

Volume 3 Number 12

February 2010

ARKANSAS MINUTEMAN

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Arkansas Guard News

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EDITORIAL

Black History in the American Military

With his founding of the annual recognition of black history in 1926, Dr. Carter Woodson said "What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race hate, and religious prejudice."

Although we are far from the nation we were those 84 years ago, we sadly are still far from that world void of bias, hate and prejudice in which Woodson described.

Although far from being completely void of such hateful discrimination, there is one organization in America that arguably comes closer to Woodson's vision than any other in our nation – our United States military.

Our force is truly a melting pot of men and women of all race, creed, and color.

In our recent history, we have seen African-American leaders earn positions of prominence within our military, but their success was not only due to their own hard work, dedication and sacrifice, but also to the blood, sweat and tears spilled by the generations before them – generations of African-Americans who have served a long and proud history in our nation's military.

African-Americans have fought for this country since its beginning, with an estimated 5,000 having fought on the patriot side during the American Revolutionary War that spanned from 1775 to 1783.

Crispus Attucks is commonly referred to as the first martyr of that war, when he was killed during the Boston Massacre.

Around 180,000 African-Americans fought in the American Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Twenty-five of those men earned the Medal of Honor for their unbelievable heroism during that war.

During the course of the Indian Wars fought from 1866 to the early 1890s, 19 African-Americans earned the Medal of Honor.

African-American troops served with distinction again and again in war after war throughout history. More than 350,000 served in World War I, over a million served in World War II, and some 600,000 during the Korean War, despite the con-

tinuance of segregated units and discrimination.

African-Americans continued to join the armed forces in large numbers during the War in Vietnam from 1962 to 1975. By war's end, 20 African-Americans had earned the Medal of Honor for their extraordinarily heroic service to our nation.

Throughout these conflicts, literally thousands of African-Americans have died on the battlefield in the fight to make our country what it is today. This selfless service continues with our men and women who serve our nation in this new century.

On March 25, 2003, while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the state of Arkansas was handed its first loss to the war... another African-American hero. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Michael Van Johnson, Jr. was killed in action while administering first aid to a wounded Marine on the battlefield in Iraq. He died in an attempt to save another's life.

Unfortunately, Arkansas has suffered the loss of many more great Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines on those same battlefields. Like Michael Van Johnson Jr., many of them gave their lives in the attempt to save that of another's – regardless of their race, color or creed.

I would argue that no where in our great nation has progress towards racial unity and equality seen such success as we see in today's military – but we still have a long way to go.

For us to move forward as a nation, we must continue to work for an America where the dignity of every person is respected, where hope and opportunity reach into every neighborhood, where all eyes are colorblind, and every citizen has the chance to live the American dream.

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

- Booker T. Washington

In Remembrance

African-American Guardsmen Killed in Action while serving with the Arkansas National Guard in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Staff Sgt. Hesley Box JR.

January 29th, 1980 - May 6th, 2004
Nashville, AR

1st Battalion,
153rd Infantry,
39th Infantry
Brigade Combat
Team

Hesley lost his life at the age of 24, when a car bomb detonated near his guard post in Baghdad, Iraq.



Capt. Arthur L. "Bo" Felder

October 17, 1967 - April 24th, 2004
Lewisville, AR

39th Support Battalion, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
An early morning mortar and rocket attack on Camp Taji, Iraq, claimed his life, along with three of his fellow Soldiers, on April 24th, 2004.



Sgt. Michael A. Smith

October 16th, 1980 - November 26th, 2004
Camden, AR

1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

Smith died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., from injuries sustained in Baghdad, Iraq, on November 7th, 2004, when he was attacked by Small Arms Fire.



Photo by the Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

ON THE COVER

START YOUR ENGINES. A member of the 189th Airlift Wing monitors the exterior of the C-130 as the engines are fired up in preparation for take off. The 189th transported the deploying members of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron on the first leg of their journey to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response. See page six for more on the Arkansas Guard's role in supporting the relief effort to the island nation after it was devastated by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent aftershocks in January.

