



# Cowboy Guard

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD

On April 4 this year, we celebrate the 145th birthday of the Wyoming National Guard. Visions of booming field artillery, flying C-130s and Black Hawks, and grinding engineer equipment are often what we think of when we envision the mission of the Guard in this state.

That's a big part of our operation, but the Wyoming Guard has completed a wide variety of other missions throughout the years, including military police, combat jet fighters, infantry, cavalry, and many others. So remember those that have come before and set the stage for the current mission of the Wyoming National Guard, they have all played an important role in our rich history. Ride for the Brand!



On the cover: Wyoming Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Gunner Haynes is greeted by his 8-month-old daughter Riley upon return to Cheyenne following a 32-week overseas deployment. Haynes, of Cheyenne, is a guidance and control specialist with the 153rd Airlift Wing. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James McGuire photo

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*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire*  
Aaleigha Pennock, 3, waits for her dad Staff Sgt. Josh Pennock at the Air National Guard air base in Cheyenne after a 32-week overseas deployment.  
See story on Page 6





Wyoming Air National Guard Senior Airman Adrian Herrera, 9-month-old daughter Cameron, and wife Amber help 3-year-old Kaidden across a puddle upon return to Cheyenne following a 32-week overseas deployment. With deployments winding down, children maintain strong memories of their parent overseas missions.

# Kids remember Deployments too

By Capt. Tom Blackburn  
Deputy Public Affairs Officer  
Wyoming National Guard

The deployments overseas are winding down. But the memories of fathers and mothers being miles apart from their children remain.

After more than a decade of conflict and on-going missions to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, families in Wyoming can enjoy a new normal: days, months, and maybe years with their military loved ones home.

But, what about those young lives who were affected by the abrupt departure of a father or mother? Many spouses carried on the on-going job of maintaining a household while one of the parents deployed. But even as the dutiful mom or dad picked up the slack, there was still a child, sitting in

his or her room, wondering and dreaming of the day Mom or Dad returned.

Kaycee Will was in the fourth grade when her dad, Maj. Eric Will, deployed early in Operation Iraqi Freedom, in 2004. Even more difficult for her and her brother Christopher, who was 11 at the time, was that their dad was a single parent, one that they had only lived with for a couple years.

"I didn't really know him that well," Kaycee said, when she moved in with her dad after he received full custody of her and her brother.

Abbey Spaulding was 11 when her dad, Jason, deployed.

"It was really hard to say goodbye, we were all crying and went to the airport and watched the plane leave," she said. Even though it was more than seven years ago, she has memories of Christmas and holidays at her grandparents' home, but with no dad. The absence of a male figure was not something Abbey was used to, or enjoyed.

"At first it was weird not having a male figure at all times," she said. "We lived very close to grandparents. We had a daddy-daughter event at school and I didn't have my dad to go with me. I felt left out." Luckily her grandfather went with her, but the event wasn't the same, she said.

Kaycee Will felt similar.

"It was different," she said with emotion in her voice. "I couldn't do anything for Father's Day." It felt worse, Kaycee said, because she didn't know when her dad was coming home.

For Kaycee's dad's Guard deployment, it wasn't just a year away from home, but two, since Eric had to go through online courses, training, and a drastic ramp up that took up almost all of his time.

"It was a five-month ramp up time, I had to send them to live with my mother," Eric said. He had so little time prior to shipping out, he quit his job.

In the meantime, Kaycee Will and her brother adjusted to living with another person.

"There was a difference between Grandma and Dad," she said. "Dad would make us do PT if (my brother and I) got in a fight." With Grandma, there was no father figure. But, she did her part to make sure her grandchildren heard from their father.

"She would put Dad's emails in a scrap book," Kaycee said. As the deployment raged on, she would go home from school and pull that scrap

# Surveys allow all of us to help define the way ahead

Thanks for your continued service.

Great organizations take a serious look at themselves in order to reinforce success and to improve in areas of identified weaknesses. To those ends, I ask you once again to spend some time and complete the climate surveys that were sent out via email in the last couple of weeks. While it has been about three years since a TAG-level survey has been distributed, I fully realize that over that time many of you have answered surveys for other interested parties; however, I am deeply interested in how the efforts by many of us in our force have affected our organization since the last survey and request your feedback in the form of these surveys. It is important to me that you are given the opportunity to bring up what is working in our organization and what isn't.

These command climate surveys provide each member of the Wyoming Military Department a forum to provide me and our leaders feedback on many of the factors that affect our workplace. Our goal is to assess perceptions of the organization's effectiveness, processes, productivity and morale. It is imperative that we all understand the overall well-being of our force.

I see it as essential that our organization understands where we are, ensures we are moving in the right direction, and works to have the resources needed to continue being successful. Our surveys

## Generally Speaking



Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner  
The Adjutant General

will help us all understand what is organizationally important, what we are proud of accomplishing, what concerns we have, how we are personally feeling, and what our perceptions are concerning our coworkers and the work environment. Understanding our organization provides benefits that extend far beyond employment satisfaction, they help to make us all better and more effective in the long run. We can only address issues when they've been accurately identified, and identifying areas of strength allows us to reinforce successes. Honest and accurate climate surveys are one of the best tools to help us achieve those goals.

I plan to share the results of these climate surveys in a collective, inclusive manner so that we can all learn from this effort, and pave the way for our agency's future. Our current intent is to brief the results on July 8 and allow all of us to help define the way ahead. Thank you in advance for providing your frank and honest answers.



After proclaiming April as the Month of the Military Child in Wyoming, Governor Matt Mead and Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner, adjutant general, pose with a group of Wyoming Air National Guard airmen and their children in the governor's office. Events honoring military children will be held throughout the state. Military members are encouraged to wear purple on April 15 to honor the kids. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class McGuire



# Military jobs are more diverse than you think

They say if you do what you love, you never have to work a day in your life.

A lot of military members do things that people don't generally think of as being military. We have cooks, lawyers, bookkeepers, mechanics, construction workers, boat operators, artists, computer geeks and pencil pushers of infinite varieties, doctors and nurses, architects and map makers. The list goes on.

All service members are trained to kill. For many Joes, that is all they need for joining the less than 1 percent of Americans who wear this uniform.

For those who want to serve their country, and enrich their life in additional ways, there are thousands of jobs and opportunities that aren't as obvious to the general public, but are exactly what that person is supposed to be doing.

In this issue of Cowboy Guard, and up the road, we are going to focus on various military career fields, like fire fighting, and why people chose them.

Photography and music have been a huge part of my life since I was a little kid. I actually sold a few photos starting in fifth grade, but I certainly hadn't thought about doing it for a living.

GI Joes and my older brother, a Vietnam War soldier, were a big deal to me too.

That was back in the '60s when GI Joe was still modeled after soldiers, airmen and sailors, rather than some kind of weird WWE/star-ship trooper-hybrid character.

I misspent much of my youth and early adulthood, and didn't make the tie with career paths and soldiering until late in life. And, like many, I didn't realize the military was a place I could work in fields where I was passionate.

It was a strange turn of events that got me into this thing at 32.

I'd been working at the Cheyenne newspaper at the urging of a friend who was the sports editor at the time. I then thought I should learn a little more about journalism, so I went to Laramie County Community College for some classes.

I covered the Desert Storm homecoming of an Air Force unit for the school paper, and realized there were journalists and photographers in the military. Weird—I was struck by patriotism and career vision in one fell swoop.

It turns out my instructor at LCCC was the commander of the Army National Guard's public affairs unit. I told her about my revelation, and she, like the smart officer she was, put me in contact with a recruiter.

Basic training at 32 was hell, but it was worth it to go to the Defense Information School afterwards and learn more about what I'd do when I graduated and what I still do today.

The Guard has provided some excellent opportunities for me in other areas of interest too.

The public affairs office used to be down the hall from the 67th Army Band, in the Raper Armory, in Cheyenne. Being ADHD as anything (did I just say that?), I couldn't stay away from there when I had down time and when the rock and country group was practicing. I occasionally grabbed a guitar and joined them for a song or two, and headed back to my office.

After a few years in PA, I jumped ship to the Army band. I was working as a photojournalist and had a band going on the civilian side, so fewer deadlines, and a little more noise seemed like a good move.

After 10 years in the guard, I decided to get out and concentrate on my civilian interests. During that time I became more aware of my spiritual side, and after a five-year break, I decided to talk to a recruiter about coming back in as a chaplain assistant.

Almost immediately, I was accepted for a job in the chaplain's office at National Guard Bureau. I did that for a couple of years until I had to come back to Wyoming to train up for the Operation Iraqi Freedom

deployment.

The deployment was awesome, as it gave me the opportunity to combine many of my skills. I played worship music in chapel several days a week, and while serving at two separate camps in Kuwait, shared faith and music with a diverse bunch of musicians and military members.

