

Battle Born



Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard – Spring 2013



Wolfpack takes off

MEDEVAC unit begins third
Afghan deployment

Page 5





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Spring 2013

Features:

Aviation company begins third Afghan deployment	3
Set to retire, Sitton reflects on 36 years of service	8
CCAF Air Force associate degree promotion requirement approaches	9
Nevada Guard gets new EOD unit	10
Mass casualty unit displays resolve in rubble	12
152nd Airlift Wing hosts interfly with Arkansas squadron	13
Improvement process courses continue to benefit military, business.	14
Child care program takes care of Guard families.	16
Special delivery: Silver State distribution system established	17
New construction facilitates Nevada Guard growth	18
Three join officer corps in capital city ceremony	19
Top troops tested by Soldier of the Year competition	22
Cav team 5th in inaugural Gainey Cup recon competition	23

Departments:

From Senior Leadership.	2
Deployment Roundup	4
Drop Zone	6
News Briefs	20
Awards	24
Promotions	26
Accessions	27
Retirements	27
Events Schedule	28

On the Cover: *The Patriot Guard stands with flags raised as members of Nevada Army Guard 1/168th MEDEVAC unit fly their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to their deployment in Afghanistan. This is the unit's third deployment to Southwest Asia since Sept. 11, 2001.*

Photo by Spc. Michael Orton

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Comments and Contributions

Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Other print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Nevada National Guard military members, retirees and families are

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

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Command Chief Warrant Officer Dave Anderson



Demand for warrant officers at all-time high

Demand for warrant officers in the Nevada Guard is at an all-time high. Succinctly, a warrant officer is a subject matter expert and an officer rolled into one Soldier. If you have ever considered taking your career to the next level as an officer in a specialized field, now is the time to take advantage of the numerous warrant officer opportunities available.

The Army Guard has carried a heavy load the past 12 years during the Global War on Terrorism and is now experiencing a significant number of warrant officer retirements. Additionally, the ever-expanding Nevada Army National Guard has established several new organizations in the past few years that include multiple warrant officer positions that need to be filled.

Primarily for those reasons, the NVARNG has immediate opportunities for stellar Soldiers to become warrant officers.

There are several requisite requirements to keep in mind as you consider becoming a warrant officer. Potential warrant officers

must meet all seven administrative requirements before applying for the warrant officer program.

A warrant officer candidate must be a U.S. citizen (no waivers); have a general technical score of 110 or higher (no waivers); be a high school graduate or have a general educational development diploma (no waivers); be able to obtain a secret security clearance (interim secret is acceptable to apply); pass the standard three-event Army Physical Fitness Test, and meet height and weight standards; pass the appointment physical for technicians or the class one (warrant officer candidate) flight physical for aviators; and have 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.

The applying service member must also submit an Active Federal Service request with their application if they have 12 years or more of active federal service.

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, each warrant officer military occupational skill has a set of specific requirements.

These requirements are established by the branch and approved by training and doctrine command. The requirements for each branch can be found at the U.S. Army Recruiting website. (When viewing warrant officer MOS requirements, be sure to look at the National Guard requirements and not the active duty requirements, as they may differ.)

If you don't currently meet all of the prerequisites, don't despair. Take note of what you are lacking and strive to eliminate any shortfalls. Submit a packet when you finally meet all of the requirements. It's worth it! It is life changing, and you've got nothing to lose.

The attached chart displays 24 vacant Nevada Guard warrant officer positions that will be filled as soon as possible.

If you meet all of the prerequisites and believe you are ready to become a warrant officer, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Holler at (775) 887-7344 or your unit readiness sergeant to start an application packet. ■

Warrant Officer Position Vacancies • Warrant Officer Position Vacancies

MOS	Position Title	Units with openings
913A	Armament Systems Maintenance	17th Sustainment Brigade, 150th Maintenance Company
915A	Automotive Maintenance	150th Maintenance Company
255A	Information Systems Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade, 422nd SC HHC ESB
255N	Network Management Technician	JFHQ, 422nd SC HHC ESB
120A	Utilities Operations & Maintenance Technician	240th Engineer Company (3 positions)
920B	Supply Systems Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade
914A	Allied Trade	150th Maintenance Company
922A	Food Services Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade, JFHQ
915E	Senior Automotive Maintenance	150th Maintenance Company
882A	Mobility Officer	17th Sustainment Brigade, JFHQ
921A	Airdrop Systems Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade
923A	Petroleum Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade
890A	Ammunition Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade
920A	Property Accounting Technician	JFHQ, 422nd SC HHC ESB
420A	Human Resource Technician	17th Sustainment Brigade, JFHQ

For information, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Holler, the Nevada Guard's warrant officer strength manager, at (775) 887-7344 or email at edward.w.holler.mil@mail.mil.



Spc. Michael Orton

Family and friends wave goodbye to the Soldiers of the Nevada Guard's 1/168th MEDEVAC unit as they leave for deployment to Afghanistan.

Aviation company begins third Afghan deployment

*By Retired Lt. Col. Steve Ranson
Special to Battle Born*

STEAD – One of the first Nevada Army National Guard units to deploy to Afghanistan in the wake of 9/11, C Company, 1/168th Aviation (MEDEVAC), began what may become one of the Nevada Guard's final deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this spring.

About 40 men and women from the medical evacuation unit listened as well wishers bade the company good luck during its official departure ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility on March 31.

Gov. Brian Sandoval, the state's commander in chief, attended the departure ceremony and said he admires and respects the Soldiers serving in the Nevada National Guard. He lauded the 1/168th's combat history and said the company will provide a critical role in Afghanistan. He also discussed the company's recent state contributions on humanitarian missions, fire-suppression support and medical evacuations.

"Our state and our nation are grateful for your continued service in your active duty and assistance at home," Sandoval said.

The Soldiers, many of whom live in northern Nevada, then departed Reno on

April 2 for two months of advance training at Fort Hood, Texas. They are set to travel to Afghanistan by early June and work there until early 2014. After the company arrives in Afghanistan, its crews will perform medical evacuation missions and fly Black Hawk helicopters. California and Washington Soldiers will join the Nevada Guardsmen for the deployment.

The company, which has undergone several unit designation changes during its history, already deployed twice to Afghanistan during the past decade. It also deployed to Fort Carson, Colo., in 2004.

Capt. Andrew Wagner of Reno is the company commander. This is his third deployment; his last came in 2009 when he was stationed at Forward Operating Base Shank. A Guardsman for 19 years, Wagner has spent the last eight years with the Nevada Army Guard. According to Wagner, more than half of the unit's Soldiers have deployment experience.

"We're ready to go," he said. "We've trained for this for two years."

The deployment marks the second trip to Afghanistan for Staff Sgt. Thomas Vonbargen. The 1994 Fernley High School graduate is a crew chief and flight instructor.

"This one will be a lot easier," he said. "We have a better understanding of the mission and it's easier to integrate quickly."

Before joining the Nevada Guard 11 years ago, he spent eight years in the U.S. and deployed to Macedonia and Bosnia.

Warrant Officer Josh Groth of Carson City said he was ready for his first combat deployment as a pilot transporting casualties to medical facilities. Groth said he spoke with pilots who have flown in Afghanistan to learn about flying conditions, the terrain and different missions.

Prior to transferring to the 168th, Groth spent eight years as a cavalry scout. The 2002 Carson City High School graduate said he is ready to deploy.

"I feel grateful for the opportunity to serve before everything wraps up," he said.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, the commander of the Nevada Army Guard, has a close relative participating in the deployment. His daughter, 1st Lt. Kandace Gonzales of Reno, is a pilot, platoon leader and personnel officer who will serve as the medical officer in charge.

"It's the first time for me, and hopefully the last time," said Frank Gonzales, commenting on the difficulty of saying goodbye to his daughter. ■

DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Family and friends happy to have 1/189th Soldiers home

Story and photo by Spc. Mike Orton
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – The Nevada Army Guard's 1/189th Aviation unit returned home Jan. 30 from a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. More than 300 family and friends gathered to welcome home the 50 Soldiers at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Families and friends were overjoyed to have every one of the 1/189th Soldiers return home safely from deployment.

"We're very proud of what they accomplished while they were over there," said David Hults, father of Spc. Colt Hults. "I'm just really glad it's over, and now we're going to Disneyland."

The 1/189th and their CH-47 Chinook helicopters were deployed as aviation support in Regional Command-South and Regional Command-East. The unit carried the Nevada flag to Afghanistan under command of Capt. Michael Bordallo of Reno. They operated out of Forward Operating Base Shank, with a few

members at Kandahar Airfield. The unit's main duties were support and combat air assault missions throughout Afghanistan.

"It didn't really dawn on me how long it's been until I came through the doors, so it's nice to see my family sitting here waiting for me," Hults said.

During their deployment, the unit logged 8,334 flight hours, transported 8,692,260 pounds of cargo and 41,782 passengers and performed 160 air assaults. Chinook helicopters can hold up to 33 troops or 24 litters for medical patients and can carry up to 26,000 pounds. The unit's aircraft are scheduled to return to Nevada in late spring.

The 1/189th is the same Nevada Guard unit previously known as Company D, 113th Aviation Company. Two Nevada Guardsmen were killed during the unit's 2005 deployment to Afghanistan; this deployment marked its first return to combat. The unit previously deployed in support of the Department of Homeland Security for the 2002 Winter Olympics, and in 2008 to Haiti on a humanitarian mission.



Spc. Colt Hults gets a bear hug from his father, David Hults, at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Hults and his unit, the 1/189th Aviation, returned Jan. 30 from a 10-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In August 2012, one of the unit's Chinooks was destroyed after a hard landing. No Guardsmen were seriously injured during the accident. ■

593rd Transportation Company delivers Soldiers home safely

By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – The Nevada Guard's 593rd Transportation Company returned home after a



Spc. Michael Orton

Spc. Kyle Freitas kisses his daughter, Lucy, upon his return from deployment. Freitas and the Nevada Army Guard's 593rd Medium Transportation Company returned April 12 from a year-long deployment in Afghanistan.

nine-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The first 20 Soldiers to reunite with their families arrived in Elko on April 11. The balance arrived April 12, first stopping in Las Vegas at noon, where 50 of their ranks disembarked and greeted their loved ones. The remaining Soldiers arrived in Reno later that afternoon.

Families and friends cheered as the Soldiers came through the doors at the baggage claim area in Reno to the waiting crowd. Spc. Chase Rauchle located his spouse, Alysssa Rauchle, in the crowd and embraced her.

"This whole thing feels good, and it is a little overwhelming," Rauchle said. "It's nice to be back on American soil, but even nicer to be with my wife again."

The 593rd deployed to Kabul where it completed 235 logistics missions. The unit was responsible for resupplying the entire area around the capital, rolling its convoys as far north as Bagram and as far east as Jalalabad. During its deployment, the unit logged more than 100,000 miles, hauled more than 10,000 pallets, transported about 4,000 personnel

and provided security support for more than 750 Afghan trucks.

According to Capt. Curtis Kolvet, the maintenance section performed exceptionally well in spite of the impressive mileage.

