

Battle Born

Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard – Autumn 2012



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The Adjutant General
Nevada National Guard

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*Master Sgt. Paula Clark
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs*

ON THE COVER: Senior Master Sgt. Gary Boucher (foreground) and Master Sgt. Randy Moorhous gather up a parachute on the drop zone at Herlong. The 152nd Airlift Wing prepares for a second deployment to Afghanistan where it will assist in transporting supplies to the troops.

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invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address and comments to:

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brig. Gen. Bill Burkes, Nevada National Guard Adjutant General



Leaders' souls must be forged in nation's values

There are hundreds of articles on leadership, maybe even thousands. So why attempt to write yet another? Simple, I was asked to. Hopefully, I can give it a different spin than what you already may have read.

Gen. S.L.A. Marshall, a WWII combat historian, described the art of leadership as: *"Quiet resolution. The hardihood to take risk. The will to take full responsibility for decision. The readiness to share its rewards with subordinates. An equal readiness to take the blame when things go adversely. The nerve to survive storm and disappointment and to face toward each new day with the score-sheet wiped clean, neither dwelling on one's successes nor accepting discouragement from one's failures."*

The quote sends a pretty straightforward message, but what's Marshall's point? My take on it proposes that if you want to be a leader, you have to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Having the most credentials, or the most money, or the

most awards doesn't matter. Leadership comes from sincerely caring about those in your charge. Keep them accountable, but don't punish every mistake. Give them a chance to learn from their mistakes. This is called intelligent leadership, and I bet everyone reading this column has been given at least one second chance in their lives or careers.

Remember, slipups are part of getting to the top. Remember, the next time one of your subordinates makes a mistake, unless it's illegal or violates regulations, get them moving again in the right way by helping them get back on their feet and ensure that you meet their needs to stay on the right course.

Leaders must be tolerant of those who lose their way. Remember, ignorance, conceit, anger, jealousy and greed stem from a lost soul. Don't just pray that lost souls will find guidance. Instead, be their guidance. Show them their souls must be

forged in the values of the nation that gives them the privilege to wear their uniform. As members of the United States of America's military, we take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the nation's values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I don't know how these lessons came about, but try having your subordinates adhere to five simple rules that result in the happiness wrought from leading by example: 1) Free your heart from hatred; 2) Free your mind from worries; 3) Live simply; 4) Give more; and 5) Expect less. If you can do this, you will be amazed at what your people will accomplish, because as Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle said during WWII, "Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer."

In closing, the true art of leadership is to enable self-leadership in others to accomplish the mission at hand. ■

WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT:

A true example of a Citizen-Soldier ...

A true example of a Citizen-Soldier, 1st Sgt. Roger Wheeler, of Joint Force Headquarters Company in Carson City, demonstrates through word and action his dedication to the Nevada Army National Guard. Wheeler, a traditional Soldier, works for Boeing Company in Seattle, Wash., and commutes to Carson City every drill. He manages 212 employees at Boeing in the emergency hazardous materials section.

"The JFHQ is one of the most challenging jobs of my career," he said. "My goal is to ensure that JFHQ is on the same playing field as other units in the state. I want to ensure that my Soldiers have the skills necessary to meet the challenge of any situation, whether a local or state emergency, or combat. The unit recently passed its first-ever command inspection, creating a baseline for excellence in the unit. The leadership skills I have gained in the Nevada Army National Guard are the leadership skills I use at my civilian career."

Wheeler said that he often enjoys woodworking, riding his quad and shooting. ■



Lt. Col. Joanne Farris, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

1st Sgt. Roger Wheeler, Joint Force Headquarters Company, Carson City, Nev.

Keithley embraces being Nevada's top Army NCO,

literally

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – He may be the only Nevada National Guard leader to ever do it. He may even be the only Army sergeant major to ever do it.

And almost every Soldier in the Silver State has come to expect it.

State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley very rarely misses the chance to hug his troops – or anyone he meets.

It has become the trademark, a grand gesture of sorts, for all his greetings and farewells, and many Soldiers tell him these embraces leave a lasting impression. He says they tell him, “Hey, sergeant major, you were there when I deployed, and you were there when I got back.”

Keithley has held the Nevada Army National Guard's top enlisted office for four years, capping a career of 32 years, and carving relationships that will last a lifetime by making it a point to stay in touch with his Soldiers – literally.

“I thought about the impact that a sergeant major or first sergeant has on a Soldier to make him or her feel at ease,” he said. “If a Soldier sees I'm approachable, they'd come and talk to me if they had problems or issues.”

One of those issues for Soldiers lately has been coping with deployment. Since 2001, the Nevada Guard has deployed more than 3,600 troops in support of the Global War on Terrorism in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Nationwide, more than half of all National Guard Soldiers have been deployed, and it's had a profound effect on the community.

“Everyone at the grocery store is, ‘How is Johnny doing? We want to send him something’ and that keeps everybody engaged,” Keithley said. “It keeps the nation engaged because they've lost him for a certain amount of time. They want him coming back to be an important part of the community.”

Keithley knows firsthand what it's like to be deployed. He was first sergeant of the 72nd Military Police Company for almost 10 years from 1996 to 2005, during which time he deployed three times and led



Ashley Alameda, Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Public Affairs

State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley gives a welcome home hug to a Soldier from the 485th MP Company at Fort Bliss, Texas, on July 18. The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, left, has been witness to these embraces on more than a few occasions.

troops into the Iraqi war zone. He knows his hugs matter.

One of those deployments came just after 9/11. In November 2001, the MPs began 24-hour operations to secure the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., because defense leadership deemed the school a primary target by terrorists.

In 2004, a media maelstrom struck after the MPs returned home from Iraq. As part of the mission, they set up a prison on the outskirts of Baghdad in Abu Ghraib. They turned over duties to Army reservists from Maryland, the 372nd Military Company. That unit carried out the much publicized prisoner abuse for which two Soldiers are still serving time in prison, according to the Baltimore Sun.

The 72nd MPs hoped instead, that people would remember their hard work in opening the prison. There, the 4th Infantry Division Soldiers were at the front end of it, handing off bad guys. Eventually the prison came to hold only high profile detainees.

“There was nothing at Abu Ghraib,” Keithley said. “We started with 13 soft-shelled Humvees, a little generator and a mobile kitchen tent. We were right in the center of the Fallujah Triangle, in between Fallujah and Baghdad.”

True to the infantry's word, within a matter of three days, the 72nd MPs began receiving prisoners at Abu Graib. During their tour of duty, Soldiers held about 200 inmates, a daily average. The Nevada MPs built it from scratch, implementing policies and procedures for the prison.

As for the environment in which Soldiers did their jobs, small arms fire was a constant reminder of the danger. “We either got attacked or mortared for 43 days in a row,” Keithley said. “On our worst day, we had 45 injured prisoners. Three Soldiers were killed in one attack, but they weren't from the 72nd.”

Not too long after the MPs returned home from Iraq, Katrina made landfall during the hurricane season of 2005. The

72nd deployed to flood-ravaged New Orleans in the aftermath of one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. Nevada troops moved 35,000 evacuees, helping to maintain law and order.

Over the long haul, the Nevada Guard has come a long way from taking the hand-me-downs from Big Army, a nickname that identifies the active component. Now the Guard is working with state-of-the-art equipment to remain an active, ready force.

Keithley himself began his career on active duty in 1978. He spent four years as an Army investigator with the 591st Military Police Company at Fort Bliss, Texas. After a two-year break in service, he joined the Missouri National Guard because he missed the Army. After serving as police chief in his hometown of Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., for 12 years, he moved to Las Vegas to take a job with the Metro Police Department. In 1996, the transition was complete. He joined Metro and led Battle Born Soldiers in Ely, Nev., as a platoon sergeant.

From those early days when the Iraq War began, Keithley has seen numerous changes in the way the National Guard does

business. "When I came into the Guard, we had crappy equipment," he said. "In those 13 soft-shelled vehicles, up-armored meant placing sand bags on the floors of the vehicles. The difference between then and now is like night and day."

As a result of his vast leadership experience, he is well respected, and troops listen when he speaks.

His son, Sgt. Anthony Keithley, a medical detachment clerk at Joint Force Headquarters, recalls the sergeant major's words clearly. "Be the NCO that makes the difference," he said. "Take care of every 'Joe' no matter their rank."

The elder Keithley takes mentoring Soldiers seriously and doesn't underestimate the time it takes to bond with troops. He views it as an important guard against a unit being splintered by the fast pace of movement and technology. There is simply less face time on today's battlefield.

Keithley recognizes that leaders can keep an open line of communication with Soldiers and be honest with them when the occasion warrants.

"It's important that you watch your leaders, watch your squad leaders, your platoon sergeants, watch your first sergeant,

and note positive things," he said. "And then the negative stuff. How do you feel about troops running physical training and the first sergeant is inside drinking coffee and doing paperwork? But the first sergeant's explanation might be he's getting the unit ready for a command inspection."

In time, Keithley hopes he's made a difference with Soldiers who would pass a leader's wisdom to the next generation. Soon Keithley will be leaving his full-time post as state sergeant major to resume his duties with Metro, but he sees the Nevada Guard firmly ensconced on terra firma.

"Nevada is always a player. That's how Nevada got a new brigade including battalions. The National Guard Bureau knows we can fill them, knows we can train them, and there isn't a time we haven't sent 100 percent of our Soldiers when they head for theatre."

He said it is a testament to the Nevada Army Guard commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales and the Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks. "That's big. That just shows how much we have accomplished in 15 to 20 years." ■

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• Las Vegas



Tech Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Alannah Palmer sits for a face painting by Theresa Minden of the National Charity League which teamed up with Operation Home Front for the 5th Annual Back to School Brigade at the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center. The team at Family Assistance and the Nevada Guard Youth Council also set up camp at the Plumb Lane Armory in Reno for the fourth year of Operation Backpack. Free school supplies were offered to military children thanks to the Dollar Tree stores and other generous donations.



Airman 1st Class Nick De La Rosa, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – Chief Master Sgt. Bill Moore, 152nd Airlift Wing command chief, laughs as Capt. Maryanna Shade shaves his head during an Aug. 5 fundraising event at the Nevada Air National Guard base. The event also saw shaved the heads of commander of the Nevada Air National Guard Brig. Gen. David Snyder and Chief Master Sgt. Stan Martinez, and raised more than \$3,000 for the Airman's Assistance Fund.



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Second graders participating in Carson City Recreation summer programs were greeted by The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, during a recent tour of the facilities at Joint Force Headquarters. The 34 children watched a safety video starring Sesame Street's Elmo, marched around the parking lot like real Soldiers and even tried on advanced combat helmets at the central issue facility.



Courtesy photo

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Sgt. John Hart, team leader for the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, meets Gen. David H. Petraeus, then commanding general of the International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan. The general had administered the oath of reenlistment for the last time in his Army career to several Soldiers on July 4, 2011, at Kandahar Airfield. Hart recalls getting a two-week notice to travel from his assigned location at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, roughly a two-hour flight by helicopter. “It’s a moment most us will never get,” Hart said. “The general gave us words of encouragement and thanked us for the time we had given to the military.”



RENO – Gov. Brian Sandoval addresses family, friends and officials gathered at a Yellow Ribbon ceremony held in the Grand Sierra Resort last September to welcome home the 124 soldiers of the 485th Military Police Company from their yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. The Soldiers who reunited with loved ones in July worked as security forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at the detention facility in Parwan in Bagram, Afghanistan.



Nevada Airman receives Lance P. Sijan Award for leadership

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Guard members strive for leadership roles. Some accomplish that goal, and others excel at it. One of those who excels is Senior Master Sgt. Gilberto Carrera, who received the coveted 2012 Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award. He is among four Air Guardsmen named.

