

# Maryland

## Military Department

# Digest

WINTER/SPRING 2011

[www.MD.NGB.ARMY.MIL](http://www.MD.NGB.ARMY.MIL)



**5**  
PORTRAIT OF MARYLAND'S  
FALLEN WARRIOR, SGT. 1ST  
CLASS COLLIN J. BOWEN  
PRESENTED TO FAMILY.



**10-11**  
THE MARYLAND GUARD PROVES  
VIGILANT DURING MULTI-  
AGENCY JOINT EXERCISE



**16-17**  
JOURNEY OF MDARNG OFFICER  
CANDIDATES



**NOW USING QR CODES  
FOR SMARTPHONES.  
GRAB CONTENT ON  
THE GO!**



Martin O'Malley  
Governor



Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

#### To the Personnel of the Maryland Military Department:

Summer is almost here, and soon we will be enjoying quality time with family and friends. As we enjoy our spring routines, we should not forget the challenges we face during this season. Last year, members of the Maryland National Guard were involved in numerous accidents, both on and off duty, involving motor vehicles and workplace injuries among others. I cannot stress enough the need for each of us to be aware and practice risk management in all aspects of our lives.

Off-duty accidents are the number one cause of fatalities among Maryland National Guard servicemembers. Encourage those around you to take precautions and avoid making costly mistakes. Use the appropriate personal protective equipment in all of your activities. Do not drive distracted, tired or under the influence and always wear your seatbelt.

As we prepare for annual training, use caution and be sure to understand the risks inherent in military training. Ensure your equipment is well-maintained, the standards are enforced and leaders are involved with the execution of the mission. Use the appropriate equipment for the mission, check and secure your loads, use ground guides, have an adequate work-rest cycle and stay well-hydrated.

It is my intent to reduce the number of losses throughout this organization. Most accidents are preventable with proper training and awareness. Let's each do our part to mitigate the risks and ensure a safe training atmosphere.

Respectfully,

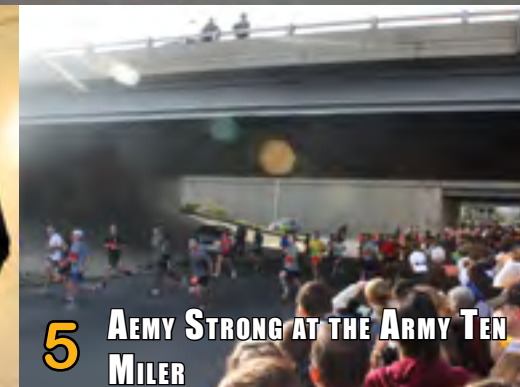
JAMES A. ADKINS  
Major General, MDARNG  
The Adjutant General



6-7 OPERATION BOLD RAVEN



4 ESTONIAN BORDER GUARD  
CROSS OF MERIT



5 ARMY STRONG AT THE ARMY TEN  
MILER



8-9 MDNG DEPLOYMENTS



18-19 A-10C PILOT:  
"GRADUATION"



21 MAJ. BENNETT PRESENTATIONS

#### IN THIS EDITION:

14-15 RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM GIVES  
BACK TO THE ENVIRONMENT

15 OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

18 MARYLAND SOLDIERS EARN GERMAN ARMED  
FORCES BADGE

19 YOUTH PROGRAM HOLDS COMMENCEMENT  
CEREMONY

21 PARTNERS IN CARE SIGNS 68TH CONGREGATION

21 MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD JOINS FORCES  
WITH ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



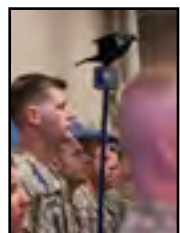
Editor & Layout Designer:  
Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington

Contributors:

Maj. Rick Brietenfeldt \* Capt. Stacie  
Shafran \* 1st Lt. Kurt Rauschenberg \*  
2nd Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner \* Sgt. 1st  
Class Charles Zach \* Staff Sgt. Benjamin  
Hughes \* Sgt. John Higgins \* Spc.  
Breeanna DuBuke \* Spc. Aimee Fujikawa  
\* Pfc. Alicia Brand \* Officer Candidate  
Jessica Donnelly \* 175th Wing Public  
Affairs

Public Affairs Office  
Mail: Fifth Regiment Armory  
29th Division St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
paomd@md.ngb.army.mil  
410.576.6179

www.md.ngb.army.mil  
www.Facebook.com/MDGUARD  
www.Twitter.com/MDNG  
www.FlickrR.com/photos/MDNG  
www.Vimeo.com/MDGUARD



COVER PHOTO:  
The Maryland Guard held a deploy-  
ment ceremony Feb. 26, 2011, at the  
Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory,  
for Companies C, D, E and HHC  
of the 2-224th Assault Helicopter  
Battalion. (Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus  
Harrington, 29th CAB PA)



## JOINT AIR ASSAULT TRAINING



A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter aircrew from C Company, 2-224 Aviation Battalion, sling loads a HMMWV above Weide Army Heliport as part of a joint air assault training exercise with the 175th Wing and the 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., on Sept. 29, 2010. The Maryland National Guard conducted tactical passenger loading and external aerial delivery in preparation for overseas contingency operations and domestic response activities. Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Alicia Brand, 55th Signal Company (Combat Camera)

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Maryland Military Digest, created by the Maryland National Guard public affairs office, has begun to bring a multimedia experience to the publication. This edition is an important step in the development of ideas and technologies aimed to enhance our audience's experience.

### Included are:

- **Interactive photo gallery:** Mouse over each thumbnail image to see an enlarged image and caption.
- **QR Codes:** Used to bring multimedia content to the reader through the printed page utilizing their smartphone and a barcode scanning application. These codes allow readers to view info, photos, videos and audio.
- **Web links:** If more content is available a shortened link is provided.
- **Embedded videos:** Video are embedded in the Digest. Click the play button of each video to view its content.

Times change and so does the Digest. With the increasing use of the Internet and social media some see the static printed page as a thing of the past. Our audience is diverse. Not everyone have smartphones, many even prefer the printed page over an electronic display. The Maryland Military Digest aims to accommodate both.

Feel free to let me know your thoughts.

  
**Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington**  
Editor & Layout Designer

## ESTONIAN BORDER GUARD CROSS OF MERIT

**Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland  
National Guard Public Affairs Office**

Chief Warrant Officer Gaven Meadows, tactical operations officer in the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade's Charlie Company 2-224 Aviation Regiment, received the Estonian Border Guard Cross of Merit Class III award during a ceremony at the Estonian Embassy in Washington D.C., Nov. 24, 2010.

The award was established in 1997 to recognize public servants, in exceptional cases, and other persons determined worthy of merit by the Estonian Border Guard. It has three grades; the highest class is first class.

The Class III Cross of Merit is awarded for: Due diligence for border surveillance, border control, search and rescue at sea, marine pollution detection, localization and liquidation or other activities related to internal security.

Chief Meadows was selected for this award because of his support of the Office of Defense Cooperation in Estonia and the Estonian Border Guard during his 2006-09 tour as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program. He worked to get a U.S. grant through the U.S. European Command's Counter Narcoterrorism Program to construct two helicopter bases of operation for the Border Guard. The two bases established counterdrug aviation support in the eastern part of Estonia.

"I greatly appreciate the award and the recognition. The biggest award for me was being able to work with the Border Guard and all the Estonian defense forces," said Chief Meadows. "It was just an amazing experience. It felt really great to be able to help a partner develop a capability."

The military was something he wanted to do early on stated Bob Meadows, father of Chief Meadows.

While his father traveled to the District of Columbia on business, the then 13-year-old Chief Meadows asked his father to pick up a book on helicopters. In the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum library, Bob

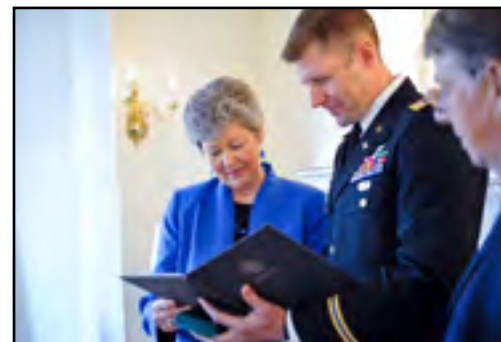


found an Army basic helicopter-training manual.

"He read the whole thing many times," said Bob. "He took me down to this shopping mall where he'd stay at this arcade machine [helicopter simulator], and he drew a crowd. Seems he was the only one that was able to fly it."

"We are so thankful," said Bonnie Meadows, mother of Chief Meadows. "We're thankful that other people can see the merit in him, not just his dad and mom."

The National Guard's State Partnership Program began in 1993 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The program is intended to increase cooperation between former Warsaw Pact countries and the United States. It also fosters mutual interests and establishes long-term relationships across all levels of society. It introduces these countries to democracy, assists them in building professional military intuitions and helps their responses to civil emergencies.



## A PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF A FALLEN WARRIOR



Ursula Bowen stands by a portrait of her fallen husband, Sgt. 1st Class Collin J. Bowen with Phil Taylor, artist from The American Fallen Soldiers Project.

### Maryland National Guard Public Affairs

A portrait of Maryland Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Collin J. Bowen was presented to his family by artist Phil Taylor March 6, 2011, at a ceremony at the Towson Armory, hosted by The American Fallen Soldiers Project. Bowen was deployed to Afghanistan when he was injured by an improvised explosive device on Jan. 2, 2008. He passed away March 14, 2008.

"Everyone has been so supportive of me," said Ursula Bowen, widow of the fallen. "I don't know what I would have done without their support. I would ask Collin to smile just like that in the portrait. It's beautiful. Thank you."

The American Fallen Soldiers Project was formed to help provide comfort and healing to the mourning families of our fallen military men and women. The project's mission is to honor, respect and forever memorialize those who have sacrificed their lives while protecting freedom. This non-profit organization makes available to the families, at no

cost, an original portrait of their fallen loved one that fully captures their appearance and personality.

"I have painted and presented over a hundred portraits and all of them are painted in black and white, because the Soldier is no longer with us in the flesh," said artist Phil Taylor. "If you notice, I painted his eyes their true color because they're the window to the soul."





# OPERATION BOLD RAVEN

*Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington*

The Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), along with the 5th CST from Illinois, conducted the joint exercise Operation Bold Raven Jan. 9-17 in Kapolei, Hawaii. Operation Bold Raven allowed the two teams to train and collaborate as well as conduct an airlift deployment and a joint entry. The teams advised, assisted and identified hazards in support of civil authorities. A substantial part of the 32nd's mission was the airlift from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii and then the safe return to their home station. "We worked through the challenges of having never done it [airlift] before, going through the entire paperwork process, loading the vehicles on the aircraft, getting off the ground and getting here [Hawaii]," said 1st Sgt. Marcus Mingo, first sergeant of the 32nd CST. "Moving forward, we will be in a better place. We know exactly what to expect when doing this type of mission. Now we should be able to deploy wherever we are needed." To prepare for this flight, a few members of the 32nd had to build a 29-inch high, 303-inch long and 36-inch wide wooden ramp to load the vehicles onto the aircraft at Dover. The ramp construction took more than 11 hours with \$3,000 worth of materials from the nearby hardware store.

## DIGITAL VERSION

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

## DIGITAL VERSION

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



Capt. Joubert Paulino, analytical science officer of the 32nd CST, analyzes the samples retrieved by the sample team. The agent turned out to be a blister agent. "The can-do attitude and professionalism of both teams enabled them to overcome obstacles in communication, not having worked together and standard operating procedures," said Warren. "What it showed us is that you can never be 100 percent prepared for an operation. There's always going to be something that comes up that forces you to change tactics or meet the situation with a different resource."



# DEPLOYMENTS

## ADM RU DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

Family and friends gathered Oct. 29, 2010, at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory in Edgewood, Md., for the deployment ceremony of more than 80 members of the Maryland Army National Guard.

Holding back tears in a sea of hugs and goodbyes, the Soldiers from the Aviation Depot Maintenance Roundout Unit boarded charter busses bound for Fort Dix, N.J., for additional training before going to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

"I am honored to be the Task Force Commander," said Lt. Col. Paul J. Cisar. "I understand my solemn duty and responsibility to care for the well-being of each and every one of these Soldiers and to bring them back safe—proud of the mission accomplished."

The unit will serve overseas for approximately one year.



## ADAB DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

The Maryland Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony Nov. 3, 2010, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, near Reisterstown, Md., for the Afghan national security forces Development Assistance Bureau. Almost 30 members of the ADAB are serving for approximately one year in Afghanistan. In addition to Maryland Soldiers, the team consists of more than 40 Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division. During their deployment, they will monitor the effort to upgrade Afghan national security forces.



## 29TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

Family and friends gathered at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore Jan. 5, 2011, for the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment's deployment ceremony.

The Soldiers of the 29th MPAD loaded up buses bound for Fort Dix, N.J., for additional training. From there, they headed to Iraq to support Operation New Dawn with the 25th Infantry Division.

(Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland Guard Public Affairs Office)



## 2-224TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION

### DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

*Maj. Rick Breitenfeldt, Maryland Public Affairs Office*

Family, friends and loved ones gathered Feb. 26, 2011, at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory, Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area, to show support for a Maryland National Guard unit and its citizen-Soldiers as they prepare for an overseas deployment.

The Maryland Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony for Companies C, D, E and Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the, 2-224th Assault Helicopter Battalion. Almost 80 members of the 2-224 are serving for approximately one year to provide air movement in support of Operation New Dawn in Balad, Iraq.

"You have joined a long line of patriots who have defended this nation and the state of Maryland," said Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland. "I am proud of you, and you should be proud of what you have done and what you are about to do."

The unit, which is based in the

Edgewood Area of Aberdeen

Proving Ground, initially deployed to Fort Hood, Texas for additional training before their deployment overseas. Their missions in Iraq include troop air assault and air movement, air evacuation, aerial resupply and any other requested aviation missions.

Lt. Gov. Anthony G. Brown, himself a veteran of the war in Iraq, told the Maryland citizen-Soldiers their most important mission, however, was to come home safely.

"Rest assured that while you focus on your mission, we will help take care of your families," said Brown.

C Company deployed in 2001 as part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia and also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005.

"Fate has a way of reminding us of the important things in our lives," said Col. David W. Carey, commander of the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade. "It is up to each of you to write the next chapter in our history. God Speed. 29th Let's Go."



## 1729TH FIELD SUPPORT MAINTENANCE COMPANY'S DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

The Maryland Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony Feb. 12, 2010, at the Maj. Gen. Warren D. Hodges Armory, Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area, for the 1729th Field Support Maintenance Company. More than 170 members of the 1729th are serving for approximately one year in Iraq to support Operation New Dawn. The unit, based in Havre de Grace, deployed to Fort Hood, Texas for training prior to deploying to Iraq. (Photo by Sgt. Thaddeus Harrington, Maryland Guard Public Affairs Office)



## 243RD ENGINEER WELL DRILL TEAM DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

The 243rd Engineer Well Drill Team of the Maryland Army National Guard held a deployment ceremony Dec. 8, 2010, for 13 of its Soldiers who are now serving one year in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa helping to bring fresh drinking water to the impoverished region.





ALWAYS READY, ALWAYS  
RELEVANT - VIGILANT MARY-  
LAND GUARD

*Spc. Crystal Hudson, 29th Mobile  
Public Affairs Detachment.*

The Maryland National Guard's 32nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), based out of Fort George G. Meade, Md., took part in Vigilant Guard Nov. 5-7, 2010, in Baltimore. Vigilant Guard is a multi-agency exercise that focuses on building relationships between the National Guard and local first responders. The scenario tested the unit's response to a simulated explosion at a chemical production facility.

The CST can detect and analyze possible chemical threats; something that is vital should a real-world incident, such as a chemical plant explosion, take place. An exercise like Vigilant Guard allows them to stay ready.

"This exercise validates all the training of the Soldiers and Airmen in this team," said Army Maj. Andrew Collins, deputy commander of the 32nd CST. "Each person on the team is a subject matter expert."

Exercises, such as Vigilant Guard, allow the unit to hone their skills to get ready for real-world emergencies.

Such an incident happened in July 2010 when a suspicious envelope containing a white powder substance was dropped off at the Fort Meade police station. The team was called out to assess the risk of the powder, said Collins. They tested the suspicious powder and determined that it was not a threat.

Vigilant Guard is only one way the team stays prepared, said Collins, adding that the team is usually part of a collective training exercise each month to prepare for possible incidents of terrorism, natural disasters and situations where toxic materials may be released.

That training allows the unit the ability to effectively communicate and react in times of crisis.

"Communication is key in this situation," said Army 1st Lt. Michael Kehs, survey team leader with the 32nd CST. "We need to detect and identify

the radiological hazards at the scene... keep[ing] contact with one another at least every five minutes."

Once the threat level is determined, the CST has a communications platform in their command vehicle with the ability to securely transmit classified information.

This allows them the ability to stay in contact with officials from multiple agencies, said team members. The unit's

capabilities are designed to augment and supplement local hazardous materials response teams, rather than replace them.

During Vigilant Guard, the Maryland-based CST received support from CSTs in neighboring states, something that may happen should a real-world scenario take place.

That is a benefit of taking part in the exercise, said Collins. "...staying ready and building those bridges, should they be needed."



Maryland National Guard Pfc. Diamond Gause, a Soldier in the 290th Military Police Company in Parkville, Md., helps a team of rescuers from Maryland Task Force 2, an urban search and rescue response team designed to provide a coordinated response to disasters in urban environments. (Photo by Maj. Rick Breitenfeldt)

GUARDSMEN TURN COMBAT  
TECHNOLOGY INTO TOOLS  
FOR SAVING LIVES

*1st Lt. Kurt Rauschenberg  
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

Technology designed to increase the combat effectiveness of A-10 attack jets is now being used to prepare to help save lives according to Maryland Air National Guard officials.

A-10Cs from Maryland's 175th Wing participating in Exercise Vigilant Guard, an annual training exercise designed to prepare National Guard units to support civilian agencies during a major disaster or terrorist attack, provided emergency responders on the ground with unprecedented situational awareness using a Remote Operated Video Enhanced Receiver to capture ground imagery to assist emergency first responders.

ROVER was originally intended to allow fighters to provide a direct video feed to troops on the ground so they could guide airstrikes against enemy positions, but the same capability could also provide crucial real-time information to emergency first responders during a disaster, as the Maryland National Guard demonstrated.

The idea of using aircraft such as the A-10, which was designed to destroy enemy tanks and other ground targets, to rescue disaster victims might at first seem paradoxical, but the A-10's ability to carry sensors like ROVER give it a critical capability that can save lives.

"The ROVER device used in this exercise helps us by looking at the ground to sort out what exactly is going on and how to react," said Col. Timothy G. Smith, Maryland Air National Guard director of operations.

The scenario for this iteration of Exercise Vigilant Guard is an explosion that collapses part of a chemical production facility, causing mass casualties and trapping many people in the

building. In the scenario, National Guard personnel and assets are called upon to assist civil authorities in coping with the disaster.

"Our capability to assist in this situation gives us a viable domestic mission, and we are here to help in any way we can," Smith said.

When civilian agencies request Maryland National Guard resources to provide airborne incident awareness and assessment capabilities, two A-10Cs from the 175th Wing equipped with ROVER pods are launched. The jets orbit over the disaster area, providing a direct imagery feed to Maryland Joint Operations Center personnel, allowing them to make quick and accurate response decisions.

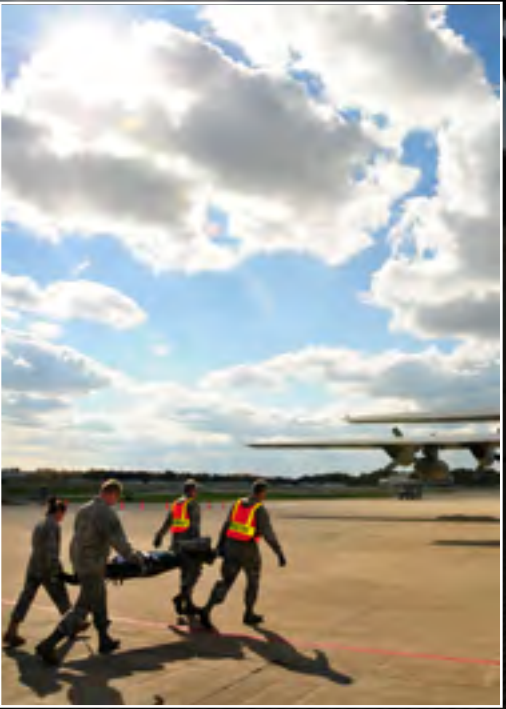
"This is the first time that IAA capabilities have been used on fixed-wing aircraft that can provide imagery from a higher distance and sustain longer in the air," said Col. Randolph J. Staudenraus, 175th Operations Group commander.

Colonel Staudenraus explained that although these capabilities are primarily used in overseas operations, the same resources can be used in domestic crisis operations as well.

"This is another step toward using our capabilities to assist the state by providing civilian first responders with the information needed to save lives on the ground," said Staudenraus.



Sgt. Jared King (left) and Sgt. John Manning, both with the 32nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) assess an overturned car and surrounding area for possible chemical hazards during Vigilant Guard. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Breeanna DuBuke)



Members of the Delaware Air National Guard carry a mock litter patient to a C-130 during at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Baltimore, Md., Nov. 6, 2010. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Hughes)



Maintenance personnel of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to launch A-10C aircraft equipped with sensor pods at Warfield Air National Guard Base, Baltimore, Md., Nov. 6, 2010. The pods use the ROVER enhancement to beam imagery to the ground in real time. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jennifer Sardam)





# EYES ON THE MARYLAND GUARD

## 1. ARMS REDUCTION IN BOSNIA

Eight Soldiers of the MDARNG's 115th Military Police Battalion spent more than three weeks in Visoko, Bosnia and Herzegovina Sept. 8-30, 2010. The MDARNG Soldiers personally verified the destruction of nearly 12,000 M16A1 rifles of a 30,061-rifle stockpile identified by the BiH Ministry of Defense as excess inventory. The United Nations Developmental Program provided funding for a local contractor to do the actual demilitarization of the weapons.

## 2. PREPARED TO ASSIST

Maryland National Guard members of B Troop 1-158 CAV assist state police from the Princess Anne Barracks during the heavy snowfall on the Eastern Shore December 26 and 27, 2010. Soldiers from Easton and Salisbury were assigned to a variety of missions mainly helping the state police and county fire departments during the declared state of emergency.

## 3. QUEEN ANNE RIBBON CUTTING

The Maryland Army National Guard formally opened the Victor P. Gillespie Armory in Queen Anne, Md., dedicating it to a detachment of the 1229th Transportation Company Oct. 3, 2010. The armory used to house units from the 175th and 115th Infantry Regiments. It has been unoccupied for the last several years.

## 4. WOC GRADUATION CEREMONY

Dozens of family and friends of the Maryland Army National Guard's newest warrant officers gathered at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation to celebrate their graduation from Warrant Officer Candidate School. In total, nine warrant officers received their commissions during the October 16 ceremony. Seven citizen-Soldiers from the Maryland Guard, one Army Reservist and one D.C. Guardsman completed the seven-month commissioning course.



1



2



3



4



7



8



5



6

## 5. SALISBURY READINESS CENTER

The Maryland Army National Guard broke ground Sept. 22, 2010, on a \$9.4 million construction project renovating and expanding the CSM Blair Lee Crockett Readiness Center in Salisbury, Md. The project will renovate approximately 26,000 square feet and add an additional 28,000 square feet.

## 6. NEW OLNEY READINESS CENTER

The Maryland National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony October 17 for the new readiness center (armory) for the 224th Area Support Medical Company. First developed by the Army in 1955 as the barracks area of a Nike Missile Battery, the new facility includes nearly 29,000 square feet of space for the training and administrative support of the 224th ASMC.

## 7. SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR HEROISM

In a ceremony on Feb. 4, at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, a Maryland National Guardsman received the Soldier's Medal for saving the life of a fellow Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Maj. David T. May from the Special Operations Detachment, Joint Forces in Laurel, Md., received the highest honor a Soldier can receive for an act of valor in a non-combat situation. "I was just doing my job—what I was trained to do," May said humbly. "I didn't even think about it; I just reacted as we are trained to do."

## 8. SOLDIER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Sgt. Joel Dixon a member of the 290th MP Company, drags a litter dummy to safety. The 58th Troop Command conducted its 2011 Brigade NCO / Soldier of the Year Competition on January 8 at the Adelphi National Guard Center. Events included an Army physical fitness test, a written exam, a tactical road march, warrior tasks, and an appearance before a board. The NCO / Soldier of the year winner will go on to represent 58th Troop Command at the state competition this spring.



## STRONG PRESENCE AT THE ARMY TEN MILER



**-2nd Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office**

Dozens of runners from across the Maryland National Guard put their endurance training to the test Sunday, running ten miles on an unseasonably warm Northern Virginia morning.

Approximately 150 Maryland Guard members competed with almost 22,000 other runners in the 26th Annual Army Ten Miler on October 24, 2010, a race that starts and ends at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. and winds through some of the most scenic parts of the nation's capital.

"I'm incredibly proud of our runners," said Brig. Gen. Peter Hinz, commander of the Maryland Army National Guard, who also competed in the race. "The strong showings of our teams and individual runners are testaments to the kind of hard work and successful outcomes we strive for in the Guard."

According to the official Army Ten Miler website, the race is hosted by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington and uses its proceeds to support Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families.

The race's mission is to build esprit de corps, support fitness goals, and enhance community relations.

"I don't think too many people would describe a 10-mile run as 'fun', but

the ATM really was," said Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly of the 70th Regiment. "It was a great opportunity to run alongside thousands of other servicemembers and supporters of the military through the nation's capital, and it gave us all a chance to network with each other afterward and meet people who share our

passion to run."

Although many of the runners competed as individuals, around 700 teams of four to eight runners were assembled. Two of the Maryland teams, a male and a female team, placed second overall in the National Guard division.

"We really trained hard to prepare for this race," Maj. Kirk Pietsch, coordinator for those teams. "We all stepped up and set ourselves apart from the other states."

The race has gained in popularity over the years, and this year saw 21,636 runners finish—up from 11,935 just 10 years ago. At the same time, deployed U.S. servicemembers took part in "shadow" runs, remotely participating in the ATM from six bases in Afghanistan, five bases in Iraq and a camp in Djibouti, according to the ATM website.

"This was my first Army Ten Miler, and I was proud to represent my state as a runner on the Maryland National Guard women's team," said Sgt. Jennifer Sardam of the 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. "The motivation coming from the crowd and the other runners made it a lot of fun to run."



## RECRUIT SUSTAINMENT PROGRAM GIVES BACK TO THE ENVIRONMENT

**Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Charles Zach, MDARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

The Maryland Army National Guard recently helped call attention to the need to protect the environment during a drill weekend at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown, Md.

Members of the MDARNG's Recruit Sustainment Program, a program for Soldiers who have not yet completed their military specialty training, planted trees

on the state-owned grounds on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010, as part of a nationwide Guard the Environment effort encouraged by the National Guard Bureau.



"Our graduating Gold Phase recruits were successful in planting 10 trees on Camp Fretterd in an environment regeneration area," said Capt. Matthew Deener, commander of one of the Recruit Sustainment Program companies. "The trees will help stabilize a slope of land on base previously responsible for harmful run-off."

Guard the Environment is a grass roots effort for states to showcase National Guard



members proactively participating in environmentally friendly activities to both impact and give back to their local communities.

The Soldiers also removed pine needles and debris from the rain gutters in the roads so that they could drain properly and keep sap from entering the post's watershed and negatively affecting plant and animal life.

"The recruits were motivated during the duration of the event," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Knepshield, commander of the Recruiting and



Retention Battalion. "Many of them made comments about giving

back to the environment where they had trained in the months leading up to their graduation from the RSP."

Every Soldier who participated in the event received a commemorative Guard the Environment t-shirt in appreciation of their involvement.



## OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

**Maryland National Guard Public Affairs**

The Maryland National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force participated in Operation Medicine Cabinet to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from Maryland homes on Sept. 25, 2010.

Operation Medicine Cabinet was a collaboration among the Counterdrug Task Force, the Drug Enforcement Administration, state and local law enforcement agencies and substance abuse prevention organizations.

"They [DEA] requested that we help support them on their national initiative, Operation Takeback," said Capt. Harry Wille, operations officer for the MDNG Counterdrug Task Force.

The Counterdrug Task Force utilized Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade, the 58th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, the 58th Troop Command and Joint Force Headquarters to help accomplish this mission.

The Counterdrug Task Force regularly supports the DEA, but this is the first statewide prescription drug disposal program in the nation.

September 25 was an amnesty turn-in day—an opportunity for Marylanders to turn in unused, unwanted or expired medications to law enforcement officials. The drugs were collected at Maryland State Police barracks throughout the state. The drugs were transported, with the help of Maryland Guard Soldiers, to the DEA field office in Baltimore for accountability the following Monday.

Maryland Guard Soldiers along, with an armed DEA agent, assisted in the transport of all the collected drugs to Lorton, Va. for destruction on Sept. 29.

The DEA and the National Guard Counterdrug Program have come together to support Operation Take Back and to educate Maryland residents about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and the easy access to these drugs.

This initiative addresses the National Guard Counterdrug Program objectives in helping to keep America drug free. This is a vital public safety and public health issue. Many Americans are unaware that medicines languishing in home cabinets are highly susceptible to



theft, misuse and abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away—both potential safety and health hazards.

"I think it's great that the Maryland National Guard is supporting local, state and federal law enforcement agencies with an initiative that takes a lot of these medications out of circulation," said Wille.





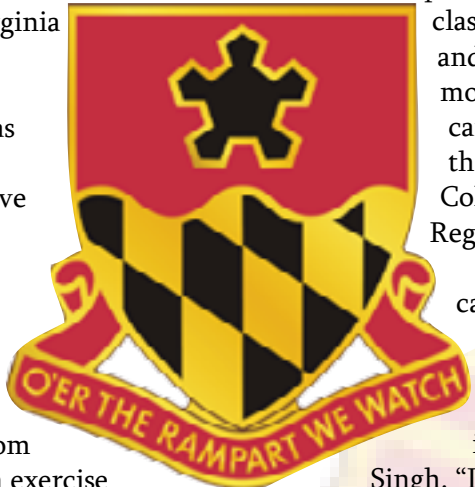
OCS 52 **CANDIDATES GET FESTIVE**  
*Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly*

Every month, officer candidates spend three days away from their families training to become future leaders in the Army National Guard. Family members wait at home while candidates spend a weekend learning skills and tactics before coming home tired, dirty and in need of some rest. The family members are continuously there to support the candidates, without fully understanding what they go through when they go away for those three days. However, the December inactive duty training weekend provided an opportunity for families and friends to get a glimpse at a day in the life of officer candidates in the Officer Candidate School training environment.

Maryland Officer Candidate School combined class 52 completed another IDT weekend as part of the OCS program Dec. 3-5, 2010, at Camp Fretterd, Md. moving one step closer to earning their respective commissions in the Maryland, West Virginia or District of Columbia National Guard.

The IDT weekend was full of essential training intended to train effective leaders. The training included an Army Physical Fitness Test and classroom portions dedicated to teaching public speaking techniques. The classroom portion also included an exercise where each candidate produced and delivered an informational brief to their peers for critique. After the training was completed, the main event of the weekend included a holiday party planned and executed by the candidates that served as an opportunity for family and friends to share this special occasion and to get a glimpse into a day in the life of an officer candidate.

"The holiday party was a complete success in my mind," said Officer Candidate Namataka Heru, December's platoon sergeant. "It achieved its end



Officer Candidate Class 52 poses with Santa during the holiday gala put on by the candidates Dec. 5.

state of bringing officer candidates, families and OCS staff together to understand the world of OCS."

The holiday event included an opportunity for guests to socialize with one another, interact with the OCS and regimental staff, share a meal together, have a photo opportunity with Santa Claus, watch a photo presentation of the

class' accomplishments, and listen to a motivational speech on career progression by the keynote speaker, Col. Linda Singh, 70th Regiment commander.

"If I look at my career in hindsight, I can tell you that you have to take charge of your career. Take it and own it," said Singh. "I think you've done that already because you've taken the first step to becoming leaders."

In the end, the point that was most stressed throughout the event was the importance of family support while going through OCS.

"It is utterly impossible to say that an officer candidate can exist and survive in the OCS environment without support from their families," said Heru. "The mental and physical stresses that occur in OCS are hard enough to handle, but even harder to handle without the outlet of confiding in loved ones. The family

is a portion of the power that drives an officer candidate through OCS."

While the holiday party served as an opportunity to share a special time with friends and family, candidates must always remember their reasons for being in the program and continue to work toward the end goal of earning their commission.

"All focus must be directed to every aspect of the duties at hand," said Heru. "The platoon must learn to think ahead, as well as in the moment... to achieve the goals of each weekend."



Officer candidates, friends, families and guests from the 70th Regiment staff mingle during the holiday gala put on by Officer Candidate School class 52.



Leadership from the 70th Regiment serve officer candidates lunch at the dining facility Dec. 4, 2010, to show candidates they appreciate what they are working toward in honor of the holidays.

**OFFICER CANDIDATES REACH HALFWAY POINT IN TRADITIONAL PROGRAM**  
*Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly*

Maryland, West Virginia and District of Columbia officer candidates completed another inactive duty training weekend Feb. 4-6, 2011, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, Md. reaching the halfway mark in the Maryland Officer Candidate School traditional program.

The IDT concentrated on two new areas of study for the candidates, Military Intelligence and Platoon Operation Orders, each concluding with an exam that all candidates passed on the first try. While operation orders are something that the candidates will face on a regular basis after commissioning, concerns dealing with military intelligence will also play a role in their careers. With social networking sites making it easier to share information, ensuring that operational security is upheld will always be a priority.

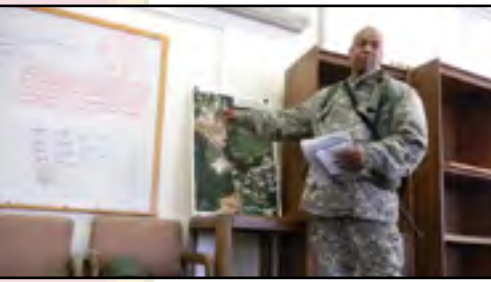
"As U.S. Army Officers, it's our job to combat these OPSEC issues," said 1st Lt. Ravneet Puri, Maryland instructor.

Outside of the classroom, candidates had other obstacles during the IDT weekend. Learning to make the transition from being away from OCS for 27 days a month to coming together as a team for three days at CFMR has proved to be a challenge for the officer candidates. From making 24 beds up to standard to making time hacks, the candidates face a constant struggle to improve from prior months. While they may not be there yet, the officer candidates continue to move forward.

"This drill was a step in the right direction," said Officer Candidate William Hood, February platoon leader. "The assigned leadership put in a lot of hours in order to take that step. Definitely not perfect, but the learning curve is going up exponentially at this point. The biggest change I saw was the continuous motivation from all the candidates. There was never a lull and that is how it needs to be done every time."

The IDT weekend Department Digest

marked another significant point for the officer candidates with a briefing about branch options available in the Maryland National Guard. The candidates must begin thinking about



Candidate Rodney Martin, incoming platoon leader, briefs his operations order for training.



Candidates have some friendly competition by splitting up into squads and racing across the parade field.



1st Lt. Ravneet Puri teaches candidates about military intelligence and the importance of operational security.



Candidate Christopher Larkin shouts a command from the company commander to the platoon while in a company formation.

what career field they will enter after receiving their commissions and start to make contact with future commanders. While looking ahead to what comes after OCS, candidates must not only consider what career field they will be in, but also what kind of leader they will be.

"As a leader, will you able to make your subordinates feel... like they matter, like they're essential," asked Capt. Christopher Kinney, West Virginia Teach Assess and Counsel officer. "I challenge you to be able to do this. It'll make you more effective as a leader. If they feel that way, they're going to work harder for themselves and work harder for you."

With seven months left in the program, candidates must continue to look forward and plan ahead for upcoming IDTs, beginning with the 7-mile timed ruck-march during March's training period. Officer Candidates must continue to prepare their bodies for the march during the month of February and return to CFMR ready to train.

"OC Martin will set us up for success and we will continue to be better. We will have struggles, but the most important thing we are learning is how to overcome obstacles quickly and continue on with the mission," said Hood. "The only time a plan is perfect is when it is on paper. How we overcome each obstacle will define who we are and what this class is made of."





# SOLDIERS EARN GERMAN ARMED FORCES BADGE

Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard participated in a two-day competition to earn the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency February 17 and 18, 2011, at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md.

Approximately 17 cadets from Salisbury University and the University of Delaware and 12 MDARNG Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry Regiment, 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry Regiment and 115th Military Police Battalion earned “Das Abzeichen für Leistungen im Truppendienst,” a decoration of the Bundeswehr, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany.

“It was great to see numerous servicemembers from units throughout Cadet Command and the Maryland Army National Guard come out for the competition,” said 1st Lt. David Engelman, executive officer for A Co., 1- 175th IN and Salisbury University ROTC instructor.

According to the Salisbury University ROTC department, which sponsored and helped administer the events, the decoration is awarded to all German Soldiers. Allied soldiers may also be awarded the badge. Any rank may be awarded and wear the badge.

“Going into the competition, I wasn’t too concerned that I wouldn’t be able to do everything,” said Sgt. David Bixler, B Troop, 1-158th CAV, explaining he felt confident his U.S. military training had prepared him well for the events.

In the United States military, the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency is one of the few approved foreign awards and is one of the most sought-after awards to achieve, as there are few opportunities to compete for it. Rolf Lichtenberg, a German senior non-commissioned officer from the German Army Liaison Office at Fort Lee, Va. was on hand to administer the event.

“This was a great opportunity that not



many National Guard Soldiers get to take advantage of,” said 1st Lt. Gregg Zavadsky, executive officer for B Troop, 1-158th CAV.

Soldiers seeking the award are tested in track and field events, timed runs, road marches and a pistol qualification. The badge has three levels of achievement: Bronze, Silver and Gold, and requirements vary depending on the age and gender of the Soldiers.

Each competitor clearly saw the importance of athleticism over the standard push up and sit up workout many Soldiers use to prepare for the annual Army Physical Fitness Test, said Engelman.

“The thing that stood out the most for me is the 200 meter swim,” said Bixler. It wasn’t hard to get finished in time, but when you were done your whole body felt it—especially when it follows a 3.1 mile run.”

Not every Soldier who attempted to earn the badge succeeded, but they could all say they gained a new respect for international physical fitness standards.

“I’m very sore even four days afterward,” said Zavadsky. “My feet are blistered from the ruck march, but we had fun.”



# THE MAKING OF AN A-10C PILOT: "GRADUATION"

Capt. Stacie N. Shafran  
355th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It was a celebration here Aug. 20, 2010, as 1st Lt. Dan Griffin, a pilot assigned to the Maryland Air National Guard’s 104th Fighter Squadron and his 11 classmates became the Air Force’s newest A-10C Thunderbolt II attack pilots.

Their afternoon graduation ceremony was held at the base theater in front of family, friends, their instructor pilots and teachers and base leaders. It culminated 27 weeks of some of the most intense training these pilots will undergo in their entire Air Force career.

Over the past six months the pilots were assigned to the 358th Fighter Squadron, as members of class 10-BBD, where instructor pilots taught them the basics about flying the A-10C.

This class also was the first to graduate as A-10C pilots. For the past 32 years, previous classes were trained in the A-10A. While the A-10A underwent upgrades throughout its life with improvements to its navigational system, bombing computers and digital countermeasures, the A-10C was the first upgrade extensive enough to generate a new model letter. These upgrades, along with the refurbishing of the A-10’s wings, will contribute to sustaining the A-10 through 2028, long enough for these new attack pilots to keep flying it.

Graduation culminated 230 hours of academic instruction, more than 56 hours of simulator training, 42 sorties and 88 hours of flight time. This course was their last step in the training pipeline, following undergraduate pilot training and a fighter fundamentals course.

For Lieutenant Griffin, this day

symbolized the completion of a goal he’s held on to for 28 years.

And, as all of the students would attest to, reaching this milestone wouldn’t have been possible

without the support of their family members and loved ones.

Lieutenant Griffin’s parents, John and Noleen; his sister, Sarah; brother-in-law, Ryan; uncle, Kieran; aunts, Karen and Maggie; friend Chris; and girlfriend, Amanda; all spent the weekend in Tucson sharing in the excitement. They also had the chance to see an A-10C up close and visit the 358th Fighter Squadron.

It didn’t take me long, after spending some time around the Griffin family over the weekend, to realize this had become their goal as much as it was Lieutenant Griffin’s. Their admiration and love for him radiated.

Having spent the past five months shadowing and reporting on this class, I also can say their success was attributed to the bond they shared with one

another and their genuine desire to help one another succeed. Whether it was studying for tests, preparing for missions or making sure they all had something to eat between classes and flights, they showcased some of the best teamwork I’ve ever seen.

In fact, the squadron’s leaders and IPs often commented, in comparison to previous classes, about the tremendous amount of camaraderie these 12 pilots shared.

With training complete, Lieutenant Griffin and his classmates are now bound for their first operational assignments and some may even see combat within a matter of months.

They are all well prepared, though, to take on future challenges. All have worked extremely hard and are fiercely dedicated and committed to the task of protecting this country’s sons and daughters.

As I sign off, I’d like to say it was an honor and privilege for my staff and me to bring our audience this unprecedented behind-the-scenes perspective about A-10C pilot training. Sharing in this journey with Lieutenant Griffin and his classmates reinforced the many valuable lessons I’ve learned throughout my Air Force career: the importance of preparation, teamwork, hard work, pride and honor.

Most of us only will see the jets fly overhead, taxi down the runway or take off. This series, through stories, photographs and videos, offered a behind-the-scenes perspective into Lieutenant Griffin’s life as he became one of the Air Force’s newest A-10C pilots. The series can be found on [www.dm.af.mil](http://www.dm.af.mil).

Upon his graduation, Lt. Griffin returned to the MDANG where he will continue his certification training.

Article edited from original format by Master Sgt. Lou DeVeaux, 175th Wing Public Affairs.

# YOUTH PROGRAM HELD COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Maryland National Guard Freestate ChalleNGe Academy held a graduation ceremony at the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute on Dec. 11, 2010, for 114 cadets from class #35 as they completed the first phase of the 17-month program.

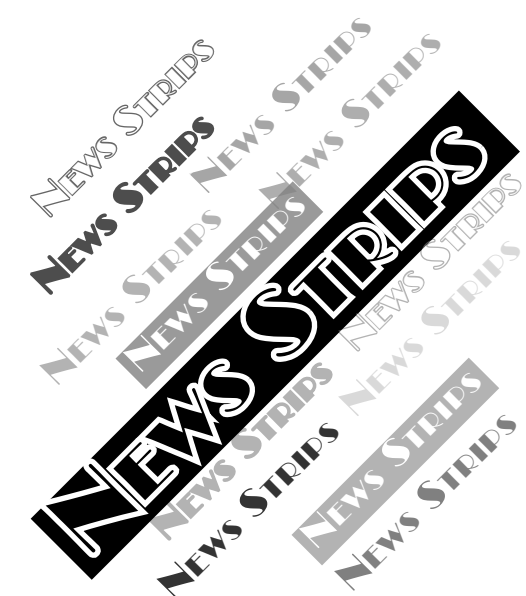
The Freestate ChalleNGe Academy is a two-phased intervention program for underemployed, drug-free, “at-risk” high school dropouts from the state of Maryland. The first phase consists of 22 weeks in residency at the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Following graduation from the resident phase, the cadets are mentored for an additional 12 months, during which time they are placed into jobs, continue their education, or enter the military.

The mission of the Academy is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of at-risk youth and to produce graduates with the values, skills, education and self-discipline needed to succeed as adults. Students are brought into a structured and highly disciplined quasi-military academic setting that builds confidence and self esteem to become productive and contributing members of our society. Cadets attend academic classes to prepare to test for the General Education Development credential and Maryland High School Diploma.

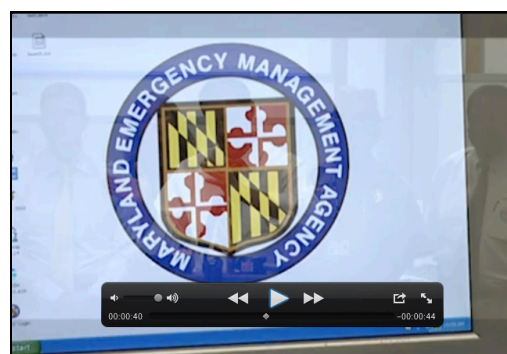
2010 marked the 17th anniversary of the program and has been another extremely successful year for the academy. 225 students graduated last year, and more than 2,600 cadets have graduated since the Academy’s beginning in 1993. The alumni of the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy are responsible and productive citizens who are now contributing to their communities throughout the state of Maryland by employing the values and skills taught to them while at the Academy.







## READY TO WORK TOGETHER-HURRICANE SEASON



**Spc. Aimee Fujikawa, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs**

Gov. Martin O'Malley met with cabinet members at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation on September 2, 2010. The meeting included officials from the Ocean City and the Eastern Shore areas to discuss the threat Hurricane Earl posed to residents. O'Malley spoke about the importance of having the National Guard as a resource to call on in times of need.



## FALLEN WARRIOR MEMORIAL CEREMONY



**Spc. Aimee Fujikawa Maryland National Guard Public Affairs**

Friends and family gathered to commemorate the lives of Maryland National Guard Soldiers who lost their lives fighting the war following the 9-11 terrorist attacks. The Fallen Warrior Memorial wreath-laying ceremony was held Saturday, September 11, 2010, at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation near Reisterstown Md.



## A TASTE OF UNITY DAY



**Article by Spc. Breeanna DuBuke, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

The Maryland Military Department celebrated Unity Day on Sept. 23, 2010, at the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

Unity Day was created five years ago in order to bring awareness to the many diverse cultures that make up the Maryland National Guard, said Chief Warrant Officer Miriam Jennings, supervisor of human resources and Unity Day Hispanic booth operator. She has been a part of Unity Day from the beginning and has also supported ethnic celebrations when they were individual events.

The Department of Defense celebrates ethnic observances annually. It has supported ethnic observances through the development of local programs of recognition and many diverse activities.

"The United States is a melting pot, and Unity Day allows us to observe all of the different cultures," said Jennings.

The day's activities were designed to enhance cross-cultural awareness and promote harmony among all servicemembers, their families and the civilian workforce.

There were several different booths set up on the drill floor, from the Irish-American booth that served traditional shepherd's pie to the Caribbean-American booth that served red beans and rice.

However, there were several other booths that brought awareness to ideals, not just cultures. Like the Secret Santa Anonymous, a charity that helps give money to families for their children's toys or clothing during the holiday season.

On top of the numerous booths, there were also different types of entertainment, including the Maryland Defense Force Band, American Indian Dancers, National Society of Pershing Angels, Freestate ChalleNGe Drill Team and a pie-eating contest.



Maryland Military

## PARTNERS IN CARE SIGNS 68TH CONGREGATION

**Maryland National Guard Public Affairs**

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Baron Hopkins, 115th Military Police Battalion chaplain and also the pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church of Federalsburg, Md., signed an agreement

with the Maryland National Guard to be the 68th Partners in Care congregation. The singing took place at the



Command Sgt. Maj. Blair Lee Crockett Readiness Center in Salisbury, Md. on Sept. 22, 2010.

The Partners in Care program is an initiative of the Maryland National Guard and is administered by the Joint Force Headquarters Chaplain's Office. A memorandum of understanding between the participating congregations and the Maryland National Guard allows for the referral of servicemembers and their families to the closest Partners in Care congregation during times of need.

Each congregation provides support within the limits of its ability. This support is free of charge regardless of religious affiliation and without further obligation. Services include, but are not limited to: counseling, child care, youth support groups, basic home and auto repair, deployment and reintegration support, and many other helpful services.

The participating congregations represent 20 different faith groups in all of Maryland's 23 counties as well as Baltimore City.

## MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD JOINS FORCES WITH ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



**Maryland National Guard Public Affairs**

In a ceremony at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manchester, Md., Jan. 16, 2011, the National Guard joined forces with the Knights of Columbus and signed a memorandum of understanding to provide support to Guard members and their families in need.

"This was a natural fit for the Knights of Columbus here at St. Bartholomew," said Father Michael Roach, pastor and chaplain for the council. "The primary mission of the Knights of Columbus since its founding in 1882, is to be a service-based organization that was founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism."



## MAJ. BENNETT PRESENTATIONS



Maj. Amy Bennett, deputy operations and training officer for the Maryland Army National Guard, recently gave a series of community service presentations to local children. Maj. Bennett visited a daycare and a Brownie troop where the children asked her questions about her military job and about being a woman in the Army.

Bennett's husband, Lt. Col. Michael Bennett, is currently deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn and was able to interact with the children through Skype, a software application that allows users to make voice and video calls over the Internet. He showed everyone his living quarters and a night time view of the desert. The Brownie troop made care packages for all of the deployed members of Lt. Col. Bennett's unit.



## CARE PACKAGES FOR MARYLAND'S DEPLOYED



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

Employees of Integral Components Incorporated, a family-run business in Westminster, Md., took time Nov. 24, 2010, to pack over 1,000 lbs of goods for the deploying members of the Maryland Army National Guard.

The packing list included one iPod touch and a wall charge adapter for it, a new book donated by Random House, a plate of fresh-baked-vacuum-sealed cookies, several bags of snacks, some powdered tea and a card from one of three local schools: West Middle High, Emory H. Markle Intermediate and Green Valley Elementary.

This is Integral Components' 7th year of making these care packages for Servicemembers.



VIDEOS EMBEDDED. CLICK PLAY BUTTON OR SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW



# Final Frame



65 Maryland Guard citizen Soldiers were conducting specialized airborne operations training northwest of Hagerstown, Md. To maintain their parachute proficiency, Soldiers from C Troop, 1-158th Cavalry (LRS), an airborne long range surveillance unit, gathered February 6, 2011, on a snowy hilltop to conduct a static line airborne operation.