

Battle Born



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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

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Summer 2011

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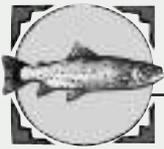
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ON THE COVER: Tech. Sgt. Jessica Bean of the 152nd Medical Group checks the pre-deployment health of an Airman at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno.
Photo: Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brigadier General Frank Gonzales

Summer trip report: 422nd thrives in Afghanistan



By Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, Commander, Nevada Army Guard

Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton and I traveled to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in June to meet with Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen in the combat zone. Our primary mission was to catch up with 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jeff Hansen and his Soldiers.

The 422nd is doing an outstanding job in a very dangerous and fast-paced environment. The battalion's deployment site is arid and hot, and they are dealing with the occasional rockets and explosive device attacks common in a combat zone.

The general who oversees the 422nd while it's in Afghanistan complimented the battalion on its professionalism and tactical and technical abilities.

While in Afghanistan, the 422nd is comprised of about 1,000 National Guard and active duty Soldiers, including 400 Guardsmen from Nevada. The Soldiers provide communications for the combatant commanders throughout Afghanistan.

We also visited Kabul, Afghanistan, during the trip and made stops at the International Security Force Headquarters, Camp Phoenix and Bagram Air Base.

Throughout our travels, we continually met outstanding Soldiers with high morale and a sense of accomplishment.

While in Bagram, we caught up with Col. Vern Scarbrough, the Nevada Army



Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, left, receives an update from 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Jeff Hansen in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in June. Photo: Courtesy of 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion



Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales studies a briefing chart at the Joint Sustainment Command headquarters in Afghanistan while traveling in southwest Asia in June.

Photo: Courtesy of Defense Imagery and Video Distribution System

Guard's chief information officer. He is on a deployment to help implement a biometrics program. This program is used to identify individuals through the use of face recognition, eye scans and voice recognition. He was making great strides toward the completion of the project, and everyone should be proud of his contributions in behalf of this special operation.

During our stay in Bagram, we met with Maj. Gen. James Mallory, the deputy commander for NATO training in Afghanistan. He is an Army Reserve officer responsible for training the Afghan Army.

Mallory said it's his goal to have the Afghan Army take the security lead in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. As the drawdown of allied forces in Afghanistan continues, the security of the nation will be transitioned to the Afghan Army and police.

The week in Afghanistan served to reinforce my belief of how great our Nevada Soldiers and Airmen are performing in a very dangerous and environmentally unfriendly nation. They are well-trained and combat focused.

I am proud to see that our commitment our country is being demonstrated daily by these Nevada combat veterans. ■



FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Chief Warrant Officer Dave Anderson

Warrant officers: Best of both worlds



By Chief Warrant Officer Dave Anderson, Command Chief Warrant Officer

Soldiers aiming to become an officer yet remain a specialist in their chosen field may want to consider becoming a warrant officer. A warrant combines the best of both worlds: You are simultaneously a member of the officer corps and a subject matter expert.

Warrant officer opportunities in Nevada have never been so plentiful.

While remaining heavily involved in overseas contingency operations, the Army Guard is transforming into a modular force capable of deploying rapidly while retaining versatility. With that transformation in mind, the Nevada Army Guard continues to staff its 17th Sustainment Brigade, an important element of the Army Guard's modular force. The brigade has numerous warrant officer vacancies to fill.

Also, four Nevada Army Guard units with warrant officer vacancies are set to deploy during the next two years.

A Soldier must meet several requirements before applying to the warrant officer program. A Soldier must be a U.S. citizen, possess a secret security clearance or interim when applying and have 12 months remaining on their enlistment. All applicants must have a minimum score of 110 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and possess a high school diploma or its equivalent. Finally, an applicant must pass the Army physical fitness test, meet height and weight standards, and pass a physical (or a flight physical for aviators). Soldiers with 12 or more years of active federal service are required to submit an active federal service request with the application.

Once the basic requirements are met, each warrant officer occupational skill has its own unique requirements established by the branch and approved by the Army Training and Doctrine Command. To view

those requirements, you can go to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command website at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant. (When viewing the desired military occupational specialty, make sure you are viewing the National Guard requirements and not those for active duty.)

If you do not meet the prerequisites initially, you should note what they are, strive to meet them, and then consider submitting an application packet. Aiming to become a warrant officer is potentially life changing.

There are currently about 20 warrant officer vacancies in the Nevada Army Guard. If you have reviewed your qualifications and are interested in becoming one, please contact the Nevada Warrant Officer Strength Manager at (702) 289-9332 or e-mail cmac.mcallister@us.army.mil.

Good luck with your application, and I hope to see you soon with your new rank of warrant officer candidate. ■

Warrant Officer Position Vacancies • Warrant Officer Position Vacancies

17th Sustainment Brigade

Electronic Systems Maintenance
Petroleum Technician

Supply Systems Technician
Ammunition Technician

Food Service Technician
Signal Systems Technician

Airdrop Systems Technician
Senior Ordnance Logistics

150th Maintenance Company

Armament Systems Maintenance

Automotive Maintenance

Allied Trade

Engineer Equipment Maintenance

Det. 1, 150th Maintenance Company

Senior Automotive Maintenance

240th Engineer Company

Utility Operation and Maintenance

422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Information Systems Technician

Network Management Technician

Joint Force Headquarters

Mobility Officer

Property Accounting Technician

The requirements for each warrant officer military occupational specialty can be found at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.htm.



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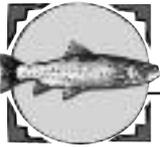


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FROM SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

Command Chief Master Sgt. Bill Moore

Good customer service = Taking care of people



By Chief Master Sgt. Bill Moore, 152nd Airlift Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant

Good customer service and the ability to take care of customers are essential skills within the National Guard family. Whether you realize it or not, everyone has customers no matter what position or title you hold. The top priority of every Airman and Soldier in the Nevada National Guard should be taking care of people.

Good service should leave your customers happy and able to pass positive feedback about your section to others. The essence of good customer service is forming positive relationships with everyone in the National Guard, whether they are Air, Army or retired service members.

How do you form strong relationships? By remembering the phrase: You are judged by your actions and not by your words. This expression is easily stated but difficult to accomplish. However, top-notch customer service can be achieved if you ensure your unit, platoon or squadron follows these five simple rules:

Don't make promises unless you will keep them. Don't plan to keep promises. Do keep them. Reliability is one of the keys to any good relationship and good customer service is no exception. Think before giving a promise, because a broken promise is a poor reflection on you and your section.

Listen to people. Is there anything more exasperating than telling someone what you want or what your problem is and then discovering that that person hasn't been paying attention?

Deal with complaints. No one likes hearing complaints. Many of us have even developed a reflex shrug, saying, "You can't please all the people all the time." Maybe not, but if you give the complaint your full attention, you may be able to please one person one time.

Always be helpful, courteous and knowledgeable. Discuss customer service with those you work with often and give a definition of what it is – and isn't – regularly. Most importantly, give every member

there" or "It's in that file." Attempt to really help the person find the item. Follow through by answering any subsequent questions and seeing if the person needs additional assistance. Whatever extra step

"Good customer service and the ability to take care of customers are essential skills within the National Guard family."

of your section enough information and power to make those small but people-pleasing decisions so he or she doesn't have to say, "I don't know, but the person who knows will be back later..."

Take an extra step. If someone walks into your section and asks you to help them with something, don't just say, "It's over

may be needed, take it. People notice when other people make an effort.

If you apply these five simple rules consistently, your squadron, platoon or section will become renowned for its customer service. Best of all, you will have the satisfaction of doing the right thing for your customers. ■

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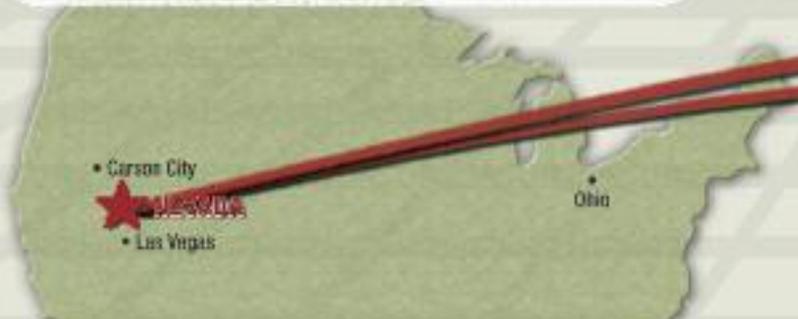
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DROP ZONE



LAS VEGAS – In honor of the Nevada National Guard's work around the world and the military's discovery of Osama Bin Laden's hiding place, Las Vegas painter Alex Krasky is nearing completion of his work, "United We Stand." Krasky is a Russian who has lived in the United States for 10 years. He paints "everything that inspires me, including the U.S. military." Krasky invites all Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen to see his painting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at his gallery, 1813 Derbyshire Drive, Las Vegas. Call (702) 782-8503 for information.

