

Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard - Summer 2014

# Battle Born



**EOD  
enjoys  
explosive  
growth,  
Page 12**

**Tonga  
new  
Nevada  
partner,  
Page 14**

## Nevada Army National Guard

# RECRUITING AND RETENTION

## Be A Part Of Our

*SOCIAL NETWORK or SHARE OUR WEBSITE!*

We are pleased to announce our new R&R website and social networking sites! R&R is reaching beyond our traditional networks and providing information to a new audience seeking to join the NVARNG. You can visit our website and access information or you can join one of our social networking pages by simply scanning the barcodes below. Our Facebook page and Twitter feed provide updates on current events and enlistments, while YouTube is the place to go to see all of our latest videos. Once you join, don't forget to **LIKE US** or **FOLLOW US** and encourage your friends and family to join and share too!



Nevada Army National  
Guard Recruiting



Nevada Army National  
Guard Recruiting



ARNG\_Nevada



www.NevadaArmyNationalGuard  
.com

[www.NevadaArmyNationalGuard.com](http://www.NevadaArmyNationalGuard.com)



Governor Brian Sandoval  
Commander in Chief  
Nevada



Brigadier General Bill Burks  
The Adjutant General  
Nevada National Guard

**Governor**

Brian Sandoval

**The Adjutant General**

Brig. Gen. Bill Burks

**Managing Editor/State Public Affairs Officer**

Maj. Dennis Fournier

**Editor**

Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

**Staff Writer/Photographer**

Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

**Contributors**

Lt. Col. Joanne Farris

Joint Force Headquarters

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roy Hellen

Joint Force Headquarters

Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell

152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Sgt. Walter Lowell

17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Paula Macomber

152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Sgt. Michael Orton

106th Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. James Pierce

106th Public Affairs Detachment

Lt. Col. (Retired) Steve Ranson

Lohonton Valley News



**SILVER STATE INDUSTRIES  
PRINTING DIVISION**

Greg Cox, Director NDOC

Brian Connet, Deputy Director

Mary Byington, Printshop Supervisor II

Design & Layout: Printshop Graphics Department

(775) 887-3428 www.ssi.nv.gov

**United States Government Printing Office  
Washington, DC.**

Summer 2014

# Battle Born

## Features:

757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion off to Egypt .....	6
Bad break doesn't deter Airman of the Year .....	8
Nevada Guard Mustangs improve large-animal rescue skills .....	9
Signal Soldier Montano earns Best Warrior title .....	10
Booming popularity of EOD jobs leads to selectivity, specialized training .....	12
Hero 2 Hired job fair links employers, reserve military job seekers .....	13
Nevada Guard, Kingdom of Tonga enter partnership .....	14
Guardsmen receive vital edge for military academy applications .....	16
Historic emigrant trails, Nevada Guard intersect in Carlin .....	18
232nd Operations Squadron: Reiss new commander .....	21
Underdog biathlon team matches top result in team history .....	24

## Departments:

From Senior Leadership .....	2
From Senior Enlisted Leadership .....	3
Drop Zone .....	4
News Briefs .....	20
Editor's Notebook .....	22
Awards .....	25
Promotions .....	26
Accessions .....	26
Retirements .....	27
Events Schedule .....	28

*ON THE COVER: Sgt. Telly Kidman of the 3665th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) practices disarming a simulated explosive device during preliminary military occupation specialty training at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.*

*Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

*Cover photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten*

In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4, Battle Born is an authorized, unofficial publication of the Nevada National Guard. Content is not necessarily the official view or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Nevada National Guard or the state of Nevada.

Battle Born is published quarterly for all current Nevada Guard military members, Nevada Guard retirees, government leaders and Department of Defense civilian employees. Battle Born is distributed free of charge via mail and is also available online at [www.nevadaguard.com](http://www.nevadaguard.com).

**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 photographic submissions of interest to our diverse readership is encouraged and welcome.

Please send comments, articles and photos to:

### Battle Born Magazine

State Public Affairs Office  
Nevada National Guard  
2460 Fairview Drive  
Carson City, NV 89701

Or e-mail to [Erick.r.studenicka.mil@mail.mil](mailto:Erick.r.studenicka.mil@mail.mil)

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



## FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

*Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, The Adjutant General*



# Warm Tongan Partnership Stark Contrast To Icy Big Army Relations

My column is a tale of two relationships. One is a warm, young, promising partnership sure to flourish. The other is an update on two longtime bedfellows going through a rough patch in their lengthy union.

The first relationship I want to comment on is the Nevada Guard's new State Partnership Program agreement with Tonga. The partnership was finalized with the signing of a declaration on April 11 in Tonga (see details on page 14).

Naturally, the question surrounding the agreement I often hear is: What is in it for the Nevada National Guard?

First and foremost, as the United States decreases its number of troops in the Central Command area of responsibility and rebalances its military resources to the Pacific, the agreement gives us the ability to sustain our ground- and air-defense readiness with training opportunities alongside our Tongan partners. These opportunities will range from military operations in support of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to peacekeeping and coalition operations. The joint operations promise to maintain stability in the Oceania region of the Pacific.

In addition to our mutual military interests, Nevada and Tonga share similar local economies, demographics and environmental threats. As Brig. Gen. David Snyder notes: "Nevada is about 110,000 square miles of land with sparse population centers separated by great distances and small dots of water within its borders; Tonga is about 100,000 square miles of water with sparse population centers separated by great distances and small dots of land within its borders."

Both economies are based on tourism, private sector growth and renewable energy efforts. Officials trust the new partnership will help Tonga achieve its

goals of secure borders and clean-energy independence during the course of the partnership while simultaneously supporting U.S. interests including the promotion of democratic values and human rights in the region.

The partnership advances our own diversity of thought. Based on my personal observations, it's easy to see Tongans place an extraordinary priority on family. They take this prioritization a step further and also emphasize the inclusion of the expanded family.

The concept of inclusion of the expanded family is then extended into communities. This concept was illustrated by the fact Tongans provided free storage space to Navy Seabees for construction materials for more than six months as a community hall was built.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony for the hall in February, hundreds of people from the local community stood in a driving rain for more than three hours and then walked to the local rugby field for a feast to mark the completion of the project and display their gratitude for the improvement to their community.

In a nutshell, the Nevada-Tonga State Partnership Program agreement marks the beginning of a mutually-beneficial relationship that allows the Nevada Guard to showcase our four principle priorities: military readiness, support of our members and family, diversity and community.

The second relationship to consider, one that I trust is reconciled quickly, is the current terse Total Force relationship between the Department of the Army and the Army National Guard. Succinctly, relations between "Big Army" and the Army National Guard are not good.

To show the depth of how far the relationship has sunk, the DA recently complained to the Office of the Inspector General about National Guard officers

who sit on the Board of the National Guard Association of the United States. The Army complained the National Guard officers were inappropriately using their military email accounts for contact information.

The Army also sent the leader of the Quadrennial Defense Review team, Maj. Gen. John Rossi, to lobby state governors on the merits of the Army's blatant acquisition of Army National Guard manpower and helicopters (primarily Apaches).

Needless to say, Army officials have refined their approach as they seek limited resources. They are not budget driven, they say, but instead are motivated by operational necessity.

Their approach does not consider the fact that, with the military's rebalance to the Pacific, there are few sites for the Army to muster forces or park, fly and train crews on reallocated National Guard Apaches.

The Pacific area of responsibility is the perfect place and now is the perfect time for the region to receive additional National Guard assets. There will be more than adequate time to train the forces needed for the vast majority of contingency situations in the Pacific Command AOR.

By no means does that imply there is no longer a need for an active-duty, rapid-reaction force. All agree that force, currently comprised of the 82nd and 101st Airborne of the 18th Airborne Corps, should be fully sustained.

My prediction is the situation will become worse before it gets better and a Senate committee to analyze the composition of the Army and its components is a necessity. Otherwise, the Army's own leadership may destroy the unique capabilities of the only Army component that has both a Federal and State mission set – the Army National Guard! ■



# FROM SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki, State Command Sergeant Major

## One Military Constant:

## Regulations Continue To Change



### Adhering to the Standards:

How the *Uniform Code of Military Justice* keeps us

## Army Strong and Battle Ready!

The foundation of the military is dependent on the common notion Soldiers and Airmen will adhere to all applicable military standards and regulations and comply with them.

Leaders train Soldiers and Airmen to military standards and hold them accountable. Sometimes standards change based on the operational environment and both leaders and service members learn the new standard and adjust from previous standards.

Recently, there have been some key changes concerning standards in the Army. These changes range from the new Army Body Composition Program regulation (AR 600-9), new Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report requirements, and the release of the new Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia regulations (AR 670-1).

For those of us who've been in the Army for awhile, these are not really changes but instead a return and reinforcement of the standards of the past.

The biggest changes to AR 600-9 are administrative and procedural. Your allowable screening weight and body fat percentage did not change. The regulation now tells commanders to, in addition to flagging a

Soldier, initiate separation actions and a bar to reenlistment if the Soldier does not meet the standards within the time limits stated in the regulation. This is not a new standard but a reinforcement of what the standard has always been. To view the new regulations, visit:

[http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/r600\\_9.pdf](http://armypubs.army.mil/epubs/pdf/r600_9.pdf).

Currently, Structured Self Development courses are a requirement for promotion to your next grade. Your promotion is conditional upon the completion of requisite Noncommissioned Officer Educational School required for the promotion grade. Soldiers will soon see guidance that will revisit a previous standard that states a Soldier must complete the required NCOES before promotion and possibly even before recommendation for promotion.

The latest version of AR 670-1 is now supported by the newly-released DA PAM 670-1. The major change is the fact the failure to comply with portions of the regulation is now punitive under the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Another major change is Soldiers are no longer authorized to travel on commercial flights in the Army Combat Uniform. Other changes in standards concern: fingernails, hair, tattoos, eyeglasses, sunglasses, shoul-

der bags, identification tags, service uniforms, combat and aircrew uniforms and umbrellas. Also, commanders are now required to annually check and update tattoos acquired by their respective Soldiers. The commanders' findings will then be documented in the Soldiers' official files.

I recommend all Soldiers read the revised AR 670-1 and new DA PAM 670-1 cover-to-cover to learn the details surrounding the changes and understand the parameters commanders now have when establishing their own uniform policies within the spirit of the regulation.

Leaders can instruct their Soldiers with a review of the aforementioned publications or by using the 40-minute AR 670-1 training video found on the Army's manpower and Personnel website at:

[www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/UNIFORM/DEFAULT.ASP](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/UNIFORM/DEFAULT.ASP).

Organizations comprised of widely-recognized professions commonly have standards in appearance and defined professional development. The Army is the Profession of Arms. The combination of Soldiers adhering to standards and military leaders recognizing and enforcing the standards ensures we remain a viable, respected profession and keeps us Army Strong and Battle Ready! ■

**BATTLE BORN** ★

150<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of Statehood

1864-2014

# DROP ZONE



Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Jensen, JFHQ

**JERICHO, Vt.** - Lt. Col Julie Dietrich of the 192nd Airlift Squadron glides toward the finish of the 4 x 7.5 kilometer relay race at the Chief, National Guard Bureau biathlon championships in March contested at the Ethan Allen Firing Range. Dietrich, who resides in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., captained the Nevada Guard team to a fifth-place finish in the military patrol race. For more on biathlon, turn to page 24.



