



Battle Born

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ON THE COVER: Master Sgt. William Topken, seen here in Vietnam in his early 20s, is the Nevada Air Guard's last Vietnam vet. He will retire next year.

Photo: Courtesy of Master Sgt. William Topken

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brigadier General Frank Gonzales • Colonel Michael Carlson

Commander's report: Nevada National Guard among best in the nation



*Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales
Army Guard Commander*

In August, the Nevada National Guard has successfully completed its State of the State address at the National Guard Bureau in Washington. I am proud to report we are one of the best National Guard organizations in the United States.

With that trip, we successfully completed a journey that began three years ago with a goal to be among the top 10 on the Director's Strength Readiness Oversight report among the 50 states and four territories that constitute the Army National Guard. In several areas, we are No. 1 in the nation. This is a significant accomplishment and one for all of us to be very proud.

Additionally, we recently received a significant force structure increase within the Nevada Army Guard. We acquired the 17th Sustainment Brigade that will become the first modified table of organization and equipment – capable of going into combat theater – brigade headquarters in Nevada state history.

Along with the brigade, we added the 757th Combat Service Support Battalion, the 609th Sapper Company, Company B, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and an engineer haul platoon. This force structure promises to increase our strength from 2,500 to more than 3,200 soldiers. With our ongoing outstanding performance, we will continue to be deployed into combat theaters. Nevada soldiers have proven to be the best in the U.S. Army.

With this unprecedented growth, it is a great time to be in the Nevada National Guard. This era is sure to allow our soldiers and airmen tremendous opportunities for ongoing personal growth and promotional opportunities. ■

Potential – An important word to remember during military career



*Col. Michael Carlson
Army Guard Chief of Staff*

Taking a military career past 20 years is an important challenge that needs to be addressed as early as possible.

I have sat on selection and hiring boards of all types and seen one consistent, major problem – many soldiers and airmen don't take the time to manage their careers. Something that's often overlooked is that these boards are less about achievements and more about the potential for improving the organization.

So, what does your potential account look like?

Potential is not a history lesson about the past year's work. Potential is about making you a viable asset to the growth and future direction of the organization.

Therefore, potential must become your personal watchword.

Your career path must be a series of developmental steps that focus on adding to your potential to contribute to the organization. Continually ask yourself these questions: "Is this adding to my potential account?" and "How is this contributing to the organization?"

Here are three key points you should carry away to build your potential account: manage your career, seek challenges, document your accomplishments.

Manage your career. Like most things in life, the fate of your career is in your hands. Don't rely on the "system" to see you beyond 20 years – this is something you must pursue, track and monitor.

Some of the low hanging fruit to get your hands around include civilian education, professional military education, physical fitness and leadership development.

The bachelor's degree you struggled to earn is only the beginning. Civilian education should be the cornerstone of a lifetime effort for self-improvement and professional advancement. Career

enhancement also means looking for opportunities beyond basic education. These are training classes that might not equate to advancement, but enhance your viability – building up your potential account.

Maintaining a sound body is an ongoing requirement throughout your military career and is a matter of self-discipline more than anything else. Don't allow a fitness test to become an emotional event.

Networking is a career enhancement that provides a lifetime of benefits. Effective networking goes beyond friendship by providing bonds of support and learning with each new advancement.

Seek challenges. I have often seen this used as a selection discriminator, especially involving command positions.

The question is: "Did you flourish in the hard assignments or seek the easy road throughout your career?"

Treat every new duty position as if it's the most important assignment of your career, because it just might be. If the hard assignments don't come your way – go after them.

Document your accomplishments. Maximize the effectiveness of your evaluation forms and document your accomplishments. Remember, you need to get on your rater's busy calendar for timely performance counseling. This goes back to managing your career.

Document all of your accomplishments above and beyond just doing your job. You'd be surprised how often these moments are forgotten in the write-up of your evaluation. Career enhancement says to start now to note one or two items on your support form that can improve the overall organization to some degree.

Everything you do must contribute to your forward momentum as a soldier, airman, leader and person. My recommendations are not the Holy Grail for success, but I do believe they are an insight for career enhancement and will make you a valuable asset for the future success of our organization.

If your evaluations are primarily filled with common remarks, you face a serious challenge getting past the 20-year mark.

Think about it. What does your POTENTIAL account look like? ■

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With solar modules, future bright for Guard, environment


By Ashley Butler
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Intern

CARSON CITY – Like so many other communities, businesses and organizations across the nation, the Nevada National Guard is making necessary changes to become more energy and cost efficient. With that goal in mind, the Nevada Guard is looking to capitalize on two of its abundant natural resources, sunlight and land, to produce its own renewable energy.

Three Nevada National Guard facilities have become construction sites for major solar module structure projects this autumn. The three sites include the Las Vegas Readiness Center, the Floyd Edsall Training Center near North Las Vegas and the Office of the Adjutant General complex in Carson City. These sites were selected because they are the biggest energy consumers of all Nevada Army Guard locations.

When the project is complete, the Nevada National Guard will be ahead of schedule as it works toward its goals for renewable electricity production. Federal mandates state that by 2015 at least 20 percent of all the energy used by Nevada National Guard military locations must come from renewable sources. When finished, the solar structures will give the Nevada National Guard the capacity to produce fully 60 percent of its energy from renewable sources by March 2010.

“Overall, this project is a big step for the National Guard as it moves toward its goal of becoming an organization that is a responsible example for other organizations in the field of energy efficiency,” said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Groth, an environmental protection specialist for the Nevada Army National Guard. “Some schools and civilian businesses are already interested in making a change and switching to solar energy use after seeing the plans for this project. The Guard will assist these entities as a community outreach effort in providing its lessons learned from this construction.”



Nevada National Guard soldiers install solar modules at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City last winter. The modules served as training and test equipment for this fall's solar module installation at three Nevada Guard sites.

Photo: Courtesy of Nevada Army Guard Environmental Office

All three of the locations will feature the same design. The parking lots at all three locations will be covered by carports with solar modules attached at the top. These carports benefit the Guard by collecting solar energy and they will also create a better environment for employees by creating covered parking with significantly cooler temperatures in comparison to open-air parking.

Another important fact surrounding the upcoming project is that federal dollars will not be used. A private-sector firm, Sierra Solar I, LLC, is the sponsor company for the solar energy carports. The firm will cover the engineering, procurement and construction costs estimated at \$17 million.

In return, the Nevada Guard will purchase energy from Sierra Solar I at a fixed price for the next 20 years regardless of fluctuating prices in the energy market.

“This energy business model known as a power purchase agreement can be replicated by other state agencies and commercial entities to facilitate major renewable energy development and bring significant positive environmental and economic impact to Nevada,” Groth said.

Combined, the solar energy collectors will produce about 3.4 megawatts of energy, equivalent to about 15,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per day. The OTAG complex in Carson City will have a capacity of about 1.4 megawatts and the other two sites will

produce about 1 megawatt apiece. Times of the day and months of the year will affect the amount of energy produced as the amount of sunlight will vary.

During peak days of sunlight, the solar modules will create more energy than the Guard will consume. This extra energy will be diverted back to the power grid and give the Guard sites with the solar panels credit toward future power bills in a win-win situation for the Guard and the energy company.

Some questions concerning how the project would affect the environment and wildlife arose during the planning stages, but because the solar modules will be built over previously developed land – the parking lots – the wildlife impact promises to be minimal. The project received its final Nevada Board of Examiners approval on Sept. 8, and construction has already started.

Groth said other organizations in Arizona, Colorado, Texas and California are joining forces with Nevada in “going green” with solar energy. With its abundance of land and sunshine, the Nevada Guard is among the first of Nevada’s large organizations able to cash in on its home state’s solar energy potential.

Groth said that although construction may cause some temporary inconveniences with parking at the three construction sites, the end result will be very positive for everyone. ■

DROP ZONE

Seaside, Ore.

NEVADA



SEASIDE, Ore. – Lt. Col. Jeff Mark displays the American flag and his team's medals at the finish line of the 197-mile Hood-to-Coast Relay Aug. 29. Mark was the anchor leg on the "360 goes 180" team this year that included nine civilians and three military members. While deployed in Iraq last year, Mark ran three virtual legs of the relay in "real time" remotely for the team and exchanged with other runners via satellite phone. Mark's idea of running virtual relay legs caught on, and this year 61 Oregon Army National Guard soldiers ran legs of the Hood-to-Coast Relay remotely from their bases in Iraq. Photo: Courtesy of Lt. Col. Jeff Mark



LAS VEGAS – Master Sgt. Donald Sanders hugs his wife, Natalie, upon his arrival back in Nevada July 23 after the Embedded Training Team concluded its mission to Afghanistan. The soldiers landed at McCarran Airport after serving a year-long tour of duty in Afghanistan. This was a unique team from the Nevada Army Guard. They left in August 2008 and trained and fought alongside Afghan forces, including the Afghan army, police and border patrol. Photo: Courtesy of Kevin Cannon, Las Vegas Review-Journal

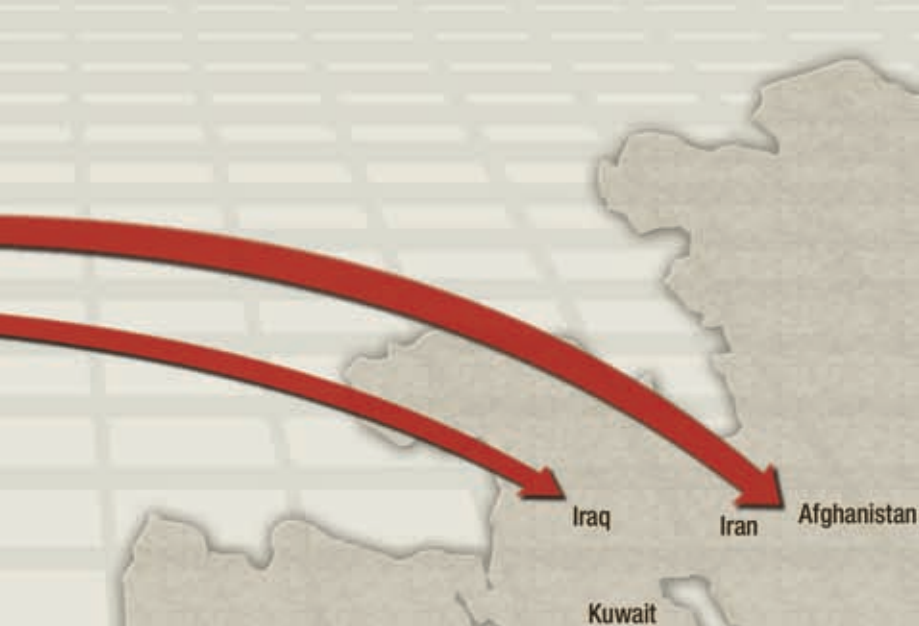


RENO – The "Autism Cycle," its design inspired by the National Guard, took a spin around the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead before heading to Reno's motorcycle event, Street Vibrations, Sept. 25. The cycle is owned by the family of Sgt. Ronald Seagraves and promotes awareness about autism, a neurological disorder which affects one in 150 children in the U.S., including Seagraves' nephew A.J. The cycle has visited several racetracks and events, including the Red Bull U.S. Grand Prix, to spread awareness and inform the public about autism.

