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On the Cover

From its simple origins in 1839, the Iowa National Guard has protected our fellow Iowans through sun, snow and rain. The silent vigil of the Iowa Citizen-Soldier is reflected in the Minuteman statue located in front of the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston, Iowa. (Iowa National Guard photos by Tech Sgt. Michael B. McGhee)





Condition of the Guard



Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from Maj. Gen. Tim Orr's "Condition of the Guard" address before the 86th General Assembly of the Iowa legislature in January.

In this time of uncertainty, where national and global security challenges are intertwined with fiscal constraints, the Iowa National Guard stands ready to meet these challenges head-on and open a new chapter in our long and proud history.

While the Iowa National Guard must deal realistically with federal budget limits, coupled with a volatile global security landscape, we must ensure we can accomplish our four core missions:

- Providing combat-ready Soldiers and Airmen for the global warfight and operational missions as required to keep our nation safe;
- Responding here at home with robust homeland security and domestic response capabilities;
- Making our communities better places to live; and
- Building strong relationships with our Total Force partners.

Whether it's providing our young people an opportunity to pursue higher education, offering meaningful job skills and employment, molding productive citizens, or promoting a healthy, drug-free, physically-fit Iowa, the Iowa National Guard can help Iowa solve many challenges.

The Iowa National Guard has proven, time and time again, we are and will

remain Iowa's Service of Choice for our young men and women who want to serve their state and nation, and keep Iowa strong.

Last month, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced for the first time in our nation's history, women in the U.S. armed forces may serve in any position for which they're qualified, including combat roles.

How does that affect Iowa? Nearly 1,700 positions in the Iowa National Guard have opened to Iowa women for the first time in our nearly 180-year history. Our best qualified citizens, regardless of gender, will now be afforded the opportunity to serve in any duty position. And we didn't waste time turning Secretary Carter's words into action.

High school students Cheney Spaulding of Fort Dodge and Dakota Doocy of Lone Rock enlisted into artillery positions as females for the first time in our history with the 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, and University of Iowa sophomore Megan Reaska became Iowa's first female combat engineer in December. We couldn't be prouder of these groundbreaking young women and the example they set for all Iowans.

Since 9/11, the Iowa National Guard has met every deployment requirement. From the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducting counterinsurgency operations, to our expeditionary 185th Air Refueling Wing operating around the world, as well as highly-specialized units such as the 734th Agribusiness Development Team, we've worked seamlessly with our active duty Army and Air Force counterparts.

With nearly 18,000 individual overseas mobilizations since Sept. 11, 2001, the Iowa National Guard has proven time and time again, we are, and will remain, a full operational partner with our active duty counterparts.

Today, more than 40 percent of our currently-serving Soldiers and Airmen are combat veterans, the highest percentage in our modern history. Their accomplishments are a testament to the investment Iowa and our nation have put into the Iowa National Guard to form a vital piece of the on-demand, all-volunteer force that defends our nation.

Currently we have approximately 15 Soldiers and Airmen deployed around the world, among the lowest number of deployed servicemembers in the Iowa National Guard since the start of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Airmen from the 185th Air Refueling Wing from Sioux City are deployed worldwide, providing ongoing refueling support of real-world missions to the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and coalition forces.

In the past year, the 185th has deployed more than 320 Airmen for nearly 15,000 active duty days. During this deployment cycle, Airman from the 185th deployed to nine countries in support of Central Command operations, flying 137 missions for 1,100 flight hours,

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Iowans face



Hell and high water

during Vigilant Guard '16

by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

Snow melt and record-setting rains inundate the state in a matter of days, causing major flooding. Tornadoes tear through three major Iowa metropolitan areas, causing a wide swath of destruction and dozens of deaths. Power outages occur throughout the state, leaving thousands of Iowans in the dark. Cyber attacks on the east coast threaten utilities and infrastructure in the heartland.

While this may sound like a Hollywood-inspired apocalypse movie, it's all part of Vigilant Guard 2016, a notional exercise designed to test the boundaries of the military and local, state and federal emergency management officials.

As Brig. Gen. Roy Webb, the Joint Task Force Iowa commander for the exercise told his team during its initial briefing, "This scenario has been designed to break us," he said with a smile.

Vigilant Guard is a large-scale, multi-state disaster response exercise sponsored by the U.S. Northern

"This scenario
has been designed
to break us."

- Brig. Gen. Roy Webb,
Joint Task Force Iowa
Commander

Command (USNORTHCOM) and the National Guard Bureau, with the goal of testing the capabilities of emergency response agencies at all levels of government, both military and civilian.

Its core elements enhance the ability of the Iowa National Guard and state emergency management agencies to work together, while improving their abilities to respond to large-scale incidents. It also involves assistance from multiple states and agencies, as well as the use of active duty, National Guard and reserve forces from all branches of the service.

"The Vigilant Guard scenario was designed to push our internal Joint Task Force Iowa staff to its limit, in order that we would have to augment them with Title 10 (active duty) staff members,

G-staff members and 671st Troop Command staff," said Webb.