**LAS VEGAS** - Sgt. Telly Kidman of the 3665th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) prepares for EOD military specialty training at the Las Vegas Readiness Center in March. Although demanding and dangerous, the job of explosive ordnance disposal specialist remains attractive and popular among Nevada Army Guard Soldiers. For more on the 3665th Ordnance Company, turn to page 12.

Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell,  
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**FLORENCE, Ariz.** - From left, Master Sgt. Michael Eaton, Staff Sgt. Benjamin Alves, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Fincher, and Staff Sgt. Scott Smith display the awards won by the Nevada Guard's Marksmanship Team at the National Guard Bureau's Western Regional shooting competition in March. The Nevada Guard squad dominated all of the team events, including the machine gun match, the infantry trophy match and the squad designated marksmanship match. With its combined aggregate scores from all events, the team won the Overall Match Award. Airmen and Soldiers interested in marksmanship are welcome to enter The Adjutant General's Match in August; call (775) 225-3547 for information.



Photo Courtesy Small Arms Range Training Staff

**FALLON** - Spc. Brett Rowan of the Nevada Army Guard's 609th Engineer Company, foreground, provides simulated cover fire with a M240B machine gun during a training exercise at Range B19 at Naval Air Station Fallon in April. The unit spent its April drill preparing for an upcoming live fire exercise it will conduct in the near future.



Photo by Sgt. Mike Orton,  
106th Public Affairs Detachment



Photo by Master Sgt. Paula Macomber,  
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

**RENO** - Staff Sgt. Anthony Haley, left, explains the use of a compressed-air powered rifle magazine to Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, center, while Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Chairman Arlan Melendez looks on following the opening of the Nevada Air Guard's Modular Containerized Small Arms Training Set in April. The state-of-the-art, \$5 million Modular Containerized Small Arms Training Set range gives Airmen easy access to a shooting facility right on the Nevada Air Guard's primary base.



Photo by Maj. Dennis Fournier

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** - Brig. Gen. Tau'aika Uta'atu, left, the commander of Tonga's armed forces, and Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, mark the finalization of the State Partnership Program agreement between Tonga and the Nevada Guard with a handshake during the formal signing ceremony held at the Armed Forces Headquarters in Tonga's capital on April 11. The State Partnership Program now features 68 partnerships involving 74 nations around the world. For more on the partnership, turn to page 14.

# Deployment Roundup

## 757th deployment destination: Sinai Peninsula

Staff Sgt. Mike Getten  
Joint Force Headquarters

**CARSON CITY** - Afghanistan is no longer the default destination for Nevada Guard deployments.

With military operations drawing down in central Asia, Nevada Soldiers are now set to bring their skills and talents to other regions of the globe this summer and fall.

Headquarters Company of the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion will deploy 50 Soldiers to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt this fall. The unit will depart for training at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. in September.

The unit will support the U.S. contingent assigned to the Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping force along the Israeli-Egyptian border.

The 757th will be symbolically reflagged as Headquarters Company, 1st U.S. Army Support Battalion.

The headquarters company will provide command, control, administration, and logistics support to the battalion as well as many services to the entire force. Services will include a chaplain, U.S. military postal services, mortuary affairs services, and ammunition and explosive storage.

"We are really excited to be selected for this important mission," said Lt. Col. Wilson DaSilva, the commander of the 757th CSSB. "It says a lot about the training and professionalism of today's National Guard Soldiers when they receive a mission of this magnitude."

The mission of the MFO is to supervise the security provisions of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and prevent any violation of its terms.

"The 757th is well prepared to conduct support operations and will work with contingents from 12 other nations, to ensure the success of the MFO mission," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Rodgers of the 757th CSSB.

### DETACHMENT 45 TAKES OFF

Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift, took off on its deployment to Afghanistan just



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten  
Staff Sgt. Jon Cumings, right, an analyst with the 152nd Intelligence Squadron, discusses imagery system operations with Staff Sgt. Michael Salazar of Detachment 45, Operational Support Airlift, during joint training over Pyramid Lake on May 9. Several 152nd Airmen assisted Det 45 as it prepared for its deployment to Afghanistan.

a few weeks ago. The small unit with about 15 Soldiers is set to return in April 2015. While deployed, the unit will conduct aerial surveillance, combat support and airlift operations over Afghanistan while flying King Air 300 aircraft modified for military use.

It's likely the detachment will be based at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

When in Nevada, the unit operates C12V model Beech Super King aircraft. Det. 45 is the only Nevada Army Guard aviation unit that flies fixed-wing aircraft.

The Nevada detachment is set to combine with operational support airlift detachments from Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Alabama to form a company. The newly formed company will then assimilate into a special aerial task force that observes, detects, identifies and neutralizes enemy actions. Det. 45 is set to provide the task force about six pilots and eight aerial electronic sensor operators.

Although the majority of Det. 45's personnel will be deployed until next spring, all Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen can continue to request airlift support, as air crews from nearby states will be available to fly missions during Det. 45's absence. Call (775)

972-2749 for information.

### SOLDIERS READY FOR AFRICAN ROTC MISSION

Sixteen Guardsmen in three rotations are set to travel to Cape Verde, Africa, with the Army ROTC Cadet command this summer to serve as team leaders for the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency Program.

The Guardsmen will supervise about 10 cadets while mentoring, training and evaluating the cadets in the African island nation.

"This is a great opportunity for Guardsmen to step outside their regular duties and train tomorrow's leaders," said Maj. John Brownell, the Nevada Guard's State Partnership Program coordinator. "They will gain experience leading small groups during a cultural exchange."

### SECURITY DETAIL SET TO BEGIN FOR 72ND MPS

In September, the 72nd Military Police Company based in Henderson will begin a highly visible mission in Afghanistan to perform personal security for several high-ranking International Security Assistance

Force officials in Regional Command-Capital. The company will send its first rotation of about 30 Soldiers to Kabul and the second rotation of about 30 Soldiers will replace the initial detail in May of 2015.

Since the start of the Global War on Terrorism in 2001, the 72nd has deployed internationally to Iraq twice and one time domestically for a security mission at the Defense Language Institute in California. The 72nd promises to become just the third Nevada Army Guard unit to deploy to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

### MISSION CONCLUDES FOR C COMPANY

Dozens of family members and friends were on hand at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in February to welcome home about 40 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers in C Company, 1/168th General Support Battalion, after their deployment to Afghanistan concluded.

During its 10-month deployment and third to Afghanistan, the unit was positioned in the western part of the country and performed medical evacuation missions with its Black Hawk helicopters.

The battalion included helicopter companies from northern California and Washington. The company, which has undergone several unit designation changes during its history, has now recorded three deployments to Afghanistan, one deployment to Kosovo and one deployment to Fort Carson, Colo., in recent years. ■



Photo courtesy Lt. Col. (Ret.) Steve Ranson, Lahontan Valley News  
Dozens of family members and friends welcome home the Nevada Army Guard Soldiers in C Company, 1/168th General Support Battalion, in February at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport after their deployment to Afghanistan concluded.

## NEVADA COMBAT ENGINEERS READY FOR LIVE FIRE EXERCISE



Photo by Spc. Michael Orton, 106th Public Affairs Detachment.  
Spc. Brett Rowen, left, of the 609th Engineer Company, provides suppressive fire while assaulting a simulated enemy during the unit's April drill. The unit conducted team and squad movement training to prepare for future live-fire training exercises.

Story by Spc. James Pierce  
106th Public Affairs Detachment

**FALLON** - Another major element of the 757th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, the 609th Engineer Company, is ready for whatever mission may come its way this summer. During its April drill, the unit went back to basics and emphasized its Warrior tasks in preparation for upcoming live fire exercises.

During drill, the engineers conducted various battle drills and lanes for squad move-

ments and they practiced their assault procedures at the Fallon Naval Air Station's B-19 range. More than 50 609th Soldiers participated in the exercise.

For some Soldiers including Pfc. Zach Rice, an infantryman set to attend combat engineer school, the exercise marked his first participation in a large-scale engineer exercise.

"I've done training like this before, but not on this scale," Rice said. "We do this so that we can get our mission done with efficiency and so Soldiers don't die on the battlefield." ■

# 757th



## Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



# Bad break doesn't deter Airman of the Year

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

**RENO** - Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton overcame a bad break in her childhood to become one of the most decorated individuals in the Nevada Air Guard. Within the past few months, she's received the Nevada Air Guard's 2013 Airman of the Year award and the 152nd Operations Group Commander's Award for Excellence.

Middleton, 25, suffered compound fractures to her tibia and fibula and severe burns on her leg at age 13 when she was struck by a car in Reno while saving the life of her 3-year-old God-brother, Marcus Gage. The collision left Middleton with rods in her leg along with screws in her knee and ankle.

Gage was also left with a broken leg in the incident, Policemen and doctors told Middleton, however, that his injuries would have been worse – even life-threatening – if she hadn't interceded.

Middleton then went through several years of physical therapy learning to walk again. All told, she had a half dozen operations on her leg to repair the damage caused by the collision..

"I was an athlete in childhood who played basketball and ran track, so I wanted to work hard to get back to doing those sports," Middleton said.

She continued to recover from the injury and was on the cusp of making the Reed High basketball team in 2002. But a collision with a teammate during the final practice before the opening-season game loosened a screw and forced yet another operation.

Eventually, Middleton became physically qualified to serve in the military and she enlisted in the Air Guard in 2011.

"I enlisted to be a part of something bigger than myself and to do something rewarding," said Middleton, an aviation resource manager.

Soon after her enlistment, Middleton deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, for four months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

"The deployment was not what I expected," Middleton said. "I didn't expect my contribution to affect the mission. I was mistaken – my job directly affected the mission. That made an impact on me."

In October 2013, she participated in another highly visible deployment when she supported the Coronet Oak mission in Puerto Rico.

Today, the Sparks resident is a full-time 192nd Airlift Squadron technician who spends many hours each month helping others. She cooks and serves meals at the Reno Gospel Mission monthly and volunteers at school assemblies and in a Head Start classroom. She also assists with The Evelyn Mount Community Outreach Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives. She is also nearing the completion of her bachelor's degree in communications at the University of Nevada, Reno. "I enjoy volunteering, giving back to the community and inspiring kids and adults," Middleton said. "You can succeed in life with hard work and dedication." ■



Photo courtesy 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs  
Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton received the 152nd Operations Group Commander's Award for Excellence in December and wrapped up 2013 as the Nevada Air Guard's Airman of the Year.



Photo by Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs.  
Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton, the Nevada Air Guard's 2013 Airman of the Year, works daily in the aviation resource management office for the 192nd Airlift Squadron.

# NEVADA GUARD MUSTANGS IMPROVE HORSE RESCUE SKILLS

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

**RENO** - In an emergency situation, a Nevada Army Guard Mustang could be a horse's best friend.

That notion was clear on April 25 here at the Army Aviation Support Facility during a horse rescue training session that included the 1/189th Ground Support Aviation Battalion (nicknamed the Mustangs), the Washoe County Regional Animal Services office and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. The event marked the first time a Nevada Army Guard helicopter participated in large-animal rescue training.