Carrera, an Airman with the 232nd Operations Squadron, was given the award as a senior enlisted member and cited in a memorandum signed by Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, the director of the Air National Guard.

"I'm overwhelmed, proud and honored to receive this award. It's a culmination of efforts from all who I have served with," said Carrera, who has served in the Air Force for 18 years. "I called my wife, Yolanda. She's proud of me. She's former Air Force. So she understands the magnitude of the award."

Nevada's Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks called the achievement outstanding. "My congratulations go out, not only to Senior Master Sgt. Carrera, but to all of the Nevada Air National Guard. Carrera embodies what we want all of our Airmen to be – outstanding leaders today and in the future."



Carrera, who hails from Ontario, Calif., and is a graduate of Montclair High School, said that he was not a very good student growing up.

"I was a product of my environment. My mother immigrated into this country to provide my brother and me an opportunity at a better life," he said. "That was the reason I joined the active-duty Air Force in 1994 – to get away from my neighborhood and to take advantage of the opportunity that my mother's sacrifices provided. I love my mom and wanted to make her proud."

The Air Force made a man out of me, and I have excelled. And then, it just carried over to the Nevada Guard, which I joined in 2005. My mother shaped my work ethic. She passed away seven years ago, so on every task, I keep in mind that she is watching."

Carrera graduated from a senior NCO Academy that lasted six weeks in Gunter, Ala., which is in the Montgomery city limits.

The Sijan award was created in 1981 to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership in their jobs and in their lives. The award is presented to one individual in each of the four categories: senior officer, junior officer, senior enlisted and junior enlisted. It has become one of the U.S. Air Force's most prestigious awards.

The award was named in honor of Capt. Lance P. Sijan, the first U.S. Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor. Sijan was shot down over Vietnam on Nov. 9, 1967, and evaded capture for 45 days despite severe injuries. He later died while in a Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp and was presented the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism.

Recipients of the National Guard Lance P. Sijan Award are eligible for the Air Force level award. ■

Senior Master Sgt. Gilbert Carrera (first row, fourth from left with black holster) poses with the MQ-9 Reaper Aircraft Maintenance Unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he led 73 active-duty Airmen from Creech and Holloman Air Force bases for six months from November 2011 to April 2012. The unit's roster also listed Air Guardsmen from New York and California, and the British Royal Air Force.

Courtesy photo





AIR FORCE ONE AND HIGH ROLLERS GIVE THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF REACH TO NORTHERN NEVADA



By Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – Air Force One has been racking up frequent flier miles into and out of Reno this year.

The iconic light blue aircraft rested briefly on the apron at the Nevada Air National Guard Base for the third time in a year on Aug. 21. This time, President Barack Obama was giving an address at the Truckee Meadows Community College. Despite being on the ground for only a few hours, the landing spurred dozens of Airmen into action, with demands for top-notch security and careful watch over refueling.

When Air Force One is set to arrive at the Nevada Air Guard Base, the United States Secret Service notifies the base operations section of the pending visit, sometimes giving only a week's notice of the arrival. The base clears immediately the training schedule for the visit. They want to avoid any conflict with parking the 152nd Airlift Wing's C-130 Hercules aircraft and the Air Force One VC-25A. The loosened schedule also allows the Guardsmen to assist with the needs of the commander in chief and his staff.

"The Secret Service people pretty much direct the whole thing," said Master Sgt. William Seifert, an aviation resource management technician with the 192nd Airlift Squadron. "We are on hand to assist in whatever they need done. In essence, we babysit."

It isn't just the flightline that gets involved with a visit from Air Force One, though. The Secret Service and the Defense Logistics Agency sample the fuel

of two full trucks and at least one reserve tank before sealing them. The trucks and fuel tank(s) are guarded until the fuel is either used by the visiting aircraft or it departs Reno.

"We have to come in a day or more in advance to meet with DLA and the Secret Service so they can sample the fuel," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Davidson, a member of the air base fueling team. "The Secret Service guys physically put a seal anywhere you can enter a tank or add something to its contents," he said. "The fuel is tested to a higher standard than what we normally use in our C-130s, but we conduct regular monthly testing anyhow. When we go out to the aircraft, they will check those seals by number to ensure it is intact but also in the right location, before we can fuel the aircraft."

Taking part in everything before, during and after a visit from Air Force One, the Airmen from the security forces are likely the most involved. They not only secure the base and keep watch, but they work in tandem with the other sections, too.

"From the minute the fuel truck is sealed, we have to sit on it until the plane departs. That is a 24-hour mission," said Master Sgt. Jason Aceves, of the 152nd Security Forces Squadron. "We have to know where we can park Air Force One and meet the demand for careful communication with operations. The other part includes handling the aviation ground equipment, because we have to be ready for any contingency that comes up."

The security personnel also coordinate efforts with civilian law enforcement officials.

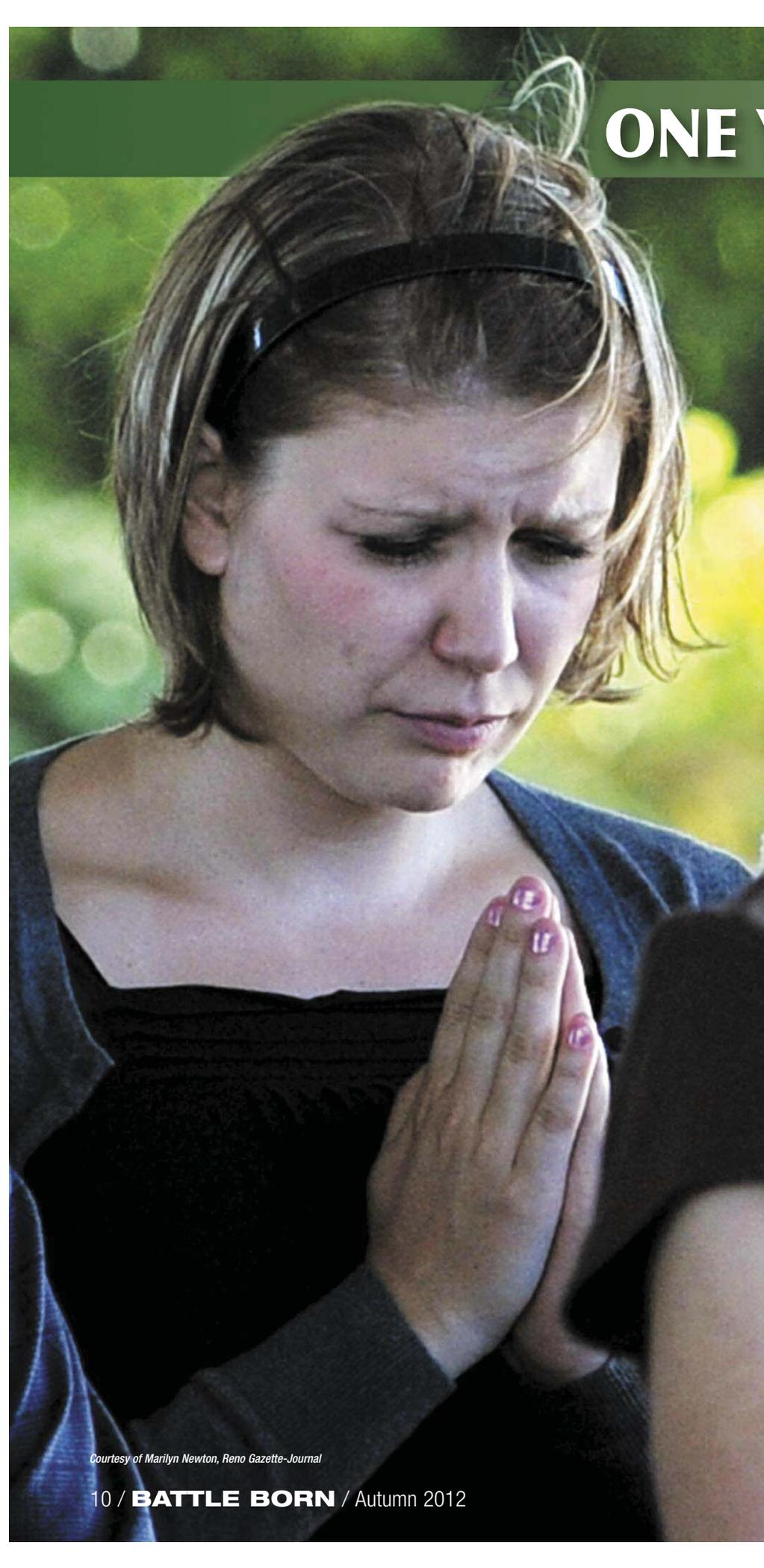
"The synchronizing of forces is something we have to do," Aceves said. "The more time we have between the notification and the actual arrival the better, so we (can) meet with all of the civilian agencies and coordinate the base assets. We have done this often enough for everything to fall into place."

Several presidents have flown into Reno in the past 20 years and nearly every time, the specialized aircraft lands and departs from the High Rollers' base.

The official call sign for any Air Force aircraft carrying the president is Air Force One. The aircraft most recognized as Air Force One, though, is a Boeing VC-25A, a militarized version of the Boeing 747 airliner, which began service in the early 1990s. The aircraft is capable of flying half way around the world without refueling and can refuel in flight.

The Presidential Airlift Group, part of Air Mobility Command's 89th Airlift Wing based at Andrews Air Force Base, in Suitland, Md., maintains and operates two VC-25As for the president. The group also has a small fleet of aircraft which transports the vice president, members of the cabinet and Congress, and other government officials traveling on government business.

The Reno Air Base is one of the smallest facilities in the U.S. Air Force, nestled on 68 acres. ■



ONE YEAR LATER:

Community aids in recovery of restaurant shooting victims

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – A simple memorial ceremony at Mills Park on Aug. 31 marked the anniversary of the shootings at a local Carson City restaurant that claimed the lives of five people, including three Nevada Guardsmen.

Hundreds from the surrounding community turned out to show their support in a moment of silence.

The Adjutant General of Nevada, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, said in a message to every Soldier and Airman in the Battle Born Guard: “Their lives and sacrifices are important, and it is only fitting that as we continue with the vital Guard missions at hand, we take a moment to reflect on our core values and remember these Soldiers.”

On Sept. 6, 2011, Eduardo Sencion, 32, killed himself after he gunned down three Nevada National Guard Soldiers and one civilian. Among those killed were Lt. Col. Heath Kelly, 35, Sgt. 1st Class Miranda McElhiney, 31, Master Sgt. Christian Riege, 38, and Florence Donovan Gunderson. Seven others were injured. Kelly and McElhiney were Reno residents and Riege lived in Carson City.

Sencion, who suffered from mental illness, appeared to have targeted the Guard Soldiers in uniform, but Carson City sheriff Ken Furlong said officials could not be sure of his intentions.

Furlong said at a press briefing then that the shooting devastated the community, but “we’re a resilient society; we rebuild, but we don’t forget.”

Sgt. Cait Koffarnus bows her head in a moment of silence at the memorial ceremony held at Mills Park in Carson City on Aug. 31, nearly one year after the fatal shootings that killed three Guardsmen at a local restaurant. Koffarnus was one of two Guardsman wounded. The other was Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Mock.

Courtesy of Marilyn Newton, Reno Gazette-Journal

The Reno Gazette-Journal echoed a question that confronted the survivors of an event that spanned 85 seconds, and in that instant forever scarred a community: Why?

"When it happened, I had faith that I was not going to understand why," Tracy Kelly told the Reno newspaper. "To have faith to be OK with not knowing - that gets me through it." She added that the community helps her cope with the untimely departure of her husband of more than 10 years.