I also got to wear my PA hat, and with some help, started a newsletter, where we chronicled our unit's mission and published photos for the unit and the families back home.

Today, I'm back in PAO, and whenever I can, I play the worship music at the chapel service on drill weekends.

I'm better at all the things I do because I've done them, and get to do them in the military.

So while I don't remember GI Joe having a camera, Bible or a guitar, I'll bet those weapons and all the other toy accessories, reflected a passion we all had as a kid, and hopefully get to realize as adults.

If you haven't found it yet, go see a recruiter or career counselor. If you have, let us know, so we can feature you and your military job in a future issue.

## Comm Check



Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire  
PA NCOIC





*Photo by Master Sgt. Charles Delano*  
**Senior Airman Romar Armamento, assigned to the 153rd Medical Group, Wyoming Air National Guard hikes through the snow during navigation training March 8, near Curt Gowdy State Park, Wyoming.**



# Stay calm & lead maturely and effectively

We are in the midst of a period of transition. During the peak of the two wars with many deployments, we were flush with funding. Also NGB didn't look very closely at readiness; they just wanted troops for the warfight.

Now we are in a completely different scenario.

NGB and our state are focused on strength and readiness, and at the same time funding is coming down.

This puts about 75 percent of our troops in a quandary. They have never known a guard without high funding levels.

That leaves 25 percent that have gone through this before at least once and some twice. Having been in this same predicament before, I am here to tell you we will get through this. Maturity, emotional control, and great leadership have gotten us through in the past, and it will again.

Some say we are in the political fight of our lives, citing units will be cut and the unit with the worst metrics will be the first to go.

There is some truth to that; however, we do not have the results of the Army Commission, so our task is to not worry about echelons above us but instead to concentrate on what we can affect.

We can affect personal readiness, and be good stewards of the money allotted to us.

While going through this there will be stressors; however, calm leaders will navigate this obstacle with maturity, military bearing, and compassion for what our

troops are going through, just like any other mission.

It is crucially important to keep your cool during periods of high stress. This is so important that the Army printed self-control in one of our most used regulations, ADRP 6-22 Army Leadership. The following is a direct

lift from this doctrine:

## From My Foxhole



Command Sgt. Maj. Tom Allan  
State Command  
Sergeant Major

**“SELF-CONTROL 5-14.** Effective leaders control their emotions. Leaders should display the right amount of sensitivity and passion to tap into subordinates' emotions, instead of hysterics or lack of emotion. Maintaining self-control inspires calm confidence in the team. Self-control encourages feedback from subordinates that can expand understanding of what is really happening. Self-control in combat is especially important for Army leaders. Leaders who lose their self-control

cannot expect those who follow to maintain theirs.”

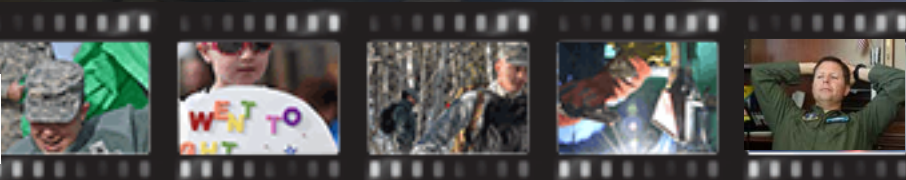
Lately I have seen many members of this great organization react quickly with anger instead of using the skills I know they possess to make calm rational decisions that will de-escalate a situation.

Remember we are all on the catwalk, people are watching how we handle situations, and will evaluate us accordingly.

I say again: calm, mature thinking, and great leadership will get us through this cyclic funding problem.







*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire*  
Cadets at the National Guard-sponsored Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy can now receive vocational college credits.  
See story on Page 6

One unique thing about living in Cheyenne, is having the Wyoming Air National Guard unit embedded in the heart of town. As a military member, I often get thanked for

mine, a public affairs officer – available in the Wyoming National Guard. Currently, a viable opportunity exists to clarify both Wyoming National Guard services and

years later, he is an evaluator pilot and the commander of the 153rd Operations Support Squadron. He lost part of his leg in an accident, but still actively flies a C-130H airframe with a prosthetic, but only after completing a four month re-qualification course in order to do so.

“I didn’t see myself being a commander - I don’t think most people see themselves being a commander when they first join,” said Brown. “I enlisted to become a pilot, that was my end state goal and everyone knew that when I enlisted.”

In order to become a pilot he had to first become an officer, which meant going to a 6-week commissioning school. After that, Brown completed a year of general pilot training, six months of airframe-specific training and a three-week water and combat survival course.

“Undergraduate Pilot Training was not what I thought it would be,” said Brown. “In essence, it was our first introduction to Air



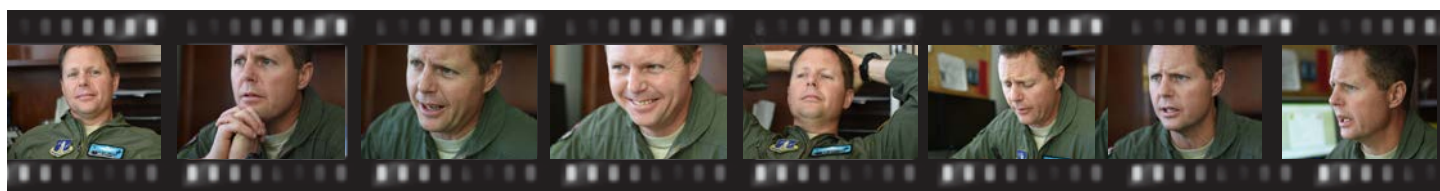
**Lt. Col. Alan Brown**

## What it takes to be a pilot in the Wyoming Air National Guard

By Capt. Megan Hoffmann  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Wyoming Military Department

my service, and then asked what aircraft I fly and where I have been stationed. I explain that I am

expand community knowledge by highlighting what career opportunities are available and the great



actually in the Air National Guard, and that I do not relocate to different bases like active duty, nor do I fly an aircraft. This explanation tends to spur strange looks and then several additional questions where I attempt to clarify the nature of the National Guard and what mission and purpose we serve.

The above misconception spurred the decision to highlight the various unique careers – like

benefits of joining.

Immediately the name of a C-130 pilot in the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, who I wanted to interview, came to mind.

Lt. Col. Alan Brown first enlisted in the Wyoming Air National Guard in 1991 after two hometown buddies, who happened to be in the unit then, convinced him to join when he told them he wanted to be a pilot. Twenty-four

Force ‘fire hose’ training - you have to get used to that approach. At UPT we had a lot of academics that were extremely fast paced. Their method was to ram information down our throat and sit back and see if we would sink or swim. Looking back, it was extremely rewarding to have accomplished the training.”

Brown has been to all 50 states and countless overseas locations,

**See PILOT page 24**





*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire*  
Sgt. Sam Funk deploys an emergency shelter during a basic  
wildland fire fighting course at Camp Guernsey  
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**By Capt. Megan Hoffmann**  
**Public Affairs Specialist**  
**Wyoming Military Department**

The sweat droplets on the faces of the Modular Airborne Fire fighting Systems crew members were in a tight race to hit their jaw line and fall to the floor of the flight deck.

The crew had flown this mission hundreds of times, but this flight was different. The flight deck on the C-130H aircraft was overwhelmingly stuffy as Maj. Jack Berquist informed his crew that their landing gear was malfunctioning - something that has never happened on a MAFFS mission or in the unit itself.

Moments after dropping slurry on fires in Utah last August, the crew circled the skies, hoping to land at Hill Air Force Base as they troubleshot the nose gear malfunction. As they prepped for an emergency landing, Berquist aimed the aircraft toward the foam that had been sprayed on the runway and landed, skidding hundreds of feet to the resonance of aircraft metal skidding on concrete, where the aircraft finally came to a stop.

All six aircrew members walked away without injury and only minor damage was sustained to the \$37 million

aircraft.

Less than a year later, today, the 153rd Airlift Wing, Wyoming Air National Guard, is preparing to fly MAFFS for its 30th year.

The wing has flown the MAFFS mission since 1975; last year was the only major mishap the wing had while flying MAFFS. In fact, since the inception of the MAFFS program in 1970, the only significant accident occurred in July 2012, when a C-130 from the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, went down in the Black Hills National Forest near Edge-

**MAFFS**

mont, South Dakota, tragically killing four airmen and wounding two others.

"Being involved in MAFFS is some of the most challenging, yet rewarding flying our crewmembers will ever be involved in," said Chief Master Sgt. Jack Goeken, loadmaster supervisor at the 153rd Airlift Wing who has been flying the MAFFS mission for 23 years. "We are inside the rear of the aircraft and can't visually see the terrain that we will be flying through while we are running our checklists and arming the system for the drops.