"It was designed to push us beyond our limits so we would have to bring new members in and integrate them, so that if we had to do this in real life, we would have already done that."

Approximately 500 Servicemembers and civilian officials battled a series of simulated catastrophes over the course of a four-day period. Scenarios were designed to stretch the limitations of the Iowa National Guard, necessitating the cooperation of local and regional partners and requiring additional federal assistance.

In addition, there were two other unique situations, which made this exercise, held four times a year across the country, even more challenging for the Iowans.

First of all, Webb had the rare opportunity to serve as a dual status commander, having command and control over both

National Guard and Active Duty and Reserve forces. Secondly, even though the exercise was taking place during the chilly, second week of January, on paper at least, it was all occurring in June.

"It was more than what I expected," said Col. Steve Warnstadt, the Iowa National Guard Joint Chief of Staff for the exercise "We knew some of the things that we would be faced with, but just as in a real situation, we had things thrown at us that we weren't expecting.

"We had a scenario that was destined to challenge the Iowa National Guard and our ability to work with our state and federal partners and we were very successful in that operation. We received many compliments from the observers, from other states and from the National Guard Bureau and NORTHCOM.

"We'll now incorporate the lessons we've learned from this exercise to ensure we can support our civilian partners in helping to save lives and protect property

of our Iowa citizens in the future," he said.

While using organic Iowa National Guard units such as the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division; 67th Troop Command; 671st Troop Command; and 734th Regional Support Group, the Iowa National Guard was also able to tap into active duty and reserve forces.

Among the many organizations providing notional assistance to Iowans were the U.S. Army's 1st Aviation Brigade and 502nd Engineer Battalions from Fort Riley, Kan., as well as the Nebraska Army National Guard's 72nd Civil Support Team and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield

Vigilant Guard

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Explosive Response Force Package (CERF-P), and the Homeland Response Force from the Missouri Army National Guard.

For Col. Jed Cohen, an active duty Air Force member with USNORTHCOM, this was his first experience with Operation Vigilant Guard. After becoming certified last year, he was assigned as Iowa's Title 10 (active duty) deputy commander, where he could learn through hands-on experience. His responsibility involved employment of those active duty forces being sent to Iowa for assistance.

"I knew this would be rough on a couple of fronts. Number one, you're dealing with a scenario that's pushing people to their limits. While they're dealing with scenarios Iowa has faced before, such as flooding and tornados, there's enough realism to stress the staff as they react, and they're doing so under severe time constraints. It's all very serious."

Cohen said the mantra of saving lives, reducing suffering, mitigating property damage and getting Iowa on the road to recovery, could easily be applied to the exercise.

"This was a team effort," said Webb. "We had NORTHCOM and the Active Duty component, a lot of federal agencies and state partners, the State Emergency Operations Center and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. There were a lot of different departments playing with us. This will better prepare us for the future as well."

Webb admits there are some things you can't replicate. He said his team was very focused despite the many distractions thrown at them.

"Even though everyone took it very seriously and did the best they could, that sense of urgency, of having an emergency that puts fellow Iowans at risk, it's tough to duplicate. So, to try to add that little extra level of stress and that extra level of urgency is the way to do that. It really tests your staff."

As the saying goes, you "Train as you fight."



Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, the Adjutant General of Iowa, and Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, Deputy Commander, U.S. Northern Command, take part in the Operation Vigilant Guard 16 daily Command Update Brief at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston, Iowa. (Iowa National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael B. McGhee)

"It was a great exercise for Iowa and a great exercise for not only the Joint Task Force of the Iowa National Guard," Webb said, "but it was also great for the State Emergency Operations Center and the Department of Homeland Security, and for all of us working together as a team, which made for a great exercise."

"We're coming out of this as the best-trained Joint Task Force, Iowa National Guard, for domestic emergencies since the 2008 floods. We're very well-trained, well-prepared, and ready for anything that may take place within the state," he said.

Cohen said he appreciated the many opportunities participating in Operation Vigilant Guard presented.

"I think it went very well. The Iowa team is very well trained to begin with and I think this approach, which is taken to extremes, helps refine the Iowa National Guard headquarters staff procedures for dealing with a national disaster."

"Iowa has a fantastic team and they're very professional. They were very instrumental in helping us get trained and I think I took away more than I gave, so I now feel I'm even better prepared to help," Cohen said.

Participants included entities such as Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management, the American Red Cross-Iowa, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Public Safety, and the Iowa Department of Public Health, to name a few.

"Iowa has a fantastic team and they're very professional. They were very instrumental in helping us get trained and I think I took away more than I gave, so I now feel I'm even better prepared to help."