"I think it's Reno. If I had been in Southern California, that [community support] wouldn't have happened. It's so big, and tragedy happens there all the time - you get lost. Here it's different. That's partly why I'm staying. I have a community that understands what happened."

Tracy has a ready answer for her 5-year-old daughter, who often asks, "Why did the bad man hurt daddy?"

"I tell her the truth," Tracy said. "I don't know."

Similarly, the former wife of Riege, Donnelle Brierley, coped with the impact it had on her son, Michael Riege, 9, who is now in the fourth grade.

"In the beginning, everything was affected, his grades, but he bounced back from that with more focus. Academically, he went through the roof. He's positive, he's social, and he's friendly. That helped him through it - friends, teachers, the principal, the parents of his friends, all of the extended family - just everyone."

Brierley this past summer moved to North Dakota after 15 years of living in Stagecoach, Nev., thus bringing Michael closer to Riege's family in Paige, Neb.

"I think mainly it's just been time," said Sgt. Cait Koffarnus, nee Kelley, who was among the two wounded Guard Soldiers who survived. Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Mock was the other. Koffarnus was shot in the left foot and Mock in his right arm. Since the shooting, Mock has made numerous public appearances in recognition for his bravery and heroism. In September, Koffarnus received the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism at the 2012 NGAUS conference held in Reno. Mock received the same award, but was unable to attend.

"I don't want to say that nothing really helps, but I still feel like it was just a few minutes ago that I left IHOP," Koffarnus

said. "It's still really vivid, especially when a car backfires, or I hear a loud noise, or someone walks by with a gun. I can't watch movies anymore. When it starts to look like the violence is going to start, Jason [her husband] will press the pause button. I don't even have to ask him anymore. Then he'll say, 'You want to go upstairs and grab (something) for me?' And then he'll fast forward through the violence."

Cait is married to Warrant Officer Jason Koffarnus, a Black Hawk pilot with the 991st Aviation Troop Command at Stead. "We got married just after the shooting on Oct. 23. The community actually paid for it," she said. "A lady was doing a wedding giveaway, and she heard about me and cancelled the sweepstakes. That's kind of cool."

Burks said of the fallen and those affected by their absence, "The tapestries of these rich lives are difficult to sum up in a few words, but their actions and our memories of them remain in our hearts."

Kelly was a decorated field artillery officer, an Iraq veteran and a husband and father. He was an avid student of military history and was known for his dry sense of humor.

McElhiney was a fast riser in the Nevada Guard, with specialties in medical, dental and human resources fields. She



Courtesy photo

Donnelle Brierley, former wife of Master Sgt. Chris Riege, poses with their son, Michael, 9, for a recent photo. Brierley moved to North Dakota this past summer bringing Michael closer to Riege's family in Paige, Neb.

also owned a small bakery and frequently made cupcakes for Guard events.

Riege was deployed to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010. He displayed numerous talents including painting and singing. He prided himself on being a fitness buff, disciplined Soldier and a father of four. He also served in the U.S. Navy for two years.

Both Koffarnus and Mock, after multiple surgeries, continue to recover from their injuries. Mock has since returned to duty. Koffarnus continues to participate in the Wounded Warrior program. ■



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Military skills pay off in Nevada's tough job market

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – When Nevada employers had a need for the right stuff, they turned to the Guard.

MGM Resorts International started a 12-week training program that hired 100th Quartermaster Specialists Andres Ramirez and Callye Russell. The “Water Dogs” Soldiers started the program in June and began working full time on the job Sept. 11.

“We took our military experience in order to land jobs with MGM, and we even helped the training program,” said Ramirez, a water purification specialist. “We (were) advised on leadership skills, especially during etiquette training for improving customer service.”

Ramirez and Russell attended a job fair during the May drill at the Floyd Edsall Training Center and discovered that MGM, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, had started a training program for veterans called Boots 2 Business. The startup program sought candidates for jobs in the management field at one of the 15 properties owned by MGM Resorts International.



Spc. Callye Russell and Spc. Andres Ramirez, Soldiers with the Las Vegas-based 100th Quartermaster Company, attended a 12-week management training program to become two of the newest bosses at MGM Resorts.

“MGM Resorts has an ongoing need to find candidates to fill positions for assistant manager and manager,” said Clark Dumont, the vice president of corporate communications at MGM Resorts International. “We selected 14 veterans with leadership skills, a positive attitude, and a desire to go above and beyond to exceed customer satisfaction.”

“We have been a long-time supporter of employees who deploy. For our program, we looked at high levels of leadership and

self-discipline. These skills are ideal for our manager roles.”

Called MGM Mirage at the time, MGM Resorts was one of 15 U.S. companies to receive the 2006 Secretary of Defense, Employer Support Freedom Award. The award is the highest honor a company can receive from the Department of Defense for exceptional support above the requirements of federal law.

Both quartermaster Guardsmen passed all the requirements and interviews, thanks in large part to their Army experiences. Ramirez credits his business-owner father as inspiration for a work ethic that made him a finely tuned Soldier.

“My father made me what I am in the Army. I also have to thank the military for giving me this opportunity to showcase my skills and leadership abilities,” he said.

Ramirez is the new Hotel32 floor supervisor for the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino.

Russell, a food service specialist, began work in September as an assistant chef, tossing gourmet pizza dough at the California Pizza Kitchen in the Mirage Resort and Casino. Among her compatriots, she started the training program as a company transfer, given credit for her nine years of previous experience at the Luxor, a member hotel of MGM Resorts.

She, like Ramirez, is Army driven. Russell spent two years on active duty and the last four in the Guard. She notes connections between a well-run civilian kitchen and a Soldiers’ bond.

“We work together in the kitchen. It’s not about rank,” said Russell, describing the dynamics of her quartermaster section.



Spc. Callye Russell and Spc. Andres Ramirez, Soldiers with the Las Vegas-based 100th Quartermaster Company, attended a 12-week management training program to become some of MGM Resorts newest bosses. Ramirez works as Hotel32 floor supervisor at the Monte Carlo, and Russell is an assistant chef at the California Pizza Kitchen in the Mirage.

"It's OK for me to suggest ideas on how we make food. It draws us closer. We know we have each others' back."

Russell hails from Barstow, Calif. The 30-year-old single mother has two daughters, AvryRose, 10, and Audree, 7. When Russell told her own mother the good news about getting a job with MGM, her family was very supportive. "My mom sees me finally getting on that path," she said. "This is something I've been trying to do for 10 years."

Ramirez faced challenges as well. Born in Guatamala City, Guatamala, the Guardsman moved to Las Vegas with his family at age 5 and grew up here. Always knowing he wanted to be a Soldier, Ramirez became a naturalized citizen at age 18 and joined the Nevada Guard in 2006.

"Being in the Guard is a perfect way to give back to my country," he said.

Ramirez complimented Russell's work ethic and said it is contagious. "She's one of the very few Soldiers who make the request to cook more. That's pretty inspirational."

Boots 2 Business, albeit a pilot program, will likely spell success, according to Michael Ryan, a special project manager for the American Red Cross.

"We decided to team up with the American Red Cross because of its expertise in working with the military and veterans, and providing transition support services," Dumont said. "We are excited about this unique program and collaboration."

Both Soldiers credited Ryan with helping improve their résumés and cover letters before they went forward to the MGM family. "There's an amazing feeling to have that relief and job security," Ramirez said. "I am looking forward to taking on the responsibility as a supervisor to make sure your employees are OK."

"Plus, I'm getting married in October," Ramirez continued, "and we're close to buying a house. My fiancée, Natasha, spent countless hours on the computer, making notes for my interview, driving to Office Depot, comparing paper stock for the proper presentation. I wouldn't be here without her."

With the program in its infancy, MGM says it will take several months to evaluate the outcomes of the current program before it continues. ■

Marquez remains mum about any free pizza Russell may have offered during this interview.

Elko mining businesses aid troops

*Story and photo By Spc. Michael Orton
106th Public Affairs Detachment*

ELKO – Sgt. 1st Class Curt Prokasky is on his second deployment in Afghanistan, but of all the things he worries about while deployed, finances and family are not one of them. His civilian employer stepped up in that department.

"To know that Newmont (Mining Corporation) has our back in every aspect, whether it be from a financial standpoint or just to taking care of our families at home, is very comforting," Prokasky said in an email from Afghanistan. "We in the Newmont family take care of each other on the job site just like we do on the battlefield."

Prokasky is an operations manager of the 593rd Transportation Company at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan. He is also a senior mine maintenance planner at Newmont's Midas Mine site. During this and previous deployments, Newmont and its employees have sent care packages, emails and kept in constant contact to ease the stress of being away from home, Prokasky said.

More than 15 percent of Newmont's active employee force is current or retired military, Newmont talent acquisition director Nick Tompkins said, and recruiting military is a focus.

The human resources and recruiting departments at Barrick Gold Corporation with offices in Nevada, and Newmont have traveled to Veterans of Foreign Wars conventions, job fairs at Nevada military armories and conventions in neighboring states. The military teaches discipline, hard work and dedication, said Newmont recruiter Jeff Perkins.

One of the world's largest gold producers, Newmont has created an online portal designed for people with a military background. Potential employees enter their military occupational specialty and seek job openings that cater to their field.

Newmont matches pay differential for Soldiers who deploy. In addition, the company offers continued insurance for family members of deployed military, including medical, dental and vision, Perkins said. They also offer programs to help troops returning from deployments.

"We appreciate their service to this company and their country," Tompkins said. "If there is anything we can do to support them, we will. There is a payback obligation there."

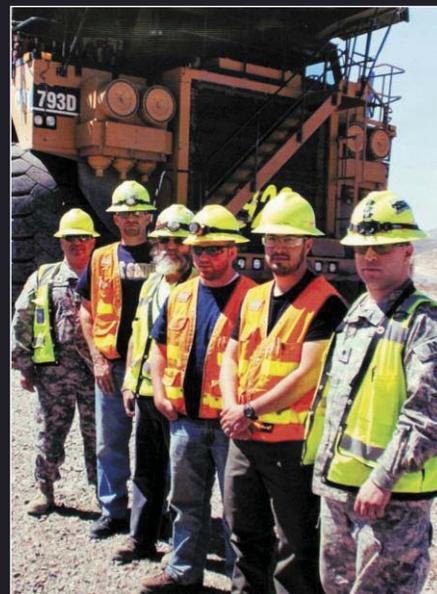
Newmont isn't the only Elko company to go above and beyond for their military employees.

Katie Neddenriep works for Barrick Gold Corporation in Elko. She is married to Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep of the Nevada Army National Guard. Kurt's last deployment to Afghanistan was in 2009 and lasted 10 months. While he was gone, she missed her husband, but her employer was there to help, she said.

"Luckily I have a great employer who was flexible with me," Neddenriep said. "I know first-hand that (Barrick is) a proud supporter of the military and their families." Like Newmont, Barrick's philosophy has always been to go above and beyond, Neddenriep said. Not only do they offer benefit packages for deployed military, they offer full pay for Guard members during drill weekends.

"It is a small thing we can do to show our appreciation," Neddenriep said.

Elko is fortunate to have strong support from local businesses, especially the mining industry, Elko Assistant City Manager Delmo Andreozzi said. The strength of the mining industry has allowed them to offer good pay, benefits and family support for its Guardsmen, he said. ■



Soldier employees stand in front of a hauling truck at the Newmont mining site.

TEEN Camp builds bonds

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAKE TAHOE, Nev. – Being a teenager can be awkward, but even more for military kids. Children have to deal with the ups and downs of deployed Guard parents. For 45 teens, Zephyr Point proved to be a welcome relief at this year's Teen Camp.

The Nevada National Guard and Child and Youth Program hosted a five-day camp for youth ranging from 13 to 17. The teens joined together in a plethora of games, a hike at Spooner Lake, sports, arts and crafts, swimming, canoeing, and archery, among other activities.

