



Battle Born

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Commander in Chief
Nevada



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The Adjutant General
Nevada National Guard

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ON THE COVER: Soldiers from the 609th Engineer Company train with live explosives near Fallon in March. Photo by Alexis VanPool

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Gov. Brian Sandoval

New commander in chief reveals opinions, expectations of Guard

By Spc. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

One month after his inauguration as the 30th governor of Nevada, Gov. Brian Sandoval, the commander in chief of the Nevada National Guard, spoke about his opinions and expectations surrounding the Nevada National Guard with Spc. Emerson Marcus of the 106th Public Affairs Detachment.

Battle Born: You grew up in Nevada, graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, and are now the governor of Nevada. What does this state mean to you?

Brian Sandoval: It means everything to me. I grew up in Fallon and in Sparks and was educated here. After returning from law school, I began practicing law here.

I was elected to and served in the Nevada Legislature. I served on the Nevada Gaming Commission and as the attorney general. More recently, I served as a federal judge, and now it's very humbling to be the 30th governor of the state of Nevada.

I'm very passionate about our state and am tired of hearing about Nevada being on the top of the bad list and the bottom of the good list. I'm absolutely committed to turning (the reputation) of this state around.

Battle Born: One of the toughest aspects of being the governor is the fact that you will have to send Soldiers and Airmen into harm's way. Less than two days after you were sworn into office, you addressed the Soldiers in the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion before they deployed to Afghanistan. What was going through your mind as you spoke to them?

Brian Sandoval: When I spoke to the signal Soldiers, the first thing that surged through me was pride in the state of Nevada. I was proud that the men and women from Nevada were going to be responsible for all the communication technology on the battlefield and about \$75 million in equipment, which is an incredible responsibility.

The second thing that struck me was the sacrifice. The most moving moment for



Gov. Brian Sandoval addresses the Soldiers of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion at their deployment ceremony in Las Vegas on Jan. 6. Sandoval became the commander in chief of the Nevada National Guard when he became governor on Jan. 3. Photo: Lt. Col. Terry Conder

me was to see those kids go up at the end of the ceremony to hug their moms, dads or grandparents one last time before they went off to combat. I think that really sent a message about the depth of sacrifice that's being made by Nevada Soldiers and Airmen to serve all of us and keep us safe and secure. It made me proud as a governor and made me proud as a Nevadan to be there.

One of the things I've done, as part of my personal sacrifice (was to refuse) the salary increase I was entitled to as governor. I also took a 5 percent salary decrease on top of that. I'm donating a portion of my salary to the Veterans Services Gift Account because I personally appreciate the sacrifice and devotion Guardsmen and the people of the Armed Forces have made.

Battle Born: You have a lengthy law background but your experience with the military isn't as extensive. What have you done to prepare for your role as commander in chief of the Nevada National Guard?

Brian Sandoval: That is the truth, I have not had a lot of military experience. While I



Gov. Brian Sandoval speaks about issues concerning the National Guard with Spc. Emerson Marcus in the state Capitol on Feb. 4. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

was a candidate for office, I attended a four-hour briefing on the activities of the Guard. One of the things I now do is attend many military events. There is a long history of the Guard, celebrating 150 years this year. I meet with (Adjutant General) Brig. Gen. Bill Burks often and try to spend as much time as I can with him and appreciate that we have a great relationship. I will continue to work very closely with him to ensure that I'm an informed and responsible commander in chief. The Guard is a



FROM SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley

RESILIENCY TRAINING helps Guardsmen bounce back

*By Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley
State Command Sergeant Major*

The definition of resiliency is the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and to bounce back from adversity.

The Nevada National Guard is facing challenges and adversity. Today, nearly 1,000 of our Soldiers and Airmen are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan, Iraq and across southwest Asia. The deployments can lead to physical, emotional and financial strain for Guardsmen and their families. Even those who have not deployed face the strain of possible deployments and the challenges of everyday life.

Some of the most challenging issues facing our troops include strained relationships due to separation from loved ones over long periods of time, dangerous assignments, combat exposure effects, unemployment and financial strain.

These issues can negatively impact emotional well-being. Delays in addressing these issues often lead to absenteeism in the workplace, sleep disorders, anxiety attacks, divorce, substance abuse and even suicide.

Many remain apprehensive about seeking help due to the perceived stigma associated with obtaining assistance, some to the point

where they forego treatment altogether. I've often met Guardsmen who are unaware of the signs and symptoms of stress-related disorders and are at risk of missing the opportunity to acquire the assistance they need to speed the recovery process.

Staff Sgt. Tiffany McKimmy is Nevada's resiliency trainer, ready to assist anywhere in the state. She offers classes most weekdays and often on drill weekends. Participants in the classes wear civilian clothes in an effort to create a comfortable environment for sharing personal stories.

Resiliency training is based on the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness model that includes physical, family, social, spiritual and emotional health. The training entails six competencies including self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths in character and connection.

These core competencies enable mental toughness, optimal performance, strong leadership and goal achievement. Students identify their top strengths and the strengths of others to overcome challenges and build effective teams. Students also learn skills to strengthen relationships through effective communication strategies.

Resiliency training does not teach Soldiers and Airmen what to think or how to



solve every problem. But it does teach the skills, or enhances current skills, for positive and productive outcomes in the face of challenges and adversity.

Nevada is one of just five National Guard states that hasn't experienced an Army suicide in its ranks since Sept. 11, 2001. I attribute this to our resiliency programs, our reintegration teams, the Yellow Ribbon programs, the hard work of our chaplains and strong leadership, and the support of our National Guard families.

It is our collective psychological hardiness, coupled with our ability to bounce back from adversity, that allows us to fight our wars and keep our home front safe. Everyone must continue to implement leadership practices that promote resiliency and encourage our Guardsmen and their families to seek assistance when it's needed.

For information on resiliency training, call (775) 384-5822. ■

priority for me and it's my job to ensure that it has all the resources that it needs to serve the people of the state of Nevada.

Battle Born: What have you learned so far about the National Guard?

Brian Sandoval: The biggest impression left on me so far is the array, depth and diversity of the responsibilities and participation of Nevada Guardsmen in military operations around the world and what they do on a daily basis for the people of this state and the country.

Battle Born: Reports show the National Guard stimulates the state's economy through its expenditures. Do you foresee the National Guard acting as a spark for the state's economy?

Brian Sandoval: I appreciate what the Guard adds to our state's economy and recognize the huge contribution it already makes to the economy.

During my state of the state speech, one of the topics I addressed was the potential of broadening the military's missions within Nevada. We're very fortunate as well to have Nellis Air Force Base and Fallon Naval Air Station within our state. I believe there are things we can do to expand the missions there. There may also be some military missions that could be transferred to the Nevada National Guard if they aren't a good match for other parts of the country.

Battle Born: How important is this moment in the state's history?

Brian Sandoval: I don't want to resort to hyperbole or exaggeration, but I truly believe this is the most important legislative session in the history of our state, given the fact that we lead the country in unemployment, drop-out rates, bankruptcy and foreclosure, and we have a budget deficit that exceeds \$2 billion.

It's time to make some very difficult decisions. I believe there are a lot of courageous legislators willing to make those tough decisions to put Nevada on the path to recovery. Two years from now we'll be able to tell a very different story about the economic situation in Nevada. ■

Special operations duty in Iraq no picnic for Nevada officer

By Lt. Col. Terry Conder
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Do I get to grow a beard? The question often crossed my mind. Special ops guys get to grow beards, right?

When I volunteered to deploy with Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command – Iraq, I wasn't sure what to expect. I didn't know everything that the duties and responsibilities of special operations Soldiers entailed, and I clearly didn't know the special operations facial hair regulations.

I reported to the command's headquarters in an unmarked building at the Victory Base Complex surrounded by a cyclone fence topped with concertina wire. There were no big signs proclaiming the building as the home of the "Iron Soldiers" or "Phantom Warriors" like other HQ buildings at the complex. Few people on VBC even knew what was housed in the building or who worked there.

My boss was a Green Beret brigadier general with 30 years of experience in the Army. I worked directly for a Navy SEAL captain who joked that "he spent so much time in Iraq, he should have bought a house there in 2003." The joint staff also included special operations Airmen and Marines.

Assigned to the public affairs office, I had my hands full as soon as I showed up. The Navy had court martialed three SEALs, and the trials attracted media attention. The SEALs had captured a terrorist and allegedly abused him after getting him back to their base.

The terrorist was believed to be the ringleader of the insurgents who desecrated American bodies and hung their corpses from a bridge in Fallujah. Nearly every

newspaper and magazine in the United States had published photos of the atrocity.

The trials lasted a week. I responded to hundreds of media inquiries and was quoted by nearly 1,000 news outlets. The SEALs were exonerated, and the terrorist went back to prison. Right after the trials concluded, the command's executive officer redeployed, and the commanding general chose me to be his executive officer.

I then became the general's gatekeeper and traveling partner. The work was every six days a week and 14-16 hours per day.

I traveled to U.S. and Iraqi Special Operations Forces bases all over Iraq. My only break was a U.S. Central Command conference in Manama, Bahrain.

Just a few days before the end of my tour, members of Al Qaida stormed a Catholic church filled for Mass. The terrorists entered the church spraying automatic gunfire and throwing grenades.

Members of Iraqi Special Operation Forces, our partner organization, raced to the scene. They made contact with the terrorists, but gunfire continued to rattle inside the church. The Iraqi commander decided to storm the building.

As Iraqi Special Forces soldiers approached the front door, two terrorists wearing explosives self-detonated. The ISOF soldiers pushed through the doors of the church and ran into a hail of automatic fire.

Subsequently, there were three more explosions inside the church. As if it were a TV show, the command staff watched all of the events unfold on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance feeds at the headquarters.



Lt. Col. Terry Conder, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs.

The ISOF continued to surge into the church. Within half an hour, the shooting was over. The ISOF rescued 70 people, but the terrorists had killed 58. Miraculously, no ISOF soldiers were killed.

I spent the next 24 hours collecting details from our operators and working with the media.

Initial news stories reported that ISOF's "hasty" and "unprofessional" storming of the church had caused a "bloodbath."

That just was not true. Working all night with the media, I was able to report what had occurred and informed the reporters the ISOF acted decisively to rescue 70 hostages and prevent the loss of more innocent lives.

It was a terrible human tragedy, but I felt better after telling the true story of what had actually happened to the international media.

Just two days later, Al Qaida detonated 17 explosive devices around Baghdad. More than 100 people died and nearly 400 were wounded. They targeted markets, cafes and public places.

My small victory in reporting the truth suddenly seemed inconsequential. Obviously, Al Qaida wasn't shamed or deterred by its negative press earlier in the week.

As it came to its conclusion, my tour felt like it was going 100 mph. I loved the people I worked with, but Iraq was a frustrating place. All too often, a future goal or project in conjunction with the Iraqis was reliant upon Insha'Allah, "If it is God's will."

And, somewhat regrettably, I never did grow a beard.

One day I was venting about something to a special operations colonel who had been everywhere and done everything. I very clearly remember him looking at me with a big smile and saying in his deep southern drawl, "Terry Conder, nothin' is easy in Iraq." ■

Conder's deployment has concluded with a safe return to his hometown of Las Vegas. He remains clean shaven.