Photo: Courtesy of Sgt. Ronald Seagraves



WASHOE VALLEY – Domenic Veneziano Jr., 6, left, who has refused to take off his camo clothing since his dad, Domenic Veneziano Sr., deployed with the 1/221st Cavalry in April, works on his equestrian abilities July 25 with a volunteer at the Center for Adaptive Riding. In conjunction with the Nevada Guard's family support office, the center hosted all children of deployed soldiers that day and offered free instruction and riding. For information on the center, call (775) 329-1839. Photo: Heather Bryan



KUWAIT – Spc. Scott Pitt of the 1864th Transportation Company removes radio parts from a Humvee in Kuwait Oct. 7. Pitt has been in the Army Guard for four years. The 1864th is now in its fifth month in southwest Asia with its ongoing mission to haul heavy equipment and assist with convoy security. The unit, with about 160 soldiers, is due back home in Las Vegas in the spring of 2010. Photo: Spc. Joshua Sizemore, 593rd Sustainment Brigade



Iraqi children say thank you to 1864th soldiers after receiving some water bottles, soda and Pop Tarts from the troops. Photo: Courtesy of Spc. Jake Sere

AFGHANISTAN – Now in its fifth month of duty in Afghanistan, the 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry, continues to perform its convoy security and reconstruction missions in more than a dozen locations in the country. A large number of Nevada soldiers are at a forward operating base in Mehtar Lam. Although a car bombing occurred just two miles from Nevada soldiers in September, there have been no casualties in the 700-soldier squadron as of early October.

Some of the sights from the deployment include the photos below.



Sgt. Patrick Johnson had the rare photo opportunity for a solar eclipse over his forward operating base in July.

Photo: Sgt. Patrick Johnson



Spc. Andrew Silva from L Troop in Yerington makes new friends after distributing some small gifts to children near his undisclosed forward operating base.

Photo: Spc. Andrew Silva

Nevada Army Guard positions itself for expansion

EXPLOSION



By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – As a result of its efforts in Washington, the Nevada Army Guard is in the process of receiving one new brigade, adding one battalion within the new brigade, replacing a current battalion with a new sustainment battalion and adding two companies.

With this prodigious expansion will come new employment and promotion opportunities – and some growing pains until the Army Guard constructs more facilities for its growing number of soldiers.

The new units will create nearly 600 traditional and full-time jobs. Soldiers began to be assigned to the new units Sept. 1 and will be available for state and federal missions in September 2011 when the units are fully equipped and staffed.

“The addition of these units will mark the largest single influx of growth for the Army Guard in the state’s history,” said Col. Alan Butson, the Nevada Army Guard’s director of personnel. “We will receive a

significant increased amount of both active Guard and reserve and technician jobs proportionate to the traditional growth.”

The major additions include the following:

- The new brigade, 17th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters, will call the Las Vegas Readiness Center home and have 309 soldiers. Its subordinate internal battalion, the 17th Special Troops Battalion, will be located at the Reid Readiness Center in Stead.
- The 992nd Troop Command will become the 757th Combat Sustainment Services Battalion. With its 78 soldiers, it too will be located at the LVRC.
- The 46 soldiers in the new 277th Engineer Platoon will join two other engineering units, the 240th Engineer Company and the 777th Engineer Detachment at the LVRC.



Soldiers in the 240th and 777th Engineer units replace a section of concrete at the Stead Training Site in August 2009. These two units, along with the newly-formed 277th Engineer unit in Las Vegas, now fall under the new 17th Sustainment Brigade in the Nevada Army Guard’s current force structure. Photo by Sgt. Mike Getten

- The new signal unit, Bravo Company, 422nd Expeditionary Signal, will relocate to the Edsall Armory (aka Clark County) from Alabama with its 146 soldiers.

Butson explained that Nevada added smaller units the National Guard Bureau offered in the past, and that past cooperation assisted the state when NGB looked for sites for a new brigade.

"Nevada was one of only four states or territories that did not have a brigade headquarters," Butson said.

Sgt. Maj. Mark Rogers, training sergeant major for operational plans and joint force development, said the expansion effort began long ago.

"We began lobbying and planning about two years ago to bring in additional force structure and expand the Nevada Army Guard," Rogers said.

With the addition of dozens of senior officer and enlisted slots, the expansion is sure to increase upward mobility among Nevada soldiers.

"There is growth and promotion potential for everyone, especially if soldiers are willing to change their military occupation to match the new units' occupational requirements," Rogers said. "We will also gain a number of full-time jobs as a direct result of the expansion."

About the only negative associated with the expansion is that everyone will have to compress into even tighter work spaces to make room for the newcomers.

"We will have to put even more equipment into our already limited space," Rogers said. "The new force structure growth will force existing units to consolidate their space to make room for the new units. Everyone will lose space until new armories can be built."

To make room for the new units, the following moves will be made:

- The 221st Cavalry will condense its space at the Edsall Armory to make room for the incoming signal unit.

- The 991st Troop Command will condense its workspace at Reid Readiness Center to make room for the 757th Special Troops Battalion.

- Both the 1/168th MEDEVAC and the 1/189th Aviation companies will condense into one command suite at Reid Readiness Center.

- The 106th Public Affairs Detachment moved from Stead to the Office of the Adjutant General building in Carson City. The 150th Maintenance Company made room for the PAD in its command suite.

New brick-and-mortar buildings for all of Nevada's new soldiers appear to be years away from completion. According to Capt. Dan Thielen, the Nevada Army Guard's facilities designs and projects manager, an actual soldier surplus must exist before building can commence.

"You cannot build for force you don't have," Thielen said. "This office recognizes there will not be enough room for the new soldiers, and it will be difficult to catch up to the expansion. But we are working diligently with Guard Bureau and our congressional delegations to remedy the issue."

Thielen said a new readiness center has been proposed for a site just north of the Edsall Readiness Center, and a field maintenance shop is set to be built next to the Las Vegas Readiness Center. Construction is set to begin on both facilities within the next two years.

A civil support team building at Las Vegas Readiness Center is also in the planning stages.

Rogers said the positive effects of the expansion will far outweigh any growing pains.

"We will all have to deal with the pain of not having enough space, but there will be many long-term benefits," Rogers said. ■

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FROM ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

New position entails broad spectrum of topics

*By Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry
State Command Chief*

The enlisted force structure of the Air Force requires each of its command chief master sergeants to "provide leadership to the enlisted force and advise commanders on matters impacting the enlisted force, among other responsibilities."

As the Nevada Air Guard's command chief master sergeant, I am the principal advisor to the adjutant general for all enlisted airman affairs, including force structure, leadership development, benefits programs and airman recognition. But I see my duties encompassing much more than those topics.

The Nevada Air National Guard has a rich and storied history we can all take pride in. Since 9/11, our operational tempo has been greater than ever, and it continues to test us every day.

We live in a high-tech world that is moving at an incredible pace, so we must have the vision to move forward. At the same time, it is important to remember that much of our success is rooted in fundamentals and basics.

I would like to return to the root of what constitutes a top military organization and prioritize discipline, high standards, morale, professionalism and leadership.

I understand the National Guard of the past and the Guard of the present. We need to stop resisting change and allow transformation to occur.

A big part of that is changing the culture of the Guard in our state. Today's airmen don't join the organization based on what aircraft is sitting on the ramp or social activities. They join for a variety of reasons: travel opportunity, discipline, structure, patriotism



Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry

and educational benefits, to name just a few. Members stay because they like their organization or first line supervisor; they leave for precisely the opposite reasons.

Communication, top to bottom and bottom to top, is critical to the success of any organization. We need to listen to our junior airmen. When they have an issue or a question, we have to ensure that we get back to them with an answer. We need to use our councils to educate and inform.

We need strength in our processes. Is the current way of doing business the best way? Is it the correct way? Is it what is best for our airmen?

I want to take a good look at some of our business practices and, with your assistance, make appropriate changes. We need to eliminate the time wasted resolving issues that arise due to poor processes.

Everyone needs to manage their own career. You play a big part in your professional development. What do you want? Do you have a plan to get there? Is accountability in place for you to succeed?

We need to give airmen the opportunity to have a full career that includes a broad spectrum of education, experience and assignments.

Let me conclude by saying it's an honor and privilege to serve you, the enlisted men and women of the Nevada Air National Guard.

I understand that, just like the stripes on my shoulders are borrowed, so too is the added star on my chevron. I will do my absolute best to serve you in taking care of enlisted issues that affect Nevada's airmen and their families. ■

Although Scurry has been in the military for 29 years, he can't retire until at least 2011 when his daughter Allie is set to graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno.

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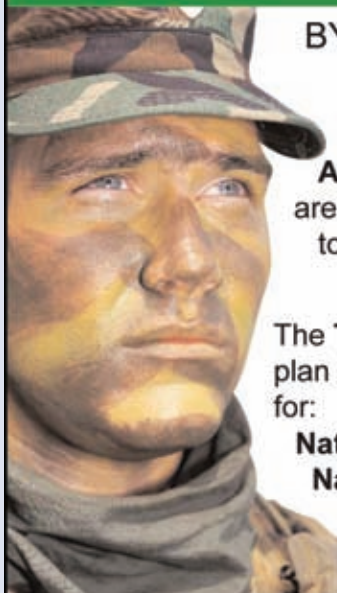
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Sitton, Keithley step into new enlisted roles

CARSON CITY — The structure of the Nevada Army Guard's senior enlisted leadership experienced major changes during the summer as Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Sitton was named the state's first senior enlisted leader by Brig. Gen. Bill Burks in July and Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Keithley stepped into the state sergeant major role vacated by Sitton.

With the creation of the new position, Nevada joins 20 other state National Guards with senior enlisted leaders. Sitton's duties will include oversight of enlisted training, morale, leadership, personnel and logistics. He will also act as an advocate on all enlisted matters for soldiers, airmen, their families and their civilian employers.

Sitton said the increasingly joint organization of the National Guard made the new position a necessity.

"The Adjutant General needed a senior enlisted leader who could report to him on all matters that pertain to the enlisted soldiers and airmen of the Nevada National Guard," Sitton said.

Sitton said his duties will be similar to those in his previous position and will



*Command Sgt. Maj.
Stephen Sitton*



*Command Sgt. Maj.
Darryl Keithley*

strengthen the ties between Army and Air enlisted ranks.

"My goals are the same as they were when I was the state command sergeant major," Sitton said. "We will strive for excellent communication from top to bottom and bottom to top and have great leadership from both sides. Our soldiers and airmen deserve nothing less."

Prior to his current new position, Sitton served as the state command sergeant major for 12 years.

Keithley was named the Nevada Guard's state command sergeant major by Army Guard commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales Aug. 5. As the state command sergeant major, Keithley is among the top enlisted leaders for the Nevada National Guard. He ensures the policies and standards of the performance, training, appearance and conduct of the enlisted soldiers in the Nevada Army National Guard.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Keithley has the skills and abilities to lead the Nevada Army National Guard into one of the greatest eras of military growth and the largest deployment of Nevada soldiers fighting the global war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Gonzales upon announcing Keithley's new position. "He brings with him an outstanding level of combat experience and genuine care for our soldiers and their families."

Prior to his current new position, Keithley was the command sergeant major for the 991st Troop Command. He was also the first sergeant for the 72nd Military Police Company when it deployed to Iraq in 2003. ■

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PERSONNEL BRIEFS

Compiled by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Governor hosts assumption ceremony for Burks

With the sights and sounds of racing T-38s providing a fitting backdrop, Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons and the Nevada Guard marked Brig. Gen. William Burks' assumption of command ceremony Sept. 19 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead. Burks was appointed the adjutant general for the Nevada Guard by Gibbons in June, but this ceremony officially marked his assumption of command. During his speech, Burks thanked Gibbons for the opportunity to serve Nevada.