The week at Zephyr Point held up to its billing of learning new skills and how to work together as a team. The teens used bacon, rocks, string and branches to catch crawfish. They walked tight ropes in an effort to build trust, and more importantly, they built new and lasting friendships.

"It's a rare occasion when Guard teens from across the state of Nevada can live together and learn from one another," said Delana Cardenas, lead child and youth program coordinator. "In a short five days, the kids forged great friendships, and talked with other teens about the unique challenges of being part of a military family. And, although there were the daily challenges of climbing the steep walkways throughout the camp, the teens overcame obstacles in developing resiliency and communication skills which will last a lifetime."

The week also gave the kids a chance to talk about unique challenges confronting children of deployed parents, a not-so-easy task when most Guard soldiers meet once a month. And the gulf between fellow military teens becomes wider.

"Camp was a chance to unite teens dealing with deployment or just being a Guard teen," said Sammey Strachen, child and youth program coordinator. "Kids are often the only ones that don't choose being a part of the military. With each activity that we plan, we always try and create a safe environment for the children to learn more about peers who are in the same situation, no matter where they are in the deployment cycle, or perhaps have never been through one. The National Guard is so spread out it is always a joy to bring the youth together to normalize their life as a military kid."

Harryck House, 13, whose father is a first sergeant, attended the camp for the first time. "All around, it was awesome," House said. "Everything about the camp was great. I made a lot of new friends."

Sgt. Amy Batchelder, a camp counselor, said she enjoyed watching the kids share stories about being kids of military parents. "You could see friendships develop with the mention of the emotions they go through just talking about their parents when they deploy," she said. "That part was amazing." ■

Nevada teen goes to Washington

By Tech. Sgt. Becky Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Military youth issues stood front and center at a national youth conference in August.

Steven Foreman of Las Vegas met with other teen representatives from around the country for a 2012 teen Guard panel in Washington, D.C.

As the representative for Region 9, Foreman, 17, knows first-hand some of the issues teens face. His father, Sgt. Maj. James Foreman, is currently deployed to Afghanistan. The absence of parents was among several topics at the gathering for Guard teens.

"We also talked about different ways to connect youth and opportunities to get them involved, and resources that are available," Foreman said. "The biggest obstacle is getting the word out to all the youths of military members."

The youth group plans to start a newsletter, and some states created Facebook pages where Guard teens congregate and get information about events in their area. The panel sponsors activities for youth throughout the year including Camp Youth, an event that provides resiliency training and counseling.

The panel was established to educate and empower National Guard youth to become ambassadors of patriotism, diversity, moral character, intellectual achievement and service to others. The teens' mission aims to make connections, support and inspire. Foreman became a member in April and represents Region 9, including Nevada, Arizona, California, Hawaii and Guam.

For information on youth programs, visit www.jointservicesupport.org. ■



Jesse Ingham of Reno helps Gabe Irenze of Las Vegas tiptoe across the tight rope, one of the resiliency exercises taught at Teen Camp. In the background, Sierra Ingham does her best balancing act as Liberty Gummert and a campground staff member stand nearby.

Soldiers reach out to critically ill children, survivors



By Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson, 421st Regional Training Institute

LAS VEGAS – One never knows the impact we may have on the life of a child.

For nearly two weeks in late summer, 21 Soldiers and family members from the Nevada Army Guard volunteered more than 1,700 hours in support of Camp Cartwheel, a free youth camp for children affected by cancer and other critical illnesses, and their siblings.

The camp at Torino Ranch sits amid the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area surrounded by the Toiyabe National Forest near here. More than 200 critically ill children at the camp enjoyed rock climbing, swimming, canoeing, archery, hiking and more.

“Camp is heaven,” said Tammy Richardson, the 17th Sustainment Brigade family readiness senior advisor, camp counselor and activity specialist. She’s also my wife. “I wait all year for camp and use my leave to come up and be with the children.”

When Tammy and I lost our daughter, Stephanie, to cancer in 2003, our journey had just begun. Ten years later, we are more at home with these amazing volunteers and children than we are in our own home.

Cartwheel is sponsored by the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation and is an outdoor four-night camp designed to help children with serious illnesses and their siblings overcome the physical, mental and emotional obstacles posed by childhood disease. The camp also provides respite from the stress of hospitals, clinics and the trauma of fighting disease. For patients, it’s a time to have fun with their brothers and sisters, and remember what it feels like to be a kid.

Soldiers and family members from the 72nd Military Police Company, 421st Regional Training Institute, 137th Military Police Det., 1864th Truck Company, Joint Force Headquarters, Medical Detachment and the 17th Sustainment Brigade served as counselors and activity specialists. They also assisted campers with safety, security and transportation. For many Soldiers, the experience had a profound impact.

“I cannot express how amazingly resilient these girls were,” said Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Tucay, a 17th Sustainment Brigade personnel staff NCO and camp counselor. “There was never a time they



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Kennedy, a 421st RTI instructor and his wife, Joan, help transport campers at Camp Cartwheel, a youth camp for children affected by cancer and other critical illnesses. This year, 21 Nevada Guard Soldiers and family members volunteered to help out.

were not smiling, laughing or having a great time. They were always concerned for each other and made sure everyone was included. This changed my life.”

Each day, Soldier volunteers interacted with campers and facilitated many of the activities to help campers enjoy the day’s events and forget about their afflictions, or the loss of their loved ones, for a few short days. Campers cooked and made ice cream. They built small wooden cars, shot arrows at the archery range and paddled canoes.

“My experience at camp was life changing,” said Sgt. Greg Krizmanich, of the recruiting and retention branch. “Throughout the week with these kids you learn a lot about how people can come together to make a change in kids’ lives. The whole time you are there, you don’t notice these kids being held back by anything. It’s like when they’re at this camp, there is nothing that can keep them down. I know now that we’re not just volunteers at this camp, we are blessed with the opportunity to be a part of their lives. Camp is only a few days long, but with the memories that you were able to create, it will last you a lifetime.”

For Sgt. 1st Class Michael Kennedy, a 421st RTI instructor, the experience became a personal investment. “(My first year as a volunteer) I was a little hesitant. I told my wife that only my stepdaughter,

Ella, (should) go with me. Ella got to hang out in a camp setting with other kids with afflictions and had fun. Now she totally sees me as her dad. The next year my wife wanted to come along for the ride, and we also got my son involved as a camper.”

Another part of the bonding experience involved counselors giving each other a funny or special nickname. Master Sgt. Brett Penny, a senior truck master for the 1864th was called 50 Cent. To Penny it made perfect cents, or rather, sense. State Command Sgt. Major Daryl Keithley and the commander of the Nevada Army Guard, Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, visited the camp, too. The kids gave the two senior Soldiers the nicknames Huggy Bear and Biggie Smalls.

“Camp Cartwheel could not happen in its present form without the continued support of the Nevada Army National Guard,” said Jeff Gordon, chief executive officer of the NCCF.

“The Camp Cartwheel experience is simply like none other,” said Tiana, the daughter of Lt. Col. Steven Milliron of Joint Force Headquarters. “Being surrounded by such brave children is beyond humbling and really makes you look at life with profound new appreciation.”

For information on Camp Cartwheel, call (702) 735-8434. ■



Christmas comes early to the Nevada Guard

By Ashley Alameda, Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas – Nevada troops celebrated Christmas in July. Yes, Virginia, Santa paid an early visit to 159 Soldiers and Airmen and their families through a generous donation by Las Vegas business tycoon Steve Wynn.

Soldiers from the 485th Military Police Company got more than they expected when they arrived here from Afghanistan on the early morning of July 18. Sixty Soldiers from the redeploying unit were each given a Visa gift card worth \$500, while other Soldiers and four Airmen were presented the gift cards at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.

The event dubbed Summer Santa was a repeat of Wynn's Secret Santa giveaway at Christmas. All recipients were identified by their respective commands in the vetting process. The Nevada National Guard was just one of 48 organizations that benefitted.

Henderson resident Monica Habart and four of her peers jumped at the chance to volunteer. "This is why I joined the United Way, to give back to the Las Vegas community," Habart said.

Upon arriving in Texas, returning troops were greeted by the Nevada Guard's Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Sitton. Nevada's Army leaders were there as well. Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales and



Ashley Alameda, Directorate of Mobilization and Deployment Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the Adjutant General of the Nevada National Guard, praises the Soldiers of the 485th Military Police Company upon redeployment from Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Keithley stood in the receiving line in the darkness of early morning on the tarmac at Biggs Airfield. The troops also met with Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Cook of the 17th Sustainment Brigade, the 485th's parent unit.

After the Soldiers filed through requisite administrative stops, they were stopped short of the chow line. All 60 of the Soldiers' names were called. Bemused, they watched while other redeploying Soldiers walked past them. That's when Burks explained the holdup, and how the United Way of Southern Nevada's Secret Santa and Summer Santa program, funded by a \$2 million donation from Wynn, made the gift cards possible.

Wynn said he started the program to help defray the higher cost of living in some areas especially during the holiday season. Burks added that Wynn had donated \$1 million to the program in December and had spread more good cheer again in July.

"Mr. Wynn has donated at least \$30,000 to the Nevada National Guard alone," Burks said.

The gift cards can be used wherever Visa credit cards are accepted, however, they are not to be used to buy alcohol or tobacco products, as requested by Wynn.

Keithley called the Soldiers individually to the floor and gave each a hug while Burks handed out cards.

The United Way of Southern Nevada focuses on education, health and financial stability to strengthen communities through donations and volunteers. They distributed 2,000 gift cards to those who needed a bit of help adjusting to the increased expenses associated with the summer months.

Wynn is well known in Las Vegas. Starting with a string of family-owned bingo parlors, he acquired interests in many casinos. After renovating, restructuring, designing and expanding hotels and casinos such as the Golden Nugget, the Mirage, Treasure Island and the Bellagio, Wynn is credited with helping turn Las Vegas into what it is today.

"The basic resources families will be able to obtain with this gift will help them maintain healthy lives," said Cass Palmer, president and CEO of the United Way of Southern Nevada. "The generous donation is evidence that by bringing together passionate advocates and needed resources, we can make a lasting change in our community." ■



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

After receiving a Visa gift card valued at \$500, Britany Ofseur, wife of Cpl. Herbert Ofseur, and their daughter, Anieca, 4, thank Monica Habart, senior director, campaign development with United Way of Southern Nevada at the Las Vegas Readiness Center on July 14.



A Nevada National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter and crew lift a California Guard UH-60 Black Hawk that had developed transmission problems while fighting fires in Northern California.

Master Sgt. Dave Loeffler, California Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Nevada National Guard Chinook gives lift to California fire operations

*By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

LAKEPORT, Calif. — Like a good neighbor, the Nevada Guard was there.

Seven CH-47 Chinook helicopter crewmembers from the Silver State flew to California to sling-load a downed California Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The Black Hawk was being used to fight the Scotts Fire in Lake County and took a precautionary landing. No crew members were injured.

“Our mission was to take the Black Hawk to Lampson Field Airport, about five miles away,” said Chief Warrant Officer Sean Laycox of the 991st Aviation Troop Command of Reno. “We certified the load, and made sure it would fly properly.”

Lt. Col. Kris Kirkland, Nevada’s command pilot for the mission, said due to Afghanistan deployments, California and Nevada have only one Chinook each available for domestic heavy lift missions right now. “A maintenance problem stymied California in this situation, so we came over to assist,” Kirkland said. “As a result, it also became a great training opportunity for our younger Soldiers.”