"Our maintenance team provided fantastic support," Kolvet said. "They logged 800 maintenance work orders without having to send a single vehicle up to higher echelon for repairs they couldn't accomplish."

While the Soldiers were deployed, Kendra Kolvet, Capt. Kolvet's spouse, worked to keep in touch with as many families as she could.

"As the commander's wife, there is an expected understanding that you are responsible for taking care of the family members while they are deployed," Kolvet said. "I took that job very seriously."

Kolvet said the participation by the family members in family readiness activities helped to make the time pass.

"I received some of the most wonderful letters from so many spouses and moms saying it was the glue that held them together," she said. "I appreciated it so much – it made the time go by better for me too." ■

152nd returns from Kuwait deployment

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Eric Ritter
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – Dozens of Airmen from the 152nd Maintenance Group and 152nd Operations Group returned to Reno in March following a four-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The maintenance personnel performed maintenance on eight types of Air Force aircraft during their deployment, including three organic to the Nevada Guard. Their maintenance work contributed to some impressive statistics that included 850 successful sorties, 1,688 hours flown and 8,433 passengers transported.

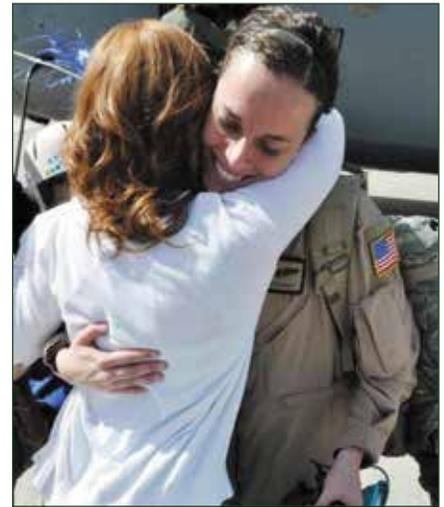
Safety remained a priority during the deployment.

According to the squadron's maintenance chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jim Warner, the unit modernized the safety program for its area of responsibility.

Warner said the squadron was regularly recognized by the Air Expeditionary Force command in the combat theater with several quality assurance and leadership awards and professionalism distinctions.

In addition to its awards and accolades, the unit also participated in a rare open house for Kuwaitis to view American military assets.

"We went over there and really represented the Nevada Air National Guard," Warner said. "It was one of the most successful deployments I've experienced in my career." ■



Airman 1st Class Erin Stewart receives a welcome home hug from a family member upon her return to Nevada in March at the end of the 152nd Maintenance Group's deployment.

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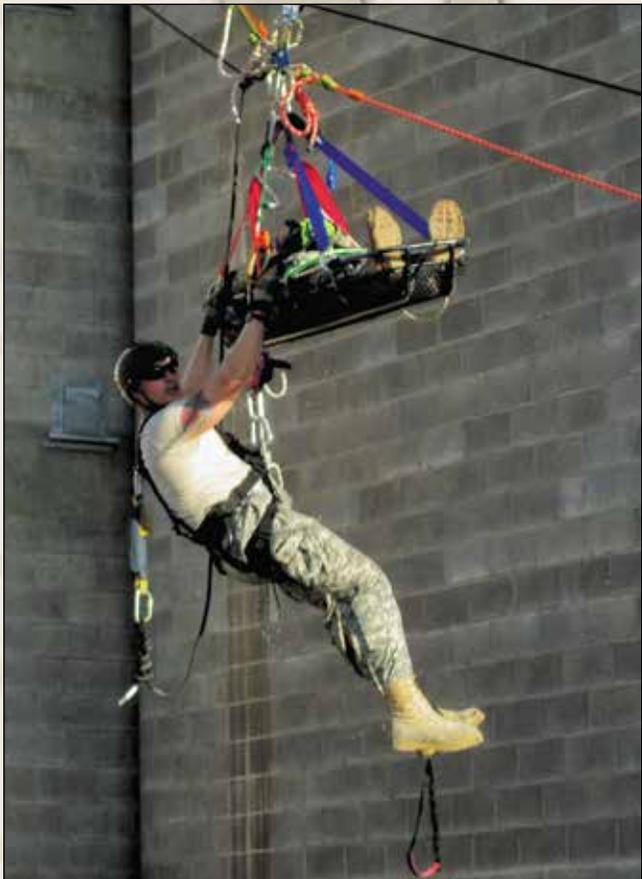
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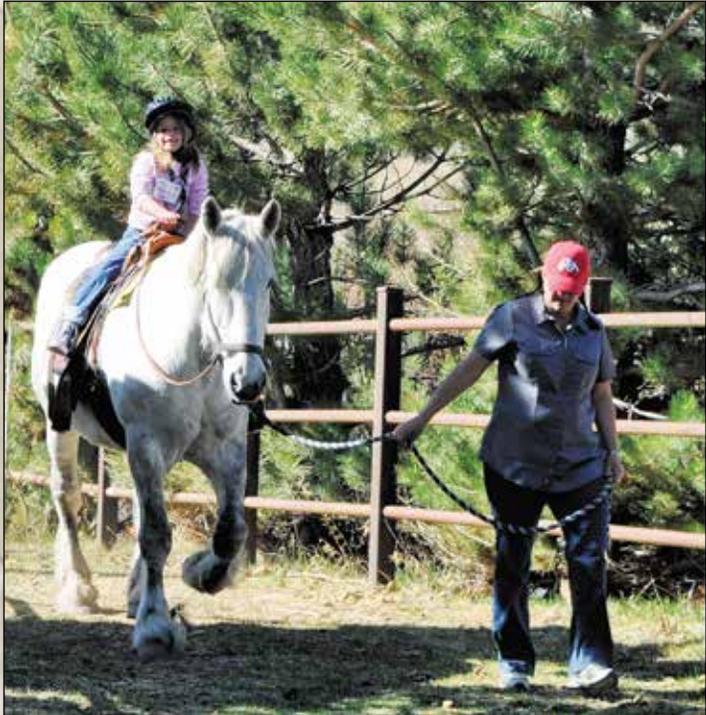
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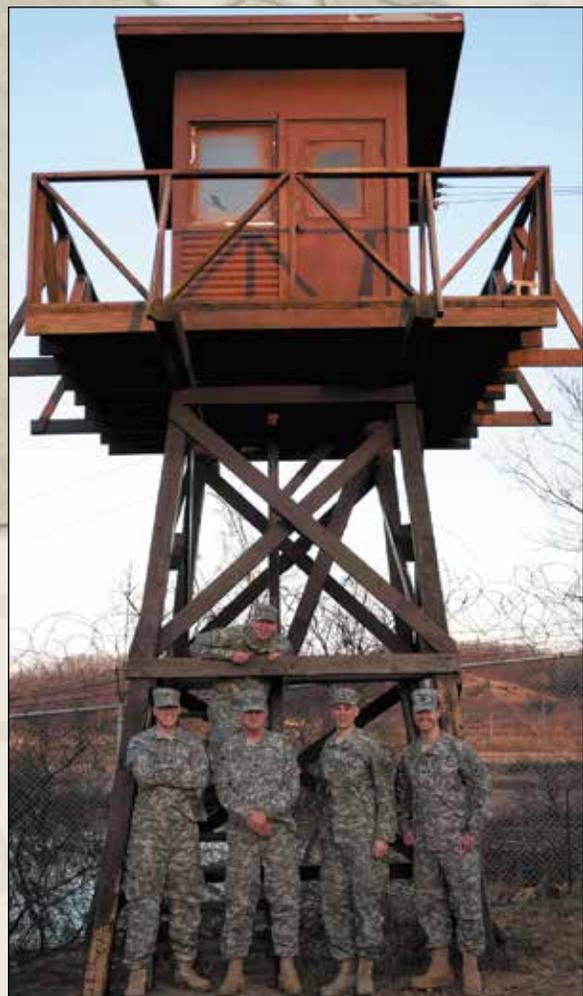
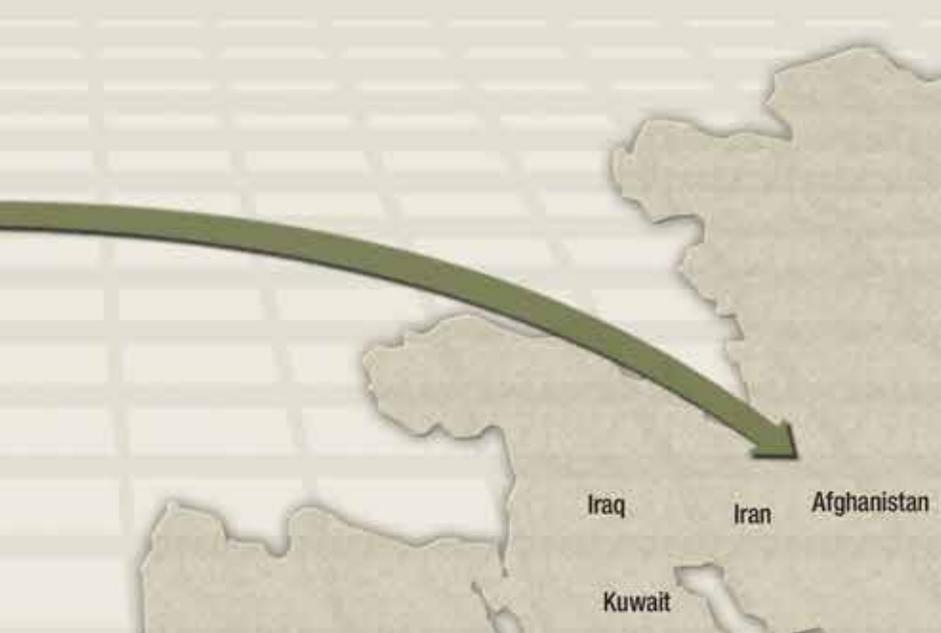
Spc. Michael Orton
 Capt. Michael Bordallo, the commander of the Nevada Army Guard's 1/189th Aviation unit, presents Gov. Brian Sandoval with a Nevada flag that flew in one of the unit's CH-47 Chinook helicopters during its deployment to Afghanistan. Before the battalion's departure in March 2012, Sandoval gave the unit a signed state flag to carry with them during their mission in the war-torn country. For more on the 1/189th, see page 4.



Courtesy 92nd Civil Support Team
 Sgt. Michael Le guides a gurney containing simulated casualty Sgt. 1st Class Baha Ishtawi down the side of a building in Las Vegas in March. The exercise coincided with the 92nd Civil Support Team's Ropes Rescue Technician Course at the Las Vegas Fire Rescue Training Center. Twenty four first responders from the Nevada and Washington civil support teams and Nevada's chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive enhanced response force package unit, CERFP, were certified as a result of the course.



Capt. Jason Yuhasz, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
 Aurora Getten, 6, rides Queen Bee, a Percheron, with the assistance of a Round 'em Up Spring Day Camp volunteer in a pasture west of Reno in April. The day camp was hosted by the Nevada Child and Youth Programs and gave about 25 children of military service members an opportunity to interact with various barnyard animals, learn equine safety, health and diet and basic riding skills. April was the Month of the Military Child, and the day camp was just one of several events in the Battle Born state recognizing military children.



