'm number four," said Bowen.

Bowen hopes to enlist as many Guardmembers as possible into the wing's military melting pot, but she said her success requires a lot of teamwork from within. The unit is a product of Total Force Integration (TFI), which officials say enhances retention and recruitment for the total force by pooling active duty and Guard resources.

"I worked a lot," she said. "I did everything I could for my applicants, and because of that, that's how I got my referrals."

The Air Guard announced Dec. 10 that its accessions were up in November. It continues to develop yearly recruiting goals and maintains appealing choices for enlistees. On the front lines, honing themselves as the Air Guard's critical edge are its recruiters. Some, including Bowen, are recruiting through drastic changes in the Air Force, from TFI to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law.

## Georgia's successes

Bowen and the four other recruiters in her office are proof that recruiters can be successful through TFI. What's interesting about recruiting at the 116th ACW, Bowen said, is explaining to recruits they might have an active-duty supervisor as well as a Guard supervisor.

"I explain to [recruits] that you go into a shop here and you are actually going to find active duty Air Force, active-duty Air National Guard, traditional Guard; and you're going to have [federal] technicians, so you can't pick one person out ... everybody's equal and treated equally," said Bowen.

With the wing nearly 100 percent manned, she and others in her office must navigate changing manning documents and balance available positions with the positions recruits want and are qualified for.

Part of her responsibilities are to meet with applicants and conduct interviews to determine their qualifications to join the Air Guard. Finding and matching qualified candidates with available jobs can be a major challenge, she said. She conducts 20-25 interviews a week; of those, maybe about eight people enlist. Her monthly recruiting goal is three recruits and 36 for the year, which is a standard for most Air Guard recruiters.

"Generally, we all meet our goals," said Bowen. "There are months when it's kind of a struggle to get people in, but our office has been pretty successful." Unit-member referrals is one of her greatest resources.

As a TFI unit, active-duty recruiters also fill positions. But Bowen said there's a major difference between them. Air Guard recruiters manage their Guard accessions, unlike their active-duty partners who man the Air Force through

point where we meet end strength," said McKinley. "The Army National Guard has had a phenomenal record of recruiting new members. We, on the other hand, are very close and well within our two percent margin, but we fell short of our 2007 end-strength goal. We should be able to just push through and meet the goal. Once achieved, it will not be as difficult to maintain. So, recruiting will continue to be a huge challenge for us in 2008."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith

Master Sgt. Dana Togliatti (right) speaks with Air National Guard leaders at Mansfield Air National Guard Base, Ohio, Dec. 6 during a unit visit by Air Guard Director Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley.

recruiting squadrons. Active-duty recruiters are also located off base at local shopping malls.

"We have the advantage of being right here," Bowen said. This allows them to show potential recruits and their families the shops they might work at and meet the wing's Airmen. She agreed that integrating the family is just as important.

Bowen's advice to new recruiters: "follow up, follow up, follow up," she said. She explained that people sometimes just want information, but she keeps in contact with them, which leads to accessions.

The Air Guard reported Dec. 10 that its accessions for November were 33 percent above its goal. But for fiscal year 2007, the Air Guard fell just short of its end-strength goal of 107,000 Airmen with a reported strength of 106,254. It also achieved 99.3 percent of its retention goal and 93.3 percent of its recruiting goal.

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air Guard, acknowledged the 116th's recruiting success during an exclusive year-in-review interview with The On Guard, the newspaper of the National Guard, as well as the success of other Air Guard units that are maintaining Airmen in the face of TFI, BRAC and other recruiting and retention challenges. But McKinley also said that recruiting will continue to be a "huge challenge."

"The Air National Guard has got to get recruiting to a

## Maintaining numbers in Ohio

Another unit overcoming the recruiting challenge is the Ohio Air Guard's 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield. It maintains a top recruiting and retention rate despite an uncertain future: it will lose its C-130 Hercules aircraft by 2011 as a result of BRAC.

McKinley and his staff from the Air Guard Readiness Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., traveled there Dec. 6 and met with the 179th's recruiters during a unit visit.

The wing's recruiters achieve more than 100 percent manning, despite the fact that the wing will convert to nontraditional functions by 2011.

"At this point, we are very fortunate [from] where it was a couple years ago. Rumors have lessened and folks know that we are staying and hopefully we have new missions coming," said Master Sgt. Dana Togliatti, recruiting supervisor.

Togliatti said the unit had to do a lot of damage control when the BRAC announcement was made, but unit members came together to tell the community that they were not going anywhere; that the benefits of serving were still the same. "We owe it to most of the people on this base that have spread the word," she said.

At the moment, the 116th's recruiters are averaging four recruits a month in an area where the nearest major city is an hour's drive away.

Togliatti said their challenges include finding qualified applicants, giving applicants jobs to choose from and finding training dates. She also said paperwork can bog them down.