Throughout the day, Mustang 88, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, crewed by 1/189th Soldiers, worked with animal rescue crews hooking-up different sling harnesses containing horse mannequins to simulate real-life situations. Teams rotated until all were comfortable working under the helicopter.

The interagency training stemmed from the Pets Evacuation and Transportation act signed into law on October 6, 2006. The law requires each state to include animal rescue in its emergency plans.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency mandates every state and county include pet rescue in its emergency plan," said Berry Brode, the director of Washoe County Animal Services. "Here in northern Nevada, people have a lot of horses; therefore, we need to train in large-animal rescue techniques"

Although the WCAS staff trained for several days in other rescue techniques, the aviators completed their requisite training in one day.

"We are a last resort called in only in extreme circumstances," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Daniel Walters, an instructor pilot. "For Soldiers, this is similar to common long-line or sling-load training. But these civilian animal rescue workers need to experience what it is like operating under a helicopter."

"We conduct inter-agency training so that everyone recognizes each agency's respective capabilities and what we can do together," said Bobby Smith, the operational supervisor for Washoe County Animal Services. "The joint training with the Guard provides knowledge of each other's skill sets and allows us to conduct safety training when working with a helicopter."

The primary focus of the training was the safety of the human rescuers during a rescue.

"The safety of the people is more important than the safety of the animal," Brode said. "The importance of this training is to have certified personnel available if a horse requires rescue.

"If all other options have been exhausted, we will call for the Nevada National Guard or Nevada Department of Forestry to assist with the rescue. And those personnel will be familiar with the rescue techniques." ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs  
A Nevada Army Guard CH-47 Chinook Mustang 88 gives Lucky, a horse mannequin, a high-flying ride over the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead on April 25. The 1/189th Ground Support Aviation Battalion was one of three organizations participating in joint, large-animal rescue training alongside Washoe County Animal Services staff and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District firemen.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs  
Animal rescue students observe as Nevada Army Guard CH-47 Chinook Mustang 88 prepares to set down Lucky a horse mannequin, at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Stead on April 25. Soldiers in 1/189th Ground Support Aviation Battalion participated in the joint, large-animal rescue training with the Washoe County Animal Services office and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.

# Signal Soldier Montano earns Best Warrior title

By Spc. James Pierce  
106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO - A 22-year-old Soldier from the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Spc. Danny Montano, excelled in multiple events over four days to claim the Nevada Army Guard's Best Warrior Competition here in March at the Stead Training Site.

Montano, 22, of Las Vegas, defeated three other battalion Best Warrior champions to claim the title. He advanced to compete for the regional championship in May at Camp Williams, Utah. (The results from that competition are available at NevadaGuard.com.)

The state's First Sergeant and Non-commissioned Officer of the Year competitions were also held during the four-day annual event.

Sgt. Jose Ramirez, a combat engineer from the 609th Combat Engineer Company, won the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition. Like Montano, he advanced to the regional competition at Camp Williams in May.

First Sgt. Edward Franco, a Las Vegas resident assigned to Bravo Company, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, won the First Sergeant of the Year competition. Although contested in the Nevada Army Guard for the past 15 years, there is no regional competition for first sergeants.

Montano was glad to prove that signal Soldiers could excel in a competition that required many combat skills.

"For years, I wanted to compete in this competition so I can show what the 422nd is all about," said Montano, who is assigned to Charlie Company. "It took me two years to get into the Best Warrior competition and I'm proud.

"When I go to regionals, I hope to make the entire state proud, too."

Montano said the state competition was far more difficult than the preliminary battalion competition.

"This competition was a lot more aggressive and rigorous," Montano said. "You have the best Soldier from each battalion challenging you, making it more intense."



Photo by Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment  
Spc. Danny Montano of the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion plots out a land navigation route during the Nevada Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Stead Training Site in March. Montano won the competition.

Pfc. Steven Scheid of the 485th Military Police Company provided Montano's greatest challenge.

Scheid won the competition's first four events, but eventually suffered a hip injury during the land navigation event and withdrew from the competition. Scheid had taken an early lead by running the two-mile event of the Army physical fitness test in less than 13 minutes. Scheid also won the seven-mile ruck march event; Montano finished second.

Other events included a marksmanship contest and an appearance board.

Ramirez said he was surprised to win the NCO of the year competition.

"I was shocked," he said. "I just wanted to represent my unit well."

If Montano and Ramirez win their regional competition, they will advance to the Army National Guard Best Warrior competition in July at Camp Robinson, Ark., against the top Army National Guard Soldiers in the country.

Last year, Nevada's best soldier, Spc. Nathaniel Hill, of the 485th Military Police Company, placed third in the national competition.

"This year, we're hoping to get the national title," said State Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki. ■



*Pfc. Steven Scheid, a military policeman with the 485th Military Police Company, lead the ruck march event of the Nevada Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in March at the Stead Training Site.*  
*Photo by Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment*

*Photo by Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment*  
*Sgt. Austin Slate, a medic with 1/221st Calvary, performs a function check on a M2 .50 caliber machine gun during the Nevada Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition at the Stead Training Site in March.*



# BOOMING POPULARITY OF EOD JOBS LEADS TO SELECTIVITY, SPECIALIZED TRAINING

*Sgt. Telly Kidman of the 3665th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) practices disarming a simulated explosive device during preliminary military occupation specialty training at the Las Vegas Readiness Center. Although demanding and dangerous, the job of explosive ordnance disposal specialist remains attractive and popular among Nevada Army Guard Soldiers.*

*Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell,  
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

*By Sgt. Walter Lowell  
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

**LAS VEGAS** – When an announcement was released last year stating the Nevada Army Guard's 3665th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) was accepting Soldiers to fill its ranks, more than 70 candidates applied for a chance to become an explosive ordnance disposal specialist in the highly-selective unit.

The applicants' aptitude tests and backgrounds were then screened to ensure they had the academic skills and security clearance necessary to do the job.

Half didn't make the cut.

The unit's staff then tested the applicants' physical fitness and agility (while the candidate wore a bomb suit) and personally interviewed the remaining Soldiers.

By the end of the arduous process, less than 15 of the original 70 Soldiers earned a position in the 3665th.

Despite the fact the field of explosive ordnance disposal is a physically demanding and sometimes dangerous job, the military occupation of explosive ordnance disposal specialist (89D) remains one of the most sought-after occupations in the Nevada Guard.

In their occupation, EOD specialists perform duties locating, identifying, and disposing of all types of ordnance and bombs. They also conduct intelligence gathering operations

"It's not the easiest job and it's not for everybody," said Spc. Michael Pacheco, a team member in the 3665th. "But if someone likes challenges, and they are interested, the unit would welcome them on board."

Soldiers who earn slots with the 3665th then train with the unit's EOD qualified soldiers prior to attending their military occupation school. Only about 20 percent of the students enrolled in explosive ordnance disposal school graduate and attain the 89D MOS.

"The more EOD knowledge we can give the Soldiers in Nevada before they leave for the course increases their chance of succeeding when they get to school," said Capt. Nick Agle, the 3665th Ordnance Company commander.

The 3665th conducted preliminary training classes in March to prepare its soon-to-be students for school.

"Any type of familiarization or an association with the standards of training will definitely be critical for the success of the new EOD students at school," said Staff Sgt. Robert Blanco, a team leader with the 3665th. Blanco has eight years of explosive ordnance disposal experience and has completed three deployments.

Blanco said the EOD school's motto – "Initial success or total failure" – was fitting for an occupation that has no room for errors.

The 15 Soldiers who recently acquired positions in the 3665th come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have Nevada Guard experience as military policemen, truck drivers, communication specialists and combat engineers. Other Soldiers in the company include a prior-service Marine infantryman, a prior-service Army ammunition specialist, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas, ROTC cadet and a former Air Force captain who resigned his commission to join the exclusive EOD team.

Now a specialist, Caleb Campbell is the Airman who quit his job at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas to join the 3665th. He said he left his position in the health care field to pursue a more exciting military career.

Agle said the unit will work with local law enforcement and public safety agencies in the future. By working and training with local emergency personnel, the unit will improve its coordination and response with other agencies should the 3665th have to respond to a local threat, he said.

For information on becoming an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, call (702) 856-4960. ■

# Winnemucca Hero 2 Hired job fair links employers, reserve military job seekers

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

**WINNEMUCCA** - Within 15 minutes of arriving at the Hero 2 Hired job fair at the Nevada Army National Guard Armory here in March, Spc. Bobby Riley had already landed an interview with one company and had leads on two other jobs.

Riley, 27, a Soldier in the Nevada Army Guard's 593rd Transportation Company, was one of several dozen reserve-component military service members who participated in the first-ever Hero 2 Hired job fair in Winnemucca along with personnel representatives from eight organizations offering potential employment opportunities.

Hero 2 Hired is a Department of Defense program that links employers with job-seeking veterans and reserve-component military service members and their spouses via job fairs, internet job postings and social media. Heroes 2 Hired also provides advice on topics such as resume and portfolio building and interview techniques. Support for H2H is provided through the Department of Defense's Yellow Ribbon reintegration program.

Riley's background was typical of many of the job fair's attendees. After returning from Afghanistan following a deployment with the 593rd in April 2013, he landed a job in the mining industry. The mine subsequently closed, however, and Riley once again found himself seeking a job.

"For those in the reserve military, H2H is an amazing job resource," said Riley, who was interested in either a job as a mechanic or driver. "These job fairs are tailored for those in the military. I can tell the employers about my military occupation and they can match my skills with their job openings."

The Winnemucca job fair was the fourth in a series of H2H job fairs across the state this winter. Other fairs were held in Las Vegas, Reno and Elko.

According to Annie Emprima-Martin, the Department of Defense employment transition coordinator for Nevada, the job fairs have been especially effective in reducing unemployment in rural counties. In fact, she said the employment rate of Nevada Guardsmen in Elko County is 100 percent and in Humboldt County is nearly 100 percent.

"It's realistic we can reach 100 percent



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
Spc. Bobby Riley of the 593rd Transportation Company, right, discusses potential employment with Andrew Rodriguez, a Nevada Department of Transportation crew supervisor in the Winnemucca district. Riley and Rodriguez were two of dozens of job seekers and employers who participated in the first-ever Hero 2 Hired job fair in Winnemucca in March.

employment for Guardsmen in Humboldt County," Emprima-Martin said. "In Humboldt County, we can usually find a person a job with 2-3 hours of H2H assistance and phone calls. In comparison, it takes on average about 20 hours of assistance to land an individual a job in Las Vegas."

Emprima-Martin said the job fairs would continue in the future primarily to assist Post 9/11 veterans throughout Nevada. According to the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee, the unemployment rate for Post 9/11 Nevada veterans in 2012 was 22.6

percent, far higher than the national Post 9/11 rate of 9.9 percent.

