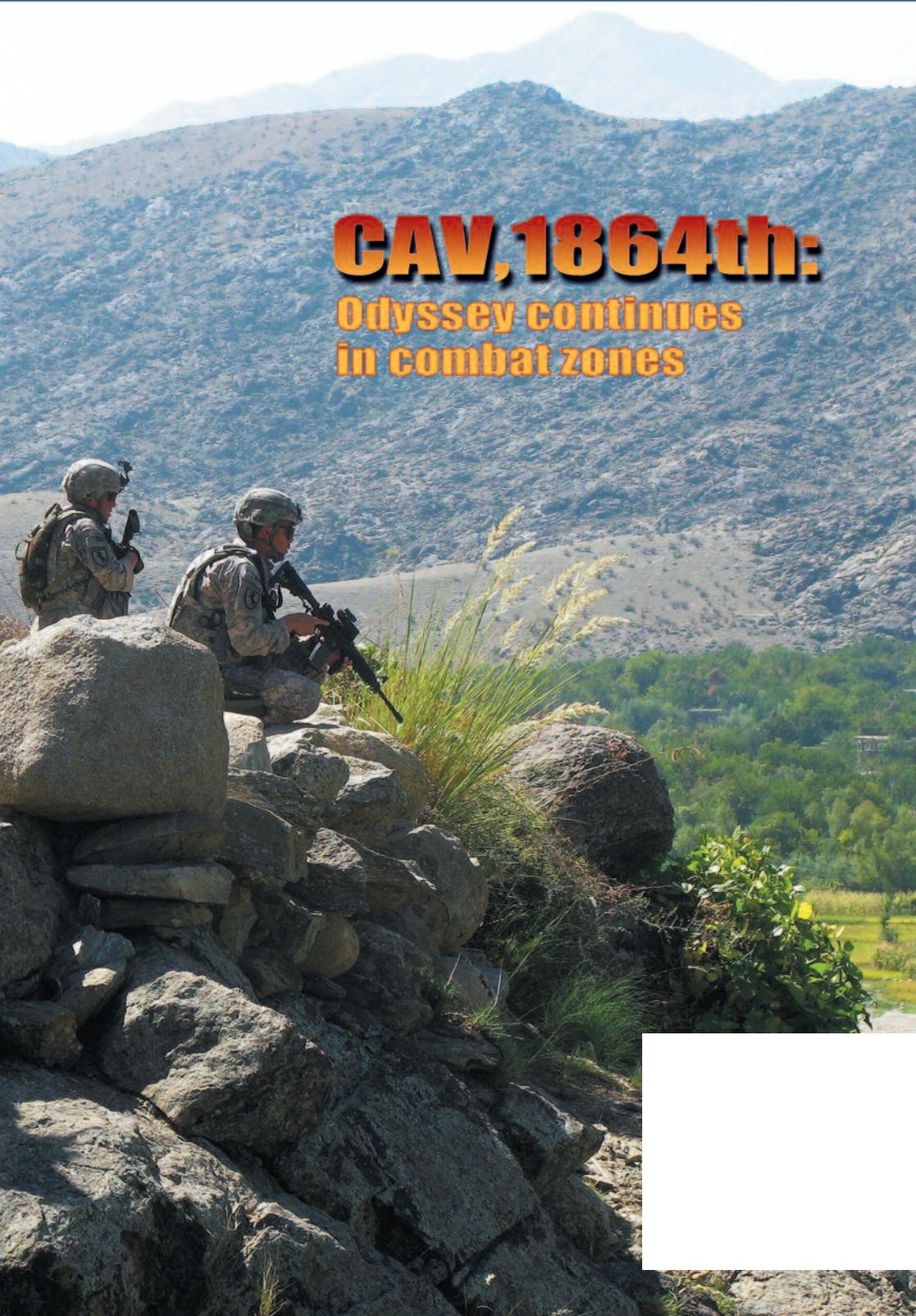




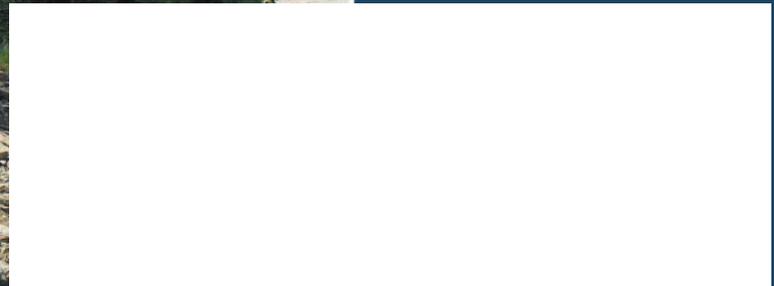
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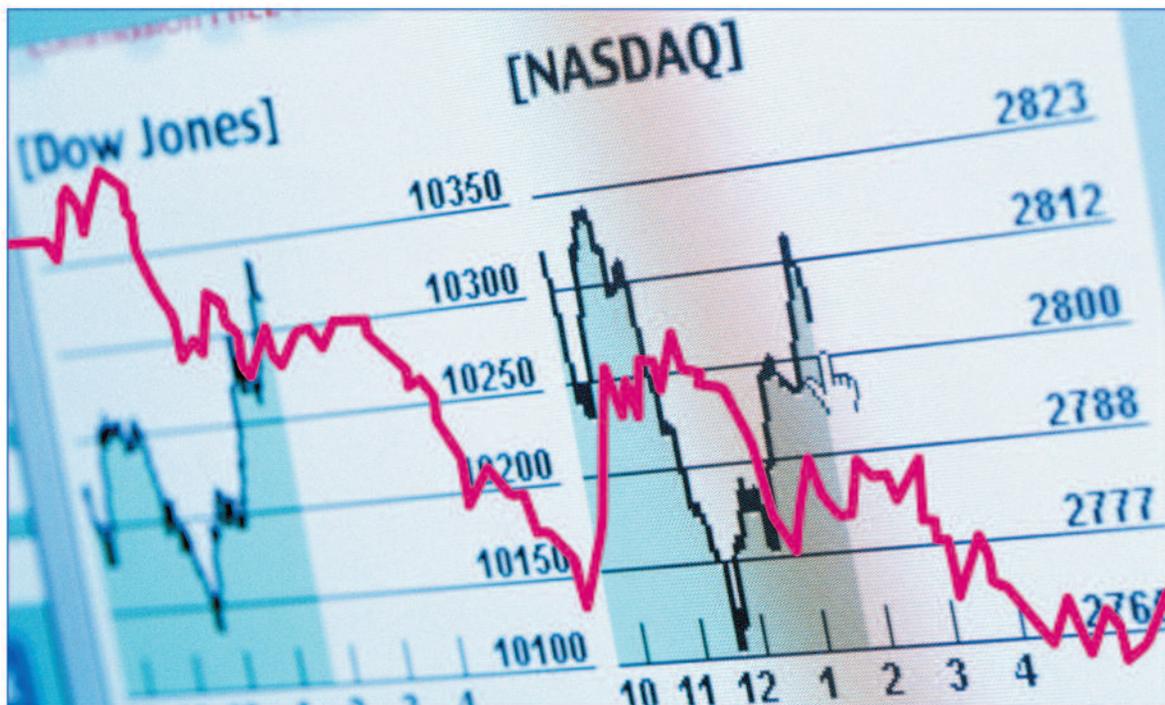


CAV, 1864th:
Odyssey continues
in combat zones

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Top Airmen, Soldiers named
- > **Vietnam vets:**
Three Nevada Soldiers still in uniform
- > **New blue:**
Army Service Uniform appears in ranks
- > **Voss is boss:**
Motorcyclist reaches new heights in F-15





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Battle Born is published quarterly for all current civilian employees, military members, National Guard retirees, government leaders in the state of Nevada, and civilian employers of Nevada Guard members. *Battle Born* is distributed free of charge via mail and is available at 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 visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Nevada National Guard military members, retirees and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with

name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address and comments to:

Battle Born Magazine

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2460 Fairview Drive
Carson City, NV 89701

Or to erick.studenicka@us.army.mil

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

Battle Born

Winter 2010

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ON THE COVER: Cpl. Michael Ward and Sgt. Brandon Mathes of the 1/221st Cavalry conduct a dismounted patrol in the vicinity of Karendali, Laghman Province, while deployed in Afghanistan. Photo: Lt. Col. Scott Cunningham

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FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Brig. Gen. Robert Fitch, Commander, Nevada Air National Guard

2009 was outstanding, but 2010 can be even better

Before we get too deep into 2010, I would like to take a glance backward and reflect on 2009.

2009 proved to be an outstanding year for the Nevada National Guard. We started fast and finished strong. The Air Guard's expeditionary force rotation began in August, we added a new motor pool facility, and we recently moved into our newly remodeled maintenance hangar.

The 152nd Intelligence Squadron remained fully engaged in the combat fight and it took on the task of training sensor operators in association with Project Liberty. Our cohorts in southern Nevada, the 232nd Operations Squadron, continued their tradition of excellence.

However, some might say that 2009 wasn't an extraordinary year. On the contrary, I believe we stood up to every challenge thrown at us and accomplished a great deal.

Life isn't always about successes. It's also about breaking through barriers, overcoming obstacles and doing whatever it takes to ensure we provide a safe and productive work environment for our Airmen and Soldiers.

No matter what challenges life may throw at you, you must be ready to adapt, be flexible, dust yourself off and move forward.

Whether in conjunction with your civilian job, your family or within the National Guard organization, everyone faces challenges. Life is about accomplishing difficult tasks and having the tenacity to get up one more time than you've been knocked down. The men



and women of the Nevada National Guard took on every challenge thrown at them in 2009 and will come back stronger, better and wiser.

I believe 2010 will be a defining moment for the Nevada National Guard. Defining moments do three things: they test, they reveal and they shape.

They test your character, they test your mental toughness, and they test what you're truly made of.

Defining moments reveal your heart, soul and body. They reveal if you have the stamina to respond well to a high operations tempo, unceasing deployments and ongoing inspections.

Defining moments also shape your future. Our organization and its future promise to

be better as a result of the challenges we've faced and overcome in the recent past. I sincerely believe the best is yet to come.

Whether it's the challenge presented by fighting two wars simultaneously or the challenge of achieving greatness in our daily work environment, it's the response to the challenge that defines us.

Everything we do matters. We need to strive toward improving our work ethic, our character traits, our attitude and our personal leadership skills.

Being average, being good and being OK is no longer acceptable in this world. Every day we are defining our legacy and every day we are writing a new chapter in the chronicle of our respective lives.

Our relationships must be built upon trust, respect, dignity and a commitment to excellence. We cannot deviate from those values. Remember, our decisions determine our destiny.

I'm committed to giving you my best this year and ask you to give this organization your best as well!

I'm confident the Airmen and Soldiers in the Nevada Guard will meet all of the challenges thrown at us in 2010.

Why? Because I know that you're the very best this nation has to offer. I see greatness in each and every one of you.

I recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan and had the opportunity to look into the faces of the Airmen and Soldiers who are protecting the freedom and democracy of this great nation and it made me extremely proud. I want you to remember those who are away from family and friends doing what it takes to keep America safe.

Be diligent in your preparation, be focused in your commitment and have an unconditional love for the men and women of this great organization. We must remember that we stand on the shoulders of Airmen and Soldiers who left us a legacy of greatness. Our responsibility is to leave the organization better than we found it.

I am predicting right now that 2010 will be one of the finest years in the history of the Nevada Air National Guard. Thank you for all you do! ■

63841
Bently

AIM HIGH

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Brad Kenealy

Airmen earn top Air Guard awards



By Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – The Nevada Air National Guard celebrated its high-achieving Airmen by announcing the winners of the Airman of the Year competition and the recipients of the 2009 Commander's Excellence Awards during two award ceremonies in late autumn.

At the Airmen of the Year banquet on Nov. 7, the Airman of the Year award went to Staff Sgt. Rachael Hillmann who works with the 232nd Operations Squadron based at Creech Air Force Base near Las Vegas.

While deployed, Staff Sgt. Lewis Roberts of the 192nd Airlift Squadron received the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award.

