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JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

# THE CAPITAL GUARDIAN

# 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you page through the Fall 2014 edition of the Capital Guardian, you'll notice we have a new look. That's thanks to Senior Airman Justin Hodge, who recently joined the Capital Guardian team from the Colorado Air National Guard. He is now a member of the 113th Wing Public Affairs Office and works fulltime at the D.C. National Guard Armory Joint Force Headquarters State Public Affairs Office. Justin's outstanding graphic-art skills show in this magazine. He brings an award-winning skill that's already made an impact. Thanks to his outstanding abilities, we're proud of the cleaner design and improved look.

From highlighting the D.C. Guard's first female African-American aviator, to sending off the 276th Military Police Co. to Kuwait, there's a lot to catch up on when it comes to the D.C. National Guard.

Enjoy!



**Lt Col Kevin McAndrews**  
Director, Public Affairs



MG Errol R. Schwartz congratulates CW5 Steve Mueck, after his successful flight, pushing him into the history books with over 10,000 incident-free flight hours. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard 1st Lt Nathan Wallin)



## CAPITAL GUARDIAN

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# FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL

## CELEBRATING MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES OF SERVICE



This past year has been tremendous for the District of Columbia National Guard. Amidst the deployments and support we provided to the District, we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Fort McHenry during the War on 1812. Most of you may be aware Francis Scott Key was a Lieutenant in the D.C. Militia during the war. He was sent to negotiate a prisoner of war exchange when he witnessed the battle from the deck of a British ship. The sight of the flag flying over the fort in the morning, showing the Americans had not been defeated, inspired Key to write the poem that would later be accompanied by music chosen by Congress, as our national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.

We also marked the D.C. National Guard's 212th Birthday. As part of that milestone, I would like to highlight many of our recent successes over the past year.

We welcomed back the Soldiers of the 372nd Military Police Battalion from their assignment at Guantanamo Bay where they were responsible for operations of the detention facilities. In July, nearly 30 of our 113th Wing Security Forces returned from a five-month deployment to Southwest Asia for Operation Enduring Freedom in support of our security mission for U.S. forces there.

In August, 34 Airmen from the 113th Wing and its Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to Latvia as part of the State Partnership Program with the Michigan Guard. The team added roofing and insulation to a high school and built a fence around another school as part of this humanitarian effort.

On the other side of the world in Australia, the 121st Fighter Squadron completed a tasking by U.S. Pacific Command supporting exercises Pitch Black and Commando Sling. As always, our fighters were outstanding, flying 300 sorties with four international partners in the Land Down Under.

Last year at this time, we had all of our units home for the holidays for the first time in a decade. Today, however, there are many Capital Guardians on duty overseas.

In addition to the individual Soldiers and Airmen deployed around the world, members of the 276th Military Police Company are serving in Kuwait. They have the responsibility of running a DOD detainment facility.

The 1946th Contingency Contracting Team is finishing its deployment to Afghanistan and Qatar and will be home soon.

One story that received national attention was our own 1LT Demetria Elosiebo, assuming her duties as the D.C. National Guard's First African-American female aviator. The story chronicles not only her passion for flying, but her perseverance to achieve her dream. It will inspire many.

Another great story is Chief Warrant Officer Steve Mueck who surpassed 10,000 incident free flight hours in rotary wing aircraft. He too represents the best of our Capital Guardians.

The Youth ChalleNGe Honor Guard was recognized at a Washington Nationals baseball game. The future opportunities and successes of these young men and women is an important part of our commitment to both the cadets and our community. I could not have been more proud as I watched the cadets present the colors during the National Anthem.

We continued our strong 15-year-old partnership with Jamaica with a subject matter expert exchange. About 50 Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Jamaica to take part in medical, dental and ground-wheeled maintenance training.

We also welcomed the new 113th Wing Commander, Brig Gen George Degnon, an F-16 pilot with more than 3,600 hours of total flight time. He took the lead after Brig Gen Marc Sasseville became the U.S. military attache to Turkey.

We dedicated our F-16 static display joining our Huey helicopter in front of the Armory and welcomed home the 372nd Military Police Battalion earlier this year. It's always a tremendous feeling to welcome home one of our units from a successful deployment.

Finally, we said a solemn farewell to a former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, MG Warren L. Freeman, who was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in September. As Commanding General on 9/11, he presided over the D.C. Guard during a time of momentous changes in the Guard's role in our nation's military. He was a distinguished officer and a great leader, and he will be missed by all of us.

The coming year promises to be just as busy for the Capital Guardians. We follow in the footsteps of many American patriots, and there's no doubt we'll get the job done!

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# FROM THE SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER



**A**s your Senior Enlisted Leader, I would like to take a moment to say thank you for your tireless efforts and all you do for the District of Columbia National Guard. Not only do you serve your neighbors in the District, but you are also an integral part of the entire 54 states and territories across the United States.

As Soldiers and Airmen we contribute to a very well-oiled machine. We serve a dual mission in order to keep a watchful eye over our city as needs arise. You have a very complicated and difficult job juggling your everyday workloads, family and community involvement. We must remain resilient and ready. With that mentioned, "Readiness is Key" to our success and overall strength of the Guard.

During my short tenure at the DCNG we have already accomplished many goals, but we still have plenty of work to do. Not only do we continue joint operations, but we must never rest until we're number one. The question shouldn't be, "Can we be number one?" "Are we number one?" "How do we accomplish that monumental task?" We have to work together and be great followers as well as professional leaders. Many of our members of the DCNG are not residents of the District but we all come together for a greater cause: to train for our wartime mission. Each and every one of you are essential to the mission and bring much experience to our total force.

We have a rich heritage, having fought in every war in our nation's history. Many of our personnel have never had the opportunity to be a part of something of this magnitude, but their pride and professionalism stands out. With the help of all of our Service Members, we acknowledged and participated in the DCNG's 212th Birthday here at the DC Armory.

The DCNG has also participated in the Joint Wilson Fire Team Competition, Joint Best Warriors Competition, and witnessed the delivery and display of our newest attraction; an F-16 Fighting Falcon static display in our West parking lot.

Some of our members took part in the DCNG's Strong Bonds training session put on by our team of outstanding chaplains. Many also took part in Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention training conducted on the Armory drill floor by our Sexual Assault Awareness team. Our Honor Guard has selflessly responded to many Honor Guard requests throughout the District, including a luncheon with Secretary of Defense Hagel.

Also, we had a host of competitors for the NCO/Soldier of the Quarter/Year in which the best of the best are selected, which can only mean one thing; that our leaders are doing what they do best.

I thank you again for your dedication, professionalism, valor and all the great things that you do as a DCNG Capital Guardian. Without you there's no Guard.

As an added note to all DCNG Army and Airmen; In the section below, you will find the Senior Enlisted Leaders Corner. In the SELs Corner you will see different notes, comments and thought provoking messages for your growth as a Capitol Guardian.

Also, you will see an upcoming events calendar.

## SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER CORNER

ASK FIRST LINE LEADERS ABOUT THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND SUPPORT WITH YOUR EDUCATION

MENTOR YOUR SUBORDINATES AND SUPPORT YOUR SUPERIORS

## ON DISPLAY

The new F-16 Fighting Falcon static display at the D.C. National Guard Armory is raising eyebrows. Passersby have taken notice.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon became the D.C. Air National Guard's alert duty aircraft on Sept. 11, 2001. For a dozen years, the crews that stand ready 24/7 have used this fighter to respond to nearly 5,000 alert calls.

The vintage jet displayed in front of the armory was transported to D.C. all the way from the "Boneyard" at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, in Arizona, where many military jets are stored for potential future use after being decommissioned.

A dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for December to honor the many D.C. Air National Guard fighter pilots, maintainers and support personnel who have stood alert over the nation's capital in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.



**The Fighting Falcon**  
The F-16 Fighting Falcon became the D.C. Air National Guard's alert duty aircraft on Sept. 11, 2001. For a dozen years, the crews that stand ready 24/7 have used this fighter to respond to nearly 5,000 alert calls. The vintage jet displayed in front of the armory was transported to D.C. all the way from the "Boneyard" at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, in Arizona, where many military jets are stored for potential future use after being decommissioned. A dedication ceremony is tentatively scheduled for December to honor the many D.C. Air National Guard fighter pilots, maintainers and support personnel who have stood alert over the nation's capital in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

**The D.C.  
National  
Guard's Capital  
Guardian  
Youth  
Challenge  
Program takes  
to the field at  
Nationals  
Park**



From left: Youth ChalleNGe cadets Jenifer Blanco, Stetania Contreras, Lonnell Morris, and Reginald Brawner, shake hands with the Washington Nationals Manager Matt Williams during the opening ceremony. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

## AT THE BALLPARK

Cadets enrolled in the D.C. National Guard's Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Academy shake hands with Matt Williams, Manager of the Washington Nationals.

The Capital Guardian Youth ChalleNGe Color Guard took part in an opening ceremony at the Washington Nationals ballpark May 20th, where they presented the colors in front of home plate while the National Anthem played.



## GOLD STANDARD

Second Lieutenant Lejuan Strickland, a member of the D.C. National Guard's Military Police, receives officer epelets from his father and his wife after graduating from Officer Candidate School.

The graduation ceremony for Officer Candidate Class 053 was held at the National Guard Memorial building in Washington, D.C. on June 27.

Other members of the graduating class include Second Lieutenants Megan Aiger, Vimal Deo, Luke Dier, Jesse Searls, and Michael Taylor.

Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz was the guest speaker. D.C. Councilwoman Muriel Bowser, the Democratic candidate for mayor, also spoke at the ceremony.

(Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

Brigadier General Degnon's daughter and son, Brittney and Garrett, place one-star General epilets on their father's shoulders. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Master Sergeant Craig Clapper)

*“We are an exceptional organization, strengthened by our diversity and ability to work well with each other.”*  
- Brig. Gen. George Degnon

# THE FUTURE IS NOW

## THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD WELCOMED NEW COMMANDER OF THE 113TH WING DURING AN ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND AND PINNING CEREMONY.

Surrounded by his fellow Airmen, family and friends at the 201st Airlift Squadron hangar on Andrews, Brig. Gen. George Degnon became the 11th commander of the 113th Wing, District of Columbia Air National Guard. The ceremony not only recognized his new post, but also his promotion to the rank of brigadier general. Degnon officially took command of the wing in May. “I am impressed with the professionalism and positive attitudes of our outstanding Airmen and I look forward to serving with them,” Degnon said.

Degnon entered the Air Force in 1988 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy. His operational flying assignments included OV-10s and F-16s in Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Central Command.

He went on to be an evaluator pilot, operations officer and commander of the 121st Fighter Squadron. Later he served as the 113th Operations Group commander and the wing's vice commander. His most recent assignment was as deputy director for force readiness, in the Office of the Assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs at the Pentagon.