- Col. Jed Cohen. USNORTHCOM

Iowa National Guard announces force structure changes

Fairfield,
Cedar Rapids,
Clinton
and Dubuque
will be affected

As a result of nationwide restructuring of the Army National Guard due to changes in U.S. national defense needs and strategies, Iowa National Guard officials announce the following force structure changes directly affecting four Iowa communities:

Cedar Rapids and Fairfield

As part of this force structure change, the Brigade Special Troops Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division ("2/34 BSTB") will transition to the 224th Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB) and remain headquartered in Cedar Rapids. The 224th BEB will be a subordinate battalion of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

This change will affect the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) and Company A (Forward Support Company), 224th Engineer Battalion, both currently located in Fairfield, Iowa.

The force structure for both the HHC and Co. A, 224th Engineer Battalion will transfer to the Nebraska Army National Guard. The approximately 80 Soldiers currently serving in the HHC, 224th Engineer Battalion will transition to the HHC, 224th BEB in Cedar Rapids.

The approximately 80 Soldiers comprising Co. A, 224th Engineer Battalion will be assigned to either

the Headquarters, 1034th Composite Supply Company, a new unit of approximately 95 Soldiers to be based in Fairfield, or Company E, 334th Brigade Support Battalion based in Cedar Rapids, which currently consists of approximately 100 Soldiers. Only the HHC of the 224th Engineer Battalion will physically move from Fairfield to the Cedar Rapids Armed Forces Readiness Center in late 2016. These changes will have no impact on either the 34th Army Band or the Fairfield Field Maintenance Shop; both of those organizations will remain in Fairfield in their entirety.

The net impact on the Fairfield armory will be a temporary reduction of approximately 60 part-time Soldiers. Its possible additional Soldiers may be assigned to the Fairfield armory in the future, which may reduce or negate any loss of part-time personnel.

Every Soldier transitioning from the Fairfield armory, both full-time and part-time personnel, will have the option to either remain at Fairfield, transfer to Cedar Rapids, or transfer to another Iowa Army National Guard unit.

Clinton and Dubuque

In addition to the changes in Fairfield and Cedar Rapids, approximately 45 Soldiers from Detachment 1, Company A, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, currently stationed at the Clinton armory, will transfer to the Dubuque Readiness Center.

A newly-formed specialized logistics detachment of the 1034th Composite Supply Company (consisting of approximately 55 Soldiers), will be stationed at the Clinton armory.

A second specialized logistics detachment of the 1034th CSC (approximately 55 Soldiers), will also be stationed at the Dubuque armory.

Modifications will be necessary to the Clinton Readiness Center parking lot and driveway so longer vehicles can maneuver in, out and around the facility.

The mission of a Composite Supply Company is to provide specialized logistical support for brigade units and back-up support for Brigade Combat Teams and Support Brigades.

While no significant net changes in organizational force structure are anticipated at this time, Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, notes that, "Due to changes in the defense needs of the nation, the Iowa National Guard makes periodic adjustments to the types and sizes of units as directed by the Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau.

"We are doing everything in our power to minimize inconvenience to Soldiers, their families, and the affected communities, and to maintain the highest possible readiness for Soldiers and units during the restructuring," he added.

According to current plans, the Army National Guard's present end strength of 350,200 Soldiers is scheduled to drop to 342,000 Soldiers by September 2016 and to 335,000 Soldiers by September 2017.

"We will work to avoid a Reduction In Force (RIF)," said Army Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard. "Our goal is to achieve these planned reductions through normal attrition rates as Soldiers depart from the Army Guard."



First women enlist in Iowa National Guard Combat Arms units

By Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

While the Iowa National Guard has always been committed to aggressively recruiting quality individuals from diverse populations within the state, an added strategic impetus has been placed on increasing the number of women serving as Iowa Citizen-Soldiers.

For the first time in the 177-year history of the Iowa National Guard, females are now eligible for assignments in certain combat arms, or combat support units, including Field Artillery and Combat Engineer units.

“I think, really, the sky’s the limit,” said Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, the Iowa National Guard Adjutant General. “There’s a lot of opportunity.”

Little did two high school students from northwest Iowa realize they were making history as the first women to enlist into a combat arms Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) within the Iowa National Guard. Upon completion of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT), they will assume duties with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, in Fort Dodge, Iowa.



Cheney M. Spaulding

Cheney M. Spaulding, 18, of Fort Dodge, enlisted in September 2015 as a Survey Meteorological Crewmember (MOS: 13T). A 13T is responsible for monitoring weather conditions so the field artillery team can accurately fire and launch ordnance.

According to Iowa National Guard figures, approximately 15 percent of the 6,900 Soldiers serving in the Iowa Army National Guard, and 18 percent of the 1,800 Airmen making up the Iowa Air National Guard, are women.

Spaulding, a senior at Fort Dodge Senior High School currently carries a 3.7 grade-point-average. She’s also a part of the school’s Top Choir and Dance Team.

Besides setting the standard as the first person in her immediate family to serve in the military, she also discovered she’s the first woman to enlist in a combat arms unit of the Iowa National Guard.

“I just found out a couple of days ago that I’m the first female to join this unit and I was really excited,” Spaulding said. “I’m excited that I’m going beyond not just myself, but that I’m doing this for all other women. I’ll be taking a big step in history for both Iowa and the Iowa National Guard.”

