



THE ON GUARD

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Photographers capture the moment

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Newspaper of the National Guard

Tributes for 10 killed in Iraq 'copter crash

Highest loss in single combat incident of war

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. – Ten Army National Guard Soldiers, including a grandmother who was a senior noncommissioned officer and two men who were nicknamed “the Senator” and “Big Daddy,” were among the 12 U.S. Soldiers killed when their helicopter was shot down in Iraq Jan. 20. They died during one of the deadliest weekends for U.S. forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It was the highest number of National Guard fatalities in a single combat incident during the five-year Global War on Terrorism. It was also the highest number killed in a single combat incident in more than 50 years, since at least the Korean War in 1950-53, National Guard Bureau officials said.

It was not, however, the National Guard’s single worst tragedy in recent memory. Twenty-one Air and Army Guard members were killed when their airplane crashed in Georgia on March 3, 2001.

The Jan. 20 casualties included three members of a liaison team from the National Guard Bureau. The 10 came from five states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. One of them, Col. Paul Kelly, 45, from Virginia, was the highest ranking National Guard member to be killed in a combat theater during the war against terrorism.

“I am deeply saddened by the loss of these outstanding National Guard Soldiers and warriors. I cherish their service, honor their

sacrifice, and mourn with their families,” said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

“These National Guard Soldiers were bearers of the torch of freedom carried from one generation of Americans to the next since 1636. We will remember them in honor and in gratitude,” Blum added.

Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller, 49, from Maryland and Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Lake, 43, from the Virgin Islands were the two other members of the NGB liaison officer team killed in the afternoon crash that occurred in the vicinity of Al Jadidah, northeast of Baghdad.

Six other Guard casualties listed by the

Defense Department were Lt. Col. David Canegata III, 50, from the Virgin Islands; Maj. Michael Taylor, 40, 1st Sgt. William Warren, 48, and Sgt. 1st Class John Brown, 43, from Arkansas; Capt. Sean Lyerly, 31, from Texas; and Staff Sgt. Darryl Booker, 37,

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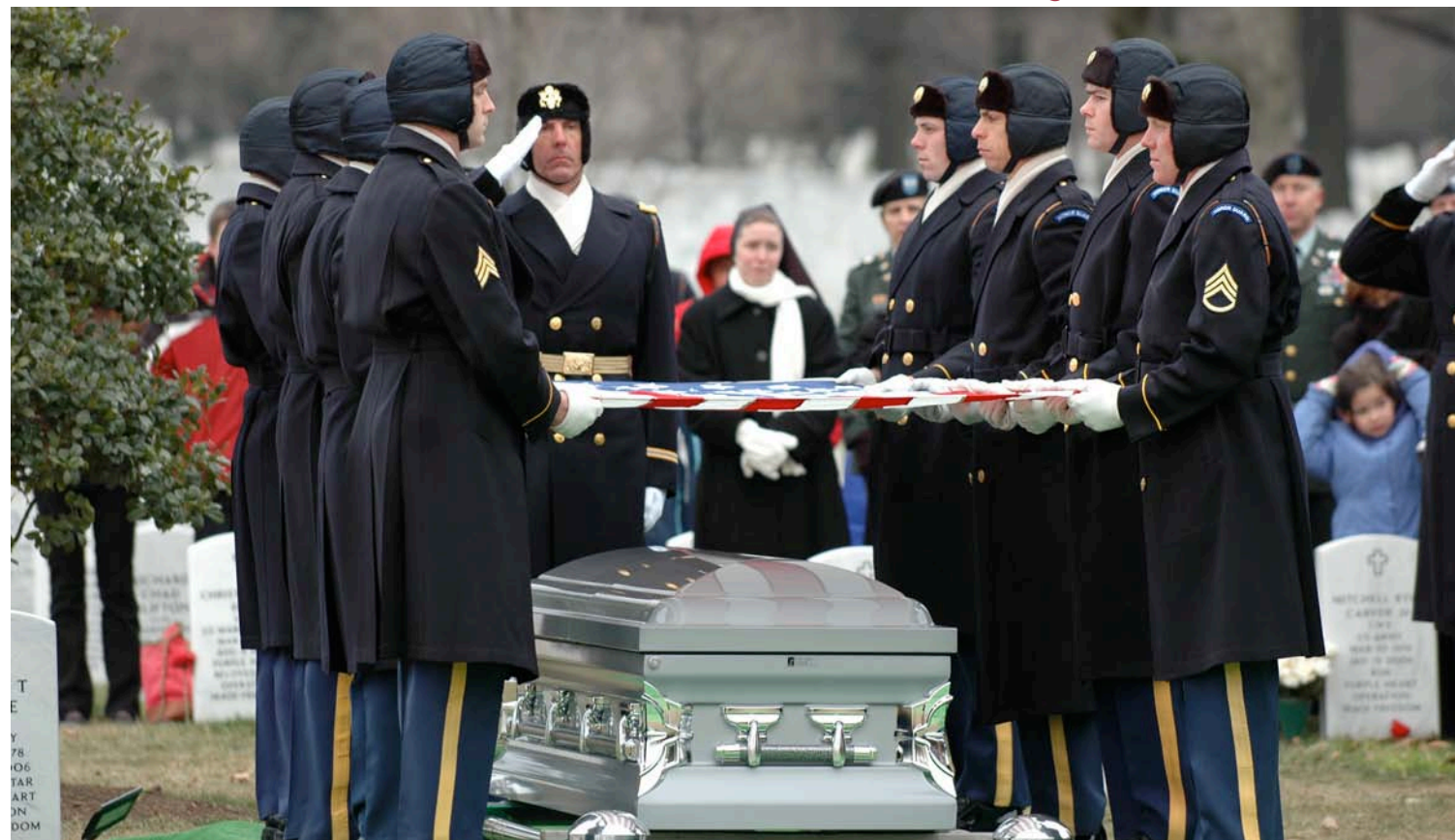


Photo by Master Sgt. Paul Mouilleseaux

An Army honor guard lifts the American flag from the casket of Army National Guard Col. Paul Kelly during an interment ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery Feb. 1. Kelly died in Iraq Jan. 20 when the helicopter he was flying in was shot down.

‘Just doing my job,’ says first Guard DSC recipient

By Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

LEXINGTON, Ky. – A Kentucky Army National Guard Soldier has become the most recent recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation’s second highest award for valor and second only to the Medal of Honor.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein was presented the award by LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a ceremony at the National Guard Association of Kentucky’s annual conference here Saturday, Feb. 17.

Nein was originally awarded the Silver Star Medal, but that was upgraded to a Dis-

tinguished Service Cross for his actions as a squad leader with the Kentucky Guard’s 617th Military Police Company during an ambush in Iraq on March 20, 2005.

Nein’s squad was escorting a convoy of supply trucks near the town of Salman Pak south of Baghdad when the convoy came under heavy fire. Without hesitation the squad, led by Nein, put themselves and their vehicles between the insurgents and the convoy. Nein and Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, the first woman awarded the Silver Star for direct combat action against an enemy, dismounted from their armored Humvees and led the counterattack against the ambush, killing 27 insurgents and capturing seven more. Two Soldiers in the squad were wounded during the engagement,

DSC continued on: Page 12

Exceptional judgement

Soldiers decorated for following rules of engagement at border

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill and Staff Sgt. Rebecca Doucette
National Guard Bureau

TUCSON, Ariz. – Four Tennessee Army National Guard Soldiers were presented awards on Jan. 29 for their actions after an encounter with a group of armed men near the Operation Jump Start entry identification team’s position on Jan. 3.

The four Citizen-Soldiers, outnumbered

by unidentified armed men of uncertain intent, followed their training exactly, exercised exceptional judgment, adhered to mission doctrine and acted heroically in a stressful situation with a high potential for injury or death, National Guard Bureau officials said. No shots were fired.

The noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Louis Goins, of the 3rd Battalion, 115th Field Artillery Regiment, received the Army Commendation Medal. Army Achievement Medals were awarded to Spc. Brian Allen Dodson, B Company, 4th Bat-

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Women’s History Month: achievements continue, pages 14-15

ABOUT THE ON GUARD

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E-mail your stories to us by the first Friday of each month. We prefer that photos be high-quality digital (300 dpi or more) and e-mailed to: Editor.OnGuard@ngb.ang.af.mil

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No time to train? Think again

ARLINGTON, Va. – I used to hate training. With a passion. I was like a high school freshman who took civics because I had to; a junior who labored through American history. What good is this stuff ever going



to do for me? That was the question that kept gnawing at me when it came to training.

How to shoot an azimuth – and plot a back azimuth – with a compass. How to prepare and deliver a SALUTE report about an enemy's position. How to stick an IV needle into another Soldier's arm. How to build a fire and a shelter to keep warm in the woods.

Hey, I don't have time for this, argued the newspaper reporter and military writer within me. I've got work to do – you know, National Guard stories to write and pictures to take. Besides, when am I ever going to really have to shoot an azimuth, or give a SALUTE report, or start an IV? Someone else could do that while I did my job.

And stay warm in the woods? Been there, done that. I grew up on a farm where the old house was heated by a big furnace that inhaled 10 cords of wood a winter. I worked in the woods with a horse that hauled the maple and beech and birch trees for the next winter's heat. I could tend the furnace at home and the fire in the woods that my father usually started for some warmth during our breaks. I could throw up a lean-to for shelter from the wind. I knew all about staying warm.

So training to do those things seemed like an incredible waste of my time – especially when my drill weekends and weeks of annual training were already consumed with the stories and photos that I told the leadership I wanted to do to explain to people in Maine what the National Guard was all about.

OK, so I had an attitude. The word "training" evoked the same chilled sensation as fingernails scraping across a chalkboard.

Many years of experience and lots of mentorship by Soldiers such as Maine Army Guard Master Sgt. Wayne Newbegin nearly 20 years



By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
Senior Editor

ago have changed my thinking. The 14 members of the National Guard Bureau's rifle range team reinforced those convictions last October.

It all hit home during the dreadful week following the helicopter crash on Jan. 20 in Iraq that killed 12 U.S. Soldiers. Ten were members of the Army Guard. I had known one of them, Col. Paul Kelly, for most of my 11 years at NGB.

It was a nightmare week of personal sadness mixed with professional obligations to make sure the stories about the Soldiers were written for the National Guard family. Late in the week, when there was time to put the tragedy into perspective, I reflected about the training that people undergo before they deploy into a combat zone, and then about training in general – even though it was apparent that no amount of training could have saved the 12 dead Soldiers.

How many other Soldiers and Marines, I wondered, have had lives and limbs saved because of training – because of the combat lifesaving courses that so many people have taken so they do not have to wait helplessly for a medic to care for a wounded comrade; because of the confidence that people acquire with weapons because they qualify at the range every year; because of the lessons they learned about using a radio a few weeks or a few years ago that they need to know right now.