Employers participating in the job fair included Allied Nevada, Barrick Gold Company, Newmont Mining Corporation, NV Energy, Wal-Mart and the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Winnemucca veterans or reserve military service members requesting job-search assistance can call (775) 625-8286. Reserve service members and their spouses as well as veterans in all other Nevada locations should call (702) 632-0519 for assistance. ■



# Nevada, Tonga Partner In The Spirit Of 'Fe Tokoni Aki'

Story and photos by Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga** - The Nevada National Guard and the Kingdom of Tonga marked the formation of the newest official relationship in the National Guard's State Partnership Program on April 11 with a formal signing ceremony here in the Tongan capital. The two parties vow, in Tongan, to 'Fe tokoni aki,' (help one another).

The State Partnership Program links a unique component of the Department of Defense – a state's National Guard – with the armed forces of a partner country in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship. The SPP was established in 1994 and, with the addition of the Nevada/Tonga partnership, now features 68 partnerships involving 74 nations around the world.

The SPP is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the adjutants general in support of combatant commanders and Department of Defense policy goals.

Comprised of over 170 islands, Tonga is located in the Pacific Ocean about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand. Tonga is governed by a constitutional hereditary monarchy and is home to more than 106,000 inhabitants whose income is derived from the services, industrial and agriculture sectors. Pacific-Islanders are the fifth-largest demographic in Nevada and account for about 1 percent of Nevada's population.

Staff Sgt. Malakai Niko of the 152nd Operations Support Squadron, one of the thousands of Tongans living in Nevada, said he was ecstatic about the partnership.

"I am very happy that, out of all the states, Nevada was awarded this partnership," Niko said. "I am very proud to be a Nevada Guardsman and Tongan and look forward to an opportunity to be part of an exchange between our two militaries."

Brig. Gen. Tau'aika 'Uta'atu, the commander of Tonga's armed forces, and Brig. Gen. Burks, the adjutant general for Nevada, signed the partnership agreement. Other attendees at the signing included Adm.



Brig. Gen. Tau'aika 'Uta'atu, left, the commander of Tonga's armed forces, and Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, sign the documents finalizing the State Partnership Program agreement between Tonga and the Nevada Guard during a signing ceremony at Armed Forces Headquarters in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, on April 11. The State Partnership Program now features 68 partnerships involving 74 nations around the world.

Samuel Locklear III, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, Maj. Gen. Donald McGregor, the National Guard Bureau's director of strategic policy, plans and international affairs, Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, the commander of the Nevada Army Guard and Brig. Gen. Ondra Berry, the assistant adjutant general of the Nevada Air Guard.

According to Burks, the Nevada Guard is an ideal partner for Tonga because of the Nevada Guard's diversity and unique mission capabilities that allow for robust military-to-military exchanges.

Also, with the end of the Iraq War and drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense is rebalancing military assets to increase readiness in the largest of its geographic areas, the Pacific Command. The shift in resources to the Pacific region created a new opportunity for the Nevada National Guard to gain its new strategic partner, Tonga.

"As one of the anchor tenants in the Oceania region, Tonga can inform us on matters of military significance as we shift our emphasis to the Pacific theater, Burks said.

"This partnership will create a shared sense of responsibility as we work together on security issues, humanitarian assistance and domestic response goals."

The Nevada-Tonga partnership was initially established when Locklear signed a preliminary agreement on Oct. 28, 2013.

The new partnership aims to conduct four to six exchanges a year to share information that both parties can implement in their respective regions.

Despite obvious topographical differences, the desert state of Nevada and the island nation of Tonga share many challenges and issues. Both Nevada and Tonga have large population concentrations separated by large tracts of uninhabited land that create challenges such as delivery of basic governmental services and humanitarian relief in the wake of a natural disaster. Tonga faced that exact challenge earlier this year when Cyclone Ian devastated the Ha'apai island group in January.

"Nevada and Tonga share the tyranny of distance," Burks said. "Nevada has a vast amount of land with small patches of water,



# Tonga

## TONGA

### Background:

The archipelagos of "The Friendly Islands."  
Tonga is the only monarchy in the Pacific.

**Location:** Oceania, and archipelago of 169 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand

**Area - total:** 747 sq km, **land:** 717 sq km, **water:** 30 sq km

**Area - comparative:** four times the size of Washington, D.C.

**Coastline:** 419 km

**Climate:** tropical; modified by trade winds; warm season (December to May), cool season (May to December)

**Terrain:** most islands have limestone base formed from uplifted coral formation; others have limestone overlying volcanic base

**Natural resources:** fish, fertile soil

**Natural hazards:** cyclones (October to April); earthquakes and volcanic activity on Fonuafo'ou

**Ethnic groups:** Polynesian, Europeans

**Languages:** Tongan (official), English (official)

**Religions:** Christian (Free Wesleyan Church claims over 30,000 adherents)

**Population:** 106,322 (July 2013 est.)

**Median age:** 21.8 years

– **Source:** CIA Factbook



Ceremonial rugby balls bearing the Nevada and Tonga flags were presented to Tongan leaders by Nevada Guard officials to commemorate the signing of the state partnership agreement between the two entities.

where Tonga has a vast amount of water with small patches of land. Both make security, infrastructure and the provision of goods and services a monumental task.”

Earthquakes and flooding are also threats to both Tonga and Nevada, Burks said. Drawing upon its past experience reacting to those types of disasters, the Nevada Guard is set to share its disaster response knowledge with the Tongan Defense Force.

“The Nevada Guard includes some incredible resources that allow the military to assist civilian authorities in time of need,” Burks said. “A symbiotic relationship of their resources and our capabilities will benefit both Tonga and Nevada.”

In addition to the mutual military interests, Nevada and Tonga share similar economic priorities.

Like Nevada, Tonga's economy is based on tourism and private sector growth, especially in renewable energy. According to the U.S. State Department, Tonga – just like Nevada – will invest heavily in tourism and renewable energy during the next decade.

“The priorities of Nevada and Tonga mirror each other,” said Maj. John Brownell, the Nevada Guard's State Partnership Program



From left, Brig. Gen. Ondra Berry, Brig. Gen. Mike Hanifan, Maj. Tevita Fifita, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Leota, Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki and Sgt. Maj. Tim Ngungutau tour the air wing at Talia Military Camp in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, on Apr. 10. Nevada Guard officials visited the island nation in April to finalize the State Partnership Program pact between Tonga and the Nevada Guard.

coordinator. “It made great sense to partner the two.”

Brownell said Tonga's military growth has been minimal after five years of budget cuts and the Tongan armed forces will likely rely on the partnership for information exchanges on

several topics, including non-commissioned officer development, legal, cyber and renewable-energy issues.

Nevada Guard and Tongan officials will now coordinate a timeline for future exchanges. ■

# National Guard uniform gives applicants vital edge at military academies

By Staff Sgt. Mike Getten  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**RENO** - A National Guard uniform or affiliation can give a Soldier or Airman or their dependent an edge when applying to one of the nation's military academies, said military admissions officers here April 5 during Academy Information Day at the University of Nevada, Reno.

According to Air Force Academy admissions officer Maj. Sean Madole, Guardsmen are eligible for 85 slots in the military academies allotted to reserve-component service members and their qualified dependants.

"If you are in the National Guard, meet the core requirements and have a high SAT or ACT score, you are a shoe-in for acceptance to a military academy," Madole said.

There are two primary ways for enlisted personnel to enter military academies, either via an academy preparatory school or direct appointment.

The United States has five military academies, including the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y. Those four academies can accept applications simultaneously and have similar requirements for admission, including a congressional or service-connected nomination.

Applicants to the Coast Guard Academy compete in a direct, nation-

wide competitive process that does not require a nomination.

Each of the schools is highly rated and offers a myriad of academic opportunities that can build a foundation for a successful military or civilian career.

"If you think you want to go to the academy, then you have to go for it," said Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, the Nevada Army Guard's commander and 1986 West Point graduate. "Make sure you do your preparatory work to ensure you get there. Quickly identify what your weaknesses are and prioritize improving those topics and subjects."

Madole noted that some slots reserved for service members go unfilled each year at the academies. To alleviate the unused slots, the Air Force created the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development Program to encourage commanders to nominate Airmen for the academy.

"It's a shame some seats go unoccupied because any commander, including myself, can nominate an Airman (or Soldier) at any time," said Lt. Col. Caesar Garduno, the commander of the 192nd Airlift Squadron and a 1989 Air Force Academy graduate who is now an academy interview committee member for Congressman Mark Amodei. "That nomination doesn't mean they will receive an appointment, but they could be well on their way."

To take advantage of one of the 85 reserved slots, Guardsman must obtain a commander's endorsement. It's also recommended they obtain a congressional nomination as well to ensure their final appointment to the academy.

"The prospective candidates should apply for every kind of nomination available, including all of the congressional delegates in their district," said Ken Gray, the senior field representative for Amodei. "Unless they are set on one academy in particular, an applicant can improve their chance of acceptance by applying to all of the schools."

Just like reserve force commanders, ROTC commanders can nominate college cadets. (JROTC commanders can also nominate top high school students.)

"Students participating in ROTC should seek a nomination from their commander, too," said retired Commander Stephen Schumacher, a Naval Academy representative at the information day. "Nominations are like raffle tickets: The more you have, the better your odds."

Service-affiliated nominations for the 85 slots are also available for the children of reserve component service members.

The core requirements for nomination are nearly identical for West Point and the Air Force Academy. The two-step application process consists of obtaining a nomination and securing an appointment. Although just two steps, the process requires thorough preparation and can be arduous.

"I was a junior in high school before I realized I wanted to attend West Point," Hanifan said. "Once I examined the requirements for the academy, I realized there were areas where I really needed some work."

"I hadn't held a lot of leadership positions, wasn't in ROTC and hadn't done much in sports. Those are all areas the admissions board



Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Caesar Garduno, 192nd Airlift Squadron Commander  
Cadet Caesar Garduno, center, poses for a photo with his sister Aravel Garduno and father George Garduno prior to his graduation from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on May 31, 1989.

scrutinizes. So I realized I needed to up my game.”

Applicants are advised to meet with their local area liaison officer early in the process. Most of the application information is available on-line; visit the respective school’s web site and check the admissions section.

“Every applicant should locate their academy liaison officer early. They can and will help with the application process,” Garduno said.

Qualified applicants should obtain a recommendation from their unit commander or a higher-ranking officer in their chain of command. The exact form for the Air Force Academy is USAF form 1786 and for West Point is USMA form 351-12. Both are found on the school’s web pages.

Active duty and reserve component Soldiers and Airman can apply to the academies’ preparatory schools directly. Civilian students must be selected by the admissions team to enroll.

“When I was at the academy, all of the prior service cadets I knew went to the prep school.” Hanifan said. “They were better prepared than most of us who attended right out of high school. Their military background combined with the prep school definitely gave them an edge.”

The first part of the application process is a pre-screening to determine if potential cadets meet the requirements and will be competitive in pursuing an appointment.

During the second phase of the process, applicants provide information concerning their extracurricular activities, physical fitness scores and medical readiness.

“Prospective applicants should take and excel in all of their courses, even if they are just remotely thinking about applying at an academy,” Garduno said. “Become physically fit and get involved with extracurricular activities where leadership can be exercised. Those types of activities are looked at very closely and a prospective student has to be well-rounded.”