"You have to trust everyone on the crew to communicate quickly and effectively to accomplish the mission in a difficult flying environment."

MAFFS units are portable fire retardant delivery systems that can slide into military C-130 aircraft to convert the transports into airtankers. The unit can hold 3,000 gallons of slurry which can be incrementally dropped or totally emptied in less than 5 seconds to cover an area a quarter of a mile long by 60 feet wide.

As one of four MAFFS-equipped military units across the nation, the 153rd is responsible for providing 25 percent of the Department of Defense's MAFFS capability.

MAFFS also highlights the interagency coordination between the U.S. Forest Service and the DOD as the USFS owns the MAFFS equipment and supplies the fire retardant, while the DOD provides the C-130 aircraft, aircrew and aircraft maintainers.

"The Department of Defense is an important partner in wildland fire suppression," said Robin Patterson, MAFFS Liaison Officer for the U.S. Forest Service. "The military





C-130s that convert into airtankers provide the local, state and federal government agencies that suppress wildland fires with a surge capacity. This capacity is very important during the 'shoulder seasons' of late fall and early spring as well as during periods of high fire activity in the summer months. Airtankers are especially important in initial attack, or the early stages of responding to a wildfire, because they can help firefighters on the ground suppress fires while they are still small and keep them from growing into large, dangerous, and costly fires."

The annually-certified crews who fly the arduous MAFFS mission are highly experienced, averaging more than

# S 2015

3,500 flight hours in each aircrew position while also undergoing additional classroom instruction and flight training.

This year the commander for the Air Expeditionary Group, which oversees the MAFFS mission's operations, is a pilot from the Wyoming Air National Guard. Col. Scott Sanders, who has been flying for 22 years, and has been MAFFS-qualified for six.

"The MAFFS mission is, in fact, very safe," Sanders said. "However, every crew understands they must respect the performance limitations of the aircraft, maintain situational awareness of the fire activity, the terrain, and the weather, and strictly adhere to published guidance, to ensure safety and mission success."

In 2012 and 2013, Wyoming's own MAFFS 1 and 3, flew almost 260 flight hours, on 166 sorties involving 54 incidents in nine states while dropping

732,575 gallons of retardant, providing one-fifth of the total support during these two seasons.

"MAFFS is by far the most challenging mission we fly here at the 187th Airlift Squadron," said Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Arnold, flight engineer supervisor who has flown MAFFS for 27 years.

"Flying in mountainous terrain, unstable air and poor visibility added with flying low, slow and heavy requires great skill from the crews. With that said, MAFFS is on every C-130 operator's wish list of missions to fly," he said.

As the 153rd ramps up for their annual MAFFS training in May, the crews also hope they don't have to utilize their skills and training this summer because that means that wildfires are actively burning somewhere. However, they take immense pride in doing so as past precedence has proven flying the mission saves those things whose worth cannot be measured: wildlife, forests and homes.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to actively lead a mission that's so vital to saving lives and infrastructure," Sanders said. ∞





# Camp Guernsey blazes



Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy Cadet Chris Garcia, 18, of Cheyenne, is among a varied team of personnel trained to battle wild land fires. Garcia graduated at the top of his class in March, and now considers fire fighting a career option.

**Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire**  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
Wyoming Military Department

In July 2012 a fire in Sawmill Canyon left more than 12,000 acres of Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center land scorched and another 2,000 acres of its neighbors' landscape affected.

While the three-member full-time fire fighting staff did the best they could at the time to prepare for and fight wildfires, it was clearly undermanned, underfunded and overpowered.

Today is a much different story at Camp Guernsey. There is a 12-member full-time fire fighting force, the only one in the county; a full-time safety officer; more than 100 National Wildfire Coordinating Group Red Card holders, trained in basic fire fighting skills and prepared to pitch in if needed; new and updated equipment; a comprehensive fire mitigation plan; well maintained fire breaks surrounding the camp's boundaries; and a great working relationship with all surrounding community fire departments, among many other changes for the better.

"We always knew we had a deficiency in our fire assets, and frankly after Sawmill Canyon there came an opportunity through state and federal

funding and authorizations to make the hires of full-time staff and to address equipment issues," base operations manager Col. Richard Knowlton said. "We took advantage of that and it puts us in a position to be responsive, and have a force that's effective and well equipped, and also to be able to go out there and share those resources with the community."

Camp Guernsey Fire Department Capt. Mark Streets was off duty the day the Sawmill Canyon fire was started by a Colorado Army National Guard unit training with ammunition and explosives. He became the initial incident commander after he got the call at his home in Laramie, and reported to duty at the camp.

"We had several Army units trying to fight the fire when I got here around (2:30 p.m.), and we started some burnout operations when we got a few more resources," Streets said. "We knew we would have to try and hold it here, but it got away and blew up on us. It jumped the road we were trying to use as a fire break and climbed up the other side of the canyon wall."

He said it was around 6 p.m. and there were



# new trails in fire fighting

about 45 firefighters on scene when they decided they would have to change strategies.

“Everything lined up weather-wise to make extreme fire behavior,” Streets explained. “And the terrain is just horrible to try and fight fire in.”

Within a couple of days, the fire fighting team grew to roughly 350 firefighters on the ground and was managed by a sophisticated US Forest Service Type 3 Incident Command Team.

Streets said the lessons learned from that event drove a lot of major improvements in the training center’s fire fighting capabilities.

“Communications were a nightmare. There were so many different agencies and they were not able to talk on the

same frequencies. We had Guard frequencies and the local community did not. That’s been resolved,” Streets explained.

“We have 12 full-time firefighter slots now, instead of three. We didn’t have enough folks with red cards. We have about 100 red-carded firefighters locally,

including our mutual aid resources, and we just added another 56 to the roster.”

The camp’s fire department is now part of the Platte County annual operating plan and is able to, and often does, provide mutual aid to local emergency service providers.

Knowlton said he is grateful for the reformed communications and cooperation.

“I would say five years ago, we didn’t have a good relationship, particularly with the fire community. We didn’t have a good relationship with our partners throughout the county or the supporting region. Now we do,” Knowlton said. “It’s largely because of hiring very good, high-quality firefighters and training our force and engaging with the community. Now we have a true partnership. We are not just a consumer of those fire resources, but we are also a provider of those.

“This is the first time we are actually supporting those agencies in their fire fighting efforts. It’s the



Camp Guernsey Firefighter Nick Long, of Cheyenne, shares his knowledge of using a chain saw with colleague Mary Wolf, of Denver. CGFD firefighters come from many backgrounds, and are willing to share their expertise.

first time we’ve had an actual operating plan, the legal instrument by which we can exchange our fire fighting assets and resources for mutually beneficial results. We get calls not just for fires, but for ambu-



lance, etcetera, so that's a 180-degree change from where we were five years ago. We have changed our internal culture of understanding throughout our work force that we impact the community significantly, both positively and negatively and we have to be a part of that community."

Not only has the culture at the camp changed in recent years, but the way things are done on the ground is significantly better. A detailed matrix outlines when military units may fire ammunition, and based on what they are firing, if firefighters and fire vehicles will be on scene, and if they are, how many and what type.

At the heart of the revamped posture is the 80-20-20 Rule. If the temperature rises above 80 degrees, the wind speed is over 20 mph, and the relative humidity falls below 20 percent, all operations will be shut down until conditions improve. There is now a weather station at the north training area to accurately gauge those factors in the main training area.

Additionally, controlled burning has become a routine task for CGFD crews. Streets and his team have burned more than 2,500 acres in the past year to reduce fuel on the training area.

"We are way more proactive. We've implemented a huge prescribed burn plan to help mitigate the risk," Streets said.

Fuel loads are also reduced by grazing. Camp Guernsey is one of only four military training installations in the country that has a grazing management plan in place; it's primary purpose being to reduce fuel for fire.

Knowlton emphasized while keeping the training site, and surrounding areas safe from fire, whether accidentally or naturally set, is a big deal; job No. 1 must go on.

"It's very important because we are still deploying soldiers overseas," Knowlton explained. "This year we are going to support two different (Wyoming) units going into Afghanistan. That's still a very hazardous environment and we must train these soldiers to be ready to go to do their mission and to come back mentally, physically and spiritually intact. That's a very challenging and important mission for us to do."

Military training is a risky business and that risk is addressed at thousands of military training facilities across the world. Camp Guernsey plays an important role in the Department of Defense's training mission. Whether military members firing missiles

at a massive impact area sparks a fire, or Mother Nature sends a lightning bolt into a summer-dried canyon, we are still a nation at war, and therefore need to meet those risks head on, in order to keep our troops and their allies at the top of their game.