His combat deployments included Desert Shield/Storm as a Parachute Qualified Battalion Air Liaison Officer with the 82nd Airborne in 1990, Operation Iraqi Freedom in the 410th Air Expeditionary Wing in 2003, and Balad Air Base, Iraq, as the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Commander in 2006.



Brig. Gen. Marc H. Sasseville, who preceded Degnon as the 113th Commander, is now serving as the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché, Office of Defense Cooperation Turkey, U.S. European Command, Ankara, Turkey.

Sasseville served as wing commander from 2012 to 2014. As the Senior Defense Official, he manages all aspects of Security assistance and security cooperation programs necessary to sustain the

military-to-military relationship between the U.S. and Turkey. He also represents the Secretary of Defense and the Commander, U.S. European Command, as the single U.S. Military point of contact in Turkey. As the Defense Attaché he diplomatically represents the Department of Defense and he is charged with developing harmonious and cooperative relations between the U.S. military and Turkish military and government.



A District of Columbia National Guardsman monitors the border near Mexico, on Jun. 19, 2014. The National Guard is supporting Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement through Operation Skyline. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Jennifer Amo)

## Capital Guardians provide support to Southwest Border

By SPC Jennifer Amo  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers from the District of Columbia National Guard providing support to Customs and Border Protection authorities in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California from June 16-27.

“Some of the goals that we hope to achieve out there are finding out what the best practices that the military have and incorporate those into what we do along the border. As well as providing training for the DC National Guard as they come here and gain insight into how we do training,” said Joe Romero, acting special operations supervisor for the Public Affairs Department at the El Paso sector of the United States Border Control.

While executing their training days, DC Guardsmen provided valuable support to Border Patrol with entry identification teams as they monitored the border from strategic observation points and helped with hauling essential materials across multiple states. Lt. Col. Pia Romero of the New Mexico National Guard said experiences such as these provide unique training opportunities for guard members from different areas, like D.C. Although the operations require ample coordination with Border Patrol and other

A Border Patrol agent talks to District of Columbia National Guardsmen manning an entry identification team watching the U.S./ Mexico border near New Mexico, during Operation Skyline, Jun. 19, 2014. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Jennifer Amo)



federal entities, it creates strategic partnerships with United States Northern Command and other states, while providing additional manpower to border agents, Colonel Romero said.

“Being able to be there for 24-hour missions adds more manpower and helps expedite intelligence gathering for border patrol... while for us to come and see what they do is a new type of thing. It’s a really new experience,” 1st Lt. Susan Riopel, 273rd Military Police Company operations officer, said.

“In addition, it allows us to move equipment in a faster manner due to the additional resources and gives the DC National Guard real world training environments,” Mr. Romero said, noting that these opportunities tap into core knowledge in soldiers’ military occupation specialties and tie into previous experiences such as deployments.

“It is similar to what I did during my deployment in Afghanistan such as dealing with area security and manning a fix and roving security point, but there are some unique differences since we are observers,” Sgt. Aaron Young, a team leader in the 273rd MP Co, said. “Our role is to support and report any suspicious activity to them, so the necessary action can be taken by border control.”

Previous missions such as Operation Jumpstart have created a productive working relationship with Border Control and subsequent missions like the border support opportunity cemented camaraderie between the federal agencies and outside crews, said Riopel. Sgt. Michael Lee, a member of the 273rd MP Co., said, “As military policemen we are tasked with security and maintaining different traffic control points. Missions such as these create more training opportunities and foster appreciation for the Border Control’s mission. Plus, it’s just amazing to be out here.”

“The second part of Operation Skyline is a long haul operation in which the DC National Guard actually assists Border Patrol by transporting a lot of resources and assets at no additional cost to the federal government across several states”, said Joe Romero. “By assisting in moving equipment and working with the logistics service center, it allows us to be more efficient and fiscally more responsible during that time period. It is a benefit to both us since we are utilizing assets the Federal Government has in terms of the military.”

The complexities and challenges of this mission are the focus for many of the DC Guardsmen participating in the long haul. Soldiers manning Entry Identification Teams (EITs) and securing cargo for long shifts show their respect and admiration for Border Control and their respective mission. This type of collaboration is a great opportunity to gain perspective on a national and worldwide level and creates an undeniable partnership between Border Patrol and the DC National Guard, Mr. Romero said.



Vehicles are being prepared to reach EIT points. The National Guard is supporting Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement through Operation Skyline. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Jennifer Amo)



Flight surgeon Lt. Col. Jim Doyle tells Australian children about the District of Columbia Air National Guard's home city with a short geography lesson on a visit to McFarlane Primary School, near the unit's deployed location at RAAF Tindal, Australia, Sept. 17. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Aaron Church)

# INSPIRATION ABROAD

## ANG AIRMEN INSPIRE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK

By A1C Aaron Church  
113th Maintenance Squadron

D.C. Air National Guard Airmen took time to plant seeds of friendship with Australian youngsters during their recent deployment to Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal.

RAAF Base Tindal is a remote base in the Australian Outback almost 250 miles from the nearest mid-sized city. Members of the D.C. Guard were deployed here for exercises Pitch Black and Tri-Sling to work in coordination with the partner air force, but approximately 20 pilots, maintainers, medics and life support Airmen visited McFarlane Primary School in Katherine in Northern Territory and told eager students about their jobs, and life in the United States.

Many children from the neighboring community and the surrounding bush come from traditional Aboriginal families that often struggle to integrate with modern Australian culture.

"A lot of students think they're not going anywhere... they don't take risks and they often give up on things very quickly," said McFarlane Principal Jenny Henderson,

District of Columbia Air National Guard F-16 pilot Lt. Col. Eric Haagenson explains to students how his helmet and flight equipment help him survive and fly a fighter aircraft, during a visit to McFarlane Primary School in Katherine, Australia, Sept. 17. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Aaron Church)



explaining the school's challenge. "At McFarlane, we focus on life after school and getting students to think beyond school [and] to set and achieve goals for their future."

The ANG Airmen stressed the value of hard-work, persistence, teamwork, mutual respect, and bouncing back from failure in addition to letting the children get hands-on with Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft survival equipment and other tools of the trade. Air Force Lt. Col. Eric Haagenson, 121st Fighter Squadron pilot of the D.C. ANG, awed the youngsters by modeling his flight helmet, and medical technician Staff Sgt. Malcolm Williams taught the children some basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation, letting one eager schoolboy demonstrate on the dummy. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Smiley, the D.C. ANG's 113th Maintenance Group superintendent and deployment non-commissioned officer in charge, shared a

lesson on core values, while Air Force Lt. Col. Jim Doyle, D.C. ANG's 121st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron flight surgeon, taught the kids a bit about U.S. geography.

Each of the Airmen took the chance to share what they do and where they are from, stressing how people from different communities and backgrounds come together as a unit to achieve an important mission for their country. In return, the students taught the D.C. ANG members a traditional aboriginal dance, getting the whole group keeping rhythm to the didgeridoo and clap-sticks.

The students were delighted to meet the Airmen and school officials said the D.C. ANG's visit was a first for RAAF Base Tindal, possibly laying a foundation for Australian Airmen to build a longer-term relationship with the school.



Staff Sgt. Malcom Williams, 113th Wing medical technician, assists a student in performing CPR on a first-aid training dummy during the District of Columbia Air National Guard's visit to McFarlane Primary School while deployed to Australia for exercises Pitch Black and Tri-Sling, Sept. 17. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Aaron Church)



# RESOLUTE PARTNERSHIPS MARCH ON

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM BETWEEN THE D.C. GUARD AND JAMAICAN DEFENCE FORCE KEEPS A STRONG BOND.

Brigadier General Renwick Payne and D.C. National Guardsmen visit the Jamaican Defence Force (JDF) headquarters building at Moneague Training Camp on February 24.

JDF Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Antony Anderson highlighted his country's expanding role as a premier regional military training center in the Caribbean. During his visit with Payne, Anderson showcased the JDF facilities, some recently renovated, some brand new, and some under construction.

The new facilities will enable forces from Caribbean or South American countries to receive first-rate training and boost capabilities for several JDF mission sets including aviation, maritime law enforcement. Payne was also able to tour the Jamaican Military Aviation School, operated under the JDF Air Wing and the Caribbean Military Maritime Training Centre, which utilizes cutting-edge, first-rate naval training tools to prepare JDF Coast Guardsmen to service and operate JDF Coast Guard equipment. The Caribbean Junior Command and Staff College hosts military personnel from all over the world, including notably Canadian and United Kingdom personnel in junior and mid-level officer training.

The Jamaicans showcased the 1st Battalion of their premier infantry unit, the 1st Jamaican Regiment, which was formed in 1962 after Jamaica received its independence from the U.K. The 1st Battalion is based at Moneague Training Camp in the desolate, mountainous jungle outside Kingston. Combat vehicles, modern infantry weaponry and jungle-fighting tactics used by the 1st Regiment were shown to D.C. Guard leaders.

EXAMPLES OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CURRENT OPERATIONS AND PLANNING DEPARTMENTS OF THE JDF ARE APPARENT IN THE BRAND-NEW JOINT INFORMATION OPERATIONS CENTER. THE OPERATIONS CENTER IS A SOPHISTICATED, MILITARY FACILITY CAPABLE OF ALLOWING THE JDF TO DIGITALLY PLAN OPERATIONS ACROSS THE FULL SPECTRUM OF THE ISLAND BOUNDARIES; LAND, WATER AND SKY.

The D.C. National Guard and Jamaica have 15-year relationship as partners in the National Guard's premier State Partnership Program.

"The D.C. National Guard will continue its mission in assisting and benefiting the Jamaican Defence Force, or JDF, and its expanding regional roles" Brig. Gen. Renwick L. Payne, the D.C. Guard's Adjutant General, said during a recent official visit to Kingston, Jamaica.

The National Guard SPP began in 1993, just a few years after the fall of communist Russia. The program slowly grew country by country, and now has 68 partnerships with 74 countries across the globe. Jamaica was paired with D.C. in 1999, and during a recent visit by high-ranking officers from the District of Columbia Joint Force Headquarters, important insights regarding the long-standing emerged along with talks about future exchanges between the two militaries.

Elizabeth Lee Martinez, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, met with General Payne to discuss the ongoing subject matter expert exchange with the JDF, disaster preparedness, as well as regional relations and partnerships. Jamaica is focused on its relationship with several Caribbean countries, notably Belize, Trinidad and Tobago.

Payne said the success of the partnership with Jamaica is exemplified in the JDF's Citizens Security and Jobs Program, which are influenced by the DCNG's Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Program. The nearly two-year-old program takes 18-to-25 year olds who work with Jamaican soldiers from the 1st Engineer Regiment. The program shows them how to dress professionally, conduct themselves in an interview and maintain a successful lifestyle with good decision-making and job skills to help them succeed in life. About 450 young Jamaicans have gone through the program since its inception.

