



Battle Born

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makes a**

**Big
Splash**

in Las Vegas

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as professional
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learns about
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Mine was earned in Vietnam. By my dad.

Barbara Q., USAA member



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Comments and Contributions

Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Other print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Nevada National Guard military members, retirees and families are

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Battle Born

Winter 2013

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Volunteers key to community partnerships



By Col. Zack Doser, 17th Sustainment Brigade commander

Volunteering has an enormous impact on our Nevada communities. The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and the commanders of the Army and Air Guard agree, and they have identified strong community partnerships as a key component of their strategic vision for the total force of the Nevada National Guard.

With that in mind, I see volunteering also as a vital way to form and foster community partnerships with more great Nevadans.

The 17th Sustainment Brigade has more than 2,600 Soldiers in its ranks – 60 percent

of the entire Nevada National Guard – and represents a tremendous potential to respond to a wide variety of domestic crises and war-time missions. We have sizable assets and a wide reach. Off duty, though, these Soldiers can also volunteer en masse and help citizens who might need it most.

In our state's tough economic times, the need has never been greater. It is incumbent upon all of us to consider volunteering in some capacity or to increase the volunteering efforts already in the works to help our fellow Nevadans.

My wife, Martana, is a retired member of the Nevada Army Guard who now works with the Nevada National Guard Youth Leadership Group. In September and October, the group joined with other local organizations to feed dinner to the homeless community in Reno. (See story on Purple Ties, page 20). Hundreds of men, women and children gathered to receive what most likely was the only meal they would eat that day.

Feeding the homeless was a humbling experience for our Guard teens, but it will be something they remember. There were more people in need than could be helped, but where there was a shortage of volunteers, there was no shortage of thanks. The action our youth group took set the example.

Over the holidays, hundreds of Battle Born Soldiers and Airmen across the state assisted local food banks, clothing drives, community outreach programs, youth organizations, and more. But we can do better.

Our ability to help those in need is limited only by the number of volunteers willing to come forward. Any one of us can give up a few hours to assist feeding the homeless in the communities in which we live, volunteer for food and clothing drives, volunteer for fund raisers for charities impacting our communities, or stop by a local food bank and drop off a few cans and boxes. We can volunteer time, money or other resources, and go where our imaginations, abilities and willingness take us. Acts of volunteering never go unappreciated.

We are Nevada citizens and Citizen-Soldiers serving in Nevada. People need our help now more than ever. Volunteering is part of who we are as Guardsmen. I'm asking all Soldiers and family members of the 17th Sustainment Brigade and members of the Nevada National Guard to volunteer. Who will it be, if not us? If not now, then when? ■

Col. Zack Doser is the commander of the 17th Sustainment Brigade headquartered at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.

Nevada Air National Guard celebrates award winners

RENO – The Nevada Air National Guard took time out of its busy schedule to recognize its top performers on Jan. 5. In a ceremony attended by Gov. Brian Sandoval, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, Brig. Gen. David Snyder, Col. Jeffrey Burkett and other dignitaries, Air Guard members were recognized for performance above and beyond the standard.

The Adjutant General's Silver State Sentinel Award for Excellence is presented to individuals whose service is considered above and beyond, and who have had a significant, positive impact on the state of Nevada. The Commander's Excellence Award is for Airmen nominated by senior leadership. They're individuals who have diligently and quietly gone about doing quality work. The Chief's Council Award recognizes members for outstanding contributions to the Nevada Air National Guard. The Diversity Award is for individuals or groups who innovate, inspire and work across organizational borders to

strengthen and grow the entire diversity sector. The Air Force Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award is a national level award. It recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and in their lives.

Additional awards were presented to the Airman, noncommissioned officer, senior noncommissioned officer, company grade officer, first sergeant and honor guard members of the year at a dinner event.

Top honors for the Airman of the Year Award went to Senior Airman Sean Bird. In the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year category, Tech. Sgt. Christa Morter got the nod. The Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Master Sgt. Joe Henle and the Company Grade Officer of the Year is Capt. Chris Leroy. All four winners hail from the 152nd Operations Support Flight in Reno. From the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, Master Sgt. Jordan Bean was



Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell

The 152nd Medical Group commander, Lt. Col. Shanna Woyak, presents the Commander's Excellence Award to Airman 1st Class Nephtali Barrera at the Nevada Air Guard Annual Awards Ceremony, Jan. 5 at the Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno.

selected as the First Sergeant of the Year, and the Honor Guard Member of the Year is Staff Sgt. Bartley O'Toole from the 152nd Operations Support Flight.

(Continued on page 24)

CST

maintains active communication

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten,
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

SPARKS – The 92nd Civil Support Team was once again training with local and not so local first responders at Kiley Ranch, an isolated area north of the McCarran Loop, Aug. 7.

The exercise included the Sparks Fire Department and the 95th CST from Hayward, Calif., as well as some observers from other local first responder agencies. The training centered on responding to hazardous chemicals and a radioactive source, but as often happens with these exercises, the 92nd also focused on communication and networking with its counterparts in the local communities.

“The relationship we develop with the National Guard CSTs is priceless,” said Capt. Eric Millette, training officer with the Sparks Fire Department. “Whatever the cost is of this exercise, it is well worth it just for the interaction and the communication.”

Every team member regardless of agency values the exercise as a development tool, he said.

“A drill like this helps everyone get on the same page so we are prepared to work together if need be,” said Laura Jacobson, a firefighter on the Reno-Sparks joint hazardous material team. “These guys bring in the manpower and the expertise. We have to share our training time in a lot of disciplines; this is their specialty.”

During the exercise, the 95th CST from Hayward responded first to a Sparks Fire Department request for support. Nevada’s 92nd CST, based out of Las Vegas, followed a few hours later. Because of its proximity to



From left, Capt. Eric Millette, Sparks Fire Department and incident commander, Capt. John Lyle, Capt. Carlito Rayos and Sgt. 1st Class Baha Ishtiwi, 92nd Civil Support Team, discuss the training scenario at Kiley Ranch on Aug. 3.

Sparks, the 95th would be the first to respond.

“In a real world scenario, the 95th CST, which is located only about four hours away, would be the first CST on the scene, and we would follow closely behind them,” said Capt. John Lyle, nuclear medical science officer for the 92nd.

The 92nd often invites its partner CSTs to its exercises in the adjacent portions of the state and conversely, Nevada’s team trains with others.

“Because the 95th will be the first CST to respond in this area, we want its members to have the same relationships we have with local first responders here,” said Maj. Brett Compston, deputy commander of the 92nd CST.

Several representatives from concerned agencies were also on site to observe, and in some cases participate, including the local

FBI office, the Nevada State Health Division, the State Radiation Control Program, Washoe County Sheriff and Reno Fire Department.

Maintaining good relationships with other first responders is critical and extends beyond the limits of those on the front lines. Others are involved behind the scenes away from the containment area.

“We use the equipment in ways that differ from the way it is used in a fixed lab or by a regular fire (hazardous material) team,” Lyle said. “CSTs require rugged equipment which can operate in extreme environments. The manufacturers will send out representatives to observe. Often they will provide additional training on site. They check the equipment and take some measurements which help them develop better equipment.”

When the training is wrapped up and the teams go home, the networking continues.

“Two personnel are assigned to every county in the state, and one of the responsibilities of that position is to stay in continuous contact with the emergency manager, the fire and police departments,” Lyle said. “We don’t want to waste the effort here.”

“These exercises benefit everyone. Coming together in a joint exercise provides all involved with a better understanding of each team’s capabilities,” Millette said. “Integrating the teams and equipment becomes easier, and ultimately we could end up solving the problem safer, faster and with better results.” ■

92nd CST wraps up Pacific training

SAIPAN, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands – Catastrophe can strike anywhere in the world, including the Western Pacific. To aid in emergency responses on the island of Saipan, north of Guam, the Las Vegas-based 92nd Civil Support Team showed it could take the lead from other units already on the ground, as well as coordinate with local civil authorities. Nevada sent 11 of its best Soldiers and Airmen to train in joint exercise Konfitma, a Pacific Command-sponsored event. The team seamlessly reinforced the 93rd and 94th CSTs and Saipan’s Emergency Management Office for 32 hours of continuous operations. Participating agencies applauded the 92nd’s efforts as top-notch. ■

Young Professionals Network adds second Guardsman to rolls

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – The Twenty Under 40 celebration has been called the largest networking event of the year in northern Nevada and the only event in town that celebrates young professional leaders.

The Nevada Air Guard's Senior Master Sgt. Torry Thompson, 37, was chosen with 19 other stars in the community to be recognized by the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network Nov. 1 at the Atlantis Hotel and Casino Resort in Reno.

"This was truly unexpected," Thompson said. "And it will only serve to fuel my efforts in doing more for the community."

The man who nominated him and was himself inducted by YPN as the first Guardsman in 2011, Capt. John Brownell said, "This is a rare feather for a Guardsman. He's setting the standard for what we should emulate. It is my goal to nominate a Guardsman like Torry every year."

Thompson currently serves as the state diversity initiatives coordinator for Nevada's military's personnel management office in Carson City.

"His knowledge of diversity made him a natural selection for this recognition," said Brownell, who guides the state's partnership program. At the presentation, Thompson, who advises Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks on matters of diversity, stood with lawyers, doctors, politicians and community outreach leaders.

A top NCO in the Air Guard, Thompson remains extremely active within the community. And as a member of the Nevada Area Council Learning for Life/Exploring District Committee, he chairs the membership committee representing more than 3,800 young people.

"Senior Master Sgt. Thompson, who I have known for five years, fully embraces all the Nevada Guard values while having a passion for diversity," said Col. John Week, JFHQ director of staff. "I am proud to serve alongside him. He recently volunteered as principal for a day and is working on building relationships with area schools. In doing so, he's planting the seeds for those who want to serve and learn more about the Air Force."

The focus of YPN always has been to cultivate an informed and active young professional community, according to Nicole

Shimabuku, executive director for YPN. "This small robust group collaborates with the local community and a variety of established partner organizations throughout northern Nevada," she said.

The Reno-Tahoe YPN has been developed by a growing membership in the past six years.

"More than 200 members of the organization get involved in about 40 events a year," Shimabuku said. "Events include a professional development course, community involvement, networking and leadership opportunities. Members are also involved in our Young Professionals Committee for the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows."

The Reno Tahoe Young Professionals Network evolved out of a regional economic development planning process led by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada. The Target 2010 project identified that retaining and attracting young talent is a critical need for the greater Reno-Tahoe region.

"In January 2006 at Directions Annual Conference, our community was challenged to take action on empowering young professionals to get involved in maintaining the region's economic vitality and quality of



Courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Torry Thompson

Senior Master Sgt. Torry Thompson.

life," Shimabuku said. "In February 2007, the group celebrated its official launch at Directions 2007 in front of more than 700 regional business leaders."

Thompson gives of his time to the executive board of the NCOs Graduates Association, Learning for Life and Explorers. In addition, he supports the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society, Our Story Inc. and the Asian Pacific Association of Nevada. ■

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Four military medals are displayed on a textured, brownish surface. From top to bottom, they are: a blue and red striped ribbon medal, a silver circular medal, a red, white, and blue striped ribbon medal, and a gold circular medal with a map of Africa and the words 'AFRICAN CAMPAIGN'.

DROP ZONE



Tech. Sgt. Stephanie McLaughlin, Joint Force Headquarters

SPARKS – Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley, Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Sitton were among several community members present to help raise the walls of a new house for wounded Marine Sgt. Thomas Humphrey and his wife Lindsey. "As American citizens, it is our responsibility to support the military, and their families, as they try to rebuild their lives in our home town," said Charles Bluth, founder of the Defenders of Freedom, Northern Nevada's Reno Chapter. The Defenders are a nonprofit organization dedicated to aiding the transition of wounded troops to civilian life.



