

The Magazine of Operation Jump Start ~ Arizona Volume 1: Issue 12, December 2007

Desert SENTINEL

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Leadership:
Trooping the Line.
Leading From the
Front.



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ON THE COVER...

From General James Doolittle in the Air Force to General Douglas MacArthur with the Army to President Theodore Roosevelt, the United States military has been blessed with great leaders who've risen to the occasion whenever their nation called upon them. As we enter into a traditionally operationally slow period, we take a moment to examine some of the components of leadership and why it is so important to each and everyone of us. Joint Task Force - Arizona commander, Col. Robert Centner shares some of his views on leadership and our stories are rife with examples of men and women, Soldiers and Airmen, exemplifying the most basic of military values.

Think you know everyone featured on this months cover? The first three individuals to correctly identify each of the historical figures on the front cover will receive an OJS coin. Send your answers to benjamin.cossel@us.army.mil with "Leader Cover" in the subject line. Also be sure to include your full name, rank, and the task force to which you are assigned. The answers and winners will be published on Arizona's OJS website Feb. 1.



A desert sentinel is a "guardian of the desert." This magazine tells the story of our Desert Sentinels, standing watch over the border and those who support Operation Jump Start - Arizona

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The View From The Top



Col. Robert Centener
Commander, JTF - Arizona

As another year draws to a close and a new year dawns, we often find ourselves reflecting on the past and dedicating fresh resolve to the days ahead.

The Past

If I had a "Top 10 list" for 2007, my number one entry would be Operation Jump Start and the thousands of Guardsman, like you, who have freely and willingly volunteered to defend our nation by supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection in our combined effort to secure the border of our homeland. The knowledge that you are participating in something exceptional and exclusive should be a powerful motivator. You are making history and building a legacy that will endure

for generations.

The Future

My vision for the year ahead is to continue to build upon the success we've accomplished as a team. I also strive for challenge – the motivational element that drives us to persevere and excel. Many of you are already thinking about your "next step," where you go after OJS. Your concerns are valid and understandable. Remember though that the task at hand is not complete – there is still work to be done.

Motivation often dwindles when we're unaware of the current status of the plan. As you well know, OJS was never intended to be a permanent solution to the numerous issues surrounding border security. As mandated by the President, OJS is scheduled to end in July 2008. I recognize the significant speculation surrounding this notion but you must know that all current indicators point to an on-target execution so we must prepare and react accordingly.

With that idea in mind, I encourage each of you to find the leader within yourselves

and take this mission to the next level. OJS is not a training tool - it's a full-scale, military operation with specific goals and objectives. Fortunately, we haven't fallen victim to mortars or IEDs, but don't become lackadaisical or think any less of your importance to this mission. Terrorism is all around us - it's our duty and your personal responsibility to keep it off our back porch.

The jobs and projects you're completing for OJS are truly exceptional. The Guard's impact in Arizona has been so significant and effective that, in some instances, Border Patrol says they are now 10 years ahead of where they would have been had OJS not happened.

In the words of Coach Lou Holtz, "Ability is what you're capable of. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

Do your job with 100 percent motivation, dedication and determination ... and you will be a success. You are doing a great service for America and the nation will be grateful for generations to come.

All right, I want everyone reading this to sit down and listen to me for a minute. I want to talk to you about leadership and I want everyone to pay attention. It goes without saying, but I'll say it again, leadership is the foundation of everything we do in the military.

That said, I want to clear up a common misconception, especially amongst the junior enlisted ranks. Leadership doesn't start the day you get promoted to sergeant, it starts the day you raise your right hand and take the Oath of Allegiance. You privates and specialists out there need to start thinking, from the very start, on how to become a good leader.

So where should you begin? Start by looking at the junior and senior noncommissioned officers you see around you everyday. What does that person do that you like? What do they do that you don't like? How would you improve on it if you were the one making the decision or in a position of leadership? Start thinking

about these things now and adding those skills you admire to your leadership toolbox. The moment to think about being a leader isn't when you become an NCO, the time is now.

Know your job and be able to teach it to others. A good leader assumes a mentorship role, guiding younger Soldiers and Airmen in their daily duties. Make sure that you know your job inside and out, the regulations that apply to it and stay up-to-date on any changes. In addition to that, know which regulations govern your service – know when you and those around you are incorrect and make on-the-spot corrections – good leadership keeps order.

To those already in a position of leadership – be the example; lead from the front, troop the line. There's a million different ways to say it and it all comes down to the same thing; be a leader. Whether you know it or not, your subordinates are looking to you, not only for guidance and information, but as the definition of how to be. Our future

leaders are working for you every single day, leave your service in good hands when you leave.

Leadership is what's made the United States military great. Throughout our history we've had numerous examples of individuals who've stood up and led. Carry on that tradition.



Command Sgt. Maj. James Elfriz
Command Sgt. Maj.,
JTF - Arizona



Operation Jump Start - Arizona

on the web at

<http://www.azguard.gov/PublicAffairs/PAO%20Pages/ojs/ojs.htm>



From Contracts to Cockpit

Postal Inspector delivers on U.S.-Mexico Border

Story and photos
by
Sgt. Ed Balaban

Marana, Ariz. — An uncharacteristic and steady wind whips up the fine dust in this part of the Sonoran Desert creating a tan tint against the clear blue sky on this bright morning at the Silver Bell Army Heliport, about 25 miles northwest of Tucson. Georgia-native Anthony Register begins his routine front-to-back and top-to-bottom pre-flight inspection of his OH-58 Kiowa helicopter. This almost 40-year old piece of military aviation history is about to embark on a critical mission — surveillance of one of the most porous and dangerous segments of the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona.