The relationship between the D.C. Guard and JDF now has a sense of permanence, illustrated by shared museum space in Jamaica as well as at the D.C. National Guard Armory. The D.C. Guard gifted a U.S. Army and a U.S. Air Force uniform from D.C. Guard and other various pictures and artifacts to the JDF Museum. The JDF gifted a service uniform and dress uniform, along with pictures, memorabilia, and items of exceptional importance to the DCNG Museum program.

General Payne said the key leader meetings showed the importance and strength of the DCNG's relationship

with Jamaica, and he said mutual understanding and admiration were apparent.

"We will continue to foster a successful and cooperative partnership with one of the Caribbean's premier military organizations, Jamaica," Payne said. General Anderson emphasized the importance of the State Partnership Program, "It's always going to be about relationships. That's a fact."

By 2LT Jesse Searls  
Historian, JFHQ-PAO

# Born to Achieve

PFC Mackenson Jacques of the 547th Trans. Co passes heavy-duty chain to other soldiers to secure cargo. The National Guard is supporting Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement through Operation Skyline. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Jennifer Amo)



**By SPC Jennifer Amo**  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

A transportation specialist gets used to the sound of steel clanking and banging against a cargo container. But when crashing metal hits the ground, it makes a different kind of racket.

While securing cargo in place, Pfc. Mackenson Jacques, a motor transport operator for the 547th Transportation Company, hears a loud bang and immediately stops to check the situation with his fellow soldiers; he knows taking the time to ensure their safety is priority one. This mature, caring and responsible demeanor is typically found in the Airmen who have been around the block a few times, but Jacques is the new guy of the unit. His instincts to look after those around him first highlight a deeper internal motivation: selfless service.

It's this yearning to serve others first that initially pushed him to join the military.

"I figured joining [the National Guard] would be a great way of giving back to my community. Plus, I work for GSA security and many of my fellow employees are prior service and said I would love the service and I do," said Jacques.

The spirit of giving back and hard work ties into his family origins. He was born in Haiti and grew up in New York. "When I think back about my mom coming here as immigrant working two jobs to provide for my siblings and me. She definitely is my inspiration," said Jacques.

Jacques is a father of two and lover of science fiction but the only thing that can be seen during this particular day is his work ethic. Participating in Annual Training for the first time in his Army career, Jacques is learning valuable skills to take home while he works as part of a team securing items for long haul missions in support of Operation Skyline.

He is responsible for making sure that cargo is secured properly. "Safety is very important because chains can break, like rubber bands, if not properly secured, since cargo shifts and causes pressure on long hauls," said Jacques.

His concern for his work ties into the ethos of the 88 Mikes, who are fondly called 'road warriors.' "In a sense you are driving across the road and transporting cargo from one area to another but most people take it for granted because they don't realize the mechanics in which the items reach there and how dangerous it is to transport," said Jacques.

The same determination can be seen in Jacques' entrance into the 547th Trans. Co.

"He is reliable, dedicated and motivated," said Sgt. Josh Pellegrino, Jacques' squad leader. "He is motivated because no matter what has happened during the day, he has a positive attitude and is hungry for success in the Army National Guard.

"The first thing I noticed about him was his maturity. I just had to ask if he was prior service because it's rare to see this level of good order and discipline in a soldier straight from advanced individual training," he added.

The average observer can tell how dedicated Jacques is to the mission. When he recounts the story of a nine-hour drive to deliver cots and the subsequent troubles such as the overheating of his vehicle. He doesn't complain. "I was just glad, I was able to deliver those cots to the guys manning the EITS."

He embodies the spirit within the 547th Trans. Co. "That everyone has the capability of being an ideal leader", said 1st Sgt. Williamson of the 547th Trans. Co.

"He has been very motivated from the start and even volunteered for a night mission. He has the makings of a great leader and that ties in with the ethos of the 547th Trans. Co. because every single soldier is a future leader of tomorrow," said Williamson.

When leaving the Logistics Service Center, an image of teamwork and camaraderie fills the air as members of the 547th Trans. Co. battle the sun to secure cargo. You can see Jacques eagerly helping his fellow soldiers.

He has taken Williamson's words to heart:

"At the 547th Trans Co., any achievement is possible with hard work."

DC GUARDSMAN BECOMES  
**ROAD WARRIOR**  
IN THE 547TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY



# WELCOME HOME

372nd Military Police Battalion returns from Guantanamo Bay

By SSG Monette Wesolek  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Approximately 50 Soldiers from the 372nd Military Police Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment returned home here Dec. 17, 2013 following a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay.

The District of Columbia Army National Guard soldiers spent their tour providing support to the Joint Detention Group Guantanamo Bay.

Maj. Bernard Napier said the mission was successful in providing many levels of support to include detainee movements, assisting the Joint Visitor Bureau with VIP visits and Joint Operations Center support.

The deployment was a staff-support mission rather than a combat tour, and proved to be a learning experience for Soldiers in the 372nd HHD.

"It was eye opening," Staff Sgt. William Rogers, NCOIC, Advanced Search Team, said. "This deployment was unbelievable! I've been deployed before on the combat arms level, but during this deployment I was able to see the operations from a brigade level perspective."

"I had the chance to work with some of the detainees, it made me realize the issues that are going on in the world itself," Sgt. Ruthy Campbell, 372nd HHD personnel assistant said.

Beyond the mission and committed duty, one theme held true with the deployed guardsmen; missing family, friends and home.

"This deployment was a little different than my first one," said Campbell. "I'm a single parent, so this deployment made me learn how to focus differently than the first... I didn't know what it was like to be away from my son."

For Rogers the first few months of the deployment proved to be more challenging as his wife was attending Army Basic Training with the Virginia National Guard and there was little communication with her during the deployment.

"I did get to Skype with her twice, but the connection was bad," Rogers said. "But dad Skyped with me during her Basic Training graduation so I did get to see her graduate."

"Soldiers, Airmen, families and friends warmly greeted Soldiers of the 372nd Military Police Battalion, HHD as they walked into the doors of the DC National Guard Armory once again."



Members of the 372nd Military Police Battalion return home to the District of Columbia, after being deployed to Cuba for a year. Soldiers returning to the District of Columbia Armory were greeted by family, friends and co-workers throughout the day. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)



# FLIGHT OF THE FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN-AMERICAN

D.C. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PILOT

The District of Columbia National Guard celebrated the graduation of its first African-American female pilot this year.

First Lt. Dina Elosiebo earned her Army aviator wings in February after completing Initial Entry Rotary Wing Flight School at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"This is an extraordinary, historical event for us," said Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, commanding general of the D.C. National Guard. "We're extremely proud of Lt. Elosiebo. She's a fine officer, and now, an Army aviator."

Schwartz said every pilot who graduates from Fort Rucker's rigorous aviator training course - male or female, regardless of their race or ethnicity - has accomplished something special.

He added that the military has moved well past the days when such accomplishments were unusual.

"The diversity of our armed forces is what makes us strong," Schwartz said. While completing the course is no cake walk, Elosiebo had a leg up on most other students at Fort Rucker. In her civilian career, she previously earned her FAA commercial pilot's license and became a certified flight instructor.

Elosiebo told the Washington Post in an interview, her childhood nights were filled with dreams of her soaring through the night sky, her four younger siblings giddily clinging to her back.

"Ever since I was 7 or 8, I would have dreams about literally carrying my siblings on my back," Elosiebo said. "And in my dreams, I was like flapping my wings like a chicken, and I could at some point carry two of them. But as they got bigger, I could only carry one. And I was like, 'I'm going to have to do something about this.'"

Elosiebo follows in the path of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American fighter pilots. Before

World War II, black pilots were barred from earning their wings in the Army Air Corps. The Pentagon's rationale was that African-Americans could not be taught to fly. But after being forced to go through pilot training three times before being sent to the fight, they became the best of the best. In the bomber escort missions they flew in Europe, they never lost a bomber.

Elosiebo has a strong connection to the Tuskegee Airmen. She received one of her many scholarships from one of their association chapters, and they supported her when she began pursuing her private pilot's license at age 19. In addition, she has worked with, and been mentored by these living legends, including Herbert Jones, who formed the first African-American-owned airline in the U.S.

Women pilots during WWII - the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, or WASPs - also inspired Elosiebo. More than 1,000 WASPs flew during the war. Their primary mission was to ferry military aircraft from factories to bases around the country.

"When I think about the trailblazers who went before me and the adversity they continuously faced, be it gender, ethnicity, or simply doing what had not been done, it makes me realize I wouldn't have a story if it wasn't for them," Elosiebo said.

Elosiebo learned to be a go-getter early on in life. As the oldest child, she soon realized that whatever calamity might occur when she was left in charge of her younger siblings, she was going to have to answer for it. So she took charge, and she took responsibility. She's never looked back. She served as class leader during UH-60 qualification and again during Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape training.

Army 1st Lt. Demetria N. Elosiebo, currently a platoon leader with D. Co. (Air Ambulance) 1-224th Aviation Regiment at Davison Army Airfield, Va., conducts her pre-flight checks on a black hawk helicopter on March 15, 2014. Elosiebo is the first female African-American rotary wing pilot in the D.C. Army National Guard. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)



Elosiebo, a platoon leader with D Company (Air Ambulance) 1-224th Aviation Regiment at Davison Army Airfield, Va., is the first female African-American rotary wing pilot in the D.C. Army National Guard. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)

# + POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

“I just knew that I had to make it. I had to be successful. Whatever it took to get the job done. I wanted to come back with it accomplished.” Elosiebo said.

Elosiebo told the Washington Post it seemed it seemed as if her dream of being a military pilot would never happen. Elosiebo said she cold-called several units military identification, she couldn't get onto bases to make her pitches in person.

“A lot of times with units, if people aren't familiar with you or they don't know you, they're not going to send you to training whether you're qualified or not,” she said.

Then in 2003, a mentor introduced her to some members of the Tennessee National Guard. Elosiebo made countless visits to the unit, and a year later she finally was offered a slot. The Post reported:

“But in the midst of a 15-month security clearance and background check while she waited to begin training, the unit was realigned. Everyone who had been offered a slot was cut. She started courting other units and was picked up for a navigator slot with a West Virginia unit. While waiting again, she applied to other units. She got a reply from the D.C. National Guard and decided on that.”

In 2012, she went to flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala. At

“Mother Rucker,” Elosiebo told the Post, she was broken down to the point where she did whatever she needed to do to get her wings. “Yes, sir, how high do I need to jump? Yes sir, yes ma'am,” she said. “It's 15 months of just this, after that, after that, after this.” There was water training where she perfected holding her breath. Fourteen-hour days and six hours of homework. Prisoner of war training.