The Senior NCO of the Year award went to Master Sgt. Marco Trejo of the 232nd Operations Squadron.

The First Sergeant of the Year award went to Master Sgt. Shawn Marston of the 152nd Logistics Readiness Squadron.

Senior Master Sgt. Greg Bartlett of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron received the Honor Guard Member of the Year award.

The Airmen competed throughout the year on a quarterly basis for the honors based upon their general military knowledge and professional appearance.

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry, the Nevada Air National Guard's State Command Chief, said, "It was a fantastic evening as we honored several outstanding Airmen for their accomplishments this past year. These individuals will represent the Nevada Air Guard during the next year and will also compete in Air Guard competitions nationally against the other 49 states, three territories and the District of Columbia."

The winners of the Commander's Excellence award were announced Dec. 6.

They are Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell (152nd Airlift Wing), Tech. Sgt. Tracy Woodfolk (152nd Airlift Wing), Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith (152nd Aircraft Maintenance Group), Tech. Sgt. Lisa Maciel (152nd Medical Group), Maj. Bryan Ricks (152nd Medical Group), Senior Master Sgt. Jim Morgan (152nd Medical Group), Maj. Glen Martel (152nd Mission Support Group), Master Sgt. Brett Vegeto (152nd Mission Support Group), Tech.

Sgt. Dean Vasquez (232nd Operations Squadron), Master Sgt. Jeffery Best (152nd Intelligence Squadron), Master Sgt. Brandon Trehal (152nd Intelligence Squadron), the aircrew flight equipment section of the 152nd Operations Group and the Air Guard recruiting and retention team.

"These awards are long overdue," said Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks. "What you guys accomplish makes us all look good." ■



Honor Guard Member of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Greg Bartlett



First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Shawn Marston



Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Marco Trejo



Noncommissioned Officer of the Year
Staff Sgt. Lewis Roberts



Airman of the Year
Staff Sgt. Rachael Hillmann



FROM ENLISTED LEADERSHIP

Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley

Military, civilian experience provides insight into new position

As the state command sergeant major, I find myself becoming more familiar and comfortable with the job each passing day. I am now fully moved into my space at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City and have completed the transition from my civilian occupation on the Las Vegas Metro Police Department into my role as the full-time state sergeant major.

Although I still maintain a residence in Las Vegas, I made the move to be Genoa in northern Nevada to be closer to the state headquarters. I took a leave of absence from Las Vegas Metro to become the state sergeant major, but I officially remain on the force. So with a civilian job in Las Vegas and my residence in Genoa, one could say I have close ties to both southern and northern Nevada.

As the state sergeant major, it's my duty to oversee the Nevada Army Guard's enlisted military training and promotion system and enforce Army policies and standards. I work closely with the Nevada Guard leadership to advise and initiate recommendations on matters concerning Nevada Guard enlisted Soldiers. I work closely with both Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, commander of the Army Guard, and Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton, the senior enlisted leader. My Air Guard counterpart is Command Chief Master Sgt. Rick Scurry.

I maintain an open-door policy. I do request, as a common courtesy, you inform your unit that you have an appointment with me. Obviously, if you have a simple issue to resolve, please use your chain of command to attempt to fix the problem before seeing me. Also, because I do try to get out to see our Soldiers around the world as much as possible, please call – office (775) 886-7707, cell (702) 595-4872 – or write me via e-mail, daryl.a.keithley@us.army.mil, to set up an appointment in advance.

I have been in the military for 28 years and recorded 18 "traditional" years while holding a civilian job. I believe this helps me relate to the majority of our 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen who balance civilian careers, household responsibilities and military service.

I deployed twice with the 72nd Military Police Company as its first sergeant, so I also understand the challenges and stress that accompany deployments – both on the Soldier and Airman as well as their families. Also, my own son, Spc. Anthony Keithley of the 1/221st, is in Afghanistan right now, so I can relate to the pain and apprehension of the families who must await the return of their loved ones.

Largely because of my own deployment experience, I strongly support our reintegration teams and the Yellow Ribbon Program throughout the deployment cycle. I will make



every effort to ensure that chaplains' office staff, mental behavioral specialists, sergeants major and Soldiers with deployment experience are always available to discuss deployment and re-deployment topics.

The 72nd was one of the first units in the state to be deployed after Sept. 11, 2001. We deployed domestically to Monterey, Calif., shortly after 9/11 and then went to Iraq just three months after the California deployment concluded. There were not many avenues available then for Soldiers to discuss and share their trials and tribulations, and I was witness to problems created by post-deployment stress.

Today, with reintegration teams working in conjunction with the Yellow Ribbon Program, it's my priority to ensure the welfare of every Soldier is checked and double-checked as they mobilize and demobilize.

I recently returned from a short trip in Afghanistan where I saw our enlisted Soldiers and Airmen doing a fantastic job in places such as Jalalabad, Bagram Air Base and the Methar Lam province. Everywhere I went, I heard nothing but accolades for the Nevada Army Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

There is a cost, however, associated with putting more than 900 Soldiers in harm's way. More than 20 of our Soldiers are in medical facilities around the United States recovering from injuries suffered while deployed. Remember our Soldiers who are making a difference at the tip of the spear.

It's an honor and privilege to be your state command sergeant major. I want to echo Sitton's motto: Every Soldier Matters, Every Soldier Counts. That phrase is always foremost in my thoughts because that is what my job is all about: taking care of Soldiers. ■



State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley, right, and Brig. Gen. Robert Fitch, left, meet up with Spc. Anthony Keithley during a recent trip to Afghanistan. With his son deployed with the 1/221st, Sgt. Maj. Keithley said he knows firsthand about the family apprehension that accompanies a Soldier's deployment. Photo: Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley

Advice: if you have never met Keithley in person, don't be taken aback when he greets you with a hug instead of a handshake.

Gonzales victorious in Soldier of the Year contest



Story and photos by Lt. Col. Terry Conder
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Spc. Ivan Gonzales won the Nevada Army Guard's Soldier of the Year competition in late October after dominating the grueling three-day competition.

Gonzales, who went to Desert Pines High School in Las Vegas, represented the 72nd Military Police Company. He has been in the Nevada Army National Guard for three years.

Soldiers from the 991st, 992nd, 422nd and Joint Forces Headquarters competed for the title. Gonzales had the highest score on the written exam, the best physical fitness test score, the best Army Warrior tasks rating and the fastest ruck march time.

"I did 77 pushups, 78 situps and finished the run in 12 minutes, 16 seconds," said Gonzales. He described the ruck march as "pretty easy" because "last month, I did 12 miles."

Master Sgt. Ronald Morse, the senior operations sergeant for the 421st Regional Training Institute, oversaw the competition.



"The competitors began Thursday afternoon with inprocessing and a written exam," he said. "On Friday at oh-dark thirty, they took the APFT. Immediately after that, they had to negotiate the warrior skills range, where they faced 15-20 different tasks."

The competitors fired on a standard M-16 range and then they drove to Mount Charleston for day and night land navigation.

"The elevation of the course is approximately 6,500 feet," Morse said. "We didn't finish up until 10:30 p.m."

The third day started at 6 a.m. with a timed five-mile ruck march. Soldiers wore Kevlar and carried their rifles.

The appearance board and individual personal interviews, conducted by numerous sergeants major, kicked off a couple of hours after the ruck march.

Morse's staff tabulated the results from the seven events and Command Sgt. Maj. Darryl Keithley announced Gonzales the winner at a formal banquet.

With Army Guard commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales, chief of staff Col. Mike Carlson and his parents in attendance, Gonzales collected his trophy and learned he was set to head to Hawaii to compete in the Region 7 Soldier of the Year competition.

First sergeants and noncommissioned officers competed in Las Vegas in separate categories over the three days. First Sgt. Harry Schroeder and Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Seltenreich won their respective divisions.

Morse, who recently concluded a deployment to Iraq with the 140th Military Police Brigade Liaison Detachment, said he hoped Nevada units will put a high priority on sending Soldiers to the competition in the future.

"Any time you can train Soldiers to a high-level standard and make it competitive, it's an excellent opportunity," he said.

Sp. Sandra Rodriguez, a Soldier in the 100th Quartermaster unit, finished fifth overall in the ruck march among all Soldiers in all categories, and she won the Soldier of the Year appearance board.



Sp. Ivan Gonzales dominated the grueling three-day Soldier of the Year competition in October in Las Vegas.

"I challenge every unit first sergeant and battalion command sergeant major to push their troops to get their best representatives out here to represent their battalions and units. This is definitely worth their time." ■

Individual event winners:

APFT:

SOLDIER: Spc. Ivan Gonzales
NCO: Staff Sgt. Ilda Cruz

Land Navigation:

SOLDIER: Spc. David Lendowski
NCO: Staff Sgt. Ilda Cruz

Army Warrior Tasks:

SOLDIER: Spc. Ivan Gonzales
NCO: Sgt. Larry Harlan

Written Exam:

SOLDIER: Spc. Ivan Gonzales
NCO: Staff Sgt. Ilda Cruz

Weapons Qualification:

SOLDIER: Spc. David Lendowski
NCO: Sgt. 1st Class Nathaniel Seltenreich

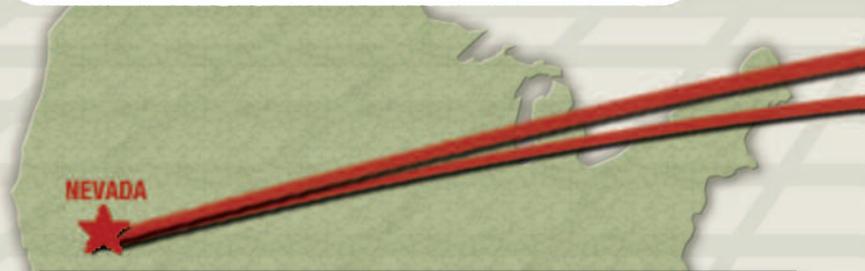
Ruck March:

SOLDIER: Spc. Ivan Gonzales
NCO: Sgt. Larry Harlan

Appearance Board:

SOLDIER: Spc. Sandra Rodriguez
NCO: Sgt. Larry Harlan

DROP ZONE



CARSON CITY – Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons, second from left, and adjutant general Brig. Gen. William Burks, second from right, were among the officials who participated in the ground breaking for the Nevada National Guard's Super Solar on Nov. 9 at the Office of the Adjutant General.

The parking lot at the OTAG in Carson City will be covered by carports with solar modules attached at the top. These carports will collect solar energy and also create a better environment for employees by creating covered parking with significantly cooler temperatures in comparison to open-air parking. The Las Vegas Readiness Center and Clark County Armory are also receiving similar treatments as part of the project. Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter



RENO – The long-awaited, highly-anticipated Nevada Air Guard aircraft hangar is receiving its final touches before its official grand opening scheduled early this spring. The \$9 million project will consolidate most of the maintenance groups' shops. In the past, the shops were spread throughout the base.