Gibbons presided over the event that included representative elements from every unit in the Nevada Air and Army Guard. The Air National Guard Band of the West Coast from Moffett Federal Airfield, Calif., provided the music for the ceremony.

Fornof named director of the joint staff

Col. Terrence Fornof was named the Nevada National Guard's director of the joint staff by Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks July 15. In his new position, Fornof will act as the principal management liaison between the adjutant general and all assigned Nevada Guard components and units.

With confirmation, Fornof is set to attain the rank of brigadier general. Burks was the director of the joint staff before he was named adjutant general.

Prior to his current position, Fornof served as the advisor to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center commander. He was responsible for developing and coordinating policies, programs and plans affecting the integration of the Nevada Air Guard into the warfare center. He was also the deputy chairman for the Governor's Blue Ribbon panel responsible for developing the Nevada Air Guard vision through 2025.

Fleitz becomes commander of recon squadron at Creech

Air Guard officer Lt. Col. James Fleitz became the commander of the 30th Reconnaissance Squadron at Creech Air Force Base July 30. The Nevada Air Guard is



Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, right, congratulates Brig. Gen. Bill Burks on his assumption of command of the Nevada National Guard Sept. 19 in Reno. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

integrated with Creech and Nellis Air Force bases in southern Nevada supporting a variety of unmanned aircraft systems missions.

The 30th Reconnaissance Squadron is a developmental UAS squadron under the 432nd Wing, Air Combat Command.

Fleitz has been a member of the Nevada Guard for more than four years, serving as both MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper instructor pilot in three 432nd combat and training squadrons, as well as the 432nd Wing director of staff for the past year.

Farris takes over at Regional Training Institute

Lt. Col. Joanne Farris became the commander at the 1st Battalion, 421st Regiment, Regional Training Institute in a Sept. 27 ceremony in Reno. She took over the command from Lt. Col. Cori Powers.

Farris is a 2004 graduate of Command and General Staff College. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1991 and her master's degree with from Clayton College in 2004.

She works full-time at the Sierra Nevada Veterans Hospital in Reno as a recreation therapist.

Prior to serving as commander at RTI, Powers was on active duty for three years as assistant professor of Military Science and executive officer for the University of Nevada, Reno, Reserve Officer Training Program. Upon completion of that assignment in 2005, she was assigned to the United States Property and Fiscal Office as the chief of purchasing and contracting.

Karrick new commander of Operational Support Airlift

The command of the Nevada Army Guard's Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift, changed Aug. 18 when Chief Warrant Officer Steve Karrick assumed command of the Reno unit from Chief Warrant Officer Mike Billow. Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, commander of the Nevada Army Guard, presided over the ceremony. Detachment 45 is the only Army Guard unit in Nevada that features a fixed-wing aircraft, a C-12 U model Beech Super King Airplane.

Karrick, 46, who resides in Reno, grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. He joined the military in 1987 and attended flight school in 1990. He holds a bachelor's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Billow, 60, the first officer to attain the rank of chief warrant officer five in the Nevada Army Guard, retired in September after recording more than 40 years of military service, including 30 with the Nevada Army Guard and more than 15,000 flight hours in both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

The unit became well known in the world of aviation after it set the world altitude record for turboprop aircraft with a 1,000- to 2,000-kilogram payload in September 2002 at the Reno National Championship Air Races and Air Show. At the time, the standard was considered one of aviation's "10 most wanted" records.

Santiago surpasses 1,000 flight hours in combat zone



In September, Master Sgt. Santiago Santiago, 192nd Airlift Squadron, became the first Nevada Guard airman to surpass 1,000 combat hours aboard one of the Nevada Guard's C-130s. Santiago is a combat flight engineer.

New sexual assault response coordinator ready to assist, inform

By Capt. Melissa Buschette, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

First and foremost, I would like to introduce myself and greet the entire Nevada National Guard extended family. My name is Capt. Melissa Buschette, and I am the newly appointed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the Nevada National Guard.

Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in the world. It's necessary to educate ourselves about the crime and how it differs from the more publicized term, sexual harassment. The National Guard defines sexual assault as, "intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when a victim does not or cannot consent."

Sexual assault and its ramifications need to be taken seriously by every airman and soldier. This crime is extremely damaging to everyone involved. It shatters the core values of both the Air and Army National Guard and leaves a devastating path of destruction. The morale of individuals and the units they reside in can be broken, often beyond repair, by one traumatic event.

As the Joint Force Headquarters SARC, it's my responsibility to promote education surrounding sexual assault and its effects on our community through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training program. This year the main focus of the SAPR program is to teach soldiers and airmen how to intervene in and prevent sexual assault.

It is my intent through this program to inform every airman and soldier that sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated. I want to ensure that every airman and soldier knows whom to contact should an assault occur, what resources are available, and what their rights are as a survivor. No survivor should ever feel helpless following an incident of sexual assault because of lack of resources. The National Guard has prioritized the prevention of sexual assault and the support of its survivors; however, there is always room for improvement. The ultimate goal of the Nevada SAPR program is to train our airmen and soldiers to the point where we can completely eradicate sexual assault from our ranks.

Scenarios discussed during SAPR training can evoke a multitude of emotions for the participants. Sexual assault is an uncomfortable topic and in an attempt to mask one's discomfort, a person may be

inclined to make inappropriate comments, jokes and even snicker. As the SARC, I respectfully request everyone keep in mind that no one truly knows what the person next to you or down the row from you has overcome in their life. He or she could be a sexual assault survivor or a family member of a survivor of sexual assault.

I am a serious advocate for the health and well being of every airman and soldier in the National Guard. I have devoted a considerable amount of time to advocacy programs for sexual assault victims, campus resources for our college Guardsmen, and continuous education about resources available to victims throughout the state. I have worked diligently with the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence throughout Nevada in the past and am always looking for additional programs and events that support members of the Nevada National Guard.

The Nevada National Guard also has an amazing team of unit victim advocates and a wing SARC who are passionate about the well being of every airman and soldier in the Nevada National Guard. Our current group of individuals involved in the SAPR program have the qualities which, I believe, will lead to an exceptional Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program for Nevada and



allow our program to become a benchmark for other National Guard states throughout the country.

Staff Sgt. Michael Noyce Merino, the current Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, recently spoke at the Army Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Summit. His words accurately describe the theme of the SAPR program: "We see every soldier as part of a brotherhood. Sexual assault is a violation of that trust. There is no leeway for that. We don't accept that. Every soldier knows what the standards are and what is expected of them. Sexual assault is not tolerated in any way."

If you are interested in becoming a unit victim advocate, if you have any questions regarding the SAPR program, or if you need to speak with someone about sexual assault, please call me at (775) 291-7820. ■

Sexual assault

VS

Sexual harassment

Sexual assault and sexual harassment may seem the same, but they are in fact very different. The National Guard's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program defines sexual harassment as, "a form of gender discrimination that involves one or more of the following: unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and/or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature."

- Sexual assault is "intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent."
- Sexual assault refers specifically to rape, forcible sodomy, indecent assault, or carnal knowledge, or attempts to commit these acts.
- Sexual assault is a crime punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Sexual harassment can be considered rude comments, jokes or other advances that are sexually explicit and uncomfortable. Sexual harassment can involve physical contact but when physical contact becomes sexual in nature for example, grabbing or rubbing the body or grabbing a breast, it crosses the line into sexual assault. Sexual assault involves physically violating someone sexually. There is a significant difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault, but both are completely unacceptable in today's military.



Master Sgt. Charles Allen: Nevada airman doubles as ‘Trooper Chuck’

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Ranson, *Special to Battle Born*

RENO — Nevada National Guard airman Charles “Chuck” Allen’s dual careers have combined to make him a household name in Nevada.

As the public information officer and spokesman for the Nevada Highway Patrol in northern Nevada, he has become a familiar face on local television.

As a Guardsman, Master Sgt. Allen served a tour in Iraq and was recently selected as the 152nd Air Wing’s human resource advisor.

Allen, 49, said his National Guard skills assist him with his civilian position and vice-versa. Since he has delivered numerous briefings in the Air Guard, Allen took those skills with him as a PIO.

“The Guard helped me with my public speaking, and I’m comfortable with that skill,” he said. “The more you do it, the better you get.”

Allen also said the rank structure is similar.

“I closely relate the role of a first sergeant in the Air Guard to those duties of a PIO for the Nevada Highway Patrol. In each position, I report to the commander and often become the voice of the commander,” Allen said.

“For us, he’s about the perfect Guardsman,” said Col. Jim Cumings, the 152nd Mission Support Group commander. “His military job and Guard experience complement his highway patrol job well.”

For example, he said Allen receives more weapons and squad-tactics training in the Guard than he does in the highway patrol.

Allen believes his experience with the National Guard prepared him for one of his most challenging experiences as a PIO when Trooper Kara Kelly-Borgognone was killed in an automobile accident in February 2008.

“I wanted to be extremely respectful of the family,” Allen said. “I had worked directly with her and her brother, Chris, also a trooper.”

As a PIO, Allen is always on call, so he expects the worst if the phone rings late at night.

When the phone rang at 10 p.m. the night of Kelly-Borgognone’s accident, Allen hurriedly put on his uniform and left for the scene.

After conducting numerous television and newspaper interviews, an exhausted Allen finally returned home the next day at 2 p.m.

“It was hard,” he said. “Car crashes are the hardest for the mind to absorb.”

Chris Perry, the state’s director of public safety, said Allen’s National Guard training has helped him refine his civilian skills.

“He was recently promoted to master sergeant, and he juggles things well – it’s been a great marriage of careers,” Perry said.

Allen first joined the highway patrol in 1990 and has served as the agency’s PIO for the past six years. Initially, Allen had reservations about becoming the PIO and almost walked away from the job after two weeks.

Brent Boynton, a Reno television anchor and news director, has worked with Allen both as a journalist and as communication director for Gov. Jim Gibbons.

He said Allen has developed a good rapport with the media, where it is not an “us versus them” situation.

“He is professional but friendly and valuable to us,” Boynton said. “He is very accessible and is good at getting back to us. He stays on top of what is going on our roads in northern Nevada.

“We look at a PIO as a go-between for the reporter and the person we want to talk to. With Chuck, he is good on camera and good with information. He is always good for a sound bite.”

Boynton said Allen is very professional but also very human.

“He wears the badge, gun and a smile,” Boynton said. ■

Déjà vu all over again for public affairs officers

By Lt. Col. Terry Conder, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Public affairs officers Maj. John Strahan and Capt. Jeffrey Johnson seem to be leading parallel lives separated by only 11 years of time.

Both were 38-year old captains and commanders of a public affairs unit in the Nevada Army National Guard at the time of their first deployment. Both held well-paying civilian jobs with plenty of opportunity for advancement. They were both fathers of young children. And they both volunteered to serve in a combat theater.

But despite their similarities, there could not be two more disparate individuals.

Strahan likes to ride his Harley, quote Beavis and Butthead, and aggravate people who are too uptight. Johnson is a steady, by-the-book officer who is conscientious and easy going.

Strahan was a 38-year-old captain in 1996 when he gave up his command of the 106th Public Affairs Detachment and volunteered to deploy to Bosnia with a Texas National Guard unit. At the time, Newsweek Magazine described Bosnia as “Hell in a very cold place.” Now 50, Strahan is on his second deployment to Iraq.

Eleven years after Strahan volunteered for Bosnia, Johnson was the commander of the 106th PAD when he gave up command and volunteered to deploy. Johnson went to Iraq with an Arizona National Guard unit.

By a twist of fate, Strahan and Johnson, who never met in Nevada, served at the same base in Iraq this past summer.