All the while, she never wanted anyone to think she was asking for special treatment because she was a woman. “I made it a point to make sure I was as sharp as possible so that I would gain the respect of fellow aviators, regardless of gender, race or anything,” Elosiebo said. But the road wasn't easy. Two other women were in the earlier phases of training; one later dropped out. And there were lots of challenges.

“I noticed that sometimes I had to be right about something four or five times,” she said. “Someone would say, ‘Hmm, I don't know about that.’” “Once I proved myself, multiple times, I'm right and they're asking the questions and I'm giving the right answers, then people were like, ‘Okay, Lt. Elosiebo does know what she's



## LOYALTY

D.C. Army National Guard 1st Lt. Demetria N. Elosiebo conducts pre-flight checks on a Black Hawk helicopter. Elosiebo, a platoon leader with D Company (Air Ambulance), 1-224th Aviation Regiment at Davison Army Airfield, Va., is the first female African-American rotary wing pilot in the D.C. Army National Guard. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)

talking about,” she told the Post.

When Elosiebo applied for the open position with the D.C. Guard, she was aware that if she got the job she'd be the first African-American woman pilot. That opportunity gave her the inspiration and energy to get through training. “I just knew that I had to make it,” she said. “I had to be successful. Whatever it took to get the job done, I wanted to come back with it accomplished.”

Elosiebo graduated in February and now spends her days in additional training; she plans to finish this summer and start flying missions.

“There's many others. I'm just the first in the D.C. National Guard,” she says whenever anyone asks her about being the first black woman pilot in the unit. And she always mentions Bessie Coleman, who in 1921 became the first African-American woman to earn a pilot's license.

Marquette Folley, a project director for



the Smithsonian who curated a traveling exhibit on African-American aviators, said Coleman had to travel to France to get her pilot's license. She said Elosiebo's arrival signals something “very exciting.”

“I think she's a part of that tradition of free-thinking, brave, adventurous Americans,” said Folley. “Bessie Coleman had a phrase: ‘I refuse to take no for an answer.’ And when it comes to flight, there are these women who do just that. They are living that.”

Elosiebo's sister, Yvonne, told the Post her big sister just set out to achieve her dream.

“She didn't set out to be the first black woman to do it,” she said. “I don't think she dreamed to be the first black anything — she just always wanted to be a pilot.”

Elosiebo is now assigned as a platoon leader with D Company, (Air Ambulance) 1-224th Aviation (Security Support), at Davidson Army Airfield, Va.

## INTEGRITY

Elosiebo conducts cockpit checks in a Black Hawk helicopter. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Melanie Avery)





(Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BG Hinaman gives keynote address at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony

### By Lt Col Kevin McAndrews Director, JFHQ-PAO

In a cemetery in Pennsylvania, an 89-year-old World War II vet mows the grave of a relative as part of his Memorial Day ritual. He places flowers on the grave, and continues to the next cemetery somewhere within a hundred miles of his home.

"He doesn't cut the grass because the caretakers aren't doing their job," said Brig. Gen. Arthur Hinaman talking about his father, David, during a Memorial Day speech in Washington, D.C., "He goes out there because that's his personal contribution to remember our ancestors for what they've done. That one day every year he cuts the grass and puts flowers on the graves, and he'll continue to do it, I'm sure, until the day he dies."

Hinaman was the keynote speaker at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2014 Memorial Day Commemoration at its headquarters May 22.

While Memorial Day honors servicemen and women killed in wars, Hinaman's father, like so many others,

remembers loved ones who have died. "Everybody's got their own story, their own thoughts of what Memorial Day means to them," Hinaman said. What Memorial Day means to him means remembering relatives and comrades who gave all for their country.

"When I think of Memorial Day, I think of my Uncle Charlie Hinaman who got shot up on the beaches of Normandy and came home as a paraplegic," Hinaman said. "He died decades younger than he should have. I think of my father-in-law, Chief Ernest L. Brown Jr., who died on a river patrol in the jungles of Vietnam and never came back. I think of my good friend, Paul Kelley, who got shot down in a helicopter in Iraq in January 2007 and didn't make it back."

He also remembers D.C. Guardsmen Spec. Daryl Dent and Sgt. 1st Class Robin Towns who were both killed in Iraq.

Hinaman began his speech by talking about the origin of Memorial Day, which began as Decoration Day in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Women began decorating the graves of dead soldiers at that time. It was renamed Memorial Day in 1967.

A time-honored tradition during

Memorial Day is to rapidly hoist the U.S. flag to full mast and then slowly lower it to half mast where it is kept until noon, Hinaman told the audience. It is then hoisted back up to full mast for the rest of the day.

"The flag at half staff is a solemn remembrance of the over one million service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country," Hinaman said. When it is hoisted back up, it is a remembrance by the living that they did not die in vain."

Memorial Day was celebrated this year during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, and so Hinaman also spoke about the sacrifices made by Japanese Americans who fought during World War II. Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were Japanese Americans and Hawaiians, he said, and their record was incredible.

"These were Japanese who were fighting for this country, the same country that had some of their relatives interred out west because we didn't trust them to be good citizens. But here we had the 442nd risking their lives, giving their lives for our cause."



United States Department of Housing and Urban Development celebrated Memorial Day with a Commemorative Ceremony Thursday, May 22, 2014. Service members, both past and present, HUD staff, and community members were in attendance for the ceremony at Freedom Plaza. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

Hinaman also mentioned the Tuskegee Airman during his speech.

"What a great group of Americans who probably faced more adversity here at home just to earn the opportunity to fight in a war," he said. "They were treated very poorly here. They took on so much to be able to have that honor to go fight."

The Tuskegee Airman not only went on to fight in Africa and Europe, but they earned a spotless record flying their Red Tailed Mustangs.

Another lesser known unit during World War II was the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, Hinaman said, the famous "Triple Nickels."

"This was the first African American airborne unit created in 1944," he said. "They had a highly classified mission that was much less public."

The Japanese launched 9,000 balloons with incendiary bombs attached to them over the Pacific in an attempt to firebomb America. About 1,000 actually made it to the states and dropped over many portions of the country. While many landed harmlessly, some started wild fires.

The unit's mission was to parachute over the wild fires and put them out.

"As we know today, when the wild lands out west burn, they burn hard," Hinaman said. "It's crazy enough jumping out of an airplane, and just as crazy to fight wild fires. But to do both gives me great respect for these guys."

The Japanese plan was thwarted because the men of the Triple Nickels did their job, Hinaman said.

"They weren't the first smokejumpers," Hinaman said. "But they were instrumental in developing the tactics, techniques and procedures that are still in use by smokejumpers today."

Hinaman was one of several speakers during HUD's annual salute to veterans. Each of the speakers delivered poignant addresses.

Jack Malgeri, senior advisor to HUD's office of the Chief Housing Capital Officer, also spoke about his father, a World War II vet who served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd was one of the most decorated infantry regiments in history, Malgeri said. The unit was awarded eight Presidential Unit Citations and 21 of its members were awarded the Medal

of Honor, including the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

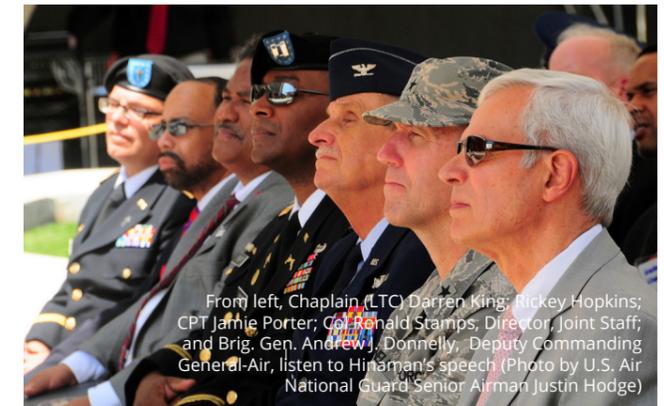
"My father described the 442nd to me as being inspirational," Malgeri said. "They were soldiers who had tremendous professionalism, dedication and ferocity that they exhibited in combat. They had an ethos of never leaving a comrade cutoff on the battlefield. American soldiers who saw the 442nd fight were inspired to fight harder."

The 442nd won several major battles and went on to liberate the Dachau concentration camp saving several prisoners from imminent death at the hands of the Nazis.

In 1945, a young Army Captain named Ronald Reagan, who would later become the 40th U.S. president, commented on the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. He found the racial prejudice against Japanese Americans deplorable.

"Blood that has soaked in the sand of a beach is all one color," Reagan said publicly. "America stands unique in the world; the only country not founded on race, but on a way, an ideal, not in spite of, but because of our poly-broad background, we have all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

D.C. Guard Chaplain, Lt. Col. Darren L. King, gave the invocation for the ceremony. Other speakers included Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson, deputy chief, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve and Jon Ostrowki, director of legislative affairs for the Noncommissioned Officers Association.



From left, Chaplain (LTC) Darren King; Rickey Hopkins; CPT Jamie Porter; Col. Ronald Stamps, Director, Joint Staff; and Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Donnelly, Deputy Commanding General-Air, listen to Hinaman's speech (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

If you or someone you know needs housing assistance, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877) 424-3838.

Barbara Freeman eulogizes her husband during a remembrance ceremony held at the District of Columbia Joint Force Headquarters on June 14. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)

# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN LEADER

By Lt Col Kevin McAndrews  
Director, JFHQ-PAO





A horse-drawn caisson carries MG Freeman to his final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)



***from a grateful nation:***

MG Warren Freeman's mother, Sara, receives her son's flag from MG Errol R. Schwartz, while his wife, Barbara, looks on during the burial at Arlington National Cemetery, September 24th. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)



A U.S. Army Honor Guard carries the general's casket. (Photo by U.S. Air National Guard Senior Airman Justin Hodge)



A member of the DC Fire & EMS is seen during the Capital Shield 2015 training exercise, in which local and federal authorities respond to a mock mass casualty event, at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, Sept. 23, 2014.

WHEN DISASTER  
**STRIKES**

Report Courtesy of  
Army **News Service**



Members of the DC National Guard's 33rd Civil Support Team, respond to a mock chemical attack during the Capital Shield 2015 exercise at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, Washington, D.C., Sept. 23, 2014.

(inset) A District of Columbia first responder is seen during the Capital Shield 2015 exercise, in which local and federal authorities staged a response to a mock mass casualty event, at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, Washington, D.C., Sept. 23, 2014.

Imagine this scenario: fans are enjoying a packed sporting event, then suddenly they hear an explosion and hundreds fall ill from a sarin gas attack. Local responders are overwhelmed; the military is called in to assist.

That scene was played out Tuesday, at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium here, as Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region practiced for a mass casualty event with local emergency services and federal responders, as part of Capital Shield 2015.

The purpose of the training is to ensure a swift and effective interagency response if an emergency were to occur in the nation's capital, according to Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, the commanding general of Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region.