The hangar is the first at the air base to prioritize energy efficiency. Although it's still awaiting its final aesthetic touches such as sod, trees and benches, the hangar has been operational and serving aircraft for several months. Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter

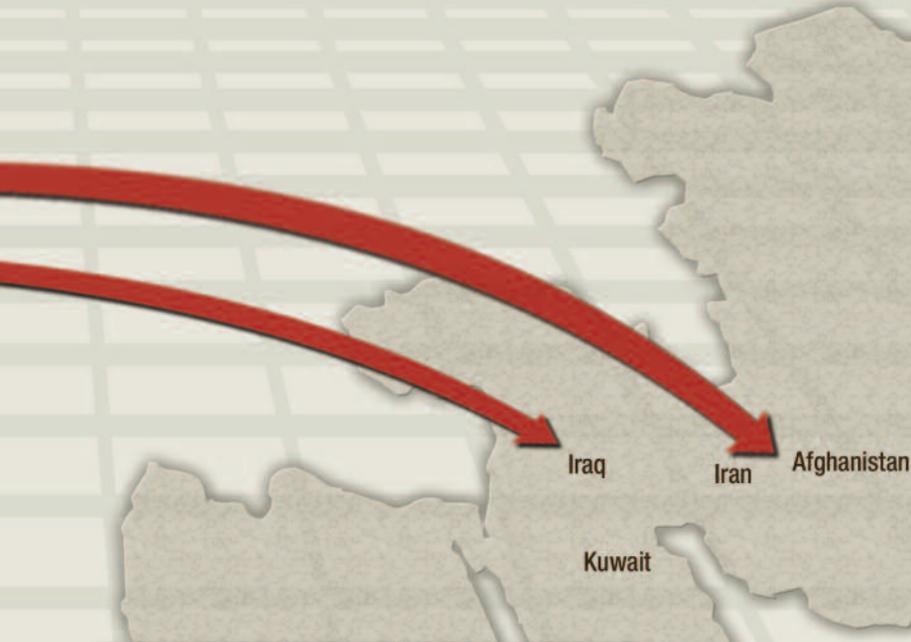


ELY – The Nevada National Guard's Honor Guard traveled to Ely Dec. 21 to give full military honors to one of its own. Sgt. Maj. Richard Fisher of McGill was 81 when he passed away Dec. 14 in Las Vegas. He had risen to the rank of command sergeant major in the National Guard during his 15-year career. Photo: Courtesy of Ely Daily Times



MINDEN – Nevada Army Guard Staff Sgt. Derek Castro, a Purple Heart recipient, and Miss Nevada Julianna Erdesz were among the dozens of volunteers who packed 700 care boxes destined for deployed Soldiers and Airmen in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait at GE Energy in Minden during the holiday season.

The boxes included numerous items for comfort and entertainment donated by GE Energy, its employees, the Blue Star Moms organization and local Dollar Tree stores. In addition to Erdesz, Dawn Gibbons also took some time during the event to sign holiday greeting cards for the troops. Photo: Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter



AFGHANISTAN – Nevada Army Guard Staff Sgt. Steven Branson of the Provincial Reconstruction Team-Kunar talks to some Afghan children who came to see what the patrol was doing in the neighborhood. The PRT members performed a presence patrol by walking the main downtown street talking to local vendors and residents. Branson is a native of Las Vegas and is a Soldier in the 1/221st Cavalry. For more on the Cav, see page 16. Photo: Tech. Sgt. Brian Boisvert, Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team



LAS VEGAS – In the shadow of Caesars Palace, Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Cosio Jr. and Pfc. Brittany Reid, 72nd Military Police Company, patrol a drainage system in Las Vegas on Dec. 31.

About 200 Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the New Year's training exercise that has occurred annually for the majority of the past decade. The Guardsmen primarily assisted the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Transportation Safety Administration this year with the principal duties of securing the drainage system under Las Vegas Boulevard and providing airport security.

Photo: Spc. Victor Joecks



KUWAIT – Sgt. Jaime Flores of the 1864th Transportation Company performs vehicle maintenance in support of the heavy transportation mission the unit is conducting during its year-long deployment in southwest Asia. The unit has already recorded more than one million miles in Kuwait and Iraq delivering cargo goods and military equipment throughout the region. For more on the 1864th, see page 16.

Photo: Courtesy of 1st Lt. Tammy Sparkes

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE BLUE

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – With the introduction of the blue Army Service Uniform this year, the Class A Green Service Uniform passes into the pages of history joining the olive drab utility uniform and the woodland-pattern Battle Dress Uniform.

The Army is set to give initial-entry Soldiers ASU clothing beginning in July. The blue ASU is set to completely replace the green and white service uniforms and the current version of the Dress Blue Uniform by October 2014.

Traditional National Guard Soldiers should have been measured for their new ASUs in December. All traditional M-day enlisted Soldiers will receive an ASU at no cost. According to Command Sgt. Maj. Steve Sitton, senior enlisted leader of the Nevada Guard, more than \$1 million has been allotted to Nevada for the purchase of ASUs.

“All of the [traditional] Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard should have been sized for the new uniform,” said Staff Sgt. Chasity Orr, supply sergeant for the 150th Maintenance Company in Carson City. “If someone hasn’t been in to see their supply sergeant, they need to do so right away to get an ASU ordered for them.”

Active-duty Soldiers, including Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers, and all officers are required to obtain their uniforms by the wear-out date in October 2014. Cost for a new uniform will vary from about \$400-\$600 depending upon the retailer.

Soldiers who currently have the blue uniform will be able to transition to the new uniform at a price less than a brand new uniform.

Active-duty enlisted Soldiers will receive a stipend in their annual clothing replacement allowance to purchase an ASU.

The dress blue uniform is a requirement for commissioned officers. They receive a one-time stipend to buy one.

According to Army officials, the “national blue” color of the ASU was chosen because of its utility, simplicity and potential cost savings. The color has been used intermittently by the Army since the Revolutionary War. The ASU promises to reduce the need for multiple service uniforms and that fact should reduce the economic impact on individual Soldiers.

The new Army ASU includes a new coat and low-waist trousers for male Soldiers and a new coat, slacks and skirt for female Soldiers. The fabric for the ASU is heavier and more wrinkle resistant than previously manufactured uniforms and will consist of 55 percent wool and 45 percent polyester material.

The ASU coat has a tailored, athletic cut to improve uniform fit and appearance. The ASU includes wrinkle-resistant, short and long-sleeved white shirts with permanent military creases and shoulder loops.

The Army currently has three service uniforms: green, blue and white. Enlisted Soldiers receive a Class A uniform during initial entry training. The green uniform has been worn with minor variations since its inception in 1954. Issue of the green uniform will halt in the fall of 2010.

The Army white uniform is treated as an optional uniform and is only required for officers and sergeants major assigned to posts in the tropics and the southern United States. It was introduced in 1902, suspended during WWI, and was reintroduced in its



Staff Sgt. Ryan Davidson, the coordinator for the Army Guard’s northern Recruit Sustainment Program, models the Army Service Uniform to display the updates from the previous green Class A uniform. Photos by Master Sgt. Brenda Henry; photo illustration by Sgt. Mike Getten



Qualified Soldiers are allowed to wear the new Combat Service Identification Badge, such as the 10th Mountain Division pin, on the right pocket of the Army Service Uniform. Note that the image to the left is a patch; the pin will soon be available.

present form with the modern Dress Blue Uniform in 1935.

Some of the major characteristics of the ASU include:

- Officers and noncommissioned officers will wear gold stripes on the trousers. Junior enlisted Soldiers will have plain legs on the trousers.
- Enlisted Soldiers will wear service stripes similar to the Class A Green Service Uniform on the left sleeve. Officers and enlisted Soldiers will wear overseas service bars on the right coat sleeve. The current black accessories, such as the windbreaker, all-weather coat, overcoat and sweaters, may be worn with the ASU.

- A new combat service identification badge replaces the color shoulder sleeve insignia worn on the green uniform.
- The distinctive unit insignia is authorized for wear for enlisted Soldiers in the same place as the green uniform.
- Enlisted rank is the same size as currently worn on the green uniform except that the background color matches the blue coat. Officers will wear the shoulder boards currently worn with the dress blues.

Soldiers can familiarize themselves with the wear of the ASU in Army Regulation 670-1. ■

For information, visit:
<http://www.army.mil/asu/index.html>

Battle Born

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Battle Born magazine strives to report fairly and accurately. If you have a question or comment or wish to request a correction or clarification, call (775) 887-7250 or write:

erick.studenicka@us.army.mil

Corrections: The subject of the cover of the Spring 2009 issue was Pfc. David Loomis.

On page 7 of the Summer 2009 issue, the civilian employer of Sgt. Stephen Park was incorrect. He is employed by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Clarifications: On page 5 of the Fall 2009 issue, the Soldiers in the photo did not install nor do they maintain the solar modules at the Office of the Adjutant General, Nevada Office of the Military personnel installed and maintained the system.

On page 12 of the Fall 2009 issue, it was reported Master Sgt. Santiago Santiago was the first Airman to surpass 1,000 combat hours in a Nevada Guard C-130. Santiago is believed to be the first enlisted Airman to surpass the mark, but records indicate pilot Capt. Cathy Grush surpassed the mark on June 3, 2007. Two other Nevada Airmen have also surpassed the 1,000-hour mark.

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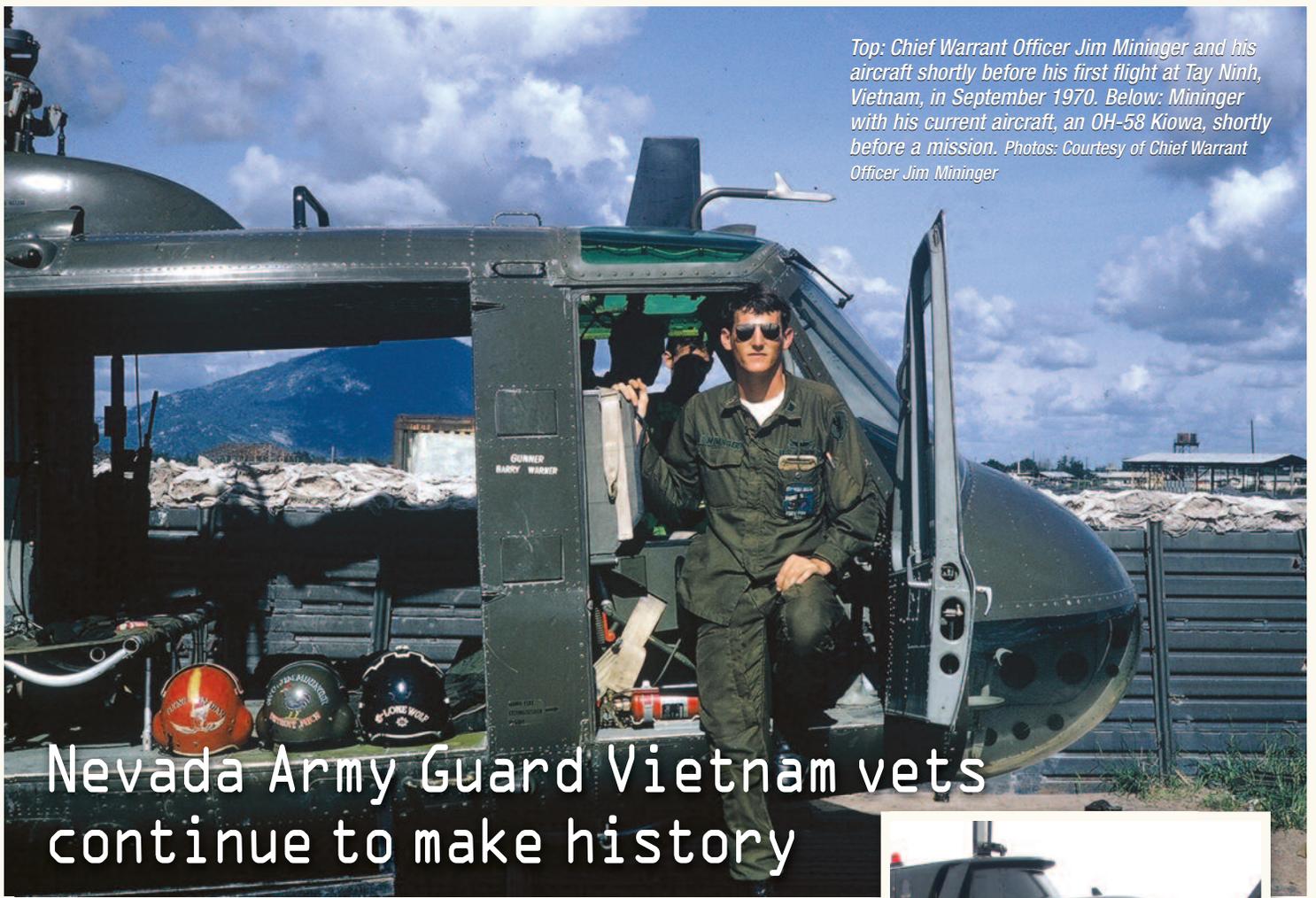



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Top: Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger and his aircraft shortly before his first flight at Tay Ninh, Vietnam, in September 1970. Below: Mininger with his current aircraft, an OH-58 Kiowa, shortly before a mission. Photos: Courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger



Nevada Army Guard Vietnam vets continue to make history

By Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – For a vast majority of Americans, the Vietnam war is only a few paragraphs in a school history book. Most people can't even point out the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the globe, the country where more than 58,000 U.S. troops lost their lives between 1965 and 1973.