Photo: Courtesy of Krasky Collection



NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE – Army Staff Sgt. Hector Hoyas, an instructor from Fort Lee, Va., and Senior Airman Matthew Phillips, an airborne equipment operator from the 820th Red Horse Squadron, turn away from the prop wash as a Nevada Army National Guard 1/189th Aviation Company CH-47 Chinook helicopter takes off with a sling load here in April. During the course, students conducted jump exercises from the Chinook and conducted a low altitude aerial resupply load.

Photo: Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth, Nellis Air Force Base Public Affairs



HAWTHORNE – From left, Pvt. Jorge Gutierrez, Spc. Mario Gonzalez, Pfc. David Bridges and Pvt. Arik Sitton form the Nevada Guard honor detail that leads the 61st annual Armed Forces Day Parade in "America's Patriotic Home." This year's Armed Forces celebration spanned five days and was a stop on the Vietnam Wall Replica tour. Photo: Courtesy of retired Command Sgt. Maj. John Hefner



CARSON CITY – The Nevada Air Guard's Noncommissioned Officer Academy Graduate Association performs its historic five-flag ceremony during annual Flag Day and U.S. Army Birthday ceremonies June 14 at the Veterans Memorial Wall near the Capitol. It was the 236th Birthday of the U.S. Army. In contrast, the National Guard will celebrate its 375th birthday on Dec. 11.

Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Sgt. Patrice Mara, of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, teaches algebra to a 14-year-old student at a boys' school near the signal battalion's headquarters on Kandahar Air Field. The battalion, comprised of more than 400 Soldiers, departed in January and is set to return to Nevada this winter. For more on the signal battalion, turn to pages 16 and 19. Photo: Courtesy of 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion

LOGHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Scott Danielson, an Airman deployed with the Nevada Guard's Agribusiness Development Team, establishes a secure perimeter in May while the ADT's command team meets with local Afghan leaders to inspect a cool storage cellar project. The cellars keep food fresher and longer than other above-ground storage techniques. Traditionally, local farmers often had to sell their harvests quickly and at a loss because crops would spoil. With cool storage, villagers can live off their harvest throughout the year and improve their year-round economics. The cellars have proved to be sustainable, inexpensive, and popular among the Afghans. Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter, Nevada Agribusiness Development Team



HOHENFELS, Germany – Soldiers from the Nevada Army Guard's 240th Engineer Vertical Construction Company and the 277th Engineer Line Haul Platoon inspect progress on a pole barn frame in May. The units were in Germany on annual training to complete several projects at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. The Soldiers constructed two huts, one pole barn for storage space, and finished up the exterior structures of several buildings at Mount Site Kittensee. They also graded the ground at several training facilities. Photo: Courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Repetto, 240th Engineer Vertical Construction Company

Medical mom SET TO RETIRE



By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Battle Born Editor

CARSON CITY – “Go talk to mom and see if she’ll let you go on this deployment.”

For nearly a decade now, that’s been the phrase uttered to Soldiers with lingering medical questions looking to receive approval for an upcoming deployment. Before they can travel abroad with their unit, they need permission from mom – more formally known as retired Col. Ann Demolski, the Nevada Army Guard’s deputy state surgeon.

After assisting with the medical preparedness of nearly 3,000 deploying Soldiers since 2001, Demolski, and her parental-like care and concern for Nevada Soldiers, are leaving the Nevada Guard. She is retiring this month, concluding the final chapter of her military career that began more than 40 years ago and included a stint in Vietnam at the evacuation hospital that provided the backdrop for the late-1980s television series *China Beach*. She retired from the Army Guard as a colonel in 2005 and has served the past six years as a Department of Defense civilian.

“Demolski acquired the nickname ‘mom’ because she looks out for Soldiers as if they were her own kids,” said personnel Sgt. 1st Class Ron Pitts. “There will be other deputy state surgeons in the future, but no one will replace mom and her devotion to this state’s Soldiers.”

Demolski’s time in Vietnam and her career in the Nevada Guard were only small chapters in her life’s odyssey. She also raised six children, lived on a remote island in northern Germany, traveled throughout Europe, and somehow managed to find time to hike the entire 162-mile Tahoe Rim Trail, making her arguably the most interesting retired colonel in the Army Nurse Corps.

“It’s been a really good ride,” Demolski said with her perpetual smile. “I’ve had the best life anybody could hope for.”

Demolski grew up in a small, southern Illinois town and, like most young adults, wanted to leave home for college. With few occupational choices available in the era, she enrolled in the Providence Hospital School of Nursing in Alabama.

“At that time, women either became office secretaries, school teachers or nurses,”



On her final day in uniform, Ann Demolski is all smiles as her military career that spanned four decades comes to an end in 2006. After retiring from the National Guard as a colonel, she continued to work as the deputy state surgeon as a Department of Defense civilian until her retirement this month.

Photo: Master Sgt. Brenda Henry, Joint Force Headquarters Visual Information Office

she said. “My penmanship was terrible so it was a no-brainer that I became a nurse.”

Of the 64 students who began the program, only 33 completed the demanding course. She graduated in 1965 (the only hint she gives when asked to disclose her age).

Before graduation, Demolski signed up for the Army Student Nursing Program. The program gave her an academic stipend and a commission, along with a two-year Army obligation during the early years of the Vietnam War. After passing her nursing boards, Demolski entered the Army in 1966 and served at Fort Benning, Ga., “treating broken ankles from the jump school” and in the intensive care unit at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colo.

Demolski eventually received orders for Vietnam. She departed on Christmas Eve, 1966, and was the only female Soldier on the 22-hour flight to Southeast Asia.

“Everybody was very nervous and scared,” she said. “I arrived completely out of place wearing my Class A green skirt, nylons and heels. It took three days just to acclimate.”



Retired Col. Ann Demolski, center, paddles down the American River during the Memorial Day weekend on a “team building” exercise with her co-workers. In her retirement, Demolski will continue to pursue her Tahoe-sport passions of paddling, skiing and hiking.

Photo: Courtesy of Beyond Limits Rafting Company

Demolski was assigned to the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau. Working the triage section that evaluated incoming injured Soldiers, there was no time for an easy transition into the grisly world of combat medicine. Some of the memories of those experiences will never fade.

"I went to remove a Soldier's boot with a pair of scissors and his entire boot – including his foot – came off," Demolski said. "The Soldier was totally conscious. He asked me, 'Am I going to be all right?' and I said, 'Yes' and I placed the boot on the litter.

"I then went to get some units of blood. The Soldier grabbed my hand and pleaded, 'Please don't leave me, please don't leave me.' I told him I'd be right back.

"I went to get the units of blood. When I returned, he was gone. I learned something in that moment. If a Soldier ever says, 'Don't leave me,' they know they are dying. From then on, I always stayed with the Soldiers who asked me not to leave."

After 14 months in Vung Tau, the now Capt. Demolski was assigned to the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang. It was not uncommon to work 48 straight hours without a break.

Located near My Khe Beach, the hospital was adjacent to the U.S. military's rest-and-relaxation destination nicknamed China Beach. Decades later, that site provided the backdrop for the television series of the same name that ran from 1988-1991 on ABC and starred Dana Delany. Surprisingly, Demolski says the show did a fairly good job of conveying the atmosphere of the real China Beach in 1967.

"The actual place and the show *China Beach* were quite similar," Demolski said. "Being there was both extremely hard work and fun at the same time."

"You had a working relationship with people and also partied hard with them. We worked 12-hour shifts, seven days per week. But when you weren't working, you were usually drinking or partying," she said. "We had great camaraderie, and we were all young. All of the nurses and corpsmen wanted to be there. There was never a more dedicated and selfless group than that hospital's staff."

As abruptly as it began, her military obligation ended, and she returned to Illinois in August 1968. She hadn't drawn her wages while overseas, so when she was discharged from the Army she received a check for \$6,000.

It was the most money she had ever seen, and Demolski headed for Europe



Ann Demolski, the lower left facing student, takes the oath to become an officer in the Army Student Nursing Program in 1965. The program included an academic stipend, a commission and a two-year Army obligation during the early years of the Vietnam War.

Photo: Courtesy of the Ann Demolski Collection

for nine months with her girl friends. The details of the trip are hard to recollect, she says, but her passport states she made it north to Scotland, south to Algeria, west to Portugal and east to Turkey with countless stops in between.

During the trip, she met the man who eventually became her husband, a German mason, and she subsequently took a job at the 225th Army Hospital in Munich as a civilian nurse. After marriage, the couple ran a bed and breakfast on the remote, northern German island of Sylt and had their first three children.

In 1976, they returned to the United States and settled in the alpine atmosphere of Incline Village, Nev., where the family, which had expanded to six children, kept Demolski busy as a homemaker.

In 1987, Demolski took a job as an office nurse for an internal medicine practice at Lake Tahoe and was eventually cajoled by Lt. Col. Mike McCallum, another Tahoe resident, into joining the Nevada Army Guard. She filled out the enlistment paperwork that year and said she had almost forgotten about her application when the Nevada Guard called her two years later to tell her to begin attending weekend drills. At that time, Demolski said the state only had about eight total medical staff. In comparison, the Medical Detachment today has more than 100 Soldiers.

For most of 1987-2001, Demolski was the state's chief nurse. She became the deputy state surgeon right after the events of 9/11 and has overseen the medical readiness of thousands of Soldiers partici-

pating in 17 major unit deployments since then. She began the job with one assistant but now manages a staff of 18 and a budget of about \$600,000.

"It's been a rewarding and enjoyable job, but also challenging," Demolski said. "The numbers of deploying Soldiers don't decrease but the requirements continue to escalate, despite limited resources. I find it rewarding to get a unit out the door for its deployment with no Soldier held back at the mobilization site. When that happens, it's a call for champagne!"

Demolski says she has no out-of-the-ordinary plans for the future. She'll continue to make frequent trips to Hawaii to see her mother, Cecilia, 93, as well as friends in Germany and Austria. Her children, Ceely, Peter, Tom, Kai, Ted and Chris, are all grown adults now and don't need much parental supervision from mom. In fact, the term of endearment "mom" is going by the wayside at home and being replaced by "grandma" by her granddaughters, Cloe and Lulu.

Demolski says it won't be difficult to transition into a new lifestyle that will include more time for her family and Tahoe hobbies such as kayaking and skiing, but there is one aspect of her job that she will sincerely miss.

"The biggest aspect of the job I will miss is, of course, the people. I love my co-workers, both those within the state and also my contemporaries in other states," Demolski said. "You feel like this organization is one whole huge family. People watch out for each other and take care of each other here." ■

After lockup abroad, Soldier resumes Guard career

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

After a two-month stay in a United Arab Emirates prison in 2010, Cpl. Nicholas Moody, 24, returned to active status and resumed his career with Nevada Army Guard. *Battle Born* magazine recently caught up with the graduate of Lassen High in Susanville, Calif., to learn about his experiences abroad and to discuss his transition back to the United States, and the Nevada Guard, over the past few months. All of the charges against him in UAE were dismissed.

Battle Born: Why did you initially join the National Guard?

Moody: I joined fresh out of high school, ready to serve my country and do something with my life.

You deployed twice in your military career?

That's correct. My Iraqi deployment was from 2007-2008 with a California National Guard unit. We ran convoy security from Kuwait throughout Iraq. From 2009-2010, I went with the 1/221st Cavalry to Afghanistan. I was at a combat outpost, and we operated mortars there.

How did you end up back in Iraq in 2010 so soon after two deployments?

I took a job with a private company working security at a forward operating base in Iraq. I was on inactive Guard status during that time.

How long did you work with the private security company in Iraq?

I wasn't under a contract, so after two months I headed home because I decided it wasn't what I wanted to do.

Tell me about being arrested in the United Arab Emirates.

I was passing through the UAE on my way to the United States. I had some firearms accessories with me including a buttstock,



Cpl. Nicholas Moody of the Recruit Sustainment Program, center, is reunited with his parents Mike and Lorina Moody in Susanville, Calif., after his two-month stay in a United Arab Emirates prison that attracted national attention. Photo: Sam Williams, Lassen County Times

a pistol grip and a cleaning kit. Under their law, that was enough to put me in prison.

When they pulled you aside at the airport security gate, did you believe you would be in trouble?

Not at first. I was kind of scratching my head and wondering 'What's the problem?' Then, as more and more police and security showed up, and I began thinking, 'Okay, there's something wrong here.'

What was life like in the UAE prison?

It was a pretty rough two months. The living conditions weren't the greatest, but not knowing how the situation was going to play out and having everything completely out of my hands was the worst part of it.

How often could you make contact with family or the U.S. consulate?

I was able to make a call home once every two weeks if I was lucky.

What finally happened?

I was in prison for two months and then was released on bail. But I had to wait an additional month for the court proceedings to conclude. By then, my visa had expired, so I had to get it renewed before I could return home.

When did you get home?

Dec. 29, 2010.

Describe your homecoming.

It was great! A bunch of people met me at the Reno airport. It was an awesome time!

Did you start right back with the Nevada Guard?

Yes, I began drilling with Recruit Sustainment Program in January. I'm currently an instructor with the RSP.

What are you doing now in the civilian world?

I'm going to school full time at the University of Nevada, Reno, studying for a degree in business. I've often been out of school because of deployments; I'm a sophomore right now.

You've traveled extensively throughout the Middle East. Do you have any future plans for exotic travel?

I have absolutely zero interest in leaving the United States in the foreseeable future! I'm not planning on leaving again anytime soon, but we'll just have to see what happens.

Do you have any advice for your fellow Soldiers?

Check your luggage thoroughly before you travel! ■

SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER

stars Nevada Guard



By Maj. April Conway
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Larger-than-life military operations are a staple in many summer blockbusters. Movies like *Captain America*, *Green Lantern* and the latest *Transformers* chapter metamorphose U.S. fighter jets and infantrymen into Hollywood's ideal defenders of freedom.

While all that fantasy drama plays out across the nation, a Nevada Guardsman showcases the real world work that goes into humanitarian operations in the Silver State on bigger-than-life silver screens.

Maj. Matt Jonkey of the 1/189th Aviation Company and the unit's CH-47 Chinook helicopters are one of four featured vignettes in the new Stephen Low, large format film *Rescue*. The film premiered on June 8 in Washington, D.C., with wider releases in IMAX, Giant Screen and other specialty theaters set for later this year.

Filmed with the approval of the Department of the Army's Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Los Angeles, *Rescue* focuses on military and civilian response to humanitarian crises, with specific interest in the Nevada Guard's longstanding mission to assist others in time of need.

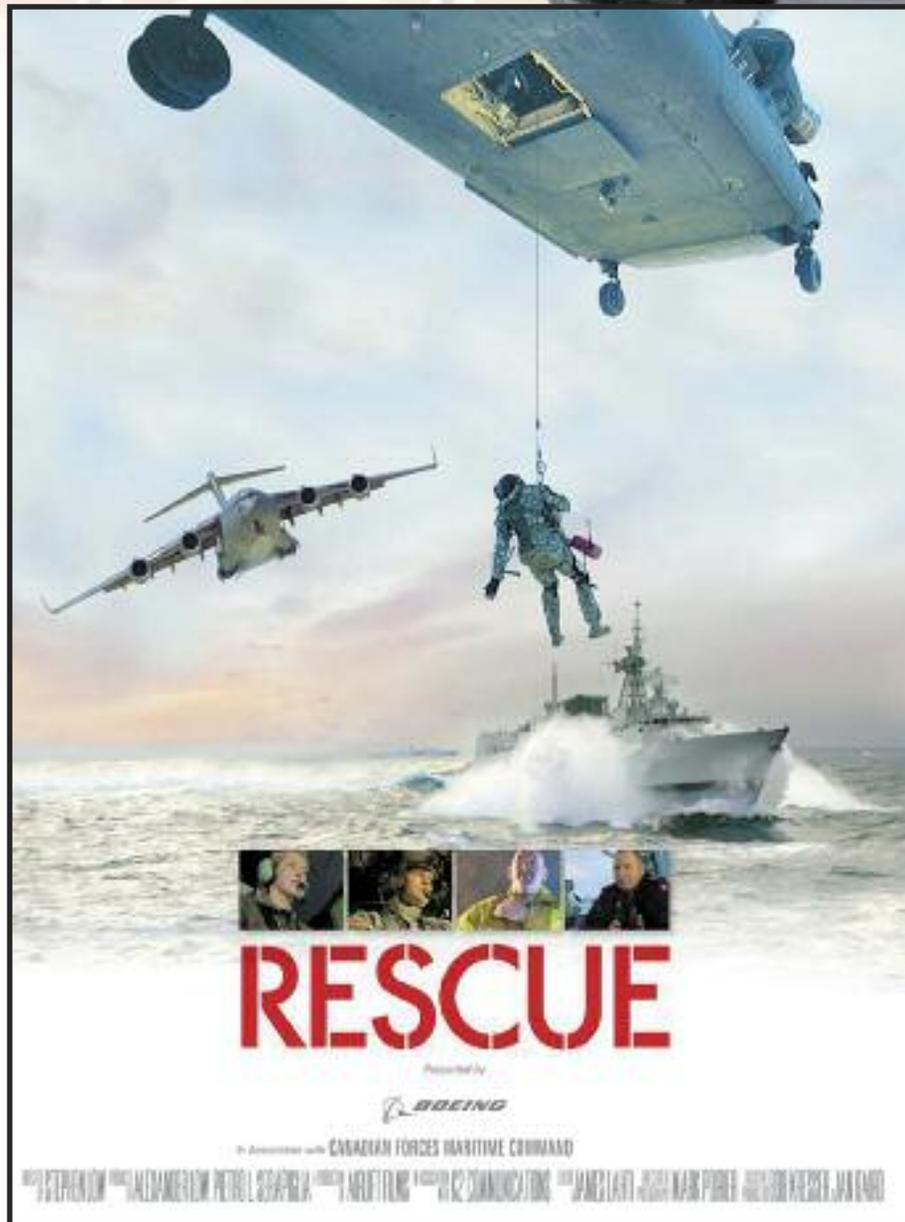
"Our helicopters are capable of rescuing stranded hikers from mountains, fighting wild fires and supporting search teams in the vast Nevada desert," Jonkey said.

The Stephen Low Company is most famous in military circles for producing *Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag*, another large format documentary that went behind the scenes at the U.S. Air Force's Red Flag exercise in southern Nevada.

Ken Hawes, director of the western region of U.S. Army Public Affairs, said the military often assists documentary filmmakers.

"Supporting documentary films such as the IMAX film *Rescue* is an opportunity to educate American and global audiences about the capabilities of the U.S. Army and the professionalism of our Soldiers," he said.

Most Hollywood films that feature actual U.S. military equipment and service



members must go through a rigorous approval process and pay for the equipment, fuel and other incurred costs. In contrast, Hawes said documentaries are done "on the cheap" and tend to have a long shelf life. *Fighter Pilot* is still shown five years after its initial release. For *Rescue*, Low and his production crew flew along on regularly scheduled training flights, incurring no extra cost to the Guard.

As with many Low films, the cinematography, in this case over Lake Tahoe, lends itself to an IMAX or other large format screen.

"We fly over Lake Tahoe a lot, but I couldn't believe how amazing it looked on an IMAX screen," Jonkey said.

The film will premiere in Las Vegas this November. The Reno dates are pending.

For theater show times and dates, visit www.rescue-film.com. ■

Two Nevada Guard units receive rare Meritorious Unit Commendations

Story and photos by Sgt. Mike Getten, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Equivalent in status to an individual Soldier's Legion of Merit award, two Nevada Army Guard units were recently recognized with Meritorious Unit Commendations for their extraordinary service.

The 1st Squadron, 221st Armored Reconnaissance Cavalry, was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in a ceremony May 23 on Fritz Field at the National Training Center. The squadron is headquartered in Las Vegas.

The 1864th Transportation Company, also headquartered in Las Vegas, was notified it was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in December.

Both units were deployed abroad for one year beginning with pre-deployment training in the spring of 2009. The 1/221st went to Afghanistan and the 1864th deployed to Iraq.

According to its citation, the squadron received commendation for its exceptional performance during deployment to Afghanistan from July 2009 to March 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The cavalry provided security to 12 disparate provincial reconstruction teams throughout Afghanistan and recorded no casualties.



The mounted color guard of the 11th Cavalry displays the 1/221st Cavalry's colors complete with its new Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer during a ceremony at Fort Irwin, Calif., on May 23.



From left, Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton, Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep, and Squadron Command Sgt. Maj. James Richardson affix a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer to the 1/221st Cavalry's colors during a ceremony at Fort Irwin, Calif., on May 23. The squadron received its commendation for exceptional performance during its deployment to Afghanistan from July 2009-March 2010.

Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep, commander of the 1/221st Cavalry, deflected credit for the award to his unit leaders and the troopers of the Wild Horse Squadron.

"It's fitting to ask on an occasion like this: How did we get here?" Neddenriep said. "The answer lies in great leadership, the support of our families, and the professionalism and dedication of our noncommissioned officer and officer corps who combined to train the finest troopers I have had the opportunity to serve with."

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, adjutant general for Nevada, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton, senior enlisted leader for Nevada, attached the scarlet meritorious unit commendation streamer, embroidered with "Afghanistan 2010," to the squadron colors. Every Soldier in the 1/221st is now entitled to wear the scarlet ribbon with a gold laurel leaf frame commemorating the unit's award. Soldiers who were assigned to the 1/221st during its 2009-2010 deployment may wear the ribbon even if they transfer from the squadron.

The 1864th received the award for its work in Iraq. During its deployment, the unit conducted heavy transportation missions and provided convoy security. The unit drove more than one million miles on more than 60 major missions without any casualties.

Although the 1864th has already been awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation, no official date for an award ceremony has been set. ■



Every Soldier in the 1/221st Cavalry is now entitled to wear a Meritorious Unit Commendation ribbon. Soldiers who were assigned to the 1/221st during its 2009-2010 deployment may wear the ribbon even if they transfer from the squadron.

Relay run across Mojave commemorates Cav commander, famous exercise

By Sgt. Mike Getten, 106th Public Affairs Detachment, and Lt. Col. Terry Conder, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – More than 60 Nevada Army Guard 1/221st Cavalry Soldiers ran a 135-mile relay across the Mojave Desert from Las Vegas to the National Training Center here May 22-23, in commemoration of one of the squadron's most charismatic leaders, Col. Jerry Bussell, and one of the most famous training exercises in Nevada Guard history.

The Wildhorse Commemorative Run traced the exact path of the notable cavalry Death March of June 1985. Bussell was the commander of the squadron at the time and had the idea to prepare for combat operations by convoying the squadron's assortment of 141 tanks, trucks and jeeps from the Henderson Armory to Fort Irwin. According to the Carson City Nevada Appeal, Bussell's route was just slightly south of the area Gen. George Patton and his cavalry troops used between Las Vegas to Fort Irwin to prepare for combat operations in northern Africa in the early 1940s.

Bussell, commander of the squadron from 1984-1986, passed away last year at age 67. In addition to 26 years of military service, he also was Gov. Kenny Guinn's advisor for homeland security.

During this year's annual training, 1/221st leaders chose to add a special event to commemorate the innovative ideas of Bussell and the 1985 Death March. They decided upon the Wildhorse Run and began planning for the event in December.

"Maj. Randy Lau and I felt it was important to do something to keep the memory of the Death March alive," said Capt. Michael Schiemer, the cavalry's forward support company commander. "We thought a relay run over the same route would be an ideal way to commemorate the exercise and its extraordinary leader."

The Wildhorse Run began May 22 at the "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign on The Strip. The opening leg of the relay was run by 1/221st commander Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep and Bussell's widow, Pat Lundvall. Sixty-three cavalry runners averaged 2.15 miles per relay leg, progressing at about nine minutes per mile, and completed the course in 21 hours, 15 minutes.

As the course reached its last miles, Kilo Troop Soldiers ran in platoon formation and carried a commemorative guidon the



In this file photo, Col. Jerry Bussell leads the 1/221st Cavalry during the Death March of 1985. Photo: Lt. Col. Terry Conder, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Pat Lundvall and 1/22st Cavalry commander Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep begin the Wildhorse Commemorative Run on May 22 in Las Vegas. Lundvall is the widow of retired Col. Jerry Bussell, who led the 1/221st Cavalry on its famous Death March from the Henderson Armory to Fort Irwin, Calif., in 1985. The commemorative relay traveled 135 miles across the Mojave Desert. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

last mile to the finish line at Fritz Field. The guidon was then presented to Lundvall. The presentation was followed by the unit's Meritorious Unit Commendation ceremony.

Lundvall said the relay run over the Death March course was a perfect tribute to Bussell.

"Jerry defied everyone's expectations when he pulled it off," Lundvall said. "He brought a lot of enthusiasm to everything he did, including armor training. What most people don't remember is eight months later he took the battalion to Minnesota for cold weather training. It was sub zero up there, but his Soldiers had a successful annual training. Jerry was always looking for new challenges for both himself and the squadron."

The cavalry harriers covered the distance nearly as fast as the squadron's tanks some 26 years ago. The 1985 Death March lasted two days and featured 43

Korean War-era, M-48 Patton tanks capable of traveling 18 mph. Daytime temperatures averaged 110 degrees that June in the Mojave Desert, but the interiors of the vehicles were 50 degrees hotter. About 420 total Soldiers convoyed on the squadron's vehicles.

The Death March convoy stretched for 30 miles and took nearly two hours to pass any given point. After the two-day convoy, the 1/221st fought mock armor battles at Fort Irwin with nearly 2,500 California Guard members for almost two weeks. With multiple newspapers across the state covering its progress, the 1/221st then retraced its route home to complete one of the most famous training sessions in Nevada Guard history.

"The Wildhorse Run gave our Soldiers an opportunity to recognize both a great individual as well as a famous event in Nevada Guard history," Schiemer said. ■



Master Sgt. Jim Kocijanski, an inspector with the 152nd Maintenance Squadron, prepares aircraft for maintenance in May at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. Kocijanski and hundreds of his fellow Airmen are preparing for a unit compliance inspection in September that will evaluate every section on the base. Photo: Senior Airman Amy Adducchio, Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Airmen ramp up for unit compliance inspection

By Senior Airman Amy Adducchio, Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

RENO — Pilots need to know exactly where they are before taking off for their ultimate destination.

It's exactly the same premise on the Air National Guard base here, where hundreds of Airmen in the 152nd Airlift Wing have spent months prepping for a unit compliance inspection that will give the base's staff a good idea of where the wing stands and what direction it needs to take to meet future goals.

The unit compliance inspection, set to occur next month, entails an evaluation conducted by the Air Force to ensure each base section is adhering to Air Force instructions and guidance. Portions of the inspection will test if the wing is ready for future contingencies and combat deployments.

The UCI is one of five evaluations the wing has received or will receive during its inspection cycle this year.

"Our Airmen have the desire to perform at the top level both individually and collectively," said Col. Les Gonzalez, the 152nd Mission Support Group commander. "Our goal is to achieve an 'outstanding' with two 'best seen-to-date practices' in each section — that is a very, very lofty goal."

Inspection results are often a reflection of how the unit will do in combat, Gonzalez said.

"When we go into theater and are met by real challenges and emergencies, everybody is going to know what our capabilities are," Gonzalez said. "They will know we can go through the tough times and get the job done. Those are the type of Airmen we want to deploy with."

To prepare for the UCI, the 152nd established a team to coordinate its pre-testing efforts. Some team members' duties included researching applicable Air Force instructions, evaluating checklists that inspectors will use and tracking each section's progress through a database.

"The first thing we request from every functional area is a self-assessment," said Senior Master Sgt. Linda Simons, the self-assessment project manager who's working on her third UCI. "We ask the sections to assess themselves and tell us where they rate their own program and identify their own deficiencies and how to correct them."

After the self-assessment phase is complete, staff assistance visits from active, Guard and reserve-component section managers help validate the self-assessment answers. These Air Force counterparts also help identify underlying problems.

"It's similar to a football game. You take a game plan, go out and practice, and then on game day you execute the game plan," Gonzalez said. "Our game plan is our normal day-to-day operations. Our game day is deploying to a combat theater or responding to an emergency."

Other inspections set to occur include an aircrew standardization and evaluation visit this month and a health services inspection in September (see related article on next page). Two other major inspections, the logistics compliance assessment program inspection for the maintenance group and the air traffic system evaluation for the operations group, occurred in May. ■

152nd Medical Group preps for five-year checkup

By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Battle Born Editor

RENO – Sept. 12 may be the most highly anticipated day in the history of the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Medical Group.

That's the day the medical group's Airmen believe they will finally be able to catch their breath after undergoing two major inspections during September's drill weekend. The group is set to receive its unit compliance inspection that weekend as well as its quinquennial (once every five years) health services inspection.

"It's a huge inspection for us," administrative officer Lt. Col. Don Reynolds said. "If a hospital were to flunk an equivalent type of inspection, it would be shut down. This is the same type of inspection in terms of importance."

Every department in the medical group, including public health, infection control, nursing services, flight medicine and administrative records section will be analyzed by active duty inspectors.

"Literally hundreds of elements within the health program will be reviewed," said Reynolds.

As if preparing for two major inspections simultaneously was not challenging enough, the staff of 65 Airmen continues its real-world mission of ensuring the medical readiness and preparedness of Nevada Guard Airmen as they deploy around the world. The medical group has checked the health of about 3,500 pre-deploying Airmen since 9/11, confirming they are properly immunized and medically qualified for duty overseas.

"I can't recall a busier time," said Tech. Sgt. Jessica Bean, a public health technician. "It can be nerve-wracking and stressful, and the pressure builds as we try to cover all of the inspection areas. But no matter what, helping Airmen prepare for deployment remains our top priority."

Five years ago, the group received an "Excellent" rating for its performance in the health services inspection, the second highest rating in the Air Force.

"We are aiming for an 'Outstanding' this time, the highest possible," Reynolds said. "We have a great group of people who have devoted substantial time and effort to this inspection, so our expectations are very high." ■



1st Lt. Leslie Mays of the 152nd Medical Group collects equipment in advance of the group's health services inspection in September. Hundreds of elements within the medical group will be reviewed and evaluated. Photo: Courtesy of Master Sgt. John Nimmo, National Guard Bureau

Sugarland Ranch: Sanctuary for deploying pet owners



Mariah Estes, a Sugarland Ranch staff member, plays ball with Jericho, a chihuahua, and Carmen, an American pit bull terrier, in Reno. With their owner, Spc. Joshua Ross of the signal battalion, currently deployed, the dogs are set to board at Sugarland Ranch until winter.

*Story and photo by Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

RENO – When Spc. Joshua Ross, a single Soldier with the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, learned he was deploying, his first question was: “What will I do with my dogs, Jericho and Carmen?”

To his relief, Sugarland Ranch Kennels provided the answer with its Military Deployment Program. Located in a rural area between Antelope and Lemmon valleys on Matterhorn Road, the nonprofit organization provides boarding for pets of service members deployed in a combat theater.

The ranch will house pets for free if the boarding creates a financial hardship. Others pay the ranch what their respective budgets will allow, often far less than the actual cost of boarding. The program is open to all service members nationwide and not limited to Nevada Guardsmen.

“Sugarland Ranch was number one on the list of kennels on the Military OneSource

page,” said Ross via email from Afghanistan. “As soon as I spoke to the owner, I knew why it received its high ranking and my search was over.”

The only stipulations are that a pet must be healthy, have a current immunization record, and be spayed or neutered. The program is not limited to dogs, and the deploying service member is the only person who can make the arrangements with the ranch.

Sugarland Ranch was co-founded by Mack McKinley and Robyn Roth. McKinley, an Air Force veteran, wanted to do something to help deploying service members and established the Military Deployment Program.

“I had a special interest to help service members during their deployments,” said McKinley. “We met with several Nevada Guard personnel to get the word out locally.”

Sugarland Ranch sits on 55 acres and features nearly four dozen 96-square-foot kennels. Half of each kennel is indoors and each has a dog door for indoor-outdoor access. The building is climate-controlled for the animals’ comfort. Each pet is taken out at least four times a day to exercise in one of the ranch’s eight play areas.

“We dote over the animals here,” said McKinley. “Our mission is to preserve and strengthen human-animal bonds.”

Roth said Sugarland Ranch is not the boarding answer for everyone, though. The ranch accepts pets only when an owner is out of options.

“We can’t support every deployed service member’s pet,” Roth said. “We ask owners to consider every alternative before bringing their pet here.”

Ross said he had no other choice for his hounds, as his mother is allergic to dogs, and he had no other family in the area.

Sugarland Ranch features Skype, which allows service members to keep tabs on their pet during a deployment. The ranch can also post videos of pets on the internet for owners to view.

“We’ve discovered the Soldiers welcome the opportunity to see their pet in action,” Roth said.

He especially enjoys the videos because they are available at any time, and he can watch them repeatedly.

Sugarland Ranch is currently housing five dogs for four deployed service members, including three Nevada Guard Soldiers.

For information on Sugarland Ranch, call (775) 970-5350. ■

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Huge C-130 aircraft engines in various states of disassembly wait to be inspected in the engine shop at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. After they are reassembled, they are taken to the flight line for a tuneup.

Air Guard engine shop propels airborne activity

SPOTLIGHT

*Story and photos by Staff Sgt. David Overson,
115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment,
Oregon National Guard*

RENO - It's tough to disagree that the Nevada Air National Guard's 152nd Airlift Wing's engine shop is one of the base's most important sections. Without the engine shop, activity at the base would literally be grounded.

"We take our job very seriously, knowing it's the shop's inspections that keep the aircraft aloft," said Tech. Sgt. Mike Massano, an inspection technician with 10 years of experience.

The engine shop's Airmen returned from an Afghanistan deployment in March, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The engine shop now has its hands full servicing the Nevada Air Guard's fleet of C-130H military transport aircraft. According to engine shop work leader Master Sgt. Steve Hunt, the C-130s annually receive a thorough inspection from the Air Force's International Standard Organization. Each aircraft spends 18 days in the hangar being disassembled, reassembled and inspected



Senior Airman Neil Robertson cleans and preps an engine for an upcoming structural integrity inspection.

with a fine-tooth comb. After each aircraft is reassembled, it is moved to the flight line for an engine tune up.

Although the base in Reno now hosts an airlift wing, it previously featured a reconnaissance wing with F-4 Phantom aircraft. The 152nd started phasing out the F-4s in

the mid-1990s when it received C-130E model aircraft. Those were the wing's main aircraft until H models arrived in 2002. The unit's current aircraft are more than three decades old.

"Even though these aircraft were built in 1979, they are very sound, and we make certain they stay that way," said Master Sgt. Paige Holman while inspecting an aft engine support beam.

In retrospect, the engine shop's Airmen are glad the change in aircraft occurred.

"Since we switched to the C-130s, the travel opportunities have been great," said Master Sgt. William Cranston, another work leader in the engine shop. "I have travelled all over the world and back, twice."

Cranston, one of the most senior Guardsmen in the shop, has been in the Nevada Air Guard since 1986.

"The friendships I've garnered over the years are the best aspects of being with the 152nd," Cranston said. "I grew up in the area, went to Truckee High School here in the region, and feel a great amount of pride knowing I'm making a difference in the Air Guard." ■



Soldiers still sought for Afghanistan deployment

RENO—The 593rd Medium Transportation Company is set to deploy to Afghanistan in 2012. Opportunities to deploy with the unit are available. The unit has a shortage of motor transport operators (military occupation specialty 88M) in the ranks of staff sergeant and below. For information, call the 17th Special Troops Battalion at (775) 674-5020.

Retiree recognition ceremonies, appreciation days upcoming

LAS VEGAS—It isn't too early to mark your calendar for the annual retiree ceremonies and appreciation days. Two ceremonies and appreciation days are set. The first is set for Carson City on Nov. 5 at the Office of the Adjutant General and will feature a Fallon Naval Air Station Commissary sale, other vendors and retirement briefings. The second is set for Dec. 3 at the Las Vegas Readiness Center and will feature vendors, an informational booth and retirement briefings. For information, call (702) 632-0517.

EANGUS membership competition continues

CARSON CITY—The Nevada Air and Army Guards are embroiled in a battle to see which organization can hold the most Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States memberships by February 2012. The competition began in April and the winning branch will win the Minuteman Trophy for one year.

EANGUS has the goal of increasing the voice of enlisted persons in the National Guard and is dedicated to promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of enlisted members by supporting legislation that provides adequate staffing, pay, benefits, entitlements, equipment and installations for enlisted Soldiers and Airmen. For membership information, call (775) 788-4665 or (775) 887-7221.

New law gives Guardsmen expanded custody rights

CARSON CITY—A new Nevada law passed during the spring legislative session promises expanded child custody rights to service members including Guardsmen.

"This is an important step forward for our servicemen and women," said Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams. "It is important that they be able to serve their country without worrying about how it may affect the custody of their children."

According to Adams, the law is applicable to families who have one or two service member parents. The law limits modifications in existing custody orders based on actual or potential military deployments and authorizes temporary modifications in order to accommodate a military deployment.

It also authorizes a court to hold expedited hearings and allow testimony via affidavit or electronic media for a parent whose ability to appear at a regularly scheduled custody or visitation hearing is affected by military duties.

If military duties preclude adjudication of custody orders prior to deployment, the law requires parents to cooperate and reach a mutually agreeable resolution. If the court has issued a custody order, the bill deems the absence of a child from Nevada during a deployment as "temporary." For information, call (775) 684-8803.

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DEPLOYMENT ROUNDUP

Compiled by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Battle Born Editor

ADT mission concludes

CARSON CITY – After a year abroad helping rebuild Afghanistan's agricultural infrastructure, the Nevada Guard's Agribusiness Development Team concluded its deployment in June.

The team's 60 Soldiers and Airmen primarily worked in Logar, Wardak and Bamyán provinces to improve the area's agricultural techniques and farming capacities. They also worked with provincial and district-level officials to develop a strategic plan for future improvements in the agricultural community.

According to the ADT's Project Yearbook, the team completed 116 major projects in more than 20 far flung districts. More than 9,000 Afghans received agricultural training during the deployment and more than one million Afghans were positively affected by the team's presence.

The team is set to host its welcome home party Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno. Tickets are required. Call (775) 843-9685 for information.



Staff Sgt. Anderson Munoz of the Agribusiness Development Team receives a warm welcome home from his wife, Kelly, upon his return to Reno on June 25 after his one-year deployment with the unit concluded. Photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter, Agribusiness Development Team

Signal Soldiers on same wavelength throughout Afghanistan

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD – Although the Soldiers in the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion are dispersed throughout Afghanistan, they all remain on the same wavelength concerning their mission to provide superior voice and data communication transmissions across the country.

"The battalion as a whole has done a phenomenal job of assuming the communications mission for multiple regional commands," said 1st Sgt. Elisabeth Liemandt via e-mail. "We've been tasked to the extreme, not only for our signal capabilities but also for our logistics, maintenance and personnel assets. But despite the fact we have pushed the companies and their staffs to the max, we are succeeding, and the units are finding

their rhythm and meeting their mission requirements."

The headquarters element of the battalion and Bravo and Charlie companies are stationed at Kandahar Air Field, where they are responsible for Regional Command South networks.

Alpha Company, composed mainly of Soldiers from the Arizona Guard, is stationed at Bagram Air Field under the auspices of Regional Command North.

Bravo Company has teams working at five contingency operating bases throughout RC South providing data communications to ground troops on the front lines. Charlie Company runs the networking tactical hub at KAF, providing communication abilities to more than 30,000 troops.

Alpha Company is also very busy and maintains eight teams working at contingency operating bases throughout northern Afghanistan.

According to Liemandt, KAF is essentially a large, dusty, busy city. It features every nationality of people and even some first-class amenities. The Soldiers are living in 160-square-foot "tin cans" with two to three Soldiers per "can."

"The Soldiers are keeping busy in their spare time trading movies, playing cards, singing karaoke and participating in 5- and 10-kilometer runs every weekend," Liemandt said.

The battalion departed in January and is set to return to Nevada this winter.

1st Sgt. Elisabeth Liemandt of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion and Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter of the Agribusiness Development Team contributed to this report.

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SOLDIER DIGS HIS GIG AS JAZZ BAND DIRECTOR

Story and photos by Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – In jazz vernacular, Nevada Army Guard Col. Vernon Scarbrough is “diggin’ his gig” at the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra. This cat’s act is pure 18 karat.

“Jazz music has been my life’s passion for a long time,” Scarbrough said. “The most fun I’ve ever had in my life was teaching jazz ensembles.”

Scarbrough, 49, was a band director for 18 years with the Washoe County School District and worked as a middle school music director from 1998-2005. He left the school district in 2005 to become the chief information officer at Joint Force Headquarters, but his desire to teach music never waned. About a year after switching jobs, he established the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra to fill a musical void in both his life and the region’s musical scene.

Scarbrough joined the Nevada National Guard in 1987 as a signal officer with the 321st Signal Company and served as a traditional Guardsman for more than 20 years in numerous command and staff positions with both the signal company and 422nd Signal Battalion.

He has recently concluded a six-month individual mobilization to Afghanistan and said he found a connection between the music he cherishes and his recent deployment location.

“The physical environment in Afghanistan reminded me of the stark contrasts and dissonance associated with Thelonius Monk’s compositions,” Scarbrough said.



Col. Vernon Scarbrough, chief information officer at Joint Force Headquarters, plays the saxophone during a practice session with the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra. His son, Jack, plays the baritone saxophone in the background. Both Scarbroughs occasionally appear as musicians for the Reno Jazz Orchestra.

Youth Jazz Orchestra. His son, Jack, plays the baritone saxophone in the background. Both Scarbroughs occasionally appear as musicians for the Reno Jazz Orchestra.



Col. Vernon Scarbrough, chief information officer at Joint Force Headquarters, directs the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra during a recent practice at Pine Middle School. He and his wife, Karen, founded the prestigious orchestra for young musicians in 2006.

“Both are chaotic, harsh, abrupt, powerful and yet stunningly beautiful at the core.”

According to Scarbrough, the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra’s goal is to assemble the top middle school and high school jazz talent in the Reno-Sparks-Carson-Tahoe communities, providing performance, preservation, appreciation and study of jazz. The musicians practice weekly at Pine Middle School in Reno.

“Jazz is part of our history and heritage,” he said. “Jazz is an American art form. And it’s a lot of fun to play.”

Now in its sixth year, the RYJO is a Scarbrough family passion. Scarbrough’s wife, Karen, is the chief administrator and co-founder; son Jack is currently the assistant director; and daughter Anna sings in the vocal section. During a normal week, Scarbrough leads the RYJO through a two-hour rehearsal. But his dedication and devotion to the orchestra doesn’t end there. In his spare time he plans, coordinates and directs gigs, meets with prospective donors and researches music for the rehearsals. In a typical month, he spends more than 60 hours of his free time on the organization, and his family contributes another 140.

“Performance is what it is all about,” Scarbrough said. “You can rehearse and rehearse, but the students don’t truly learn the music until they are actually out performing in front of a live audience. It’s through performance and live interaction that they finally begin to understand the music and how to make a connection with the audience. I call it teaching music through performance.”

Scarbrough’s students sometimes attend jam sessions and play with professional musicians.

“It’s exciting when guest artists come to town and my kids get to jam with them,” Scarbrough said. “When they get on stage with a guest artist performing before a live audience, it’s an experience they’ll remember. I try to get my students to become familiar with all styles of jazz.

“I have them experience what it is to swing, to improvise and create your own music. Jazz musicians have a lot of freedom and the opportunity to be creative. I want my students to know and experience that.”

Scarbrough’s interest in music began as a fourth-grader in Reno when his parents purchased a saxophone for him, which he still uses today. He received his bachelor’s in music from the University of Texas and has a master’s in music from the University of Oregon.

Austin Dreher, a graduate of Reno High School, played for two years with the RYJO as the lead alto saxophone player.

“The attraction to being in the RYJO is the group,” Dreher said. “I want to be part of a group that displays the potential of the students, and that is exactly what this group does. Mr. Scarbrough is an excellent teacher who really knows the subject.”

For information on the orchestra, visit www.renoyouthjazzorchestra.com. ■

Getten says he prefers Miles Davis over Thelonius Monk and notes his commute to work can also be chaotic, harsh, abrupt, powerful and yet stunningly beautiful.

Nevada Guard post-World War II: Funding, Air Guard, personnel levels take off



Photo: Courtesy of Jim Dunn

By Spc. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

CARSON CITY – Ideally, Nevada Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Jay White should have spent his golden years in the late 1940s sipping lemonade on his porch swing while reminiscing about the successes of the Nevada National Guard.

After all, it was White who successfully secured federal recognition for the Nevada Guard in 1928 and oversaw the ballyhooed deployment of the entire organization in 1941 and its subsequent exemplary performance throughout World War II. Returning Soldiers were warmly welcomed home with ceremonies and parades.

But despite the public shows of support for Soldiers, there was one worrisome question on White's mind as Guardsmen returned to the Silver State: Would the state reestablish its militia and adequately fund the Nevada National Guard?

White's fears were realized in 1947, when the Nevada Legislature deemed a standing National Guard during peacetime an "unnecessary" expense.

White retired soon after that decision. He did not hide the fact he felt the Nevada troops had been slighted in the 1947-1948 Nevada National Guard Biennial Report.

"It would serve no purpose to adversely criticize members of the 1947 Legislature who successfully opposed any appropriation for reorganizing the Nevada National Guard (air and ground troops), but by their action they have placed this state in a position where they can not point with pride to our accomplishments in a military way," he said.

During the initial years after World War II, the Nevada National Guard had survived thanks to private donations for Army drill pay and unit housing. Several communities including Winnemucca, Elko, Las Vegas and Reno privately built and maintained structures for military drills.

Funds for "air troops" were also difficult to secure. The U.S. Air Corps wanted to send Lt. Col. Ira Wintermute to northern Nevada in 1946 to establish the 192nd Fighter Squadron as the first Nevada Air Guard unit in the state, but it took a \$9,000 community donation to guarantee his arrival.

As White and other Nevadans fought to reestablish and reorganize the post-war National Guard, the federal government signed the National Security Act of 1947, one of the most important pieces of military legislation since the act that created the Continental Army in 1775.

The act, signed by President Harry Truman, established the Air Force as its own military branch, with state air units falling under its jurisdiction. The act also merged the Navy and Army under the auspices of the Department of Defense. The act's goal was to

unite U.S. military components to combat the emerging threat of communism.

In 1948, the Legislature finally acquiesced to White's pleas, and a small amount of funds were dedicated to help reorganize the state's Guard. White lived until 1959, long enough to see the future of the Nevada Guard was secure and the focus of his life's work was not wasted. The funds also served to keep Wintermute at his post in Reno and officially gave birth to the 192nd Fighter Squadron, the first Nevada Air Guard unit.

In 1949 and 1950, the federal government, via the National Guard Bureau, expanded the Nevada Guard by disbursing \$1.4 million in salary, base construction, training and equipment funding. That was in stark contrast to the less than \$1,000 the NGB gave Nevada annually from 1941-1948.

Much of the increased funding stemmed from the National Defense Facilities Act of 1950, which provided federal money for building National Guard facilities. The Nevada Air National Guard Base in Reno received 75 percent of its funding from the National Defense Facilities Act, according to biennial reports. Subsequent construction of additional Army Guard facilities in Fallon, Yerington, Elko, Carson City and Las Vegas were built in the

1950s with federal dollars.

In contrast to its number during World War II, the Nevada National Guard's personnel levels more than doubled during the 1950s and reached 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen.

In 1967, the Legislature revised the state's militia laws. The new regulations created a full-time adjutant general position and established the state's Department of the Military. The department was renamed the Office of the Military in 1993.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Nevada Guard trained its Soldiers and Airmen to react to both international and state contingencies.

The Nevada Air Guard was called to active duty on Jan. 24, 1968, after North Korea captured the USS Pueblo. More than 600 Nevada Airmen mustered at the air base in Reno and served for 22 months on active duty. The Pueblo incident marked the first activation of the entire Nevada Air Guard. It was also activated in support of Operation Desert Storm in Iraq in 1990-1991.

The growth of the Nevada National Guard continued through the thawing of the Cold War and through the 1990s. But as a new millennium began, new enemies replaced previous threats, and the Global War on Terrorism propelled the Nevada Guard into its busiest decade ever. ■

Next: The Nevada National Guard since 9/11.



SPORTS NEWS

Nevada Guard marksmen on target for Governor's Twenty Tab

By Spc. Emerson Marcus
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – Dozens of Nevada National Guard marksmen took aim for recognition at the Washoe County Regional Shooting Facility on May 19 during the annual Adjutant General's Marksmanship competition, but only the top 20 Soldiers and Airmen gained the coveted Governor's Twenty Tab for shooting excellence.

Army Staff Sgt. Sam England of the small arms readiness training section team at Joint Force Headquarters won the competition with a three-day accumulated score of 410, one point ahead of Air Guard Master Sgt. Gerald Dwyer's tally of 409.

"The competition gave Soldiers and Airmen a unique opportunity to prove their skills with both rifle and pistol," England said.

Shooters tested their skills on the range at several distances with the M-4 rifle and 9 mm pistol. The top 20 shooters received



Chief Warrant Officer Charles Powell, a computer network technician at Joint Force Headquarters, takes aim at a target during the Adjutant General's Marksmanship competition at the Washoe County Regional Shooting Facility on May 19. Powell was one of dozens of Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen who participated with the goal of qualifying for the Governor's Twenty Tab, a patch awarded to the state's top National Guard shooters.

Photo: Spc. Emerson Marcus, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

the Governor's Twenty Tab, a shoulder patch signifying the top marksmen in the state's National Guard ranks.

"This event builds camaraderie and gives Soldiers and Airmen additional marksmanship knowledge and a chance to go back to their respective unit with a certain amount of bragging rights," said Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the state's adjutant general.

Staff Sgt. Sam England is a sniper who served in Iraq in 2006-2007 and Afghanistan in 2009. "I've been shooting all my life," said England, who was born and raised in Reno. "I definitely consider shooting a hobby as well as a job skill."

England was not among the top three in the combat pistol or reflexive fire portions of the competition, but scored 148 points in the combat rifle competition

to separate himself from the field with a convincing 35-point margin over the second-place finisher, Army Staff Sgt. Jason Fincher.

"If I hadn't shot well with the rifle, I wouldn't have won the competition," England said.

The Adjutant General's Marksmanship competition resumed in 2010 after a 15-year hiatus.

"In comparison to last year, the competition ran a little more smoothly his year," said Army Master Sgt. Jeffery Wilkinson, a marksmanship course instructor and a Governor's Twenty Tab recipient. "Hopefully, we will have even more Soldiers and Airmen participating next year."

For information about participating in 2012, call (775) 887-7372. ■

2011 Adjutant General's State Marksmanship Match Results

Top Gun Overall:

1. Staff Sgt. Sam England, 410.
2. Master Sgt. Gerald Dwyer, 409.

Combat Rifle Excellence:

1. England, 148.
2. Staff Sgt. Jason Fincher, 113.
3. Dwyer, 111.

Reflexive Fire:

1. Staff Sgt. Phillip Risi, 154.
2. Spc. Christopher Bushey, 152.
3. Master Sgt. Paul Hinen, 150.

Combat Pistol Excellence:

1. Staff Sgt. Michael Moore, 177.
2. Maj. Roger Capps, 160.
3. Dwyer, 157.

Governor's Top Twenty Tab Recipients

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. England, 410. | 11. Fincher, 347. |
| 2. Dwyer, 409. | 12. Spc. John Chelson, 346. |
| 3. Moore, 400. | 13. Sgt. Tom Cinkovich, 345. |
| 4. Capps, 396. | 14. Tech. Sgt. Eric Howe, 344. |
| 5. Bushey, 372. | 15. Spc. Timothy Green, 333. |
| 6. Staff Sgt. Chris Rozario, 352. | 16. Sgt. Michael Noyes, 332. |
| 7. Risi, 350. | 17. Capt. Dave Waller, 330. |
| 8. Staff Sgt. Richard Rohweder, 350. | 18. Sgt. 1st Class Leon Ferran, 326. |
| 9. Hinen, 349. | 19. Master Sgt. Jeff Wilkinson, 319. |
| 10. Tech. Sgt. Vince Giralami, 347. | 20. Sgt. 1st Class Mike Nelson, 318. |



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

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AWARDS

Legion of Merit



COL Kim Labrie 991st Troop Cmd
 SGM Michelle Sykes JFHQ
 1SG Joel Chaffee 1/221st Cav

Meritorious Service Medal



TSgt Brian Guettler 152nd Communications Flt
 MSgt Scott Malin 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 LtCol Michael Taylor 152nd Mission Support Grp
 MSgt Andrea Henle 152nd Operations Grp
 SMSgt Michael Delsoldato 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 CMSgt Kelly Cavins 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 LtCol Anthony Machabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Nicole Stoudt 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Jennifer Turner JFHQ

Army Commendation Medal



MAJ Randy Lau HHT, 1/221st Cav
 2LT Eric Wade JFHQ
 SSG Robert Montgomery JFHQ
 MSG Jeffery Wilkinon JFHQ
 SSG Tara Pushkin NVARNG Med Det
 SPC Edward Ortiz 1/221st Cav

Air Force Commendation Medal



SSgt James Koth 152nd Operations Grp
 TSgt Timothy Mader 152nd Operations Grp

Army Achievement Medal



SPC Michael Xavier 150th Maint Co
 SSG Paul Rivera 609th Engineer Co

SFC Chad Prawitz 421st RTI
 SSG Christopher Rozario JFHQ
 SGT Darren Hailey JFHQ
 SGT Thomas Cinkovich JFHQ
 SSG Justin Banfield JFHQ
 SSG Autumn Jones JFHQ

Air Force Achievement Medal



MSgt Jordan Bean 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Vincent Girolami 92nd Civil Support Team

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



SFC Charles Harger 421st RTI
 SPC Alexander Oliver 150th Maint Co
 PFC Danielle Meadows 17th Special Troops Bn
 SPC Anthony Viglietta 17th Sustainment Bde
 SSG Michael Anson JFHQ
 PV1 James Morrison 991st Troop Cmd
 SSG Epifanio Rodarte 991st Troop Cmd

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



1stLt David McNally 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Katie McCray 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 2nd Lt Brian Janes 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Robert Marshall 152nd Aircraft Maint Sqdn
 SMSgt Scott Wofford 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SSgt Timothy Buxton 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 TSgt Christopher Bernard 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 MSgt Ryan Service 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Patrick Meadows 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SMSgt Jeffrey Annand 152nd Maint Grp
 MSgt James Kocijanski 152nd Maint Grp
 CMSgt Joseph Martini 152nd Maint Opns Flt
 MSgt Glen Stebbins 152nd Maint Opns Flt

A1C Michael Depozsgay 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Blake Candrea 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Jessica White 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Arron Wood 152nd Maint Sqdn
 A1C Mason Blair 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 A1C Jonathan Rampton 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Hignite 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Damon Breshears 152nd Maint Sqdn
 MSgt Richard Johnson 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 SSgt Daniel McMillan 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Joseph Agrellas 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Alexis Anastassatos 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Michael Ingenluyff 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 SSgt Jennifer Sidley 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Derek Bright 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Brady Housel 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 SSgt Budie Ross 152nd Maint Sqdn
 SSgt Matthew Zierenberg 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 TSgt Ryan Branch 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Richard Brant 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt James Decosta 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 TSgt William Smiraglia 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Clayton Brown 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt Paul Torrianni 152nd Maint Sqdn
 TSgt James Wallis 152nd Maint Sqdn
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 Brennan Burns 593rd Trans Co
 Chelsea Kight 593rd Trans Co
 Taylor Christiansen 593rd Trans Co
 Jacob Reeves 593rd Trans Co
 Dylan Vail 593rd Trans Co
 William Short 593rd Trans Co
 Leslie Wortman 593rd Trans Co
 John Harris 593rd Trans Co
 Matthew Nielsen 609th Engineer Co
 Brandon Moore 609th Engineer Co
 Lars Nielsen 609th Engineer Co
 Jonathan Bradley 609th Engineer Co
 Travis Williams 609th Engineer Co
 Macklyn Jasso 609th Engineer Co
 Josh Larkin 609th Engineer Co
 Robert Hruz 609th Engineer Co
 April Hall 72nd MP Co
 Duane Howard 72nd MP Co
 Brandon Santana 72nd MP Co
 Miguel Sanchez 72nd MP Co
 Seth Campbell 72nd MP Co
 Jasmine Rockwell . 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Jonathan Conrad . . 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Ricalyn Chavez . . . 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Matthew Jaramillo . 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Cory Mathewson . . 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Juan Chavez 757th Combat Sustainment Spt Bn
 Miranda Mountford 777th Engineer Det
 Jerry Rhodes 777th Engineer Det
 Allan Debowsky 777th Engineer Det
 Joshua Capson HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Michael Passanante HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Aaron Exum HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Acob Wadsworth I Trp, 1/221st Cav
 Vincent Carlese JFHQ
 Patricia Campos-Martinez JFHQ
 Tyler Young L Trp, 1/221st Cav

RETIREMENTS

SGT Curtis Bond B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 SFC Alberto Cosio Jr 137th MP Det
 TSgt James Feliciano . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SFC Joseph Greenalch HHT, 1/221st Cav
 MSgt Paul Grush 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSG Edwin Herry 1864th Transp Co
 SFC Nathan Makowski JFHQ
 SMSgt Marie McCoy . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn

SFC David Moulton HHT, 1/221st Cav
 SFC Allen Palmer 421st RTI
 SMSgt Kenneth Riley 152nd Operations Grp
 SGT Randall Saltzman B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 SSG Eric Simmons HHC, 422nd Signal Bn
 SSG Raymond Sprague I Trp, 1/221st Cav
 SFC Robert Tranquillo JFHQ



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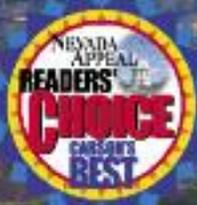
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