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DROP ZONE



RENO – Two-year-old Wakely Diehl receives instruction from his father, Spc. Rob Diehl, how to salute properly on Jan. 9 during the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion's deployment ceremony in Reno. Diehl is one of the more than 350 Nevada Guard Soldiers participating in the largest signal corps deployment in Nevada history. For more on the signal battalion's deployment, turn to page 23. Photo: Maj. April Conway



LAS VEGAS – Retired Nevada Army Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Callanan and retired Sgt. 1st Class Vito Valdez, front row left, hosted the Region 7 Survivor Outreach Services Conference Feb. 15-18 at the Las Vegas Readiness Center. The conference focused on the SOS program that promotes a support system for the survivors of deceased Soldiers and Airmen in the region. For information on the SOS program, call (702) 632-0556 or (775) 315-9957.

Photo: Lt. Col. Terry Conder, JFHQ Public Affairs



NEVADA AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE – Col. Terry Fornof, commander of the Nevada Air National Guard, gives a cockpit overview of an F-15 Eagle to Gov. Brian Sandoval on the Nevada Air Guard Base flightline in Reno on Feb. 12. Sandoval was at the base that day to attend Fornof's formal change of command ceremony. Fornof was named the commander of the Air Guard on Jan. 10 by Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks. He succeeded Brig.

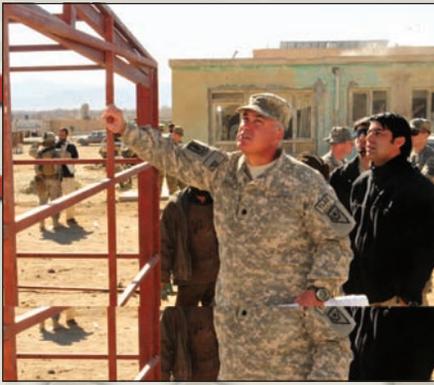
Gen. Robert Fitch, now the Assistant Adjutant General for Air, Nevada National Guard. Photo: 1st Lt. Jason Yuhasz, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



HUNGRY VALLEY, Nev. – Sgt. Stephen Parks, left, and Sgt. Shawn Horner remove Cadet Eric Dangren from a wrecked vehicle on Feb. 12 during vehicle extraction training in Hungry Valley, Nev. Dangren's injuries were simulated. See story on page 16. Photo: Alexis VanPool



LAKE TAHOE – A Nevada Army Guard Chinook helicopter from the 189th Aviation Company swoops over Lake Tahoe in late winter during the IMAX filming of an upcoming feature on rescues over the IMAX film company, headquartered in Canada. The Chinook was filmed completing a simulated hoist mission above the largest alpine lake in North America. The release date of the film has not been announced. Photo: Maj. Matt Jonkey, 991st Aviation Troop Command



LOGHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Lt. Col. Bart O'Toole inspects the progress of a Nevada Agribusiness Development Team project in February near the ADT's forward operating base. During the past year, the ADT has worked with the Afghan government to complete more than two dozen projects including greenhouses, anti-erosion controls and a windmill. For more on the ADT, turn to page 23.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter, Nevada ADT

Iraq Iran Afghanistan

Kuwait



CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – The above photo, entitled 'Victory over America Palace' and taken by Nevada Army Guard Lt. Col. Terry Conder, garnered an honorable mention award in the National Guard Bureau's media contest. The other media award winner from the Nevada Guard was 1st Lt. Jason Yuhasz, who took third place in the feature writing category for his article on aviator call signs in the fall 2010 issue of *Battle Born*. For more on Conder's deployment, turn to page 4.



SOUTHWEST ASIA – From left, Chief Warrant Officers James Anderson, Michael Fedor, Stephen Karrick, David Purtell, Benny Miller and Nick Grant prepare for a flight aboard one of the unit's C-12 planes during Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift's recent deployment to southwest Asia. During its deployment, the OSA's mission was to provide aviation support for senior military and civilian officials throughout the combat zone. Right, the ruddy hues of southwest Asia deserts were a common sight for the flight crews of Detachment 45.

Photos: Courtesy of Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift



One of the Silver State's new Lakota helicopters approaches the Army Aviation Support Facility in Reno on Feb. 23. The Nevada Guard received two Lakotas in February and will have six of the light utility helicopters in its fleet by 2015.
Photo: Gijts ten Velde, Dutch Aviation Photographic Society



Lakotas land in Silver State

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

STEAD — The original range of the Lakota Native American tribes extended from Minnesota into North and South Dakota, but the range of the Army's new light utility helicopter – named after the Lakota peoples – now extends all the way into the Silver State.

Two of the Nevada Army Guard's six brand-new LUH-72A Lakota helicopters arrived here at the Army Aviation Facility in February. They are the first new rotary aircraft ever acquisitioned by the Nevada Guard. Previous models of rotary aircraft arrived in refurbished condition from either the active duty or other reserve components.

The U.S. Army traditionally names its helicopters after Native American tribes. Examples are the Kiowa, Chinook and Apache helicopters.

The two Lakotas will increase the Nevada Guard's medical evacuation capabilities and supplement the state's UH-60 Black Hawks already configured for medical missions. The Lakotas are smaller than Black Hawks and are likely to be used in single-patient missions.

The single-rotor helicopters can fly 167 mph, can carry as many as 11 people, and operate day and night in all types of weather.

The final four Nevada Lakotas are scheduled to land in the state in 2015.

Upon the arrival of the new aircraft, several Army Guard aviators raved about their new choppers.

"It's exactly what you would expect from a brand-new aircraft," said Capt. Darren Chrisman, administrative officer for the 991st Aviation Troop Command. "It's very comfortable to fly, very quiet and very smooth."

"The aircraft is a lot of fun – it features a lot of upgraded systems," said Maj. Matt Jonkey, supervisory flight instructor for the battalion. "It's surprisingly powerful and extremely efficient."

The Lakota, a militarized version of the Eurocopter EC145 multi-mission helicopter, is designed to take on a wide range of missions, including general support, medical evacuation, personnel recovery, counter-drug operations, search and rescue and command and control operations. More than 10,000 Eurocopters are currently in service worldwide.

The Lakota airframe is set to completely replace the National Guard's aging fleet of OH-58 Kiowas by 2016.

It took Nevada crews more than 16 hours to fly the Lakotas to Nevada from the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company-North America factory in Columbus, Miss.

Army Guard pilots eagerly tested the Lakotas in northern Nevada's mountainous environment.

"We're developing the tactics, techniques and procedures for the Lakotas to see how well they operate in our high elevation and mountainous terrain," said Col. Kim Labrie, commander of the 991st Aviation Troop Command.

Funding for the Lakotas became available to the U.S. Army in 2004. The Department of Defense officially announced it would purchase 345 helicopters from EADS NA in October 2006 and a scant two months later, the first Lakotas were delivered to the Army.

On Dec. 12, 2006, retired Gen. Richard Cody, then-vice chief of staff of the Army, and Joe Red Cloud, a chief in the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Lakota Nation, accepted delivery of the first helicopter in an official ceremony in Columbus, Miss.

The first aircraft went to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. The Mississippi National Guard's 1st Service Battalion of the 114th Aviation Security and Support Battalion, based in Tupelo, received the Guard's first LUH-72As in June 2008. The majority of the 345 contracted helicopters will be fielded by National Guard units. ■

Reno brewery toasts **Air Guard** with Roler Bock



Dan Kahn, the master brewer for the Buckbean Brewery Company in Reno, checks the fermentation level of a batch of Roler Bock beer on March 17. Roler Bock beer became available in April and pays tribute to the Nevada Air Guard. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

By Capt. Jonathan Ashbaugh
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – The founders of the Buckbean Brewing Company have concocted a unique way to toast the Nevada Air National Guard.

Dan Kahn and Doug Booth started the Buckbean Brewing Company here in 2004. Since then, the micro-brewery has grown in leaps and bounds, and it now brews six beers, including one that pays tribute to the Nevada Air Guard.

The company's spring seasonal brew, Roler Bock, is named after the Nevada Air Guard's nickname: High Rollers. (Roller becomes Roler in flight operations text, hence the spelling with one L.) It just became available in April.

"We've had a number of very good, loyal customers who are members of the Air Guard and come in here a lot," Kahn said. "We had such a good relationship with them, and they were so supportive, we asked if we could loosely base a beer's name after them. The Roler Bock fits in well with our products."

The bock style of beer is a traditional German recipe produced each spring. It is officially known as Maibock and is a strong but smooth lager heavy on the hops.

Back in the Buckbean tasting room, one wall displays hundreds of international and domestic beer bottles collected over the past 20 years. The other wall displays Nevada Air Guard memorabilia.



Picture frames display posters from the 152nd Airlift Wing, including one of a C-130 Hercules flying over Nevada's high desert and another one of an Airman holding a Buckbean Brewing Company banner while deployed in Afghanistan.

A folded U.S. flag sits in a display case above an Air Guard certificate of appreciation for the brewery's support of the military.

"The Air Guard has been very supportive of us for a long time, so this was definitely something we wanted to do to show our appreciation," Kahn said.

Kahn said the Air Guard even invited the brewery staff to take a tour of the C-130s on the base in Reno.

The name Buckbean Brewing stems from the name of an herb that grows in the Tahoe meadows of northern Nevada and California. The buckbean plant's leaves have historically been used to brew beer in place of hops, and Kahn and Booth found it very fitting to honor the locally grown herb in their business endeavor.

Currently, only three Buckbean brews are canned for retail distribution. Kahn said there is a chance Roler Bock will join the lot if it develops a large following.

"The Roler Bock has already garnered a significant market in the Reno area and hopefully it will continue to grow," Kahn said. ■

Ashbaugh refused to disclose how much time he spent in Buckbean's tasting room researching this article.

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Experts provide tips to demystify the Defense Travel System

By Maj. Jeff Johnson
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs



CARSON CITY – Few will argue there aren't at least a few mystifying aspects of the Defense Travel System.

To help clarify the program for Soldiers and Airmen, both the Nevada Army and Air Guard provide DTS help desks and personnel to assist service members. DTS is the electronic travel management system that automates temporary duty travel for the Department of Defense.

"DTS is actually a great tool and an amazing program," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Fore, the lead defense travel administrator for the Nevada Army Guard, but he admitted some Soldiers have experienced difficulties transitioning to the system.

"Things have been a little rough since the implementation of the system last October, but there is light at the end of the tunnel," Fore said. "The number of help tickets is on the decline and unit administrators are stepping up and taking charge assisting their Soldiers."

Fore's counterpart from the Air Guard, Tech. Sgt. Michael Henderson, said there are several advantages to the DTS system in comparison to the previous travel systems.

"DTS allows Airmen and Soldiers to create their own travel requests and authorizations, and it allows units to control their own travel dollars," Henderson said. "The service members are able to manage their own temporary duty travel."

Fore said that a primary benefit of the program is that the traveler receives payment in a timely manner.

DTS began in 1995 when the Department of Defense created a task force to simplify the temporary duty travel system. The current system is the result of years of development and has been determined to be the most cost effective method of meeting military travel requirements.

All Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard, Nevada Air Guard technicians, active Guard and reserve Airmen must now use the DTS. The National Guard Bureau has not said when traditional Nevada Guard Airmen must begin using the system.

Henderson said he will assist Airmen with DTS functions including creating profiles, reviewing authorizations, approving documents and creating travel vouchers.

The first step in using the system is an appointment with a unit readiness sergeant.

"Readiness sergeants create and maintain Soldier profiles, set up travel authorizations for Soldiers, and help Soldiers receive their travel voucher payments," Fore said.

Practice leads to improved efficiency in the DTS according to Henderson.

"People who have not traveled often are the ones who have difficulty navigating the screens and travel options," Henderson said. "After getting over their initial anxiety of using the system, most people find it

useful and better than the old, hard-copy voucher system."

Service members should set aside at least an hour to complete their first travel document through DTS. They can acquire "cheat sheets" from the travel administrators to expedite the process.

There are a number of DTS training opportunities for service members. For online training, go to www.defensetravel.osd.mil. For individual training, consult your unit's travel administrator or call Fore or Henderson (numbers listed below).

Nevada Airmen also have the option of reviewing training materials on Sharepoint.

"Once all of the users are fully trained, DTS will simplify the entire travel process for the state of Nevada," Fore said. "The more you use it, the better it gets."

For information, call the Army Guard help desk at (775) 887-7800 or the Air Guard help desk at (775) 788-4537. ■

Staff Sgt. Fore's Top 5 Tips For DTS Success

1. Check the status of your document often and call for help.
2. Check all personal information prior to creating your authorization.
3. If you have two profiles, ensure you are in the correct profile prior to starting your authorization.
4. Use proper routing lists to ensure your document is accepted.
5. Use the DTS "cheat sheets" provided by the DTS help desk.

Tech. Sgt. Henderson's Top 5 Tips for DTS Success

1. Keep an open mind.
2. Be patient with the system and its flaws and quirks.
3. Contact your unit travel administrator first when experiencing problems.
4. Request training from your lead travel administrator.
5. Understand the "flow" of documents within DTS.



Staff Sgt. Derrick Fore, the lead defense travel system administrator for the Nevada Army Guard, instructs Sgt. David Summers of the 137th Military Police Company, during his first time booking travel on DTS. Photo by Sgt. Mike Getten



Program launches Guardsmen into academic careers

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Soldiers and Airmen who enjoy sharing their experiences and knowledge with younger cohorts may want to consider the Troops to Teachers Program and begin a civilian career of guiding and mentoring students.

The Troops to Teachers program provides counseling and referral services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as teachers. The Troops to Teachers office helps applicants identify teacher certification requirements and programs leading to certification and employment opportunities.

Three hundred and three Nevada Soldiers and Airmen, including 55 from the National Guard, have made the transition from full-time military service to the classroom, according to regional TTT director Myles Judd.

One Nevada Guard program graduate is Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Snedden from L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry in Yerington. After returning to Nevada following his unit's deployment to Afghanistan through April 2010, Snedden earned his teaching credential with the help of the TTT program. He currently teaches math and geometry at Wooster High School in Reno.

"The grants and stipends I received from the program really helped out, because to earn your credential, you must complete a student teaching stint, and you're not receiving any salary during that time," Snedden said.

Snedden said his experiences mentoring other Soldiers helped in his decision to become a teacher.

"I enjoyed teaching Soldiers, and that helped me pick the teaching profession as my career," Snedden said. "Teaching Soldiers and students is very similar. Both involve a great deal of interpersonal skills.

"I approach discipline differently with my students, though: no push-ups for them."

Guard and reserve members can receive a stipend up to \$5,000 toward teacher certification and a bonus of \$5,000 if they teach at a high-need school for three years after becoming certified or licensed.

In general, qualification for the stipend requires 10 years of service in the Guard or reserve and a commitment to teach for



Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Snedden of the 1/221st Cavalry, a graduate of the Troops to Teachers program, teaches algebra on Feb. 15 at Wooster High in Reno. The Troops to Teachers program provides counseling, referral services and often stipends to service members interested in beginning a second career in public education. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

**For information on
Troops to Teachers:**

Visit
ProudtoServeAgain.com

Or call Myles Judd
Office: (702) 387-0636
Cell: (719) 271-6234

Or e-mail
mjudd@mpttt.org

three years while remaining in the Guard; or six years of active duty service with the same three-year commitment to teach combined with a transfer into the Guard or reserves for three years.

Judd also said retired active Guard and reserve Soldiers and Airmen are eligible to become Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructors, and the TTT program may be able to subsidize their certification costs.

Many military educational benefits such as tuition waivers and book reimbursements are already available to Guardsmen at Nevada's state colleges and universities.

"Military members make great teachers," Judd said. "An independent study indicates students who have a Troops to Teacher program participant actually score above average in math and science testing."

For information, call Judd at (719) 271-6234 or write to mjudd@mpttt.org.

Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka contributed to this article.

Military history unit records the past to improve the future

By Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez
130th Military History Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – After Operation Desert Storm combat concluded in 1991, troops began policing the battlefield, clearing mines and detonating artillery shells in the midst of fumes from uncapped burning oil wells. Months later, many veterans began experiencing a rash of health problems.

The Pentagon tried to determine a pattern to the health problems but even seemingly simple questions such as where were the troops stationed and their duration of service in the desert were difficult to answer.

In the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm, historical recordkeeping came up short for the military. There were no clear-cut answers to explain the mysterious illnesses, so a new term originated in the English lexicon: Gulf War Syndrome.

Today, the National Guard does not want the records of the service and the efforts of the Soldiers and Airmen participating in Operation Enduring Freedom to fall through history's cracks. With the goal of collecting as much data as possible surrounding the deployments of troops to Afghanistan, the 130th Military History Detachment, based out of Raleigh, N.C., but comprising both Nevada and North Carolina Soldiers, arrived here in February to begin its one-year mission to collect important pieces of information surrounding OEF.

"What we collect during this mission will essentially shape the way Soldiers and Airmen are remembered for their contributions during Operation Enduring Freedom," said unit commander Lt. Col. William Rogers.

The tiny unit, the smallest in the North Carolina Army Guard, consists of just three Soldiers. They met for the first time in November and completed pre-deployment training at Camp Butner, N.C. Now the three have the monumental task of "collecting



Lt. Col. William Rogers, left, commander of the 130th Military History Detachment, conducts an oral history interview with Dr. Jeffrey Bordin in February at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Bordin is a contracted civilian who analyzes combat operations in the northeast region of the country. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Frank Marquez, 130th Military History Detachment

data for a corps-sized organization. A corps usually consists of 20,000-40,000 Soldiers according to the Department of the Army.

Soldiers in the 130th review hundreds of documents every day. Documents saved and recorded include: operations orders, training rosters, flight manifests, business contracts, news releases and after-action reports.

All of the documents add up to a huge U.S. military paper trail that is retained for future analysis. Most of the material is forwarded to the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. At the center, historians, journalists and authors can study the archives, and military historians can weave it into lessons for future leaders.

Most of the documents are then stored electronically. Terabytes of information store history today, not old-fashioned recordkeeping books or folders.

Deployment documentation is only a portion of the responsibility of the 130th, however.

The unit's Soldiers also conduct and record numerous oral interviews with Soldiers and Airmen in an attempt to get a "three-dimensional" view of modern warfare from OEF participants.

"The thing I like the best about being a military historian is investigating the why and how aspects of a situation in addition to just reporting the facts," said Staff Sgt. Todd Self, explaining the three dimensions of an oral interview.

Self is serving on his fourth deployment, but this is his first to Afghanistan.

"The stories and recollections of the Soldiers and Airmen are what is often lost as time passes following a conflict," Self

said. "Recently, I interviewed the Soldiers who located the remains of Matt Maupin, who was a private first class captured by insurgents in 2004. Their stories were filled with emotion and described unfathomable bravery. Those types of stories can't be duplicated in a situational report." ■

Marquez, one of the three Soldiers in the 130th, is the biggest University of Nebraska football fan currently serving in Afghanistan.

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Soldiers, firemen remove simulated victims, organizational barriers

By Alexis VanPool
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Intern

HUNGRY VALLEY, Nev. – Soldiers from the 1/168th Medical Evacuation Unit, the 3/140th Security and Support Detachment and the Reno Fire Department’s Urban Search and Rescue team conducted vehicle extraction and medical evacuation training near the Army Aviation Support Facility on Feb. 12.

The joint training gave the Soldiers and firefighters a chance to practice skills required to extract victims from burning vehicles, evacuate casualties onto waiting helicopters and an opportunity to share techniques and experiences.

“Sharing knowledge is always a win-win situation,” said Capt. John Kennedy of the Reno Fire Department.

The training scenarios were designed to simulate real life situations. Soldiers from the 168th played roles of car accident victims stranded in the middle of nowhere. When medics arrived, they discovered patients with simulated injuries in varying



Sgt. Stephen Parks, a medic with C Company, 1/168th MEDEVAC, uses a Jaws of Life hydraulic rescue tool to remove a door from a wrecked vehicle during an extraction exercise conducted in conjunction with the Reno Fire Department in February.

Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten



From left, Sgt. Alan Sharp, Sgt. Nicholas Hammond and Sgt. Michael Roen, all from the 1/168th MEDEVAC unit, assist Reno firemen Jim Bolton, Greg Clayborn and John Moberly in extracting two victims from a rolled vehicle during a joint training exercise in February. The 1/168th MEDEVAC and the Reno Fire Department conducted the joint training in Hungry Valley, Nev. The 3/140th Security and Support unit provided assistance during the exercise.

Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

degrees of seriousness. The injuries were realistic, complete with fake blood and rubber-injury moulages.

Medics from the 168th arrived on the scene via UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. They then worked with the Reno Fire Urban Search and Rescue officers to remove the victims and transport them for treatment. Hydraulic rescue tools including the Jaws of Life and other heavy-duty cutters helped free the victims from their wrecked vehicles.

Now unencumbered, the victims were strapped to backboards and had their wounds evaluated. Necks were braced, arms splinted and IVs inserted.

After receiving their initial treatment, simulated victims were placed on stretchers and carried by Soldiers and firemen to the waiting Black Hawks and flown to the Army Aviation Support Facility.

“This type of training prepares the crew for state missions, real world missions, and combat missions as well,” said Sgt. Andrew Lynch, who played the role of a crash victim.

The wide open space near the aviation facility gave the Soldiers and firemen the chance to experience an emergency response similar to when an accident

occurs on one of Nevada’s many back roads.

The training also gave Soldiers and firefighters an opportunity to develop relationships that will help them during future real world emergencies.

“This exercise allows us to smooth out our procedures now so we can avoid being tripped up in actual deployments in the future,” said Jim Bolten, the search and rescue team director. “Plus, we get to work with the Soldiers and get to know who they are.

“Developing relationships and trust between the two organizations will improve the ability of Soldiers and firemen to work well together to save lives both quickly and efficiently. It also gives everyone the opportunity to learn the best and most proficient way to save lives.”

Military officials echoed the director’s sentiment.

“It’s great training. It involves techniques we’ll perform both overseas and in the real world here in Nevada,” said Capt. Kyle O’Connell of the 168th. “The knowledge and skills acquired through this training will benefit both Nevadans and the out-of-state visitors traveling through our response area.” ■



While other students wait their turn, Staff Sgt. Michael Anson, an instructor with the 421st Regional Training Institute, uses hand signals to guide driver Pvt. Jorge Guterrez on the proper operation of the load handling system during a Motor Transport Operator course on March 4.

Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Oscar Lewis, 421st Regional Training Institute

SPOTLIGHT

RTI offers numerous training courses, opportunities

*By 1st Sgt. Heather Addamo
421st Regional Training Institute*

RENO – The 421st Regional Training Institute in Reno’s northern neighborhood of Stead is one of just a handful of National Guard academies that train Soldiers from every state and in a variety of topics. The institute also has a detachment in Las Vegas.

Courses are offered in military occupational specialties, additional skill identifiers, combatives, combat lifesaver classes, the noncommissioned officer education system, officer candidate school and pre-command team training.

The RTI team of instructors expects to train more than 800 Soldiers this year.

Currently, the RTI offers MOS qualification training in information technology,

signal support systems, motor transportation and military police operations.

Soldiers earn skill identifiers by acquiring special skills, training and qualifications in addition to their primary MOS.

The RTI offers the Army Basic Instructor Course available to all Soldiers.

Those interested in improving their instruction skills may enroll in the Small Group Instructor Training Course. Graduation from an instructor course will likely lead to promotion points, and the courses are useful for professional development.

The 421st just enrolled a record number of entry students for its 2011 Officer Candidate School: 25.

The OCS staff encourages first-line leaders to discuss the OCS option with all

eligible Soldiers. For information about the OCS program, call (775) 677-5211

“The training conducted at the RTI is tactically and technically relevant,” said Lt. Col. Joanne Farris, 421st commander. “Students leave the institute with confidence and pride, which leads to successful accomplishments of Army missions.”

The RTI has a limited number of traditional instructor positions open for all MOS qualification courses. Soldiers who are MOS qualified and are interested in becoming instructors should call (702) 632-0334. ■

On drill weekends, Addamo racks up frequent flier miles in addition to retirement points. In her civilian occupation, she works in Virginia for the Air Force as a senior analyst.

DEMOLITION MEN: SAPPERS UNFAZED BY LIVE EXPLOSIVES

From left, Pfc. Robert Diaz, Pvt. Richard Butchert and Sgt. Anthony Reddick of the 609th Engineer Company create a water impulse charge out of two intravenous bags and an explosive March 6 near Fallon during urban mobility breach training. Photo: Alexis VanPool



By Spc. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

FALLON – Nausea, a moment of shock and a charged blast didn't stop Cpl. Kevin Hail from rushing for his objective during the 609th Engineer Company's training here on March 5 that featured live explosives.

"You can feel the effects of the explosion in your teeth and in your ears," Hail said. "You can't breathe after the explosion and the smell is nauseating. Last night I felt sick. I just stayed focused on the objective."

The surging Sappers practiced urban mobility breach techniques on Fallon Naval Air Station property about 30 miles east of Fallon. The live demolition practice was the first in the unit's history.

"One year ago, this company barely had its feet on the ground," said Capt. Nicholas Chavez, the 609th's company commander. "Today, we're executing floor clearing and live demolition exercises. That progress reflects the unit's evolution."

The exercise gave the unit the opportunity to train with linear, water-impulse, silhouette and c-charges explosives. During the drills leading up to the exercise, the Sapper Soldiers learned how to create a charge, how to react after a detonation, and how to calculate minimum safety distances.

Soldiers also had to pass a written examination before participating in the demo.

"Safety is our primary emphasis," said Sgt. Nathan Schertel, platoon leader during the exercise. "We worked nonstop on preparation. All of our downtime (during the 609th's previous three drills) was dedicated to training for the exercise."

The 609th emphasized keeping explosions unpredictable and realistic. Soldiers tactically attached charges to entry doors while platoon leaders maintained constant communication with their Soldiers. After the explosions, Soldiers quickly grouped into five-man teams by the door and continued to communicate as they entered the facility.

More than just an opportunity to learn vital combat techniques, the Guardsmen said the exercise included some purely memorable experiences.

"It kind of feels like you're belly-flopping into a pool," said 609th 1st Sgt. Scott Brown. "The impact and smell are so strong that it tends to disorient most Soldiers for a quick second as they make their way through the door."

The exercise was important training for the Sappers because of their role in combat alongside infantry Soldiers.

"We work on mobility, survivability and counter-mobility in support of the infantry. If we are tasked to work with infantry units in combat, performing urban mobility breaches will be one of our jobs. That's why it is so important to know how to do it," Brown said. ■

Marcus only had to be warned once during this assignment to stay a safe distance from the live explosives.

Employment Enhancement Program connects employers, Guardsmen

By Maj. John Strahan
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Guardsmen are not immune to the effects of a poor economy.

Nevada has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, and the situation has affected many Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen, as well as their families.

To assist Guard members searching for employment, the National Guard Employment Enhancement Program was created and a full time NGEEP coordinator, Emily Minkle, was hired in 2010. Her office is in the Clark County Armory.

Minkle is a trained employment specialist who provides training and employment information to National Guard members and their spouses. An Air Force veteran, Minkle helps her clients in a variety of ways.

She offers classes on topics such as résumé writing, job searching and interviewing. She also educates businesses and employment resources about the positive aspects of hiring a National Guard Soldier or Airman.

At a recent job fair at the Clark County Armory, Minkle brought 21 employers and 11 resource agencies together who were specifically targeting military personnel and their spouses for employment.

More than 80 people attended the event, and many of the participants brought newly-written resumes and job-seeking skills they had acquired in Minkle's classes.



Emily Minkle, left, the coordinator of the Nevada Guard's Employment Enhancement Program, meets with an employer during a recent job fair at the Clark County Armory. Minkle works with Soldiers and Airmen to assist them in their employment searches. Photo: Maj. John Strahan, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

The job fair was a success. Five Soldiers were offered employment by one company, and more than 20 others received invitations for subsequent interviews.

Although located in Las Vegas, Minkle is available to assist Guard members across Nevada. Several job fairs are scheduled throughout the state this summer. (See the Family Support Schedule on page 31.)

Soldiers, Airmen and their family members are welcome to e-mail their résumés for review to Minkle at:

emily.d.minkle.ctr@us.army.mil

For more information on the NGEEP, call (702) 290-8549. ■

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Soldiers 'learn it, do it, teach it' en route to commission

By Spc. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – Preparation eliminates hesitation.

That's the important lesson 2nd Lt. Travis Nielsen learned – and more importantly, retained – during his four-month initial stage of the Nevada Army Guard's Officer Candidate School.

Nielsen led his class of Soldiers during an equipment check last spring, but the previous class leader hadn't communicated the new standard operating procedure in time for Nielsen to prepare sufficiently.

"They grilled me for that," said Nielsen, who grew up in Sparks and graduated from Wooster High in Reno. "The cadre got in my face and I couldn't come up with a quick response for how I was going to fix the problem. OCS is similar to Army Basic Combat Training in the sense you must resolve problems quickly, but it's different in other ways because there is no way to hide in the background and avoid leadership roles."

Nielsen attained his goal of becoming an officer in August 2010. He began the Nevada Army Guard's accelerated commissioning process in February 2010 and, after a five-week stint at Fort Meade, S.D., during the summer, earned his lieutenant bars. He is now a platoon leader in the Arizona National Guard.

The accelerated route Nielsen chose to follow isn't the only way to become an officer.

The traditional program includes a shortened stay at Fort Meade and an additional 12 months of weekend drills with a final training exercise at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Soldiers may also receive their commission via the Reserve Officers Training Corps or a direct commission.

There were 14 Soldiers in Nielsen's initial four-month phase of OCS. The instructors for the first phase of the course come from

the 421st Regional Training Institute located in Stead and they teach, assess and counsel the candidates.

After commissioning, Soldiers are placed in respective officer branches depending on the needs of the state.

"We try to accommodate the individual's wish list, but every officer candidate is placed based upon where the state could best use that officer," said Mary Leaming, a military personnel specialist.

Leaming said the Guard is currently prioritizing filling officer vacancies in the signal, logistics and armor branches.

The state can also directly commission a Soldier if it determines personnel are needed to fill certain vital roles.

Another way Nevada adds officers is through interstate transfers, said officer recruiter 1st Lt. Mike Bordallo.

AIR GUARD

Airmen in Nevada's Air Guard must have the following to commission:

- Approved application for valid vacancy slot
- Completion of commission physical
- A passing score in the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test based on college credit completed
- NGB approval
- Graduation from the Academy of Military Science at Maxwell Air Force Base

Health professionals, attorneys, chaplains and nurses must have specific college degrees in their fields. For information, call Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley at (775) 788-4541.

ARMY GUARD

Soldiers in Nevada's Army Guard can commission the following ways:

- **Standard route:** Completion of 90 college credits, adequate drill weekends as a candidate and graduation from the required leadership training courses.
- **ROTC route:** Simultaneously drill with a unit while attending school and participating in Reserve Officers' Training Corps courses.
- **Direct commission:** Soldiers can receive a direct commission to vacant positions deemed necessary.

For information, call (775) 720-6107. Soldiers can also call UNR's ROTC at (775) 784-6751 or UNLV's ROTC at (702) 895-0452.



2nd Lt. Travis Nielsen transitioned from an officer candidate to a second lieutenant in 2010. Nielsen graduated from the Nevada Army Guard Officer Candidate School and is now a platoon leader in the Arizona Guard. Photo illustration: Spc. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment



GUEST COLUMN

Capt. Charles Dickinson, Nevada Army Guard Officer Strength Manager

Path to becoming officer has numerous options, benefits

Officer Candidate School is a mentally and physically demanding course designed to develop and assess the leadership potential of officer candidates. The program of instruction includes classroom and field instruction and situations.

Candidates who successfully complete the program and meet all other requirements will be commissioned second lieutenants in the Nevada Army National Guard and receive federal recognition as reserve officers in the U.S. Army.

The program offers two attendance options. The traditional route is a 16-month course consisting of 14 drill weekends and two annual training sessions. This is the ideal option for Soldiers currently working on their college degrees but have yet to complete 90 credit hours.

The fast track program is a condensed version of the traditional course and is completed during a two-month active duty training period. This program is for applicants who have completed at least 90 college credit hours toward a degree. It consists of 60 continuous days of intense but rewarding training.

Benefits of attending OCS include GI Bill subsidies, staff sergeant pay while enrolled in the program and the opportunity to lead,



Capt. Charles Dickinson, shown here on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, campus, is a 2006 graduate of the Nevada Army Guard Officer Candidate School. The Nevada Army Guard accessed a record 25 Soldiers into its Officer Candidate School in February. Photo: Courtesy of Nevada Guard Recruiting and Retention

develop and train the nation's finest Soldiers.

Soldiers who aren't interested in the OCS commissioning route can opt for the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at any one of the academic institutions in Nevada featuring military science.

Similar to OCS, ROTC provides ample opportunities for mental and physical conditioning, professional development and leadership experience.

Soldiers can participate in the ROTC program upon entry during their freshman year of school. Upon successful completion of 30 college credits, the Soldier has the opportunity to become an ROTC cadet and participate in the Army Guard's Simultaneous Membership Program.

The SMP option lets the cadet shadow a lieutenant assigned to a unit in the Nevada National Guard. During the shadowing period, the cadet is exposed to the type of demands and responsibilities he or she will assume as a platoon leader.

In addition to professional development perks, the SMP also offers financial benefits. While participating in the SMP, cadets receive sergeant wages during Guard events, and a monthly stipend. They are also eligible for the SMP subsidy in addition to their regular GI Bill benefits.

Those who are truly dedicated to the Guard can apply for the Guaranteed Reserve Force Duty scholarship. The program pays cadets up to \$10,000 annually for room and board, and they are guaranteed an officer position in the National Guard.

For more information, you can visit www.nv.ngb.army.mil/army/Officer.cfm or call (702) 301-2496. ■

The Nevada Air Guard differs from the Army Guard as Airmen must first establish there is an officer vacancy before they can seek the commission.

"You have to prove there is an open slot before you can become an officer," said Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley, the Nevada Air Guard's recruiting office supervisor. "Also, if you want to join certain fields – for example, as a health professional, lawyer, chaplain or nurse – you must have a degree in that field."

"Learn it, do it, teach it" – the ROTC route

University of Nevada, Reno, ROTC cadet Josh Olson had to clear some hurdles en route to his commission last year.

During a land navigation exercise last semester, his map displayed multiple markings for a location not even associated with the exercise, leaving his platoon confused and frustrated.

"Our senior military instructor pulled us over and said, 'Here's what you have, now go,' without giving us the exact solution," Olson said. "The instructors told us 'don't reinvent the wheel, but find ways to make the wheel move faster.'"

While commissioning through ROTC is more time consuming than OCS, Olson and his classmates were pleased with their choice.

Simultaneous membership program ROTC cadets commission in 2-3 years as they attend college classes and drill one weekend a month with an Army Guard unit. Thirty-one of the 70 Soldiers in the state's ROTC system are enrolled in the program.

The other 39 Soldiers are progression cadets who will require four years to commission and will not attend basic training until after their college graduation.

Soldiers looking to commission through ROTC must attend a month-long Leadership Development Assessment Course in Fort Lewis, Wash., the summer after their junior year.

"ROTC is based on the philosophy of 'learn it, do it, teach it,'" said cadet Craig Soule, a junior at UNR.

As freshmen and sophomores, Soldiers are expected to hone basic warrior tasks and battle drills before refining them during their junior year.

After returning from their leadership course at Fort Lewis, the senior cadets teach the tasks and drills to the younger cadets.

"The program really is genius," said Olson, who was recognized as a distinguished military graduate upon graduation. "The ROTC program helped me for college and gave me the tools I needed to prepare myself for a long career in the U.S. Army." ■

AFTER SOME DARK DECADES, *Nevada Guard enters modern era*

By Spc. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – There hadn't been a spectacle like this in The Biggest Little City since Jack Johnson defeated Jim Jeffries in the "Fight of the Century" for the heavyweight boxing title in 1910.

Thousands thronged downtown Reno on June 27, 1941, for the Nevada National Guard's activation parade. Fighting in Europe had raged that spring, and Nevada's citizen-Soldiers were ready to join the fray that would eventually lead to world war.

At the time of its activation in 1941, the Nevada Guard comprised about 400 Soldiers. All 400 deployed to Camp Haan in Riverside, Calif., for active duty training.

A majority of the Nevada Guardsmen eventually deployed to the Pacific combat zone, and many served on the European front. Some even remained at Camp Haan for the entire war. Several never made it home.

The Nevada Guard answered its call to serve and fight on behalf of the United States during the most widespread war in history.

Just a few decades earlier, however, the Nevada Guard had been nonexistent. The state's low population, an economic depression after the silver boom of the late 1800s, and crippling federal legislation all combined to force Gov. John Sparks to disband the Nevada Guard in 1906.

The dawn of the 20th century marked the Nevada National Guard's bleakest hour. The state's population dropped below 50,000 after the Comstock Lode dried up and politicians in Washington, D.C., began jokingly referring to the Battle Born state as the "Rotten Borough," a 12th century English term used to describe shrinking parliamentary constituencies.

Another strike against Nevada was the Dick Act (or Militia Act) of 1903, which gave increased federal funding to state Guards as long as they passed federal inspections. The Battle Born Guard failed to meet inspections and was dropped from the federal budget in 1906. At that time, Nevada was the only state in the Union without a National Guard force.



*Shown here as a brigadier general, Jay White served as the adjutant general of the Nevada Guard from 1927-1947. He eventually became a major general.
Photo: Courtesy of Nevada State Archives*

Problems surrounding the Nevada Guard – or lack thereof – grew in 1907 when Sparks requested federal troops to quell a miners' strike in Goldfield. President Theodore Roosevelt sent 300 federal Soldiers to reduce the potential of disorder.

With the federal troops in Goldfield tempering the labor strife, the mine owners essentially won the dispute and work resumed in the mines. Roosevelt eventually was convinced that the conditions

in Goldfield had not warranted Sparks' appeal for federal assistance, but that admission came too late to prevent most Nevadans from becoming wary of future military involvement in labor disputes.

As the conditions that would lead to World War I stewed in 1913, Nevada failed numerous attempts to pass War Department standards in an effort to reorganize its National Guard.

The lack of a state National Guard didn't quench the Silver State's patriotic fires when world war broke out in 1914. According to biennial reports, one out of 33 Nevadans volunteered to serve in World War I, the highest percentage of any state in the Union.

Finally, in 1927, Jay White, a district attorney from Mineral County, helped the Nevada National Guard regain its federal status.

White was a hard-working and prominent Nevadan who admitted in his autobiography to an excessive temper and penchant for scotch.

He knew then-Nevada Gov. Fred Balzar from school, and both had worked for the Virginia-Truckee Railroad.

Balzar summoned White to Carson City in 1927 for a meeting and, despite his missing the morning train and being an hour late for his personal audience with the governor, White was still offered the job as the governor's private secretary by Balzar.



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Headquartered in Winnemucca, Battery B, 1st Gunnery Battalion, maintained a detailed scrapbook recording the events and activities of the Soldiers and National Guard units of Humboldt County in the 1930s. The scrapbook was eventually donated to the Nevada State Archives, and it remains one of very few preserved public documents featuring photos of Guardsmen in the 1930s.

TOP LEFT: The Soldiers in Company F, 115th Engineers, trained on FT-17 tanks in California in 1938. The tanks were made in France by Renault and were likely produced during World War I.

TOP RIGHT Soldiers in Company F, 115th Engineers, practice infantry maneuvers at

Camp Merriman in 1938 while wearing chemical warfare gear. Chemical weapon usage was widespread in World War I, and chemical warfare training was essential as World War II brewed in Europe in the late 1930s.

BOTTOM LEFT: Company F, 115th Engineers, commanded by Capt. Robin McCormick, marches while training in San Luis Obispo, Calif., at Camp Merriman on July 31, 1938. The camp was located near today's Camp Roberts, officially established in 1940.

Photos: Courtesy of Nevada State Archives

White had many duties. He advised the governor on legal issues, greeted visitors to the Capitol and helped with speech writing.

Written into the Nevada statute in 1925, another of the secretary's responsibilities was to serve as the adjutant general. Nevada, even without an established National Guard, maintained an adjutant general to update the governor on military affairs.

Unlike previous governors, Balzar wanted to increase the adjutant general's power and re-establish the Guard.

"In spite of vigorous and bitter criticism from organized labor, (Balzar) gave me complete and enthusiastic support to the day of his death," White wrote in his autobiography.

In 1928, the 40th National Guard Division established the 40th Military Police Company stationed in Reno with 60 Soldiers. This was the first federally recognized Guard unit in Nevada history.

In 1929, Company D, 115th Regiment of Combat Engineers, federally recognized 60 more Soldiers. These units were commanded by the governor and were regulated by state laws.

Mindful of some of the state's notorious confrontations, the War Department's caveat to the governor was to "avoid any disturbances arising from any labor trouble, strike or lockout."

White, who remained Nevada's adjutant general even after Balzar's death in 1934, was instrumental in adding two engineer units, a battalion headquarters, and a state headquarters in Reno in 1935. By 1941, the Nevada Guard had units in Reno, Winnemucca, Elko and Las Vegas. The resurrection of the Nevada Guard was complete.

The Nevada Guard lapsed once again during World War II, as the entire organization was placed on active duty status. After completing their training in Camp Haan, the majority of the Nevada Guardsmen were assigned to the 121st Coast Artillery, Anti-Aircraft Battalion.

Nevada Gov. Edward Carville chose not to fund the Guard during the war. When Nevada's Soldiers returned from duty, Nevada continued to drag its feet on the National Guard funding issue, much to White's dismay.

White continued to officially serve as the adjutant general until his retirement as a major general in 1947. The patriarch of Nevada's modern National Guard served for 20 years in total. His two-decade stint in office was the longest in Nevada history at the time. (Maj. Gen. James May was the adjutant general from 1947-1967.)

White lived to see the Battle Born state regain its National Guard units shortly after leaving office. The units included the 192nd Air Squadron, a precursor of the Nevada Air Guard.

As White's long career concluded, Nevada entered a new stage in its National Guard history — the post World War II era. ■

Next: The Nevada Air Guard takes flight as the Army Guard expands.

(Dr. Michael Brodhead, a history professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, contributed to this report.)

DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Airmen depart, Soldiers return on deployment carousel

By Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Karrick, Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift; Capt. Laura Boldry, 137th Military Police Detachment; Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka; Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter, Agribusiness Development Team; and Sgt. Mike Getten

Mission accomplished: 137th MPs return to Nevada

HENDERSON – The 137th Military Police Law and Order Detachment wrapped up its deployment in Afghanistan and returned home to Henderson in April.

During most of the deployment, the detachment's 50 Soldiers were located at four disparate forward operating bases. Some Soldiers worked with military police from other nations and performed a multitude of law and order missions.

In February, one team was reassigned to Kabul and was integrated into an International Military Police team. The IMP team was staffed by Belgian, Greek, Hungarian, Macedonian and American military policemen.

Also, the MPs in Kunduz continued to conduct numerous force protection missions until their final day in Afghanistan.

"The weather and road conditions were a constant struggle – we fought the muddy conditions more than the insurgency during the month of February," Sgt. 1st Class Tod Simmons said. "We will never again take for granted the paved roads – potholes and all – of Las Vegas."

Capt. Laura Boldry said the unit's Soldiers were grateful for the support they received during the 137th's 15-month-long odyssey.

"To all of the families and communities, I want to thank you," Boldry said. "Everyone should have a great deal of pride in their heart for the job these Soldiers did while deployed in Afghanistan."

The 137th did not incur any casualties during its deployment.

422nd signals safe arrival in Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN – After concluding pre-deployment training at Fort Lewis, Wash.,

the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, including about 450 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers, traveled to Afghanistan in March.

"The process of spreading our Soldiers and companies around our area of operations began in late March and will be constant throughout our tour," said Lt. Col. Jeff Hansen, commander of the 422nd. "Throughout our deployment, we will be bringing signal units in, getting them ready and configured, and then send them out across Afghanistan."

Spc. Ryan Wendt said the Soldiers had a memorable flight into Kandahar Airfield.

"It was an amazing view as we approached, with jagged, snow-covered mountains as far as the eye could see in every direction – I have never seen anything like it," Wendt said. "Once we landed at the airfield we had our in-brief followed by three days of training and zeroing our weapons. We are just now experiencing our first days on the job."

Agribusiness Development Team in deployment home stretch

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK, Afghanistan – It is hard to believe, but the Nevada Agribusiness Development Team's deployment is in its home stretch and is set to return home in early summer.

The first nine months of deployment brought the team countless missions working with numerous Afghanis and partnering agencies.

During that time the Soldiers and Airmen worked in conjunction with the Afghan government to complete more than two dozen projects including greenhouses, anti-erosion controls and a windmill. Several dozen other projects are ongoing and will be completed by the conclusion of the ADT's deployment this summer.

Often remaining in the background as projects are completed, the ADT defers much of the credit to local government. It is believed that if the locals associate community improvements with their local government, they will be less likely to side



Sgt. Ryan Ketzbeau of the 137th Military Police Detachment, right, and his allied forces cohort had to be pulled out of a high-water situation by another vehicle. The Soldiers in the 137th had a tough battle with inclement weather and muddy roads as their deployment wound down in March. Photo: Courtesy of 137th Military Police Detachment

with the anti-government forces such as the Taliban.

The more recent focus of the Nevada ADT has been on the business aspect of agriculture. The unit has also been heavily involved with local governments and other agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in developing business models. One business model promises to keep foods fresh and marketable for an extended period of time.

Airmen begin, complete air drop mission

RENO – About 125 Nevada Guard Airmen began yet another mission to support the 152nd Airlift Wing's unrelenting deployment schedule in early January.

Unlike many deployments, the wing flew its own C-130H Hercules aircraft in Afghanistan during this mission which entailed airlift and air drop operations. In the past, it shared aircraft and resources with other units while deployed.

Some High Rollers on this deployment have racked up a dozen or more trips to southwest Asia since Sept. 11, 2001.

The unit's Airmen completed their mission and arrived back in the Silver State in late March and April.

Also, nearly a dozen Airmen from the 152nd Intelligence Squadron and one Nevada C-130 deployed to southwest Asia in February to assist with operation Shadow Harvest.

The Nevada Guardsmen are teaming with Airmen and Soldiers from Australia and Great Britain as well as the United States during the mission.

They will remain in southwest Asia for about eight months, which makes this mission the longest single deployment for the 152nd Intelligence Squadron since 9/11.

The operation provides real-time intelligence to commanders on the ground.

The Nevada Airmen on the mission are operating an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platform for the Defense Intelligence Agency while deployed. The C-130 and flight crew that hosts the platform is from another state's Air National Guard unit. Capt. Brian Gunderson said the Airmen had only 30 days notice before they deployed.

"The short notice and the ability of these Airmen to meet the demanding timeline reflects well upon their training and preparedness with this equipment," Gunderson said.

Det. 45 enjoys new dawn back home in Reno

RENO – It took a while for the deployment of Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift, to finally get started in summer of 2010. But the slow start did not deter the small unit from successfully completing its mission and returning home to Reno in March.

Several times during the year, the unit believed it would depart on its mission but was delayed by military officials in Washington, D.C. The unit finally began its mission to southwest Asia in August 2010.

The unit took two of its C-12 aircraft into theater. On the way to their combat destination, the dozen Soldiers in the unit saw the sun rise in four states and 10 countries in less than two weeks.



Airman 1st Class Katie McCray of the 152nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and Senior Airman Christopher Tribble of the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron pump fuel into a Nevada Air Guard C-130 prior its departure in January. The plane carried more than two dozen Airmen who were beginning a deployment to Afghanistan.

Photo: Maj. April Conway

Once in Asia, the unit joined a task force in the Middle East and participated in Operation New Dawn. The OSA's mission was to provide aviation support for senior military and civilian officials throughout the area of operations.

As they prepared to return to the Silver State in March, the Soldiers became anxious to see a new dawn in Reno with their families.

Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Karrick, commander of the detachment, credited the Soldiers' families for the success of the deployment.

"The OSA families have unselfishly allowed us to borrow their loved ones for a long time," Karrick said. "It's my priority to assist these families and Soldiers as they reestablish their relationships and return back to a normal way of life."

No casualties were reported by the 45th.

Air Guard navigator's score *soars* at AMS

By 1st Lt. Reed Kobernik, 192nd Airlift Squadron

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Although Nevada Air Guard 1st Lt. Greg Green earned his engineering degree before he became an officer, he said his Air Force navigator training surpassed all of his previous academic accomplishments.

While that may be true, Green soared through all of his tests here at the Academy of Military Science to record the highest overall academic score percentage in the history of the school. According to Capt. Troy Lindig, a faculty advisor at the Academy of Military Science, his average score of 98.3 percent on his evaluations ranks No. 1 out of the 8,115 graduates of the school.

During his 25-month odyssey to become a navigator, Green excelled at several courses in addition to his stint at AMS. He also attended Initial Flight Screening School in Colorado, combat systems officer training in Texas, C-130 initial qualification training in Arkansas and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape School in Washington and Florida.

Green said some of the highlights of his journey included attempting to land an aircraft during Initial Flight Screening School without any experience at the controls of an airplane and parasailing off the coast of Florida during water survival training.

Since his graduation from the Academy of Military Science, Green returned to Reno and completed his first mission as a

full-fledged navigator with the High Rollers in February. During that mission, he recorded a perfect drop score for his points of impact on consecutive air drops. ■



Nevada Air Guard 1st Lt. Greg Green calculates a potential navigational route while training at the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tenn. During his course of study at the academy, Green recorded the highest academic score percentage in the history of the school. Photo: 1st Lt. Reed Kobernik, 192nd Airlift Squadron

593rd savors regional food service award

By Spc. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

HUNGRY VALLEY – Although the results of the national Phillip Connelly food service competition left the cooks of the 593rd Transportation Company sour with disappointment, the unit was still able to savor its first place finish in the regional competition.

The Connelly competition is a nationwide, interservice contest that recognizes excellence in military food preparation.

The 593rd was not announced as one of the winners of the national contest in January. However, the unit took consolation knowing it had won the Southwest Regional competition in the last quarter of 2010. The Southwest regional included units from Utah, California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii and Guam.

According to Staff Sgt. Brian Jones, food operations sergeant for the company, Nevada had finished first in regional competition 10 times since the event was established.

For their meal during the national competition, the cooks from the 593rd prepared turkey, potatoes and an assortment of soups and vegetables.

The company was also judged on logistical operations outside the cooking area including security and sanitation.

Northern Nevada was the first stop on the judges' tour. During the competition, the judges visited the six other regions competing in the event.

Spc. Ryan Wendt, a cook with the 593rd, said the competition gave him his first opportunity to train in a mobile kitchen trailer in six years.

"It was great to get out there and see what we can do in action," Wendt said. "I used to think being a cook was a thankless job, but every time someone walks by and thanks you for the meal



Spc. Justin Whetstone of the 593rd Transportation Company serves up an early holiday-type meal during the national Phillip Connelly food service competition in October. Although they did not win the national title, the Soldiers of the food service section of the 593rd took first place in the regional level competition last fall. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

– especially with the Thanksgiving-styled meals we provided – it reminds me how grateful the Soldiers are for us and how we often bring a taste of home to them."

Warrant Officer Keith Mackie, supply management specialist for the Nevada Guard, did not dwell on the fact the 593rd did not earn the national title.

"Just the fact that these guys made it to the top level of competition says an awful lot about their skills," Mackie said.

The national title went to the 216th Engineer Battalion of Cincinnati, Ohio. The unit accepted its award in Schaumburg, Ill., in January. ■

Taulman garners nationwide military spouse honor

By Maj. April Conway

CARSON CITY – Rebecca Taulman, the Family Readiness Group leader for the deployed Nevada Agribusiness Development Team, was named the Air National Guard nominee for the U.S. Air Force's 2011 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year Award on March 4. She won out over 53 other state and territory nominees for the Air National Guard honor.

The Orr Award recognizes spouses of military members for their significant contributions to the Air Force. The Sparks resident will now compete against nominees from the Air Force Reserve and more than a dozen other Air Force commands.

Taulman is the wife of Chief Master Sgt. Rob Taulman, currently deployed with the ADT. As the Family Readiness Group leader for the unit, she is a central point of contact for family members of the unit's deployed Airmen and Soldiers. Taulman took on the volunteer position in June 2010 when the unit began its yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. She has prioritized constant communication, something she says is sometimes lacking among the family members.

"I've learned more about the military in the past several months than I had in the



Rebecca Taulman, seen here with husband Chief Master Sgt. Rob Taulman, is the Air National Guard nominee for the U.S. Air Force Joan Orr Spouse of the Year award.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Rebecca Palmer, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

previous 18 years of marriage to a service member," Taulman said.

Taulman informs families about available benefits, organizes holiday parties and other events for children of deployed Guardsmen. Along with her self-described wing man, Kim Ritter, she developed and publishes a monthly newsletter for family members. Taulman has also gone beyond the volunteer job description by assisting families in times of emergency over the past several months.

"I'm passionate about helping families, but there's no way I'd be this successful if not for the rest of the people in the High Roller family," Taulman said. "I've never been turned down when asking for anything. Who knew I could get an award for bugging people?"

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry, the senior enlisted leader for the Nevada Air Guard, said no one is more deserving.

"Rebecca already had a full plate on her schedule taking care of her son and working at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center and several other volunteer organizations. She didn't have to take on this responsibility, but not only did she throw her hat in the ring for the position, she has excelled beyond our command's wildest expectations," Scurry said.

Taulman is also an inaugural member of the Nevada Air Guard's Key Volunteer Program, organizes church youth activities, is a member of the Patriot Guard Riders and is an emergency medical technician volunteer at several community events each year.

The winner of the Orr Spouse of the Year Award is set to be announced at the end of April. ■

Some say the retired pay issue is settled...

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doesn't think so.

Reducing the receipt of retired pay by three months for every aggregate 90 days of active duty service is a start for some Reserve Component Soldiers. **HOWEVER**, it isn't good enough. The Association of the U.S. Army wants the retirement age reduced from 60 to 55 for all Reserve Component Soldiers.



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Mission statements define roles, goals

By Col. Terrence Fornof, Commander, Nevada Air Guard

The Nevada Air National Guard has supported our nation and state with ready Airmen since April 1948. We have provided many capabilities over the last six decades.

Throughout those years, it has been critical for every Airman to come to work knowing they make a difference and that each Airman's specific unit has a mission statement that clearly defines how they make a difference.

The following includes the Nevada Air Guard's mission statement along with the mission statements of the three major organizations that report to the Air Guard state headquarters.

Within the units, each particular section has a mission statement that supports the overall organization.

All Nevada Airmen and Soldiers have the same state mission: To maintain a vital

presence of citizen-Airmen and -Soldiers to protect, support and strengthen Nevada communities, trained and ready to respond to the orders of the adjutant general and governor of the state of Nevada.

Each unit has a specified federal mission that reflects a high level of readiness:

Nevada Air Guard: To provide world class tactical air delivery, intelligence, remote-piloted aircraft and advanced war fighters for national and state objectives.

152nd Airlift Wing: To provide world class, worldwide tactical air delivery.

152nd Intelligence Squadron: To train, organize, equip and present assigned forces and capabilities to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance for combatant commanders and the nation

232nd Operations Squadron: To train Guardsmen to support the U.S. Air Force



training, tactics development and testing when activated voluntarily or by presidential authorization and to develop Guard leadership skills through training with active duty personnel.

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SPORTS NEWS

Air Guard pilot Dietrich lands two gold medals

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

MIDWAY, Utah – Pilot Maj. Julie Dietrich from the 152nd Airlift Wing landed the first biathlon gold medals in Nevada Air Guard history here Feb. 5-6 during the National Guard Western Regional races held on the Soldier Hollow Ski Trails, the same venue that was used for biathlon during the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Dietrich won the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint in 50 minutes, 13 seconds and the 10-kilometer pursuit in 1:21:23. She is the first Nevada athlete to win multiple medals during one biathlon competition and the first to score a gold medal since Sgt. Cirila Santillano won the regional in 2009.

The Nevada Guard's men's team narrowly missed the podium, finishing in fourth place behind Colorado, Utah and Montana despite placing three athletes in the top 10 of the 10-kilometer sprint. Team results were tallied based on overall times from the sprint race on Feb. 5 and the pursuit race on Feb. 6.

But the disappointment of the men's team was tempered by the gold medal haul by Dietrich, who swept both women's events. Dietrich lives in the ski town of Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and was already an experienced alpine and telemark skier before transitioning to biathlon last year. Biathlon, one of the four sports sponsored by the National Guard, combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship.

Dietrich grew up in Kansas and was a collegiate rower before she joined the Navy



for a nine-year stint. After living in southern California for several years and spending four years with the California Air National Guard, she joined the High Rollers and moved to the Sierra.

Dietrich said the shooting portion of the biathlon can test an athlete just as much as the skate skiing.

"The shooting aspect of the biathlon is more challenging than I expected," Dietrich said. "Rowing is focused more on physical effort, biathlon is more mentally challenging.

"When you go into the range to shoot, you have to fully concentrate on being methodical and precise while your heart rate is high. I don't get to practice shooting as much as I should, so I still do a lot of penalty laps."

Dietrich dominated her races in Midway and will likely contend for biathlon medals.

2011 Western Regional Biathlon Results Feb. 5-6 at Soldier Hollow, Utah

Team results: 1. Colorado, 2. Utah, 3. Montana, 4. Nevada, 5. Oregon, 6. Texas.

Women's 7.5K Sprint: 1. Dietrich (Nev.), 2. Bogden (Mont.), 3. Zayas (Ore.).

Men's 10K Sprint: 1. Wilkins (Colo.), 2. Killian (Colo.), 3. Morken (Utah). **Also:** 5. Raitter (Nev.), 7. Kenison (Nev.), 8. Studenicka (Nev.), 29. Irwin (Nev.), 30. Michael (Nev.)

Maj. Julie Dietrich skis and shoots her way to the gold medal in the women's 10-kilometer pursuit Feb. 6 in Midway, Utah, during the National Guard's Western Regional competition. Dietrich is the first Nevada Airman to claim a gold medal in biathlon, the winter sport that combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship. Ski photo: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka; inset by Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, Utah National Guard Public Affairs

"I plan to continue participating in National Guard biathlon events in the future as well as civilian biathlon and cross country ski races," Dietrich said.

In the men's races, the Nevada team comprising Sgt. William Raitter, Cpl. Craig Kenison, Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Maj. Larry Irwin and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Michael, was poised to win a medal after its showing in the sprint race which included a fifth-place finish by Raitter. But subpar performances in the pursuit race left Nevada in fourth place despite Kenison's overall seventh-place finish.

En route to his seventh place, Kenison recorded the top shooting score in Nevada Guard biathlon history by hitting 16 of his 20 shots.

For information on the biathlon, call (775) 887-7250. ■

Soldiers, Airmen invited to compete in Adjutants General marksmanship match

All qualifying Soldiers and Airmen are invited to participate in the Adjutants General marksmanship matches May 17-19. The top marksmen will advance and compete in future matches against other states. Each unit and squadron in the state can send two participants to the matches.

Participants must have scored expert on their designated weapon system within the past year, completed their military occupational training, have no adverse actions pending, and receive a letter of recommendation from their respective first sergeant or commander.

This event is set for the Washoe County Shooting Facility. Matches will be contested with both rifles and pistols, and a reflexive-fire event will also be included.

For registration information, contact your unit or squadron readiness or administration sergeant. For general information, call (775) 348-1046. ■

Soldiers battle for list rankings May 21-22

The Nevada Army Guard is set to host its state order of merit list competition May 21-22 at the Stead Training Center. The competition will have multiple events to test skills and endurance in order to determine which Soldiers are best prepared for training such as Air Assault School.

All schools are dependent upon the availability of funds, and the top-scoring Soldiers will receive the first opportunities to attend the schools. Each unit may send two Soldiers to the competition. Qualifying requirements include an 80 percent score in each event of the Army Physical Fitness Test, completion of military occupational training, no adverse action pending, and a letter of recommendation from the first sergeant or commander.

For registration information, contact your unit's readiness sergeant. ■

Warrant officers receive Nevada Army Guard's first Patriot Awards

RENO – Nevada Army Guard Chief Warrant Officers David Anderson and Billie McFarland received the organization's first Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Award on Jan. 9.

The Patriot Award is given to employers who demonstrate support for their National Guard employees and families, especially during mobilizations, and go far beyond their legal requirements in supporting deployed employees.

Anderson and McFarland received their awards during the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion's deployment ceremony. They were nominated by Sgt. 1st Class Julio Guerrero, who is now deployed with the 422nd.

Solar projects spark electrical grid increase

CARSON CITY – Three major Nevada Guard solar module structure projects were completed and added to the Nevada

energy grid. They are now contributing more than 2 megawatts of energy to the state during ideal solar energy-producing conditions.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Tom McElroy of the Nevada Guard's Facilities Management Office, 1.2 megawatts are generated at the Office of the Adjutant General's structure in Carson City and 540 kilowatts are generated at both the Clark County Armory's structure and the Las Vegas Readiness Center's building when skies are clear and temperatures are warm.

"Excess power above the Nevada Guard's daily consumption is currently being sent and stored on the Nevada energy grid," McElroy said. "The projects are 98 percent finished with just a bit of fencing and some pavement cutting still to be completed."

There were no federal dollars used to complete the \$17 million project. A private-sector firm, Sierra Solar I, LLC, is the sponsor company for the solar energy structures and is covering all of the construction costs.

Work schedule change leads to energy savings

CARSON CITY – The Nevada National Guard's implementation of a compressed work schedule resulted in a 18.6 percent decrease in energy costs from August 2010 through February 2011, according to Ken Bunker, the Nevada National Guard's continuous process improvement director.

The goal of the compressed (four days per week, 10-hour workdays) schedule for full-time employees of the Nevada National Guard was a 16 percent energy use decrease predicted to result in a \$415,000 annual energy cost saving to the Nevada Guard. The Nevada Guard annually spends about \$2.6 million on energy.

"Between August and November, we exceeded the 16 percent target during three of the four months," Bunker said. "Our overall performance was a 27 percent savings in February and we also had strong performances in December and January due to warm temperatures."

The future of the compressed schedule is to be determined this month when officials review the latest cost saving figures.

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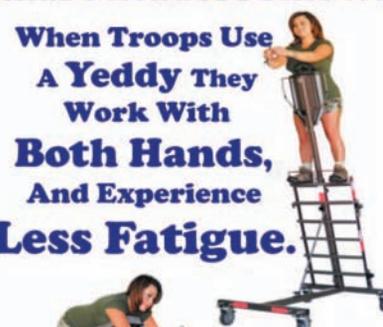
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AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • December 2010, January & February 2011

AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal



Col David Snyder 152nd Airlift Wing
 MSgt Cathy Eidman 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Douglas Larson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Jessica Solari 152nd Maint Grp
 SFC George Smith 421st RTI
 MSgt Dean Long 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Maj David Manson JFHQ
 LtCol Glen Martel JFHQ
 LTC Michael Peyerl 422nd Signal Bn
 CSM Jose Aragon 422nd Signal Bn
 CSM Daryl Keithley 991st Aviation Trp Cmd
 MAJ John Krueger 422nd Signal Bn
 SFC Chad Prawitz 421st RTI
 CPT William Mathson 1864th Trans Co
 SFC Richard Williams JFHQ
 SFC Dwayne Lee 1864th Trans Co
 MAJ Patricia Svare JFHQ
 SFC Linda Turner JFHQ
 SGM Robin Sheets 422nd Signal Bn
 CPT Mikael Magnuson 100th Quartermaster Co
 CW4 Keith Mackie JFHQ
 LTC Debeeann Boyd JFHQ
 1SG Jacob Gonzales 72nd MP Co
 SGT Donna Menesini JFHQ

Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Gurpreet Bhambra 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SMSgt Larry Balko 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt David May 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 MSgt Megan Winkel 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 MSgt David Hill 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Capt John Brownell 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Jauies Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Jose Escobar 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Amy Baker 152nd Mission Spt Grp
 TSgt Christopher Couture 232nd Ops Sqdn
 SSgt Kenneth Fitzgerald 232nd Ops Sqdn
 Maj Wendy Tims JFHQ
 MSgt Jonathan Baker JFHQ
 SFC Erick Studenicka JFHQ

Army Commendation Medal



CPT John Lyle 92nd Civil Support Team
 SSG John Fansler 92nd Civil Support Team
 SFC Gertrude Montano 422nd Signal Bn

SSG Tara Pushkin NVARNG Med Det
 SGT Daniel Jones 777th Forward Spt Co
 SGT Jason Nelson 422nd Signal Bn
 SFC Ronald Gaines JFHQ
 MSgt Jordan Clark 92nd Civil Support Team
 CPT Nicholas Agle 92nd Civil Support Team

Air Force Achievement Medal



A1C James Buhain 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt Christopher Pope 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt David May 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt Lea Pope 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt Kristine Schwind 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Army Achievement Medal



SSG Ryan Campbell 92nd Civil Support Team
 MAJ Brett Compston 92nd Civil Support Team
 SSG Joseph Giglio 92nd Civil Support Team
 SGT Gregory Krizmanich JFHQ
 CPT John Lyle 92nd Civil Support Team

Nevada State Commendation Medal



MAJ Harold Woomer JFHQ

Nevada Outstanding Airman Ribbon



SrA Chandra Kurkowski 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 TSgt Paula Clark 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 MSgt Brandon Trehal 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SSG Epifanio Rodarte 991st Aviation Trp Cmd
 PV2 James Morrison 991st Aviation Trp Cmd
 SGT Christopher Gonzalez 777th Forward Spt Co
 CPT David Waller JFHQ
 SGT Phillip Roen 1/168th Aviation

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



Col David Snyder 152nd Airlift Wing

SSgt Bradley Noble 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Paula Clark 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SSgt Travis Backlund 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt James Begley 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Jose Escobar 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Capt James Upton 152nd Maintenance Sqdn
 Maj Thomas Bass 232nd Ops Sqdn
 SMS Gilberto Carrera 232nd Ops Sqdn
 TSgt Gerardo Navarro 232nd Ops Sqdn
 SSgt Brandon Upton 232nd Ops Sqdn
 TSgt Nigel Jones 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



TSgt Elliott Morris 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Calvin Hobson 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Joe Stanford III 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Doug Delporto 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Jeanie Beck 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

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PROMOTIONS

COL/Col

Mitch Sperling JFHQ
Vernon Scarbrough JFHQ

LTC/Lt Col

Wilson Dasilva JFHQ

MAJ/Maj

Blain Holmes HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
Harold Woomer JFHQ

CPT/Capt

Michael Bordallo 1/189th Aviation
Jacquelyn Burns C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Gordon Steinmann HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Amy Seader HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Nicholas Agle 92nd Civil Support Team
Amanda Barnes 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Dana Grigg 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Erik Brown 192nd Airlift Sqdn

1LT/1stLt

Lorenzo Aranda 72nd MP Co
John Sivia I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Ashwin Gowda JFHQ
Daniel Salus NVARNG Med Det
Nathan Stromberg NVARNG Med Det
Oliver Miller 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Aaron Washington 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
Gregory Green 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CW3

Scott Rogers 1/168th MEDEVAC

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Patrick Moore 991st Aviation Trp Cmd
Robin Sheets HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Robert Martinez 152nd Ops Support Ft

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

Richard Deutch I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Thomas Sauls JFHQ
Donna Lucas JFHQ

SFC/MSgt

Abraham Smith HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Charles Coleman 421st RTI
Larry Hancock JFHQ
Sean O'Brien 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Rommie Brown 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

SSG/TSgt

Thomas Vonbargen 1/168th MEDEVAC
Michael Marschnercoyne 100th Quartermaster Co
Jose Jimenez 100th Quartermaster Co
Cicely Williams 100th Quartermaster Co
Brandon Bethea 150th Maint Co
Ricardo Smaltino 17th Sustainment Bde
Alexander Quagge 17th Sustainment Bde
Phillip Rivera 17th Sustainment Bde
Alejandro Delpozo 1864th Trans Co
Sandra Sandoval 1864th Trans Co
Jeffrey Hopkinson 240th Engineer Co
Nathaniel Borja B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Alfonso Zafra C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Craig Shean HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Vaughn Braeuningner 609th Engineer Co
Mark Goulart 609th Engineer Co
Thomas Grande 72nd MP Co
John Dekoning 72nd MP Co
Kristina Ziurinskaite 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
Robert Cooper 777th Engineer Det
Rocky Kutsunai 777th Forward Spt Co
David Steyer 777th Forward Spt Co
Jay Scarbrough 150th Maint Co
Nicholas Galbiso 72nd MP Co
James Green 72nd MP Co
Karim Khaldy I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Frederick Carney I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Jeremy Dries JFHQ
Thomas Urso JFHQ
Daniel O'Hara 152nd Airlift Wing
Rebecca Palmer 152nd Airlift Wing
Sam Anderson 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Rexford Barton 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Christopher Bernard 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Larry Davidson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

John Fanning 152nd Ops Sqdn
Nicole Stoudt 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Samantha Taylor 232nd Ops Sqdn
Christina Garlington JFHQ
Frank Zuniga JFHQ

SGT/SSgt

Joy Tecson 1/189th Aviation
Aileen Buri 100th Quartermaster Co
Timothy Duffy 100th Quartermaster Co
Phillip East 100th Quartermaster Co
Sedrick Sweet 100th Quartermaster Co
Jose Portillo B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Sandra Rodriguez C Co, 422nd Signal Bn
Christopher Gonzalez HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
Rebekah Edmondson 150th Maint Co
Jacob Costello 72nd MP Co
Andrew Wells HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
David Delong I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Benjamin Kyker K Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Melvin Balane K Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Gerald Cornell K Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Christopher Noor L Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Brendan Glynn L Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
Jeremy Daniels L Trp, 1/221st Cavalry
William Raitter NVARNG Med Det
Timothy Stephenson NVARNG Training Site Det
Rebecca Higgins 152nd Airlift Wing
Cory Galli 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
Chad Hirsch 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
Merridy Stephenson 152nd Maint Ops Ft
Joseph Agrellas 152nd Maint Sqdn
Ronald Hansleman 152nd Maint Sqdn
Lera Masini 152nd Maint Sqdn
Daniel McMillan 152nd Maint Sqdn
Lori Bagley 152nd Medical Grp
Clifford Maxfield 152nd Medical Grp

CPL

Joseph Ischo 100th Quartermaster Co
Alexander Lopez 100th Quartermaster Co
Craig Kenison 609th Engineer Co
Kevin Hail 609th Engineer Co

RETIREMENTS

SMSgt George Bily 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SSgt Milbert Bourgeois Jr 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
SMSgt Steven Bourquin 192nd Airlift Sqdn
COL John Cameron NVARNG Med Det
1SG Joel Chaffee I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Col Jim Cumings 152nd Maint Sqdn
MSgt Cathy Eidman 152nd Airlift Wing
TSgt Christian Fleck 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SGT Thomas Gensinger NVARNG Rec/Ret
CW2 James Groth JFHQ
MSG Manuel Gurule JFHQ
TSgt Gary Guzicki 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
MSgt Steven Hickey 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MAJ Susan Hocker NVARNG Med Det
SGT Donna Menesini JFHQ
SFC Gregory Meredith 422nd Signal Bn

MAJ Amy Newman JFHQ
SFC Robert Parker NVARNG Rec/Ret
MSgt Albert Sanches 152nd Maint Sqdn
CMSgt Christopher Santor 192nd Airlift Sqdn
CW4 Stephen Schuler 3/140th S & S
MSgt Chester Sergent 152nd Ops Support Flight
MSgt Jessica Solari 152nd Maint Sqdn
SFC George Smith, Jr 421st RTI
SSgt Brenda Staples 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
MAJ John Strahan JFHQ
MSgt David Thomas 232nd Ops Sqdn
LtCol Roger Van Alyne JFQH
MSG Lance Vanbuskirk 421st RTI
LtCol Craig Wesner 152nd Mission Support Grp
SFC Richard Williams JFHQ NVARNG
MSgt Victoria Windsor 152nd Airlift Wing

ACCESSIONS

152nd Maint Sqdn

Janalee Morris
Luis Sainz
Brandon Wilkey

152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

Jeremy Wilson

152nd Force Support Sqdn

Adrienne Barker
Nicole Munley

152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Vito Gallina
James Stegmaier

152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Tyler Laczynski

152nd Medical Grp

Brittnee Dolley
Ray Waters
Joshua Noles
Daniel Regalado
Tyler Givani
Amber Pagni
Justin Schilling
Melissa Womack
Ariel Van Winkle
Ivan Delgrego
Clayton Macion

192nd Airlift Sqdn

Osbaldo Esquivel

232nd Ops Sqdn

Ryan Buenaventura

1/168th MEDEVAC

Joseph Carroll

1/189th Aviation

Robert Ardinger
Jonathon Evans

100th Quartermaster Co

Adan Betancourt
Jason Nagatori
Matthew Sellers
Heather Grimes
Stephanie Alexander
Carissa Oculito
Brandon Replogle
Samantha Venerable

150th Maint Co

Stephen Walton
Brandon Bethea

Christopher Jones
Lorin Miller
Lucas Sparks
Christopher Babas

17th Sustainment Bde

Kyra Lehmann
Benjamin Owliaie
Megan Greener
Su Chi Mixon
Ronald Vento
Sean Rose
William Mclin
Stacy Carter
Felicia Wright

17th Special Troops Bn

Lindsey Scott
Michael Highline
Torrance Hall
Sara Davidson

1864th Trans Co

Edgar Reynoso
Sandra Sandoval
Corbin Wagner
Christopher Parker
Tamara Wingo
Christopher Abernathy
Jorge Zorioricardo
Scott Berry
Rodger Hetland
Seth Williams
Mack Millender
Camilo Rodriguez
Gabriel Sanjurjo
Yong Kwak
Fernando Perez
Anthony Blankes
Jessica Jones
Lee Fuller
Jessica Liu
Andrew Johnson
Jordan Troyer
Carmela Mobo
Tyler Mcaninch
Maximilian Berney
Ian Shaw
Rafael Ohprecio
John Davis
Andrew Johnson
Jordan Troyer
Carmela Mobo
Tyler Mcaninch
Maximilian Berney
Ian Shaw
Rafael Ohprecio
John Davis

240th Engineer Co

Douglas Zamora
Yves Milsap
Joshua Rodriguez
Terrence Vaughan
Ronald Hardy
Nicholas Lindamood
Christian Velasco-Lopez
Valeria Colon
Robert Anderson

277th Engineer Platoon

James Rainwater
Jonathan Perry
Benjamin Tice

3/140th S & S

Erik Lubbe
Tevin Wright

B Co, 422nd Signal Bn

Anthony Merryman
Marilyn Patten

C Co, 422nd Signal Bn

Nathan Grover
Jaclyn Leehy
Timothy Ortiz

HHC, 422nd Signal Bn

Kamee Sills
Rodrigo Sanchez
Ryan Tyler

485th MP Co

Jerry Kealty
Destini Hine
Aurora Munns
Nathaniel Hill
Jenifer Crenshaw
Frank Zavala
Jessie Sparks
Brian Petty

593rd Trans Co

Dylan Marin
Jessica Weaver
Douglas Fuller
Richard Grigsby
Richard Goldsmith
Michael Mcgee
Chase Howard

609th Engineer Co

Jason Davis
Eric Wilks
Taylor Rose
Jonathan Harder
Lucas Mudloff
Joseph Madera
Mitchell Ramirez
Erik Espinozasaldana
Nicholas Cotham

757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn

Jasmine Rockwell
Kevin Reed

777th Engineer Det

Kimberly Deluane
Michael Tupper
Stephen Mcsweeney
Miranda Mountford

991st Aviation Trp Cmd

Nicholas Hobart
Jeremy Pidanick

72nd MP Co

John Huss
Brandon Santana

HHT, 1/221st Cavalry

Christopher Fine
William Ohler
Joseph Olmo
Anton Ryzhuk
Steven Perry
James Richardson
Timothy Redditt
Mathew Kibler

421st RTI

Benjamin Odom

I Trp, 1/221st Cavalry

Eddie Cruize
James Oconnor
Ian Esplin

JFHQ

Thomas Urso
Stetson Bauman
Charles Bloomer
Jose Hernandez
Austin Buckner

K Trp, 1/221st Cavalry

Ronald Kingston
Corey Hawk

NVARNG Med Det

Kyle Martineau
James Beams
Deborah Hurtado
Samantha Corona
Shanay Austin

NVARNG Rec/Ret

Blake Merl
Stephanie Ismerio
Michael Radecker
Stanley Hargrave
Coleman Oswald

NATIONAL GUARD FAMILY PROGRAMS



The Nevada National Guard Family Programs staff coordinates a variety of classes throughout the year for Soldiers, Airmen and their families. Retirees and civilians may be eligible for some classes. If you or your family member is interested in attending one of these classes, please call the Family Programs Office at (775) 384-5801 or (702) 632-0513 for registration or information:

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION
May 21	Water Safety / Lifeguard Training	Reno
May 21	S.A.F.E Network Training	Reno
May 22	S.A.F.E. Workshops	Reno
June 14	Flag Day Ceremony	Carson City, Las Vegas
June 27-30	Youth Camp	Las Vegas
July 10-16	Teen Camp	California
July 14	Relationship Training	Reno
July 20	Relationship Training	CCA
July 24-28	NG Youth Symposium	Kentucky
July 26	Relationship Training	LVRC
July 28	Relationship Training	Carson City
July 30	Day Camp	Reno & Las Vegas

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Interior mount (RIGHT) attaches to windshield with adjustable suction cups, drawing power from accessory plug.

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