

Battle Born



Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard - Summer 2017

NEVADA SWEEPS REGIONAL BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION

SOLDIERS TOP
REGION VII
FIELD IN CALIF.

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MEET SAM, THE NEVADA GUARD'S 1ST OPENLY TRANSGENDER SOLDIER
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GUARD'S LEMMON VALLEY FLOOD RESPONSE PROVES HISTORIC
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HIGH ROLLERS READY TO RESPOND DURING FIRE SEASON
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Battle Born

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*ON THE COVER: Spc. Grant Reimers of the 1859th Light Medium Transportation Company traverses the vertical rope climb on the obstacle course during the Region 7 Best Warrior Competition at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., in May.
Photo by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza, Calif. National Guard Public Affairs.*

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DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP



Photo courtesy of the 485th Military Police Company
Soldiers assigned to the 485th Military Police Company pose for a photo at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait during their deployment.

Home means Nevada: All Army Guard units home following 485th's return

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – With the 485th Military Police Company's return from Kuwait in July, nearly every Soldier in the Nevada Army Guard is home to enjoy the Silver State's summer. The current homebound status of the Nevada Army is a sharp contrast to autumn 2015, when more than 460 Nevada Soldiers were deployed abroad.

The 485th Military Police Company, headquartered in Reno, was the last of four Army Guard units tasked to complete international missions since 2015. The 485th performed customs operations from October 2016 until June in Kuwait and other Middle East countries. The unit assisted in the redeployment of U.S. military personnel and equipment

from the Central Command Area of Responsibility to the customs territory of the United States in accordance with Customs Border Protection, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Department of Defense agencies.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Vogt hugs his 6-year-old son Gavin during the unit's deployment return from Kuwait at Atlantic Aviation in Reno, July 6, 2017.

The 485th completed over 3,500 customs missions entailing about \$26 billion of equipment and valuables during its nine-month tour. The unit's missions supported all branches of the U.S. military and its allies in far-flung locations including Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates and Jordan.

The Soldiers also supported Military Working Dog teams throughout CENTCOM by coordinating the teams' movements within the theater of operations. They also assisted in missions in Oman and on behalf of Saudi Arabia.

During their nine months abroad, 485th Soldiers won their brigade's Best Warrior Competition, four Soldiers of the Week awards and four Non-commissioned Officer of the Month awards.



Photo sequence by Sgt. Walter Lowell; Below photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

TOP: Magician Justin Impossible pulls off an amazing trick by conjuring up the appearance of Bravo Company 1st Sgt. Ben Krainbrink. BELOW: Zach Krainbrink, 11, rushes the stage to join Ben Krainbrink and brother Drake Krainbrink, 10, after his father's shocking appearance.

Signal 1st Sgt. makes magical return

**By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

RENO – Magician Justin Impossible completed a trick even Harry Houdini would envy when he successfully conjured Nevada Army Guard 1st Sgt. Ben Krainbrink to appear at his son Drake's 10th birthday party here Saturday. The appearance perfectly coincided with the end of Krainbrink's nearly one-year deployment to Kuwait with Bravo Company, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

Impossible was about 10 minutes into his show at Impossible's Magic Shop and Theatre when he disappeared behind a blue curtain. Seconds later, to the disbelief of several dozen partygoers, Krainbrink appeared from behind the magical curtain. His return during the show marked the first time his boys, Drake, 10, and Zach, 11, had seen their dad since a brief meeting in Texas 10 months ago before Bravo Company departed for the Middle East.

After some quick hugs and smiles, Drake was once again entranced by Impossible's magic show and was on stage wielding a huge magical wand.

"Of course this was my best birthday party," said pragmatic Drake following the show. "We had a magic show, the



news crews came to my party, and my Dad came back.

"It was fun. I missed him a lot."

Krainbrink, 38, of Reno, said he and his wife, Christina, first thought about the potential for a magical reunion one year ago when Impossible's was the host for Drake's 9th birthday party. In Decem-

ber, with Bravo Company's return date fairly firm, the couple decided a memorable party at Impossible's was indeed possible.

"You are never 100 percent certain it will work out; I actually arrived in Reno with days to spare," Krainbrink said.

The Soldiers in Bravo Company spent about one week at Fort Hood, Texas, in mid-February after returning to the United States at the conclusion of their deployment.

Krainbrink said he spent the days before the party sequestered at a Reno hotel and he even had to hide from relatives he spotted while shopping at a local store.

Krainbrink was even able to surprise his mother, Roxanne Luce of Grass Valley, Calif., with his surprise reappearance in northern Nevada.

Bravo Company and the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion's Horn of Africa contingent hosted their official Welcome Home Ceremony on April 9.

DROP ZONE



Photo courtesy of Erik Verduzco Las Vegas Review-Journal.

BOULDER CITY, Nev. — Korean War Soldier Pfc. Manuel M. Quintana's great nephew, Nevada National Guard Staff Sgt. Nicholas Mapes (right), presents the American Flag to his great grandmother, Mary Moreno, during Quintana's funeral at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in May in Boulder City. Quintana was listed as missing in action in 1950. His body was identified this year through DNA and dental analysis. He was buried in Nevada because his oldest living relative, Moreno, lives in Las Vegas. The Nevada Army Guard's Honor Guard participated in the funeral service.



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

STEAD, Nev. — Soldiers at the Army Aviation Support Facility scamper to clear the area after sling-loading a 5,000-pound condemned storage container to a 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion CH-47 Chinook helicopter in April. The Soldiers helped clear the Army Aviation Support Center in conjunction with Earth Day 2017.



LINCOLN, Neb. — The Nevada National Guard's two entrants in the 40th annual National Guard/Lincoln Track Club Marathon, Capt. Liberty Reyes and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Murphy, race to the finish of the 26.2-mile footrace together inside the University of Nebraska's football stadium in early May. Reyes finished 18th out of the 31 women entered in the National Guard competition with the time of 4 hours, 4 minutes. She captured third place in the National Guard women's 35-39 division and narrowly missed making the All-Guard team by just 21 seconds. Murphy was 63rd out of the 88 National Guard finishers. (Note the clock does not match their finish time due to their later wave start.) For information on competing for the Nevada Guard in 2018, call 775-887-7250.



Photo courtesy Staff Sgt. Joe Rutski, Medical Detachment

CAMP ETHAN ALLEN, Vt. — Spc. Jason Bang of the Medical Detachment glides his way to the finish line to help the Nevada Guard biathlon team to its 18th place finish in the 30-kilometer relay at the Chief of the National Guard Bureau biathlon championships in March. The championships are set for Utah in 2018; call 775-887-7250 if you want to participate in biathlon, the Olympic sport that combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Emerson Marcus

BOISE, Idaho. — A C-130 with the 152nd Airlift Wing, Nevada Air National Guard, drops water in the mountains east of Boise, Idaho as part of the annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training and certification, April 21, 2017. More than 400 personnel of four C-130 Guard and Reserve units — from California, Colorado, Nevada and Wyoming, making up the Air Expeditionary Group — were in Boise for the week-long wildfire training and certification sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service.



Photo courtesy of the 485th Military Police Company

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait— Capt. Mark Goulart (left) and 1st Sgt. Elbie Doege, of the 485th Military Police Company, pose in front of their company sign. The 485th was the last Nevada Army Guard unit deployed overseas this summer. With their return, all Nevada National Guard units are now home from the Middle East.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
Spc. Luis Enrike Gonzalez,
 truck driver with the 1859th
 Transportation Company,
 Nevada National Guard, navi-
 gates a Nevada National Guard
 M1088 light medium tactical
 vehicle through flood water in
 Lemmon Valley last March.

Flood response proves historic

By Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
 Joint Force Headquarters

LEMMON VALLEY, Nev. — With unseasonably warm temperatures in the mid-70s and clear, blue skies prevailing during much of March, the weather in this neighborhood about 10 miles north of Reno seemed better suited for a paradise than a flood scene.

But appearances were deceiving.

For three weeks this month, Nevada National Guard Soldiers and Airmen activated for its largest domestic operation in response to a natural disaster in 20 years as about 140 Soldiers and Airmen moved sandbags for residences and equipment for the construction of a 4-mile HESCO wall — a 4-foot-tall barrier supported by 12,000 yards of sand — in an attempt to alleviate flood damage.

Even with idyllic weather during most of the flood response, more flooding remains inevitable.

That's because a record-setting winter dumped massive amounts of snow in the nearby Sierra mountain range and swelled reservoirs. The snow-water equivalent — depth of water in the mountain snow — measured nearly twice the average rate in the days leading up to the flooding in March.

Meanwhile, the foothills and valleys east of the Sierra broke the total annual rain-

FLOOD RESPONSE BY THE NUMBERS

140

Soldiers and Airmen activated

4

Miles of HESCO wall constructed
 with several other agencies

\$3.5 million

Spent in the overall effort

1997

The last year this many Nevada
 Guardsmen entered state activation

fall record only four months into the water season (water seasons run October through September each year). Those records date back more than a century.

Flooding in the region began in December and portions of the Truckee River in Reno and Sparks flooded in January. The Nevada National Guard responded to several incidents, including areas along the

river and Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, where flooding damaged water pipes and left rural communities without potable water.

“The magnitude of the response and the way Soldiers and Airmen answered the call on short notice truly shows the Nevada Guard’s dedication to its state,” said Brig. Gen. Zachary Doser, Director Joint Staff, Nevada National Guard. “This response will help the citizens of Lemmon Valley. The Guard remains ready to respond to future domestic operations in the face of more potential floods in the region.”

The Truckee River’s levels temporarily subsided after it crested in January, but it became apparent some areas in the region would be prone to snowmelt and rising water as spring began.

No location has experienced more standing water near residences than Lemmon Valley.

Swan Lake — dry during five years of drought before this winter — overflowed and contaminated water sources. Forty-eight homes experienced flood damage and 13 homes were evacuated, according to Washoe County incident reports released during the height of the flooding. More than 300 homes were threatened, according to country reports.

On Feb. 17, President Donald Trump approved Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval’s



request for a major disaster declaration for northern Nevada. In addition to Washoe County, the declaration includes Elko, Humboldt and Douglas counties, as well as the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. That declaration received an extension through March.

The state of Nevada called the National Guard to duty for support at Lemmon Valley in early March. By mid-March, those activations included about 140 Soldiers and Airmen for the entire operation, even larger than activations for the region's wildfires during the drought years.

Working the \$3.5 million flood response effort with several agencies — including the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, Nevada Division of Forestry and Division of Emergency Management — the Nevada National Guard helped deploy one million sandbags and construct the four miles of HESCO wall.

The vast majority of the Soldiers and Airmen activated were “traditional” Guardsmen who work one weekend a month and two weeks each year.

Spc. Robert Baker, one of four Nevada

Army Guard Soldiers who represented Nevada in the Chief of the National Guard Biathlon championships in Vermont the week before the activation this spring, received an email just as he boarded his Reno return flight March 9 that sought volunteers for the Lemmon Valley flood response.

For several days immediately after his cross-country flight, Baker transported sandbags on 12-hour shifts in Lemmon Valley.

“It’s definitely feels like a very long week, but it’s worth it to help people in the community,” Baker said during the activation.

Most of the Soldiers working in Lemmon Valley hailed from the Nevada Army Guard’s 1859th Transportation Company, 609th Engineers, 485th Military Police Company and the 150th Maintenance Company. The activated Airmen represented the 152nd Security Forces and 152nd Civil Engineer squadrons.

“I found out about the activation last night,” Staff Sgt. Jose Gutierrez, of the 152nd, said March 13. “They basically asked if I would be available to come out if need be, but a few hours later I was told to come.”



