

THE ARIZONA

VOL 02, ISSUE 01

ROUGH RIDER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 123RD MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

JANUARY 10, 2016

HELICOPTER GUNFIGHTER

SEVERAL STATES
COMPETE IN INAGURAL
APACHE FLY-IN

MAINTAINING THE GUARD

3666TH SUPPORT
MAINTENANCE COMPANY
TRAINS IN IOWA

ARIZONA LLC PROMOTED

PINNING CEREMONY
HELD FOR BRIG. GEN.
JOHN E. HOEFERT



MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL T. MCGUIRE
The Adjutant General, AZ National Guard

In October 2015 more than two dozen Guard members lost their lives to suicides, accidents and illnesses.

TAG'S PRIORITY: NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND

That's like losing half a platoon, half a flight or an entire detachment in one month. That's 24 patriots leaving behind their teammates, families and friends.

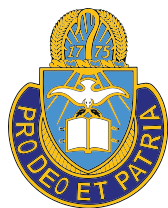
None of us is more or less important than the other. That message could not be truer now as we face a time of year that we've had challenges in the past with mitigating suicide and making sure that we reach out to every member of our team. I think it's important, not just at this time of year, but for the entire year to remind every Soldier, Airman and civilian employee here in the Arizona National Guard that each of you is valuable to the team. I would just reach out to every commander, to every firstline supervisor and every first sergeant that you make a personal connection with every Soldier and Airman in your flight, platoon, company or squadron. If we each reach out to three or four Airmen or Soldiers in our organization we could reach everybody. Sometimes it can be challenging

to stay in touch with other Guard members between drill, but it's essential to the unit and crucial to the individual in need.

It's important to remember how critical each of you is to the team. If you're not sure if someone in this organization thinks your service is critical, call me. I mean that. I want that to be at every level, but if the only place you know to call is there, call me. We'll figure out a way to get someone out to make sure that we address your needs and make sure that we pick up all of our Soldiers and Airmen. We're not going to have anyone left behind.

Article by

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL T. MCGUIRE
The Adjutant General, AZ National Guard



CHAPLAINS COLUMN: AFFINITY

The year was 2007, the place was Mehtar Lam, Laghman Province, Afghanistan and the globe was creeping up on that "most wonderful time of year" – Christmas. The division (then the 82nd Airborne) chaplain's office had decreed Operation Santa's Sleigh: every Forward Operating Base, Combat Out Post, Fire-Base or even hasty fighting position that was temporary home to a platoon-sized element or greater was going to have at least a Christmas Chapel service offered to them. All rotary air assets were dedicated to transporting Religious Support Teams to remote grid coordinates throughout the theatre of operations.

My chaplain assistant and I conducted seven chapel services in 48 hours. Amusing thoughts aside, I do distinctly remember sitting in our FOB's makeshift, Bushmaster Chapel with Task Force Diamondback. It was one of our slower spots in the daily battle-rhythm. While maybe not a full-blown epiphany, the thought struck me about our Soldiers, our servicemembers of all branches, and the affinity God may have for them before, during and after mission execution and this is whether they "know" Him or not or are even particularly religious or not.

I use the word "affinity" on purpose. We've all seen the "John 3:16" banners at sporting events, maybe have channel-surfed past a Billy Graham crusade on television – "... for God so loved the world ..." Many of us know or have heard somewhere that God is love, and God loves you. But do we know what it means to celebrate that "most wonderful time of year?" Even more specifically, my question to the men and women who protect our great nation and our state, do you know that your calling echoes the work of God, Himself? Not only is your "being" (yourself, your essence) created "in the likeness and image of God" but also what you do imitates a portion of what He has done. Let me explain.

I am without apology an "American exceptionalist" – America, warts and all, is a gift to the globe from humanity's Creator. While typeset and space don't allow me to elaborate here on all that this means, suffice it to say, America is a place like no other. It may not be heaven, but at a minimum, it's a pretty comfortable place to exist. Our service members suit up and send themselves into harm's way. For our unit – the storied 1-158th IN Bushmasters. Our men and women time and again have left the comforts of home, America, to travel to broken nations to "fix" it or "make it right"

with America's principles – striving to make it a peace-harboring, human rights-loving, freedom-promoting place on our globe.

And this was the thought toward God's affinity. In the person and work of His Son, Jesus, God left the glories (comforts?) of Heaven, the most perfect place with no warts at all, to set this broken world right with Himself. In a bent and broken world, God comes and offers true peace, Designer-infused expression of His image (human rights), and lasting/eternal freedom.

I may not have an explicit "bible verse," rather its more my inferences from what I read in ancient scriptures, but perhaps it is that God has a certain enjoyment, a closer likeness ... a particular affinity in His love of our troops. As the season of cheer moves into the distant rearview, the holiday spirit has come upon us and begins to fade, consider His offer in light of your service. As uniform-wearers, we may have an "inkling" more than many of what it is that Christmas meant. Would you receive such a "Gift"?

Article by

MAJ. CHRISTOPHER MELVIN
198th RSG Brigade Chaplain



COMMAND & CHAPLAIN

The Adjutant General speaks about one of his most important topics, staying in touch with your fellow Soldiers or Airmen to prevent suicide. The chaplain writes about affinity.



GUARD NEWS

In this issue, the AZ ARNG LCC is promoted to brigadier general; AZ ARNG general retires after 39 years; Vietnam Vets get a well deserved welcome home; guard member wins her fight with cancer and more.



PHOTO STORY

South Carolina National Guard takes home the top team award in the inaugural AH-64D Apache Gunfighter Fly-in helicopter competition in Marana, Arizona, featuring guard units from seven states.

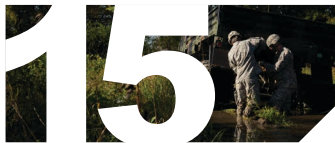


PHOTO STORY / COVER PHOTO

The 3666th Support Maintenance Company take their training halfway across the country to Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spend some quality time with your family this winter or take time to unwind after the holidays by taking advantage of one of the many events Arizona has going on, from Strong Bonds to film festivals.



BOOK REVIEW

Stephen W. Sears illustrates the tactical prowess commanded by confederate generals to prove victorious at Chancellorville, read how he did it in this quarters' book review!



TRAVEL & LEISURE

One of the best ways to get the most bang for your buck while attempting a stay-cation is to visit any of the 22 National Parks here in Arizona. Read about one of those parks only hours away.

BEST SQUAD - 158TH CSSB FTX

To nominate Guardsmen for the Rough Rider, please contact the 123rd MPAD

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PFC. JARED VOORHEES

SPC. RIAN GREENWALT

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ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRIAN BARBOUR

Arizona Army National Guard Spc. Matthew J. King, a native of Scottsdale, Ariz., and an allied trades specialist uses a metal inert gas welder to fuse two sheets of steel Sept. 22, 2015 at Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa. Conitnue the story on page 15.



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GUARDSMEN ON THE STREET

WE ASK GUARDSMEN WHAT THEIR NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS ARE.



SPC. RODOLFO GARCIA

“My New Years resolution is: I plan on finishing school, and I plan on doing that by staying focused.”



SPC. HANNAH WHITNEY

“I don’t have a New Years resolution because I try to better myself each and every day.”



SPC. TYLER JOHNSON

“My New Years resolution is to go to college, and I’ll do that by keeping focused and keeping my priorities straight.”

AZ ARNG LCC PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, the Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard, administers the oath of office to U.S. Army Brig. Gen. John E. Hoefert, land component commander for the Arizona Army National Guard, during a ceremony Oct. 18 in Russell Auditorium at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix.