The CGJTC staff is making good use of lessons learned to set a new standard of excellence in both training and safety. While there is never a guarantee that everything will be perfect, in this imperfect world, there is a desire to strive for it at Guernsey. The tens of thousands of soldiers, airmen, Marines and sailors that come through every year can count on it and so can the community surrounding the facility.

## **Camp Guernsey firefighters lead training for volunteers**

**L**arry McGuire is a captain with the Guernsey Fire Department, and a staff sergeant with the Wyoming Air National Guard's fire department. He recently left the active duty Air Force after a 14-year fire fighting career, and was one of the Guernsey Fire Department firefighters leading a three-day class on basic wildland fire fighting at which 56 students, from all walks of life and from all around the state, earned "Red Card" certification.

Students studied and were evaluated on standards set by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and awarded entry-level certification in wildland fire behavior and firefighter training. In addition to classroom work, students took part in hands-on activities and familiarization with the equipment and techniques they may use if called to duty.

McGuire said he appreciates the support of the training site's leadership and the willingness of the people who work there to pitch in and be ready should they be needed to fight a fire.

"I didn't see that (support for firefighters) in the Air Force. Most base commanders don't really care



about (firefighters), maybe because they don't understand us," McGuire said. "It's really good to know we have support, and help if we need it. In my short time here, I've found the Camp Guernsey senior leadership and upper management really supports the fire department and that is a great feeling to know."

Spc. Dusti Michaud, of Wheatland, works full-time with Training Site Command as a logistics specialist at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, and is a vehicle operator with the 133rd Engineer Company in the traditional force. She, and many of her counterparts at the camp, took part in the February Red Card training.

"My boss thought it would be a good idea," she said of attending the class. "If they ever need help, I'll know what I'm doing. It's good training. It's given me a lot of insight on what firefighters do."

McGuire said that is one of the goals of the instruction.

"The fact that the rest of the base is here and getting this class, is great. It opens up and gives some insight to a little bit of what we do," he said.

Capt. Tyler Schiele, Department of Public Works supervisor at Camp Guernsey, said the high turnout for this year's first offering of the course was indicative of the culture around the state and especially at the training site.

"One thing matters most to the adjutant general and all the colonels, to resource whatever it takes to avoid a big fire at Camp Guernsey," Schiele said. "It's amazing how many folks we have here, from all walks of life and around the state. Whether heavy equipment operators, who will make firelines, or people from the fire desk, environmental services, logistics, operations. We even have a ChalleNGe Academy student."

The fire department's primary job is to protect the airfield and the aircraft that use it. Secondly, they must know how to battle structure fires, and last but not least, especially in a place like Camp Guernsey, is wild land fire fighting and mitigation.

In the last few years, employee turnover has been a nuisance at the department. A lot of young firefighters come for, and leave after, receiving excellent training in the three disciplines the department's firefighters must excel in.

McGuire said there are seasoned firefighters in the department making for a great resource of shared knowledge.


"We're a team, and we're doing really well," he said. "We're all excited to learn from each other. There could be things that I've done at one place that worked great, but won't work here and there are things that Miguel (Firefighter 2 Miguel Sandoval) has done at other places that work great here."

Sandoval was a volunteer firefighter in Cheyenne for two years before hiring on at Guernsey about 18 months ago. He is glad to see the attrition level off and noted quite a few firefighters from out of state have moved to the Guernsey area. "I think they are going to stick around," he

said.

He said wildland fire fighting in Cheyenne, is much different than what his crews may face in Guernsey.

"I'd been on a lot of grass fires, but they didn't move to heavier fuels, so it's a different strategy," Sandoval explained. "Grass fires are more of an offensive attack, fought from vehicles versus what we have here, where you're digging hand line and stuff like that."

With the current full-time staff, and a big team of able and willing volunteers ready to grab a shovel, axe or Pulaski, Camp Guernsey is in good hands. 



**Camp Guernsey FD Captain Larry McGuire**



**S**ince 2001 the Wyoming National Guard, like much of the nation's military, has been decisively engaged in various operations around the world, mainly in the Middle East, fighting insurgents, terrorist organizations and injustice to protect the world.

At the end of December, the last – and longest – of those combat operations ended. Operation Enduring Freedom was officially declared complete on Dec. 26, 2014, 13 years and 80 days after it began.

OEF book ended other combat operations, most notably Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 2003 – August 2010), as well as a variety

of other operations, exercises, humanitarian missions and troop exchanges for which the Wyoming Army and Air National Guard deployed members.

# Operation Enduring Freedom ends, Wyo. Guard deployed 6,037 times over 13 years

**By Deidre Forster  
State Public Affairs Officer  
Wyoming Military Department**

OEF book ended other combat operations, most notably Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 2003 – August 2010), as well as a variety

of other operations, exercises, humanitarian missions and troop exchanges for which the Wyoming Army and Air National Guard deployed members.

OEF and OIF were the largest deployments the Wyoming Army and Air Guard have completed. The first Wyoming Guard members went out the door not long after the terrorist attacks in September 2001.

By mid-December of that year, more than 80 members of the Wyoming Air National Guard had deployed to Oman, in the Middle East, and were among the first waves of American military mem-

bers sent out to combat the War on Terror.

In all the Wyoming Air National Guard would deploy someone 1,578 times in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The majority of the airmen deployed at least twice, some as many as six times, during that combat operation.

But they didn't stop there. For Operation Iraqi Freedom the Wyoming Air Guard deployed airmen 555 more times. Adding those major conflicts in with the various other global and national operations, exercises and missions, the Wyoming Air National Guard has deployed someone 3,766 times since 2001.

One airman, Master Sgt. Beau Bybee, deployed with the 153rd Maintenance Squadron six times for Operation Enduring Freedom and once for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also deployed seven other times among those combat deployments.

He said everything from military rank to deployment location and life events make each deployment different.

"When you deploy as an airman your job is simple; the only thing you have to really do is what you're told to do," he said. "Once you start getting rank then the responsibility starts to evolve more, such as shift leads, going off-station for recovery of aircraft, and managing personnel and aircraft

for inspections and missions."

Bybee's early deployments were as a bachelor. Now, married with two children, deployments take on new difficulties. "It did get a lot harder to leave each time, the last deployment I was on I missed some very important things like my daughter's fifth birthday, her first day of school, my wife's birthday and our anniversary," he said.

Missing family milestones is not a reason for Bybee to miss a deployment. Serving the country is why he joined the military in 1998. "Who wouldn't want to be 'the guys' that helped deliver the beans and bullets to the guys in the trenches, who are in a far worse situation, and make their day," he said.

The Wyoming Army National Guard joined the overseas fight on Jan. 7, 2003, when 26 members of its 4th Infantry Division, Rear Operations Center, deployed to Tikrit, Iraq. All but one soldier, Capt. Robert Lucero, would return in April 2004. Lucero, who died in Iraq, in September 2003, was the first Wyoming National Guard member to die while on a combat mission since the Korean War.

The Wyoming Army National Guard has deployed someone 2,271 times for various combat, humanitarian and exercise missions around the world, since then. Of that number, 196 soldiers have deployed to Afghanistan, 818 to Iraq and 951 to Kuwait in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Like the airmen in the Wyoming Air



Anyone remember these?



## ed engagements continue



Col. Richard Knowlton, commander of the 115th Fires Brigade, at the time, leads about 3,200 soldiers at the brigade's final formation at Fort Hood, Texas before flying to Kuwait in July 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit, comprised of guard soldiers from five states, included 720 Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers. Missions included convoy security and base mayor cells. Wyo. National Guard file photo

National Guard, many have deployed multiple times.

Among the other missions executed by the Wyoming National Guard during the years of Operation Enduring Freedom was safeguarding civilian travelers for Operation Noble Eagle. The organization provided 207 soldiers to support physical security measures at Wyoming's airports prior to the founding of the Transportation Security Administration.

Hurricane recovery, third-world medical assistance, humanitarian aid, peace-keeping in Kosovo and a myriad of other non-combat missions have also continued to keep the almost 3,000 Wyoming National Guard members decisively engaged since the turn of the century.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Brandon Erdmann was deployed to Bosnia on a peacekeeping mission when the planes hit the World Trade Center towers. He has deployed four additional times since then, spending roughly four years flying helicopters for federal missions since 2003.

"There's a high level of gratification that comes from doing the job you joined to do," said Erdmann, who joined the Wyoming National Guard in 1989 as a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot. He said the common denominator among the various missions – humanitarian, state

active duty, or combat – is knowing each has a purpose. "Every mission is a real mission; that elevates your willingness to accept risk for executing the missions."

During one of his deployments to Afghanistan, in 2009, Erdmann earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, for flying a UH-60 that hoisted five wounded soldiers out of an ambush. "I'm proud of what I do but that doesn't make me who I am. Deployments create experiences that help shape who we are but those experiences by themselves are not the sole measure of my character."