188th Fighter Wing deploys 50 for Afghanistan Rotation

By Capt. Heath Allen

188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. — A stream of tears gave way to a flood of emotions as their loved ones boarded a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 bound for Afghanistan.

Hands waved vigorous goodbyes, some wielding American flags as the aircraft rolled down the runway and minutes later thundered into the transparent blue distance.

Approximately 50 Airmen from the 188th Fighter Wing deployed to Afghanistan as part of the unit's Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation.

The Airmen departed the 188th Jan. 4 to begin a four-month rotation in Afghanistan, where they will join the 175th Wing, based in Baltimore, Md. The 188th and 175th will each deploy A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" to facilitate the rotation's mission.

The 188th will deploy approximately 300 personnel to Afghanistan during the entire AEF rotation. The remainder of the 188th personnel, approximately 250, will begin its portion of the rotation in March 2010, when the 188th's official rotation begins.

"This is what the 188th has trained for and what we work so hard to prepare for," said Col. Tom Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "The 188th has received the best training possible and we have the utmost confidence that we will be an asset to the mission."

While the 188th prepares year-round for its mission, it has conducted intense training over the past six months in preparation for its AEF rotation. The 188th deployed approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel along with 13 of the unit's 21 A-10s to Operation Snowbird at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., July 25-Aug. 8, 2009.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hornsey

SAYING FAREWELL. Family and friends of deploying 188th Fighter Wing members wave goodbye as their Airmen depart for Afghanistan on Jan. 4, 2010.

The deployment to Davis-Monthan furnished the 188th with the opportunity to conduct training and gain operational experience in a mountainous, desert terrain, which closely mimics the climate and conditions in Afghanistan. The 188th flew 186 sorties totaling 437 hours during its deployment to Davis-Monthan.

The 188th deployed approximately 200 pilots, maintenance and support personnel to Green Flag West at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 9-23, 2009, for additional training. The 188th deployed 10 A-10Cs to Nellis.

The primary motive of Green Flag was to duplicate warfare conditions currently found in Iraq and Afghanistan. Aircrew engaged in battle exercises that furnished training in which they worked closely with joint terminal attack controllers (JTACs) to protect nearly 6,000 Soldiers and 400 armored and support vehicles from an opposing enemy force in a 1,000-square-mile combat environment.

While at Green Flag, the 188th dropped a diverse array of munitions and bombs, including GBU-38 JDAMs, GBU-12 LGBs, MK-82s (in-



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hornsey

HEADING OVERSEAS. Members of the 188th Fighter Wing board a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 headed for a four-month Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation to Afghanistan.

ert), MK-66 rockets and AGM-65 Mavericks as well as firing 30 MM rounds from the A-10's GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun.

All of that training was to prepare the 188th for what it will encounter in Afghanistan.

"The A-10 is the best platform for close-air support, which will be our primary task in Afghanistan," Anderson said. "The A-10 has surgical capabilities and can destroy pinpoint targets, which is vital when attempting to eliminate collateral damage."

The impending deploy-

ment marks the first AEF rotation for the 188th as an A-10 unit. The 188th officially transitioned from the F-16 Fighting Falcon to the A-10 April 14, 2007.

The 188th's last AEF deployment transpired in 2005 when the unit deployed 267 Airmen and 10 F-16s to Balad Air Base, Iraq, while sharing a four-month rotation. In 2005, more than half of the 188th's 1,000 personnel deployed in some capacity in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We've been to war before and deployed Airmen into battle, just in a different



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hornsey

HARD TO LET GO. A member of the 188th Fighter Wing hugs a loved one prior to departing for Afghanistan Jan. 4, 2010. The 188th deployed approximately 50 Airmen to Afghanistan for a four-month Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) rotation. The remainder of the 188th personnel, approximately 250, will begin its portion of the rotation in March 2010, when the 188th's official rotation begins.

aircraft," Anderson said. "I appreciate all the service of all of our Airmen and their families. We have a great support system in place to ensure that each member of our unit and their families are taken care of during this deployment."

While many 188th Airmen were logging their first deployments, others were making a return trip to the Middle East, though to a

different location with a different aircraft and saddled with a much different family dynamic.