Both alumni said preparation and timeliness was important in the application process. The academies won’t accept an application until an applicant is in his or her junior year, but there are a number of early steps an academy hopeful - even one already in a uniform - can take to improve their chance for acceptance.

“The best advice I can give someone in uniform who is thinking



Photo courtesy Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, the Nevada Army National Guard commander. Cadet Michael Hanifan, center, poses with his parents, Starlene Hanifan and John Hanifan at the United States Military Academy on graduation day 1986.

about applying is to take as many college courses as you can,” Hanifan said. “Strengthen your study habits; take an ACT/SAT preparatory course and improve your weaknesses.

“With the educational opportunities the National Guard offers, including its tuition assistance and waiver programs, I recommend taking as many classes as possible.”

“If you are serious about applying to an academy, I would start thinking about the application process as a high school freshman or even earlier,” Garduno said.

Hanifan said the education he acquired from West Point helped him develop as a person and leader.

“The experience I gained at West Point absolutely helped me to become a better person,” Hanifan said. “I believe a Soldier can become a good officer regardless which college they attended.

“But for me, the academy experience taught me to handle stress at a young age and provided me an edge when I was a lieutenant. My West Point experience provided me a foundation in leadership as well as academics.” ■

## CONTACTS

### SERVICE ACADEMY ADMISSIONS REPRESENTATIVES

Military Academy, West Point  
<http://www.westpoint.edu>

Leah Scherr  
 (702) 493-6179  
 (702) 493-6179  
[leahcscherr@gmail.com](mailto:leahcscherr@gmail.com)

Lawrence Geist  
 (775) 787-7703  
 (775) 233-9808  
[larryandbarbara@earthlink.net](mailto:larryandbarbara@earthlink.net)

Air Force Academy  
<http://www.usafa.edu>

Brent Zicarelli  
 (775) 842-0869  
[zicarelli@charter.net](mailto:zicarelli@charter.net)

Sean Madole  
 (775) 772-9888  
[smadole@valleyhoe.com](mailto:smadole@valleyhoe.com)

Naval Academy  
<http://www.usna.edu>

Steve Schumacher  
 (775) 851-3409  
 (775) 813-3032  
[bigshoenv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bigshoenv@sbcglobal.net)

Merchant Marine Academy  
<http://www.usmma.edu>

Jerry Gilmore  
[gilmorerus@hotmail.com](mailto:gilmorerus@hotmail.com)

Coast Guard Academy  
<http://www.cga.edu>

Richard Manning  
 (775) 329-3241  
[uscga65@gmail.com](mailto:uscga65@gmail.com)

### CONGRESSIONAL MILITARY COORDINATORS

Sen. Harry Reid’s Office  
 Justin Brandenburg  
 (775) 686-5750

Sen. Dean Heller’s Office  
 Andrew Lingenfelter  
 (775) 686-5770

Rep. Mark Amodei’s Office  
 Ken Gray  
 (775) 686-5760  
[Ken.gray@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ken.gray@mail.house.gov)

Rep. Dina Titus’s Office  
 (702) 220-9823

Rep. Joe Heck’s Office  
 (702) 387-4941

Rep. Steven Horsford’s Office  
 Beatriz Martinez  
 (702) 802-4500

# Historic emigrant trails, Nevada Guard intersect at Elko County Readiness Center



A wagon train prepares to travel the Carlin Canyon on its way to California in 1849.

Photo courtesy California Trail Interpretive Center

Thousands of emigrants traveled to California during the Gold Rush via trails that crossed over what is now Nevada Guard property.

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

**CARLIN** - The course of the nation's Manifest Destiny and the Nevada National Guard meet here at the Elko County Readiness Center.

Two major emigrant routes, the California Trail and one option of the Greenhorn Cutoff Trail, intersect near the entrance of the Nevada Guard's 460-acre facility in this small city of 3,000 residents about 20 miles west of Elko, Nev. The Greenhorn Cutoff bisects the Nevada Guard's land vertically alongside Dry Susie Creek before it rejoins the California Trail just south of the readiness center.

"Reaching the intersection of the two trails would have marked a significant milestone for the emigrants – they had navigated the difficult Carlin Canyon area," said Jan Petersen, a historian at the California Trail Interpretive Center. "But they still had the 40-mile desert and Sierra Nevada ahead of them."

Obtained by the Nevada Army Guard in April 2013, the Elko County Readiness Center houses a detachment of the 593rd Transportation Company and is located just north of the Humboldt River about two miles east of downtown Carlin. The 2,000-mile long California Trail, which began at the Missouri River and terminated in northern California, followed the Humboldt River corridor for about 300 miles in Nevada. (Today, Interstate 80 roughly traces much of the emigrant route.)

Spurred by Manifest Destiny – a prevalent belief at the time that Americans were destined to settle throughout the continent – and dreams of striking it rich in the California Gold Rush, more than 200,000 emigrants headed west along the California Trail from 1849-1853, according to author Richard Brock. Thousands of travelers, including 39 in the infamous Donner Party, never reached their destination on the taxing trail.

The Greenhorn Cutoff was actually an alternate route around Carlin Canyon that allowed emigrants to bypass the four arduous crossings of the Humboldt River required on the main California Trail. The crossings were especially difficult and dangerous during high-water years. The cutoff began near Hunter Exit 292 on I-80 and wound north around

Carlin Canyon before turning south alongside Dry Susie Creek to reconnect with the main California Trail.

Contrary to its derisive name, the Greenhorn Cutoff was actually several miles longer than the main trail and had its disadvantages, including the fact it was more mountainous and drier than the main trail.

"We had taken what is called the 'Greenhorn Cut-off,' which required 15 miles of travel to gain six miles on our journey," wrote emigrant Margaret Fink in her diary on July 25, 1850, much to her chagrin.

The route alongside Dry Susie Creek on Nevada Guard property was just one of several Greenhorn Cutoff options emigrants had when traveling the California Trail.

Evidence of the California Trail near the Elko County Readiness Center main gate is either paved over or was graded away to level the ground for the eight buildings that stand on the south end of the property. From the mid-1990s to 2013, the facility served as the University of Nevada, Reno, Fire Science Academy. (The exact intersection of the two trails is likely under I-80.)

On the north side of the readiness center property, however, the swales created by wagons on the Greenhorn Cutoff are still visible. Not as well-defined as the parallel wagon ruts seen elsewhere on the California Trail, the swales are eroded routes of passage found in sandy soil.

"The bowed-depression appearance of the trails alongside Dry Susie Creek is a common feature of wagon swales," Petersen said. "These swales have not been certified by the National Park Service, but it's very likely these swales are visible remnants of the Greenhorn Trail."

To view the swales, visitors should drive north on the main utility road on the readiness center until reaching the north perimeter fence. After parking, walk south with Dry Susie Creek on the right and the utility road on the left; the north-to-south swales will become apparent between the swaths of sagebrush. Carry proper identification to enter the readiness center property.

Traffic on the California Trail remained heavy through the 1860s and then decreased abruptly with the completion of the transcontinental railroad.



Map by Chief Warrant Officer 2 Roy Hellen, Facilities Management Office  
 One option of the Greenhorn Cut-off Trail runs alongside Dry Susie Creek and bisects the Nevada Army Guard's Elko County Readiness Center in Carlin before rejoining the main California Trail. The intersection of the two trails is likely beneath Interstate 80.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
 Jan Petersen, a historian from the California Trail Interpretive Center, points out likely wagon swales at the Elko County Readiness Center in Carlin.

The final spike of the railroad was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869. Overnight, the cross country travel time from coast to coast was reduced from months to just days.

Petersen said the majority of emigrants were lured to the Golden State in the late 1840s and early 1850s by the exaggerated stories that circulated in the eastern United States claiming one only had to reach California to become rich by bending over and scooping gold nuggets off the ground. Although many emigrants did enjoy success in California, few struck it rich prospecting for gold.

Ironically, Petersen noted, the emigrants were close to more gold than they could have imagined while traversing Carlin Canyon. According to the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority, the area surrounding Carlin and Elko is now the largest gold-producing area in North America.

"Although no one realized it until the 1960s, the emigrants were walking across the region with the most gold in the United States right here in northeastern Nevada while on their way to California," Petersen said. ■

## Trail center focal point for exploring, learning

Located just six miles east of the Elko County Readiness Center, the California Trail Interpretive Center gives northeastern Nevada residents and visitors a convenient – and free – opportunity to learn about life on emigrant trails in the 1860s. The center is operated by the Elko District of the Bureau of Land Management and is located just off I-80 at Hunter Exit 292.

Less than a decade old, Congress funded the center to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in settling the western portion of the United States.

Visitors to the center can experience multimedia exhibits, life-size dioramas and video productions. They can hike trails, attend interpretive programs, and learn from the center's staff. The goal of the center is to increase visitors' knowledge surrounding what is one of the most formative events in American history: westward expansion.

For information, call (775) 738-1849.

–California Trail Interpretive Center



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka  
 A sculpture by Benjamin Victor representing the first women to inhabit the Humboldt Valley welcomes visitors to the California Interpretive Trail Center near Carlin. The center gives northeastern Nevada residents and visitors a convenient – and free – opportunity to learn about life on emigrant trails in the 1860s.

## NEVADA'S COMBAT FALLEN MEMORIALIZED AT GUARD HEADQUARTERS

By Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**CARSON CITY** - Attendees at the Survivor Outreach Services' dedication of the Nevada Fallen Banner at the Office of the Adjutant General in February had admittedly mixed emotions when a 15-foot high banner with the names and faces of the 56 Nevadans who have died in combat since Sept. 11, 2001, was unveiled.

The banner commemorates every Nevadan who has died in combat since 2001 regardless of military branch and includes Nevada Army Guardsmen Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Flynn, Sgt. Patrick Stewart and Spc. Anthony Cometa.

Several Nevada Guard senior leaders including Brig. Gen. Bill Burks, the Adjutant General, participated in the event to honor the fallen service members and personally thank families for their sacrifices.

"I sincerely hope that, at the war's end, we don't need to add anyone to this banner," Burks said.

The banner was first displayed at the 2012



Photo by Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Callanan unveils a 15-foot high banner at the Nevada's Fallen dedication in February at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City.

Nevada Day Parade and subsequently on the floor of the Nevada Legislature during its 2013 session. Sen. James Settelmeyer of Minden was instrumental in securing the banner for retired Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Callanan, now the Survivor Outreach Service coordinator who organized and hosted the ceremony. Other organizations sponsoring and coordinating the event included: Blue Star Mothers, the Association of the United States Army, P.J. DeGross and American Legion Post 56, and the Nevada National Guard. ■

## POPULARITY OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN REMAINS SKY HIGH



Photo by Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Two original Tuskegee Airmen, retired Army Air Corps Lt. Cols. Robert Ashby and Theodore Lumpkin, deliver a message of self-confidence and perseverance to Traner Middle School students in February. In addition to speaking at Traner, Ashby and Lumpkin were in Reno to formally announce the creation of the George W. Porter Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

See story, Page 27

## GOV. HOSTS, RECOGNIZES EMPLOYERS AT INAUGURAL ESGR EXECUTIVE EVENT

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

**CARSON CITY** - Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval hosted the state's first Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Executive Breakfast at the historic Governor's Mansion here in the capital city on April 2.

