

Battle Born



Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard – Autumn 2013



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Gonzales, Keithley bid farewell
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Guardsmen headline
Wolf Pack halftime show
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Brigadier General Bill Burks
The Adjutant General
Nevada National Guard

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Autumn 2013

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On the Cover: From left, Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley, Gov. Brian Sandoval and Brig. Gen. Francis Gonzales review Nevada Army Guard Soldiers on Sept. 7 in Reno. Sept. 7 marked the retirement date of both Gonzales and Keithley. Photo: Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, Commander, Nevada Army Guard



Readiness, education top Army Guard commander's priorities

Thank you to all the Soldiers, Airmen and other attendees who gave me such a warm welcome during the change of command and retirement ceremony in September. Everyone spent a great deal of time preparing for the event, and you definitely shined.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales and Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley provided strong leadership for Nevada Soldiers for many years and ended their careers in style and with dignity. Everyone in attendance contributed to the memorable ceremony. Well done!

Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Anderson, Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki and I look forward to serving the state as your new leadership team. I am humbled and honored that Gov. Brian Sandoval and Brig. Gens. Bill Burks and Frank Gonzales chose me to become the commander of the Nevada Army Guard. Rest assured the senior leaders will put our hearts and souls into ensuring that the Nevada Guard remains a strong, relevant force ready to respond to domestic emergencies and federal contingencies.

As resources become increasingly scarce, the Nevada Army Guard will prioritize specific

areas in order to maintain our superior support of the state and nation:

• **Personnel and Medical Readiness.** Readiness is important both at the individual level and the unit and state level. Everyone must complete their periodic health assessments and birth month reviews in order to maintain individual readiness.

Everyone also needs to submit their updates for personnel security clearances on time to avoid any clearance lapses. We must continue to prioritize retention and keep our great Soldiers until they can retire, while we also recruit quality individuals to continually refresh our ranks. We must ensure our new recruits are trained and prepared to succeed in their initial training.

• **Education.** All Soldiers must be qualified for their positions and have the necessary training to advance. Don't procrastinate! Register now for the training you need. Work with your training noncommissioned officer to acquire your requisite courses. Professional development is critical. Self-improvement can be accomplished by reading publications such as military journals, military history, cultural

awareness books and military periodicals. Strive to complete an undergraduate or advanced degree. Review your ultimate military goals and consider becoming a warrant or commissioned officer.

• **Equipment Readiness.** I expect the Nevada Army Guard will pass its Command Logistics Review Team inspection in January with flying colors. Proper maintenance of equipment, including preventive maintenance checks and services, is the way to achieve an outstanding result for that inspection. Supply and maintenance personnel must maintain a pinpoint focus on equipment readiness and supply issues for the next few months to ensure success.

• **Resource Management.** As budgets shrink, we must effectively and efficiently spend our limited funds. It's likely there will be an increase of annual training at training areas within the state at locations such as Nellis Air Force Base, Fallon, Carlin and Hawthorne or nearby training bases such as the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center and the National Training Center. Travel and the proper force size for training and conferences will be scrutinized. We cannot afford to have Soldiers attend training only to fail because of weight, a physical fitness failure, or a failure to meet course prerequisites. Be thrifty and frugal so we will have sufficient funding throughout the year.

Always do the right thing and remain prepared. Success lies at the intersection of opportunity and preparation. Doing the right thing means doing what you know is right. Don't compromise your own principles or character or the Army standards of conduct by doing something morally or ethically questionable. The best Soldiers in the Army are in the Nevada National Guard, and we need to meet our commitments.

I am honored to serve the Soldiers of our great state in my new role. I am determined to visit each respective unit and spend time with Nevada's high-speed Soldiers conducting unparalleled training. Drive on and give 100 percent effort, and I promise my leadership team and I will do the same. ■

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CHANGE OF COMMAND

Hanifan new Army commander in changing Guard environment

By Sgt. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – Unprecedented growth and continuous deployments highlighted Maj. Gen. Frank Gonzales' stint commanding the Nevada Army National Guard since 2006, which ended Sept. 7. Gonzales' retirement coincided with the assumption of command of the Army Guard by Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan in a change of command ceremony here at the Army Aviation Support Facility.

At the same time, Command Sgt. Major Jared Kopacki became the state sergeant major upon the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley.

The job of leading the Nevada Army Guard through its new era – with likely fewer deployments and reduced funding – promises to be a difficult task for the Fallon native in a changing global military environment.

"It will definitely be a challenging time to lead the Guard, but I know our leaders are up to that challenge," Hanifan said.

Gonzales' legacy

After Gonzales succeeded Brig. Gen. Randall Sayre in 2006, he managed the Army Guard during a period of unprecedented growth and non-stop deployments as the National Guard continued to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in the wake of 9/11.

Gonzales even saw his daughter, pilot Capt. Kandace Gonzales of the 1/168th MEDEVAC unit, deploy to Afghanistan in April.

The number of Nevada Army Guard personnel jumped 26 percent from 2,475 to 3,155 Soldiers between 2006 and 2013. During Gonzales' tenure, four major facilities, the North Las Vegas Readiness Center, the Elko County Readiness Center, the Las Vegas Field Maintenance Shop and the Operational Support Airlift building, were completed.

"I took over the Guard during the most turbulent time in history, fighting two wars and expanding the Guard in a restrictive environment during the drawdown, which will probably lead to a reduction in missions overseas," Gonzales said. "Brig. Gen. Hanifan

is going to have his hands full managing the new environment."

Hanifan's outlook

With few units deployed, Hanifan said that educating Soldiers by hosting military occupation specialty courses and other qualification courses will become a priority. Hanifan will also explore alternative training options, such as training with Army Reserve units.

"We will have to train smarter with less money and do more training in the state," Hanifan said.

Guard units have trained with Army Reserve units in the past, for example, during the 2008 Vigilant Guard statewide earthquake preparedness exercise

Fallon family

Jack Hanifan, brother of Michael Hanifan, said their family was similar to the Cleavers in the 1950s sitcom "Leave it to Beaver."

"Our parents were always there for us (four siblings)," said Jack Hanifan, a Reno attorney. "It was the 'Leave it to Beaver' household in the sense that they were always supportive of our endeavors."

As a child, the recently promoted brigadier general was a cerebral bookworm who rarely got nervous, Jack Hanifan recalled.

Sister Kieran Kalt also remembered brother Michael as a voracious reader.

"He was an avid reader," she said. "He would read and get the newspaper everyday and go to the bus driver and read her the newspaper and come home and read the Bible."

When it came time for college, Hanifan's father John suggested the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Michael received a West Point appointment and graduated in 1986 with a degree in physics.

During the change of command ceremony, Hanifan mentioned his father, who died last year. John served in the early 1960s as a first lieutenant in the Nevada Guard and was a commander in an artillery and transportation unit in Fallon.

"My only regret is my father is not here for



Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment
Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, left, passes the state guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki during a change of command ceremony on Sept. 7. The leadership team of Hanifan and Kopacki succeeded Maj. Gen. Frank Gonzales and Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley. The passing of the guidon recognized the assumption of command by the new commanding general.

this event. He was a terrific patriot," Hanifan said in front of more than 1,000 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers in formation for the ceremony. "He was influential in getting me to enroll at West Point. Dad, I know you're with us in spirit."

After graduation, Michael Hanifan served on active duty for 10 years as a military intelligence officer. He left active duty in 1996 to begin work as an engineer at Bently Nevada in Minden.

Hanifan joined the Nevada Army Guard in 1998 and reached the position of deputy commander before his promotion to commander of the Nevada Army Guard.

During the change of command ceremony, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval mentioned Hanifan's extensive résumé as proof he is ready to lead, but he also did not downplay the challenging task at hand.

"Some of the challenges and opportunities you will face will be related to the changing mission of the United States military and the National Guard as two wars come to a close," Sandoval said. "Based on your own service and remarkable career, I know you will take this vital responsibility to heart." ■



GUEST COLUMN

Col. Rodger Waters,
991st Troop
Command



Army aviation derives strength from diversity

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s enduring "I Have a Dream" speech was delivered 100 years after President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Though separated by a century, both resonate with the ideals of interpersonal responsibility and diversification through equality.

The word diversity is from Latin and means "a point of difference." However, there is a deeper, more encompassing meaning of the word. Diversity also involves acceptance and respect and ensures organizational strength through inclusion.

Diversity entails more than race, skin color, gender or sexual orientation. These are just a few of the differences individuals may have in their background; there are other innumerable differences in experiences, understanding and opinion. Inclusion of these and infinite other elements develops strength in an organization.

The Nevada Army National Guard aviation program clearly benefits from its diversity. The complex, high-risk nature of Army aviation operations requires diverse thought. Diversification of thought is essential to achieve the goal of creating the best possible aviation units in the Army. Through diversity, we attract exceptional Soldiers and nurture their development. With individuals who have diverse backgrounds in our organization, we ensure a broad perspective of thought and, hence, a much better product for our customers.

The National Guard is naturally diverse. Diversity from the military's Citizen-Soldier strengthens the entire Department of Defense just as it does the Nevada Army Guard's aviation program. Consider what someone who pilots a civilian emergency medical services helicopter or is an aircraft mechanic

Continued on page 24

Nevada Guard celebrates its diversity

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

CARSON CITY – The Nevada National Guard celebrated the diversity of its Soldiers and Airmen at the Office of the Adjutant General here on Sept. 27. Cultural displays and presentations combined with sampling of traditional foods from around the world contributed to the success of the Diversity Day event.

Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks stressed the importance of diversity in the National Guard.

"Only 25 percent of the general population meets the requirements for eligibility to join the military," Burks said. "We want to ensure the Guard is diverse enough to attract all of that 25 percent."

The celebration began with a Native American blessing and spiritual dance followed by Basque dancers in full traditional dress. Drummers beating Taiko drums – a Japanese drum used to motivate Japanese troops and set a marching pace – then filled the drill hall floor with their beat midway through the event.

Displays featured information on cultures, groups and regions including Native Americans, Asian Americans, Germans, Basques, the Irish, Italians, Cajuns, African Americans, Greeks, Mexicans and Pacific Islanders. Other booths focused on disability and gender awareness.

Continued on page 24



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

The Eagle Wing Spiritual Dancers entertain with a traditional Native American basket dance during Diversity Day on September 27 at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City.

Unguarded passion:

Bledsaws 1st Nevada Guard same-sex couple enrolled for spousal benefits

By Brad Bynum, Reno News and Review

RENO – One afternoon in May, Tech. Sgt. Kim Bledsaw of the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron was at a Port of Subs shop, buying a sandwich. Her phone signaled that she'd received a private message on Facebook. The message was from Deena McDevitt, an acquaintance she'd known for a few years and liked, but didn't know very well.

The message said something to the effect of, "Hey, I heard you're going through some stuff. If you ever need somebody to talk to, give me a call."

Bledsaw had recently ended a relationship and was touched by the friendly gesture. Bledsaw rode her motorcycle home, and before even digging into her sandwich, called McDevitt.

"This was at 4 o'clock in the afternoon," Bledsaw said. "I didn't eat my sandwich until almost 11. But you know what? It was a conversation you didn't want to stop."

They started talking, and before either one knew what had happened, hours had gone by. Two months later, Bledsaw and McDevitt were married in Auburn, Calif., where same-sex marriage, per a then-recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, is now legal. As part of their marriage, Deena took Bledsaw's last name.

And now, Deena is one of the first Nevada spouses in a same-sex marriage to receive benefits from the U.S. military. Both Deena and her teenage daughter, Cheyenne, receive medical, dental and vision coverage via Kim's employment as a federal military technician conditional to her membership in the Nevada Air Guard.

On the home front

It's a strange situation: Same-sex marriages are still not recognized by the state of Nevada. But, after the U.S. Supreme Court decision this spring struck down Congress's Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, the federal government, including the military, recognizes same-sex marriages performed in states



Tech. Sgt. Kim Bledsaw, left, and Deena Bledsaw are among the first Nevada same-sex married couples to receive benefits from the U.S. military. Both Deena and her teenage daughter, Cheyenne, receive medical, dental and vision coverage via Kim's employment as a federal military technician conditional to her membership in the Nevada Air Guard. Photo courtesy Allison Young, Allison Young Photography

where such unions are legal per state law. The Department of Defense announced in August that it would offer benefits to the same-sex spouses of military personnel.

The Bledsaws were the first same-sex couple to sign up for military spousal benefits at a Nevada Guard personnel office. (It's possible other couples have signed up for benefits online.)

The Bledsaws said their marriage was going forward regardless of the Supreme Court decision.

"It made it even more special for us," Kim said. "This is something that I never thought I would see in my military career. For it to happen while I'm still in is very exciting for me. It's just going to be even better for those who are younger than me. I'm just glad I got the opportunity to experience it."

Kim has 24 years of military experience. Originally from Sacramento, Calif., Kim enlisted in the Army in December 1988, when she was 21. She was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, and then deployed to Saudi Arabia in October 1990 during Operation Desert Shield and then to Iraq during Desert Storm. She was deployed there for seven months.

She left active duty Army in December 1991 and joined the reserves. In 1994, she enlisted in the Air Force Reserves in Sacramento where she served as a vehicle operator. In 1997, she moved to Reno and enlisted with the Nevada Air National Guard. She started as a vehicle operator and worked her way up to

supervisor. She's currently a full-time federal technician in civil engineering and deployed to Iraq in August 2005.

Now, in addition to her full-time position at the base, she also attends Truckee Meadows Community College and studies criminal justice. She received her associate degree in general studies earlier this year.

Deena, a hair stylist, moved to Truckee Meadows from San Francisco during high school. She graduated from Reed High School, class of 1987.

She doesn't look old enough to be a grandmother. She was married twice before, to men, when she was young.

"Obviously, it didn't work out," she said with a laugh. She also had a decade-plus relationship with another woman. But her romance with Kim surprised her as much as anyone.

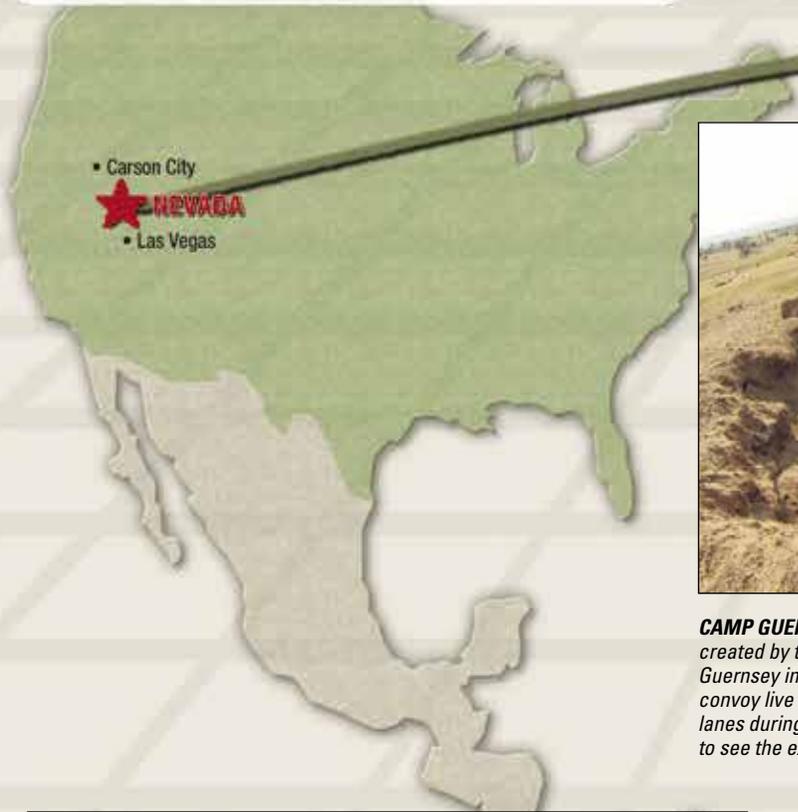
"I swore after my divorce I was never getting married again, ever," Deena said. "I didn't care who it was, I wasn't doing it. I was just done. I said, 'I'll live in sin, whatever.' I don't want to be married, because it's a huge commitment. But when she asked, it was so sweet and so romantic. It couldn't have been better."

On the military front

"I've gotten nothing but support from my friends at the base, even from the commanders I've had," Kim said. "I've never gotten any negativity."

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DROP ZONE



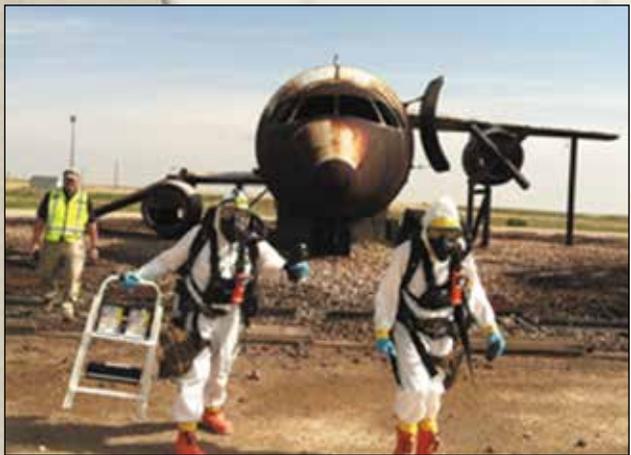
Courtesy 609th Engineer Company

CAMP GUERNSEY, Wyo. – Soldiers in the 609th Engineer Company explore the crater created by the largest charge exploded in unit history during annual training at Camp Guernsey in July. The Sappers conducted training in numerous military tasks, including convoy live fire, field expedient explosive charges and improvised explosive device lanes during their time in southeastern Wyoming. For a wrap-up of annual training and to see the explosion that created the crater, turn to page 20.



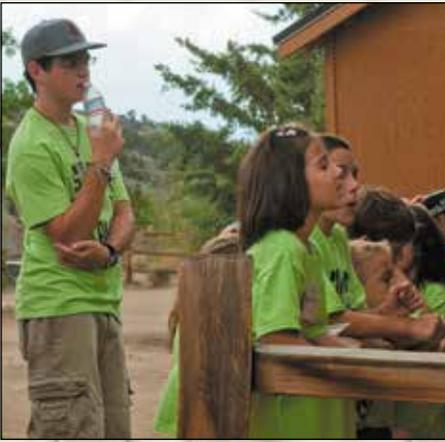
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CORONADO, Calif. – Master Sgt. Shara Izzo, left, helps Lt. Col. Scott Baker don an inflatable life preserver in advance of water survival training at North Island Naval Air Station near San Diego, Calif., in August. About 100 Airmen in the 152nd Airlift Wing's Operations Group completed their requisite aircrew intelligence and water survival this summer. For more on the group's water survival training, turn to page 12.



Courtesy 92nd Civil Support Team

DENVER, Colo. – Soldiers and Airmen from the Nevada Guard's 92nd Civil Support Team complete a threat analysis of simulated tornado damage at Denver International Airport in August. Headquartered in Las Vegas, the 92nd Civil Support Team traveled to the Centennial State to support the Colorado National Guard during Vigilant Guard 2013, a national level exercise. Participants in the exercise included the Utah Homeland Response Force, three chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive enhanced response force packages (including Nevada's CERFP) and six civil support teams. The catastrophe-response exercise featured a simulated tornado and wildland fire.



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters

RENO – Andrew Davis, left, a Nevada Guard Family Programs Office summer camp counselor, watches a presentation with his charge of seven campers during a tour of the Animal Ark wildlife shelter in June. For more on the Nevada Guard's highly successful camping season, turn to page 22.

Iraq Iran Afghanistan

Kuwait



Courtesy C Company, 1/168th Aviation

FARAH, Afghanistan – The Soldiers in C Company, 1/168th Aviation (MEDEVAC), find time between missions for a group photo. The Soldiers have been in Afghanistan for more than six months now with no serious injuries reported, and they are glad to have the summer heat behind them. The unit is set to return to Nevada in late winter. For more on C Company, turn to page 27.



CARSON CITY – Nevada Guard and civilian athletes run down Saliman Road on Sept. 6 while participating in a memorial 5-kilometer run to commemorate the victims of the 2011 shooting at the capital city's IHOP restaurant. It's been two years since Nevada Army Guard Soldiers Lt. Col. Heath Kelly, Master Sgt. Christian Riege and Sgt. 1st Class Miranda McElhiney became innocent victims of Eduardo Sencion's rampage.

Courtesy Shannon Litz, Nevada Appeal



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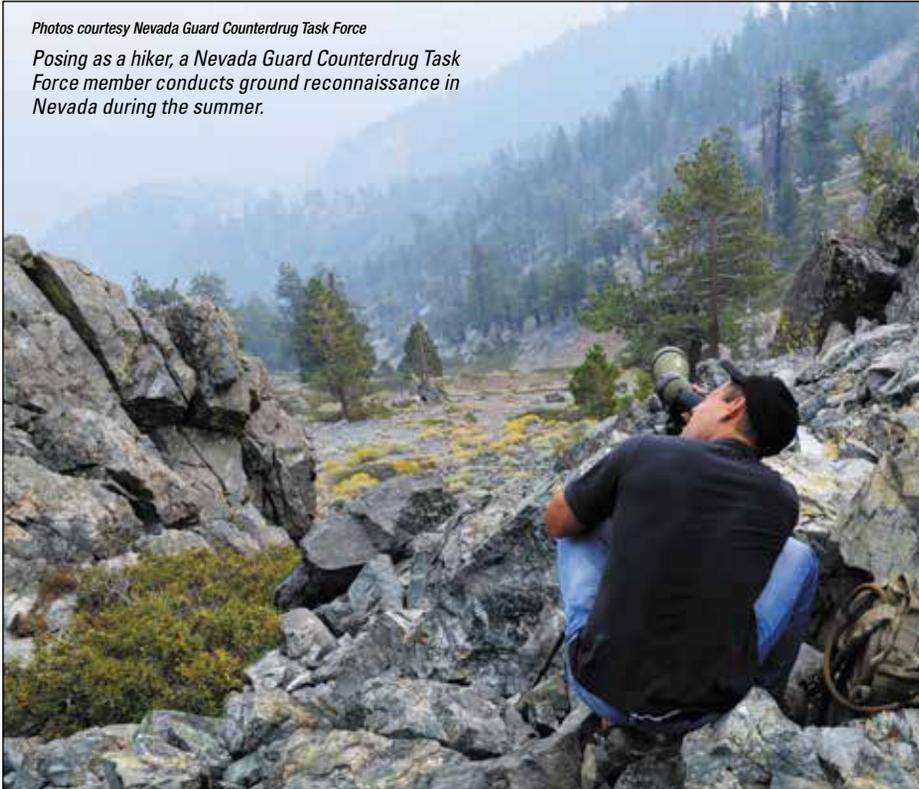
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COUNTERDRUG TASK FORCE:

lean, diverse and versatile

Photos courtesy Nevada Guard Counterdrug Task Force

Posing as a hiker, a Nevada Guard Counterdrug Task Force member conducts ground reconnaissance in Nevada during the summer.



*By Sgt. Philip Chrystal,
Nevada Counterdrug Task Force*

RENO – Despite a decrease in the number of Guardsmen on its staff, the Nevada Guard’s Counterdrug Task Force is as busy as ever conducting a wide range of drug interdiction and prevention missions.

Prior to 2011, the task force had more than 50 personnel. Due to significant decreases in subsequent budgets, however, the program now has just nine full-time Soldiers and Airmen.

“The task force has completely changed since 2011. Flexibility and teamwork have become increasingly critical as our budget and staff have decreased,” said Nevada Guard counterdrug coordinator Lt. Col. Brian Thayer.

Before 2011, aerial reconnaissance dominated counterdrug missions. With fewer full-time Soldiers and Airmen, however, the program shifted the focus of its operations. It now features an intelligence technical support section that includes linguist and communications support, an investigative case and analyst section, and ground reconnaissance.

The linguist support mission provides professional translation of languages and dialects

in criminal investigations. Since the section was established in May, the section’s staff have screened more than 80 hours of Spanish communications.

The ground reconnaissance capability of the task force expanded recently, which improved the Nevada Guard’s ability to support law enforcement agencies with urban and rural reconnaissance. This year, Nevada Guard personnel attended the Ground Reconnaissance Phase 1 course conducted at the Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno with students from Colorado, New Mexico and Puerto Rico. Counterdrug Soldiers and Airmen then completed the second phase of the course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington in September, doubling the number of fully trained ground reconnaissance personnel in the task force.

“Since the increase in the ground reconnaissance capability, Nevada Counterdrug has expanded its support from a single task force in the state to regular support of several federal law enforcement agencies,” said Thayer.

Every counterdrug mission directly supports law enforcement agencies and community-based organizations.

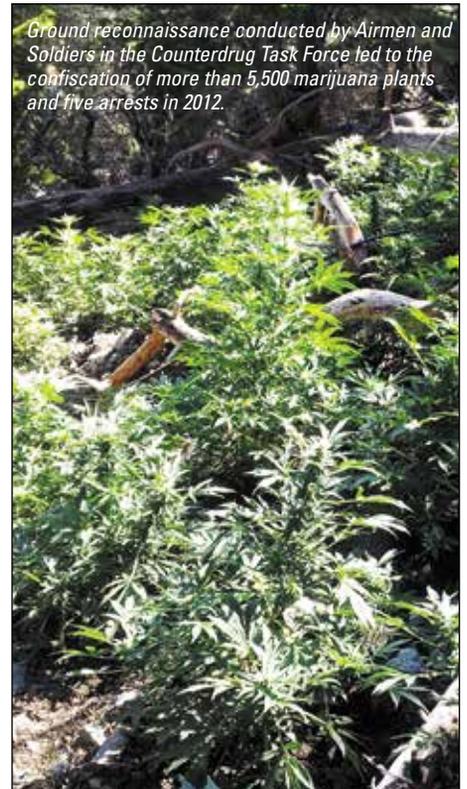
“Our funding is specifically directed by U.S. code to support counterdrug or counter-narcotics efforts within our communities,” Thayer said. “Although our regulations allow us to support efforts to reduce the demand for illegal narcotics, our current focus is to support law enforcement agencies to reduce the supply of illegal drugs.”

In addition to counterdrug operations, the Nevada Counterdrug Task Force also conducts training. Earlier this year, counterdrug personnel trained law enforcement officials in southern Nevada in land navigation, basic first aid and ground reconnaissance techniques.

From October 2012 through June 2013, the Nevada Counterdrug Task Force was directly involved in the seizure of more than 37 pounds of methamphetamines, 10 pounds of cocaine, 306 pounds of other drugs, 15 weapons, four vehicles and more than \$100,000 in cash. Counterdrug efforts also led to the arrest of 67 individuals during those nine months.

Although the counterdrug budget for 2014 promises to remain constrained, the nine-person task force will continue to provide vital anti-drug support for law enforcement and community-based organizations. ■

Ground reconnaissance conducted by Airmen and Soldiers in the Counterdrug Task Force led to the confiscation of more than 5,500 marijuana plants and five arrests in 2012.





Master Sgt. Shara Izzo, left, helps Lt. Col. Scott Baker don an inflatable life preserver in advance of water survival training at North Island Naval Air Station near San Diego, Calif., in August.

152nd Operations Group survives water training in California



Maj. Jason Little tries out his single-man life raft during water survival training at North Island Naval Air Station, Calif., in August.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

NORTH ISLAND NAVAL AIR STATION, Calif.

– Thrown into the proverbial deep end during a variety of water-training scenarios, about 100 Airmen in the 152nd Airlift Wing's Operations Group completed their requisite aircrew intelligence and water survival here in August.

Pilots, navigators, engineers and loadmasters were the majority of the participants in the training that must be successfully completed every three years. The participants traveled to California via two 152nd Airlift Wing C-130 Hercules aircraft.

"This training allows our aircrews to acquire the skill sets they need to survive in an emergency situation, whether they are out in the ocean or aboard a downed aircraft," said aircrew flight equipment superintendent Chief Master Sgt. Kelly Cavins.

Aircrew flight equipment personnel set up four stations to conduct the training. The scenarios included a parachute drag release, a single-man life raft station, a parachute maneuver station and a 20-man life raft station.

The parachute drag release station simulated the moments an aircrew member experiences after landing in water with a parachute. The training entailed life preserver inflation and quick parachute release despite high winds.

The single-man life raft station tested an Airman's ability to enter a life raft without tearing it and become familiar with the raft's supplies.

The third station forced Airmen to maneuver under a parachute while in water. To survive the potential situation of being submerged under a parachute, Airmen practiced finding air pockets and avoiding entanglements in parachute lines.

The fourth station involved the 20-man life raft. The group's Airmen practiced boarding the large life raft without puncturing it and learned about its store of supplies and how to properly care for the raft.

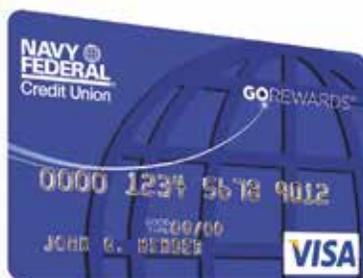
The operations group commander, Col. Kyle Reid, said the training was beneficial and relevant. He was among the group's Airmen who had previously completed intelligence and water survival training in 2010.

"You can't get training like this on base in Reno, so we're excited. I enjoy it a lot," Reid said. "It's great. Hopefully, we can continue to do this." ■



Lt. Col. Scott Baker completes the parachute drag release station during water survival training at North Island Naval Air Station, Calif., in August. The pilot, navigators, engineers and loadmasters in the 152nd Airlift Wing's Operations Group completed their requisite aircrew intelligence and water survival during the training on the California coast.

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Led by 92nd Civil Support Team members Sgt. Anthony Sarmiento, center, and Sgt. Jessica Menedez, left, a hazardous materials survey crew prepares to enter the base lodge at Diamond Peak Ski Resort in Incline Village on Aug. 15 during a simulated potential terrorist incident. Headquartered in Las Vegas, the 92nd Civil Support Team was in northern Nevada to conduct its annual Summer Breeze training.

Exercises a summer breeze for **92ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM**

*Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

INCLINE VILLAGE – Participation in two northern Nevada hazardous material exercises in just three days in August proved to be a Summer Breeze for the Nevada Guard’s 92nd Civil Support Team.

Exercises at the Diamond Peak Ski Resort and the Reno Livestock Events Center made up the civil support team’s Summer Breeze training and gave the Las Vegas-based unit an opportunity to work with first responders from several northern Nevada agencies. The 92nd has conducted an annual Summer

Breeze training session with northern Nevada emergency response organizations since 2010.

The Nevada Guard’s 92nd Civil Support Team includes 22 full-time Soldiers and Airmen who are specifically trained to assist first responders during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or enhanced improvised explosive events. There are currently 57 full-time, federally funded National Guard civil support teams supporting civil authorities across the nation.

Maj. Brett Compston, the 92nd’s deputy commander, said establishing effective communications between the various emergency

response organizations was a priority during Summer Breeze. He noted civil support teams usually receive their direction from a civilian incident commander.

“The whole focus of the exercises was to improve interagency coordination,” Compston said. “The exercises allow us to increase our ability to interact with other agencies and get on the same page on important details such as radio frequencies.”

After working with the Triad Haz-Mat team that includes the Sparks and Reno fire departments and the Truckee Meadows Fire protection district on Aug. 13, the team

responded at the request of the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District to a simulated hazardous materials incident at the Diamond Peak Ski Resort's base lodge on Aug. 15. In the simulated scenario, an unknown agent had killed four people and injured 14 during a conference at the usually tranquil ski resort on the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

Other first responders to the incident included the Placer County Haz-Mat team, the Tahoe-Douglas Bomb Squad, the 9th Civil Support Team from California and the Washoe County Consolidated Bomb Squad.

A survey team including the 92nd's Sgt. Anthony Sarmiento and Sgt. Jessica Menezes was the first to investigate the situation inside the lodge. They subsequently discovered and identified simulated hazardous materials and potential terrorist devices to be disarmed by the collective agencies.

At the end of the exercise, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District officials reiterated the importance of exercises such as Summer Breeze to solidify communications and relationships between Nevada's first responders.

"Collaborating and working with our cooperating emergency responders on regional exercises is always beneficial for all involved," said Tia Rancourt, the public education officer for the NLTFPD. "It offers an opportunity to practice communication tactics, incident management protocols, operations strategies and – most importantly – put a face to a name."

For its 2014 Summer Breeze training, the 92nd Civil Support Team is set to work with first responders from Carson City and Storey, Douglas and Lyon counties. ■



An improvised explosive device-detection robot traverses the stairs in the Diamond Peak Ski Resort lodge in search of simulated bombs during the Summer Breeze exercise in August.

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Gaggle of geese gathered, given Gerlach home

By Capt. Jason Yuhasz, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

STATELINE – Just like tourists, geese flock to Lake Tahoe.

But unlike a large number of tourists, large numbers of Canada Geese are not a welcome sight on the eastern shore of the nation's largest alpine lake, especially to Nevada's aviators. The large birds, which each weigh about 12-14 pounds, pose a serious threat for wildlife strikes by aircraft approaching and departing the co-located Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno and the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

In order to decrease the threat of bird strikes, Nevada Guard and Reno-Tahoe International Airport officials recently worked with

U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services staff to transplant more than 200 Canada Geese from Lake Tahoe to wildlife refuges near Gerlach. The project was partially funded by both the National Guard Bureau's Safety Center and the Reno/Tahoe Airport Authority.

Lts. Aaron Christensen and Kyle Carraher and Capt. Erik Brown assisted the USDA with the roundup of geese this year. The geese were collected by hand, placed into ventilated containers and then transported to the relatively remote Gerlach area, more than 100 miles north of Reno.



Courtesy 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 200 Canada Geese were relocated from Lake Tahoe to Gerlach this fall to reduce the threat of a wildlife strike by aircraft approaching and departing the co-located Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno and the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.



Also, the USDA specialist evaluated the Reno-Tahoe airport and analyzed the potential for bird strikes at the facility. The specialist then made recommendations to reduce the number of large birds – and potential bird strikes – in the area.

Aircraft vs. bird strikes occur more often than most people realize. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there were nearly 12,600 collisions between wildlife and civilian and military aircraft in 2008. The collisions between civilian and military aircraft and wildlife that year resulted in more than \$625 million in damages. ■

BAM and BASH systems help aviators avoid avians

By Capt. Jason Yuhasz, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – Usually the mention of a BAM or a BASH in the aviation community equates to bad news.

In the world of military aviators, however, BAM and BASH are helpful tools that decrease the chances of a tragic bam, bash or crash. The BAM (Bird Avoidance Model) and BASH (Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard) prevention program help military aviators decrease their chances for an in-flight bird strike.

The Air Force developed the BAM model using geographic information system technology to analyze bird habitat, migration, and breeding characteristics along with key environmental and man-made geospatial data. The information provided by the model helps aviators plan safe flying routes. The Air

Force also uses its weather radar to track the movement of birds.

Airmen in the 192nd Airlift Squadron have expanded on the BAM model and added a new resource, Google Earth, when planning their routes. Through the efforts of Maj. Evan Kirkwood, Maj. Kristoffer Pfalmer, Capt. Erik Brown and others, 192nd aviators can see bird strike data on a Google Earth map nearly instantaneously. The 192nd is one of the first squadrons in the nation to add this resource to its pre-flight planning arsenal.

Within five minutes of a data update, the change is reflected on a Google Earth map on a large-screen television in the operations building. This gives aviators an up-to-date view of bird activity in the area

of their flight just before departure.

The Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard prevention program is a Department of Defense initiative that aims to provide the safest flying conditions possible – sans avians. A team of Nevada Airmen work together to reduce the risk of bird and wildlife strikes through the Operational Risk Management process.

The BASH program involves interaction with the Air Guard's safety and air operations personnel, the pilots and aircrews. Habitat modifications and scaring birds away from the runways is an integral part of the answer, but understanding the behavior and movements of birds in relation to the airfield environment and military training routes is also a critical factor in reducing bird strikes. ■



Before Marines could complete their insertion of troops during Mountain Exercise 13 in September at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in California, they confirmed the intelligence surrounding the mission with Nevada Guard Master Sgt. Scott Jasper, an intel operations superintendent, inset.



NEVADA GUARD, MARINE CORPS ally at mountain warfare training center

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. – It was crucial for the 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, to overtake the simulated enemy holding Landing Zone Canary during the field portion of Mountain Exercise Five-13 here in September.

There was no room for error. The battalion needed to know how many Marines it needed to dedicate to seize the LZ and which approach route would keep their advance undetected.

That's when the Marines called the Nevada Air Guard.

After analyzing aerial imagery, geospatial analyst Master Sgt. Jason Barlow of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron was able to tell the Marine commander how many opposition forces to expect and which direction of approach would keep the Marines hidden.

Barlow and other Nevada Airmen are now regular participants in ongoing mountain warfare training exercises here, interacting with

all branches of the U.S. military as well as the United States' global allies. About 2-4 Airmen from the 152nd participated in the first five mountain warfare training exercises of 2013 to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support for the allied forces as they battled their mock opposition in field exercises designed to prepare troops for future real-world mountain warfare.

During the exercises, the Airmen worked around the clock generating intelligence products including maps, still imagery and video while confirming grid points and elevations for the participants.

"These exercises work well for everyone," said Barlow, 37, a Sparks resident and 16-year veteran of the Nevada Guard. "They give intel Airmen the opportunity to understand what the guys on the ground are doing and what intelligence they need. They also give the ground troops the chance to see the

capabilities of aerial intelligence to decide how they want to utilize intelligence assets."

Joining Barlow for the six-day Mountain Exercise 13 at the 52,000-acre training center located near Bridgeport, Calif., were Master Sgts. Scott Jasper, 44, an intel operations superintendent, and Jeff Best, 42, a geospatial analyst. Both reside in Reno.

All told, more than 600 U.S. Marines, Soldiers and Canadian infantrymen participated in the exercise.

Although the scenarios used in the mountain exercise were notional, the aerial images analyzed by the Airmen were real. Simulating the type of imagery usually collected by a Predator in combat, a crew in a civilian Cessna flew over the training center and transmitted the video to the Nevada Airmen located on the ground in the exercise's command and control tent.