Spaulding said it was Staff Sgt. Jake Brager, an Iowa National Guard recruiter who often comes to the Fort Dodge High School, who got her interested in becoming an Iowa Citizen-Soldier.

“We did some circuit training together, so I got the chance to talk him, and he told me a bit about the Iowa National Guard. It really helped that the National Guard and the government will pay for my education. That’s the main reason why I joined,” she said.

She hopes to attend the University of Oklahoma or Iowa State University to major in meteorology once she completes Basic Combat Training and AIT at Fort Sill, Okla.

According to Brager, a third-year recruiter for the Iowa National Guard, the Fort Dodge senior leaves quite a lasting impression.

“Spaulding said she wanted to study meteorology. We have meteorology as one of our job skills, so I thought we could cross-level her military training with her college vocation. She also wanted to be in a unit close to her home in Fort Dodge, so we were able to get her into the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery here in Fort Dodge.

“She’s very, very educated and has a positive, can-do attitude. I knew she could take that first step in being the first female to serve in the Field Artillery,” Brager said.

While this independent teenager feels she has a lot yet to learn, she said she’s learning more about the National Guard every day. “I don’t know much about what’s going on, but I’ve been learning so much about it and realize this a great opportunity to go beyond anything my family has ever done.

“I’ve always known that working hard and being independent makes you feel better. When I’m finished with all this hard work, I’ll be able to sit down and be proud of myself and what I’ve accomplished with my life,” she said.



Dakota Doocy

Dakota A. Doocy, 17, from Lone Rock, Iowa, enlisted in October 2015 as a Field Artillery Firefinder Radar Operator (MOS: 13R). A 13R Soldier is responsible for detecting enemy forces and alerting friendly forces. Using a “firefinder,” a highly-specialized radar, they can detect various objects and their locations.

For Dakota Doocy, a hard-working, self-assured senior at North Union High School in Armstrong, Iowa, it was simply a matter finding the right information.

“During my freshman year, I thought about joining the National Guard, but I didn’t really look into it. Last year, during my junior year, I was at a job fair and there was some National Guard stuff there, so I thought about it a little more. This year, a friend of mine was interested, so I went with her and talked to a recruiter.

That’s where Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Schacherer, the Iowa National Guard recruiter from Algona, was able to help.

“I didn’t have any idea what I wanted to do, there were so many choices,” Doocy said. “My recruiter suggested I watch a video. I said yes and was pretty excited by what I saw.

“A lot of factors went into this decision and a lot of it had to do with what she wanted to do, Schacherer said. “I knew she wanted to go to the University of Northern Iowa. Based on tuition assistance figures, the additional funding she’d need for college, the fact that she’s into technology and is a very dedicated person, I figured this MOS would be the best fit for her.

“What it really came down to, as a recruiter, is doing the best I could for this particular applicant,” he said.

“Schacherer told me not many females are in this particular field, especially in the state of Iowa. I thought the job sounded pretty interesting and I want to be someone who can show that females can do anything that males can do,” she said.

Doocy, who plans on attending college at the University of Northern Iowa to become a history teacher, said she’s looking at this as a long-term commitment to the Iowa National Guard. “I don’t want to be just in-and-out. I want to make a commitment and I want to show I love what I’ll be doing,” she said.

“You just need to set a goal for yourself and achieve it. They say guys are more

physical and can do more. I believe girls can do anything guys can,” she added.

“She’s very dedicated and a very motivated individual,” said Schacherer. “If she’s told she can’t do something, she’ll prove them wrong. She’s also very independent and just doesn’t give up. I think she’ll do very well.”

Both Soldiers are currently attending drill weekends at their respective Recruit Sustainment Program units – Doocy in Council Bluffs and Spaulding at Waterloo – where they are being introduced to U.S. Army fundamentals, such as rank structure, saluting, marching and physical fitness. Once they graduate from Basic and AIT, they will then assume duties within the HHB, 1-194th Field Artillery in Fort Dodge.

In January 2013, then-Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey announced the rescission of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment Rule for women and Department of Defense plans to remove gender-based barriers to service.

“Women have shown great courage and sacrifice on and off the battlefield, contributed in unprecedented ways to the military’s mission and proven their ability to serve in an expanding number of roles,” Panetta said. “The Department’s goal in rescinding the rule is to ensure that the mission is met with the best-qualified and most capable people, regardless of gender.”

The announcement followed an extensive review by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who concluded now is the time to move forward to integrate women into occupational fields to the maximum extent possible. It built upon a February 2012 decision to open more than 14,000 additional positions to women by rescinding the co-location restriction and allowing women to be assigned to select positions in ground combat units at the battalion level.

Iowa, Kosovo, represented at Army 10-Miler

The Iowa National Guard was well represented during the Army 10-miler (ATM), held Sunday, Oct. 11, 2015 in the Washington, D.C.-area.

The Iowa National Guard/Kosovo SPP Team finished third in the National Guard Mixed team competition, with a combined time of 5:35:35. The team consisted of Iowa National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, and Kosovo Soldiers Brig. Gen. Xhavit Gashi, Shpend Hajdini, Binak Podrimcaku, Feti Pronaj and Migjen Shala.