"What we don't want to do is have to react in a disaster - man-made or mother-nature made - where we're figuring out how to work together for the first time in a true emergency," he said.

While the military was created to fight and win the nation's

wars, he said, under emergency authority it can work in the homeland at the request of local, state or federal authorities.

"Ultimately it's about helping the American people. Even if a Black Hawk helicopter is meant to carry troops into combat, we can use it to move civilian casualties, again, if requested," he said.

At the exercise, two Army helicopters from the 12th Aviation Battalion transported members of the Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force to the site.

It was the first time this Marine Corps force worked with the DC Fire Department in a decontamination training exercise, Buchanan said.

At the stadium, mock victims lay on the sidewalk, people and mannequins were crumpled in stadium seats and actors remained motionless strewn on the floor. Emergency responders in protective gear assessed the situation; victims were evacuated and sent through the decontamination lines.

The Capital Shield exercise, which is held annually, is specialized for the Washington, D.C. area, Buchanan said.

More than 40 federal, state, and local agencies are taking part in the multi-day, multi-location exercise, which continues through Thursday. Other Capital Shield training sites included Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Lorton, Virginia.

"The bottom line is, what we really want to do is save people's lives, and so cooperation is extremely important," Buchanan said.

Members of the District of Columbia National Guard's 33rd Civil Support Team were among the responders at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium.

Cooperation among entities and readiness are paramount in responding quickly and effectively to emergencies, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Ebbert, the commander of the 33rd Civil Support Team.

"Our role is to support the civilian responders, primarily District of Columbia Fire and EMS, as well as the Metropolitan Police Department. We provide support to our federal partners within the District of Columbia," he said.

"It's a unified effort," he said.

While the DC National Guard works with local authorities on special events such as the State of the Union and inauguration, Capital Shield is truly unique, he said.

"It's not often that we get to do a full-scale exercise and have all the participants from all the interagency players," Ebbert said.

Staff Sgt. Tanisha Mercado, with the 33rd Civil Support Team, felt that the training was a success.

"Of course there is always going to be some hiccups and things that we need to work on, but very minor stuff. I think everyone felt comfortable, felt confident and that's always the important part," she said.

Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region, which is based in at Fort Lesley J. McNair, here, is a regional subordinate of U.S. Northern Command. It is responsible for defense support of civil authorities and incident management in the National Capital Region.



COMPETING FOR THE  
**BEST**

By SSG Monette Wesolek  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

SPC Rayshod Thompson, 33rd Civil Support Team, District of Columbia National Guard, fires his M-4 Carbine rifle during the Region II Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA.  
(Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)



Army National Guard SGT Steven Kemp, 33rd Civil Support Team, District of Columbia National Guard, evaluates a moc casualty during the Region II Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)

Two Soldiers from the District of Columbia Army National Guard 33rd Civil Support Team (CST) competed against five other states during the Region II Best Warrior Competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, May 20-23.

Army Sgt. Steven Kemp, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear NCO and Team-Chief, and Spec. Rayshod Thompson, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear NCO, took part in a grueling four days of testing and evaluations, ranging from weapons qualification, a six-mile ruck-march, and a stress shoot, that combined cardio training and weapons familiarization. Both Soldiers performed admirably, competing against soldiers from Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"They all gave 110% and did the very best they could," said Command Sergeant Major Michael Gundrum, Senior Enlisted Leader and event host, Pennsylvania National Guard, "They were all very close competitively, in the NCO category it actually came down to the appearance borders."

The intense training leading up to the state competition began in October, where Kemp and Thompson stood out against eight of their peers, and

garnering such titles as NCO and Soldier of the Year.

After two more months of training and preparation, Kemp and Thompson hit the asphalt, competing against nine new challengers, each hoping to stake their claim as the Best Warrior in Region II.

When asked, both Kemp and Thompson said they would recommend that every Soldier compete for Soldier and NCO of the Year at least once in their career.

"The boards and preparation have, almost in disguise, taught me how to be a better leader," said Staff Sgt. Steven Kemp, DC Army National Guard NCO of the Year, "I feel I am better prepared to lead in any avenue I decide to pursue in the Army."

Kemp and Thompson were awarded the Army Commendation Medal for their accomplishments in training and competition throughout the seven months leading up to the event.

If you or someone you know would like to compete for the title, "DC Army National Guard Best Warrior" and aspire for the top spot as US Army's Best Warrior, contact your unit First Sergeant.



Soldiers competing the Region II best Warrior competition at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA take a moment to relax and conduct an After Action Review, after completing the mystery event that included a dead man pull, sprinting and shooting in the heat of the day. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)



# TOP CHEF

## Military Edition

Joel Zimmerman, an evaluator for Logistic Systems Incorporated, displays a cup of soup prepared by the 547th Transportation Company with the D.C. Army National Guard in a Mobile Kitchen Trailer as part of the Connelly Award Competition at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling on July 19, 2014. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)

By SGT Robert Mitchell  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

District of Columbia National Guard Soldiers teamed up recently to see if they have the culinary skills and military attention-to-detail to win one of the coveted Phillip A. Connelly Awards for Excellence in Army Food Service.

The 547th Transportation Company along with support from the 104th Maintenance Company assembled a Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT), a mobile power unit, a field generator and a sanitation tent out in front of the DC Armory during the March 15, 2014 drill weekend. The exercise was set to assess their ability to work effectively while serving troops under field feeding operations.

"Today we are working on the field category of the competition and all aspects of field food service," said Sgt. JonAnthony Pearson, Food Operations Sergeant and First Cook with the 547th.

According to Pearson, the exercise allows his Soldiers to become familiar with the Connelly competition and it also reveals who among his Army cooks might be selected to compete. For those teams selected to participate, examiners will judge their performance based on two main areas: field operations and garrison operations.

For field operations such as this the judges will look at four major categories, scrutinizing for sanitation, food production, teamwork and knowledge of the individual team players without help from their supervisors, Pearson said.

Competition judges look for cleanliness and for stations where participants can wash their hands. They watch closely for the proper location of generators and the strategic placement of other field service items to determine if their placement is in compliance with Army Regulations.

Specifically evaluators will look at 10 different areas during the field kitchen portion of the competition. They will assess the following: training and supervisions, headcount operations, request, receipt and storage of rations, field food safety, command support, appearance and attitude of food service personnel, field kitchen site selection and layout, serving troop acceptability, use and maintenance of equipment and food preparation and quality.

Senior Food Sergeant and 547th NCOIC Master Sgt. Charles Allen said this event marks the first time his unit has competed for a Connelly Award.

"We have never competed before. Today is the first time we have a team we can pick from," he said. Allen noted the importance of having a good team and likened the competition to a popular TV show. "You've got to pick the highest quality (team members), like American Idol. You've got to have the best. We want to be like American Idol," he said.

As she prepared the day's lunch by grilling rows and rows of chicken thighs, legs and wings Spc. Mishanda Brissette, a 92G (Army cook) with the 547th expressed enthusiasm when



Pvt. Samuel Aickins, a food service specialist in the 547th Transportation Company in the D.C. Army National Guard, forms meat balls in a Mobile Kitchen Trailer as part of the Connelly Award Competition at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling on July 19, 2014. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)

asked about being selected to try out for the cooking team, saying it was like a dream come true. "It was a surprise for me. I got excited when I found out. When I was in AIT, I said I wanted to do this," Brissette said.

Spc. Ronald Tobin, also a 92G with the 547th won three Connelly awards in the past but remained equally excited to be a part of the exercise. "I competed in the field, in the DFAC and in garrison and I won first place in all three categories," he said. He gained these accolades while stationed at Scofield Barracks in Hawaii.

Soldiers new to the competition should pay close attention to the finer details of field food service, Tobin recommended. "They should know how to set up of the mobile kitchen and know what [the judges] look for."

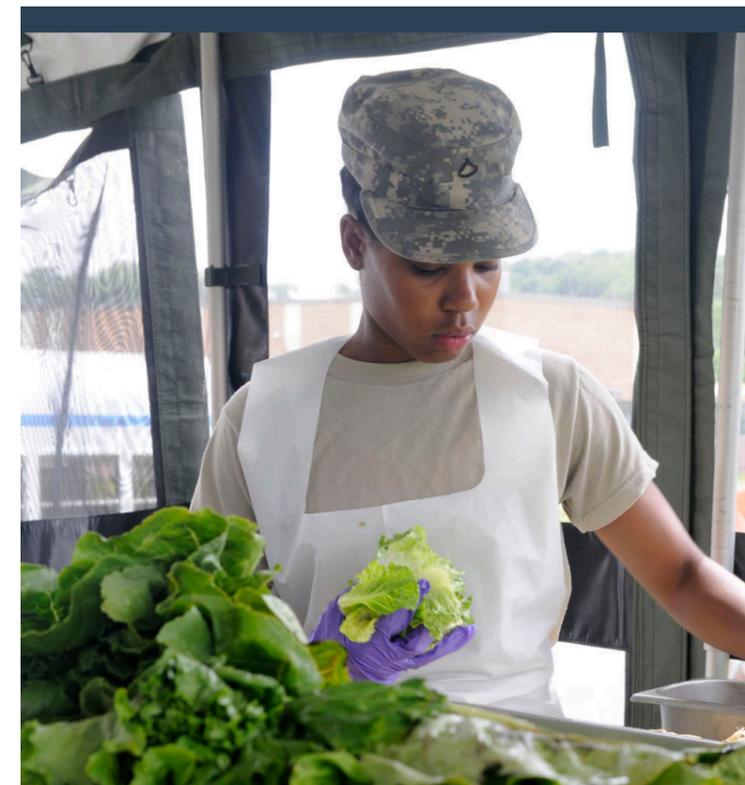
Participating in the event is good way for Soldiers to improve their food service operations and build team cohesion, explained Adjutant General for the Joint Force Headquarters at the District of Columbia National Guard Brigadier General Renwick L. Payne who sampled a serving of chicken and rice at the MKT.

"What we are doing with this whole issue of competition is developing quality and bringing esprit de corps to the community. It also allows us to exercise our equipment," he said.

The Phillip A. Connelly Awards Program for Excellence in Army Food Service was established in March 1968 to recognize excellence in Army Food Service. It gauges garrison and field feeding operations at military and civilian dining facilities and active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve field kitchens.

Winners can receive culinary school scholarships, trophy bowls, plaques and other forms of recognition.

Evaluations are conducted by the Department of the Army on annual basis from October through December. Winners are announced January 15 every year.