"Before when I deployed, I was just a single guy picking up and moving," said Tech Sgt. Shawn Thorne, a crew chief with the 188th. "Now I'm a husband and a father and it's a much different feeling when you're leaving a wife and children behind."

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87th Troop Command Soldiers honored for life-saving actions

Bullinger, Hall presented with highest honor for heroism not involving combat

By **Sgt. Rick Fahr**
119th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Moments after observing the Family enjoying a late summer day on Lake Hamilton, Chief Warrant Officer Ricky Bullinger and Maj. Steven Hall found themselves between a woman, her children and certain death.

The woman, Tamara Keele, and her 7-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter, Sara Crotts, were in the lake, a portion of which had become electrified from wiring on a dock.

Bullinger and Hall heard their cries for help and immediately jumped in to save the trio. They were able to pull Keele from the lake but could not save Crotts.

For their heroic actions on that day, Aug. 23, 2008,

Bullinger and Hall were awarded the Soldier's Medal during a ceremony at Camp Joseph T. Robinson on Sunday, Jan. 10.

During the emotionally charged ceremony, Keele's husband, David, read a statement for her.

"If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here today," the statement read.

As he finished reading her words, Tamara Keele quietly acknowledged the men again.

"Thank you. Thank you," she whispered through muffled sobs.

Keele's daughter, Taylor, also read a brief statement, referring to the men as her "angels."

Brig. Gen. Roger McClellan said the Troops' actions in putting themselves in harm's way exemplifies the best in human spirit.

"I'm not one that gets

choked up very easily, but you've heard the comments from the Family. Very, very real," he said. "I think you've had to be there to fully understand the impact, and we are very thankful for what these two gentlemen did, and we are very thankful for the results."

The Soldier's Medal honors a member of the armed forces who distinguishes himself or herself by heroism not involving conflict with an enemy but involving personal hazard or danger.

After the ceremony, Bullinger, who serves as a logistics officer with 87th Troop Command, said the incident happened too quickly for him to have given his actions any thought.

"In a split-second, you don't have an opportunity to make a decision. You just have to do," he said.

The warrant officer cred-

ited the military mindset of serving others for his reaction.

"It's what we've been trained for, and it comes natural to help other folks," he noted.

Hall, commander of the state's Recruit Sustainment Program, said that reflecting on the events of that day has helped him appreciate the delicate nature of life.

"You realize that life can change on a dime," he explained. "You can't look at your kids without thinking, 'My goodness, it could all be over in a second.' It makes you enjoy the moment."



Photo by Sgt. Rick Fahr, 119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HIGH HONOR. Brig. Gen. Roger McClellan (left), the Arkansas National Guard's Joint Force land component commander, shakes hands with Chief Warrant Officer Rickey Bullinger after presenting him with the Soldier's Medal – the highest military honor for heroism not involving combat. Maj. Steven Hall (center) was awarded along with Bullinger for their heroic efforts to save the lives of others without concern for their own at Lake Hamilton on Aug. 23, 2008.

January's incoming winter weather sparks early call for Guard support

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – The Arkansas Guard began calendar year 2010 with various calls for support in a proactive measure to respond to communities affected by January's winter weather.

In preparation for the arctic blast that was forecast to hit the state on January 6, the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management tasked the Guard to deliver cots and blankets to five locations in three counties in the northwest area of the state.

The Rogers Armory, Fayetteville Armory and the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Chaffee each received 100 cots, 200 blankets and a pallet of water from the Arkansas Department of Emergency



PROACTIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. David Maxwell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, addresses the media in front of several FEMA generators that were staged at Camp Robinson in preparation for incoming winter weather. The delivery of generators was just one step in the proactive move to prepare the state for the possibility of severe weather.

Management. The Yvonne Richardson Center in Fayetteville received 200 cots and blan-

kets, and the Powell Senior Center in Springdale re-

Please see WEATHER, Page 12

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Intelligence Squadron deploys

Guard also deploys disaster relief equipment

Photo by the Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

START YOUR ENGINES. A member of the Arkansas National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing monitors the exterior of the C-130 as the engines are fired up in preparation for take off. The 189th transported the deploying members of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron on the first leg of their journey to Haiti in support of Operation Unified

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. – After a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the island nation of Haiti, seven members of the Air National Guard's 123rd Intelligence Squadron departed the state in response to Arkansas' first call for Guard support there.