Shala finished 1,112th overall (185th in the Males 20-24 category); Podrimcaku was 1,995th (329 in Males 30-34); Pronaj was 4,478th (443 in Males 25-29); Orr was 5,909th (348 in Males 50-54); Hajdini was 8,506th (646 in Males 20-24); and Gashi was 8,866th (855 in Males 40-44).

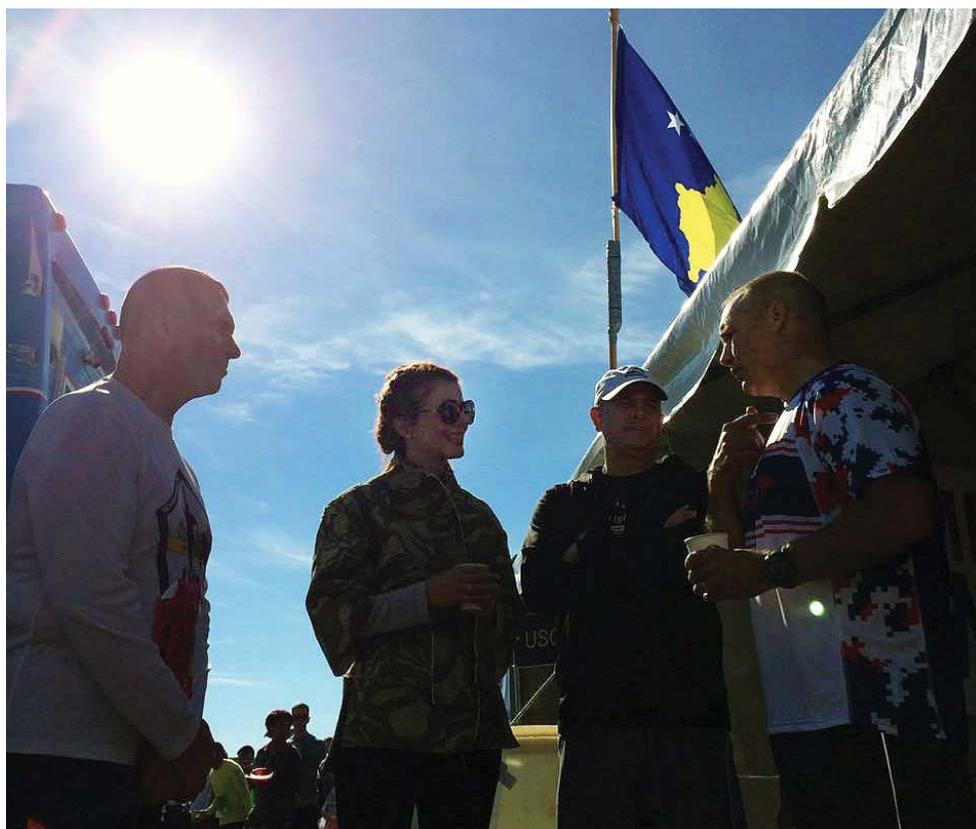
Also competing was Brig. Gen. Steve Altman, who finished 13,454th overall, and 807th in the Males 50-54 age group in a time of 1:39:54.

The Army 10-Miler, which first ran Oct. 13, 1985, is produced by the Military District of Washington (MDW). The MDW serves as the Army Forces Component and core staff element of the Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region to conduct operations that deter, prevent, and respond to threats aimed at the National Capital Region; and conducts world-class ceremonial, musical and special events in support of our Nation's leadership.

Now in its 31st year, the ATM is held each October in Washington, DC. All race proceeds benefit Soldier Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.



From left to right) – Shpend Hajdini; Feti Pronaj; Brig. Gen. Xhavit Gashi; Chief, National Guard Bureau Gen. Frank Grass; Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo Vlora Citaku; Migjen Shala; Maj. Gen. Tim Orr; and Binak Podrimcaku.



From left to right), Kosovo Brig. Gen. Xhavit Gashi, Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo Vlora Citaku and Iowa Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Tim Orr share a few words at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.



Staff Sgt. Curt Brass

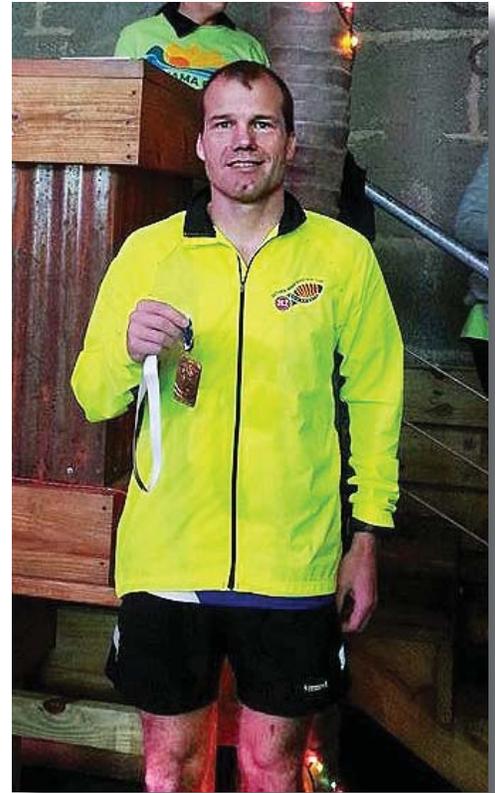
by Staff Sergeant Matthew T. Doyle
132nd Wing Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Curt Brass and Senior Airman Tag Noel are members of the National Guard All-Guard Marathon Team. Recently, this team had major success at the Panama City Beach Marathon.