The ability to successfully complete combat missions, like Operation Enduring Freedom, humanitarian aid missions for things like hurricane recovery, or fighting floods and fires on state active duty, is what will ensure the Wyoming National Guard continues to be a sought after military force, said Brig. Gen. Steve Radner, commander of the Wyoming Air National Guard.

"Our motto is 'Always Ready. Always there' and we are," he said. "We will continue to deploy overseas, throughout Wyoming and across state lines. While our deployment pace may slow, it will not stop for our Wyoming airmen or soldiers." ∞



# Meet the Military Department

*Editor's note: Each edition we spotlight two Wyoming Military Department employees by asking them a series of 10 questions. This month we chose Sgt. Amanda Green, 84th Civil Support Team; and Staff Sgt. Brandon Griffin, 153rd Command and Control Squadron.*

## **Q: How long have you worked for the Wyoming Military Department?**

Green - I served as an M-day soldier for four years and then worked full time for the Wyoming Military Department for two years.

Griffin - I just hit the six year mark Jan. 22.

## **Q: What is your current job title/position in the organization?**

Green - I am the personnel/administration NCO for the 84th Civil Support Team.

Griffin - 153 Command and Control Squadron security forces

## **Q: What other positions (to include prior military service) have you held in the organization?**

Green - M-Day- 115th Fires Brigade human resource specialist; technician- executive assistant to the chief of staff; deployment- MWR/ education/ PAO NCO for the 133rd Engineer Company while deployed to Bahrain OEF 2013-2014.

Griffin - I did intel for four years as a 1N05.

## **Q: What is your favorite aspect about working for the organization?**

Green - The welcoming atmosphere. Not only is it that way with the organization, but it is the typical hospitality found in Wyoming.

Griffin - The culture/history, support and training I get have been amazing.

## **Q: What is the best piece of advice (personal or career-wise) you have ever been given?**

Green - "Live by the Golden Rule (treat others how you

want to be treated), no matter what everyone else is doing," from Mary Green, my grandmother.

Griffin - Ask yourself what you want to be, not who. First you must trust yourself. Don't be afraid to fail so you can always push yourself. Don't listen to the naysayers, always say "yes you can". Then work your butt off, do everything you can to grow every day, there's no way of getting around hard, hard work. Finally give back, give something back to your community to someone in need.

## **Q: What are your favorite hobbies?**

Green - Hike, ride my horse, ride my motorcycle, camping and trap shooting.

Griffin - I do cage fighting in my spare time, currently I am 4-0 pro and looking for my next fight, hopefully I get one soon. Can always find me in the gym or doing MMA when I'm off.

## **Q: If you were granted three wishes for whatever you want, what would you ask for?**

Green - For everyone to be home from deployments. To already be done with school and achieve my degree. To have enough money on the budget for the state to give more to disabled adults instead of cutting back every year.

Griffin - That my family would want for nothing. A gym of my own where I could teach and train whenever I wanted. All my family and friends would have perfect health.

## **Q: If you could hold any job you wanted, what would it be, and why?**

Green - I would be a psychologist for the Wyoming Army



**Sgt. Amanda Green,  
84th Civil Support Team**



**Staff Sgt. Brandon Griffin, 153rd  
Command and Control Squadron**



# Poor leaders aren't always toxic ones

The other day I was at a banquet and the guest speaker was former Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal.

The topic of his discussion was leadership. One of the things he said was in the last couple of years there have been about 300 books published on leadership.

To be honest, I thought that number was higher.

Every time I go to a conference somebody is promoting a must-read book on leadership or giving one away.

With all the books on the market and the training we get on leadership, why do we still get complaints pertaining to bad leadership or, more disturbingly, toxic leadership?

Many people in new leadership positions may perceive they were hired for a job based on their leadership qualifications; thus, they believe no extra knowledge and training are necessary. This closed minded approach embodies a toxic leader's inability to adapt and listen to his or her subordinates' problems and needs.

As a person in a leadership position, it is crucial to understand that an open mind becomes more important than ever to be flexible in a constantly changing environment.

The other day I had an individual tell me he thought his supervisor is a toxic leader. I asked why he thought that; I really never got a definite answer.

When I hear someone say her supervisor is a toxic leader, she has my full attention.

If an individual can't tell me why he thinks his supervisor is a toxic leader, is the supervisor really a toxic leader?

Is the term "toxic leader" becoming interchangeable with "bad leadership"?

I personally don't think the two terms are interchangeable.

When I think of a toxic leader, I think of someone who is a cancer on the organization. He or she leaves the group or organization in a condition much worse than it was before he or she entered the position.

A toxic leader also tends to put his or her personal agenda first and behave in a mean-spirited fashion.

A bad leader, on the other hand, is more likely to be incompetent when it comes to leadership skills. He or she lacks the backbone and or expertise to sustain effective action.

As we continue to grow as an organization, we definitely want quality leaders who understand the needs of our organization and can get those results without being a bad or toxic leader. We can get those skills through professional development.

Some of the qualities of a good leader are honesty, ability to delegate, good communication skills, confidence, commitment and a good sense of humor.

Whether in a leadership position or not, leadership skills build a stronger life foundation that enhance self-confidence and provide tools to create a better work environment.

HRO is offering a class pertaining to toxic leadership on April 28. I would highly encourage as many people as possible to attend; we can enhance our skills together.

## The Chief's Corner



Chief Master Sgt. Bill Whipple  
State Command Chief  
Master Sergeant

## More Meet the Military Department

National Guard (behavioral science officer); to continue my career in the Army National Guard as well as help fellow soldiers.

Griffin - In the Air Force it would have to be a F-22 pilot because that would just be a great job to wake up and go to.

In civilian, UFC fighter so I could go up against the best fighters in the world.

### Q: Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Green - In 20 years, I see myself as an officer in the Wyoming Army National Guard with a PhD from the University of Wyoming.

Griffin - Retired from the military. Own my own gym teaching anybody in MMA that would come in and living the life with my family.

### Q: Finish this sentence: I think the most important thing in life is. . . ?

Green - I think the most important thing in life is to treat others how you want to be treated.

Griffin - The three F's: faith, family and friends.



# Add college credit to the list of WCCA grads' accomplishments

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy McGuire  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
Wyoming Military Department

Being withdrawn, or on the verge of leaving high school, has always been one of the criteria for at-risk 16- to 18-year-olds to gain admission to the National Guard-sponsored Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy in its almost 10-year history.

In the program's outdated brochure, "earn a GED or high school credits" is at the top of the list for what a successful cadet can accomplish during the 22-week residential phase of the program based at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center.

Now, WCCA graduates can add earning college credit to their list of what a successful cadet can accomplish.

The academy's 23rd class recently graduated; it was the second group to have the advantage of earning a college credit in one of three vocational skills

from Eastern Wyoming College, in Torrington.

Students attend five 5-hour sessions in one of three disciplines; computer applications, food handling or welding.



"I love it," said 17-year-old Raegan Dumont, of Evanston, one of two female cadets who chose the introductory welding program. "I didn't think I'd like it, but I'm catching on fast and it's cool to be a girl doing what guys do."

Trinity Godier agreed. "I thought we'd just be in a classroom, and all that boring stuff," the 17-year-old from Cody said after lifting the shield of her welding helmet. "It's awesome. We get to learn something we've never done before. I'd consider this a career option now."

WCCA Director Ed Meyer said that is one of the

goals of the new benefit offered to cadets.

"We don't expect them to be experts, but we want to expose them to potential career options and increase their employability; let them know they can be successful at that level,"



Austin Vanhaneth learns how to create a PowerPoint presentation at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington. WCCA cadets earned a college credit for five 5-hour days. Above, Trinity Godier, learns to weld at Eastern Wyoming College.

he explained.

WCCA was one of only five of the 35 ChallengeNGe programs in the country to have its U.S.

See COLLEGE page 28



# Field artillery soldier carries on tradition of excellence

By Sgt. Amanda Preddice and Maj. Rebecca Walsh  
Public Affairs Officer and Specialist  
Joint Forces Headquarters

Spc. Mitch Brauneis, 25, is humble. He's not the kind of soldier who seeks out recognition or praise.

But, he's the kind of soldier who does what he is asked and then goes the extra mile to do a little bit more.



Spc. Mitch Brauneis

Recently Brauneis, who serves as a fire direction specialist in the Wyoming Army National Guard's B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery, was recognized as Lander's American Legion Post 33 Citizen Soldier of the Year.

According to Post 33 commander Ken Persson, each year the Legion identifies and

recognizes individuals for outstanding service to the community.

Brauneis, a Lander native, was nominated for the award by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Adams, the readiness NCO for B Battery.

There was no shortage of admirable qualities for Adams to list in the letter of nomination.