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

Above: An aerial view taken in April of Lemmon Valley from a Nevada Army Guard Black Hawk. Below: A sign designates a road closure due to flooding in Lemmon Valley this March.

Gutierrez, a full-time criminal justice student at the University of Nevada, Reno, said his professors understood why he might miss class as he works checkpoints to deter potential looters from stealing possessions left in abandoned homes.

“As soon as I let them know I was activated for a state emergency, they were very understanding,” he said. “It’s not fair what’s happening to these people. Being out here to help is the least we can do.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza, Calif. National Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Oswald Sanchez, left, and Spc. Grant Reimers flank Command Sgt. Maj. Jared J. Kopacki, senior enlisted leader, Nevada Military Department and National Guard Bureau Region VII senior enlisted advisor, during the May 19 Awards Banquet. The winners will represent eight states in the National Guard Bureau Best Warrior Competition in Minnesota later this year.

Nevada Soldiers sweep regional Best Warrior Competition

**By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

CAMP SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. – Hardened by an intense interstate contest in April, the Nevada Army Guard’s Spc. Grant Reimers and Sgt. Oswald Sanchez swept the Region VII Best Warrior Competition here in mid-May. Their domination in the Soldier (private to specialist ranks) and non-commissioned officer (sergeant and above) divisions respectively marked the first clean sweep for Nevada Soldiers in the regional competition since the inception of the contest in 2002.

The Army’s Best Warrior Competition tests Soldiers’ physical and mental abilities in a wide range of events, usually including the Army Physical Fitness Test, Warrior Tasks, weapons qualifications, a board appearance and written exam. A wide variety of other Army-based events may also be contested and competitions often include a mystery event that force Soldiers to adapt and overcome unexpected situations.

With their wins, Reimers, 22, of Reno, and Sanchez, 34, of Las Vegas, earned trips to participate in the national Best Warrior contest this summer at Camp Ripley, Minn. (Check NevadaGuard.com for latest

results.) They were mentored by a former regional winner, Julian Batz, who won the Soldier division in 2012. Batz, now 25 and a staff sergeant, assisted the Nevada team this year along with Staff Sgt. Steven Lawson. Lawson had finished second in the state’s internal NCO Best Warrior contest earlier this spring.

The Region VII competition included Soldiers from the states of Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado, California and the territory of Guam.

“I’m proud to represent Nevada and it’s even more special with Sanchez from the south and me from the north,” said Reimers, a motor transport operator in the 1859th Transportation Company. “My first thought was to thank God for the opportunity. The effort we put in and our camaraderie helped us.”

“It was a nice surprise to sweep,” said Sanchez, a scout with Charlie Troop, 1-221st Cavalry. “After the third event, I knew we had a very good chance of sweeping the event. At that moment (after the obstacle course), I could tell we had caught the attention of the state sergeants major.

“They were talking about the Nevada boys.”

Although the Best Warrior participants are not informed of their placing until the final award ceremony, both Reimers and Sanchez knew they had begun well by winning their respective APFT 2-mile runs. Reimers also knew he had scored well in the weapons qualification, recording 77 hits out of 80 shots in M9 pistol and M4 rifle marksmanship.

Reimers continued to put the pressure onto his competitors by clocking the fastest time in both day- and night-land navigation. But he believed any chance for first place may have slipped away when he failed to complete the ruck march in the allotted time period.

“I had to quickly get over my frustration and focus to get ready for the oral board,” Reimers said.

Despite zero points in the ruck march, Reimers learned at the award ceremony that he had done well enough in several other events – including an obstacle course and M249 machine gun qualifying – to claim the regional Best Warrior title.

Sanchez knew he was doing well because he “flew” through the obstacle course and was one of only a few NCOs to complete the ruck march within the time deadline. His only disappointment came in the M4 qualification.

“That is the only time I felt nervous that I lost the lead,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez rebounded to clinch the title with a strong appearance board. He was buoyed by a remark by the President of the Board, who said: “You should be proud of what you did during the competition and especially this board.”

Sanchez and Reimers entered the regional competition hardened from a fierce battle in April to determine the state’s overall Best Warrior during Nevada’s internal contest. Sanchez had to work overtime to finally defeat upstart Reimers at Camp Stead.

Sanchez was tied with Reimers after the first 11 events of the four-day competition to determine the state’s top Soldiers and non-commissioned officers. The two then went to an overtime 12th event – Reflexive Fire marksmanship – that finally separated the two and gave Sanchez the overarching title of Best Warrior. Sanchez was also tabbed as the non-commissioned officer of the Year for the state and Reimers garnered the Soldier of the Year victory.

In addition to the race for the overall title, Sanchez had plenty of competition within his own non-commissioned officer division, as he had to win the last two scheduled events, the written exam and weapons qualification, to finally dispatch Lawson of the 1859th Transportation Company in the NCO category. Sanchez scored a 37 out of a possible 40 on his rifle qualification while Lawson could only muster a 29.

The Soldiers’ division was just as competitive, as Spc. Michael Consul of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza, Calif. NG Public Affairs
Spc. Grant Reimers maneuvers through “The Weave” during the 2017 Region 7 Best Warrior Competition May 15-19 at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif.

NEVADA ARMY GUARD 2017 BEST WARRIOR RESULTS

April 25-28 @ Stead Training Site

(All scored 5-4-3-2-1 based on results in 11 events; 5 points for 1st place)

NCO Division:

- 1, Sgt. Oswald Sanchez (C Troop, 1-221st Cavalry), 48 points.
- 2, Staff Sgt. Keith Lawson (1859th TC), 45.
- 3, Sgt. Justin Sample (137th MP Co.), 32
- 4, Staff Sgt. Michael Kostak (Joint Force Headquarters), 31.

Soldier Division:

- 1, Spc. Grant Reimers (1859th TC), 47 points.
- 2, Spc. Michael Consul (Co. D, 3/140th), 44.
- 3, Spc. Seamus Redmond (D Co., 1/189th Aviation), 37.
- 4, Spc. Roger Arriola (777th Eng. Det.), 21.
- 5, Spc. Joshua Bigham (B Troop, 1-221st Cavalry), 18.

D Company, 3/140th Aviation, put the pressure on Reimers by winning three of the 11 events contested. But Reimers won five events to hold off Consul 47-44 in the overall score that gave contestants points based off their places in each individual event.

“We could only speculate on who was winning because it felt like it was so close,” Reimers said. “By no means was it a slam dunk at any time.”

Consul, 30, had started out with the early lead by posting the highest score out of any competitor in the APFT. He recorded the contest’s only 300 score with his effort of 78 push-ups, 82 sit-ups and 13 minutes, 14 seconds 2-mile run.

Reimers rebounded and took both the day- and night-land navigation and Warrior Task events to move into a slim lead he never relinquished.

The events contested were: APFT; Weapons Skills Test; Essay Contest; 12-mile Ruck March; Day Land Navigation; Night Land Navigation; Warrior Tasks; Mystery Event (Weapons Assembly); Appearance Board; Written Exam; and Weapons Qualification on both rifle and pistol.

A total of five Soldiers competed in the NCO of the Year contest; four competed in the Soldier of the Year competition.

For information on participating in the 2018 Best Warrior competition, call 775-887-7350.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Eddie Siguenza, Calif. NG Public Affairs
Sgt. Oswald Sanchez, 221st Cavalry, ended third in the 12-mile ruck march May 18 during the 2017 Region VII Best Warrior Competition at San Luis Obispo, Calif.

BECOMING SAM

After a lifetime as a female, Sam Hunt, the first openly transgender Soldier in the Nevada Army Guard, says he's never felt more comfortable as himself

By Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
State Historian

RENO – Sarah Hunt never enjoyed the girlie lifestyle. She begrudgingly wore feminine clothes at McQueen High. At the University of Nevada, Reno, Hunt played Division 1 softball and soccer where she was more comfortable around campus wearing gender-neutral athletic sweats and sportswear as opposed to dresses and high heels. “Except when we traveled, we all wore a dress or skirt,” Hunt said. “It was awkward and really uncomfortable for me.”

After college, Hunt enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Security Forces Squadron, content to wear the same gender-neutral work uniform as her male counterparts.

After a deployment to Kuwait in 2015 — months before the U.S. military lifted its transgender ban — Hunt explored options to end that awkward feeling surrounding her gender identification.

That's when Hunt began a gender transition, today the first openly transgender Soldier in the Nevada National Guard.

“It wasn't just like one morning I woke up and said, ‘Yup, I'm going to be a male today,’” said Hunt, who now goes by Sam. “I think it was more of a process... The process is very different for everyone.”

New policy

The Department of Defense lifted its transgender ban last summer for service members already enlisted in the military.

“Although relatively few in number, we're talking about talented and trained Americans who are serving their country with honor and distinction,” then-Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said during the announcement in 2016. “We want to take the opportunity to retain people whose talent we've invested in and who've proven themselves.”

The previous administration set July 1 as the date when the military would begin transgender enlistment. However, in June, based on suggestion from military branch chiefs for more time to review and prepare for the policy, Defense Secretary James Mattis approved a six-month delay on transgender enlistment, set to take effect Jan. 1, 2018. His



Above Sgt. Sam Hunt poses for a photo in front of a Black Hawk helicopter at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead earlier this year. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus.

Left: Sarah Hunt fields a ground ball as a member of the Nevada softball team in 2009. Nevada Wolf Pack Athletics Department photo.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

Sgt. Sam Hunt poses for a photo in an Army Guard Black Hawk helicopter to which he is assigned.

office released the following statement June 30: “The services will review their accession plans and provide input on the impact to the readiness and lethality of our forces.”

“All of this is an effort to ensure the seamless transition and the full implementation of [the] DoD policy,” said Zenia Boswell, with the Army National Guard’s Personnel Policy Division.

Boswell added: “This is all about diversity and inclusion.”

Hunt first took testosterone in September 2015, about 10 months before the Defense Department’s announcement. Three months later, Hunt switched military branches and joined the Nevada Army National Guard’s G Company, 2/238th General Support Aviation Battalion as an electrician. The unit flies UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

“I didn’t know anybody in the Nevada Army Guard,” said Hunt, who took on the physical appearance of a man, including a short haircut, by the time she entered the Nevada Army Guard. “I was telling people I was a male in the civilian world, but I was still a female on the record books in the Army. It was a strange transition.”

Hunt first opened up to Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Dennington, the unit’s readiness non-commissioned officer.

“One sergeant walked in my office when I was with Hunt and said ‘he,’ (referring to Hunt),” Dennington said.

“I said, ‘That’s a she.’ Hunt said, ‘Don’t bother correcting them, I’m transitioning.’ Now the whole unit calls him ‘he.’ We’ve decided to let him go by what he prefers to go by, because we don’t have a problem with him.”

Weeks after the end of the transgender ban, during a drill weekend in the summer of 2016, Hunt approached his chain of command and told them about the transition.

Capt. Dustin Petersen, the unit commander at the time, immediately researched how other organizations approached the topic of transgender employees.

“At first it was shocking, not in a bad way, but I had never dealt with this,” said Petersen, the aviation unit’s commander at the time. “The day I heard, I did a lot of research. I researched how corporate America dealt with incorporating transgender people in the workforce. I tried to get as much data as I could. I didn’t want a grand unveiling. I thought that would be tacky and potentially humiliating for Hunt ... A grand unveiling is wrong and cheap. Just because he is transgender, that’s no reason for a special ceremony. I didn’t want to approach the unit by bringing Hunt in front of a formation.”

“Leadership was very supportive,” Hunt said. “My platoon sergeant said, ‘Whatever you need, let me know. Obviously you’re going to be a first...if anybody gives you any grief, I don’t care

what happens, you come tell me.’ They eventually told everyone in the unit, and they said, ‘Oh, we know,’ as if it wasn’t a big deal. It’s a super cool unit.”

Now two years into hormone therapy, Hunt has written a memorandum requesting to be recognized as a male. It is awaiting approval from the National Guard Bureau.

Hunt meets the Army physical fitness standards for a 30-year-old male and scored a 260 out of 300 on his most recent test.

Hunt now feels comfortable as a man. But it wasn’t easy. The process took many years, through a childhood and adulthood where Hunt never fit societal norms of what it meant to be a girl and woman.

A challenging childhood

Hunt grew up in what he called a “non-traditional family.”

His parents divorced shortly after his birth. At 7, Hunt’s 20-year-old sister died. She left three children behind, and Hunt’s mother eventually gained custody of them. Once the baby of the family with two older siblings, Hunt suddenly became the oldest of four, and a parental figure for the three children.

“Resiliency is an interesting thing. The fact that I had to grow up and be the adult kind of helped me grow to be the person I am today,” said Hunt, who works as a substance abuse, marriage and family therapist intern. “I don’t know where I would have been if my sister hadn’t died. It was such a huge moment in my life.”

In addition to family challenges, Hunt said his youth was non-traditional in other ways, too.

A self-described tomboy, Hunt dressed and acted differently than most girls, so much so that his non-conformist appearance became a way of life, he said.

“Did I think anything different of it? No, because there was nothing to compare it to,” Hunt said. “I just thought I was that friend who was different. For me, different was normal. I never had to question who I was. I just thought, ‘Oh, I’m different, cool.’”

‘I’m an athlete’

Throughout Hunt’s youth and time in college, sports served as an avenue of expression and established an identity.

Hunt was a three-sport athlete at



Photo courtesy Jillian Green.

Staff Sgt. Sam Hunt, right, poses for a photo with Staff Sgt. Jillian Green while on deployment in Kuwait. Hunt entered the military as an airman in the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Security Forces Squadron before going to the Nevada Army National Guard.

McQueen, playing soccer, basketball and softball.

In 2005, Nevada offered Hunt an athletic scholarship to play third base for its softball team. Hunt also played keeper for the Nevada soccer team after the soccer coach asked if Hunt would be willing to play two sports because the team needed someone between the posts.

In 2009, Hunt hit .296 for Nevada and finished second on the team with nine home runs. Nevada went 40-19, won the Western Athletic Conference regular season championship and made the NCAA Tournament before losing to No. 22 Cal Poly in the regionals. In that game, Hunt scored the Wolf Pack's only run — a home run in Hunt's final career at bat.

After college, Hunt played six seasons for the Nevada Storm, of the Independent Women's Football League. As soon as Hunt began taking testosterone, he quit women's football, noticing the increased strength.

"I wasn't sure how people were going

to view me as a proud female athlete after my transition," said Hunt, who has since stayed on the team as a coach. "That's how people know me (as a female athlete). How am I going to change this person again? ... Eventually, I got over it and dropped the 'female' and realized I'm an 'athlete.'"

Don't 'shut people out'

Outside sports, Hunt knows he wants to help people. Today, Hunt works as a substance abuse, marriage and family therapist intern with a Masters of Arts from the University of Nevada, Reno, in marriage and family therapy.

Hunt's background growing up with an alcoholic father, now sober two decades later, and the experience of losing his sister at a young age played a role in that career path, he said.

He also has a girlfriend he met last May during the transition.

"She has been one of the most supportive people," Hunt said of his

"Each person's experience is unique and different from the next. It's different based on where you live, who you spend your life with, who is supporting you, and what you experience in life," says Sam Hunt.

girlfriend, Nichole Raymond.

Hunt has a year remaining on his enlistment in the Nevada National Guard and hasn't decided if he wants to re-enlist, but mentioned the importance the military has played in his life and is grateful of the acceptance he's received from other Soldiers during the transition.

"It's hard to come across good people and great friends, especially ones you've served with," said Nevada Air National Guard Staff Sgt. Jillian Green, who deployed with Hunt in 2015. "Hunt is one of the best people I know."

Hunt also says he wants to educate people on issues concerning members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community, highlighting the different experiences for members of that community and other people in general.

"Each person's experience is unique and different from the next ... It's different based on where you live, who you spend your life with, who is supporting you, and what you experience in life," Hunt said. "Some people will struggle more than others. My experience has been awesome. I've had the acceptance and support of family and friends. I think that is a motivator for other people.

"No matter if you're transgender, straight, gay, lesbian, you're still a person who struggles throughout life. It's important to not shut people out just because they are different."

High Rollers blaze into unit's second firefighting season

By Tech Sgt. Emerson Marcus
State Historian

RENO — Entering its second season outfitted with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, the 152nd Airlift Wing is extinguishing any doubt about its ability to execute the firefighting mission.

More than a year after being named the newest member of the four-unit firefighting mission, the High Rollers finished a successful training session, in Boise, Idaho, in April and continue working with aircrews from Wyoming, Colorado and California this summer to train and progress toward an aircraft commander upgrade flying autonomous firefighting missions.



The five-day training in April displayed the High Rollers' ability to integrate into a tight-knit group of experienced U.S. Forest Service and C-130 military aircrew, along with ground personnel from several agencies around the nation. Water drops during the training were executed on lands within the Boise National Forest and Boise District Bureau of Land Management.

"It's a tight knit community and it has been that way for a long time," said Lt. Col. Tony Machabee, the 152nd Airlift Wing Operations Group commander. "The structure has not changed for decades. North Carolina stepping out and us stepping in is different. It's created a unique dynamic."

The 152nd Airlift Wing — along with the 153rd Airlift Wing from Cheyenne, Wyoming; the 302nd Airlift Wing from Colorado Springs, Colorado; the 146th Airlift Wing from Port Hueneme, California — flew 121 sorties, 124 flight hours and dropped 373,900 gallons of water during the training. In all, 400 people from multiple agencies worked the training and certification operation.

The certification training includes classroom sessions and flight operations for military flight crews, lead plane pilots and instruction for other support personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and other wildland firefighting agencies in advance of the upcoming fire season.

"We knocked it out of the park," Machabee said. "We have the right people in the right place and the right attitude. With a great attitude and right people, we were able to adapt to issues that inevitably popped up."

Many of the issues came from the high-operations tempo from the training and much of that weight fell on the 152nd's maintainers.

"It's an orchestrated dance being on the flightline," said Chief Master Sgt. Joe Martini, 152nd Airlift Wing maintenance chief. "There's a method to the madness of moving airplanes to pits, getting fueled, getting water and then going back out. It's like a NAS-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

A C-130 with the 152nd Airlift Wing, Nevada Air National Guard, follows a U.S. Forest Service lead plane in the mountains east of Boise, Idaho, as part of the annual Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System training and certification, in April.

CAR race. You have four different entities out here flying two different airframes with the H and J models. You put the Forest Service in that mix and you really have to be able to work together closely to make it happen."

With its 2017 annual training completed, the 152nd will focus on responding to actual fire missions this summer in order to meet certification upgrades. Regardless of experience flying a C-130, new MAFFS aircrew start as copilots and must meet a mandatory minimum of air drops and deployments on fires each year in order to upgrade as aircraft commanders, or fly firefighting missions on their own. Nevada is working closely with the other three MAFFS units to meet those standards.

Following firefighting deployments in 2016, it's possible some High Rollers will meet the aircraft commander upgrade by 2018, Machabee said.

Military-outfitted MAFFS aircraft deploy after private air tankers are exhausted, given the military's non-compete clause with private industry. In 2016, that situation occurred in August. As of early July, no MAFFS units had been called for firefighting this season — yet.

"When it's our time, we'll be ready," Machabee said.

Airman's submission leads to coveted Freedom Award for Renown Health



Top: Senior Master Sgt. Jason Farnsworth, center, takes time out for a photo after a ceremony announcing Renown Health as one of the 15 recipients nationwide to earn the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Freedom Award. Farnsworth's submission was one of more than 3,000 nationwide. Below: Senior Airman David Almada works as a member of a joint color guard during the announcement at Renown Health in June.

By Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
State Historian

RENO – Renown Health, a large, non-profit healthcare network in northern Nevada, was notified it received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award in early summer and will receive its award August 25 in a ceremony at the Pentagon. Limited to just 15 recipients annually, the Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's top award for employers and recognizes extraordinary support of its military employees.

Renown Health now joins Legacy Sports International (2010), MGM Resorts International (2006), NV Energy (2007), REMSA (2006) and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (2006) on the select list of Nevada businesses and organizations to receive the prestigious award.

Senior Master Sgt. Jason Farnsworth, the operations superintendent for the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Medical Group, nominated Renown, his full-time civilian employer for the award.

"Renown consistently rises to the occasion for its military employees and communities in need during times of crisis," said Farnsworth, who is the executive director and administrator for Renown Health Home Care. Farnsworth joined the Nevada Air National Guard in 1999 and began work at Renown Health after his completion of basic military training that same year.

More than 3,000 nominations were submitted by Guardsmen and reservists from all 54 National Guard states and territories, including Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia.

Renown has a close relationship with the National Guard and



has entered into a number of contractual agreements with the Nevada Air Guard in recent years. One of the contracts is a training agreement between the medical group and Renown that allows Nevada Airmen to train and test their skills in state-of-the-art facilities and while responding to real-world, challenging situations.

Additionally, Renown Health has partnered with the Army's Partnership for Youth Success Program, which uses Renown's connections in private industry, academia and state and local public institutions to provide job interviews and potential employment to separating service members.

One of the first Nevada employers to become a certified "Green Zone Employer," Renown Health works to translate military service to civilian experience, helping transitioning military members find employment. Renown has seen 35 of its military reserve employees deploy since 2008 and has publicly recognized their achievements in its company newsletter.

"I've never had a bad experience at Renown or the Nevada Air Guard and it's been my privilege to serve my community from both the Renown side and the Guard side," Farnsworth said. "Both careers have been remarkable and rewarding."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between military reserve component service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

This year's complete list of 15 recipients is available at: <http://www.freedomaward.mil>.



Photo by Lt. Col. Mickey Kirschenbaum

Flanking Lt. Col. Brett Compston, Col. Mary Devine, left, and Joanne Farris review the Soldiers in the 991st Multi-Functional Brigade before a change of command ceremony in March. Farris was the first brigade commander in the 156-year history of the Nevada Army Guard; Devine is now the second.

Back to back: Female lineage continues in 991st brigade

By Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus
State Historian

STEAD, Nev. — Occurring at the start of Women’s History Month in March, the significance of a recent Nevada Army Guard change-of-command ceremony didn’t go unnoticed.

Two years after Col. Joanne Farris became the first female brigade commander in Nevada Army Guard history — tabbed to lead the 991st Multi-Functional Brigade — she passed the command guidon to Col. Mary Devine in early March here at the Army Aviation Support Facility. Women’s History Month is annually celebrated in March in the United States; the celebration recognizes the contributions of women to history, culture and society.

“I did mention it during the ceremony to (Col.) Joanne (Farris),” said Devine, the new commander of the 991st. “When we enlisted at the beginning of our careers, women were less than 8 percent of the force, so you didn’t see a lot of female Soldiers. We’ve just about doubled that percentage during our careers, so quite a few changes have occurred.”

Devine now commands one of the two brigades in the Nevada Army Guard. The



brigade oversees the state’s Army aviation assets, the Regional Training Institute, the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and — as a result of Army Guard reorganization this year — the 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry.