But Vietnam veterans Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger, Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Cosio and Spc. David Stimmell personally experienced – and survived – Vietnam. Four decades after serving there, they are the final three Soldiers in the Nevada Army Guard with Vietnam Service medals who continue to write the personal versions of their military history while serving in the National Guard.

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger

Mininger, 60, currently braves the skies as a pilot with the state's Counterdrug Task Force, 140th Security and Support Detachment, as an OH-58 Kiowa pilot. He's proud to still be flying and said there is a stark contrast between service then and now.

"You heard stories about service members returning from Vietnam getting cursed and spit on," he said. "Well, when I got home, I got spit on. People did not treat the military very well. I wanted nothing to do with military service after that."

He said he believes the public's opinion of Vietnam was soured because it was the first conflict televised almost "live."

"People saw some of the worst things about war live, unlike the old news shorts you'd see during World War II that showed footage that was edited and several days or weeks old," he said.

"It's completely different now," said Mininger. "The country is completely behind its service members. A lot has to do with the Vietnam veterans themselves. They swore they would never allow what happened to us back then happen to our service members today."

"People may not always agree with the mission, but they understand that those service members are our sons, daughters, husbands and wives. I can't



believe all the handshakes and appreciation we receive now."

Mininger's military career began in July 1969 when the then-19-year-old received a draft notice ordering him to compulsory military service. He wasn't against the call-up. He knew he was going to do his time and make the best of it. His brother was already



Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger's door gunner stands near their destroyed aircraft after a fierce fire fight at the Khe Sanh fire base. Mininger earned the Bronze Star for valor during the battle. Photo: Courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer Jim Mininger

in the Army at that time and he told him to become an officer if he had the chance.

"When I got to basic training, we had speakers including drill sergeants, Green Berets and officer recruiters. They gave presentations as to why to choose their field," he recalled. "The officer recruiter gave his bit, but he was a young lieutenant and was pretty boring.

"Then this crusty, chain-smoking warrant officer just back from Vietnam got up and did his thing and told us all about his program. That's when I raised my hand and said, 'That's what I want to be. I want to be a warrant officer.'"

He was quickly shuffled around and passed a battery of tests. Given the choice to pilot planes or helicopters, he chose helicopters.

After finishing his aircraft training, Mininger was attached to the 1st Aviation Brigade, 187th Crusaders, and was shipped to Vietnam.

His first aircraft was a 'D' model UH-1 Huey armed with two M-60 door guns. The young pilot quickly took on the role of transporting troops to some of the hot spots in the country.

Mininger recalled it wasn't long before he experienced the hell associated with combat.

"At one particular landing zone, we took on some small arms fire," he said. "Back then, we all had a body armor plate on our chest area that we called chicken plates. Well, the gunner took a round in the side

behind the plate and it came out the other side. We couldn't save him. He bled out. I'll never forget that."

Combat for Mininger wasn't just at hot landing zones. Rocket attacks and small-arms fire were common at his Khe Sanh firebase.

One particular battle resulted in a close call for Mininger when his own aircraft was destroyed during a sapper attack. The Viet Cong sappers were highly-trained infantrymen used for special missions against American targets.

"When the rockets started coming in, we made a beeline to crank our birds. But before we got out to them, my aircraft was hit. So we grabbed the two M-60s off the other aircraft and made our way to our predetermined fighting positions," he said.

"Flares went up, and we could spot them in the wire all over the place. I was firing my M-79 grenade launcher, which we called a chucker. One of the sappers got through with a satchel charge and used it to take out my wingman's aircraft. I didn't know it at the time, so I just kept firing," Mininger continued. "After I ran out of chucker rounds, I switched to my M-16. They were all over the perimeter. Then I saw a figure running for the fuel dump.

"I yelled for him to stop. I know he heard me, but since he wasn't stopping, I opened up on him. He completely blew up. If he got through, he would have blown up the entire fuel point. That was a long night ... a very, long, long night.

"In the morning, we could see the aftermath. There were dead enemy everywhere. I saw my aircraft that took a direct hit from a rocket the next morning. Its tail boom was blown off."

Another time, Mininger was flying to a position where U.S. troops were pinned down by enemy fire.

"We engaged the Viet Cong with our mini gun. We had a bead on them, so I just kept hitting back. We were taking a lot of hits. There was always that distinctive 'ping, ping' sound when you're taking small arms," he said. "Then a .51-cal round hit the upper right side of my windscreen. The pilot, who wasn't wearing his visor or sleeves down like he should have, got all messed up — Plexiglas all in his face.

"He was a mess. Our hydraulics were hit, too. I only had limited movement with the stick. I was good for one pull up and one pull down on the stick after that. I managed to get back to a safe place. We got the pilot out. He was in the hospital for quite a while. He survived, and we actually flew together again. Difference was that he now flew with his visor and sleeves all the way down!"

Mininger also participated in "sniffing" missions, where he flew a specially fitted Huey that could detect the ammonia given off by enemy troops from the smell of their urine in the forest. He said it was a particularly dangerous mission, since "your skids were hovering right at the treetops."

Whenever ammonia was detected, he would call in fire support from Cobra helicopter gunships.

At the time, the sniffer missions were a ground-breaking advance in warfare. Recounts of missions like his are still taught at the U.S. Army's Chemical School.

The pilot said one of his most memorable moments in Vietnam wasn't from combat, but from a rest and relaxation episode.

"We started driving down the highway and came upon a river. We just decided to take our shoes and socks off and play a quick game of football in the river," said Mininger. "We were making a lot of racket. The local women and children were coming to the river bank to watch, but we didn't care. The cheers from the crowd on the banks were fantastic.

"Here we were, in a war zone, and we were just playing football as though there was no danger at all."

He said his time in the river reminded him there was still a little humanity in the war zone.

Mininger continued flying a variety of missions he called “ash and trash” flights that entailed transporting from one point to another. He also performed night flare drops to positions.

His tour was up after a little over a year and it was time to come home. Today, he regrets it was only one tour.

After his less-than-storybook homecoming, he decided he wanted nothing more to do with the military.

He gave the civilian workforce a try and landed a job at the Ford Motor Company as a quality control inspector. It was good job, but he still had the itch to fly. A friend in the Michigan Army National Guard convinced him to join in 1977.

The itch to become a full-time pilot needed to be scratched, so he began to look for a civilian aviator job.

Mininger walked into the local airport in Sabine, Texas, and convinced the owner of a private helicopter company that he would be a great addition to his company. He then went back to Michigan, packed up and left for a new life in Texas.

He remained busy with that job until 1981 when he decided to go to Indonesia to support an oil company training Indonesian helicopter pilots.

He returned to Michigan in 1986 to join an emergency medical services operation. He said it was a job he couldn't refuse. While there, he rejoined the Michigan Army National Guard.

Mininger wasn't finished moving yet. In 1999, he was offered the opportunity to fly helicopter tours over the Grand Canyon and the Las Vegas Strip. So he moved his family again to take to the skies over Sin City.

His military career then became complicated. After a stint in the Individual Ready Reserve, a position finally opened in the Nevada Army Guard in 2003 in the Counterdrug Task Force. Mininger said officers Kim Labrie, Roger Capps and Darren Chrisman teamed to give him the chance to fly for the Nevada Army Guard.

“I think they wanted me around to be the ‘Old Dog’ and teach the younger guys what it was like when I was their age,” Mininger said.

Since he's been with the Nevada Guard, he's provided support to some of the most visible Counterdrug missions in the nation. He's logged numerous hours patrolling the southern U.S. border as well as visiting Nevada schools to teach kids about the dangers of drugs.



Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Cosio Jr. performs his New Year's Eve security mission in Las Vegas Dec. 31. Cosio, now 57, first served in Vietnam when he was 18.

Photo: Courtesy of 106th Public Affairs Detachment

He said he's been very impressed with the Nevada Guard, especially the senior officers in his aviation unit.

“We got some good ‘sticks’ here,” he said, referring to the quality of the pilots. “Our unit has some of the most outstanding young Soldiers from maintenance, fueling, logistics and administration. They are Soldiers any aviation commander would covet.”

“The military has come a long, long way since Vietnam,” Mininger summarized. “Back then, a lot of guys were drafted in to the military. They didn't want to be there.”

“Now, we have an all-volunteer force. You wouldn't believe how much of a difference that makes. This is the only way to go.”

One word Mininger will never utter is “retirement.”

“As long as they'll have me, then I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Cosio Jr.

Cosio, now a Soldier in the 137th Military Police Company based in Henderson, hit the jungles of Vietnam in 1971 at the tender age of 18.

He immediately joined combat operations, driving deep in the vast jungles for what he said felt like forever. In the nine months of his combat tour, he rarely left

the jungle and had almost no contact with the local population.

Cosio, now 57, remains reluctant to speak openly about his experiences in the jungle. He described his duties as “just doing our jobs” combating the enemy.

He finished out his contract after those nine months in the jungle and headed home. He couldn't wait to be a civilian again.

He got a job working in a local California auto parts store, and in 1990 a friend in the California Army National Guard spoke to him about the military.

“A friend told me about the Try One program where prior service military members could sign up for a one-year contract just to see if they liked it,” he said. “It sounded pretty appealing to me.”

Cosio cleared all the administrative and physical hurdles of returning to the military and was assigned to an artillery team with the California Guard. But he quickly decided he wanted to return to the infantry, where he got his start in his Vietnam days.

He said it may have taken his nearly 20-year break in service to realize the military was good for him.

“Back then, I just wasn't very mature. I was young and I didn't care about the military,” he said. “I was in a pretty bad war, and all I wanted to do was finish my time and then get out.”

He just missed out on a deployment to the Middle East for Operation Desert Storm in the 1990s, but in 2003 he found himself in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From 2003-2004, he was busy performing convoy, quick reaction force and military police missions, gaining even more combat experience.

Cosio said the major difference from combat in the Vietnam-era to combat today is the technology.

“The Soldiers have a lot of technology, and that helps a lot,” he said. “But you still have to know the basics when it comes to being a Soldier in the field.”

Today, his military job often includes security details. In his civilian occupation, he works for Allied Barton Security Services in Las Vegas as a security guard.

Military service runs in his family. Cosio's son has completed two Army combat tours in Iraq.

He does have some simple goals that are important to him before he finally retires from the National Guard.

“I want to continue serving my country as long as I can, because I love it that much,”

he said. "Hopefully I can put on the rank of master sergeant before it's time to go."

Spc. Dave Stimmell

Four decades after experiencing Vietnam, Spc. Dave Stimmell finds himself in the midst of another conflict. Stimmell is currently deployed with the 1/221st Cavalry in Afghanistan.

Before he deployed, he shared his story with a Las Vegas newspaper. He told reporter Keith Rogers that he joined the fight against terrorism with the goal of being both a good Soldier and father.

"I've got to lead by example," the 57-year-old Las Vegas combat veteran said while training at Camp Atterbury, Ind., before going overseas. "I've got three sons in the Army who are willing to do something about it. I can't expect them to do something that I'm not willing to do."

He is a mortar platoon specialist tasked to combat Taliban forces in some of the most volatile parts of Afghanistan.

Stimmell's sons urged him to join the National Guard in 2006 because, with three tours in the Vietnam War and a stint later in the Army Reserve in Illinois, he needed only a few more years to reach the 20-year retirement mark before turning 60.

A solid man at 5-foot-11, 198 pounds in combat boots, Stimmell works as a heavy equipment service technician in civilian life. He sports a neatly trimmed mustache and speaks with a Southern drawl characteristic of his childhood in Alabama.

Although not as speedy as he used to be, Stimmell passed his pre-deployment physical training test by finishing the two-mile run in 16 minutes, 47 seconds.

Stimmell trusts his battlefield experience will be an asset to the squadron's missions overseas throughout the deployment.

Recalling his service in Vietnam, Dave Stimmell says he still has "a mixed bag of feelings" about the Vietnam War.

After his last tour, he didn't want anybody to know he had been there and even destroyed photographs of himself in Vietnam.