On Thursday, January 21, the unit received a confirmed mission to deploy personnel in support of Operation Unified Response for a currently undetermined period of time. The team departed the Little Rock Air Force Base at approximately 8:30 the following morning for the first leg of their journey to Haiti courtesy of an Arkansas Air National Guard C-130 piloted by members of the Guard's 189th Airlift Wing from the base.

The team deployed with the mission to analyze imagery from full motion video taken from fixed wing aircraft conducting aerial reconnaissance over the affected areas of Haiti. The unit's mission assists with force protection of troops on the ground through the identification of areas with rioting or mass crowding of displaced persons. The unit is also responsible for analyzing infrastructure such as roadways, sea and aerial ports to help identify their capabilities to accept incoming support.

"I've been ready since the day we heard that the quake happened," said Tech. Sgt. Courtney Leslie, intelligence analyst with the 123rd. "Although we're not collecting traditional intelligence that we would on other countries, it's viable intelligence products that we will be producing for the generals and the ground commanders down there that will give them so much more ease to be able to bring aid into the people and to control the millions of people that do need that aid."

Fighter Wing responds

The 188th Fighter Wing answered the Arkansas Guard's second call for support to Haiti with the deployment of the unit's Disaster Relief Beddown Set (DRBS) on Monday, January 25.

The DRBS supports up to 150 personnel with billets, shower and latrine facilities, kitchen and self-help laundry machines, as well as providing water purification capabilities. The system



PACKAGE DEAL. An all-terrain forklift is loaded onto a C-17 at the Disaster Relief Beddown Set (DRBS). The 188th was tasked with deploying the DRBS. The DRBS is a 188th asset that supports 150 personnel. It includes water purification capabilities, a kitchen and self-help laundry machines. The unit also provides Army Medical Support, which will help provide medical care to Haiti earthquake victims. The DRBS was last used in January 2009, when it was deployed to Marshall, Ark., following the devastating ice storm that affected the northern third of the state.

With this most recent deployment, the DRBS will house relief personnel from Expeditionary Medical Support, a National Guard asset that is tasked to provide medical care to earthquake victims in Haiti.

Although no Arkansas Guardsmen were tasked to deploy with the equipment, unit personnel came together to load out the system for movement via one C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.

Army Guard awaits mission

The 77th Aviation Brigade's Company F, 2nd Battalion, 211th Air Traffic Services, received word of a possible deployment to Haiti as well and began preparation for possible movement in late January. The deployment remains pending at the time of this writing, but is anticipated to occur in early February.

ys troops to Haiti after quake

nt; prepares to provide air traffic support



Photo by Capt. Heath Allen, 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer
The 188th Fighter Wing Jan. 25. The forklift is part of the 188th's Disaster Relief Beddown Set (DRBS) in support of Operation Unified Response. The DRBS includes one all-terrain forklift, billets, shower and latrine facilities, water purification capabilities, a kitchen and self-help laundry machines. The DRBS will be used to house relief personnel from Expeditionary Medical Support, which will help provide medical care to Haiti earthquake victims.

The unit's expertise would provide the Joint Task Force Command with a much more controlled reception of airflow bringing humanitarian aid into the nation.

The latest chapter

The Guard's role in support of Operation Unified Response is a continuation of the massive call for Guard support in response to natural disasters over the past few years.

The Arkansas Guard's largest single call for support in response to a natural disaster came in late 2005 after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. While Arkansas activated over 3,000 troops, the Guard as a whole mobilized approximately 50,000 to the affected states.

The Guard's role here at home peaked in 2008, with 81 state active duty missions primarily in response to the multiple natural disasters such as tornadoes and flooding that hit throughout the year. Last year topped that number however with 107 state active



Photo by Capt. Heath Allen, 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer
HEAVY LOAD. Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing work to load billets onto a C-17 Jan. 25. The billets are part of the 188th's Disaster Relief Beddown Set (DRBS). The 188th was tasked with deploying its DRBS in support of Operation Unified Response. The DRBS is a 188th asset that supports 150 personnel. It includes one all-terrain forklift, billets, shower and latrine facilities, water purification capabilities, a kitchen and self-help laundry machines. The DRBS will be used to house relief personnel from Expeditionary Medical Support, which will help provide medical care to Haiti earthquake victims.

duty missions. The majority of those missions came in response to the massive ice storms that devastated north Arkansas, resulting in the activation of approximately 1,000 Guardsmen to support the affected communities.

"It makes you proud," said Tech. Sgt. Leslie reference her role in the current mission to support the relief effort in Haiti. "And to have the support of the coworkers that are staying behind, to have the support of the Family, and your friends that are picking up the pieces, it makes you really proud. It makes you want to do it again and again and for every mission that comes along."

Helping Haiti

For those wishing to support the earthquake relief effort in Haiti, we recommend texting the word "HAITI" to "90999" and a donation of \$10 will be given directly to the Red Cross relief efforts. The amount will be charged to your cell phone bill. For other options, please visit the Department of Defense Website at www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/0110_haiti.



Photo by the Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office
READY TO SHIP. Master Sgt. Chris Klobner, from Cabot, unloads the bus heading to his awaiting flight. Klobner was one of seven members of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron who deployed to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response.



Photo by the Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office
LEADERSHIP. 2nd Lt. Scott Anderson, of Mayflower, has a last minute conversation with the commander of the 123rd Intelligence Squadron, Capt. Paul Needham, prior to boarding an 189th Airlift Wing C-130 on January 22 at the Little Rock Air Force Base. Anderson deployed as the officer in charge of the small team of Arkansas Airmen called to serve in support of Operation Unified Response.



Photo by the Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office
CHECKING IN. Senior Airmen Jeff Upton, of Sherwood (right) checks in to begin processing for deployment with the 123rd. To his left are fellow unit members, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Hunter, also of Sherwood; Airmen 1st Class Jessica Goy, of Hot Springs; and Tech. Sgt. Courtney Leslie, of Cabot (in the hallway).

Arkansas Guard engineers get rousing sendoff

1037th Route Clearance Company ready for Afghanistan deployment

FORT MCCOY, Wis. – With a thundering “Hoo-ah,” the Arkansas Army National Guard’s 1037th Route Clearance Company signaled its readiness to make a difference in Afghanistan.

The approximately 200 person unit responded to State Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah Collins’ question during a brief sendoff ceremony here Monday, Jan. 25, 2010.

The 1037th – a combination of Soldiers from the 875th Engineer Battalion’s 1037th and 1036th Engineer Companies – departed the States to join the North Carolina Army National Guard’s 105th Engineer Battalion in Afghanistan two days later on Jan. 27. The battalion is made up of seven units from various states and is charged with a route clearance mission – as suggested by their name – during a nine month deployment.

The 875th received a mobilization order in August 2009 for a portion of the unit to support overseas operations. The 1037th began home station training on October 3 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson before moving to Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center and ultimately mobilizing to Fort McCoy in November for the final phase of training prior to deployment.

“You’ve made us all proud, and you’ve made me proud personally,” said Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas. “The work you did getting here and in demonstrating just what a great military unit Arkansas can provide, is typical of the 875th.”

A contingent of leaders with the Arkansas Army National Guard traveled to Wisconsin to wish the troops a fond farewell. The city of Jonesboro, where the 875th is headquartered, organized a separate flight to Wisconsin that included



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

SENDOFF CEREMONY. Members of the Arkansas National Guard’s 1037th Route Clearance Company attend a sendoff ceremony Jan. 25, 2010 at Fort McCoy, Wis. The 1037th, a unit of the 875th Engineer Battalion, is deploying to Afghanistan for nine months as part of the North Carolina National Guard’s 105th Engineer Battalion.

city and county leaders, and local media members. Mayor Harold Perrin took an opportunity to let the Soldiers know they were appreciated in their own community.

“I’m so unbelievably proud of each and every one of you, and of the sacrifices you make and continue to make to protect our freedom and way of life that are immeasurable. We are eternally grateful,” he said.

One of the ranking members of the Arkansas National Guard in attendance had a personal interest in the well being of the 1037th. Col. Joe Moore, the director of military support, spoke to the assembly and to one Soldier in particular.

“I’m here to see you all off, and to see my number one son, Adam, off,” said Moore as he looked at his son. “Lieutenant Moore, it’s time for all young leaders to step up, to do your job and to get back. I ask all of you to watch out for each other – to look out for my son – to take care of each other and we’ll see you when you get back.”

As the ceremony wrapped up, the unit asked



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs.

FATHER AND SON. Col. Joe Moore, the Arkansas National Guard director of military support, has lunch with his son, 1st Lt. Adam Moore, before his oldest son ships out to Afghanistan with the Arkansas Army National Guard’s 1037th Route Clearance Company. Adam Moore is the 3rd Platoon leader for the approximately 200 man 1037th, which is leaving on a nine month deployment with the North Carolina National Guard’s 105th Engineer Battalion.

the adjutant general to help take care of some last minute business. Six young Soldiers received promotions and were pinned with their new rank by Wofford. Wynn Thomas, Anthony Baker and Chad Murray were promoted to Private First Class, and James Jackson, De’andre Pierson

and Alvin Creed were promoted to Specialist.

Maj. Gen. Wofford then presented Purple Heart medals to Spc. Anthony Taylor and Staff Sgt. Thomas Hart for wounds received during their last deployment.

During his address, Wofford reminded the Soldiers



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

COMMUNITY LEADER. Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin talks to the Arkansas Army National Guard’s 1037th Route Clearance Company during a sendoff ceremony Monday, Jan. 25, 2010 at Fort McCoy, Wis. The 1037th is an approximately 200 man combination of the 875th Engineer Battalion’s 1037th and 1036th Engineer Companies. The 875th is headquartered in Jonesboro, Ark.

that they would be facing challenges while they were gone.

“I’d like to share one thought with you as you get ready to leave,” said Wofford. “This is a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., ‘The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he

stands at times of challenge and controversy.’ On the day you’re preparing to leave I think you need to be aware that there will be some challenges. There is nothing that you, as individuals and as a team, can’t overcome. Essayons,” he said, ending with the famed engineer motto, which is French for “Let us try.”

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THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY...

On Feb. 23, 1847, the Arkansas Regiment of Mounted Volunteers played a critical role in the battle of Buena Vista in the War with Mexico.

After rendezvousing at Washington, Hempstead County, the regiment headed for Mexico. They would march from 15 to 18 miles per day, setting up camp at about noon each day. On August 28th, they finally reached their rendezvous point in San Antonio where they were assigned to the division commanded by Brig. Gen. Wool.

Wool's division consisted of six companies of Regulars from the Sixth Infantry, one company of cavalry, an artillery battery, the Arkansas Volunteers and two regiments of Illinois Volunteers. They left San Antonio on Sept. 26, 1846 for the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua with a mission of fomenting a revolution against the Mexican government among the reportedly disenfranchised citizens.

After marching for three months the division's mission changed. Learning that Santa Anna had boldly decided to turn north and destroy the small army commanded by Gen. Zachary Taylor, Wool's division was ordered to reinforce Taylor's army. Covering 85 miles in three days, Wool's division joined Taylor's forces on Dec. 21, 1846 near Aqua Nueva. This location was important because it was the only abundant source of water for 35 miles. If held, Santa Anna could come no further north.

General Wool did not like the terrain around Aqua Nueva; it was flat and without any natural defensive positions. Acting on a recommendation of General Wool, Taylor ordered the camp around Aqua Nueva abandoned on Jan. 20, 1847. He directed that his forces move six miles to a more defensible position near the hacienda of Buena Vista. Six companies of Colonel Yell's Arkansas Volunteers were placed in defensive positions on the southern flank, along

with troops from the Kentucky Mounted Volunteers. Both groups were dismounted with their horses tied well to the rear. The remaining Arkansas troops were organized as a reserve squadron under the command of Albert Pike, about six miles from the battlefield along with Captain May's 2nd Dragoons and the Mississippi Rifles of Jefferson Davis.

After some skirmishing on the 22nd, the battle opened at 11 o'clock on the morning of February 23rd. After the American line had been breached to their left, and facing an advancing line of Mexican lancers, the Arkansas Volunteers attempted a withdrawal, but were not able to complete the maneuver in an orderly fashion and they began to break ranks. Colonel Yell raced ahead of his troops, got most of them stopped and fired a volley that temporarily checked the Mexican advance. At this point in time, Pike's reserve and the 2nd Dragoons appeared behind the Arkansas Volunteers. Quickly dismounting, they reinforced the line, with Pike taking up positions to the left of Yell. Although outnumbered nearly 10 to one, the line fell back toward Buena Vista in an orderly manner, halting periodically to fire a volley into the Mexicans before retiring again.

At about 200 yards from the ranch Yell turned his troops to repel a group of lancers. Here he made a fatal mistake, ordering his men to mount and to fire their carbines from the saddle to stop the Mexican charge. Unable to reload or draw their sabers in time, the Mexican lancers poured over the Arkansans and began to drive them from the field. Refusing to yield, Colonel Yell spurred his horse into the attackers, followed by Captain Porter and a half dozen privates. Yell and Porter were both killed, but their charge allowed Lt. Col. Roane to rally a part of the unit in front of the walls of the hacienda. As they prepared to meet the lancer's attack, Pike's squadron and May's Dragoons

charged from the left into the flank of the lancers. In a matter of minutes the Mexicans were running from the battlefield and into the mountains.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about the history of the Arkansas National Guard, visit our museum located on Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock. Museum hours are 8:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday. For tour information contact the museum at (501) 212-5215.

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Agri Team wraps up home station training

'Joint' unit prepares for movement to Afghanistan via Camp Atterbury, Indiana

FORT CHAFFEE MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Ark. – The members of the Arkansas National Guard's Agriculture Development Team (ADT) destined for deployment to Afghanistan have wrapped up their pre-mobilization training here this month.

The training focused on a myriad of Soldier skills the Army has outlined as common tasks that are required for all Soldiers and Airmen deploying into the Southwest Asia theater of operations. The Soldiers and Airmen of the ADT have absorbed a series of briefings and conducted hands-on training in weapons maintenance and combative skills.

"We have an outstanding group of Soldiers and Airmen who have volunteered for this important mission, and they demonstrate daily the skill and motivation to exceed the Army's standards throughout this training period," said Col. Stephen Redman, commander of the ADT.

The mission of the Arkansas ADT in Afghanistan is to assist the provincial and district director of agriculture irrigation and livestock with specialized expertise to develop programs and projects with Afghan farmers designed to increase agricultural production, generate jobs and reinvigorate their agricultural economic system.

Arkansas is one of 10 states whose National Guard is fielding teams of agricultural specialists to Afghanistan to carry out this important mission to rebuild the agriculture system there.

The Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas Army and Air National Guard which have volunteered for this mission not only bring their "Soldiering" skills to this mission, many also have civilian expertise or experience in row crop farming, cattle and poultry production, medicine and market-



LOBBING GRENADES. Spc. Luis Jimenez, a member of the Agriculture Development Team, takes his turn at lobbing hand grenades during the unit's pre-mobilization training at Fort Chaffee. The unit is training for a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan where they will work with Afghan farmers to assist in redeveloping the nation's agricultural economy through improved farming practices.

ing. These civilian-acquired skills provide the Guardsmen an exceptional foundation from which to convey practical solutions to farming issues for Afghan farmers. In addition the Guardsmen have also been receiving up-to-date agri-

cultural training from the Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas and the Cooperative Extension Service.

The members of the Arkansas ADT will now move to their mobilization station in Indiana this month with

a projected deployment to Afghanistan some time in March.



HAND TO HAND COMBAT. – Col. Stephen Redman (top) and Command Sgt. Maj. Kim Hubbard (on floor) practice subduing opponents during a combatives skills class at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center.

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Arkansas 'Warthog' to be featured in Air Force recruiting campaign

By Capt. Heath Allen
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Officer

FORT SMITH, Ark. – The 188th Fighter Wing is no stranger to the spotlight. That light was never more luminous than during a recent partnership with the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service.

The 188th's A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" will be used in a U.S. Air Force Recruiting Services marketing campaign, which will feature photos and video of an A-10C with a monster truck that resembles the aircraft.

A marketing team with USAF Recruiting Services concluded a three-day project at the 188th Jan. 27.

The photo and video shoot featured sundry video and photo with A-10s and the monster truck.

Tight project deadlines put the 188th under the gun, and the microscope.

"We sent out the message to several A-10 units and the 188th was the first to respond," said Tech Sgt. Christian Bolduc, a spokesperson with USAF Recruiting. "The 188th went out of its way to make sure that we had everything we needed. A project like this takes time and a lot of coordination and the 188th did a great job and made our jobs a lot easier. We're very appreciative of all their efforts."

The monster truck was designed to mimic many of the A-10's attributes, including a replica of the aircraft's 30mm Gatling gun. The monster truck's version of the weapon functions as a T-shirt launcher

during Air Force recruiting events.

The monster truck also features non-functioning models of the A-10's wings and its two General Electric GF-34 engines.

The 188th's A-10s along with the monster truck will be featured in USAF Recruiting Service videos and literature that will be disseminated nationwide, including professional sporting events.

Photo and video products from the project will also be available on computer desktop and cell phone wallpapers.

Audio from the A-10's 30mm Gatling gun will be made available in a cell phone ring tone as well.

The recruiting program also includes a similar

partnership with Orange County Choppers in which one of the company's motorcycles is featured with an F-22 Raptor.


"We know the Air Force could have selected any number of A-10 units," said Col. Tom Anderson, 188th commander. "We were very appreciative that we were afforded the opportunity to showcase our A-10s and the 188th on a national level. I know everyone from Operations to Maintenance and Public Affairs went above and beyond to ensure the Air Force Recruiting team had what they needed to do the job right."

For more information on the 188th Fighter Wing please visit www.188fw.af.mil.



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Heath Allen, 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

MONSTER MASH. An A-10C Thunderbolt II "Warthog" piloted by Lt. Col. Tim Eddins of the 188th Fighter Wing conducts a low approach over an A-10 monster truck above the runway at the Fort Smith Regional Airport during a photo and video shoot with U.S. Air Force Recruiting Services Jan. 26, 2010.




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GETTY READY TO TAG THE DAG. A Soldier with the Arkansas National Guard's Medical Command prepares the H1N1 influenza vaccination for Brig. Gen. William J. Johnson, the deputy adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, as he stands in line for the shot during January drill. Johnson was there along with the entire command group of the Arkansas Guard in order to lead the way in receiving the shot, which is mandatory for all Arkansas Guardsmen.

Winter

Continued from Page 5

ceived 150 of each.

Although the state was spared the vast devastation witnessed one year earlier in the area, the commodities delivered remained in place at each location in preparation for the potential of future emergency response requirements during this winter season.

As the state faced another round of winter weather on January 28, the Guard was once again tasked with state active duty missions in a proactive move by Governor Mike Beebe and ADEM.

Along with ADEM's coordination to receive and store dozens of FEMA generators at Camp Robinson in preparation for possible power outages, the Guard called 35 of its troops to state active duty in order to assist with movement of that equipment to the affected areas if necessary. In addition, 50 wireless radios provided by ADEM were distributed to

ensure consistent communications between Guard units and civil authorities.

Although, this round of weather proved a bit rougher than the first, neither resulted in the need for follow up Guard response and all missions were closed.

The proactive call ups this year were primarily a result of the need seen across north Arkansas in early 2009 as severe ice storms devastated the area, downing thousands of light poles and taking out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses. Nearly 1,000 Guard personnel were called in response to the storms with missions that included power generation, cots and blankets, emergency shelter, fuel, water, health and welfare checks, route clearance and shower systems.

Along with calls for winter weather response, the Guard was also tasked to provide water to the communities of Marshall and Leslie in Searcy County, and to Casa and Adona in Perry County due to damaged water lines in those towns on Jan. 12.

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