"I believe that this soldier does not know how to do anything halfway and strives to get the most out of life in every situation he finds himself in," wrote Adams. "He is a true role model that we should all strive to be more like and to make a difference while we are on this earth."

"We recognize fireman of the year, law enforcement, EMT, educator of the year, and the other category we recognize is the citizen soldier of the year," Persson said. "Those people who are members of the reserves that live in our community, drill in our community, we like to recognize them for what they do."

For Brauneis this award is significant because he said he feels like he's just carrying on a long, proud family tradition of service in the Wyoming Army National Guard.

His grandfather, Joe Molaskey, served in B Battery during the Korean War.

"He went over (to Korea) for a year, and just talking with him growing up was pretty cool," Brauneis said. "I just have a lot of respect for what those guys did over there. (They were) pretty much in combat for a straight year."

Another veteran in the family is Brauneis' uncle who served in Vietnam and recently retired after 42 years in the Army.

"I've always looked up to him as far as that part of his life – being in the military," he said. "And I have a cousin right now who is serving in the Army Rangers."

Karl Brauneis, Mitch's father, said he is proud of his son.

"Tradition, family, and honor – those kinds of things are really key for us," he said. "Mitch wanted to be enlisted. He wanted to learn from the ground up, and he wanted to be in this unit here in Lander."

Mitch's mother, Marilyn Brauneis agreed.

"Mitch is really the go-to guy, he's always the one that people ask, they know he's going to get stuff done. His work ethic is just incredible. He just really always goes above and beyond," she said.

Brauneis goes above and beyond on more than just drill weekends. In college he ran track and cross-country for the University of Wyoming where he studied range management. Now he works as a wildland firefighter in the summer and a carpenter in the winter.

As a firefighter he said he notices a direct relationship with his military service.

"On fire crews and on engines you're a member of a team," he said. "Being out with members of the same team for weeks at a time, it's definitely kind of hand in hand."

Fire fighting, like military service, is also a Brauneis family tradition.

According to Persson, Brauneis has been selected to join the Wyoming Hotshots, a fire fighting team out of Greybull.

"That's following in his dad's footsteps. His dad is a smoke jumper so it kind of runs in the blood," Persson said. ∞



## PILOT from page 12

all while flying in support of missions designated for the C-130.

Brown has flown the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems mission for 20 years and said that this mission is unique in the fact that they can usually see the immediate, direct effects of their work – he said it's very rewarding and even more challenging

due to flying at high elevations and high gross weights at only 150 feet above the ground.

"You definitely want to be sharp every single day you fly as there is very little margin of error in this mission," Brown said.

"We take the MAFFS mission extremely seriously and pay close attention to crew rest and training because when you get out

there, you have to be on top of your game."

Although Brown could sit down and talk for hours about his training and the cool opportunities that being a pilot in the Wyoming Air National Guard afforded him, he simply urged those unaware about the Guard or interested in becoming pilots, to visit the operation group, as there are many knowledgeable pilots available to talk about military aviation.

"After all," said Brown, "every pilot loves to talk about themselves and airplanes."

If you are interested in becoming a pilot in the Wyoming Air National Guard, or learning about the career opportunities in the Guard and how you can join, contact the Wyoming Air National Guard recruiting staff at 307-772-6333 or 800-742-9993. ✂



# History corner

By Staff Sgt. I  
Historian  
Wyoming Mil



## Camp Guernsey

### A tradition of military support





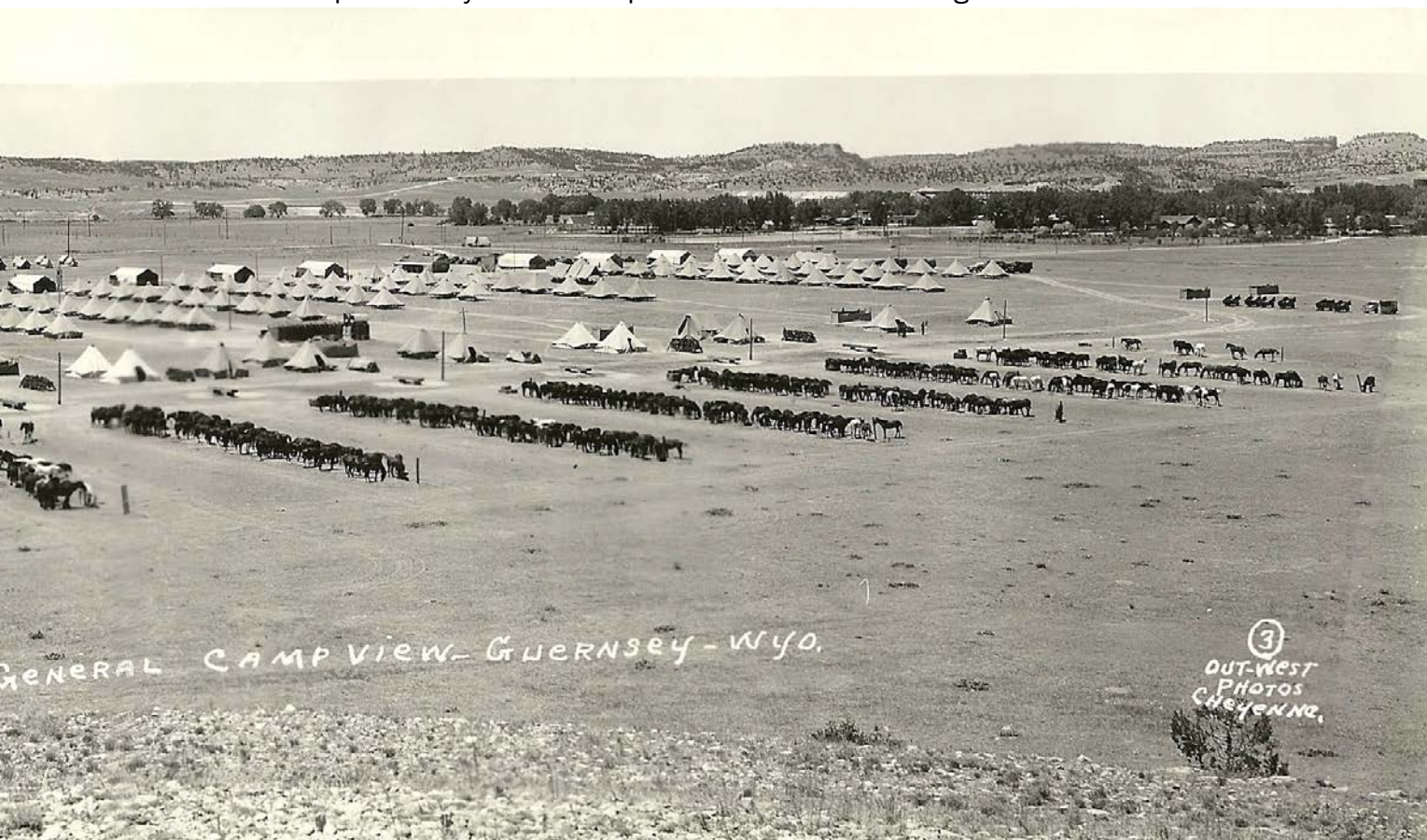
Dan Molineaux  
Military Department

The region where Camp Guernsey, the Wyoming National Guard's premier training facility, is located has been a source of military protection, action and

training for the last 160 years. The first military post in the state was established in June 1849 at Fort Laramie, then called Fort John, 10 miles east of the location of Camp Guernsey. Created to protect

John Fremont wrote while completing a mapping expedition of the Oregon Trail in 1842, that the region would make an ideal location for a military camp. His early thoughts on the location have proved to be prescient with several military posts created in and around the area by U.S. Army personnel.

The migration of settlers from the Eastern United States beginning in the 1840s would necessitate the mobilization of the U.S. Army for protection of settlers moving west. Evidence of the mass num-



westward bound settlers from attacks, to watch over the newly established railroad lines, and to maintain newly installed telegraph wires, the military base would serve as the first of several military outposts in the region.

## *The early years*

Southeastern Wyoming has long been the traditional hunting and seasonal camping region for numerous Native American groups. Evidence of this can be seen around Camp Guernsey with the numerous rock circles marking areas used for housing by early hunting groups, stone projectile points and hunting sites. Noted for its unique and varied natural land formations, United States Army officer

ber of people that moved through this region can be seen today at the Oregon Trail Ruts. From 1841 through 1869, an untold number of wagons, draft animals and settlers wore down the sandstone trail from 2- to 6-foot deep ridge; the site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1966.