The Panama City Beach (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce added a marathon race to its December Run for the Redfish Half-Marathon and 5K. This year marked the addition of the inaugural Panama City Beach Marathon.

The Airmen became part of the team after qualifying at the Lincoln (Neb.) National Guard Marathon. Noel ran a time of 3 hours and 11 minutes and Brass also qualified for the team, which is comprised of 40 members of the Air and Army National Guard representing the United States and its territories.

Iowa Air National Guard members find success in running



Senior Airman Tag Noel

answer questions at marathon expos.

It worked out well for Brass and Noel because they both like to run and have completed ultra-marathons (races beyond 26.2 miles) and marathons.

"We do marathons regardless, so why not do it for the Guard" Noel said.

"When you put on the uniform you really just feel proud with people yelling 'Go Guard!'"

Team members pick six marathons and write them down on a dream sheet. The coordinator picks what works, depending on the budget and if the race is all Air Guard, all Army Guard, or both. With the PCB Marathon, they utilized both.

Both Brass and Noel look forward to marathons in Houston and Arizona. They're aiming for sub-three hour marathon times and will be returning to Lincoln again to re-qualify for the team.

"We do marathons
regardless, so
why not do it
for the Guard?"

Senior Airman
Tag Noel

In Panama City, Noel placed second overall, and first in his age group with a time of 3:00.10. Brass, a member of the 132nd Wing Security Forces, placed fourth overall and first in his age group with a 3:04:27 clocking.

Noel views his membership on the team as part of a recruiting and promotion tool for the National Guard and physical fitness, as the members wear PT uniforms during the races. They also

Back from the Boneyard

**A North American Aviation
F-100F Super Sabre
formerly assigned to the
Iowa Air National Guard's
174th Fighter Squadron
in Sioux City
has been reborn.**

by Staff Sgt. Daniel Ter Haar
185th ARW Public Affairs

Covered in dust, a North American Aviation F-100F Super Sabre sat in the desert at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.. Bearing tail number 3880, the once proud aircraft was briefly assigned to the Iowa Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Squadron in Sioux City, Iowa until her retirement when she was sent to the "The Boneyard."

Although the desert is ideal for keeping older aircraft preserved, it is a far cry from the glory 3880 once experienced in the skies.

The Air National Guard had a better retirement plan for 3880 and brought it home to the Air National Guard Paint Facility in Sioux City, Iowa. After 38 years of sitting in the desert, where it was almost used for target practice in the 1990s, it received a full static display restoration.

According to Dave Miller, the paint facility manager at Sioux City, the aircraft designated tail number 3880 was built in 1956. It served at Sioux City starting in 1961 until its retirement in 1977. Miller said it was the only F-100F remaining at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group in Arizona.

The aircraft is scheduled to be on



The last North American Aviation, F-100 Super Sabre housed at the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group, or "Boneyard," was painted and restored at the Iowa Air National Guard paint facility in Sioux City. The F-100 was flown by the Iowa National Guard's 174th Tactical Fighter Group in Sioux City during the 1960's and 70's and will be placed on permanent static display at the National Guard Bureau at Andrews Air Force base in Maryland. (Iowa National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Vincent De Groot)

its way to the Air National Guard Headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base by the end of January. 3880 will be placed on display as a tribute to Ma. Gen. (Ret.) Donald Shepperd, an F-100F pilot for the Misty squadron during Vietnam and whose name is now painted on the side.

While deployed to Vietnam, Shepperd flew 58 missions out of Phu Cat from Dec. 1967 to April 1968, as a part of the Mistys.

The Misty mission in Vietnam was to fly low and fast over the jungles of Vietnam in order to locate targets. Once a target was located, they would direct other aircraft in to strike the target, according to MistyVietnam.com, a website operated by Misty Veterans.

The tail markings of 3880 were changed to "HE" to represent the tail markings the Mistys used during the Vietnam War.

The F-100F Super Sabre served at Sioux City longer than any other aircraft. Sioux City used the F-100 from 1961-1977, a period of 16 years. Several of these aircraft saw combat in Vietnam, which included close air support missions for troops on the ground and flew 250,000 sorties during the Vietnam War, more than any other fixed wing aircraft.

Now clean and restored with new paint, 3880 has found a new home at Andrews Air Force Base where it will be displayed for current and future generations of Airmen to enjoy and honor the pilots of the Misty missions in Vietnam.