“Being the first female brigade commander, I thought it was historical I would pass the command flag to another woman in the month of March — or, as we call it, ‘Women’s History Month,’” said Farris, who is now the deputy to the commander of the Nevada Army Guard. “There is significance to that.”

Devine, of Reno, never imagined a brigade command was in her future when she enlisted in the Montana National Guard in 1988 — but not necessarily because of her gender.

“I didn’t think I’d be here, primarily because my mom died a week before my 13th birthday,” she said. “I was pregnant by

the time I was 18. I was divorced by the time I was 23. I put myself through college. There were a lot of hoops and hurdles along the way before I got on the path that I am on right now.

“Did I always know I’d do something? Yes, I always had a goal and a vision, but it wasn’t until I was a captain that I knew this is what I wanted to do, this is where I’m headed.”

Devine is married to Mark and she has four children ages 18-33. She works full time as the director of operations at the United States Property and Fiscal Office in Carson City.

Devine said she is eager to begin her new position with the 991st, an extremely mission-diverse brigade with a wide variety of assignments.

She said the brigade will prioritize assisting the squadron with its administrative workload as the 1-221st finalizes its transition into the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team headquartered in Idaho.

Because of its new association with the 116th, the 1-221st is expanding from about 420 Soldiers to more than 650 Soldiers and the squadron is receiving more than \$250 million worth of new armored vehicles.

Farris is now the Deputy Commander of the Nevada Army Guard.

Nevada scouts finish 2nd among Guard units at Gainey Cup

Story and photos by Sgt. Walter H. Lowell
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Scouts assigned to the 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry emerged as the second-best National Guard scout team in the entire nation, in May at the 2017 Gainey Cup – Best Scout Competition.

The West Virginia National Guard was the only Guard team to score higher than the 221st and they took second place overall in the competition.

The Gainey Cup, started in 2013, is a four-day event that tests competitors' physical stamina, reconnaissance skills, and teamwork. Twenty-four teams from across the nation, including three National Guard teams, meet at Fort Benning every other year for the competition.

They are evaluated in events including reconnaissance skills, calling for artillery (call-for-fire), a timed obstacle course, and land navigation.

The cup is named after retired Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey, the first enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gainey was in attendance for the event this month.

In January, the National Guard held its qualifying competition at Fort Benning to select the teams to represent the National Guard. Nevada was one of those teams picked.

The event kicked off May 1 with a

“It was 56 hours of continuous operations.”

*-Staff Sgt. James O'Connor,
Squad Leader, Nevada Team*

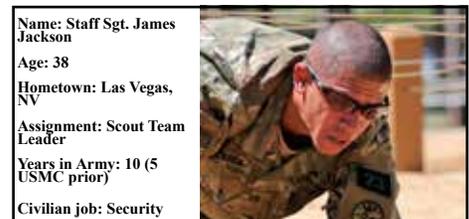
live-fire demonstration and ceremony.

“It was 56 hours of continuous operations,” said 31-year-old Staff Sgt. James O'Connor from Phoenix Ariz., the squad leader of the Nevada team. “Everything had a really clear timeline. We would do one event, hop on a [truck] and drive to another one.”

“We didn't really get any sleep,” said 23-year-old Spc. Carlo Tinoco from Las Vegas, Nev, a scout team member. “Just straight up, activities, activities activities.”

O'Connor said it was a challenge just trying to keep the Soldiers focused, hydrated and fed in the short times between events.

The event ended in a deluge May 4. For the final event, Soldiers ran a relay of tasks, then assembled an M2 .50 caliber



Scouts assigned to the 1-221st Cavalry look down a live fire range during the 2017 Gainey Cup.



Scouts assigned to the 1-221st Cavalry navigate an obstacle course during the 2017 Gainey Cup. The Nevada team was one of the highest scoring teams in the event.



Scouts assigned to the 1-221st Cavalry simulates first-aid on a training dummy during the medical lane at the 2017 Gainey Cup.



(Above) Scouts assigned to the 1-221st Cavalry patrol in full MOPP gear during the CBRN lane at the 2017 Gainey Cup. The team had the highest score and fastest time of the entire competition at this event. (Right) The scouts make their final sprint to the finish line at the last event of the competition in the pouring rain. (Below) Sgt. John Ross, alpha team leader, identifies vehicles through a spotting scope with the assistance of Spc. Brandon Dogelio, a scout team member.



(Right) The Gainey Cup. The winning team will take the cup back to their home station and will keep it until the next Gainey Cup in 2019



machine gun as a team. That afternoon the winning team was announced.

1-1 Cavalry, 1st Armor Division from Fort Bliss, Texas won first place. Nevada finished 12th overall.

“The competition was good. It was a good experience for the whole team with an emphasis on basic scout tasks,” O’Connor said.

“I learned that as a scout, you have to be a well-rounded Soldier. You need to be a master at everything like call-for-fire, sending reports, patrolling and being stealthy and deliberate,” Tinoco said.

“The National Guard is going to

benefit, but the Cav (1-221st) will benefit most because it is part of an armored brigade combat team,” said O’Connor in regard to the training and competition.

“I can’t wait to tell my ‘Joes’ about it and forward what I learned,” Tinoco said. “Topics such as how to patrol, what to do for actions-on-contact, and how to be stealthy — all that good stuff.”

“Never doubt yourself. When you start doubting yourself, others will see and they will start doubting themselves,” Gainey said. “Always show a sense of confidence around your Soldiers.”



Nevada Air Guard Pueblo activation nears 50th anniversary



The Reno Evening Gazette ran banner headlines to mark the 152nd Reconnaissance Group's return in 1969 following a year and a half activation in response to the North Korean capture of the U.S. Navy's USS Pueblo.

Photo Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

**By Tech Sgt. Emerson Marcus
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

RENO — North Korea's test launch this summer of an intercontinental ballistic missile that national security analysts believe has the range to reach Alaska represents the latest episode in a complex, 64-year-old armed truce that included a Nevada Air Guard activation almost a half century ago.

In 1968, more than 600 Airmen of the Nevada Air National Guard activated for 18 months; some reported for duty near the demilitarized zone in South Korea. Reno news media closely followed the activation that according to editorials, "jolted" northern Nevada and received criticism from leaders in state government and the Nevada National Guard, all while the nation entered the high-water mark of the late-1960s protest era.

Sudden activation

The military phrase "hurry up and wait" aptly described the uncertainty in the air on Jan. 26, 1968, at the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno.

Nevada Air Guardsmen reported to the base with one-day's notice at the request of President Lyndon Johnson, who activated more than 14,000 Air Force and Navy reservists following North Korea's capture of the USS Pueblo, a U.S. Navy research vessel with a crew of 83 sailors.

"There are going to be a lot of questions and we don't have a lot of answers," 152nd Reconnaissance Group Commander Col. James W. Dalzell was quoted in newspapers telling about 650 Airmen during the first day of the activation.

The Airmen represented a wide swath of people in northern Nevada, including teachers, lawyers, journalists, construction

foremen and college students. All immediately left their jobs and classes to report to duty.

“We were in limbo,” said Ed Pearce, a veteran broadcast reporter for KOLO 8 in Reno who worked at the Journal in 1968 and served as a photo interpreter for the reconnaissance unit in Reno. “It was not an easy limbo to be in. Most of us had to walk away from our civilian jobs and salaries.”

Chris Anastassatos, a senior airman at the time, was driving up Lake Street to register for classes at the University of Nevada, Reno when he got word of the deployment.

“My stock broker was in the Guard, so I went over there and said, ‘Hey what’s going on?’ Anastassatos said. “He said we were called to active duty. It was really exciting, to tell you the truth.”

For five months, the Airmen worked at the base in Reno. In June, more than half of the Reno troops moved to Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base outside Kansas City, Missouri. The remaining Airmen deployed to various locations around the world, including Japan, South Korea and Panama. The 152nd Combat Support Squadron was assigned to the Fifth Air Force from August 1968 to May 1969 as the main U.S. Air Force support organization at South Korea’s Suwon Air Base. During the activation, some Nevada Airmen were within 50 miles of the demilitarized zone.

Pearce and other Airmen described the sudden activation as jarring but admitted their experience was not nearly as bad as the crewmen aboard the *Pueblo*, who were tortured and released 11 months after the seizure in December 1968. No shots were fired during the crisis, and today the ship remains one of the North Korea’s most prized war trophies docked at its Victorious War Museum.

Reservists called to active duty

When Nevada Airmen arrived at the base in South Korea, they were briefed on the difference between an “armed truce” and a “peace treaty.” As one Nevada Airmen wrote home: “Vietnam is a deadly, loud war. Korea is yet a cold war and quieter, much quieter. Too quiet some of us think.”

The ship’s capture was not the sole event that caused the sudden tension in January 1968. Earlier that month, North Korean infiltrators snuck through the demilitarized zone and moved near the entrance of South Korea’s Blue House where the nation’s president, Park Chung-hee, lived. The assassination plot failed when South Korean police killed all but two of the infiltrators. The near-assassination left many South Koreans uneasy, and the capture of the *Pueblo* only a week later increased tensions. While the U.S. said the ship remained in international waters 15 miles off nearest land, the communist nation differed and surrounded the ship with a handful of vessels housing Soviet-manufactured fighter jets. One U.S. sailor was killed by machine gun fire during the capture.

Meanwhile, North Korea backed the North Vietnamese in Southeast Asia, and the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War occurred a week after the *Pueblo* capture.

Throughout the activation, local papers in Reno ran front-page headlines and even included re-occurring columns from deployed Airmen.

The crisis remains the most protested activation in Nevada National Guard history and even Nevada Gov. Paul Laxalt called it a “colossal mistake,” largely because he and other Nevada Guard leadership protested what they alleged was the federal government’s inability to lay out a concrete mission and how they split up, or “cut into bits,” the unit’s operation and support elements.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

This Nevada State Journal map from 1968 shows the military bases in blue that some of the Nevada Air Guardsmen deployed for the activation.

Additionally, two Air Guardsmen died during the activation. Airman Douglas J. Gaeta Jr., a maintainer from Crystal Bay, died when he fell while working on a ladder connected to one of the unit’s F-101 aircraft. On Feb. 28, 1969, three months before the end of the activation, Lt. Col. Mervin Johnson, a copilot who flew missions in Japan and Korea earlier in the activation, lost his life during a takeoff crash in Denver, Colorado. He had been reassigned to Missouri after his time overseas.

The vessel’s capture and subsequent activation of reservists that followed receives relatively little historical recognition today, especially in comparison to other headlines of that year, including the Tet Offensive, assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 1968 presidential election that saw Richard Nixon gain entry into the White House.

In 1968, Nevada’s Airmen discovered the difference between an “armed truce” and “peace treaty,” which continues 50 years later along the 38th Parallel.



Photo by Tech Sgt. Emerson Marcus

The Nevada Guard's first CH-47 F model performs a flyover before landing at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead, Nev., in early spring. The F model, built in 2008, was the first of six set to arrive in conjunction with the 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion's fleet upgrade.

F Model Chinook helicopters roar into Nevada to signal CH-47 fleet upgrade

**By Tech Sgt. Emerson Marcus
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

STEAD, Nev. — The first of six CH-47 F model Chinook helicopters destined for the Silver State hovered over the Army Aviation Support Facility here March 8 before finally landing to the delight of dozens of Nevada Army National Guard aviators and maintainers ecstatic about the arrival of the late model aircraft.

The arrival of B Company, 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion's first F model Chinook marked the beginning of a new era for the Nevada Army National Guard Aviation Control Element, which will eventually house and maintain six F model Chinooks that were previously in the active duty fleet. The initial frame acquired by the Nevada Army Guard was previously based at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

It's not yet known when the remaining aircraft in the fleet upgrade will arrive.