Back home in Atlanta, Register, 48 and the married

father of two teenage sons, is a member of the U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, that branch of the Postal Service that monitors, evaluates, and assesses the legal and contractual relationships that ensure that the mail moves smoothly and efficiently. He has been employed with the Postal Service for over 28 years.

A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Chief Warrant Officer (CW4) Register began his military career in 1977 when he enlisted in the Army. The hard charger rose through the ranks, eventually assuming duties as a legendary drill sergeant before leaving active duty in 1980. From 1981-89, Register was a member of the Army Reserve where he piloted the OV-1 Mohawk, a small twin-turboprop observation/surveillance aircraft that served during the Vietnam conflict, throughout the Cold War, and in Desert Storm. Register transitioned to helicopters in 1989 when he entered the National Guard. In addition to OIF, he has participated in medical evacuations/search and rescue operations following Hurricane Katrina as well as counter drug operations. He is a member of the Georgia Army National Guard's Company C, 151st Security and Support Battalion, based in Atlanta.

Since February 2007, Register has been serving as a pilot-in-command in Joint Task Force - Arizona's Task Force Raven, the aviation unit supporting Operation Jump Start (OJS). President Bush authorized the deployment of Army and Air National Guard assets to the southwest border states in the spring of 2006 to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection, specifically the U.S. Border Patrol, in their efforts to secure the border from terrorists who would seek to do the nation harm by way of weapons of mass destruction, drug smuggling, and illegal immigration.

Register draws closely related parallels when comparing his civilian job with his present military assignment.

"I continue to serve the public," said Register, explaining that service is something that all Americans can relate to.

He went on to say "the rigorous academic and technical training, along with the attention to detail needed for being successful as both a military pilot and postal inspector, are quite demanding and very similar." Register has an



Georgia Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Register climbs into his OH-58 Kiowa helicopter for his next surveillance patrol along the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona.



Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Register performs a systems check during a pre-flight inspection on some of the high-tech equipment installed in the venerable OH-58 Kiowa helicopter he will be flying along the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona. Register, a member of the Georgia Army National Guard, is a pilot-in-command with Operation Jump Start's Task Force Raven. He has been flying border surveillance missions since February 2007.

undergraduate degree in business and a MBA.

"Admittedly, being a part of Task Force Raven is inherently more dangerous than my duties as a postal inspector," stated Register.

On most days, his missions last at least eight hours, almost all of which are spent in the cramped right seat of the Kiowa. As his craft patrols 200 to 500 feet above the remote and rugged terrain of southern Arizona, Register will perform a myriad of functions in addition to maintaining the focus required to keep his helicopter and crew (another pilot and a U.S. Border Patrol agent) safe. Often he is in radio communication with other craft in the area, Border Patrol agents on the ground, as well as scanning the ground below with an assortment of high-technology tools for evidence of illegal intrusion.

"I will routinely sight anywhere from 20 to 50 UDAs (Undocumented Aliens) during a mission, and usually assist Border Patrol in their seizure of hundreds of pounds of drugs as smugglers attempt to cross the border," he said.

This summer, a routine surveillance patrol evolved into a search and rescue mission when Register noticed a faint light source through his infrared night vision

goggles. Investigating the anomaly, he discovered three illegal immigrants dehydrated and near death as they lay on a canyon floor in the sweltering heat of the desert night. Register immediately notified Border Patrol of his discovery and directed in a rescue team that could only reach the victims by horseback due to the difficult landscape. His swift action saved lives that night.

Register sees his involvement with Operation Jump Start as serving a "vital role" and helping OJS "have more of an impact" in the war on terror and illegal immigration. While commenting that his civilian superiors and Georgia National Guard comrades have acknowledged how his absence has created a void in the experience and leadership he has provided, both organizations are looking forward to his safe return home in early 2008.

His family also sorely misses him.

"My wife is from Finland, where the closeness of family is a big part of that culture," said Register, "but my wife and sons understand, and are doing their best."

Reflecting on the deployment, nature of the mission, and being away from his loved ones, Register said with conviction, "This is where I need to be."

A Bird's Eye View

Story and photo
by
Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

YUMA, Ariz. — When Operation Jump Start — Arizona reduced its total strength, in line with President Bush's view of the mission, leaders at Task Force Yuma knew they quickly had to do more with less. But how?

"We had to get a bit creative with some of our solutions," said Task Force Yuma operations officer, Army Capt. Daniel Turner. "One of the methods we decided to use was the skybox."

Of all the missions for which Task Force Yuma is responsible (vehicle maintenance, administration, logistics, and communications), perhaps none is more critical than the Entry Identification Teams (EIT), where Airmen and Soldiers work together at fixed locations scanning the horizon, watching for the illegal crossing of undocumented aliens, drug smugglers and a whole host of threats to national security.

"The skybox allows us to see more of what's out there while working in a reduced footprint," explained Turner.

The skybox — its one of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's not-so-secret weapons in border defense. At first glance, the lumbering monstrosity of a machine appears more carnival ride than utilitarian. With crab-leg extensions stabilizing its position and a long, giraffe-like neck holding the enclosed operator room, the skybox allows agents, Airmen, or Soldiers a birds-eye view of the area. When fully deployed, the skybox lifts its operator 30 feet into the air, mitigating the brush and trees that offered sanctuary to those who would come across the border illegally.

"Standing on the ground at an EIT site, all those bushes and shrubs out there, it gives undocumented aliens a place to hide, shadows to duck in to that are challenging to see if you were standing on the ground," said Spc. Benjamin Olague of the Washington National Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, as he pointed out splotches of dense brush and pockmarked desert terrain.

"And if they make it to the town behind us, they're gone," continued Olague.