On site to oversee the operation between neighboring states, Col. Laura Yeager, California’s state aviation officer, said that after careful analysis, sling loading was the best option. “We determined that getting the

Black Hawk out by ground transportation was going to be problematic because of power lines and the uncertainty of the weight rating of a bridge,” she said. “Because our aircraft was out for repair, it meant that getting the Black Hawk out of there would have been delayed by about a week. Because of this great relationship with Nevada, we called to see if they could help us. They called back and immediately said they would.”

As a result, the Nevada Guard helicopter crew arrived to assess the situation and review events leading up to the downed Black Hawk.

“There were two Black Hawks from the 1/140th Aviation Battalion out of Los Alamitos on approach to the fire. One of the bird’s emergency lights flashed,” said 1st Lt. Jason Sweeney, a California National Guard spokesman. “They had an issue with the transmission and made a precautionary landing. In heading toward Clear Lake, the Black Hawk pilot found a five-acre field in Lakeport, a few miles southwest of the fire that charred nearby hills.”

The UH-60 landed on Tom Inderkum’s property, where it attracted attention from dozens of neighbors for a week. Inderkum remarked that on the first day, dozens of cars were backed up on the dirt road leading to his property to see the helicopter.

“Basically, we just heard the helicopters going over all day,” said Inderkum, who plans to transform the idle pasture land into a botanical garden. “We watched the planes doing chemical drops and the helicopters going back and forth with their buckets. The next thing I know, it’s getting louder and louder. I said that helicopter’s going really low. By the time I came around the front of my house, the helicopter had set down, so I wandered out and greeted the pilot. He said his check engine light came on. In my smart-aleck sense of humor, I indicated that he missed the lake by a couple of miles. It’s not every day you get a Black Hawk helicopter in your front yard.”

Inderkum and his wife, who had just moved from Sacramento to Lake County four weeks prior to the fire, treated the helicopter crew to lemonade and watermelon,” he said.

1st Sgt. Rick Hendricks of B Company, 1/126th Aviation Battalion, of Stockton, Calif., and an eight-man crew rigged the downed helicopter and removed the rotor blades in preparation for transport. “This happens pretty rarely,” he said. “But we have done it in Afghanistan and Iraq, recovering aircraft that has a malfunction of some sort as part of the downed aircraft recovery team.” ■

HIGH ROLLERS PREPARE FOR AFGHANISTAN

Compiled from staff reports

HERLONG, Calif. – About 130 Airmen from the 152nd Operations Group and the 152nd Maintenance Group deployed earlier this month in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and other operations within the U.S. Central Command.

During the four month rotation, the High Rollers, with three Nevada Air Guard C-130H Hercules aircraft, are based in Kuwait where they are flying airlift and air drop missions over Afghanistan and other locations as assigned. The unit is expected to travel as far west as the Horn of Africa.

Lt. Col. Jon Schulstad of Reno is the provisional commander for the blended unit composed of Airmen from the active duty Air Force, the 165th Airlift Wing out of Savannah, Ga., and the Reno-based unit.

Senior Airman Thomas Kinney, an aircraft mechanic crew chief with the 152nd Maintenance Group, is on his second deployment since joining the Nevada Guard in 2008. He deployed to Bagram Air Base in 2011 and said it was a positive experience.

“When I deployed in 2011, we were really busy, which translates to more stuff breaking,” Kinney said. “But our aircraft fared well and kept flying, which reflects a lot on our mechanics’ knowledge and skills.”

Kinney said he was looking forward to the deployment.

“I am somewhat excited about going, because this time I have the previous deployment as a reference, which was a

good experience,” he said. “Besides, it is a chance to get out of the hangar and do something different for a while.”

As the 152nd Airlift Wing prepared for the deployment, crews took advantage of airdrop training in a desert landscape that was eerily similar to Afghanistan.

Just a 15-minute flight from the Reno air base in Herlong, Calif., Airmen in the 192nd Airlift Squadron and the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron took part in specialized training using the Improved Container Delivery System.

Usually, the crew practices dropping one container out of the unit’s C-130 Hercules aircraft. In preparations for deployment, though, the unit opted for a mass drop – the rapid ejection of 10 bundles. Mass drops in Afghanistan can deploy up to 16 bundles weighing 2,200 pounds each.

Mass drops require careful pre-flight planning and two flight passes over the drop zone. Aircrews over the battlefield can avoid enemy small arms fire by dropping supplies from high altitudes. In the first flight pass, the crew releases a weather probe called a dropsonde. The probe registers the wind’s speed and direction, and global positioning.



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

A High Rollers C-130 Hercules transport aircraft flies over the drop zone during training at Herlong, Calif., on Sept. 27.



“This whole process (for airdrops) takes more planning effort, rigging, coordination and makes the loadmaster’s job more complicated (than other flights),” said Maj. Ricardo Bravo of the 192nd. “The navigators up front have to do a different type of ‘aiming,’ utilizing different calculations than a normal airdrop. For a pilot, it is nice to experience this type of training at home station because when 10 bundles exit the aircraft, a pilot gets to feel how the plane reacts.”

Young aircraft commanders can actually feel how the aircraft dips after the sudden weight shift. These are valuable lessons and skills to take into a combat theater.

In addition to all the pre-flight planning, in-flight calculations, and post-drop adjustments, crew members note persistent challenges in hitting the target. Because mass drops require two passes overhead – one for the dropsonde and the other for the release of cargo – the wind’s direction and strength can change very quickly in between passes.

Also, parachutes flutter open after the bundles leave the aircraft, but unlike guided bomb systems, the parachute is only good for stabilizing the floating crates or bundles. A sudden gust could carry the bundle significantly off course. That’s when crews rely on Mother Nature and hope that resupply deliveries land safely on target.

The 152nd Airlift Wing has deployed aircraft in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom more than a dozen times since the onset of the war. ■



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Airman 1st Class Ryan Burkart (foreground) and Master Sgt. Kimberly Whetzel do their part as members of the ground crew at Herlong on Sept. 27.



Construction begins at Elko County Guard facility

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Guard broke ground on a remodeling and construction project for a state-of-the-art Nevada Army Guard facility in Elko County. The Guard acquired the University of Nevada, Reno's Fire Science Academy campus this past summer and is remodeling and adding a building in the hope of developing a new place for troops in northeastern Nevada to train.

Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks said adding the Carlin facility to the Guard's training sites gives the organization untold expansion opportunities. "The Nevada Guard sees the potential as a site to support Regional Training Institute courses, exercise locations for myriad units and first responders in the state, unit drill weekends and unit annual training."

The new 5,400-square-foot readiness center building will house offices, storage areas, a vault and a locker room. A simultaneous remodel of two other buildings on the campus also began this summer. The classroom building has nearly 20,000 square feet of space, and the Guard will remodel to meet audiovisual standards. Portions of the current firehouse on campus will also be remodeled to serve as a vehicle maintenance building for the Nevada Army Guard's Detachment 2, 593rd Transportation Company.

The entire 410-acre campus was purchased for about \$16.5 million, which included acquisition, remodel and construction monies. Of that total, the state of Nevada spent \$7.9 million, and the federal government \$8.6 million.

The new building is set to be completed by late summer of 2013. The remodel projects should be complete by spring of 2013. ■

High Rollers rappel for special athletes

RENO – Two Airmen gave new meaning to the term "high rollers" at a recent fundraiser here.

Col. Jeff Burkett, the 152nd Airlift Wing commander, and Master Sgt. Rick Hays of the 152nd Communications Flight, dropped from the top of the Grand Sierra Resort to help raise money for the Special Olympics at an event called Over the Edge.



Maj. April Conway

Led by the commander of the Nevada National Guard, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, members of the Guard, contractors and community leaders break ground on a new building at the Elko County Readiness Center in Carlin July 31.

Eight corporate-level businesses and 52 individuals donated nearly \$50,000, according to Maggie Schwarz, a Special Olympics regional vice president. She added that there are 11 local programs for the more than 3,000 Special Olympics athletes in Nevada. The program provides tools to its athletes and helps them prepare for life.

The fundraiser at the Grand Sierra Resort was open to businesses and individuals. Some companies raised money through a Toss Your Boss campaign, and others made individual donations.

Burkett and Hays both enjoyed their time on the rappel lines. "It was a rush, and I was glad to have a partner up there," said Hays, after dropping 27 floors, or about 320 feet.

Burkett said he was honored to represent the 152nd and support the Special Olympics. ■

Call goes out for Nevada Army Guard aviators

RENO – The Nevada Army Guard aviation community annually recruits and selects the best qualified Soldiers for participation in the Army's initial entry rotary wing course.

The selection process includes a written alternate flight aptitude selection test, a flight physical, and an appearance before the selection board, which meets on Dec. 13, and again on April 13.

To confirm board dates and times, contact the 991st Aviation Troop Command personnel office at (775) 771-6061. For more information on recruiting processes, call (775) 972-2740. ■

Nevadans honored at 2012 NGAUS conference

RENO – Sgt. Cait Koffarnus, nee Kelley, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremiah Mock received the Valley Forge Cross for Heroism. They were among several Nevadans to receive awards at the 2012 National Guard Association of the United States conference in September. Other awardees: Gov. Brian Sandoval was awarded the Charles Dick Medal of Merit; Susan Fisher, the Patrick Henry Award; Col. Ondra Berry, Garde Nationale Trophy; Capt. Lance King, the Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Award for Company Grade Officers; and the 152nd Airlift Wing, the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque. ■

Deployment time flies for 189th Aviation Soldiers

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – For the deployed Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard's 1/189th General Support Aviation Battalion, time is flying.

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter unit's aviators, flight engineers and mechanics are two-thirds through a one-year deployment to Logar Province, Afghanistan. The unit's 60 Soldiers are set to return to the Silver State in mid-spring 2013. The battalion also includes 60 Montana Guardsmen.

The majority of the unit's Guardsmen are based at Forward Operating Base Shank; a few mechanics are based at Kandahar Airfield.

Unit commander Capt. Michael Bordallo said the deployment has gone extremely well since the unit left Reno in April. "It's gone just like we thought it would," he said. "We have been doing general support missions, moving personnel and equipment throughout Regional Command-East."



Chief Warrant Officer Dan Walters, 189th Aviation Battalion

Nevada's 1/189th Aviation Battalion's CH-47 Chinooks do a large percentage of the heavy lift and air assault operations in Logar Province. Afghanistan's rugged terrain often tests the aircraft and pilots with pinnacle landings and high-altitude hauls.

Bordallo said that the unit's crews also support combat troops. "We are also doing the majority of the air assault missions for the task force here because Chinooks are the only rotary aircraft with the ability to do the missions," he said. "The air assault mission has us executing hasty and deliberate air assaults that are

in support of conventional and unconventional forces."

Before the fourth month of the deployment concluded, the unit racked up some impressive statistics. From May to August, the unit recorded 2,641 flight hours, transported 2.7 million pounds of cargo and 16,216 passengers, and executed 145 deliberate and hasty air assaults. Unique cargo and passengers include working military canines, Afghan soldiers and UH-60 Black Hawk frames.

In August, one of the Chinooks suffered a hard landing that resulted in the aircraft's destruction. Aside from minor injuries, every Nevada and Montana Guardsman walked away from the incident.

Because of ongoing security issues in Afghanistan, Bordallo said the Soldiers in the unit remain on FOB Shank during most of its free time.

"There is no leaving the FOB unless you are on a mission," Bordallo said. "This FOB has all of the creature comforts of the bigger bases like Bagram or Kandahar airfields."

Bordallo said one of the battalion goals in its last months of deployment is finding a way to link up with the 593rd Transportation Company, which is also in Regional Command-East based at Camp Phoenix.

"They are just about a 30-minute Chinook flight away," Bordallo said. "We plan to meet up sometime in the near future. Their commander and I agreed that getting two Nevada units together would be great." ■

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Snapshot of a convoy resupply to Salang Tunnel

Story and photos by Pfc. Jordan Troyer and Chad Paradis, 593rd Transportation Company

KABUL, Afghanistan – Soldiers of first platoon, 593rd Transportation Company embarked on a three-day mission to the Salang Tunnel, about 80 miles north of Camp Phoenix in Kabul.