Arizona Army National Guard Land Component Commander Brig. Gen. John E. Hoefert was promoted and reaffirmed his oath of office in a ceremony held in the presence of his family, friends, colleagues, Soldiers and Airmen from the Arizona National Guard, on Papago Park Military Reservation, Oct. 18.

Hoefert joined the Arizona National Guard in 2001 and has since served in several key positions to include command of the 852nd Rear Area Operations Center and the 158th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Hoefert has served as the Land Component Commander since April as a traditional guardsman.

“It is so critical that we have a Citizen Soldier leading the Arizona Army National Guard, which is the labor force and largest component of this agency [DEMA], and will be for as far as the eye can see,” said Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, the adjutant general of Arizona.

Hoefert’s wife, father and daughter had the honor of pinning on his new rank, while his son participated from out of state through video chat. McGuire presided over the ceremony and administered the oath of office to Hoefert.

“From the ranks of the Arizona Army Guard we have an officer who is professional, who understands integrity, valor, honor, discipline and loyalty and exudes it in everything he does,” McGuire said of Hoefert. “He’s a guy that we look at and say, ‘this is a guy who can stand proudly in front of this formation as the Army commander and every Soldier will proudly look to him for guidance.’”

Hoefert described his promotion to brigadier general as “a humbling experience.”

“For all of you here today, my promotion to brigadier general would not have been possible without the impact you have had on my life and military career ... and I remain forever grateful,” Hoefert said.

Hoefert took the opportunity to share his leadership philosophy and call for the organization’s leaders to focus on taking the time to know their Soldiers, understand their Soldiers, and motivate and mentor their Soldiers.

“It’s about caring for people,” Hoefert said.

Hoefert graduated from Central Washington University in 1989 with a bachelor of science degree in flight technology and was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in Ellensburg. He also holds a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College. Throughout his career, Hoefert has participated in numerous operational and domestic response efforts from Operation Noble Eagle to Operation Jump Start. In 2010, he deployed as a Theater Observation Detachment Officer, Center for Army Lessons Learned, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and Ramadi, Iraq.

Story by

SGT. 1ST CLASS MONETTE WESOLEK

Photo by

STAFF SGT. BRIAN BARBOUR

AZ ARNG GENERAL LEAVES LEGACY OF MENTORSHIP, LEADERSHIP



Arizona National Guard Command Sgt. Maj., Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Powers, presents Brig. Gen. John Burke with a Minuteman statue as a token of appreciation on behalf of the Arizona Army National Guard during his retirement, Nov. 8. Brig. Gen. John Burke's retirement from the Arizona Army National Guard marks the end of a 30-year military career.

The Arizona National Guard bid farewell to Brig. Gen. John E. Burk in a retirement ceremony here Nov. 8, celebrating the general's contributions during his 30-year military career.

Burk began his military service in June of 1985 in the active duty Army as an enlisted Soldier and commissioned four years later in July 1989. He joined the Arizona National Guard in 1997.

Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, the Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard presented Burk with the Arizona Distinguished Service Medal.

"We are honored to recognize General Burk for his over 30 years of dedicated service to both the state and the nation," McGuire said.

Leadership is not foreign to Burk as his positions of responsibility over his tenure included multiple commands, Chief of Staff of the Southwest Border Security Mission, Deputy Inspector General, Director of Operations of the Joint Staff and Director Joint Staff.

His time as a general officer has also had a profound impact on his family.

"The last few years of him in the general position has been such a benefit for us to be able to serve

the troops and to be able to reach out to them as a command team and that's been such an honor and a privilege," said Dr. Nanci Burk. "Today, while that marks the end of his 30 years, that's something we hope to continue."

Capt. Mike Thorlin who served under Burk at the brigade level 10 years ago and more recently as his aide-de-camp describes his experience working for the general as a "huge growing and development opportunity" and says he is grateful for the mentorship.

"Being an aide-de-camp I was in a position to learn, observe and watch. At each point [of my service under him] he has been really good about, and more into, development and fostering leadership while educating his younger officers as opposed to looking at them strictly as a resource," Thorlin said. "It's very much a two-way street."

Sharing his final thoughts on leadership and mentorship in an emotional and bittersweet good bye, Burk said, "I learned a lot about leadership in a 30-year career and about the leader I am. What I learned is that listening, building great teams, and creating a positive command climate while leading with honor and integrity is essential. And,

that when your character is tested, responding with honor and integrity in word and deed for the good of the organization is hard, but the right thing to do. Personal and professional resilience is required. Leadership is about doing the hard right over the easy wrong, and if it were easy, everyone would do it. I know our organization has great leaders and potential leaders. Take the time to mentor future leaders and when a Soldier or Airmen says to you, "Hey, Sir or Ma'am, do you have a minute?" Say "Yes!" every single time, as a 5, 10, or 15 minute career development conversation makes a world of difference to our Service Members and I enjoyed every conversation I had like that over the years; I will remember them well."

Story by

CAPT. MATTHEW MURPHY

Photo by

SGT. 1ST CLASS MONETTE WESOLEK

VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVE WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION 50 YEARS LATER



Vietnam veterans talk during a welcome home event at the Arizona Wing Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa, Nov. 8. Soldiers from the Arizona National Guard Medical Hold Detachment welcomed the veterans 50 years after the first United States combat military unit engaged in a combat role in Vietnam.

Roger Pollard, an officer with the military advisory command – Vietnam, speaks with fellow a Vietnam veteran during a welcome home event at the Arizona Wing Commemorative Air Force Museum.

Arizona National Guard Soldiers attended a welcome home event for Vietnam-era veterans at the Arizona Wing Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa, Nov. 8.

The Soldiers from the Medical Hold Detachment welcomed these veterans 50 years after the first United States combat military unit engaged in a combat role in Vietnam.

“We are happy to come out and support our fellow veterans,” said Sgt. 1st Class Amber Larussa, detachment sergeant for MHD. “Some of our Soldiers in MHD can’t do traditional military training so this is nice to come out and be productive in the community.”

Featured speakers included author Mark Berent, a combat pilot in SE Asia and author, Roger Parrish, a combat pilot in Vietnam and two-time flight leader of the United States Air Force demonstration team the Thunderbirds, and Roger Pollard from the Arizona Wall Project.

“Vietnam era veterans endured a long war, the loss of battle buddies and then came home to an ungrateful nation,” said Pollard, an officer with the military advisory command – Vietnam.

Pollard said Soldiers either returned home to protests and hecklers or to complete apathy and refusal to acknowledge the war. Many service

members were advised to change into civilian clothes before landing on United States soil to

“ I WANT TO MAKE SURE WHEN VETERANS COME HOME TODAY THEY ARE TREATED WITH THE DIGNITY AND RESPECT WE WERE NEVER AFFORDED. ”

avoid the negative comments hurled by anti-war protestors.

Pollard returned to the U.S. in December, 1971,

and remembers the flight into Travis Air Force Base in a plane full of service members returning from Vietnam.

“The pilot came on the speaker and said we were one hour out from landing and he suggested we change out of our uniforms and into civilian clothes because protestors were at the gate,” Pollard said.

Operation Welcome Home and other similar veteran supportive organizations are important because service members should never have to endure what Vietnam Veterans were subjected to coming home from the war.

“Now even though Vietnam era veterans were not treated with respect when they arrived home, they have insured troops coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan are treated better than they were treated. I want to make sure when veterans come home today they are treated with the dignity and respect we were not afforded.”

This event completed a mission by finally giving some Vietnam Veterans the welcome home they deserve.