While the fence dividing the United States from Mexico is more than a quarter mile away from the EIT site, a trailer park flying a mix of American and Mexican flags sits immediately behind the team. It's common knowledge in the Border Patrol, and to these Soldiers and Airmen, that if drug runners and undocumented aliens make the trailers, they disappear into a well-established network designed to get them further into the United States.

Olague went on to explain that with its infrared scopes, the skybox power truly shines during nighttime operations.

"The thermo scopes on the skybox are much more powerful than the ones we use on the ground. They allow us to lock into a hotspot where as before, if you moved your scope, you could lose the position. Plus being so high in the air, using such a powerful scope, at night, we can see what seems like forever," said Olague.

The skybox also features a radio tuned-in directly to Border Patrol. In the past, Guardsmen didn't have direct communication with Border Patrol. Now, they can hear the radio traffic as well as be alerted when one of the electronic sensors along the border is tripped.

While the skybox offers the Servicemembers increased eyes and ears as they go about their job, Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Randy Handel, Task Force Yuma safety noncommissioned officer, explained that prior to deployment, several design changes were made to make the skybox safer.

"We took a look at the experiences of California and New Mexico's skybox deployments and decided to add a safety belt across the door to prevent Soldiers and Airmen from falling out, as well as adding a safety chain to the door as another way to make sure it doesn't fly open," said Handel.

In addition to the modifications, Handel explained that each EIT site with a deployed skybox is checked to make sure the ground is level and can withstand the weight of the more than five-ton machine.

Those operating the skybox are instructed to watch the machine's built-in wind gauge. At 30 mph the crane is lowered to the ground to avoid tipping. And, in a feature most welcome by those standing long hours in the blistering desert heat, the skybox is equipped with an air conditioner.

"Deploying the skybox allows Task Force Yuma to more effectively stay in line with Border Patrol's blocking strategy in the Yuma sector," Turner said.

"We've created a visible deterrent along the border, hopefully forcing the approach of illegal crossings where Border Patrol can then be right there waiting to pick them up," said Turner. ¶

A man in a military uniform is shown from the chest up. He has a serious, distressed expression and his hands are clasped behind his head. The background is dark and textured.

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In the confines of the U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson Station and in the presence of an agent, left, Army Pfc. Dion Garvey, center, serves as an interpreter during the questioning of a Chinese alien, right (hands seen), who was recently apprehended along the U.S.-Mexico border.

TUCSON, Ariz. - What should have been a routine shift change around noon on Thursday, Nov. 1, for Tucson Station agents on patrol near Sasabe turned out to be anything but when two males of Asian descent were apprehended while walking along Arivaca Road near Sasabee, Ariz.

The two were brought to Tucson Station because, according to U.S. Border Patrol Field Operations Supervisor Michael Reilly, "they showed no indication that they had driven out to this desolate area and possessed no identification documents whatsoever."

Every Border Patrol agent is fluent in Spanish. However, the Asian men being held for questioning did not speak Spanish, or English. It would seem all parties were in a quandary.

That's when Reilly remembered Pfc. Dion Garvey, a member of the Arizona Army National Guard assigned to the Border Patrol's Tucson Station as part of Operation Jump Start's Task Force Tucson. Garvey provides administrative and clerical support at the station through the "Badges to the Border" or "B2B" program. This aspect of OJS provides Guardsmen to fill in for agents, thereby allowing that many more agents to return to the field. Garvey, born and raised in Hong Kong, legally immigrated to the United States with her family in 1988 and became a naturalized citizen in 1991.

No Habla? No Problem - Mandarin Spoken Here

Story and photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban

"My native tongue is Cantonese," said Garvey.

She went on to explain that the official language of the People's Republic of China is Mandarin; so many Chinese are bi- if not multi-lingual. Her English is flawless.

Along with another Border Patrol agent who knew the kinds of questions to be asked, "Pfc. Garvey was asked to translate so that we were able to establish the status of these men," stated Reilly. He described the scenario as "a period of consecutive translation, not unlike what routinely occurs at the United Nations, which ultimately allowed the agents to obtain all the information needed to properly process the Chinese aliens."

Garvey recognized early in their conversations that the men, although initially speaking a different dialect, were able to speak Mandarin. Further discussion identified the men as being from Fujian Province, on China's southeastern coast directly across the strait from Taiwan. They had made their way to Mexico and illegally entered the United States.

Growing up halfway around the world, Garvey admits that she was inspired to become a Soldier by the Chinese folktale of Mulan, a young girl who becomes a warrior to protect her village. Her life path was not taking her in that direction, as she came to this country, became a citizen, got married, had children, got divorced; a path very similar to that of most Americans. A few years ago, when news reports told of tour extensions for American service members engaged in the Global War on Terror, and having no working knowledge of the American military, she went to an Army recruiter in the hopes, she explained, "of being able to join in order to bring a Soldier home." She was devastated when told that she was ineligible to join either the regular Army or Army Reserves because she was a single parent. The recruiter, astutely noticing her disappointment, suggested she check with the National Guard.

Garvey did exactly that, and successfully completed basic training at the tender age of 39. She is a member of 855th Military Police Co., based in Phoenix. When her teenage daughters expressed their fears about her new career, Garvey says she allayed their concerns by telling them "You need to protect your country."

"Pfc. Garvey's contribution is a prime example of how all of the work the National Guard does on Operation Jump Start has been, and continues to be, a big benefit to the Border Patrol," stated Field Operations Supervisor Briggs Todd, Tucson Station's National Guard liaison officer.

Task Force Tucson commander Air Force Col. Mark Hughes presented Garvey with a certificate of appreciation for her "exceptional level of assistance to Border Patrol agents," citing her readily-available, invaluable language skills which "assisted in maintaining a solid relationship with [Border Patrol] and the National Guard."