Pvt. 1st Class Misha Hailes, a food service specialist in the 547th Transportation Company in the D.C. Army National Guard, chops items for a salad in a Mobile Kitchen Trailer as part of the Connelly Award Competition at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling on July 19, 2014. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Mitch Miller)

# GONE FISHIN'

## 104TH MAINTENANCE CO TAKES PART IN REEF MISSION

By SPC Tyrone Williams  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the 104th Maintenance Company assist in creating artificial reefs off the coast of South Carolina in July. Obsolete armored vehicles were placed in coastal waters where they are helping to maintain the fish habitat in the region.

A Stevens Towing employee, Ivan Rosario, supervises as a crane lifts a M113, armored personnel carrier, onto a barge for transportation. July 22, 2014. The Stevens Towing employees worked with the 1052nd Transportation Company stationed in South Carolina to load the vehicle for use in an artificial reef. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Tyrone Williams)



Armored vehicles and endangered fish – believe it or not they do have something in common, and the D.C. National Guard aided in a unique project that puts old war vehicles to use in an environmental effort.

In July, Capital Guardians from the 104th Maintenance Company traveled to McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina to support the South Carolina Guard in building artificial reefs.

“The mission of the Reef X is to demilitarize and transport obsolete vehicles to the South Carolina coast where they will be used to create artificial reefs,” said 1st Lt. Jason Dunnagan, Innovative Readiness Training Program Coordinator for the Army South Carolina National Guard.

An artificial reef imitates a natural reef by providing reliable feeding spots for small fish as sardines and minnow which draw in larger fish. The artificial reef boosts recreational fishing, sport diving opportunities in coastal waters, and the amount of productive hard-bottom habitat available overall.

“This project brings in \$83 million for South Carolina annually, in ways of tourism that range from hotel revenue to deep sea activities,” said Dunnagan. “This is a major factor in the state’s economy.”

The artificial reefs are stable and environmentally safe. The reefs are constructed from a wide variety of materials ranging from suitable metal scraps to specifically designed and constructed reef habitat structures.

The project began 17 years ago and was designed especially for armored launched bridge vehicle and armored personnel carriers. “There is no practical use for these vehicle on civilian roadways, so in this way the obsolete vehicles can be reutilized,” said Dunnagan.

The vehicles are collected from an army depot, demilitarized, washed with industrial strength cleaning and degreasing agents and then added to the artificial reef. The materials taken from the vehicles are hazardous and sold or disposed of differently than the aluminum hull, which is used in the reef.

There are 48 reefs along the coast of South Carolina. The vehicles demilitarized and prepared by the 104th Maintenance Company will be added to the Betsy Ross and Eagle’s Nest reefs which are located three to five miles outside of Port Royal, S.C.



Soldiers from the 104th Maintenance Company disassemble a M113 by removing the interior. July 20, 2014. The emptied vehicles were transported and added to help rebuild coral reef. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Tyrone Williams)

“The South Carolina National Guard doesn’t choose the location,” said Dunnagan. “The reef’s location is chosen by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.”

According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, the variety of materials currently in use on many artificial reefs could remain productive for the next 150 years.

“With effective planning and management, artificial Reefs constructed today can still be in place and fully functional easily through the next century,” said Mel Bell, Office of Fisheries Management.

Staff Sgt. Richard Hughes, MED DET medic, demonstrates casualty evacuation on fellow medic, Spc. Young Min during "Combat Care Under Fire" training in Camp Rapid. (Photo by U.S. Army National Guard SFC Khalia Jackson)

# ON THE RANGE

By SFC Khalia Jackson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

With duffle bags packed full of essentials, the D.C. National Guard's Medical Detachment left for the Wild West in early June to take part in one of the largest National Guard training events of the year.

The exercise, nicknamed Golden Coyote, is designed for U.S., allied and international forces to hone their military occupational skills in civil, military, tactical and stability operations.

Hosted by the South Dakota National Guard, the exercise integrates military training with real-world humanitarian support missions. Camp Rapid serves as headquarters for the South Dakota Guard, located in Rapid City in the rugged, western part of the state near the Black Hills National Forest.

More than 4,400 troops from 45 military forces including Canada, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Suriname, worked together in various capacities to benefit the local communities and train to meet readiness requirements. Each unit's training and level of involvement in the overall exercise is based on command training objectives and mission essential tasks.

"This year we are here on a two-fold mission of working collaboratively with the South Dakota National Guard providing medical support to individuals participating in the exercise and also providing care in remote areas of the community," said Col. Marion Parks, detachment commander.

"We were housed at Camp Rapid and had access to the facilities."

The 32 DCNG soldiers hit the ground running after arriving at the exercise. They were assigned to two forward operating positions, or FOBs, and the Cheyenne River Health Facility.

Consisting of medics, physician's assistants, dental assistants, dentists, registered nurses, a neuro-radiologist, and a surgeon, the detachment came ready for any medical readiness mission needing support.

Those remaining at Camp Rapid were responsible for logistics and overall operations. The mission for the Soldiers positioned at the FOBs was to stand up a Troop Medical Center and provide sick-call support to approximately 700 military members housed at each location. Simultaneously, the rest of the Soldiers were providing medical and dental support to Indian Health Service patients at the Cheyenne River Health Facility located on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation about 170 miles northeast of Rapid City.

When Soldiers arrived at one of their operating locations, designated FOB Custer, they found a large field where animals such as buffalo, deer and antelope roam freely in Custer State Park. Other units had set up tents, but the detachment had its work cut out for them. By the time they were done, their bare patch of wilderness had become a field medical facility they could be proud of.



Danish Army Home Guard member Marnus-du-toit explains his unit's mission in the exercise to Col. Marion Parks, MED DET commander. The Danish Home Guard is a volunteer organization mobilized to support the Armed Forces or civilian authorities in military tasks such as surveillance, guarding, securing and protection activities. (Photo by Army National Guard SFC Khalia Jackson)

This year marks the third time the DCNG detachment has provided medical support to the local community during its annual training, but the first time it simultaneously provided support to troops participating in the Golden Coyote.

"In the past years, we were individually based in community hospitals, but the South Dakota Guard still supported us logistically," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Robinson, the detachment's first sergeant.

"This is my first AT that I've ever been on and it really opened my eyes," said 1st Lt. Craig Casella. "When you arrive somewhere and there is nothing, and the next day you get to see tents, a TMC, x-ray capabilities and all the other stuff your hard work went into, it makes you feel good, seeing the end result of your efforts come together."



# BALANCING ACT

The District of Columbia National Guard signs a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with 113th Wing Technicians.

MG Schwartz shakes hands with Lamar Elliott, ACT president. Standing from left, LtCol Rick Greenlee; Norm Bauer, ACT local officer; CMSgt Dennis Quasney; Steve Fisher, ACT lead negotiator; Michael Scully, ACT; LtCol Scott Glasser; CMSgt Jeff Coombs; and Command SGM Dwayne Bowser, DCNG Senior Enlisted Leader.

“Today we are moving forward,” Maj. Gen. Errol R. Schwartz, District of Columbia National Guard Commanding General, said. “It took two years, but this day is finally here, and I want to thank all of you for doing a great job.”

By Lt Col Kevin McAndrews  
Director, JFHQ-PAO

The District of Columbia Air National Guard completed two years of work on a collective bargaining agreement in March with the Association of Civilian Technicians.

The agreement culminated a process of negotiations between the D.C. Air National Guard technicians and the DCNG.

The National Association of Government Employees represented the technicians of the 113th Wing, for about 20 years. The technicians decided to switch to the Association of Civilian Technicians in 2012. That change started the process of creating a new collective bargaining agreement, said Tech. Sgt. Lamar Elliott, president of the union.

The technicians decided to go with ACT because they represent only Title 32 technicians, while NAGE represents several other government employees, said Elliott.

“There have been a lot of changes in federal labor laws during the past 10 to 15 years that have specifically impacted federal technicians,” Elliott said. “The NAGE contract was antiquated. The old contract didn’t address those legal changes, so we decided ACT would provide better representation. They have a specific legal understanding of the law as it pertains to Title 32 technicians.”

That expertise came to bear when federal job furloughs came into effect in 2013. There are more than 90 technicians at the wing who are part of the union, and some wanted to take the 10 days of furlough right up front, Elliott said. Others wanted to take one day a week during the entire furlough period.

That meant that if the furlough ended before all 10 days

were taken by the latter, those technicians who took all the days at the beginning of the furlough period would be adversely effected, Elliott said.

When an agreement cannot be reached, the Federal Labor Relations Authority steps in, Elliott said. One of the issues was whether leadership, in this case the wing commander, could make unfettered decisions about work schedules. It was determined through negotiations that the union could negotiate the work schedules.

“When it came down to decisions about the agency as a whole, we kind of knew that when it came to the furlough, sooner or later, someone was going to do something to stop the bleeding,” Elliott said. “If we had already signed the formal process, we’d have to finish it, so we had to be careful about making a decision to take 10 days off up front. We collectively made a decision to take one day a week so no one would be adversely impacted.”

Other issues addressed in the new collective bargaining agreement include wage scales, working hours, training, health and safety, compensatory, grievance mechanisms, and the right to participate in workplace affairs.

“We also try to create a harmonious work environment,” Elliott said. “We know a happy employee makes a good employee, so it’s a cooperative effort on both sides, management and the technicians.”

Lt. Col. Rick Greenlee, DCNG labor relations specialist, said the ceremony last month culminated a tremendous amount of work and cooperation between both sides. “We worked together,” Greenlee said. “I think that’s marvelous.”



Soldiers from the 1946th Support Detachment were honored during a departure ceremony at the District of Columbia Armory, before departing for a deployment in support of operations in the Middle East. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)

## 1946TH SUPPORT DETACHMENT PERSONNEL DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN & QATAR

By SPC Jennifer Amo  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers of the 1946th Acquisition Support Detachment of the District of Columbia National Guard were honored during a deployment ceremony on March 25, 2014, at the DC Armory.

Fellow soldiers, family members and government officials such as Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton gathered to see these soldiers off as they depart on a tour to Afghanistan and Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Mark Hutchinson, the commander of the 1946th said the detachment will be working for the Joint Theater Support Contracting Command in different areas and their work will involve administration of contracts to include closeouts and modifications while creating new contracts.

Staff Sgt. Raquel McCrae, a member of the detachment said, “We support the warfighter by providing any essential needs from services to commodities through contracts thereby ensuring the government gets the best value.”

Despite dealing with contracts and modifications Hutchinson said, the detachment had to go through all the same soldiering skills in order to deploy, which can be taxing and difficult.

McCrae said, “I appreciate all the support the DC National Guard, my friends and family have provided during the past several months and their continuing support.”

Rosemarie Crawford, the mother of McCrae said she feels a little anxious but she feels secure because they have a strong family unit and she understands the importance of her daughter’s mission.

She said, “I am very proud of my daughter’s tenure in the army.”