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while refueling coalition aircraft with more than 22 million pounds of fuel. The unit was awarded its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award this past year, which speaks volumes about their quality and performance.

Additionally, we have two Iowa Army National Guard units and several individuals identified for potential overseas deployments in 2016.

We are now at a point where current and projected demands for Army and Air Force assets around the globe continue to decrease. But as we've seen before, this situation could change in a moment's notice, depending on the needs of the nation.

With the continued downward trend in deployments, the Iowa National Guard has ramped up its training opportunities to keep our skills sharp and capabilities robust. During 2015, the Iowa National Guard conducted one of its most aggressive training years in history. We sent units to: Korea; Camp Guernsey, Wyo.; Camp Rapid, S.D.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Red River, Texas and to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La., among other locations.

The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team was one of two brigades selected out of 28 Army National Guard brigades to participate in a training rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center. Nearly 6,000 active duty, Army Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from 24 states, including more than 3,000 from the Iowa National Guard, participated in this rigorous, relevant and realistic 21-day field exercise. This successful rotation validated the 2nd Brigade as a priority brigade for future Army requirements.

As a result of their outstanding performance, selected units of the 2nd Brigade will deploy to Alaska this summer for a 21-day annual training event, where they'll help prepare active duty Army units for an upcoming Joint Readiness Training Center rotation. In addition, elements of the 2nd Brigade headquarters will conduct annual train-

ing in Turkey and Korea to support Army command post exercises.

This type of training partnership between Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and active duty units is a new concept designed to increase training opportunities and to boost leader development and capabilities. Called the Total Force Partnership (TFP) program, it's the first of its kind in the Iowa National Guard. In our case, the TFP establishes a formal relationship between the Army's 101st Airborne Division and Iowa's 2nd IBCT.

We continue to make great progress on the conversion of the 132nd Wing, based in Des Moines, from F-16 fighter aircraft into three new, enduring missions: a Remotely Piloted Aircraft group; an intelligence surveillance reconnaissance group; and a cyber operations squadron.

Over the past two years, the unit has aggressively sent Airmen for training in their new career assignments. More than 630 Airmen have completed, or are attending technical schools across the U.S., gaining valuable training in imagery analysis, remotely-piloted aircraft operations, and cyber security, that will translate well into Iowa's growing technology sectors.

Additionally, unit members earned more than 100 associate's degrees in 2015 through the Community College of the Air Force program, which ranked the 132nd first out of 90 Air National Guard units across the country.

With the departure of their F-16 fighter jets, the 132nd has repurposed their Des Moines facilities to support consolidation/stationing of the RC-26 and C-12 fixed-wing aircraft, along with providing indoor storage capabilities for UH-60M helicopters, the newest in the Iowa National Guard fleet. This consolidation, utilizing existing Department of Defense (DoD) facilities, protects more than \$75 million of aircraft from harsh weather and environmental damage and repurposes hangar space to maximize taxpayer dollars.

As the 132nd provided more than \$70 million in economic infusion to Iowa last year through salaries, unit purchases from the local economy, military construction, and indirect job creation,

retaining these highly-skilled Airmen and this unit at the Des Moines Airport significantly benefits Des Moines and the entire state of Iowa.

Additionally, current and future military construction necessary at the Iowa Air National Guard Base Des Moines for mission conversion over the next several years is estimated at \$15-20 million, which will provide additional economic benefit for local builders and suppliers.

Another significant milestone for the Iowa Air National Guard is the 75th anniversary of the 132nd Wing at the Des Moines Airport. Throughout 2016, the 132nd will celebrate their proud military aviation history through several planned community events.

With the operation of three new missions, the stationing of multiple aircraft, the strategic basing of the 71st Civil Support Team, the one-of-a-kind Distributed Training Operations Center, and the enduring national security mission requirements at the Des Moines International Airport, the Iowa Air National Guard Base Des Moines is more important to our state and nation than ever in our 75-year history at the airport.

The Iowa National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Republic of Kosovo continues to make great progress since its creation in March 2011.

Since its inception, we've expanded our vision of a "Whole of Iowa/Whole of Kosovo" relationship and conducted more than 90 engagements over the past five years between Iowa government and private entities, the Kosovo Security Force, Kosovo's Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education, and Economic Development, and other Kosovo agencies.

Today, I am honored and pleased to introduce the new Kosovo Ambassador to the U.S., Vlora Citaku, and the Kosovo Security Forces Military Attaché to the U.S., Brig. Gen. Xhavit Gashi, who are with us as my honored guests.

I asked them to join us today to help highlight this critically important relationship, but to also recognize the Kosovo government's historic decision to establish their first-ever consulate

and trade office, which will open Jan. 29 in downtown Des Moines.

This ceremony will mark the first foreign consulate office to open in Iowa, which has tremendous potential to promote and expedite trade and other opportunities between Kosovo and Iowa.