Following her recognition, Garvey modestly commented, "I was glad I was able to help the National Guard and the Border Patrol, as we work as a team. I am proud I was able to use my language skills to help in this situation."

Col. Hughes added, "Her efforts were the essence of a 'job well done'."

Garvey did not let the accolades overwhelm her and resumed her duties. Within days, she was called upon again to provide translation assistance, as several other Asian aliens were apprehended in the Tucson Sector.

In late November, she accompanied a group of federal agents, prosecutors and Guardsmen as they escorted eight apprehended Chinese aliens into the field so as to corroborate their claims. The federal prosecutor used Garvey to interpret a series of questions directed at the Chinese aliens in order to discern the details of what was emerging as a sophisticated and elaborate human trafficking operation.

Ultimately, the information gleaned from Garvey's interaction with the aliens led to the arrest and indictment of "Fat Boy," an individual suspected by authorities as a major player in the human smuggling business in Arizona for the last several years. He was denied bail, having been determined a flight risk, and is now awaiting trial on a variety of federal felony charges.

When asked how she felt about playing such an important role in protecting the border, Garvey broke into a wide grin and exclaimed, "I'm digging it!" She added she wished she could become a Border Patrol agent, but her age (she is over 40) is not waivable. Still, she is very much a part of the Border Patrol's overall efforts and considered an important member of the team. ¶

Air Force 1st Lt. Tisha Thompson, left, Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson Station Badges to the Border program, in which National Guard Soldiers and Airmen provide administrative and clerical support to the U.S. Border Patrol, presents a certificate of appreciation to Pfc. Dion Garvey, right, in recognition of her language skills.

On several recent occasions, Garvey's fluency of Chinese dialects aided Border Patrol agents in the apprehension and interrogation of Chinese aliens, ultimately leading to the arrest of individuals suspected of human trafficking.



Riding a Legacy

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol Horse Detachment

Story and photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

NOGALES, Ariz. -- In a time and place predating the widespread adoption of the automobile, agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, used horses as their means of transportation through the rugged, often treacherous, terrain along the U.S.-Mexico border. From the sweeping deserts of the Yuma sector, to the jagged hills of Nogales, man and beast patrolled their area with an ever vigilant eye to protect the homeland.

In today's day and age, you're more likely to see agents driving Humvees or Ford Expeditions, but tucked away in the back of every Arizona Border Patrol station, you'll find the stables, and the horses, and the men and women who still use them every single day.

Owing as much to its legacy as its practicality, the horse detachment is a much sought after, three-year detail within Border Patrol. According to supervisory border patrol agent Caesar Garcia, the individuals who swell the ranks of the squad typically fall into one of two categories.

"Most of the folks who put in for the horse detachment have been around horses most of their life or have always wanted to be," said Garcia.

Before agents can count themselves among the fold, they go through a rigorous, three-week training period where they're taught the basics of horsemanship. But, as Garcia notes, agents aren't truly proficient on their steeds until they have at least a year under their belt.

"The three week training course introduces people to the basics of riding in a very methodical and slow fashion," said Garcia, a 16-year veteran

of the Patrol.

"They're taught how to take care of their horse - to stable and feed them, but an agent needs at least a year riding out in the field before they really start to feel comfortable on a horse," Garcia said. "That's part of why this is a three-year detail as compared to a one-year assignment for most other details within the Border Patrol."

In addition to the training, agents must serve with the Border Patrol for two years before they can even apply to the detachment.

"The work on the horse detachment is very demanding and the agents applying for the detail can't be fresh from the academy," said Garcia, "they have to have some experience under their belts before they come here."

The numbers bear out Garcia's assertion of the demanding work, with only three percent of the total Nogales force coming from the horse patrol,

six percent of the total apprehensions in the Nogales sector came from the detachment. In fiscal year 2007, the horse patrol was responsible for more than 2,000 apprehensions as well as the seizure of 10,000 pounds of narcotics.

Thirteen-year veteran of Border Patrol, agent Antonio Alvarado believes much of the detachment's success lays squarely on the strong haunches of the horses.

"Horses have such amazing hearing," said Alvarado as he attaches a bridal to Chalan. Horses and riders are usually assigned and stay partners for as long as the other is part of the detachment.

"You'll be sitting out here in the middle of the night and suddenly the horse's ears will perk up and they'll start looking in a certain direction," said Alvarado. "And you just know, follow it and you'll find a group hunkered down for the night."

Alvarado went on to note that the



Nogales Station, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol Supervisory Border Patrol Agent, Caesar Garcia talks with his agents with the station's horse detachment.

Border Patrol agents with the Nogales Station patrol on horseback the rugged, jutting hills of the area. Horses are often able to traverse terrain more difficult for an agent alone and can easily outpace anyone who foolhardily tries to outrun them.



horses present a visible deterrent to those undocumented aliens (UDA) who might give thought to running.

“The illegal’s, they know they can’t outrun a horse and they don’t even try,” said Alvarado, “plus it’s just such a psychological factor – a group sees the horses atop the ridge and they give-up for the same reasons – they know they aren’t outrunning these horses.”

With the waves of jagged, rocky hills and deep, switch-backing valleys that make up the Nogales terrain, the horses enable riders to get to areas unreachable by vehicle or foot and their relative quietness in traversing that terrain gives the agents an element of surprise when tracking a group.

“Especially out here,” said Garcia, his outstretched arm making a deliberate left-to-right arc indicating the roller coaster like stretch of terrain, “when the wind isn’t blowing, the vehicles regular agents use can be heard for some

distance by illegals. Once they hear the agents coming, they find some place to hide and simply wait them out.”

More often than not, said Garcia, UDA’s never hear the horses coming, or it’s entirely too late when they do.