With all of the support from the DC National Guard and their love ones, the 1946th is set to deploy on a mission to Afghanistan and Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



# Around The **Globe**

## FIRST LIEUTENANT **MIRANDA SUMMERS-LOWE**

Deployed Since February 2014

Location - Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti

Assignment - Public Affairs Officer

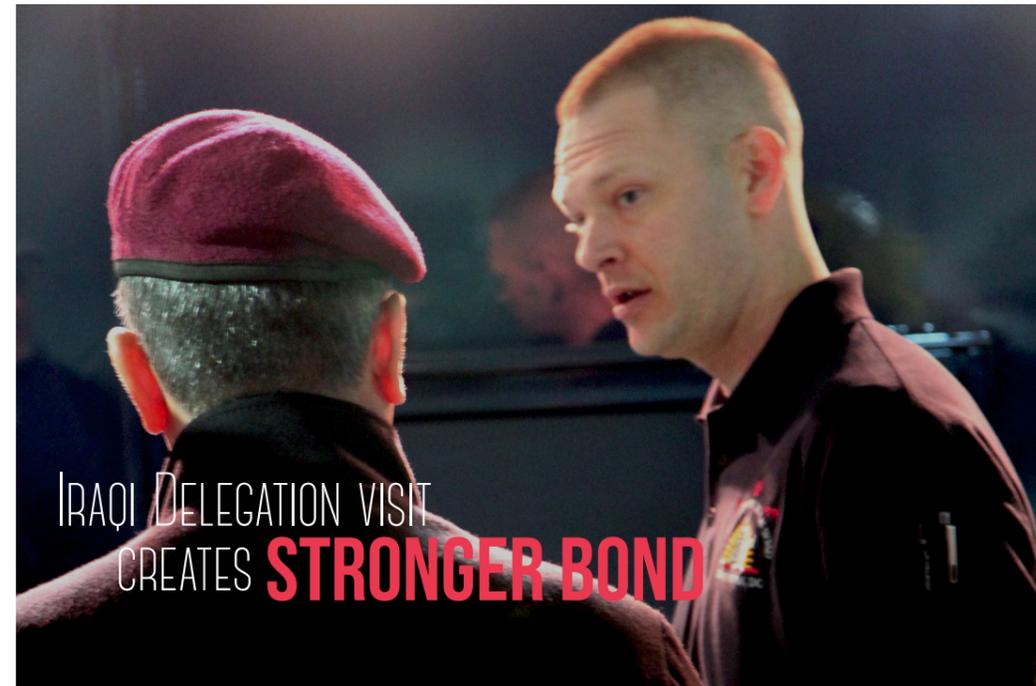
Command - U.S. Africa Command, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa

CJTF-HOA - Conduct theater security cooperation activities to enable regional actors to neutralize violent extremist organizations and enable regional access and freedom of movement within East Africa to protect and defend U.S. interests.

Many of the public affairs missions in Djibouti require travel around the region for 1st Lt. Summers-Lowe, who is the deputy chief of public affairs officer when she's home. Her travels included a trip to Kenya and she looks forward to more. One of the highlights of her eight month deployment is teaching State Department programs as well as participating in mentoring.

She has been most impressed with the planning process at the Joint Task Force. The commanding general chooses which potential tasks will be assigned as part of their mission. Each directorate then provides staff for the task. Those assigned from each directorate are held accountable for the support they provide. "It makes everyone plan 90 days out and really seems to hold people accountable," says 1st Lt. Summers-Lowe. She thinks the planning approach they are using would be something useful to bring home to the DC Guard.

Lt. Summers-Lowe also took a recent week long R&R tour to see gorillas in the wild in Rwanda. "It's pretty crazy--the gorillas are only allowed to see a certain number of people per day, so there are only about 4 people allowed in each national park per day. You have to trek - no path - with a ranger to find them, and then you get really close to them."



SFC Class Kenneth Kley, communications manager for the 33rd Civil Support Team, briefs communication capabilities to a member of a visiting Iraqi delegation Feb. 26. This visit further strengthens the ongoing partnership with the Iraqi government. US interagency partners are assisting the government of Iraq in developing a plan which outlines how a nation responds to accidents involving chemical, biological, radiological nuclear and high-yield explosives. (Photo by Army National Guard SSG Monette Wesolek)

By **SSG Monette Wesolek**  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

The District of Columbia National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) hosted an Iraqi delegation Feb. 26 at the D.C. National Guard Armory to share its methods of responding to events involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) attacks as well as manmade disasters such as the recent chemical spill in the Elk River, W. Va.

This visit further strengthens the ongoing partnership with the Iraqi government. U.S. interagency partners are assisting the government of Iraq in developing a plan which outlines how a nation responds to accidents involving CBRN.

A briefing at the armory outlined the D.C. National Guard's 33rd CST mission, equipment and unique consequence management responsibilities. The 33rd CST provides support to the District and Federal agencies in the case of a HAZMAT or CBRNE incident, assisting in mitigating and containing contaminants in the area.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ebbert, the CST's Commander, said these visits serve as good outreach to show the National Guard's dedication to support all of our partner nations as they build up their own CBRNE capabilities.

A lively discussion ensued with the Iraqi officials, who asked several questions about the CST's recent response mission in West Virginia. The Iraqi government wants to improve its ability to respond to both civil and military CBRN incidents.

Ebbert went on to explain that CST personnel are full-time, federally-funded Soldiers and Airmen who are certified

in many disaster response capabilities including HAZMAT contamination, CBRNE attacks, and natural and manmade disasters.

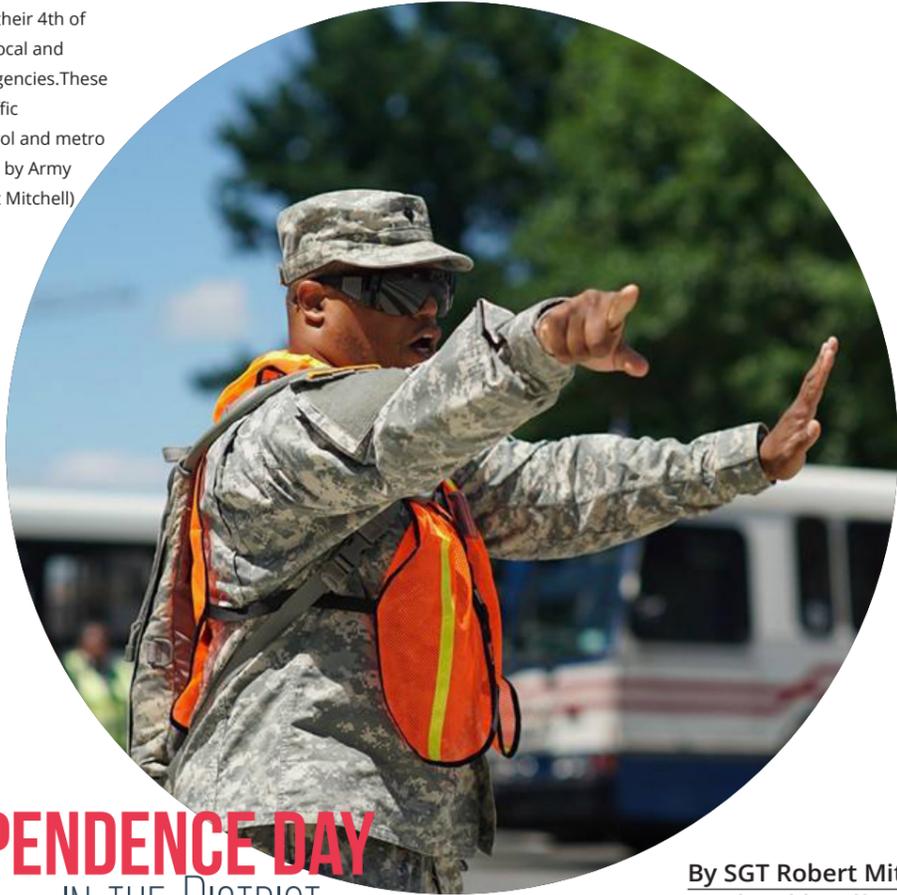
Col. Aaron Dean, operations chief for the D.C. National Guard briefed response priorities and how they factor in to the partnerships between the CST, District and Federal agencies. He said requests for National Guard CSTs are approved by the DOD to support local and federal authorities with disaster response.

The discussion continued to be steady as members of the delegation expressed their interest in the response times and capabilities of the 33rd CST. Recent use of chemical weapons in nearby Syria has heightened Iraq's concerns about CBRNE attacks and the ability to respond and protect its people.

After the briefing, the Iraqi officials were given a tour of CST equipment and vehicles, which include the Unified Command Suite, Mobile Laboratory and a demonstration of the CST Communications capabilities.

The delegation's trip to the DC National Guard and the 33rd CST was part of a weeklong tour of the area that included interaction with other organizations including the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, FBI, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and U.S. Central Command.

“Members of the DC National Guard prepare to execute their 4th of July mission in support of local and federal law enforcement agencies. These Soldiers will assist with traffic control points, crowd control and metro stop traffic control.” (Photo by Army National Guard SGT Robert Mitchell)



## INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE DISTRICT

By SGT Robert Mitchell  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

As continuous waves of people, motor vehicles, bikes and pedicabs flooded the nation’s capital for the Fourth of July festivities, Army National Guard Spc. Jillian Risch used her background in public service and military training to help pedestrians cross safely and ensure traffic flowed smoothly.

“I often had to tell people to move with a purpose, because they were taking their time crossing the street, taking what seemed like a holiday stroll,” said Risch, a military policewoman with the 273rd Military Police Company.

Risch, a native of Eagle River, Wis., worked as a traffic control assistant during a July 4 operation involving the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department and the D.C. National Guard.

The DCNG deployed teams of Soldiers in small groups to designated traffic control points throughout the district. Their mission was to provide support for the local police and transportation departments during one of the busiest days of the year.

“I think the Fourth of July mission is a good opportunity for us to be seen by the public. It is good for the community to see the D.C. National Guard and to get to know us a little better. My mission here today is to ensure the safety of the people,” Risch said.

According to Risch, providing National Guard resources to support the local area establishes positive relations between the military and the community.

“It is a good tool to help with recruiting. The community knows that we are here to help them,” she said.

Risch is no stranger to active community service and taking action that places the needs of others before her own. Prior to joining the Army National Guard three and half years ago, she voluntarily worked with first responders while in college.

“I worked in emergency services throughout college and with the police in a [crowd control] capacity. So I had an idea of what we would see before we came out here,” she said.