Strahan is midway through his second tour in Iraq. He’s the tactical safety officer for the 555th Engineer Brigade.

Johnson was the executive officer for the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. He returned to Nevada after finishing his deployment in late summer. While deployed, the two spent numerous hours talking about home and their days in the Nevada Army National Guard.

“The nine months I spent in Bosnia gave me a new appreciation for the training we were doing at home over the years,” Strahan said. “Back then, I had no idea that I would later serve in two more deployments. These deployments have definitely given me the chance to learn more, and they’ve made me a better officer.”

Johnson, 38, a resident of Reno, had similar reasons for volunteering. After three years as commander of the 106th, he wanted to test his military skills and tackle the challenge of a deployment.

His first assignment was as a public affairs officer embedded with the British-led Multinational Division media operations office in Basra.



Capt. Jeff Johnson stands by a blast wall that is decorated with Nevada Army National Guard icons at Balad, Iraq.



Maj. John Strahan puts on his game face for a patrol “outside the wire.”

Photos: Courtesy of Maj. John Strahan

“I had many challenges and successes working with the British,” Johnson said.

When the Brits pulled out of Iraq and went home, Johnson was reassigned to the Sustainment Command at Balad.

“I’ve had my mettle tested, and I’ve grown from it,” Johnson said.

Strahan is also anxious to get home.

“Spending a year in Iraq makes you appreciate life in Nevada,” said Strahan. ■

Strahan likes to ride his Harley, quote Beavis and Butthead, and aggravate people who are too uptight. Johnson is a steady, by-the-book officer who is conscientious and easy going.



Vietnam finale:

By Capt. April Conway, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – He was used to the dry, dusty summers of Fallon and peaceful rural living, fixing old cars and chasing jackrabbits in the subtle hues of the Nevada desert. So when the aircraft door opened and he was met with a blast of hot, moist air that smothered him like a wet, woolen blanket, he knew he was nowhere near home. It was August 1970.

Welcome to Vietnam.

Master Sgt. William Topken, 59, is the last active member of the Nevada Air National Guard to earn the Vietnam Service Medal for participation in the Vietnam War. He is a traditional airman who works in the 152nd Maintenance Operations Flight in Reno as a C-130 aircraft maintenance controller.

Topken is a reserved man, prone to giving short answers to lengthy questions. He sits still now during an interview, but when he opens up and begins to share recollections of his 41-year military aviation career, it's evident that in his life, sitting still was the last thing on his mind.

"I grew up in Fallon watching the jets at the naval base, fascinated with anything aviation related," Topken said. "My dad was a World War II and Korean War veteran, an infantryman, but it was always my plan to join the Air Force and spend 20, maybe 30 years working on jet fighter aircraft."

In January 1969, at age 18, he enlisted in the active duty Air Force and was stationed at George Air Force Base in Victorville, Calif., as a crew chief on the F-4E Phantom II. He volunteered for duty in Vietnam "to see what it was all about," and less than a year later was on his way to Da Nang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam.

"I was with the 4th Tactical Fighter Squadron of the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing, the Gunfighters," Topken said. "In the mid-1960s, the wing had F-4Cs and D that did not have an internal gun, but someone came up with the idea of mounting a Gatling gun pod on the external pylons, and that's how the Gunfighters got their name."

"By the time I got to Da Nang in mid-1970, the 366th had two squadrons equipped with the newer F-4E that had an internal nose-mounted Gatling gun, definitely a Gunfighter!"

Da Nang Air Base – now Da Nang International Airport – is situated in the northeast coastal area of the former Republic of Vietnam and with unobstructed approaches to its parallel north-south runways, it was an ideal location for U.S. and South Vietnamese forces to operate a joint airfield.

Topken said he had a good tour there.

"I believed what we were doing in Vietnam was important, important for the Vietnamese people and important for the world. It was what I signed up to do," he said. "In fact, I believed in our mission and enjoyed working on the jets with my fellow airmen so much that in the summer of 1971, I extended for an additional six months there."

Topken received 30 days of leave after his first year in Vietnam and chose to come home to Fallon.

"I still remember going with my dad to the bar in Stockman's to celebrate my 21st birthday," he said. "I knew he was really proud of me."

Back in Vietnam, airmen were largely restricted to the air base, but a three-day pass to China Beach and two temporary-duty trips gave Topken some respite from the day-to-day routine of 12-hour shifts and rocket attacks that hit near the base on a regular basis.

"I went to China Beach for my 'R&R,' and it was a nice beach, but nothing like what I saw depicted on the TV show," Topken said. "I also went to Clark Air Base in the Philippines for two weeks, where the pilots trained for air combat maneuvers, and to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand to support F-4Es on MiG combat air patrol."

In early 1972, Topken requested another six-month tour of duty in Vietnam but was denied due to the reduction of U.S. forces in Vietnam.

Even with his breaks in noncombat areas, 18 months was a long time to be in a war zone. He finished his time in Southeast Asia and was sent to McChord Air Force Base, Wash., where he became a crew chief on F-106 Delta Darts with the 318th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. But he admits to feeling a little lost after the war.

"I thought I'd do a lifetime [in the Air Force], but I had a change of attitude at McChord. I was a combat vet and didn't want to merely 'play war,' and I didn't like some of the things that were happening in the military and the Air Force, so I decided to not reenlist," said Topken, who left the Air Force in 1973.

He came home to Fallon, became a truck driver and mechanic, and worked all over Nevada and the West. That civilian career would last 30 years, but he missed working on the jets. In the mid-1980s, he got the urge to wear the uniform again.

"I thought I missed working on the aircraft. Turns out, I missed the people, camaraderie and esprit de corps of the military," he said.

Topken began the process of joining the Nevada Air Guard in late 1985, but it wasn't an easy entry for him. He'd been out of the military a long time, and much had changed in his life.

"I was the single parent of two little girls, had been in trouble with the law, and was a professional truck driver with an inordinate amount of moving violations. Attitude, you know," he smiles.

Other recruiters told him not to bother, but Master Sgt. Steve Anspach kept working and pushing for the required waivers until finally in November 1986, Topken enlisted with the Nevada Air National Guard.

Topken spent four years in Reno as a High Roller, including two years on the RF-4 phase inspection docks and another two years as a flight-line crew chief. Within the first year, Topken realized he was doing what he always wanted to do and would continue to do it as long as the Air Force would let him.

In 1990, Topken discovered he could become an enlisted aviator and left Nevada to take a position with the Air Force Reserve at McChord as a flight engineer on C-141B Starlifter transport aircraft.

When the 141s were replaced by the new C-17 Globemasters at McChord, Topken transferred to March Air Reserve Base, Calif., where he became an instructor flight engineer on the C model of the C-141 Starlifter.

Topken is Nevada Air Guard's last Vietnam vet



William Topken directs an RF-4 out of its hardened shelter in Da Nang, Vietnam, in 1971. Topken, a Fallon native, enlisted in the Air Force in 1969 and served in the Vietnam War.

"The C models were upgraded with all glass cockpit displays and digital navigation avionics," Topken explained. "It was interesting testing and evaluating the latest aviation wizardry in an almost 40-year-old airframe, but once we got all the bugs worked out, it was good stuff."

When the Starlifter was retired from service in 2005, and March ARB gained the new C-17, which doesn't have a flight engineer position, Topken started talking to the High Rollers about returning to Reno to finish his career.

"I always felt I would return to the Nevada Guard to finish up. Thanks to Chief Master Sgt. Al Delsanto and Chief Bob Benton, I was able to do that," he said.

Topken said his return to the Nevada Air Guard was both exciting and nostalgic.

"I was close to home, working with people I had worked with before. Most of my peers with similar time in service were 10-15 years younger than me," he said. "Some of my fellow maintainers, who were buck and staff sergeants with me years ago, are now senior and chief master sergeants leading the maintenance sections.

"A couple of them are now majors and C-130 pilots, and two are colonels. It has always made me feel good to see people excel."

All told, Topken has been a crew chief on two legacy fighter aircraft, a flight engineer who has recorded 5,000 flight hours, including 160 combat and combat support hours, in less than 15 years – pretty good for a reservist, he says – with eight different

squadrons at four different bases, and now an aircraft maintenance control airman with the 152nd.

He's been to all seven continents and dozens of countries therein, received two associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, earned a private pilot's license and multiple occupational certificates.

Topken has four children and three grandchildren, with one more due soon. During the week, he's a civilian contractor aircraft services technician at the air terminal and transient aircraft line at Fallon Naval Air Station.

After more than 27 years of service within a 41-year time period, Topken can see the end of his military career, this time for good. He is set to retire February 1.

He will finish his career a scant hour from where it began, close to home where he watched the jets flying "a long, long time ago."

"I'll miss all of the people I served with and the good relationships we've had over the years, but it will be good to spend more time with my wife and my kids, two of whom are still in high school, and my grandkids," Topken said. "Even with all of the good and wonderful things I have been able to do since then, my time in Vietnam is still the greatest adventure of my life.

"I am grateful to the Nevada Air Guard for the opportunity to be of service to our great state of Nevada and to the U.S. Air Force for allowing me to serve our great country. Aim high." ■

Nevada Army Guard Vietnam veterans will be profiled in the Winter 2010 issue of Battle Born.



Master Sgt. William Topken, 59, is set to retire in February after a career that has spanned four decades.

Suicide prevention training aims to curb sad trend

By Ashley Butler

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Intern

CARSON CITY – It's a sad fact that 617 National Guard soldiers and airmen have died since 2001 supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Perhaps more disheartening, though, is the even sadder fact that 262 National Guardsmen have taken their own lives in the same time period. In comparison, that number is more than 100 deaths greater than the total – 157 – of National Guard soldiers killed while on duty as a result of aviation or ground transportation accidents since 2001, according to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center.

Suicide, especially among Army Guard soldiers, remains a serious problem in the National Guard. There have already been 39 cases of suicide nationwide among Army Guard soldiers in 2009.

The Nevada National Guard has taken significant steps to address the problem with the implementation of suicide-prevention training for every soldier and the addition of a full-time suicide prevention coordinator to its staff, Staff Sgt. Tiffany McKimmy.

"The problem is growing, especially in the Army," McKimmy said. "This year, the Army is on track for its deadliest year ever from suicide."

McKimmy's suicide prevention duties entail ensuring each Army Guard soldier completes two phases of suicide prevention training and each unit has a trained suicide intervention officer. The suicide prevention training includes a session on recognizing the signs and symptoms of a suicidal person, how to react to the signs, and how to ensure a person receives needed assistance.

She also works to create an environment within the Guard where everyone can receive support without judgment.

"Our goal is to remove the stigma that if you ask for help, you will be considered a sub-par soldier," McKimmy said. "In reality, seeking help is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness."

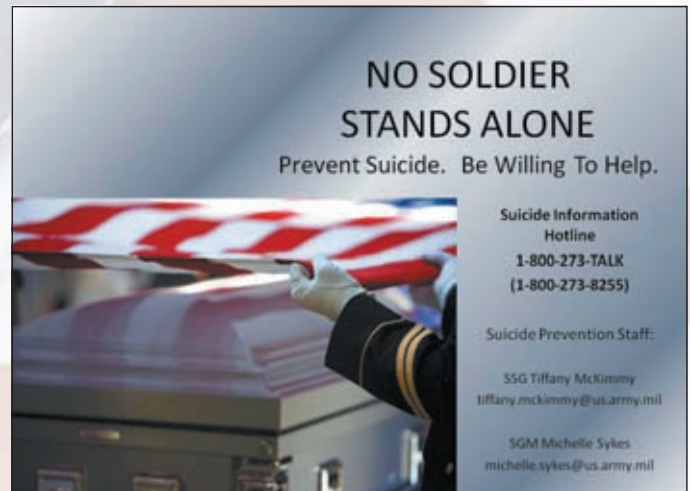
Although the number of suicides nationally is high, there have been no Nevada Army Guard suicides since 9/11, a statistic McKimmy hopes to retain through informing soldiers about the problem.