Starting in 1853, a series of skirmishes in the region, beginning at the current location of Fort Laramie, would escalate between European settlers and Native American groups. The Grattan Massacre in 1854 would spark a series of small-scale battles between the military and various native groups in the region, resulting in deaths on both sides, as well as civilians establishing homesteads in Wyoming. These confrontations would continue throughout the



## HISTORY from page 25



1860s, up until 1877 when the last death was recorded at the Battle of Big Bitter Cottonwood Creek. The completion of the transcontinental railroad to the south of the region would end the importance of the area for military purposes, and lead to the gradual reduction of wagon train travel.

## Construction begins

As early as 1931, then Wyoming National Guard Adjutant General Rhodolph Esmay, began discussing changing the summer training location for the Wyoming National Guard from Pole Mountain Training Area, east of Laramie, to the town of Guernsey to comply with a federal regulation that training areas be accessible year round. Heavy snow would routinely shut down Pole Mountain and much of the area was unusable during the winter months. In 1937 money


was authorized by the Wyoming Legislature for establishing a training center in Guernsey. Federal money followed in 1938. Construction would begin the following year when \$35,000 was earmarked through the Works Project Administration, a Federal program that put money into public roads and buildings, and put millions of mostly unskilled men to work around the country. Throughout the following generations, the camp would acquire additional land, improve their scope of operations and become a major training facility for a wide variety of military and

civilian organizations, in addition to the Wyoming National Guard.

## Modern Camp Guernsey

Growth, development and modernization are all at the forefront of Camp Guernsey's current philosophy. From its early days as a setting for annual summer training, the facility has grown into a premier joint training facility. Encompassing nearly 80,000 acres of diverse environmental terrain, the camp can accommodate a wide variety of military maneuvers, including a vast array of

field artillery weapons systems and aircraft attack training, along with various aviation operations, state-of-the-art indoor training and meeting facilities.

From its early origin as a frontier fort in the American West, the camp seeks to provide realistic, combat-based training for all manner of military and civilian forces. With an eye to the future, Camp Guernsey is continually seeking new opportunities to grow and meet the changing demands of its diverse clientele. From expanding and developing the north training area's aircraft landing strips to accommodate larger aircraft, to creating flight opportunities for unmanned aerial vehicles, the camp's full time staff is dedicated to the ever-expanding utilization of Wyoming's foremost training facility. 





# STARBASE at 20 still brings excitement to young minds

Story and photos by  
Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Mc-  
Guire  
Public Affairs NCOIC  
Wyoming Military Dept.

STARBASE Academy, in Cheyenne, hosted a group of guest instructors for 60 9- to 14-year-olds, interested in expanding their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

STEM Night featured four graduate student instructors from the University of Wyoming's Science Posse. The team brought engaging experiments for the students to expand their interest and knowledge of STEM disciplines.

"It's really fun making stuff explode," said Jaesa



Nathan Duncan and Andrew Cassidy, both 9, use magnets to separate iron from crushed and watered cereal. "Total Iron" was one of four experimental sessions presented by Science Posse instructors at STARBASE in Cheyenne March 11.



Jaesa Whitesell, 8, and Luke Salsgiver, 9, both students at Jessup Elementary School in Cheyenne, watch the foamy chemical reaction created by adding potassium iodide to hydrogen peroxide during one of four experimental sessions presented by Science Posse instructors at STARBASE in Cheyenne March 11.

Whitesell, an 8-year-old student at Jessup Elementary School, in Cheyenne, after her group mixed concentrations of hydrogen peroxide and potassium iodide to create "Elephant Toothpaste".

"Sometimes when you mix stuff, it just might explode," she continued.

The students were limited to a 3 percent hydrogen peroxide dilution for their experiment that yielded a small blast of foamy substance from their beakers. Instructor Phil Bergmaier added

a 30 percent solution that created a three-foot mass of paste.

"It's fun to have the kids learn what we do in a fun way, and to let them know the things they can do," Bergmaier said.

The Science Posse has travelled extensively throughout the state bringing their unique approach to teaching. Bergmaier said funding cuts have kept them closer to Laramie and putting fewer days into the effort. √



## COLLEGE from page 22

instructor Patricia Pulliam. "So (the cadets) are taking an actual class we teach. It's good for personal use and most employers want us to have some computer skills. We're going deeper than a lot of jobs would require. They are all good, fast learners."

Meyer said he hopes the cadets can say to themselves, "I can do it. I'm a college student. I can do this." ♪



Family Consumer Sciences Instructor Stephanie Vento teaches Chalenge Academy cadets how to make a proper shopping list for meal planning in the food services class where the cadets earned one college credit. The cadets shopped for groceries and prepared a five-course meal over the span of the course.

## Help us make Cowboy Guard better

Let us know what you like about Cowboy Guard and how we can make it better. We've created a web-based form for you to provide inputs to our magazine. Please take a moment to fill out the form found at this link:

<http://bit.ly/cowboyfb>.

## CHILDREN from page 3

book and look through it. "I'd read them all the time."

As Kaycee enjoyed the moments flipping through numerous emails, Abbey struggled with the unknown.

"Just the fact we didn't know what was going to be happening and not knowing where (Dad) would be at all times and the idea that he was going to war," she said, remembering the days when she thought of her dad. "It was scary to think about."

"I remember when we would talk over the phone and remember when we would talk on Christmas and it would be a big deal," Abbey said.

Kaycee didn't get many opportunities to talk to her

“It was scary to think about.”

Abbey Spaulding

dad, but that was somewhat by design. Eric refrained from calling home too much, because he

wanted to prevent a routine from happening, and in case of days without a call, alleviate home front fears.

"I did not talk to them every day in case of a commo blackout," Eric said. "I didn't want them to get more stressed if they didn't hear from me a lot."

On mid-tour leave, Eric gave a wonderful surprise to Kaycee, showing up at a school recital without telling her. The surprise worked. Kaycee said she remembered excitedly running up to him. The feeling would return when Eric came home for good.

"It was good to have him back and see him," Kaycee said, with tears of joy remembering his return. "He is my best friend," she added.

Abbey shared that excitement when her father Jason returned. But, like most deployments, there is an immense adjustment to the new environment for the family and the returning service member.

"He had to adjust to living in the real world again," Abbey said. "On the family it was real hard, we had to be careful around him."

Kaycee had to wait until school was over to live with her dad again. By that time it had been almost two years since the family was under the same roof. But that didn't matter to her.

"Distance tests a person. You know who is going to stay with you, no matter what," she said. ♪



# E9s inducted to Joint fraternity



Warren Chiefs and Sergeant Major Group inductees receive affirmation and Senior NCO Charge at a March 6 induction ceremony in Cheyenne. From left are: Sgt. Maj. Micheal A. Strasser, operations sergeant major 2/300th Field Artillery Battalion; Chief Master Sgt. Luke L. LeFurge, personnel chief enlisted manager Joint Force Headquarters; Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Khan, special weapons flight chief 90th Munitions Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Donald S. Gallagher, superintendent operations 790th Missile Security Forces Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Brian S. Cain, superintendent operations 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Shane R. Murray, security forces manager 790th Missile Security Forces Squadron; Sgt. Maj. Steven M. Stoughton, G3 sergeant major Joint Forces Headquarters; Sgt. Maj. Lindsay C. Schmidt, G1 sergeant major Joint Forces Headquarters; Chief Master Sgt. John A. Moritz, component maintenance flight chief 153rd Maintenance Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Raymond W. Arnold, flight engineer superintendent, 153rd Operations Group Chief; Chief Master Sgt. Scott L. Wagner, aerospace maintenance superintendent 153rd Maintenance Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Leslie M. Raney, communications chief 153rd Communications Flight; Chief Master Sgt. Alan R Stoinski, chief enlisted manager Joint Staff WYMD.

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**E**ight soldiers in two groups of four walk across a field in formation. Each one is alert. Each one is focused on their mission.

“Contact, 12 o’clock,” yells Staff Sgt. Michael Flanders, their section chief.

The medics drop to the ground as shouts fill the air.

“Ahhh, my leg, help!” screams a soldier as he drops to the ground. He grabs his leg, simulating an injury.

Pfc. Ryan Czczok, a medic with B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery runs to the wounded soldier while another

## Combat Medics Trained and Ready

By Maj. Rebecca Walsh  
Public Affairs Officer  
Joint Forces Headquarters

soldier provides cover fire from the distance.

Czczok drops to his knees. He checks the patient’s airway, breathing and circulation. He rapidly swipes his hands down the patient’s body looking for blood. It doesn’t take long for him to finish his initial rapid assessment.

“My leg hurts bad, doc,” shouts the casualty.

“Stay with me,” says Czczok.

In the stress of the training environment Czczok is calm and collected.

Soon he and another soldier are carefully, but quickly, moving the casualty to a protected location. When they’ve reached cover, Czczok puts on rubber gloves, opens his aid bag and conducts a more thorough assessment.