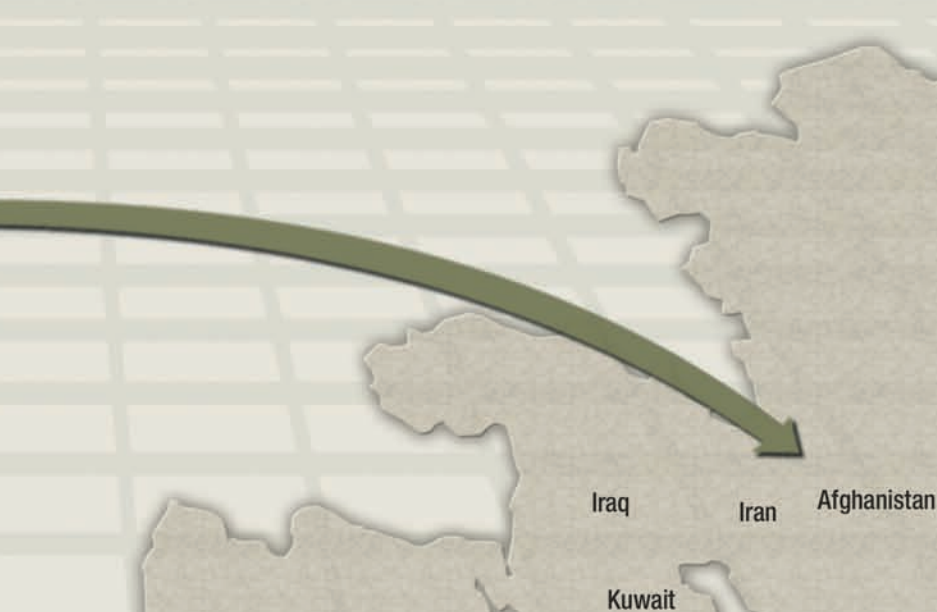
Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

CARSON CITY – Nevada Guard troops of the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion drive Gov. Brian Sandoval and his wife, Kathleen, down Carson Street as they wave to citizens standing and sitting along the route of the Nevada Day Parade on a chilly Oct. 27 to celebrate the state's 148th birthday. The parade's theme was Honoring Our Military and Families, Past, Present and Future.



Tech. Sgt. Lewis Roberts, 192nd Airlift Squadron

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif. – The 192nd Airlift Squadron prepares for recovery efforts in response to Hurricane Sandy in early November, at Moffett Field, Calif., in early November, which included loading this truck and other vital supplies. The C-130H crew from the High Rollers visited some of the hardest hit areas after Sandy swept through the East Coast. The monster storm was categorized as a tropical storm and eventually morphed into a nor'easter. The crew was among more than 61,100 National Guard members available to assist civilian authorities in several affected states in support of relief efforts. The catastrophic storm caused more than \$65 million damage across several states, the second costliest storm next to Katrina.



Courtesy photo

AFGHANISTAN – The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and the Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton met with Soldiers from the 593rd Transportation Company at Camp Phoenix on Oct. 16. Nevada Guard leaders spent several days in Afghanistan on a trip for reserve component leaders. Burks and Sitton also met with Soldiers of the 189th General Support Aviation Battalion at Forward Operating Base Shank. The leaders were taken on tours of the company areas and given briefings of operations. The two also presented mid-tour awards to some of the Soldiers for their outstanding performances in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Tech. Sgt. Calvin Hobson, 152nd Airlift Wing

KUWAIT – Staff Sgt. Scott Dangel of the 152nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron services the main landing gear tire on a Nevada C-130 aircraft in Kuwait. The unit is based in the Arabian Gulf nation, but the mission takes its aircraft all over CENTCOM. (See story on page 20.)



Eric Guideng, Guideng, The Picture Company

LAS VEGAS – More than 780 children among a total of 1,250 military members attended the Haunted Armory at the Floyd Edsall Training Center (Clark County Armory) on Oct. 26. Among other activities, they enjoyed a magic show, a chili cook-off, a cake walk and a live DJ, thanks to family programs, community organizations and numerous volunteers.

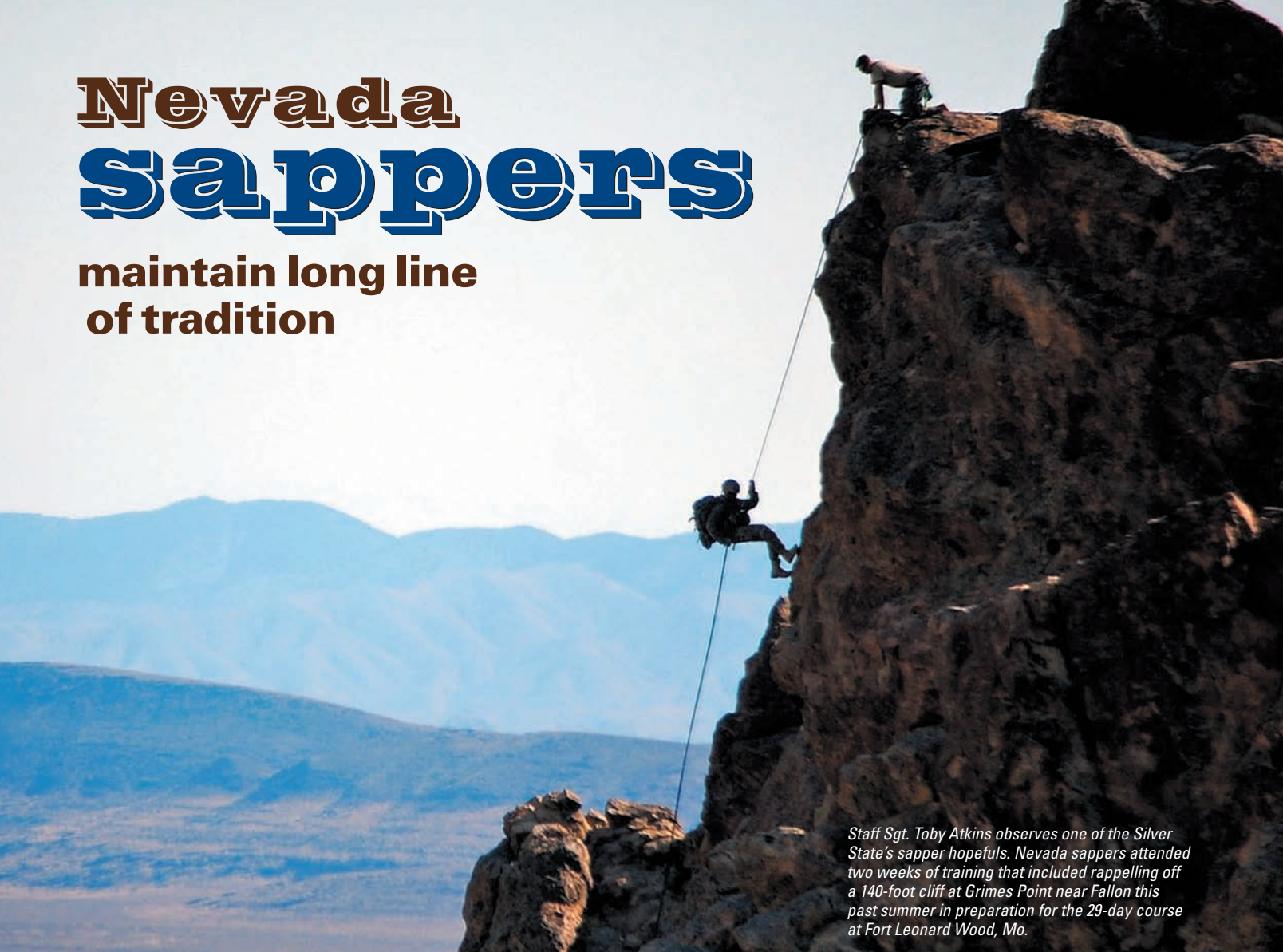


Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Travis Miller, of the 137th Military Police Company, and Las Vegas Metro Police Officer Mike Passarge provide security during Operation Vigilant Sentinel on Dec. 31. About 400 Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen trained with local law enforcement for the joint force training exercise for the New Year's Eve celebration.

Nevada sappers

maintain long line
of tradition



Staff Sgt. Toby Atkins observes one of the Silver State's sapper hopefuls. Nevada sappers attended two weeks of training that included rappelling off a 140-foot cliff at Grimes Point near Fallon this past summer in preparation for the 29-day course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

*Story and photo by Sgt. Susan Wohle
106th Public Affairs Detachment*

FALLON – The Sapper Creed is printed boldly on the walls of Sapper Manor in the Fallon Armory.

In part, it states: "I will set the example by keeping myself physically fit and mentally tough. I will strive to sharpen my sapper skills and the skills of those I support. Sappers Lead The Way."

Staff Sgt. Toby Atkins left his job as a combat engineer instructor at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in October 2009, and made Sapper Manor in Fallon, Nev., his home.

In his new job as the 609th training NCO, Atkins recommended to 1st Sgt. Shane Jensen that the unit develop its own training to prepare their Soldiers for the rigors of the Sapper Leader Course, run by the U.S. Army Engineer School at Fort Leonard Wood.

"I wanted to take some guys and train them. It started out small with six guys. Now they are the instructors but were all privates

at the time," said Atkins, who deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004. "I taught them everything I knew – 14 days of nothing but combat engineer and sapper stuff."

Sappers are combat engineers who support the front-line infantry. They have the distinction of fighting in every American war. The Oxford Dictionary defines sapper as a Soldier responsible for tasks such as building and repairing roads and bridges, laying and clearing mines, etc. The British definition is a private soldier in the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Training three years paved the way for the unit. The privates that went through first disseminated their knowledge up the chain of command. "It was kind of backward the way it worked out," Atkins said.

"It forced the NCOs and officers to want to learn," Atkins said. "You've got a private first class or private that knows more about being a combat engineer than the NCOs did. At first it caused some conflict, but the conflict was good."

Atkins and the privates of the 609th were leading the way for those to come.

To wear the coveted Sapper Tab, a Soldier must graduate from the course at Fort Leonard Wood. The 28-day course consists of two 14-day phases.

Phase I covers general subjects such as medical, land navigation, demolitions, air and water operations, mountaineering, land mines and weapons used by enemy forces. Phase II covers basic patrolling techniques and battle drills that emphasize leadership.

The 609th has mimicked this course with its own pre-sapper course and condensed it into 14 days. The training was recently held Aug. 9-22. The first three days started before dawn with learning to tie knots, medical training, demolitions and mountaineering (rappelling) procedures. The fast-paced course is designed to test Soldiers' limits.

"The instructors shotgunned an entire textbook of knowledge at us and then tested us the next day," said Pfc. Lars Nielsen,

combat engineer with the 609th. "Every day is more challenging."

"The course is 10 percent physical and 90 percent mental. It's all in your head," said Nielsen. "When it sucks, you say, 'This sucks, but it won't last forever' and just keep putting one foot in front of the other."

Staff Sgt. Nathan Schertel attended the unit's two-week training in July 2011 and graduated from the Sapper Leader Course in May 2012. He will take Atkins' place as the training NCO when Atkins transfers to Fort Richardson, Alaska, where he hopes to attend the warrant officer school to become an aviator.

"When I got to school, I had no surprises," Schertel said. "In the mornings, we did serious PT. It really sucks, but when I got to school, I knew what to expect, and it was a lot easier. They say that the 12-mile ruck march is the hardest in the Army."

The unit's pre-sapper course tested the mental and physical strength of the Soldiers as they participated in rappelling at Grimes Point in Fallon, conducted capsize, insertion and extraction drills in Lake Lahontan, and finished their training at the U.S. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

Of the 15 Soldiers who started, only nine moved on to the second phase of the training in Bridgeport.

"The course makes you work as a team," said Sgt. Craig Kenison, a recent graduate of the Sapper Leader Course and instructor for the pre-sapper course. "You have a very strong understanding of what you will go through by going through the condensed course."

The patrol phase started with cadre-led patrols, which demonstrated how everything was supposed to be done to standard. The students were then required to conduct a four-day patrol, 24 hours with no sleep with one MRE every other day.

"This induces stress. It's going to be brutal for them, the mileage they cover and the lack of food, lack of sleep," Atkins said. "That's what we want, we want to break them down to that breaking point where they take a knee and say 'I can't do this anymore,' and then they stand up and keep going."

"In Bridgeport, they grew a lot as a team. They realized how much teamwork is really involved," Schertel said. "They all came together in the end; they were really focused on each other. Once we took away the food and the sleep and started really depriving them, they realized they really need to come together. Getting the junior Soldiers that leadership time is going to ensure that the future of the 609th stays strong."

Staff Sgt. Atkins summed it up, "You can be in the National Guard and still have the active duty mentality. We feel that you should always be ready – you never know when that phone call is going to come."

The tradition of the National Guard "Minutemen" is to be ready at a minute's notice. This means ready in every sense of the word: bags packed, household affairs in order, and physically and mentally ready to withstand the rigor of war. It is the responsibility of the citizen-Soldiers to prepare themselves on their own time. One weekend a month and two weeks a year will not provide the level of fitness required of today's National Guard.