We know some of the stories. Two of them are about Guard Soldiers who have received Silver Stars for actions in Iraq.

There is the medic who someone trained to handle the M4 rifle and the

M249 light machinegun and who used both at the same time to subdue insurgents before treating wounded Soldiers.

There is the Soldier who came home alive because his commander trained his men hard. So hard, in fact, that they almost hated him until all of that training saved their lives in combat. It is a sad irony that the commander was killed in action.

But I am sure it is impossible to know how many more lives and limbs have been saved because people were trained to do the right thing at the right, incomprehensible time when their training overcame their own fears of dying.

Training, it seems to me, works in three ways. You learn to do things you didn't know how to do. You learn to do things that you did know how to do better and faster. You gain more confidence in yourself by train-

How many other Soldiers and Marines, I wondered, have had lives and limbs saved because of training

ing in what you already know.

There is classroom training – which can be pretty boring. There is simulated training on a computer – which is interesting if you are 12. There is hands-on, real-life training – which I like the best even though it is the most expensive.

There is also the idea that we are all trainers. We don't have to be in the NGB's Training Division to be a trainer. Imparting skills to others, such as why and how to write a nut graph, is training. That's one of the things I do. (A nut graph tells the reader what the story is really about. See paragraph 10.)

Anyway, I know I have benefited from the training that others have given me.


Master Sgt. Newbegin insisted

that I learn how to plot a back azimuth during a frigid January week in the Maine woods when I was undergoing cold weather survival training. That knowledge could have saved my life many years later at the very hot National Training Center in California after the vehicle carrying me and two other Soldiers blew a tire in the middle of nowhere. We didn't have a spare. I was plotting our position with a fair degree of confidence, using a map and compass, so that someone could bring us another tire, when a Soldier with a GPS device rolled up and told me exactly where we were. The maintenance truck found us, and the tire was fixed within 30 minutes. But I believed in my ability to direct that maintenance crew to our position thanks to Master Sgt. Newbegin.

Then there was the NGB rifle range team led by Master Sgt. Don Kiefer that encouraged and trained about 270 of us NGB enlisted Soldiers so we could qualify with M-16 rifles at the Guard's Gunpowder Range in Maryland last fall.

Some of us had bad days. Some of us had to go back for a second time. None of us had the time to spend a second day on the range. But we did it anyway, and life at NGB seemed to go on. The team members did not give us a hard time. They encouraged us. They showed us what we were doing wrong. They coached us when weapons jammed. They hung in there with us until we qualified. They trained us.

So what if the best we could get, no matter how well we shot that second time, was a Marksmanship Badge – the dreaded "bolo badge." It's my new badge of honor because I reaffirmed my faith in my ability to shoot straight – thanks to the trainers. They reinforced my feelings about the importance of training and that there is always time to train.

One of these days I expect to take the time to let someone train me to stick an IV needle into another Soldier's arm. Any volunteers? 

See more training stories on page 7

Corrections

In January, we misidentified the unit of Sgt. Matthew Zedwick, a Silver Star recipient. He's with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, 41st Brigade Combat Team, Oregon Army National Guard.

Also in January, the article "Air Guard launches new era with Predator" claimed that when the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., flew the Predator in late November, they became "the first Guard unit to operate aircraft that are flown from the ground, not in the cockpit." It's true they are the first Air National Guard unit to fly an unmanned aerial systems, but not the first National Guard unit. The Army National Guards of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Minnesota each have Shadow 200 tactical unmanned aerial system platoons and were flying them before November. They have completed tours in Iraq. Thanks to Brett Wood, Laurel, Md., for the correction.



Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

Guard Soldiers lost in helicopter crash Jan. 20



Staff Sgt. Darryl Booker, Virginia, 29th Infantry Division



Sgt. 1st Class John Brown, Arkansas, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation



Lt. Col. David Canegata III, U.S. Virgin Islands, JFHQ Command



Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Gabbard, Iowa, Joint Forces Headquarters



Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller, Maryland, National Guard Bureau



Col. Paul Kelly, Virginia, National Guard Bureau



Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Lake, U.S. Virgin Islands, National Guard Bureau



Capt. Sean Lyerly, Texas, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade



Maj. Michael Taylor, Arkansas, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation



1st Sgt. William Warren, Arkansas, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation

From page 1:
PRAISED
from Virginia.

The woman was Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Gabbard, 46, of Iowa, who was also the national secretary for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Iowa Guard's first female command sergeant major. She and her husband Edward, a retired sergeant major, had seven children and 11 grandchildren, the Iowa National Guard reported.

Two active Army Soldiers, Col. Brian Allgood, 46, and Cpl. Victor Langarica, 29, were killed in the crash. Allgood, from Oklahoma, was assigned to the 30th Medical Brigade in Heidelberg, Germany. Langarica, from Georgia, was assigned to the 86th Signal Battalion at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Governors, Guard leaders and other officials paid tribute to the Guard Soldiers who were called "Fallen Angels."

"CSM Gabbard will be remembered as a very patriotic Soldier who was dedicated, compassionate and professional in all that she pursued," stated A. Frank Lever, the enlisted association's president.

"Col. Kelly and Staff Sgt. Booker understood the dangers facing our nation and were fully prepared to do whatever was

necessary to protect this country and commonwealth," said Maj. Gen. Robert Newman Jr., adjutant general for the Virginia National Guard.

The Washington Post reported that Kelly was nicknamed "the Senator" because he was always shaking hands with Soldiers; and that Booker, who stood about 6-foot-5, was known in his unit as "Big Daddy."

"This tragedy underscores the debt of gratitude we owe our men and women in uniform and, in particular, their families," said Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley in his comments about Haller.

The Soldiers were flying in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the Alabama Army Guard assigned to the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade with the Texas Army Guard. It was conducting a routine transit mission and flying in a formation when the crash occurred, Guard Bureau officials reported.

Taylor, Lyerly, Warren and Brown were crewmembers on the helicopter.

A quick reaction force arrived at the crash site shortly after the downing, secured the area and reported no survivors.

It was the highest number of Guard casualties in a single incident during the war on terrorism. Seven Guard Soldiers

were killed Jan. 6, 2005, when a roadside bomb destroyed their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Those Soldiers were assigned to the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade.

The National Guard had suffered 436 casualties during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, in Afghanistan, as of Jan. 19, the Guard Bureau stated. Seven more Guard personnel died during the 9/11 terrorist attacks and while serving in the United States during Operation Noble Eagle, the domestic part of the Global War on Terrorism.

The three members of the liaison officer (LNO) team were conducting a liaison mission with National Guard Affairs, Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

National Guard liaison officers serve in Afghanistan and Iraq and are assigned to Operation Jump Start, the Guard's support program for the U.S. Border Patrol along this country's border with Mexico, among other places and operations.

Team members tell ground component commanders how the National Guard Bureau can support the war fight, and they tell the National Guard Bureau and the director of the Army National Guard, Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, about anticipated requirements.

Kentucky warriors provide supplies to students in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Mary Rose

7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – An infantry unit from the Kentucky Army National Guard spent the morning of Jan. 14 not patrolling the streets of Baghdad like they usually do, but delivering supplies to local school children.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment – known as the Mountain Warriors – loaded up an up-armored Light Medium Tactical Vehicle with wooden crates full of backpacks, pencils, pens, rulers and note pads. Then they headed out to the Al Hamdaniyah School with an entourage of Humvees for security.

The troops arrived a little early for school, but it didn't take long for the children to start coming in from all directions to greet the Soldiers.

The children seemed excited to see the Kentucky Soldiers and asked for pens by pretending they were writing on paper

with their hands. While the Soldiers interacted with the horde of children, they tried to teach them English words to help with communication.

The children were open to taking whatever the Soldiers had to give them, whether it was an English word, a smile or, better yet, a pen.

"It doesn't matter what you give them. They'll take anything," said Spc. Jason Davenport, a Mountain Warrior medic.

The children, with their pants tucked into their socks to keep from getting muddy, take what the Soldiers give because they have so little themselves. Their nine-room schoolhouse has 310 students, water damage, no electricity, no running water, no heat and many of its windows broken out, said Maj. Chris Cline, a civil affairs officer with the unit.

Along with all the damage, there is no money for the school to fix the problems.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Rose

Kentucky Sgt. 1st Class Bill Bowen, Company C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade, gives candy to children sitting outside the Al Hamdaniyah School in western Baghdad.

★ Guarding America ★

ALASKA

Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) stationed at Ft. Greely were visited in the Last Frontier State by Brig. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, Jan. 9. He was greeted by the senior leadership there as well as by some of the coldest temperatures of the year. Nuttall attended briefings about the status of the missile defense programs, the Fort Greely garrison, and the 49th's accomplishments.

ARKANSAS

Members of the Natural State's 154th Training Squadron became the first Air Guard aircrew to receive Type 1 aircrew training on the C-130 AMP in December. Majors Dom Sarnataro, Kevin Tibbett and Scott Sims, all pilots, and Master Sgt. Jeff Vaughan, a flight engineer, received the training in a mock-up of the new cockpit in California. The crewmembers are now qualified to fly the aircraft with an instructor aboard. The AMP, which stands for avionics modernization program, will upgrade C-130H model aircraft to the newest latest technologies. Additionally, the upgrade eliminates the navigator crew position, creating additional work for the rest of the flight deck crew.

CALIFORNIA

Extreme cold weather in California in January led to a state of emergency declaration followed by orders from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to open National Guard armories. The armories were used to house the homeless overnight as San Francisco Bay area temperatures dipped into the 20s. Eleven armories including those in Marin, Gilroy, Sunnyvale and Santa Cruz were opened as emergency shelters in response to the National Weather Service's predictions. Area temperatures were the lowest recorded in 10 years.

GEORGIA

Peach Tree State Maj. Patrick Cotter recently became the first Air Guard member selected to attend the School of Advanced Air And Space Studies at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. SAASS is the Air Force graduate school for airpower and space power strategists, producing future senior military leaders who are experts in the use of air and space forces.

INDIANA

A group of key foreign dignitaries from several countries visited Camp Atterbury in the Hoosier State Feb. 5 to gain knowledge about the role of National Guard troops. The group of government officials, foreign policy analysts, politicians, scholars and journalists viewed a presentation about Camp Atterbury and the Indiana National Guard. They asked questions of Brig. Gen. Michael Kiefer, Joint Forces Land Component commander, and Col. Barry Richmond, the Camp Atterbury installation commander.

LOUISIANA

The Pelican State governor declared a state of emergency Feb. 14 after a tornado tore through the New Orleans area, killing one and injuring at least 29. The Guard responded the same day and conducted 7 missions supporting state and local authorities, including engineering damage assessments in Westwego

and Saint Martin.

MASSACHUSETTS

Approximately 25 soldiers from the Bay State Army National Guard's C Company, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment held a homecoming and awards ceremony on Bares Air National Guard Base Feb. 3. The unit returned in November after spending a year in Kuwait. It regularly flew missions over Iraq. The 3-126th flew and maintained UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters during troop movement, medical evacuation and re-supply operations. The Soldiers served as pilots, crew chiefs, vehicle operators, administrative specialists and in other support assignments.



MICHIGAN

About 300 members of the Wolverine State's 127th Wing deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to undisclosed locations in Southwest Asia in mid-January. More than 275 members of the 127th Operations and Maintenance Groups, including the 107th Fighter Squadron, deployed as well. Also reporting for duty in separate deployments were about 20 airmen from the 127th Civil Engineering Squadron and the 127th Medical Group. The large number of personnel and equipment, including Michigan Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcons, will remain overseas for about 45 days, with some members expecting to be deployed for 120 days.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Granite State's 12th Civil Support Team has been certified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, capping nearly two years of intensive training, qualification schools and evaluations. The official notification was delivered through a Feb. 1 letter from the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. It means the 12th CST is available to support

first responders when a chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear or high yield explosive event occurs or is suspected anywhere in the state, country or territories.

NORTH DAKOTA

Thirty-nine members of the Rough Rider State's 188th Air Defense Artillery J-LENS, based in Grand Forks and Bismarck, recently returned home after more than a year's deployment to Afghanistan. J-LENS is short for Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor. The unit uses sensors to support security missions. Two other units of the 188th are still deployed to Afghanistan. Officials said 152 soldiers of the 188th Security Forces remain on duty there, and the 188th Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment is replacing the unit that has come home.

OHIO

The Buckeye State's Air National Guard is increasing the state's engineering capabilities with the addition of a Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) unit at the Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing. Part of the Air Force Total Force Integration initiatives, the new unit will augment the current Port Clinton-based 200th RED HORSE, adding about 200 Airmen to the unit and about 150 new positions at the Mansfield location. The additional mission will mean about \$11 million in construction at the Mansfield base, once slated to close under the Base Realignment and Closure process, said Wing Commander Col. Mark L. Stephens. The 179th has also been identified as the future home of a wing of Joint Cargo Aircraft.

OKLAHOMA

A member of the Sooner State's 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry recently became the

first 180th Soldier to receive the Purple Heart Medal in over 50 years. Pfc. David Anderson of Edmond received the medal for wounds suffered in a firefight in eastern Afghanistan. Anderson is currently deployed with the 180th as part of a security force for the Afghan National Army training mission. Anderson and several other members of his rifle company were engaged in a firefight with anti-coalition forces when he was struck in the back of the head by an RPG fragment.

OREGON

The Beaver State Army Guard launched a Black Hawk helicopter Jan. 31 for a night vision goggle and rescue hoist operation on Mt. Hood. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Salem-based helicopter and crew to rescue a 45-year-old injured female hiker from the south side of Mt. Hood, near Hogs Back. Using the night vision equipment and hoist in the darkness provides the Soldiers valuable training while performing a real-world mission to protect the lives of Oregon citizens.

RHODE ISLAND

Capt. Charles Mulcahy of the Ocean State assumed command of the 115th Military Police Company Feb. 3 at Camp Fogarty. The 115th was sent to Southwest Asia in 2003. It conducted nearly 1,600 missions, including 570 missions in Al Fallujah, Iraq, during its 12-month deployment. The missions included criminal arrests, security, and seizure of enemy weapons caches. Three of the unit's Soldiers died because of enemy attacks, and 12 others were wounded.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The Mount Rushmore State Army Guard named Sgt. Sandi Trohkimoinen as the non-commissioned officer of the year and Spc. Frank Mauricio as the Soldier of the year for 2006. Discipline and a tremendous knowledge and understanding of the military profession were the characteristics that separated the two from the other seven competitors, according to the state command sergeant major, Michael Bekaert.

TENNESSEE

Approximately 70 members of the Volunteer State's 269th Military Police Company conducted their annual training at the Caserma Ederle military complex in Vicenza, Italy, Jan. 6 to Feb. 10. They assisted the Army's 13th Military Police Company and the Caserma Ederle Provost Marshal's Office with law enforcement operations throughout the main post and the Villaggio base-housing areas. The Guardmembers worked with their active-duty counterparts in patrols, access control, and force protection.

TEXAS


More than 600 Lone Star State Guardmembers were activated by Gov. Rick Perry Jan. 22 to support a surge operation targeting crime and international drug and human trafficking along the state's 1,200-mile border with Mexico. The Soldiers are supporting Operation Wrangler, an interagency law enforcement operation that involves 6,800 federal, state and local officials, according to the governor's office. The Soldiers are in addition to the 1,700 Texas Guardmembers federally activated in support of Operation Jump Start. 



Photo by Sgt. Jack Carlson III

ICBM defense

A Ground Based Interceptor (GBI) missile is transported to its silo during a recent emplacement on the Missile Defense Complex (MDC) at Fort Greely, Alaska. Fort Greely is home to more than a dozen GBIs ready to defend the United States and its allies from an accidental or intentional intercontinental ballistic missile launch.

Florida Guard there for deadly storm recovery

By Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa
Florida National Guard

LADY LAKE, Fla. – When violent storms tore through central Florida Feb. 2, the Lady Lake Church of God was leveled by a tornado that literally tore the building to pieces.

A day later, parishioners were wading through rubble that hardly resembled the 30-year-old church and trying to rescue a few relics and clear an area in time for Sunday morning services.

Wearing a dusty and sweat-stained jacket, parishioner William Countryman crawled in and out of the ruins on Saturday afternoon, ducking under twisted sheet metal and remnants of insulation in search of pieces of the church's Christmas nativity set.

"When we find the manger, it's going to mean a lot to the church and the pastor," Countryman, who has been a parishioner for nearly a decade, explained as he pulled back broken boards in search of the white and gold-colored nativity set.

"It might take me a couple of hours, but I'll find it," he said. Less than an hour later he emerged carrying a battered cardboard box with "Nativity Set" written on the side in black marker.

Nearby, Pastor Larry Lynn watched the

members of his congregation sift through the damaged church and remove splintered tree limbs from its front yard. He said that although the church's structure was destroyed, there were no injuries in his 232-member congregation.

"The church is still solid and strong. It's just the building that's gone," he said. "We'll rebuild."

Gov. Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency in four Florida counties damaged by the storms, and on Friday and Saturday rode in a Florida National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to assess the damage from the air. He also toured devastated areas with Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, Florida's adjutant general, Federal Emergency Management Agency Director David Paulison, and state and federal lawmakers.

"When I came down here yesterday morning for the first time I just couldn't believe it..." Crist said during a press conference at the Church. "We've had a lot of hurricanes the past few years in our state, but the intensity of these tornados is remarkable."

Twenty people died in areas affected by the storms.

The Florida National Guard dispatched more than 40 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment, to help in the recovery effort.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Church members remove the splintered remains of a wooden cross from their destroyed church in Lady Lake, Fla., Feb. 3. To help in the recovery effort of recent violent storms in that state, the Florida National Guard dispatched, among others, more than 40 Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 124th Infantry Regiment.

ery effort. The Soldiers assisted emergency responders Feb. 3 by operating three ice and water distribution points in Lady Lake and nearby Paisley, Fla.

According to one of the Florida National Guard helicopter pilots who flew the governor during his damage assessment flights, destruction was isolated to a narrow path.

"It is a lot like what I've seen on every hurricane I've worked since Hurricane Andrew [in 1992]," said Chief Warrant Officer John Rawls of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment. "The only difference is that this is a concentrated area. Outside of that it is undisturbed ... with a hurricane a massive area is destroyed."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin S Abel

Carol Bartholomew talks with Sgt. 1st Class Devin Worman as Soldiers for the Wyoming Army National Guard's 133rd Engineers dig out residents of Rock River, Wyo.

'Snow as high as houses'

Wyoming troops, heavy equipment dig out town in 3-day mission

By Master Sgt. Trudy Woodcock
Wyoming National Guard

It wasn't Katrina, but it might as well have been as far as the residents of Rock River, Wyo., were concerned.

It all started around Christmas with a big snow storm, then the wind – gusts of 90 mph blowing old and new snow. One resident said it was so bad that a train derailment the first part of January and they just haven't been able to get ahead of the snow accumulation.

On Feb. 6, Rock River and Albany County asked the governor to send the Wyoming National Guard to help. The Guard responded with 15 Soldiers and a variety of equipment for a three-day snow removal mission.

Carol Bartholomew, a Rock River resident, said the streets were so bad she had to leave her car close to the highway and walk to her house because she couldn't get close to it. Even going grocery shopping had to be correctly planned since she would have to carry her groceries several blocks through the drifts.

Sgt. 1st Class Devin Worman, noncommissioned officer in charge, said the residents have been wonderful. While there, the unit has been able to get all of the side streets and driveways cleared, giving emergency vehicles access to the residents and fire hydrants. The crew had moved more than 300 dump truck loads of snow by the third day.

The Soldiers dug out propane tanks so they could be filled and heat provided again. Local school children even asked the Soldiers to have lunch with them and then insisted on getting all of the Soldiers' autographs.

Missouri assists local Red Cross center after ice storms in January

By Regina Turner
Missouri National Guard

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Missouri Citizen-Soldiers supported the American Red Cross Greater Ozarks Chapter Distribution Center throughout ice storms in late January.

The 60 hours of freezing rain that fell was the largest and most widespread natural disaster that the Ozarks Chapter has responded to, according to Debi Meeds, local Red Cross executive director. The storm impacted 21 counties and caused over 100,000 residences and businesses to be without power.

"Without the National Guard's help, we believe the Red Cross could not have reached as many people in need of food, water and blankets," said Meeds. "They have provided not only manpower, but experience, equipment, and the will to complete the mission."

During their state emergency duty, 23 Soldiers and 14 military vehicles were assigned to the Springfield Red Cross. Seventeen of these Soldiers are members of the 203rd Engineer Battalion's Forward Support Company of Joplin. Six Soldiers attached to the FSC are from the 1035th Maintenance Company, of Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

"Thank God for the National Guard. If it wasn't for these Soldiers, we would still be behind in distributing resources and fulfilling requests," said Chris Harmon, local director of emergency services. "Military vehicles can carry larger loads equating to more expedited deliveries. The Soldiers have been providing support 24 hours per day."

The support provided by the 23 Missouri



Photo by Regina Turner

Soldiers with the 203rd Engineer Battalion unload water at the Red Cross Distribution Center of Springfield, Mo.

Guard Soldiers included loading and unloading shipments, delivering cots, blankets, food and water to areas specified by emergency operation managers, and hooking up generators.