Most of the animals that Patrol uses are horses seized during apprehensions, according to Garcia, these animals are typically a leg up on the mounts they purchase.

“The animals we get on seizures are usually from around this area, so they already know the terrain, they know where to go, where the watering holes are and so much more,” said Garcia.

“And most importantly,” added Garcia, “they always get you home.”

Once home, agents spend typically an hour beyond their normal shift time to take care of their rides - feeding them, brushing them down, making sure the animals are good for the evening.

So tight is the bond between horse

and rider that often, when a horse is retired from the Patrol, it’s purchased by its partner where they find their final home on one of the many ranches in the area.

“These animals take care of us, so it’s critical that we take care of them,” said Alvarado.



Border Patrol Agent Antonio Alvarado prepares his ride, Chalan, to head into the hills of Nogales for another days work.

AROUND OJS



Task Force Yuma Spc. Benjamin Olague of the Washington National Guard's Company A, 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry, sets in motion a series of events that will hoist him 30 feet into the air. Olague is one of several entry identification team Guardsmen working in the skybox. (See page six for full story.)



Maj. Perry Jones with Task Force Raven, conducts a pre-flight check before taking his UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter over Ajo, Ariz.

Border Patrol Agent Antonio Alvarado crests a hill in Nogales, Ariz., riding Chalan, Alvarado's partner for four years. Alvarado is one of a handful of agents in Arizona assigned to the U.S. Border Patrol horse detachment.



Command and staff of Task Force Yuma wish everyone a Happy, prosperous and healthy 2008.



AROUND ARIZONA

Representatives of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 7507, Fountain Hills, Ariz., present Arizona Adjutant General, Army Maj. Gen. David Rataczak and Assistant Adjutant General - Army Brig. Gen. Hugh Salazar with a check for \$2,000 to the Arizona Emergency Relief Fund.



A Soldier with Task Force Diamondback fits together pieces of fencing for use in the Casa Grande area of Arizona.



A Soldier with Task Force Yuma monitors computers at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's, Border Patrol, Yuma Sector Headquarters.

The computers are linked with cameras and sensors along the border. With Soldiers and Airmen manning the computer monitors, agents of the Border Patrol are able to return to their duties, effectively increasing the number of agents in the field.

y Holidays and a



Former Vice-President Dan Quayle, shakes hands with Airmen from the Arizona Air National Guard during a fund-raising event at the TPC Scottsdale Desert Course.



The background of the image is a blurred desert landscape with warm, golden-brown tones. In the lower-left foreground, a portion of a person wearing a tan flight suit is visible, showing details like a pocket and a strap. The overall atmosphere is somber and reflective.

The End of an Era

After 37 years, multiple commands, and countless hours at the helm of a wide range of aircraft, Col. Patrick J. McCarville, State Aviation Officer and commander, Task Force Raven, Operation Jump Start - Arizona, cashes in his chips and looks forward to retirement.



U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, Tucson Sector, Field Operations Supervisor Shavon T. Theis presents Task Force Raven commander, Army Col. Patrick McCarville with a token of the sector's appreciation on the eve of McCarville's retirement.

PHOENIX, Ariz. – As the sun sets on a military career spanning nearly four decades, State Aviation Officer and Operation Jump Start – Arizona, Task Force Raven commander, Col. Patrick McCarville leaves a legacy that will long be remembered in the annals of Arizona Army National Guard aviation.

Patrick McCarville was born to fly. His father, a doctor by trade, was an avid aviator who owned an Aeronca Champion and a Piper Tri-Pacer. At the tender age of eight, his legs not even long enough to reach the control-pedals, the young McCarville sat on his father's lap at the helm of the Piper – from there, he was hooked.

"I was totally enamored with flying from as far back as I can remember," said McCarville.

McCarville continued flying, jumping at every opportunity that presented itself. Federal law required that he wait until he was 16 before applying for his license, but that didn't stop McCarville from gaining as many accompanied flight hours as possible.

"The day I was sixteen, I went, took the test and came home with my private pilot's license," said McCarville.

From there, the financial realities of being a pilot slammed home to McCarville. Maintaining the minimum flight-time hours required he rent aircraft – a very expensive endeavor. McCarville looked for ways to gain experience towards a commercial pilot's license in a manner more affordable a high school student. At 18, just eight months after graduating high school, McCarville volunteered for the draft and joined the Army.

"A friend of mine had lost a brother in Vietnam and my father was in the military, so I was very respectful of those who served," said McCarville.

McCarville's logical first choice was the Air Force.

"They laughed me out of their recruiting office," recalls McCarville.

"Here I was this young kid with no college degree wanting to fly airplanes."

His luck was the same when he went to speak with the Navy and the Marines, at his wit's end, McCarville went to the Army.

"At the time, I didn't even know the Army had airplanes," McCarville said.

Before being accepted, McCarville had to pass an Army flight school board comprised of veteran pilots looking to allow only the best into their ranks.

"The whole process was very intimidating. There's this major sitting at the table basically asking me what made me think I could be an Army pilot," said McCarville.

Having flown for nearly two years at this point, McCarville spoke of being the oldest of eight children, and of his father's past in the military.

"Something about being the oldest child seemed to register with that major," said McCarville who was accepted to flight school but had a stopover in Fort Polk, La., for infantry school before finally making it there.

"In those days, if you washed out of flight school, you were headed to Vietnam as an infantryman, so they sent you there first – just in case," laughed McCarville who entered the Army, February 1971, with a deferred option for flight school as a private.

After completing basic infantry school, McCarville was off to Fort Walters, Texas, where he was in for the surprise of his career.

"At Walters, all they had was helicopters," said McCarville. "I wanted to fly airplanes, so this was definitely not right."