Continued on page 19



Christina Uranga, market manager for vRide in Nevada, displays a new vRide vehicle at the company's Reno headquarters in August. The Nevada National Guard will have six vRide commuter van pools operating by the end of autumn.

Nevada Guard, vRide pool resources to decrease commute costs

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Brooks readily admits there was no in-depth economic algorithm or environmental report that finally prodded him to start the van pool system that now transports more than 40 Soldiers and Airmen between Stead, Reno, Fernley and Carson City on their daily commute.

Brooks said he was motivated solely by an underlying character weakness.

“I’m cheap,” he said.

Brooks’ personal frugality spurred him to establish a partnership on behalf of the Nevada Guard with the vRide company that is saving Soldiers and Airmen thousands of dollars each month while helping the environment by decreasing fuel consumption and emissions.

According to vRide market manager Christina Uranga, 43 Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen make round trips daily in vRide van pools each morning from Stead, Reno and Fernley to the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City. Assuming a round-trip

average of 60 miles for each commuter, the 43 individuals save a collective \$251.55 per day based on AAA of Nevada’s estimate for the cost of driving a vehicle per mile (58.5 cents).

An internal Nevada Guard report compiled in July estimates the program saved commuters \$16,506 in fuel costs and reduced commuters’ combined mileage by 114,629 miles from November 2012 – June 2013.

“The partnership between vRide and the Nevada Guard has expanded quickly and works out well for both parties,” Uranga said. “Guard commuters can save a lot of wear

and tear on their vehicles with no out-of-pocket expenses.”

The expenses for the van pool program are currently covered entirely by government subsidies. A Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission subsidy program combined with Department of Transportation commute-reimbursement vouchers for government employees compensates vRide for the cost of operating and maintaining the four vRide vans the Nevada Guard currently drives.

Brooks, a personnel services sergeant for the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, conceived the concept for the vRide reimbursement when he learned that many government employee commuter vouchers for Guardsmen were going unused each month. He contacted Sierra Army Depot official Colleen Mode, who had started a daily van pool from Reno to Herlong, Calif., for advice and then quickly worked with Uranga to set up the first Guard van pool in November.

The first Reno van pool had 12 riders traveling in one van. The program retains the Reno route and now has two Stead-to-Carson

“The partnership between vRide and the Nevada Guard has expanded quickly and works out well for both parties. Guard commuters can save a lot of wear and tear on their vehicles with no out-of-pocket expenses.”

– Christina Uranga

City vans and one Fernley-to-Carson City van. Two additional van pools are set to begin this fall, including an added pool from Stead and one from Gardnerville.

The vRide company retains ownership of the vehicles and is responsible for the insurance, maintenance, repairs and registration of the vans. Each commuting group volunteers a primary driver who is certified by vRide; alternate certified drivers are used when the primary driver is unavailable. The vans remain parked at the Office of the Adjutant General during the day and can only be used for commuting purposes.

vRide currently has 82 vehicles providing van pools daily across Nevada.

Uranga said the Las Vegas region remains an area with unlimited potential for Nevada Guard van pools. There are no Nevada Guard van pools currently set in southern Nevada but she said a Las Vegas to Creech Air Force Base van pool is a future possibility. For information on establishing a vRide van pool anywhere in Nevada, call Uranga at (775) 636-4028.

Although there are now no out-of-pocket expenses, commuters should note costs could arise with future changes to the Department of Transportation voucher program.

For more information on joining a Nevada Guard vRide van pool, you can call Brooks at (775) 674-5016. ■



Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Brooks prepares for his commute on Aug. 23 aboard a vRide van. Brooks established a relationship between the Nevada Guard and the vRide company that saved commuters more than \$16,000 in fuel costs during the past seven months.

NEVADA GUARD, MARINE CORPS ally at mountain training center

Continued from page 17

"It simulates what you would see from a Predator very well," Jasper said. "This is exactly what it looks like from a Predator in the combat theater."

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center commander Col. J.J. Carroll said he welcomed the participation of the Nevada Air Guard in the series of exercises that he considers to be some of the most realistic military training available.

"These exercises simulate the real-world and emphasize interoperability," Carroll said. "Operations are no longer one branch working alone. Conflicts today involve multiple services and coalition partners."

Carroll said training at the MCMWTC primarily involved Marines through 2009. As Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom continued, however, it became increasingly clear to Marine Corps officials that interservice and even international training would improve the realism of the scenarios.

Carroll said, in addition to Guardsmen, it's common today to see U.S. Army Special Forces and Navy explosive ordnance disposal Sailors train alongside Marines. In addition to the Canadian forces at MCMWTC in September, the exercises have hosted allied troops from The Netherlands and Great Britain.

Marine Corps officials first learned of the aerial intelligence capabilities of the Nevada Air Guard during a Predator Familiarization Course conducted at Creech Air Force Base in 2011. Discussions about long-term participation of the Nevada Air Guard in the mountain exercises followed, and Nevada Airmen became regular attendees in October 2012.

"The Airmen have done a great job augmenting Marine Corps intelligence resources," Carroll said. "Intelligence is one of the best combat multipliers available. I would like to see Guard participation expand. I certainly don't see it diminishing." ■

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Soldiers on the road again for annual training

By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten and Sgt. Susan Wohle, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Everyone loves a road trip. Especially Nevada Guardsmen who get an opportunity to travel for their annual training stints. Some Soldiers had the opportunity to train in exotic locations like the Republic of Korea while others had the chance to experience Midwestern military oases such as Camp Dodge, Iowa, and Camp Guernsey, Wyo. Here are some of the highlights of a jam-packed summer of military training:

422nd signals to outskirts of Nevada, beyond

RENO – The 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion conducted its first annual training in June since it returned from its deployment last year. Signal troops set up satellite communications between the Harry Reid Readiness Center, the Elko County Readiness Center and Arizona. The AT provided the first opportunity for the Soldiers to reacquaint themselves with their equipment, which recently returned from the combat theater.

“The equipment had received some upgrades which only required a minor learning curve,” said Spc. Timothy Nagle a technician with C Company, 422nd ESB. “Once everyone got a few minutes with the equipment, they were back up to speed, and it was like, ‘Oh yeah, I got this.’”

Everyone in the battalion also participated in chemical, biological, explosive and nuclear training.

The 442nd also sent about 60 Soldiers to the Republic of Korea in support of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise during August.

The Soldiers supported the Eighth Army and the ROK Army during the multinational joint exercise.

About a dozen signal Soldiers also went on an additional AT mission to provide support to the 1-221st Cavalry during its annual training at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Sappers invade Wyoming

CAMP GUERNSEY, Wyo. – The 609th Engineer Company, aka the Sappers, traveled east from its headquarters in Fallon to the 77,000-acre Camp Guernsey Training Center in southeastern Wyoming for its annual training.

The Sappers conducted training in many military tasks, including convoy live fire, field expedient explosive charges and improvised explosive device lanes.

Once again, the final days in the field for the Sappers involved continuous operations, as the platoons received non-stop mission requests.

The last company-wide mission of the annual training featured the largest explosive charge in 609th history.

757th learns from the past, trains for the future

CAMP DODGE, Iowa – The 757th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion trained with the Distributed Battle Simulation Training Program at Camp Dodge, Iowa, in June. The program is designed to exercise units in a multifunctional logistics operation in a simulated environment, which tests the unit on its mission essential task lists.

During an unexpected break from the training, the Soldiers listened to three veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam tell their stories

Retired Capt. John Phillips recounted the horrors of the Battle of the Bulge.

“On the first day, 540 American Soldiers were killed, 1,260 wounded and 7,000 went missing,” Phillips said. “It was the winter of ‘44 – the snow was up to our hips. We lost more men from frostbite than from enemy fire, but kept fighting for 18 days. During the 40 days of the Battle of the Bulge, 39,000 men died.”



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

Sgt. Robert Diehl, a recruiter for the Nevada Army Guard, stops 2nd Lt. Jasmin Herrera, posing as a civilian, while guarding a gate during annual training. The Recruiting and Retention Battalion conducted annual training in the field near the Regional Training Institute in Stead during August.



Spc. Timothy Nagle, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Sgt. Garrick Most and Spc. Higareda Sandoval from C Company, 442nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, connect a satellite transportable terminal to a satellite during annual training in June at the Harry Reid Readiness Center in Washoe County.

Phillips became a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge and has told his tale of survival more than 80 times. He shared his story as part of the National Maintenance Training Center's leadership seminar, which is designed to give today's Soldiers a glimpse into the past.

R and R Battalion heads to the field

RENO – The Recruiting and Retention Battalion's 55 recruiters and recruit-sustainment cadre took to the field for the first time in years near the Regional Training Facility in Stead during August to practice Army warrior tasks.

"This is the first time in recent memory the recruiters and sustainment company cadre combined together for Army warrior task training in the field environment for annual training," said Maj. Randy Lau, Recruiting and Retention commander. "I think it is important for their understanding since this is what they are selling."

The field training exercise began with land navigation and continued with infantry tasks such as reacting to indirect fire, reacting to contact, breaking contact and entry-control point operations.

"It's great to get back into the field," said Staff Sgt. Edward Benites, the Bonanza Station commander and a recruiter for the past eight

years. "There are some sore bodies and backs, but I think everyone enjoyed the training."

1-221st Cavalry lights up the summer sky

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – The 1-221st Cavalry owned the range at the National Training Center here in July.

The squadron's annual training featured live-fire exercises and qualifications conducted simultaneously with a field training exercise. The battalion qualified nearly 420 troops on their individual and crew-served weapons systems. Everything from M-9s to mortars and Bradley weapons systems were fired for record.

"The complexity of all the simultaneously moving pieces added to the mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Kinsey of the 1-221st Cavalry. "Everyone being engaged at the same time made the training exciting for every Soldier, regardless of rank."

The squadron enjoyed relatively mild temperatures – about 10 degrees cooler than average.

"Everything went very well. We had minimal injuries and zero heat casualties," Kinsey said.

The 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion supported the exercise with more than a dozen Soldiers providing satellite communications between remote Cav outposts.

"The signal Soldiers were very professional, very proficient and fit right in," Kinsey said.

Kinsey said the Cav's leadership was pleased with the training.

"The junior leaders made this exercise a success," Kinsey said. "Because they took the mission and the risk seriously, no one was seriously hurt and everything was completed successfully. This was one of the better annual training exercises for the squadron."

Aviators on target near Fallon

FALLON – The 991st Aviation Troop Command Brigade stayed close to home at the Nevada Army Guard's B-19 Small Arms Range near Fallon. The battalion operated the range for its organic units and several other units.

The aviators were the first to operate the new Automated Recorded Fire System at the range. Soldiers from the Recruiting and Retention Battalion and the Nevada Army Guard's Medical Detachment qualified with their individual weapons as the 991st managed the site. Soldiers from the 442nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion also showed up to take advantage of the fully staffed qualification range.

"Overall, it was an excellent range," said Capt. David Connolly, the officer in charge of the site. "During the three days the range was open, 236 Soldiers qualified with their weapons." ■



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. James Hamilton instructs Pvt. Juan Carrillo on the operation of a .50-caliber machine gun during a live-fire exercise at the B19 small arms range near Fallon in June. Both Soldiers are in the 3/140th Security and Support Battalion.

Family Programs office deserves merit badge for camping season



Courtesy Delana Cardenas, Nevada Guard child and youth coordinator

From left in kayak, Brett Hunter and Nate Malone are launched by a counselor for kayaking during Camp Nawakwa in the San Bernardino Mountains near Angelus Oaks, Calif., in July.

*By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

CARSON CITY – It is an annual rite of summer.

While their moms and dads attend annual training, the children of Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen go to summer camp hosted by the Family Programs office. The summer was a banner season as hundreds of children attended events across the state, including a camp for teens in Southern California.

Teenagers spent a week at Camp Nawakwa in the San Bernardino Mountains near Angelus Oaks, Calif. The summer camp attracted 49 high school students from across the state in late June. Eschewing tents, the campers were housed in cabins and enjoyed a jam-packed schedule of activities and adventures including hiking, fishing, swimming, canoeing and kayaking. Many activities were designed around team building and personal challenges.

“Everyone had an awesome time,” said Delana Cardenas, the lead child and youth coordinator for Family Programs in southern Nevada. “Although there were many high-



Courtesy Mary Getten

A camper emerges from the interactive cloud climber, a three-story-tall climbing structure at the Discovery Museum in Reno during a summer day camp hosted by the Family Support Services in June.

lights, I would say the favorite activities included team-building challenges. We saw lots of creativity and good-hearted fun all week long from everyone.”

Andrew Davis, 16, was attending camp for the second time and unexpectedly met some of his cohorts from high school.

“This time, I connected with some kids from my school whose parents are in the military,” Davis said. “They know what it’s like to be a military kid. Knowing we have common ground improves our friendship.”

While the teens had the opportunity to “hang loose” in Southern California for a week, younger children had the chance to participate in any one of 30 day camps across Nevada. Camps were hosted at numerous venues in July, and the campers could customize their attendance based on their summer schedules. (Instead of signing up for a set week, campers could sign up for specific days.)

Camp days were packed to capacity with a multitude of activities including fishing, horse-back riding, trips to museums and even a trip



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

From left, Jacqueline Bridegum and Jessica Paakkari, volunteers at the Animal Ark, show two campers skull casts of two of Nevada's wild cats during a day camp hosted by Family Programs in July.

for the Guard community," said Sunshine Davis, a Family Programs camp volunteer and the mother of Andrew Davis. "The events are really beneficial to the new families; kids get to know other kids. I've met other parents and made a few new friends, too."

One of the camp activities across the state in June was a "Jump for the Heart" event that encouraged families to exercise together.

In Las Vegas on July 20, day campers and their families went to the King Putt Mini Indoor Golf course in Henderson for the "Get in the Swing" family tournament. Sgt. Lisa Rivas' family recorded the lowest score and earned the title "Swing Champions."

Another out-of-state opportunity was Operation Military Kids Family Camp at Zion Ponderosa camp in Zion National Park, Utah, from July 29-Aug. 1.

As the Family Programs camp staff T-shirts began to fade and summer drew to a conclusion, the office teamed with Operation Homefront and Dollar Tree stores to create the Backpack Brigade, a coalition of organizations



Courtesy Mary Getten

Campers draw on the Reno Discovery Museum's giant Etch a Sketch® during the summer day camp hosted by the Family Support Program in June.

that helps offset the cost of school supplies for more than 500 students.

The school supplies were distributed from the Harry Reid Readiness Center, the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno and the Office of the Adjutant General complex in early August. The remaining supplies were then forwarded to armories across the state. More than 10,000 school supply items were eventually distributed to students across the state before the first day of school. ■

Nevada Guard volunteers pitch in at Camp Cartwheel

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

LAS VEGAS – More than 20 Nevada Guard Airmen, Soldiers, retirees and family members volunteered their time to assist at Camp Cartwheel this summer at Kingston Ranch in Sandy Valley, Nev.

Camp Cartwheel's goal is to improve the quality of life for critically ill children and their families in southern Nevada. Its aim is to provide each camper with some relief from the stress of constant visits to doctors and the trauma of fighting a life-threatening disease.

The Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation sponsors the camp annually and began to offer two camping sessions in 2012. This year, a total of 159 children attended the camp.

Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson of the 17th Sustainment Brigade and his wife, Tammy, started volunteering at the camp after their daughter Stephanie succumbed to cancer in 2003.

"The volunteers help provide a sense of normalcy for the children at the camp," said James Richardson.

The Richardsons also help recruit volunteers for the camp.

"Volunteering is about giving back to the community," Richardson said.

The five-day camp provides opportunities for attendees in a variety of activities ranging



Courtesy Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson

Nevada Guard volunteers and campers at Camp Cartwheel this summer included: front row, from left, Tammy Richardson, Kimberly Amos, Al Tucay, Lemuel Iniguez, Gregory Krizmanich, Joanne Farris; middle row, Steven Milliron, Tiana Milliron, Elissa Krizmanich, Tara Pushkin, Jenny Moval, Jordan Peck, Joey Bustemante, Joel Reddick, Dylan Richardson, Ross Aguilar; back row, William Matheson, Jenny McOmie, Bill Burks, Arielle Richardson, Jaclyn Richardson, Tim Beghtol, Stanley Harvey, Juan Chavez, Hal Woomer and James Richardson.

from swimming, hiking, canoeing, outdoor games to arts and crafts.

The volunteers help provide a safe and secure environment for the campers. This year, the camp was offered in two five-day sessions with a three-day intermission. Nearly half of the

Guard volunteers participated in both sessions.

"I am extremely lucky to have a job which supports my volunteer activity and community interaction," Richardson said.

For information, visit <http://www.nvccf.org/camp.cfm>. ■

Army aviation derives strength from diversity

Continued from page 6

for Southwest Airlines can bring to an Army aviation unit. Inclusion in the Army aviation community brings diverse perspectives to mission performance and improvement in the program's capabilities and capacity.

A key factor in diversity is the inclusion of a wide range of individuals who have uniquely different backgrounds and perspectives. Within the Army aviation community, we have a diverse pool of people with unique civilian occupations ranging from school teachers to police officers. Our community includes individuals born in other countries as well as those who have lived abroad. The broad spectrum of participation within the aviation program clearly benefits the National Guard, our state and nation.

Readiness begins with people. How Soldiers are treated directly affects their

performance. The Nevada Army Guard's aviation program ensures the rights and supports the aspirations of every Soldier. We do this by creating a barrier-free environment where every Soldier has the opportunity to succeed based on their respective abilities and desire.

King and Lincoln's dream of universal equality is alive today and is exemplified by diversity in Army aviation. Inclusion requires command emphasis and, in keeping with the ideals of King and Lincoln, the Nevada Army National Guard's aviation program prioritizes equality and diversity and strives to incorporate processes that are fair, objective, transparent and free of discrimination. ■

Lt. Col. Richard Ferguson contributed to this column.

Nevada Guard celebrates its diversity

Continued from page 6

There was even one tongue-in-cheek booth for Geek culture.

The teams promoting the various cultural displays competed for the best booth award. The winner was the Greek booth, which scored well in both historical information and modern-diversity awareness. The Pacific Islander group took second, and the Geek culture team placed third.

Brig. Gen. Dana Capozzella, the assistant adjutant general for the Colorado National Guard and regional chairman of the National Guard Diversity Committee, attended Nevada's Diversity Day event.

"Nevada is at the forefront of diversity," she said.

Maj. Christy Hales, the Nevada Guard diversity manager, and retired Col. Alicia Nyland, the Nevada Guard equal opportunity officer, were pleased with the attendance at the event, which had been in the works since May.

"The results were even better than anticipated," Hales said. "I really want to thank all those who worked tirelessly to make this event a success." ■



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

The Reno Tsurunokai Taiko drummers generate a lively beat during the Nevada Guard's Diversity Day on September 27 at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City.

Unguarded passion

Continued from page 7

A large portion of Kim's military career was during the era of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, which meant she had to keep a big part of her personal identity relatively secret.