"Some challenges we have encountered include civilian deliveries not coming in as scheduled, civilian trucks breaking down and civilian drivers walking away from their shipment," said Harmon.

"The needs of the residents of the impacted communities were so great. The Soldiers did not want to rest with so much work to be done. I had to implement rest cycles to ensure the safety of these Soldiers," said Boatright.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Eustaquio

A 450th Movement Control Battalion Soldier searches for threats around his vehicle in a training exercise at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Training for the fight

Kansas' 450th Movement Control Battalion prepares

By 2nd Lt. Anthony D. Buchanan
Indiana National Guard

EDINBURGH, Ind. – For Soldiers to be successful in military operations, they must have the necessary tools to fight. Over time, necessities like food, water, and ammunition diminish, possibly leaving troops in a precarious situation. When essential items reach low levels and need to be replaced, someone has to see that supplies are delivered and reach the troops in the field. The 450th Movement Control Battalion is currently preparing at Camp Atterbury to handle such tasks.

The Soldiers from Manhattan, Kan., will be charged with monitoring, controlling and supervising the movement of personnel, equipment, and cargo when they arrive in Afghanistan in a few months. Although they are a movement control battalion and specialize mostly in transportation tasks, all of the Soldiers of the 450th MCB received additional training that they'll need in Afghanistan.


"The training we received was very thorough and detailed," said Staff Sgt. Belinda Hilton, a human resource specialist. "I learned a lot from vehicle and personnel searches, but actually, doing what we learned was the best part of the training. We will be a better team once we get there. The training has helped the unit come together as a whole."

Spc. Brain Gerriets, a transportation man-

agement coordinator with the unit, was also grateful for the theater immersion training.

"Entry control point training is definitely going to come in handy," said Gerriets. "At the [forward operating base], they really hit us hard with non-stop training giving us the confidence we are going to need when we go overseas. They definitely challenged us and made us think."

In addition to their training preparing them for their upcoming mission, the Soldiers were also very pleased with their trainers, mostly volunteers with combat experience participating in the Operation Warrior Training Program.

"We had very good relationships between the trainers and trainees," said Hilton. "They are not here just to teach, but to help us understand." 

Heads Up!

SS special earnings

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1940 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your benefit. They are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. For example, for service in 1978 through 2001, for every \$300 in basic pay for active duty, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Note: Social Security cannot add these extra earnings to your record until you file for Social Security benefits. See www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm for more information.

Free tax assistance

The Defense Department's Military OneSource family support program is again offering free, online tax preparation and filing for servicemembers and their families. It's available to active duty servicemembers, National Guard members and reservists and their families. Last year, more than 327,000 tax claims were filed using a similar program. To contact a OneSource tax consultant, call 1-800-730-3802 or go to www.militaryonesource.com.

Counselors standing by

Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC) is a DoD program designed to provide anonymous, confidential support to Soldiers and their family members, especially those returning from deployments. The MFLC Program uses licensed clinicians with master's degrees and at least five years experience in social work, counseling, or a related clinical discipline. Servicemembers and their families are entitled to six prepaid, personal counseling sessions. For more information, call 1-888-755-9355.

Traumatic injuries

Every member who has SGLI also has Traumatic SGLI effective Dec. 1, 2005. This coverage applies to active duty members, reservists, funeral honors duty and one-day muster duty. TSGLI coverage will pay a benefit of between \$25,000 and \$100,000 – depending on the loss directly resulting from the traumatic injury. This benefit is also provided retroactively for members who incurred severe losses as a result of traumatic injury between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005, if the loss was the direct result of injuries incurred in Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom. For more information about TSGLI, visit: <http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

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IS JUST A FEW CLICKS AWAY

www.guardfamily.org

To get to this searchable site, click the family member icon, then click on the green "Local Community Resource Finder" on the right





Courtesy photo

The F27 Fokker arrives at Camp Atterbury after its final flight.

Meet the Fokker Indiana now has plane for counterterrorism training

The Indiana Army National Guard partnered with Fedex, Purdue University and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security to provide a new training asset at the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center. It's a plane that doesn't fly anymore.

"It's a classroom," said Staff Sgt. Brian Schnurpel, Atterbury Airfield facility chief. "It's a counter-terrorism training tool."

Fedex donated the F27 Fokker to Purdue University's Department of Homeland Security section at the end of 2006. Dave Tate, head of that section contacted Atterbury Airfield personnel to see about coming up with a plan that would best suit the needs of all parties needing to have access to training.

"The plan is to develop an area, consisting of a full-size passenger bus, a train passenger car, the aircraft and whatever else might be appropriate for this site," said Schnurpel.

As a homeland security official, Tate was aware of Camp Atterbury's abilities to provide the area needed to establish such a training setup, according to Schnurpel. With numerous training opportunities at Camp Atterbury and co-location of Indiana Homeland Security training center located close to the airfield, Tate felt Camp Atterbury was a natural location for the aircraft.

After the final coordination between Camp Atterbury, SEMA, and Purdue, Fedex had the aircraft flown from its location in North Carolina, the home of Mountain Air Cargo, a subsidiary of Fedex. The F27 currently occupies a parking pad on the ramp at Atterbury Airfield.

The aircraft's location has yet to be determined, and until a plan is drawn up for the counter-terrorism training area on the installation it will remain at the airfield. That has not dampened the enthusiasm of trainers who want to use the aircraft.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Brian Schnurpel discusses future plans for the F27 Fokker and a new counter-terrorism training site with Camp Atterbury commander, Col. Barry Richmond.

Law from disorder

Indiana artillery unit trains Iraqi police

By Amy May

Indiana National Guard

The Soldiers in the Headquarters and Headquarters Support Battery 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery didn't know a lot about police work, but as Indiana National Guard Soldiers, they did understand leadership, hard work, constant training and accountability.

The unit spent 11 months helping to train the Iraqi police in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city. The 152 Soldiers worked with International Police Liaison Officers, civilian police officers hired to help with the training. The team did such a good job that Mosul was declared a model city in Iraq before the 150th's tour was over.

"The police took to our training techniques. Theater command decided that one MP company could handle it. So, we stood up our replacement and left," said 1st Sgt. Therron Thomas.

The success came after almost a year of hard work, though.

"The first month was very difficult. We had to create a bond with the Iraqi police chief and the police officers," Thomas said.

There was some distrust of the whole process. The month before the 150th arrived, the city had fallen to the insurgency and the police had fled Mosul.

"The people changed over the course of the year. They became less afraid and wary," Thomas said.

Sgt. Zach Baker said he felt the training helped the police develop a relationship with the citizens of Mosul and show the people they would be protected.

"During Saddam, the police were brutal. Then during the war, there were no police. Now the police are being brought up in numbers and equipped," he said.

When the 150th arrived, the Soldiers



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Roy Buchanan teaches an Iraqi police officer how to use a baton. The 2nd Battalion, 150th Field Artillery Unit of the Indiana National Guard spent most of 2006 in Mosul helping train police officers in the city.

evaluated and began training the policemen, using translators to communicate. The next four months were spent in intensive training. The Iraqi police would go on patrols and the Soldiers would accompany them as observers, stepping in to help if necessary.

The police force in Mosul is organized much like an American city's would be. The city, about the size of Chicago, is split by the Tigris River. The 150th was in charge of the west side of the city, working with a provincial police chief and about 25 police stations. There were also river police, a SWAT-type unit and traffic police.

"Some of them had prior experience, serving as police officers during Saddam Hussein's regime. Others had no experience at all," Thomas said.

The biggest issues for the Iraqi police force are logistics and supplies. The Soldiers got a lesson in cultural differences as they assessed the police needs.

Thomas said some of the younger Soldiers were adamant that the police stations needed computers. The problem, however, was the area had electricity only three to four hours a

day. Also, most of the police officers might not even know how to use a computer. So, they were taught to track personnel using index cards.

Iraqis also look at crime differently than Americans do. In addition to looking for and arresting insurgents, the police investigate other crimes, such as murders, rapes and thefts.

"But if there's no accuser, then there's not really a crime. They could literally see a body in the street, but it's not a murder until someone makes an accusation," Thomas said.

He said someone can go to the police and say "Someone stole my chickens," and the first question asked will be, "Well, who did it?" Unless the accuser has a suspect to name, the chickens aren't considered stolen.

They also had to work with the fears of the police themselves. The area has insurgent activity and roadside bombs, which are just as dangerous to Iraqis as they are to coalition troops.

"It was a hard negotiation," Thomas said. "They were saying, 'There are roadside bombs blowing up your armored vehicles and you want us to get in pickup trucks?'"

New Mexico CST trains for dirty bomb

By John Hupfer

El Paso Electric

The New Mexico National Guard's 64th Civil Support Team teamed up with local, state and federal organizations recently and completed a training exercise based on a dirty bomb being hidden in a power plant. The event took place at the Rio Grande Power Plant in El Paso, Texas, and included the Sunland Park Fire Department and Sheriff's Department, the Juarez Fire Department, and the Center for National Response.

In the exercise, a small group from the 64th wearing protective clothing and masks and armed with high-tech detection equipment searched the plant. Their objective was to find the alleged bomb, secure it, and remove it.

"We conduct these types of exercises at least once a month," said Capt. Troy Chadwell,

operations officer of the 64th. "We try to utilize a variety of actual facilities and events, such as hospitals, schools, airports and large venues where lots of people gather such as the Albuquerque Balloon Festival. Our goal is to try to cover the bases and be ready for just about any possibility imaginable."

"Being able to use an actual facility gives us an idea of what to expect if something like this were to actually occur," said Maj. Daniel Jaramillo, commander of the 64th.

The 64th is trained to respond to chemical, nuclear, biological and radiological threats. "Our job is to advise, assess and assist," said Chadwell. "During the exercise, we actually report to a civilian authority that coordinates the efforts of the entire team."