"This is my course. I will not relax the standards," Atkins said. "We try to make this the hardest unit to be in, in the Nevada National Guard. That's our goal for this unit. It requires a lot of work, a lot of responsibility to train on your own." ■

According to the instructors of the 609th's pre-sapper course, if you want to be a sapper in the Nevada Army National Guard's 609th, you also need to be able to follow the unwritten sapper rules:

Rule No. 1 – Always look cool.

Rule No. 2 – Don't get lost.

Rule No. 3 – Revert back to Rule #1.

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Survival of the smartest: RTI on cutting edge of training

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – Citizen-Soldiers know that in getting and keeping a job, the right training and skills can make a difference.

In meeting education demands of both the Army and private sector, instructors at the 1/421st Regional Training Institute take pride in helping Soldiers meet their goals.

“With the continued economic stress on Nevada, and Soldiers having difficulty finding work, these courses enhance readiness and our Soldiers’ chances at gaining and holding jobs,” said Capt. Barron Van Muers, the institute’s administrative officer.

Van Muers said opportunity might be knocking at the school’s doors soon, and its staff could be teaching nationally funded courses, which means a step toward new fields, including the course for automated logistical specialists.

Nevada’s RTI is leading the way among schoolhouses in California and Oregon, and would be the institution farthest west to instruct logisticians, saving defense dollars by reducing travel to education centers on the East Coast, and sometimes reducing the time a traditional/M-day Guardsman is away from his family and civilian employer, according to Van Muers.

“This could be our chance to directly instruct in the logistics field,” Van Muers said. “Even with the small demand in the Nevada Guard, this new course could change our posture significantly. Other similar courses could follow.”

RTI Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson stressed how effective training serves as the Army’s guide. “The 421st RTI is the only Nevada unit that can directly impact the MOS proficiency of Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard,” he said. “Through our recertification courses and training for additional skills, the schoolhouse directly impacts the overall readiness posture of the state and in a smaller way, the nation.”

At bustling Camp Stead Training Center north of Reno, instructors recently conducted the certification course for Microsoft Security Plus, an information technology course designed for signal Soldiers and others who work in the IT field.

The Microsoft course directly supports Nevada’s 17 positions for automated logistical specialist. The Department of Defense is forecasting greater need for this MOS in

Arms for knowledge

Special schools courses (state funded)

- Pre-command (company commander, first sergeant)
- Combatives levels 1, 2
- Army Basic Instructor
- Small Group Instructor Training
- Microsoft certifications
- Combat Lifesaver course *

MOS-transition courses (federally funded)

- Motor Transport operator (88M)
- Information Systems Operator (25B)
- Signal support systems specialist (25U)
- Military police (31B)

Officer Candidate School

- Traditional – 18 mos. in lieu of drill, 90 college credits
- Fast Track – 9 weeks, 90 college credits
- Federal – 14 weeks with earned degree

*Pending approval

fiscal years 2014 to 2015.

Part of what drives the demand for courses is the large percentage of Soldiers who make a career of the military, and the need for marketable skills. Soldiers understand that mapping their careers can identify opportunities for advancement to sergeant or staff sergeant, Van Muers said. Initially, the unit chain of command – first-line leaders and section sergeants – can assist with direction and mentorship. They can help match Soldiers to a suitable MOS for smooth transition to other units.

The IT certification and combat medic recertification courses serve a dual purpose. Soldiers can apply these skills in the private sector, which makes them more marketable and more valuable to the Guard.

Soldiers can get the ball rolling at the unit level. Readiness and education NCOs can reserve seats in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System upon request. “We welcome Nevada Soldiers to take advantage of any of the available courses at the RTI. If we don’t teach the course or run out of seats, Soldiers can go to RTIs throughout the country. The biggest impact to the state right now is the information systems analyst, signal support systems specialist, and truck driver,” Van Muers said.

Most Soldiers attending MOS schools are in the process of transferring to other units. Both Nevada Soldiers and those seeking an interstate transfer are eligible. The schoolhouse has historically taught both reservists and Guardsmen, but RTI hopes to add active duty Soldiers in the coming fiscal year.

“The MOS transition courses have become our bread and butter,” Van Muers said.

The RTI plans to start noncommissioned officer courses for the signal specialties with Army training approval starting in fiscal year 2014. Nationally, there is a backlog for Soldiers in all MOSs to attend NCOES courses. Currently, only the Reserve component teaches these courses. The National Guard Bureau has sought approval through the U. S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command for the Guard to instruct these courses as well, but the decision remains on hold.

“Once we get the green light, we will host courses for advanced and senior leaders,” Van Muers said. “This would allow Nevada Soldiers to remain competitive for promotions and keep them on a good career path.”

All RTI instructors are fully certified and accredited through NGB and TRADOC, and are measured against TRADOC’s strict standards.

“Each quarter we brief senior leaders on the impact our school has had,” Richardson said. “As we paint the picture of our success and our Soldiers’ success, it becomes clear to those command teams what the RTI has to offer and how we can help them achieve their training goals.”

The 421st represents Region G: California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, North Dakota and South Dakota.

For more information on courses offered by the RTI, call Sgt. 1st Class Charles Harger at (775) 677-5221. For general information on MOS requirements, call 1-800-GO-GUARD. ■

Special schools instructors pack punch

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Big things come in small packages, and the 1/421st Regional Training Institute's special schools section is no exception.

For more than seven years, a three-instructor team has been the bedrock for combatives courses, small group instruction classes, the Army basic instructor course, and the course for newly assigned non-commissioned officers.

"All of the special school's courses are state funded," said Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bunker, the school's branch chief. "That's the difference between what we do and military occupation specialty training. So, if the funds aren't there and demands not there, then we don't have a job."

"There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes in communicating with units to make sure they can send their Soldiers to the courses," said Bunker, who has been with the RTI for eight years.

Units going downrange have been repeat customers. Because of the requirement to check the block on Army warrior tasks and other training, special schools has taken up the slack before Soldiers arrive at mobilization stations.

Mostly due to deployments, combatives training has been high in demand. Although units can run their own courses for familiarization,

the official course requires certified instructors in order to be counted in the Army training requirements and resource system, and personnel training records.

Deployment requires combatives skills be taught. Any Soldier shipping out must have at least eight hours. Martial arts instruction has evolved since its inception. In the initial days to gain awareness, the RTI used money from fundraisers for medical tape, mops and buckets, as well as videos to boost student morale.

"Funding is not always available for start-up courses because even with demand, the course needs to prove beneficial and relevant" Bunker said.

Leaders raised the demand for other deploying units after seeing dividends from the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion's pre-mobilization training classes in 2011.

"This was a huge burden lifted off the shoulders of those unit commanders," said Sgt. 1st Class Charleston Hartfield, who joined the RTI staff seven years ago, coming from the 82nd Airborne. His maroon beret and spit-shined boots were part of what got him in the door.

Nevada teaches levels 1 and 2 of the combatives course. Because of the higher risk of injury, levels 3 and 4 require the presence of both medics and expert instructors from Fort Benning, Ga.

"A lot has been added to levels 1 and 2," said Staff Sgt. William Suminski, the combatives course manager. "Reacting to contact was made a key component. This drill started about a year ago by (Fort) Benning instructors. Basically, the Soldiers gear-up in partial battle rattle and padded Blauer suits.

"The Soldiers go through scenarios such as entering and clearing a room and facing surprise attacks," said Suminski, who is qualified in four levels. "They learn how to draw their weapon and engage the enemy."

Bunker added, "With the deployments ongoing, combatives courses are going to be around for a while."

Although the spectacular combatives draw a lot of attention, Soldiers also get a chance to challenge their minds in the administrative courses. "The students show up on day one, and they can't even get two words out because they have such stage fright," said Bunker. "After 10 days, some of them end up giving one of the best presentations in their class."

In the early days, the special schools section was responsible for the recruit sustainment program, helping mostly high school students prepare for the rigors of Army basic training. Although the RSP was the origin of the special schools section, it changed hands six years ago. Recruiters have taken over the mission, and the special school system evolved into the curriculum it has today. The reason the National Guard Bureau made the decision, according to Bunker, is that recruiters are ultimately responsible for tracking the success of new Soldiers.

Suminski, who shortly after this interview returned to active duty, was the manager for small group instruction, a 40-hour course. In small group, Soldiers work to solve problems. "They go over the experimental learning cycle," he said. "It shows them the crawl-walk-run process. It's a concept they can apply to their civilian or academic careers."

The courses remain a lot to bear for just three Soldiers who say the school is indeed special for that reason alone.

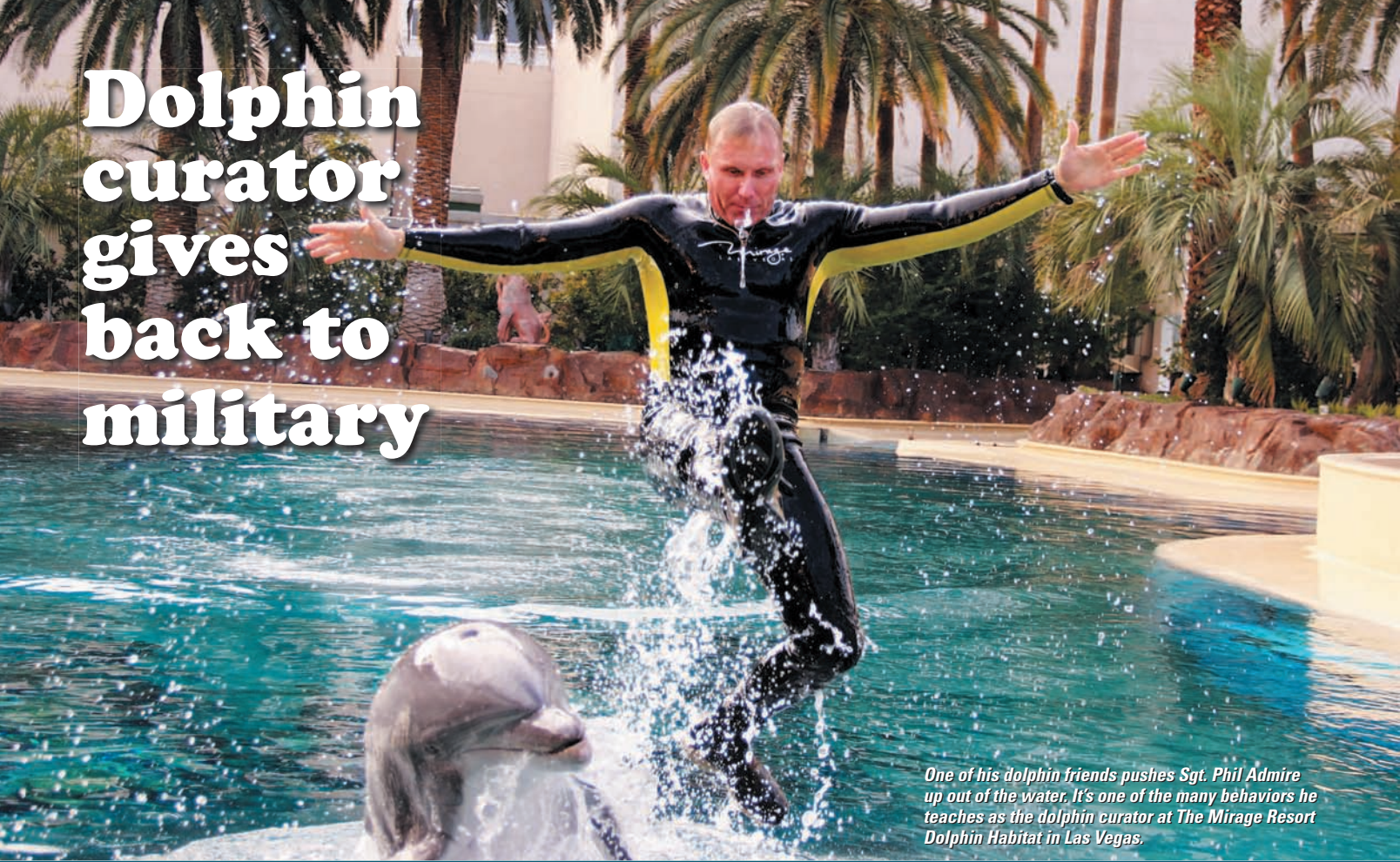
(Continued on page 24)



Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Sgt. Christy Timko, 72nd MP Company and Sgt. Marie Aleman, 422nd Signal Battalion, battle it out on the mat at the Las Vegas Readiness Center in September. Timko edged Aleman in a tournament match on the eve of graduation. The tournament decided the honor graduates for light and heavy weight classes.

Dolphin curator gives back to military



One of his dolphin friends pushes Sgt. Phil Admire up out of the water. It's one of the many behaviors he teaches as the dolphin curator at The Mirage Resort Dolphin Habitat in Las Vegas.

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS — He walks on water, he talks to animals, and at age 48, scores a 300 on the Army physical fitness test.

Short of performing miracles, Sgt. Phil Admire, of the 100th Quartermaster, may not

exactly walk on water. He gets a little help from his dolphin friends to get a push above the surface. It is just one of the many behaviors he teaches as dolphin curator at The Mirage Resort Dolphin Habitat.



Sgt. Phil Admire demonstrates with Sgt. Aileen Buri how to hold onto a dolphin during a dorsal fin ride.

And he doesn't exactly talk to the dolphins, but his Dr. Doolittle ways just might fool the average tourist. Admire does, however, pass his Army fitness test with flying colors, and to junior Soldiers who struggle with push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run, that might just count as a minor miracle.

"I try to set the best example with the 100th Quartermaster Soldiers. I keep a high standard for fitness. I show them how far they can push themselves in the Guard. I try to show them that there's a lot of opportunity in this organization, and I want to take advantage of it myself," said Admire, who holds a master's degree in environmental science.

"I didn't join the Guard for school. I've done school. I joined because I'm a patriot — I wanted to be in uniform again. I don't care if you're a Navy SEAL or sit behind a desk, I want these Soldiers to be proud of that — to stand tall, look the part, act it and set the example for the rest of America."

In the past year and a half, Admire has made quite a splash at the habitat, applying military methods to train his staff and dolphins.

"I build leaders here and I teach people how to make decisions," Admire said. "They feel trusted and empowered. Now, it's mostly me just getting out of the way and letting

them do their jobs. Some people say, 'You've turned this place around,' but I don't really see it that way. I gave my staff some new ideas, a little bit of guidance and structure, which involves education, motivation and physical fitness."

At the same time, Admire offers guests a chance for a behind-the-scenes look at the habitat through its Trainer for a Day program. The all-day program average price is \$550 per person and includes a morning orientation, continental breakfast, a private lunch, 8x10 photo and a certificate of completion, among other perks. Part of the program is like a job shadow, which amounts to scrubbing buckets, feeding the dolphins and taking notes on their behavior, but it's not all work.

"I saw this guy who turned out to be an Air Force pararescue jumper. He was walking through the habitat with his family," said Admire, who says he has this uncanny knack for spotting military guys. "So, we got to talking and I invited him and his wife back for a swim with the dolphins."

Sgt. Aileen Buri, a fellow squad leader in the 100th and an assistant manager at MGM Resorts Vdara Hotel and Spa, said, "Actually, watching this former Marine work with the dolphins shows two sides to his personality. He brings that to the Nevada Guard, being tough and direct, but also being a mentor. He trains his habitat team the same way he trains his Soldiers. He'll have them doing push-ups even though this is a civilian job. There are lots of people who are different inside and outside of their jobs, but he's definitely the same."

Another Soldier who recently got to see the dolphins was Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Tucay, a readiness NCO with the 17th Special Troops Battalion, who admitted feeling giddy at Admire's invitation to bring her family.

"All my son could talk about was how he was going to be able to touch and see a dolphin," she said. "On a limited budget, these types of outings are very few. The very best part was seeing my children in the water with the dolphins. My son swam right up to one with no hesitation or fear. It was amazing. We bonded as a family that day, and the experience will be a lasting memory."



Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Tucay, her husband, Albert, and their children, Trishelle, 3, and Tristan, 8, go over the wall for a classic pose with one of the dolphins at The Mirage Hotel and Casino habitat.

Tucay added that she could see that Admire is very proud to be in the military and of those who serve.

"He's very well structured, and I believe a lot of that comes from his military experiences," said Admire's boss David Blasko, director of animal care, who oversees the habitat and the resort's Secret Garden with its lions, tigers and leopards. "Many of my family members have been in the military. So I am very supportive of what he does in the Guard, and it balances out with what he does here.



"Not only do we entertain, but we also educate the public."

The habitat offers \$3 off general admission to active and retired military members.

"I come from a military background. I was 17 when I joined the Marines," Admire said. "I always felt like military folks deserve just a little bit more. I mean we're the ones willing to go out and sacrifice. We're the 1 percent of our country that chooses to wear the uniform, and I think it's appropriate to give a little bit back." ■



Sgt. Admire, the dolphin curator at The Mirage Hotel and Casino habitat, keeps the stars of his show happy and healthy with a little chum from his bucket, while Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Tucay rides on the back of one of the dolphins. Admire, a 100th Quartermaster Soldier, invites military families out for a behind-the-scenes look at the Strip's watery entertainment as his way of saying thanks to the military.



In Strong Bonds, retreat doesn't mean the battle is over

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Several Guard couples gathered at a local resort in Las Vegas during a mid-November weekend as part of a Strong Bonds retreat.

Participants and their family members gained practical information and meaningful experiences from the gathering at Monte Lago Village Resort near Lake Las Vegas, a picturesque backdrop for examining life's priorities and learning new habits for success. In northern Nevada, couples have recently attended marriage and singles retreats at Lake Tahoe.

"These retreats are officially known as training, and for the most part they do just that," said Chaplain 1st Lt. Todd Brown, training facilitator. "Couples have a chance to develop new tools to communicate and grow in their marriage."

Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program that helps commanders build individual resiliency by strengthening the Nevada Guard family. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase the readiness of Guardsmen and family members through relationship education and skills training.

"As soon as I found out about it, I went," said Spc. Danielle Meadows, a paralegal specialist. "Anyone who goes should definitely go in with an open mind. The material is on point and very entertaining."

In other feedback, Brown said, "Couples wish that they would have gone sooner, that the tools are something all married

couples need to know, and that the program literally changed their marriage."

The retreat getaway provides a fun, safe and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments and military lifestyle stressors, according to the Strong Bonds website.

"Nevada's Strong Bonds program has grown over the past few years," Brown said. "In 2008, we started with one retreat focused on married couples. As word spread about the program's effectiveness, we are proud to say we have had success in six marriage retreats with more than 300 Guard married couples. And we've had three singles retreats to get our singles program off and running."

The program originally began in 1999 with four events and 90 couples in the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. It has since spread throughout the active and reserve components of the Army.

In 2010, the Army continued to evaluate the Strong Bonds program and preliminary outcomes showed a 50 percent lower divorce rate and increase in marital satisfaction from those who attended.

"The results speak for themselves," said Brown. "I challenge all who read this to sign up for an event or encourage your battle buddy to attend."

For information on Strong Bonds, Soldiers can contact Brown at (775) 887-7228. For the Air Guard programs, contact Chaplain Lt. Col. Tim Gregory at (775) 788-8785. ■



Couples gather for the Strong Bonds marriage retreat at Lake Tahoe in September.

Master Sgt. Paula Clark, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Military children make a difference for those in need

Story and photo by Spc. Michael Orton
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – Every night, hundreds of people gather at the Tom Vetica Resource Center parking lot as they wait for a hot, home-cooked meal.

Long before food arrives, a line snakes across the property. Members of charity groups – We Care Volunteers, University of Nevada Reno fraternity Lambda Psi Rho and Purple Tie 4-H Military Leadership group – quickly take their places to serve meals.

For the young men and women of the Purple Tie 4-H Military Leadership group, this is their first time serving needy men, women and children. Group members all have parents serving in the Nevada Guard. They often gather to perform acts of service and good will for their community, said Martana Doser, a leader with the Purple Ties. Martana, wife of Col. Zachary Doser, commander of the Nevada Army Guard's 17th Sustainment Brigade, said the members of the Purple Ties plan to continue this service project for a year.

"I think it's awesome to have the kids come out here and actually see another part of their community," Martana said. "This is our community. I think every child should come down here and witness this."

Doser echoed his wife's sentiment. "This helps them realize how fortunate they are and how unfortunate a lot of other people are," he said. "There are a lot of kids that could be members of this. We just need to get the word out."

Word about the Purple Ties has gradually spread throughout the Guard as more teens are starting to join.

Kendra Kolvet, wife of currently deployed Capt. Curtis Kolvet, commander of the 593rd Medium Transportation Company, regularly spends her time at the We Care Volunteers



Local volunteers from the We Care Volunteers charity group and members of the Purple Tie 4-H Military Leadership group serve meals outside a local shelter on a Wednesday evening. Typically, 150-300 people line up every night outside a local Reno shelter for a hot meal served by volunteers.

food service and invited the Purple Ties to help. She co-founded the Kolvet Foundation, a nonprofit charity group, with her husband last year. Their foundation aims to serve the homeless, family members of deployed service members and veterans. Kolvet's connection with feeding those in need was made through Amber Lynn Dobson and the WCV.

About a year ago, Kolvet came across the Volunteers Who Care charity group and contacted Dobson, the WCV founder. Ever since, the Kolvet Foundation regularly volunteers with the WCV, she said, and without Dobson, there would be no place for members of the Kolvet Foundation and Purple Ties to volunteer.

Dobson began food services at WCV in April 2010, she said. The group dishes up about 3,800 meals each month. The only stipulation: any person who receives food cannot be currently housed in a shelter that already provides them with meals.

Dobson, whose son graduates from Navy boot camp at the end of December, says she knew there was a better way to take care of those in need, and her mom raised her to look for ways to give back to her community.

"Giving back is a good thing," Dobson said. "Everybody has something that they can contribute. You get so much out of it – it renews me daily."

All the efforts of Dobson and the other volunteers don't go unappreciated.

"They're God's people," said Tammy Tyra, who has been attending the WCV food

services for years. "It makes me feel special. I don't really know what to say."

Two years ago, Mark Haychapman, whose father served in the military and was a former volunteer at the Veterans Affairs building in Reno, lost his job. He's grateful for what the WCV has provided. "It means everything," he said. "People need to volunteer. If they don't have money or things to give, then give your time."

The motto of the Purple Ties is "One Youth at a Time," which means the group hopes to grow one by one continuously, Doser said.

Samantha Galimba, a member of the Purple Ties and whose stepfather is currently serving in the military, was glad that being a member in the club allows her to find a way to give back to veterans. "It feels good. It gives you, like a sense of appreciation," she said. "I appreciate what they did, and I know they appreciate me for helping them in their time of need."

Cpt. Matt Johnson, the Battalion Training Officer with the 422nd Signal Battalion, attended the evening's events with his son, Nicholas, who is also a member of the Purple Ties.

Nicholas has benefited a great deal from his attendance in the club, Johnson said. The other members of the club and the community have also benefited, and Johnson is quick to encourage others to participate.

"There is always room for more help," Johnson said. "So if anybody ever wants to get involved, or their kids want to get involved, there is always room for more." ■

High suicide rate results in statewide stand down

Compiled from staff reports

CARSON CITY/RENO – Nevada Soldiers put aside their regular duties on Oct. 13-14 as the entire Army Guard, along with Big Army, came to a halt worldwide for a singular purpose: to learn more about suicide prevention safety, and more importantly, about each other. Most of Nevada's 3,205 Soldiers sat in auditoriums or drill hall floors to discuss how the Army is losing, on average, one Soldier per day to suicide.

At readiness centers statewide, Soldiers attended several sessions to receive information on resiliency, health promotion, risk reduction, and Soldier and family fitness, and a host of other resources from the training directive handed down from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno.

"Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy to our families, to our units and to our Army," Odierno wrote in a memo.

The stand down focused on how leadership can serve as a catalyst in improving the health and discipline of the force and in reducing the stigma associated with seeking care for behavioral health issues.

Nevada Army Guard Commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales required the safety stand-down training be conducted for all Army Guard units in Nevada.

"It's important for leaders to know their Soldiers," Gonzales said.

Although suicide prevention was the main focus of the weekend, trainers also addressed off-duty safety, ranging from driving with seatbelts to wearing protective clothing for motorcyclists. The Army-wide training hopes to combat the number of deaths and accidental injuries among its Soldiers whether in or out of uniform.

The Army lost an average of 137 Soldiers per year in off-duty accidents between 2007 and 2011, according to the Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center. This is the equivalent of losing one company per year.

The theme for the Nevada Guard's stand down was Shoulder to Shoulder. Many of the organizers and speakers for the stand down took that theme to heart.