Convoy commander 1st Lt. Chris Jones led the mission that started on Aug. 28 and carried much-needed supplies to infantry troops securing the north end of the tunnel.

The Soldiers departed by convoy from Bagram Airfield where they spent the night in transient quarters. They used the time to prepare for the mountainous drive, look around Bagram, catch up on sleep and strengthen cherished friendships.

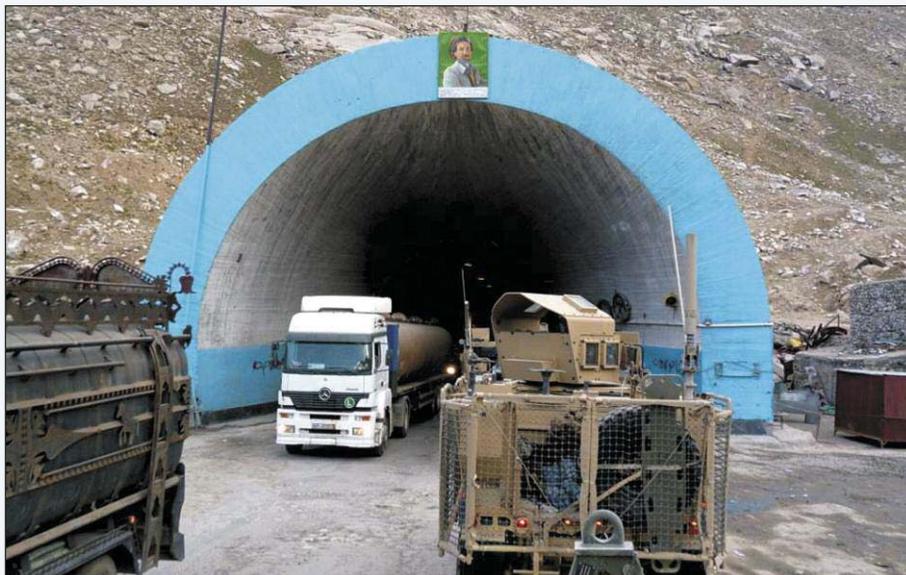
Early the next day, the convoy set off on an eye-widening adventure along the Hindu Kush mountain range, climbing to heights of 11,000 feet. Nevada troops passed through numerous villages rarely seen by most other Soldiers. The villages en route to the Salang Tunnel seemed a world apart from Kabul, with fresh air and farms. Potable water rushed through streams and rivers from snow melts higher up the mountains.

Traveling the windy mountain roads, Guardsmen saw the unique way in which the scattered villages were built on the steep rock formations framed by waterfalls. Each new hairpin turn revealed the majestic scenery in contrast to the congestion and clutter of dusty Kabul.

Near the peak of the climb, the convoy traveled through many small unnamed tunnels. Local drivers sped around the tunnels on dirt paths barely wide enough for a car. Like Kabul traffic, drivers searched for openings whenever and wherever possible.

After a few more hairpin turns, the convoy stared into the tunnel's entrance, which gave the appearance of giant snake poised to devour a mouse. Once inside the tunnel, the convoy began the tedious task of maneuvering around local drivers on the cramped and hazardous road.

Once the convoy emerged from the tunnel, it moved to the small outpost positioned at the north end. With traffic backed up on the small road, not all the vehicles could pull into the outpost. Soldiers assigned to Sgt. Ryan Wroblewski's squad began to direct traffic while others worked



A convoy resupply mission by the 593rd Transportation Company reaches the mouth of the Salang Tunnel high in the Hindu Kush mountain range about 80 miles northeast of Kabul.



at a feverish pace to download all the cargo.

A small supply yard slowed the dropoff of gear. Only one truck could park on a narrow strip of dirt with just enough room to maneuver a forklift. Curious Afghans stopped to watch the Battle Born Guardsmen work as the day continued. The sun started to dip below the mountain just as the convoy was set to head back to Bagram.

The return trip went smoothly with a brief stop to cool the brakes on the wrecker

vehicle. It also allowed traffic to pass safely. As the convoy reached the bottom of the hill, the Soldiers could see the lights of Bagram in the distance. They were ready for another overnight stay.

"The mission to the Salang Tunnel was a complete success," said 1st Sgt. Harry Schroeder. "It provided much needed supplies to the infantrymen and left the Soldiers of the 593rd with a good feeling about Afghanistan." ■

SPORTS NEWS

Former Nevada Guardsman keeps rolling along at Tour de Nez

By Lt. Col. Joanne Farris
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – On the same day that Dutch superwoman Marianne Vos captured Olympic gold in road cycling at the London games, former Nevada Guard Staff Sgt. Helman Roman won first place in the handcycle competition in Reno's 20th annual Mighty, Mighty Tour de Nez cycling festival.

Roman finished with a time of 1:01:58 placing first in the H4 category. A cavalry Soldier, he began handcycling after his legs were injured in Afghanistan when his mine resistant ambush protected vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device on Sept. 11, 2009. The bomb crushed his ankles and broke his tibias and fibulas; he spent 10 months recovering at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"My therapist at Walter Reed came to get me every morning. She never took no for answer. She knew what tough love was about," Roman said. "I now cycle 10 to 20 miles every day and also swim and do other cardio at the gym. If I were to give anybody words of inspiration [they would be]: never quit. Even when days are tough, never quit!"

Prior to the race start, Roman had the opportunity to meet Norma Coffey, who came to the race to cheer for Roman. Coffey makes quilts for disabled Soldiers. With the help of Nevada Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Bob Brown, the quilts are distributed to Soldiers throughout the country at Warrior Transition Units. Roman was a recipient of such a quilt. "This is the first time I have had the opportunity to visit with a Soldier who received a quilt – what an honor!" Coffey said.

It's been a challenging road to recovery for Roman. He can walk slowly with a cane, but can't be on his feet for more than an hour. The damage to his nerves causes constant pain. His hard work has paid off. Roman started competing in handcycle races in July 2010 and has finished more than 20 races. Sponsored by Achilles International and the Achilles Freedom Team of Wounded Veterans and the Paralyzed Veterans of



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Staff Sgt. Helman Roman finishes the sixth lap of the Tour de Nez handcycle race July 29. Helman went on to place first in the H4 handcycle category with a time of 1:01:58. The medically retired 1/221st Cavalry Soldier was injured by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2009.

America, Roman has traveled to Italy and Colombia for competitive races. He has also traveled to New York, Boston, and New Haven, Conn., and notably completed a 200-mile ride from Washington, D.C., to Pennsylvania.

The Adjutant General for Nevada, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, presented Roman with a U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal and State of Nevada Medal of Merit just prior to the start of the race. Burks, who pulled the trigger on the starter pistol, said "This is truly one of the greatest honors of my career, to come to this event and support these athletes." ■



Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez

Staff Sgt. Helman Roman's handcycle bears the 1/221st Cavalry Wildhorse and United States flag patches that he wore on his uniform during deployment.

Nevada's Best Warrior sets sights for next year

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The 2012 Best Warrior competition brought the National Guard's seven regional title holders here to decide the best of the best among NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers.

In hot and humid days of late July, Nevada's own Spc. Julian Batz, a reconnaissance scout representing the 1/221st Cavalry, placed fourth overall in a pool of 14 hard-charging competitors – some of them battle tested from previous Best Warrior contests. The top Soldier in each category in this competition moved on to the All-Army contest held in October at Fort Lee, Va.

"There's a trend of success if you had gone to competition before," said the 20-year-old Batz. "Hopefully, pretty soon I should be picking up my E-5 to compete with the NCOs next year. I'm not worried about accolades. I believe opportunities present themselves, and good things come out of it. If I win the whole thing, then more good stuff will come my way – I just keep grinding."

The competition asks for the Soldiers to dig deep, as not a minute of the day is wasted. Plus, a Ranger cadre keeps a close eye on the competitors adhering to a by-the-book grading system.

On Day 0, Soldiers collected individual body armor and rucks, and prepared their equipment for the days of competition ahead.

On Day 1, after a wake-up call at 4:30 a.m., troops started the day with a traditional Army Physical Fitness Test, which Batz maxed with 300 points, then shifted gears to appear before an oral board at which they recited policy and procedure, and the Army creeds. The day ended with a written exam and essay.

On Day 2, Soldiers were roused from sleep at 2:30 a.m., and immediately set to work finding points in the dark during land navigation. That activity moved them into day. After coming from the land navigation course, the group engaged weapons at the zero range, where they fired and qualified on the M-16 rifle and M-9 pistol. Stress shooting followed at a shoot and no-shoot range and at simulators that required a call for fire, and accuracy observing different terrains. Competitors capped off the day with each humping 45-pound rucks during



Taffy Keller, Maneuver Center of Excellence Public Affairs

Nevada Guard's Spc. Julian Batz of the 1/221st Cavalry, low-crawls through the obstacle course as part of the 2012 Best Warrior competition for the National Guard at Fort Benning, Ga. Soldiers also competed in stress shooting, urban operations, and land navigation. Inset: Batz runs the obstacle course.

an 8-mile march and finally, lights out at 11:30 p.m.

On Day 3, the Soldiers stumbled out of their racks at 3 a.m. for urban operations, where they tested their search and rescue skills on a grenade assault course. Activities ranged from clearing rooms to shooting targets, then moving to evaluate and transport a 150-pound dummy casualty using a skid litter. The Soldiers settled into a room and were required to assemble an embitter radio and call in a status report for a medevac helicopter, then pull the casualty to a designated evacuation point. Then it was back to trigger time on the Mk-19 grenade launcher, M-240-Bravo machine gun and the M-2 .50-caliber machine gun. The end of the day brought the Soldiers to the Ranger obstacle course, with quitting time at 8 p.m.

On Day 4, the Soldiers entered into a mystery event at 4 a.m. They ran station to station on a mile-long course. They each carried a dummy casualty on a skid litter, then up an incline, at which point they assembled an ASEP radio to call in a situation report. Once their Ranger evaluators gave the nod, the Soldiers were told to assemble a series of arms in 10 minutes.

Soldiers drew parts from the M-16 rifle, Beretta M-9 pistol, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon and M-240-Bravo machine gun, all of which filled a wooden box.

"Nobody passed that," Batz said.

The group of Soldiers ran along a road and were warned to look ahead, as the sight of an improvised explosive device broke their pace. The situation demanded a 9-line unexploded ordinance report followed by an equipment shuttle run. The last stage of the run introduced wet monkey bars and crawling through a submerged sandpit with barbed wire overhead. Those Soldiers who ducked the barbed wire made it to a six-foot wall and the finish line.

"You didn't know anything. It's changed every year by the organizers so nobody can study for it," Batz said. "That was hardest part."

Batz stressed that it isn't the competition itself that's important. He weighed the experience more as something that builds character. "I just hope the fact that I competed will allow me to do something that makes a difference," he said.