McCarville was told not to worry, all pilots started here and that when they completed this phase of training, the airplane pilots would go to a different location for training.

"I remember clear as day standing in that formation after we'd all graduated as they called out the names of those going to school for airplanes, as each name was called, my apprehension grew," he said.

"Finally, the last name was called and I wasn't on that bus! I went over to my TAC (tactical officer) and started to complain," he said with a laugh.

"He told me to shut-up and get back into formation, it was right then and there that I realized I was going to be flying helos," said McCarville.

After completing flight school, McCarville was stationed at Fort Stanley, Korea, where he stayed for more than a year, flying over the demilitarized zone racking up 1,000 flight hours. From there, McCarville sought and was granted a transfer to Vietnam where he flew the UH-1 Iroquois, more commonly known as the Huey.

"In my opinion, the Huey was the best aircraft the military ever fielded," said McCarville.

Finishing his active-duty career at Fort Ord, Calif. in 1975, McCarville came home to Arizona where he joined the Arizona National Guard at the same time entering Arizona State University and getting a job running a liquor store.

In 1979, McCarville graduated from ASU with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. He initially sought a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, but the physics portion of the course load proved too challenging so McCarville changed his degree, graduating magna cum laude.

Through his career in the Arizona National Guard, McCarville has always been the archetypal overachiever. In 1984, McCarville was approached by then Maj. David Rataczak (Maj. Gen. Rataczak is currently Arizona's Adjutant General) to become a flight instructor for the Hueys.

After a year as an instructor, McCarville was approached about taking a direct commission. Reporting to Fort Rucker, Ala., for Officer Basic Course (OBC), McCarville stood at the initial formation, his master aviator wings proudly displayed upon his chest.

"I remember standing there and my TAC coming over and kind of ripping into me for what he thought was me just putting the wings on my chest," said McCarville, "imagine his surprise when he thoroughly examined my flight book and saw that indeed I was entitled to wear them."

With OBC under his belt, McCarville returned to Arizona where he became the platoon leader for Company C, 1st Battalion, 89th Aviation Regiment. During his tenure in the Arizona National Guard, McCarville served as adjutant for the 385th Aviation Attack Helicopter Regiment, executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 98th Aviation Regiment as well as other commands, and a year in the Inspector General's corps culminating in his current duties as the



Task Force Raven commander, Col. Patrick McCarville prepares to take off for one of his final flights in a UH-60 Blackhawk.

Arizona National Guard State Aviation Officer and commander for Operation Jump Start's aviation component, Task Force Raven.

McCarville intended to retire in 2006, before OJS began, but was later approached about heading up the aviation task force.

"I talked it over with my wife, Thersa, after some debate back and forth, she agreed with the caveat that after OJS, I would retire."

In his career, McCarville has been licensed on 50 aircraft including the French AStar helicopter and his beloved airplanes.

"When I became the State Aviation Officer in 2004, there was a slot to fly the C-12 Huron so I did my check-flight on it, got certified and flew it a couple times," said McCarville.

As he looks forward to retirement, McCarville says he will miss most the camaraderie he's forged with other servicemembers.

"I've spent plenty of time working in the civilian sector and there's just no group of people like those you meet in the military," he said.

But he does look forward to the time that he'll now be able to devote to second passion.

"Bass fishing, I plan on doing a lot of bass fishing. And I'm really looking forward to developing a strong relationship with the retired military community in the area, it really is like family."¶

Story by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel Photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban

Leadership: As Viewed From The Top

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." - Gen. Douglas McArthur

PHOENIX, Ariz – Like great art, leadership is one of those things that can be hard to put into words - you may not be able to describe it with the proper combination of nouns, verbs, and adjectives, but you definitely know it when you see it. Operation Jump Start – Arizona, Joint Task Force – Arizona, commander, Army Col. Robert Centner, recently sat down and shared some of his thoughts on the subject.

"Leadership is the essence of the military," Centner said. "And it starts at the very beginning. It is the most basic of building block in which everything else follows."

Centner began his military career in the United States Marine Corps where he served in the enlisted ranks becoming a staff sergeant. before taking a commission in the Arizona National Guard.

"When I was a young Marine, I had really good NCO's (noncommissioned officers)," he said.

"From them, I learned what it meant to be a good leader; they set an excellent example for me from which I took and put into my own leadership style," Centner explained.

In Centner's view, leadership starts with good NCO's not only teaching their young Airmen and Soldier's how to be good leaders, but by being beyond reproach themselves.

"Any good leader, enlisted or officer, must serve as the role model in whom their troops can learn from," said Centner.

"They must have the highest ethics and morals and, equally important," he said, "they must be out there; involved, making mistakes, being with their troops."

Centner said he couldn't stress enough the value of leaders interacting on a regular basis with their subordinates.

"Leadership is not sitting behind a desk. Managers stay behind the desk, leaders troop the line," he



Joint Task Force – Arizona commander, Army Col. Robert Centner speaks with Guardsmen at the U. S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, Casa Grande Station.

said.

In addition to setting the example, Centner feels that leaders learn and grow from each moment they spend with their subordinates.

"A smart leader is one that is constantly learning, constantly adding to their tool kit. When you're spending time with your troops, seeing what they're doing, making corrections, you're learning how to do their job, adding to your knowledge base," said Centner.

As a young officer, Center said he made it a regular habit to report to drill early and have one of his NCO's teach him the specifics of one piece of his unit's equipment. He would then go watch his troops perform preventative maintenance, correcting any mistakes and asking questions along the way.

"Any leader that doesn't spend time learning, that doesn't grow is going to have a very short career," he said.

That time spent with the troops also provides the individual an opportunity to speak up about

“Leadership is not sitting behind a desk. Managers stay behind the desk, leaders troop the line.”