"Knowing about suicide and its effects is important," McKimmy said. "Everyone should take it seriously, because it affects us all."

Although its statistics are not as dramatic as the Army Guard's, the Air Force also has a significant suicide problem. The Air Force lost 38 airmen to suicide in 2008. (Air Force statistics did not separate active duty, reserve and National Guard airmen.) None were from the Nevada Air National Guard in 2008, but the Nevada Air Guard has lost two airmen to suicide since 2001.

The Air Force is combating its suicide numbers by training each of its first sergeants in suicide prevention. Anyone can also view the Air Force's public suicide prevention Web site at www.afspp.afmcs.mil.

Although deployment and combat stress likely contribute to the Army Guard's high suicide rate, a recent Army Guard study provided



Sgt. First Class Shauna Reese of the 17th Special Troops Battalion submitted this design as an entry in the Nevada Army Guard's recent poster contest for suicide prevention.

some interesting and not readily expected facts surrounding the reasons for suicide and suicide attempts:

- Never deployed – 60 percent of the individuals had no deployment history
- Relationships – 75 percent of the cases studied had ties to personal relationship issues
- Integration – 50 percent of the cases involved some unit integration or reintegration issues.
- Substance abuse – 50 percent of the cases involved some substance abuse, specifically alcohol

McKimmy said many people falsely believe suicide will solve their problems. "They want their pain to be over," McKimmy said. "They don't see any other way to get the pain to stop. It's our duty to show them they have other options."

McKimmy recommends that anyone who has experienced a traumatic event that is causing depression should seek guidance. She said thoughts of hopelessness, talking about death or giving away possessions are all possible signs of someone who is thinking about suicide.

Veterans also are at risk of suicide and are often overlooked as potential recipients for suicide prevention information.

"There are many resources available to help our veterans," McKimmy said.

For suicide prevention training information, call McKimmy at (775) 887-7225 or Air Guard chaplain Lt. Col. Tim Gregory at (775) 788-9498.

For immediate help, one can call the suicide hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). ■

CIVILIAN SUICIDE FACTS

- Nevada has second highest rate of suicide in the nation behind Alaska.
- Males make up 80 percent of suicide deaths.
- Firearms are used in 59 percent of suicide deaths.



Air Guard remains busy around the globe

By Staff Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – The Nevada Air National Guard continues to support numerous operations around the world. Currently, the Nevada Air Guard has six major units and about a dozen individuals deployed domestically and internationally totaling about 200 airmen.

The current deployments are set to continue anywhere from a few weeks to many months. Here is a summary of the current major deployments:

- About 20 members of the 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron are currently deployed, with the majority stationed in Kuwait. Its mission is to build structures, lay out roadways and complete general construction projects.
- The 152nd Forces Support Squadron has about 10 airmen in Kyrgyzstan. These personnel support Operation Enduring Freedom by operating the dining, lodging, fitness and recreation facilities at military sites in the country.
- A combined group of about 50 airmen, including elements from the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, the 152nd Maintenance Group and 152nd Operations Group, are in Afghanistan. The 152nd Maintenance Squadron has about 35 people deployed in Afghanistan and Kuwait. The maintenance squadron completes all repairs to C-130 aircraft. The maintenance squadron also includes all the crew chiefs for the C-130.
- In addition to Afghanistan, the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron has airmen in Iraq, Turkey and Qatar.

Closer-to-home domestic deployments include the following assignments:

- The 152nd Airlift Wing has airmen at Dover Air Force Base, Del., and at Keesler Air Base, Miss.
- About 60 airmen in the 152nd Intelligence Squadron work at their home station in Reno. These personnel support the Air Force around the world by providing operational intelligence and information.
- The 232nd Operations Squadron has about 15 Guardsmen deployed at its home station at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs, Nev.

Several squadrons are also represented abroad, including the following:

- The 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron has about 10 people deployed overseas to Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey and Qatar. The squadron's missions vary. They operate the aerial port that loads and unloads passengers. They also fuel aircraft and work in the motor pool as well as provide local transportation.
- The 152nd Medical Squadron has some airmen in Iraq providing medical support and administering immunizations to deployed personnel.
- The 232nd Operations Squadron trains personnel and flies and maintains the Predator aircraft at Creech Air Force Base in Las Vegas. About five airmen are deployed overseas to the actual locations of the Predators to maintain the aircraft. ■



Staff Sgt. Troy Jorgenson pulls down the side of the fire guard in order to secure it to the California Tent structure at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan Sept. 3. Jorgenson, from Reno, is deployed from the Nevada Air National Guard. His squadron is responsible for manpower resources, billeting and local national force protection escort operations.

Photo: Senior Airman Felicia Juenke, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing



SPOTLIGHT

PTAE tests soldiers' skills, mettle before deployment

CARSON CITY — Whether one is a truck driver, medic or policeman, every soldier needs specific training to complete their military occupation tasks correctly.

When faced with a deployment, however, a soldier's training priority suddenly becomes surviving combat and taking the fight to the enemy. In the Nevada Army Guard, the unit assigned the tough and important duty of refining soldiers' skills before deployment is the Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element.

Based in Carson City with about 15 soldiers, the PTAE assists deploying units during their busy premobilization and training stages. The majority of the personnel are on active-duty, organizational-support orders.

During training, the unit acts somewhat as a "coach" for deploying soldiers. It must provide constructive criticism for the soldiers while at the same time motivating and encouraging the deploying troops.

The team builds cohesion within each unit it works with to ensure the overall success of a deployment. It is the PTAE's job to make sure each soldier set to deploy does so with the proper set of skills and knowledge that is required to return home unscathed by combat.

"The soldiers look at us as playing an adversarial role, but really, we are their advocates," said Staff Sgt. Bradley Johnson, a training sergeant in PTAE. "We are there to help and support the units. We work closely with command and offer assistance."

The soldiers in the PTAE are skilled in many combat capabilities so they can assist in a variety of training scenarios. Because future deployment situations vary, the training tasks constantly change to prepare specific units for their specific deployment situations.

"You have to be a subject matter expert for a broad scope of topics," Johnson said.

He emphasized that he had to be skilled at multitasking to effectively do his job.

Pre-mobilization training occurs before troops go to their specific mobilization stations, usually to sites within Nevada or California.

*By Ashley Butler, Joint Force
Headquarters Public Affairs Intern*

During this time, the troops refine their soldiering skills until the basics can be performed to perfection.

"It is important to have a strong foundation of basic skills," said Johnson. "After that, specific training for individual missions can be conducted."

Skills soldiers focus on during pre-deployment training include first aid, communication, and movement techniques. All training is tracked and tested so the PTAE knows exactly what training the soldiers received and who trained them.

"We track and catalog all training. If it is not on paper it didn't happen," Johnson said. "This is important because if something were to go wrong, a soldier's training can be re-evaluated and techniques can be reviewed for improvement."

The PTAE team remains constantly ready to handle many different situations. The team members must be able to teach and train multiple skills in any location, be prepared to assist with differing group sizes and go on a flexible schedule.

Johnson said there have been times when PTAE was preparing for one unit to deploy but the team's soldiers suddenly found themselves training a completely different unit.

Johnson isn't complaining, though — he knows the importance of his job and takes pride in it.

"We teach the basics," Johnson said. "That knowledge can make a difference between someone coming back in one piece versus coming back injured or even worse."

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Mark became the PTAE commander in September. Soldiers may inquire with him about vacancies within the team.

"We generally look for some specific military occupational specialties or deployment experience," Mark said.

For additional information, call Mark at (775) 887-7372. ■

During the final week of her summer internship, Ashley, a University of Nevada, Reno, senior, suffered only mild nausea when she took her first Chinook helicopter ride.

Chinook helicopter cleans up Carson River

While participating in a community service project Sept. 11, the Nevada Army Guard's 1/189th Aviation Company used one of its CH-47 Chinook helicopters to pull 20 abandoned cars from the Carson River. The cars had lurked there for years below the water surface, threatening the safety of whitewater rafters and kayakers, and marring the river's natural beauty.

The number of cars removed marked a one-day clean-up record for the unit.

The Guard removed the junk cars without charge to Carson City, accomplishing a task that was prohibitively difficult while providing excellent sling-load training for the unit's soldiers.

Interactive kiosk installation nears completion

Eighty-eight of the 91 interactive computer kiosks set for installation across Nevada have been completed. The installation of the computers promises to improve efficiency among the full-time and traditional National Guard soldiers.

"The project started about a year ago," said Lt. Col. Vernon Scarbrough, chief information officer for the Communications Directorate. "The kiosks are installed in each of the armories across the state and in some of the recruiting offices."

All of the interactive kiosks provide soldiers with Internet access to check official military e-mail and allow soldiers to perform work-related duties that require specific military software.

The final three kiosks are due for installation at the Ely Armory.

240th soldier becomes citizen on 9/11

Spc. Italo Macchiavello learned what freedoms the United States embraces at an early age. Now he associates his new life of becoming a naturalized citizen on a day that defined Americans and their patriotic resolve.

Macchiavello, an Army Guard soldier with the 240th Engineering Company in Las Vegas, became a U.S. citizen Sept. 11 during a naturalization ceremony conducted at the Naval Air Station Fallon Air Show just prior



In a community service project Sept. 11, the Nevada Army Guard's 1/189th Aviation Company used one of its CH-47 Chinook helicopters to pull 20 abandoned cars from the Carson River. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

to the afternoon performance of the famed Blue Angels.

"What made this event so special for Macchiavello and three others was that this was the first naturalization ceremony held on 9/11 at an air base with an air show," said Zip Upham, public affairs officer for Naval Air Station Fallon.

The 35-year-old Macchiavello was born in Valparaiso, Chile, a port town known as the "Paradise of the Pacific" in 1974 at a time when his country was encountering upheaval after a bloody military coup deposed the civilian president the previous year. His father strongly believed the United States afforded more opportunities for his family, so he sold many of their belongings and arrived in Miami in January 1980.

Airmen can mix and match jackets through May

The Air Force has extended authorization to wear battle dress uniform cold weather outer garments with airman battle uniforms through May 1, 2010. This means an airman can wear a BDU Gore-tex or field jacket with an ABU uniform this winter. This is allowable because of the possible delay of cold weather gear arrival due to private industry delivery trends.

Nevada Guard unit to represent Region VII

The Nevada Army National Guard's 593rd Transportation Company, headquartered in Reno, is set to represent Region VII in the upcoming national competition for the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence. The unit received the news about the nomination in San Diego Sept. 2. The nomination was given to the unit during the Region VII Logistics Management Seminar as a result of it being one of the top medium modified table of organizations and equipment in the region.

The unit received the nomination based on its maintenance records, vigilance in equipment services and exceptional driver training documentation and licensing. Other considerations were given to the unit's support of its soldiers and community, operational readiness and an extraordinary review from the evaluators.

Soldiers reminded to complete health assessment

All Army Guard soldiers who recently completed a deployment are reminded to complete the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment in order to determine one's health care needs and to remove impediments that may stand in the way of getting those needs met. The PDHRA is mandatory for all soldiers who have returned from a combat deployment.

The program was mandated in 2005 by the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and is designed to identify and address any health concerns. The Nevada Guard is doing well with its completion rate of 97 percent but aims to resolve the health care needs for the three percent of soldiers who have not completed the assessment.

Military research shows that soldiers may experience unrecognized and undiagnosed medical conditions after release from an active duty tour. The PDHRA helps identify and resolve deployment-related medical issues, especially those related to soldiers' behavioral health as they readjust back to their life at home.

The PDHRA program directly impacts the retention and well being of Nevada National Guard soldiers and their families, and it is critical for future readiness strength. It is imperative that all Army Guard leaders and readiness sergeants make sure

their soldiers returning from a deployment complete their PDHRA.

For information, call Staff Sgt. Cathy Manzanares at (775) 887-7245.

Army Guard soldier takes oath with ROTC

Micah Gill is one of the new members of the University of Nevada, Reno, Reserve Officer Training Corps. Gill, 24, served in the Army National Guard for 15 months in the 422nd ESB signal battalion.

He attended both basic and advanced individual training to gain the training he felt was necessary to be a good leader. Contracting with ROTC gives him the opportunity to further develop his leadership ability.

Gill was one of 13 ROTC cadets at UNR who took the oath to uphold freedom while protecting the citizens of the United States.

Guard helps host covenant signing at Capitol grounds

More than 100 community leaders, military members, veterans groups and elected officials gathered Aug. 18 to sign a covenant between Nevada communities and service members in the Silver State at the Capitol grounds amphitheater in Carson City.

The covenant is part of a U.S. Army program to bring together those who serve and those who support those service members back home. The Nevada event was hosted by Gov. Jim Gibbons, Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki and Nevada Guard Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks. The day was organized to honor and thank Nevadans across the state for their ongoing support of those in uniform.

TRICARE clarifies primary care manager

Most military families have a primary care manager. TRICARE defines a primary care manager as "a civilian network provider or military treatment facility provider who provides primary care services to TRICARE beneficiaries." This is the person to run to for all non-emergency services.

A PCM may be a certified medical professional who practices within the state's rules and regulations and has signed a contract to be a TRICARE PCM. That could be anyone from a pediatrician to a nurse practitioner. The medical professional must be in the beneficiary's prime service area.



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Top Three Council, Senior NCO Conference vital for enlisted communication

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Nearly every military organization has an internal communication avenue to raise awareness and resolve matters regardless of the ranks in which those issues arise. In Nevada, the senior enlisted soldiers and airmen are responsible for analyzing and examining enlisted matters in the state and have instituted both formal and informal means for addressing points of concern.

The Nevada Air Guard has a formal council – the Top Three – that meets each drill. Because its units and senior enlisted soldiers are so far flung, the Army Guard relies on its annual Senior Noncommissioned Officer Conference to discuss matters.

The Top Three Council is open to enlisted airmen in pay grades E-7 through E-9. Annual membership dues are \$12. The council meets every Saturday during drill weekend at 3:30 p.m. in the Sierra Air National Guard Association building.

“The council’s primary efforts lately have been to improve esprit de corps, promote military values and to help unite the unit,” said former Top Three president Chief Master Sgt. Rob Taulman. “We try to help with the morale, camaraderie and general communication between everyone. Often our council seems more a service organization on base than an advisory board.”

Taulman, the operations branch chief of the 152nd Communications Flight, was president through August. The current president, Senior Master Sgt. Steve Graham, took over the duty during September drill.

“Our goal this year is to improve upon the foundations set by the previous council,” Graham said. “We will continue to establish and maintain a spirit of camaraderie, esprit de corps and encourage an attitude of unified purpose throughout the base. The council will work to enhance the prestige, responsibility and professional development of all senior noncommissioned officers.

“With the current team, I am confident this year will be very successful for the

senior NCOs as well as the base and local community.”

Taulman explained what occurs each month during the meeting. “The council meets once a month at drill for about 30 minutes,” he said. “We have a quick briefing on current and working issues. Then there may be a speaker talking about open topics. In all, it’s a pretty short agenda, but we are adamant about resolving agenda items.”

The state command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry, said he attends Top Three meetings as often as he can to improve communication between his office and the council.

“I want the council members to know they have a communication avenue through me,” Scurry said. “Communication is a

Frank Gonzales, commander of the Nevada Army Guard, and Col. Michael Carlson, the Nevada Army Guard chief of staff, both addressed the NCOs during the conference.

“The senior NCO conference cumulates the year for the NCOs,” said Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton, the Nevada Guard’s senior enlisted advisor. “It provides the opportunity to meet and look at the past year’s experiences and see where we want to focus next year. We also receive updates on current events that affect us. This year, because it is the Year of the NCO, we invited a number of junior soldiers, which is something we haven’t done in the past.”

Present this year was the entire Junior Enlisted Council from the Army Guard. Council president Staff Sgt. Kimberly Boeckman presented an update to the attendees on the council’s achievements.

Sitton said he benefits from the feedback at both the Senior Enlisted Conference and the Junior Enlisted Council.

“I gain insight from the leaders of the units because they know their soldiers well,” Sitton said. “But we are also making decisions concerning the future of this organization that won’t pertain to us – it will pertain to the junior soldiers. So that’s why it’s very important to hear from everybody across the soldier spectrum.”

Additionally, both of the Guard branches in Nevada also have councils at the highest enlisted level. The Sergeants’ Major Council and the Chiefs’

Council address issues at a level reserved for E-9s.

Taulman said the Nevada Guard’s current enlisted council system has evolved to create an efficient process to initiate change for Guardsmen.

“These councils have proven to be an effective communication tool to keep the lines of communication open between units, sections and personnel,” Taulman said.

For information on the Top Three, call Graham at (775) 788-4793. The date for the 2010 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Conference is set for July 23-25. Contact your first sergeant to receive orders. ■



two-way street. I receive and send information during the monthly meetings.”

The Nevada Army Guard does not have a formal council, but its entire senior enlisted corps meets for two days each summer to discuss issues and topics at its Senior NCO Conference. During the conference, speakers address a variety of current topics including soldier training, uniform updates, career development, operational security, strength management and force structure.

This year, the conference was held in July in Reno. A record number of 232 Guardsmen attended, along with four Air Guard chiefs including Scurry. Brig. Gen.

SPORTS NEWS

Nevada Guard's Ely Armory overrun by Rebels

By Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

ELY – More than 200 years after National Guard “rebels” overran British soldiers in the Revolutionary War, Nevada Guardsmen voluntarily surrendered one of their armories to another group of Rebels.

For a 10-day period each summer, the Nevada Army Guard's Ely Armory becomes the temporary home for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, football team. The Rebels chose Ely as the site of their annual preseason training camp primarily because the town, with its 4,000 residents allows the players to focus on football.

The UNLV staff also found the Army Guard armory to be a convenient – and inexpensive – locker room and equipment storage area next to expansive Broadbent Park. The Nevada National Guard allows UNLV to use the facilities in Ely for no charge as a courtesy to the university.

“We chose Ely because of the altitude, weather and the absence of distractions,” said Terry Cottle, the UNLV associate athletic director. “Our first camp up here was in 2006, and we have been coming to Ely since.”

Cottle said Ely's elevation helps players prepare both physically and mentally. The tough training in the summer prevents the players from being intimidated later in the season against tough teams in thin air.

The Rebels play several teams at high altitudes, including the Air Force Academy in Colorado and the University of New Mexico.

Retired Staff Sgt. Allen Benzon recalled how the relationship between the National Guard and UNLV began. He was the full-time readiness sergeant at the armory in 2005 when the Rebels chose their new summer training site.

“In 2005, head coach Mike Sanford had just been hired. Sanford and Cottle came up here in early 2005 to see the armory and liked what they saw,” Benzon said. “We had no problem with the team using the facility for training. The locals came out to watch the scrimmages and workouts. From then on it was a beautiful marriage.”

According to National Collegiate Athletic Association rules, a Division I team may bring up to 105 players plus support staff to summer training camp. This year, the Rebels entourage totaled about 150 players, coaches and support staff.

It's a winning situation for both Ely and UNLV. Ely receives an economic boost, while UNLV saves money by getting out of town.

“In Las Vegas, we have to house the team in hotels because school is not open yet,” said Bryan Haines, UNLV's assistant sports information director. “The cost of



The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, football team works out Aug. 17 in Broadbent Park adjacent to the Army National Guard's Ely Armory. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

hotel rooms is a little bit cheaper in Ely. The savings help us offset the cost of transportation to get here.”

The National Guard is only one entity that contributes to the success of the training camp. This year, the Jailhouse Hotel and Casino provided meals for the team to eat in the convention center. And each year, the Ely State Prison assists by laundering the massive amount of dirty uniforms the team generates.

Chartered buses make the round trip between Las Vegas and White Pine County, but once in Ely the school district allows the use of its buses to transport the team around town.

“Obviously with the economic situation across the country, the state and at UNLV, we can't be taking the training camp on the road unless it can be economically comparable to staying in Las Vegas,” Cottle said. “We have been able to accomplish that because of the National Guard, the local businesses, the city of Ely, the school district and the prison. Everybody has been a good partner in the ongoing success of the Ely training camp.”

“As long as we have the opportunity, we will continue to come up here for summer training camp. We love it.”

UNLV Football Early Season Results

Sept. 5 UNLV 38, Sacramento State 3
Sept. 12 Oregon State 23, UNLV 21
Sept. 19 UNLV 34, Hawaii 33
Sept. 26 Wyoming 30, UNLV 27
Oct. 3 UNR 63, UNLV 28
Oct. 10 BYU 59, UNLV 21
Oct. 17 Utah 35, UNLV 15

Final Game

Nov. 28 San Diego State @ UNLV, 6 p.m.

Ely at a Glance

Ely is at an elevation of 6,439 feet with an average temperature in August of 85 degrees. It is located near the eastern border of the state about five hours north of Las Vegas and six hours east of Reno by car.

With a population about 4,000, it is the largest city in White Pine County. There are fewer than 10,000 people living in the county's 8,897 square miles.

In comparison, Las Vegas is 2,000 feet above sea level with an average August temperature of 103 degrees. More than 1.8 million people reside in Clark County's 7,881 square miles.



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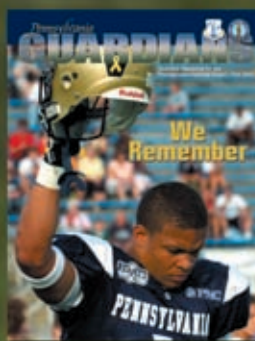
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168th MEDEVAC returns home from Afghanistan

By Sgt. Mike Getten

Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

STEAD – The soldiers of C Company, 1/168th (Medical Evacuation) Aviation unit were welcomed home from a year long deployment in Afghanistan by family and friends during a ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility on Oct. 16.

The unit, comprising about 60 soldiers, was in the combat theater since December 2008 and evacuated 1,027 people in 663 missions.

“It’s good to be back,” said Capt. Darren Chrisman, commander of the unit. “I am very proud of how hard everyone worked, especially the medics and how well they performed saving patients. It was impressive to watch a medic in the back of an aircraft working to save someone’s life. All of the men and women in this unit are professionals.”

The Guardsmen arrived at the Reno-Tahoe airport early in the morning and were transported by bus to the Reid Armory where they awaited the arrival of their families. Moments before the ceremony began, the unit marched over to the Army Aviation Support Facility where they stood in formation outside the big hangar door.

Maj. Heath Kelly, the 991st Troop Command executive officer, was the master



Sgt. Ryan Moore reunites with his wife, Elise, on October 16 during the 1/168th Aviation Company's return ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead. The aviation unit was in Afghanistan since December 2008, and it evacuated more than 1,000 people during its deployment.

Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

of ceremonies and greeted the guests. Then, the huge hangar door was opened with cheers and shouts from the waiting families. The hangar was filled with emotion

as everyone rose to their feet, and the unit marched forward into the building.

The speakers included adjutant general Brig. Gen. William Burks and representatives from Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki's office and Sen. Harry Reid's office. All kept their comments brief in an effort to reunite families in a timely manner.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the soldiers rushed forward to embrace their family and friends for the first time in several months. The hangar quickly cleared as the reunited families went home to catch up on the past year of life.

The return of Master Sgt. Patrick Moore and his son, Sgt. Ryan Moore, marked a substantial military reunion for the Moore family. Patrick's father is retired Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Moore, who served for 30 years in the Nevada Army Guard. Karla Moore, Patrick's wife, is a first lieutenant in the Army Reserve with A Company, 328th Combat Support Hospital in Sacramento, Calif.

Even with the return of the aviation soldiers, the Nevada Army Guard still has about 600 soldiers deployed in southwest Asia. The majority of the deployed soldiers are with the 1864th Transportation Company in Iraq and the 1/221st Cavalry in Afghanistan. ■



The medical evacuation Black Hawk helicopters used by the soldiers of the 1/168th (MEDEVAC) Aviation unit arrived home at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead on October 14, two days before the soldiers arrived in Reno and greeted their friends and families in a homecoming ceremony. Photo by Sgt. Mike Getten



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

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AWARDS

Legion of Merit Medal



CW5 Mike Billow Det 45 OSA

Meritorious Service Medal



SSG Henry Willrich 1/168th MEDEVAC
SFC Ronald Bosmans 1/189th Aviation
SFC William Carter 1/221st Cav
CW3 Ronald Stone 3/140th S&S
SSG Lamont Boyles 991st Troop Cmd
SFC John Dunham 991st Troop Cmd
CPT Lance Beckert 992nd Troop Cmd
SFC Fouad Diallo 992nd Troop Cmd
1SG Heidi Merrill-Hernandez 992nd Troop Cmd
SFC Donna Lucas C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
SGM Carl Adams 421st RTI
LTC Maria Powers 421st RTI
SFC Leland Jones HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
CSM Jared Kopacki 421st RTI
CSM Suzanne Albin JFHQ
CW4 David Anderson JFHQ
MAJ Kerry Cutting JFHQ
MAJ Michael Heil JFHQ
LTC Vernon Payette JFHQ

SGT Gina Putt JFHQ
CW5 Nancy Roza JFHQ
SFC Linda Turner JFHQ
SSG Paul Duncan NVARNG Rec/Ret
CSM Robert Reid NVARNG Rec/Ret
CMSgt Sheryle Wilkerson 152nd Mission Support Flt
CMSgt Kenneth Bunker JFHQ
CMSgt John Ternau JFHQ
Capt Andrew Jennings 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Col Jack Schnurr JFHQ
MSgt Maureen Rutherford JFHQ
LtCol Brett McCann 232nd Ops Sqdn

Army Commendation Medal



2LT Kandace Gonzales 1/168th MEDEVAC
SGT Shawn Horner 1/168th MEDEVAC
SGT Jason Coleman 1/189th Aviation
1SG Gary Giddens 1/221st Cav
SGT David Ryder 1864th Trans Co
SSG Timothy Wells 92nd CST
SFC Edward Holler 991st Troop Cmd
SSG Robert Jester 992nd Troop Cmd
CPT Lisa Martinez 992nd Troop Cmd
SPC Rey Delrosario C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
CPT Shawn Murphy C Co, 422nd Sig Bn

CPT David Waller C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
SSG Catalina Manzanares 150th Maint Co
SFC Allen Palmer 421st RTI
SFC Marvin Johnson HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
SPC Christopher Mancebo HHT, 1/221st Cav
SSG Richard Jerrell 421st RTI
SGT Anthony Rigano 421st RTI
PV2 Alexandria Avant JFHQ
SFC Gary Baker JFHQ
SFC Christian Baughman JFHQ
2LT Bradley Johnson JFHQ
SSG Bradley Johnson JFHQ
SGT Stephanie King JFHQ
SGT Glen Mead JFHQ
SFC Jason Miller JFHQ
SFC Jeremiah Mock JFHQ
SSG Leonel Paradis JFHQ
MSG Kevin Pearson JFHQ
SSG Michael Raviart JFHQ
SGT Cirila Santillano JFHQ
SGT Kimberly Amos NVARNG Med Det
CPT Christine Ancajas NVARNG Med Det
SPC Kayla Chandless NVARNG Med Det
SGT Alexander Drossulis NVARNG Med Det
SSG Harry English NVARNG Med Det
SSG Sandra Flores NVARNG Med Det
SGT Oreana Henry NVARNG Med Det
SGT Lianna Roberts NVARNG Med Det
SSG Ryan Davidson NVARNG Rec/Ret
SGT Derek Ernst NVARNG Rec/Ret
SSG Matthew Fenn NVARNG Rec/Ret
SFC Rosemarie Fred NVARNG Rec/Ret
SGT Brandon Kellogg NVARNG Rec/Ret
SFC Richard Miller NVARNG Rec/Ret
SFC Jeremiah Mock NVARNG Rec/Ret

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj Glen Martelle 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
SSgt Rebecca Swatman 152nd Maint Sqdn
MSgt William Randall 152nd Maint Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



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PFC Alan Potter 1/221st Cav
SPC Julioadrian Arevalo 100th Quartermaster Co
CPL Timothy Hardin 100th Quartermaster Co
SPC Sandra Rodriguez 100th Quartermaster Co
SPC Casey Torblaa 100th Quartermaster Co
SGT Jennifer Ewing 140th MP Det
PV2 Marco Iglesia 1864th Trans Co
SSG Larry Klein 3/140th S&S
PFC Jonoa Savou 777th Engineer Det
SPC Brian Aleman C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
SGT Michael Miller C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
SGT Jose Ramos C Co, 422nd Sig Bn
CPL Rome Flores 150th Maint Co



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 SGT Erik Foisy NVARNG Med Det
 1LT Elizabeth Gabriel NVARNG Med Det
 SPC Mark Gomez NVARNG Med Det
 SPC Abigail Green NVARNG Med Det
 SGT Oreana Henry NVARNG Med Det
 SGT Michael Krieger NVARNG Med Det
 SSG Tara Pushkin NVARNG Med Det
 SPC Barbara Snow NVARNG Med Det
 SGT Joseph Young NVARNG Med Det
 SSG Edward Benites NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG David Eisele NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Sara Harger NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Wade Mendenhall NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Rachael Ramirez NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG April Adams Stead Training Site
 SFC Brian Bitner Stead Training Site
 1SG Brent Whipple Stead Training Site

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA William Boekennoogen . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 MSgt Jason Barlow 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SMSgt Craig Madole 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 LtCol Gregory Baker 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt William Batiz 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Jeffrey Bellato 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Eric Beyersdorf 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Steven Bourquin 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Timothy Broadway 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Philip Brown 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Curtis Campi 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Kathleen Caudill 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Joseph Deese 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Julie Dietrich 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Kevin Eikleberry 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Joshua Flatley 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt K Justin Galli 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Derek Gardner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Caesar Garduno 152nd Ops Support Flt
 MSgt Thomas Glover 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Theron Gough 152nd Ops Support Flt
 MSgt Paul Grush 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Lorne Hall 152nd Ops Grp
 MSgt Cory Hallock 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Shanon Hampton 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Donald Harvey 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Christopher Henrich 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Robert Hoadley 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Todd Hudson 152nd Ops Grp
 TSgt Dimitrius Kassebaum 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Andrew Kremers 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Anthony Machabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Frank Magee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Shannon Manning 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Blake Martelle 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Martin 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Robert Martinez 152nd Ops Grp
 Capt Steve Mills 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 CMSgt Robin Mocabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Brian Moynihan 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Hillary Moynihan 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Todd Nylaen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Bartley O'Toole 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Edward Petrik 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Kristoffer Pfallmer 192nd Airlift Sqdn

MSgt Cameron Pieters 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Shawn Plunket 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt David Raschen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Allan Renwick 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Lewis Roberts 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Joshua Rogers 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Santiago Santiago 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Brian Santor 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 CMSgt Christopher Santor . . . 152nd Ops Support Flt
 LtCol Jon Schulstad 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Lyle Smith 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Col David Snyder JFHQ
 TSgt Ernest Spandau 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Matthew Speth 152nd Ops Support Flt
 Capt Charles Steffens 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Russell Stewart 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Spencer Trehal 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Kevin Walen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Craig Wells 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Wilcox 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Col Michael Williams 152nd Ops Grp
 MSgt Robert Nyblom 152nd Maint Sqdn

Nevada Medal of Merit



LTC Vernon Payette JFHQ
 CPL Patrick Brunson NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Marvelle Cranford NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Robert Gates NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Richard Gilberti NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Marco Irenze NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Travis Johnson NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Junior Krows NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Joshua Lappin NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Mike Nguyen NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Jose Obregon NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC David Ramage NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Ted Ziegenfuss NVARNG Rec/Ret
 1SG Daniel Quintana Stead Training Site

Nevada State Commendation Medal



SPC Charles Chang 100th Quartermaster Co
 SPC Jonathan Ford 100th Quartermaster Co
 PFC Michelle Chinen 1864th Trans Co
 PFC Michael Ackerman 72nd MP Co
 SPC John Ackley 150th Maint Co
 SSG Pak Castillo 421st RTI
 SFC Ricky Fitzgerald 421st RTI
 SSG Sean Stephenson 421st RTI
 SPC Stacey Bonnar NVARNG Med Det
 CPT Karen Hansen NVARNG Med Det
 SGT Jeremy Raih NVARNG Med Det
 SSG Victor Boivin NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Joseph Feenstra NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Thomas Gensinger NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Michael Gilbert NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SPC Myka Hevel NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Joshua Montes NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT David Powell NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Tomas Ramos NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Augustine Reyes NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Che Rios NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SGT Richard Samson NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Brandon Stevens NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SPC Aaron Wiggins NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Richard Williams NVARNG Rec/Ret
 MSgt Weston Smith 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SrA Meagan Cuthbert 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Nevada Humanitarian Service Ribbon



A1C Anthony Hinen 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Capt April Conway JFHQ
 CMSgt William Cribbs 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 CMSgt Monica Milne JFHQ
 Maj Koby Harding 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Jeffrey Zupon 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Kevin Cralle 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Dean Long 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Cameron Pieters 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt William Schy JFHQ
 SMSgt Konrad Delger 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SMSgt Steven Martin 152nd Medical Group
 SrA Stacy Walters 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Lance Boekennoogen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Kimberly Bledsaw 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Owen Lawson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Oliver Miller 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada Outstanding Graduate Award



SGT Timothy Carter 1/168th MEDEVAC
 SGT Heather Ibarra 100th Quartermaster Co
 SGT Samuel Wright 100th Quartermaster Co
 SGT Philip Sondgeroth 137th MP Det
 SGT Larry Harlan 140th MP Det
 SGT Samuel Acevedo 72nd MP Co
 SGT Nicolas Allred 72nd MP Co
 SFC Colin Care 72nd MP Co
 SFC Jason Elfberg 72nd MP Co
 SFC David Hurwitz 72nd MP Co
 SSG Kevin Johnson 72nd MP Co
 SSG Omar Calderontomayo 992nd Troop Cmd
 CPT Vanessa Marrero 992nd Troop Cmd
 SSG Kevin Painter HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
 SGM James Foreman JFHQ
 SPC Robin Kinney JFHQ
 SSG Tiffany McKimmy JFHQ
 SSG Rachel Mira JFHQ
 SGT Scott Smith JFHQ
 SSG Miles McGuire NVARNG Med Det

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



MSgt Marco Trejo 232nd Ops Sqdn
 SMSgt Michael Brown 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Jose Escobar 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Jauies Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Justin Juergens 152nd Medical Group
 SrA Mariah Pomoty 152nd Medical Group
 SSgt Gary Mireles 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Timothy Schweppe 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Christopher Henrich 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Brandon Upton 232nd Ops Sqdn
 TSgt Nathan Steiner 192nd Airlift Sqdn

Nevada Meritorious Service Ribbon



LTC Scott Maylath 992nd Troop Cmd

Nevada Service Ribbon



SPC Ashley Brun NVARNG Med Det

AWARDS (continued)

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



A1C Joshua Dockter-Arbogast
 152nd Communications Flt
 A1C Alex Norris 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 A1C Linda Gutierrez 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 A1C Mark Kosak 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 A1C Paul Contreras 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Capt Joseph Deese 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 CMSgt Billie Sexton 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 CMSgt Robin Mocabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Col Donald Delporto 152nd Medical Group
 Col David Snyder JFHQ
 LtCol Matthew Speth 152nd Ops Support Flt
 LtCol Scott Shepherd 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Ondra Berry JFHQ
 LtCol William Vanleuven JFHQ
 Maj Kyle Cerfoglio 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Maj Bryan Ricks 152nd Medical Group
 Maj Anthony Machabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Ward Lacy 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Reed 152nd Communications Flt

MSgt Shawn Marston 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt John Albertson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Dean Long 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Paul Hinen 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 MSgt Kathleen Caudill 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Becky Hall 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt David Raschen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Michael Coscuna 152nd Airlift Wing
 SrA Anastasia Brown 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Teresa Thurtle 152nd Airlift Wing
 SrA Ryan Jones 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Thomas Kurkowski 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Tara Richards 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SrA Ryan Phillips 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Jose Escobar 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Catherine Ostermeyer 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Ronald Hanselman 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Ryan Pratt 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Frank Nash 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SrA Joshua Chaney 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SrA Terra Colucci 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt Carlos Riano 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt James Cary 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn

SSgt Sara Coney 152nd Airlift Wing
 SSgt Kevin Knight 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SSgt Paul Spencer 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SSgt William Young 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SSgt Rexford Barton 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SSgt Lewis Dix 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SSgt Eric Dahlgren 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Benjamin Reynolds 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Matthew Martin 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt Darren Pruden 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt James Miller 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt Inthasone Sackdavone
 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt Randal Casaquit 152nd Services Flt
 SSgt Brandy Hessler 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Christopher Geraci 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Victor Hicks 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Kimberly Whetzel 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Vicki Kuykendall 152nd Medical Group
 TSgt William Smiraglia 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Patricia Clark 152nd Ops Support Flt
 TSgt Gabriel Gamboa 232nd Ops Sqdn

ENLISTMENTS

152nd Airlift Wing

Vicenza Dix

152nd Communications Flt

Christopher Stowe
 Torrey Eldridge
 Ashley Browder

152nd Force Support Sqdn

Jo Anna Goodenough
 Kaitlind Becker

152nd Maint Sqdn

Robert Plant
 Rusty Scovel
 Steven Hering
 Jose Flores
 Edward Maloney
 Paul Teska

Otis Timm
 Henry Serrano
 Brian McGary
 Lane King
 Taylor Kunz
 Michele Conant
 Zachary Section
 Devin Steffens
 Brandon Herbert
 Quentin Young

152nd Operations Support Flt

Christopher Caminiti

152nd Security Forces Sqdn

Brandy Carnell
 Sarah Hunt
 Kylea Douglas
 Paul Contreras

James Bottge
 Richard Sharber

152nd Aircraft Maintenance Sqdn

Anthony Standganelli
 Garold Wiseman
 Tasha Jensen

152nd Logistics Readiness Sqdn

Larry Davidson
 Garrett Madsen

152nd Medical Grp

Michelle Watkins

192nd Airlift Sqdn

Dorman Bland
 Kristen Hill
 Zane Buck

232nd Operations Sqdn

Jennifer Burg

1/168th MEDEVAC

Jack Pulley
 Adam Peterson

1/221st Cavalry

Jason Dsouza
 Dejan Grujicic
 Daniel Cruz

100th Quartermaster Co

Timothy Duffy
 Wilson Sumalpong

106th Public Affairs Det

Victor Joecks

137th MP Det

Donald Johnson

150th Maintenance Co

Steven Baiz
 Axas Yang
 Yvette Hernandez
 Reem Hassan
 Keith Linford
 Jay Scarbrough
 Gabriel Andrada

240th Vertical Const Co

Benjamin Alworth
 Jason Goodberlet

421st RTI

Brett Penny

485th MP Co

Nikolaus Nelson
 Justin Banfield

593rd Transportation Co

Wong Santitivech
 Richard Martinez

609th Engineer Co

David Paxton
 Jeremiah McPherson
 Austin Makowski
 Jorge Wilson-Perez

72nd MP Co

Glenn Rigdon

Caroline Jehorek
 Kaylynn Milstead

777th Engineer Det

Daniel Shaw
 Matthew Leming

991st Troop Cmd

Myrillia Cosay

B Co, 422nd Sig Bn

Darren Lawson
 Keith Turner
 Thomas Conant
 David Hammond
 Kelsi Washington

C Co, 422nd Sig Bn

Terence Sterba
 Colby Nelson

HHC, 422nd Sig Bn

Christine Callanan

JFHQ

Todd Brown
 Alan Awdisho
 Roy Hellen

NVARNG Med Det

Nathan Stromberg

NVARNG Rec/Ret

Christopher Cluck
 Elren Jordan
 Miles Samuel



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PROMOTIONS

LTC/LtCol

Perry Tangen JFHQ
Mary Devine JFHQ
Eric Wishart JFHQ

MAJ/Maj

David Evans JFHQ

CPT/Capt

Lawrence Chappell 152nd Medical Group
Christopher Solberg 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Michael Steward 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Michael Schiemer 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Jon Haydock 992nd Troop Command
Natalie Morrow NVARNG Med Det

1LT/1stLt

David Jennings 1864th Transp Co

CW5

Steve Karrick Det. 45, OSA

CW2

Michael Guerra 1/168TH MEDEVAC
Jared Clack 1/168TH MEDEVAC

CMSgt

Billie Sexton 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

MSG/SMSGt

Brent Whipple Stead Training Center
Larry Balko 152nd Force Support Sqdn
Gregory Bartlett 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
David Clarke 232nd Ops Sqdn
Luis Loe JFHQ
John Sekora 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

SFC/MSgt

Shawn Woodhams 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Elias Perez 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Christian Riege 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Lord Alvarade 1864th Transp Co
Jacob Lewis HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Jerry Hughes HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Frederick Bartolomy 72nd MP Co
David Hurwitz 72nd MP Co
Christopher Crawford 152nd Force Support Sqdn
Joseph Henle 192nd Airlift Squadron

SSG/TSgt

Justin Chapel 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Joushua Garcia 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Cory Demille 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Chad Lewis 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Graham Hanik 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
David Rosado 150th Maint Co
Joseph Rourke 1864th Transp Co
Donald Dorsey 1864th Transp Co
Tyson Strong 1864th Transp Co
James Delpalacio 240th Vertical Const Co
William Suminski 421st RTI
Pak Castillo 421st RTI

Tony Lawton HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Jeremy Tenorio HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Kenneth Falconer HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Jamie Willis 422nd Signal Bn
Justin Hurt 609th Engineer Co
Justin Fetty 609th Engineer Co
Douglas Lynch 72nd MP Co
Lisa Russell NVARNG Med Det
Matthew Fenn NVARNG Rec/Ret
Michael Gilbert NVARNG Rec/Ret
Che Rios NVARNG Rec/Ret
Victor Boivin NVARNG Rec/Ret
Alejandra Montes-Cervantes NVARNG Rec/Ret
Nathan Collingham NVARNG Rec/Ret
April Adams Stead Training Center
Vincent Girolami 232nd Ops Sqdn
Adam Koehler 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Cecil Levy 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Jesse MacDonald 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Gabriel Sanders 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
David Smith 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Brian Toward 232nd Ops Sqdn
Jawann Wilson 232nd Ops Sqdn

SGT/SSgt

Aaron Carl 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Ryan Carlile 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Joshua Chaney 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
Nidia Ituarte-Olivas 152nd Airlift Wing
Christopher Lyons 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Kristy Lazaro 152nd Maint Sqdn
Marcus Eisemann 152nd Maint Sqdn
Matthew Zierenberg 152nd Maint Sqdn
Christopher Pope 152nd Force Support Sqdn
Catherine Ostermeyer 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Michael Schwind 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Shamika Webb 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Jesse Newman 1/168TH MEDEVAC
Ryan Moore 1/168TH MEDEVAC
David Sumner 1/168TH MEDEVAC
Russell Hottell 1/168TH MEDEVAC
Timothy Carter 1/168TH MEDEVAC
Hillary Edwards 1/168TH MEDEVAC
James Jackson 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Eric Debord 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Michael Urdea 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Arthur McKeller 1/221st Cavalry Sqdn
Samuel Wright 100th Quartermaster Co
Philip Sondgeroth 137th MP Co
Alex Foos 137th MP Co
James McFarland 137th MP Co
Annie Emprima 137th MP Co
Christopher Souza 150th Maint Co
Andre Hines 1864th Transp Co
Michael Frazer 1864th Transp Co
Justin Haws 1864th Transp Co
Christopher Rosales 1864th Transp Co
Kurnhee Ma HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Anthony Dixon HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Steven Rossi HHC, 422nd Sig Bn
Anthony Esposito 422nd Sig Bn
Anthony Doyle 422nd Sig Bn
Harrison Cohen 422nd Sig Bn
Christopher Ciarolla 422nd Sig Bn
Mayra Avalos 422nd Sig Bn
Roberto Brooks 422nd Sig Bn
Roberto Rueda-Gonzalez 72nd MP Co
Rodden Villarama 72nd MP Co
Paul Gardner 777th Engineer Det
Jason Robinson 777th Engineer Det
Kimberly Amos NVARNG Med Det
Joseph Rutski NVARNG Med Det
Lianna Roberts NVARNG Med Det
Derek Ernst NVARNG Rec/Ret

RETIREMENTS

CW5 Lynn (Mike) Billow Det. 45 Operational Support Airlift
CW4 Ernie Stover 150th Maint Company
TSgt James R. Riger 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt John E. Blevins 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SSgt Stanley T. Bragg 152nd Maintenance Sqdn
CMSgt Sheryle K. Wilkerson 152nd Mission Support Fit
CW3 Ronald Stone 3/140th Security & Support
1SG Ronald Demet 421st Regional Training Institute
SFC Darryl Akana 422nd Sig Bn
SFC Marvin Johnson 422nd Sig Bn
CMSgt Kenneth A. Bunker JFHQ
MG Cynthia N. Kirkland JFHQ
MSG Kevin Pearson JFHQ
LTC Steven Ranson JFHQ
CW5 Nancy Roza JFHQ
CMSgt Cynthia L. Sullivan JFHQ
CMSgt John A. Ternau JFHQ

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