Sandoval hosted the event to recognize the support and commitment of the state's employers and executives, including his own legislative executive branch, for the Silver State's National Guard and reserve-military employees.

The event began with Sandoval receiving the ESGR Seven Seals Award for his leadership and support of the citizen-Soldiers who serve in the Nevada National Guard.

"I want to make Nevada the most military- and Veteran-friendly state in the nation," Sandoval said.

Subsequent speakers included ESGR executive director Ron Young, a staff advisor to the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, and Brig. Gen. William Burks, the Adjutant General for Nevada.

Young commended Sandoval's goal of making Nevada the most military-friendly state in the nation.

"The competition is steep, but Nevada is in the running," Young said.

MGM Resorts International was recognized with one of the event's most prestigious awards when it received the Secretary of Defense's Extraordinary Employer Support Award. The award recognizes sustained employer support of the National Guard and reserve-component military service.

MGM Resorts provides eligible employees with supplemental pay and benefits during a combat tour for a declared military action. The company continues all benefits coverage for employees who take a Military Leave of Absence. This applies to medical, dental and vision for the employee and his/her dependents. Employees have the ability to opt out of benefits coverage after the first 30 days of military leave from their jobs.

Seventeen of Nevada's most visible executives received the ESGR Patriot Award for both their organization's and their individual support of reserve-component military participation.

The executives and employers who were recognized with Patriot Awards included:

- Phyliss James, MGM Resorts International
- Eric Butterfield, Bently Nevada
- Pedro Martinez, Washoe County School District
- Jim Wright, Nevada Department of Public Safety

- Maj. Brian Sanchez, Nevada Highway Patrol
- Paul Caudill, NV Energy
- Kara Matthew, Dwayne Davis and Amy Whallin, International Game Technology
- Steve Pitts, Reno Police Department
- John Billenwater, Lyon County Fire Protection District
- Joseph Reynolds, Nevada Office of the Attorney General
- Debra Moreno, Veterans Administration
- Sierra Nevada Healthcare System
- Mark Evatz, Newmont Mining
- Mark Feest, Washoe County School District
- Steve Lawson, Allied Nevada Gold
- Jack McMahon, Waterton Global Mining
- Darrin Price and Jennifer Merritt, Sun Valley General Improvement District
- Linda Rigdon, East Fork Swimming Pool District
- Chief Justin Roper, Reno Marshal Division

Other dignitaries attending the executive event included Sparks Mayor Gino Martini, Carson City Mayor Robert Crowell and Reno City Manager Andrew Clinger.

The event concluded with all of the executives, including Sandoval, signing a pledge affirming their continued support of the reserve components of the military. ■

# Former Warfare Center advisor Reiss new 232nd Operations Squadron commander

By Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

**CREECH AIR FORCE BASE** - Lt. Col. Walter Reiss III, formerly an advisor to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center, became the third commander in the history of the Nevada Air Guard's 232nd Operations Squadron when he received the flag of command for the unit here in a ceremony in March.

Reiss, 44, succeeded Lt. Col. Warren Rapp as the commander of the only classic associate unit in the Nevada Air Guard. In the Air Force's classic associate program, an active duty Air Force unit retains principle responsibility for a system and shares the equipment with reserve component units. The 232nd, which includes about 60 Airmen, is heavily integrated with nine active-duty squadrons in southern Nevada in the unmanned aerial systems mission field.

Reiss, a Las Vegas resident, graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1993 with a bachelor's in engineering mechanics. He joined the Nevada Guard in 2006 after serving as an active duty KC-135, Predator and Reaper pilot.

For the past two years, Reiss served as the Nevada Air Guard's advisor to the commander of the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base on matters pertaining to the Nevada Air Guard's resources and activities.

Reiss, who is married and has two daughters, accepted his command with humility and said his focus was on the future.

"I thank the Nevada Guard's leadership for the faith and confidence they've displayed in me with the honor and privilege of command," Reiss said. "I will continue to evolve with our active duty hosts to provide the best support for our combat forces abroad and our civil authorities here at home."

Reiss said he will use his experience as an advisor to the U.S. Air Force to further the Air Force's total force initiative and sustain the Nevada Guard's relevance in global and domestic operations

"My operational experience and the knowledge I've acquired through organizational interactions will add to the creation, maintenance and improvement of relationships



Photo by Maj. Dennis Fournier  
Lt. Col. Walter Reiss III, center, accepts command of the 232nd Operations Squadron from Brig. Gen. Davis Snyder, left, at Creech Air Force Base in March while Lt. Col. Warren Rapp, right, views the transfer of the unit's flag of command. Reiss, a 1993 Air Force Academy graduate, was formerly an advisor to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center on issues related to total force integration and civil aviation activities.

that will benefit the Nevada Guard in the future," Reiss said.

Brig. Gen. David Snyder, the commander of the Nevada Air Guard, presided over the ceremony and praised the leadership of Rapp

Reiss as we further integrate with our active duty partners."

Rapp, 46, of Las Vegas, was thankful for his command opportunity and praised the members of the 232nd for their service. Until it was activated as a squadron in 2007, the unit was known as Detachment 1.

"I have the utmost confidence I am handing off a combat-tested, mission-ready squadron of the finest people with whom I have ever had the privilege of serving," Rapp said, noting the squadron is one of the busiest in the Nevada Air Guard.

The ceremony also marked the retirement of Rapp from military after almost 27 years of active duty service, including nine years with the Marine Corps.

Rapp thanked his wife and four children for their patience and support throughout his career. He also thanked the Guard officials who fought to keep him in the military despite his battle with leukemia in 2000. ■

**"My operational experience and the knowledge I've acquired through organizational interactions will add to the creation, maintenance and improvement of relationships that will benefit the Nevada Guard in the future."**

**Lt. Col. Walter Reiss III**

as well as encouraged Reiss during his comments.

"Lt. Col. Rapp established and maintained relationships critical to the success of the classic associate structure and created an identity for the 232nd that each Airman can be proud of," Snyder said. "I look forward to the continued vitality of the 232nd under Lt. Col.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

*Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Joint Force Headquarters*



# Social Media: lapse of judgment could lead to decades of regret

Usually, there is time afforded to remedy just about any personal situation in the military.

Weigh too much? You'll be given some time to shed some pounds.

Can't run fast enough on your physical fitness test? You'll receive a few weeks for training before the next test.

Receive a poor evaluation? Now you've got a whole year to improve your performance.

But in the case of social media postings, there's no time or opportunity for a second chance to fix your mistake. The posting that took seconds to complete may now affect you for decades. You can't get your post back, so carefully consider what will soon be seen – or potentially seen – by all.

Consider the case of the Wisconsin Army Guard Soldier who posted an inappropriate photo of military funeral training that went viral in February. No matter her intent when initially posting the photo, her reputation and judgment will remain in question for the rest of her military career.

The ease and accessibility of social media is revolutionary, especially for curmudgeonly sergeants who once developed half-tone images and measured article length in inches for week-old news. The rapid, widespread broadcast of information, opinion and ideas has never been more convenient.

That ease and convenience can just as easily lead to – often regrettable – lapses in judgment. The public affairs staff urges all to be responsible and use your best judgment when pondering your next post. Consider the following.

**Does the post affect operational security?** Be careful about the details you share on the internet. You may want dozens of people to come out and welcome your spouse home from deployment, but you also compromise the security of dozens of troops at the same time.

**Does the post contain offensive material?** The public affairs office cannot help you once you are slapped with a libel or slander suit. The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS 412) say the Nevada Guard has jurisdiction over its members at all times, so it's probably best to refrain posting any comment or opinion that could be construed as defamatory or disrespectful, especially comment opining on the chain of command.

There are dozens of other situations when it's probably best to skip a post. If in doubt, refer to the Air Force or Army Social Media Handbook or call the public affairs office at (775) 887-7250. We can discuss whether your proposed post is profound and witty or just downright inappropriate and uncouth. Ultimately, you bear the sole responsibility for your posts!

### SOCIAL MEDIA POSTING TIPS:

- No Classified Information
- Avoid the Offensive
- Use Best Judgment
- Don't Violate Copyrights
- Don't Misuse Trademarks
- Don't Violate Privacy
- Don't Misuse Affiliations
- Be Cautious

**LET'S BE FRIENDS:** The public affairs office is not the social media police. However, if your Nevada Guard-related unit or organization has established its own Facebook page or Twitter account, we'd like to Friend or Follow your site or account. We keep tabs on the events activities of many Nevada Guard units via their Facebook pages and Twitter accounts and, ostensibly, would like to follow all of the established sites and accounts.

If your site is not already registered with the Army or Air Force, the public affairs office can help make it 'official.' For assistance, call

(775) 887-7250 or send us a message via the Nevada Guard's official Facebook site at [www.facebook.com/NevadaNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/NevadaNationalGuard).



## SILVER STATE INDUSTRIES

**NEW PARTNERS:** You may notice a few subtle cosmetic changes in this issue of Battle Born. It's due to the fact the Nevada Guard is now collaborating with a new designer and printer to produce the magazine. We appreciate all of the assistance AQP Publishing gave us the past seven years and now look forward to working with Silver State Industries for many years.

The most noticeable change in the magazine is that it no longer contains advertisements. This promises to give us more space to cover the events and activities of the Nevada Guard.

It's no secret that all print magazines, including Battle Born, struggle to avoid extinction in today's on-line world. We trust our new relationship with Silver State Industries will allow us to produce a quality product that remains a great price: FREE!

As always, Battle Born welcomes your submissions, article ideas and letters to the editor.

If you are interested in journalism, photography, videography or media relations, consider becoming a Unit Public Affairs Representative. As a UPAR, you can broadcast the news surrounding your unit and also assist your commander in basic public affairs operations.

It's easy to become a UPAR with the completion of an on-line course. For information, call (775) 887-7250. ■

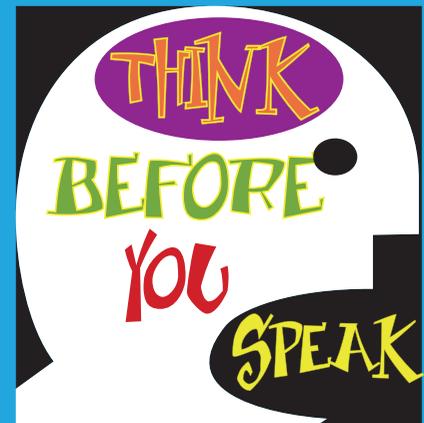
**For breaking Nevada Guard news, visit [www.nevadaguard.com](http://www.nevadaguard.com).**



*SOCIAL MEDIA  
DOESN'T  
FIX ANYTHING.  
IT JUST  
AMPLIFIES THINGS.*

# SMR 20/20/20 SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY

**Think** for **20** seconds; Will **you** regret  
your post in **20** days? Because it will still be  
there in **20** years....



Soldiers and Airmen can cause permanent damage to careers and credibility in just seconds with a lack of social media responsibility. Ponder what you are set to post and ensure it falls within social media guidelines. Call the public affairs office at (775) 887-7250 with any questions surrounding Facebook, Twitter and other social media tools.

## NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

2460 FAIRVIEW LANE  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA  
89701  
(775) 887-7250

<http://www.nv.ngb.army.mil/nvng/index.cfm/public-affairs>

# UNDERDOG BIATHLON TEAM MATCHES TOP RESULT IN TEAM HISTORY

*Staff reports*

**JERICHO, Vt.** – Entering the Chief of the National Guard Biathlon Championships here in March, one might have expected the Nevada Guard's biathlon team to be about as competitive as Jamaica's Olympic bobsled team considering the Silver State has no Nordic ski facilities or biathlon ranges.

But the determined Nevada skiers dogged the National Guard's top Nordic states throughout the four-race competition and matched the state's best result in the 39-year history of the championships with its fifth-place finish in the 15-kilometer military patrol event.

The team, which finished the 9.3-mile course in 59 minutes, 38 seconds, included Lt. Col. Julie Dietrich, Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka, Sgt. Craig Kenison and Sgt. John Koch. That result tied the Nevada Guard's 2010 military patrol race squad for best result in Nevada Guard history.

"We put everything together in military patrol race – both our skiing and marksmanship," said team coach Master Sgt. Shane Jensen. "We skied stride-for-stride with the top states and hit every target. We had some of the dominant biathlon states looking over their shoulder worried about a team from the desert."

The host Vermont Guard team eventually prevailed and won the gold medal in the military patrol race. North Dakota was second and Minnesota took the bronze. Alaska beat Nevada to the finish by just 2 minutes to place fourth. A total of 21 teams competed in the race, including a composite team of Nevada and Rhode Island skiers that finished in 14th place.

Individually, Kenison was Nevada's top performer with his 17th place finish in the two-day pursuit event. Starting the pursuit in 26th place following a sub-par sprint race, Kenison climbed nine places in the standings by hitting 13 targets and recording one of the fastest ski times of the day. He completed the 12.5-kilometer course in 52:47.

"Unarguably, Kenison has developed into the best biathlon athlete in Nevada Guard history," Jensen said. "If he was not set to deploy, he would probably be invited to participate in high-level national and international events next winter."



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shane Jensen, Joint Force Headquarters*  
Sgt. Craig Kenison of the 609th Engineer Company glides out of the biathlon range during the Chief of the National Guard Biathlon Championships in Jericho, Vt., in March. Kenison led the Nevada Guard biathlon team to its fifth-place finish in the military patrol race, which matched the team's top result in the 39-year history of the championships.

Kenison, 28, a Reno resident, is a Sapper with the 609th Engineer Company in Fallon who began his skiing career as a downhill on the slopes of Squaw Valley.

"I seemed to get stronger with each event as the week progressed," Kenison said. "By the end of the week my shooting was on target and my skis were fast. I'll look forward to returning to Vermont in two years and see if I can continue to improve."

Other individual results from the pursuit included Koch (48th), Studenicka (51st), Staff Sgt. Bill Raitter (57th), 1st Lt. Alex Stackhouse (58th) and Spc. Lars Nielson (59th). Koch and Neilson are in the 609th Engineer

Company; Dietrich and Raitter are in the 152nd Airlift Wing in Reno; Jensen and Studenicka are in Joint Force Headquarters in Carson City; and Stackhouse is in the 593rd Transportation Company based in Reno.

The Nevada squad came back to Earth during the competition's final event, the 4x7.5-kilometer relay, when it could only muster a 10th-place finish.

The eight-person Nevada Guard team was the state's largest delegation sent to the championships in the past decade.

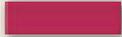
All Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen are eligible to participate in biathlon. Call (775) 887-7250 for information. ■



# AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

*Moving Up and Moving On • January, February, March 2014*

## Legion of Merit



SGM Ronald Morse . . . . .

## Meritorious Service Medal



CPT Jonathan Ashbaugh . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
1SG Richard Deutch . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
COL Zachary Doser . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
MSG Vincent Girolami . . . . . 92nd Civil Spt Team  
SFC Ricardo Hart . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
LTC John Krueger . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
MAJ Neil Oscarson . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
MSG Leon Perez . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
1SG Jason Shipp . . . . . 421st RTI  
MAJ Nicholas Soapes . . . . . HHT, 1/221 Cavalry  
MSG Live Tau . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
Col Barbara Morrow . . . . . 152nd Mission Spt Grp  
Col David Sullivan . . . . . HQ NVANG  
Lt Col David Manson . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing  
Lt Col Joann Meacham . . . . . 152nd Mission Spt Grp  
Lt Col Warren Rapp . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn  
Maj April Conway . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
Capt Jami Cavins . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
CMSgt William Moore . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing  
CMSgt Billie Sexton . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
MSgt Richard Hays . . . . . 152nd Communications Flt

## Aerial Achievement Medal



SMSgt David Clarke . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn

## Army Commendation Medal



CW5 James Baumann . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
SFC Timothy Beghtol . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
CPT Laura Boldry . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
LTC Alvin Bolton . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
CW2 Tanya Leonard . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
CW2 Erick Willrich . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
CW4 Christopher Wolfe . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG

## Air Force Commendation Medal



Maj Evan Kirkwood . . . . . 152nd Ops Spt Sqdn  
Capt Joseph Jaquish . . . . . 152nd Ops Spt Sqdn  
1Lt Lee Wilson . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
CMSgt Timothy Broadway . . . . . 152nd Operations Grp  
MSgt Richard Brant . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
MSgt Lewis Roberts . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
TSgt April Apo . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
TSgt Rexford Barton . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
TSgt Philip Harris . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
TSgt Nathaniel Steiner . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
SSgt Anthony Haley . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SSgt Rebecca Higgins . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing  
SSgt Logan Ingersoll . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

## Air Force Achievement Medal



SMSgt Angela Ash . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing  
MSgt Tracy Woodfolk . . . . . 152nd Airlift Wing  
TSgt Sherdean Brisendine . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
SSgt Desaree Viera . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
SrA Douglas Delperto . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
SrA Michael Johnson . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
SrA Jeffrey Stelle . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

## Order of Nevada



Brig Gen Ondra Berry . . . . . HQ NVANG  
CMSgt Billie Sexton . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

## Nevada Distinguished Service Medal



Lt Col Glen Martel . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Lt Col Warren Rapp . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqdn

## Nevada Medal of Merit



CMSgt Robert Taulman . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SMSgt Jeffrey Goldsworthy . . . . . 192 Airlift Sqdn  
MSgt Yantzy Arnell . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
MSgt Ryan Branch . . . . . 152nd Ops Spt Flt  
MSgt Kenneth Dupree . . . . . HQ NVANG  
MSgt Pamela Kimberlin . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
MSgt Michael Smith . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
TSgt April Apo . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
TSgt Elliroy Defiesta . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
TSgt Michael Faulkenberry . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
TSgt Ryan Hysell . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
TSgt Mark Lediard . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SSgt Anthony Haley . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SSgt Gregory Hovore . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn

## Nevada State Commendation Medal



SGT Justin Banfield . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Lt Col Beth Boschee . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Maj Jared Brandt . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Maj Rachel Creger . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Maj David Thomas . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Brock Boscovich . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Lawrence Chappell . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Lori knuf . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Rimando Poyaoan . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Anna Thorburn . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Capt Daniel Watterson . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
1Lt Amanda Brothwell . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
1Lt Rachel Larson . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
1Lt Michael Reed . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
1Lt Megan Winkle . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
2Lt Rebecca Gilbert . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
CMSgt James Morgan . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
MSgt Jason Farsworth . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
MSgt Ian McEwen . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
TSgt William Boekenoogen . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

TSgt Demurtis Brown . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
TSgt Mark Creger . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
TSgt Randolph Isgriggs . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
TSgt Joseph Pratt . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
TSgt Angie Rincon . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SSgt Cecil Levy . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
SSgt Terry Nottingham . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SSgt Dion Richardson . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SSgt Brandy Vaughn . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Christopher Adams . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SrA Nephthali Barrera . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Elloitt Canada . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SrA Jose Gutierrez-Miranda . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SrA Devan Hedgorth . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SrA Kristen Hill . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Jannah Kapczynski . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Joshua Noles . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Melissa Turner . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
SrA Chelsea Ureta . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SrA Jonathan Vanegen . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
A1C Tanner Clark . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Khasity Cronin . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Ivan Delgrego . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Tyler Givani . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Janalee Morris . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Daniel Regalado . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Justin Schilling . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Yolanda Torres . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Edgar Trujillo-Dominguez . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Melissa Womack . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
A1C Kelsea Wuester . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

## Nevada Outstanding Airman Ribbon



MSgt Yantzy Arnell . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
TSgt Christopher Bernard . . . . . 152nd Ops Spt Sqdn  
A1C Rita Middleton . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn

## Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



PFC Jeffrey Flores . . . . . HHT, 1/221 Cavalry  
PV1 David Jensen . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
SGT Craig Kenison . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
SGT John Koch . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
PV2 Matthew Martin . . . . . 422D ESB, CO B  
SSG Nathan Schertel . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
PFC Brandon Thomas . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
SPC Jessica Weaver . . . . . 593rd Trans Co

## Nevada First Sergeant Ribbon



MSgt Daniel Baraz . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

## Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



MSgt Daniel Baraz . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqdn  
SSgt John Lopez . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn

# PROMOTIONS

## LTC/Lt Col

Thomas Funk . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn

## MAJ/Maj

Frank Magee . . . . . 152nd Ops Spt Sqdn  
Christopher Solberg . . . . . HQ NVANG  
Scott Sosebee . . . . . 152nd Airlift Sqdn

## CPT/Capt

Carly Durham . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Dimitrius Kassebaum . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp

## 1LT/1st Lt

Joseph Casey . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
John Dekoning . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Miles Mcguire . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
James Rainwater . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Doyle Sannicolas . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
Derrick Tang . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav

## WO1

Cody Gamble . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
Domenic Veneziano . . . . . 150th Maint Co

## SGM/CMSgt

Gregory Bartlett . . . . . 152nd Communications Flt  
Craig Madole . . . . . HQ NVANG

## 1SG/MSG/SMSGt

Rommie Brown . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn  
Reuben Telles . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn

## SFC/MSgt

Gurpreet Bhambra . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqdn  
William Boekenoogen . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Ryan Branch . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp  
Mark Creger . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
Timothy Daniels . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Kenneth DuPree II . . . . . HQ NVANG  
Joshua Rogers . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
Michael Sekerak . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp  
Paul Torrianni . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Pak Castillo . . . . . 421st RTI  
Tresa Currie . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Nicholas Scobert . . . . . 3/140th Aviation Det

## SSG/TSgt

Jonathan Hart . . . . . Det 45 OSA  
Zachary Heskett . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Matthew Koepke . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret  
Nicole Quagge . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Paul Welch . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
William Boekenoogen . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Katie Cromeenes . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

## SSG/TSgt

Tara Richards . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Neil Robertson . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Desaree Viera . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn

## SGT/SSgt

Jennifer Arthurholtz . . . . . NVARNG Rec/Ret  
Anthony Castagnola . . . . . L Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Gabriel Chroust . . . . . K Troop, 1/221st Cav  
Linda Nelson . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
Darian Parker . . . . . HHD, 991st Aviation Trp Cmd  
Arthur Salaices . . . . . IV 1/189th Aviation Co  
Cole Sonnemann . . . . . 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn  
Wen Wei . . . . . 1/189th Aviation Co  
Hank Burns . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Ryan Cuellar . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Douglas Delporto . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Gregory Hovore . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Heather Mathews . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Franco Nepomuceno . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn  
Sean Nguyen . . . . . 152nd Maint Operations Flt  
Malakai Niko . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
Andrew Peterson . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn  
Jessica Reed . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Titus Roberson . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqdn  
Rusty Scovel . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqdn  
Eric Sperry . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn

# ACCESSIONS

Ryan Rose . . . . . 1/168th MEDEVAC  
Robert Smith . . . . . 1/189th Aviation Co.  
April Mattos . . . . . 1/189th Aviation Co.  
Wilasinee Kittipongdaja . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Makella McLaughlin Vance . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Rojelio Rojas . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Nicholas Richardson . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Rattanaphon Thamart . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Darlington Ugobodu . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Cesar Enriquezdonate . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Diana Hamburg . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Thalia Gallegos . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Tritawat Bhunyasirot . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Shielamarie Fitzpatrick . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Jasmin Duarte . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Brisa Ramirez . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Danagwyneth Valdez . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Heidi Diaz . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Jemima Diaz . . . . . 100th Quartermaster Co  
Bianca Zepeda . . . . . 137th MP Det  
Stephen Jackson Jr . . . . . 150th Maint Co  
Ivan Pulu Jr . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Mark Mix Jr . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Symone Joseph . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Hannelori Cespedes . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Kelsie Cannell . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Matthew Kelley . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Kristina Donathan . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Mariateressa Flores . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Kenneth Melendez . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Aracelis Caceres . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Rachel Hicks . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Hector Medina . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde

Julio Ramirez . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
Christopher Fransoli . . . . . HHC, 17th Sust Bde  
David Porras . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Helen Strong . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Kelliechelsea Pastrana . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Raphael Ramos . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Royce Morales . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Kyle Mercer . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Loth Botello . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Jonathan Jimenez . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Jennifer Sanchez . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
William Ruiz . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Kevin Lim . . . . . 1864th Trans Co  
Carlos Vivanco . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Trevor Gonzalez . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Cedric Phillips . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Mark Barriga . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Derrick Simmons . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Arturo Sanchez . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Jimmy Ruangnol . . . . . 240th Engineer Co  
Michael Murdock . . . . . 277th Engineer Plt  
Kaeleb Imlay . . . . . 277th Engineer Plt  
Jemel Lewis . . . . . 277th Engineer Plt  
Francisco Gonzalez . . . . . 277th Engineer Plt  
Nicholas Roth . . . . . 277th Engineer Plt  
Michael Ross . . . . . 3/140 Aviation Det  
Sabrina Summers . . . . . 3/140 Aviation Det  
Dennis Roos . . . . . 3/140 Aviation Det  
Kokeb Tawso . . . . . 3/140 Aviation Det  
Robert Blanco . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Dennis Farmer Jr . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Caleb Campbell . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co  
Donald Stevens . . . . . 3665th Ordnance Co

Kayla Toole . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Reliance Sabol . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Noah Mertz . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Stephany Pascual . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Bobby Williams . . . . . B Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Carter Price . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Michael Stanko . . . . . C Co, 422nd Signal Bn  
Benjamin Jacquot . . . . . HHC, 422nd Signal Bn  
Hannah Kasner . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Shaun Joseph . . . . . 485th MP Co  
David Floresaguirre . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Serena Gafford . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Bailey Naylor . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Sean Segraves . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Michael Sunderland . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Tiffany Delaurentis . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Joseph Wood . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Ashley Dessert . . . . . 485th MP Co  
Tyler Brooks . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Regina Brock . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Jessie Mendezarellano . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Katelynn Lewis . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Jesse Cline . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Scott Dover Jr . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Seth Rojas . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Gilberto Ortegaceniceros . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Stanimira Seekins . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Cody Farris . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
Donavon Taylorblower . . . . . 609th Engineer Co  
Brennan Garcia . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Anjelica Toper . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Patricia Dinardi . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
Dominic Morrison . . . . . 72nd MP Co

# ACCESSIONS

Adam Furrow . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Alyssa Long . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Brandon Salisbury . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Joshua Sidman . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Wyatt Henningsen . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Vanessa Herrera . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Jacqueline Sanchez . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Kevin Ruano . . . . . 777th Forward Spt Co  
 Michael Mcnamara . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
 Melissa Gores . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Tyler Stuchell . . . . . 72nd MP Co  
 Isabel Varela . . . . . 593rd Trans Co  
 Paulo Almeida . . . . . HHT, 1/221st Cavalry  
 Andre Davis . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Brook Stanford . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Christopher Cordoba . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Silvano Moreno . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Terrence Gisendaner . . . . . I Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Shawn Hines . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
 Nicholas Paplia . . . . . K Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Cristobal Bernal . . . . . K Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Peter Saba . . . . . K Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Michael Quagge . . . . . K Troop 1/221st Cav

Tristan Casantafuentes . . . . . K Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Torren Graf . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Nicholas Ball . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Anthony Castagnola . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Jesus Villegas . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Jeremy Dittberner . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Dennis Giannini . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Joseph Novelli . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Clark Jacobs . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Myles Etcheberry . . . . . L Troop 1/221st Cav  
 Alexandra Espinel . . . . . NVARNG Medical Det  
 Stuart Doolin . . . . . NVARNG Medical Det  
 Eden Coelho . . . . . NVARNG Medical Det  
 Zayra Arroyo . . . . . 152nd Force Support Sqn  
 Hayley Bossinger . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqn  
 Brandon Carney . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqn  
 Bryan Chanez . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqn  
 Matthew Curitti . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqn  
 Charles Davis . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqn  
 Michael Goldsworthy . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp  
 Kristopher Grant . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqn  
 David Huber . . . . . 152nd Intelligence Sqn  
 Dana Jacobsen . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp

Kevin Jones . . . . . 192nd Airlift Sqn  
 Tristian Leach . . . . . 152nd Security Forces Sqn  
 Robin Leather . . . . . 232nd Operations Sqn  
 Andrew Marshall . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp  
 Jay Pascua . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 William Raitter III . . . . . 152nd Medical Grp  
 Jose Reyes . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqn  
 Anthony Sacci . . . . . 152nd Civil Engineer Sqn  
 Eric Terry . . . . . 152nd Log Readiness Sqn

# RETIREMENTS

MSG Bevin Corbin . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
 SFC Scott Grimmett . . . . . NVARNG Medical Det  
 SSG Christopher Bazan . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
 SGT Sidney II Bailey . . . . . K Troop, 1/221 Cav  
 SPC Georgio Mosqueda . . . . . JFHQ NVARNG  
 Lt Col Allan Renwick . . . . . 152nd Maint Grp  
 TSgt David Abell . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqn  
 SSGT William Barclay . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqn  
 SSGT John Lopez . . . . . 152nd Maint Sqn

# POPULARITY OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN REMAINS SKY HIGH

*By Maj. Dennis Fournier  
 Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs*

**RENO** - Despite the fact it's been many decades since the Tuskegee Airmen flew over Europe during World War II, the popularity of the military aviators continues to soar.

Overflow crowds of all ages, including many students and veterans, displayed their affinity for the legendary Airmen at multiple events in northern Nevada in February when two of the original Red Tails, retired Army Air Corps Lt. Col. Robert Ashby and Theodore Lumpkin Jr., made appearances here at Traner Middle School and the Veteran Affairs Sierra Nevada Health Care System hospital. Tuskegee Airmen is the popular name for the first African-American military aviators in the United States armed forces.

Their stories recounted personal achievement and bravery during an era of segregation and exclusionism. Their message was clear: Believe in yourself and persevere.

Ashby was a pilot in the 332nd Fighter Group, the first black flying group during World War II. He recalled a segregated U.S. military where African-Americans were relegated to labor battalions comprised primarily of truck drivers, cooks, and laundry attendants.

With war eminent, the demand for aviators increased.

"When it became clear that the U.S. was about to go to war, the civilian pilot training program was established in 1939 at a few colleges, including the Tuskegee Institute," Ashby said. "Tuskegee graduated its first class in 1942 and by 1946 had graduated almost 1000 pilots."

Tuskegee Airmen aviators ultimately flew more than 1,700 sorties and shot down more than 150 enemy aircraft.

Lumpkin was an intelligence officer during the war and is also an original Tuskegee Airman. He noted that much of the attention of the Tuskegee experiment was on aviation, but the program featured a variety of other military careers.

"The Tuskegee experiment was set up to fail, but everyone involved put forth maximum effort and helped one another," Lumpkin said. "For every pilot, there were roughly 15 support people behind the scenes who contributed to add to the total number of nearly 15,000 Tuskegee Airmen."

At a reception for the Tuskegee Airmen before the appearances, retired Lt. Col. Larry Jackson announced the establishment of a northern Nevada Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, the George W. Porter Chapter. Jackson had spearheaded the effort to create the new chapter. Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., now includes 57 chapters across the United States with 14

chapters in the western states.

"The new chapter promises to allow us to enhance our youth outreach program and increase our visibility in the community," Jackson said. "Our programs are designed to promote the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen through community outreach, and we inspire excellence and pass this baton on to our young people."

George Porter, the namesake of the newest chapter, spent 23 years in the Army Air Corps and Air Force as an aircraft mechanic and flight engineer with the Tuskegee Airmen. After retiring from military service, he devoted the rest of his life to telling the story of the aviators who broke down racial barriers in the military and opened the door to more opportunities for all Americans. Porter passed away in February 2013.

Senior Master Sgt. Torry Thompson of the Nevada Air Guard also addressed the students and other attendees at the Traner event. He said he appreciated the original Tuskegee Airmen who made the trip to Reno to dedicate the new chapter and speak to students and veterans.

"One thing that gives us a great sense of pride is to be able to bring original Tuskegee Airmen with us for our outreach events," Thompson said. "We are very blessed to have them with us today." ■

## Bombers over Tahoe

The Nevada Air Guard's 192nd Fighter Bomber Squadron P-51 Mustangs fly over Lake Tahoe in the early 1950s. The Nevada Air Guard was assigned P-51s from 1948-1955. The squadron's first P-51 arrived in 1948 and the unit eventually had 17 in its inventory. During its early years with the P-51, the unit earned prominence as one of the Air Force's most respected aerial gunnery competitors.

The 192nd flew the WWII vintage aircraft until they were replaced in 1955 with F-86 Sabre jet aircraft. On June 1, 1955, the 192nd was re-designated as the 194th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron.

Photo courtesy of Nevada Air Guard Archives





## **Stars and Stripes Forever**

The Nevada National Guard hosted its annual Flag Day Celebration at the Nevada Capitol on June 13. This photo from 2013 shows the colors displayed during the traditional Five Historical Flag Presentation conducted by the Nevada Air Guard's Noncommissioned Officer Academy. The presentation features the Queen Anne, Grand Union, Betsy Ross, Old Glory and the Star Spangled Banner flags displayed in historical order.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Getten, Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs