



MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT

Fall 2011

Digest

WWW.MD.NGB.ARMY.MIL

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MDGUARD

WWW.TWITTER.COM/MDNG

WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/MDNG



To All the Members of the Maryland Military Department:

This holiday season, I would like to thank you and your Family for your commitment, dedication and service to our state and country. Whether you are deployed overseas or serving in Maryland, each of you should enjoy the holiday season with Family and friends and celebrate in your own special way.

The holidays are a great time to relax and reflect on the past. Since 9-11, we have continued to mobilize and deploy Soldiers and Airmen in support of overseas operations. We have always responded when called, either for our federal or state mission. The citizens of Maryland have seen your responsiveness during Hurricane Irene and the back to back snow storms.

Safety is always paramount in planning any mission in the military or in your civilian life. Many of you will be traveling over the holidays and driving conditions can change quickly. Please plan accordingly, never drink and drive and avoid distracted and drowsy driving, especially when traveling long distances.

Over the holidays my thoughts and prayers will be with our Soldiers and Airmen and their Families who are spending the holidays apart. I want to thank all of you for your sacrifices. The best gift for the holiday would be if everyone returned safely, rested, recharged and ready for the New Year. I appreciate your hard work and dedication this past year.

Warmest wishes to you and your Families,

JAMES A. ADKINS
Major General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General



Inside this issue:



Maryland National Guard honors
Fallen Warriors
.....4-5



Maryland National Guard members
train Drug Enforcement Administration
agents
.....6-7



Ambassador: National Guard uniquely
suited to peacekeeping operations
.....8-9



MDANG introduces C-27J to local
community
.....10-11



MDARNG, University of Maryland
cadet "First in the Nation"
.....12



Maryland Air National Guard pilots
complete "fini" flight
.....13



From O-C's to L-T's
officer candidates commission into the
Army National Guard
.....14



Maryland Defense Force supports
veterans with Operation Stand Down
.....15



Maryland Army National Guard mem-
bers receive combat medical training
from U.S. Air Force
.....16-17



Maryland National Guard member
serves state, nation
.....18



Maryland National Guard first to
assign liaison officer for State
Partnership Program
.....19



Military Department

Design & Layout:
2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

Contributors:
Lt. Col. Charles Kohler
Lt. Col. Samuel Cook
Capt. (MDDF) Isadore Beattie
Capt. (MDDF) Stephen Rice
Master Sgt. Edward Bard
Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill
USACC Public Affairs Office

Contact Information:

Public Affairs Office
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](https://www.facebook.com/MDGUARD)
[www.Twitter.com/MDNG](https://www.twitter.com/MDNG)
[www.Flickr.com/photos/MDNG](https://www.flickr.com/photos/MDNG)
[www.Vimeo.com/MDGUARD](https://www.vimeo.com/MDGUARD)

On the cover:

The Maryland Air National Guard performed a tactical training mission and conducted a static display of the C-27J 'Spartan' at the Wicomico Regional Airport in Salisbury, Md. Nov. 30. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly)



Maryland National Guard honors Fallen Warriors



Fallen Warriors:

CW4 William Ruth - Sept. 11, 2011
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Cropper - Mar. 20, 2002
Pvt. Carlton Newman - Mar. 3, 2005
Spc. Samuel Boswell - Oct. 14, 2005

Cpl. Bernard Ceo - Oct. 14, 2005
Staff Sgt. Brian Connor - Oct. 14, 2005
Staff Sgt. Michael McMullen - Jan. 10, 2006
Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Haller - Jan. 20, 2007
Sgt. 1st Class William Woods - Aug. 16, 2009
Staff Sgt. Matthew Pucino - Nov. 23, 2009

The Maryland National Guard hosted a wreath-laying ceremony Sept. 10 near the Fallen Warrior Memorial at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in honor of the Maryland National Guard Warriors who paid the ultimate price defending freedom in the Global War on Terror.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, Lieutenant governor of Maryland and a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, spoke at the ceremony.

"I loved these men, but I didn't know them," said Brown. "They were heroes not because they died for our country, but because they donned the uniform and they answered the call."

Photos by Capt. (MDDF) Isadore Beattie



Maryland National Guard members train Drug Enforcement Administration agents

Story and Photos by Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly



You're a drug enforcement agent, and while working a case your partner gets shot. You drag them into another room, but there are still shots being fired in the hallway. You see that they've been hit once in the upper-right chest area and once in the stomach. What do you do now?



DEA agents conduct combat life-saving skills during a simulated emergency where a victim needs immediate medical attention.

This, and other scenarios, were used by members of the Maryland National Guard to help train Drug Enforcement Administration agents during a combat first-aid class Wednesday at Drug Enforcement Agency district office here.

Members of the Maryland National Guard Counterdrug Program coordinated with Soldiers from the 115th Military Police Battalion to bring first-aid and immediate treatment training to the DEA agents Oct. 3 to 7, to give them hands-on and classroom instruction on what to do during a medical emergency.