"It's a new generation. Instead of having our old D models that date back to Vietnam (War era) that were modified in the early 1990s, we will now be working with much more modern aircraft," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joseph "Sepp" Baumann, the unit's pilot in command who flew the Chinook from Kentucky.

F Model CH-47 Fast Facts

Function: **Transport troops, cargo**
 Rotor diameter: **60 feet**
 Length with rotors: **99 feet**
 Height: **18 feet, 11 inches**
 Width: **12 feet, 5 inches**
 Weight (Empty): **23,400 pounds**
 Max takeoff weight: **50,000 pounds**
 Capacity: **36 Soldiers**
(33 troops + 3 crew members)
 Fuel capacity: **1,034 gallons**
 Speed: **150 mph cruise,**
196 mph max
 Range: **400 miles**
 Price per new aircraft: **\$29.8 million**
 Inventory: **241**

Source: Aeroweb.com

Baumann, the unit's pilot in command who flew the Chinook from Kentucky.

Manufactured in 2008, the F models set to arrive in Nevada have between 2,000 and 3,000 flight hours, mostly recorded in Afghanistan. The unit will continue flying

its D model aircraft until they are eventually phased out by the F models.

The main difference between the F and D models is visible in the cockpit, where glass controls — including digital controls with five multi-functional displays resembling iPads — help pilots control the aircraft. The system replaces the old steam gauge cockpit.

"Almost everything in the back is almost exactly the same," Baumann said. "Everything forward, with more electronics, is different."

The Nevada National Guard received word of the available aircraft less than a month ago. Baumann and 1st Lt. Nicholas Hobart, who had previously trained on the F models, took a week-long refresher course before flying the aircraft to Nevada.

One of the crew chiefs on the flight, Spc. Joseph Page, had only recently certified as a crew chief. The flight from Kentucky to Nevada was the longest of his Army aviation career.

"It was pretty cool," Page said. "Getting to see the country and having the chance to gain all this flight experience was a great opportunity. These models are pretty sweet and slick."

M1A1 Abrams Tanks are back: Cav unveils upgraded main battle tanks

By Sgt. Walter Lowell
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks welcomed the latest additions to the Nevada Army Guard's armored vehicle fleet this spring when he observed a demonstration of the 1-221st Cavalry Squadron's newly-acquired Abrams battle tanks here at the Clark County Armory.

The squadron recently received 10 of its 14 M1A1 AIM-SA Abrams model main battle tanks as part of its \$280 million-dollar equipment upgrade. The upgrade includes 45 M2A3 Bradley Fighting vehicles and was necessitated by the squadron's new role within the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team headquartered in Idaho. Until last November, the 1-221st was associated with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Burks said the demonstration helped him comprehend the capabilities of the M1A1 and understand how the armored behemoths that each weigh more than 60 tons could be used by the Nevada National Guard in the future.

Master Sgt. Tamas Horvath, the 1-221st operations sergeant, briefed Burks on the details concerning the new M1s and updated him on the squadron's transition to its new brigade combat team.

Horvath said the squadron's new tanks

M1A1 AIM-SA Abrams facts

Function: Main Battle Tank
Armaments: 120mm Smooth Bore Cannon, two 7.62 machine guns (one coaxial), one .50 caliber machine gun
Armor: Chobham armor 3rd generation depleted uranium components
Length (with gun forward): 32 feet
Width: 12 feet
Height: 8 feet
Weight: 23,400 pounds
Crew: 4 Troopers
Speed: 42 mph
Fuel capacity: 500 gallons
Range: 265 miles
Price per tank: About \$4 million

Source: Aeroweb.com

feature highly advanced optics that can help destroy targets from more than three kilometers. Each vehicle is also equipped with a "Blue Force Tracker" system that allows commanders to track the exact position of friendly units on a battlefield. Each of the SA models (the SA is an acronym for situational awareness) offers a myriad

of features that were not available on the M1A1 Abrams possessed by the cavalry more than 10 years ago when the squadron featured four tank troops (companies). Those tanks were subsequently scrapped by the Army when the organization became an armored reconnaissance squadron in 2007.

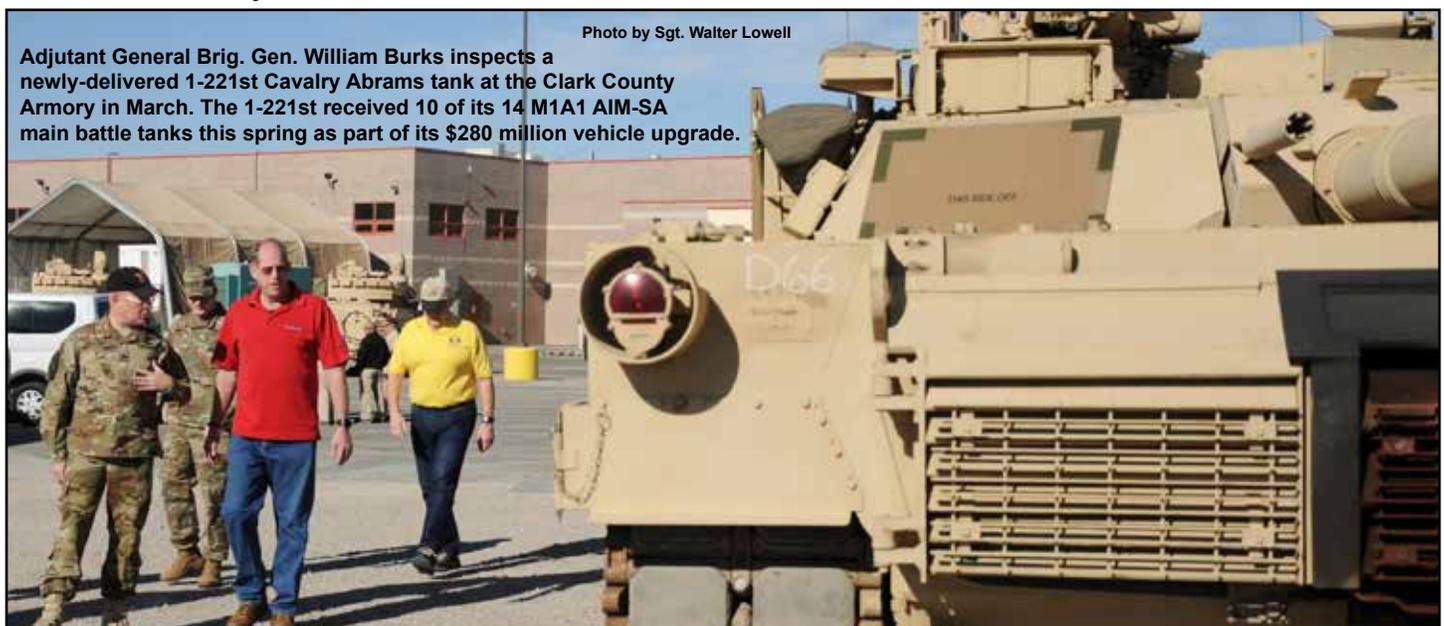
After the demonstration, Burks took matters into his own hands and completed a computer simulation session.

"It's a phenomenal system. There's no doubt in my mind that over the course of time, as the Soldiers become more comfortable with the simulator, they'll be among the best tank operators in the Army," Burks said.

The Tank and Automotive Command, Abrams Net Team from Fort Hood, Texas, hosted the demonstration and simulation session. The Net Team instructed 1-221st Soldiers how to use the new M1's advanced equipment for several weeks.

Horvath said all of the squadron's tanks, including the four pending delivery, will be located at Orchard Proving Grounds in Idaho this summer at the brigade combat team's gunnery range. All of the cavalry's tank crews will aim to qualify this summer under the direction of the Abrams Net Team.

After, they will leave 10 of the tanks there and bring four back to the Clark County Armory.



VETERANS UNITE TO FORM TIGHTEST GROUP ON CARSON CITY PRISON YARD



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Associate Warden Lisa Walsh, upper left, takes time out for a photo with the participants in the Veterans Integration Program at Warm Springs Correctional Center in Carson City in April. The unique program allows prior military servicemen to reside together in a safe, structured living environment while in a correctional institution.

Story by Capt. Valerie Hollenback Joint Forces Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – The affiliation of the tightest group of inmates here at the Warm Springs Correctional Center isn't based on race, color or national origin.

Instead, it's based solely on previous military service.

About 50 inmates here at this medium security facility are participating in the Veterans Integration Program, a unique, ground-breaking program that allows prior servicemen to reside together in a safe, structured living environment. The emphasis of the program is to improve inmates' mental and physical health and prepare them for reintegration into society. Race is not a consideration when assigning roommates within the VIP program.

According to Warm Springs' associate warden Lisa Walsh, the capital city facility is the only correctional facility in Nevada that offers the VIP. Requisite for entry into the program is prior service in any branch of the armed forces and a high school or general education development diploma. Inmates with certain violent offenses may be barred from the program.

The program began in December 2015 and has been at capacity since May 2016, with participants filling the B Wing of the center. The program's curriculum

includes life skills, resource and personal development planning and job readiness preparation. VIP inmates usually have access to more than 15 college classes each semester while participating in the program.

"To date, there has been no reported violence within the VIP or outstanding issues," Walsh said. She said that the inmates' enrollment in a high number of college classes would likely lead to decreased recidivism based on previous collaborative evidence, but there was not yet a large enough number of VIP release information to generate VIP recidivism statistics.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

The feline mascot of the Veterans Integration Program receives some attention from a program participant at the Warm Springs Correctional Center.

Regardless of their current circumstance, the VIP inmates remain some of the biggest supporters of the National Guard in the state. During the 2016 holiday season, the inmates wrote several hundred handwritten letters to deployed Nevada Guard Soldiers. The letters were forwarded by the public affairs office to the 485th Military Police Company.

"The letters we wrote to deployed service members were a privilege to write and only a small measure of how much your service is and should be appreciated," wrote Richard Morrow, inmate No. 30620, in a subsequent letter. "(Writing the letters) gave us a sense of pride, purpose and a pause to respect and gain some hope in our own present circumstance. Combined, we are all more than the worst things that we have done."

Morrow wrote in the letter that he is a retired armor officer who attained the rank of major.

George Greene Jr., 67, inmate No. 38869, said he was a lance corporal who served in Vietnam. He said VIP inmates voluntarily address other individuals using the military rank structure and often defer to the highest-ranking Veteran inmate as an unofficial leader. He said VIP inmates feel safe with other veterans and usually mingle together to steer clear of other potential negativity within the prison's walls.

"If this program was a gang, it might be the toughest gang in Nevada," Greene said.

Lucrative Guard perk: free financial counseling

**By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs**

CARSON CITY – When personal financial counselor Norman Sligar talks, Guardsmen *should* listen.

One of the newest additions to the military and family support services staff, Sligar works full-time advising military personnel, military dependents and veterans in northern Nevada on financial affairs, including retirement planning and debt management. Sligar's services are free and confidential; he is a government contractor employed by Zeiders Enterprises.

"It's my mission to educate and inform service members and their families about financial matters and help them improve their money management," said Sligar, who was an Army infantry officer before starting subsequent careers in education and financial counseling. "Although I maintain business hours at the Plumb Lane Armory, I'm available for confidential appointments for both individuals and families at any convenient armory or base in the Reno metropolitan area at nearly any time. I can arrange my schedule as needed and meet at the facility that is most convenient for the service

member."

Sligar is available for advice in myriad financial topics spanning the entire financial spectrum, including: estate and retirement planning, support for family members during deployment, credit management and budgeting. If Sligar does not know a specific answer, he will refer a service member to the proper military or community resource.

Sligar said full-time National Guard employees including Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen and federal technicians may meet with him during the work week without taking leave, as consultations with a finance counselor fall within a Guard employee's scope of duties.

Sligar, 78, is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. After graduating, he served in the Army as both an infantry and



Norman Sligar is the financial counselor for Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen in northern Nevada. Call 775-223-7145 for an appointment.

special operations officer.

Subsequently, he returned to northern Nevada and was the Junior ROTC instructor at McQueen High for eight years (one of his students was Col. Eric Wishart).

After his stint in education, Sligar became an accredited financial counselor and worked for several private companies before accepting a Dept. of Defense position as a financial counselor in Europe. Shortly after returning to Nevada after his time abroad, Sligar became the Nevada National Guard's full-time personal financial counselor last December.

For an appointment, call Sligar at 775-223-7145. In addition to individual counseling, Sligar can potentially provide training and workshops to groups such as Army Guard units and Air Guard squadrons.

In southern Nevada, military personnel, veterans and dependents can contact Phil Hobbs for personal financial counseling.

Like Sligar, Hobbs is compensated by Zeiders Enterprises to advise Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen in the southern region of the state on financial matters.

Call Hobbs at 702-218-1726 for an appointment

The bottom line on personal finance: It's up to you

**By Norman Sligar
Nevada Guard Finance Counselor**

CARSON CITY – Money touches every aspect of an individual's life. It certainly affects our relationships and the way we conduct our everyday activities.

Unfortunately, money can also contribute to the emotion of fear – both the fear of not having enough money and the fear of making incorrect financial decisions.

Personal financial counseling can reduce monetary fears and help you and your family in myriad ways, including: financial management, the resolution of financial problems, and the realization of long-term goals such as an advanced degree, the purchase of a home or a comfortable retirement.

Only you can answer the question: What would you like to do with your money? If you want to squander your money, that is your business. But if you are interested in increasing your net worth, a personal finance

counselor can help you:

- Become a better money manager by budgeting and developing a spending plan
- Use credit wisely and pay off credit card balances in full
- Pay all your bills on time to achieve good credit scores and credit reports
- Keep track of expenses and put aside money into an emergency fund each month
- Improve your economic situation by putting money from each paycheck into the Thrift Savings Plan or money-earning investments (If the money is deposited straight into those types of accounts, you won't risk spending it!)

My advice: Choose at least one thing that you want to achieve – big or small – and work toward your goal. Be passionate and excited about your goal. The best motivator is discovering a purpose that is important to you. You are the only one who knows what matters most to you.

Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen, their

dependents and Veterans have easy access to personal financial counseling. Two Accredited Personal Financial Counselors are available across the state to all Nevada National Guard personnel, civilian employees, their families and Veterans at no cost and appointments remain private, and confidential.

I advise everyone to take advantage of the free financial counseling opportunities provided by the Nevada Guard and make an appointment. For a personal financial counseling appointment in northern Nevada, contact:

Norman Sligar
Personal Financial Counselor
Phone: 775-223-7145
Email: PFC2.NV.NG@Zeiders.com

For a personal financial counseling appointment in southern Nevada, contact:

Phil Hobbs
Personal Finance Counselor
Phone: 702-218-1726
Email: PFC1.NV.NG@Zeiders.com

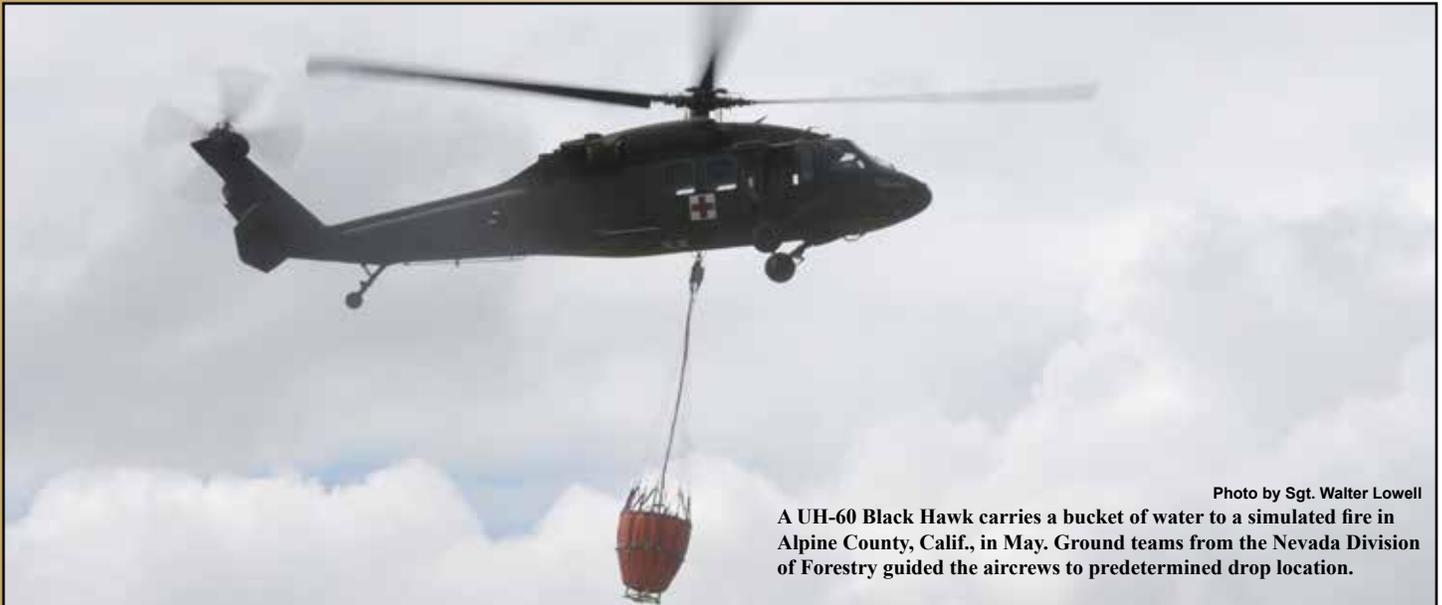


Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell
 A UH-60 Black Hawk carries a bucket of water to a simulated fire in Alpine County, Calif., in May. Ground teams from the Nevada Division of Forestry guided the aircrews to predetermined drop location.

Nevada Army Guard aviators prepare for challenging fire season

By Sgt. Walter Lowell
 Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

ALPINE COUNTY AIRPORT, Calif. – Nevada Army Guard aircrews from 2/238th, G Company, and 1/189th, B Company, General Support Aviation Battalion, participated in a cooperative wilderness firefighting exercise here May 15, to prepare for a potentially challenging fire season.

The Nevada Guard and Nevada Division of Forestry co-hosted the exercise that featured a mobile command center, several ground teams, two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, two CH-47 Chinook helicopters and one NDF UH-1 Huey.

“We use the Alpine County Airport training area because it allows us to practice different methods of firefighting,” said Capt. Nigel Harrison, the commander of 2/238 GSAB.

Interstate agreements are in place with Nevada and its neighbors ensuring cooperative fire suppression efforts across the western states. If a wildland fire were to spark up in rural Alpine County, Calif., it’s realistic to expect the Nevada National Guard and NDF to help suppress a potential fire across the state line.

August Isernhagen, a helitech supervisor with the Nevada Division of Forestry, oversaw the exercise from a ground command post.

He said about four years ago, multiple agencies recognized the importance of

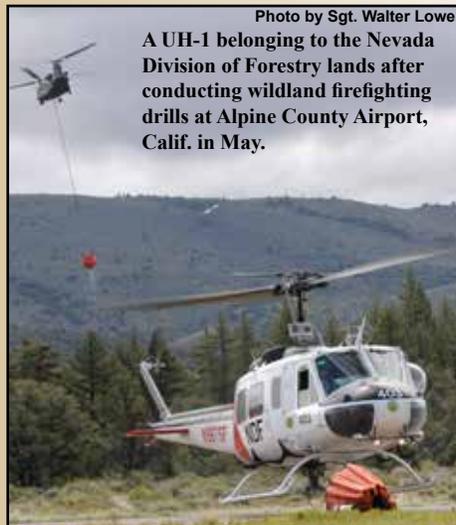


Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell
 A UH-1 belonging to the Nevada Division of Forestry lands after conducting wildland firefighting drills at Alpine County Airport, Calif. in May.

refining the coordination between Army aviation staff and ground crews in advance of fire season. Since then, multiple organizations have participated annually in the pre-season training.

“We are working with the National Guard on how to perfect their bucket drops when we are on fires,” Isernhagen said.

In addition to the Nevada Army Guard and NDF, personnel from the East Fork Fire Department, the U.S. Forest Service and the Black Mountain Hotshots – a group of elite wildland firefighters – also participated.

Harrison said Chinook water buckets hold 2,000 gallons of water and a Black Hawk “Bambi Bucket” can carry about 700 gallons.

During the exercise, the helicopters

flew rotating flight paths from the airport to a nearby lake and then to sites designated by ground crews that simulated mock fires. The ground crews then informed the aircraft crews the precise location of where they needed to drop the water on the simulated fire. After dispersing the water, the helicopter would return to the lake to refill its bucket as the next helicopter approached.

“The number one objective is to get the Guard aviators familiar with the way procedures work on fires,” Isernhagen said. “The second objective is to get ground personnel from different departments comfortable communicating with the aircraft.”

Isernhagen said it is important agencies conduct their training early in the fire season because it’s likely many of the participating agencies will be responding to real-world fires this year.

Isernhagen said there is no way to predict if the recent wet winter will cause a busy season for fire crews this summer. The early months of 2017 saw record-breaking rainfall in Nevada that fueled the growth of wildland grass that could potentially dry up and increase the threat of widespread fires.

“Preparing for the season now is key because the fires can kick up at any time as soon as it starts getting hot,” Harrison said. “We are ready to go; the Division of Forestry and the citizens of Nevada can count on us.”



Photo courtesy Bravo Company, 422nd Expeditionary Support Battalion

National Guard Bureau Chief Gen. Joseph Lengyel poses for a photo at the Nevada Guard Leadership Summit in March. From left: Col. Mitch Sperling, Brig. Gen. Zachary Doser, Chief Master Sgt. Michael Drisdale, Brig. Gen. Ondra Berry, Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush, Lengyel, Brig. Gen. William Burks, Col. Glen Martel, Col. Karl Stark, Chief Master Sgt. Dave Gonzales and Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Reecy.

NGB Chief headlines Leadership Summit

By Airman Baylee Hunt
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO -- Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, made his first visit as a four-star general to the Nevada Air National Guard base here in early March to headline the inaugural Nevada Air Guard's Leadership Summit. Lengyel, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, became the 28th Chief of the National Guard Bureau last August when he succeeded Gen. Frank Grass.

Lengyel, 57, spoke to a crowd of about 400 Nevada National Guard Soldiers and Airmen about leadership and the future of the National Guard. The senior enlisted advisor to Lengyel, Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush, also attended the summit.

"Any opportunity to participate in the development of future leaders of the National Guard is a privilege – and one of the most important things I get to do," said Lengyel, who serves as the Department of Defense's official channel of communication to the governors and state adjutants general on everything related to the National Guard.

Lengyel, a former fighter pilot, had been the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau since 2012. After earning his commission at the University of North Texas in 1981, Lengyel served on active duty for a decade before joining the Texas Air Guard



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Emerson Marcus

Gen. Joseph Lengyel and Chief Master Sgt. Mitchell Brush attend a luncheon on the Air National Guard Base in Reno in March.

25 years ago. During his career, Lengyel has recorded more than 3,000 F-16 flight hours.