Story and photos by
SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY

AVIATION GUARDSMEN WITH THE 640TH, THE 1-168TH DEPLOY TO KUWAIT



Guardsmen of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion, Arizona Army National Guard, stand in formation during their deployment ceremony as Col. John Hoefert, the Land Component commander, gives his remarks Oct. 1.



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Powers, Arizona Army National Guard command sergeant major, gave the 168th an Arizona flag to fly while deployed overseas during their deployment ceremony Oct. 2.

Arizona National Guardsmen said goodbye to family and friends at farewell ceremonies in Marana Air Park and Papago Park Military Reservation Oct. 1 and 2 as they leave home for deployments to the Middle East.

The 640th Aviation Support Battalion ceremony on Oct. 1 was held at the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 2 in Marana, Arizona, and the 168th Air Traffic Services Heavy sendoff was Oct. 2 at the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 1 in Phoenix.

The Soldiers trained for months to get to this point. Families and friends attending the 640th's emotional ceremony watched on as balloons decorated the hangar and Patriot Guard Riders stood vigilantly holding American flags.

"We are really proud of him for serving his country," said Laura Duncan, wife of Sgt. Benjamin Duncan, a member of the 640th, who is already planning how to stay in touch.

"We've practiced our Skyping, just in case we have Internet over there," Sgt. Duncan said.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael McGuire, the adjutant general of the Arizona National Guard, presided over the 168th's ceremony, which featured remarks by Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey and views of Camelback Mountain through open hangar doors.

"No single deployment is any less or more

significant than another," the governor said. "Each time a Guardsman is sent away, the impact on the

“**EACH TIME A GUARDSMAN IS SENT AWAY, THE IMPACT ON THE MISSION, ON HIS OR HER FAMILY, ON OUR COMMUNITIES AND ON ARIZONA IS JUST AS GREAT.**”

mission, on his or her family, on our communities and on Arizona is just as great.”

The 168th is providing tactical air traffic control and ground control approach radar services in support of Operation Inherent Resolve for their year-long deployment.

Both units had family in attendance to help send them off. Both units received an Arizona flag to take with them to their forward deployed locations to represent the Arizona National Guard.

Each unit provides critical mission skills to both communities here at home with domestic support missions like fighting forest fires and abroad provinf troop and medical transport while deployed.

Both the 168th and the 640th continue the ongoing mission of the Arizona National Guard to serve the citizens of Arizona and defend the country abroad when called upon, and the deployments illustrate the Arizona National Guard lives up to its motto: Always ready, always there.

Over 11,000 Arizona National Guardsmen have been called to federal active service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. ADRIAN BORUNDA

THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS HONE WARRIOR SKILLS DURING FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE



Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Madrid instructs a squad on calling in a medical evacuation during the 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalions field training exercise near Florence, Ariz., Nov. 6. The exercise consisted of 16 training scenarios that challenged Soldiers and junior leaders in basic Soldier skills.



Spc. Teresa Lovato, a cook with the 3666th Maintenance Company, returns fire from her position during her squad's lane on how to select a hasty fighting position.

The 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion spent three days conducting squad training exercises at Florence Military Reservation, Nov. 5-8, 2015.

Seventeen squads from the battalion's eight units marched through 16 different training scenarios that challenged Soldiers and junior leaders in basic Soldier skills. The battalion's roughly 300 Soldiers participated in varied events such as suicide prevention, media engagement training and react to contact.

"The purpose of this exercise is to remind members of the battalion that they are Soldiers first. Whatever rank they hold is secondary," said Lt. Col. Erik Schroeder, 158th CSSB commander. "The training event is an opportunity to get back to basics – troop leading procedures, Army warrior tasks, [battle] rehearsals and operating in an austere environment."

The weekend exercise took squads through the desert paths while officers and senior noncommissioned officers worked together instructing the lanes. The training focused on a small number of Soldiers per iteration of FTX lanes.

"The end-state is that we are strengthening the leadership of the core of our battalion, who are sergeants, staff sergeants, second lieutenants and

first lieutenants," Schroeder said.

The FTX lanes consisted of Soldiers preparing a situation report, initiating a medical evacuation

“ WHEN SOLDIERS SEE LEADERS DOING WHAT THEY’RE DOING YOU BUILD TRUST AND YOU EMPOWER THEM TO BE MORE, DO MORE. ”

request, reporting to higher, reacting to an unexploded device, evaluating a casualty (tactical

combat casualty care), reacting to direct fire and other troop saving techniques Soldiers need in battle.

"It's about trust. There's a few ways to build trust – over a long period of time, or in a field environment. When Soldiers see leaders doing what they're doing you build trust and you empower them to be more, do more," said Command Sgt. Maj. Aaron Buelow, senior non-commissioned officer for the 158th CSSB.

One of the classes was on how to build a hasty fighting position and finding good cover and concealment.

"This is a skill level one task and every Soldier should know this. So, this training helps to fine tune those skills," said Sgt. 1st Class Dwyane Thompson, platoon sergeant with 3666th Maintenance Company and instructor for the hasty fighting position lane.

"Teaching these lanes helps to do the same thing as well as instill confidence and experience in the instructors as leaders."

Story by
SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY

Photos by
SGT. 1ST CLASS ROBERT FREESE

CSM RETIRES AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE



Brig. Gen. John E. Hoefert, Land Component Commander, Arizona Army National Guard, presents the Legion of Merit to Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Almendarez during his retirement, Nov. 7. Almendarez retired after nearly 40 years of service in the Arizona Army National Guard.



Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick Powers, Arizona Army National Guard Command sergeant major, presents retiring Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Almendarez with the Enlisted Sword, on behalf of the Arizona Army National Guard's Sergeants Major Council, for dedication to the enlisted Soldiers and the Arizona Army National Guard.

After 39 years of service in the Arizona National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Almendarez was honored during a retirement ceremony at Russell Auditorium here, Nov. 7.

Army Land Component Commander Brig. Gen. John Hoefert recognized Almendarez with the Legion of Merit Medal, given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements, in a room filled with Almendarez's peers, family and friends. It is one of only two medals issued as a neck order, the other being the Medal of Honor.

At the ceremony he was also presented with a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, a certificate of appreciation from Arizona Governor Douglas A. Ducey and a certificate of appreciation for his wife Susie Almendarez.

Hoefert expressed appreciation for Almendarez' exceptional leadership, dedication to duty and outstanding technical and tactical expertise during the ceremony.

"When I think of the definition of Command Sergeant Major, I think of my friend CSM Almendarez," Hoefert said.

Since 1984, Almendarez has worked full time for the Arizona Army National Guard in positions

of increasing responsibility, culminating as the senior personnel operations sergeant major.

“**IT HAS BEEN A GREAT HONOR TO SERVE WITH NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND ARMEN ...**”

"This uniform has given me mentorship, friendship and teamwork I could not have gotten anywhere else," Almendarez said.

Almendarez has held duty assignments at various organizations throughout the state. He has served as military police, squad leader, unit

clerk, operations platoon sergeant, first sergeant and senior personnel sergeant major. He also served as the command sergeant major for the 198th Regional Support Group and 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion who he mobilized with to Kuwait.

"It has been a great honor to serve with National Guard Soldiers and Airmen because as my favorite saying goes, they are 'Always Ready, Always There,'" Almendarez said.

Throughout his military career, Almendarez has attended many military education schools, including the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Department of Defense Support of Civil Authorities Course, Casualty Notification/ Assistance T3 Course and Military Personnel Officer Orientation Course

His wife said the retirement is bittersweet because they have always had the guard in their life and she is proud of his accomplishments but is looking forward to their next phase of life.