"This is a WE effort, a team sport," said Lt. Col. Cory Schulz, commander of the 17th Special Troops Battalion. "We've got to work together to change this. The Army's come a



Photo Illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Talking to someone is one of the most important steps in suicide prevention. Preceding that, Guardsmen must look out for one another and the signs of suicide.

"Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy to our families, to our units and to our Army."

– Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno

long way about getting help. If you need help, ask for it. The weak answer is not going out to get help."

At the Plumb Lane Armory, 1st Sgt. Rick Beck of the Medical Detachment said Soldiers are sometimes called upon to perform the role of counselors.

"Soldiers are more likely to talk to the medical community about their personal life, second to the chaplain corps," said Beck, stressing the importance and value of talking.

Sgt. 1st Class Fred Bartalomy, a readiness noncommissioned officer with the 17th STB at the Las Vegas Readiness Center, echoed the same sentiment. He worked through several definitions, keying on stigma as something we need to overcome.

"This training is about you," said Bartalomy, who led the group of half a dozen instructors. "You can participate. Or this can be a very long weekend." His rallying words prompted several Soldiers to stand up and give testimony of their struggles as Soldiers on and off duty.

A guest speaker at Joint Force Headquarters in Carson City, Kenny Curtzwiler, a retired Nevada Guard major, described his experience of having lost his son, Kaleb, a Navy veteran, to suicide on Aug. 9, 2010. "Is there anyone out there who has ever thought of shooting yourself in the head?" he asked. Several Soldiers raised their hand.

"I bet there are more of you who have thought about shooting yourself than hands raised. It's a common feeling, but it's how you deal with it. One of the best ways to deal with it is to talk to someone and deal with the problem. It's not just about you – it's about the people who care about, who you will leave behind."

He added that it's important for leaders not to judge when a Soldier comes to them. "The military doesn't know what to do," said Curtzwiler. "They are looking for answers. If you are in the audience and feeling there is no way out, don't talk to the bottle, talk to someone. Call me, I will listen." ■

For more information on the Army Suicide Prevention visit www.preventsuicide.army.mil.

Barbara Stanton serves community, veterans with a smile

By Sgt. Susan Wohle
106th Public Affairs Detachment

WINNEMUCCA – Winnemucca's patriotism is visible from a casual thank you at The Pig BBQ & Pub or a local citizen aiding a Soldier near the armory on 4th Street. It can also be seen on Haskell Street where hanging banners highlight the community's military heritage.

Barbara Stanton personifies that thankfulness. She is the rural family assistance specialist for the Nevada Army National Guard in Winnemucca and Elko.

Stanton's relationship with the military goes back to when she first left high school and considered a career in the military. "Back in the dark ages, when I was going to sign up in the military, girls could only be nurses or secretaries," Stanton said. "I thought I was hot stuff. I didn't want to be a nurse or a secretary. I wanted to be in the action. I wanted to do more."

Stanton didn't end up serving in uniform, but she volunteered from 1997 to 2008 as president of the Winnemucca family readiness group. Going above and beyond her current full-time job with the Guard, she's the unofficial liaison between the Winnemucca Armory and the community.

"She is probably one of the most Soldier-oriented support people you can have," said Di An Putnam, the mayor of Winnemucca since 2006. "She keeps in communication and always tells me when

things are going on. If it wasn't for her, we wouldn't know what was going on with the Guard (in Winnemucca)."

Stanton is instrumental in ensuring that National Guard facilities are put to good use serving the community and to build on its relationship with the Guard, Putnam said.

In July 2007, several wildfires threatened Winnemucca, a town with fewer than 10,000 residents. The armory was used as a central meeting place where people could contact loved ones and find a break from the heat.

"When they first opened the VA clinic, they had no building," Stanton said. "(The Winnemucca Armory) gave the veterans a place to come until the clinic was built. We opened it up and they could come in and talk to us."

Before her work in family readiness, Stanton worked as a mining security guard where she met her husband, recently retired Sgt. 1st Class Tim Stanton. Tim was no stranger to hard work, either. A U.S. Coast Guard veteran, Tim joined the Nevada Army National Guard in 1997.

Throughout the Stantons' 37 years of combined service, the couple says that they've seen the

Guard and community grow closer together, and as the Guard has gotten larger in the past decade, the organization has increased its support for Winnemucca.

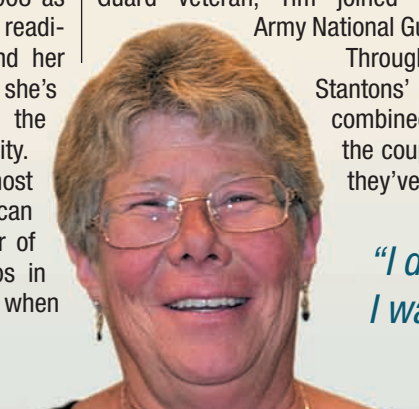
With the Red Cross, the Guard hosts a Halloween event that's a favorite of parents with young children – the Pumpkin Trail. "We get old dried-up leaves and put them all over the armory floor. There's face painting. One year they even stuffed scarecrows," Stanton said. "The community loves it."

In the years that Stanton has served, she has not only witnessed the positive effect on the community, but she has seen a reciprocal increase in care for Guard members and their families.

"There are so many more programs out there," Stanton said. "They take an interest in the families, issues that come up. It has come a long, long way, and we have learned from each deployment."

There are six Winnemucca Soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan. The families often find their yards have been mowed or leaves have been raked, Tim Stanton said, and the community does so voluntarily.

"These guys (Guard members) feel like my kids," Barbara said. "I am very much a service person. Serving our Soldiers is important to me." ■



"I didn't want to be a nurse or a secretary. I wanted to be in the action."

– Barbara Stanton



Barbara Stanton holds a photo of a Winnemucca Army National Guard unit from 1941, the year the United States entered World War II.

Unit finds Army Guard grew up with state

Spc. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

HWY. 50 SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ELY AND FALLON – Interstate 80 from Reno to Wells, south to Ely and back to Carson City on Highway 50 circles the core of Nevada. The 106th Public Affairs Detachment traveled that route for its 2012 annual training this summer, a uniquely Nevadan journey.

The unit slept under the stars in Austin and woke to dew-covered boots. It drove through rain showers on Highway 93 between Elko and Ely and whiffed sweet fields of moist sagebrush on the other side of the storm.

The eight-person unit's mission was to document the Guard's history and its impact in Nevada. Unit Soldiers spoke with mayors, museum curators and passersby, and sifted through adjutant general reports dating to 1877.

It trekked about 1,400 miles by Humvee and through eight Nevada counties in 12 days. That country and its Guard history, from the Sierras to the Ruby Mountains, provided a fascinating look into the Battle Born state – from an embarrassing beginning to a decorated present.

An inauspicious beginning

Historian and senatorial candidate Anne Martin did not allude to the National Guard when she wrote in 1922 that Nevada was a



Former Nevada Adjutant General Floyd Edsall (in hat) squats on top of a new Sheridan M-551 armored assault reconnaissance vehicle issued to Troop 1 in Elko in 1974. Sgt. Grant Smith stands on the right. Elko Mayor L.L. "Dutch" Stenovich sits on the turret. The tank was one of six in the state, according to the *Elko Daily Free Press*.



Donnie Crawford's "Two by Two from Fort McDermitt" illustrates federal cavalry riding in Northern Nevada. Fort McDermitt was built in 1865. Its closure in 1888 ended Nevada's relationship with the military for nearly 40 years, according to David Loomis' "Combat Zoning."

"beautiful desert of buried hopes," but hopes of a federally recognized militia that year were indeed buried.

Nevada was born into war in 1864, but it was the only state completely unprepared for war in 1905, according to the federal government.

The Militia Act of 1903 mandated that state forces pass federal inspection. That legislation attempted to regulate militias after they proved inadequate in the Spanish-American War of 1898. Nevada failed inspection and was the only state without a federally recognized militia in 1908, according to Nevada adjutant general reports.

"...as an organization in its present condition this company cannot be relied upon for active service of any kind," Capt. Frank Winn, of the 12th United States Infantry, wrote in his 1905 inspection. Companies A and B of Virginia City and their 133 enlisted Soldiers – mostly miners – showed "no indication of either military zeal or efficiency," Winn reported.

By 1927, Nevada Adjutant General Jay H. White asked for increased funding from Gov. Fred Balzar because "Nevada has had the unique and unenviable distinction of being the only state in the Union without a National Guard, a status that has caused our state and its citizens to become the target of exceedingly unfavorable criticism throughout our nation."

Even without a Guard, however, biennial reports said Nevada contributed more men by percentage for World War I than any other state. One out of every 33 Nevadans

volunteered for the European conflict, the report said.

White got his funding, and the Nevada Guard units were federally recognized in 1934. Those units deployed to the Pacific during World War II after entering active status. The Nevada Guard was re-established in 1948, and Nevada Guardsmen have since fought wars, floods, fires and dozens of other natural disasters.

After World Wars

The Nevada Guard has changed a lot since the 1960s, Ely native Myron Bybee said. "It was more of a social thing," said Bybee, the Ely Guard commander 1964-1969.

Old Guard members like Bybee described it as a gathering of former active duty military personnel. It was a monthly meeting to inspect troops, compete in rifle competitions with units around Nevada and occasionally fight a fire or flood.

"It was a fun thing at the time ... a friend of mine said it was a lot like Boy Scouts – with guns," said retired commander of the Army Guard Brig. Gen. David McNinch (1990-1994).

After World War II, most Guardsmen were middle-aged veterans reminiscing about war experiences, added retired Nevada Adjutant General Floyd Edsall (1967-1979). During the 1950s, the Nevada Guard advertised incentive programs for college fees and books. The goal was to attract younger Soldiers, Edsall said.

"The Guardsmen were all members of the community, and as time went along, you

saw them become principals, entrepreneurs, business owners and working on some of the related things like truck maintenance,” Edsall said. “Because of the additional education, they became much more integral parts of their community than if they hadn’t (gotten) that education.”

In 1947 the Nevada Air Guard stood up its first operations at the Reno Air Force Base in Stead and added a few hundred Guardsmen to the roles along with P-51 aircraft.

Guard funding dropped after the Vietnam War in 1975, and it entered a relaxed era, retired Nevada Guard Lt. Col. Steve Ranson said. But that changed during President Ronald Reagan’s administration.

“In the 1980s, the Guard got really serious,” said Ranson, who entered the Nevada Guard in 1981. “That was because of the Reagan administration’s focus on a stronger military.”

Ranson, who retired in 2009, is editor of the Lahontan Valley News and worked on historical battle books of the deployed Nevada units from 2005-2008.

Federal funding poured into the military and enough trickled down to the Guard, he said. Physical standards increased along with spending. Nevada Guardsmen, for example, only had to walk four miles in an hour to pass physical tests in 1981, Ranson said. By 1986, the Nevada Guard was testing physical fitness on federal standards, he added.

Post 9/11 era

The Nevada Guard’s mission in the community has not changed. Guardsmen have aided firefighters throughout the state, including the Caughlin Ranch, Topaz Ranch Estate and Elko fires in the past year.

The Nevada Guard played a pivotal role during the Reno floods of 1996-97 and western Nevada flooding during the New Year’s holiday in late 2005, early 2006.

Meanwhile, emphasis on federal support has increased.

Since 9/11, more than 3,600 Nevada Guardsmen have deployed overseas. The 593rd Transportation Company of Reno with detachments in Elko, Winnemucca and Las Vegas, is one of those reserve components deployed to Afghanistan today.

The Guard’s new focus on federal support started after 9/11 because of the organization’s shift from strategic reserve to operational reserve, Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks said.

“If you look at it from a historical perspective, after every war there was a huge drop in standing force, with the exception of the Vietnam War,” Burks said. “The question



Sgt. William Lowell, 1/221st Cavalry

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Nunes sits in cover in the Alishang Valley, Laghman Province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 8, 2009. The 1/221st Cavalry with more than 600 troops from Las Vegas and Yerington was involved in the largest state deployment since World War II.

becomes, as we look forward to the pressure of economics, can we afford that huge standing force? I tend to think we can’t. So an increase in funding for reserve components makes more sense.”

Fighting for the future of the Nevada Guard is important, but the 106th Public Affairs Detachment found that a tie to the past is equally important and that the Battle Born Guard has close ties to many of Nevada’s oldest communities.

One of the first units to deploy overseas was the 126th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). During its deployment to Afghanistan in 2003, the 126th Medical Company flew 127 combat missions and transported more than 150 people.

Just three years earlier, the unit spent almost 270 days in the Balkans.

The 72nd Military Police Company of Las Vegas and Ely has deployed to Iraq twice (2003 and 2007). The 72nd MP Company was also the only Nevada Army Guard unit that deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm in 1990-91 to guard enemy prisoners. In 2003, the 777th Engineer Utility Team in Las Vegas also served in Iraq.

The 1/221st Cavalry of Las Vegas and Yerington was involved in the largest state deployment since World War II. It deployed to Afghanistan in 2009. The 593rd Transportation Company in Elko and Winnemucca is the only Nevada Army Guard unit to deploy to both Afghanistan and Iraq. The 485th Military Police Company of Reno returned home in July after a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan providing security at the detention facility in Parwan.

The 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion provided communications at both Kandahar Airfield and forward operating bases in 2011. This was the largest Nevada deployment involving both Soldiers and equipment.

In 2003, the 321st Signal Company left Reno for a yearlong deployment to Iraq and Kuwait installing, maintaining and operating state-of-the-art communications equipment.

While thousands of Nevadans have been deployed overseas, three Nevada Guardsmen made the ultimate sacrifice.

The 1864th Transportation Company was deployed to Iraq in 2005. Army Spc. Anthony Cometa of Las Vegas died on June 16, 2005, when his Humvee rolled over. The transportation company – whose unit designator commemorates the year Nevada became a state – deployed a second time to Iraq in 2009.

Company D, 113th Aviation, based at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Stead, deployed to Afghanistan in 2005. On Sept. 25 of that year, a Chinook carrying five Guardsmen, two from Nevada and three from Oregon, was shot down. All five died. The Nevadans were Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Flynn of Reno and Sgt. Patrick Stewart of Fernley.

Earlier this year, the same unit with a different name – Detachment 1, Bravo Company, of the 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion – left for Afghanistan.

The Nevada National Guard has deployed dozens of times to the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and neighboring operational areas, but the men and women who don the uniform always stand ready to support local communities. ■

DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Aviation commander praises troops' performance in Afghanistan

Story and photos by Steve Ranson

(Lt. Col., U.S. Army Ret.), *Special to the Battle Born*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan – Thumping sounds of helicopter blades pierced the sky emanating a certain power over a land torn by war since the late 1970s when the Soviets invaded the country.

The United States targeted Afghanistan as a breeding ground for terrorists since 2001 when terrorists hijacked four passenger jets – crashing three into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and a fourth into a field in Pennsylvania.

For the past 12 years, Nevada units have deployed numerous times to Iraq and Afghanistan. It was the second go-round for Soldiers from Bravo Company, 189th General Support Aviation Battalion and their Chinook CH-47D helicopters. The unit had arrived in country last spring after several months of training at Fort Hood, Texas.

Several pilots and crew members who served at Kandahar Airfield during that first

deployment in 2005-2006 dealt with mixed emotions. In September 2005, an insurgent's rocket shot down a Chinook, killing five Guardsmen, including two from Nevada.

With three-quarters of the deployment marked off the calendar, Soldiers from the 189th will make their return home to Nevada within the next few months. They will wave goodbye to FOB Shank, a major staging area southwest of Kabul in close proximity to insurgent activity against NATO forces.

Company commander Capt. Michael Bordallo, 32, has considered the deployment a success for the Nevada crews.

"The mission primarily for us has been that of general support. That's with night vision goggles and daytime general support," said the aviation commander from his small corner office near the command post and less than 200 yards from the flight line.

In addition to providing general support, Bordallo said that the 50 Soldiers from Bravo Company transported special operations troops



With less than a few months to go before returning home to Nevada, Capt. Michael Bordallo, commander of the 189th GSAB, talks about operations.

around the battlefield, but such missions are classified, and he could not discuss them.

Additionally, about the same number of Montana aviators and crew members deployed with Nevada, but most of those Soldiers reside at another FOB.

No matter the mission, Bordallo said the Chinooks have performed exceptionally well in Afghanistan.

"This aircraft is so capable in this environment," he said, noting the helicopter and the Nevada crews can perform missions at high altitudes. Shank sits in a high desert valley at 6,600 feet with surrounding mountain peaks jutting upwards of 10,000 feet.

The mission has expanded for Chinook companies like the one from Nevada. "The Chinooks used to be a division asset. We would move beans and bullets," Bordallo said. Now, the CH47Ds take a more direct role in supporting task force operations.

"In this war and environment, the Chinook is just it. What they got is a unit where the guys from Nevada are used to dust, dark and high altitude," said Bordallo, who has been company commander for two years.

Bordallo praised his aviators and mechanics who keep the birds running. Nevada's lofty peaks and desert terrain and its similarity to Afghanistan's landscape have attracted several service components to train in the Silver State. Bordallo firmly believes the environment has given his Soldiers the edge versus units from other states.

"It's not the same training environment," he said. ■

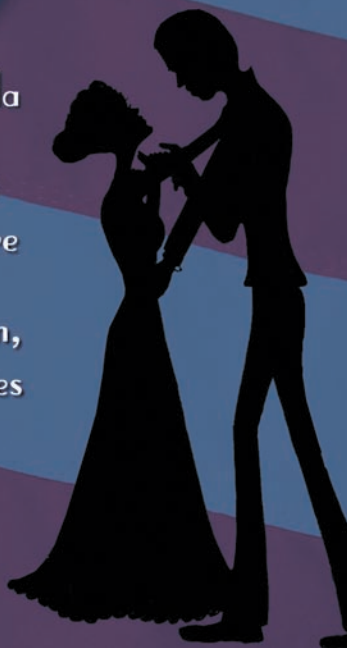
2013 Nevada National Guard Governor's Military Ball

March 2, 2013 • Reno, Nevada

Military: formal or mess dress
Civilian: formal or cocktail attire

Open to all Nevada Guardsmen,
retired Guardsmen, their families
and civilian employees

Location: to be determined
Ticket price: to be determined



593rd keeps up the drive to succeed

Story and photos by Steve Ranson

(Lt. Col., U.S. Army Ret.), Special to the Battle Born

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the Nevada Army National Guard's 593rd Transportation Company made Silver State history when they set foot in Afghanistan last summer.

Since the launch of the Global War on Terrorism in 2001, thousands of service members have answered the call to deploy for duty both in Iraq and Afghanistan. The 593rd became the first Nevada Army Guard unit to serve in both wars.

The Road Warriors with Soldiers from Reno, Las Vegas, Elko and Winnemucca perform the important mission of carrying personnel, supplies and equipment in and out of Kabul to sustain combat troops scattered across the central regions of Afghanistan in areas plagued by frequent violence.

The 593rd Soldiers pay great attention to detail, and any threats spur their determination to carry out successful missions.

Their commander has the same resolve. Capt. Curtis Kolvet, a 1997 Reno Bishop Manogue High School graduate and Army veteran of the war in Iraq, leads by example.

The athletic Kolvet is a seasoned officer with experience in overseas and homeland operations. Now at Camp Phoenix, just seven miles from Kabul's international airport, Kolvet is indifferent to location. In driving the city streets, he and his Soldiers face danger from suicide bombers and kidnappers. Kabul, among its millions of people, maintains a mix of citizens who have relocated there from Afghanistan's countryside.

Despite the Pentagon's order to reduce the number of boots on ground, the company performs the same mission even though it was whittled down to 125 Soldiers just prior to leaving Nevada.

"Realistically, we have the same missions but with fewer people," Kolvet said.

The 593rd's primary mission provides convoy movement throughout the Regional Command and capital by moving personnel, equipment and supplies to other bases within the region. Missions can take from one hour to a couple of days.

"The bulk of our mission operations are in an environment of five million people," Kolvet



Spc. Julia Rodriguez, a convoy driver for the 593rd Transportation Company, follows through on safety checks. During its deployment to Afghanistan, the unit has performed more than 100 missions.

said. "We have had 100 missions in four months. We're busy."

From initial orders to planning, execution and review, the job requires more than jumping into an armored truck, checking the oil and water, and kicking the tires.

"The battalion element here hands us our missions," Kolvet said. "Our convoy commanders examine the missions by mapping them out and keeping people safe. I put that in their laps, and they make it happen."

Behind keeping the machinery humming, 1st Sgt. Harry Schroeder brings valuable experience to the company, having served in the Army for 10 years and the National Guard for eight.

"The mission we have now is similar to when I was a cavalry scout," Schroeder said. Schroeder was the first sergeant when the unit deployed to Iraq six years ago. This time around, he says, the NCOs don't hesitate in making sound decisions.

"The majority of our NCOs have previous deployment experience although it was different in Iraq," he said. "It's important having [experienced] people in leadership positions, and they can relate those experiences to junior Soldiers. That's why we're successful, and it's a huge reason for getting us through the process more easily."

Kolvet said Schroeder's years of experience have led to the company's success, not only in Afghanistan but in the two years leading up to deployment.

"His experience allowed him to find the right Soldiers for the right jobs, and then

ensure the whole unit was properly trained so they could hit the ground running. That's what an experienced first sergeant does for you. He got all the hard work done before the mission ever began," Kolvet said.

"One of the biggest challenges we face during this long deployment is complacency. To enforce the standards, the first sergeant spot-checks convoys by going out on the road with them, and he corrects deficiencies as they appear. He has been vital to the success we've seen so far."

Elko resident 1st. Lt. Christopher Yell serves as operations officer and executive officer for the 593rd, two totally different jobs in contrast to his civilian career as an electrician for Newmont Mines.

The deployment to Afghanistan has been what Yell expected.

"This first deployment has been fantastic," he said. "I wanted to deploy with Capt. Kolvet, who's a fantastic leader."

Yell said every day is on-the-job training. "We're doing what we trained to do and get to use the schoolbooks in a real-world experience," he said.

In reflecting on their five months in Afghanistan, Schroeder said he is proud of the Soldiers in the 593rd and how determined they are to be successful in this difficult mission.

"Everyone who comes over here has a purpose. Our Soldiers are out on the road almost every day. They are accomplishing the mission and having a purpose to it. They are doing a great job at it," Schroeder said. ■

DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Countless deployments hone High Rollers into a well-oiled machine in Kuwait

RENO — As of this writing in early January, Airmen of the 152nd Maintenance and Operations Groups are about halfway through their deployment to Kuwait.

Flying multiple C-130 Hercules aircraft every day into many locations throughout Southwest Asia, the Guardsmen have maintained an impressive 98 percent mission effectiveness rating. With the High Rollers combining operations with the 165th Airlift Wing out of Savannah, Ga., and the 30th Airlift Squadron out of Cheyenne, Wyo., the maintenance troops have offered eight aircraft every day for almost exclusively airlift missions.

Reno resident Lt. Col. Jeff Schulstad, commander of the deployed 737th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, says the maintenance troops are working hard “to keep these old airplanes

doing the mission very effectively.” The C-130H2s owned by the 152nd were built in 1979, Georgia’s in 1982 and Wyoming’s H3 models slightly more recently.

In November and December alone, the combined unit transported about 1,500 passengers and more than 500 short tons of cargo on nearly 200 sorties. This deployment adds to the dozens of Air Expeditionary Force deployments for the storied Nevada unit.

Previous deployments to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and other worldwide locations have hardened these battle-weary Airmen, but Schulstad said the unit has experienced excellent weather and enjoyed its Kuwait locale. He said it’s refreshing to have no indirect fire coming their way. This is the commander’s ninth Southwest Asia deployment since Sept. 11, 2001.

The approximately 100 Nevada Airmen swapped out with fresh Nevada deployers in early January, with the balance of the Guardsmen remaining in Southwest Asia until March. The 165th brought about 65 Airmen and Cheyenne about 20. Schulstad said between the 737th and other Guardsmen based at Ali Al Salem, 31 different Air Guard units are represented at the Kuwaiti base. The Guard there makes up 22 percent of the base’s manning.

Just after the Christmas holiday, the High Rollers got a treat. Col. Jeff Burkett, commander of the 152nd Airlift Wing, and the wing’s Command Chief Master Sgt. Bill Moore visited for a few days. “They brought good tidings from home, a few small gifts, and it was great to get that support from our leadership,” Schulstad said. ■



The 152nd Airlift Wing crews work around the clock to deliver supplies in Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Tech Sgt. Calvin Hobson, 152nd Airlift Wing

SPORTS NEWS

593rd trio earns top honors in 10th Mountain competition

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 593rd Medium Transportation Company Road Warriors stunned their active-duty brethren in a morale-boosting brigade esprit de corps competition here in September.

Girding for competition, the Little Muckers made up of Battle Born Soldiers Staff Sgt. Justin Larsen, Spc. Kihana Jessie and Pfc. Chase Howard overcame adversity to compete in five events. Several teams represented various units of the 10th Sustainment Brigade, or Task Force Mule Skinner.

The team drew their name from the mascot of Tonapah High School, where Larsen's daughter will be going next year.

Larsen, a seven-year veteran of the Road Warriors company, led the team. With one deployment to Iraq in 2006-2007 under his belt, the physical fitness buff serves as a convoy commander in Afghanistan.

From spartan confines of their home at Forward Operating Base Phoenix near Kabul, the team traveled to sprawling Bagram Airfield by helicopter the day before the competition. They took time to explore the base and make last-minute mental notes for the following day's events.

The next day, all Soldiers reported at 5 a.m. to the brigade headquarters, where they met the competition. The first event was a relay run which required each team member to run 4.5 miles before passing a baton to the next Soldier in line. Larsen led, with Jessie

running the second leg, and Howard as anchor.

Jessie, who voluntarily deployed with the 593rd from the Nevada Army Guard Medical Detachment, prides herself on fitness, mental toughness and overall drive. She ignited a can-do attitude that spread to her teammates. The team's strength allowed it to build a full one-minute lead on the second fastest team.

After the run, each team member took their turn in a kettle-bell relay.

In the third event, the teams ran to the pull-up bars. Each team had five minutes to complete as many pull-ups as possible in relay fashion. The mentally focused Howard relied on his prowess as a gymnast. Only one team member could be on the bar at time, and the Muckers ended up with 165 pull-ups.

In the fourth event, each team had five minutes to complete as many push-ups as possible, following the same format as the pull-ups event. With no break in the action, the team walked away with 305 repetitions.

As a finale, the teams completed a gamut of Army Warrior Tasks consisting of weapons proficiency, and first aid scenarios which included treatment of casualties and how to properly request a medevac.

By the end of the day, many of the teams cheered each other on, slapping backs and pulling each other into proud hugs as if they had known each other for years. ■



Sgt. Jeff Dooley, Nevada Army Guard Medical Detachment

Sgt. Oreana Henry, patient administration specialist, and Staff Sgt. Nancy Sanchez, platoon sergeant, rev up for the NorCal 2012 Tough Mudder at Lake Tahoe on Sept. 23. The two sergeants were members of the Roughnex, made up of mostly medical detachment Soldiers.

Nevada Soldiers bond for charity at Tough Mudder

*By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

LAKE TAHOE – They endured long runs at high elevation, low crawling under live electrical wires and swimming through freezing water in one of the toughest obstacle courses on the planet at the NorCal 2012 Tough Mudder, but a handful of Guard Soldiers didn't mind getting dirty for a good cause.

Troops from the Nevada Army Guard Medical Detachment, dubbed Team Roughnex, donned kilts and shaded their best war faces in blue hues a la Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*, but ended up finding that toughness and inspiration came from within.

Sgt. Jeff Dooley, Sgt. 1st Class John Ellis, Sgt. Oreana Henry, Sgt. John Holliday, Sgt. Anthony Keithley, Spc. Alex Messenger, Sgt. Joe Rutski, Sgt. Nancy Sanchez and 1st Lt. Alex Stackhouse came away feeling like winners in part because a portion of the proceeds from their entry fee went toward the Wounded Warriors Project.

The Tough Mudder covered 11 miles of rugged terrain at Northstar ski resort near Truckee, Calif. The Mudder, designed by British Special Forces troops, aims to test competitors' all-around strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie.

The Battle Born Soldiers said they entered the Mudder course as a personal challenge. They began their journey at 9 a.m. on Sept. 23 and took roughly four hours to traverse the course alongside hundreds of other teams.

(Continued on page 24)



Courtesy Photo

Battle Born Soldiers Pfc. Chase Howard, Spc. Kihana Jessie and Staff Sgt. Justin Larsen stand in front of the 10th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters, or Task Force Mule Skinner, last autumn to accept their awards for winning the esprit de corps competition.

Nevada Air National Guard celebrates award winners *(Continued from page 3)*

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Tech. Sgt. Christa Morter said, "I'm honored and humbled to be here, and I'm excited for the opportunity to represent the Ops Group and all the hard work they do."

Annual award winners will represent the state of Nevada as they compete for awards on the national level.

Attendees of the evening ceremony were honored by the attendance of retired Lt. Col. William Elander. A decorated Air Force

command pilot who survived 267 days in captivity as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam in 1972, Elander led the High Rollers group through the prisoner of war remembrance table ceremony at the beginning of the dinner.

Throughout the evening, honor and pride were the words most heard. Master Sgt. Jordan Bean said he was honored to be nominated for such an award and to be part of a group. ■

AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS • AWARDS

The Adjutant General's Silver Sentinel Award: Nevada EANGUS Board, Capt. John Brownell, Joint Force Headquarters, NV NG Key Volunteers

Commander's Excellence Award: Lt. Col. Richard Blower, Joint Force Headquarters; Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Annand, 152nd Airlift Wing; 152nd Operation Support Flight Airfield Management Section; Chief Master Sgt. Bob Benton, 152nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Steve Givani, 152nd Force Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Nephtali Barrera, 152nd Medical Group; Maj. Michael Komorous, 232nd Operations Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Mark Magee, 152nd Intelligence Squadron

Diversity Award: Lt. Col. Glen Martel, Joint Force Headquarters

Safety Award: Tech. Sgt. Ryan Branch, 152nd Maintenance Squadron

Chief's Council Award: Lt. Col. JoAnn Meacham, 152nd Mission Support Group; Tech. Sgt. Caroline Cousineau, 152nd Comptroller Flight

Lance P. Sijan USAF Leadership Award: Senior Master Sgt. Gilberto Carrera, 232nd Operations Squadron

Airman of the Year: Senior Airman Sean Bird, 152nd Operations Support Flight

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Christa Morter, 152nd Operations Support Flight

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Master Sgt. Joe Henle, 152nd Operations Support Flight

Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Chris Leroy, 152nd Operations Support Flight

First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Jordan Bean, 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Honor Guard Member of the Year: Staff Sgt. Bartley O'Toole, 152nd Operations Support Flight

Special schools instructors pack punch *(Continued from page 11)*

"We do more with less," said Hartfield, the course manager for the Army basic instructor course, which provides the building blocks for the small group course. "The unique thing about ABIC is that students range from specialist to colonel," he said. "Sometimes we get specialists with Ph.D.s, and they just nail the presentations."

Prospective instructors are cautioned about putting in more time than the typical one weekend a month and two weeks a year. The total time can stand between 40 and 100 days. Such a wide range makes Suminski and Hartfield unique. Both Soldiers teach combatives and administration courses. "That's a reason we're brought on orders a little more often than other instructors," said Hartfield,

a full-time law enforcement officer and part-time student.

"Our instructors are dedicated and competent, sometimes working weeks and months without a day off when they are in cycle to complete the MOS-producing courses they are qualified to instruct," said RTI Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson.

At the end of the day, the instructors walk away with the often unspoken intangible rewards.

"Being an instructor built my confidence," Suminski said. "I feel good knowing I might have helped save a Soldier's life. I have given Soldiers the tools they need to prepare for combat and come back alive." ■

Nevada Soldiers bond for charity at Tough Mudder *(Continued from page 23)*

"It was a great team-building exercise. It brought us closer," said Dooley, 29. "We didn't leave anyone behind and crossed the finish line together."

One of the big draws was a portion of the proceeds supports wounded warrior programs. According to ToughMudder.com, the competitions have raised more than \$3 million. "It made us feel good that part of our entry fee was going to Soldiers in need," Dooley said.

The course included a 20-foot jump into water to break fears of height, swimming through a bath of ice, low-crawling under live wires and wading through water with low-level currents. Competitors ran up a half pipe which required teams to use their noggins. Heavier, shorter teammates needed a little boost. And Soldiers slogged through a mile of waist-deep mud, hence the event's moniker. Everything came down to teamwork for almost every obstacle.

"It was like cramming all of basic training into a day, and then some," said Henry, 46, a patient administration specialist and one of the two females who participated on the Guard team. "At my age, I just wanted to do it to say I did it. We all helped each other make it through that course. The camaraderie was just amazing."

The Mudders have gained in popularity since they were founded by Britons Will Dean and Guy Livingstone. The first event at Bear Creek Ski Resort near Allentown, Pa., drew more than 4,500 competitors, far more than the 500 the duo expected. Due to the raging success, the NorCal and a New Jersey event were added in 2010, and 14 events were added to the roster in 2011. The company plans 60 events in 2013, expanding worldwide.

Staff Sgt. Pak Castillo, and staff sergeants Rose and Dennis Kemp were among other Guardsmen who completed the course. ■



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • September, November, December 2012

Legion of Merit



CSM Jose Aragon 422nd Expeditionary Signal Bn

Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Stacy Carter 17th Special Troops Bn
1SG Dennis Basilio 1864th Trans Co
1SG Daniel Quintana 240th Engineer Co
CPT Joseph Claros 240th Engineer Co
CPT Nicholas Chavez 609th Engineer Co
CPT Aleshia Erdmann 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
1SG Douglas Perez 1/221st Cavalry
MAJ Blain Holmes 1/221st Cavalry
MAJ Daniel Thielen NVARNG Med Det
SSG Thomas Polacek NVARNG Med Det
CW2 Zachary McPherson NVARNG Rec/Ret
MAJ Gene Dieters NVARNG Rec/Ret
CPT Samuel Bonner NVARNG Rec/Ret
MAJ Patricia Koch 421st Regional Tng Institute
1SG Heidi Merrill-Hernandez HHC, 17th Sust Brigade
CSM Donald Sanders HHC, 17th Sust Brigade
CMSgt Steven Gilbert 152nd Maint Sqdn
CMSgt Danny Olsen JFHQ
MSgt Steven Hunt 152nd Maint Sqdn
MSgt Edward Perkins 152nd Maint Operations Flt
SMSgt Scott Wofford 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
SMSgt Christopher Cobb 152nd Maint Sqdn
SMSgt Richard Stone 152nd Maint Sqdn
SMSgt Bruce Ladd 152nd Maint Operations Flt
TSgt James Wallis 152nd Maint Sqdn
TSgt Roy Lee 152nd Maint Operations Flt

Army Commendation Medal



SFC Larry Harlan 17th Special Troops Bn
1LT Eugenio Agacoli 1864th Trans Co
SPC Mark Magat 240th Engineer Co
SFC Brandon Repetto 240th Engineer Co
SSG Michael Love 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SFC Kevin Painter 422nd Exped Signal Bn
CPT Bryan Schuster 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SSG Jesse Bosquez 422nd Exped Signal Bn
CPT Beau Vinatieri 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SGT Gregory Zemp 422nd Exped Signal Bn
1LT David Tallman B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SSG Mike Nguyen B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
1LT Jason Rapp B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SGT Nathaniel Borja B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SGT Anthony Hardy B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SFC Benjamin Krainbrink C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SPC Clifford Cardenas C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SGT Jessica Foos 72nd MP Co
SGT Brett Knudson 72nd MP Co
SSG Mike Pulmones 72nd MP Co
SGT Angel Salazar 72nd MP Co
SGT Joshua Sidman 72nd MP Co

SSG Trevor Kinney HHD, 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
SSG Jessica Hana JFHQ
SSG Elissa Krizmanich NVARNG Med Det
CPT Barron Van Muers NVARNG Rec/Ret
CW2 Mark McAllister NVARNG Rec/Ret
SSG Benjamin Pagni NVARNG Rec/Ret
SFC David Ramage NVARNG Rec/Ret
SSG Curtis Terry NVARNG Rec/Ret

Air Force Commendation Medal



1st Lt Masten Bethel 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



SGT Yomahira Garcia 100th Quartermaster Co
SGT William Hawkins 1/168th MEDEVAC
1LT Wesley Leedy 1/168th MEDEVAC
SGT Rebecca Kleinendorst 1/168th MEDEVAC
SPC Christopher Baxa 17th Special Troops Bn
SPC Aaron Rapp 1864th Trans Co
SGT Gabriel Sena 1864th Trans Co
SPC Juan Almaraz 240th Engineer Co
SPC Daniel Gibson 240th Engineer Co
PFC Nicholas Lindamood 240th Engineer Co
SGT Nathan Owens 240th Engineer Co
SPC Jon Sennvanbasel 240th Engineer Co
SPC Tunstall Smith 240th Engineer Co
SGT Steven Campbell 72nd MP Co
PFC Chelsea Cruz 72nd MP Co
SGT Raphael Gil 72nd MP Co
CPT John Lyle 92nd Civil Support Team
CW5 Stephen Karrick Det 45, Operational Spt Airlift
SGT Rudy Cabulong HHC, 17th Sust Brigade
SFC Luciana Irenze HHC, 17th Sust Brigade

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Richard Catlin 152nd Airlift Wing
SSgt Jose Escobar 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
TSgt Jauires Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Order of Nevada



CSM Jose Aragon 422nd Exped Signal Bn
1SG Donald Gable 991st Aviation Troop Cmd

Nevada Distinguished Service Medal



CW5 Stephen Karrick Det 45, Operational Spt Airlift

Nevada State Commendation Medal



A1C Robert Brown 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

MSgt Baraz Daniel 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SSgt Matthew Farley 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SSgt Nathan Trapp 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SFC Henry Willrich 1/168th MEDEVAC
SGT Eric Albright B Co, 3/140th Aviation
SSG Shane Minsch C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SGT Eric Albright 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
CSM Michael Aritzia HHD, 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
MSG Bryan Soule HHD, 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
SSG Michael Russell NVARNG Med Det
SPC Kihana Jessie NVARNG Med Det
SFC Tiffany McKimmy HHC, 17th Sust Brigade

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



CMSgt Robert Stout 232nd Operations Sqdn
LtCol Zola Ferguson 152nd Medical Gp
SSgt Howard Schmitz 232nd Operations Sqdn
TSgt Gerardo Navarro 232nd Operations Sqdn
TSgt Jawann Wilson 232nd Operations Sqdn

Nevada First Sergeant Ribbon



1SG Harry House NVARNG Rec/Ret
MSgt Seth Dextraze 152nd Maint Sqdn

Nevada Honor Guard Ribbon



SSG Mayra Serrano 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SFC Joshua Lappin 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
SGT Alejandro Alvarez 1/221st Cavalry
SSG John Stone 1/221st Cavalry
SFC Michelle Tucay NVARNG Med Det
PFC Theodore Garcia NVARNG Rec/Ret
PFC Jordan Nash NVARNG Rec/Ret

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



A1C Hugh Welden 192nd Airlift Sqdn
A1C Chad Debock 152nd Maint Sqdn
Amn Chelsea Duenas 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
MSgt Kevin Bandoni 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt Steven Givani 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
SrA Jaret Sukraw 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SrA Paul Teska 152nd Maint Sqdn
SSgt Travis Backlund 152nd Maint Sqdn
CMSgt Timothy Broadway 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Michael Wilcox 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Alejandro Ontiveros 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
1st Lt Victor Hicks 152nd Medical Gp

PROMOTIONS

COL/Col

Enrique Delapaz JFHQ
Daniel Waters JFHQ
Edward Draper NVARNG Med Det

LTC/LtCol

Koby Harding 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Alvin Bolton JFHQ

MAJ/Maj

Brian Moynihan 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CPT/Capt

Daniel Shure 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Dillon Sauer B Co, 3/140th Aviation

1LT/1st Lt

Mirna Cambero 240th Engineer Co
Brian Crouse C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Barron Brooks 152nd Intel Sqdn
Jonathan Buescher 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Aaron Christensen 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CW2

Joseph Sherych HHC, 17th Sust Brigade

WO1

Scott Taylor 1/168th MEDEVAC

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Donald Sanders 17th Special Troops Bn

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

Michael Nelson L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Richard Beck NVARNG Med Det
Jason Shipp Camp Stead Tng Ctr
Shauna Reese HHC, 17th Sust Bde

Michael Roe HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Elbie Doege 485th MP Co
Fouad Diallo 593rd Trans Co
Benjamin Green 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
James Cummings HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Joshua Lappin NVARNG Rec/Ret

SFC/MSgt

Ichel Salifu 100th Quartermaster Co
Gil Reeder 17th Special Troops Bn
Joseph Rourke 17th Special Troops Bn
Tyson Strong 1864th Trans Co
Justin Fetty 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Kyland Lusby 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Matthew Steffen 777th Forward Support Co
Ryan Campbell 92nd Civil Support Team
Jorge Granados 421st Regional Tng Institute
Jose Contreras-Orozco JFHQ
Allen Morris JFHQ
Catalina Manzanares NVARNG Med Det
Frank Tolete 152nd Operation Support Sqdn
John Resseguie 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
Kevin Knight 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Elliott Morris 152nd Maint Sqdn
John Fairbanks 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Lancer Maciel 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

SSG/TSgt

Demurtus Brown 152nd Medical Group
Jeffrey Mello 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Michael Yahne 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Mathews Farley 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
Katherine Mathews 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Carrie Carlson 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
Jose Escobar 152nd Intel Sqdn

Jason Leggett 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Eugene Houston 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Jauies Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Charron Hernandez HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Hakeem Shinaba HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Son Neal 1864th Trans Co
Jay Pierson 1864th Trans Co
Luis Quiroga 1864th Trans Co
Janira Varty 1864th Trans Co
Christopher Larson 240th Engineer Co
Joseph Keith 485th MP Co
Carl Dessasure 593rd Trans Co
Mitchell Hammond 593rd Trans Co
Donald Hill 593rd Trans Co
Pedro Jaime 593rd Trans Co
Ryan Wroblewski 593rd Trans Co
Brent Peden 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Michael Noyes 92nd Civil Support Team
David Eisele HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Ana Vega 421st Regional Training Institute
Benjamin Rogers L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Andrew Smith L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Brandon Soukup L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry

SGT/SSgt

Ryan Pratt 152nd Maint Sqdn
Anthony Williams 152nd Maint Operation Flt
Reuben Montero 152nd Maint Sqdn
Adam Willett 152nd Intel Sqdn
Mara Geane 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Justin Hanselman 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Michael Taylor 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Steven Minifie 1/168th MEDEVAC
Raheem Plazz 137th MP Det
Louis Kinney 240th Engineer Co
Bryan Hernandez B Co, 3/140th Aviation
Doval Hopper C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Jacqueline Talavera HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Mitchell Hammond 485th MP Co
Allison Clark 593rd Trans Co
Matthew Anderson 593rd Trans Co
Andre Brown 593rd Trans Co
Herbert Ofseur 593rd Trans Co
Donald Otto 593rd Trans Co
Kurtis Padilla 593rd Trans Co
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William Weston 609th Engineer Co
George Bautista 72nd MP Co
Thailer Powell 72nd MP Co
Michael Hearn 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Jose Gonzalez 150th Maint Co
Lucas Sparks 150th Maint Co
Stephen Barry HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Dylan Cooper HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Jacob Fisher HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Victor Sanford HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Jerome Dorsey I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Clinton Marlow I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Julian Batz K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Mayra Cornejo-Maldonado NVARNG Med Det
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ACCESSIONS

Joseph Cole 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Mariah Crume 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Christopher Jones 100th Quartermaster Co
 Christopher Hall 100th Quartermaster Co
 Schrodinger Hunt 100th Quartermaster Co
 Brian Thom 100th Quartermaster Co
 Mike Villarreal 100th Quartermaster Co
 Releana Griffith 100th Quartermaster Co
 Nicole Quagge 100th Quartermaster Co
 Jamila Riley 100th Quartermaster Co
 Allicyn Horseman 100th Quartermaster Co
 Steven Urena 100th Quartermaster Co
 Edy Eliasarevalo 150th Maint Co
 Karennicole Williamson 150th Maint Co
 Bradley Sims 150th Maint Co
 Leticia Henriquez 150th Maint Co
 Weerachai Poorakkiat 17th Special Troops Bn
 Amiri Smith 17th Special Troops Bn
 Matthew Bartley 17th Special Troops Bn
 William Famini 17th Special Troops Bn
 Kevin Remus HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 William Langston HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Quentin Davis HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Jesse Basinski HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Denise Licitra HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Jafet Cruz 1864th Trans Co
 Sean Hall 1864th Trans Co
 Brandon Young 1864th Trans Co
 Cesar Alvarez 1864th Trans Co
 Jourdan Burton 1864th Trans Co
 Jessica Meeks 1864th Trans Co
 Joshua Aguayo 1864th Trans Co
 Marco Delgado 240th Engineer Co
 Brandon Krowicki 240th Engineer Co
 Adrian Fune 240th Engineer Co
 Ryan Whitney 240th Engineer Co
 Aaron Starnes 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Ian Robertson 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Erskine Currie B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Neil Espinoza B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Adesha McGee B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Raymundo Cruz B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Jeremy Taylor B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Jennifer Fung B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Eddie Scott C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Nathan Lemin C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Leo Deguire C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Jonathan Perez C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Jared Franco C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Alexander Jarredkleve C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Anthony Hicks C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Rachael Burton C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Jacqueline Talavera HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Alexis Matute HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Sarah Russell HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Andrew Fishman 485th MP Co
 Adam Mastrantonio 485th MP Co
 Joweeann Magtibay 593rd Trans Co
 Arjielsid Cunanan 593rd Trans Co
 Trevor Hickman 593rd Trans Co
 Anthony Bandoni 593rd Trans Co

Jerad Harvey 593rd Trans Co
 Stephanie Mock 593rd Trans Co
 Trinidy Fuhrmann 593rd Trans Co
 Allison Clark 593rd Trans Co
 Mario Reza 609th Engineer Co
 Johnny Schinkel 609th Engineer Co
 Jean Rowland 72nd MP Co
 Anthony Lombino 72nd MP Co
 Robert Babb 72nd MP Co
 Steven Delpozo 72nd MP Co
 Jericho Magallon 72nd MP Co
 Christian Aldan 72nd MP Co
 Eunice Marcelino 72nd MP Co
 Kasey Lee 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Marianna Wusstig 777th Forward Support Co
 Shawn Johnson 777th Forward Support Co
 Wesley Butler 777th Forward Support Co
 Robert Maktenieks 150th Maint Co
 Roland Robbins 150th Maint Co
 Katrina Carpenter 72nd MP Co
 Corey Brathor 72nd MP Co
 Kristina Brandon 72nd MP Co
 Mark Horner 72nd MP Co
 Kevin Bonilla 72nd MP Co
 Richard Peterson 72nd MP Co
 Charles Taylor HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Jordan Peck HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Derek King HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Kevin Sombounsith HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Jelani Hamilton HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 David Eisele HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Leon Sanchez I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Anthony Desmoni I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Monique Pena JFHQ
 Lawrence Kennedy K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Mark Kruthaupt K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Travis Montalbano K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Matthew Koerner K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Michael Howard K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Carlos Barreras K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Brandon Dogelio K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Paul Loisel K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Oscar Munozlechuga K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Braulio Villaloboslopez K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Derek Campbell K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Sean Ries L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Stephen Chason L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Devon Arnold L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Mayra Cornejo-Maldonado NVARNG Med Det
 Mary Ong NVARNG Med Det
 Patrick Hurley NVARNG Med Det
 Benjamin Dixon NVARNG Rec/Ret
 Edward Oropeza 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 Michael Phillips 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Karla Lima Hernandez 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
 Christopher Schmitt 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 Demarshus Bradley 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Timothy McCollum 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Jeremy Pekarek 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Brandon Birri 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Wendy Ozburn 152nd Maint Sqdn

Matthew McLea 152nd Medical Grp
 Sabrina Pena 152nd Medical Grp
 Nicholas Ediss 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Philip Harris 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Alex Leslie 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 David Almada 192nd Airlift Sqdn

RETIREMENTS

CSM Suzanne Albin 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
 SGM Carl Adams HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 CSM Jose Aragon HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 CSM Robert Brown HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 1SGT Heidi Merrill-Hernandez HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 SSG Stanley Shinault 593rd Trans Co
 SFC Dean Penrod 1/189th Aviation
 SPC Todd Morrison C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 SGT Randy Buckner 593rd Trans Co
 SGT Truman Marlowe Jr 777th Forward Spt Co
 SGT Christopher Hodge 485th MP Co
 SMSgt Michael Arnold 152nd Operations Grp
 TSgt James Bottge 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SSgt Derek Bright 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Christopher Cobb 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Ladd Crooker 152nd Maint Grp
 SMSgt Marcia Lopez 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt James Wallis 152nd Maint Sqdn

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