"There was no happy homecoming. Nobody would even want to admit they had been in the Army at that point in time," he said.

Among Stimmell's decorations are a Combat Infantryman Badge and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for serving in the 101st Airborne Division.

He joined the Army as a teenager from Denbo, Pa., where he had dropped out of high school.



Spc. Dave Stimmell served in combat in Vietnam 40 years ago and now he is in a combat zone in Afghanistan with the 1/221st Cavalry. Photo: Capt. Blaine Holmes

His dad, Joseph Stimmell, who stood 6-feet-11, raised him in New Hope, Ala. His father died before Dave turned 13, so he moved to Pennsylvania and was raised by his grandmother.

Stimmell joined the Army because "my grandmother thought it was best for me. I was pretty uncontrollable and I wasn't doing what I was supposed to be doing."

At first, he didn't like the Army.

"I liked the idea of shooting stuff and blowing stuff up, but I wasn't into people telling me what to do," he said.

After basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and infantry training at Fort Polk, La., he was sent to Germany "only to find out there was no place for me there. So, I turned around and got orders back to the states and then to Vietnam."

That was 1969.

"I was a scared young man on my first tour," he recalled. "There were some good times, but when I first went there, I didn't know what to expect."

He found himself conducting patrols and taking up defensive positions at night.

"We set up ambushes. We lived on a fire base. It was constantly changing," he said. "Everything we relied on then was supplied by helicopters."

His second tour was from 1970-1971.

"We had quite a few encounters," he said, referring to firefights and combat situations.

In the spring of 1971, he was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., and volunteered to go back to Vietnam again.

"When I returned, it was sort of like 'welcome home,' to me because I had been there before," Stimmell said. "It was pretty much the same stuff with a different unit in a different piece of the jungle."

Attaining the rank of sergeant, he was honorably discharged in the late 1970s.

For Stimmell, the Army has changed in many ways since Vietnam. Back then, more than 2.2 million young men were drafted. Soldiers were issued black jump boots, olive-drab duty uniforms and steel pot helmets.

In his mind, though, one thing hasn't changed: Soldiers must lead by example and be willing to make sacrifices. ■

(Rogers' excerpt appears courtesy Las Vegas Review Journal. To read the entire article, visit www.lvrj.com.)

Ritter was formerly a staff sergeant in the Army Guard. He transferred to the Air Guard and is once again a staff sergeant. He still can't figure out why his drill pay check decreased.

Nevada Air Guard ramps up for busy 2010

By Staff Sgt. Eric Ritter
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Nevada's Air National Guard will be busy this year.

Several training and real-world missions are on tap to keep hundreds of Airmen on their toes throughout the year. The Air Guard will focus on three specific operations: Project Liberty, Operation Coronet Oak and Shadow Harvest.

Project Liberty is an Air Force effort to deploy several aircraft to Afghanistan and Iraq, beginning in April, to aid in high-value targeting and other tactical intelligence missions. The aircraft are C-12 planes refitted with the latest intelligence gathering equipment. The refitted C-12s are re-designated MC-12Ws.

According to Lt. Col. Kyle Reid, 192nd Squadron commander, this mission will put the Nevada Air Guard on the front lines of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"This is big for us," he said. "Our guys are going to be in aircraft directing the action on the front lines supporting the mission. For a lot of us, this is the first time we're working with brand new aircraft – especially when it will be in a front-line environment."



Other Airmen will participate in Operation Coronet Oak. Aircraft and aircrew from the 152nd Airlift Wing will head to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to provide airlift support for U.S. Southern Command with logistical and contingency support throughout Central and South America.

Coronet Oak operations will include embassy resupply, support for the Drug Enforcement Agency, search and rescue missions, disaster relief and medical evacuation assistance.

Shadow Harvest is the name of a new suite of intelligence sensors that can be fitted on C-130s and are designed to identify targets concealed under camouflage or foliage.

Reid said the airlift wing will spend much of the upcoming year familiarizing

itself with the sensors. He added that the entire Air Force C-130 fleet will make the equipment transition as soon as enough systems are available to be fitted on the aircraft. He believes the advanced wing-mounted system will be a significant upgrade to the existing systems.

Nevada's Air Guard isn't just involved in these three projects. Hundreds of Airmen remain deployed in Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkey and Qatar, in addition to the 232nd's unmanned aerial operations based at Creech Air Force Base in Indian Springs taking the fight to the enemy.

It's a safe bet that wherever on the globe you might find American interests, you'll find assets from the Nevada Air National Guard and the High Rollers fulfilling the mission. ■

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MILITARY 4-H PROGRAM FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP, PREPARATION FOR FUTURE

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

RENO – In the past, discussion surrounding the 4-H Program usually focused on kids raising farm animals, growing vegetables, and making homemade jellies and jams for entry into the county fair.

The Reno Military 4-H Program, however, is drastically different than the organization's agricultural-based roots. Coordinated and instructed by retired Nevada Army Guard Master Sgt. Martana Doser, the Military 4-H prioritizes leadership and technological skills to prepare youth for their future.

"The 4-H Program has much to offer," Doser said. "Today, the 4-H Program focuses on a curriculum geared toward leadership development. In our northern Nevada community, we have many leaders who are willing to donate their time to come out and speak with the kids, tell about their own experiences and prepare them for their future."

Started as a rural youth movement more than 100 years ago, 4-H today is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with more than 6.5 million members. The goal of the organization is to learn, grow and work together as a catalyst for positive change. The program is administered by the Cooperative Extension Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The four "H's" of the program stand for head, heart, hands and health, and the four H's remain a priority within the program. For



From left, Pfc. Tyler Roll of the Recruit Sustainment Program watches as Anna Baumann demonstrates how to create a holiday greeting, while two other Purple Tie Leadership Club members also take a peek on Nov. 6 at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno. The greeting cards made that day were sent to the Wounded Warriors Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

example, kids' hearts are enriched through projects such as get-well cards for the Wounded Warriors Project. Hands are kept busy with crafts and projects. A healthy lifestyle is emphasized, and intellect is challenged by computer activities.

Doser began the Military 4-H Program in Reno about a year ago in conjunction with the University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension. At that time, the majority of the youth on the Nevada National Guard Youth Council transitioned to the Military 4-H Program.

According to Doser, Reno's Military 4-H focuses its recruitment effort solely on children with military ties. Any child with a parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandparent on active duty or in a reserve component, including the Army Guard and Air Guard, or a veteran, is eligible for membership.

"It's good to be in a program reserved for military families because some people don't understand what it is like when one of your parents deploy," said Pvt. Tyler Roll of the Recruit Sustainment Program and one of the few members of the program who is both a student and Soldier. "It's a great opportunity to be surrounded by peers who can relate to what you are going through."

According to the UNR Cooperative Extension, there are about 30 other 4-H programs in the Reno metro area open to non-military youth.

Within the Military 4-H Program are two groups based on age. One is the Purple Tie

Leadership Club for 12-19 year-olds, with 11 members currently, and the other is the Clover Bud Club for 5-8 year-olds. There is currently no military 4-H for 9-11 year-olds.

The Purple Tie Leadership Club is preparing for the 2010 Nevada State Fair, where members plan to compete in the 4-H communications competition.

"We have workshops planned to refine skills in public speaking and how to properly present a PowerPoint presentation," Doser said. "Then we will have an internal competition, another workshop, and the final competition is set for August."

The Military 4-H maintains an active events schedule. During the past year, the program has participated in several seasonal activities including ice skating and sledding during the winter months and wake boarding, boating and camping in the summer.

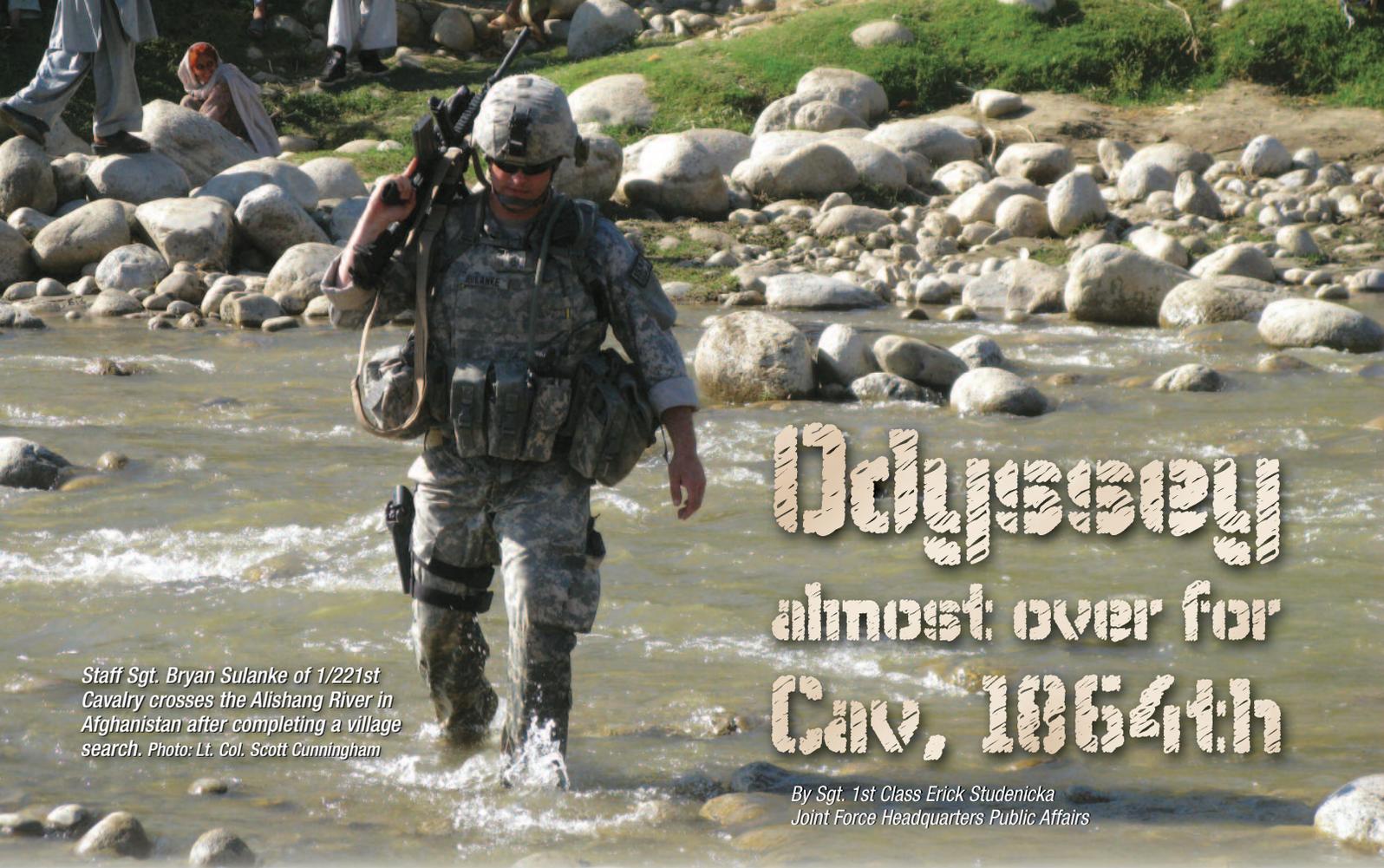
The program has taken history-related trips to Fort Churchill, Nev., and may also travel to a military camp next summer in Zion, Utah.

The Purple Tie Leadership Club meets at the Office of the Adjutant General in Carson City, Nev., on the third Friday of each month.

The annual fee for the Military 4-H Program is \$1 per child.

For more information, call Doser at (775) 784-4848 or (775) 544-5819.

Youth interested in 4-H outside the Reno metro area should visit <http://4-h.org/>. ■



Staff Sgt. Bryan Sulanke of 1/221st Cavalry crosses the Alishang River in Afghanistan after completing a village search. Photo: Lt. Col. Scott Cunningham

Odyssey almost over for Cav, 1864th

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

CARSON CITY – Their combat odysseys are almost over.

Within a few weeks, Soldiers in the 1864th Transportation Company and the 1/221st Cavalry Squadron will conclude their respective deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan and return to Nevada.

