



Maryland

Military Department

Digest

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

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Martin O'Malley
Governor



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

To the Personnel of the Maryland Military Department:

The Maryland Military Department is stepping up and successfully taking on a variety of challenges. In February, Maryland experienced record-breaking back-to-back snowstorms. The state of Maryland's response to assist local jurisdictions in coping with these snowstorms was coordinated through the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Let me thank all of you who responded during the storm, and please thank your families for their support as you left your homes to help others.

An emergency declaration by Governor O'Malley activated approximately 700 men and women of the Maryland National Guard to State Active Duty. The Guard deployed to assist state and local authorities by rescuing stranded motorists, escorting fire trucks, transferring severely injured patients to medical treatment facilities and transporting first responder personnel and critical supplies, such as road salt, to emergency sites around the state. One of our teams even assisted in the delivery of a baby.

We have seen the deployment and return of more than 300 members of the 175th Wing of the Maryland Air National Guard from Afghanistan. These Airmen flew nearly 700 combat missions comprising more than 2,400 hours. They maintained their aircraft at a rate of 83 percent while executing 100 percent of their air tasking orders excluding weather cancellations.

The Forward Detachment of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment returned from peacekeeping duties in Kosovo and was honored with a Freedom Salute attended by Governor O'Malley. Please keep our men and women who are deployed in your thoughts and prayers as they accomplish their missions in hostile lands.

We also welcomed home Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group from Afghanistan. I deeply regret the loss of Sgt. 1st Class William B. Woods, Jr. and Staff Sgt. Matthew A. Pucino, both from Bravo Company, who died as a result of injuries sustained in combat in Afghanistan.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency conducted its 25th Annual Severe Storms Awareness Conference at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum. The event offered an opportunity for state and local emergency management officials to hear emergency management officials from around the country speak about their experiences. This year's speaker was Craig Fugate, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Maryland Defense Force held its annual muster on March 27 at the Pikesville Armory. The guest was Governor O'Malley who is the first Maryland governor to review the MDDF since its creation in 1917. The MDDF now has more than 400 members on its rolls.

I am pleased to announce that Governor O'Malley has approved my selection of Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz to be the new assistant adjutant general – Army. He succeeded Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez, who retired from the Maryland Army National Guard and assumed the job of chief of staff of the Maryland Military Department.

All of you are valued members of our team in support to our state and our nation. We care about you and quite simply – we want to keep you safe. For most of us, the riskiest part of our day is the time we spend in our cars. Crashes pose a real threat that endangers you both on the job and off. In fact, today in Maryland there will be 258 crashes – more than 100 people will be injured, and at least one person will die. We recently had a Soldier from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade die in a motorcycle crash. The Maryland Army National Guard has established a motorcycle mentorship program where inexperienced riders are paired with experienced riders, and vital safety lessons and practices are imparted. The program is open to all members of the Maryland Military Department and their families. The training is conducted at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation. I recommend this program to those who are novice motorcycle riders or those who wish for a review of best safety practices.

To the families, communities and employers of our Soldiers, Airmen, state employees and volunteers – thank you for the tremendous support. Without it we could not do what our nation and our state ask of us. To the members of our department - please focus on your duty to our state and our nation and keep yourselves safe. Millions of Marylanders are counting on you.

Respectfully,

JAMES A. ADKINS
Brigadier General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General



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COVER PHOTO
Maryland National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop (1/158th Cavalry) in Annapolis conducted live sling load training with the Navy during their 2010 annual training at Fort Pickett, Va., June 12-26, 2010. (Photo by Maj. Rick Brietenfeldt.)

Civil Air Patrol

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Maryland's "Line of Defense"

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OPERATION COLD STEEL, MARITIME FOR THE CST

by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington

The Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), along with the Fort Meade Fire Department, Washington, D.C.'s 33rd CST, the Department of Energy and the Radiological Advisory Medical Team from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., conducted the joint exercise Operation Cold Steel July 19-23 in Newport News, Va. Operation Cold Steel allowed the agencies to train and work together to conduct maritime operations.

DIGITAL VERSION

MOVE YOUR MOUSE OVER THE PHOTO TO
ENLARGE IT AND VIEW THE CAPTIONS.

THE GUARD TRAINS TO GO TO THE SINAI



The Maryland Army National Guard conducted hand-to-hand combatives training at the Dundalk Armory July 11, in preparation for a unique mission to the Middle East.

Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment received special instruction in the Army's hand-to-hand combat known as the Modern Army Combatives Program in preparation for their deployment to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula early next year.

Combatives training is part of a larger program of instruction and evaluation that every Soldier must complete prior to mobilization.

MACP encompasses various hybrid martial arts, including jiu-jitsu, that incorporate fighting techniques from conventional martial arts and combat sports popularized by commercial competitions such as the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

The unit is scheduled to deploy as part of the Multinational Force and Observer peacekeeping mission, which was established as a result of the Camp David Accords. Ongoing for nearly 30 years, the peacekeeping mission was recently taken on by the

National Guard, which has maintained a battalion-sized force there since 2002 verifying continued observance of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The approximately 440 Soldiers are assigned to one of three line battalions which will conduct operations throughout the peninsula alongside comparable battalions from Colombia and Fiji. Their mission will be to man remote observation posts and checkpoints in their areas of operations.

The 175th has served in a wide range of state and federal missions in recent years. Since September 11, 2001, members of the 175th have been called to serve on active duty in support of homeland security missions immediately following the terrorist attacks, as well as natural disaster relief efforts for hurricanes Isabel and Katrina among others. In 2007 and 2008, the regiment was part of the largest overseas deployment of Maryland National Guard Soldiers since World War II as part of 58th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More recently, the unit distinguished itself by helping the state dig out from this winter's historic snowstorms.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mdng/sets/72157624527955459/>

MARYLAND GUARD SUMMIT FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The Maryland National Guard hosted a conference for healthcare providers caring for military members, veterans and their Families June 18, at the Turf Valley Resort Conference Center, Ellicott City, Md. During this conference, the Maryland National Guard and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene offered a unique opportunity for behavioral and primary care professionals to come together and explore the multifaceted issues unique to returning veterans.

The goal of the conference was to enhance the awareness, knowledge and clinical skills of Maryland's behavioral health and primary care professionals in assessing and treating Maryland's Servicemembers, veterans and their Families.

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, initiated the planning for the conference in an effort to reach the communities where veterans live, work and go to school.



Dr. Harold Kudler, was the keynote speaker at the conference. He and Laura Bageant were awarded the Maryland Meritorious Civilian Service Medal.



Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown speaks with the audience about his time as a deployed Soldier after meeting with Marines who fought in the battle of Fallujah, Iraq.

FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY AWARDS LUNCHEON

The cadets of class 34 of the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy received more than \$3,100 in scholarships and bonds during their annual awards luncheon at the Beechtree restaurant in Aberdeen, Md., June 10, 2010.



Cadets cheer as one of their classmates receives an award during the luncheon for the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy at the Beechtree Restaurant in Aberdeen, Md.



Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades, Aberdeen Proving Ground garrison command sergeant major, address class 34 during the annual awards luncheon for the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy at the Beechtree Restaurant in Aberdeen, Md.

THE FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY CLASS #34 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE



National Guard and the National Guard Bureau. The academy is located on the Main Post of Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Md. The academy is a tuition-free program which offers at-risk adolescents, 16 to 18, years old an opportunity to change their future in many ways, culminating with the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma.

While enrolled in the Freestate Challenge Academy, participants

Eighty-six Freestate Challenge Academy cadets from Maryland and the District of Columbia graduated June 12 from the 22-week military-oriented residential program at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The Freestate Challenge Academy is for young men and women who desire to make major changes in their lives and are willing to take the responsibility to make them happen.

Maryland is one of the 10 original states to begin a Challenge Program. It is endorsed by the state of Maryland and is in a cooperative agreement between The Maryland

were introduced to many programs and concepts that are necessary for a successful and healthy lifestyle.

Col. Richard E. Young, director of Maryland's Freestate Challenge program, told graduates that they were living proof that a lot of love and discipline are needed to produce such high quality Challenge graduates.

"This program adds value to America by adding value and skills to young Americans," said Young.

"I was going down the wrong road and making wrong decisions in life," said Christine C. Lopez, a Challenge graduate as she spoke to her class. "This was our second chance to become better for ourselves and for our families,"

The residential portion of the program is followed up with a 12-month mentoring phase designed to help graduates adjust to the world of work and follow-on education.

The Freestate Challenge Academy was established in 1993 and has graduated 2,843 cadets since its inception.



Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland, presents the Cadet of the Cycle award to Challenge graduate Darrin Porter.

DONATIONS FROM CORPORATE FIRMS BOLSTER THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD'S FREESTATE CHALLENGE ACADEMY FOUNDATION

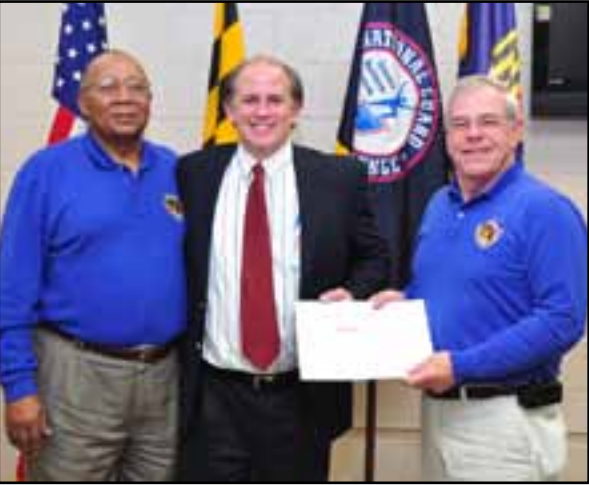
Officials of the Maryland Military Department and the Freestate Challenge Academy Foundation are praising substantial donations made to the academy's foundation by Raytheon's Network Centric Systems and the Edward St. John Foundation, which is part of St. John Properties, Inc.

Raytheon's Network Centric System develops and produces mission solutions for networking, command and control, battle-space awareness, and air traffic management. Programs include civilian applications, command and control systems, integrated communications systems, and netted sensor systems. The company donated \$5,000 to the academy's foundation for the purchase of educational materials to help develop science, technology, engineering and math, commonly known as STEM.

Raytheon believes in working within communities to encourage a greater adeptness to difficult subjects, such as STEM, and so it works with schools to develop math clubs, allow students to tour their facilities and labs and employees will often volunteer as tutors. The local office, currently located in Baltimore, will be moving to the Aberdeen Proving Ground as soon as their new building is completed by the St. John Properties.

St. John Properties, Inc. which is one of the Mid Atlantic region's largest privately held commercial real estate firms, is developing the property known as "The Gate" for the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Edward St. John, President and CEO of St. John Properties, established the St. John Foundation a little more than a decade ago, and in that time has given away or pledged more

than \$42 million in money and in-kind gifts to more than 300 recipients in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. He is a firm believer that without education, people remain dependent on others,



Col. (Ret.) Richard Young, director of the Freestate Challenge Academy and Col. (Ret.) Richard Knauer, Freestate Challenge Academy Special Projects director accept a check from Mr. Joseph Loiodice of the Raytheon Corporation.

and so his foundation donates 7.5 percent of his net income to schools and educational organizations each year. The St. John Foundation has donated a total of \$5,500 this year to the Freestate Challenge Academy Foundation in educational scholarships.

The Freestate Challenge Academy Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, supports the efforts of the Maryland Freestate Challenge Academy.



MDNG APPOINTS COMMAND SGT. MAJ.



Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general for Maryland, recently appointed a new command sergeant major for the Maryland Army National Guard.

Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Wigfall replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin Wright as the Maryland Army National Guard's most senior enlisted advisor. Wright will retire from the National Guard, but will continue to support it through his involvement in the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and other organizations.

Wigfall brings decades of military experience to the position and more than 35 years as a Hydraulics Equipment Technician with Delmarva Power.

"Command Sgt. Maj. Wigfall's extensive experience and rapport with his Soldiers will be an incredible asset to the organization," said Adkins. "I know we will all benefit from his skills as we move the Maryland Army National Guard forward."

Wigfall was born in Salisbury, Md. and grew up in Wicomico County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He graduated from Wicomico Senior High School in Salisbury and went on to graduate from Lincoln Technical Institute in Philadelphia.

During his military career, Wigfall has served as a squad leader in Korea, Company A 4/7 Cavalry; squad leader with 200th Military Police Company; assistant operations officer for the 115th Military Police Company; master fitness trainer and motor sergeant for the 1229th Transportation Company; instructor for the Maryland Military Academy, first sergeant of Company A, 121st Engineers; command sergeant major of the 121st Engineer Battalion and command sergeant major for the 58th Troop Command.

ON THE DIGITAL VERSION
LINKS TO MULTIMEDIA
CONTENT.

GOVERNOR SIGNS COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR GUARD MEMBERS



Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. and House Speaker Michael Busch held a bill signing ceremony on May 4, at the State House in Annapolis.

One of the pieces of legislation that was signed was Senate Bill #53. The legislation allows the use of actual wages earned by the member of the Maryland National Guard in the member's civilian employment at the time of entry into state active duty when computing the average weekly wage for worker's compensation benefits for specified members of the organized militia.

Members of the Maryland National Guard will obtain worker's compensation at the rate equivalent to their civilian employment when on disability leave due to an injury that occurred while on state active duty. The intent of the legislation is to prevent Guard members from being financially vulnerable when their civilian employment wages are higher than their state active duty wages and they miss wage earning days at their civilian jobs due to an injury incurred while in state active duty.

Witnessing the signing were Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland and Catherine K. Elder, legislative and governmental affairs director, Maryland Military Department.

MARYLAND ENGINEERS TRAIN ON ABERDEEN



By Sgt. John Higgins, Maryland Army National Guard Public Affairs.

Members of the Maryland Guard got down to business for more than two weeks at Aberdeen Proving Ground in northern Maryland.

Two separate companies brought different specialties to an effort that is streamlining military posts based on the recommendations of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission or "BRAC". The 244th Engineer Company specializes in "vertical" construction: buildings and shelter for the military. The 243rd specializes in "horizontal" construction: the building of roads and other landscape-based projects.

Both units are actively restoring parts of Aberdeen to make it into a better training facility. The 244th restored an office building, and the 243rd began building a new road that will allow for testing vehicles at higher speeds.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=651&z=11>

RSP WARRIOR CHALLENGE



The Maryland Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program held their 2010 Warrior

WARRIOR CHALLENGE



By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

The Maryland Army National Guard conducted Warrior Challenge, which encompasses Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year Competitions, on March 28, 2010, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation. Qualified privates through specialists compete for Soldier of the Year while corporals through sergeants first class compete for NCO of the Year. The competition consisted of an Army physical fitness test, rifle qualification, land navigation, a 7-mile road march, a military board appearance and warrior skills tasks: first aid, employing a hand grenade, communications and surviving in a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear or high-yield explosives environment. The winners represented the Maryland Army National Guard at the Region II competition held at Camp Dawson, W.Va. on May 13-16, 2010.



<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=545&z=11>

Challenge May 16-17 at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md. The 2-day event tested Soldiers' ability to perform various tasks culminating in a timed obstacle course.

DRIVE THE GUARD HELPS GUARDSMEN GET JOBS



By Sgt. John Higgins, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

The Maryland National Guard has launched its first "Drive the Guard" class at the All-State Career Center in Baltimore, Md. The program is 200 hours over four weeks at the All-State Career Center. Servicemembers will conduct 50 hours of classroom instruction and 150 hours of driving before taking the written and practical tests at the Motor Vehicle Administration.

Soldiers are guaranteed employment if they meet the requirements to obtain a commercial drivers license in Maryland and if they complete the course. Soldiers are placed on military orders for the program. Classes are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The first class starts July 6 and currently has eight students. More students may be added, based on the availability of funds.

Requirements to join a "Drive the Guard" class are:

1. Ability to obtain a Commercial Drivers License
2. Pass a Department of Transportation physical and urinalysis
3. Apply and receive a pre-hire letter from one of more than 10 major trucking companies
4. Eligible to receive Federal Tuition Assistance to cover the cost of the course.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=622&z=11>

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ROGER W. HALLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

Spc. Julius Blattner, a wheeled vehicle mechanic for 729th Brigade Support Battalion, Maryland Army National Guard, was awarded the Command Sgt. Maj. Roger W. Haller Memorial Scholarship during a Cambridge Rotary Club meeting at the Cambridge Yacht Club in Cambridge, Md. Thursday, April 29, 2010.

The \$5,000 scholarship will go toward Blattner's tuition at the University of Baltimore School of Law where he maintains a 3.17 grade point average, top third of his class, while pursuing a juris doctor degree.

Haller was the command sergeant major of the 70th Regiment at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md. He was killed in Iraq Jan. 20, 2007. The Haller Family donates money in memory of Roger Haller to award Maryland Guardmembers scholarships toward college tuition.



Frank Hastings, Cambridge Rotary Club representative; Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann; Spc. Julius Blattner and John Haller, brother of Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=575&z=11>

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL CONGRATULATES NEW AMERICAN CITIZENS

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland congratulated a group of 25 Maryland residents as they became United States citizens at a special naturalization ceremony on Tuesday, May 25 at the National Guard Armory in Silver Spring, Md.

Included in the ceremony were 15 current or former members of the U.S. armed forces. The Maryland National Guard hosted the ceremony to recognize the contributions made by immigrant members of the U.S. armed forces who choose to join the American family as citizens. The military members who were sworn in represented the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force.

The new citizens who included both civilian and military represented 18 different countries. Mr. William Donohue, field office director of District # 6 of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, administered the Oath of Allegiance and presented the new citizens with their certificates of citizenship.



Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, stands with a group of Maryland residents and members of the military after they became United States citizens at a special naturalization ceremony on Tuesday, May 25 at the National Guard Armory in Silver Spring, Md.



Senior Airman Jeff Sanders of the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Maintenance Squadron, hugs a family member on the flightline at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Baltimore, Md., May 15, 2010. Sanders, a C-130J engine mechanic, and the 135th supported forces fighting in Afghanistan through transportation of supplies and cargo. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hughes)

The Maryland Air National Guard welcomed home its Airmen assigned to the 135th Airlift Group, who completed a 4-month deployment to Afghanistan and bringing to a close the largest combat deployment in the history of the Maryland Air National Guard on May 15, 2010.

The Maryland Air National Guardsmen returned aboard two aircraft at the unit's home station of Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md.

The Guardsmen deployed in January 2010 as part of a scheduled Air Expeditionary Force rotation. The unit supported the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

The deployed aviation package flew 922 missions encompassing 1,054 flying hours, providing airlift capabilities to U.S. and coalition forces operating as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Missions flown by the unit included airdrops of supplies and equipment to forward operating bases, as well as "dirt strip" landings at remote airfields. During the deployment, the Maryland Air National Guardsmen and their C-130J Hercules aircraft airlifted 4,370

tons of cargo and 14,241 passengers.

The 135th Airlift Group of the Maryland Air National Guard holds the distinction as the Air Force's first fully-equipped C-130J tactical flying unit and is one of the Air Force's most experienced units with the C-130J transport. The unit was recently selected to transition to the new C-27J Spartan aircraft.

The Maryland Air National Guard is comprised of a state headquarters in Baltimore and the 175th Wing at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md. The Maryland Air National Guard employs more than 1,500 full-time and traditional members and contributes nearly \$120 million annually to Maryland's economy.

\$9.3 MILLION APPROVED FOR RENOVATION OF MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER IN SALISBURY

The Maryland Board of Public Works approved more than \$2.3 million in state funds which was combined with \$7 million in federal funds to renovate the Maryland Army National Guard Readiness Center in Salisbury April 7, 2010. Nason Construction, Inc. was selected as the design-build contractor for the 54,000 sq/ft addition and renovation.

"The Soldiers from this unit have served their nation and state well, and I am pleased that now they will be able to continue their service in a state-of-the-art facility," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The readiness center will be critical for the Guard to respond to the needs of the citizen on the Eastern Shore."

The existing 27,800 sq/ft. facility was built in 1959 and is in dire need of repair. The facility, which is home to more than 150 Soldiers, has a leaking roof, an inadequate electrical system, insufficient ventilation, insufficient parking, deteriorating classrooms and an inadequate kitchen. The renovation of this aging facility will dramatically improve the readiness of the unit as well as improve morale and retention of the Soldiers based there. The facility is currently home to the 115th Military Police Battalion.

The 115th MPs guarded the Pentagon after the September 11 attacks as a part of Operation Noble Eagle. They conducted in-processing for al-Qaida and Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for Operation Enduring Freedom. They were one of the first units into Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the renovation, the Soldiers assigned to the unit will temporarily relocate to a new location in Salisbury. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2011.

175TH SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRAINING

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, met with members of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Security Forces Squadron during their annual training at Fort. Fisher, N.C. June 9, 2010.

They discussed a myriad of topics facing the Airmen from future missions to additional schools, equipment, funding and base facilities. Adkins was able to see some of the nonlethal training that was being conducted.

"The National Guard is unique in that we have a both a federal and state mission," said Adkins. "We need to be prepared to support both if we are to remain ready and relevant."

The Security Forces Squadron is one of the most frequently deployed units in the Maryland Air National Guard.

"The number of deployments hasn't hurt our morale," said Master Sgt. Stan Bembenek. "Our Airmen know that when they join today, they will deploy and they [the deployments] have been manageable in terms of locations and the lengths."

During their 2-week annual training, they focused on individual skills training. The security forces are responsible for all police activities associated with an Air Force base. They are responsible for base security and to ensure the safety of all base weapons, property and personnel from hostile forces. Security forces personnel learn lifesaving procedures; provide armed response; direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic on base; operate speed measuring, drug, alcohol and breath test devices; and conduct investigations.

They are typically involved in team patrol movements, tactical

drills, battle procedures and military operations other than war. They train in apprehending and detaining suspects, securing crime scenes or testifying in judicial proceedings. The security forces career field directly leads into a civilian job of law enforcement officer, security personnel and related government security agencies.



Tech. Sgt. Smith with the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Security Forces Squadron helps the red-man "aggressor" secure his protective gear during the non-lethal training at Fort. Fisher, N.C.



were presented with a personalized award commemorating their overseas service, was attended by Gov. Martin O'Malley; Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger; Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland and other dignitaries.

During the ceremony, 10 members representing the more than 1,200 Maryland Air Guardsmen who have deployed since Sept. 11, 2001, were honored.

The Hometown Heroes Salute is a tiered program, wherein military members and their families are recognized based on the length of their deployment. Guardsmen who have deployed for 30 to 179 days receive a framed letter of appreciation from the director of the Air National Guard and the Air National Guard command chief. Members who deployed for 180 to 365 consecutive days receive a framed American flag. Members deployed for longer periods of time receive a statue of an eagle.



MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD HONORS RETURNING MEMBERS

Members of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing who deployed in support of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq were honored June 13, 2010, at a ceremony at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md.

The Hometown Heroes Salute ceremony, in which returning members

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD RECOVERS NAVY HELICOPTER



By Sgt. John Higgins, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

The Maryland Army National Guard and the U.S. Navy worked together in a unique and joint recovery mission April 21, 2010.

Citizen Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and the Operational Support Airlift Command assisted the Navy in recovering a downed MH-60-S Nighthawk helicopter that crashed in West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest in February.

From their staging location at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Greenbank, W.Va., Maryland Guard aviators flew three UH-60 Blackhawks along with a CH-47 Chinook out to the crash site to move crew members and physically lift the main body of the damaged aircraft.

"Everything's by the numbers, safety first and rulebooks count," said Chief Warrant Officer Eric Thompson, the pilot who flew the CH-47. "We're very happy to be able to help."

This is not the Maryland Guard aviation units' first recovery mission, said Thompson. During their deployment in Afghanistan, they performed similar sling-load missions several times.

The Maryland Guard removed the helicopter from the crash site without incident, where crews of Navy maintainers were waiting to load it onto a low-bed truck for transportation back to Norfolk, Va.

"It's certainly been a great evolution [of a mission], there hasn't been a lot

we've had to arrange aside from the ground transport. I've been thoroughly impressed so far," said Lt. Cmdr. Ted Johnson, safety officer for Sea Combat Squadron 26 based at Naval Station Norfolk.

The helicopter crashed Feb. 18 shortly after 1 p.m. on the side of a mountain in West Virginia in more than four feet of snow. All 17 personnel on board that day were successfully rescued from the aircraft.



<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=569&z=11>

MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN DISASTER EXERCISE AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Nearly 75 members of the Maryland Defense Force participated in a major multi-agency disaster exercise at Towson University on April 14, 2010, alongside Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from the state medical detachment and the 224th Area Support Medical Company. The exercise involved nearly 1,000 participants, including several hundred Towson University students who volunteered to be "casualties" and more than 300 Towson University nursing students who trained with MDDF participants and Maryland National Guard medical personnel. Maryland Guard Soldiers and Defense Force participants were responsible for a number of tasks to include triage instruction, medical treatment of injured victims, mentoring nursing



students, mental health support and referrals, security, communications and establishment of an operations center and field treatment center. The Maryland Defense Force is a volunteer, uniformed agency of the Maryland Military Department, authorized by Maryland law, with a mission to provide competent professional and technical support to the Maryland National Guard and state civil agencies as ordered by the governor and the adjutant general.

MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE APPOINTS SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR

The commanding general of the Maryland Defense Force appointed Sgt. Maj. (MD) Ronald "Buddy" Scott as the command's senior enlisted advisor on March 31, 2010.

Scott was most recently first sergeant of MDDF's Engineer Corps and was promoted to sergeant major by Gov. Martin O'Malley at the MDDF's annual muster on March 27, 2010.

"I knew that one of the results of the formation of the MDDF Non-Commissioned Officer Council during the 2009 'Year of the NCO' would be the emergence of a leader," said Brig. Gen. (MD) Courtney Wilson, MDDF commanding general. "The NCO Council nominated Sgt. Maj. Scott to represent them as the senior enlisted advisor. He has proven himself to be a highly-skilled and universally-respected NCO."

"This is a very important milestone," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann, command sergeant major and senior enlisted advisor for the Maryland Military Department. "Reestablishing the position of senior enlisted advisor reflects the value, professionalism and contributions of the MDDF

noncommissioned officers corps. MDDF's NCOs have become an indispensable part of this department."

"It is a huge honor to be picked for this job," said Scott. "I joined the MDDF after 9-11 because I wanted to give back to my state and community. I never dreamed I would rise to this level."

As the senior enlisted advisor, Scott serves as an advocate for enlisted members and is the principle advisor to the commanding general on matters pertaining to enlisted members.

"My responsibilities are to work in and bridge two worlds," said Scott. "One is as a member of the senior staff dealing with policy and carrying out the commanding general's intent. The other is to have my boots on the ground, to know and interact with the troops."

Scott says his biggest goal is to make sure everyone is adequately and appropriately trained. "Not just skill training, but knowing and setting the standards that instill professional military bearing and build esprit de-corps so that every member of the MDDF can look back on their military career and be proud to have served in the Maryland Defense Force."

Opening up effective lines of communication is another important goal.

"I cannot do this job in a vacuum. I need to hear from the troops," Scott explained. "What is going right? What is going wrong? How can we improve?"

Although Scott knew he had been selected for promotion, he was unaware that the governor would "pin on" his new stripes. "I honestly had no clue," he added. "For the governor, our state commander-in-chief, to attend our muster speaks volumes to his support of the MDDF. It was an honor to be promoted by him."

Scott has served in the MDDF since January, 2002 and has held a series of assignments of increasing responsibility in logistics and operations. He has participated in a number of major operations to include the deployment of the MDDF to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Scott's awards include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Maryland Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Maryland State Service Medal, the Maryland Militia Medal with Bronze Star for Merit, and the Military Emergency Management Specialist Senior Badge.



Gov. Martin O'Malley promotes Ronald "Buddy" Scott to the rank of sergeant major during the Maryland Defense Force's annual muster on March 27, 2010. Sgt. Maj. (MD) Scott is appointed as the command's senior enlisted advisor.

EYES ON THE GUARD

VIDEO-DRIVE THE GUARD HELPS GUARDSMEN GET JOBS



Brig. Gen. Alberto Jimenez held a retirement ceremony Friday, June 25 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area. Jimenez enlisted in 1968 and served with the Maryland Army National Guard for more than 30 years. (Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington.)

NEW CHAPLAIN INSTALLED AT 581ST TROOP COMMAND



Chaplain (1st Lt.) Robert Welty was installed as the Maryland Army National Guard's newest chaplain during a August ceremony in Hagerstown, Md. Welty was formally attached as the 581st Troop Command's chaplain on Aug. 7 during a ceremony at the battalion's headquarters in the Hagerstown Armory

JOINT SLING LOAD TRAINING MISSION



Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 1-158th Cavalry conducted live sling load training with the Navy during their 2010 annual training at Fort Pickett, Va., June 12-26, 2010. Soldiers were divided into teams, where each was responsible for hooking up the sling load or signaling the aircraft. During the training, Soldiers learned how to successfully and safely hook a 250-gallon water drum and a 2,000-pound pallet of supplies. (Photo by Maj. Rick Brietenfeldt.)

29TH MP CO. CONDUCT SPECIAL URBAN TRAINING



Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from the 29th Military Police Company completed special urban training during this year's annual training. Commonly referred to as MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain), the training taught Soldiers how to work with civilians on the battlefield, specialized room clearing procedures and various other law enforcement skills. (Photo by Maj. Rick Brietenfeldt.)

PREPARING FOR UNIQUE MISSION IN SINAI



Maryland Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-175th Infantry conducted battle drills and sharpened their warrior skills during their annual training June 12-26 at Fort Pickett, Va. The Dundalk Soldiers joined nearly 900 other Maryland Soldiers from the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade which consists of units from around the state. (Photo by Maj. Rick Brietenfeldt.)

SOLDIERS TRAIN FOR MASS CASUALTY MEDEVAC



1st Lt. Chris Maisel (near) and 1st Lt. Vincenzo Taylor (far) prepare to move to the Chinook as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop 1-175th Infantry trains mass casualty MEDEVAC tasks with 1-224th Aviation. (Photo by 1st Lt. Sam Waltzer.)



ADJUTANT GENERAL HOSTS BOSNIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE

(from left to right) Lt. Col. Alija Kozljak, advisor for military diplomatic and international affairs for Bosnia-Herzegovina; Mr. Zivko Marjanac, deputy minister of defense for policy and planning; Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland; Mr. Sasa Konjevic, Bosnia-Herzegovina chief of cabinet of the deputy minister of defense; and Lt. Col. Bozo Skopljakovic, Embassy of Bosnia-Herzegovina defense attache. The minister and his men visited the Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md., where he received a briefing on the Maryland Military Department and its capabilities.

By Sgt. John Higgins, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

The Maryland Military Department greeted members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Defense Ministry April 15, 2010, in Reisterstown, Md., under the auspices of the National Guard State Partnership Program, to discuss the state's military and emergency response capabilities.

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland hosted the Bosnian delegation, lead by Mr. Zivko Marjanac, deputy minister of defense for policy and planning. Marjanac is responsible for international cooperation, military intelligence affairs and security as well as command, control and communications for the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Defense.

The briefing at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation gave the minister and his staff a better

understanding of how the Military Department and the National Guard manage emergency situations. They discussed the recent record-breaking back-to-back snow storms in February and the department's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The delegation had a chance for some hands-on training with Camp Fretterd's Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. Lt. Col. Bozo Skopljakovic, Embassy of Bosnia-Herzegovina defense attaché and Mr. Sasa Konjevic, Bosnia-Herzegovina chief of cabinet of the deputy minister of defense, were able to fire air-powered M-16 assault rifles to test their skills at shooting.

The State Partnership Program was launched in Europe as part of the initial outreach by the United States to new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The SPP

brings together U.S. states and territories with partner nations through a range of military, civil-military and civil activities under the Maryland Military Department. The partnership program emphasizes civil and military cooperation with civil control of a professional military. Maryland was selected to partner with Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2003.



(From left to right) 1st Lt. Michael Kehs from the 32nd Civil Support Team explains how to use chemical detection equipment to Lt. Col. Alija Kozljak, Mr. Zivko Marjanac and Lt. Col. Bozo Skopljakovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina defense ministry.

TEAM MARYLAND 400



The "Maryland 400" team from the Maryland Army National Guard consisted of husbands, wives, brothers and friends, and they were just one of 126 teams that ran in the "American Odyssey Relay" April 22 and 23, a 205-mile race spanning from Gettysburg to Washington D.C. The race covered national historic sites, such as the 6,000-acre Gettysburg Battlefield, Antietam and other landmarks. The teams consisted of 6 to 12 participants and two vans accompanied the teams. There were a total of 36 legs in the relay. A team from Bucknell University won last year and completed the course in less than 23 hours.



NEW RECRUITING STATION



The Maryland Army National Guard held a grand opening ceremony on May 7, 2010, for its newest recruiting storefront at Festival at Bel Air Shopping Center, Bel Air, Md. Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez, commander of the Maryland Army

National Guard, cut the ribbon, officially opening the recruiting station that will be supporting units in the northeast region of Maryland.

"I am very proud of our new facility," said Jimenez. "Harford County is growing and we are expanding and



bringing jobs." More than 950 members of the Maryland National Guard live and work in Harford County with an economic impact to the community of more than \$40 million annually.

The new storefront recruiting station is located at Bel Air South Parkway, Suite 1479, Bel Air, Md.

GOVERNOR BRAKES GROUND ON \$22.6 MILLION MARYLAND ARMY GUARD FLIGHT FACILITY



Gov. Martin O'Malley helped brake ground on a \$22.6 million addition/alteration to the Maryland National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility during a ceremony in Edgewood, Md., May 23, 2010.

The contract was awarded to Tetra Tech Facilities Construction of Alexandria, Va., for the design and construction of the additional 90,000 square feet and the renovation of the existing 50,000-square-foot AASF.

"This project will not only give our Soldiers a state-of-the-art facility to work in, it will help bring jobs to Maryland," said Gov. O'Malley. "The security of the homeland is the responsibility of every generation, and I am so proud of the Maryland National Guard and all they have done both overseas and here at home."

The project includes renovating and expanding the existing hangar, building additional administrative areas, equipment storage areas, classrooms, a physical fitness area and modernized shops to support Army aviation and maintenance. The estimated completion date of the project is in the spring of 2012.

The keynote speaker was Brig. Gen.

Alberto J. Jimenez, commander of the Maryland Army National Guard and senior aviator in the Maryland Guard. Jimenez discussed how he has seen the



After the groundbreaking ceremony for the Army Aviation Support Facility, Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez shows Gov. Martin O'Malley the inside of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Weide Army Airfield, Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area.

transformation of Army aviation over the years. "The aircraft we fly today are larger and more complicated and require highly-skilled Soldiers to maintain," said Jimenez. "This is the home of aviation for the Maryland Army National Guard, and this facility is transforming to meet our needs today and for tomorrow."



Gov. Martin O'Malley looks into the flight deck of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at Weide Army Airfield, Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area.

ARMY GUARD'S COMMAND CHANGES HANDS



By Maj. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs.

The Maryland Army National Guard welcomed its new commander June 13, during a change-of-command ceremony at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz assumed command of the Maryland Army National Guard from Brig. Gen. Alberto J. Jimenez. Jimenez, a Vietnam War veteran, will subsequently retire from the Guard after more than 41 years of military service.

Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, presided over the ceremony and thanked all Guardmembers for their tremendous success and many accomplishments over the years.

"Our work here is not done, and our focus does not change," said Adkins. We must ensure that our forces remain relevant and ready today and in the future."

The change-of-command ceremony is a simple and traditional event that is rich with symbolism and heritage. The key to the change-of-command is the passing of the unit's colors. The colors represent not only the heritage and history of the unit, but also the unity and loyalty of its Soldiers. The colors are the commander's symbol of his authority and also represent his responsibilities to the organization.

Hinz, who has been serving as the assistant division commander of the 29th Infantry Division, enlisted in the United States Army in 1971. In 1978, he joined the Maryland National Guard and graduated from OCS in 1979. He has served in positions ranging from

company, through brigade command, as well as serving in various staff assignments.

Hinz said the Maryland Army National Guard must continue to move forward as the state gears up for more overseas deployments and continues to support the citizens of the state of Maryland in times of need.

"I have been given the awesome responsibility of being your commander," said Hinz. "We will continue to be the best National Guard in the United States."



Hinz's decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Meritorious Unit Citation, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, the Maryland Meritorious Service Medal, the Virginia Bronze Star, and the Bronze de Fleury Engineer Regimental Medal.

Hinz is a native and life-long resident of Maryland. He and his wife, the former Lynda Winkler, live in Gaithersburg, Md. They have three sons - Lieutenant Brenton Helbig, with wife Dina and their son Mason and daughters Madison and Emerson, in Sydney, Australia; Matthew, a marketing account



manager; and Stephen, a graduate student at Radford University.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Hinz thanked Brig. Gen. Jimenez and the entire Maryland National Guard for their warm welcome to him and his family, and he looks forward to a great

command. He ended the ceremony with his first salute as the new commander of nearly 5,000 Maryland Guard Citizen Soldiers.



<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=631&z=11>

GOVERNOR WELCOMES HOME SOLDIERS FROM THE MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Gov. Martin O'Malley welcomed home 20 Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard, who recently returned from a 12-month deployment in Kosovo, during a ceremony in Edgewood, Md., May 23, 2010.

The Soldiers of the forward detachment of C Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment,

a medical evacuation aviation unit, deployed as part of the Kosovo Force #11.

"We have no greater strength as a county than our men and women who give of themselves to defend their families, their neighbors, their communities," said O'Malley. "Our Soldiers, each and every one of them, have given a gift to our country, serving

where they were asked, saving lives and delivering hope to those who need it most."

The unit's mission was the timely and efficient movement, and en-route care of injured people. They deployed with three UH-60 Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopters and flew more than 1,000 hours of medical re-supply missions to forward troops in remote parts of Kosovo. They conducted 13 patient transfers and six MEDEVAC missions, resulting in no loss of life. They also flew more than 200 hours of hoist training operations while in Kosovo.

The unit also brought goodwill to the local population and volunteered their time with such activities as teaching in local schools and participating in local events.

Saturday's welcome home ceremony was part of the Army National Guard's Freedom Salute Campaign, designed to publicly acknowledge Guard Soldiers and those who supported them during calls to duty. Since the campaign began in December 2003, it has recognized more than 9,000 deserving Soldiers, family members, friends, employers, centers of influence and other important people for their contributions since the terrorists attacks on America.

MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORTS JOINT EXERCISE IN HAWAII AND JAPAN

By Maj. Kristine Henry, Public Affairs Officer, 110th Information Operations Field Support Battalion.

The 110th Information Operations Field Support Battalion, Maryland Army National Guard, supported Exercise Terminal Fury in Honolulu, Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan May 20 through 26 as part of annual training.

Exercise Terminal Fury is a joint service exercise run by Pacific Command, headquartered at Camp Smith Hawaii, to test the ability of United States armed forces in this region.

Maj. David R. Osborne, an IO officer took charge of the five-person team in Hawaii, while Capt. Douglas R. Reed was an individual augmentee in Okinawa.

"As part of the exercise, we worked to

coordinate and synchronize information operations capabilities at a strategic and operational level," explained Osborne. "It was a great experience to be in tune with a joint environment; in this case, [the] Navy was the predominant service."

"I learned about the maritime order of battle and how IO and EW [Electronic Warfare] capabilities are employed as a force multiplier," agreed 1st Lt. Eugene C. Nivera, a plans officer in the National Guard, but a supervisory information technology specialist for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on his civilian job. "My civilian skills also became important. I was able to answer questions about international commerce and trade as part of the scenario using my civilian skills."

During this exercise, Staff Sgt. Peter D. Brown, an intelligence analyst, applied his military skills, but also his skills as a civilian operations specialist for the Army. "I produced intelligence products as part of an effects cell, which connects back to what I do during the week."

Other team members were Maj. Andrew D. Goldin, operations officer and Sgt. 1st Class Stewart Stonseifer. The unit's higher headquarters, the 56th Theater Information Operations Group located in Seattle, Wa. also participated in this exercise. Personnel from the IO FSB have also recently supported Exercise Cobra Gold in Thailand. The IO FSB will be supporting upcoming exercises in Italy in October.

MARYLAND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD RECEIVES AWARD FOR SWIFTWATER RESCUE PARTNERSHIP

The Maryland Army National Guard and the Baltimore County Police and Fire Departments were recognized in a June 14 ceremony by James Smith, Baltimore County executive, for receiving the Higgins and Langley Award for Swiftwater Rescue.

The ceremony took place at the Martin State Airport, Middle River Md. In attendance, on behalf of their respective organizations, were Chief James Johnson, Baltimore County police chief; Mark Weir, assistant fire chief-operations and Brig. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland.

The award was in recognition of an exemplary model program for the coordination of military, fire-rescue and law enforcement resources during swiftwater and flood rescue emergencies in the state of Maryland. The award was presented by the Higgins and Langley Awards Committee in cooperation with the National Association for Search and Rescue on May 14, 2010.

Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team members have developed a joint partnership for response to any flood or swiftwater event requiring rescue of endangered persons. They have developed standard operating procedures and guidelines for helicopter hoist/rescue operations with fire department helicopter rescue technicians and police personnel, who are deployed from helicopters.

Photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mdng/sets/72157624274885372/>



OPERATION CHESAPEAKE RETRIEVER

By Pfc. Aimee Fujikawa, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard, in coordination with the Baltimore and Harford Counties' Swiftwater/Flood Search & Rescue Teams consisting of elements of county fire and police departments, conducted the joint exercise Operation Chesapeake Retriever Aug. 3 at the Essex Sky Park in Essex, Md.

Operation Chesapeake Retriever was an operational drill to test the readiness and capabilities of Baltimore and Harford Counties' Swiftwater/Flood Search & Rescue Teams for this upcoming hurricane season. The drill consisted of movement of swiftwater/flood search and rescue teams from their home bases to the operational area via Maryland Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopters followed by a variety of swiftwater rescue training missions using UH-60 Blackhawks and Baltimore County aircraft.

The Maryland Army National Guard played a support role in this exercise lending its resources to civilian authorities.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=719&z=11>



JFHQ NCO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Video by Pfc. Aimee Fujikawa and Article by Pfc. Breeanna DuBuke, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

Leadership influences whether or not a team pulls together, unit performance, and ultimately, mission success. Therefore, as times change and society evolves, it is imperative that leadership evolves with it.

When 1st Sgt. Perlisa D. Wilson, Joint Forces Headquarters first sergeant, was first appointed to her position, she said she noticed a lack of motivation in some of the leaders throughout her unit. Wilson said she felt her leaders needed inspiration to heighten their motivational levels for them to motivate and inspire junior noncommissioned officers.

Wilson discussed the idea of holding a conference for unit leadership to revamp leaders' motivation with Command Sgt. Maj. Franklin J. Wright Jr., Maryland Army National Guard command sergeant major, during the historic snow storm in February.

"I think too often a lot of our command teams do the same thing the same way and expect different results," said Wright. "Sometimes, you have to step up, step back and do the professional development, so that your leaders understand what right looks like."

With Wright's help Wilson was able to organize the first JFHQ NCO Professional Conference in hopes of improving the quality and efficiency of the leadership among the NCOs in the Maryland Army National Guard.

The conference took place at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Md. June 10, 2010, and

consisted of approximately 150 NCOs, there to learn how to improve leadership techniques and to motivate each other to make those improvements.

When choosing the main speaker at the conference, Wilson and Wright chose a familiar name - Jeff Magee, an inspirational speaker with 21 years of experience working with the National Guard.

I read Magee's biography and knew that he was the person to motivate our Soldiers, said Wilson. Besides his work with the military Magee has also published a magazine, written more than 20 books, and advised several Fortune 100 firms on leadership effectiveness.

Magee's lecture during the conference contained tips on how to optimize a team's performance, how to delegate jobs based on individual assets, and how to take ownership of the performance of one's team.

"An effective leader has to understand how to get people inspired and motivated. An effective leader has to be able to communicate and, in part, envision a mission and give reason to why we're doing things," Magee said.

Although Magee was never a Soldier, Wilson said he was able to communicate his outside perspective to the Soldiers in a way that allowed them to understand what needed to change and how to change it. Wilson said she hopes everyone will start fresh and have a new concept of leadership, taking responsibility and accountability for their actions. She hopes they know the task ahead of them, look at mission first, and take care of Soldiers.

"I believe that we should continue this conference in the future," said Wilson. "As NCOs, we need to professionally develop our junior Soldiers and our leaders and keep them well-rounded."

By continuing to hold conferences like the JFHQ NCO Professional Conference, leaders will be given the opportunity to gain the knowledge to effectively lead Soldiers and ultimately complete successful missions.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=652&z=11>

29TH CAB TRAINS COMBAT LIFESAVERS



The Maryland National Guard's 29th Combat Aviation Brigade sent Soldiers through the Combat Lifesaver Course conducted at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground March 23 - 26, 2010. Soldiers learned the proper techniques and procedures to check and clear airways, to control bleeding, to make MEDEVAC request, load litters and many others.

<http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/absolutenm/templates/?a=529&z=11>

63-YEAR-OLD PSYCHOLOGIST JOINS THE NATIONAL GUARD



An assistant professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University rejoins the Maryland Army National Guard after a 38 year break in service on May 19, at a ceremony at Fort McHenry.

Dr. Wayne P. Hunt accepted his commission as a lieutenant colonel and will serve as a mental health services officer. Hunt first served as a field artillery officer before his break in service. In 2009 he joined the Maryland Defense Force. The Maryland Defense Force is a volunteer uniformed state military agency and one of the components of the Maryland Military Department.

FUTURE LEADERS COMPLETE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING OFFICERS

By Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly.

After two weeks of stressful conditions, lots of push-ups and very little sleep, more than 175 Soldiers from across the nation completed phase 1 of the U.S. Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School at Camp Fretterd, Md. Aug. 14.

Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard and 28 other states, including the surrounding states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, and as far away as Utah, Texas and California, came together to work as a team and learn how to be leaders within the Army National Guard. Approximately 200 candidates began the two-week journey July 31, but not everyone continued on to phase 2.

Candidates were faced with challenges to observe how well they could adapt under stress while also learning new skills to implement during training. The training included classroom tests, day and night land navigation, a week in the field, a 5-mile rucksack march, simulated leadership positions, peer evaluations and pushing the limits to see if they had what it takes to be a leader.

While some of the Soldiers had years of experience that they could rely on to help in these stressful situations, others were new to the Army National Guard.

"Adapting to a culture of expectations far different from civilian or even basic training expectations while facing the same challenges as experienced peers was my personal challenge," said Officer Candidate Jacob Day, Maryland candidate. "I found that I had to spend a good deal of time watching my peers and learning from them in order to succeed in leadership positions, perform adequately at drill and ceremony and engage with the [Teach, Assess and Counsel] officers and sergeants."

After completing phase 1, the candidates had the choice of either continuing on in the accelerated 8-week OCS program, or continuing with the traditional program. The traditional program consists of a year of drill weekends comprising phase 2 and will end in another 2-week training

Department Digest



completing phase 3.

Phase 2 will continue providing critical skills to the candidates to better prepare them to become officers. It will focus more on developing the skills presented in phase 1 such as leading troops and teaching Warrior Task Battle Drills, while also keeping physical fitness a key factor with 7- and 10-mile rucksack marches and a 3-mile formation run.

"I feel well prepared for phase 2 drill weekends," said Day. "However ... adapting to Army officer and OCS culture and communication styles will be the greatest challenge I face in phase 2."

The traditional candidates will continue phases 2 and 3 primarily in their respective states, but through the combined phase 1 they gained a network of Soldiers across the nation to use as resources throughout their careers.

Candidates this year had an advantage of an even larger wealth of knowledge to add to their network.

"This was the largest class that Maryland has ever seen for phase 1," said 1st Sgt. Carrie Heinze, OCS and Warrant Officer Candidate School

training administrator.

In 2009, about 150 candidates completed phase 1 and in 2008, approximately 120 moved on to phase 2, added Heinze. These numbers are staggering compared to 2005 when only about 50 candidates from the participating states passed phase 1.

For Soldiers looking for the opportunity to get their commission, there are multiple chances throughout the year.

The accelerated class is offered in early winter ... at Alabama, then Alabama has another class June-August time frame. Then South Dakota offers a class May-July, leaving Maryland with the August-September class," explained Heinze. "The Maryland/Pennsylvania program was designed to offer states one last commissioning source before the end of the fiscal year.

The candidates in the accelerated OCS program are slated to graduate Sept. 25.

For more information visit: <http://www.md.ngb.army.mil/XHTML/Organization/Army/70thRegiment/OCS/Application.html>

MARYLAND AIR GUARD HOSTS CIVIL AIR PATROL



By Master Sgt. Edward Bard, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Civil Air Patrol cadets were treated to orientation flights (referred to as "O-flights") at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Middle River, Md., July 23.

From July 20 to 22, a Maryland Air National Guard C-130 and with a CH-47 helicopter from the Army National Guard carried the cadets on the local flights, which are aimed at exposing the cadets to military flight operations.

"Part of the encampment experience is to understand that one of the main missions of the CAP is aerospace

education.... It allows the cadets to see military aircraft up close," Cadet Maj. Matt Herten, 2010 Tri-Wing Encampment, cadet commandant, said. "The Maryland Army, Air Guard and the Air Force in general are big supporters of the CAP program." CAP Cadet Major Herten has obtained his private pilot license and currently attends Penn State University.

"This may be the first time any of the cadets get to ride in military aircraft," CAP Capt. Marty Sacks, a cadet orientation/mission pilot and CAP liaison, said. "I know the experience is an enjoyable one for the cadets."

The flights lasted approximately 45-50 minutes in the local flying area. During their O-flights, cadets were able to see many regional landmarks like the Naval Academy, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, downtown Baltimore and Phillips Army Airfield at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

In addition to the flights, the cadets visited the base fire department and witnessed a display of the fire trucks' capabilities to suppress fires.

The cadets also had a chance to see inside of the cockpit of an A-10C attack jet. Tech. Sgt. Antonio "Tony" Queen, a crew chief from the 175th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, manned an A-10 static display and answered the

many questions from the cadets. The CAP expressed appreciation for the Army and Air National Guard for the O-flights and Lt. Jason Hearne from the Fire Deptment and Tech Sgt. Tony Queen for the mini tours.

According to CAP's website, the encampment is the most significant and worthwhile training experiences in a CAP cadet's career. It is a seven-day basic training-like program and is required for the prestigious Billy Mitchell Award. Encampment is designed to develop a greater understanding of the CAP and the Air Force missions and capabilities, personal and team leadership and team work.



WING BLOOD DONORS STEP UP



By Master Sgt. Edward Bard, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

Airmen from the 175th Wing rolled up their sleeves to provide much-needed blood donations for their community, July 19.

Red Cross workers from the Mt. Hope Drive Donation Center in Baltimore were able to collect 24 pints of blood from volunteers - two pints more than average for a campus donation drive.

In fact, 175th Wing's response was so impressive that some donors had to be turned away at day's end.

"Next year's blood drive will

be held in the Red Cross mobile bus, which can accommodate over 40 donors for the entire day," said Staff Sgt. Stephanie M. Feldhausen, a medical technician from the 175th Medical Group who was the base coordinator for this project.

According to the Red Cross website, every two seconds someone in the United States is in need of blood. Due to increased demands, especially during the summer months, the Red Cross is always in need of blood donations.

The Red Cross started providing blood for patients in 1940 and performs more 200,000 blood drives every year.

MARYLAND AIR GUARD HOLDS FIRST YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



By Master Sgt. Edward Bard, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

The Maryland Air National Guard hosted its first 30-day post-deployment Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program July 13 at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel July 9 to 10. YRRP provides resources to help members and familys deal with stressors associated with extended separation.

The event was kicked off by Brig. Gen. Robert M. Ginnetti, chief of staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Maryland Air National Guard, and Col. Scott L. Kelly, commander, 175th Wing. Both welcomed home all of the 50-plus participants and their families and asked that they relax and enjoy the planned seminars for the day.

"You have done an outstanding job," said General Ginnetti. "The American people are thankful for what you do, and your leadership is proud of you. You're selfless, dedicated, patriotic and continue to answer your state and nation's call."

"Thanks to all of you for serving your country in what you do," said Colonel Kelly. "The backbone of all of that is

your family's support. We appreciate your family members being here with us today."

YRRP events and activities are held for all National Guard members and their families when they are called or ordered to active or full-time operational support, other than for training, for 90 cumulative days or more during a fiscal year.

The next event is the 60-day post-

deployment program. The two-day event will be held on Sept. 17 to 18, according to Mrs. Rebecca Price, YRRP program coordinator.

Over 20 organizations attended the event to provide information to attendees, including the Red Cross, the Maryland Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Operation Military Kids, military and family life consultants, the Department of Veteran Affairs, the National Guard Bureau Psychological Health Program and many more.

The children's portion of the YRRP consisted of a fun-filled day of coloring books, a movie, games and jewelry making.

The Department of Defense YRRP was legislated in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act to provide members with sustained support before, during and after a deployment. The Office of Reintegration Programs, now known as the DoD YRRP Office, provides operational oversight. July 2009 to July 2010 was designated the Year of the Air Force Family.



MARYLAND DDR SUPPORTS OPERATION PURPLE CAMP

By Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly.

Members of the Maryland National Guard Counterdrug Drug Demand Reduction team visited the children at Operation Purple Camp in North East, Md. July 21st.

The DDR members brought a football toss and basketball hoops, along with Fatal Vision Goggles to show the campers what it feels like to experience the effects of alcohol on their vision.

“[The goggles] show you what it feels like to be at two times the legal limit, but with a sober state of mind,” said Sgt. Jimmy Algarin, Maryland DDR non-commissioned officer.

After practicing a throw of the ball or a shot at the hoop without the eye gear, the campers would don a pair of the Fatal Vision Goggles. They would then attempt to throw again, however, this time missing the targets by a couple of feet.

“If you were actually intoxicated, your brain would be a whole lot slower,” Spc. Charles Spafford, Maryland DDR specialist, explained to the campers. “So do you think you could ride your bike like that? How about anyone who drives a car, do you think they can drive like that?”

The collective response of “no” from the campers showed they had received the message.

Even though some of the campers thought the whole experience was ‘cool,’ they still took away a lesson of how hard it is to function while intoxicated.

“Now when you’re out to dinner and your dad has been drinking, you can say, ‘maybe you should give the keys to mom’ because you know what it feels



like,” said Spafford.

The children ranged from 7 to 17 years old, but the DDR team had a message for all of them.

Algarin explained that you have to cater your message to fit the audience. For the younger children, you’re showing them what it feels like and how it can affect your vision. But with the older children who may have experienced the true effects of alcohol, you’re teaching them more about how it can be harmful to someone who is underage and not fully developed.

“The goggles aren’t going to hurt you, but drinking will,” said Algarin. “It will hurt your liver and affect your body in negative ways.”

The participants of Operation Purple Camp come from military families of all services, including active duty and National Guard, explained Spafford.

Operation Purple was established in 2004 as a week-long summer camp offered in multiple states to children of military parents who have been deployed, are currently deployed or are slated to deploy, explained the Web site.

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/>



MDNG SOLDIER FIRST BERET TO SUCCESSFULLY



By 1st Lt. David E. Leiva 2nd Battalion 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Battalion Operations.

GRENADA, Miss. – Faced with a long recovery and the reality that he might not ever run, surf or return to his Special Forces team, Staff Sgt. Andre Murnane made the decision last year to have his right leg amputated below the knee after it was shattered by an improvised explosive device that detonated in eastern Afghanistan.

“My dreams and ambitions didn’t end that day. It simply started a new chapter,” he said.

And a new breakthrough.

Murnane, 28, of Salisbury, Md., entered Green Beret lore this month when he became the first Army National Guard Special Forces Soldier with a



prosthetic to jump out of an aircraft. Army doctors cleared him to jump in June. While several Special Forces soldiers with prosthetics have completed airborne operations, Murnane is the first National Guardsman to do so.

Murnane admitted he felt nervous about the historic jump that took place Aug. 1 in Grenada, about 90 miles north of Jackson. And he was a bit worried about the prosthetic shifting from the

Maryland Military

NATIONAL GUARD GREEN JUMP W/PROSTHETIC

opening shock of the parachute and how it would hold up when he landed.

“It held just fine with new prosthetic technology and some good old fashion duct tape,” he said. “Once I was under canopy my thoughts shifted to the two runways that were on the drop zone, I barely cleared one of them by 15 or 20 meters. Just before landing I wondered



what it was going to feel like, but I just kept telling myself, feet and knees together and relax.”

Last October, the

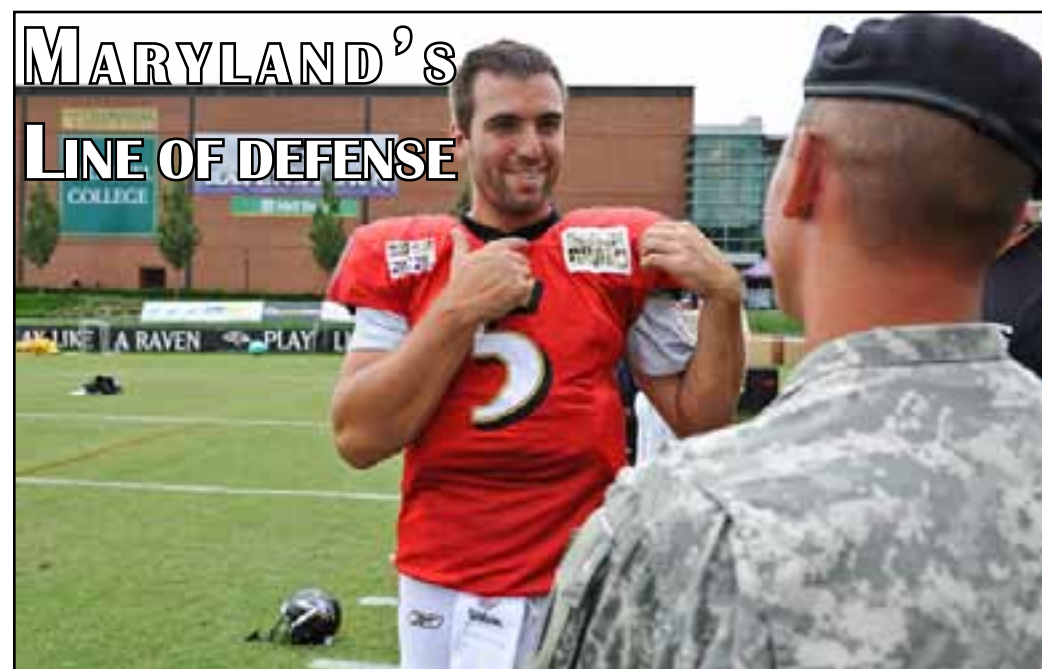
communications sergeant from the Maryland-based Bravo Company of 2nd Battalion 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was out on a combat operation on a mountain when a pressure plate IED detonated while clearing an area after his team was ambushed. He was evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington DC, where he underwent several surgeries to repair his right foot and ankle. It was there where he realized the surgeries would never completely restore his leg.

He’s taken it all in stride, though.

“Life is a journey, and the journey is the destination. You have to accept change in your life and continue to live it like you did before,” he said. “It takes some extra work, but if you train hard and stay motivated you can do anything you want to.”



MARYLAND’S LINE OF DEFENSE



By Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs

Maryland’s first line of defense is the brainchild of Lt. Col. Michael Bennett, former commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, to expand the Maryland Army National Guard’s brand across the state.

“How can we get our name known to the citizens of Maryland?” said Bennett.

Bennett, a huge Baltimore Ravens fan, worked out a partnership between the National Football League team and the Maryland Guard. The partnership began two years ago and was supported by the Maryland Guard’s senior leadership as well as the National Guard Bureau. The growth of this partnership has brought more than advertisements on the Ravens’ websites and exposure at several games.

“This year we came to them [the Ravens] with a much larger scope of a partnership, where we would be a true partner with the Ravens. We tied everything into the fact that the Ravens historically have a strong defense,” said Bennett. “So when you think of the Guard, you think of a “line of defense.” We’re that first line of defense. If there’s a natural disaster in Maryland, the governor can call us up in an emergency situation.”

John Harbaugh, Ravens head coach, and the NFL agreed to have the patch on the Ravens practice jerseys. The NFL policy does not allow corporate sponsorships on game jerseys.

“There are about 18 teams in the league that have any sort of patch on their practice jerseys,” said Bennett. “We’re [the Ravens] the only team in the NFL where the patch is not a corporate sponsor.”

The advertisements done by the Recruiting and Retention Battalion will display the connection with the Ravens, showing the line of defense theme. July 27 was the first practice with the new patch. This larger partnership starts from the training camp and goes through the pre-season and into the regular season.

“I’m a huge Ravens fan. I got tattoos, and I’m waiting to get another Super Bowl tattoo,” said Kevin Jones, an executive chef from Belcamp Md. “It makes me feel proud. It’s good to show support for our troops.”

Recruiting and Retention are working with the Ravens to put together a Military Appreciation Day at the training camp on Aug. 17 and during the Nov. 7 regular season game against the Miami Dolphins with a Veterans Day theme.

“More than anything, we want branding. We want that name recognition,” said Bennett. “The bigger expectation is that our brand gets known, that people see the Maryland Guard has value to the state and to the country. Ultimately, that leads to recruiting success down the road.”

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mdng/sets/72157624527955459/>

Final Frame



A group of Maryland National Guard Soldiers negotiate an obstacle as part of the Warrior Challenge competition on Camp Frettered Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md. May 17, 2010. Warrior Challenge is a test of teamwork and physical fitness developed by the Recruit Sustainment Program, a program composed of Maryland Guardsmen devoted to building a solid foundation for freshly enlisted Soldiers. (U.S. Army Photo/Sgt. John Higgins)