But what anchors everything we do, whether in 1839, today, or in the future, is readiness. The Iowa National Guard has been able to maintain our position as a national leader in readiness because of programs like the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program, funded in its entirety by the state of Iowa.

This year, nearly 1,700 of our men and women received up to 100 percent tuition paid at the State Regents' rate to attend Iowa colleges, universities, and community colleges, keeping our young people here in the state and providing them with a high-quality, Iowa education. This critical recruiting and retention tool helps ensure our readiness and provides an invaluable benefit to our Soldiers and Airmen, and also to the state of Iowa, by educating young Iowans and keeping them in Iowa.

Another program assisting our citizens who join the Iowa National Guard and improving our readiness is our "Enlist to Employ" concept, which provides servicemembers with employment opportunities in Iowa upon completion of their degree. Like many of our Soldiers and Airmen, I'm a living example of an Iowan who joined the Iowa National Guard after high school, attended Des Moines Area Community College, Drake University, and Iowa State University, found meaningful employment in Iowa, and remained here.

We've partnered with two Home Base Iowa CHAMPS schools - Des Moines Area Community College and Iowa Central Community College - to conduct the Enlist to Employ program. These programs fit hand-in-glove with the Home Base Iowa vision of attracting Iowa citizens and veterans to serve in the Iowa National Guard, attend Iowa colleges, universities and community colleges, and become a productive member of Iowa's workforce after graduation.

This year, we brought in more than

\$353 million of federal funding, which is more than 97 percent of our budget. Our Soldiers and Airmen pay more in state property, payroll, and sales taxes than what the state provides in funding to the Iowa National Guard.

This past year, the Iowa Air and Army National Guard executed nearly \$20 million in federal funds for our construction and capital projects program. We completed new construction, renovations or additions at the Mason City, Clinton, and Sioux City armories, and at the Iowa Air National Guard Base Des Moines. We currently have renovation and construction projects underway at the Council Bluffs armory and Field Maintenance Shop, the Dubuque armory, and the Iowa Air National Guard Base Des Moines.

I am pleased to report 2015 has been a relatively quiet year for our emergency response operations. We shifted our focus to plan and conduct the national-level Vigilant Guard exercise. This domestic operations exercise evaluated the Iowa National Guard's ability to respond to multiple, geographically-disparate, catastrophic disasters to strengthen federal, regional, and state response partnerships.

My intent for the exercise was to stretch the limitations of the Iowa National Guard, partnering the Iowa National Guard with local, state, and federal agencies, and the United States Northern Command.

The additional time we gained from last year's relatively-quiet combat, peacekeeping, and domestic operations has allowed our organization to refocus on organizational readiness, which drives everything we do.

First, your Iowa National Guard is a national leader in the "quality" of the Soldiers and Airmen that we recruit. We are in the top echelon of the National Guard for the quality of recruits into the National Guard for 2015.

More than 22 percent of our Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, or technical school graduates are either honor or distinguished graduates, on the commandant's list, or in the top 10 percent at their respective military schools.

These efforts haven't gone unnoticed by the U.S. Department of Defense and other military organizations; Iowa units and individuals received several significant awards for 2015:

- The 132nd Communications Flight received the Gen. Harold W. Grant Award for excellence in warfighting integration;

- The 132nd Financial Management Office, led by Lt. Col. April Marmon, was recognized as the top Financial Management Office in the Air National Guard;

- The 185th Force Support Squadron's Customer Service section was awarded the DoD RAPIDS site excellence award for adopting new processes that benefit customer service;

- Staff Sgt. Randale E. Meyer, 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge, Iowa, was selected as Air Battle Manager of the Year Non-Commissioned Officer for the Air National Guard;

- Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Fennel, 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, received the field recognition award for Human Resource Advisors; and

- Sgt. 1st Class Gene Tackett and Sgt. 1st Class Dan Aguirre received the regional Chief of Staff, Army, Supply Excellence Award.

I am very proud of our Soldiers, Airmen, their families, our rich heritage, and our resolve as we continue our role in the preservation of the ideals upon which our nation and state were founded. The Iowa National Guard is woven into the fabric of our state through communities everywhere, ready and willing to transform from civilians to Guardsmen and women on a moment's notice.

The Iowa National Guard will strive to provide our state and nation an accessible, responsive, capable, ready, and affordable force focused on our fundamental mission of Defending America – at home and abroad.

On behalf of our men and women and their families, thank you for this opportunity today to provide an update and assessment of the Iowa National Guard.

Thank you. Warrior Ready!



The Iowa National Guard is the only branch of service that offers 100% State Tuition Assistance at the State Regents' rate, for Iowa public and private colleges, universities and community colleges. The average Iowa student has \$26,000 in student debt, but you could graduate DEBT FREE!



The Iowa National Guard has armories in 40 communities located across the state, more than any other military service. This allows you to serve close to home, keeping travel expenses and time away from your family to a minimum.



Don't put your life on hold! You can serve while still working towards your life goals no matter what they are. You can work full-time, attend college, or start a business while gaining valuable leadership and on-the-job training through the Iowa National Guard.



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