The units literally went around the world on their year-long journeys, which began with training here at home in the winter of 2009, continued on to Camp Atterbury, Ind., last spring, and then began in earnest in June when fully 30 percent of the Nevada Army Guard's Soldiers deployed with the two units in the largest foreign deployment of Nevada Guard troops since World War II.

The 1864th, headquartered in Henderson with about 160 Soldiers, was tasked with transporting goods and equipment throughout Kuwait and Iraq in addition to providing convoy security.

The 1/221st Cavalry, composed of five units located in Las Vegas and Yerington, deployed more than 400 of its Soldiers along with troops from Guam, Georgia, Arkansas and Arizona to complete the Herculean task of providing security platoons to 12 provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan in addition to overseeing and managing a forward operating base.

The two units have also beaten some long odds during a turbulent time in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. incurred 467 combat deaths in those countries in 2009, but by Feb. 1, 2010, the 1/221st and the 1864th had recorded no fatalities. (In a recent interview, State Command Sgt. Maj. Daryl Keithley said that more than 20 Cav Soldiers have been removed from the combat zone and are at various hospitals worldwide recovering from injuries).

Before the duffel bags are packed and the Conex containers loaded, though, *Battle Born* magazine caught up with 1864th and Cav officials around the globe to review the respective deployments.

1864th keeps going and going and going . . .

The two most important numbers as of late January revealing the success of the 1864th mission are one million and zero.

At the start of the deployment, about 40 Nevada Soldiers were teamed with Arizona's 1404th Transportation Company to form convoy logistics packages and transport heavy equipment and cargo goods. According to operations officer 1st Lt. Tammy Sparks, the 1404th has traveled

more than one million miles while completing more than 60 missions without serious incident.

The remainder of the 1864th teamed with Soldiers from Nebraska and the active duty to create a company with the primary responsibility of providing convoy security to numerous transportation companies. Each security mission features a combat logistics patrol which has four gun trucks. The 1864th has also recorded more than one million miles while escorting other companies – and no combat deaths.

Both entities, however, have encountered small-arms fire and improvised explosive device attacks.

Sgt. Gary Underhill said the 1864th has completed missions throughout the combat zone and destinations such as Adder, Cedar Two, Speicher, Scania and Victory Base Complex have become familiar stomping grounds for the 1864th Soldiers.

"We operate from the border in Kuwait up north to Mosul on the Turkish border," Underhill said. "And we run east to west from Syria to Iran."

Sparkes said the deployment has gone fairly smoothly and the Nevada and Arizona Soldiers quickly became cohesive within the 1404th.

"We have never felt isolated," Sparkes said. "Our training before deployment went well and we had a good battle hand-off from the previous unit."

Both sets of Soldiers are now heavily involved in the movement of equipment and goods from Iraq back into Kuwait as the U.S. draws down its number of troops in Iraq.

Underhill said the anxiety level in Iraq is substantially less now than when the unit first arrived in June.

"Initially, there were some early missions when I really feared we might get hit," Underhill said. "Definitely, there is not as much tension now."

Sparkes said she has seen improvement in the region since June.

"It is getting better in Iraq, but there is still a lot of work to do," she said.

The 1864th battle hand-off is set to occur in March, and the Soldiers are expected home in early April.

Far-flung Cav secures Afghanistan

In stark contrast to the Soldiers in the 1864th who remain centrally based in Kuwait, the Soldiers in the 1/221st are in more than a dozen locations throughout Afghanistan. The largest contingent is providing oversight of a forward operating base in Laghman Province. Other groups are spread out in disparate locations across the country providing security for reconstruction teams.

Sgt. Patrick Johnson from the Khost team said his security crew is accompanying Navy Seabees and civilian personnel as they make improvements to the infrastructure of the region.



Staff Sgt. Zell Johnson of 1/221st Cavalry is the center of attention among the children of the Khost Province of Afghanistan as he ensures security on reconstruction projects in the region. Photo: Sgt. Patrick Johnson



Sgt. Michael Ford pulls his weight while contributing to the mission of the 1864th Transportation Company in Kuwait. Photo: 1st Lt. Tammy Sparkes

"We visit schools, district centers, road projects and government buildings to assist with the growth and stabilization of the Afghan government," Johnson said via e-mail. "In our role, we travel to construction sites with the officials and provide security as they conduct inspections to ensure the work is properly done."

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Scott Cunningham said one action – patrolling – dominates the lives of his Wildhorse Squadron in Laghman Province.

"One of the most common missions conducted in Afghanistan by the 1/221st Cavalry is patrolling," Cunningham said. "Patrols are the backbone and foundation of counterinsurgency operations here. Patrols are part of the overall goal of making Afghanistan a secure, peaceful, and eventually prosperous member of the world community."

Cunningham said all the Soldiers assigned to the squadron conduct patrols.

"'Everyone Fights' is an informal motto that we have long used in regard to our Cavalry scouts as well as staff Soldiers, mechanics, cooks, medics and all the senior leaders," Cunningham said. "Everyone is expected to contribute to combat missions such as patrols. Also, the mission will often be conducted with Afghan army or police alongside as partners. It's important to always be working alongside them."

Cunningham said the standard vehicles used by the Cav are the trusty humvees and the larger mine-resistant, ambush-protected MRAP vehicles. Both have machine guns mounted in turrets on the roof, decent mobility, excellent protection, and room for troops inside.

On the downside, the vehicles are limited to the larger roads and trails in Afghanistan. With some of the roads suitable only for pedestrian traffic, there are many places the Soldiers must leave their vehicles and travel by helicopter or foot.

Moving on foot is relatively safe, but it can be unpleasant as well. A Soldier on patrol wears a huge amount of equipment. Between body armor, weapons, water, ammunition, communications-gear optics and other equipment, the basic load can approach 85 pounds.

One gets a pretty good idea of the tough conditions for the Nevada Soldiers when you factor in the weight they are carrying in a mountainous area that can reach 120 degrees in summer.

Cunningham said patrolling can be mentally stressful and tiring.

"The threat of enemy contact is always present," he said. "While moving mounted, you are constantly on the lookout for disturbances in the road, trigger wires, ambushes or anything else out of place."

"When dismounted, you still look for all of the above, but you also are wary of suicide bombers, snipers and any other threat that could target a dismounted infantryman. You are constantly scanning, looking and sensing the body language and reaction of the local nationals and the overall mood of the population."

Cunningham said the best acronym to hear during a patrol is "RTB – Return to Base."

And in a few weeks, the squadron is set to hear the best acronym ever uttered during a deployment: "RTN – Return to Nevada." ■



MWR: Morale, Welfare and **RECREATION**

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – Whether you are planning for a weekend winter skiing trip or a summer getaway months in the future, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices in Nevada can inform you about discounts and deals and provide a wide array of recreational equipment.

Nevada Guardsmen are eligible to use the MWR resources at any U.S. military installation in the world. The two MWR offices in Nevada are at the Fallon Naval Air Station and Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas.

Flo Watson, assistant manager at the Fallon NAS office, said most MWR locations worldwide feature a potpourri of resources.

Discounted ski passes and packages are available through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation office at Naval Air Station Fallon. Some resorts, including Homewood Mountain Resort in Tahoma, Calif., offer free passes to active-duty military personnel, including Nevada Guard Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers and Airmen.

Photo: Courtesy of Homewood Mountain Resort

Rafting trips such this one on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in Arizona are offered through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation offices at Nellis Air Force Base and Fallon Naval Air Station. The offices book the trips through commercial outfitters and most offer substantial discounts to military personnel.

Photo: Courtesy of U.S. National Park Service

“We have a little bit of everything from skeet launchers to turkey fryers to camp trailers to fishing or ski boats,” she said.

Winter ski packages and tickets for local resorts can be obtained through the MWR’s Information, Tickets and Travel Office. Many resorts offer free lift tickets to active duty personnel including the Active Guard and Reserve. Fallon offers ski lift tickets starting as low as \$42 at Diamond Peak, and Nellis was set to receive Brian Head, Utah, tickets in January.

The MWR offices in Fallon and Nellis have alpine skis, boots, poles and snowboards available for rent. The office in Fallon can also assist with other types of winter adventure such as sleds and cross country skis. Most rentals through MWR offices are on a first-come, first-served basis.

The MWR outdoor recreation centers at Fallon and Nellis also carry a variety of camp trailers. The staff can equip you with everything you will need to be comfortable, including sleeping bags, heaters and cooking gear. Hearty outdoorsmen can choose from a full selection of backpacking gear or you can solve all camping issues and rent a condo or cabin at Lake Tahoe or even on the beach in Hawaii.

Equipment rental cost is based on variables, including the quality and age of the equipment. Trailers begin at \$40 a day and \$250 per week, depending on the size and type of trailer.

“We give the service members the best price we can,” said Deanna Haberthur, the MWR marketing specialist at Fallon NAS. “We try to get the best deals we can for our military members.”

For those interested in a day on the lake, boats, canoes and kayaks are available from the MWR offices. You can rent a boat, water skis and accessories like



coolers and water jugs. Renters are required to complete a boating safety course, but it only takes a few minutes and is available online.

Nellis has jet skis available for rent. Some California MWR offices have surf boards and other water activity equipment available for hire; inquire at your destination.

For those who just want a day of relaxation in the park or backyard with family and friends, the Nevada MWR offices offer a wide variety of barbecue accessories. Gear for horseshoes, volleyball and badminton can also be rented. Big barbecue groups can be accommodated with large barbecues that can be towed.

“We can provide everything a large or small group would need for a picnic in the park,” said Kim Douglas, director of the information, tickets and travel office at Nellis AFB. “A person or unit can reserve a park space, or even space poolside for a party, through our office.”

If you want to leave the logistics of trip planning to others, the MWR office at Nellis offers outdoor adventure trips ranging from all-terrain vehicle rides to whitewater rafting and backpacking trips.

To see the range of trips, please visit http://www.nellisforcesupport.com/odr_trip.html.

The Fallon NAS office offers whitewater rafting, kayaking and tubing trips.

If you are not an outdoor recreation enthusiast, the MWR office can help with alternate recreational options like entertainment tickets, museum passes and theme park discounts.

“Service members who are looking for something to do should give us a call because we frequently get last-minute tickets for local events and shows that may not have been previously advertised by us,” Douglas said.

Fallon NAS has many recreational opportunities right on the base. It has free movies, a go-cart track, batting cages and a golf driving range.

At Nellis Air Force Base, you can practice your aim at the gun club or your swing on the golf course. Both Fallon and Nellis also have swimming pools and bowling lanes.

MWR is not solely limited to recreation. Both the Nellis and Fallon MWR offices subsidize auto shops where you can repair your own car or have repairs done at a reduced rate.

For information, call the Fallon NAS MWR office at (775) 426-2550 or the Nellis AFB MWR office at (702) 652-2193 or (702) 652-8670. ■

Motocross star Voss is boss in F-15 Eagle

*Heath Voss earned four top-10 finishes in the AMA Supercross series in 2008 while racing for the MDK Motosports Honda team.
Photo: Courtesy of AMA Supercross*

*By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Yada
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs*



NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE – Nevada Air National Guard pilot Col. Terrence Fornof gave supercross racer Heath Voss the ride of his life here in an Air Force F-15 fighter jet during an hour-long orientation ride Oct. 8 over the Nevada Test and Training Range.

Voss, a commercial pilot and motorcycle racer, grew up surrounded by aviation, acrobatic flying and motorcycle racing, so it came as no surprise that flying an F-15 would be the ultimate experience of his life.

"I've always wanted to be a fighter pilot. I missed my calling, but I love motocross, too," Voss said. "Flying the F-15 is a dream come true. This was the week of my life."

Fornof, who as a teenager raced motocross and supercross professionally, said Voss handled the orientation flight very well.

"Heath's got excellent coordination and great mental control," Fornof said.

Voss said he almost blacked out the first time the plane approached nine Gs.

"But I used all my training techniques and everything started coming back," Voss said. "The second time we experienced multiple Gs was no problem, but it was incredibly painful. There is something wrong with me because I liked it."