Courtesy Eighth Army Public Affairs Office
 Nevada Army Guard 106th Public Affairs Detachment Soldiers, from left, Spc. Michael Orton, Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, Spc. James Pierce (top), Sgt. Victor Joecks and Capt. Troy Kemper, take time for a group photo in front of a guard post at Warrior Base near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. The five Soldiers participated in the Key Resolve exercise during March. The unit augmented the Eighth Army's public affairs office during its annual training and provided coverage of Eighth Army events and activities.



Courtesy 593rd Medium Transportation Company
 Sgt. Leif Dawson of the 593rd Medium Transportation Company guides a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle out of the motor pool in preparation for convoy operations in Regional Command-Capital in March. The 593rd returned to Nevada from a yearlong deployment on April 12.



Maj. Justin Galli of the 192nd Airlift Squadron, left, advises and coaches Staff Sgt. Elli Roy Defiesta, right, of 152nd Maintenance Squadron during base boxing championships in Kuwait during March. Galli, a former University of Nevada, Reno, boxer, coached and performed corner man duties for four Nevada Air Guardsmen during the boxing championships.

Courtesy 192nd Airlift Squadron

Set to retire, Sitton reflects on 36 years of service

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

CARSON CITY – As the Nevada Guard's senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Sitton is perhaps the most widely known and recognized enlisted service member within the Silver State. But his familiar presence will become scarce this summer as Sitton will officially retire on Sept. 1 after a military career of more than 36 years.

Sitton became the Nevada Guard's first senior enlisted leader in August 2009. Prior to that appointment, Sitton served as the Army Guard's state command sergeant major for 12 years.

With retirement on the horizon, Battle Born reporter Staff Sgt. Mike Getten asked Sitton about the future of the Nevada Guard and his own legacy.

Battle Born: What is your fondest memory from your military career and what will you miss the most about the Nevada Guard?

Sitton: In the National Guard, you meet so many individuals with varying backgrounds and specialties, but they all come together to serve their country and make a difference. The military is a true team effort. Our individuals in uniform have pride, integrity, and commitment and are dedicated to the armed services, our country and our state. The camaraderie displayed by the Soldiers and Airmen is a result of their combined commitment.

This is what I will miss and will hold dearest in my memories of my service with the Nevada Guard.

What were your most memorable assignment(s) and/or exercise(s) with the Nevada Guard? Why?

My most memorable assignments have been as a first sergeant and command sergeant major in aviation and as the state command sergeant major, because I had the opportunity to help develop and mentor Soldiers at a higher level.

Those jobs meant I was able to provide more help, guidance and training to a large number of Soldiers. Then I was able to see those Soldiers grow and excel.

What more would you like to have accomplished?

Because it was new, a lot of education and communication was required to establish the senior enlisted leader position. I would have liked to complete the full integration of the position so the next senior enlisted leader would have a smooth transition and not have to work as hard to ensure he/she got the respect and support required for success.

What are three things that everyone should know about the Nevada Guard?

The Nevada Guard is a great adventure for everyone involved. It doesn't matter what a Soldier or Airman does, he or she will always find camaraderie and will build enduring friendships.

Every single service member in the organization has the power to make a difference if they choose to.

In your opinion, what is the key to an enduring and successful career in the National Guard?

If a Guardsman is patient and works hard, he or she will likely succeed in the National Guard. By working hard and getting an education, your Guard career and civilian career will flourish.

The patience has to do with the leaders above you and the Soldiers below you. If you work as a team, your Soldiers, Airmen and families will help with your success.

Always listen to your Soldiers and Airmen; they know when you are not (listening).

Last, but not least, always thank them and their families for what they do for our great state and country each and every day.

What is the legacy you hope to leave behind? What do you hope you will be remembered for and what tradition do you trust others will continue long after your retirement?

I want the notion "Every Soldier matters, every Soldier counts" to continue to guide not only the leaders, but every Guardsman in the Nevada Guard.

Taking care of Soldiers, Airmen and their families should be more than a leader's priority – it should be their sincere passion. Leaders are here to serve their subordinates; subordinates are not here to serve them. Leaders and their subordinates are here to work as a team and become one. ■



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Sitton tours Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. After more than three decades of military service, the Nevada Guard's senior enlisted Soldier is set to retire this summer.



Air Force associate degree promotion requirement approaches

By Maj. April Conway, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – A new requirement for Air Guard promotion to senior master sergeant and chief will come to fruition as early as January 2015. In addition to the standard professional military education, time in service, time in grade and fitness requirement, those sitting before promotion boards after January 2015 will also be required to have an associate degree from the Community College of the Air Force. Associate degrees from other institutions will not meet the requirement for promotion.

In 2007, as part of the total force integration program, the active duty Air Force began requiring CCAF degrees for applicants vying for senior positions for their critical endorsements on enlisted performance reports.

While the Air National Guard is in the process of transitioning to a nationwide EPR requirement that mirrors the active duty, the CCAF requirement is set to be finalized in regulation this fiscal year. Air National Guard Instruction 36-2502 is being rewritten, and once it's published, would require degree completion within 24 months.

The CCAF program provides enlisted Airmen with job-related, two-year undergraduate associate of applied science degrees. The school also facilitates some professional certifications.

In the Nevada Guard, only 38 percent of Airmen currently fulfill the requirement. In the active duty, more than 70 percent of E-7s have completed CCAF degrees and the number skyrockets to 97 percent for active duty E-8s and 9s.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Rick Scurry, the senior enlisted leader of the Nevada Guard, said that although civilian degree options are valid in many career situations, a CCAF degree showcases an Airman's common core technical, leadership and communication competencies and is designed specifically for a military career.

"The speech and theater requirements for CCAF aren't required in all civilian degree programs, but having that experience is most helpful for our Airmen," Scurry said.

The good news is most Airmen can compile a number of credits simply by attending training. Sixty-four credits are required for a CCAF degree; every Guardsman who has completed basic military training, tech school, holds a '5' skill level and has completed Airman Leadership School, likely has already accumulated 32 credits toward a degree.

Because she's pursuing a bachelor's degree through the University



Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Col. Jeff Burkett, the commander of the 152nd Airlift Wing, presents Tech. Sgt. Nicole Stoudt with a diploma recognizing her associate degree in Applied Science for Aviation Operations from the Community College of the Air Force during a graduation ceremony in Reno last year. Within two years, a CCAF associate degree will be a prerequisite for promotion into the Air Guard's senior enlisted ranks.

of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Nevada State College, Staff Sgt. Desaree Pesina of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron said she only had to take a handful of CCAF-specific courses in order to earn her degree in intelligence studies and technology.

"I was able to finish my last two classes while deployed, and I got a lot of support from my unit," said Pesina, a North Las Vegas resident. She received her associate degree last summer.

Completion of basic military training gives an Airman four hours of physical education credit. Another 24 credit hours are required for technical education, but 12 of those can be earned by an Airman's tech school attendance. Six credits required for leadership, management and military studies are usually satisfied through professional military education.

General education requirements in oral and written communication, math, social science and humanities can be satisfied through the CCAF itself or transferred from another civilian school and via free College Level Examination Program tests. Credit for electives can be recorded in a several ways, including tech schools, general education, leadership or management and military studies, and natural science or foreign language courses.

Airmen aiming to track their progress toward a degree should log in and register on the Air Force Portal's AFVEC-AF Virtual Education Center. A civilian course conversion table on the website gives information on courses the CCAF has already reviewed from civilian colleges.

Proponents of the new requirement note a CCAF associate degree can lead to other undergraduate degree options. The general education courses that make up the foundation for CCAF degrees often transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Martin Meinhardt at (775) 788-4586. ■

Nevada Guard gets new EOD unit: 'Initial success or total failure'

By Spc. Mike Orton
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – All military explosive ordnance disposal units have the same motto: "Initial Success or Total Failure." EOD Soldiers quickly learn that anything other than 100 percent success is unacceptable. The Nevada Army Guard's new 3665th EOD Company destined for Las Vegas will be no exception.

EOD Soldiers are experts in locating, identifying, rendering safe and disposing of explosive hazards. Those hazards include improvised explosive devices, weapons of mass destruction and unexploded ordnance. EOD Soldiers also maintain proficiency with many tools while exercising various tactics, techniques and procedures. They are well-versed in rigging, robotics, X-ray and radiograph interpretation. They also work heavily in chemical and radiological detection, and gather technical intelligence on foreign ordnance and IEDs.

As a Soldier with 10 years of EOD experience, Capt. Nick Agle, currently a survey team leader with the 92nd Civil Support Team, is well qualified to take command of the new unit in 2013. By the end of the year the Nevada Guard aims to have more than 30 Soldiers earning EOD certifications. The

Guard has charged state recruiters to fill every vacancy in the new company by Sept. 30.

The new unit has 33 enlisted EOD technician openings, five officer positions and six positions for low density support, said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Pagni, with the Nevada Army Guard Recruit Sustainment Battalion. With Agle already filling one officer position, three enlisted Soldiers already filling EOD tech slots, and one other Soldier already filling a supply position, the unit is well on its way to meeting its goal.

"Filling the positions is a challenge, but several people have shown a lot of interest in joining the unit," Pagni said. "It is a difficult MOS for which to qualify. The training is long and hard, but it is a unit unlike any other in the state."

New enlistees who want to join the unit must complete 10 weeks of basic combat training and 39 weeks of advanced individual training. Prior service Soldiers must meet the basic combat training requirements in order to go on to EOD advanced training. Soldiers must also be able to obtain a top secret security clearance, pass a comprehensive vision test, score a general maintenance 105 on the armed services vocational aptitude battery and have a rank of E-5 or lower, Pagni said.



Chris Bush, courtesy Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System
A deployed Soldier employs bomb detection equipment during training. When Nevada's 3665th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company is established later this year, explosive ordnance disposal simulated scenarios will become common on Nevada Guard training areas in southern Nevada.



Staff Sgt. James Harper, U.S. Air Force Central Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Ryan McCleary, a 755th Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, uses a metal detector to scan for improvised explosives during an exercise at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The Nevada Guard's 3665th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company will use similar equipment.

EOD Soldiers are eligible for incentive pay for working in demolition operations, on top of the Army assignment incentive pay for EOD, Agle said. Incentive pay amounts vary depending on duty status. EOD is also unique as a military occupational specialty because they have their own basic, senior, and master badges to wear on the uniform. Once earned, service members retain the badge even if they change branches of service.

Once Soldiers qualify as members of the unit, they have to be ready to work hard and study long hours, Agle said.

"When you pin on that EOD badge, you know you have accomplished something very special, but that's just the beginning," Agle said. "The level of risk involved in this inherently dangerous occupation is high, which makes successfully completing the training difficult."

All of the fundamentals practiced within an EOD unit must be applied to any and all situations the Soldiers may come across while on duty, Agle continued.

“89D is a zero-defect MOS,” Agle said. “These Soldiers are trained to think for themselves because quite often, their limited numbers on missions make it difficult to bounce ideas off someone else. The decisions made by an EOD technician can make a profound impact to the safety and security of other Soldiers.”