For more information and updates on the Best Warrior competition, visit bestwarrior.nationalguard.com. ■



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • June, July, August 2012

AWARDS

Legion of Merit



COL Craig Wroblewski JFHQ
CSM Robert Brown JFHQ

Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Michael Schiemer 1/221st Cav
CSM Robert Boldry 17th Special Troops Bn
SSG Dwayne Lee 17th Special Troops Bn
1SG Emerson Chattin 17th Special Troops Bn
SSG Christopher Bazan 1/221st Cav
SSG Johnny Deal 1/221st Cav
CW4 Shirley Conroy JFHQ
LTC Cory Schulz 17th Special Troops Bn
SMSgt Kimberly Randall 152nd Airlift Wing
TSgt Ladd Crooker 152nd Maint Grp
SMSgt Michael Arnold 152nd Operations Grp

Air Force Commendation Medal



MSGt Daniel Baraz 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SSgt Nathan Trapp 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

Army Commendation Medal



PFC Arik Sitton 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
CPT Jonathan Ashbaugh 1864th Trans Co
1SG Dennis Basilio 1864th Trans Co
SGT Nathan Braid 1864th Trans Co
CPT Joseph Claros 240th Engineer Co
CPT Richard Jordan 240th Engineer Co
1SG Daniel Quintana 240th Engineer Co
SGT Joshua Rodriguez 240th Engineer Co
SSG James Strange 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SSG Trevor Kinney HHD, 991st Aviation Trp Cmd
SSG Roberto Caceres 92nd Civil Spt Team
SSG Ryan Campbell 92nd Civil Spt Team
MSgt Jordan Clark 92nd Civil Spt Team
TSgt Vincent Girolami 92nd Civil Spt Team
SGT Michael Noyes 92nd Civil Spt Team
SGT Justin Strong 92nd Civil Spt Team
SSG Philip Risi JFHQ
SSG Harry English Med Det
SSG Jennifer Palomino NVARNG Rec/Ret
CPT Brian Capra 422nd Exped Signal Bn
SPC Emerson Marcus 106 PAD

Air Force Achievement Medal



SrA Mason Blair 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn

CMSgt William Moore 152nd Airlift Wing
TSgt Eric Ritter 152nd Airlift Wing
LtCol Kevin Knuf 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt Michael Robinson 152nd Communications Flt
MSgt Jason Campbell 152nd Communications Flt
MSgt Eric Howe 152nd Communications Flt
SrA Cassandra Kenyon 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Col Leslie Gonzalez 152nd Mission Spt Grp
TSgt Benjamin Reynolds 152nd Maint Sqdn
CMSgt Kelly Cavins 192nd Airlift Sqdn
LtCol Brian Thayer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Roberto Fabela 192nd Airlift Sqdn
SrA Sean Bird 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Frank Tolete 192nd Airlift Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



MSG John Bogdan 17th Special Troops Bn
CPT Brian Capra 17th Special Troops Bn
SGT Jeffrey Deitch 17th Special Troops Bn
SFC Sandra Flores 17th Special Troops Bn
CPT Lee Gaston 17th Special Troops Bn
MSG Jacob Gonzales 17th Special Troops Bn
CPT Brian Hunsaker 17th Special Troops Bn
MAJ Amy Klima 17th Special Troops Bn
WO1 Derek Petersen 17th Special Troops Bn
SGT David Powell 17th Special Troops Bn
SPC Kevin Redd 17th Special Troops Bn
SGT Johnathan Rivera 17th Special Troops Bn
CPT Beau Vinatieri 17th Special Troops Bn
SSG Ekow Adwenti 1864th Trans Co
1LT Eugene Agcaoilii 1864th Trans Co
SPC Joseph Ajuria 1864th Trans Co
SFC Lord Alvarade 1864th Trans Co
SSG Joseph Babb 1864th Trans Co
PFC Hilario Barragan 1864th Trans Co
SGT David Beachler 1864th Trans Co
SFC Scott Berry 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Michaleangelo Bonsignore 1864th Trans Co
SGT Nathan Braid 1864th Trans Co
SGT David Bravo 1864th Trans Co
PFC Cody Busak 1864th Trans Co
SPC Aaron Case 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Taylor Christenson 1864th Trans Co
SPC Carlos Cisneros 1864th Trans Co
PV2 John Davis 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Arturo Diaz-Ramirez 1864th Trans Co
SGT Chanel Fermin 1864th Trans Co
SPC Alexander Franco 1864th Trans Co
SGT Jason Frogge 1864th Trans Co
PFC Lee Fuller 1864th Trans Co
SGT Humberto Gamboa 1864th Trans Co
SSG Raymond Giordano 1864th Trans Co
PFC Christopher Griffith 1864th Trans Co
SGT Justin Haws 1864th Trans Co

SGT Charron Hernandez 1864th Trans Co
SPC Michael Holt 1864th Trans Co
SSG Heather Ibarra 1864th Trans Co
SSG Massimo Irenze 1864th Trans Co
1LT David Jennings 1864th Trans Co
PFC Jessica Jones 1864th Trans Co
SFC Eric Kent 1864th Trans Co
SPC Christopher Larkin 1864th Trans Co
PFC Michael Lewis 1864th Trans Co
SGT Salvadore Maestes 1864th Trans Co
SGT Lucas Marshall 1864th Trans Co
SPC Timothy Martin 1864th Trans Co
SGT Adalberto Martinez 1864th Trans Co
PFC Jack Maurer 1864th Trans Co
SGT Jason May 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Roberto Mendiola 1864th Trans Co
PFC Anthony Miller 1864th Trans Co
SGT Christopher Mills 1864th Trans Co
SGT David Miromontes 1864th Trans Co
SGT Carmela Mobo 1864th Trans Co
SGT Son Neal 1864th Trans Co
SSG Kevin Nelson 1864th Trans Co
SPC Oliver Nolos 1864th Trans Co
SPC Glenford Pascasio 1864th Trans Co
SFC Brett Penny 1864th Trans Co
SGT Jay Pierson 1864th Trans Co
SPC Solomon Powell 1864th Trans Co
SGT Michelle Primm 1864th Trans Co
SSG Michael Pugh 1864th Trans Co
SGT Luis Quiorga 1864th Trans Co
SPC Michael Radecker 1864th Trans Co
SPC Zoltan Revay 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Zachary Salyer 1864th Trans Co
SGT Sandra Sandoval 1864th Trans Co
PFC Wong Santitivech 1864th Trans Co
PFC Ralph Santos 1864th Trans Co
SGT Gabriel Sena 1864th Trans Co
PFC Anna Shum 1864th Trans Co
SSG Tyson Strong 1864th Trans Co
SGT Victor Torres 1864th Trans Co
PFC Corbin Wagner 1864th Trans Co
SPC Bruce Walker 1864th Trans Co
PFC Trayvon Washington-Gooden 1864th Trans Co
SGT Marcus Watts 1864th Trans Co
SGT Tamara Wingo 1864th Trans Co
SPC Michael Yanez 1864th Trans Co
PV2 Jorge Zorio-Ricardo 1864th Trans Co
PFC Valeria Colon 240th Engineer Co
SPC Brian AlvaradoBraithe 240th Engineer Co
SPC Benjamin Alworth 240th Engineer Co
SPC Brian Arnett 240th Engineer Co
PV1 Roberto Bahr 240th Engineer Co
SPC Bradley Brazil 240th Engineer Co
SPC Robert A. Case 240th Engineer Co
SGT Robert R. Case 240th Engineer Co

PFC Krystle Castillo 240th Engineer Co
PFC Justin David 240th Engineer Co
SGT Ryan Davis 240th Engineer Co
PFC Victor De Santiago 240th Engineer Co
SSG James Del Palacio 240th Engineer Co
SSG Lauriano Farias 240th Engineer Co
PV2 Marlon Garcia 240th Engineer Co
SPC Jorge Gomez 240th Engineer Co
SPC Jason Goodberlet 240th Engineer Co
SSG Justin Harris 240th Engineer Co
SPC Labrandon Herd 240th Engineer Co
SPC Adam Hernandez 240th Engineer Co
1LT Howard Hoover 240th Engineer Co
2LT Willard Hubler 240th Engineer Co
SPC Quincy Jackson 240th Engineer Co
PFC Kyle Marrott 240th Engineer Co
SPC Johnnie Martin 240th Engineer Co
SPC Jacqueline McDowell 240th Engineer Co
SGT Reynaldo Mercedes 240th Engineer Co
PFC Eric Ohran 240th Engineer Co
SPC Edward Ojeda 240th Engineer Co
SSG Jacob Roberts 240th Engineer Co
SGT Luis Rocha 240th Engineer Co
SGT Shane Rothwell 240th Engineer Co
PFC Dylan Salazar 240th Engineer Co
SGT Kenneth Smith 240th Engineer Co
SGT Timothy Smith 240th Engineer Co
SPC Jack Stone 240th Engineer Co
SPC Madison Stone 240th Engineer Co
SPC Thomas Stone 240th Engineer Co
PFC Russell Underwood 240th Engineer Co
SGT Michael Vargas 240th Engineer Co
SPC David Warner 240th Engineer Co
SPC Nicholas Washington 240th Engineer Co
SGT Christopher Williams 240th Engineer Co
PFC Ezra Wong 240th Engineer Co
SSG Robert Wyatt 240th Engineer Co
SPC Christopher Lauko 277th Engineer Plt
SPC Michael Maddy 277th Engineer Plt
SGT Imelda Salazar 277th Engineer Plt
SGT Janira Varty 277th Engineer Plt
SGT Monica Marks HHC, 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
CPT Gage Chapel JFHQ
SGT Victor Joecks 106 PAD

Nevada State Distinguished Service Medal



LTC Christopher Patterson JFHQ

Nevada Medal of Merit



MSgt Gina Kohl 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
MSgt Robert Shofner 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada State Commendation Medal



SPC Josh Killinger 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
SPC Marcus Cooney 1/221st Cav
LTC William Johnson Hawthorne Army Depot

SSG Allison Bailey 421st RTI

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



MSgt Keith Maslowski 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
MSgt William Hartzler 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
SSgt Jennifer Cronin 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
MSgt Jeffrey Linton 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SrA Benjamin Gaetke 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SSgt Jeffrey Mello 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
TSgt James Begley 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Capt Brooke Magee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Jeffrey Bellato 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Evan Kirkwood 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Charles Steffens 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Thomas Dorsett 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Frank Magee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Joseph Jaquish 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Erik Brown 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Lance King 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt David McNally 192nd Airlift Sqdn
CMSgt Robin Mocabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
LtCol Jonathan Thorpe 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Robert Hoadley 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Jason Little 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt David Dwyer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Kathleen Backlund 192nd Airlift Sqdn
SrA Kevin Long 192nd Airlift Sqdn
SrA John Shorrock 192nd Airlift Sqdn

SSgt Nicholas Langton 192nd Airlift Sqdn
SSgt Shamika Webb 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
TSgt Joshua Rogers 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Christa Morter 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Luzmarina Schneider 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Joshua Leggett 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Lyle Smith 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt Christopher Caminiti 192nd Airlift Sqdn
A1C Jonathan Turner 192nd Airlift Sqdn

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SGT Brice Crawford 150th Maint Co

Nevada Honor Guard Ribbon



SPC Oscar Roman 609th Engineer Co
SPC Arik Sitton 609th Engineer Co

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



SSgt Rebecca Higgins 152nd Airlift Wing
SrA Alex Norris 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
TSgt Joseph Puertos 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Col Donald Delporto 152nd Medical Grp

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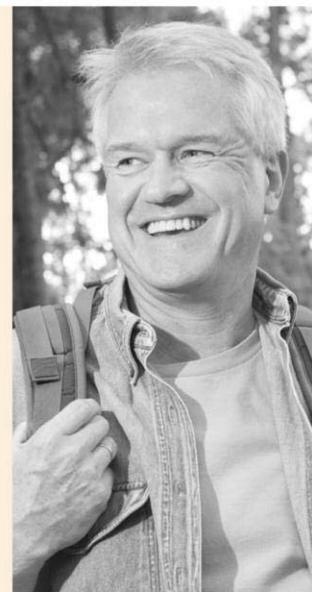
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PROMOTIONS

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Thomas Bass 232nd Operations Sqdn

CPT/Capt

Erik Christensen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Eugenio Agcaoili HHC, 17th Sust Bde