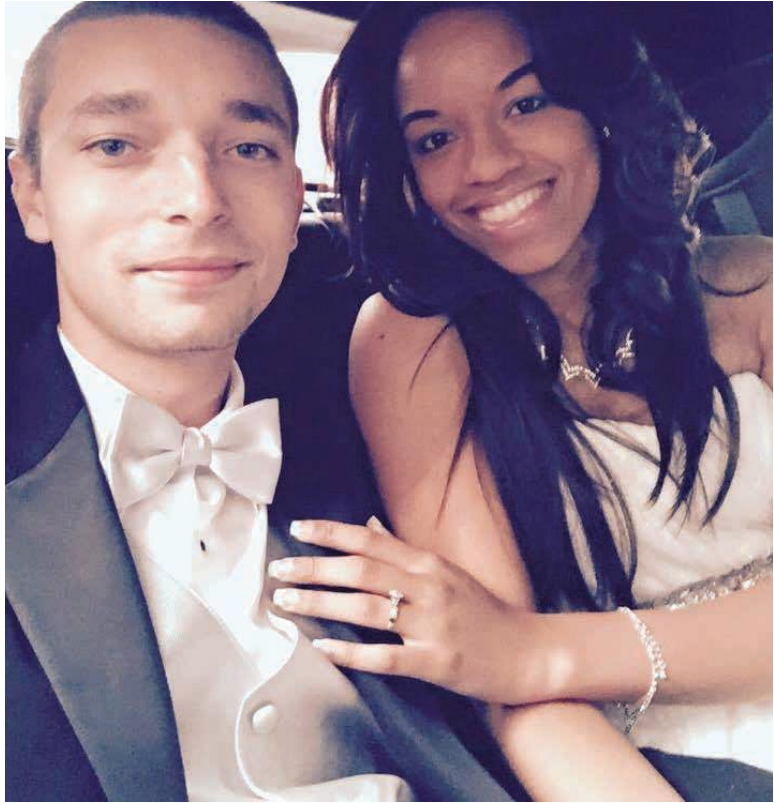
Story by

SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY

Photos by

SGT. 1ST CLASS MONETTE WESOLEK

ARIZONA SOLDIER CONQUERS CANCER



Pvt. Simon Nichols, a cable systems installer-maintainer with the 158th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, with her husband moments after their wedding ceremony on Feb. 22, 2015. Three days later she was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer.



Pvt. Simon Nichols, holds up a certificate of achievement as she celebrates the end of her chemotherapy Aug. 14, 2015. Nichols credits the support of her unit for helping her stay motivated through treatment.

Arizona National Guard Soldiers expect to face battles, but one Soldier is in a battle she never expected.

Three days after marrying her high school sweetheart, Pvt. 2 Simona Nichols, a cable systems installer-maintainer with the 158th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, was diagnosed with stage two breast cancer. Her grandmother is a breast cancer survivor, but her mother lost her battle with cancer at a very young age.

"Hearing those words, 'You have cancer' really played a toll on me. Immediately, I feared the worst for my three children," Nichols said.

Nichols is in a battle for her life as she faces breast cancer, but she is not doing it alone.

She had only been in her unit for two months when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, but her unit rallied around her, Nichols said.

"I am amazed at how supportive my unit has been because they really didn't know me; I went to two drills and then started treatment," Nichols said. "They have visited me at my house and Maj. Bradley Walgren [158th MEB Chaplain] came to the hospital when I was in the intensive care unit."

Nichols said even though she was a new Soldier her unit reached out to her, everyone from her squad leader to upper leadership, to see if she

needed anything, donate money and help her find resources.

“ THIS HAS BEEN A JOURNEY THAT I NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD BE ON, AND IT HAS TAKEN ME THIS TIME TO TRULY LEARN WHAT LIVING DAY BY DAY IS. ”

"I barely knew these people and this made me realize I was in a good unit."

Nichols is an inspiration to everyone in the unit,

Walgren said. She manifests the highest ideals of being a Soldier – courage, spirit and a steadfast desire to win not only the nation's wars, but her own personal battle, he said.

"It's an honor as a chaplain to nurture and care for all of our Service Members who fight these two-front wars," Walgren said.

Nichols advised others facing major medical issues to reach out to their unit and tell them what you need.

"For me it's the little things like telephone calls, written messages and getting the drill newsletter that helped me feel included and not forgotten," Nichols said.

Nichols embodies the extraordinary resiliency that has carried so many other Arizona Guard members through extremely difficult hardships.

"This has been a journey that I never imagined I would be on, and it has taken me this time to truly learn what living day by day is," Nichols said.

Story by
SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY
Courtesy photos

ARIZONA GUARDSMEN RUCK FOR LIFE: DECIDE TO LIVE, LET GO OF THE PAIN



Arizona Guardsmen march during the 2nd Annual Ruck For Life Oct. 14, 2015 at Papago Park Military Reservation. The Ruck For Life is a three-mile ruck march that promotes suicide prevention and awareness.

Over 80 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians prepared their rucksacks in the 52nd St. Armory on Papago Park Military Reservation before the start of the 2nd Annual Ruck For Life on Oct. 14.

With the sun still hidden below the eastern horizon, Arizona guardsmen prepared tables, check-in lists and traffic cones for the second annual Ruck For Life, a three-mile ruck march at Papago Park Military Reservation to promote suicide prevention and awareness. Everything looked like a normal military set up for an event of this type, except for the blank puzzle pieces and colored markers strewn on one table.

Airmen, civilians and family members signed in and made their way to the puzzle piece table. They wrote the names of those they've known who have sadly taken their own lives on the pieces.

As the nearly 80 event participants filed out of the 52nd Street Armory, backpacks filled with canned goods to donate to service members in need, they took a puzzle piece from the table, almost one for every participant. The lives represented by each puzzle piece is what they would take out on that ruck march – those names in their heads and in their hearts.

"It's something that allows us to go out there and think to yourself and remember those who we have lost to suicide," said Army 1st Lt. Kimberly Frazier, Suicide Prevention program manager for the Arizona National Guard.

One of the Soldiers rucking was Army Sgt.

Nicole Parrack, a military police woman. She stood with her fellow guardsmen and civilians as the guest speaker, Andrew Jones, delivered his comments shortly before stepping off to start the ruck.

“FOR SOLDIERS OUT THERE WHO MIGHT NEED HELP, JUST ASK.”

"Our goal here, our mission here is to always choose life," Jones said. "Don't be afraid to ask about suicide. If you feel like someone is struggling, if you feel like someone needs that, ask them."

But asking isn't where the work ends, Jones said. "That's when you take them by the hand and you guide them, you help them – they are your brother, your sister – you help them."

The message of outreach underlined the event. Guardsmen of all ranks greeted and got to know

one another. Simply starting a conversation like that can save a life.

"I heard a lot of talk out there about someone they knew," Parrack said. "It's important that we let our Soldiers, families and friends know that there is an answer and there is a way to find help and suicide is really not the answer."

The impact on a friend, family member or coworker can have a multitude of effects on those left behind, an endless ripple of reactions that can be used for good.