Once the new EOD company is staffed and Soldiers are trained to standard, Agle looks forward to utilizing the unique skill set an EOD company offers.

“It’s an exciting opportunity for the Nevada Guard – to have this unit’s capability, and not just for wartime purposes,” Agle said. “We have civilian counterparts for whom we will be able to provide additional capabilities.”

One of the events that EOD will be perfectly suited for is Operation Vigilant Sentinel, the annual New Year’s Eve exercise. The Nevada Guard CST and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department will be able to work seamlessly with the 3665th to provide essential services to the state, Agle said. Members of the 3665th can also look forward to working with military and civilian bomb squad counterparts in the state, such as Naval Air Station Fallon Navy EOD, Nellis Air Force Base Air Force EOD, FBI Special Agent Bomb Technicians and Las Vegas Fire Rescue Bomb Squad.

Nineteen-year-old Brad Rosborough’s desire to protect his country, state and fellow service members greatly influenced his decision to join the 3665th. He will head to basic training late this summer and is excited to get his military career started with the new EOD unit.

“The military gives you the best training in the world. There’s nothing like it,” Rosborough said. “It’s going to be an honor and a privilege to serve in a unit like this.”

The Las Vegas resident is also excited to be part of a new unit where opportunities for leadership are open to those who prove up to the challenge.

“I don’t want to be a follower. I want to lead,” Rosborough said. “I know the training I’m going to receive will help me learn leadership skills, and being a member of this unit will allow me to earn leadership opportunities.” ■

Orton recently spent several weeks working with the state’s public affairs team in Carson City. He’s since returned to life as a full time student at the University of Nevada, Reno. “I learned you can have too much of a good thing,” he said as he returned to class.

The EOD badge, also known as the crab ...



The wreath – symbolic of the achievements and laurels gained minimizing accident potential through the ingenuity and devotion to duty of its members. It is in memory of those EOD officers and men who gave their lives while performing EOD duties.

The bomb – copied from the design of the World War II Bomb Disposal Badge, the bomb represents the historic and major objective of the EOD attack, the unexploded bomb. The three fins represent the major areas of nuclear, conventional and chemical/biological interest.

The lightning bolts – symbolic of the potential destructive power of the bomb and the courage and professionalism of EOD personnel in their endeavors to reduce hazards as well as to render explosive ordnance harmless.

The shield – representative of the EOD mission: to prevent a detonation and protect the surrounding area and property to the utmost.



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Mass casualty unit displays resolve in rubble

By Cadet Travis Salley
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – The Nevada National Guard's mass casualty response unit teamed with the American Red Cross and the Reno, Washoe and Sparks fire departments for catastrophe-response training in the rubble pile at the Regional Public Safety Training Center in Reno on March 22.

The unit, widely known by its acronym CERFP (pronounced "surf pea"), has a lengthy, tricky official title. The C is derived from the military acronym CBRN that stands for "chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive," and the ERFP stands for "enhanced response force package."

The primary responsibilities of the CERFP are to locate and extract victims from a contaminated environment, perform mass casualty decontamination, and provide treatment to stabilize patients for evacuation.

The March exercise marked the first annual training event for the CERFP since it initially certified in April 2012. The purpose of the exercise was to prepare the unit for its biennial certification in 2014. Nevada is one of 17 states with a certified CERFP unit, according to the Department of Defense.

Evaluators from the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center oversaw the operation including initial staging, reconnaissance, search and rescue operations, casualty treatment and hazardous waste material disposal procedures.

"This exercise is critical for CERFP Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Eric Thomas, a JITEC evaluator. "Not only do they participate in a valuable training exercise, but they receive feedback from the evaluators on their performance."



Sgt. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment
Kim Russell, a civilian volunteer actor portraying a simulated injured Airman, is evacuated for treatment by the Nevada National Guard's CERFP unit during a catastrophe-response training exercise at the Regional Public Safety Training Center in Reno in March.

The CERFP is comprised of four elements: command and control, search and extraction, decontamination, and medical.

Command and control is provided by the 17th Special Troops Battalion. The command team oversees CERFP activity and coordinates operations with the incident commander.

The 240th Engineer Company is the force behind the search and extraction operation. The unit provides the search and rescue teams whose primary task is to excavate and extract casualties from the debris site should be with specialty equipment.

The 1864th Transportation Company provides CERFP's decontamination capabilities.

The unit ensures the safety and the decontamination of all personnel and equipment exiting the site.

The medical team is from the Air Guard's 152nd Medical Group. The team is responsible for stabilizing and treating patients and casualties for evacuation.

The Guardsmen found the training site just northeast of the Washoe County sheriff's office in north Reno to contain plenty of daunting scenarios.

"This training site is particularly challenging for us," said Capt. Brian Capra, the commander of the CERFP.

An added element to the training was the inclusion of civilian first responders, Capra said.

"Adding civilian first responders to this exercise promoted interagency cohesion and fortitude across the board," said Sgt. 1st Class Nick Hall, an evaluator from JITEC. "First responders provide the necessary initial intelligence for military personnel to act upon. The CERFP unit provides an invaluable resource of catastrophe response." ■

Salley is set to move to the East Coast this summer to begin studying music at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He will transfer to the Army Reserves and join a military police unit. His public affairs skills and sense of humor will be sorely missed in the Nevada Guard.



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Lt. Col. Jeff Zupon, center, and other Airmen from the 192nd Airlift Squadron discuss interfly operations with members of the 41st Airlift Squadron prior to takeoff from the Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno in January. The 41st Airlift Squadron, based at Little Rock AFB, Ark., traveled to northern Nevada to practice flying in mountainous terrain.

152nd Airlift Wing hosts interfly with Arkansas squadron

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

RENO – With its basin and range topography, Nevada is the most mountainous of the 48 contiguous United States. In contrast, the topography of Arkansas is primarily a plateau with few mountain peaks.

In an effort to help Arkansas Airmen and their C-130J aircraft become familiar with the steep mountains, high altitude and high desert they could encounter in Afghanistan, the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing hosted an interfly during January for the active duty members of the 41st Airlift Squadron from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

An interfly occurs when an aircrew from one command borrows an aircraft from another command in order to train for or complete an operational mission. The interfly gave the 41st opportunities to fly routes and complete training scenarios established by the Nevada Air Guard.

"The mission and terrain in Nevada is similar to what we'll see overseas. We can't get this kind of training at home," said Lt. Col.

Jim Burgess, commander of the 41st Airlift Squadron. "We're at Little Rock, and it's fairly flat and low."

According to 152nd Operations Group Lt. Col. Eric Wade, many initial C-130 flight training graduates don't have many hours of experience flying in mountainous environments. The challenges Afghanistan, Korea and China present to aviators requires specific training, and Nevada's terrain makes for a perfect training site.

"Nevada closely mimics some areas of Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Caesar Garduno, commander of the Nevada Air Guard's 192nd Airlift Squadron. "We have extensive experience flying in a mountainous environment in our H-model C-130s."

The Little Rock Airmen said Nevada's altitude and terrain required aircraft adjustments and crew flexibility.

Besides experiencing the geography and receiving helpful hints from the 192nd aviators, the 41st had the opportunity to complete additional interagency training. The

41st also received assistance from other Air Force units, including the 570th Contingency Response Group based at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., which set up simulated forward operating bases and provided command and control functions in the austere FOB locations.

The Arkansas Airmen weren't the only ones to benefit from the training. Nevada's Airmen from the 152nd Mission Support Group and 152nd Maintenance Group gained valuable experience working on unfamiliar aircraft and missions.

The 41st completed more than 1,500 individual training requirements during its stay in Reno.

"We received absolutely phenomenal support from the Nevada Air Guard," said Lt. Col. Sean Barden, the director of operations for the 41st.

Barden said the 41st hopes to continue operational training with the 152nd and strengthen its partnership with the 152nd and 192nd Airlift Squadron. ■



Improvement process courses continue to benefit military, business

By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – In 2010, two retired Nevada Guardsmen were among the first individuals to attain expert status in the National Guard Bureau's Lean Six Sigma continuous process improvement system (see Battle Born, Summer 2010). Now the duo of retired Col. Jon Morrow and Chief Master Sgt. Ken Bunker is paving the way for other military entities and western businesses to benefit from the course, despite the fact the National Guard Bureau suspended its course on the system more than a year ago.

The CPI system uses Lean Six Sigma managerial concepts, originally developed for manufacturing organizations, to improve numerous processes of the Nevada Guard. The goal of the system is to save money and time while decreasing the number of steps in any given process.

After the National Guard Bureau's program was suspended, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the adjutant general, supported efforts to develop an internal continuous process improvement system and Lean Six Sigma course.

"We already experienced success stories applying the LSS methodology with subject matter experts in our organization. It only made good sense to sustain the program within our organization," said Bunker, the Nevada Guard's central process improvement manager.

When the internal course went well, Bunker and Morrow reached out to other military entities and civilian businesses. The team also began working closely with the Air Force's AFSO21 continuous improvement program at Nellis Air Force Base, and both staffs combined to create a joint course.

"We adapted the Nellis AFSO21 Green Belt course to work for us as a joint training course model," Bunker said. "We added content to personalize the course for Nevada's needs and continue to meet the Department

of Defense core requirements for Lean Six Sigma curriculum.

"With nearly two-thirds of our Guardsmen in southern Nevada, it was only natural we worked with Nellis to offer the course. The curriculum between the Nevada Guard course and the Nellis course is completely interchangeable. We continue to instruct and send students each other's classes."

The first combined course was held at Nellis in January 2012. Since then, the joint team has conducted 11 classes. More than 160 Guardsmen from Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Minnesota have attended the course as well as several Department of Defense officials.

The course continues to receive attention. In August, Bunker was attending a continuous process improvement conference at the National Guard Bureau's Professional Education Center in Arkansas when he was asked to give a presentation on the Nevada Guard's program. Bunker's presentation added visibility of the program to external organizations, and demand for the course has continued to increase.



Courtesy Ken Bunker, Nevada Guard Continuous Improvement Office
Students from the Nevada and Washington National Guard and Airmen from Nellis Air Force Base share opinions during a recent continuous process improvement course designed for both military and corporate participants.

"I gave a presentation and led a discussion about our philosophy and integration of Lean Six Sigma in our organization," Bunker said. "Stemming from that discussion, the Minnesota, Oregon and Washington National Guard sent personnel to our October class. Other states will participate and observe our training in the near future."

Interest in the program isn't limited to military entities. A recent class included officials from National Security Technologies, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bunker said only a handful of Guard states have their own accelerated LSS programs. He stressed the fact that the continuous improvement process remains one of the best ways to continually refine cost and time savings while meeting mission requirements and customer needs, especially with budget cuts likely looming in the future.

"We have an obligation to maintain and improve the services we provide," Bunker said. "The fiscal restraints we face in the future shouldn't diminish the requirements we are obligated to meet for our state and country." ■

CPI saves time, money

An example of the effectiveness of the Nevada Guard's continuous improvement system occurred recently when the processing time for a common personnel action was reduced from several weeks to just a few days.

In spring 2012, a process improvement team assessed the way Army and Air personnel action forms were routed in order to promote, transfer and award military occupations to Nevada's Airmen and Soldiers. At the time, the form crossed four check points before being returned to the unit. The average processing time for one of the standard personnel actions was 17-30 business days.

After its analysis, the team discovered there was no regulatory or logical reason for two of the four approval checkpoints. Each one of those approvals took about one week. By eliminating two of the checkpoints and implementing an electronic form, the improvement team cut the processing time by about 90 percent. Today, personnel actions in the Nevada Guard now average about three days to complete. ■

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programs take care of Guard families

Story and photo by Spc. Mike Orton, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Staff Sgt. Katie Lindstrom used to spend more than \$1,400 on child care every month. With the help of Child Care Aware, she now pays less than \$800.

Child Care Aware, previously known as the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, offers a number of options for the Nevada Guard's child care needs.

"These are outstanding programs and I just can't recommend them enough," said Lindstrom, a readiness and training noncommissioned officer for the Nevada Guard 991st Aviation Troop Command. "The more we use them, the more will become available."

Many Nevada Guardsmen aren't aware of all CCA has to offer in the way of child care. CCA's programs include fee assistance for school, day care and children's sports programs, as well as funding for respite programs, where family members of deployed Guardsmen

can take a few hours off to get away from the hustle and bustle of life, said Delana Cardenas, the lead child and youth program coordinator for the Nevada National Guard.

"Child Care Aware programs are definitely something that everyone in the military needs to know about," Cardenas said. "We really want to spread this information to those who are deployed or are going to deploy, but everyone in the Guard needs to know we are here."

Some CCA programs are held at facilities where children meet in groups like traditional school. Other programs are held in caregivers' homes to make children feel more comfortable. Another option is in-home care, where workers go to a child's home to perform their duties. It depends which programs are available in the area and which programs the service member qualifies for, Cardenas said.

Military families may not be eligible for all the programs available through CCA, and each family's needs are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All child care services must be accredited through the state to guarantee service providers meet specific health, safety and nutrition standards, Cardenas said.

"We all know child care is expensive," said Sammey Strachan, a Nevada Guard child and youth program coordinator. "These programs save members of the Guard a lot of stress and money, in some cases as much as \$500 a month."

Service members can go online to www.childcareaware.org and submit their information to see which programs they may be eligible for. All the information an applicant needs is available on Child Care Aware's website, Cardenas said. On the site, information is listed by state, and descriptions of services offered in a person's specific area can be found through the search function.

The site also offers a step-by-step planning tool that guides a service member through a series of questions and allows them to plan out their need for child care assistance, Cardenas said.

"We can help and walk them through the process," Strachan said. "But the parents are the ones who have to sit down and do it."

The process takes time, sometimes months, but the programs are set up to include back pay from when the paperwork was first submitted, Strachan said. Program participants must take a proactive approach to ensure that paperwork and information are current for the child care they receive, including the certifications for the child care center.

"Now that I'm in the program, I get all the forms for the next six months or a year organized and ready ahead of time," Lindstrom said. "You have to stay current with your care provider to update changes in your life and job."

The main goal for all the programs, no matter how they are used, is to relieve stress for Guard members, Lindstrom said.

At the same time, if members of the Guard don't take advantage of the programs available, they are sure to lose them, Strachan said.

"We have no problem helping people get through the process," Strachan said. "We just want them to use everything that's available to them." ■



Child Care Aware programs for Guardsmen may include fee assistance for school, day care and respite programs.

SPECIAL DELIVERY:

Silver State distribution system established

By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Much to the delight of Nevada Army Guard supply sergeants in southern Nevada, the antiquated method of distributing goods and supplies in the region has disappeared now that the United States Property and Fiscal Office has established the Silver State distribution system and opened a supply annex at the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center in Las Vegas.

The annex, which opened March 1, was established to provide Soldiers a permanent supply facility for local equipment issue and turn-in and to meet the high demand for equipment in the region. Previously, southern Nevada Soldiers had to pick up their supplies in the Las Vegas region from their respective supply sergeants after the goods were transported south from the state's main warehouse in Carson City via ground transportation.

The new annex, which employs two full-time technicians, gives Soldiers immediate access to basic equipment including sleeping systems, canteens, cold weather gear and helmets. The facility eliminates the delay, sometimes up to three months, that often occurred when items were ordered and transported from the main warehouse.

"The biggest benefit is to the everyday traditional Soldier," said Col. Felix Castagnola, the United States Property and Fiscal Officer for Nevada. "The new system directly addresses the average Soldier's needs by keeping him properly equipped."

The Nevada USPFO in Carson City at the Office of the Adjutant General complex remains the hub for all Nevada Guard supplies coming into the Silver State. Now, however, the southern Nevada supply annex retains an inventory of basic items, eliminating the transportation delays in the process. (The Silver State distribution system continues to incorporate truck deliveries, but it reduces the amount of time the truck spends offloading and associated travel costs.)

The Nevada Guard's continuous process improvement team recognized shortfalls in the southern region's supply distribution system last June. At the time, supplies to southern Nevada were transported primarily by ground trucks. The system was unofficially dubbed the "Red Ball" after the fabled truck convoy system created by Allied forces during WWII.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Staff Sgt. Marshall Matley, foreground, and Sgt. Juan Sanchez unload a weapons rack in Carson City in late April. The weapons rack traveled via the Silver State distribution system, the new statewide process that expedites the distribution of equipment, especially to southern Nevada Soldiers.

"During the Lean Six Sigma course, we named processes we thought would benefit from the course lessons," said Staff Sgt. Bryan Faulkner, a supply sergeant with I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry. "Staff Sgt. Chad Lewis, a supply sergeant with 777th Forward Support Company, suggested we look at the Red Ball."

The Red Ball system was becoming increasingly ineffective. In the past decade, the Nevada Army Guard's personnel numbers had expanded by more than 25 percent, and the majority of the state's new units and Soldiers resided in the Las Vegas area. The old Red Ball system of issuing individual Soldier's field equipment from the back of a 54-foot truck once a month became obsolete, and supply sergeants struggled to keep up with individual equipment requirements.

Faulkner likened the Red Ball distribution system to an ice cream truck on a warm, sunny day.

"It was similar to when kids rushed out to the street to meet the ice cream truck," said Faulkner. "We would all schedule an appointment to pick up our orders at the truck during the three or four days it was here. Often, there wasn't enough room to bring everything to us or send back our turn-ins."

Robert Veader, a USPFO transportation official, estimated the Nevada Red Ball system has existed for more than 40 years. He drove the Nevada supply truck between the main

warehouse and southern Nevada for many years before Staff Sgt. Marshall Matley, a motor vehicle operator for the USPFO, began driving the route.

"I drove with a guy who said he drove the Red Ball during the Vietnam War," Veader said. "I drove it many years until I taught Matley about 15 years ago."

During the past decade, the amount of equipment requiring transportation grew. Increasingly larger trucks, including the current 54-foot trailer tractor configuration, met the majority of supply requirements, but the continuous improvement team concluded that a process overhaul – not just a bigger truck or more shipments – was needed.

"During our exercise, we found it was the system itself that was antiquated. Everyone was doing their job and trying to make it work, but we were still struggling to meet deadlines," Faulkner said. "We discussed a lot of options, and we ended up coming to the same conclusion: the once-a-month truck shipment had become grossly inefficient in keeping (southern Nevada) Soldiers properly equipped."

The Red Ball system used during WWII operated for about three months as a temporary solution to the problem of supplying the combat units moving quickly through Europe following the D-Day breakouts in Normandy. ■

New construction facilitates Nevada Guard growth

By Spc. Mike Orton
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Construction crews across the state are working hard to ensure the state’s facilities are well equipped and have the capacity to meet the growing demands of the Nevada Guard. New construction and expansion projects are either under way or were recently completed in Elko, Stead, Las Vegas and Carson City.

The North Las Vegas Readiness Center was completed in April. The 100th Quartermaster and 240th Engineer companies now occupy the building, and four additional units are slated to move in during May. Guardsmen remain busy acquiring furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new 62,500-square-foot readiness center to complete its interior.

Adjacent to the Clark County Armory, the NLVRC will fill critical shortages in classroom and auditorium space and provide much-needed parking space. The building’s design by architect Phil O’Keefe includes a compilation of features that were beneficial in other Nevada Guard buildings and Army facilities throughout the country, said 1st Lt. Johannes Lamprecht, the designs and projects manager with the Nevada Guard’s Construction and Facilities Management Office.

Energy efficiency, force protection, shading and natural lighting were key factors in the design. A new access control checkpoint will serve the entire Floyd Edsall Training Center campus.

The Nevada Guard implemented an innovative contracting process called “Construction Manager at Risk” for the first time on the project. According to project manager Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tom McElroy, the process resulted in cost containment and savings to federal and state budgets. The contractor was obligated to meet a guaranteed price, and actual costs may fall well below the construction cost estimates, McElroy said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of the NLVRC was scheduled in May.

The construction of the Elko County Readiness Center in Carlin is complete. The new 5,376-square-foot building, the newly renovated 20,000-square-foot classroom building and 9,000-square-foot fire station are ready for the 593rd Medium Transportation Company.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was historical for the Nevada Guard as it was the first to include a blessing by a Native American tribe.

Gonnie Mendez from the Te-Moak tribe completed a Blessing of the Land during the ceremony. The Te-Moak are Western Shoshone Native Americans whose traditional territory covered central Nevada.

“It’s a way of tying the present with the past,” said Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the Adjutant General. “It’s time we embrace our heritage.”

The ECRC supplants the existing Elko Armory on 13th Street which no longer meets the demands of the Guard, Lamprecht said. The Guard will retain control of the old armory.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the ECRC occurred on April 18. The overall project cost was \$16.5 million – \$7.9 million came from state coffers and \$8.6 million from federal funding.

The Nevada Guard’s combined facility maintenance office also recently concluded three vehicle wash rack projects, including facilities at Joint Force Headquarters in Carson City, the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead and the Floyd Edsall Training Center in North Las Vegas.

The Carson City and North Las Vegas projects are net zero facilities, which means the racks will use 100 percent recyclable

water. The only water loss will occur due to natural evaporation and run-off processes, Lamprecht said.

The three wash racks cost a total of \$1.5 million and were completed in April.

The new 40,000-square-foot Las Vegas Field Maintenance Shop adjacent to the Las Vegas Readiness Center is also under construction. The building will include both administrative areas and vehicle shop space.

The LVFMS features 17,000 square feet of covered parking and a 960-square-foot hazardous materials building. The covered parking is tentatively scheduled to receive solar panels next year to assist with energy production.

The new building, designed to allow for easy future expansions, will replace the existing 2,700-square-foot maintenance shop in Henderson, and it promises to support the 777th Engineer Detachment, the 240th Engineer Company, the 17th Sustainment Brigade, the 277th Engineer Platoon, the 137th Military Police Detachment and the 72nd Military Police Company.

Construction crews aim to complete the maintenance shop by July. ■



Courtesy Nevada Guard Construction and Facilities Management Office
Construction workers transport a load of bricks to the second story of the new Las Vegas Field Maintenance Shop in March. When completed in July, the new facility will feature 40,000 square feet of shop space, 17,000 square feet of covered parking, and a 960-square-foot hazardous materials building.

Three join officer corps in capital city ceremony

Story and photo by Spc. Michael Orton
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Three Silver State Army Guard Soldiers received commissions into the officer corps here at the Nevada Capitol on April 5. Second lieutenants Juan Contreras, Matthew Donaldson and David Henry were sworn in by Lt. Col. Clayton Chappell, the commander of the 1/421st Regional Training Institute.

“Being an officer isn’t just about being a leader yourself, but about mentoring others,” said Contreras, a Las Vegas resident. “I’m looking forward to having the opportunity to create new leaders within the Army, and I’m going to take that challenge on with open arms.”

The ceremony was the culmination of months of hard work and training for the newly commissioned officers. About 50 relatives, friends and fellow service members attended the event to recognize the Soldiers and congratulate them on their achievements.

“This is a chance for these men to assume leadership roles where they will have responsibilities to train, teach and mentor other Soldiers,” Chappell said. “It shows a tremendous dedication, to not only be a great leader, but to serve their country, their state and to



Newly commissioned second lieutenants (from left) Juan Contreras, Matthew Donaldson and David Henry stand together after their commissioning ceremony in Carson City April 5. The trio were honored by family, friends and military officials at the Nevada Capitol in Carson City.

be a part of an organization that contributes back to United States and Nevada citizens.”

Contreras will be a military intelligence officer. Donaldson of Las Vegas and Henry of Reno will be ordnance officers in the 150th Maintenance Company.

“These men are the future of our Nevada Army Guard,” said Master Sgt. Gregory Backus, the 1/421st RTI officer candidate school program manager. “They’ve worked really hard and they’ve definitely earned this.” ■

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Staff reports

New Army Guard chief of staff ready for challenges, future

CARSON CITY – When Col. Cori Powers first heard she was selected as the Nevada Army National Guard's new Army chief of staff, she knew she was up to the task, but also knew challenges lay ahead.

"I was extremely honored to know the leadership had faith in me to do the job. I was also humbled by the responsibility. Soldier care is a top priority."

In January, 2013, Powers' schedule went from full to jam-packed. From the time she arrives at her office until she leaves at the end of the day, Powers is going non-stop, but says balancing a heavy work schedule with her personal life is key.

"I leave the office by 5:30 p.m. every evening during the week, and I want to see Soldiers do the same. It's important to spend downtime with family, but it's a challenge."

In 2011, Powers returned from a yearlong deployment to Afghanistan. Her time in theater gave her the ability to relate to Soldiers coming off deployments and the ability to understand how deployments create challenges for Soldiers, their families and employers.

Soldier care isn't her only priority, though. The long range health of the organization also weighs heavily on her. The Nevada Guard has created a strategic plan which projects five to 10 years into the future and is designed to ensure Guard growth and sustainability. It is the chief of staff's responsibility to not only execute the plan, but execute it with success, Powers said. She knows how important it is for her entire staff to buy into the strategic plan to ensure everyone is headed in the same direction. Powers feels it's important to lead by example.

"Everyone makes mistakes," Powers said. "But it's about having a good work ethic, building a cohesive team, and establishing trust within the organization which will trickle down to the lowest level."

Powers' career advice to other Soldiers is to make the best decisions for the long term.

"It's about choices," Powers said. "The choices you make today determine where you will be tomorrow. You may not always get what you want, but it is how you react that will determine where you will go."



Spc. Michael Orton

Col. Cori Powers reviews documents at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City in March. Powers became the Nevada Army Guard's chief of staff in January.

Purple Heart medal symbolizes pride, pain for cav sergeant

CARSON CITY – In 2009, Sgt. James Miller was deployed with the Nevada Guard 1/221st Cavalry in Afghanistan. Miller and his quick reaction force team were assigned to work with an explosive ordnance disposal unit to clear roadside bombs. Returning from dispatching a 50-pound improvised explosive device, Miller's vehicle hit an undetected 220-pound homemade IED. The blast flipped the mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, killing passengers Spc. Brandon Steffey and his combat dog Maci, as well as an interpreter. The rest of the team, including Miller, suffered severe internal injuries but survived the explosion.

For his injuries, Miller was awarded the Purple Heart by Brig. Gen Bill Burks on Feb. 1. "Receiving this award is a constant memory of that day," Miller said. "It is a reminder of how lucky I was to survive. My thoughts are always with the men who were with me and died that day. I dedicate my award to the memory of Steffey."

Currently a member of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit, Miller has been

in the military for nine years. He spent the first four years of his career on active duty, deploying to Iraq in 2005 with the 101st Airborne Division. The past five years have been in the Guard. In 2011, Miller deployed for a third time, going back to Afghanistan with the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

Miller currently lives in Adelanto, Calif., with his wife and four children. He is currently going through the medical retirement process due to his injuries. "My body just said no more," Miller said. "It can only take so much."

Miller is grateful to receive the award, but would have preferred never to have earned it to begin with. "No one wants to earn this award," Miller said. "But my family supports me and has been there for me."

Miller is proud of his service to his country but looks forward to spending more time with his wife and children. It didn't take long for his 6-month-old daughter to have him wrapped around his finger, Miller said.

The Purple Heart is the oldest decoration still presented by the military and was instituted by Gen. George Washington on Aug. 7, 1782 for military merit. Originally, the award was a heart-shaped piece of cloth given to Soldiers who performed "any singularly meritorious action" on the battlefield. On Feb. 22, 1932, the current version of the award was announced.

Dayton Soldier receives Purple Heart for Afghanistan service

RENO – A blast of enemy fire met Staff Sgt. Anderson Muñoz on Nov. 18, 2011, at Forward Operating Base Shank in eastern Afghanistan. Muñoz, a Nevada Army National Guardsman with Lima Troop, 1/221st Cavalry, was clearing a shooting range at the end of a day of marksmanship training with fellow Soldiers.

"I remember a big flash, like fireworks, and (after that) I couldn't remember much," said Muñoz, of Dayton, who was presented Feb. 9 with a Purple Heart at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. "I remember things moving slowly, and then I remember being at the medical location."

The 35-year-old was in Afghanistan on his second deployment that year, one with the cavalry and the second with an agribusiness development team training Afghan citizens to maximize crop efficiency and storage. Muñoz



and members of the agricultural team built greenhouses and underground storage for farmers among other projects.

It was at the end of the day when indirect enemy fire landed 25-50 meters away from Muñoz. The enemy occasionally fired rockets at the base. "In this instance they were aiming for brigade headquarters, which was about 100 meters from our location," he said.

Muñoz suffered a ruptured ear drum and concussion. He is one of about 50 Nevada Guardsmen to receive a Purple Heart since Sept. 11, 2001.

Muñoz said one of the happiest moments of his life was returning home to his pregnant wife, Kelly, and three children.

"I wish none of our Nevada Soldiers ever had to receive the Purple Heart because of what it signifies," said Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, adjutant general of the Nevada National Guard. "The day a Soldier is awarded this medal is a much better day than the day he earned it."

Burks presented Muñoz with the medal, which is awarded in the name of the president of the United States, to those wounded or killed in combat.

NV Energy recognizes Guard for going green

STEAD – Officials from NV Energy recognized the Nevada National Guard with an incentive check for \$20,420 at the Army Aviation Support Facility Jan. 25. The Guard participated in NV Energy's Sure Bet program which awards energy users who make changes that result in decreased energy consumption at work.

The Nevada Guard developed an interest in the project when 1st Lt. Johannes Lamprecht, a designs and projects manager with the Construction and Facilities Management Office, attended an energy focus course in 2010. During the course, NV Energy introduced facility energy managers to its conservation program. The program offers incentives in the form of rebate checks based on measures a company or facility takes to reduce energy consumption.

The 240th Engineer Company, under Lamprecht's direction, installed dual 15-watt LED lamps in place of the older quad 42-watt lamps throughout the Stead Training Center. The retrofit resulted in a 287,000 kilowatt-hour reduction, Lamprecht said.

At the AASF, the four old, inefficient boilers



Spc. Michael Orton

From left, Nevada Guard officials Lt. Col. Clayton Chappell, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Col. Enrique DelaPaz receive an incentive check from NV Energy representatives Charlene Booth, David Wyllie and Johnny Hargrove at the Army Aviation Support Facility in January.

were replaced with six new boilers that operate at 98 percent efficiency. Now instead of multiple, large, inefficient boilers running constantly, the new, smaller boilers operate one at a time and turn on only if needed.

The LED light project cost \$42,000 in materials and will save more than \$27,000 in energy costs annually, said Lamprecht. The Guard was awarded more than \$18,000 in incentives for just this one project. The project will pay for itself before the first half of 2013. The Guard also saved thousands by using the 240th Construction Engineers to install the new equipment.

"I think this program is excellent because NV Energy offers an incentive on top of your energy cost savings," Lamprecht said. "It's important for us to take advantage of it because you never know if an energy crisis is around the corner."

Southwest Gas has a similar program, and Lamprecht is planning to take advantage of it when facilities in Southern Nevada are due for energy retrofit.

Free financial advice available to Guardsmen

CARSON CITY – Free, confidential financial counseling is available to every Guardsman at a variety of locations in northern Nevada each week. Locations include the Plumb Lane Armory, the Nevada Air Guard Base in Reno and the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City. Financial counseling is also available for southern Nevada Guardsmen via telephone.

For office hours at the various locations or to receive information about financial counseling, call Daniel Kelly at (775) 223-9751.

Budget cuts force cancellation of major Air Guard inspection

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

RENO – Due to federal budget cuts, the Air Force's Air Mobility Command canceled the Operational Readiness Inspection for the 152nd Airlift Wing set to occur in March.

In a memo to wing commander Col. Jeffrey Burkett, the mobility command said it had determined the 152nd Airlift Wing remains ready to perform its AMC global mobility mission.

An ORI is a major inspection that evaluates and measures a unit's ability to perform its wartime duties during a contingency or force-sustainment mission. Air Force Instruction 90-201 calls for all Air Force and Air Guard wings to conduct an ORI approximately once every five years.

A different type of unit inspection called a unit effectiveness inspection will be conducted in the near future. That inspection is not set. According to a memo from the Air Force Inspector General's office, the unit effectiveness inspection will emphasize the role of the wing commander in maintaining readiness and regulatory compliance. The UEI is likely to be a hybrid of both operational and clerical inspections.

In the interim until the UEI is conducted, the 152nd will continue to prioritize regulatory compliance and mission-readiness, Burkett said.

TOP TROOPS TESTED BY SOLDIER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

By Staff Sgt. Stan Hampton, 1/221st Cavalry

LAS VEGAS – Your grandparents wouldn't recognize today's National Guard.

The lengthy Global War on Terrorism fought on two major combat fronts has created an experienced, hardened and operationally ready force on a par with the active duty military branches. Nowhere is that competence more apparent than among the competitors in the Nevada Army National Guard Soldier of the Year competition.

In March, the state's top first sergeants, noncommissioned officers, junior enlisted Soldiers and members of the Honor Guard gathered in Las Vegas to compete for honors in their respective categories. The event was hosted by the 1/421st Regional Training Institute, the organization responsible for providing military occupational specialty qualification training to Soldiers from around the country.



Sgt. Richard McMullen, Colorado National Guard Colorado State Command Sgt. Maj. Ken Berube stands with Spc. Nathaniel Hill, Nevada Army National Guard, winner of the Soldier category in the Best Warrior Region VII Competition at Fort Carson, Colo., April 7.

The Soldiers who eventually prevailed in their respective divisions were 1st Sgt. Gary Giddens, 777th Forward Support Company, 1/221st Cavalry, First Sergeant of the Year; Cpl. Angel Chavez, 485th Military Police Company, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year; Spc. Nathan Hill, 485th Military Police Company, Soldier of the Year; and Spc. Thomas Green of 485th Military Police Company, Honor Guard Soldier of the Year.

Hill went on to place first in the Region VII Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition April 4-7 at Fort Carson, Colo. He now moves on to the Army Best Warrior Competition.

"I am working to sharpen my skills and prepare for the nationals," Hill said. "It was a close competition at regional, and I anticipate the best of the best at nationals too. So I will do my best and see how it all stacks up."

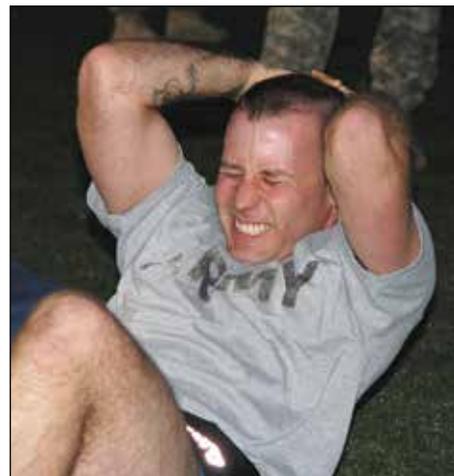
The competition involved several events. Junior enlisted Soldiers took a written exam while first sergeants and NCOs appeared before a three-Soldier board. The board evaluated each Soldier's physical and uniform appearance and professional knowledge.

Every participant also took the Army Physical Fitness Test, and day and night land navigation skills were tested at the Mount Charleston Land Navigation Course.

There was also a five-mile road march at the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center. All Soldiers also recorded a weapons qualification score with an M-16 rifle and 9 mm pistol.

"The hardest part of the competition was overcoming the anticipation before any event, wondering how difficult the event will be," Chavez said.

Every Soldier in the competition met participant requisites including: 100 percent drill attendance, military occupation qualification standards, a recent passing score on the APFT, no medical profiles and no negative



Staff Sgt. Stan Hampton Sgt. Austin Slate attempts to maximize his sit-up score during the Army Physical Fitness Test phase of the Soldier of the Year competition in March. Slate represented the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1/221st Cavalry, based in Las Vegas.

Uniform Code of Military Justice actions within the past year.

For a second consecutive year, the Honor Guard participated in the competition to recognize its top Soldier. The examination of the Honor Guard Soldier proved just as rigorous as other SOY tests. Each Honor Guard competitor demonstrated in precise detail the movements and commands performed at funeral and formal ceremonies.

"The competition helps expand their knowledge base and reinforce their professionalism," said Sgt. Maj. Robert Morse, operations sergeant major for the state command sergeant major.

The division winners were recognized at an awards dinner after the competition.

"These Soldiers are the best we have when it comes to military competition within the state of Nevada," said Brig. Gen. Francis Gonzales, commander of the Nevada Army Guard. ■

2013 Nevada Army Guard Soldier of the Year Results

FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

1. 1st Sgt. Gary Giddens, 777th Forward Support Company, 1/221st Cavalry

NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

1. Cpl. Angel Chavez, 485th Military Police Company
2. Staff Sgt. Marvin Fabella, 100th Quartermaster Company

SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

1. Spc. Nathan Hill, 485th Military Police Company
2. Spc. David Hammond, B Company, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

HONOR GUARD SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

1. Spc. Thomas Green, 485th Military Police Company

Cav team 5th in inaugural Gainey Cup scout competition

Fort Benning Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Nevada Army Guard’s 1/221st Cavalry Squadron’s five-man scout team competed in the inaugural Gainey Cup here March 1-5 and placed fifth in the national competition. The competition was held to determine the top scout teams in the nation and featured active Army and Marine Corps teams as well as National Guard squads.

The Nevada team included Sgt. James O’Connor, Sgt. Julian Batz, Spc. David Neeley, Spc. Kyle Morse and Spc. Matthew Kearns.

Nineteen teams competed for the Gainey Cup. Two other National Guard teams, one Marine Corps team and 15 active duty teams all vied for top honors. The Nevada squad was the top finisher among the National Guard teams.

The Gainey Cup provided an opportunity for Soldiers in the military reconnaissance community to display their tactical proficiency and institutional training while participating in a spirited competition. The competition was named in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. William Gainey, the first senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff whose long career included many cavalry positions.

The competition included a reconnaissance lane, day and night marksmanship, an obstacle course, a foot march and a scout exam.

A perfect score in the competition was 990 points. The top team scored 760 points, and Nevada recorded 645 points. The teams were composed of two noncommissioned officers and three junior enlisted Soldiers.

Nevada’s all-volunteer team spent two hours per day in January and February preparing for the event. O’Connor’s leadership and Batz’s experience were instrumental during the team’s preparation, said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Laduca, the readiness noncommissioned officer of the 1/221st India Troop. O’Conner worked as team leader from the moment the Gainey Cup competition was announced and Batz, who returned from Ranger school just before the event, quickly became the assistant team leader.

The requirements for the competition were sent in a memorandum of instruction last fall and the cav Soldiers focused on those key tasks during their preparation.

“This event has been a huge driving force for us,” Laduca said. “Not too many people really expected a National Guard unit to place so high in the competition. Our Soldiers doing so well really set the bar high for our unit and our state.” ■



Courtesy of the 1/221st Cavalry

The Nevada Army Guard’s 1/221st Cavalry scout team finishes the foot march during the inaugural Gainey Cup at Fort Benning, Ga, in March. The Nevada squad took fifth place out of 19 teams and was the top National Guard team in the contest.



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

Moving Up and Moving On • January, February, March 2013

Purple Heart



SSG Anderson Munoz L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SGT James Miller K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry

Meritorious Service Medal



LTC Cory Schulz 17th Special Troops Bn
CPT Charles Dickinson 100th Quartermaster Co
CPT Denisse Ramos 137th MP Det
1SG Douglas Ramey 150th Maint Co
CW2 Joe Sherychw 17th Special Troops Bn
SFC Robert Brunsvold 421st Regional Tng Institute
SSG Richard Martinez 421st Regional Tng Institute
CPT Bradley Martino 421st Regional Tng Institute
MAJ Jeffery Figueiredo 421st Regional Tng Institute
MAJ Ramel Jackson HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
1SG Stephen Lawrence 485th MP Co
CPT Robert Kolvet 485th MP Co
CW2 William Malley JFHQ
SFC Henry Willrich 1/168th MEDEVAC

CPT Patrick Arizmendi HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
LTC Kurt Neddenriep HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
1SG Roger Wheeler JFHQ
CW4 Keith Mackie JFHQ
SFC Rosemarie McAllister NVARNG Rec/Ret
Maj Thomas Funk 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
MSgt Jennifer Harrell 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
Col Michael Williams 152nd Airlift Wing
MSgt Michael Robinson 152nd Communications Flt
Maj Dennis Fournier 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
MSgt Daniel Baraz 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
LtCol Warren Rapp 232nd Operations Sqdn
LtCol Edward Cousineau JFHQ

Army Commendation Medal



1SG Robert Hahn 100th Quartermaster Co
1LT Johannes Lamprecht 240th Engineer Co
SGT Elliot Becker 609th Engineer Co
SSG Chad Lewis 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
SPC Christina Garcia 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
SFC Michael Davis HHT, 1/221st Cavalry

SGT Jeremiah Tabeta HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
SGT James O'Connor I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SGT William Mallari I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SPC Mathew Kearns I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SPC Kyle Morse I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SPC David Neeley I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
Maj Sean Matthews JFHQ
SSG Jennifer Pantea JFHQ
CPT Patrick Arizmendi K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SGT Chad Gritten K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SGT Julian Batz K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
SPC David Tangren K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
1LT Anthony Chesini L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry

Air Force Achievement Medal



MSgt Kevin Knight 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
SrA Logan Ingersoll 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
SMSgt Richard Simpson 152nd Comptroller Flt
MSgt Michael Henderson 152nd Comptroller Flt
A1C Joshua Noles 152nd Medical Grp

Army Achievement Medal



SGT Robert Green JFHQ
SGT Savannah McCarthy JFHQ

Army Good Conduct Medal



SFC Justin Juliot 1/421st Regional Tng Institute
SFC Christina Bunker 1/421st Regional Tng Institute
SFC Charles Harger 1/421st Regional Tng Institute

Order of Nevada



SGM Patrick Moore 991st Aviation Troop Cmd

Nevada State Distinguished Service Medal



CW4 Keith Mackie JFHQ
LTC Kurt Neddenriep JFHQ

Nevada Outstanding Airman Ribbon



TSgt Mark Magee 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
SrA Sean Bird 152nd Operations Spt Flt
MSgt Joseph Henle 152nd Operations Spt Flt
TSgt Christa Morter 152nd Operations Spt Flt

Nevada Safety Ribbon



TSgt Ryan Branch 152nd Maint Grp

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Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



MSgt Justin Chapel 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Katherine Dew 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Gregory Hovore 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 MSgt James Kocijanski 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt David Osborn 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 A1C Joseph Ramirez 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Joseph Agrellas 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Corey Beattie 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Kevin Brun 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Scott Dangel 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Aaron Dawson 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 A1C James Hieatt 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Calvin Hobson 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Thomas Kinney 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Paul Bright 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Marcus Eisemann 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Michael Faulkenberry 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SrA Katie Mccray 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Smith 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 CMSgt James Warner 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 LtCol Matthew Speth 152nd Airlift Wing
 MSgt Timothy Ng 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 A1C Christopher Disuanco 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt William Whalen 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Arron Wood 152nd Medical Grp
 MSgt Donald Evans 152nd Medical Grp
 Capt Frank Chavez 152nd Maint Opns Flt
 TSgt Christina Sweat 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt William Cranston 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA William Durns 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Ronald Hanselman 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Steven Hering 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Cody Hessler 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Kevin Horsch 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Ryan Hysell 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Dean Long 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Timothy Schweppe 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Michael Sekerak 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Mark Bodnar 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Ryan Branch 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Nicole Hazen 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Christopher Jensen 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt John Magee 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Brian Mccgary 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Eric Mckenzie 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Larry Morante 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Rusty Scovel 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Jeffrey Stumpf 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Antonio Tognoni 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Douglas Barron 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Dennis Chanez 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Elliroy Defiesta 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Jose Flores 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Jesse Kimsey 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Linden Maples 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Curtis Martin 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SrA Jessie Pascual 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Rebecca Varnum 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Maj Todd Hudson 152nd Operations Grp
 Capt Christopher Leroy 152nd Operations Grp
 Capt Scott Sosebee 152nd Operations Grp

TSgt Patricia Clark 152nd Operations Grp
 1stLt Aaron Christensen 152nd Operations Grp
 Capt Erik Christensen 152nd Operations Grp
 SMSgt Cory Hallock 152nd Operations Grp
 SrA Kayla Hudson 152nd Operations Grp
 Capt Evan Kirkwood 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 CMSgt Robert Martinez 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 MSgt Joseph Henle 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 A1C Kimberley Landeros 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 Capt Thomas Dorsett 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 Maj Ricardo Bravo 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 Maj David Cjaivom 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 LtCol Jon Schulstad 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 MSgt William Seifert 152nd Operations Spt Flt
 MSgt Daniel Baraz 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 LtCol Brian Thayer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Michael Fugett 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Tony Silva 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Craig Wells 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt David Raschen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Russell Stewart 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 A1C Cory Lehr 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Joseph Jaquish 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Erik Brown 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Zane Buck 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Kevin Eikleberry 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt John Fairbanks 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Kerek Gardner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Stephen Griffiths 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Koby Harding 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Christopher Hessler 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Todd Houchens 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Paul Izzo 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Lance King 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Andrew Peterson 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 1stLt Lee Wilson 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Sean Bird 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Christopher Des Roches 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Roberto Fabela 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 1stLt Gregory Green 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Christopher Henrich 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Joshua Leggett 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Kevin Long 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Sarah Spy 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Charles Steffens 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Michael Steward 192nd Airlift Sqdn

A1C Erin Stewart 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt Spencer Trehal 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 A1C Hugh Welden 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Maj Justin Galli 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Thomas Glover 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Kathy Mcewen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Capt David Mcnally 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Amn Rita Middleton 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 CMSgt Robin Mocabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Brian Santor 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Scott Shepherd 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Nathaniel Steiner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Nicole Stoudt 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Johnathan Turner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Pierce Tucker JFHQ

First Sergeant Ribbon



SFC Tamas Horvath HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 SGM Glenn Roberts HHT, 1/221st Cavalry

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



PFC Cody Gamble 17th Special Troops Bn
 CW2 Ian Dasmann 1/168th MEDEVAC
 SPC Jason Matthews L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 CW2 John Baldari JFHQ
 SGT Steven Bunch JFHQ
 PFC Nicole Cunanan NVARNG Rec/Ret
 PV2 Timothy Ortiz NVARNG Rec/Ret
 PV2 Kyle McCurley NVARNG Rec/Ret
 PVT Peter Zikos NVARNG Rec/Ret

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



SrA Richard Catlin 152nd Airlift Wing
 SSgt Troy Jorgenson 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Zane Walker 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 MSgt Susan Deese 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 A1C Jake Toppa 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Torry Thompson JFHQ

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MAJ/Maj

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 Samuel Bonner HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
 Gerald Morris JFHQ
 Nicholas Chavez NVARNG Rec/Ret
 Jeffrey Bellato 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CPT/Capt

Michael Riggs HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Marissa Wesley 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn
 Timothy Frederick HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Jared Brandt 152nd Medical Grp
 Rachel Creger 152nd Medical Grp
 Oliver Miller 152nd Airlift Wing
 Gregory Green 192nd Airlift Sqdn

2LT/2nd Lt

Cory Galli 152nd Operations Grp
 Merridy Stephenson 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CW3

Heather Case-Hall JFHQ

CW2

Kimberly Boeckman HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde

WO1

Erik Mattes 1/168th MEDEVAC

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Mark Rogers JFHQ

1SG/MSG/SMSgt

Alan Hennig Jr 150th Maint Co
 Jerry Hughes HHC, 17th Sustainment Bde
 Kevin Cobb 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

SFC/MSgt

John Shaw HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Charles Goldner III HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Michael Love HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Curtis Terry 593rd Trans Co
 Rachael Romano JFHQ
 David Ryder JFHQ

SSG/TSgt

Paul Kelly 1864th Trans Co
 Jazz Sadik 1864th Trans Co
 Juan Contreras B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Matthew Donaldson B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Benjamin Alves C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn

Kurnhee Ma C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Joshua Keltner 485th MP Co
 Aaron Parks 150th Maint Co
 Alexander Drossulis 421st Regional Tng Inst
 Gregory McClellan HHT, 1/221st Cavalry
 Rachael Hillmann 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Emory Simons 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Richard Grubb 152nd Airlift Wing

SGT/SSgt

Bryce Shattie 152nd Student Flt
 Kyle Zust 152nd Student Flt
 Justin Canniff 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Jonathon Pedrini 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Jonathan Lee 240th Engineer Co
 Taylor Ice HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Megan Braunworth 593rd Trans Co
 Anthony Lombino 72nd MP Co
 Brittney Lozano 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
 Miguel Solis 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
 Leon Sanchez I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 David Loomis L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
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 Melissa Saludaes 100th Quartermaster Co
 Trevor Brown 100th Quartermaster Co
 Christien Delariva 100th Quartermaster Co
 Leah Buchanan 100th Quartermaster Co
 Andy Flores 100th Quartermaster Co
 Johnny Lopez Jr 100th Quartermaster Co
 Erelia Lopez 137th MP Det
 Rebecca Youngs 137th MP Det
 Clint Lund 137th MP Det
 Isabel Cordova 137th MP Det
 Andrew Lindstrom 150th Maint Co
 Adam Smith 150th Maint Co
 Adam Woods 150th Maint Co
 Lilian Fraga 150th Maint Co
 Jordan Armendariz 150th Maint Co
 Albert Valladares 150th Maint Co
 Devin Rose 150th Maint Co
 Guillermo Maldonado 150th Maint Co
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 Bria Grissombesse 150th Maint Co
 Jennifer Williams 150th Maint Co
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 Tiffany McDavid 150th Maint Co
 Markanthony Meditz 150th Maint Co
 Andrea Holloway 150th Maint Co
 Julio Guzman-Bonilla 150th Maint Co
 Blaze Brucato 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 Kristina Wiley 152nd Airlift Wing
 Michael Macneil 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Eric Dahlgren 152nd Communications Flt
 Christopher Pope 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Lucas Soto 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Lilia Decelles 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Emanuel Martinez 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 William Fowler Jr. 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Lucas Jones 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Cameron Peek 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Ryan McDonald 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Makaila Erdody 152nd Medical Grp
 Giovanna Nakamoto 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Trace Libby 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Bryan Inocencio 17th Special Troops Bn
 Janned Garcia-Garcia 17th Special Troops Bn
 Dominick Musumeci 17th Special Troops Bn
 Juan Mendoza 17th Special Troops Bn
 Julianne Baaske 1864th Trans Co
 Renauda Hunter 1864th Trans Co
 Clinton Agcaoil 1864th Trans Co
 Steven Llamas 1864th Trans Co
 Breanna Gascoigne 1864th Trans Co
 Joseph Blanco 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Tona Philimon 240th Engineer Co
 Justin Hanna 240th Engineer Co
 Juan Jimenez 240th Engineer Co
 Armando Chavezcanas 240th Engineer Co
 Melvin Cravin 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Nicholas Heron 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Dane Devereaux 277th Engineer Haul Plt
 Kevin Carbajal 3665th Ordinance Co

Jacob Rooney 3665th Ordinance Co
 Bradley Rosborough 3665th Ordinance Co
 Kyle Gagnon 3665th Ordinance Co
 Jack Callaghan 3665th Ordinance Co
 Kayla Johnson 3665th Ordinance Co
 Jeffrey Ford 3665th Ordinance Co
 Jessica Bornmann 3665th Ordinance Co
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 Raul Silverio 485th MP Co
 Christie Aquino 485th MP Co
 Dustin Anderson-Contenti 485th MP Co
 Nathan Rigney 485th MP Co
 Harrison Proulx 485th MP Co
 Anya Rigoni 485th MP Co
 Christopher Crawford 593rd Trans Co
 Michael Hightower 593rd Trans Co
 Albert Smith 593rd Trans Co
 Brandon Thomas 593rd Trans Co
 Jonathan Franklin 593rd Trans Co
 Clint Emens 593rd Trans Co
 Marjanjay Bolling 593rd Trans Co
 Zachary Towe 593rd Trans Co
 Keaton Sacry 593rd Trans Co
 Scarlett Guerrero 593rd Trans Co
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 Ramon Aguirre 609th Engineer Co
 Jesse Berry 609th Engineer Co
 Dwayne Jones 609th Engineer Co
 Tyvon Warren 72nd MP Co
 Kingsley Jayne 72nd MP Co
 Daniel Moore 72nd MP Co
 Jeffrey Shropshire 72nd MP Co
 Edward Davis 72nd MP Co
 Jacob Keithley 72nd MP Co
 Gustavo Fuentes 72nd MP Co
 Johnny Ramirez 72nd MP Co
 Kristin Howard 72nd MP Co
 Taylor Delong 72nd MP Co
 Thomas Jacobellis 72nd MP Co
 Roger Navarrette III 72nd MP Co
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 Katrina Isla 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
 Robert Moynahan 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
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 Lauren Bolt 777th Fwd Spt Co, 1/221st Cavalry
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 Darius Stewart B Co, 3/140th Aviation

Andrew Vong B Co, 3/140th Aviation
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 Yesenia Guzman B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Kellon Davis B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
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 Jonathan Doane B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Aaron Laforteza B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Katrina Brady B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Michael Salle B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
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 Gentry Dennis B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Alfonso Tyler B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
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 Mark Henriott Jr C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Mitchell Coziar C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Joshua Gauntt C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Marvin Fennimore C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
 Samantha Nyland C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn
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 Sheldeen Silva 17th Sustainment Bde
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 Starr Chilson 17th Sustainment Bde
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 Richard Avila I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Anthony Salgado I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Spencer O'Roarke I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Joel Reddick I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Devan Chambers K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Richard Deitrick K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 John Foley Jr K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Alexander Logan L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Gabriel Weighous L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Michael Delucchi L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry
 Kaylea Phoenix NVARNG Rec/Ret

RETIREMENTS

MSgt Daniel Albee 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SFC Robert Brunsvold 1/421st Regional Tng Inst
 MSG Joseph Delgado HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 MSgt Sherri Hackett 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 TSgt Richard Johnson 152nd Maint Sqdn
 COL Kim Labrie 991st Aviation Troop Cmd

CW4 Keith Mackie JFHQ
 SFC Richard Martinez 1/421st Regional Tng Inst
 LTC Kurt Neddenriep JFHQ
 MSgt Edward Perkins 152nd Maint Squadron
 CSM Donald Sanders 17th Special Troops Bn



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