"I might be out in public in the past, and I might grab my girlfriend's hand or give her a kiss on the cheek," Kim said. "You always had to be careful who was around you. You never know who's going to be around you."

The Bledsaws reiterated how supportive the Nevada Air Guard has been of them and their marriage.

"I'm sure there are people on the base who don't agree with it, but we haven't seen it," Deena said. "It's equal now. Our marriage is recognized like everybody else's."

"Whenever I'm out for a get-together after work, people ask, 'Where's your wife?'" said Kim, who delights in the question.

"When I introduce her, I'm like, 'This is my wife,'" Deena said. "And that's it. There's no explanation. And I think we're fortunate, though, because a lot of people don't have that support."

The couple cited the Governor's Military Ball earlier this year as one of the highlights of their young marriage. They were both nervous making one of their first public appearances as a married couple at an event that included numerous state officials and high ranking officers from both the Air Force and the Army.

"I just kept telling myself it was OK to do this," Kim said. "It's OK to be here and to introduce her as my wife and to not have to hide anything."

"I was like, 'we're not going to dance, right?'" Deena said. "I wasn't sure. And our friends said, 'You'd better get out there!'"

The couple took the dance floor after all, posed for pictures and had a great time. They credit their friends, mostly straight couples, in the Nevada Air Guard with encouraging them to be themselves.

"Sometimes I think before I speak when I'm going to introduce her," Kim said. "If I introduce her as my wife, how are they going to react? You have those people who are still close-minded. But it doesn't stop me."

"This is my wife, Deena." ■

Excerpted with permission from the Reno News and Review. To read the entire article, visit: www.newsreview.com/reno/guard-your-heart/content?oid=11634495.



Guardsmen headline Wolf Pack halftime show

Story and photos by Senior Airman Ashif Halim
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – Even casual fans know the halftime show of a football game can produce the most memorable moments of a gridiron event. The pageantry, flair, ceremony – and occasional wardrobe malfunction – combine to create lasting images.

For the more than 25,000 fans who attended the University of Nevada, Reno, and Air Force football game here at Mackay Stadium on Sept. 28, the lasting memories generated from the night will likely be the halftime Nevada Army Guard mass re-enlistment and enlistment ceremony that featured 45 Soldiers and, oh yeah, the Wolf Pack's hard-fought 45-42 victory over the Falcons.

Twenty-three of the participants in the ceremony were brand-new Soldiers. Twenty-two of the Soldiers were veteran Guardsmen who decided to extend their commitment to serve the state and nation.

Patriotism and pride was on display as the crowd cheered and showered the Soldiers with praise, encouragement and support following the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, commander of Nevada Army National Guard, administered the oath of enlistment.

"Events like this are tremendous because

it's an event that allows Soldiers to publicly display their military commitment," Hanifan said. "By participating in more events like this, we hope to continue to improve our re-enlistment numbers and continue to maintain the strength of the Nevada Army National Guard.

"We need to maintain the proper number of Soldiers to be able to perform our missions overseas and respond to any emergencies that happen in the state of Nevada."

The 45 Soldiers reflected the Nevada Guard's diverse spectrum of Soldiers. Some were veteran career Soldiers while others enlisted because they believed military service was a stepping-stone to a promising future. Others said they enlisted and re-enlisted in the National Guard because it's the ideal way to serve their country and state while living and working in their chosen Nevada community.

"I need two more years for my 20 years," said Staff Sgt. Henry Zelaya from Joint Force Headquarters. "I re-enlisted for six more years."

Some Soldiers mentioned the educational benefits offered to Guardsmen as a reason for re-enlisting.

"I just started to go to college, a little late in my career, but it is really never too late for learning," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Baker. "I'm



Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan administers the oath of enlistment and re-enlistment to 45 Nevada National Guard Soldiers during the halftime of the University of Nevada, Reno, and Air Force football game in Reno on Sept. 28.

currently attending Grace Bible College online and love it. I'd highly recommend Soldiers and Airman take advantage of educational opportunities early in their life to help boost their careers."

Wolf Pack quarterback Cody Fajardo threw for 389 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 81 yards and two more scores – the last one with just 1:45 left in the game – to help Nevada come from behind to finally beat Air Force by three points. It was the fourth straight loss for the Falcons.

Even though Air Force lost, the consensus was the game and re-enlistment ceremony marked a day of triumph for the military.

"The admirable qualities embodied in our Soldiers, our students and our athletes were prominently showcased today," said Army veteran Angela Lewis. ■

COMPETITIONS

Army Guard claims golf General's Trophy again

Story and photo by Capt. Jason Yuhasz
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – This year's version of the Nevada National Guard's annual Army Guard vs. Air Guard Golf Tournament looked very similar to the 2012 tourney, as the Army Guard claimed the General's Golf Trophy for the second consecutive year. The Army Guard prevailed by four strokes, 59-63, in the scramble-format tournament held July 26.

The annual golf tournament between the Nevada Army Guard and Air Guard is one of the longest-running sports rivalries in the state. The sister military organizations have battled for the General's Trophy since 1960.

Reno's Wolf Run Golf Course hosted this year's scramble tournament. In the



Air Guard Lt. Col. Jeff Zupon tees off during the annual Army vs. Air Guard golf tournament in July. The Army Guard won the tournament at Wolf Run Golf Course in Reno.

tournament's format, teams of four golfers teed off and then subsequently played the best shot of the four taken by the team's members throughout the 18-hole contest.

Army Guard Lt. Col. Shawn Casey had several memorable moments during the day. On hole No. 7, he recorded the most accurate shot and won a gift basket. He also had the honor of accepting the General's Trophy from Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks on behalf of the Army Guard.

Even though his branch of service didn't claim the Governor's Trophy, Nevada Air Guard State Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry enjoyed the event and the camaraderie.

"It was a great day for golf and a great day for the Army and Air Guard to get together," Scurry said.

485th Soldier third at national Best Warrior competition

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy
National Guard Bureau

CAMP ROBINSON, Ark. – Spc. Nathan Hill of the 485th Military Police Company recorded one of the Nevada National Guard's top finishes ever in the Army National Guard's Best Warrior competition when he scored the bronze medal here at the conclusion of the three-day contest in July.

Hill placed third out of the 14 competitors vying to earn the title of Best Warrior. All of the Soldiers were regional champions. Hill earned his trip to Arkansas by placing second in the Region 7 contest earlier in the year.

The grueling three-day event featured a mix of both mental and physical challenges that tested a wide variety of Soldier skills and each competitor's overall tactical and technical proficiency.

"It's been awesome, this experience," Hill said. "I'm just out here trying to do the best I can do."

During the competition, entrants faced a variety of 14 challenges ranging from a physical fitness test to negotiating a number of tactical scenarios and treating simulated



Spc. Nathaniel Hill, a military police officer with the 485th Military Police Company, engages targets with an M-9 pistol in a tactical stress marksmanship competition during the 2013 Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in July.

casualties. They also participated in a ruck march of unknown distance, land navigation and several marksmanship events.

In his respective events, Hill was first in the verbal evaluation board, second in the fitness test and M-4 qualification, and third in

the Soldier's Creed, M-9 qualification, day stakes and land navigation.

"Specialist Hill has put Nevada on the map as a national competitor in the Best Warrior competition," said state Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki.



Deployment update: C Company, 1/168th Aviation, fine in Farah



FARAH, Afghanistan

– The approximately 40 Soldiers deployed with C Company, 1/168th Aviation (MEDEVAC), remain busy conducting medical evacuation missions from the forward operating base here. They have passed the halfway point of their deployment and are set to return to Nevada in late winter.

“Every day is filled with missions, maintenance and training,” said 1st Lt. Roy Hyde. “Everyone is staying safe and busy so the time is going by at a quick pace.”

The Nevada Soldiers comprise the majority of the personnel in Team 2 at Farah. Other C Company, 1/168th Aviation Soldiers, including California and Washington Guard Soldiers, are based in Shindand, Camp Stone and Qala-i-naw.

“Things now are running very smoothly,” 1st Sgt. Wayne Loader said.

While it is mostly steady-state operations for the MEDEVAC unit, there has been time for some lighthearted activities. Every Friday is cigar night, and every Sunday features a volleyball tournament among the other traditional morale, welfare and recreation activities.

The unit, which left Nevada in March, has not reported any serious injuries or incidents.

Six Soldiers join officer corps

NORTH LAS VEGAS – Six Nevada Army Guard Soldiers were commissioned as second lieutenants in August during a ceremony at the North Las Vegas Readiness Center.

The newly commissioned officers were Felicia Booth, Michael Bryson, John Lorman, Jeff Sison, Michelle Tucay and Karen Williamson. The officers were from Officer Candidate School Class 60 and had participated in the Accelerated Officer Candidate School program this summer.

The commissioning ceremony was the first held at the new North Las Vegas Readiness Center. The center opened in May.



Courtesy C Company, 1-168th Aviation

Seen from a nearby Black Hawk, Soldiers in C Company, 1-168th Aviation, rush an injured individual to a waiting ambulance after a medical evacuation flight. The approximately 40 C Company Soldiers are set to perform medical evacuation missions in western and southwestern Afghanistan through the winter.

Reno photographer receives Nevada Guard award

RENO – Reno Gazette-Journal photographer Marilyn Newton was recognized in August by the Nevada National Guard for her more than 50 years of exemplary photo-journalism in her coverage of Nevada’s Guardsmen during a ceremony here at the Montreux Golf and Country Club.

Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks presented Newton with the Nevada Distinguished Service Medal for her commitment to Nevada Guardsmen during contingencies and for her thorough coverage of Nevada Guard training, mobilization and homecoming events. The medal is the state of Nevada’s second-highest military award.