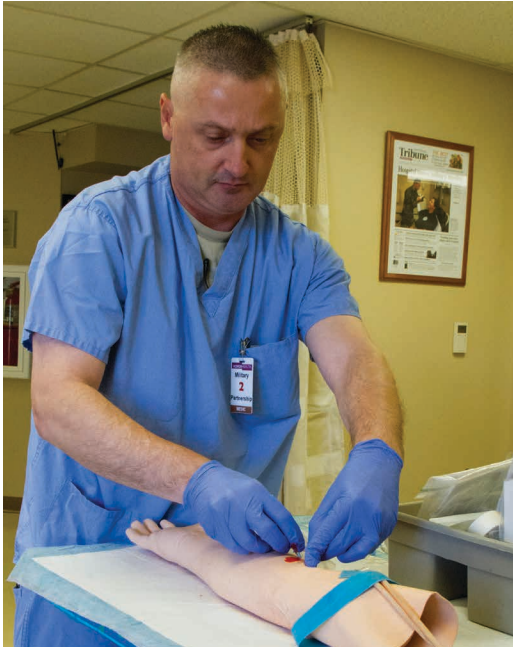
"It was sad but it was also a wake-up call, we need to start paying attention to the people around us," Parrack said. "They were people that were close to us, and we had no idea it was coming."

For some, the hardest action is simply asking for help. Knowing that help is available with one call or text can make a huge difference.

"For soldiers out there who might need help, just ask," Frazier said. "I know that's a hard step, to actually be able to ask someone for help, but that's the first step. People are going to be there to help you."

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. ADRIAN BORUNDA

COMBAT MEDICS RECEIVE TRAINING FROM LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



Staff Sgt. Faron Moody demonstrates the proper way to insert an intravenous needle into a dummy arm during his training with civilian medical personnel with Honor Health.



Staff Sgt. Faron Moody, a medic with the 996th Area Support Medical Company inserts a intravenous needle into the arm of a dummy during the training with the Honor Health Military partnership.

A fast response to a medical emergency is a skill that must be continuously sharpened, whether it is a medic on the battlefield or a medical team in an emergency department.

Honor Health has partnered with local military members since 2004 to help them continue their medical training, either in the simulation lab, with high fidelity mannequins, or side-by-side with civilian medical personnel in the trauma center.

"The injuries that military personnel are exposed to here are very similar to those they see on the battlefield, things like burns, crush factor, a shooting or a blunt force trauma," said Todd Larson, Director of Community Partnerships with Honor Health.

Since these types of injuries are similar to those seen in a combat environment, makes this training beneficial to military members.

Not only are there side-by-side opportunities for military members in the hospital trauma center, there is also a simulation lab available.

"The simulation lab provides the opportunity [to practice] inserting IVs, trauma medicine, applying a tourniquet, hemorrhage control, burn [treatment], all the various things we can try to replicate in the human body in a true training environment and not just a simulation," Larson said.

The training also offers opportunities for hospital staff to learn from military personnel and

to build a relationship where an exchange of skills happens.

"When you think of a medic, many times they are performing a very high level of care in the field and many times the civilian staff is learning from the military as well," Larson said.

Larsen explained that military members get an opportunity to work with cutting edge medical equipment and medical technology. They are also able to share their experiences from working in less than pristine conditions with civilian personnel.

The program's goal is to provide an environment that offers training and technology to potentially save lives of those in combat.

"Our mission is that we're not going to leave anyone behind, and we're going to save everyone that we can save," Larson said.

There are 15 classes a year and each class has a combination of 10 nurses and medics. Respiratory therapists, pharmacy, and radiology specialists are also able to register for these classes. Besides being open to a variety of personnel in different medical fields, the training is free of charge to military.

"We don't ask for money from the military. We don't charge them to show up here. There is another place the Army goes to, Rush Hospital in Chicago, which charges \$3,000 for two weeks," said Lenore Portante, Military Office Supervisor for Honor Health.

Hospitals such as Rush in Chicago provide

certification to military medical personnel, but those military medics and nurses don't get the opportunity to interact with patients like they do with the program here. This particular training doesn't offer certifications, but members leave with real world training, explained Portante.

Since 2007, 2,500 military member professionals have passed through here for training, some more than once because they enjoyed it according to Portante.

"These military members are thirsty for knowledge. They are very respectful," Portante said. "They learn, and they soak it all up like sponges."

Before anyone leaves they have a survey they have to fill out, and the general consensus is the training is well liked, Portante added. Military members tell them good and bad things, and they try to incorporate what they want, by adding things they ask for.

"We do a lot of good things, and I want more of the local people to come in and use this," Portante said.

Story and photos by
SPC. LIZ SMITH

AZNG HOSTS CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS, GUARDSMEN



The Arizona National Guard hosted the 13th annual Arizona Construction Career Days at Papago Park Military Reservation, Nov. 5 - 6. More than 55 community partners provided hands-on construction-related experience to 1,897 high school students from 75 schools located in 13 Arizona counties.

The Arizona National Guard hosted the 13th annual Arizona Construction Career Days Nov. 5 and 6, at Papago Park Military Reservation here.

More than 55 community partners provided hands-on construction-related experience to 1,897 high school students from 75 schools located in 13 Arizona counties.

The Adjutant General of Arizona, Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, emphasized the important symbiotic relationship the Arizona National Guard maintains with employers in the community.

"It's important for our industry leaders and elected leaders to know the mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional welfare of our formations is founded on the idea that guardsmen can have employment and a job they can count on that is productive in this economy in Arizona and then can be called to serve and have a place to be returned to," McGuire said. "That why this program is so important to me."

"Today is about bridging a connection between the youth and construction companies," said Rose Ann Canizales, president of the Association for Construction Career Development. "We want them to feel comfortable to talk to industry leaders about apprentice programs, careers and their future goals."

For example, McCarthy Building Companies,

Inc., has a four-year apprenticeship program for young adults that can lead to jobs as project engineers and field supervisors.

... IT IS A LOT OF BRIGHT MINDS WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A COMMON GOAL AS A TEAM.

"We want students to know in construction they will be surrounded by intelligent, bright problem solvers that will help them succeed," said Enrique Sarmiento, Building, Information and Modeling manager with McCarthy Building Companies.

During the expo, students participated in

hands-on experience such as operating construction equipment, wood working, project management and constructing brick walls.

"It is fun digging holes and working on machines. It makes it more interesting when we get to have a hands-on feel of the equipment," said Dwaine Keltner, an Agua Fria High School student. "I always wanted to do construction but after seeing all of the displays, I want to do it more."

Sarmiento said the event organizers want the students to know they can have a bright technical future in construction.

"It's not just hard work, it is a lot of bright minds working together to achieve a common goal as a team," Sarmiento said.

Public and Private Construction Industry leaders, elected officials and military leaders met on the first day of the event to highlight the important roles public-private partnerships play in support of secondary education, construction workforce development and the Arizona National Guard.

Story by

SGT. CRYSTAL REIDY

Photo by

CPT. MATTHEW MURPHY



SOUTH CAROLINA TAKES TOP CREW IN APACHE GUNFIGHTER FLY-IN

The South Carolina National Guard took home the top performing team award for the inaugural AH-64D Apache Gunfighter Fly-in helicopter competition Nov. 6, during a closing ceremony at Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, Arizona.

Seven states sent their best company-grade Apache pilots and maintenance support personnel to the desert of southern Arizona to participate in the four-day competition, which consisted of graded gunnery and flying scenarios. Arizona, Idaho, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Utah competed in the training exercise designed to build unity of effort and camaraderie among the National Guard Apache helicopter states.

The Gunfighter Fly-in events increased the readiness of the National Guard Apache community to respond to missions at a moment's notice and provide "forces that are capable of fighting and winning the nation's wars," said Maj. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, the adjutant general of the Arizona National Guard.

"You're coming in with intention to win, so you've done things ahead of time to make sure you're ready to show up and be competitive," McGuire said. "This is not unlike you are when you hit the ground running for your pre-mobilization training getting ready to deploy forward."

McGuire said the participating states left the competition better at their mission than when they arrived.

"Competition by its very nature makes the organization more capable, stronger and a better warfighter," he said. "Now more than ever we have the ability to use a citizen-soldier construct to meet the nation's defense needs."

While the personality profile of a typical Apache pilot naturally aligns with competition, the greatest benefit of the first-of-its-kind event was not the quest to win bragging rights for the team's home state, but rather the exchange of ideas and learning that took place during the week, said Capt. Andrew Jewkes, of the Utah National Guard.

Throughout the exercise, pilots and crews had the opportunity to share combat experiences, best practices and lessons learned.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 George Protzman, of the South Carolina National Guard top Gunfighter team, said that his most valuable takeaway was "just sitting down and having that casual conversation" about what has worked for each crew in the past.

This year's inaugural event participants expressed anticipation for another Gunfighter Fly-in competition in the future.

"As soon as we get home, we're going to start training for next year," Protzman said.

Story by
MAJ. CANDACE PARK



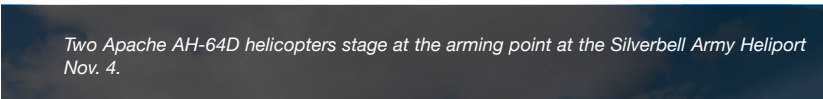
Three AH-64D Apache helicopters take off from Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, Ariz., Nov. 4 during the Gunfighter Fly-In competition.



Spc. Aarron Newman, an armament specialist, carries a Hellfire missile as his team redistributes ammunition after arming AH-64D Apache helicopters Nov. 4 at Silverbell Army Heliport.



Spc. Ryan Santana, an armament specialist with the Arizona Army National Guard, inspects the M230 mm chain gun on an AH-64D Apache at Silverbell Army Heliport on their way back from the Gunfighter Fly-In competition Nov. 4.



Two Apache AH-64D helicopters stage at the arming point at the Silverbell Army Heliport Nov. 4.



Members of the South Carolina National Guard's 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion receive the Top Gunfighter award for their performance during the inaugural Gunfighter Fly-in AH-64D Apache helicopter competition Nov. 2-6 hosted by the Arizona National Guard at Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, Ariz. The first-of-its-kind event brought together the best company-grade Apache crews in the National Guard from seven states for the training event that also served as a forum for the exchange of ideas and best practices in the National Guard Apache helicopter community.



Gunfighter Fly-in competition participants take a group photo in front of AH-64D Apache helicopters Nov. 6 at Silverbell Army Heliport in Marana, Ariz.

MAINTAINING THE ARIZONA GUARD

A Guardsman wearing heat resistant gloves and a flame resistant coat, flips down his welding mask before sending a flurry of orange and violet sparks into the air as he uses a metal inert gas welder to fuse pieces of steel together.

On the other side of the camp, a mire pit thick with mud and calf-high water, a light medium tactical vehicle sits lodged in muck as two Soldiers drag a thick, steel-braided cable out from their recovery vehicle to wench the stuck vehicle free.

The Soldiers are members of the Arizona Army National Guard's 3666th Support Maintenance Company; a unit capable of providing a multitude of services ranging from vehicle maintenance to radio repair.

"The mission of the 3666th SMC is to provide field maintenance on an area basis," said Capt. Jaime North, 3666th commander.

Made up of more than 150 Soldiers with 17 different military occupational specialties, the 3666th SMC has the ability to support a variety of missions from tool fabrication to vehicle recovery.

The unit is composed of different sections; however, everything starts at the 3666th SMC's company headquarters section, which works the logistical operations.

"Our maintenance control is the hub of the company," North said. "Missions come through there and are sent out to each of the different sections by work order."

North said other 3666th SMC sections include automotive, service and recovery, radio communication security and electronics, armament and ground service equipment.

The different sections allow the 3666th to service many different pieces of equipment within the Army.

Wheeled vehicle mechanics in the automotive section can work on a wide assortment of different vehicles, while construction equipment repairers in the grounds maintenance section maintain equipment like graders and bulldozers.

"Equipment needs to be maintained, and, when it breaks, it needs to be repaired, said 1st Lt. Trevelyn Gillaspie, 3rd platoon leader in charge of ground

service equipment. "The maintenance my Soldiers do is an important necessity in the Guard because if not properly maintained, equipment expenses can become a great cost to the Arizona Army National Guard as a whole."

The armament section has small arms and artillery repairers who work on weapons ranging from the M9 pistol to the hulking 155mm howitzer.

Soldiers in the radio communication security and electronic section handle anything from fixing Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, more commonly SINCGARS, to calibrating night vision goggles.

Within the service and recovery section there are mechanics who operate recovery vehicles and the allied trades specialists who can weld, machine and fabricate.

"The allied trades deals with all your fabrication trades," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Raymond Baxter, "welding, machining, woodworking, canvas repair, auto body and painting."

Baxter said when equipment is broken it is brought to the shop where allied trade specialists repair it by welding or fabrication.

When mechanics are working on equipment that requires a special tool, instead of ordering that tool, which could take months to the mechanics, allied trade specialists can sometimes fabricate the that tool or part according to Baxter.

With it's various sections specialized in different areas of maintenance, the 3666th has the ability to assist units with maintenance their needs.

"When Guard units in Arizona and states like Alaska need help with their generators, vehicle services, gauging weapons, wrecker support and other maintenance needs, the 3666th is ready and willing to assist," North said.

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. BRIAN BARBOUR



(From Left) Sgt. Stephanie N. Tortora, Pfc. Layman and Spc. Kenneth C. Weatherspoon, generator mechanics with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company in Phoenix, work on a 10-kilowatt generator Sept. 18, 2015 at Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa.



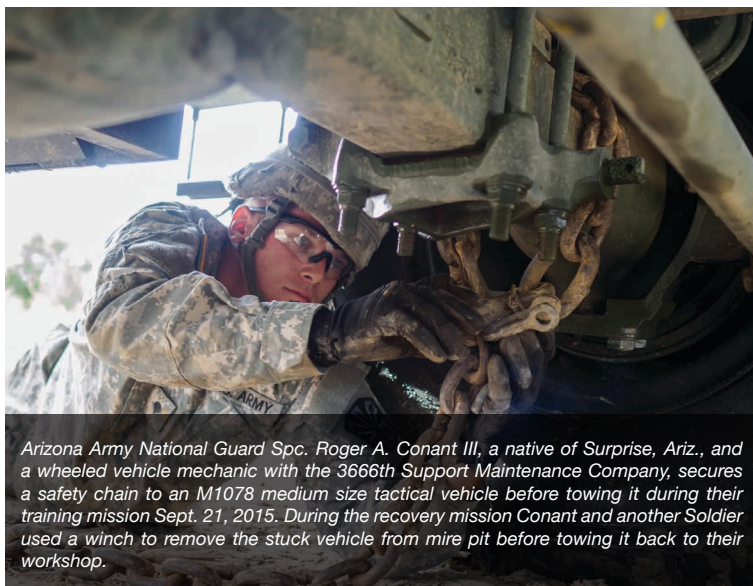
(From left) Spc. Jacob D. Rhodes, Sgt. 1st Class Justin M. Gregg and Pvt. John Ames, with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company in Phoenix, troubleshoot a maintenance issue using a rugged computer called a Maintenance Support Devise Version 3.



Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers in the 3666th Support Maintenance Company work on tactical vehicles Sept. 19, 2015, at Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center in Johnston, Iowa.



Sgt. Michael M. Muñoz, with 3666th Maintenance Support Company and native of Peoria, Ariz., solders in a replacement circuit breaker for a radio amplifier Sept. 21.



Arizona Army National Guard Spc. Roger A. Conant III, a native of Surprise, Ariz., and a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 3666th Support Maintenance Company, secures a safety chain to an M1078 medium size tactical vehicle before towing it during their training mission Sept. 21, 2015. During the recovery mission Conant and another Soldier used a winch to remove the stuck vehicle from mire pit before towing it back to their workshop.

Sgt. Mark R. Permentor, a wheeled vehicle mechanic and native of Morenci, Ariz., hauls a tow chain out to an M1078 medium size tactical vehicle during a training recovery mission Sept. 21, 2015.





Sgt. Mark R. Permentor and Spc. Roger A. Conant III connect chains to an M1078 medium size tactical vehicle before pulling it out of a mire pit with a recovery vehicle during a training mission Sept. 21.



Arizona Army National Guard Soldiers from the 3666th Support Maintenance Company in Phoenix, load onto an Air Force C-130 Sept. 26, at 132nd Fighter Wing Air National Guard base in Des Moines, Iowa to head back home to Arizona.

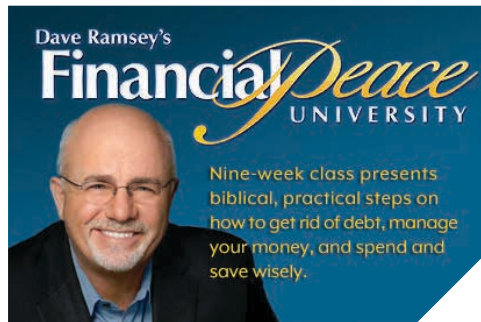
STRONG BONDS



The strong bonds workshop is for your entire family, at any stage of life, to build and maintain great connection, communication and conflict-resolution skills, as well as foster successful and positive attitudes within your family. Free – hotel, meals, snacks and materials are provided at no cost to soldiers and their families. Come join our casual, fun environment and learn new tools that build cohesive relationships, confidence and improve communication.

December 5 through January 14 at www.strongbonds.org. Contact Chaplain (MAJ) Chris Melvin at 602.267.2921 or christopher.m.melvin2.mil@mail.mil

FINANCIAL PEACE



This nine week course on stewardship is offered in three locations listed below. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive group activities, this plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more.

*Option 1 - Marana, Starting Tuesdays
January 12 - March 8, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

*Option 2 - Casa Grande, Starting Thursdays
January 14 - March 10, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

Contact Chaplain (CPT) John Lockhart Johnathan.d.lockhart.mil@mail.mil

ZOO LIGHTS



Due to rain outs from El Nino, Zoo Lights will stay open an extra five days at value ticket price. ZooLights, powered by SRP EarthWise Energy, is a magical experience guaranteed to illuminate your holiday season. Watch for; Several new 3-D light sculptures featuring stingrays, flowers, hummingbird and tiger, Search for the new 2-D butterflies and lion cubs, Enjoy two new Music in Motion shows featuring music from the movie Polar Express and Winter Palace by Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Longer hours – 5:30 – 10:30 p.m.

More info at: <http://phoenixzoo.org/event-items/zoolights/>

BALLOON FEST.



The three day Havasu Balloon festival and fair is jam packed with tethered balloon rides an Art Village, face painting, dog shows, great bands and entertainers on the main stage, paper balloon launching, a carnival, musical and theatrical groups, classic cars, remote control planes, untethered balloon rides, Night Glow, delicious food in the food court, and much more! From State Route 95, East on Mesquite Avenue, South on Lake Havasu Avenue and West on McCulloch Boulevard to the event.

For more information, visit www.havasuballoonfest.com or contact Marquita McKnight at 928.453.3232 or marquita@impruwoit.com

FILM FESTIVAL



At the Sedona International Film Festival, active duty, guard and veterans pay members price with a military ID. We're pulling out all the stops to make this the greatest celebration of the best in independent film from around the world: February 20-28. From features to shorts, documentaries to animation and foreign films to student films, you will be treated to a cinephile's dream ... nine full days and more than 160 films! Recognized by filmmakers and audiences as one of the top festivals in the nation, the 22nd Anniversary edition will continue it's tradition.

For more information go to www.sedonafilmfestival.org

PLAY FACTORY



This hands-on play factory, aimed at kids 10 or younger, offers three levels of educational fun and an awe-inspiring climbing maze. Located in the historical Monroe School building, its alumni include painter Jackson Pollock and celebrates play in a way that's fun for kids and adults. There's a tricycle car wash, a room for fort-building, an art studio with free crafts and a castle to paint.

Details: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 215 N. Seventh St., Phoenix. \$11; \$10 seniors; free admission for babies under 12 months. For more information, call 602.253.0501, or visit childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.

BOOK REVIEW: CHANCELLORSVILLE

William Glenn Robertson rightly asks in his review of Stephen W. Sears *Chancellorsville*, “is another massive study of Chancellorsville necessary?” Robertson asks this question because as he writes, “Since the end of the campaign, analytical accounts of Chancellorsville generally have reached the same judgments on the performance of the opposing commanders.” The universal consensus among historians is that Gen. Robert E. Lee outclassed Union Gen. Joseph Hooker.

Hooker had recently replaced Gen. Ambrose Burnside as the commander of the Army of the Potomac. The Union was still recuperating from the Fredericksburg campaign in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln decided to make the change. Hooker, whom James McPherson in *Battle Cry of Freedom* describes as having openly expressed interest in Burnside’s failure to gain command of the Army himself, was considered to have many moral flaws. However, as Robertson writes, “President Lincoln gambled that Hooker’s vaunted fighting skill would overcome his fondness for intrigue and produce a decisive victory in the eastern theater.” And to Hooker’s credit, he was able to quickly turn the morale of the Army around and fix the many logistical issues that plagued the Union army.

President Lincoln had been for sometime willing to overlook moral flaws in his generals who he deemed willing to fight, having suffered through Gen. George B. McClellan’s tentativeness for years. Hooker, having earned the nickname Fighting Joe, seemed to be the fighting general Lincoln had hoped to lead his Army of the Potomac. Initially, Hooker appeared to validate Lincoln’s gamble by producing a plan that would have, if implemented successfully, placed the Union Army in an advantageous position to take the Confederate capitol of Richmond, Virginia without heavy casualties.

However, as William Garret Piston writes in his review of Sears’ *Chancellorsville* the battle is, “Generally considered Robert E. Lee’s finest campaign.” Despite being outnumbered two to one on May 1, 1863 by the Army of the Potomac, by May 6 “Hooker’s army had withdrawn across the Rappahannock in defeat.” However, both sides took

considerable damage with the Union suffering 17,304 casualties to the Confederate’s 13,460. The most notable and devastating of the Confederate losses was Gen. Stonewall Jackson.

Nevertheless, as Robertson writes, “Lee had restored the status quo and his army seemed invincible.” Hooker was quickly disgraced, and President Abraham Lincoln continued to search for the general who would lead his Army of the Potomac.

and places the blame of his defeat at Chancellorsville not on Hooker but on his subordinates.

Gary W. Gallagher in his review of Sears’ work illustrates Sears’ intent in the beginning of his review when he copies Sears’ passage “Primary sources previously unavailable or unused cast a great deal of new light on this campaign ...” Sears believed that his book would set the record straight on what he felt was a history of the battle that had been distorted by

historians who derived too much of their information from the soldiers who fought in the battle.

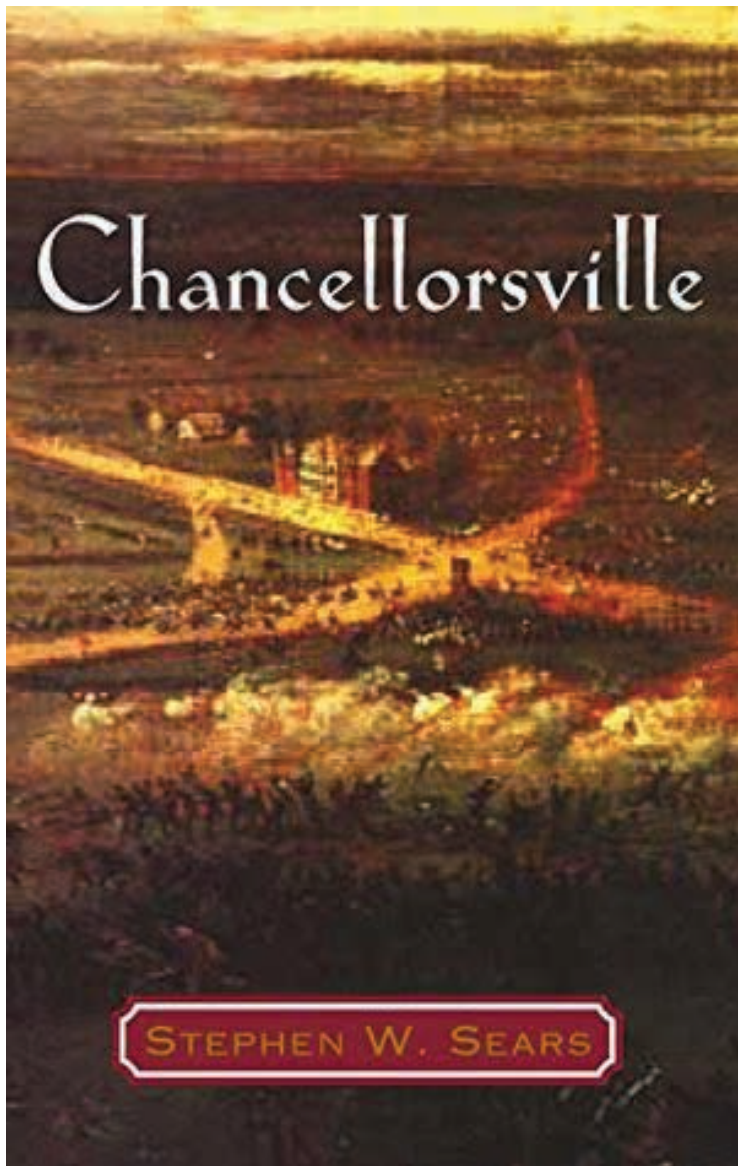
Nowhere in Sears’ book is his thesis more clearly stated than when he contends that the battle was indeed Lee’s finest campaign but that Lee “was repeatedly blessed with astonishingly good fortune.” Furthermore, Sears contends that Joseph Hooker wasn’t the “morally weak braggart so often described but as an able officer who by all rights should have defeated Lee.” Sears lays heavy blame on many of Hooker’s subordinates who didn’t follow through on the general’s orders. Sears contends that had they in fact implemented Hooker’s battle plan then the Union would have been victorious.

Sears knows the Army of the Potomac better than perhaps any other historian in recent memory, but, though his revisionist history of Chancellorsville is insightful and well written, he’s ultimately unconvincing when trying to frame the battle for anything other than what it was – a Southern triumph and legend maker for Lee.

Daniel E. Sutherland puts it best when reviewing Sears’ *Chancellorsville* for the *New York Times*, “The lesson of Chancellorsville is this: It is one thing to formulate a grand, even brilliant battlefield plan. But victory belongs to those who seize it.” Hooker did a great job to improve the Army of the Potomac and provided a great battlefield plan at Chancellorsville, but ultimately he

fought defensively when he should have taken the offense with superior numbers. So, Sears’ thesis, though well thought out and well written, is more of a novelty, but also a welcomed counter to the historical consensus.

Book review by
1ST LT. MACARIO MORA



This is the consensus of most historians, so, again, why another history of Chancellorsville?

Sears provides a well written history of Chancellorsville that goes into depth about the tactics that both sides employed, but it’s his “depiction of Joseph Hooker [that] might be called revisionist.” Sears’ thesis focuses on the positive aspects of Hooker’s brief command of the Army of the Potomac

EXPLORE YOUR ARIZONA NATIONAL PARKS

Traveling as a military member in the civilian world has its perks. Some places offer discounts that helps ease off the piggy bank, but some places offer free passes. As the ringing of the word 'free' echoes through your soul, the National Park Service offers annual park passes to our service members with a valid military identification.

Throughout our beautiful state alone Arizona has 22 national parks and monuments to utilize the pass. Most parks in Arizona help preserve ruins and artifacts of the ancient people who once roamed the Southwest.

One of the most intriguing cliff dwellings is located in the Tonto National Monument just minutes from Roosevelt Lake. If you're driving from Phoenix, the routes alone have some breathtaking scenic views and almost a three-hour drive.

The Tonto National Monument tourist center is tucked away in the Tonto Basin just off of highway 188. But you will see that the trip is well worth the time and effort.

This location has two cliff dwellings. The lower cliff dwelling is a site that is half a mile right behind the center, which is obvious to see in the parking lot. Although the trail is well paved and strollers are accepted be pre-pared for some leg-day PT.

The beautiful cactus, wildlife and cliffside are enough to stop every few feet to soak in and take occasional photos. Several benches and trash cans are also posted throughout the trail.

If you are not on a guided tour, short videos and a small museum are located in the tourist center which explains the history of the dwellings. The 700-year-old dwelling is a sight to see with a spectacular view of Roosevelt Lake. Visitors are allowed to roam throughout the ruins and see how the Salado inhabitants lived centuries ago.

The upper cliff dwelling is a three-mile hike from the tourist center and can only be accessed with a park ranger. Please call ahead of time to schedule your guided tour.

The Tonto National Monument is one of the many parks we as military members can visit with our complementary annual military pass, which can be issued at the tourist center.

So pack up the dependents, camel back and MRE's and start exploring our beautiful Arizona.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.nps.gov/tont/index.htm> or call: (928) 467-2241

Article and photos by
SGT. REBA BENALLY



The Tonto National Monument is tucked away in the Tonto Basin west of Roosevelt Lake, which is located Northeast of the Valley. However, the Monument is a short 2-hour drive from the greater Phoenix Metropolitan area.



Saguaro cacti tower over the surrounding Sonoran desert and throughout the entire Tonto National Monument.



The Tonto National Monument preserves two ancient 700-year-old cliff dwellings that were inhabited by the Salado people from roughly 1250 to 1450. Though the dwellings became a monument in 1907, park rangers didn't staff the Monument until the mid-1930s. Considerable damage to the dwellings occurred during this period by tourists and pot hunters.

The Salado people used a mano, or hand stone, to grind corn and other food materials. This display can be seen inside the lower cliff dwelling.



The Tonto National Monument received more than 30 thousand visitors per year in 2015, but visitation has increased in the new fiscal year.



PARTING SHOT



A U.S. Customs and Border Protection UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter takes off from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. during a spectacular sunset Mar. 3, 2014. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley. For a chance to have your photo featured in the Parting shot, please send submissions to: arizroughrider@gmail.com

THE ARIZONA
ROUGH RIDER