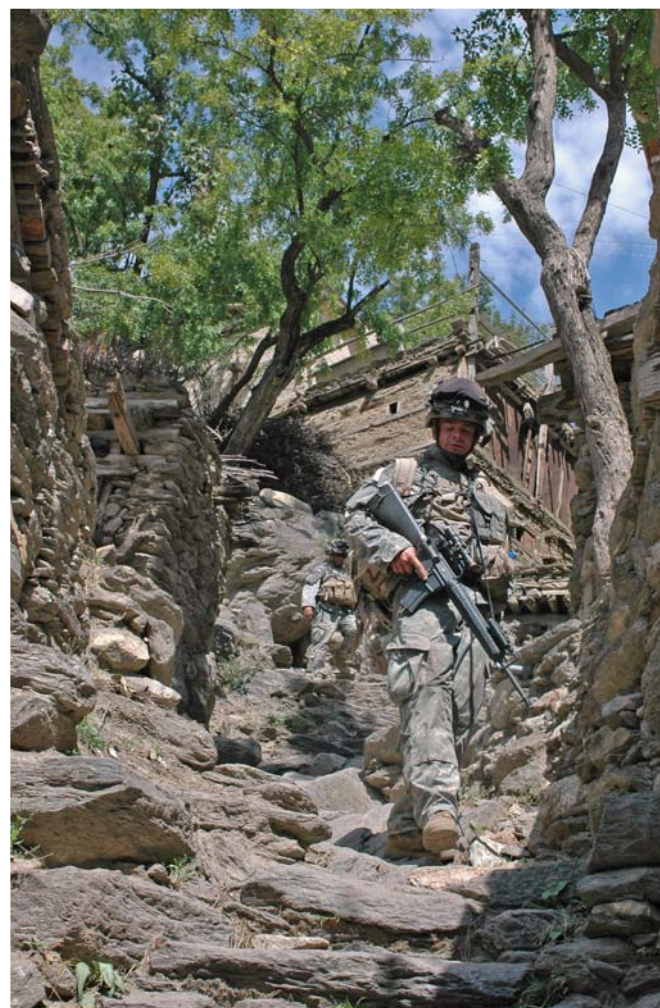
The resources that the 64th has on hand include a team of up to 22 well-trained individuals and eight vehicles loaded with

sophisticated hardware and software. "We have satellite and internet communications capabilities, our own weather station, and a mobile laboratory to detect biological and chemical agents," Chadwell said.



Courtesy photo

New Mexico's 64th Civil Support Team recently trained on a dirty bomb scenario at a power plant in El Paso, Texas.



Cpl. Michael Good (front) and 1st Sgt. Jamie Nakano, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, negotiate terrain in the mountainside village of Aranas, Afghanistan, while on patrol in the Nuristan province. (Photo by Spc. Eric P. Jungels Jr.)



Airmen of the 145th Airlift Wing honor guard, North Carolina Air National Guard, stationed in Charlotte, N.C., receive a post-ceremony critique from their noncommissioned officer-in-charge. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Brian E. Christiansen.)



Eight-year-old William Dyer looks over his grandfather's shoulder, Lonnie Ford, at a flag presented to him during the funeral of his son Sgt. Josh Ford, 189th Transportation Company, who was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq July 31. (Photo by Capt. Kevin Hynes.)



Cpl. Michael Good, from B Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, moves along a path overlooking the mountainside village of Aranas while on patrol in the Nuristan province. (Photo by Spc. Eric P. Jungels Jr.)

Capturing the moment

The following photos, all shot by National Guard members, were among those entered into the 2006 National Guard Bureau Media Contest.



Specialists' Richard Schwarz Jr. (left) and Justin Francis (far right) of the 63rd Army Band perform Taps at the Brig. Gen. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Arnetown, N.J., during a ceremony. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen.)



A village elder watches a demonstration in Afghanistan to see the Afghan National Army's developing tactical skills. His dress is traditional for Afghan tribesmen. (Photo by Maj. Arnold V. Strong.)



Combat engineers attached to B Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, use controlled detonations to clear rock from a helicopter landing zone site at an outpost in the Nuristan province, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Eric P. Jungels Jr.)



Air National Guard Capt. Kyle Woolf, 113th Fighter Squadron, Terre Haute, Ind., fires a Maverick missile from his F-16 during a recent sortie at Davis-Montham Air Force Base, Ariz. for Operation Snowbird. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. John S. Chapman.)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

Sgt. Louis Goins points to a hilltop in the U.S. Border Patrol's Sasabe District in Arizona where armed individuals approached his entry identification team Jan. 3. After moving to a safer location to observe the individuals, the team notified Border Patrol agents.

Discretion at the border is the better part of valor for four Tennessee troops

From page 1:
JUDGEMENT

talion, 117th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), and to Spc. Kirk Redding and Pfc. James Russell, both of the 251st Military Police Company.

"The National Guard entry identification team reacted appropriately," said Mario Martinez, the Border Patrol's national spokesman. "Their role is not to interdict or arrest traffic crossing the border but to detect, identify and report."

In 1997, a Marine during an anti-drug patrol shot to death an 18-year-old high school student herding goats near the Texas border with Mexico. The Tennessee Guard Soldiers avoided a similar situation, officials said. The Citizen-Soldiers' by-the-book handling of the incident near Sasabe, Ariz., is a training model, Texas National Guard Col. Robert Canon told The Associated Press.

Up to 6,000 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen are in the four southwestern border states for Operation Jump Start (OJS), the National Guard's assistance to the Border Patrol to secure the nation's border with Mexico.

Goins and Dodson are combat veterans in their 40s. It was their first potentially hostile encounter for Redding and Russell, who are in their early 20s.

"Your display of leadership ... reflects distinct credit upon yourself, the National Guard Bureau and the United States Army," Goins' citation states. His military resume includes three years on active duty, a Desert Storm deployment with the military police, and an Operation Iraqi Freedom tour as a convoy escort gunner, one of a Soldier's most dangerous assignments. As a civilian, he is a deputy sheriff.

"Your selfless dedication and ... bravery ... were heroic," the citations for the other three Citizen-Soldiers state.

Intruders at Fresnal Peak

The four-man entry identification team (EIT) began duty at noon on Jan. 3 near Sasabe, Ariz. Using binoculars and night-vision devices, pairs of team members monitor the

border around the clock. Radios and satellite telephones link them to the Border Patrol, a National Guard tactical operations center and other EITs. Each member is armed with an M-16 rifle and live ammunition, and they may use deadly force in self-defense.

EITs rotate sites, and it was this team's first time near Fresnal Peak, an observation point about 500 yards from the border in the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector. Mesquite bushes and jagged ridges obstruct the view in this rugged and isolated position that faces north. Soldiers must be on their guard for poisonous spiders, snakes and scorpions. The top of a steep hill marks the international border of the United States and Mexico and sits directly behind the EIT site.

"There's not a night goes by that we don't observe UDAs – undocumented aliens – crossing the border," Goins said. "Anywhere from one up to a group of 200 came through one night. Your average group is 15 to 20. There's been occasions when we've called the Border Patrol, and they'll be loading them up, and the taillights will be going that away and here comes another group right behind them. That's why we're here."

Goins said he heard two three-round automatic weapon bursts beyond a hill at about 1:30 p.m. "We took cover and called it in," he said.

A Border Patrol helicopter responded and later determined that the Mexican Army was conducting maneuvers just across the border.

"They were on the Mexican side," Goins said. "That was all logged and noted, and we didn't have any further instances."

Nothing further, that is, until about 10:45 p.m., when Goins was in the tent, his three squad members on a hillside with night vision goggles.

"It all happened pretty fast, within a 12- to 15-minute span," Goins said.

"We have movement," Dodson told Goins. "We need you up here."

The moon was full. No clouds. Excellent visibility with a loud, rustling wind. In front of them were miles of rough terrain full of hills,

valleys and desert vegetation.

Goins was able to identify approximately four armed individuals moving in the general direction of their EIT site "It's usually just family groups or groups of people wanting to cross the border. This was an armed group, totally different," Goins said.

His night vision goggles cast everything in shades of green, and Goins couldn't tell if their uniforms were olive drab or black, "They were walking very fast with their weapons down" he said.

He called the National Guard tactical operations center and the Border Patrol.

As the individuals came closer to the EIT position, Goins ordered his team to lock and load. Russell suggested to Goins that they move to an alternate location and wait for the Border Patrol to respond.

As Goins, Redding and Russell prepared to move, Dodson moved around and forward to better observe the armed individuals. As he moved forward, an individual with an AK-47 appeared 15 meters to his east.

"It was pretty scary," Russell said. "It was the first situation I ever went through. If I ever go over [to a combat zone], I know what to expect now."

Goins' combat and civilian law enforcement experience had set him up to approach his new assignment aggressively. But after he arrived in Arizona on Nov. 15, he quickly learned that wasn't appropriate for OJS. "We would've engaged them when we first met them out there, no questions asked," he said. "They were armed and headed towards our position."

But Goins was very clear on his OJS training: "They said, 'You are just eyes and ears. Observe and call in. Do not attempt to detain. Just stay out of their way.' They specifically said, 'We are not at war with Mexico.'"

Goins drew on this training, ordering the EIT to grab sensitive items and take up another position about a half-mile away, where the Guard Soldiers set up a perimeter, watched and awaited Border Patrol reinforcements.

It was there that Russell knelt on a scorpion and had a potentially fatal reaction to the sting, vomiting and gasping for air. He later was evacuated by helicopter 70 miles to Tucson, where he was hospitalized for the night.

The EIT heard distant sirens, and flashing

lights pierced the night across the desert soon after Goins' first call. But it took time for backup to arrive, reflecting a problem faced by Border Patrol agents along the 1,951-mile, often isolated border from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. "Even though you could see them, it takes a while for them to get here," Goins said.

The Border Patrol's response included a dozen vehicles and a helicopter with a searchlight. "They did arrive like the cavalry," Goins said.

But the unidentified intruders were gone. "Trackers came in and picked up the trail and followed them across the mountain to the border," Goins said. "They made a pretty hasty retreat."

Volunteers making a difference

On June 30, 2005, two Border Patrol agents were shot in the legs in a canyon east of Nogales, KVOA Tucson/Eyewitness News 4 reported.

In 2006, a congressional panel heard testimony that armed men in Mexican military uniforms have illegally crossed the border to provide cover for drug smugglers and have fired on Border Patrol agents, MSNBC reported. At the time, the Department of Homeland Security cited 231 incursions by Mexican military and law enforcement personnel since 1996.

"It was a tense situation," Dodson said. "I did not want to back off – none of us really did – but we had no choice. We felt like, falling back, we were letting our country down, but that's the way we were trained."

Guard officials said they did the right thing. "These Citizen-Soldiers followed their training to the letter and did what they were asked to do by the Border Patrol. As a result, they avoided a potential tragedy," said LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "Their actions are a testament to their personal bravery and ability to apply the rules of the use of force under pressure."


The Citizen-Soldiers volunteered for Operation Jump Start. "I thought it would be new and exciting, and it definitely has proved to be that," Goins said. "I would have never thought it was this bad down here with the people coming across the border. I am just totally amazed. And the drug trafficking. We've got a very important mission. We need all the help we can get." 



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gordon Hyde

The towns of Nogales, Ariz., left, and Nogales, Mexico, are separated by a high concrete and steel fence. Many consider the area one of the most dangerous along the border with numerous reports from U.S. Border Patrol agents of being spit on, having rocks thrown at them, and gunfire.



Afghanistan or bust

Senior Airman Nick Smith, a loadmaster with the 133rd Airlift Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard, watches as the engines startup on a C-130 Hercules at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Jan. 5. The aircraft flew Smith and Airmen with his unit to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson



Phot by Senior Airman Paul Ross

Lt. Col. Jeff Thetford, middle, landed a general aviation aircraft at all 106 airfields in Georgia with the help of friends, Lt. Cols. Ed Bododny, left, and Ben Sutton, right. The trip was intended to raise awareness of the Robins Air Force Base Aero Club and the Georgia Air National Guard.

Airfield obsession Georgian lands at all 106 in state

By Senior Airman Paul Ross
Georgia National Guard

In many cases using an airplane to conquer a mountain could be considered cheating.

But if your mountain is landing at all 106 airfields in Georgia, an airplane is the only way to fly.

Lt. Col. Jeff Thetford conquered his mountain Nov. 5 when he landed at the Hartsfield Jackson Airport in Atlanta.

The 330th Combat Training Squadron director of operations set out on a nearly three year journey to promote the Robins Air Force Base Aero Club and the Georgia Air Guard. The flying club is run by the 78th Air Base Wing.

"It's one thing to take a kid down to the mall to a recruiter, but seeing an aircraft at the airfield is something totally different," said Thetford. "General aviation is a tangible thing; you can touch it, see it and hear it. General aviation has the ability to excite the public's imagination."

Motivation for the journey also came from the desire to do something difficult.

"Why do you go to all 106 airfields? You do it because they're there," said Thetford. "They're meant to be visited and seen. It was a chance to do something difficult and combine the challenge of it with meeting folks and telling the 116th story."

Thetford, who also serves as operations officer for the club, was able to complete his journey because of the help of two great friends and club resources. Lt. Cols. Ed Bodony and Ben Sutton, both Georgia ANG members, accompanied him on many flights.

"Before traveling to each airport we had to find information on runway length, width, elevation and any obstacles that were near the airport to ensure that we could safely land at that field," said Sutton. "We also had to plot our course and figure out the distance and time it would take to get there to ensure we had enough fuel to make the flight and that we could navigate to the airport. Some of these airports were so small and hidden that they were difficult to find even from the air."

"Some of the fun was seeing how many fields we could hit in one day," said Thetford. "On one particular day we hit nine air fields."

N. Dakota Airmen sign retiring plane

By Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp
North Dakota National Guard

At first glance, it appears to be a blatant display of destruction of government property: members of the North Dakota Air National Guard lining up to write their names using a black permanent marker all over an operational F-16 aircraft!

Hold off calling the security forces. It seems this type of behavior has precedence at several other flying units when a plane is destined for the boneyard.

Col. Michael Wobbema, the 119th Maintenance Group commander, discovered the practice of writing personal graffiti on an airplane while visiting with a member of the 178th Fighter Wing in Ohio. He mentioned that personnel from the Ohio unit had been allowed to sign a single A-7 aircraft prior to its last flight upon retirement to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC), better known as the boneyard.

Wobbema asked Chief Master Sgt. Doug Faldet, the 119th Maintenance Group quality assurance chief, to check into the practice of signing a single North Dakota Air National Guard aircraft prior to the retirement of said aircraft to AMARC in order to find out if the airplane signing might be allowed at the 119th Fighter Wing in Fargo, N.D.

After a little legwork by Faldet, it was confirmed by sources at the National Guard Bureau that while they could not officially condone the act of writing on an F-16, it is considered an "accepted practice" for Air National Guard units sending their airplanes to the boneyard.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David H. Lipp

SIGNATURE SEND OFF: If you look closely you will notice some unusual markings on North Dakota Air National Guard F-16 flying over North Dakota. That is because unit members have been allowed to sign their names on the F-16 prior to its departure to the boneyard during the mission transition from the F-16 into the C-21.

One of the restrictions placed on the legal signing of an aircraft marked for retirement to the boneyard is that no removable aircraft part may be signed. If it were up to Master Sgt. Terrence Peterson, a 119th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief assigned to aircraft 82-0951, the whole aircraft would be considered a removable part, which is understandable since he has spent his career trying to keep airplanes looking their best.

Aircraft 82-0951 is also considered the 119th Fighter Wing commander's airplane and

is adorned with a special paint scheme on its tail to distinguish it from the other unit F-16s. Aircraft 82-0951 was one of the last F-16s to leave North Dakota in mid-January prior to its final resting place at AMARC, which is located at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Az.

Controlled tours are sometimes held at AMARC. So if you happened to put a little of your personal graffiti on aircraft 82-0951 and you find yourself in Arizona, you might want to stop by and visit your signature on a piece of North Dakota history.

Chief takes Guard's case to commission

By Sgt. Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau

WASHINGTON – Consider the plight of a football player who is expected to execute plays but who is not included in all of the huddles.

LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, used that analogy to tell the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves about the unsatisfactory relationship between the nation's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen and the defense bureaucracy. Blum testified at a Jan. 31 hearing on proposed

changes in the Guard's leadership, organization and funding.

Blum told the commissioners that the National Guard does not have adequate resources for its domestic operations and is not adequately represented within the Department of Defense's decision-making process.

"You can't play on a football team and you come to huddle for first and third down but you're not there on the fourth ... and you don't know what the hell the play is, and they expect you to do what you're supposed to do," Blum said.

Under Congressional charter, commission-

ers are studying the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act that is before the Senate and the House. The act could make sweeping changes in the way the National Guard does business.

Blum said those changes would be as good for the Department of Defense as for the Guard.

"It really ought to be the 'Department of Defense Empowerment Act,'" he said. "This empowers the Department of Defense and the Army and the Air Force. ... It fosters jointness. The American taxpayer gets more defense for the taxpayer dollar. ... There's less firewalls, stone walls, obstacles, and more unity of effort."

The 13 commissioners – selected for their professional expertise – are taking testimony from Guardmembers, employers, military leaders and government officials. The commission must report to Congress by March 1.

According to commissioners, the legislation could:

- Increase NGB responsibilities in the Department of Defense and elevate the NGB's role in domestic crises.
- Give the NGB more influence in Pentagon planning, programming, budgeting and execution.
- Create a separate National Guard training and equipment budget.
- Promote the chief of the NGB to a four-star general.
- Make the chief of the NGB a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Appoint a National Guard officer as deputy commander of U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM). The Guard is the primary force provider for this combatant command created in 2002 to defend the homeland.

The National Security Act, the primary legislation authorizing the NGB, was written in 1947, three generations ago. The Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1958 referred to the NGB as a joint bureau for the first time. Twenty-one years ago, the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 made further changes.

"The National Guard today is not the National Guard I joined," Blum told commissioners. "It's not your older brother's National Guard, and it's not the National Guard that existed on Sept. 10, 2001."

A dramatic transformation, especially since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, has increased the gap between legislation written immediately after World War II and the Guard's role during the 21st century, Blum said.

"The Department of Defense has made some adaptations," he told commissioners. "The adaptations have not been formalized in any policy or instruction or regulation or legislation. It is hit-and-miss and it's ad-hoc, but they are clearly adapting."

During his testimony, Blum and commissioners outlined some of the differences between the Guard of 1947 and the Guard of today:

- Not all requirements placed on the Guard are formally validated, which creates problems with money, planning and training. The Guard is inadequately resourced for its homeland mission.

• The use of "Operational" U.S. Code Title 32, whereby Guard Soldiers and Airmen perform domestic missions under state command and control but with federal funding, has not been formalized. Title 32 was used for airport security after Sept. 11, for national special security events, for the Guard's historic response to Hurricane Katrina and for Operation Jump Start on the Southwest border, among other missions.

• Guardmembers overseas are well-trained and well-equipped, but the Guard faces a critical domestic equipment shortage that would take \$40 billion to adequately fix.

"The units that are overseas are magnificently equipped," Blum said. "You can't tell the difference – active, Guard, Reserve – ... by their equipment. You can't tell by their training. You can't tell by their leadership. And you can't tell by their performance. That is a great success story for this nation."


All is not so rosy in the homeland. "Eighty-eight percent of the forces that are back here ... are very poorly equipped today in the Army National Guard," Blum said. "We really do need a strategy that will reequip the National Guard here at home. ... The role and responsibility of the National Guard is not going to diminish ... it's going to increase."

Commissioner James E. Sherrard III, a retired lieutenant general and former chief of the Air Force Reserve, asked Blum about how decisions are made about the Guard's homeland resources: "Who actually sets those requirements?"

"Presently no one," Blum said.

Part of the National Guard's equipment challenge is a legacy issue. "The National Guard was one weekend a month, and it was going in the last innings of World War III," Blum said, referring to the Cold War. "We were going to under-equip it deliberately; ... we were going to under-man it deliberately; and we weren't going to train it too terribly well either, because we didn't take it seriously. It was just supposed to be a deterrent force against the Soviet Union."

Citing Base Realignment and Closure acts and other major Department of Defense allocation decisions, Blum said, "These were all labels of very bad days for the National Guard and reserve components when they were not involved in the budgeting process and resources decisions. ... It is much easier to influence a decision before it's made than to get it changed after it's made. Very, very hard to put the toothpaste back in the tube."

Blum said that it would empower future chiefs of the NGB if the position were elevated to four-star rank. "It doesn't mean that we're going to be right all of the time and we're going to be listened to any of the time, but at least we get heard and at least we have our position added ... to the decision-making process," he said. "Whether a position is given three stars of four stars, really the only thing that ought to determine that, frankly, is the scope and responsibility of the job. ... If you're asking me does it warrant a fourth star, I'd say yes. When I compare it with other comparable jobs, it is far more complex than other four-star general officers have." 

From page 1:
DSC



Photo by Sgt. Virginia Vaile

Kentucky Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein receives the Distinguished Service Cross from LTG H Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

which lasted roughly 30 minutes.

Nein is the fifth U.S. servicemember, and the first Guard Soldier, to receive the Distinguished Service Cross during the Global War on Terrorism. He was humble about receiving the award.

"I've read the stories of so many other (recipients of the medal) during my life, from World War II and Vietnam and of all the things they've done. To be put in the same light as them is quite an honor. It's actually pretty humbling to know that people feel the way they do about me for doing things that I feel were just part of our job," said Nein after the ceremony.

For Nein, that day in Iraq was all about doing his job.

"Once we had gotten into the position to assault the fighting positions of the bad guys it never occurred to me we were doing anything other than our jobs," said Nein. "We had taken a couple of wounded and at that point I knew we needed to start going into the trenches and canal systems to try and eliminate some of those guys."

Nein and his 10-member squad had no idea of the numbers they were facing during the assault.

"I never knew there were about 50," said Nein. "Initially, when we made the turn to flank the Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) I counted seven cars, all with four doors open, and I did the math real quick in my head and I was like 'that's 28 against 10.' That's 2.8 to 1 odds. That's not very good. Little did I know it was five to one odds, which is even worse."

Those odds worked against Nein and his Soldiers for a brief period of time.

"One time after assaulting one position a guy was shooting down from a berm that was about 10 feet above us," said Nein who was concerned his squad would be overrun. "I started to think we should probably start destroying (the squad's) equipment, but instead of taking the time to do that, I decided to take the fight directly to the AIF."

In the end, the squad eliminated more than half of the force they faced and captured seven individuals. Even though nearly two years has passed since that battle, Nein still thinks about that day and what happened.

"Even the guys from my squad will tell you, there is not a day that goes by that it doesn't affect us in one way or another, good or bad," said Nein. "I've probably run a hundred different scenarios in my head of how we could have run it better, but I never can come up with anything."

That is to be expected, he said.


"With the right equipment, the right training and the right leadership there's nothing we can't get done," Nein said. 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith

Dhief Muhsen, curator for the historical sites at Ur, explains to Texas Guardsmen how the city looked several thousand years ago.

Texans perform 'duty day with God'

By Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith
Texas National Guard

UR, Iraq – The Ziggurat, a 50-foot pyramid temple, towers over the vast Iraqi desert. Less than a mile away sits the royal palace, which was the capital of Sumeria more than 6,000 years ago. This is Ur, one of the world's oldest cities, and its ruins are all that remain of a society long gone.

These historic relics of Mesopotamia, the "cradle of civilization," are tourist sites for Coalition Forces to visit. After Saddam Hussein's army abandoned Tallil Air Base, which surrounds the ruins, during the initial Operation Iraqi Freedom push in 2003, U.S. and British troops secured the area and now run the base. Ur curator Dhief Muhsen, 45, from An Nasiriyah, Iraq, has been giving tours to Coalition military service members ever since.

Mr. Muhsen said the hour-long tour around Ur's historic sites attracts troops from all over the Central Command Area of Operation. Eight Soldiers from the 449th Aviation Support Battalion (ASB), 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), Texas Army National Guard, recently received one of his special tours.

The 449th ASB Soldiers traveled to the holy ruins through the Duty Day with God program established by the chaplains within the 36th CAB. The day-long event lets Soldiers take

time away from their work to visit either the biblical remnants of Ur or more secular sites such as the Crossed Sabers Memorial or the Tomb of the Unknown Iraqi Soldier in Baghdad. The purpose of this program is to allow Soldiers to refresh their spiritual faith and boost morale, said Chaplain (1st Lt.) Benjie Bender, Headquarters Services Company, 449th ASB.

"A Duty Day with God trip is important because it gets us back in touch with the roots of our faith, and it helps the Soldiers realize this didn't just happen in some far-away fantasy world, but that our faith is grounded in his-

tory," Bender explained. "It is connected to a place, time and location, and is something very concrete that you can see, feel and touch."

While Soldiers on the excursion came for different reasons, Spc. Larry Anthony, who is from Dallas and assigned to Company B, 449th ASB, went to Ur to pray at Abraham's home.


"Abraham was the first prophet chosen by God to believe in the one true God and to preach his message," Spc. Anthony said. "The prophets came from his bloodline, so seeing his house was very important for me; it was almost like a pilgrimage." 



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith

Texas Army National Guardsmen from the 449th Aviation Support Battalion, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, visit the 6,000-year-old Ziggurat at Ur, Iraq.

Lessons learned could fix Guard's resource woes

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department has learned from its mistakes in resourcing the National Guard and now has systems in place to prevent those mistakes from happening again, the nation's top military officer said Jan. 31.

Despite problems in the past, Joint Chiefs Chairman Marine Gen. Peter Pace told the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves that he is confident defense leaders are considering the Guard's unique resourcing needs.


"I think the performance of the Guard and reserve has clearly indicated to all of us that we would ignore their needs to the national defense's peril and to the disrespect of the great Americans and their families who serve in the Guard and reserve," Pace said. "We need to do this right. I am comfortable that we have recognized what we have done wrong in the past and that we have systems in place now to make that work."

Much of the National Guard's resourcing woes came to light in recent years as the force was moved from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. Officials agreed, though, that deployed Guard units are equipped and trained to the level of their active-component counterparts. Primarily at issue are the equipment and funding the Guard needs to handle its many other missions in the United States.

National Guard Bureau Chief LTG H Steven Blum told the commission that 88 percent of the National Guard units in the U.S. are "poorly equipped."

Pace said things are now happening to prevent reserve-component forces' needs from being overlooked in resourcing talks.

The Department of Homeland Security is identifying gaps in resources needed to respond to homeland emergencies. Once gaps are identified, the department will determine which agency is best suited to respond and what resources are needed, Pace said.

A new force generation model will ensure National Guard units are resourced similar to their active-duty counterparts on a cyclical basis. 

Air National Guard's defining moments-March

1911: The California ANG established an Aeronautical Detachment of its 7th Coast Artillery Company. Eugene Ely became the unit's first private.

1959: Flying their Northrop F-89H Scorpions from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., pilots of the 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Minnesota ANG, became the first Air Guardsmen to live fire the FALCON, radar-guided air-to-air missiles.

1969: Astronaut Russell L. Schweickart, a former Massachusetts ANG fighter pilot, orbited the earth in NASA's Apollo 9 space vehicle

1976: A KC-135A from Ohio's 145th Air Refueling Squadron became the first ANG tanker to participate in a Strategic Air Command (SAC) over-water air refueling. The Guard aircraft helped SAC KC-135s refuel A-7s deploying from California to Hawaii.

1983: The 189th Tactical Training Flight and the Reconnaissance Weapons School were organized by the Idaho ANG at Boise's Gowen Field to train ANG RF-4C replacement crews and to teach advanced tactics to ANG RF-4C crews.

1996: The 184th Bomb Wing, Kansas ANG, completed its conversion to the B-1B bomber.



Kentucky woman's heroics showcased

By Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

FORT LEE, Va. – A new chapter has been added to the story of women serving in the Army. The U.S. Army Women's Museum opened its Global War on Terrorism exhibit Feb. 3 which showcases the contributions women have made during the war. Its centerpiece is a life-size diorama of the actions of Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester and the other members of that squad during a March 20, 2005, ambush by insurgents near Baghdad.

Hester, who was assigned to the Kentucky Army National Guard's 617th Military Police Company at the time, was awarded the Silver Star Medal, becoming the first woman to receive the award since World War II and the first woman to ever receive it for direct actions against an enemy force.

Others in the unit received the Silver Star including Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, the squad leader, whose award has recently been upgraded to a Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor.

The Women's History Museum originally opened as the Women's Army Corps Museum at Fort McClellan, Ala., in 1955, and was relocated to Fort Lee near Petersburg, Va., in 2000.

Hester and most of the other members of the

Kentucky squad were present for the opening of the GWOT exhibit on Feb. 3. It was the first time they had all been together in more than a year, Hester said.

While the exhibit, which opened three weeks prior to March 1, the start off Women's History Month, focuses on the actions of Hester and Nein, both Soldiers emphasized that the entire squad worked together to achieve success in the mission.

"It wasn't one person's actions that day," Hester said. "It was us as a team. You know, I wouldn't be standing here today without these guys having had my back that day."

The squad, call sign Raven 42, was escorting a convoy near the town of Salman Pak south of Baghdad when the convoy came under heavy fire. Acting without hesitation, the Guard Soldiers drove their vehicles between the insurgents and the convoy. Hester and Nein dismounted from their armored Humvees and led the counterattack against the ambush. Twenty-seven insurgents were killed and seven were captured.

Two Soldiers in the squad were wounded during the engagement, which lasted roughly 30 minutes. But it could have been far worse because the insurgents had getaway vehicles pre-positioned with open doors and trunks as well as handcuffs which, some say, indicates



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester reads the information panels of the Global War on Terrorism exhibit at the Army Women's Museum at Fort Lee, Va., during the exhibition's opening Feb. 3. The exhibit showcases the contributions women have made during the GWOT.

they intended to take prisoners.

While Hester was quick to downplay her role during the counterattack, others feel she did much more than simply her job.

"It's amazing," said Pat Sigle, director of the Army Women's Foundation, which oversaw the funding for the exhibit. "To her it was her job. That's all it was, that's her job. I hope she understands, and I think in time she will, just how amazing that team was, how they all came out alive, how they pulled together and did what they were supposed to do."

The fact that Hester is a woman who has served in a combat zone, and in direct combat action, has been highlighted by many people. But it wasn't anything out of the ordinary to her. It was just another aspect of the squad.

"I believe everybody in my squad changed a lot of minds," she said. "Not just me. We're a blend of several different cultures, and being a woman, to me, is just one of those cultures. It makes no difference. If you can do the job, you can do the job. Some people can and some people can't."

Female combat medics earn respect from Afghan Army

By 1st Lt. Amanda Straub
41st Brigade Combat Team

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jo Turner, and Spc. Cheryl Ivanov have found a niche in a "Good Ol' Boys' Club" while serving in Afghanistan.

Turner, from Springfield, Ore., and Ivanov, from Coos Bay, are female combat medics deployed with Oregon's 41st Brigade Combat Team. They are attached to the Afghan National Army's (ANA) 3rd Infantry Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps. They provide medical support during missions.

Both women have earned Combat Medical Badges because of their work under fire. They drive armored Humvees for the embedded trainers assigned to the 3rd Kandak during patrols and provide medical support to the ANA, Afghan police, U.S. military personnel and civilians.

Turner and Ivanov also mentor ANA healthcare providers and conduct classes for Kandak medics. They say that because they are women, it was a challenge to earn the respect as an embedded trainer among the Afghan soldiers.

March is Women's History Month, and Turner and Ivanov are examples of women who have broken the glass ceiling in the crucible of combat, once considered a domain for men only.

"We're running the missions and doing the stuff, but we don't get the credit because we have to do it subversively because we're female," Turner said. "I've been fighting that my whole life."



Photo by 1st Lt. Amanda Straub,

Oregon Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Jo Turner, left, and Spc. Cheryl Ivanov are medics and battle buddies and help each other cope with the emotional and mental stress of combat operations in Afghanistan.

Ivanov says everyone was reluctant to let the women go on patrols with the ANA; no one was sure how the ANA would react. Even some of the U.S. Soldiers were leery. However, their skills were in high demand due to the shortage of medics. Now accepted into the 3rd Kandak, Turner and Ivanov have become an integral part of the team.

"They stared and stared at first," Ivanov said. "Then they saw us sleep on the ground like they did and eat their food like they did. Ever since then, Sgt. Turner and Spc. Ivanov

have been O.K."

Master Sgt. Dan Stapleton is the senior embedded trainer in the team. He believes the two have provided invaluable assistance since their incorporation into the 3rd Kandak.

"I don't think I've done a mission without you since you started," Stapleton said to his medics.

From the beginning, Turner and Ivanov worked hard to earn the trust and respect of the ANA soldiers and prove their capabilities to American supervisors. The ANA were ex-

tremely hesitant to trust them or seek medical care because the two medics are women. An unfortunate incident early in their deployment changed that.

A roadside bomb hit a truck full of ANA soldiers. Their fellow soldiers responded by quickly loading the wounded into another truck and speeding them to Khost before Turner and Ivanov could treat them at the scene.

"It was only our second time out, and nobody had seen what we could do," Turner said.

Most of the men in the truck were fatally wounded, but Turner believes they could have saved at least one of the men by applying a tourniquet above his severed leg. Turner said the soldiers killed in the attack were some of the first to befriend and support her and Ivanov, which made the incident more difficult to accept. All but one of the men died.

When the two learned that at least one of the soldiers could have been saved, they made it clear to the Afghan soldiers that wounded warriors should receive treatment before being evacuated. Then the medics climbed into an Humvee and wept for the fallen soldiers as if they were their own.

"When the ANA saw us crying in the Humvee, as upset as they were, they started to trust us," Turner said. "It was a starting point. Now they know we can do tourniquets and call for medical evacuation, and they ask us to go with them. They are upset if we're not on a mission."

Fighting females

Guard women in Operation Iraqi Freedom

By John Listman

National Guard Bureau

The National Guard passed a historic milestone at the end of last year. Just 50 years ago it welcomed its first woman when flight nurse Capt. Norman Parsons joined the New York Air Guard in December 1956. She did so only after Congress enacted a law earlier that year permitting women to join. The Army Guard's first female Soldier was 1st Lt. Sylvia Marie St. Charles Law, who joined the 109th Evacuation Hospital of the Alabama Guard in March 1957. Soon these pioneering women were followed by others as the laws changed in 1968 to allow the enlistment of women and to permit women to serve almost all military specialties except in direct combat roles (though as the present conflicts have shown, these distinctions are often blurred in the insurgent wars being fought today.)

Thousands of Guard women, Army and Air, have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) since the war started four years ago this month. Most have performed their duty with little notice aside from their comrades and family members. But a few have set a number of 'firsts' or performed other remarkable actions bringing them attention beyond their unit. These are some of their stories:

Capt. Heather "Lucky" Penny Garcia is an F-16 pilot in the 113th Fighter Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard. Her story of involvement in the current conflict actually started on 9/11 when she was one of the first pilots to fly security patrols over the nation's capital less than an hour after the Pentagon was struck. Her unit served in OIF in 2003. While in theater, she played a role in helping the 113th develop specific tactics, techniques and procedures to enhance their search for and elimination of Iraqi mobile SCUD launchers. Their effective program helped reduce the number of SCUD attacks against American troops during the invasion, possibly saving many lives.

Like Garcia, Army Guard Maj. Ladda Tammy Duckworth found one of those military specialties open to women that put them in direct contact with the enemy. She joined the Illinois Army Guard in 1992 and was both the commander and a pilot in an aviation company, flying assault helicopters when mobilized for OIF in December 2003. While flying a mission over northern Baghdad in 2004, Duckworth was struck by an RPG that immediately blew



Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. David Hawkins

The members of the "Kirkuk Seven" stand with an enlarged version of the Saddam Hussein Ace of Spades card used by American troops to identify key enemy personnel wanted by Coalition forces.

both of her legs off and crippled her right arm. After months in hospitals and rehab learning to walk on artificial legs, she entered the national stage by running for a congressional seat in Illinois in 2006. While she did not win, the media coverage of her dramatic story gave millions of Americans a new perspective on the war, that of an injured female Soldier moving on with her life. This was virtually unheard of in America's earlier wars. According to press accounts, she served as an inspiration to other amputees from the war in helping them deal with their injuries.

Inspiration comes in many forms, and Sgt. Jessica Reed, a member of Nebraska's 313th Medical Company while serving in OIF, probably has inspired other young Guardmembers

when she was named Army Times Soldier of the Year for 2005. This marked the first time a Guardmember, male or female, was awarded the title. Reed was a communication specialist maintaining a new satellite movement tracking system used by ambulances. She grew so expert in the system that she shared her skills with other medical companies enhancing their ability to evacuate battle casualties more effectively. Besides her mission task, she volunteered to join a field sanitation team and even organized entertainment for her unit, helping to keep up morale. These types of positive stories don't get the same press coverage as the death and destruction of the war, but they are nevertheless a key part of the overall story.

One woman who received a large amount

of media attention was Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, a member of the 617th Military Police Company from Kentucky. In March 2005, she became the first woman since World War II to be awarded the Silver Star and the first ever to earn it for direct combat with the enemy.

Along with Hester, several other members of her unit received awards for the same action, but they received less media attention. One was Spc. Ashley Pullen, who earned a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor for risking her life to save a fellow Soldier. Exposing herself to enemy fire, she reached the injured man, bandaged his wound and then covered his body with her own to prevent further injury. Given her actions in any other engagement where a fellow woman did not earn a higher decoration, Pullen certainly would have received much more media coverage. While other military women earned Bronze Stars in World War II and Vietnam, none were Guardswomen. A number of these medals were awarded during the first Gulf War, but it's unclear if any were earned by female members of the Guard. Pullen may well be the first Guardswoman to receive the Bronze Star for valor in combat.

Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's capture at the end of 2003 was widely covered by world media. However, little notice was given as to how he was brought to justice. The tip that led to his capture came from a group of seven Air Guard women working with Iraqi civilians in the town of Kirkuk. Later nicknamed as the "Kirkuk Seven," they were medical personnel from the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air Guard. During the course of their work they earned the respect and trust of their patients, enough that information on the location of Hussein was passed along to them, leading to his capture. The seven were Majors Julie Carpenter and LaDawn Straub, Master Sgts. Crystale Matthews and Belinda Defoor, Staff Sgts. Terri Hall and Beth Shapiro and Senior Airman Georgia Powell. They were honored by a special ceremony hosted by the governor when they returned home.

All of the women noted and many thousands more have played key roles during the course of this war as they continue to serve in harm's way. Each has her own story to tell, perhaps not all as dramatic as some of these, but they all help to expand the Guard story for future generations to learn from and appreciate.

It happened in March

Events that made National Guard history

Selected entries from the National Guard's 365-day event calendar found at www.NGB.Army.mil/

1935: Elements of Washington's 161st Infantry and 116th Observation Squadron, 41st Division, serve on state active duty in Tacoma guarding railroad facilities, bridges and roads during a lumber workers strike. These areas had been sabotaged or burned by the strikers prior to the Guard's arrival. This mission lasted five tense weeks and, though there were

some confrontations between the Guardsmen and strikers, no one was killed.

1945: "Grover's Ghost," a combat patrol from the 121st Infantry, 8th Infantry Division, capture the town of Seilsdorf, Germany, following a remarkable fire fight. During this engagement, many of the men ran out of ammunition so they picked up German arms lying abandoned and continued the action. In 1940, Georgia's 121st Infantry had been 'cut away' from its peacetime assignment as an element of the 30th Division and assigned to the Regular 8th Infantry Division.

1951: The 936th Field Artillery Battalion from Arkansas goes into action in support of the 7th Infantry Division during a

counterattack to restore and stabilize the front along the 38th Parallel dividing the two Korea's. Of the 41 non-divisional Army Guard units sent to Korea, 11 were separate field artillery battalions.

1997: Maj. Gen. Martha Rainville of the Vermont Air National Guard is elected as the state's adjutant general -- the first woman in Guard history to assume a state's highest Guard office.

2004: Maj. Gen. Jessica Wright is sworn in as the adjutant general of Pennsylvania -- the first Army Guard woman to become a state AG.

South Dakota takes part in humanitarian exercise in Nicaragua

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. - Soldiers and Airmen loaded three South Dakota Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters aboard a C-5A Galaxy aircraft Jan. 30 at Ellsworth Air Force Base in preparation for a humanitarian assistance exercise in Nicaragua.

This joint operation between the U.S. Air Force and the South Dakota Army National Guard is in support of a humanitarian assistance exercises in Nicaragua known as New Horizons, which involves construction of schools, clinics, and water wells in countries throughout the U.S. Southern Command region. These humanitarian assistance exercises, which last several months each, provide much needed services and infrastructure, while providing critical training for deployed U.S. military forces. These exercises generally take place in rural, underprivileged areas.

The helicopters loaded belong to Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation, which is a South Dakota Army National Guard air-ambulance unit based in Rapid City. Approximately 125 Soldiers from the National Guard unit will be providing general aviation and casualty evacuation from Feb. 4 to May 6 in support of the exercise in Nicaragua.

For more National Guard news, including stories, photos and video, visit www.ngb.army.mil



Photo by Maj. Orson Ward

Soldiers and Airmen load three South Dakota Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters aboard a C-5A Galaxy Jan. 30 at Ellsworth Air Force Base in preparation for a humanitarian assistance exercise in Nicaragua.

The National Guard always goes to the same place.

WHERE IT'S NEEDED.

Whether it's rescuing local families from floodwaters, securing our borders, rushing humanitarian aid to the other side of the world or defending our homeland, that's where you'll find the National Guard.

WAR FIGHTING
Since 1636, when Citizen-Soldiers dropped their plows and took up their weapons, the National Guard has responded to the call. This mission has not changed in over 370 years. Today, the National Guard's role as a wartime force is greater than any time since WWII. It is a critical part of the Total Force both at home and abroad.

HOMELAND SECURITY
The National Guard plays a significant role in securing the nation's airports, infrastructure and other potential terrorist targets within our borders. They support the U.S. Border Patrol building fences, helping apprehend illegal aliens, seizing illegal drugs and assisting in the prevention of human trafficking.

PARTNERSHIP AND COALITION BUILDING
The National Guard is forging partnerships across the globe by exchanging military, civil and cultural ideas. The Guard's State Partnership Program is active in over 55 countries, providing critical support for national security objectives, global peace and freedom.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS
During natural disasters or emergencies such as civil disturbances, the Guard saves lives, preserves civil order and alleviates human suffering. They rescue and assist victims and evacuate the seriously injured. They also transport personnel, equipment and supplies critical to survival.

HOMELAND DEFENSE
The traditional National Guard role of homeland defense took on global importance after September 11th. The Guard transformed its readiness and agility to perform a full spectrum of missions. The National Guard is uniquely capable, trained and equipped for the challenges of today's homeland defense missions—making the Guard the nation's greatest counter-terrorism asset.

ANTICIPATING FUTURE CHALLENGES
Continuing over 370 years of tradition, the Guard is a ready, reliable, essential and accessible force, now and in the future. The National Guard offers distinctively American solutions to the complex security challenges our nation faces while providing expansive coverage, proximity, agility and efficiency, ensuring that they are *always ready, always there.*

Always Ready, Always There.
THE NATIONAL GUARD
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