Lengyel is the son of legendary Vietnam War pilot retired Lt. Col. Lauren Lengyel, who was shot down in southeast Asia in 1967, held as a prisoner of war for 2,044 days and then released. After a brief hospitalization, he resumed flying combat airlift missions, making him one of only two Vietnam POWs to fly missions after his repatriation.

"Joe knows what it means to be in a

military family," said then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter upon Lengyel's promotion last year. "He knows the meaning of service, sacrifice and separation."

The leadership conference emphasized the Nevada Air Guard's force development initiative. Force development ensures Airmen have the tools they need to take on leadership roles as they progress in rank, said Col. Mitch Sperling, who was then the 152nd Airlift Wing's vice commander and Leadership Summit executive planner.

Force development is one of the five priorities of the Nevada Air National Guard. The Nevada Air National Guard's other four strategic priorities are readiness, care for members and families, diversity and community.

Other speakers included Nevada football head coach Jay Norvell and professors Bill Kuechler and Yvonne Stedham as well as Western Nevada Supply owner Rick Reviglio and Chief Master Sgt. Jennifer Reecy of the South Dakota Air Guard.

Lengyel succinctly summed up his first visit to Nevada in the role of Chief as a "great" experience.

"I'm still energized by the Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen and community members who Chief Brush and I spent time with at the Nevada Air Guard Leadership Summit," Lengyel said.

AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

MOVING UP AND MOVING ON • JANUARY 2017-APRIL 2017

Meritorious Service Medal



MSgt Chestin Adaoag 232 nd Ops Sqd.
MSG Martin Alvarez 17th Sust. Bde.
1SG Cameron Anderson JFHQ
SMSgt Douglas Barron 152nd Maint. Group
MSgt Suzanne Connell 152nd Air Wing
COL Joanne Farris 991st Bde.
1SG Zell Johnson 1-221st Cav
CAPT Matthew Johnson 422nd Sig. Bn.
TSgt Joshua Johnson 232 nd Ops Sqd.
LTC John Krueger 422nd Sig. Bn.
Lt Col Robert Nicholas 152 nd Civil Eng.
SSG Lara Rutillo 485th MP
MSG Brett Penny 1864th Trans. Co.
CSM James Richardson 17th Sust. Bde.
CSM Mark Rogers R and R
SGT Oswald Sanchez 1-221st Cav
LTC David Sellen 17th Sust. Bde.
MSgt Lyle Smith 192nd Airlift Sqd

Army Commendation Medal



Lt Col Beth Boschee 152nd Medical
MSgt Jordan Clark 92nd CST
MAJ Charles Dickinson 92nd CST
SGT Rogert Green JFHQ
SSG Danielle Meadows JFHQ
SSG Jessica Menedez 92nd CST
SPC Grant Reimers 1859th TC
SGT Oswald Sanchez 1-221st Cav

Army Achievement Medal



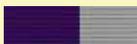
SSG Joanne Alvarez 106th Public Affairs Det.
SPC Zandra Duran 106th Public Affairs Det.
SPC Jorge Garcia 106th Public Affairs Det.
CPL Alexander Logan 106th Public Affairs Det.
SSG Jacob Roseberry 2/238th AVN
SPC Daniel St. Clair 2/238th AVN

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Kimberly Belen 152nd Force Support Sqn.
SSgt Bradley Day 152nd Force Support Sqn.
SSgt Kayla Hudson 152nd Ops Support Sqd.
TSgt Michael Jimenez 232nd Ops Sqd.
SMSgt Dean Long 152nd Airlift Wing
TSgt Matthew Whitlow 232nd Ops Sqd

Order of Nevada



Lt Col Shelly Assiff 152nd Airlift Wing
CMSgt Timothy Broadway 192nd Airlift Sqd.
SMSgt Steven Graham 152nd Coms Flight
CMSgt Lorne Hall 152nd Coms Flight
MSgt Paul Hinen NVHQ
Lt Col Dave Manson 152nd Maint. Sqd.
Col Glen Martel NVHQ
Col JoAnn Meacham NVHQ
CMSgt William Moore 152nd Med Group

Lt Col Robert Nicholas 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd.
CMSgt Mark Prizina 152nd Support Sqd

Nevada Distinguished Service Medal



MSgt Suzanne Connell 152nd Airlift Wing
MSgt Suzie Deese 152nd Logistics Sqd.
MSgt Christopher Bernard 152nd Airlift Wing
MSgt Xiomara Ibarra 152nd Support Sqd.
Lt Col Dario Rissone NVHQ

Legion of Merit



Lt Col Robert Nicholas 152nd Civil Eng. Sqd.
CMSgt Mark Prizina 152nd Support Sqd
Lt Col Nicholas Devereaux 232nd Ops Group
Maj Brian Gunderson 152nd Intel Sqd.
SMSgt Scott Jasper 152nd Intel Sqd.
SMSgt Paula Macomber 152nd Airlift Wing
Col Glen Martel NVHQ
Col Karl Stark 152nd Airlift Wing
Col Eric Wade 152nd Mission Support
SSgt Robert Winder 152nd Ops Sqd.

Nevada State Commendation Medal



Ms. Kellie George Civilian
SrA Melanie Prentiss 152nd Force Support Sqd.

Nevada Honor Graduate



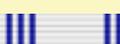
SPC Jesse Berry 609th ENG
SPC Shawn Fidler 1864th Trans. Co.
SFC Mayra Haaglund 757th CSSB
SPC Jason Pavon 3665th EOD
SPC Jorge Wilsonperez Med Det

Nevada First Sgt. Award



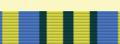
SMSgt Kevin Brun 152nd Airlift Wing

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



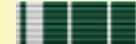
A1C Jake Garfinkle 152nd Maint. Sqd.
A1C Ryan Greb 152nd Maint. Sqd.
SrA Beata Meek 152nd Force Support Sqd.
SSgt Alex Millar 152nd Intel Sqd.

Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



SG Eric Nzioki JFHQ

Commander's Award for Civilian Service



Mr. Robert Veader USFPO

PROMOTIONS

LTC/Lt Col

LTC Michael Fugett 152 OG
LTC Shannon Manning 192 AS

MAJ/Maj

MAJ Denisse Ramos JFHQ
MAJ Jeffrey Fanelli 1-221 Cav
MAJ Samuel Ajayi 192 AS

CPT/Capt

CPT Amanda Willis 421st REGT
CPT Bryce Shattie 192 AS
CPT Christian Crawford MED DET
CPT Dylan Tucker 152 LRS
CPT Kyle Zust 192 AS
CPT Madison Winzeler 422nd ESB
CPT Timothy Jeffers 137TH MP DET

1LT/1st LT

1LT Adam Gardner 17th Sust. Bde.
1LT Daniel Lane 1-221 Cav
1LT David Vineyard 422nd ESB
1LT Emmanuel Barba 422nd ESB
1LT Howard Kemple 422nd ESB
1LT Jose Madrid 422nd ESB
1LT Leon Sanchez 72nd MP CO
1LT Marc paulo Maranon 422nd ESB
1LT Shane Craig 422nd ESB
1LT Tyler Toomey 1-221 Cav

CW4

CW4 Billie Adamson JFHQ

CW3

CW3 Brandon Dewhurst 1/189TH AV CO B
CW3 Brian Stanton JFHQ
CW3 David Bouse 17th Sust. Bde.
CW3 Joseph Sherych JFHQ

CW2

CW2 Brice Crafword 150TH MAINT
CW2 Charles Goldner JFHQ
CW2 David Aukeman 3/140TH AV DB1 AV S&S
CW2 Dennis Kemp 17th Sust. Bde.
CW2 Domenic Veneziano 150TH MAINT
CW2 Geoffrey Chrisman 1/168TH GSAB
CW2 Justin Fetty 1859th TC
CW2 Ryan Rose 1/168th Det 1CoC GS AVN B
CW2 Steven Minifie 1/168th Det 1CoC GS AVN B

SGM/CMSgt

CMSgt Christopher Crawford St HQ

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

MSG Brian Dyer 609th Eng.
MSG Frederick Ammons 17th Sust. Bde.
MSG Joshua Zamzow 145th Forward Support
MSG Nathaniel Cothran 1-221 Cav
MSG Oscar Lewis 1864th Trans. Co.
MSG Stanley Harvey JFHQ
SMSgt Erin Dorsett 152 MOF

SFC/MSGt

SFC Benjamin Hopper 3665th EOD
SFC Christian Marx 72nd MP Co.
SFC Christina Repetto 72nd MP Co.
SFC Hakeem Shinaba JFHQ
SFC Matthew Munoz 1864th Trans. Co.
SFC Mitchell Hammond 1859th TC

SFC Richard Jager 92nd CST
 MSgt Alexis Anastassatos 152 MOF
 MSgt Howard Schmitz 232 OS
 MSgt Javier Sosa 152 LRS
 MSgt Jeannine Rainey 152 CPTF
 MSgt Jeffrey Stark 152 MXG
 MSgt Jeffrey Mello 152 CES
 MSgt Jose Escobar 152 AW

SSG/TSgt

SSG Alan Potter 72nd MP Co.
 SSG Allison Mangosing Training Center Camp Stead
 SSG Cherice Stormfeltz JFHQ
 SSG James Brooks 593rd Trans. Co.
 SSG Jayson Ware 1-221 Cav
 SSG Kihana Jessie MED DET
 SSG Matthew Anderson 150TH MAINT
 SSG Sawyer Stewart 1-221 Cav
 TSgt Aaron Carl 152 CES
 TSgt Anthony Masten 152 CES
 TSgt Brandon Encallado 152 OSS
 TSgt Brittny Smith 152 AMXS
 TSgt Catheryn Silva 152 LRS
 TSgt Gregory Hovore 152 AMXS
 TSgt Jesse Wilson 152 CES
 TSgt Justin Lederman 232 OS
 TSgt Katherine Dew 152 AMXS
 TSgt Kyle Tribble 152 LRS
 TSgt Nichole Landers 152 IS
 TSgt Sean Nguyen 152 MOF

SGT/SSgt

SGT Brandon Dogelio 1-221 Cav
 SGT Brett Rowan 609th Eng.
 SGT Christopher Oakden 150TH MAINT
 SGT Clinton Agcaoili 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT Colton Schneider 1-221 Cav
 SGT David Jensen 2/238th Aviation
 SGT Devan Chambers 1-221 Cav
 SGT Ernest Lopez 485th MP Co.
 SGT Genaro Garcia 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT Hector Ruiz 1-221 Cav
 SGT Jamison White 72nd MP Co.
 SGT Jason James 422nd ESB
 SGT Jeffrey Ford 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT Jeremy Fox 593rd Trans. Co.
 SGT Jessica Burgoon 485th MP Co.
 SGT Jhian Tinoco 1-221 Cav
 SGT Jonathan Gonzales 593rd Trans. Co.
 SGT Jonathan Perez 422nd ESB
 SGT Julia Rodriguez 593rd Trans. Co.
 SGT Leo Lingle 145th Forward Support
 SGT Luisenrike Gonzalez 1859th TC
 SGT Marlayna Baca 422nd ESB
 SGT Marlon Garcia 240th Eng. Co.
 SGT Matthew Lambert 92nd CST
 SGT Michael Searcy 485th MP Co.
 SGT Nada Harris 100th Quartermaster
 SGT Nathaniel Kriider 72nd MP Co.
 SGT Nicklaus Powell 72nd MP Co.
 SGT Nicole Shepherd 422nd ESB
 SGT Robert Wood 609th Eng.
 SGT Ryan Guay 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT Shanay Austin MED DET
 SGT Shawn Hines 609th Eng.
 SGT Sheradene Henry 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT Steven Delpozo 72nd MP Co.
 SGT Tevin Flores NVARNG RR Battalion
 SGT Wilson Sumalpong 100th Quartermaster
 SGT Zandra Duran 106th Public Affairs
 SSgt Brett Gilmore 192 AS
 SSgt Christopher Crossley 152 MXS
 SSgt Cole Bates 152 IS
 SSgt Daniel Bodecker 152 MXS
 SSgt Edward Oropeza 152 AMXS
 SSgt Jay Pascua 152 MDG
 SSgt Justin May 152 LRS
 SSgt Katherine Messinger 152 LRS
 SSgt Mitchell Whalen 152 LRS
 SSgt Patrick Cranston 152 AMXS
 SSgt Paul Longworth 152 MDG
 SSgt Philip Lee 152 MXS
 SSgt Ryan Ross 152 OSS
 SSgt Sabrina Norris St HQ
 SSgt Sarah Newcomb 152 MDG
 SSgt Spenser Lowrey 152 LRS
 SSgt William Tremblay 232 OS

ACCESSIONS

Alexander Kiapos 1/189th Aviation Co
 Steven Cox 1/189th Aviation Co
 Kevin Pinto-Maldonado 1/189th Aviation Co
 Shane Salaices 1/189th Aviation Co
 Joshua Palasbay 1/189th Aviation Co
 Jacob Munier 1/189th Aviation Co
 Daniel Aboytes-Ramirez 1/189th Aviation Co
 Elizabeth Thompson 100th Quartermaster Co
 Humberto Amezcua 100th Quartermaster Co
 Justin Kiser 100th Quartermaster Co
 Heidi Labastida 100th Quartermaster Co
 Sarai Rubio 100th Quartermaster Co
 Jacob Summey 137th MP
 Joseph Diraffaele 137th MP
 Alexis Hodler 137th MP
 Fredy Cazaressanta-Cruz 137th MP
 Edgar Arreolaquintanilla 137th MP
 Steven Larkin 145th Forward Support Co
 Anthony Burgess 150th Maint Co
 Jorge Bernal 150th Maint Co
 Daniel Martin 150th Maint Co
 Daniel Preziosi 150th Maint Co
 Daizjah Talbert 150th Maint Co
 Faridah Clark 150th Maint Co
 Felicia Harris 150th Maint Co
 Gregory Smith 150th Maint Co
 Jakeb Rehmann 150th Maint Co
 Joel Senteney 150th Maint Co
 Matthew McCormick 150th Maint Co
 Robert Maktenieks 150th Maint Co
 Victor Chan 150th Maint Co
 Miles Abbott 150th Maint Co
 Brendan Roggow 150th Maint Co
 Robert Fillippini 150th Maint Co
 Bryan Vega 150th Maint Co
 Citlalli Mendiola 150th Maint Co
 Nicholas Votaw 150th Maint Co
 Belen Ramirez 150th Maint Co
 Bryan Rosario 150th Maint Co
 Dustin Pawlikowski 150th Maint Co
 Erick Squires 150th Maint Co
 Michael Roscom 150th Maint Co
 Desiree Higgs 152nd Airlift Wing
 Meghan Arrance 152nd Avn. Maint. Sqd.
 McKenzie Burke 152nd Avn. Maint. Sqd.
 Andy Santibanez 152nd Coms Flight
 Makayla Mullerix 152nd Force Support Sqd.
 Rexford Barton 152nd Intel Sqd.
 Jeffrie Miller 152nd Intel Sqd.
 Thomas Deese 152nd Log. Read. Sqd.
 Jimmy Heinson 152nd Log. Read. Sqd.
 Kyle Reed-Hanson 152nd Log. Read. Sqd.
 Zach Hendrickson 152nd Maint. Sqd.
 Aron McCulloch 152nd Maint. Sqd.
 Bailey Nolan 152nd Maint. Sqd.
 Tamara Frankie 152nd Medical Group
 Zeshen Mahmood 152nd Medical Group
 Quin Mellott 152nd Medical Group
 Kayla Warner 152nd Medical Group
 Gabriana Zbella 152nd Medical Group
 Rachel Bianachi 152nd Medical Group
 Mia Carney 152nd Medical Group
 Grace Corbin 152nd Ops Support Sqd.
 Jaxton Morales 152nd Ops Support Sqd.
 Gabriel Newberry 152nd Ops Support Sqd.
 Devon Johnston 152nd Security Forces
 Carlos McRea 152nd Security Forces
 Dakota Rainwater 152nd Security Forces
 Dustin Randol 152nd Security Forces
 Jake Sylvester 152nd Security Forces
 Nikolaus Williams 17th SB
 Cara Risco 17th SB
 Veronica Anchando 17th SB
 Diana Perea 17th SB
 Antonio Gaspar Javier 17th SB
 Ofelia Valencia-Chavez 17th SB
 Isaac Ross 17th SB
 Omri Nell 17th SB
 Angel Auimatagi 17th SB
 Donald Sheridan 17th SB
 Luis Ulloa 17th SB
 Rachel Reeves 17th SB

Ashley Cabrera 17th SB
 Jessica Hanohanaone 17th SB
 Cristina Salvias 1859th Trans Co
 Lucas Reccelle 1859th Trans Co
 Luis Diaz-Casillas 1859th Trans Co
 Steven Smith 1859th Trans Co
 Jonathan Gutierrez-Villasenar 1859th Trans Co
 Jose Rodriguezgarza 1859th Trans Co
 Vincent Lopresti 1859th Trans Co
 Angela Delacruz 1859th Trans Co
 Dacoadah Bastian 1864th Trans Co
 Marilyn Mendezyla 1864th Trans Co
 Brandon Ackerman 1864th Trans Co
 Alondra Grajeda-Rodriguez 1864th Trans Co
 Mary Villalpando 1864th Trans Co
 Ivan Mata 1864th Trans Co
 Lawra Landis 1864th Trans Co
 Mahamad Abdo 1864th Trans Co
 Dalton Kaady 192nd Airlift Sqd.
 Steven Ferrell 192nd Airlift Sqd.
 Amanda Kobernick 192nd Airlift Sqd.
 Garrett McSpadden 192nd Airlift Sqd.
 Zacary Jaggens 192nd Airlift Sqd.
 Alyssa Grew 2/238th Aviation Det
 Anthony Ray 2/238th Aviation Det
 Nickolous Mooney 232nd Operations Sqd.
 Megan King 240th Engineer Co
 Elizabeth Nutick 240th Engineer Co
 Michael Fleck 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Joseph Rivas 3/140th Aviation Co
 Jacquelyn Trujillo 3/140th Aviation Det
 Nicholas Quintana 3665th Ordnance Co
 Keith Landry 3665th Ordnance Co
 Michael Sprinkle 593rd Trans Co
 Sean Dinnell 593rd Trans Co
 Roberto Madrid-Monarez 593rd Trans Co
 Tristin Iwanski 593rd Trans Co
 Ezekiel Pinedo 593rd Trans Co
 Jacqueline Jones 593rd Trans Co
 Jennifer Pendegrass 593rd Trans Co
 Max Windle 593rd Trans Co
 Mayah Archleta 593rd Trans Co
 Drake Neumann 593rd Trans Co
 Carli Reynolds 609th Engineer Co
 Phillip Roen 609th Engineer Co
 Michael Escobar 609th Engineer Co
 Jennifer Delgado 72nd MP Co
 Xarn Manzon 72nd MP Co
 Jerlan Reyes 72nd MP Co
 Rayena Rael 72nd MP Co
 Braulio Nunez-Gonzalez 72nd MP Co
 Logan Hulse 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Nathan Capps 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Samantha Gustafson 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
 Roy Woodall A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Bruce Vinson A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Elias Peinado A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Brayden Anderson A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Cassidy McKern A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Erik Delmar A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Ronald Stock A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Eli Valdez A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 John Hernandez A Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Aaron Abay B Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Harley Amansec B Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Tyler Swanke B Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Ernie Calderon B Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Nathanael Dupree B Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Lee Ramirez C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Mark Pascua C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Victor Caruso C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Chandler Mesinar C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Antonio Aguilar C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Eduardo Nava C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Mary Joseph Narciso C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 James Smith C Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Harry Dixon Camp Stead
 Robert Anderson Co C, 422nd ESB
 Luis Olivero D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Christopher Harrop D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Derek Fry D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Pena Gildardo-Ortiz D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Scott Lewis D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 David Rogers D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Michael Casas D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Allyloren Rudolfo HHT, 1/221st Cav

Leonardo Morales..... HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Malcom Jacobs..... HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Ryan Richardson..... I Troop, 1/221st Cav

RETIREMENTS

LTC/Lt Col

LTC David Sellen..... 17th Sust. Bde.
 Lt Col Dario Rissone..... NVHQ
 Lt Col Matthew Soria..... 232nd OS

MAJ/Maj

Maj Thomas Johnson..... 152nd MDG

CW5

CW5 Glen Spadin..... OSA, Det. 45

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

1SG Troy Anderson..... JFHQ
 SMSgt Doug Barron..... 152nd MOF
 SMSgt Aaron Dawson..... 152nd AMXS
 1SG Jerry Hughes..... 421st RTI
 MSG Martin Alvarez..... 17th Sust. Bde.
 MSG Jacob Gonzales..... 17th Sust. Bde.

SFC/MSgt

SFC Ryan Bongiovanni..... A Troop, 1-221st Cav
 SFC Michael Connell..... JFHQ
 MSgt Susan Deese..... 152nd LRS
 SFC Ricky Ferguson..... 421st RTI

MSgt Todd Houchens..... 192nd AS
 MSgt Xiomara Ibarra..... 152nd FSS
 MSgt Larry Moen..... 152nd LRS
 MSgt Elliot Morris..... 152nd MXS

SSG/TSgt

SSG Gregory Jones..... 422nd Sig. Bn.
 SSG Seferino Romero..... 1864th Trans. Co.
 SGT/SSgt
 SSgt Terry Nottingham..... 152nd SFS

SPC

SPC Dominic Ruiz..... 593rd Trans. Co.

PFC/Airmen

PFC Jamin Scott..... 422nd Sig. Bn.



150th Family Readiness Leader recognized for superior volunteer service

Staff Reports

CARSON CITY -- Susie Crawford, the Family Readiness Group Leader for the 150th Maintenance Company here in the Capital City, was presented the Volunteerism Award by the Nevada Army National Guard on June 3 for her extraordinary commitment and dedication to the unit's Soldiers and their family members.

"She stands as a testament to the many ways military spouses serve within our military community," said Joey Davis,

the northern Nevada Family Readiness Support Assistant.

According to Davis, some of Crawford's notable contributions included: referrals to military and community resources, point of contact for the dissemination of unit information, meeting and event coordination, record keeping and program compliance.

Crawford is the wife of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brice Crawford, who recently transferred from the 150th Maintenance Company to the 1864th Transportation Company in Las Vegas.

Family Readiness Group Leaders serve

as a critical support resource for Soldiers and their families, and play a vital role in readiness throughout the state's Army Guard units.

They receive Department of Defense training and assist unit commanders in family support initiative and program directives.

For information on becoming a volunteer like Crawford for the Family Readiness Program, please contact your local Family Readiness Support Assistant. In northern Nevada, call Davis at 775-384-5803; in southern Nevada, call Renee Sumner at 702-856-4812.



Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell

Alexandra Alvarado, with the Reno-based dance group Poly Nui, performs a Tahitian dance during the National Guard 2017 Diversity Day in Carson City.

Mahalo to everyone who celebrated
DIVERSITY DAY