The supercross star, who promotes the Air Force at all his races, said, "It's so cool to be able to go out there and fly. Today we broke the speed of sound. That is something I have never done."

"I have a lot of respect for the guys that fly, train here and work here," he said.

Several Nevada National Guard and active duty Air Force Airmen supported the orientation flight, including the flight crew, public affairs staff and the pilot.

"My crew and I are proud to be a part of this event," said Master Sgt. Robert Butchko, crew chief of the Nevada Air Guard's 232nd Operations Squadron. "Our crew thinks Heath Voss is awesome. He has been supportive and loyal to the Air Force for a long time and that means a lot to us."



*Col. Terrence Fornof, left, gave supercross racer Heath Voss the ride of his life over the Nevada Test and Training Range in a F-15 fighter jet in October.
Photo: Staff Sgt. Wendy Yada*

The Air Force Recruiting Service, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, set up the flight to provide Voss with some hands-on familiarization with the Air Force.

Demographically, racing fans include the age group the Air Force wants to attract, according to Master Sgt. Larry Wright, Air Force Recruiting Service special events program manager.

"Heath Voss' passion for both his sport and the Air Force comes through loud and clear each time he gets out on the track," Wright said.

Although he has no formal sponsorship, Voss races motocross and supercross wearing the U.S. Air Force colors on his motorcycle gear, jersey and transportation vehicles.

"I enjoy getting the word out about the Air Force because the training and experience are valuable," Voss said.

According to Voss, the skills learned in the Air Force are the same sets of skills he learned as a motorcycle racer, including discipline and teamwork.

"I've been to Lackland and have seen what the kids have to go through during basic training. I think when those kids graduate, that might be one of the best times of their lives when they have everything in place both physically and mentally," he said. "I'm a big believer that you either progress or digress. You always have to work on progressing and striving toward a goal. I believe the Air Force teaches those core values, and

that's what keeps Airmen motivated."

According to Fornof, motocross racing is one of the most mentally draining and physically demanding sports in the world and there are many parallels between flying fighter jets and racing motorcycles.

At age 13, Voss began riding motorcycles and was competitively racing by age 16. He competed in his first professional supercross race in 1994 and participated in the 2004 World Supercross Championships.

In 2008, he raced in the AMA Supercross Series and earned four top-10 finishes. ■



No obstacle between Nevada Guard, Turkmenistan, as border facility opens

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

TURKMENISTAN—A delegation of United States representatives, including the Nevada National Guard's Col. Craig Wroblewski, Maj. Eric Wade and Maj. Jerome Guerrero, gathered in Turkmenabat, Turkmenistan, in late autumn for the official opening of a new border crossing checkpoint at Farap on the Uzbekistan border. The Nevada National

Guard works closely with Turkmenistan as part of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program.

This state-of-the-art facility was designed to allow for efficient international commerce while deterring illegal trafficking in narcotics, weapons of mass destruction and contraband.

The border crossing checkpoint at Farap was the third checkpoint the Nevada National Guard helped Turkmenistan complete. The first border checkpoint at Altyn Asyr opened in 2006 on the border with Iran, and the second border checkpoint at Imamnazar opened in 2007 on the border with Afghanistan.

According to the U.S. embassy in Turkmenistan, the U.S. contributed more than \$6 million toward the Farap project. The Farap border checkpoint includes the latest technology that promises to improve Turkmenistan's ability to screen traffic entering and exiting the country.

This enhanced capability should assist the Turkmenistan Customs Service, the State Border Service, the State Migration Service, and other agencies to deter smuggling, narcotics transportation and illegal trafficking.

A country in central Asia, Turkmenistan was formerly a republic of the Soviet Union known until 1991 as the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. The country is bordered by Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south and southwest, Uzbekistan to the east and northeast, Kazakhstan to the north and northwest and the Caspian Sea to the west.

The Nevada National Guard's State Partnership Program relationship with Turkmenistan began in 1995. The program was established to provide the U.S. Central Command's combatant commander and U.S. ambassador a broad range of capabilities using National Guard's resources to meet U.S. goals and objectives in the region. ■



Maj. Eric Wade, international affairs officer for the Nevada Guard, meets with his Turkmen counterpart in conjunction with the border crossing opening in Farap in October. Photo: Courtesy of Nevada National Guard International Affairs Office

Top photo: The opening of the new border crossing checkpoint at Farap, Turkmenistan, in October was marked by an elaborate ceremony featuring Turkmen dancers and musicians. The Nevada Guard has assisted the Turkmenistan government with the completion of three border crossings since 2006.

Inset: Turkmen officials cut the ribbon marking the opening of the border crossing facility at Farap in October. Through the Nevada Guard's state partnership with Turkmenistan, the U.S. contributed more than \$6 million toward the checkpoint between Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Photos: Courtesy of Nevada National Guard International Affairs Office



Spc. Michael Sena of the 100th Quartermaster Company preps food Nov. 14 during the 42nd Annual Philip A. Connelly field kitchen competition in Las Vegas. The company competed against several other units across the country for the title of best field kitchen in the Army National Guard. Photo: Staff Sgt Frank Marquez, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

Recipe for victory falls short for 100th QM

LAS VEGAS – Soldiers in the 100th Quartermaster Company sincerely believed they had the recipe for victory in the 42nd Annual Philip A. Connelly field kitchen competition.

But they were left with the bitter taste of disappointment as they discovered in December that a unit from West Virginia won the contest and Puerto Rico was named runner-up.

“It still was one of the best meals I’ve had in my life,” said Army Guard commander Brig. Gen. Frank Gonzales of the baked chicken meal he sampled during the competition.

Cooks from the 100th Quartermaster Company had set up their field kitchen in mid-November with the goal of winning the right to be called the best food preparation unit in the Army National Guard.

Dozens of others units across the nation began the competition, but only seven units including the 100th Quartermaster, reached the final stage of the contest.

Nevada has placed second three times in the national competition, but has yet to achieve its goal of overall winner.

The unit simulated deployment scenarios including camp setup, security, water purification and field sanitation to provide a realistic environment if it’s ever deployed to a combat theater.

Evaluators primarily graded the unit on food preparation skills, but supervision, training, supply orders and accountability were also taken into consideration.

Commissioned, warrant officer opportunities abound

The ongoing growth of the Nevada Army Guard has created opportunities for enlisted Soldiers to become commissioned or warrant officers. Positions are open in both northern and southern Nevada.

Positions in logistics, ordnance, supply and some specialty branches are available to Soldiers who qualify and have a recommendation from their commanding officer. In certain career fields, a Soldier may be eligible for a \$10,000 bonus.

For information, call 1st Lt. Barron VanMeurs at (775) 720-6107.

New legislation promises to ease voting while deployed

Nevada Secretary of State Ross Miller and the Nevada Department of Veterans Services have teamed to allow eligible Nevadans, including deployed Airmen and Soldiers, to register, request and submit an absentee ballot via e-mail.

The bill promises to expedite the voting process for deployed Nevadans so ballots from overseas are received by the respective county clerks by the election day deadline.

Overseas voters have the responsibility to initiate their request to register or receive their absentee ballot. Overseas voters can log on to www.fvap.gov and click on the “Get Started” button.

Additionally, overseas voters can register and vote via e-mail by visiting www.nvsos.gov. At the site, voters can obtain the contact information of their county clerk/registrar of voters under the Voter Information section and request the information needed to cast a ballot.

For information, call (775) 684-5705.

UNLV ROTC now the Department of Military Science

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Reserve Officer Training Corps, is now recognized as the Department of Military Science under the auspices of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. The Nevada Board of Regents unanimously agreed Dec. 3 to make the ROTC a full academic department. The program will move on campus into the newly refurbished University Hall once its remodel is complete.

Lt. Col. Dan Waters, the school’s previous ROTC commander, was instrumental in the establishment of the academic department and the move of the ROTC onto the campus. Lt. Col. Eric Wishart is the current commander of the program.

For information, call (702) 895-0455.

Lt. Gov. announces veterans oral history project

Nevada Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki announced a new initiative in January to document the stories of Nevada’s veterans of the Global War on Terrorism. The stories will be videotaped and audiotaped and made available to the public on Krolicki’s website.

Battle Born: Nevada War Stories will focus on preparing for battle, surviving in combat and support missions, being fired upon and perhaps wounded, grieving and dealing with the deaths of friends, and coping with the extraordinary stress of military service during wartime.

“In the almost eight years since the attacks of September 11, American service members have been called to serve multiple tours in a war with at least two fronts,” Krolicki said. “*Battle Born* will be a respectful and fitting tribute to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines – and their families – who have given so much of themselves.”

For information, call Caleb Cage at (775) 684-7122.

Soldiers, Airmen reminded to guard against identity theft

Under new Facebook privacy settings, some information from your profile is now treated as publicly available information and is visible to everyone on Facebook. Personally identifying information often includes your name, profile picture, current city, gender, networks, friends list and fan pages.

While access to this information was restricted under the old settings, newer default settings now make it visible to any user of the service.

It is highly encouraged that Soldiers and Airmen prevent personal identifying information from being disclosed to the public. PII is information including but not limited to, name, official e-mail address, home postal address, telephone number or anything that can be used to identify an individual.



From left, Pfc. Randy Jackson, Pfc. Craig Kenison and Pfc. Adam Brayton set up their explosives at one end of the Coleman Road Bridge during a training exercise in Fallon in November. Photo: Retired Lt. Col. Steve Ranson

609th demolishes training goals, objectives

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

FALLON — Assigned a demolition mission, a platoon of Nevada Army Guard Soldiers skirted along a set of railroad tracks and inched their way toward a major bridge across a canal.

Meanwhile, a second platoon of Soldiers trailed behind the first party and concealed themselves in bushes and provided small-arms cover in case of enemy attack.

Although this could be a scenario in either Iraq or Afghanistan, this one-day mission took place in Fallon, thousands of miles away from any war zone.

One of the Nevada Army Guard's newest units, the 609th Combat Engineer Company, recently executed an operations order to disable a railroad bridge that crossed a canal near Coleman Road.

"I thought we did pretty well," said Capt. Nick Chavez, company commander. "We spent only 25 minutes on the first objective."

He said once the demolition team arrived at the bridge, the Guardsmen immediately went to work setting up their charges along the rails at each end of the



SAPPER

Combat engineers who have completed the engineering leadership course are authorized to wear Sapper tabs.

A Soldier from the 609th Combat Engineer Company prepares for a simulated detonation on Fallon's Coleman Road Bridge during training in November. Photo: Retired Lt. Col. Steve Ranson

bridge.

Chavez said he was pleased with how each platoon established its position on time, like dominos falling into place. The company met at the rally point almost 90

minutes ahead of schedule.

The 609th began recruiting Guardsmen in March but just completed its first true training mission in November.

The 609th currently has 43 Soldiers; 12

are still at basic training. The unit's goal is to have 100 Soldiers within two years.

Since this a combat-designated unit, only men are allowed to serve in the 609th.

"I love these guys," said 1st Sgt. Shane Jensen, a Fallon resident and 20-year veteran who served overseas in Iraq with the 3rd Armor Division. "It's a family, not a company."

Of the 32 Soldiers who now drill, Jensen said about 25 percent are combat veterans.

Jensen said the Fallon area offers unique training opportunities for many units, including the 609th.

"It's the only place like it in the state," he said.

Battalion Command Sgt. Major Robert Boldry echoed Jensen's assessment of the local training area.

"[The battalion] takes full advantage of Fallon and the training opportunities here," Boldry said. "There's a lot out here. Fallon is a hidden secret for good military training."

The National Guard and Naval Air Station Fallon also operate a small arms range south of Fallon. The Navy also built a small town at one of its ranges east of Sand Mountain for urban terrain fighting.

National Guard and other military services also use the training facilities and buildings at the Hawthorne Army Depot for other training scenarios.

Pfc. Adam Brayton of Reno said Soldiers are always learning. "You never stop learning," Brayton said. "You can't be the best unless you stumble a few times."

Brayton said the combat engineers in the unit have a unique military occupational specialty.

"This is the best job you can have in the Army," he said.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the job of a combat engineer is to construct and breach trenches, tank traps and other fortifications; bunker construction; bridge and road construction or destruction; lay or clear landmines; and general engineering tasks under fire.