1LT/1st Lt

Tiffany Tatum JFHQ
Lee Wilson 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Kitty Chan NVARNG Med Det

2LT/2nd Lt

Cicely Williams 100th Quartermaster Co
Ivana Williams 100th Quartermaster Co
John Dekoning 240th Engineer Co
James Rainwater 277th Engineer Haul Plt
Rocky Kutsunai C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Miles McGuire C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
James Green 72nd MP Co
Mark Kennoy 72nd MP Co
Christopher Staggs 777th Forward Spt Co
Kristina Jordan 150th Maint Co
Joseph Casey HHT, 1/221st Cav
Derrick Tang I Troop, 1/221st Cav

MSG/SMSGt

Brett Penny 1864th Trans Co
Daniel Prothro II 593rd Trans Co

David Hurwitz 72nd MP Co
Junior Krows NVARNG Rec/Ret

SFC/MSgt

Aaron Dawson 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Jason Fritz 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Michael Landsberry 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Kimberly Whetzel 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Luciana Irenze 137th MP Det
Cristian Gonzalezismerio HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Nicolas Allred 137th MP Det
Massimo Irenze HHC, 17th Sust Bde
David Schalles HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Joseph Babb 1864th Trans Co
James Delpalacio 240th Engineer Co
Oran Supsin B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Kristina Little HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Tracy Castro 593rd Trans Co
Heather Harris 593rd Trans Co
Jamie Olson 593rd Trans Co
Rafael Aguilera Jr 72nd MP Co
Luis Alvarez 72nd MP Co
Larry Harlan Jr 72nd MP Co
Kevin Johnson 72nd MP Co
Jamar Grovner 92nd Civil Spt Team
Larry Clawson Jr 150th Maint Co
Mark Newton 150th Maint Co
Mark Carabajal 421st RTI
Michael Davis Jr HHT, 1/221st Cav
Alberto Gonzalez HHT, 1/221st Cav
Ricky Ferguson 421st RTI
Victor Boivin NVARNG Rec/Ret
Tomas Ramos III NVARNG Rec/Ret
Che Rios NVARNG Rec/Ret

SSG/TSgt

Rhoderick Estrada 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Jeffrey Stark 152nd Maint Sqdn
Julia Martinez 100th Quartermaster Co
Reynaldo Mercedes 100th Quartermaster Co
Michael Frazer 150th Maint Co
Domenic Veneziano 150th Maint Co
Shawn Fidler 17th Special Troops Bn
Charles Rooker HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Stephan Atkin 240th Engineer Co
Ryan Davis 240th Engineer Co
Nathan Ohler 240th Engineer Co
Michael Roen D Co, 3/140th MEDEVAC
Shakur Beavers HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Daniel Cruz HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Ronald Gogan 485th MP Co
Pamela Commins 593rd Trans Co
Russell Bream 609th Engineer Co
Jason Bushey 609th Engineer Co
James Fikkers 609th Engineer Co
Joshua Rodriguez 609th Engineer Co
Jacob Costello 72nd MP Co
Wessley Gonzalezchoa 72nd MP Co
Christian Marx 72nd MP Co
Ryan Wagner 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Justin Strong 92nd Civil Spt Team

Melissa Leist 991st Aviation Troop Cmd
Daniel Varty 150th Maint Co
Samuel Boyd Jr 72nd MP Co
Bobby Peroddy Det 45, Operational Spt Airlift
Jordan Coleman HHT, 1/221st Cav
Nathaniel Martin HHT, 1/221st Cav
Donald Reynolds III HHT, 1/221st Cav
Sean Schnyder HHT, 1/221st Cav
Trevor Coen 421st RTI
Jake Boholst V JFHQ
Joseph Rutski NVARNG Med Det
Benjamin Pagni NVARNG Rec/Ret
Mike Getten 106th PAD

SGT/SSgt

Linda Gutierrez 152nd Intel Sqdn
Guillermo Abregoolmedo 100th Quartermaster Co
Ismael Diva III 100th Quartermaster Co
Jacob Gimmestad 100th Quartermaster Co
Albina Karimova 100th Quartermaster Co
Thomas Marquez 100th Quartermaster Co
Randy Sullivan 100th Quartermaster Co
Emerson Marcus 106th PAD
Miguel Corzo 137th MP Det
Mark Cunningham 137th MP Det
Maribel Ayala 150th Maint Co
Maribel Ayala 150th Maint Co
Oscar Smith 150th Maint Co
Rory Townley 150th Maint Co
Bruce Walker Jr 150th Maint Co
Anthony Whitley 150th Maint Co
Karissa Phillips HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Kevin Reed HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Jennifer Walton HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Jennifer Walton HHC, 17th Sust Bde
Patrick Duffy 240th Engineer Co
Nathan Owens 240th Engineer Co
Michael Silveria B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Adam Brayton 609th Engineer Co
Melissa Poff 72nd MP Co
Monica Marks 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Truman Marlowe Jr 777th Forward Spt Co
Daniel Ransom 777th Forward Spt Co
Reem Hassan 150th Maint Co
Darlene Smokey 150th Maint Co
Roumel Arrozal HHT, 1/221st Cav

CPL

Blaire Pickett NVARNG Rec/Ret



ACCESSIONS

Jessy Arellano 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Jacob Roseberry 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Trevor Brown 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Kenneth Kincaid 1/168th MEDEVAC
 James Paragas 100th Quartermaster Co
 Arin Arjani 100th Quartermaster Co
 Mayra Meza 100th Quartermaster Co
 Rainier Navarro 100th Quartermaster Co
 Theresa Pittman 100th Quartermaster Co
 Gregory McKinley 100th Quartermaster Co
 Dawn Stokes 100th Quartermaster Co
 Ashley White 100th Quartermaster Co
 Simone Kennedy 100th Quartermaster Co
 Cornelia Hodges 100th Quartermaster Co
 Kealakai Pena 100th Quartermaster Co
 Atavia Jackson 100th Quartermaster Co
 Rainier Frost 137th MP Det
 Cory Phillips 137th MP Det
 Joshua Burns 137th MP Det
 Joy Cooper 137th MP Det
 Jazmyn Ennis 137th MP Det
 Isaac Garcia 150th Maint Co
 Matthew Lagrone 150th Maint Co
 Brian Huskey 150th Maint Co
 Irwin Coratibo 150th Maint Co
 Si Thuy Luong 150th Maint Co
 Demarge Boyd 150th Maint Co
 Miranda Broadway 150th Maint Co
 Shaela Salangdron 150th Maint Co
 Colby Hover 17th Special Troops Bn
 Jason Aragon 17th Special Troops Bn
 Kalena Pelekai 17th Special Troops Bn
 Sara Cushman 17th Special Troops Bn
 Michael Russell 17th Special Troops Bn
 Damon Blakeman 17th Special Troops Bn
 Victoria Gonzalez 17th Special Troops Bn
 Patricia Mendoza 1864th Trans Co
 Scott Harris 1864th Trans Co
 Romanus McDavid 1864th Trans Co
 Brandon Kaahanui 1864th Trans Co
 Laura Tomas 1864th Trans Co
 Nathanael Dardon 240th Engineer Co
 Cristopher Castillo 240th Engineer Co
 Rodriguez Colon 240th Engineer Co
 Marcus Sanders 240th Engineer Co
 Jeremy Cunningham 485th MP Co
 Jamison White 485th MP Co
 Dalyn Jacobus 485th MP Co
 Daniel Acuna 485th MP Co
 Eduardo Reyes 593rd Trans Co
 Michael Messer 593rd Trans Co
 Toshio Hartman 593rd Trans Co
 Thomas McFarland 609th Engineer Co
 Eric Harrison 72nd MP Co
 Ryan Monterotokuhisa 72nd MP Co
 Derek Valentine 72nd MP Co
 Alyssia Battle 72nd MP Co
 Adam Ferman 72nd MP Co
 Dylan Smith 72nd MP Co
 Brayan Lopez 72nd MP Co
 Ryan Van 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

Juan Sanchez-Juarez 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Marco Hernandez-Barrera 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Daniel Decoite 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Levi Tackett 777th Engineer Det
 Craig Philo 777th Forward Spt Co
 Maury Anderson 777th Forward Spt Co
 Latifah Branch 777th Forward Spt Co
 Gregory Molina 777th Forward Spt Co
 Michael McCallum B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Jessica Berry B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Devin Davis B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Juan Carrillo B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Jeremy Trader B Co, 3/140th Aviation
 Tyler Chambers B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Colton Shaner B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Shawn Wilson B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Anthony Sequeira B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Robert Stenson C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Chaz Rapp C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Noah Ware C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Blake Doliboa C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Landre Torado C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Victoria Funderburk C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Jason Bang C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Jamey Gooch C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Felicia Booth C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Jeff Sison C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Kendra Aber C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 Richard Taylor C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 John Poland D Co., 3/140th MEDEVAC
 Michael Knight D Co., 3/140th MEDEVAC
 Duane Kennard Det 45, Operational Spt Airlift
 Amanda Rush HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Michael Sevilla HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Benjamin Barbeau HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Christopher Lapping HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Lionel Vincent HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Janette Mejia HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Belen Ramirez HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
 Zane Rodriguez-Bitton HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
 Lyzelann Fernandez HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
 Aaron Janushan HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Evanjoche Javier HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Joshua Bigham HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Ronnel Cayabyab HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Anthony Johnson HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Branton Ward HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Kevin Torres I Troop, 1/221st Cav
 John Ross I Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Adam Borden I Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Robert Green JFHQ
 Corey Hawk K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Allen Clodfelter K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Dontae Newman K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Marcus Bruck K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Garrett Hegland K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Michael Renfro K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Alan Kindangen L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Marco Covarrubias L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Christopher Blakely L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Charles Ketcham L Troop, 1/221st Cav

Douglas Gardner L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Brandon Mamola L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Logan Service L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Kenneth Landay L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Ryan Magera L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Darian Parker NVARNG Rec/Ret
 James Burkhalter NVARNG Rec/Ret
 Blaire Pickett NVARNG Rec/Ret
 Mikhail Arnold NVARNG Rec/Ret
 Tyler Holdren 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Steven Adkins 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 Dejon Williams 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 Sandelle Mancilla 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 Cody Rigney 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 D'ana West 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Delvin Kennedy 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Brian Boyer 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Michael Sacci 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Megan Alford 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
 Rebecca Barber 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
 Robert Tepner 152nd Intel Sqdn
 Kyle Giboney 152nd Intel Sqdn
 Jeffrey Anderson 152nd Intel Sqdn
 Eric Dieffenbach 152nd Intel Sqdn
 Thomas Siler 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Travis Schroeder 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Emili Conway-Striggow 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Roddrick Reed II 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Jennifer Metrovich 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Daniel Bodecker 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Stephanie Carlquist 152nd Medical Grp
 Stacey Bannister 152nd Medical Grp
 Amanda Lindsey 152nd Medical Grp
 David Burbridge 152nd Medical Grp
 Riley Givani 152nd Medical Grp
 Jaime Miller 152nd Medical Grp
 Robert Huseby 152nd Operations Spt Fit
 Eric Smith 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Jonathan Van Engen 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Andrew Victor 192nd Airlift Sqdn

RETIREMENTS

SFC Oswald Brown L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 SPC Clifford Cardenas C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 SSG Aaron Castro 593rd Trans Co
 SFC Terrell Evans HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 SFC John George 777th Forward Spt Co
 SGT Richard Gessick 150th Maint Co
 SGT Ronald King 777th Forward Spt Co
 SFC Dwayne Lee 17th Special Troops Bn
 SFC Wade Mendenhall NVARNG Rec/Ret
 CW4 Charles Powell JFHQ
 MSgt Robert Shofner 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSG James Strange Jr C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 COL Craig Wroblewski JFHQ