The office develops its own marketing campaigns, which include billboards and sports programs and shopping programs to get their names and faces out into the community. "We want to be everywhere around town and the surrounding counties," Togliatti said.

State tuition assistance provides an additional incentive to recruits: Ohio offers 100 percent tuition assistance for in-state schools. Other states offer similar incentives. The Guard Recruiting and Assistance Program (GRAP), which the Air Guard developed after the Army Guard's success with it, pays money to those who refer enlistees who join and complete basic military training.

"GRAP is huge for us, but [referrals] were huge for us before the program," Togliatti said. Now referrals pay big dividends for recruiting assistants nationwide.

Additional incentives, increases in bonuses and recruiting approaches were introduced across the Air Guard last year. More are coming soon. 🇺🇸

## Manage your career with MyEDP



Accessible from a home or military computer through the Air Force Portal, My Enlisted Development Plan, or MyEDP, is a total-force, cradle-to-grave enlisted career developmental tool. Enlisted Airmen from all components can enjoy the features designed to provide information and links on every aspect of their career progression.

The left-hand screen offers four dropdown menus — MyEDP (general enlisted information), Education and Training, Job Experience, and Leadership. Each of the last three menus offers information specific to the rank tract (AB-SrA, SSgt-TSgt, MSgt, SMSgt, CMSgt). The displayed information (center screen) is broken into three areas. The top area includes

a short description of the requirement and the related links (AFIs, related sites, etc.). The next area includes Air Reserve Component information — Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve (ARC) — including procedures, common points of contact and related ARC publications. The last area displays the related information from the personnel system (currently MilPDS); for example, completed PME courses.

Under the MyEDP drop down is a link to Forums — currently the most popular feature. With topics (or threads) such as general discussion, assignments, pay and benefits, Air National Guard, etc., an Airman can post messages on various topics: uniforms, promo-

tions, assignments, and transfers to ANG or Reserves. Airmen from around the globe and in different career fields can respond to the threads. Airmen should exercise professional behavior in their questions and responses. While monitored for content, messages are not deleted; even if the posted information doesn't exactly fit the "party line." Airmen can post replies or e-mail the individual with a response. The goal is to allow Airmen to share questions, ideas, and information. All users are identified — by name and AFSC — so Airmen can determine the validity of the answers and all information is accountable.

But MyEDP doesn't stop there. The right screen offers a variety of career enhancement

tools to review personal information and track accomplishments as well as mentoring tools. The MyJournal feature allows Airmen to record goals and accomplishments; even to set deadlines and track progress. The Sharing feature allows an Airman to grant access to supervisors or mentors (officer, civilian or enlisted) to have access to career information, so they can weigh in on career development actions — through the MyJournal feature.

MyEDP's goal is to provide a single, constant source of career information and the related publications and sites. Contact your human resource advisor or first sergeant for more information and detailed instructions. 🇺🇸

-ANG FORCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

# HAS TALENT WILL TRAVEL

## Arizona sergeant selected for 2008 Tops in Blue team

By Capt. Gabe Johnson  
Arizona National Guard

TUCSON, Ariz. – The “Star Spangled Banner,” “America the Beautiful,” and “God Bless America” are songs Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith knows very well from her years of singing at retirements, promotions and awards ceremonies at the Arizona Air National Guard’s 162nd Fighter Wing.

This year she’ll expand her repertoire and take her talent on the road as a member of the Air Force’s 2008 Tops in Blue performance team.

Known as the Air Force’s Expeditionary Entertainers, Tops in Blue performs a 90-minute musical extravaganza wherever U.S. troops are stationed. The enormous popularity of the group has made them goodwill ambassadors around the world.

Smith heard of her selection Dec. 12 when the 162nd Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Rick Moisio called to congratulate her.

“I was so shocked when I got the call,” said Smith. “There was so much talent at the audition and I didn’t think I would make the team.”

Smith, who rarely sings for audiences outside of the 162nd, began thinking about auditioning for Tops in Blue in April.

“I wanted to do something with my voice,” she said. “This was just the right time in my life to be a part of something big.”

She worked with vocal coaches to perfect her technique, and submitted a video performance to the selection committee. Her video was selected from hundreds of submissions earning her an invitation to audition in person.

She spent 10 days in early December at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in rigorous competition with 56 Airmen from around the world for a spot on the 30-member entertainment group. She was one of 10 female vocalists chosen to represent the Air Force.

“I have to go back to Lackland on Feb. 3 for staging, which is like basic training times 10,” said Smith. “For 60 days we will be running five miles a day and dancing about 14 hours a day.”

The highly-accelerated training process prepares the new team to master the instru-



Tech. Sgt. Chandra Smith, a personnel specialist in the Arizona Air National Guard, will trade in her BDUs for numerous costumes as a member of the 2008 Tops in Blue performance team.

Photo by Capt Gabe Johnson

mental, vocal, choreography and staging requirements of the performance, and also teaches them to be their own technical staff.

“We set up our own stage which takes five hours to set up and three hours to tear down at each stop,” said Smith, who will perform more than 100 shows during the nine-month performance season.

“I think some of the personal challenges for me will be to get used to wearing heels all of the time,” she said. “I’ll also have to get used to wearing makeup at all times because we cannot leave our hotel rooms

without being performance ready.”

Smith serves as a full-time Guardsman at the 162nd FW’s F-16 Alert Detachment at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. She’s the unit’s orderly room attendant, managing computer, personnel and administrative duties. She has full support from her co-workers, family and friends.

According to Smith, her husband Adam will miss her during her 12-month absence but is proud that she earned a place on the team.

“He said I had to do this... it’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” said Smith. 🦋



Photo by Maj. Laura Kenney

Chaplain (Capt.) Vicente Cepeda may be feeling a bit colder these days.

## Chaplain comes to arctic tundra from sunny Guam

By Maj. Laura Kenney  
Alaska National Guard

FORT GREELY, Alaska – Like many other Alaska Guardmembers now serving in the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), Chaplain (Capt.) Vicente Cepeda is neither a native Alaskan nor a long-time resident of the chilly, far-northern state. Soldiers from 36 states have joined this Active Guard and Reserve unit and became Alaska Guardsmen and women when they signed up for the federal mission of defending the homeland against ballistic missile attack.

But the 49th’s new chaplain has perhaps traveled the farthest, in terms of climatic and geographic aspects, if not distance. Guam has a median temperature of 71 in January and February, while Fort Greely has had recordings of 60 degrees below zero without factoring wind chill.

Guam’s land area of 216 square miles pales in comparison to Alaska’s 570,380 (much of it wilderness) and to a state that is larger than all but 18 sovereign nations.

None of this fazes the (pardon) sunny nature of the 45-year-old minister. He and his family love their adopted home, and Cepeda actually feels that the relative remoteness of Guam helped prepare him for the isolation that is often felt by newcomers to Alaska’s starkness and grandeur.

“Guam is a beautiful place, but because it’s a small island, we don’t miss the connections to large cities and other states that some of our Soldiers do,” said Cepeda.

The isolation is perhaps one of the biggest factors he finds himself counseling Soldiers and their family members about. A common joke here is that of course the Soldiers have access to Burger Kings and McDonalds – just turn right at the gate and travel two hours!

“People usually either love it here, or hate it. Sometimes family members can’t adapt, and they return home, or move to Anchorage, making the Soldier a geographic bachelor. But for those who embrace it, Alaska is an incredible experience.” 🦋

## Suggestion box bonanza: Ohioan earns \$10k for idea

By SRA David Conrad  
Ohio National Guard

An innovative idea from an Ohio Guardmember saved the Air National Guard almost \$400,000 and prompted the ANG Suggestion Program to award him \$10,000.

“This award really isn’t \$10,000 for me, it’s a two-week Hawaiian vacation for my wife,” joked Senior Master Sgt. Rick Starkey of the 121st Air Refueling Wing after receiving his ceremo-

nial check late last year.

Starkey received the sum for writing a comprehensive overview of the engine balancing process and step-by-step instructions for installing and operating a portable engine balancing system, the PBS-4100, on KC-135R air refueling aircraft engines. No such instructions existed before.

The PBS-4100 was delivered to the 121st having only generic instructions detailing its functions and capabilities, much like what

would come with a personal computer.

“Once I had the first draft written, the guys in the engine shop really helped me refine the procedures,” he said.

Starkey’s detailed instruction provides inexperienced mechanics with a better understanding of the engine balancing process and allows them to efficiently and accurately install, operate, and completely balance the F-108 engine.

The KC-135R engineering,

technical services, and contracting officials at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., reviewed the work and determined that contractors could produce equivalent instruction for \$398,000.

Starkey has been involved in the ANG Suggestion program since 1994 and has received three previous awards totaling more than \$3,000.

While awards of up to \$500 are fairly routine, it is rare that the maximum financial award of \$10,000 is given. 🦋

# Drilling for Army gold

## First female drill sergeant in Alaska Army Guard prepares recruits for basic training

By Sgt. Karima Turner  
Alaska National Guard

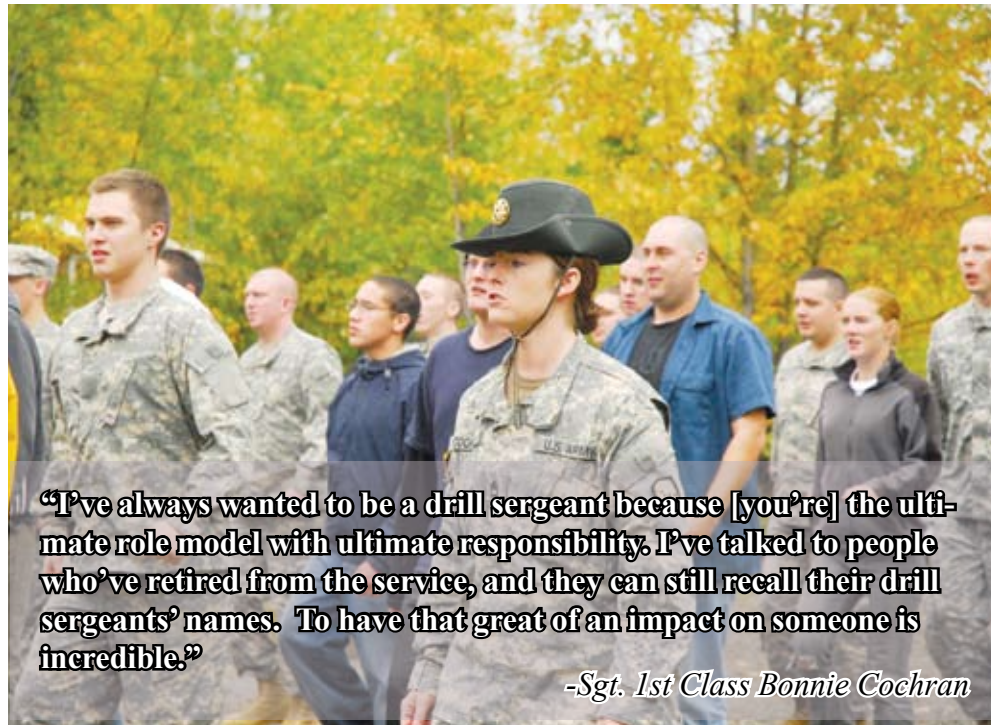
CAMP DENALI, Alaska – Known as the Last Frontier State, it's not surprising to find the kind of people who are drawn to Alaska—adventurous, gregarious and trail-blazing, to name a few.

These are the kind of people who enlist in the Alaska Army National Guard. They can easily be described as true Alaskans—the kind of people you want fighting for your state and nation, the kind of people you are proud to call Arctic Warriors.

One Soldier in particular has taken hold of this spirit and has become the first female drill sergeant in the Alaska Army National Guard. Using her inside knowledge of Basic Military Training, she's preparing recruits for success in a special program.

Sgt. 1st Class Bonnie Cochran originally came from Nebraska where she was a member of the National Guard. Cochran served as an instructor for what was then called the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) and moved to Alaska in 2003 for new job opportunities and experiences.

"I've always wanted to be a drill sergeant because [you're] the ultimate role model with ultimate responsibility," Cochran said. "I've talked to people who've retired from the service, and they can still recall their



**"I've always wanted to be a drill sergeant because [you're] the ultimate role model with ultimate responsibility. I've talked to people who've retired from the service, and they can still recall their drill sergeants' names. To have that great of an impact on someone is incredible."**

*-Sgt. 1st Class Bonnie Cochran*

Photo by Sgt. Karima Turner

**New recruits for the Alaska Army National Guard begin their training in the Recruit Sustainment Program with Drill Sergeant Bonnie Cochran.**

drill sergeants' names. To have that great of an impact on someone is incredible."

Although training Soldiers is not completely new to Cochran, training civilians to become Soldiers is.

"As an NCO, I couldn't possibly think of anything greater or better than being a drill sergeant. I taught PLDC for four years at an NCO academy, full time, and this is even better. I love training Soldiers."

"The greatest thing you can teach someone in the Army is how to be a Soldier," Cochran said.

Before Cochran could even begin to teach

the new recruits how to be Soldiers, she had to go through a rigorous drill sergeants school herself, learning to be a teacher, mentor and motivator.

"Drill sergeants school was like basic training plus another eight billion hours of classroom training," Cochran said.

Since returning in July from drill sergeants school in Fort Jackson, S.C., Cochran has joined the Recruiting and Retention Command as the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) drill sergeant.

"Every state has a Recruit Sustainment Program," Cochran said. "One of the ways

the National Guard Bureau has found to improve the program is to train and assign drill sergeants to RSP; it helps to ensure that new Soldiers are at least somewhat prepared for what they will face at basic training."

During RSP training, Cochran focuses on teaching the recruits everything from drill and ceremonies and rank structure to rappelling and basic medical tasks.

"It's almost like pre-basic training," Cochran said. "Every year the requirements for these Soldiers change, and at drill sergeants school we are specifically trained on the things that will prepare our Soldiers for their military future."

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Ray, Recruiting and Retention marketing NCO, said Soldiers like Cochran who come back from drill sergeants school know firsthand what young Soldiers will experience at basic training.

"If we can recreate that atmosphere even in the slightest bit, it will prepare these guys and girls better for when they take off and the better off they'll be when they get there," Ray said. "We would like to see more National Guard Soldiers take advantage of the opportunity to become drill sergeants; the more people we have at the RSP doing what Sergeant Cochran is doing the better."

At basic, Soldiers are required to successfully complete certain tasks, and that's what Cochran is training them to do.

"For example, they are going to have to rappel ... probably within that first week," Cochran said. "If they don't rappel, they don't graduate. So what I'm doing here is kind of stacking the deck in their favor. [RSP] helps them to take some of that self-doubt off their shoulders."

Cochran said that aside from prepping Soldiers, it's important to be a positive role model to them.

"We only read about the drill sergeants who are doing bad things," said Cochran, "but for every bad one, there are a dozen more doing the right thing, training civilians and turning them into warriors to defend our freedom." 🇺🇸

## Michigan trio get surprise while deployed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Andriacco

**From left: Michigan Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Bryce Moore, Staff Sgt. James Liston and Staff Sgt. Kevin Rynbrandt stand in front of one of their unit's jets. All three were recently notified that they had been selected for active-duty pilot training.**

By Staff Sgt. Mike Andriacco  
455 Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Three Airmen deployed here from the 110th Fighter Wing at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Mich., received a welcome holiday message recently.

Staff Sgts. Bryce Moore, Kevin Ryn-

brandt and James Liston found out Dec. 21 that they were selected for active-duty pilot training.

"Our supervisor must have been pretty confident we would get accepted," Rynbrandt said. "He purchased cigars ahead of time to celebrate."

For the three, it was the culmination of nearly three years of preparation.

"I started working on my package in college and decided toward the end to apply for an active-duty position with Sgt. Rynbrandt and Sgt. Liston," Moore said.

The Airmen had a tense few months after submitting their applications in September.

"We were really on the edge of our seats," Liston said. "The original results date was supposed to be Nov. 27, but that got pushed back to Dec. 15. We never heard about another extension and were checking the [board results] Web site six or seven times a day," he added.

"We were banking on hearing by the 21st or else we would have probably had to wait until after the holidays," added Moore.

After their deployment and training, the three Airmen have a good idea of what their future holds – and are excited about it.

"I'd like to fly an F-15 before moving on to some of the newer aircraft like the F-22," Moore said.

"A-10s for me," said Rynbrandt.

"I would like to fly any fighter," Liston said.

For the three Airmen, the news has made deployment away from loved ones over the holidays a little easier.

"I think I speak for all three of us when I say it was the best Christmas present we've ever gotten," Moore said. 🇺🇸



Indiana National Guard photo

## Lifesaver honored

**Spc. Jed Ness received the Indiana Distinguished Service Cross, the state's highest military award, from the state's adjutant general in December for saving the life of a truck driver last March. Ness was also promoted to sergeant.**

# Competitive drive

## Illinois Airman nominated for Air Force Athlete of the Year

The years of training and a yearning to “test himself” have paid off. As a member of the Illinois National Guard Running Team, Jackson competed in the 2007 Armed Forces Triathlon Championship in July at Naval Base Ventura County-Point Mugu, Calif., an Olympic-distance course that includes a 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bicycle route, and 10-kilometer run.

Members of each branch of service competed in the event. Jackson finished the race 15th overall, out of about 50 male competitors, and ranked sixth among Air Force competitors. It was Jackson’s first military championship race.

Despite being pleased with his performance in the Armed Forces Championship, Jackson couldn’t hide his excitement for the upcoming 2007 Ironman World Triathlon Championship. “The Ironman is a true test,” said Jackson. “It is an honor to be selected to compete in the event.”

Jackson competed in his first Ironman race in 1992 and has competed in various Ironman races over the years. Athletes gain selection to the race by either a qualification time at an Ironman qualification event or by the Ironman Lottery, which is a random drawing that allows athletes who did not win their slot at an Ironman event to still gain a chance to compete at the world championship.

The Ironman World Triathlon Championship, or Ironman Triathlon, is held annually every fall in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, and is regarded as the most honored and prestigious

triathlon event worldwide. The idea for the Ironman triathlon was conceived from a debate about which athletes were the most fit.

In 1978, a group of military men created the Ironman Triathlon to settle an argument over the world’s best endurance athletes—swimmers, cyclists, or runners. The disciplines were combined into a grueling 2.4-mile open water swim, 112-mile bicycle ride, followed by a 26.2-mile marathon. In keeping with the history of this event, World Triathlon Corporation maintains a military

team competition at the Ironman Triathlon World Championship.

Jackson competed at the Ironman in October as a member of the Air Force Ironman team. Each team is made up of three men and one woman, and in order for a team to complete the race successfully, every team member must complete the entire race. The team with lowest total time wins.

The Air Force team was led by Jackson, finishing 135th overall, and second in the military division, in 9 hours, 35 min-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ty Reyes

**Left and above: Illinois Maj. Tom Jackson competing in the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Hawaii.**

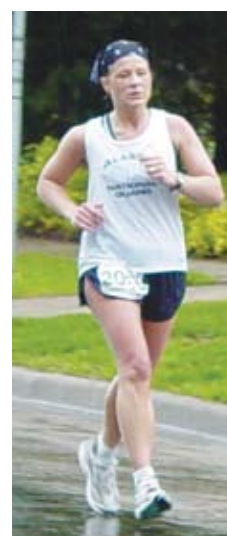
utes, and 44 seconds, his fastest of five races in Hawaii.

Because of his athletic performance in various running and triathlon events in 2007, Jackson was selected as the Air National Guard Male Athlete of the Year nominee for the Air Force Athlete of the Year, one of 12 nominees from each major command.

Jackson was both surprised and honored by the nomination. “I compete due to my competitive nature and to test myself,” said Jackson. “But it’s nice to be recognized by my peers for my efforts and to be submitted for such a prestigious award.”

Jackson was not selected as the Air Force Athlete of the year in November.

Capt. Paulette M. Goodwin, 168th Air Refueling Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, was selected as the Air National Guard Female Athlete of the Year nominee.



**Capt. Paulette Goodwin**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ty Reyes

**By Capt. Jennifer Howsare**  
Illinois National Guard

SCOTT AFB, Ill. – As a pilot in the Illinois Air National Guard’s 126th Air Refueling Wing, Maj. Tom Jackson is no stranger to competition. Being a pilot requires hard work, dedication, hours of training and leaves no room for error. It is not an option to be the best, it is a requirement. That competitive drive fuels Jackson beyond the cockpit and into the world of competitive running and triathlons.

Due to a self-described competitive nature, Jackson began running competitively more than 20 years ago. During high school and his first two years at college, Jackson ran with average success. His transition to triathlons, though, was met with success. Jackson could compensate for a slower running time in the cycling and swimming events. Jackson quickly fell in love with the sport and found an outlet for his competitive drive.

## Missourian medals at World Military Games: ‘I wanted to see the American flag raised’

**By Michelle Key**  
Missouri National Guard

Missouri Army Guard Sgt. John Franklin, a flyweight boxer from Kansas City, recently fought his way to a silver medal at the World Military Games. Along with other U.S. teammates, Franklin traveled to Hyderabad, India, to compete against the world’s best military boxers.

The games occur every four years, the year before the Olympics. To qualify, Franklin had to win the All-Army Boxing Championship and the All-Armed Forces Boxing Championship.

“My whole mindset for the games was that I wanted to prove that I was one of the best boxers in the nation,” Franklin said. “I went over to India thinking that I had to be on the medal stand. This is like the military Olympics; I wanted to see the American flag raised.”

Franklin spent four nights boxing at the games. He won his first match against Kariuki Samvel of Kenya 11-16 before

facing Rahmonbek Toshmatov of Uzbekistan. Franklin said the Toshmatov fight was extremely emotional because last year he lost a bout to an Uzbek fighter. This time, Franklin was triumphant.

“That was the one fight I wanted to win if I didn’t win any more,” Franklin said.

After beating Toshmatov 9-12, Franklin went on to beat Korean Lee Dong Won 21-24, placing him in the finals against Linzhi Gao of China. Franklin lost the match, but took home the silver medal.

Franklin said being part of the U.S. team has been a great experience.

“Fighting for the United States ... is different than when you represent your team or your family,” Franklin said. “It puts a lot of pressure on you, but it’s positive pressure.”

Although Franklin is busy traveling the world, he said he stays grounded by talking with his coach Basheer Abdullah. Franklin bragged about his coach’s involvement in three Olympic Games, acting as technical coach in 2000, head coach in 2004 and as a technical advisor in the 2008 Games.

“He taught me that boxing is about science,” Franklin said.



**Sgt. John Franklin**

Missouri National Guard photo

For more on the World Military Games, go to [www.cism-milspport.org](http://www.cism-milspport.org)



Photo by Lori P. Myers

## Bobsled victory

NASCAR driver Boris Said and New York Spc. Daniel Moreno finish first in the third annual Bo-Dyn Bobsled Challenge at the U.S. Olympic Sports Complex at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, N.Y., Jan. 5. Moreno, along with 46 other New York Army Guard recruiters and new recruits, joined veteran NASCAR and National Hot Rod Association race car drivers. This year’s challenge marked the second time Hall of Fame NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine, a former Guard Soldier himself, invited Guard Soldiers to participate in the event.

# A lesson in PREPAREDNESS

## The battles over it are always being fought

By Bill Boehm  
National Guard Bureau

While watching Ken Burns' documentary *The War* on PBS recently, I was struck by the documentary footage, some of which had never been broadcast to a wide audience. I took great interest in how the documentary portrayed the National Guard's contribution to the war effort, which satisfied questions I had about the series' credibility.

Amid the artillery shell sound effects whistling by my television, one set of images struck me the most: Soldiers using outdated, "soup bowl" hats and outmoded guns, all World War I surplus. Army Signal Corps personnel presumably filmed the Soldiers training for war after the call up of the National Guard in 1940-41. They remind those watching about the concept of preparedness and about having the proper equipment to properly defend the nation. This footage still holds importance to today's Soldiers and Airmen: the best way to fight is by using the best gear available.

To prepare in the most intelligent and strategic manner, leaders have held high the concept of readiness in the national psyche. Many famous military and political figures weighed in on the issue of preparedness during the 20th century.

Theodore Roosevelt stated in strong terms that a lack of preparedness was, "literally criminal ... a crime against the nation, not to be adequately and thoroughly prepared in advance." Later leaders, however, did not follow T.R.'s advice. Throughout the National Guard and the other armed services, assets diminished along with the morale of the military after World War I.

Well before becoming Army chief of staff, George Marshall observed in 1923 as Gen. John J. Pershing's aide-de-camp about the "the bitter lessons of unpreparedness" occurring during several earlier U.S. conflicts. Marshall's quote foreshadowed him urging Congress as secretary of state to supply the National Guard with new weapons in the early 1950s, not the "cast offs" of the Army, as had been the policy to that time.

Some characterize the Battle of Bataan in 1941-42 as the last battle of World War I and the first battle of World War II. With inferior weapons, broken artillery pieces and other shoddy equipment, the stand that the 200th Coast Artillery (New Mexico National Guard) made along with other units is all the more miraculous in context. With better-equipped Japanese forces barraging the American defenders of the Philippines, National Guard troops struggled to hold the distant peninsula. Only through sheer willpower and gritty survival did the nightmarish defense have a chance. Ultimately, hundreds of captured Soldiers paid the



National Guard Bureau photo

**Top: An improvised "machine gun" used in maneuvers during the National Guard call-up of 1940-41. These Soldiers are thought to be from the 65th Division, Puerto Rico National Guard, circa 1941. Bottom: Men of the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard, known as the "Batling Bastards of Bataan" in the Philippine Islands, circa 1941.**



U.S. Army Signal Corps photo

ultimate price, in the Bataan Death March, due in part to the fact their government did not provide what was necessary to fight the enemy.

Knowing this, one can ask again: Should today's Guard receive the worn, hand-me-downs as in years past and expect to do its job well? No way. Firm preparedness equates with proper equipment and the ability to fight well. The Global War on Terrorism being fought today requires the utmost attention to detail, planning, and logistics, just as other successful campaigns have had in the past.

Add to this the necessity of performing lifesaving missions at home. The need to be prepared for natural and man-made disasters also becomes paramount in the planning

process for the 54 states and territories. Just witness last year's devastation from a tornado in Greensburg, Kan., in May or the Southern California wildfires in October. The need is far too critical to compromise. Progress has been made through the years to this end, but the lessons learned cannot be forgotten.

The lessons are present. The declarations to inspire Soldiers and Airmen are universal. Remember Bataan. Remember Katrina. Remember the forest fire, tornado and flood of last year. These are refrains born from painful experiences. To put this into modern terms, remember that no National Guard member can do his or her job well without the proper equipment under the umbrella of national preparedness. 🇺🇸

## Remains of ANG pilot killed in Vietnam to be returned to U.S.

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced Dec. 20 that the remains of an Air National Guard pilot, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Maj. Perry H. Jefferson of Denver, Colo., will be buried April 3 in Arlington National Cemetery.

On April 3, 1969, Jefferson was an aerial observer aboard an O-1G Bird Dog aircraft on a visual reconnaissance mission over a mountainous region in Ninh Thuan Province, Vietnam. The pilot of the aircraft radioed Phan Rang Airbase to report his location, but contact was lost soon afterwards. An extensive, three-day search and rescue effort began, but no evidence of a crash was found. Hostile threats in the area precluded further search efforts.

Jefferson was one of two ANG pilots lost from the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron (140th Tactical Fighter Wing) while deployed to Phan Rang Airbase, Vietnam, from May 3, 1968, to April 11, 1969.

In 1984, a former member of the Vietnamese Air Force turned over to a U.S. official human remains that he said represented one of two U.S. pilots whose aircraft was shot down.

In 1994 a joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, interviewed two Vietnamese citizens regarding the incident. The witnesses said the aircraft crashed on a mountainside, the pilots died and were buried at the site. They said two other men were sent to the site a few days later to bury the pilots. The team excavated the crash site described by the witnesses and found aircraft wreckage. No human remains were found.

In 2000, the remains turned over in 1984 were identified as Jefferson's co-pilot.

In 2001, a Vietnamese national living in California turned over to U.S. officials human remains that he said were recovered at a site where two U.S. pilots crashed. These remains were identified in 2007 as Jefferson's.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in identifying Jefferson's remains.

For additional information, visit [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call (703) 699-1169. 🇺🇸

### THIS MONTH IN GUARD HISTORY

**Feb. 4, 1899:** Philippine Islands — Under Emilio Aguinaldo, rebels launch a wave of attacks along American defensive positions outlying the city of Manila. The "Philippine Insurrection" began in the wake of the Spanish-American War, rapidly won by the United States. The National Guard sent 15 state units. Their role ended in autumn 1899 as the last of the volunteer units returned home. However, enough Guardsmen volunteered

to stay on active duty until the Insurrection ended in 1901. Fifteen Guardsmen received the Medal of Honor.

**Feb. 12, 1809:** Hardin County, Kentucky — Abraham Lincoln is born. An Illinois resident in 1832, Lincoln enlisted in his local militia company when the governor called for volunteers to fight against the Sac Indians in the Black Hawk War. He was quickly elected captain, but the war ended, and he was mustered out.

**Feb. 22, 1847:** Buena Vista, Mexico — A small American army under the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor, 90 percent consist-

ing of state volunteer (Guard) units, defeats a much larger force commanded by Gen. Santa Anna, president of Mexico.

**Feb. 27, 1991:** Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq — Operation Desert Storm ends. The war, which opened with a crippling aerial assault Jan. 16, ended after just 100 hours of ground combat. Many Guard units continued to be employed processing thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war. Thirty-four Army and Air Guard personnel died during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm; none from combat.

# Journey

## Indiana, Indianapolis Colts send off 76th Soldiers to Iraq

By Rob Cooper  
Indiana National Guard

INDIANAPOLIS – In the past 24 years, the RCA Dome has been the scene of five NCAA championships and home to the 2007 NFL champion Indianapolis Colts. But on Jan. 2 the dome hosted the largest going away party in Indiana's history.

The Indianapolis Colts, Gov. Mitch Daniels and the state of Indiana paid tribute to Hoosiers assigned to the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team before they departed on their journey that will take them to Iraq and back.

It was a hallowed and honored day for those close to the Indiana National Guard's 76th IBCT who rallied under the dome to bid farewell to more than 3,400 Soldiers called to duty. Packing stands along the dome's eastern half, thousands of loved ones and supporters braved cold weather and choked back swells of emotion to see off one of the largest deployments in Indiana since World War II.

Among the dignitaries in attendance was Colts President Bill Polian, who said that while the dome has had many

**"Your strength at home, leading the family, and your support of our Soldiers and our mission is also a critical strength to our force."**

-Col. Courtney Carr,  
76th IBCT commander

memorable moments in the past, this one marked a truly monumental occasion.

"I've heard this place referred to as the 'Hall of Heroes' before," Polian said, "but these heroes don't wear the numbered sports jerseys. Instead, they choose to wear the uniforms and insignia of Indiana's finest, the American Soldier."

Deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the brigade is both prepared for the mission and proud to

be part of it, said the 76th IBCT commander, Col. Courtney Carr.

"The Nighthawks are proud and fortunate to be Hoosiers," Carr said. "We've chosen to be Soldiers, knowing that the nation would call us to serve. For a great number of us here, this is not the first call, but we continue to choose the path of service to our nation."

As Soldiers unloaded duffel bags onto the field, many of them gave their last, tearful goodbyes to friends and relatives. But despite the distance and danger that Soldiers will face during their 12-month deployment, family plays one of the most important roles in a successful mission, Carr said.

"For the next year, meals, sporting events, homework, doctor appointments, etc. will fall completely on the families," Carr said. "But for many families, normal routines will be a little more difficult. Your strength at home, leading the family, and your support of our Soldiers and our mission is also a critical strength to our force."

"What you all do allows us the opportunity to choose to be Soldiers," Carr added.

Christina Adams, who attended the departure ceremony, said she is fortunate to be a part of the Indiana Guard family. On Dec. 29, she married Pfc. Jeremy Adams as a final gift to him before he deployed.

"For this organization, family comes first, and it means a lot to have all these people and programs that support our family available to us," she said.

The brigade will begin its journey at Fort Stewart, Ga., where they will complete a rigorous training routine before deploying.

"Right now our main focus is getting everyone prepped and trained to move one step at a time," said 2nd Lt. Justin Newett, a member of the brigade's E Company, 1st Bat-



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Russell Klika

**Sgt. Shane Pudgett hugs his wife goodbye as his son, Bryce, age 5, cries Jan. 2 at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. The 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment is the largest in the Indiana National Guard since World War II. More than 3,400 Soldiers from about 30 Indiana communities are scheduled to deploy to Iraq for 12 months.**

tion, 151st Infantry Regiment. This will be Newett's first overseas deployment.

"I'm not nervous yet, but as we get closer to Iraq I guess we'll get to that. But right now I'm just concentrating on getting to Georgia to train," he said.

Carr assured many families that the brigade will receive some of the best and most comprehensive training available. "There is a clear relationship between well-trained, professional Soldiers and units and how successful they are in

combat," he said. "The training that we've worked so hard to complete ensures that every one of the Soldiers in front of you has the training to execute the missions to which we'll be assigned."

"You are the finest citizens of our state, and the finest citizens of our era," said Daniels.



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