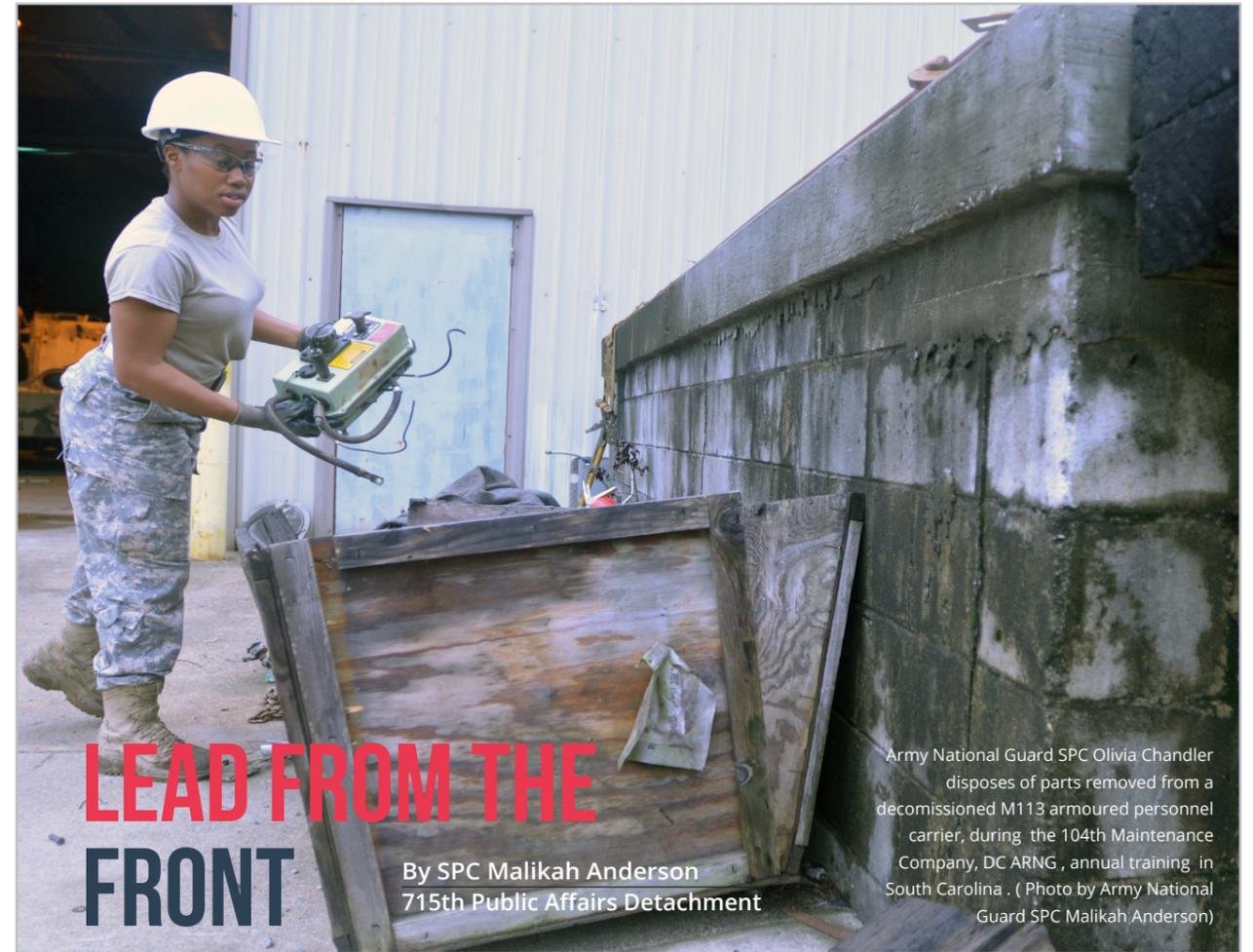
She performed other volunteer work as a full-time medic with the fire department on campus and found her calling.

“I fell in love with the medical field and decided I wanted to be a medic for the military,” she said. Risch said she looked to the Army because of “its access to medical training and equipment.”

Risch embraced the guidance and professional development she’s received during her three and a half years of service in the National Guard.

“I learned about leadership and people during my time here with DCNG. There are a lot of great mentors here and good people overall. I am glad that I can be a part of this operation. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop personally and professionally,” she said.

Risch is currently a military policewoman (31B) with the 273rd Military Police Company. She is pursuing a master’s degree at American University in Washington, D.C.



## LEAD FROM THE FRONT

By SPC Malikah Anderson  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Army National Guard SPC Olivia Chandler disposes of parts removed from a decommissioned M113 armored personnel carrier, during the 104th Maintenance Company, DC ARNG, annual training in South Carolina. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Malikah Anderson)

“From the age of nine through 15, my dad and I, fixed and washed cars every Saturday morning from 5:30am to sun down,” she said. “I consider myself to be my father’s son. He instilled within me the meaning of hard work.”

Spc. Olivia Chandler is the first female in the 2nd Platoon, 104th Field Maintenance Support Company to be enlisted as a Light Weight Vehicle Mechanic/Recovery Specialist, in the District of Columbia Army National Guard. She completed training for this military occupational specialty six years ago.

Chandler and the 104th Field Maintenance Support Company recently provided support to the South Carolina Reef-X mission from July 14 through July 24, 2014.

Her natural mechanical knowledge, ability, and experience dramatically improve the condition and safety of the decommissioned M113 armored personnel carrier equipment readiness for the Reef-X mission project.

“Spc. Chandler is an outstanding soldier,” said Staff Sgt. Carl Doby, platoon sergeant “She is the first one here for work and the last one to leave. Spc. Chandler is a dedicated, reliable, and dependable soldier.”

As a light weight vehicle mechanic, Chandler, performs maintenance on automotive wheeled vehicles, their associated trailers and handles materials for equipment systems. Also, she has training in wheeled-vehicle recovery operations.

As a mechanic with the 104th Field Maintenance Support Company, Chandler is making a name for herself and leading the way for future females ambitious to be mechanics in the Army.

“She is not afraid to get dirty. She doesn’t complain. She is very reliable and dependable,” said Spc. Joseph Tidwell, a fellow light weight vehicle mechanic. “I consider her to be one of the guys because she is like an equal counterpart to us.”

Chandler is the Director of Operations for EZ Swipe, LLC, a company based in Waldorf, MD that offers the latest in credit card processing equipment with features designed to withstand the speed of technological advances.

“I will continue to lead the way for female (Light Weight Vehicle Mechanics) in the Army, so that other women will consider this military occupational specialty as an option,” said Chandler.

The Harveys—From left, Jeremiah, father, the late George, Jr., and Joseph, as newly commissioned second lieutenants. (Photo by Army National Guard SPC Jennifer Amo)

# BROTHERS IN ARMS

By SPC Jennifer Amo  
715th Public Affairs Detachment

Call them professionals, commanders and brothers within the same breath.

Capt. Joseph Harvey, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 74th Troop Command, has a calm demeanor as he walks into his office. As he talks about his duties and responsibilities to the military, he shows the readiness and determination of a professional.

Another emotion exists when talking about his experience in the military: admiration for his colleagues. "He is determined, relentless and resilient," said Harvey. But this isn't just appreciation for a fellow professional; he's inspired by family. His younger brother, Capt. Jeremiah Harvey, is not only in the District of Columbia National Guard and a captain, but a commander in the same brigade – he leads the 276th Military Police Company.

Joseph said Jeremiah's determination and strong brotherly bond could be traced to their childhood. When getting bikes as younger children, he recalls one of the bikes was filled with cement and he was unable to ride it. Jeremiah could. Jeremiah said, "It was the only bike that I had to ride. I kept on trying and trying and actually got it on the road. I used to drive the slowest bike but it was a bike that I could use with my brother."

The same feeling of determination applies to the start of their careers, with Jeremiah commissioning into the Army through Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's ROTC and traveling seven days later to see Joseph commission through Florida's Officer Candidate School. Joseph said, "he had to jump on a plane and literally leave wherever he was on Fort Lewis, Wash. but he was determined to make it to my graduation. We took a really great photo."

"I was looking at the photo the other day. That's one of the best memories that I have of my dad but also of my brother, because my dad is deceased now. I can clearly look at that picture and see how proud he was to stand next to his sons 2nd Lt. Jeremiah Harvey and 2nd Lt. Joseph Harvey".

Jeremiah said his fondest memories of that day occurred when his dad said he was proud of them and to let their military career showcase who they were as men to the world. Siblings within the same brigade might conjure up the image of competition, but that doesn't exist for the Harvey brothers even when talking about their military careers. "We grew up in a Christian background and we grew up sharing. My father was a minister and anything he had, he would give whether it was his last dollar or his last meal. When it came to military service, I definitely encouraged my brother at times to do certain things such as joining the service, being an officer and getting certain skills," said Jeremiah.

The same camaraderie adds to their leadership as commanders in the same brigade. "He spent a lot of time out of the building. I have been able to see what he has to deal with professionally and use a lot of those nuggets to guide what I am doing here. He is an excellent source of information and a subject matter expert," said Joseph. Jeremiah said, "It's very awesome. My brother is older than I am. He was the one I always looked up to as a kid. Being able to be a part of Troop Command and having the opportunity to be on the same team is great since when I was younger I didn't have the opportunity."

When asked to describe each other, the one word that stood out was caring. It is the caring attitude their father bestowed on them that allows them to care for their soldiers, their commands, the 74th Troop Command, the United States Army and each other.

## THE JAG'S CORNER

### SPECIAL VICTIMS COUNSEL PROGRAM COMING TO THE **DISTRICT**



The reduction and elimination of sexual assault and harassment in the District of Columbia National Guard remains a top priority of MG Errol Schwartz, Commanding General, DCNG. Sexual assault and harassment goes against everything we stand for as U.S. Soldiers and Airmen and, clearly, has no place in our ranks.

The Department of Defense continues to confront this issue through implementation of various sexual assault prevention and response programs. In addition to programs focusing on prevention, the DoD is now increasing its efforts in providing enhanced care and support for victims of sexual assault. One such effort is the Special Victim's Counsel (SVC) Program.

By Secretary of Defense Memorandum, dated 14 August 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel directed that each of the services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) establish a sexual assault victim advocacy program with the purpose of providing victims an attorney to provide counseling and advice on their rights as victims and on how to navigate the various military investigative, judicial, and legal administrative processes.

Currently, sexual assault matters consist of a Trial Counsel representing the interests of the military/government, and a Defense Counsel representing the interests of the accused. With the new SVC Program the victim will also have legal representation provided to them at no cost.

In addition to SVC, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program provides a victim two options when reporting a sexual assault. The victim may make a restricted report or an unrestricted report. A restricted report does not trigger an investigation and while the command is notified that "an alleged sexual assault" occurred, the victim's name or other personally identifying information remains confidential. Restricted reporting still allows victims to be assigned a SARC/VA and to receive healthcare treatment and counseling.

While active components of the military have initiated their respective SVC programs, National Guard Bureau is currently awaiting authorization from the Secretary of the Army to initiate the National Guard SVC program. NGB has developed SVC program policy and procedures and has coordinated the training and certification of judge advocates from each of the 54 states, territories and the District of Columbia.