Col. Robert Center
Commander, Joint Task Force - Arizona
Operation Jump Start - Arizona

problems or issues they might not feel comfortable addressing in a group situation.

“A lot of times, Soldiers and Airmen just won’t open up in a group setting but they will to that leader who takes the time to go to them and talk with them one-on-one,” he said.

“Whenever I go down to the line (Centner and JTF-Arizona Command Sgt. Maj. James Elifritz make regular visits to troops on the line) and spend time out there, I can tell almost instantly if leadership, at any level, has been involved with their troops,” said Centner.

“Whether they’ve talked with them and helped work out any issues they may be having or have they explained to them the current situation,” he added, “there’s a lot

of Guardsmen out there right now with some pretty serious questions about what is going on with this mission.”

As mandated by President George W. Bush, Operation Jump Start, the two-year mission placing National Guardsmen alongside U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents protecting the Southwestern border, is methodically reducing its forces with a forecasted completion in July.

“All of my leaders will face some serious challenges as this mission draws down,” said Centner.

“Not only do we have to make sure our Guardsmen are properly taken care of,” said Centner, “but we also need to make sure that accountability for everything is correct and that we’re not leaving

a broken system for the Arizona National Guard to fix once all of us are gone.”

Coming to some final thoughts on leadership, Centner spoke of the “loneliness at the top” and the inherent nature of it for leaders.

“Once an individual accepts a position or rank of leadership, they’ve made the conscious decision to separate themselves from the group and the higher you go, the lonelier it gets,” he said.

With all that, Centner notes that he wouldn’t trade his command time for anything.

Said Centner, “Being in command, being a leader, it’s been some of the most challenging and rewarding time in my military career.” ¶

Joint Task Force – Arizona commander, Col. Robert Centner visits troops working at the Casa Grande, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol Station. Centner and JTF-Arizona Command Sgt. Maj. James Elifritz make regular trips to the field to see how the Soldiers and Airmen of the JTF are doing.



3.5 Percent Pay Raise on Hold

President Bush's veto of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 postpones the expected 3.5 percent across-the-board raise passed by Congress. However, due to an existing law, Servicemembers are guaranteed a pay increase, which means military Servicemembers will see an overall pay increase of 3.0 percent in their Jan. 15, 2008 pay checks.

White House officials have stated that they will work with Congress to make sure the additional 0.5 percent pay raise is approved and retroactive to Jan. 1, under a reworked NDAA.



USSERA Enforcement Bill Introduced

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs recently introduced legislation to strengthen the employment and reemployment rights of our returning Servicemen and women. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Enforcement Improvement Act imposes deadlines on federal agencies to assist veterans. It also implements the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office to reduce inefficiencies and improve the information collected by the government on these issues.

STUFF YOU
TOOK

Four Ways to Fund Your Education

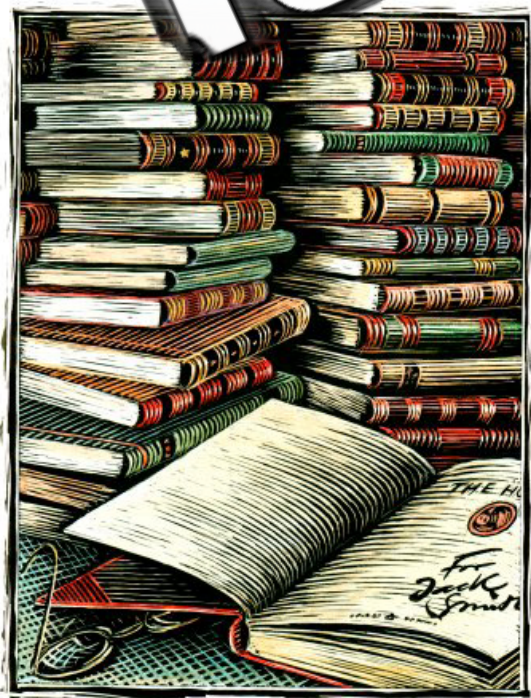
The military encourages Servicemembers to use all programs available, whether they are from federal, military-related, or private sources. There are many out there, and you'll likely find more than one to suit your educational needs. Here are a few places to get you started.

Tuition Assistance (TA): A financial assistance program providing active-duty personnel 100 percent funding of tuition costs.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB): Provides up to 36 months of education benefits during active duty and is payable for 10 years following your last release from service.

Federal Student Aid: Federal loans, grants, and tuition programs are available to meet a variety of financial needs and education levels. Work-study programs are also available.

Military Scholarships: There are over \$300 million worth of scholarships for Servicemembers, veterans and their families.



BAH to Increase an Average of 7.3%

Basic allowance for housing (BAH) paid to service members living off base in stateside areas will climb an average of 7.3 percent next month to keep pace with local rental costs. In an effort to reduce the BAH disparity between members with dependents and those without, officials with the Department of Defense agreed to increase the BAH rate for members without dependents an additional \$34 million during 2008.

Finding Child Care Programs

The Department of Defense and the National Association of Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies are working together to help Servicemembers find and afford child care. The association works with more than 800 state and local child care resource and referral agencies to ensure families in every local community have access to high quality affordable child care. The association of referral agencies offers two programs to help families secure high quality off-base child care and help reduce fees by providing monetary subsidies; Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood and Enhanced Child Care Referral Service. Military families can apply for the NACCRRRA programs or subsidies at <http://www.naccrra.org/>.

Employment Resources

Career Command Post -- specializes in bringing transitioning active duty military personnel and Armed Forces veterans together with civilian employers hiring for executive, managerial, professional, technical, skilled and semi-skilled positions, from the Military Transition Group, Inc.
Online at: <http://www.careercommandpost.com/>

Corporate Gray Online -- where former military personnel can post your resume and search for jobs. Also includes some great articles and resources.
Online at: <http://www.corporategray.com/>

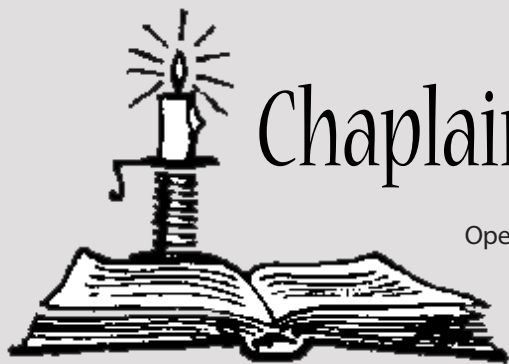
The Destiny Group -- a combination of resources for former military personnel, including job-hunting tips, resume writing, and job postings.
Online at: <http://www.destinygrp.com/destiny/index.jsp>

Military Candidates, Inc. -- for active duty military personnel transitioning to the civilian workforce, where you can search job listings (by industry) and submit your resume. Also includes some basic job-search resources. Free to job-seekers. Online at: <http://www.militarycandidates.com/>

Military Hire -- operated by veterans for veterans, this site is all about helping service veterans (active duty, reserve, and national guard) and your immediate family members transition to civilian employment. Job-seekers can conduct a detailed job search, post your resume, and take advantage of career resources. Free to job-seekers. Online at: <http://www.militaryhire.com/>

Military Job Zone: Military to Civilian Career Transition -- a career and job site for transitioning military members and recently separated veterans, where job-seekers can search for jobs (by category, location, keywords), post your resume, and find career resources. No cost to job-seekers. Online at: <http://www.militaryjobzone.com/>





Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Col.) Daniel Butler
Operation Jump Start - Arizona Chaplain

It seems just like a few days ago and I was planning for 2007. I had dreams of what I was going to do and plans of what I was going to accomplish. I can hardly remember any of them now, but guess what? I have a new year to plan for and grander dreams than before.

What this has led me to is the idea of being sorry for maybe some of the plans gone awry. In spite of my good intentions, I did not achieve the high standards I anticipated. Some of those ideas did not come to fruition due to circumstances out of my control. Yet some were not completed because I did not follow through on the grand inspiration or due to not being resolute in my determination.

It was recently that I read the following. It has some key elements in a person's life so that at the end of next year, I may not have as many regrets.

Ten Things You Will Never Regret

1. Showing kindness to an aged person.
2. Destroying a letter written in anger.
3. Offering an apology that will save a friendship.
4. Stopping a scandal that was ruining a reputation.
5. Helping a boy or girl find themselves.
6. Taking time to show consideration to parents, friends, brothers and sisters.
7. Refraining from gossip when others around you delight in it.
8. Refusing to do a thing which is wrong, although others do it.
9. Living according to your convictions.
10. Accepting the judgment of God on any question.

As chaplains, we are always available to any Servicemember or family that might be in need. If you are having difficulties, or know of someone who is, please contact your commander or first sergeant and we will be there to help. Have a great New Year, one with no regrets.



Army to Launch New Pay System

The Army is getting ready to launch a new pay and personnel system in 2008 that will streamline personnel processes and integrate the active-duty, National Guard and Army Reserve components. The Army Defense Integrated Human Resources System (DIMHRS) will be implemented Oct. 1, 2008, at all Army installations and within all service components. DIMHRS will take the pay and personnel data from all three components of the Army and put it in a single database accessible online, 24-hours a day. When a personnel action is taken, the system will automatically trigger any associated pay change.

A Word On Safety

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COMING NEXT MONTH

Airmen of the Florida Air National Guard help bring Arizona into the future of telecommunications as they work to upgrade repeater towers across the border.



HAPPY 371ST BIRTHDAY
NATIONAL GUARD



1636 ★ 2007



The First Muster

by Don Troiani

The history of the National Guard began on December 13, 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony ordered the organization of the Colony's militia companies into three regiments: The North, South and East Regiments. The colonists had adopted the English militia system which obligated all males, between the ages of 16 and 60, to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. The early colonial militia drilled once a week and provided guard details each evening to sound the alarm in case of attack. The growing threat of the Pequot Indians to the Massachusetts Bay Colony required that the militia be in a high state of readiness.

On December 13, 2007 the National Guard will celebrate its 371st birthday.

On this date in 1636, the National Guard's four oldest regiments were organized in the Massachusetts Bay Colony militia. These are not only the Guard's oldest units; they are also the oldest units of the Armed Forces of the United States, and among the oldest military units in the world.

These first citizen soldiers banded together with their neighbors and communities – for a common defense. They were the Minutemen who answered the call of liberty during the American Revolution and since have fought in all of our nation's wars.

Today, in the 1st decade of the 21st century, the fight for freedom and liberty continues – at home and abroad. The men and women of today's Army National Guard and Air National Guard continue to answer the call as they have done since those first regiments organized.

I am very proud of our long and distinguished history, but I am just as proud to lead the nearly 460,000 Citizen-Soldiers and –Airmen of today's National Guard. Never in our 371 year history has the National Guard been asked to do more to defend our nation and respond to crisis here at home.

While more than 50,000 Citizen-Soldiers and –Airmen are deployed abroad fighting the Global War on Terror, some 8,500 of their fellow Guard members are answering the call of Governors as our nation's first military responders; saving lives during the wildfires of California, and during the floods in the Northwest, all while helping protect our Southwestern border.

The common thread that binds all generations of Citizen-Soldiers and – Airmen is the very same thread that binds us to the future – America's National Guard is Always Ready, Always There.



Lieutenant General H Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau