

# Battle Born

Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard – Summer 2013



## New bugler toots Nevada Guard's horn

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**Vietnam  
Service  
in the  
Spotlight  
Page 9**

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The Adjutant General  
Nevada National Guard

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# Battle Born

Summer 2013

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**On the Cover:** Senior Airman Torrey Eldridge is the newest member of the Nevada Air National Guard's Honor Guard. Photo by Master Sgt. Paula Macomber, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

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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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Publication of material is determined by available space and reader interest. The staff reserves the right to edit all material.



# GUEST COLUMN

Col. Felix Castagnola, U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer for Nevada



## USPFO keeps tabs on federal funds, resources

Few people realize just how ill-equipped some National Guard Soldiers were when they reported to their mobilization sites for some of the most recognizable conflicts in U.S. history, including the Spanish-American War and World War I.

Even outdated uniforms and the wrong type of equipment would have been better than nothing, but many Guardsmen reported completely unequipped – no uniforms, no vehicles and no weapons. There are even accounts of Guardsmen showing up for duty with nothing more than the family’s mule and their favorite hunting rifle over their shoulder.

What caused this sad situation?

During those days, states routinely found other uses for federal government funds that were allocated to the National Guard. Funds for outfitting citizen-Soldiers were often “re-allocated” to other state projects.

Eventually, pressure on state governments and several congressional acts created the position of the United States Property and Fiscal Officer in each state and territory. The USPFO is a National Guard officer who is recommended by the adjutant general, nominated by the governor and appointed by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to oversee

### USPFO Basic Accounting

**54** U.S. Property and Fiscal Officers in the United States (including Guam, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia)

**2** female USPFOs

**4** Air Force USPFOs

**6** months is the average processing time before appointment

**2** years is the average time it takes to become a full-fledged USPFO (Certification is awarded by CNGB after completion of mandatory course work)

**17** years in office for the Ohio USPFO (Longest tenure in the nation)

all federal resources, both Army and Air, in each state.

Often reviled as coming from the “Land of No,” the USPFO’s primary responsibility is to ensure that the resources provided by the federal government to a specific state are used in a manner consistent with congressional

intent, federal law and Department of Defense regulations.

The USPFO answers to the CNGB and serves as the CNGB’s fiscal watchdog. Similarly, on a daily basis, the USPFO works with the adjutant general to support his/her missions, programs and priorities within the limits established by current law and regulation. Adjutant generals frequently confer with USPFOs to determine the best fiscal course of action to accomplish their desired end state.

USPFOs receive and account for all federal funds and property, and advise and assist units and organizations on the proper use of those resources. They also have the responsibility to take immediate action on perceived irregularities, misuse or abuse of federal resources. They are obligated to report any evidence of potential criminal activity to the nearest Air Force Office of Special Investigations or the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division.

The office of the USPFO includes several divisions that support statutory or inherently federal functions assigned to NGB. The divisions include federal data base of record, financial management, purchasing/contracting, internal review and supply/services.

The Nevada USPFO has one deputy and four assistant fiscal officers. The deputy USPFO is typically a colonel who supervises the core staff while also assisting the joint, Air and Army staffs. The deputy USPFO acts as an executive officer and is the only officer who can act for the USPFO in his/her absence.

Assistant fiscal officers are usually lieutenant colonels and majors who provide oversight, accountability and management control programs in their respective areas of responsibility. The four assistant officers in Nevada include three Airmen and one Soldier.

In brief, the USPFO and staff exist to support the National Guard’s mission and to provide federal oversight while ensuring that the adjutant general’s goals are met. The staff of Nevada’s USPFO office strives to do our best to support Nevada’s Soldiers and Airmen.

Everyone is welcome to visit us in Carson City and see what we are all about. Also, we welcome your fiscal questions and remind everyone: when in doubt, ask first before you act. ■

### USPFO Top 10 List

Top 10 phrases heard by a USPFO during the first year on the job:

No. 10: “Sir, the last guy did it that way ... honest.”

No. 9: “My National Guard program manager said I could spend it that way.”

No. 8: “The Force Activity Designator’s on its way.”

No. 7: “Sir, don’t you remember? You said it was OK.”

No. 6: “The adjutant general said it was a priority, I think.”

No. 5: “Oh, you don’t understand. It’s for the Soldiers/Airmen.”

No. 4: “I spoke with my buddy in California, and he said they do it that way...”

No. 3: “Trust me, colonel. I’ve done this before.”

No. 2: “I don’t think you support the mission.”

And the No. 1 phrase:

**“Hell, sir, we’ve always done it that way!”**

# Federal technicians feel brunt of sequestration

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

**CARSON CITY** – The Nevada National Guard's Department of Defense technician work force began to experience the direct effects of sequestration this summer when administrative furloughs began for every technician in the organization. Furloughs began on July 8 and will continue through Sept. 30 for the more than 530 federal technicians who support the Nevada Guard.

Every dual and non-dual status, full-time Nevada Guard technician will be furloughed for no more than 11 work days or 88 hours. Furloughs for part-time technicians will be prorated.

The furloughs affect non-dual and dual status technicians alike. In most cases, dual status technicians are federal civilian employees who, as a condition of employment, must maintain membership in a reserve military component and wear a uniform while conducting their military technician duties. Non-dual status technicians are Department of Defense civilian employees who do not need to maintain membership in the military reserves or wear a uniform while at work.

The paychecks of Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen will not be affected because Congress exempted active duty service members from the furloughs. Also, civilian contractors will not be affected.

According to the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office for Nevada, the furloughs will save the Army Guard about \$1.1 million in personnel expenditures, and the Air Guard will save about \$742,400 in civilian pay outlays. The furloughs for some technicians whose duties have been deemed of crucial importance to Nevada's military mission may be waived.

In a memorandum sent to every technician in June, the Nevada Guard's human resources office said the administrative furloughs were necessitated by "the extraordinary and serious budgetary challenges facing the Department of Defense for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013."

The budgetary challenges stem from the sequestration, or mandatory budget cuts, that began on March 1. With sequestration in effect, the Department of Defense now faces a reduction in its expenditures of \$487 billion during the next decade.

"These furloughs will definitely impact many of our Soldiers and Airmen; it is going to be a hard time for many," said Col. Felix Castagnola, the U.S. Property and Fiscal officer for Nevada. "For many Soldiers and Airmen, the furloughs will affect their ability to make their mortgage, rent and car payments. It could affect their ability to buy that one extra bag of groceries."

Many technicians wondered how they would fare as the furloughs loomed.

"Of course it's going to cause me difficulties," said Staff Sgt. Kent Green, a supervisory supply analyst in Carson City. "My pay is reduced, yet I still have house payments to make. I'm worried about it. I'm going to have to curtail my spending."

"Maybe I'll be able to meet my payment responsibilities, but I'm not sure," said Staff Sgt. Vicki Gilmore, a supply technician in Carson City. "I'm estimating furloughs will take hundreds out of my monthly income. It's going to be tight if I can make it."

Air Guard technicians in Reno were just as concerned.

"Yes, I'm worried, my income will decrease, but my bills will remain the same," said Master Sgt. Jeanie Beck, a stock control technician with the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron. "My family has become frugal about what we do now. We still go out sometimes, but it's mostly brown bag lunches now.

"It's also going to affect how much annual sick and leave time I can accrue, and my Thrift Savings Plan contributions will go down."



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

*Sgt. Ed Conde loads a van full of Nevada Guard technician commuters in June. More than 20 Soldiers and Airmen who work in Carson City and reside in Reno were participating in van pools at the start of summer to decrease their commuting-related expenditures in advance of sequestration furloughs in July.*

Some technicians said they planned for lean times as the furloughs approached.

"I adjusted my spending months ago," said Sgt. Oreana Henry, a medical records specialist. "I plan to make it with just the essentials."

Henry said some of her cost-cutting measures in advance of the furloughs included joining a van pool and reducing some of her entertainment expenses such as her satellite television bill.

Beck said her family has reduced its air conditioning usage, and she now searches for free events hosted by the parks department for her children's recreation versus movies or amusement parks.

Although the brunt of the sequestration was felt by federal technicians, the consequences of the fiscal situation and its impact on the Nevada Guard will affect everyone in the state.

In a message to everyone in the Nevada Guard in May, Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks said that the Nevada Guard, based on guidance from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, would support static displays, flyovers, parades and other military demonstrations on a local basis only at no expense to the Department of Defense. Burks said there would be no expenditures for fuel, maintenance or personnel to support events that were not associated with a unit's training or mission.

Castagnola said it would be difficult to say the exact fiscal amount that will be saved from reduced support of events and demonstrations. The savings from reduced participation in events will go toward the \$22 billion shortfall that exists in the military's operations and maintenance budget this year, according to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

The official work schedule for the Nevada Guard is now Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers work that schedule; technicians also work that schedule, but are furloughed on Mondays.

Officials stressed that the furloughs will not affect the Nevada Guard's ability to provide state or federal service.

"Even with furloughs, we would be able to respond to any request for assistance in contingency situations," Castagnola said.

Although sequestration austerity measures could extend to 2023 without budget resolution, Castagnola said he knew of no additional furloughs or impacts after Sept. 30. ■



# FROM SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

State Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry, Senior Enlisted Leader



## Effective listening requires ongoing practice

*Nature has given us two ears, two eyes and but one tongue – to the end, we should hear and see more than we speak. – Socrates*

The ability to understand and be understood is an essential human need. The only way to understand is to listen. In this era of prolonged conflict, budget cuts and fiscal uncertainty, it's crucial that we listen to each other attentively.

We hear, but do we always listen? The ability to listen is essential for leaders, care providers, battle buddies and wingmen. By listening, we better understand, relate and demonstrate our commitment to help each other at an interpersonal level.

The demands of military service, especially the deployment cycles of war, change people. We cope with varying circumstances in different ways, and the vast majority of us will need occasional assistance in dealing with

issues. We must also be able to encourage a fellow Soldier, Airman, or family member to do the same when he or she is experiencing difficulties. Listening plays a big role in the support of others.

Just like any other refined skill, listening takes practice. Listening is an active process that entails three basic steps: hearing, understanding and judging. Hearing means paying attention enough to grasp what the speaker is saying. Understanding occurs when the listener takes what is heard and understands the content of what was said. Judging happens when the listener understands what the speaker has said and whether it makes sense. Judging answers the question: Do you believe what you have heard?

Practice being a good listener. Focus your full attention and mind on the speaker and what they are saying. It can be easy to let

your mind wander, especially if you think you know what the person is going to say next.

Let the speaker finish before you begin to talk. When you interrupt, you move the focus of attention to yourself. Let yourself finish listening before you begin to speak. You can't really listen if you are busy thinking about what you want to say next.

Listen for the most important points the speaker wants to get across. If you are not sure you understand what the speaker said, just ask. Give good feedback by sitting up straight and looking directly at the speaker. Now and then, nod, smile, frown, laugh, or be silent to show that you understand. Remember to listen with your face as well as with your ears. Look for non-verbal cues such as facial expression and posture to get the full gist of what the speaker is telling you.

Leaders must listen to their subordinates. Many leaders claim they have an open-door policy. However, lower-ranking associates may be dissuaded, either intentionally or unintentionally, from speaking their minds with their leaders. A leader who chooses not to listen to his or her subordinates puts the organization at risk.

The ability to listen carefully allows you to better understand assignments and what is expected of you. Listening builds rapport with bosses and co-workers, displays support and allows everyone to perform well in a team-based work environment. Listening allows you to better answer questions and find the underlying meanings in what others say.

Beware of potential barriers that get in the way of listening, such as bias or prejudice, language differences or accents, noise, worry, fear, anger or a short attention span.

Remember, time is on your side! Thoughts travel about four times faster than in speech. With practice, you will simultaneously have the ability to listen, understand what was said, and formulate worthwhile feedback for the speaker.

If you can perfect your ability to listen – and not just hear – it's likely you will be able to help another individual when they are truly in need!

For listening skill improvement tips, visit [www.infoplease.com/homework/listening\\_skills1.html](http://www.infoplease.com/homework/listening_skills1.html). ■

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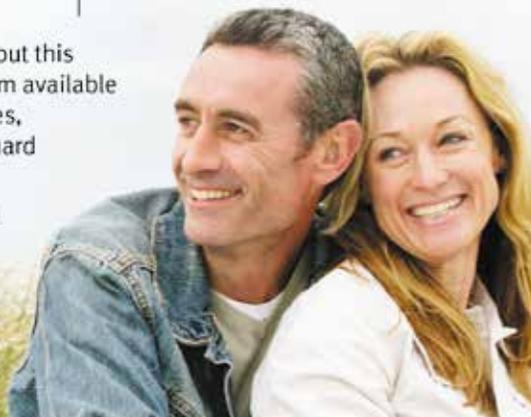
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# Successful Mountain Flag Exercise

*takes off in wake of cancellations*

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

**RENO** – When one door closes, another often opens.

That was the consensus among Airmen in the 192nd Airlift Squadron after the cancellation of this spring's Operational Readiness Inspection and Exercise allowed the squadron to prioritize its participation in the Mountain Flag training exercise here April 20-26.

The Mountain Flag exercise included more than 40 sorties and featured multiple-aircraft formations flying in a variety of surge operation scenarios over high mountainous terrain. During the exercise, the 152nd Airlift Wing launched six of its eight aircraft simultaneously for the first time since 2008.

According to 192nd Airlift Squadron Commander Lt. Col. Caesar Garduno, the Mountain Flag exercise wasn't a new concept, but the cancellation of the inspection and exercise gave the squadron all of the time and resources it needed to create the perfect exercise scenario.

"We've always had inspections and deployments that got in the way of getting Mountain Flag going," Garduno said. "We knew that once our aircraft returned from this last deployment to the desert, and the ORE was canceled, we had that target of opportunity since we already had resources like crews and maintainers on orders. We took advantage of every minute of training we could."



Seen here preparing to launch during the Mountain Flag Exercise in April, six of the Nevada Air Guard's eight C-130s flew simultaneously for the first time since 2008.

Many people in northern Nevada and California had the opportunity during Mountain Flag to see rare sights including low-level and six-ship formations.

"It's really been invaluable to be able to do this type of training," Garduno said. "We were able to knock out 3,625 events required as part of our training. Those events range from everything pilot-related all the way to what the crews are doing in the back of aircraft."

"We had 41 successful launches, which also included two six-ship launches, and trained two pilots and two navigators, which normally takes months to do. Our low- and high-level air drops were really accurate, too."

Garduno said conducting the exercise in the high-elevation, mountainous area of Nevada added to the realism of the exercise and simulated the conditions pilots and crews could potentially face overseas in a variety of places, including Afghanistan. He said the sites for the ORE and ORI featured flat training areas and didn't offer the same level of realistic training.

The training during Mountain Flag drew the attention of the rest of the Air National Guard and the Air Mobility command.

"More units are getting the word about the realistic training we can offer to help them prepare for deployments overseas," Garduno said. "Hopefully, it will lead to something bigger, like the Advanced Mountain Airlift Tactics School we're envisioning here. This will help everyone out in a big way."

"The crews will get good training, and we'd be looking at getting some more resources delivered here to help grow the program. Right now, we're supporting this training out of our own pocket."

The Mountain Flag Exercise may become an annual event, Garduno said. He is working to add resources from other bases, including Travis Air Force Base, to support the Total Force Integration effort.

Garduno said he believes the Nevada Air Guard is just now tapping into its potential, Mountain Flag was just the beginning of a series of big events that will include Nevada Air Guard participation. ■



Nevada Air Guard C-130s prepare to take off during the Mountain Flag Exercise in April.

# DROP ZONE



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

**CARSON CITY** – The Nevada National Guard Joint Color Guard presents the colors to open the annual Nevada National Guard Flag Day and Army Birthday ceremony inside the Nevada Capitol Assembly Chambers on June 14. The Nevada Guard has hosted one of the state’s most visible Flag Day events for 15 consecutive years. June 14 marked the 236th anniversary of the U.S. flag and the U.S. Army’s 238th birthday.

**CARLIN** – Seen from the fire tower in the center of the property, the southwestern corner of the Nevada Guard’s new campus here includes the Elko County Readiness Center in the distance and one of eight large buildings the Nevada Guard now manages after assuming responsibility for the 460-acre plot of the former University of Nevada, Reno’s, Fire Science Academy. The eastern Nevada detachment of the 593rd Transportation Company began to call the new Elko County Readiness Center “home” in mid-April following the official ceremony that marked completion of the 5,376-square-foot center. The readiness center and improvements to existing classrooms and fire station buildings cost \$8.6 million in federal funds and \$7.9 million in state money.



Photo illustration by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

**FERNLEY** – Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, commander in chief of the Nevada Guard, recognizes and remembers fallen Vietnam-era servicemen from the Silver State on Memorial Day. Sandoval was one of the officials who unveiled the Vietnam War Memorial Wall to the public at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on May 27 in Fernley. For more on the Vietnam War Memorial unveiling, turn to page 8.



Staff Sgt. Stan Hampton, 17th Sustainment Brigade

**LAS VEGAS** – From left, Anna Fields and daughters, Kenqce and Ari, visit with Lady, a horse from Horses4Heroes. Lady is handled by Kylie Thomas. The Fields attended the Recruit Sustainment Company Family Day to support their cousin Kaley Bennett, a Nevada Guard recruit.



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka



Iraq Iran Afghanistan

Kuwait



Sgt. Susan Whole, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

**CAMP DODGE, Iowa** – From left, Spc. Blake Palmer, Spc. Wesley Butler and Pfc. Branden Lightsey display the cake they baked to mark the U.S. Army's 238th birthday. The cooks prepared three meals a day for about 60 Soldiers in the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during the unit's annual training at Camp Dodge, Iowa, June 8-22.



Courtesy C Company, 1/168th Aviation

**AFGHANISTAN** – Nevada Army Guard rotary-wing pilot Kandace Gonzales receives her captain's bars in a promotion ceremony in Afghanistan in June. In addition to her pilot duties, Gonzales is also a platoon leader and medical officer in charge for C Company, 1/168 Aviation (MEDEVAC), during its deployment in Afghanistan. The unit is set to continue performing medical evacuation missions in its Black Hawk helicopters until early 2014.



Tech. Sgt. Eric Ritter, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**RENO** – Airmen from the Nevada Air Guard salute returning veterans at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport at the conclusion of their Honor Flight on June 23. Honor Flight is a national, nonprofit program that transports America's veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the war memorials built to commemorate their military service. The program funded tours for 30 World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans from northern Nevada in June.



**Hero2Hired assists unemployed Reserve Component service members with job placement.**

The goal of the program is to reduce the number of Reserve Component members who are unemployed by helping them find jobs. Support is provided through the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program to Reserve Component Combat Veterans who require employment assistance.

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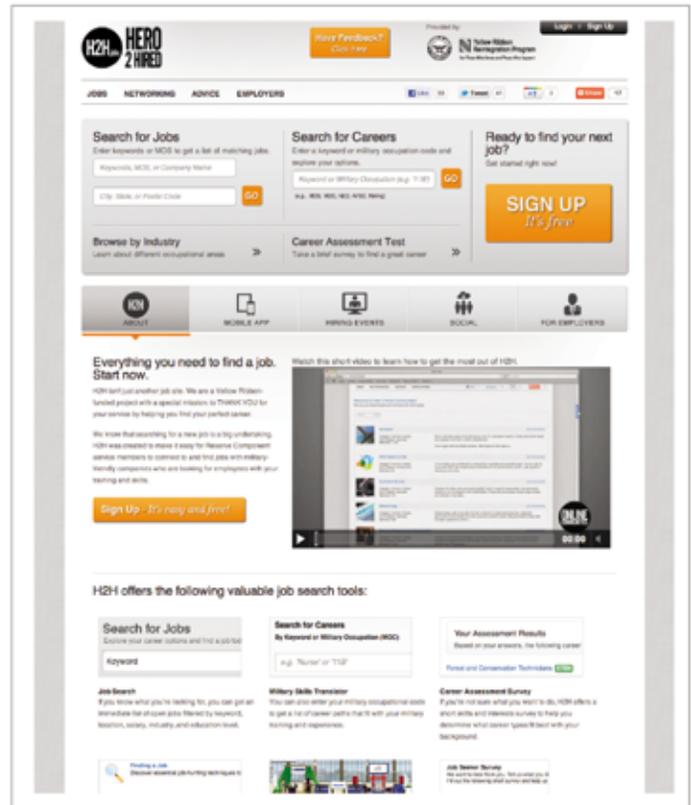
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# Vietnam service in spotlight at Nevada vet cemetery

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

**FERNLEY, Nev.** – More than five decades after the Vietnam War began, the service and contributions of Vietnam-era veterans was in the spotlight during Memorial Day events at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery here May 27.

National Guard officials, including Nevada adjutant general Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Oregon assistant adjutant general Brig. Gen. Todd Plimpton, joined Senate majority leader Sen. Harry Reid and Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval to dedicate the cemetery's new Vietnam War Memorial Wall as the culmination of the day's activities at the annual Memorial Day event.

The memorial wall features the names of the 151 Nevada service members who were killed in action during the Vietnam War. The names of eight Nevada nurses and seven



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

From left, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, commander in chief of the Nevada Guard, Caleb Cage, executive director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services, and Senate majority leader Sen. Harry Reid unveil the Vietnam War Memorial Wall at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery on May 27 in Fernley.

prisoners of war who remain missing are featured on a separate marker.

"This is a sacred day in Nevada when we can honor the men and women who served in Vietnam," said Sandoval, commander in chief of the Nevada Guard. "It makes me proud that we can come together as a family to recognize the contributions of these Nevadans."

According to Caleb Cage, executive director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services, more than 1,200 people attended the Memorial Day ceremony that featured a keynote speech by retired Army Lt. Col. Tyrus Cobb, who was among the final contingent of American Soldiers to exit Vietnam.

The Department of Defense is set to pay special tribute to the nation's Vietnam veterans during the course of the next decade to roughly coincide with the 50th anniversary of the conflict that ended in 1975 and resulted in more than 58,000 American deaths.

"This is just a small way to finally begin showing Vietnam veterans the respect they deserve," Burks said.

The memorial wall was funded by the Ghost Soldiers motorcycle club based in Fernley. ■



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Retired Col. Michael Lennon, 67, of Reno, salutes the flag with assistance from Filemu Tupai of Fernley during the annual Memorial Day events at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley.



Courtesy Master Sgt. Harry Schroeder, 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Abigail Schroeder, daughter of Nevada Guard Soldiers Master Sgt. Harry Schroeder and Sgt. 1st Class Helena Schroeder, visits the gravesite of her grandfather on Memorial Day at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley. The senior Master Sgt. Harry Schroeder was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

*"This is a sacred day in Nevada when we can honor the men and women who served in Vietnam."*

– Gov. Brian Sandoval, commander in chief of the Nevada Guard

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*Here are a few 2013 Nevada Legislative milestones:*

- Nevada Fallen Soldier Memorial at the Nevada State Capitol
- Veteran status on a driver's license (no need to show a DD214 as proof of military service)
- Guardsmen who served a minimum of six continuous years now have state veteran status
- Increased military leave days from 15 to 39 for public officers and employees
- Stolen Valor Act makes it a gross misdemeanor to impersonate a service member
- Nevada Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States recognized in NRS412.026

**For further legislative information or ideas, contact [nevadaeangus@gmail.com](mailto:nevadaeangus@gmail.com)**



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# Dental health event eliminates potential decay in readiness

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Stan Hampton, Sr.  
17th Sustainment Brigade

**LAS VEGAS** – Several hundred Nevada Army Guard Soldiers participated in one of the largest dental health readiness events in Nevada Army Guard history here at Floyd Edsall Readiness Center June 1-2. About 240 Soldiers received dental screenings during the weekend, and about 120 received immediate dental treatment.

A related dental readiness event occurred in Reno July 13-14 with similar numbers of Soldiers receiving screenings and treatment.

The events helped ensure that the vast majority of Nevada Guard Soldiers remained eligible for potential duty anywhere in the world and that their deployability status was not affected by dental health. One of the primary health readiness standards for a domestic or foreign deployment is proper dental health.

Simple treatment at the dental event ranged from filling cavities to simple extractions. Soldiers requiring further dental care were scheduled for treatment with local providers.

At times in the recent past, dental health issues hampered National Guard readiness across the nation. In 2008, Col. Daniel Savitske, the chief dental officer of the Army Guard, said about 55 percent of all National Guard Soldiers were nondeployable either because they had not received a dental examination or they needed corrective dental measures.

Subsequently, more than \$100 million was authorized by the National Guard Bureau to combat the decay of dental health readiness in Soldiers. Those funds dramatically decreased the percentage of Soldiers in a nondeployable status; in Nevada as spring ended, about 9 percent of Soldiers were in a nondeployable status due to dental health. The events in June and July further reduced the nondeployable percentage.

Nevada Guard leaders recognized the significance of the events.

“The benefit to my Soldiers is huge,” said 1st Sgt. Michael Spaulding of the 72nd MP Company. “Getting my Soldiers out of nondeployable status to a deployable status is great.”

Spaulding said Soldiers returning from a deployment or struggling in a tight economy



*Dr. Chris Kuranko, left, and dental technician Michelle Yuro perform a dental procedure on Pfc. Zacariah Keagle of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, B Company, during the dental readiness event held in Las Vegas at the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center June 1.*

often do not have the funds to prioritize their dental health.

Staff Sgt. Kimberly Amos, the Nevada Guard's state dental noncommissioned officer, worked tirelessly to set up the events.

“Sgt. Amos works extremely hard to get Soldiers eligible to deploy,” Spaulding said. “She has done a great job of getting us prepared. We now have more Soldiers ready to deploy to any emergency.”

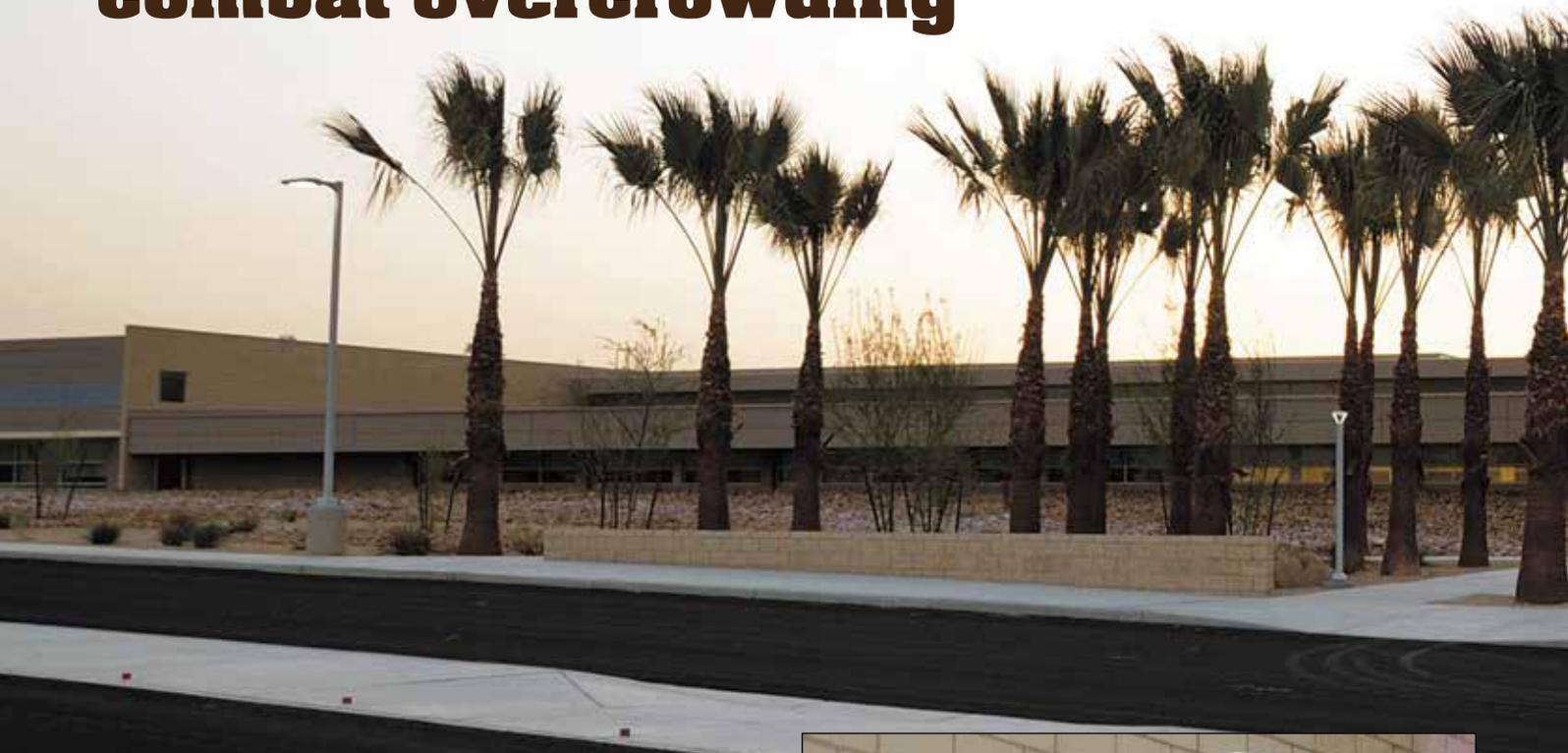
Following each Soldier's periodic health

assessment, Amos is notified if the Soldier requires dental treatment. She then arranges the care for those without insurance.

The Nevada National Guard's ranks include about 3,150 Soldiers. Deployment statistics show that more than 2,700 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers – all with good dental health – have served abroad since 2001 supporting 24 major foreign combat unit deployments.

For information on dental health readiness, call (702) 856-4935. ■

# Two new readiness centers and maintenance shop combat overcrowding



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

**NORTH LAS VEGAS** – Nearly two football fields' worth of much-needed assembly, office, supply and storage space was added to the Army Guard's inventory of facilities this spring to – at least temporarily – alleviate crowded conditions in the ever-expanding Nevada Guard.

Two major readiness centers in Carlin and North Las Vegas were completed in April and May respectively to add about 70,000 square feet of available space to the state's Soldiers. Also, a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the 40,000-square-foot Las Vegas Field Maintenance Shop adjacent to the Las Vegas Readiness Center was held in late July. The LVFMS includes both administrative and vehicle shop space. The 110,000 square feet of new space is just short of the size of two football fields with end zones (115,200 square feet).

"In terms of facility expansion, the Nevada Army Guard has never grown so quickly," said construction and facilities manager Lt. Col. Clayton Chappell. "The completion of three major projects within a short period of time is the result of the hard work of dozens of individuals and is the culmination of more than seven years of plans, design, planning and construction teams."

Located at 6600 Range Road, adjacent to the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center, the 65,000-square-foot North Las Vegas Readiness Center provides administrative, training, storage, educational and support space for a half dozen units as well as military and civilian vehicle parking. About 80 acres of training lands surround the center.

The six units that will call the NLVRC home include the 240th Engineer Company, the 100th Quartermaster Company, the 1864th



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

From left, Las Vegas Paiute Native Americans Dalton Tom and Kenny Anderson assist Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the opening of the North Las Vegas Readiness Center in May. Native American religious representatives blessed both the NLVRC and the Elko County Readiness Center at their unveilings this spring.



*Located at 6600 Range Road, adjacent to the Floyd Edsall Readiness Center, the 65,000-square-foot North Las Vegas Readiness Center opened in May and provides administrative, training, storage, educational and support space for a half dozen units as well as military and civilian vehicle parking. Photo courtesy PENTA Building Group*

Transportation Company, the 277th Engineer Haul Platoon, the 777th Engineer Concrete Team and the 1-421st Regional Training Institute's southern detachment. About 300 traditional Guardsmen will drill at the facility.

Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks said the new center would alleviate at least some of the space shortfall the Army Guard is experiencing in the Las Vegas Valley. He said about 2,200 of the Nevada Army Guard's 3,100 Soldiers reside in southern Nevada, where the Army Guard now has four primary readiness centers.

The total cost of the readiness center was about \$25 million, including \$17 million from the federal military construction program and \$8 million from a Nevada legislative appropriation.

Less than a week after concluding its Afghanistan deployment, the eastern Nevada detachment of the 593rd Transportation Company began to call the new Elko County Readiness Center in Carlin "home" in mid-April, following the official ceremony that marked the completion of the 5,376-square-foot center.

The ceremony also marked the Nevada Guard's assumption of the 460-acre campus here that was formerly the Fire Science Academy belonging to the University of Nevada, Reno.

"The opening of the center is the culmination of three years of hard work transforming the fire science academy into a readiness center," Burks said.

The idea for transforming the fire science academy, located at 100 University Ave., into a National Guard facility was first proposed during former Gov. Jim Gibbons' administration. The Nevada Guard purchased 15 acres at the site for military construction and improvements, but it

will manage the entire 460-acre campus and have access to all eight campus buildings, including 18 temporary residence rooms.

The readiness center and improvements to already existing classroom and fire station buildings cost \$8.6 million in federal funds and \$7.9 million in state money.

The 593rd's new home is a state-of-the-art facility that features administration areas, lockers, vaulted storage and plenty of parking spaces for the unit's trucks.

The original classroom and fire station buildings were remodeled into learning centers and will likely host future in-state, military occupation training courses. The hundreds of acres surrounding the campus could be used for a wide range of military training.

The ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the readiness centers were the first in Nevada Guard history to include blessings by Native American tribes. Gonnie Mendez from the Te-Moak tribe completed a Blessing of the Land during the Carlin ceremony, and Chris Spotted Eagle, a Las Vegas Paiute Tribal Council member, marked the Blessing of the Land around the NLVRC by lighting a mixture of tobacco, cedar and sage and wafting the smoke into the air surrounding the building.

"It's a way of tying the present with the past," said Burks about the inclusion of Native American blessings into Nevada Guard ceremonies. "It's time we embrace our heritage."

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. ■



Senior Airman Torrey Eldridge of the 152nd Airlift Wing Communications Flight, the newest member of the Honor Guard, sounds reveille at the Nevada Air National Guard base in Reno in June.



## Official bugler toots Air Guard horn at events, ceremonies

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Paula Macomber,  
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

***RENO** – Not to sound overly cocky, but the Nevada Air Guard’s Honor Guard now has an official bugler to toot its own horn at military events, functions and ceremonies.*

The bugler is Senior Airman Torrey Eldridge, 30, of the 152nd Communications Flight. He has 20 years of trumpet-playing experience and said he was drawn to the trumpet at a young age because the instrument mirrors his personality – both he and the trumpet can be loud and obnoxious.

Eldridge is a Reno native and graduated from Hug High in 1999. He then went to the University of Nevada, Reno, on a music scholarship and subsequently played in the marching band. His wife, Tawna, also has a strong, lifelong Air Guard tie – her father is Master Sgt. John Albertsen from the 152nd Logistics Squadron.

Despite his self-proclaimed obnoxious personality, Eldridge also has a softer side. He said a recent tragedy motivated him to make the very personal decision to join the Honor Guard.

“When we lost one of our communications flight members [Airman 1st Class Ashley Browder in a February automobile accident], I wanted to do something special for her from me. We had sworn into the military together,” Eldridge said. “I thought a (musical) tribute from the military would be fitting.”

Although the Air Guard had buglers play in ceremonies in the past, Eldridge is the first to be an official Honor Guard member. Previous buglers included Maj. Todd Hudson, Master Sgt. Terry Marshall and the late Rick James, who was made an honorary chief master sergeant by the Chief’s Council in the 1990s.

Eldridge spends about 30 minutes several times a week practicing for military events. Since February, he has participated in about a dozen functions such as reveilles, retreats, and funerals, including Browder’s memorial service.

Learning the tunes has come quickly for Eldridge. He said he became familiar with most of the basic bugle calls in basic training and said he appreciates the military history associated with his position in the Honor Guard.

“I enjoy bugling and learning about the ceremonies and their origins,” Eldridge said. “There is always a big piece of military history behind everything we do. If we aren’t careful, that history can be taken for granted.

“I try to remember that we are walking in the footsteps of many generations, and maintaining traditions is a way to honor all those that have served and sacrificed before us.”

For information on joining the Air Guard’s Honor Guard, call (775) 788-4575. ■



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# Improvement projects keep Information Management Office busy

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

**CARSON CITY** – Just like at your local Starbucks, public Wi-Fi access will soon be available at your local National Guard armory. All Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen will now have potential access to Wi-Fi on their personal electronic devices.

Wi-Fi is the technology that allows an electronic device to exchange data wirelessly (using radio waves) over a computer network, including high-speed Internet connections.

“The Nevada Guard cannot possibly issue every Soldier a computer to work with during drill,” said Lt. Col. Wilson DaSilva, the chief information officer for the Nevada Army Guard. “What we can do, however, is provide a means for them to access the Internet to do online courses and necessary Internet activities.”

Wi-Fi will not be available at every armory immediately. It will first be installed in the larger readiness centers.

DaSilva said the Wi-Fi installation doesn't mean people can now plug their laptop into the Nevada Guard network. The information technologies section, he said, is working to install an entirely separate Wi-Fi for that use. Likewise, no one should anticipate surfing the Internet with hand-held devices during drill.

When the system is fully operational, the access information will be released.

DaSilva and the information management (J-6) staff have been busy recently keeping up with cutting-edge technology and improving the Nevada Guard's communication systems.

“During the past year, we have been investing in our infrastructure,” DaSilva said. “It is a constant refitting process to maintain our intranet security.”

The information office spent nearly 33 percent of its annual budget this year on



Counter-clockwise from top, Staff Sgt. Sean Reiter, Sgt. Jeff Spurlock and Capt. Michael Riggs install one of the monitors that comprise the new video wall in the network operations center in Carson City in July. The Information Management Office completed several major projects this summer that improved the Nevada Guard's communications systems.

updated software, hardware and infrastructure improvements. The section is working on or is set to begin about 20 projects to give the Nevada Guard state-of-the-art communication capabilities.

A recent improvement was an email migration to a software system that provides increases in storage space and speed for the email system.

“A big initiative during the last year was the mail migration,” DaSilva said, “It was an Army requirement for us to migrate all of our accounts from the local server to the National Communications Center's server. It went very well. Only a small percentage of users had difficulties.”

Another project is extremely visible to the entire world. The Nevada Guard web page recently received a makeover and major security and interface upgrades.

“We upgraded the public website to make it more interactive and user friendly,” DaSilva

said. “We are looking at ways to incorporate more social media, like tweeting out a message on what is going on with the Nevada Guard.”

The website's security features were upgraded earlier this year.

“We did a complete overhaul of the network security by upgrading software and some of the hardware. The public website is as secure as we can make it,” DaSilva said. “It is the most vulnerable spot on the network, but it needs to be out there open to the public.”

A mass notification capability was recently added to the network which includes all Nevada Guard computers and telephones. When activated, the system can send a notification from any phone to every user or specific groups of users. It can even send out notifications to traditional Soldiers' personal cell phones and home computers.

Another important project entailed an upgrade to the high-frequency radio communication system to provide statewide emergency communications should the primary system fail.

In addition, the Information Management Office successfully installed a Sharepoint system and is working to make the system available to all companies. The team updated most of the servers, installed modern, updated switches, replaced the core routers and installed firewalls for the network systems. A back-up duplicate system was installed to prevent network outages if the main system goes down for any reason.

Future projects include an upgraded, user-friendly mobile messaging system and a user-friendly Help Ticket interface for requests for assistance. Internet bandwidth is set to eventually increase by a factor of 50, which enables the state's ongoing Wi-Fi upgrades. ■



# 1/421st Regional Training Institute, Jobs Corps



## partnership works out

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

**STEAD** – Everyone who enjoyed a meal at the 1/421st Regional Training Institute’s dining facility here between last October and May undoubtedly received a warm smile, a friendly greeting and – last but certainly not least – excellent service from Amber Hinds-Jones, a culinary student apprentice from Sierra Nevada Job Corps.

Hinds-Jones worked in the RTI dining facility during the internship portion of her culinary arts training and was the first student to complete her internship at the RTI.

The effort to expand the program to include the dining facility began in 2011 when Lt. Col. Alvin Bolton approached the Sierra Nevada Job Corps with a proposal to host an intern. Last summer, the agreement between the RTI and Job Corps was signed to establish a new educational partnership.

Niki Donohoe, a guidance counselor at Job Corps, recognized that the position at the training institute would be a good opportunity for Hinds-Jones. Donohoe knew Hinds-Jones’ passion for the culinary arts, personality, and her military-family background combined to make her a perfect candidate for the internship at the Guard facility. The RTI’s facility was also unique because the student would learn in a kitchen much smaller than the large kitchens where the majority of culinary internships are conducted.

“I felt it would be a perfect fit for Amber,” Donohoe said.

When Sgt. 1st Class Brian Bitner, the dining facility manager at RTI, first learned he would host a student apprentice from Job Corps, he didn’t expect much more than an inexperienced helper. Instead, he received a trained, quick learner with a passion for the culinary arts.

“Amber came here fully prepared to work in the kitchen,” Bitner said. “All I had to do was ask her to do a task and she did it. I was really impressed with her knowledge.”

The six-step culinary arts program offered by the Sierra Nevada Job Corps Center is certified by the American Culinary Foundation. The inclusive program teaches everything ranging from meal preparation, equipment usage and sanitation requirements.

“The Job Corps culinary arts program did its part to teach her the skills she needed to be an asset ready to go to work,” Bitner said.

Almost immediately, Bitner expanded Hinds-Jones’ role in the facility to include the serving line and some cooking duties. She quickly became a familiar face on the serving line and even began to memorize the favorite dishes of some of the Soldiers attending the courses at the RTI.

“The Soldiers were all very nice and professional,” Hinds-Jones said. “I liked working with Bitner and the rest of the staff.”

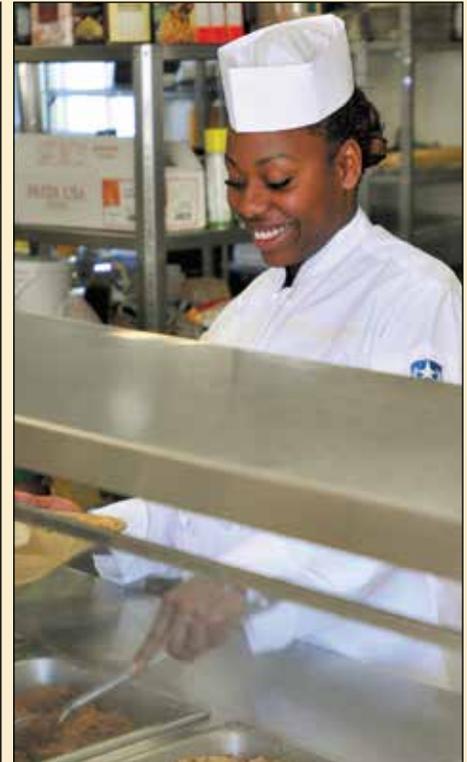
Bitner, who was responsible for providing quality training and weekly progress counseling with Hinds-Jones, said he treated his intern like any other new “private.”

“I treated her just like any new Soldier,” Bitner said. “She was a fast learner, and I found I could count on her to do most anything I needed her to do. I made sure she got to experience nearly everything in the dining facility.”

In comparison to many of her fellow students who worked in larger kitchens, Hinds-Jones said she appreciated her RTI experience that allowed her to try a variety of skills and establish close working relationships.

“My friends were in a higher paced environment, which allowed less time for the individual attention,” Hinds-Jones said. “Here, the exposure was much broader, and I got to experience and practice more tasks.”

Job Corps counselors agreed that the partnership had worked perfectly in Hinds-Jones’ case.



Amber Hinds-Jones serves up lunch at the 1/421st Regional Training Institute dining facility in May. She was the first Sierra Nevada Job Corps student apprentice to complete an internship at the institute. The RTI and Job Corps have established an educational partnership that allows students to complete their internships at the dining facility.

“Amber gained a wonderful report with everyone in the dining facility and at RTI,” said Heather McGoff, a Job Corps career transition specialist. “She was allowed autonomy at the RTI and that helped her to grow in her people skills, too.”

Bitner and his staff look forward to their next intern.

“I think the program is going to work out great,” Bitner said. “It was great to have Hinds-Jones here, but I hope to get a new student soon.”

For information on Sierra Nevada Job Corps programs, call (775) 789-1000. ■

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# Guard and Reserve employers recognized for superior support

By Master Sgt. Paula Macomber  
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**RENO** – The Nevada Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee recognized more than 40 private and public sector organizations during the Annual ESGR Employer Recognition Day and Award Ceremony at the Nevada Air Guard base in Reno in May. The event provided an opportunity for ESGR and the National Guard to display its appreciation for the employers' generous support of reserve component employees' military service.

The event was hosted by the Nevada ESGR Committee and Guard officials and gave employers an opportunity to experience their traditional Guardsmen's working environment and see their equipment.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense organization that promotes cooperation and understanding between reserve component service members and their civilian employers.

One company, NV Energy, received the Extraordinary Employer Support Award this year. The award recognizes sustained employer support of the Guard and Reserve. NV Energy is the first Nevada-based company to receive the award (see related article).

Two companies, Arcata Associates and JT3, received ESGR's Pro Patria award. The Pro Patria award is presented annually by the ESGR State Committee to the organizations that have demonstrated the greatest support to the Guard and Reserve through their leadership and practices.

Twenty five organizations received the Above and Beyond Award this year. The award recognizes employers at the local level who have gone above and beyond the minimum requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights law.

Eighteen organizations were awarded the Seven Seals Award in 2013. The award is the broadest, most inclusive given by ESGR. It recognizes organizations and entities that have promoted and supported the ESGR mission.



Senior Airman Ashif Halim, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
Representatives from the organizations recognized by the Nevada National Guard and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve inspect the Nevada Air Guard's firefighting equipment during the annual ESGR Recognition Day and Award Ceremony at the Nevada Air Guard base in Reno in May.

Also recognized were the 10 Nevada-based companies nominated for the 2013 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award, the most prestigious ESGR award. It is presented annually to 15 of the nation's top employers in a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., in September. Arcata Associates and JT3 have been named as semi-finalists for the Freedom Award. The final 15 winners will be announced this summer.

Employer Recognition Day began with representatives from the supportive organizations receiving a base tour and welcome speech from wing commander Col. Jeffrey Burkett and Nevada ESGR chairman retired Col. Dave Cantrell. Participants then moved on to view static displays of Air and Army National Guard equipment. The displays included an Air National Guard C-130, an Army National Guard Humvee, and two Army National Guard helicopters.

Attendees then toured the Air National Guard firehouse and learned about the station's response capability and firefighting/rescue equipment. The employers also learned about the Security Forces' equipment and handled and viewed the squadron's weapons and gear.

After the tour, the employers enjoyed a lunch and award ceremony at the air base's

dining facility and listened to speeches and presentations from Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks and Alex Baird, the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

Guest speakers also included Nevada Guard officers Lt. Col. Koby Harding, Maj. Justin Galli and Capt. Michael Bordallo. All recently returned from deployments in Afghanistan.

According to ESGR officials, many civilian employers had demonstrated their support of their reserve-component service members this year by paying the difference between a deployed service member's military and usual civilian pay. Other employers sent numerous care packages to their Guard and Reserve employees while they were deployed and established human resource polices that provide superior benefits to service members.

Any Guardsman or reservist or reserve-component military spouse can nominate their civilian employer for an ESGR Patriot Award. After receiving an initial Patriot Award from ESGR, organizations can receive subsequent awards from the Nevada ESGR Committee, including the prestigious Pro Patria and Above and Beyond awards, based on the respective organization's degree of support.

For additional information on ESGR, visit [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil). ■



# NV Energy receives state's first ESGR Extraordinary Employer Support Award

By Staff Sgt. Stan Hampton  
17th Sustainment Brigade

**LAS VEGAS** – Nevada's primary electricity provider, NV Energy, became the state's first organization to receive the Employer Support of Guard and Reserve's Extraordinary Employer Support Award during the company's annual shareholder meeting here at the Smith Center for the Performing Arts in May.

The Extraordinary Employer Support Award is the most prestigious award granted by ESGR. Only companies that have previously received the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award or the Pro Patria Award are eligible for it. Since the establishment of the Extraordinary Employer Support Award in 2006, only six organizations have received it. NV Energy is the seventh company to receive the award and the first headquartered in Nevada.

"NV Energy has set the bar for businesses across the country with its ongoing support and recognition of its Citizen-Soldiers," said retired Nevada Air Guard Col. Dave Cantrell, chairman of Nevada's ESGR. "NV Energy has created a corporate atmosphere of unwavering military support through its human resources policies, its recognition of Guard and reserve military members at internal events and in its newsletter and holiday messages, and with its numerous care packages to deployed units around the globe."

About 200 shareholders watched as NV Energy president and chief executive officer Michael Yackira accepted the award from Cantrell and retired Sgt. Maj. Bruce Barnes, a current employee at NV Energy as well as an ESGR ombudsman. The award presentation was also broadcast via a webcast.

Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the adjutant general for Nevada, and State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley presented Yackira and NV Energy state military awards for their ongoing support of the Nevada Guard following the ESGR presentation. Representatives from the Army and Navy reserves also recognized NV Energy for its military support.

Also attending the ceremony was Brig. Gen. Francis "Frank" Gonzales, commander of the Nevada Army Guard who is also the NV Energy vice president of distribution operations.

NV Energy has more than 3,000 employees and provides a wide range of energy services to Nevada's 2.4 million citizens throughout a region of 46,000 square miles. NV Energy



Courtesy Rex Windom, NV Energy

Company President Michael Yackira, center, accepts the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Extraordinary Employer Support Award on behalf of NV Energy from a contingent of military representatives in May in Las Vegas. Yackira is flanked by Nevada adjutant general Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, left, and Nevada Army Guard commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales. NV Energy is the first Nevada-based company to receive the prestigious award.

received the Freedom Award in 2007 during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense operational

committee that was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between reserve-component service members and civilian employers. ■

## 2012-2013 Nevada ESGR Awards

**Extraordinary Employer Support Award**  
NV ENERGY

**Pro Patria Award**  
Arcata Associates  
JT3

**Above and Beyond Award**  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Hycroft Resources and Development  
Great Basin Gold  
Barrick Cortez Mines, Underground Division  
International Game Technology  
Lowe's Store No. 1537  
Burgarello Alarm, Inc.  
Network Heroes  
International Minerals  
Gastroenterology Consultants  
Milan Institute of Cosmetology  
Sin City Vapor  
Lemper Pain Centers

CRS Services, Limited  
Aristocrat Technologies  
The Travelers Companies, Inc.  
Mandalay Bay  
Southwest Career and Technical Academy  
Team 5 Foundation  
Bank of America  
Nordstrom  
New York, New York Hotel and Casino  
Expeditionary Systems  
Evaluation Division  
Realty One Group  
Reddaway

**Seven Seals Award**  
Hollister Mine Rescue Team  
Nevada Attorney General's Office  
Washoe County Sheriff's Office  
Nevada Matters Media  
HomeGate Realty of Nevada  
University of Nevada, Reno

FedEx Express  
Pirate's Pizza  
Bellagio  
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas  
Transition Careers  
McDonald's  
Findlay Chevrolet  
City of Reno  
City of Sparks  
The Chamber

**Freedom Award Nominees**  
Arcata Associates  
Aspen Management  
Barrick Gold Corporation  
Holiday Systems International  
JT3  
Maverick Helicopters  
National Security Technologies, LLC  
Newmont Mining Corporation  
Nevada Office of the Military  
Colorado Belle

# AIR GUARD COLONEL CHAMPIONS NATIONAL GUARD DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

By Spc. Mike Orton  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**CARSON CITY** – Nevada Air Guard Col. Ondra Berry knows firsthand a great deal about both adversity and diversity. His personal and military career experiences combine to give him the foundation to become a champion of leadership, diversity and equal opportunity as the special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity for Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau.

In his position, Berry is responsible for the overall direction of policies and procedures for diversity and inclusion for the National Guard. As outlined by the Department of Defense's Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan, the National Guard is among the most prominent of the nation's military organizations continually working toward the promotion of diversity and inclusion in the federal work force.

"Our nation derives strength from the diversity of its population and from its commitment to equal opportunity for all," said President Barack Obama in Executive Order No. 13583 dated Aug. 18, 2011. "We are at our best when we draw on the talents of all parts of our society, and our greatest accomplishments are achieved when diverse perspectives are brought to bear to overcome our greatest challenges." Executive Order No. 13583 is one of the primary documents that guides Berry in his position.

Berry is the first person ever appointed as the special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity. Retired Gen. Craig McKinley initially created the position when he was the

director of the Air Guard from 2006-2008. When McKinley became chief of the National Guard Bureau in 2008, Berry followed and became the first joint special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity in National Guard history.

Long before he became the National Guard's senior expert on the topic, Berry realized how diversity could change a person's life and how challenging life experiences could broaden a person's horizons.

Berry, 54, spent his formative years in Evansville, Ind., and East St. Louis, Ill., where violence, crime, drug use and bullying were facts of life. Despite the atmosphere, Berry said it was expected children would go to school and work even at a very young age.

"A defining moment in my life was when I left a predominately all African-American elementary school and was bused to a predominately Caucasian school," said Berry, who resides in Sparks with his wife and three children when not working at the Pentagon. "It was a major struggle for me, but it definitely launched me on the path of understanding the importance of education and how it provides something internally that can never be removed."

During his freshman year of high school, Berry and his fellow students protested against racial inequality. Berry said he was fortunate to have strong school leaders who eventually urged him to be part of the solution instead of the problem.

Berry said the event became a pivotal moment in his own understanding of personal



*Courtesy National Guard Bureau Public Affairs*  
Nevada Air Guard Col. Ondra Berry delivers a keynote speech during the 172nd Airlift Wing's Black Heritage Program in Mississippi in February 2012. Berry is the special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity for Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau. Berry also spent 25 years with the Reno Police Department and had become the assistant chief of police by the time he concluded his career.

differences and how perceptions and stereotypes can drive a wedge between friends and progress.

"In school, I was part of a human relations team that worked on programs to make our high school more inclusive," Berry said. "At 14, not only did it cause me to gain an understanding of being a leader, but it also taught me the importance of problem solving, gaining trust, seeing other perspectives, relevancy to high performance teams, and that we are more alike than we are different."

After high school, Berry went on to the University of Evansville and received a full-ride scholarship for football and track.

"I was a first-generation college student and did not realize how valuable a full-ride scholarship was in terms of cost," Berry said. "Even though I was on an athletic scholarship, the school heavily emphasized academics. I had to work extremely hard to graduate."

In 1986, Berry, who had taken ROTC classes in college, decided to get back into the military. He joined the Nevada Air Guard and enlisted as an Airman first class.

Berry excelled in the Air Guard and earned the state's Outstanding Airman of the Year award in 1988. Two years later, Berry received his commission as a second lieutenant after graduating from the Academy of Military Science in 1990.

Berry's time in the Guard provided experiences that impacted his life. He said he was shaped by the leaders he encountered who exemplified pride and sacrifice in the name of freedom.

"America sends its sons and daughters into harm's way so Americans can hold onto our democracy," Berry said. "I reflected on that a lot. I just wanted to be a part of

***"Our nation derives strength from the diversity of its population and from its commitment to equal opportunity for all."***

*– President Barack Obama*

something really special, and I believe my life is better and more meaningful because I am a member of the Nevada Guard."

In addition to his military career, Berry's desire to serve was also reflected in his 25-year career with the Reno Police Department. Berry worked virtually every assignment within the department during those years, but one common theme prevailed no matter what his position: to protect and serve.

"One of the major lessons always in front of me was the importance of being a protector. We provided service to the entire community," Berry said. "In addition, I recognized long ago the importance of potential. So many people forget that their potential is unlimited. I refused to allow a label, a job title or a position to define my potential.

"You have to expect more of yourself than the accomplishments that are easily within your reach. That was my motto."

Berry carried those principles into his current assignment with NGB. As an advisor to Grass, Berry emphasizes how important it is for individuals to strive for greatness, expand their abilities and develop personally.

Berry is the author of "Ayoba: The Spirit of Awesomeness," which is a book about the differences in every individual and how those differences allow people to become great leaders. The book applies to everyone,

especially members of the National Guard, Berry said. Berry is also the cofounder of Guardian Quest, a company he helped establish to share his ideas on potential and leadership.

Developing Airmen and Soldiers into leaders and fostering their ability to cultivate their potential should be one of the National Guard's top priorities, Berry said.

"Every person is a brand," Berry said. "I often ask people if they work on their brand. Are they developing their brand? Do they take pride in their brand? Are they learning and growing everyday to have the best brand? We spend too much time attempting to be like someone else versus being our best self.

"The Guard needs diversity of thought. If you aren't willing to be open in your thinking, diversity cannot be achieved."

Berry predicted a bright future for diversity and equal opportunity within the National Guard and said the key to that future is its Soldiers and Airmen.

"I believe the incoming work force of young Airmen, Soldiers and civilians is more adept and more intelligent than ever and really embraces diversity," Berry concluded. "We just have to provide the right environment for them to learn and grow and then mentor them to greatness." ■



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Staff Sgt. Brent Peden, a surface maintenance mechanic at the combined support maintenance shop in Carson City, uses the new Net Zero heavy solids wash rack cannon to remove debris from a front loader before conducting a maintenance check.

## New wash rack system conserves water, money

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

**CARSON CITY** – Expelling 20 gallons of water per minute at about 750 pounds per square inch, not even the stickiest of Nevada mud has a chance against the water cannons at the new Net Zero heavy solids wash racks at the combined support maintenance shop here and at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.

Using state-of-the-art technology, the Net Zero heavy solids wash racks use nearly 100 percent recycled water. Almost every ounce of the water is reused in the closed loop system. The only expended water comes via evaporation and the liquid carried off on the vehicle. The Nevada Guard is the first military organization in the nation to transition to the Net Zero system.

The amount of water saved with the new equipment is staggering.

“The system in Las Vegas consumes about five gallons of water per vehicle,” said Michael Solomon, the president of Bay Compliance Solutions, the company that designed and supplied all the equipment and technical support for the construction of the new wash racks. “Compared to a conventional Army wash rack, which can consume up to an estimated 2,000 gallons per vehicle, it’s quite a savings in water alone.”

Contrary to most vehicle-washing facilities, the Nevada Guard wash racks do not have a

drain or discharge line to a sanitary drain waste system.

“By eliminating the need to empty the water into the local drainage system, the Nevada Guard is saving money,” said Jeff Resler, the project manager with the Construction and Facilities Management Office. “We were literally washing money down the drain.”

A prominent feature of the wash rack is the drive-down pit, a runoff collection pit used to settle solids and separate any free-floating oil or grease.

The drive-down pit collects the runoff, and the majority of solids then separate via gravity and sink to the bottom of the drive-down tank. A Bobcat front-end loader then scoops up the solid matter and places it in a de-watering hopper located on the wash rack.

Once in the hopper, water and sediment settle through a screen. The unsalvageable solids are then properly disposed.

The recycled water then flows through a pre-treatment process where free-floating oils are separated. The water then receives a bioremediation process, where the addition of microbes removes hydrocarbons from the wash water.

From the drive-down pit, the water is pumped into the equipment room where additional treatment occurs. In this treatment step, an electro-coagulation water treatment capable of processing 300 gallons per hour

removes suspended solids, emulsified oil, grease, paint and heavy metals from the liquid.

The final step in the recycling process occurs when the water flows through the SunSpring microbiological water purifier. The water is purified to remove any pathogens, particulates and turbidity before fresh water is added to the system to compensate for the loss due to evaporation and carry-off.

The treated water then flows into a 1,600 gallon reservoir tank, where it is held until it is discharged through the water cannons and recycled again.

Motor pool personnel remind all Soldiers to avoid disposing of their trash in the wash rack hoppers. Also, to ensure safety, contact motor pool personnel before using the new equipment.

“As equipment comes in for maintenance, operators will be trained and given a safety briefing before we cut them loose with those water cannons,” said CSMS general foreman Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher Wolfe.

Motor pool Soldiers are ecstatic about the new, effective equipment.

“This is an amazing tool, and the Net Zero System is awesome. Here in the desert, we don’t need to be wasting water,” Wolfe said. “The only thing I would add is a walk-in pit to clean the undercarriage, but otherwise, I think it is an amazing tool. The wash time is cut to just minutes.” ■



## Inspector General's Office garners Air Force award

Staff reports

**CARSON CITY** – The Nevada National Guard Inspector General's Office was recently recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of the Inspector General for its exemplary accomplishments during the past year when it received the 2012 Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn Inspector General Award.

The award, issued in June, recognizes the top inspector general complaints resolution program in the U.S. Air Force and is named after Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn, the former Air Force inspector general from 1976-1978. The award is issued annually to the office that embodies Flynn's leadership, integrity, justice, compassion, loyalty, courage and spirit.

The Nevada National Guard Inspector General's team won the award in the Joint Force Headquarters – State category. This year's award marks the first time the Nevada National Guard Inspector General's office has won the Flynn competition.

"I couldn't be any prouder of the people that work in this office, and they are absolutely deserving of this award," said Lt. Col. Steve Milliron, the Nevada National Guard Inspector General. "These folks come into work every day with one thing on their mind – to make sure that the Nevada National Guard is doing the right thing. If that translates into an award, that's great, but in the end, what's really important is taking care of Soldiers and Airmen, and they are doing a fantastic job of that every single day."

In a listing of some of the outstanding achievements in 2012, the staff

- Achieved 100 percent resolution of all Nevada Army Guard cases and 86 percent of Nevada Air Guard cases in 2012.

- Increased its Air Guard case closure rate to 87 percent in 2012 from 65 percent in 2011 despite a 34 percent increase in the number of Air Force cases.

- Visited every Army and Air Guard unit during the course of the year to accurately report on the state of readiness, morale and discipline to senior leadership.

- Assisted the 152nd Airlift Wing with a 1,100-Airmen climate assessment for the incoming wing commander that entailed compiling more than 11,000 survey results.



Courtesy Inspector General's Office

The Nevada National Guard Inspector General's Office was recently recognized by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of the Inspector General for its exemplary accomplishments during the past year, when it received the 2012 Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn Inspector General Award. The staff includes, from left, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lynn Aboumrad, Maj. Sean Matthews, Bob McNamara, Master Sgt. Paul Hinen and Lt. Col. Steve Milliron.

"The award board recognized how the staff performed its mission of helping Airmen and Soldiers in 2012. The office helped our Airmen and Soldiers resolve their problems and also improved efficiencies in the resolution process, which turned out to be a winning combination," said Bob McNamara, the Deputy Inspector General.

In addition to Milliron and McNamara, the staff includes Maj. Sean Matthews, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sherlyn Aboumrad and Master Sgt. Paul Hinen.

## Aviation selection board set to convene in November

**RENO** – The Nevada Army Guard's aviation community annually recruits and selects top Soldiers to participate in the Army's initial entry rotary wing course. The selection process includes a written alternate flight aptitude selection test, a flight physical, and an appearance before the selection board. The selection board is set to convene on Nov. 7. For information, call (775) 972-2740.

## Air Guard scores first at Tahoe Relay

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif.** – Despite grueling hill climbs and temperatures in the 90s, the Nevada Air National Guard running team overcame every natural hurdle to take first place in the corporate division of the 49th Annual DeCelle Memorial Lake Tahoe Relay on June 8.

The team featured seven runners who combined to run 72 miles around Lake Tahoe. The squad included Maj. Jared Brandt, 1st Lt. Masten Bethel, Staff Sgt. Katie Cromeenes, Senior Master Sgt. James Lindsay, Master Sgt. Chris Barber, Master Sgt. Sean O'Brien and Staff Sgt. Joey Hodges.

Overall, the Nevada Air Guard's time of 9 hours, 40 minutes, was good enough for 26th out of 120 teams that were able to cross the finish line before the time cutoff. Through teamwork and training, the Nevada Air Guard team persevered through the elements and finished 37 minutes faster than the second corporate division team.

The race is named for Capt. Robert E. DeCelle, Jr., who was killed in Vietnam in 1971.

# New tavern boon to Reno students

Photo and story by Senior Airman Ashif Halim, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**RENO** – A new tavern owned by two Nevada Air Guardsmen that prominently features Nevada’s storied mining history in its décor could become the mother lode that funds a playground for students at Marvin Picollo Elementary School.

Master Sgt. Shawn Plunket and Master Sgt. Kevin Walen are the owners of 1864 Tavern, an establishment that serves libations in an Old West atmosphere complete with historical Nevada memorabilia. (Just take the hallway that resembles a mine shaft if you need to use the restroom.)

The two flight engineers, who have both served in Iraq and Afghanistan, opened the tavern at 290 California Ave. in May.

In addition to quenching their patrons’ thirst, they have an added mission. They are set to assist in the building of a much-needed playground for the students at Marvin Picollo Elementary School. Picollo School was established in 1974 to serve students with moderate to severe mental and physical challenges. Nearly four decades old, the school is in dire need of modification and improvement of its playground to serve its students, many of whom require wheelchairs and other special equipment for mobility.

Renovation of the playground with the special equipment will cost about \$75,000. Plunket and Walen are set to help by donating a portion of their revenues from the 1864 Tavern.

“It’s a worthy cause. We all need to give back to the individuals in our community in any way we can,” Plunket said. “In this case,



Master Sgt. Kevin Walen, left, and Master Sgt. Shawn Plunket, are the owners of the 1864 Tavern at 290 California Ave., Reno. The Airmen are set to assist Picollo Elementary School students with revenues from the tavern.

these kids need special assistance, so it’s extra important for us to contribute.”

The 1864 Tavern prioritizes serving cocktails made with fresh ingredients from local sources as well as beers and wines from throughout the region. A fresh juice menu will soon be available, and food is available from nearby Composition Restaurant.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the tavern was held on May 24 to mark the grand opening with Reno Mayor Bob Cashell in attendance.

For information, call (775) 329-1864. ■

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 SFC Ulises Pierluissi . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 SFC Ryan Campbell . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 CPT Nicholas Agle . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 SFC Jordan Clark . . . . . 92nd Civil Support Team  
 MSG Jeffery Wilkinson . . . . . JFHQ  
 LTC Kevin Korcheck . . . . . JFHQ  
 SFC Travis Hughes . . . . . JFHQ  
 MAJ Jerome Guerrero . . . . . JFHQ  
 COL Vernon Scarbrough . . . . . JFHQ  
 MSG Joshua Lappin . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
 CPT Peter Fuller . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 MSgt Kevin Bennett . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

## Army Commendation Medal



MSG Gregory Backus . . . . . 421st Regional Tng Institute  
 OC Stephanie Mock . . . . . 485th MP Co  
 SGT Alexander Drossulis . . . . . NVARNG Med Det  
 CW2 Kimberly Boeckman . . . . . JFHQ  
 SPC Joshua Killinger . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 SGT Roy Randell . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 SGT Kevin Hail . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
 1LT William Ohler . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 SSG Francis Macale . . . . . K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
 SGT Tyler Wood . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
 SSG Donald Dorsey . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 SSG Jennifer Ewing . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 CPT Brian Capra . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 CPT Brian Hunsaker . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 MAJ Derek Imig . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
 SFC Steven Donaldson . . . . . 72nd MP Co

## Army Achievement Medal



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 Sgt. Victor Joecks . . . . . 106th PAD  
 Sgt. Shane Klestinski . . . . . 106th PAD  
 Spc. Michael Orton . . . . . 106th PAD  
 Spc. James Pierce . . . . . 106th PAD  
 SSG Mike Getten . . . . . 106th PAD  
 CPT Troy Kemper . . . . . 106th PAD

## Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



SSG Heather Harris . . . . . 593rd Trans Co

## Nevada State Commendation Medal



SSgt Russell Tom . . . . . 152nd Comptroller Fit

## Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



TSgt Lewis Roberts . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn

## Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



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SSG Patrick Johnson . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
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 SGT Saul Brown . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
 SFC Christina Bunker . . . . . 421st Regional Tng Institute  
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 MSgt David Hill . . . . . 152nd Force Spt Sqdn  
 TSgt Timothy Buxton . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
 SSgt Travis Backlund . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
 SSgt Rebecka Swatman . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
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## MAJ/Maj

Evan Kirkwood . . . . . 152nd Operation Sup Flt

## CPT/Capt

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Christopher Capua . . . . . NVARNG Med Det  
Ritchie Pelton . . . . . NVARNG Med Det  
Stewart Brough . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Aaron Oliver . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Kandace Gonzales . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
Jeffrey Hoppe . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
Frederick McDonald . . . . . 137th MP Det  
Rimando Poyaoan . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Michael Gardner . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Victor Hicks . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Nicholas Remacle . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn

## CW3

Ian Dasmann . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
Richard Miller . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation

## 1SG/MSG/SMSGt

Joseph Loader . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
Daniel Prothro II . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Harry Schroeder Jr . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Donald Fleming . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Thomas Hansen . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Grp

## SFC/MSgt

Timothy Beghtol . . . . . JFHQ  
Ryan Davidson . . . . . Recruit Sust Pgm  
Lauriano Farias . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Brian Faulkner . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Philip Fred . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
David Starkey . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Shaun Goodwin . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation  
Guillermo Muniz . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Gavin Respini . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Joseph Puertos . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
Seth Dextraze . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
David Calhoun . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn

## SSG/TSgt

Glenda Gutierrez . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Michael Bryson . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Stephen Belcher . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Jeff Sison . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Lenin Belalcazar . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Felicia Booth . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Saul Brown . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
James Burch . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret  
Eric Cawthern . . . . . NVARNG Med Det  
Kenneth Chapman . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Shane Craig . . . . . HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
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Matthew Leming . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Andrew Wells . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
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Derek Oharrow . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
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## SGT/SSgt

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Eric Lee . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
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Bradley Collier . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Jordan Brown . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Roger Newman . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Carlos Cisneros . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Aaron Case . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Angel Chavez . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Michael Cherhoniak . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
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David Hammond . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Keith King Jr . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Jeffrey Spurlock Jr . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Christopher Lauko . . . . . 277th Engineer Haul Plt  
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Johnathan Marquez . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Nicholas Humphrey . . . . . I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Kyle Morse . . . . . I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
David Neeley . . . . . I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Edward Ojeda . . . . . 277th Engineer Haul Plt  
Chad Reese . . . . . 277th Engineer Haul Plt  
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Christopher Herndon . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Leonardo Navarro . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Nikki Ann Alirez . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Veronica Sinclair . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Andrew Oliphant . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Nicholas Greene . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Darling Castillo-Mapes . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Jonathan Sandoval . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Joseph Jones . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Eric Fontanilla . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Cydney Williamson . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Xavier Chapa . . . . . I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
John Morales . . . . . I Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Carlos Alfaro . . . . . K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Devin Wallace . . . . . K Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Mauricio Duran . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Justin Davies . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Kristofer Kufalk . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Vincent Romero . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Marshall Christensen . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cavalry  
Jazmin Arteaga-Ibanez . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
Krystal Wood . . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
Salvador Rodriguez Jr. . . . . 17th Special Troops Bn  
Veronica Viayraleon . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Kelcy Bennett . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Montserrat Romo . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Francis Mones . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Nyrya Retes . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Nicholas Pierce . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Getachew Ashenafi . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
James Bryant . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation  
Aaron Wallace . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation  
Joshua Taylor . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation  
Arthur Nafarrete . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Katherine Constanza . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Mark Bryant . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Perrin Hamilton . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn

Julius Erwin . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Ruvi Aguilar-Martinez . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Nicole Shepherd . . . . . B Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Jonah Battie . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Ty Shelton . . . . . C Co, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Kandeh Jones . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Sharmaine Pagdonsolan . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Jose Gamino . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Alex Gonzalez . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Erika Thorp . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Victor Pelaez . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Austin Wright . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Devan Lockett . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Joel Olivares . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Bryan Querubin . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Alex Almaraz . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Louis Brown . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Christopher Brixey . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Samuel Delaney . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Zachary Rice . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Darren Guzzetta . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Leo Lingle . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Lea Allendale . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Arkane Turner . . . . . 777th Forward Support Co  
Dolyn Peterson . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
David Jensen . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Joseph Salas . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Chance Holt . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Andre Kandaras . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Hailee Raburn . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Pablo Menjivar-Alfaro . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Wesley Greene . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Edward Sinclair . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Jaqueline Duron . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Jesse Cesena . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Kayla Washington . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Jeffery Heron . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Joseph Ortega . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Pedrito Castillo . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Jeffrey Fanelli . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Erik Chan . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Timothy Evans . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Ariana Garcia . . . . . HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn

Glen Spadin . . . . . Det 45, Operational Spt Airlift  
Justin Sample Jr. . . . . 137th MP Det  
Kelly Bales . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Marcel Ruiz-Ramirez . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
Candace Bush . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Jacob Rousseau . . . . . Camp Stead Tng Ctr  
Todd Okazawa . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret  
Ariana Garcia . . . . . HHC, 422nd Exped Signal Bn  
Ezekiel Fiel . . . . . 277th Engineer Haul Plt  
Billy Robinson Jr. . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Ivy Kent . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Patrick Cattell . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Jeseoph Mazzola . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Tanner Allen . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Ashley Barreto . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Rafael Rodriguez-Gonzalez . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Cody Beattie . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Anthony Winder . . . . . 152nd Maintenance Sqdn  
Jeffery Cottingham . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Guillermo Parra . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Justin Rizzo . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Roberto Martinez . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Lindsey Gabany . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Justin Powers . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Mitchell Anderson . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Kristopher Postma . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
Anthony Nolasco-Castanon . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
Michael Zbella . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
Samantha Niemeier . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Dustin Ewing . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing

## RETIREMENTS

SSG Eric Wnorowski . . . . . B Co, 3/140th Aviation  
SSG Maurice Bascom III . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
LTC Debeeann Boyd . . . . . JFHQ  
SFC Amy Roll . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
MSgt Donald Evans . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
CMSgt Anthony Barozzi . . . . . 152nd Communications Flt  
SMSgt Dave Radtke . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
MSgt Ronald Owen . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

## Army Guard set for new leadership team

Staff report

**CARSON CITY** – The senior leadership of the Nevada Army Guard is set to change in upcoming months.

Brig. Gen. Francis “Frank” Gonzales, the assistant adjutant general and commander of the Nevada Army Guard, is set to retire Sept. 7. Gonzales will be replaced by Col. Michael Hanifan. Gonzales has been the commander of the Army Guard since June 2006.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki will become the state command sergeant major on Sept. 7 when he replaces Command Sgt.

Maj. Daryl Keithley, who is set to retire. Keithley has been the state command sergeant major since August 2009.

“It’s an honor to be selected as the state command sergeant major of the Nevada Army Guard,” Kopacki said. “I look forward to serving the country, the state, and the officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers of the Nevada Army Guard.”

While some leadership faces will change, others will remain the same. In June, Gov. Brian Sandoval extended Brig. Gen. Bill Burks’ contract as Nevada’s Adjutant General to 2017.

With the retirement of Command Sgt. Maj.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki

Stephen Sitton, Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry is now both the senior enlisted leader and the state command chief master sergeant of the Air Guard.



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