Army leadership position updates

More than 20 years after he began his career in the officer corps as an attack and scout platoon leader with the 1-285th Attack Aviation Regiment in Arizona, **Col. Rodger Waters** assumed command of the 991st Troop Command in Reno in July. The 991st includes all of the Nevada Army Guard’s aviation and signal units.

Lt. Col. Kristian Kirkland assumed command of the Nevada Army Guard’s 1-421st Regional Training Institute in September. Kirkland is now responsible for the accredited training institute that offers a broad range of military courses including Officer Candidate School and classes in truck driving, military police operations and information technology.

Lt. Col. Wilson DaSilva became the third commander in the history of the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in September. The battalion includes the 609th Engineer Company, the 593rd Medium Transportation Company, the 485th Military Police Company, the 150th Maintenance Company and the 106th Public Affairs Detachment.

Sequestration update

An article in the Summer 2013 Battle Born said that the Department of Defense federal technicians would be furloughed for 11 days between July and September (Federal technicians feel brunt of sequestration, page 3). The number of furlough days was subsequently reduced to six. The total number of furlough days federal technicians will experience in 2014 has not been announced. The Department of Defense faces \$52 billion in sequestration budget cuts in 2014.



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • July, August, September 2013

Meritorious Service Medal



MSG David Pectol 92nd Civil Spt Team
 COL Troy Ross NVARNG Medical Det
 MAJ Christian Wilson 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 LTC Eric Wishart 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 MSG Michael Young 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 MSgt John Mitchell 152nd Airlift Wing
 CMSgt Kelly Cavins 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Joseph Deese JFHQ
 MSgt William Randall 152nd Maintenance Grp
 MSgt Robert Eastman 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SMSgt Ward Lacy 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 MSgt Jon Wolland 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Paige Holman 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Richard Murphy 152nd Maint Sqdn

Army Commendation Medal



MSG Richard Beck NVARNG Medical Det
 SFC Anthony Brooks JFHQ

SFC James Lathrop JFHQ
 SGT Amber Netz Recruit Sust Co
 SSG Richard Sapida Recruit Sust Co
 2LT Michelle Tucay NVARNG Medical Det

Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj Justin Galli 152nd Operations Support Flt
 SSgt Christopher Back 152nd Communications Flt
 MSgt Kevin Bandoni 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Capt Erik Brown 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Jawann Wilson 232nd Operations Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



SSgt Juaie Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SFC Autumn Janoss JFHQ
 SPC Danielle Meadows JFHQ
 SSG Elissa Krizmanich NVARNG Medical Det
 SSG Jesse Filsinger NVARNG Medical Det

Air Force Achievement Medal



TSgt Timothy Daniels 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Jason Leggett 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Anthony Masten 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SSgt William Marler 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Order of Nevada



CSM Ronald Morse 421st Regional Tng Inst

Nevada State Distinguished Service Medal



BG Francis Gonzales JFHQ
 CIV Catherine Burkett J3
 LTC Mark Ensign Title 10

Nevada Medal of Merit



SSgt Christopher Back 152nd Communications Flt

Nevada State Commendation Medal



CIV Lauri Emerich JFHQ
 SGT Anthony Viglietta JFHQ
 MSG Regina McDonald USPFO
 SMSgt Steven Graham 152nd Communications Flt
 SMSgt Angela Ash 152nd Airlift Wing
 SMSgt Debra Graham 152nd Force Support Sqdn

Nevada Outstanding Airman Ribbon



SrA William Marler 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



Maj Matthew Ahner 232nd Operations Sqdn
 TSgt Timothy Mader 232nd Operations Sqdn
 TSgt Jarrett Miner 232nd Operations Sqdn
 SrA Scott Mitchell 232nd Operations Sqdn
 SSgt Howard Schmitz 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Maj Robert Houston 232nd Operations Sqdn
 SrA Matthew Whitlow 232nd Operations Sqdn
 TSgt Jawann Wilson 232nd Operations Sqdn
 MSgt Christopher Crawford 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

Nevada First Sergeant Ribbon



1SG Scott Brown 609th Engineer Co
 1SG Harry Schroder 593rd Trans Co

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SFC Jose Contreras JFHQ
 SFC Charles Harger 421st Regional Tng Inst
 SFC Kevin Painter 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 SPC Adonis Palustre Recruit Sust Co
 PFC Isaac Garcia Recruit Sust Co
 PFC Anthony Hicks Recruit Sust Co
 PFC Richard Taylor Recruit Sust Co

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



AB Blaze Brucato 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Eric Howe 152nd Communications Flt
 TSgt Ian O'Grady 152nd Communications Flt
 TSgt Deborah Hayley 152nd Logistics Readiness Sqdn
 A1C Michael Finazzi IV 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Lucas Jones 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Brandon Wilkey 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Tyler Givani 152nd Medical Grp
 AB Riley Givani 152nd Medical Grp
 A1C Raymond Waters 152nd Medical Grp
 TSgt Frank Zuniga Jr. 152nd Medical Grp
 TSgt Matthew Farley 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SrA Matthew Thomasson 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SrA Erick Walczak 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 A1C Cailen Weston 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
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 SrA Nicholas Ediss 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Robert Winder 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Joseph Deese JFHQ

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PROMOTIONS

COL/Col

David Clark 152nd Airlift Wing

MAJ/Maj

Grant Flynn JFHQ
Curtis Kolvet 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Bradley Martino 1/421st Regional Tng Inst
Christopher Melendrez HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde

CPT/Capt

Nathaniel Carsey HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Wesley Leedy 1/168th MEDEVAC
Daniel Barraza 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Andrew Simbeck 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
Nathan Stromberg NVARNG Medical Det
Masten Bethel 152nd Operations Spt Flt
Roy Drew 232nd Operations Sqdn
Shawn O'Leary 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Anna Thorburn 152nd Medical Grp

1LT/1st Lt

Abigail Green NVARNG Medical Det

2LT/2nd Lt

Felicia Booth 150th Maint Co
Michael Bryson B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Jeff Sison C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Mark Gomez NVARNG Medical Det
John Lorman L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Michelle Tucay 92nd Civil Spt Team
Karennicole Williamson 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

CW3

Zachary Glanz B Co, 3/140th Aviation

CW2

Nicholas Graf 150th Maint Co
Robert Montgomery 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Dennis Basilio 240th Engineer Co
James Morgan 152d Medical Grp

1SG/MSG/SMSGt

Christopher Crawford 152d Civil Engineer Sqdn

SFC/MSGt

Martin Flores 72nd MP Co
Stanley Harvey JFHQ
Deedrick Prowell HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
James Silva 1/168th MEDEVAC
Caroline Cousineau 152nd Comptroller Flt
Christine Dickson 152nd Airlift Wing
David Rogers 232nd Operations Sqdn
Stephen Erickson 232nd Operations Sqdn
Terry Kots 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

James Begley Jr 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Michael Mathews 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Larry Moen 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Yantzy Arnell 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
David Woginrich 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

SSG/TSgt

David Beachler 1864th Trans Co
John Diemer 150th Maint Co
Garye Twichell 485th MP Co
Eric Gerow 485th MP Co
Kimberly Delaune HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
Victor Joecks HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
Azsha Hankerson HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
Eric Head HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Matthew Lambert 593rd Trans Co
Arthur Ordaz 593rd Trans Co
Rhonda Simmons 593rd Trans Co
Charles Spear 593rd Trans Co
Charles Whipple 1/168th MEDEVAC
Gregory Zemp NVARNG Medical Det
Steven Adkins 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Damien Falconer 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Mandy Nicholson 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Shamika Webb 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Kristofer Whetzel 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

SGT/SSgt

Jacob Roseberry 1/168th MEDEVAC
James Ball 1/168th MEDEVAC
Lincoln Delgado 137th MP Det
Kysean Edwards HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Christopher Hendrickson 137th MP Det
Kihana Jessie NVARNG Medical Det
James Kowalczyk 1864th Trans Co
Keith Linford 150th Maint Co
Michael Mitcham 485th MP Co
Amber Ponder 485th MP Co
Nickolas Stewart 485th MP Co
Kristopher Maccario 485th MP Co
Jessica Menendez 92nd Civil Spt Team
Russell Michel Jr. 593rd Trans Co
Eric Nzioki JFHQ
Joseph Varner I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Luis Rodriguez Jr. K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Adam Preston 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
Erik Stombaugh 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
Rafael Velasco 17th Sustainment Bde
Christopher Hessler 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Logan Ingersoll 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Christopher Delostia 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Michael Johnson 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
William Marler 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

ACCESSIONS

Victor Chan C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Jasmine Scott C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Erika Karamanos C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Stephanie Alfaro 150th Maint Co
Regie Gutierrez HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
Edwin Pagansantiago HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
Larissa Givens HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Kysean Edwards HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Meighan Herzberg HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
Kyle Rowlands HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Justin Byers HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Gino Delgado I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Rodrigo Romerocastillo I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry

Micheal Johnson I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Hermes Yen JFHQ
Eric Nzioki JFHQ
Jessie Medellin K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Chris Linares K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Christopher Reahm K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Steve Bright K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Benton Pech K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Jhian Tinoco K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Kevin Atchison L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Joseph Reeve L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Michael Harrison L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry

RETIREMENTS

SSG James Perkins JFHQ
SFC Marrell Kemp 421st Regional Tng Inst
Tsgt Richard Linnenbrink 152nd Maintenance Sqdn
MSgt Kevin Bennett 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
TSgt Milton Robertson 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt Robert Eastman 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt John Mitchell 152nd Airlift Wing
LT Col David Yao 232nd Operations Sqdn



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Vietnam. By my dad.**

Barbara Q., USAA member

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