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#### ON THE COVER...

Someone once said that perfect practice makes perfect. In military terms, that means train, train, and train some more, such as the Airman from the Massachusetts Air National Guard shown on our cover. We train in the military to perfect our craft; the profession of war. Each of us has a role to play in making sure the U.S. Military is always the best it can be and we accomplish that task through training.

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 Wiew From The Top



Col. Robert Centener Commander, JTF - Arizona

Happy 2008 and thanks for your contributions to a successful 2007. As the new year abounds, so do the typical New Year's resolutions ... exercise

more, eat less,

stop smoking, start saving, the list goes on and on. This year, though, remember there is one resolution you must make and keep - that is to train. Train regularly, train thoroughly, and train hard. Training, like safety, is everyone's duty. Many of you are operating heavy equipment,

On Jan. 19, of this year, Border Patrol Agent Louis Aguilar was brutally murdered by violent drug smugglers attempting to bring their poison into our country. Aguilar's death serves as an all too stark reminder of the very dangerous mission we engage in here on Operation Jump Start. It also serves to remind us to always remain vigilant and to keep our skills sharp through proper training.

There's an old Army adage, "We sweat in peace so we don't bleed in war." Truer words were never spoken and training must be our watch word. My Sergeants out there, you are responsible for ensuring those underneath you are properly trained and trained to standard. This means

carrying weapons, working in drastic environments, or utilizing specialized skills that require regular training to assure your safety, the safety of others, and to ensure the job is done right.

Operation Jump Start is a fullfledged operational mission that can be dangerous. Regretfully, we were reminded of this grim reality when Senior Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar from Border Patrol's Yuma Sector was killed in the line of duty on Jan. 19. This terrible incident should demonstrate to you that our job supporting U.S. Customs and Border Protection is not to be taken lightly. No matter what your work entails, every one of you plays a key role in the day-to-day and overall accomplishment of our mission. You are here for a reason and it is your responsibility to ensure

no cutting corners, no letting someone slide; we're hard on our people now so that when the moment of truth arrives, they know what to do, they know how to respond.

On the individual level, you are responsible for reviewing and knowing your common Soldering skills as outlined in the "Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks" or the "Airmen's Manual." If you found yourself tomorrow in a combat zone, would you know how to react to indirect fire? Today, do you know the Rules of Engagement, do you know where the rally points are for your position, do you know what to do if approached by armed individuals?

I guarantee you; the drug smugglers

you know how to do your job to the best of your ability.

Remember too that we are a team and we don't allow our teammates to falter. If you are in a leadership position, set the example, train yourself and train others. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and train on subjects beyond your normal scope. Enroll yourself in a Combat Lifesaver Course or try out a new vocation such as welding. Every effort you make to improve yourself improves the team. When the players are strong, the team is strong and a strong team is tough to defeat.

Do your part to keep our team strong – for yourself, for your teammates, for your country, and for everyone who depends on our National Guard team.

other and criminal elements out there trying illegally to enter our country know what to do. Our success stemming the flow of illegalcrossings is causing them become



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

more desperate in their actions as witnessed in Agent Aguilar's tragic death. If that moment of truth comes to you, will you know what to do?



#### Operation Jump Start - Arizona

on the web at

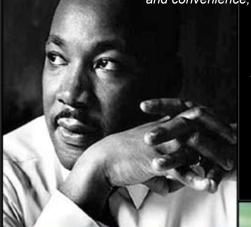
http://www.azguard.gov/PublicAffairs/PAO%20Pages/ojs/ojs.htm



#### REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Compiled from various sources by Sgt. Ed Balaban



As attention is turned to the King holiday and the nation pauses to remember the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it's noted that 2008 will mark 40 years since his assassination. Thus, it is especially important to connect the King Day of Service more intentionally with the

principles upon which Dr. King built his life, his service, and the movement that he championed. He believed that applying the principles of his movement in all areas of one's life would ultimately bring about the "Beloved Community," where differences are resolved peaceably and reconciliation occurs among adversaries.

To connect the King holiday to the example Dr. King set and to engage more Americans in honoring him through service, many civic organizations and government agencies have joined together to provide tools for the "40 Days of Nonviolence: Building the Beloved Community" initiative.

On the King holiday and during the 40 days that follow, individuals and organizations participating in the initiative would:

- Study, discuss, and reflect upon the principles of nonviolent action as a strategy for bringing about stronger communities.
- Examine the structures in their communities that lead to violence and engage in projects that address those underlying issues.
- Plan for 40 days beginning with the King

holiday and implement sustainable service activities to extend throughout the year and beyond.

These elements reflect the fundamental steps in Dr. King's vision for nonviolent social change: information gathering, education, personal commitment, negotiations, direct action, and reconciliation. What better learning mechanism can there be than one in which everyone can be actively engaged in their community?

40 Days of Nonviolence: Building the Beloved Community will have a powerful and lasting impact on the reach of the King Day of Service campaign. Linking the powerful principles of nonviolence with the tradition of service brings contemporary stature to a historical movement in our country contemporary meaning to unfinished work of Dr. King. Linking service more directly to the teachings of Dr. King provides a great opportunity to educate youth and others who have little or no knowledge of this important part of American history and to engage them in service that is grounded in his teachings and creates lasting change.

In 1994 Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the King holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. The King Day of Service brings together people who





The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed in 1986.

might not ordinarily meet, breaks down barriers that have divided us in the past, leads to better understanding and ongoing relationships, and is an opportunity to recruit new volunteers for your ongoing work.

Participation in the King Day of Service has grown steadily over the past decade, with hundreds of thousands of Americans each year engaging in projects such as tutoring and mentoring children, painting schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and reflecting on Dr. King's life and teachings. Many of the projects started on King Day continue to engage volunteers beyond the holiday and impact the community year-round.

Although the scope of the event grows every year, many people still are not aware of the service component of the holiday. By encouraging the participation of as many organizations as possible, supporters hope to make next year's King Day of Service the biggest and best ever, engaging more people in service that honors Dr. King's life and teachings.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. On January 21st, 2008, millions of Americans across the country will once again honor his legacy by taking part in a wide range of service projects—conducting food drives, painting schools

and community centers, recruiting mentors for needy youth, and bringing meals to homebound neighbors, to name but a few.

"Today there is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."
- Excerpted from a 1967 interview of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Arnold Michaelis

The words of Dr. King ring as accurately and truthfully today as they did more than a generation ago. Whether active, Reserve, or Guard, those of us in military service have the privilege of demonstrating to our society that Dr. King's principles of tolerance and understanding are valid and viable.

History has shown repeatedly that the American military, a microcosm of the society at large, has often led the way in social reform and done so successfully. This holiday symbolizes more than just the recognition of a man and his ideals. It serves as the basis for all Americans to embrace the true essence of equality and the enlightenment that comes from serving each other, our communities, and our nation. This is an ongoing challenge. Remember, it should be a day on, not a day off.

"Every King holiday has been a national teach-in' on the values of nonviolence, including unconditional love, tolerance, forgiveness and reconciliation, which are so desperately needed to unify America."

Coretta Scott King, "The Meaning of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday"

# Florida Air Guard Brings the $F_{m{u}_{t_{m{u}_r}}}$ e to the Arizona Frontier

Story and Photos by Sgt. Ed Balaban



TUCSON, Ariz. -- Several members of the Florida Air National Guard found themselves drawn together and working on a unique project in direct support of Operation Jump Start in Arizona. Operation Jump Start is the mission directed by the President in the spring of 2006 to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection as that agency expands to meet the challenges of keeping the U.S.-Mexico border secure. These Florida Air National Guardsmen continue to spearhead operations in the critical communications arena and their legacy will be a network of heretofore unknown interoperability.

In the beginning, long before 9/11 and the investigations that ensued, many in the telecommunications industry and all strata of law enforcement were aware of the inability of communications systems

of different manufacturers to interoperate. Simply put, these various systems could not allow their users to literally talk with each other. This meant that the agencies using these systems could not communicate with each other when situations required a rapid and effective way of exchanging information.

From this need evolved the P25 Upgrade, a program that would provide a means by which the variety of communications systems in use by a multitude of government agencies at all levels would be able to talk with each other by merely pushing a button.

This program would have continued to languish had it not been for the operational needs discovered in Arizona Operation Jump Start commenced in the summer of 2006. It rapidly became apparent



needed among the federal, state and local agencies charged with maintaining a secure border.

Meanwhile, in response to President Bush's call for the National Guard to support the U.S. Border Patrol across the frontier with Mexico, Chief Master Sgt. Terry Libbert of Jacksonville, Fla., and Master Sgt. Dale Tryhorn of Deltone, Fla., answered the call, both reporting for duty in Yuma, Ariz., during the sweltering summer of 2006. Initially they were assigned to Entry Identification Teams, responsible for maintaining observation posts at some of the most remote locations along the border and then reporting to Border Patrol suspicious activities that could involve illegal aliens. While Libbert remained in Arizona in a duty status working for OJS, Tryhorn returned home at the end of his 15-day annual training.

When the need for a more comprehensive communications plan grew evident, the P25 Upgrade in Arizona became a priority. The project emerged as a joint effort led by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, along with the Army and Air National Guard. The nature of the work came within the broad scope of Arizona's Task Force Diamondback, the group of Soldiers and Airmen predominantly from engineering fields who would be tasked with improving the tactical infrastructure along the border. Their duties would include fence and lighting installations, road improvement and construction, and improvements to the communications network. Driven by Air Force Specialty Codes, an alphanumeric system the

"Using Air Guard personnel for this challenging task has proven to be most cost effective and efficient because their alreadyexisting qualifications and skills were a perfect fit for the task at hand." **Army Lt. Col. Robert White** 

Commander **Task Force Diamondback** 

service uses to define and describe specific skills, the "Repeater Team" was born.

In February 2007, Master Sgt. Tryhorn, along with Master Sgt. Richard Calvert of Melbourne, Fla., assumed their Operation Jump Start-related duties in Orlando, Fla. Calvert was assigned as the non-commissioned officer in charge, and Tryhorn as his assistant. Orlando is the distribution center for Motorola, CBP's primary radio communications contractor. In addition to being acquainted, these Air Guardsmen also shared civilian positions as radar technicians working for the Federal Aviation Administration. They shared responsibility for preparing portable (handheld), mobile (vehicle units), and repeater (mountaintop) units for installation and use in Arizona. When Calvert left Orlando for Arizona in April, Tryhorn relieved him as non-commissioned officer in charge. He joined Calvert in Arizona in September.

Libbert came to the Repeater Team in August. His vast Operation Jump Start experience in a variety of assignments coupled with his familiarity of the Arizona geography made him the ideal noncommissioned officer in charge. Along with Calvert, they coordinate seven, fourman teams that specialize in the installation and maintenance of antennae, all radio gear, structural and concrete construction, electrical/power supplies, and airlift operations. All of these skills are contained within the Air Force's communication fields, and all members of the Repeater Team have been cross-trained resulting in a fully qualified and certified unit. The team's area of responsibility is the entire state of Arizona. At last count, over 56 mountaintop repeater sites were identified, 10 of which require airlift for access.

Tryhorn is the radio programming team chief. He and his team routinely travel from their staging area in Tucson, to Border Patrol stations throughout the state and ports of entry along the Arizona border with Mexico to program radios. To date, more than 7,000 mobile and portable radios have been upgraded to the rapidly expanding system that has moved from an analog-based to a digital-based system. The move to a digital network allows the use of voice encryption to prevent "electronic eavesdropping," "a less than desirable characteristic that presented a significant vulnerability especially along the border," explained Tryhorn.

According to Libbert, "the Repeater Team is accomplishing its mission in three phases." Phase One is the equipment upgrade from analog to digital.

"This involves team members traveling to each Border Patrol station where they set up an assembly line type of procedure to program the new radios in the vehicles," said Libbert. "As agents return from their respective shifts, they turn in their old radios for new ones that are calibrated and programmed for the new system," he further explained.

Air Force Capt. Karen Koenig, Repeater Team officer in charge, stated "our Phase Two efforts will involve numerous structural and equipment upgrades, concentrating on the 56 sites so that they are all brought up to 21st century standards."

Libbert described Phase Three as "being the installation of additional equipment at each site which will enhance and maintain the ability for all sites to be integrated; this will include increased power supplies, additional radio repeaters and the finetuning necessary that will eventually provide for

(Cont. on Page 20)



Florida Air National Guard, Master Sgt. Dale Tryhorn of Deltone, Fla., points to the racks of hardware used in the construction of repeater towers throughout Arizona.



Editor's Note: This story is the first in an on-going series spotlighting the National Guard Heritage Painting Series. It was recently determined that Operation Jump Start would be depicted in one such painting. Look to future articles to learn more about the series and the OJS painting.

In 1916, the United States came under attack by Mexican rebels. Our country responded in kind by mobilizing the entire National Guard to patrol the southern border in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The effort made by those Guardsmen was later immortalized in a painting and is one in a series of commemorative pieces that serves to visually characterize the rich, 370-year history of the National Guard. This initiative came to be known as the National Guard Heritage Painting Series.

As far back as June 1960, a Committee for "National Guard in Action" Paintings met and reported to the Office of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, according to William Boehm, a historian with the National Guard Bureau's Historical Services Division. The committee outlined "ground rules" to highlight units from around the nation, and specified preference to existing National Guard units in dramatic episodes of national importance.

The inaugural canvas in the heritage series is "The Whites of their Eyes," by artist Ken Riley, which depicts the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

Originally, it was recommended that the Battle of Lexington be the subject of the first painting, said Boehm, but that selection changed by the following year.

"One reason given for this choice," explained Boehm, "was the fact that the oldest Army organization in the New World, descended from the first Massachusetts militia units from the First Muster of 1636, was represented at Bunker Hill."

Another account, offered in a 1962 issue of the NATIONAL GUARDSMAN magazine, claims that it was Massachusetts' status as the birthplace of the Militia and, to a large extent, of the National Guard, that prompted the selection of the Battle of Bunker Hill, a clash fought on Massachusetts soil. And, although the battle was not the first fought by the American Militia, it was the first engagement of the new American Army, born not many weeks before when General George Washington took overall command of Militia units assembled for the siege of Boston.

On September 25, 1962, the first original Heritage Painting was presented at the White House to President John F. Kennedy – from appropriately, if not ironically, Massachusetts. The small but dignified event took place just weeks before his assassination.

During the ceremony, President Kennedy commended the Guard for its long and distinguished history of service. Then he said something that many debated until very recently.

"There are those who argue that we really don't have so much need for a Guard, that war has changed so materially that we

(Cont. on Page 20)



# Chaplain's Corner

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

A good friend sent me this thought provoking story. I can't verify its authenticity, but the moral of the story fits our fast paced and hectic lives.

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street,

going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting,

"What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic.

"Please, mister ... please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop ...." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car.

"It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

It is sad that we don't take the time to listen to those who are closest to us, or who need our help. We drive on as fast as we can for we believe our destination is more important than the journey. We also need to make time to stop and listen to God. He whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes we don't have time to listen and a brick has to be thrown at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

If you do need someone to listen, there are chaplains teams available for you. If you need some help, please contact me, Chaplain Butler, at 602-267-2077. I don't want you to throw a brick at me to get my attention.

#### A Word On Safety

Staff Sgt. Thomas Burke Operation Jump Start - Arizona Safety NCO

I would like to welcome everyone back from the holidays. It is great to know we did not have any accidents for all those that were on leave or who stayed in the area over the holidays.

I would also like to commend Task Force Yuma on going 32 days without an accident. Task Force Raven is doing great also. They have gone approximately six months without an accident. The soldiers from the CSMS shop in Phoenix have gone with out an accident also. It is with leadership and guidance from our junior NCOs' and leaders that such milestones may be reached.

It is important that senior leadership talks about the importance of safety. But more importantly that it is seen and recognized, and to let all the Soldiers and Airmen know what a good job is being done.

In the course of our mission, change seems to be the norm. With the rush and changing of missions it is easy to forget to tell someone thanks or pat them on the back for the great job doing it safely. Therefore, I would like to take a moment and say thank you to all of you. We are doing great things.

Please keep up the good work and look out for your teammates. NCOs take charge and lead the way. Keep the backbone strong.

We have been on the mission eighteen months plus. In the next few months we will be turning in equipment. There may seem to be a rush to get it done. But with the planning and guidance from our leadership we will have ample time to accomplish the missions ahead.

You may need to step back and take a deep breath. Just remember no mission is worth having someone hurt or equipment damaged because we got in a hurry.

Please don't just talk and think safety. Be safe and watch out for each other.

Story and photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

# Paintball Training Prepares EIT Guardsmen

PHOENIX, Ariz. - Armed National Guardsmen standing at fixed and mobile points along the border, working with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, staunching the flow of illegal immigrants coming across the vast expanse of the Southwestern border – they are the Soldiers and Airmen of Operation Jump Start's Entry Identification Teams (EIT), perhaps the most visible and politically-charged aspect of this two-year, presidentially mandated, mission.

But before those Guardsmen can take their place along the border they must complete a day's worth of training that will prepare them for the many issues they'll face along the more than 370 miles of border between Arizona and Mexico.

"What we try to do in these scenarios is present to the Guardsmen the many different types of situations they may potentially face when working at an EIT location," said Fenton, Mo., resident, Air Force Tech. Sgt Christopher Roode.

By trade, Roode is a military police officer with the 131st Security Forces Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard. He's served on EIT sites and worked as a sergeant of the guard since coming on the operation in August 2006. He is also one of several Servicemembers who'll put these Soldiers and Airmen through a rigorous training environment.

"There are five different scenarios we'll put these guys through," said Roode. "Two of the scenarios are intended to be non-fire situations, one set-up could go either way and the last

two are firing situations."

With that, Roode noted that depending upon the reactions of the team members, each of the training situations has the potential to go very, very wrong.

"Even with the non-fire situations, my evaluators take their queue from the team. If the team does something potentially threatening, such as point their rifle at someone, my evaluators will respond accordingly," he said.

Prior to the Guardsmen picking up their paintball rifles, they're given a quick review of the Rules of Engagement, weapons handling, and an overview of what they might encounter. The group of 20 or so Soldiers and Airmen are broken down into two teams and told to pick a team leader, radio operator, medic and other key personnel.

"Typically we would prefer to have the groups be about four to six individuals just for simplicity sake," said Roode.

Once the group's chain of command is established, Roode and his team go over basic radio communications, call signs and brief the team leader on the situation. The first such scenario seems easy; the

team leader must take his team from the drop off point and walk about 100 meters to the EIT location. Just barely into the mission and things start to happen.

"Ok, just as you're about to cross the road, a black SUV comes screaming by and fires several rounds at your team," Roode yells to the group. "Team leader, what do you do?!"

Chaos descends upon the group as they scramble to find cover and determine what they should do next. Roode tries



10



Airmen with the Massachusetts Air National Guard treat the wounded during a paintball training scenario at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix. Upon completion of the training, the Airmen will man Entry Identification Team locations as part of Operation Jump Start - Arizona.

to offers suggestions as to possible courses of action but with this being the groups' first lesson, the suggestions are falling on deaf ears. Roode calls a halt to the scenario.

"Ok team leader, tell me what happened there," Roode says.

Senior Airman Emilio Garcia with the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Security Forces is the team lead. He's obviously still trying to process everything that just happened, how his team responded and what could have been done better. He tries to get a consensus from his team members but the responses are flying fast and furious, Roode steps in and gets the conversation back on track.

"You've got to remember all of your options," said Roode, "once you came under fire, you could have just as easily gone back to the drop-off location and waited for CBP to pick you up."

The team begins the scenario again,

this time responding correctly and getting to their EIT location. There are a few glitches; the radio operator calls in with the wrong call-sign, but overall the team does well.

Before Roode and his evaluators

can certify the team, the group will face a rancher who no longer wants the Guardsmen on his property; a Mexican national very angry the Guardsmen have slowed down his human smuggling operation and wants revenge, as well as three American citizens in need of assistance after their all terrain vehicle flips, pinning one of them underneath it

"This has really been some great training," says Garcia. "I wasn't expecting some of the scenarios we faced out here – they make you stop and think and consider all of your options and there are plenty of options."

Garcia and his team will head to the U.S. Border Patrol Tucson Sector where they'll stand EIT duties in Nogales, Douglas, and other areas of responsibilities.

"I feel much more confident now, getting ready to get out there," said Garcia. "This training has really opened my eyes to all the different situations we just might find ourselves in and I feel, at a minimum, better prepared."



Evaluator Tech. Sgt. Christopher Roode, 131st Security Forces Squadron, Missouri Air National Guard with Joint Task Force Arizona, instructs a group of Airmen on the proper handling of the paintball rifle during an Entry Indentification Team training scenario.





Sgt. Michael Proscia, 259th Security Forces, Arizona National Guard was one of several Soldiers recognized for their service prior to the start of the Insight Bowl featuring the college football teams of Indiana University and Oklahoma State University.



The city of Tempe, Ariz., welcomed in the New Year with one of the largest block parties in the country. Soldiers and Airmen of Operation Jump Start - Arizona were provided an opportunity to attend the event when Tri-Care West provided OJS with nearly 200 tickets.



rings holiday cheer to, from le t their Tucson home on Chr Force Tucson, contacted the S ason and provided the Bush



Friends, families and loved-ones of the 640th Aviation Support Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, Arizona Arn Guard, welcome home their Soldiers, Jan. 25, during a ceremony at Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix.



liams, center right, representing Task Force Tucson, ft, Jordan, Amanda, John, Cassandra and Jasmyn Bush stmas Eve 2007. The Soldiers and Airmen of Task alvation Army to sponsor a family during the holiday family with over \$500 in presents and gift cards.

nin Cossel

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Realizing that a hungry troop isn't a happy troop, Pvt. Seth Merrill, 19, with the Michigan Army National Guard, tends to a small barbeque grill loaded with enough hot dogs to feed a small army - otherwise known as a platoon - of Guardsmen working on the border in support of Operation Jump Start in Douglas, Ariz.

Photo by Capt. Kristine Munn



Senior Patrol Agent Dove Haber of Border Patrol's Tucson Sector public affairs office and Operation Jump Start's Task Force Tucson command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Griswold, discuss the positive impact of Guardsmen working in support of Operation Jump Start.



In the background, a Border Patrol agent keeps vigilance over the area while Soldiers with the Michigan Army National Guard assigned to the engineering element of Operation Jump Start, Task Force Diamondback, weld together steel railroad rails which are being recycled to form part of the fence in Douglas, Ariz.

#### **Task Force Yuma Celebrates More Than a Month Accident Free**

Story and photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

YUMA, Ariz. – Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Randy Handel is the safety noncommissioned officer (NCO) for Task Force Yuma. Handel has a pretty good idea why every Soldier and Airman from the task force is sitting in the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation tent, Jan. 7, at Forward Operating Base Cannon, kicking back, eating freshfrom-the-grill hamburgers and hotdogs, laughing and generally having a good time.

"This is a task force that has bought into safety as a core value and implemented safety from the lowest to highest ranking individual within the task force," said Handel.

For 32 days, beginning in early December, the Soldiers and Airmen of Task Force Yuma went about their daily missions – entry identification teams, vehicle mechanics, and the other myriad tasks assisting the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol agents of the Yuma Sector, without a single safety violation or incident.

Handel decided to throw a party celebrating the milestone.

"It's really important for people to see that it's not just all talk. That people are watching and paying attention," said Joint Task Force-Arizona, safety NCO, Army Staff Sgt. Tom Burke, who made the trip to Yuma from Phoenix to offer congratulations to the Guardsmen of Task Force Yuma.

Handel noted that the task force's impressive accomplishment was no accident and had everything to do with the safety plan implemented.

"When I came on board as the safety NCO, the first thing I did was sit down and write a comprehensive safety plan," said Handel.

Handel supported the safety program for Team Falcon in Tucson and was trained and certified by United Parcel Service (UPS) in safety as a civilian. As Operation Jump Start began the early stages of a planned drawdown, the need for Task Force Falcon no longer existed. Many of the Soldiers and Airmen found homes in different task forces within the state, Handel landed with Task Force Yuma. When he began

annotate when they correct a safety concern on the spot, and what corrective action was taken. Another important part of the concern log is complimenting service members when they do the job right the first time with safety in mind.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Burke, Joint Task Force - Arizona safety noncommissioned officer and Chief Master Sgt. Randy Handel cook food on the grill celebrating Task Force Yuma's 32 days without a safety violation.

his new job, injuries and accidents were running an average of three a month and some serious.

"The safety plan we put into place included safety representatives at each work site and location who carry with them what we call a concern log," said Handel.

Handel explained that within the concern log, the safety representatives

"This allows reinforcement of safe behavior and continues to show safety as a real value to the individual and the task force," said Handel.

Also part of the safety plan, is a regular meeting of the task force's safety representatives.

"All the safety representatives from the entire workforce gather once a month for our safety meeting where we review the past month, what the issues were and how they were corrected," said Handel.

Handel said that not only does the regular meeting allow the representatives to catch up on new initiatives, but with the review of the concerns logs, representatives can hear how different locations addressed often similar problems.

"Also a key part of the overall safety plan, is making sure that safety is talked about every day," Handel said.

To that end, the day's safety message is passed during guard mounts. Safety notes and messages are posted throughout the task force headquarters and leadership drills safety into every thing the task force does.

"The overall success of safety as a core value would not have succeeded here were it not for the fact that leadership has deeply bought into the concept," said Burke.

Task Force commander, Army Maj. Christopher Emmons, carries a concern log with him at all times and regularly attends the monthly meetings.

"Safety is one of those things that has to be leadership from the front," Emmons. said "Too often, with everything commander has on their plate, it's easy for things like safety to get pushed to the background and we only think about it when something bad happens," he said.

"With Chief's (Handel) aggressive safety plan, we're making sure that it stays at the forefront of our thought and actions," Emmons explained.

While safety at the jobsites is important, Handel wants to make sure that Soldiers and Airmen make safety a part of the regular planning in all facets of their lives.

"The more you do to implement safety at the job level, the more people make it a part of their life," said Handel who noted that many accidents occur during off-duty hours.

"Safety rubs off and people think

about it not only when they're in uniform, but when they're at home," Handel said.

On Jan. 6, while at drill, one of the task force Soldiers was involved in an incident bringing the task force's string of accident-free days to an end. Even though the Soldier was on a drilling status for the Arizona National Guard and not working for OJS at the time, because the Soldier is on OJS orders, the incident counted against the task force's record.

"But its ok," said Handel. "We'll keep doing what we do and perhaps we'll break this mark the next time around."



Soldiers of Task Force Yuma enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs and some time off celebrating 32 consecutive days without a safe<mark>ty violation.</mark>

# Task Force Diamondback Overcomes Obstacles, Cultures to Complete Mission Story and photos by Sgt. Benjamin Cossel

SAN MIGUEL, Ariz. – If two's company and three's a crowd, the Guardsmen of Operation Jump Start (OJS) – Arizona's Task Force Diamondback certainly have their hands full in an 80-mile stretch of the Sonoran Desert.

Between San Miguel and Ajo, both in Arizona, sits the reservation of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Nation's land encompasses 2.8 million, noncontiguous acres, some of which stretch between the United States and Mexico. Accustomed to moving freely between the two countries, the Tohono Nation doesn't recognize the international boundary between the two. Nonetheless, one of the key objectives of OJS is to put fencing in strategic throttle-points along the Southwestern border.

Responsible for miles of border fencing separating the United States and Mexico in Arizona, Task Force

Diamondback is the engineering component in the multi-faceted mission that is OJS, whereby National Guard troops work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection who guard the Southwestern border in California, New Mexico, Texas, and Arizona.

"This whole fence project through the reservation, all of it was table-topped for over a year before we began construction," explained Tucson resident, Army Master Sgt. Michael Gregory, project noncommissioned officer in charge, Task Force Diamondback..

Table-topped military lingo planning out a project with key members before work begin. In addition to coordinating with different the councils that make up the Nation, Task

Force Diamondback sat down with representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency and archeologists from around the state.

Mostly non-nomadic craftsmen and traders, the Tohono O'odham lived in the same geographical area for centuries with new towns built upon the remains of old - with so much history in one relative location, archeological finds riddle the reservation. Also on the reservation are federally protected saguaro and barrel cactuses, as well as several species of endangered frogs, fish and migratory birds.

"At each one of our work sites there is at least an archeological and Tohono Nation monitor making sure that we stay within the parameters agreed upon," said Gregory.

The parameters include sticking to the 100 or so feet, marked off by guide sticks, the Soldiers and Airmen have to work within, making sure that fencing gives a six-foot berth to saguaro cactuses and three-foot to the barrel cactuses. Open posts are covered so as not to cause a hazard to birds who might make a nest in them and when items of archeological significance are discovered, all work at the project comes to a screeching halt.

Ivan is one such monitor with the Tohono Nation. On this chilly January day, Ivan stands watching the work-crews with his hands stuffed in the pockets of his tan Carhartt jacket, the hood up over a black knit cap keeping him warm.

"I certainly understand how America would want to close off their borders after 9/11," he says as he breathes on his hands to warm them.

Ivan is careful in his words, very aware of the politically sensitive nature of the agreement between the United States and the Tohono in this endeavor. Many in the Nation don't support the fencing



Army Sgt. Romualdo Hernandez with the Arizona Army National Guard's 220th Transportation Company moves a temporary vehicle barrier into place on the Tohono Nation Reservation.



project and some are openly hostile to it, Ivan said.

But Ivan and most members of the tribe agree that the Soldiers and Airmen of Task Force Diamondback have been very obliging to the Nation noting that once the fencing is complete, the task force has agreed to reseed areas disrupted during the construction process.

"Working with all these

bollard-style, vehicle barriers, temporary vehicle barriers, Normandy and post-on-rail, Gregory said.

The different style of barriers proved something of a logistical challenge to the task force who could no longer focus their resources on fabricating a singular type of fencing as each style requires its own unique skill set. The task force was also

uninhibited."

The fence made such freedom of movement near impossible; the solution was to add gates along the way.

"You and me, we can't come through these gates," says Gregory, "you have to be a card carrying member of the Nation in order to use them."

Archeologists, Tohono Nation monitors, biologists



Staff Sgt. Gary Patterson of the Georgia Air National Guard's 283rd Combat Communications Squadron, deployed to Operation Jump Start – Arizona's Task Force Diamondback, shovels dirt into the hollow permanent vehicle barriers in San Miguel, Ariz.

constraints has certainly made this project one of the more challenging I've been apart of," Gregory said.

Also worked out between the different councils was the style of fencing used.

"Some of the districts wanted permanent vehicle barriers, some of them wanted Normandy style barriers," said Gregory.

All told, the task force uses four different styles of fencing; permanent, asked to put in gates at several locations along the fenceline.

A lone Border Patrol agent sits in his truck guarding what is possibly the quietest point of entry in all of Arizona.

"Members of the nation have moved freely between Mexico and the United States for as long as they've been on this land," said Gregory. "To them there is no such thing as an international boundary here, this is their land and they expect to walk across it and other organizations breathing down your neck would be enough to make anyone on the job nervous but that's only the tip of the iceberg for these Servicemembers working in such a remote location.

"Oh lets see, when the rains comes, getting back to the work site is nearly impossible," Gregory said explaining that during one

(Cont. on Page 21)

#### Tohono O'odham

The Tohono O'odham Nation is comparable in size to the state of Connecticut. four non-contiguous segments total more than 2.8 million acres at an elevation of 2,674 feet. Within its land the Nation has established an Industrial Park that is located near Tucson. Tenants of the Industrial Park include Caterpillar, the maker of heavy equipment; the Desert Diamond Casino, an enterprise of the Nation; and, a 23-acre foreign trade zone.

The lands of the Nation are located within the Sonoran Desert in south central Arizona. The largest community, Sells, functions as the Nation's capital.

Of the four land bases, the largest contains more than 2.7 million acres. Boundaries begin south of Casa Grande and encompass parts of Pinal and Pima Counties before continuing south into Mexico.

San Xavier is the second largest land base, and contains 71,095 acres just south of the city of Tucson. The smaller parcels include the 10,409-acre San Lucy District, located near the city of Gila Bend, and the 20-acre Florence Village, which is located near the city of Florence.

The landscape is consistently compelling: a wide desert valley, interspersed with plains and marked by mountains that rise abruptly to nearly 8,000 feet.

As of December, 2000, the population was reported at nearly 24,000 people.

#### **Troops, Civilian Employees Must Follow Rules for Political Activities**

As U.S. Servicemembers and Defense Department civilians ponder candidates during the election season, they should realize there are limits placed upon their involvement in certain political activities.

Political-related "dos and don'ts" pertaining to military members of all service branches are described within Defense Department Directive 1344.10, titled: Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces on Active Duty.

The federal Hatch Act delineates what federal civilians, including those working for the Defense Department, may or may not do in the political realm.

For example, servicemembers and

For example, servicemembers and government civilians may attend political events like meetings and rallies, but military members must only be spectators and not wear their uniforms.

In addition, troops aren't permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity within political groups, or take part in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

Under Hatch Act rules, government civilians may be active in and speak

before political gatherings or serve as officers of political parties or partisan groups. They're also allowed to manage political campaigns, distribute literature (except at work), write political articles, or serve as spokespersons for political parties or candidates.

Military members generally aren't allowed to campaign for political office. Civilians can campaign for office in non-partisan elections. Partisan political activity is defined as activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group.

Yet, basic rules apply to both military members and government civilians. Neither can use their position in the military or the government to influence or interfere with elections. Servicemembers and federal civilians never can engage in political activity on the job,

government vehicle, or while wearing an official uniform.

For example, Servicemembers and government civilians are not to distribute political literature at work. This also applies to politically partisan electronic mail messages forwarded over the Internet.

Servicemembers and government civilians are encouraged to exercise their right to vote and participate in the democratic process. But, they should know there are rules in place that govern the extent of their involvement in political activities.

#### **Force Protection / Border Security**

NCIS has received information that fraudulent Department of Defense Common Access Cards (CAC) are being created, possibly in Mexico and Peru. NCIS is aware of two incidents of attempted use of these fraudulent cards, including one incident at the San Ysidro Port of Entry in California, where a person attempted to use a fraudulent CAC to illegally gain entry to the United States.

On the front of the card, the hologram does not properly illuminate when the card is rotated. Additionally, the gold chip feels raised to the touch. Misspellings have been noted on the rear of the card, such as abbreviating September as "SET." Although there are no known instances of individuals using these cards to gain entry to DoD installations, personnel assigned at Entry Control Points to DoD installations must remain vigilant for indicators of fraudulent identification. A mere cursory glance at the front of the card would not reveal this identification as fraudulent.

For additional information contact the Counterterrorism Unit of the NCIS Southwest Field Office at (619) 556-5306.



#### **Program Assists Military Voters**

For Federal Voting Assistance Program officials, getting deployed troops and their families engaged in the current election season is a primary goal. Absentee voters fill out a federal postcard application form to request a ballot and send it into their local election official where the voter is legally authorized to vote. Copies of the application form are available at military installations and at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Website. Voting assistance officers are stationed at military installations abroad to assist Servicemembers in navigating the registration process and election procedures. For more information, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at http://www.fvap.gov/

#### **5 Hot Careers for Veterans in 2008**

The following five career fields are generally considered the most sought after by military veterans. Coincidentally, according to the Department of Labor's 2008-2009 Occupational Outlook Handbook, these career fields are among the best employment prospects through 2016.

- 1. Computer Science/Network Systems Management: Bachelor's to Master's degree, \$38,000 to \$145,000
- 2. Health Care Administration: Associate's through Master's degree, \$45,000 to \$128,000
- 3. Human Resource Management: Bachelor's to Master's degree, \$51,000 to \$98,000
- 4. Training and Education: Bachelor's to Master's degree, \$33,000 to \$141,000

5. Law Enforcement: High School Diploma through Master's degree, \$27,000 to \$104,000 If you don't have a degree, don't panic. There are several online degree programs available that will help you fulfill the educational requirements necessary to get any of these jobs. In fact you can request free information

about online degree programs that will meet your educational and professional goals at http://www.naccrra.org

#### **Employment Resources**

**USAJOBS** -- Find multiple tools and valuable resources here for all U.S. Veterans - job opportunities, forms, benefits, and program information as well as training assistance for private sector employment.

Online at: http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/veteranscenter/

Veterans' Employment & Training Service (U.S. Department of Labor) -- The mission statement for VETS is to provide veterans and transitioning Servicemembers with the resources and services to succeed in the 21st century workforce by maximizing their employment opportunities, protecting their employment rights and meeting labor-market demands with qualified veterans.

Online at: http://www.dol.gov/vets/

**Veteran Employment** -- The first place to look for veteran jobs. In partnership with Monster.com, veterans, active duty, Guard and Reserve can search for thousands of jobs for veterans from employers who value military experience. Plus a special section for security clearance jobs.

Online at: http://www.veteranemployment.com/

**Army Resume Builder**. -- Online resume submission form which allows you to preposition your resume in response to any Army employment opportunity.

Online at: http://www.cpol.army.mil/

**CivilianJobs.com** -- A suite of services that help America's top companies find military-experienced talent. Their online job board, job fairs and military-based publication, coupled with unique pre-matching process delivers valuable talent to hiring managers and terrific job opportunities to ex-military job seekers.

Online at: http://www.civilianjobs.com/



#### (Cont. from Page 8)

should have an Army continuously large enough to meet any conceivable crisis, and that the role of the Guard is somewhat secondary. I don't agree with that," he declared.

The President accepted the painting and decreed that it would hang in the Fish Room of the White House so that it would be seen by all who visited there. After JFK was killed in November 1963, the painting was warehoused as the Kennedy Library was being planned for later construction in Boston, said Boehm. Cataloged as a gift to the President and the White House, it is the only Heritage Painting to hold this designation.

The National Guard Heritage Painting Series has been ongoing ever since, forgiving a short break in the 1970s, with

a total of 75 completed illustrations. The National Guard and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only services with combat art series that have been in continuous operation - other components occasionally produce paintings, but not every year as a regularly occurring project.

If you are a member of the general public, you can order Heritage Prints, Presidential Prints, or State Mission Prints by regular mail. The prints are free, but there is a limit on how many can be ordered. If you represent a National Guard unit, you may order larger quantities of prints, but you must do so through your state public affairs officer. For more information visit www.ngb. army.mil and click on the "Resources" tab.

#### **Patriot Guard Riders in Arizona**



The Patriot Guard Riders are an amalgamation of riders from across the nation. Honor Guard Detachment when laying our fallen heros to rest. (Description of org/)

#### (Cont. from Page 6)

real-time voice communication nationwide among a broad array of agencies."

"Initially, the focus of these installations and upgrades will be on establishing better communications among Border Patrol and the state, county, and local law enforcement agencies that assist in the securing of the border," stated Libbert.

Added Calvert, "Once the border is secured, the system will be allowed to expand to accommodate other public service agencies. Eventually, one will be able to punch a button and get on another agency's network."

When asked about the impact of having three senior non-commissioned officers from Florida, Capt. Koenig, a member of the Nebraska Air Guard, lauded the situation.

"Having already been on mission in Florida," she said, "the presence of these Guardsmen has added immensely to this team's continuity and corporate memory. The managerial ability and technical expertise brought in was done so without any spin up."

"Using Air Guard personnel for this challenging task has proven to be most cost effective and efficient because their alreadyexisting qualifications and skills were a perfect fit for the task at hand," stated Army Lt. Col. Robert White, commander of Task Force Diamondback, the parent command of the Repeater Team.

Within the last year, more than 60 Air National Guardsmen have rotated through the Repeater Team's ranks, all of whom have contributed to the team's unprecedented success. While Operation Jump Start's announced mission end date is July 2008, the Repeater Team continues to enthusiastically work toward the accomplishment of their phased goals. When finished, their legacy will be the vastly improved voice and data communications network that will enhance coordination among the U.S. Border Patrol and the other federal, state, and local agencies that all play a significant role in maintaining a secure border with Mexico.

#### (Cont. from Page 17)

such period, his operations were halted for nearly two weeks as the rain turned roads into veritable deathtraps for the heavy machinery needed for the job.

"And on occasion we've had the Mexican Army come up on our location with crew-served weapons," Gregory added. "Often times, the members of the Mexican Army and police aren't in any sort of uniform so you don't know who's coming up on you, they could just as easily be a band of armed drug smugglers," he said.

Traditionally, the area in which the Guardsmen work was rife with drug trafficking as smugglers brought their vehicle loads through the reservation onto hardtop roadway barely a half mile past the worksite. Many of the Soldiers and Airmen speak of the drug house barely hidden from sight on the Mexico side of things a few hundred yards away from the fencing.

"Every so often warring factions of drug smugglers will set fire to the house," Gregory says as he points out the roof of the structure, "and sooner or later,



Michigan Army National Guardsman, Spc. Mark Young with the 63rd Transportation Company deployed to Task Force Diamondback, Operation Jump Start – Arizona attaches a piece of fencing to a crane in San Miguel, Ariz.

someone would come back and rebuild it. They stage their drugs there for movement north into the United States."

Gregory notes that all of his troops working on the line know the procedures

in the event such incidents occur, where the rally points are and how they are to react.

And then there is the constant cat and mouse game played between illegal immigrants and the Servicemembers on the task force.

"See that white flag hanging from that tree," Gregory says, "that's a marker to let the illegal's know this is the spot where they're working on an area of our fencing to take it down."

Gregory explains that someone will approach the fence with a digging bar and back and forth work the welded joints on the fence.

"Then they come along with horses, ATV's, or trucks and move the fence out of the way," he said.

Fixing cut spots keeps plenty of the Guardsmen busy.

But through it all, Gregory and his troops labor on, committed to completing as much of the project as possible until the day in mid-July when this Presidentially mandated mission draws to an end.

"There's a lot of work still to do," says Gregory, "but we'll keep on and get as much done as we can."

#### **International Boundary Markers**



The Gadsden Purchase Treaty of December 30, 1853, extended the southern boundary of New Mexico and Arizona southwards to enable the United States to construct a railroad to the West Coast along a southern route and to resolve a question arising from the 1848 Treaty as to the location of the southern boundary of New Mexico. Temporary commissions were formed by these boundary treaties to perform the first joint mission of the governments of the United States and Mexico, which was to survey and demarcate the boundary on the ground in accordance with the treaties. Monuments were erected on those spots and would contiue to be erected in later years. Over the years, the monumets have become the targets of vandals as is the case in the depicted monument located in San Miguel, Ariz.



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## "What we have once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

Helen Keller



It is with great sorrow that Chief David Aguilar and I inform you of the death of Senior Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar, of the Yuma, Arizona Border Patrol Station.

Agent Aguilar died in the line of duty after being struck by a vehicle driven by a suspected narcotics smuggler in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area near Andrade, Calif.

Agent Aguilar began his career with the United States Border Patrol when he entered on duty July 21, 2002, as a member of the 519th Session of the Border Patrol Academy. Agent Aguilar was assigned to the Yuma Border Patrol Station since his graduation from the Academy.

Agent Aguilar was 32 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife and two children. He is also survived by his brother, Senior Patrol Agent Marcos Aguilar, assigned to the Nogales Border Patrol Station in the Tucson Sector.

Agent Aguilar's death serves as another stark reminder of the risks our front-line agents and officers face each day as we strive to secure America's borders. This despicable act will only strengthen our resolve to continue securing our borders even in the face of increased violence.

We are already working today with support from many federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and the full cooperation of Mexican law enforcement and military authorities to find Agent Aguilar's killers and bring them to justice.

On behalf of the entire U.S. Customs and Border Protection family, Chief Aguilar and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Agent Aguilar.

W. Ralph Basham