"All of the agents go through basic medical training in agent school and we have periodic refresher courses, but the refresher courses don't happen often enough and if you don't use it, you lose it," said Special Agent Carl Kotowski, Baltimore District assistant special agent in charge. "[The training] is very applicable. All the agents in that training may be out on the street for work tonight and if something happens, they'll be ready."

Kotowski explained that after receiving training from the National Guard while assigned to the Ft. Lauderdale DEA office, he realized the value that the Guard members brought to their agency. So, with the help of another agent, they coordinated with the CD Program to bring the training to the Baltimore office.

The training included a classroom block to teach the agents the basic concepts of combat first-aid and then gave them a chance to implement what they had learned by practicing the life-saving skills on a training dummy.

The National Guard member would present a scenario of how the victim had received their injuries and the agent would use first-aid supplies from the combat lifesaver bag to perform the way they would in an actual emergency.

The topics covered included treating gunshot wounds, burns and broken bones, bleeding control, different types of bandages and what they're used for, tourniquets, CPR, and how to tend to their own wounds.

"The training makes them feel more confident about their skills," said Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth Butler, Md. CD Program

DEA liaison criminal analyst. "It's a great experience all around."

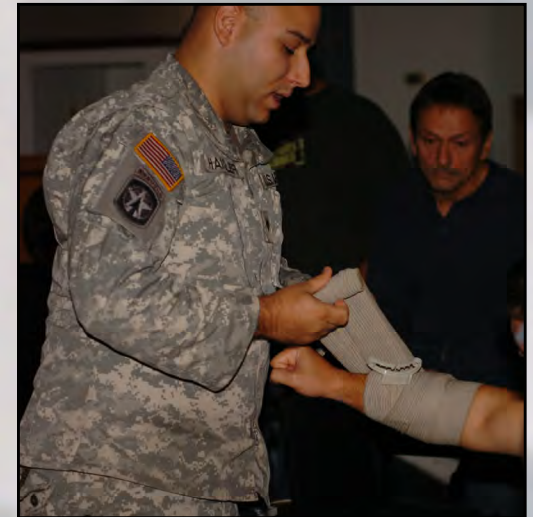
Butler explained that the class attendance was on a volunteer basis and they had hoped for 12 agents to attend, however, about 20 agents participated and there is already a demand for another session to be held.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Butler said. "I have agents coming up to me in the hallway telling me how great the training has been."

On a daily basis the DEA works in close relation to the Maryland National Guard CD Program. The agency has a CD member assigned to them, working as a criminal analyst.

Butler works with the DEA to help develop drug investigation cases, which can potentially lead to the arrest of illegal drug dealers in the Baltimore area.

"The National Guard has really been an invaluable tool and a great partner," Kotowski said.



A member of the 115th Military Police Battalion demonstrates how to wrap an injured limb.



A DEA agent applies a tourniquet during the hands-on portion of the combat life-saver class.

Ambassador: National Guard uniquely suited to peacekeeping operations

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill, National Guard Bureau

The National Guard is playing a critical role supporting desert peacekeepers at a critical moment in the Middle East, the director general of the Multinational Force and Observers said Sunday.

The National Guard is a perfect fit for peacekeeping and stability operations such as the MFO's mission here, Ambassador David Satterfield said.

"I know what the Guard can do," said Satterfield. "I have watched the Guard in action in Iraq. I have seen the superb work which the Guard performs under the most challenging of circumstances. You have proved yourself in the most challenging of combat situations around the world, and you are proving yourself in this non-combat, but still extraordinarily challenging mission."

Satterfield hosted a Middle East troop visit and fact-finding mission led by Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, with other senior National Guard leaders, including Maj. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Sann, state command sergeant major of the Maryland National Guard, whose Citizen-Soldiers are currently deployed here. Missouri National Guard members also are currently deployed here.

"The National Guard has had a long partnership [with the MFO], and we are grateful for that relationship," McKinley said. "We are proud to be a part of this."

Maryland Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Peter Polaski Jr. was first deployed here in 1995 for a pilot initiative that tested the Guard's ability to fulfill a mission previously tasked to the active duty component.

"We proved that we could," Polaski said. "We've definitely established that we can maintain continuity. That's the most important piece."

Sixteen years later, after a decade of Guard rotations here,

meeting in an amphitheater on the Red Sea.

"This nation asks more of the Guard today than it did when this battalion went ashore at Normandy Beach in 1944," Adkins told troops. "Our nation asks more of you than any generation since ... World War II."

Maryland and Missouri Guard members are performing one vital mission among many the Guard is conducting in the United States and overseas, Adkins said.

"You are at a place and time in history ... that tremendous actions are taking place in this area. We don't know how it's going to end up, but for the rest of your career you will be able to say that you participated - you were there for this change in world history."

Satterfield praised Maryland and Missouri Guard members

for their work here.

"You guys are superb," he told troops. "With every successive state deployment, we get better and better troopers. The Egyptians and the Israelis see it. They express their appreciation to me."

A peace treaty between Egypt and Israel - the Camp David Accords - was negotiated in 1979. The United Nations balked at providing peacekeepers. A U.S.-led international coalition took the baton in 1982 and - sharing the cost with the treaty signatories - has been carrying it for the almost 30 years since.

The National Guard has made the lead American contribution to the MFO for almost a decade, after a gradual transition from active

duty forces that began in 2002.

The MFO is a partnership between the United States, Egypt, Israel and state Army National Guard units, Satterfield said.

"There is no better force, no better multinational cooperation ... anywhere in the deployed world," Satterfield added. "It is a tribute to the preparations and the leadership which the states have provided us, which the Army National Guard and the National Guard Bureau have given us - your support has been invaluable."

About 7,500 National Guard members from 16 states and Puerto Rico have rotated through here since the Guard became the predominant contributor.

The National Guard's assets include the maturity and life experience of its troops, who are Citizen-Soldiers who bring civilian-acquired skills to their military mission, Satterfield said.

The MFO's mission is to monitor, verify and report the compliance of Egypt and Israel with the peace treaty terms. The desert peacekeepers help to sustain and build confidence, trust and security between two critically important nations, Satterfield said.

"It has never been more important, it has never been more immediate, it has never been more vital than it is today," he said. "Egypt, since January, has undergone revolutionary changes."

"The last nine months have been for Egyptians, as well as for the MFO, a period of extraordinary transformation and extraordinary challenge."

"There has been one constant...the commitment of the Egyptian military, the commitment of the government of Egypt to the treaty of peace."

The MFO has helped its partners to reaffirm peace and stability in the Sinai and between Egypt and Israel during a period of radical transition in Egypt and the wider Middle East, Satterfield said.

"The events in the Middle East, but particularly the events in Egypt since January this year, have ... fundamentally transformed what is going on here - here in the Sinai, the region as a whole and Egypt in general," Satterfield said.

Satterfield's career has focused on the Middle East for 32 years. Sharp differences continue between Egypt and Israel, Satterfield said, but: "Never has there been a moment where the military-to-military dialog

and relationship between Egypt and Israel has been as close, as strong, as frank as it has been since January."

One measure of that was the recent mutually agreed deployment of Egyptian military forces and equipment to areas of the Sinai they have not entered as an operational force since 1967, Satterfield said.

"That's a tribute to both sides, it's a tribute to the MFO and to the interest of peace each party displays."



Maj. Gen. James Adkins and Ambassador David Satterfield join Gen. Craig McKinley at a town hall meeting with troops at MFO South Camp near Sharm El Sheik, Egypt, Oct. 21.



Gen. Craig McKinley meets with deployed members of the Maryland National Guard.

MDANG introduces C-27J to local community



Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

The Maryland Air National Guard performed a tactical training mission and conducted a static display of the C-27J 'Spartan' at the Wicomico Regional Airport in Salisbury, Md. Nov. 30.

The Maryland Air National Guard coordinated with the Wicomico Regional Airport to allow media, local community mem-

bers and airport personnel to tour the C-27J and have the opportunity to ask the flight crew questions about the aircraft.

"Today served as a meet and greet for the local community to come out and see the aircraft," said Lt. Col. Gordon Kinney, 135th Operations Support Flight commander.

The crew also performed a landing zone operations training mission where they used

the assault zone marking panels funded and installed by the airport.

"The panels are used to give the pilots a visual 'box' to properly align and place the aircraft during landings," explained Kinney. "Previously Delaware [National Guard] would provide semi-permanent approach panels, but the weather conditions would cause them to deteriorate."

Robert Bryant, Wicomico Regional Airport manager, explained that the airport built the new landing panels to be more durable and permanent, as opposed to the cloth panels, to allow for the military personnel to be able to use the runway for training purposes. Through this partnership, the Maryland Air National Guard is able to use the marking panels to better prepare the unit to be ready to deploy with the aircraft in 2012.

"We're focused on getting our crews ready for the deployment in the spring," added Kinney.

The day's events gave the Maryland Air National Guard the opportunity to train with the panels that the airport had installed and talk to the airport personnel, building a rapport between the National Guard and the Wicomico Regional Airport to be able to conduct more training scenarios in the future. It also gave the local community around the airport a chance to become familiar with the new aircraft so they can recognize it when we are in the area, added Kinney.

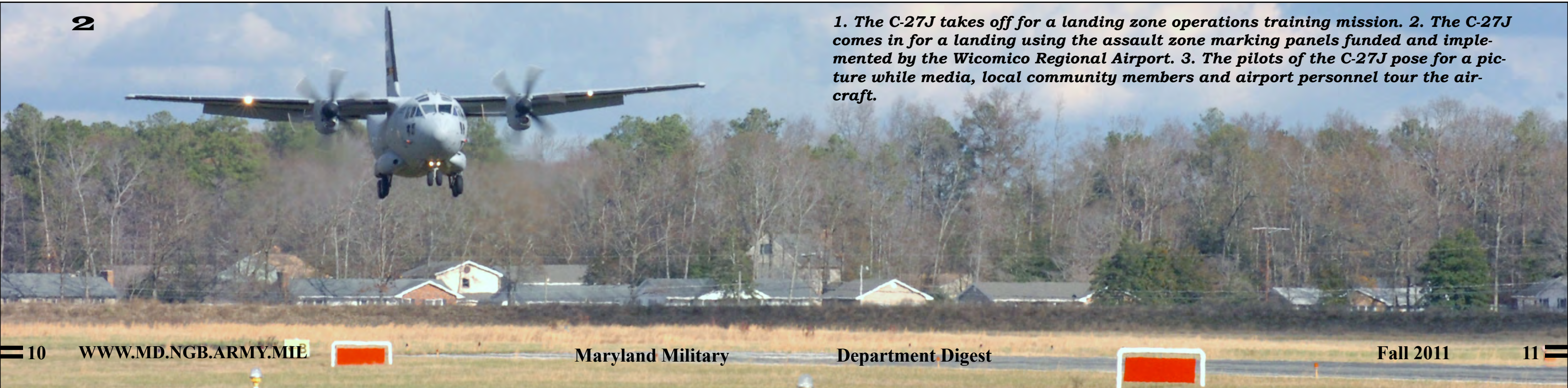
The Maryland Air National



Guard recently transitioned from the C-130J 'Hercules' to the C-27J 'Spartan' as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure decision. The unit currently has three C-27s and is slated to receive a fourth aircraft during fiscal year 2012.

Because the new aircraft resembles a smaller version of the C-130 it is not able to handle the

same payload as its predecessor; however, its reduced footprint makes it valuable for landing at a greater number of shorter and narrower airfields, explained Kinney. The C-27J's size also makes it ideal for our domestic mission by being able to service the smaller regional airports during state emergencies, such as snow storms and hurricanes.



1. The C-27J takes off for a landing zone operations training mission. 2. The C-27J comes in for a landing using the assault zone marking panels funded and implemented by the Wicomico Regional Airport. 3. The pilots of the C-27J pose for a picture while media, local community members and airport personnel tour the aircraft.

MDARNG, University of Maryland cadet "First in the Nation"

Story provided by
United States Army
Cadet Command
Public Affairs Office

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from around the country hold their collective breath each autumn, as they await news of the release of the national Order of Merit List.

This September Mariya V. Golotyuk, an Army ROTC cadet from the University of Maryland, College Park, learned she had captured the top spot in the prestigious top ten, out of more than 5,600 graduating cadets. Golotyuk was also recognized as the U.S. Army Cadet Command's Cadet of the Year.

The OML ranks all Army ROTC seniors across the nation, with the top 20 percent earning the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. This year there are 1,129 Distinguished Military Graduates.

A cadet's positioning on the OML determines his or her priority in being chosen for the branch of occupational specialty of choice. Cadets are ranked on the OML by achieving superior grade-point averages, strong athletic performance in the Army physical fitness test and college athletic participation, proving their worth as exceptional leaders in their college ROTC training, as well as their performance



U.S. Army Cadet Command's Cadet of the Year Mariya V. Golotyuk is from the University of Maryland and member of the Maryland Army National Guard.

at the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord outside Tacoma, Wash.

For Cadet Golotyuk, however, the journey to attain this achievement was anything but traditional.

While a member of the Maryland Army National Guard, she was born in the Ukraine. She grew up competing in the Soviet sports schools system, switched over to science and other technical studies after an injury, began sports again after recovery, and ended up with

a gold medal as a tennis player.

Golotyuk came to the United States to coach tennis at Trinity College, San Antonio, Texas. After a year and a half she moved to the District of Columbia area to enroll in the University of Maryland – and coach acrobatics and tennis in Columbia.

Golotyuk already has a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Economics from the University of Maryland. A mother of two, she is pursuing a graduate degree in Accounting/Internal Audit. She is also a Simultaneous Membership Program Army ROTC cadet with the 244th Engineer Company in Baltimore. She will be commissioned as a

Military Intelligence officer with the Maryland Army National Guard.

Lt. Col. Samuel Cook, the Professor of Military Science at the University of Maryland, summed up Golotyuk's accomplishments by noting, "At the University of Maryland, I encourage our cadets to become champions in everything they do – champions as students, sons or daughters, cadets, volunteers, and so forth. I can honestly say that Cadet Mariya Golotyuk is a champion in every aspect of her life."

Maryland Air National Guard pilots complete 'fini' flight

Photos by Master Sgt. Edward Bard



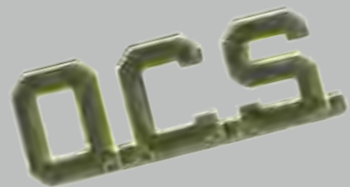
L-R Lt. Col Eric "Murph" Murphy and Maj. Brian "Snap" Curland, both pilots assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron, pose for one last photo in front the A-10C after their final flight (fini) at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 27.



Lt. Col. Eric "Murph" Murphy, a pilot assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron, gets sprayed with water after his final flight (fini) in an A-10C at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 27. Murphy will retire after 25 years of service. He joined the unit eight years ago and has deployed to every combat operation that the 104th has had in the last eight years. He finished flying the A-10 with 3045.8 hours.



Maj. Brian "Snap" Curland, a pilot assigned to the 104th Fighter Squadron, gets sprayed with water after his final flight (fini) in an A-10C at Warfield Air National Guard Base in Baltimore, Md., September 27, 2011. Curland is relocating to fly tankers at McGuire AFB. He joined the unit in 1998 and returned from pilot training in 2000. He flew the A-10 in support of Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. Overall, he had 1203.3 hours in the A-10.



FROM O-C'S TO L-T'S

OFFICER CANDIDATES COMMISSION INTO THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



Nineteen officer candidates accepted their commission during an OCS commissioning ceremony Oct. 15.

Soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard Officer Candidate School class 52 and 53 accelerated made the transition from officer candidates to 2nd lieutenants during a commissioning ceremony Oct. 15 at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation in Reisterstown, Md.

Fifteen Soldiers graduated from the traditional OCS program, which began July 2010, and 4 completed the 8-week accelerated program, which included members from the District of Columbia and Virginia and took place July 29 through Sept. 23.

"I definitely have a sense of accomplishment and pride that I have not felt with any other event in my life," said 2nd Lt. Peter Leach. "I feel very fortunate to have had dedicated instructors, motivated classmates and excellent training."

The traditional program consisted of a two-week annual training at CFMR for phase 1, 12 inactive duty training weekends for phase 2, and concluded with a second two-week annual training at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. for phase 3. The accelerated program condenses phase 2 into a six-week period, also taking place at FIG.

"OCS has been a long process with countless physical and mental stresses, however, with the support of my family and fellow officer candidates I was able to achieve a commission in the Army National Guard," said Leach.

"OCS is a major milestone to complete successfully and I feel a great sense of accomplishment," said 2nd Lt. Sean Gramm, OCS class 52 Honor Graduate.

Photos by Lt. Col. Charles Kohler



Newly graduated officer candidates wait to be pinned to the rank of second lieutenant.

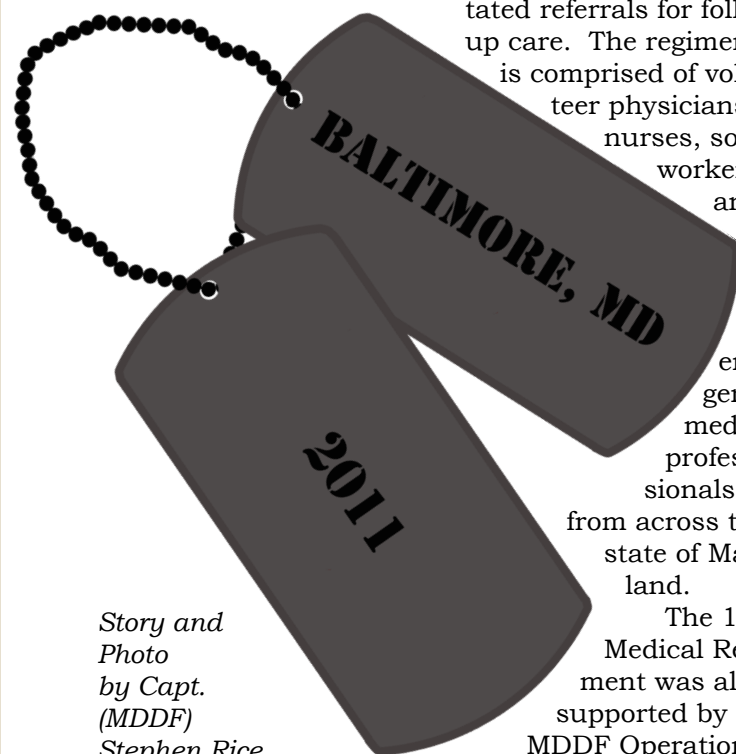
OCS graduates of class 53 accelerated and unit assignments:

*Barnes, Michael - DC Army National Guard
*Brown, David - 175th Infantry Regiment
*Seo, Issac - VA Army National Guard
*Strikovski, Fiodor - **Physical Fitness award, Honor Graduate award** - 1229th Transportation Company

OCS graduates of class 52 and unit assignments:

*Carpenter, Robert - 244th Engineer Company
*Castelli, Alyssa - 224th Medical Company
*Chen, Vincent - 29th Combat Aviation Brigade
*Cool, Bartholomew - 29th Military Police Company
*Day, Jacob - 158th Calvary Regiment
*Donnelly, Jessica - **Distinguished Honor Graduate award** - 244th Engineer Company
*Ferry, John - **Peer award, Academic Excellence award** - 158th Calvary Regiment
*Gramm, Sean - **Honor Graduate award** - 175th Infantry Regiment
*Hood, William - MA Army National Guard 181th Infantry Regiment
*Jakelski, Allen - 158th Calvary Regiment
*Kelson, John - 1229th Transportation Company
*Larkin, Christopher - 29th Military Police Company
*Leach, Peter - 175th Infantry Regiment
*Martin, Rodney - 1204th Network Support Company
*Simpson, Raffaele - **Physical Fitness award** - 1229th Transportation Company

MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE SUPPORTS VETERANS WITH OPERATION STAND DOWN



Story and Photo by Capt. (MDDF) Stephen Rice

The Maryland Defense Force participated in Operation Stand Down Sept. 24, which provided food, medical assistance and necessary medical referrals to VA services for

tated referrals for follow-up care. The regiment is comprised of volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers and

emergency medical professionals from across the state of Maryland.

The 10th Medical Regiment was also supported by the MDDF Operations and Training Unit, as well as the MDDF Field Detachment Delta. Other organizational participants included personnel from the University of Maryland Medical Center,

the U.S. Army Reserve and Army ROTC Cadets from Towson University and Loyola University Maryland. The operation also included an "army" of volunteers and veterans from every branch of the U.S. Armed Services and the local community.

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, Maryland, participated in the opening ceremony and thanked the Maryland Defense Force for supporting the veterans.

As the operation commenced, the homeless veterans stood in a company formation alongside the MDDF personnel for the posting of the colors. The colors were presented by a Color Guard unit from the Maryland Air National Guard. The Maryland Army National Guard was also present and provided personnel and three mobile support

units to provide mental health services for the veterans.

"I want to give special thanks to the Maryland Defense Force for playing such a vital role in the success of today's mission," said Brown. "Your commitment and dedication to our nation's heroes is truly commendable."

The Maryland Defense Force is the state's uniformed volunteer military unit providing professional and technical assistance to the Maryland Military Department. Established in 1917, the MDDF consists of nearly 450 personnel who perform legal, engineering, finance, medical, chaplain, field support and ceremonial services for the State of Maryland. For more information visit the website at www.mddf.maryland.gov.

more than 200 homeless veterans at the Baltimore War Memorial Plaza in downtown Baltimore.

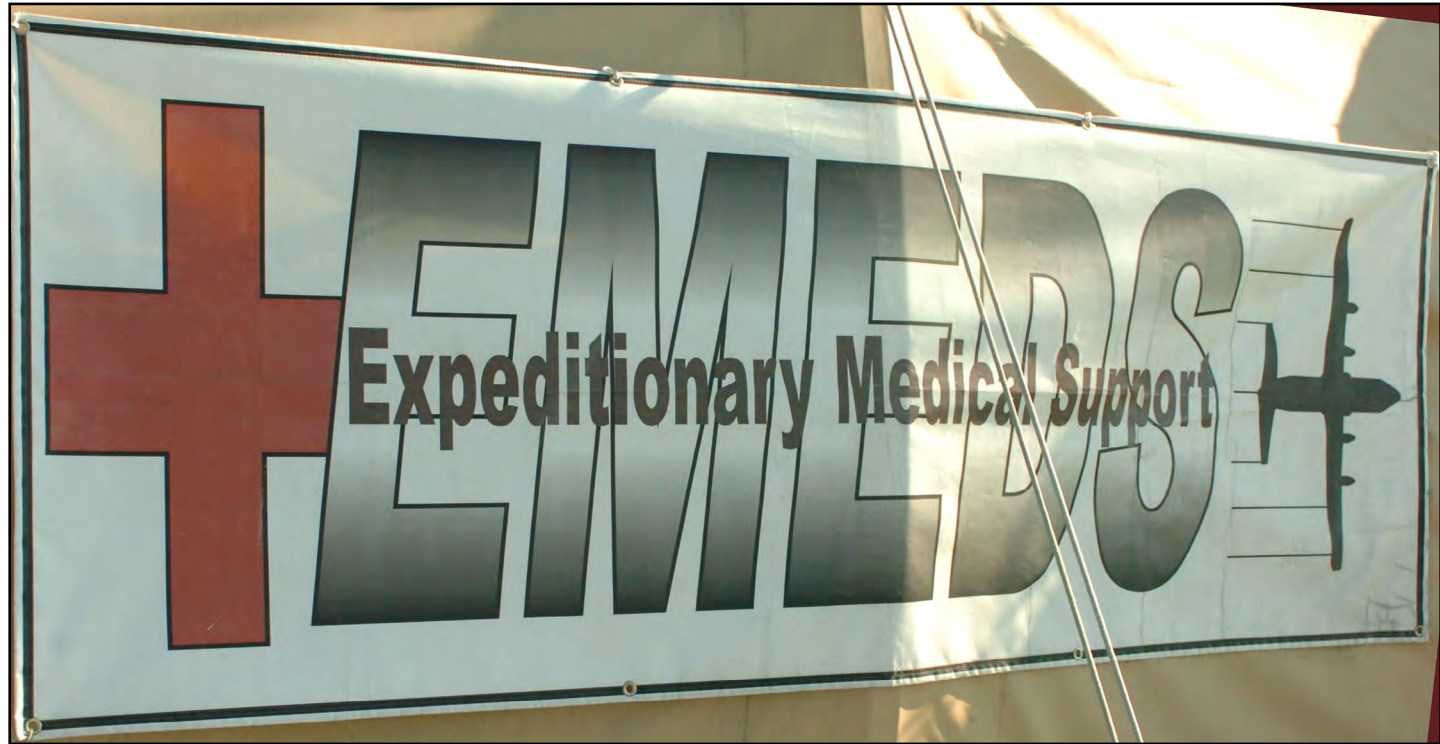
The event was a collaborative effort spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the State of Maryland and The Way Station, Inc. Several organizations, along with the MDDF 10th Medical Regiment, provided assistance and a myriad of support services.

The 10th Medical Regiment provided medical screenings to approximately 55 homeless veterans, conducted health assessments and facili-



Maryland Army National Guard members receive combat medical training from U.S. Air Force

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly



Members of the Maryland National Guard received real-world medical training from the active duty U.S. Air Force through the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills at the University of Maryland Medical Center, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 7-20.

Sgt. Amanda Jenkins and Spc. Brianna Udseth, both with Company C, 1st Squadron, 169th General Support Aviation Battalion, were two of five Maryland National Guard members who had the opportunity to participate in C-STARS training. The training was used to give the Soldiers first-hand

experience dealing with injuries they may experience when their unit deploys next year.

“Basically, you get all types of injuries here that the medics will see when they deploy,” said Air Force Maj. David Whitehorn, Intensive Care Unit nurse and clinical instructor. “They get to see the trauma first-hand, while learning basic trauma care to be able to treat the active duty members and local population overseas.”

Whitehorn explained that the C-STARS training gives military doctors, nurses and medical technicians an opportunity to train in a trauma center before deploying. It is a 3-week block of training

which consists of presentations, basic trauma care, answering medical calls with resident teams, and more training in specific medical branches based upon Military Occupational Specialties.

The Maryland National Guard originally contacted the Shock Trauma Observation Program with the hospital, which coordinated with the C-STARS to allow the Soldiers to train with the other military members. The Maryland National Guard Soldiers attended two of the three weeks of C-STARS training.

Jenkins explained that the training included lessons on combat casualty care, attending labs, observing patients, seeing how a Trauma Recitation Unit is run, talking to other medics and learning how to treat injuries by experiencing it first-hand.

“Here it’s real-life patients; it’s not a mannequin. You have that human element you don’t get with training exercises,” said Jenkins.

Jenkins added that the C-STARS training is an excellent opportunity because some of the medics slated for the deployment



Sgt. Amanda Jenkins participated in a mass casualty exercise at the end of a two-week training period with the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills Nov. 7-20.



have never experienced treating real-life injuries before and have only trained through military exercises.

By working in the hospital’s TRU, the members observe injuries similar to what they may see while deployed.

While working in the TRU may

have given the members experience in treating injuries, the hospital does not give the members practice working with patients in a tactical environment. So, the training block concluded with a mass casualty exercise conducted at Ft. Detrick, Md., Nov. 18, where Jenkins, along with the other C-



STARS students, put what they had learned to the test by treating simulated victims and learning how a medical unit would operate in a deployed environment.

“I feel more prepared for the deployment after experiencing these real-life scenarios,” said Jenkins.

“Here it’s real-life patients; it’s not a mannequin. You have that human element you don’t get with training exercises.”

-Sgt. Amanda Jenkins,
Company C, 1st Squadron,
169th General Support Aviation Battalion



Capt. Mark Chambers stands in front of the formation of Soldiers during a deployment ceremony Oct. 8. Chambers is the commander of Company F, 1-111th Air Traffic Services who deployed to Iraq for in support of Operation New Dawn.

Maryland National Guard member serves state, nation

Story by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

There are numerous reasons why people decide to serve in the United States military. Whether joining solely for the honor of serving their country, continuing a family tradition, or aspiring to learn new skills and take on opportunities; they have all dedicated themselves to the same purpose. With the known possibility of deployments, and understanding the commitment the military involves, the ones who still choose to serve are the day-to-day heroes in the communities across the nation.

Capt. Mark Chambers, a Maryland native from the town of Federalsburg along the Eastern shore in Caroline County, is one of those few who made the decision to join and serve in the Maryland National Guard. Not only has he dedicated the last nine years to serving his country at home, but he is also answering the call to serve overseas as his

unit prepares to deploy. "I try to do the best job I can," said Chambers.

Chambers closest family in the military is an uncle who served in the Navy and his grandfather who served during World War II. He made the decision to enlist into the Maryland National Guard in January of 2002 while attending college, a choice made soon after Sept. 11, 2001. In 2005, Chambers decided to leave the enlisted ranks and pursue becoming an officer. He attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation and commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in 2006, branching in Army Aviation.

After graduating flight school in 2008, Chambers served as an Assault Helicopter platoon leader with Company C, 2-224th Aviation. Currently, he serves as the Assistant Operations Officer at the Army Aviation Support Facility in an Active Guard Reserve capacity, and as the commander of Com-

pany F, 1-111th Air Traffic Services in his traditional National Guard role.

"This has been the most demanding position. It has put me in a lot of situations of decision making and management," said Chambers. "As a commander of a unit, you have a lot of people looking at you saying, 'What's next?' and you have to be ready for it."

Chambers added that he plans to continue his career with the Maryland National Guard in the aviation field.

Presently, Chambers is deployed with the 1-111th to Iraq in support

Capt. Mark Chambers and Maj. Gen. James Adkins stand in front of an AN/TSW-7A Air Traffic Control Tower, which was setup at Edgewood Proving Grounds for training prior to deployment.



of Operation New Dawn. The unit is conducting air traffic service operations, providing capabilities for safe aircraft approaches, and tower control for use by U.S. forces and Iraqi security forces during their deployment.

"I thank you for your leadership and dedication," said Gov. Martin O'Malley, governor of Maryland. "Bring your people home safe."

Maryland National Guard first to assign liaison officer for State Partnership Program

Story by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly

The Maryland State Partnership Program has successfully implemented a liaison officer in their partnership with Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to enhance bilateral relationships between the state and the partner country.

Lt. Col. Dzevad Buric works as the Bosnia-Herzegovina liaison to the State of Maryland, as well as the assistant BiH Defense, Military, Naval and Air attaché to the United States. While many states and territories have a partnership in place, the Maryland National Guard is currently the only SPP that uses a liaison with the partner country; however, other state programs are beginning to see the benefit of the position.

"This is the first ever liaison officer assigned to a state," said Maj. Matthew DiNenna, SPP director. "This is a benefit for the Guard and other State Partnership Program directors have contacted me to get information on how they can get a liaison for their program."

Buric's position is currently a three year tour where he works as the advisor on BiH issues to Maj. Gen. James Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland; works to build closer ties between Maryland public and private institutions with their counterparts in BiH such as areas in education, economic opportunities and health care; coordinates policies and procedures between the Maryland National Guard and the BiH Armed Forces; coordinates the annual schedule of joint training events between the two services; and provides knowledge and advice on BiH practices.

"There is no higher symbol for our partnership than to provide an officer position for Bosnia to sit on our staff," said Adkins. "I can't emphasize enough the importance of relationships we've built on a long-term basis. ... There is nothing more important than establishing relationships promising peace and democracy between the nations."

DiNenna explained that because of Buric's background, he was the ideal candidate for the liaison position. Buric has previously worked with the Ministry of Defense coordinating with the joint staff and the International Corporation Department.

"He was the most qualified person to help push the program forward," added DiNenna.

Buric is essential to the SPP because he is a subject matter expert on BiH, explained DiNenna. Buric knows contacts in his home country that can be used to answer any questions, he understands the rank structure of the BiH Armed Forces and government, and he is able to better prepare the Travel Contact Teams on what they need to know before traveling to BiH.

While the Maryland National Guard is seeing many advantages from Buric's position as the liaison for the program, the BiH Armed Forces is also benefiting from the partnership between Maryland and the country.

"From our perspective, we see this partnership as a way to bring us closer to NATO standards," said Buric. "The skill sets that your Soldiers have, they transfer to our Soldiers, and our Soldiers also transfer some of our skills for your Soldiers to learn."

Depending on the mission, BiH Armed Forces may come to Maryland, or Marylanders will visit BiH to learn different skills from each other. For instance, recently, members of the Maryland National Guard traveled to BiH to for a Senior Leader Visit, a Flight Safety Assessment and Accident Investigation training, and assistance with developing post-deployment reintegration programs. Currently members of the BiH Armed Forces are scheduled to come to visit Maryland throughout the summer to attend various Maryland National Guard annual trainings to receive training on their respective functional areas.

The SPP 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 auspices.

While the main focus of the SPP is military-to-military events, Buric added that he is looking to expand to more civilian-to-military events, as well as civilian-to-civilian activities. This is another benefit that the liaison position brings to Maryland, being able link the additional elements together, as the SPP is not authorized to work outside the military-to-military relationships.

The Maryland Military Department has another partnership with Estonia that has been in place since 1993.



Lt. Col. Dzevad Buric, Maryland SPP liaison, greets his former BiH leadership.

Approximately 40 members of Charlie Troop, 1-158th Cavalry Regiment earned their German jump wings after a Mass Tactical Jump performed Dec. 4. The jump consisted of a German jumpmaster who gave the commands in German, with the troops learning the difference in procedures. The jump also included Soldiers from other National Guard units, the Army Reserve and active duty. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jessica Donnelly)