He checks things like the

patient’s abdominal cavity, respiration rate, radial pulse and responsiveness. He is focused and systematic, the entire time he’s calmly talking to his patient, and explaining each step along the way.

This is just a routine training exercise designed to help medics hone their skills during a recent drill weekend at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, but Czczok doesn’t even seem to notice that it’s just training. He works with great care, just as if the situation were real.

“The unit tries to make the training stressful,” he tells me after the exercise.

“They put us on the spot. My biggest fear as a medic is getting out there and freezing up. My NCO’s are going to make sure that doesn’t happen because we practice and practice. That repetition builds muscle memory,” he concludes.

As Czczok treats his patient, Staff Sgt. Flanders looks over his shoulder, evaluating and observing.

“It’s good to be out here,” Flanders says. “My soldiers are getting realistic training without having actual casualties.”

Czczok continues his work, he looks at his watch and checks the patient’s pulse. He takes meticulous notes on a wind-torn piece of paper, it’s important informa-



tion to pass on to the next level of treatment.

Soon he calls in a report for a medical evaluation and transports the patient to the landing zone but he continues to monitor his patient.

“You need to be one step ahead,” Capt. Jimmie Edwards, the 2-300 battalion physician assistant tells him. “Think of what could go wrong.”

Eventually the exercise ends and the group meets together to discuss what happened and what they can do better next time before regrouping to try again.

“It’s important for my soldiers to maintain their medical proficiency,” says Edwards. “Training needs to be realistic, we’re in our ready year.”

“Every year my soldiers need to be validated, which means that they pursue continuing medical education culminating at an event where their skills are evaluated by medical officers and NCOs,” he said.

For soldiers like Czczok the realistic training is not just essential but also kind of fun.

“I love being a medic,” he said. “There’s no other job I’d be happy with in the Army.”



# RSP gets recruits ready for basic training

By Sgt. Ashley Smith and Trish Pinczes  
Public Affairs Specialists  
197th Public Affairs Detachment

For more than a decade, the Wyoming Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program has evolved and unified the training efforts to develop initial training soldiers.

The purpose of RSP is to prepare new soldiers for basic training.

"We start training them immediately," said Master Sgt. Joseph Toohey, Wyoming Army National Guard Southern Area non-commissioned officer in charge. "We're different than active duty and reserves in that point, they don't do as much training with them immediately. We teach them all the basic soldiering skills and they come back ready to go in with the unit."

Units have started stepping in and talking to their servicemembers before they leave for training, said Staff Sgt. Glenn Worley, senior RSP non-commissioned officer. It's making a bigger impact on the individual and letting them know they care, he added.

Toohey said one challenge with RSP is a constant flow of new recruits coming. Every month there are new soldiers who have to be taught from the beginning, and there are soldiers who have been in the program for four or five months. RSP also includes basic training graduates, he said. Therefore the program has recruits with a wide variety of skill sets and knowledge.

"That's one big challenge for us," said Toohey. "We get one weekend where we get drill and cer-

emony down for the whole group and then we get 15 brand new recruits in the next weekend, we have to start all over."

Challenges some new soldiers face is meeting new people in a new environment, said Worley.

"We are a little bit tougher here," Worley said. "With them being so far apart from each other before they come down here, it's hard for them to keep up on their own physical training and tasks. We PT here a little more versus the training bases, so it becomes a struggle for some of them."

"We've been doing RSP since around 2004-05 time frame," Toohey said. "We haven't actually changed a whole lot because it's been a very successful program."

There were two sites when the program first started. Since then the number of site locations has varied. At the present moment, all recruits report to Camp Guernsey for weekend training.


"The more soldiers you have together the easier it is to train," said Toohey. "It's more like basic training. We aren't doing things three different ways, we are doing it the same way."

The benefit of RSP to the soldiers is being trained and familiarized with skill level one tasks before they go to basic training and advanced individual training. Therefore it's fresh in their mind and they are aware of what is going on when they get there, said Worley.

In September, recruits were able to sit in a Humvee and practiced communicating with the pilots flying Black Hawk helicopters to call in a 9-line medical evacuation. They also learned about the aircraft, how to load a litter and had the opportunity to experience a flight.

"So we get to do more adventure training here," Toohey said. "It's better than being in Casper doing squad tactics in the parking lot. We've had a lot of good feedback."

By slowly bringing recruits into the Army environment, the program promotes retention, said Worley. They experience the family side of the National Guard before they go off to training.

"It's really a team effort from all the units from around the state because we can't do this by ourselves as a single unit," Worley said. "It's bringing the state together as a team." 

## Wyoming Vietnam Veterans Statewide Reunion

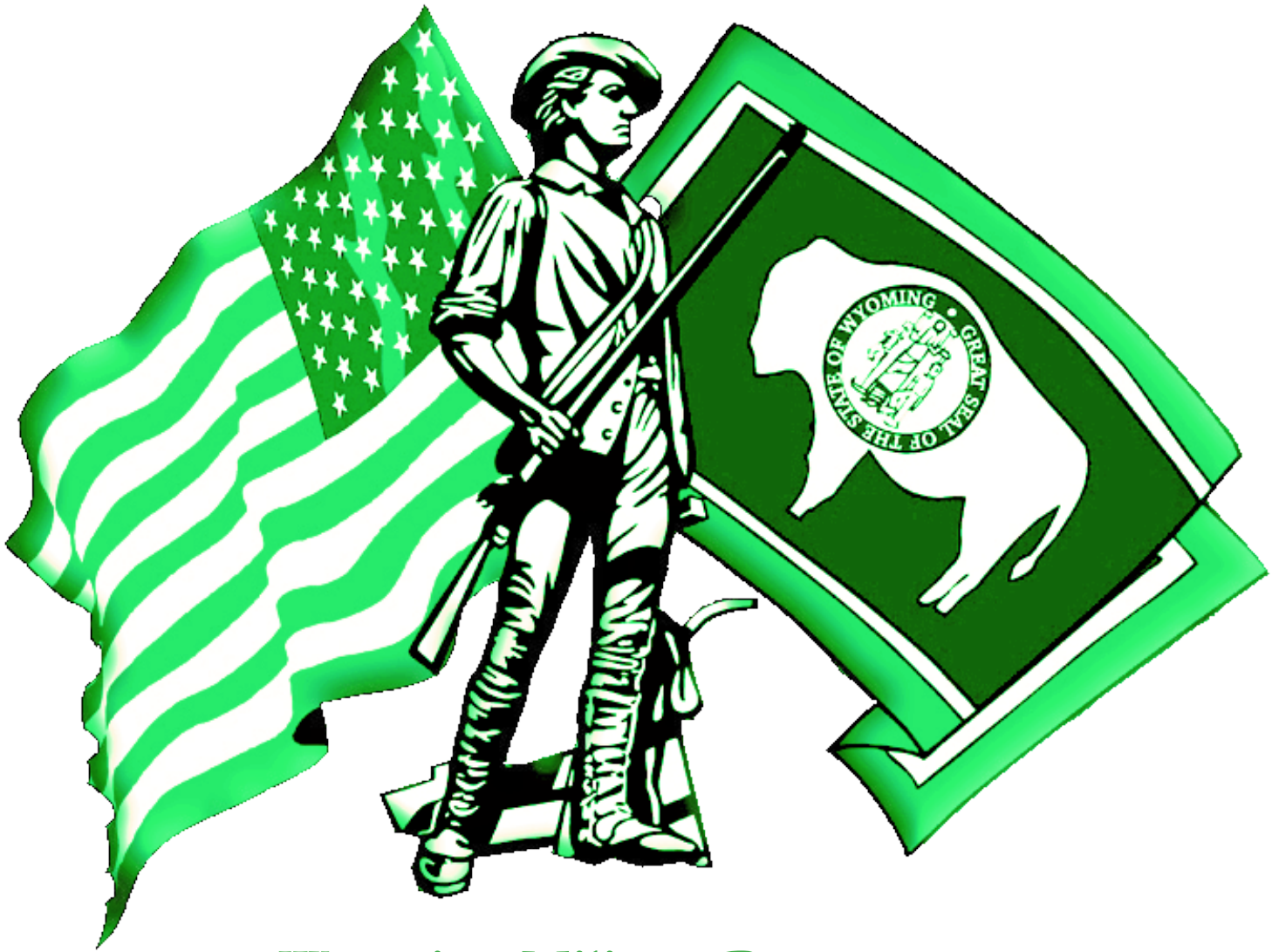


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**If you'd like to see some video stories from this quarter, hit the Youtube links and see B Battery, 2nd Battalion, 300th Field Artillery firing rockets at Camp Guernsey, or see the RSP program in action.**

***<https://youtu.be/vy6rgWg9kHk>***

***<https://youtu.be/kySPx5w5hxs>***