Combat engineers' tasks facilitate the movement and support of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy.

Sgt. 1st Class Justin Hurt, unit supply sergeant, said he is very pleased with the progress the unit is making.

"I've been in the Army for nine years, and this is the best group of Soldiers I've worked with," he said.

The unit continues to seek new Soldiers. For information, call Jensen at (775) 428-0701. ■

Nevada Guard offers survivor outreach services

The loss of a loved one is inarguably one of the most difficult times anyone will experience during their life. The Nevada Guard's Survivor Outreach Services office can connect you with the people and resources that can help you find strength and move forward following a difficult loss.

Many times after a person loses a loved one, unresolved issues or questions remain that may surface months or even years after the loss. The SOS office understands the questions and issues that arise long after the Casualty Assistance Officer has concluded his or her duties.

The SOS office is committed to the families of the fallen, and its mission is to provide enhanced services to these families. For information on resources available through SOS, call Vito Valdez at (702) 632-0556 or (775) 315-9957.

Military Ball set for May 1

All Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen are invited to the Nevada National Guard Military Ball set for May 1 in Las Vegas. For information or to RSVP, visit NevadaGuard.com.



61487
United Concordia

Nordic Soldiers earn

By Sgt. Mike Getten
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. — Three Nevada National Guard biathletes earned a trip in February to one of the largest biathlon competitions in North America because of their results here Dec. 9-13 at the National Guard Bureau's Western Biathlon Regional Competition.

No, they will not be at Vancouver, Canada, for the Winter Olympics. Instead, Spc. Bill Raitter, Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka and Sgt. Ryan Wendt will represent the Nevada Guard at the Chief, National Guard Bureau, championships beginning Feb. 27 at Camp Ripley, Minn.

Raitter, from the Medical Detachment, was Nevada's top finisher in 18th place. He finished the 10-kilometer sprint race in temperatures hovering around 5 degrees in 52 minutes, 3 seconds. Studenicka finished in 20th place with 53:24 and Wendt, from the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, competing in his first biathlon, finished 42nd in 1:22:24. All three were well under the nationals qualifying time of 90 minutes.

The three also combined to give Nevada sixth place in the 3x6-kilometer relay. Nevada was in the bronze medal position through 12 kilometers before succumbing to the teams from Alaska, Wyoming and Idaho during the final 6 kilometers.

"Bill is better known as a runner, but he is skiing really well this winter," said Studenicka, the veteran of the



Spc. William Raitter of the Medical Detachment has been on the All-Guard marathon team and is now enjoying his best season as a biathlete. He was the top finisher for the Nevada Guard in the Western Regional with his 18th-place finish. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten



Maj. Larry Irwin of Joint Force Headquarters is off to a flying start in the men's 10-kilometer sprint Dec. 11 in West Yellowstone. Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

berths at nationals



Nevada Guard team, with six years of experience. "He is one of the best in the nation skiing uphill. If there were no downhill or shooting stops, Bill would take the gold medal."

Maj. Lawrence Irwin from Joint Force Headquarters also competed.

Biathlon is the winter sport that combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship. By national participation, it is the most popular sport in the Winter Olympics, with more than 35 countries sending a biathlon team to the Olympics every four years. It is also one of the four sports supported by the National Guard Bureau. The other three are marathon running, marksmanship and target parachuting, or Leap Fest.

There is no cost to compete in biathlon. Biathlon athletes are placed on orders and receive compensation for their travel expenses. The Nevada Guard maintains a stock of biathlon rifles that are checked out to athletes for competition. The team is open to all Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

Those interested in competing in biathlon during the 2010-2011 season can call Studenicka at (775) 887-7250. ■

Sgt. Ryan Wendt tries to clear his targets in the standing position during the relay Dec. 12 in West Yellowstone, Mont. The sport of biathlon combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship and is one of four sports sponsored by the National Guard Bureau.

Photo: Sgt. Mike Getten

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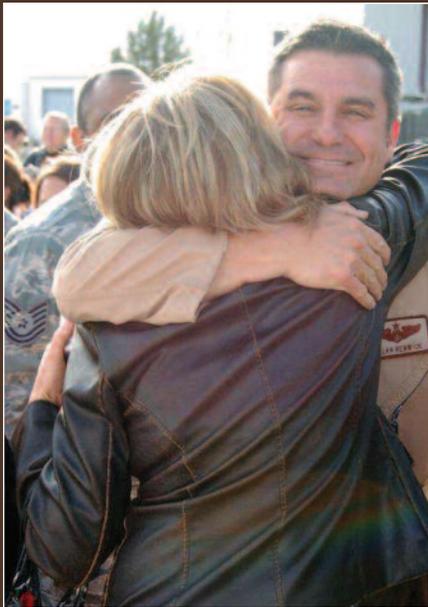
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Nevada Air Guard reignites Key Spouse network

By Tech. Sgt. Wendy Yada
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs



Maj. Allan Renwick greets his wife after returning to the Air National Guard Base in Reno following a deployment to the Middle East. The newly improved Key Spouse program promises to create a network of communication between Air Guard leadership and family members of deployed Airmen and thus ease some of the hardships of deployment among couples.

Photo: Staff Sgt Eric Ritter

RENO – The Nevada Air National Guard has reignited and improved its Key Spouse program through the combined cooperation of unit commanders, first sergeants, the Family Programs Office and volunteers, including the adjutant general's wife, Annette Burks.

Key Spouse, an official Air Force communication network, is designed to enhance readiness and establish a sense of community among the units' leaders. The program provides a framework for stability and support for families with deployed Airmen by maintaining regular contact with family members and referring them to base agencies and squadron resources.

The program's structure is designed so that the unit commander, Key Spouse, first sergeant, and Key Spouse mentor work as a team to ensure 100 percent follow-up with separated families.

Staff members from the Air Guard provide initial and ongoing training and serve as a referral resource for Key Spouses.

A Key Spouse volunteer may be the spouse of an officer, an enlisted Airman, a Department of Defense civilian or other qualified person with ties to the unit. Unit leaders formally select and appoint each Key Spouse. Senior officer or enlisted spouses are encouraged to serve as mentors or advisers.

One very visible officer's wife who is participating in the program is Annette Burks, wife of adjutant general Brig. Gen. William Burks.

"It is important that the spouses and significant others of the Nevada National Guard Airmen do all we can to support our loved ones and the other members of the various Nevada National Guard units, no matter whether they are deployed or in a training status," said Mrs. Burks.

Mrs. Burks works closely with another familiar Key Spouse, retired Chief Master Sgt. Cindy Sullivan, wife of Brig. Gen. Robert Fitch, commander of the Nevada Air Guard.

"The involvement of spouses and partners is crucial in making this program a success," Sullivan said.

In addition to ongoing contact with separated families, Key Spouse activities may include publishing newsletters for family members, involvement in official and unofficial meetings or squadron events, and distribution of deployment "survival" information.

According to Sullivan, the Key Spouse program is run by the commanders and first sergeants to ensure a high level of unit support for families.

Unit commanders provide administrative support and appoint the volunteers. First sergeants are the main point of contact between the commander and the volunteers. The volunteers are usually command staff members who serve as a communication link between families at home and the unit during an Airman's deployment.

"We have always had a family support program," Sullivan said. "But the Key Spouse program is more intimate. The volunteers share a common bond and understanding."

The Family Programs Office also plays a significant role in the program. It provides family-readiness referral support and Key Spouse program training.

Volunteers provide information on topics such as family counseling and support, important base and off-base events, military discounts, and day-care center information.

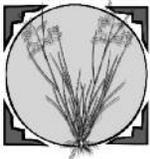
"There are a lot of military resources out there, but many Airmen don't know what is available for them," Sullivan said.

For information, you can call Sullivan at (775) 376-3705, Larry Miller at (775) 788-4585 or write to Annette Burks at rigazioa@yahoo.com. ■

Nine Airmen earn CCAF degrees

Nine Airmen earned degrees from the Community College of the Air Force fall semester, 2009. The graduates and their degree fields were:

- Tech. Sgt. Christopher Caminiti, Fire Science
- Senior Master Sgt. Michael Coscuna, Human Resource Management
- Master Sgt. Michelle Farmer, Transportation
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Lyons, Communications Application
- Master Sgt. Brian McBeth, Electronic Systems Technology
- Senior Airman Bradley Noble, Fire Science
- Senior Master Sgt. Craig Wells, Aviation Operations
- Staff Sgt. Jennifer James, Allied Health Sciences
- Master Sgt. Robert Vance, Criminal Justice



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Moving Up and Moving On • September, October & November 2009

AWARDS

Legion of Merit



CW4 Ernie Stover 150th Maint Co

Meritorious Service Medal



MAJ Richard Binderim JFHQ
SFC Joseph Loader 1/168th MEDEVAC
LtCol Donald Reynolds 152nd Medical Group
CW4 Ernie Stover 150th Maint Co
MSG James Fowler HHC, 422nd ESB
SSG Theodore Wilkens HHC, 422nd ESB
1SG Robert Boldry 485th MP Co
SMSgt Sabrina McLaughlin . 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SFC Harry Schroeder 593rd Trans Co
SFC Christopher Keesee 92nd CST
CPT Christopher James 992nd Troop Cmd
SFC William Carter I Troop, 1/221st Cav
MSgt Paul Hinen 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
MAJ Renea Greenlee JFHQ
LTC Philip Kerrigan JFHQ
SSgt Annette Soria 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
LTC Steve Ranson JFHQ
LTC Randall Seeber JFHQ
SGM Catherine Summers NVARNG Med Det

Army Commendation Medal



SSG John Easter 1/168th MEDEVAC
SPC Marvin Cox 1/189th Aviation
SFC Donald Fleming 150th Maint Co
SGT Steven Bunch C Co, 422nd ESB
SGT Paul Harvey C Co, 422nd ESB
SGT Richard Rohweder 609th Engineer Co
SFC Jason Elfberg 72nd MP Co
WO1 Tanya Leonard 991st Troop Cmd
MAJ Neil Oscarson 992nd Troop Cmd
MSG Jeffery Wilkinson 421st RTI
SFC Leon Ferran 421st RTI
1SG Heather Addamo JFHQ
SSG Kimberly Boeckman JFHQ
SSG Elizabeth Zamora-Lechuga JFHQ
SFC Suzette Schrupp NVARNG Rec/Ret

Air Force Commendation Medal



1stLt Jean (Kelly) Niedzwiecki . . . 152nd Medical Group
LtCol Jean Evans 152nd Medical Group
LtCol Scott Shepherd 152nd Medical Group
LtCol David Sullivan 152nd Medical Group
LtCol Catherine Kanwetz 152nd Medical Group
Maj Beth Boschee 152nd Medical Group

MSgt Douglas Larson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
MSgt Vicki Kuykendall 152nd Medical Group
MSgt William Vaneis 152nd Medical Group
SMSgt Mark Bailey 152nd Medical Group
TSgt Jason Farnsworth 152nd Medical Group
TSgt James Kalvelage 152nd Medical Group
TSgt Ian McEwen 152nd Medical Group
TSgt Donald Evans 152nd Medical Group
TSgt John Deavila 152nd Medical Group

Army Achievement Medal



SFC Benjamin Krainbrink C Co, 422nd ESB
SFC Jacob Lewis C Co, 422nd ESB
SFC Gregory Meredith C Co, 422nd ESB
CPT David Evans JFHQ
SSG Richard Howes JFHQ
SGT Heather Cate NVARNG Med Det
SSG Ilda Cruz NVARNG Med Det
SPC David Lendowski NVARNG Med Det

Air Force Achievement Medal



Capt Jared Brandt 152nd Medical Group
LtCol Edward Draper 152nd Medical Group
Maj Bryan Ricks 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Rafael Chelli 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt David Hill 152nd Force Support Sqdn
MSgt Norman Albertsen 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
MSgt Nancy Gran 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SrA Jose Escobar 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SrA Jauies Sosa 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
SrA Lori Ferrol 152nd Medical Group
SSgt Gurpreet Bhabra 152nd Force Support Sqdn
SSgt Angie Rincon 152nd Medical Group
SSgt Jennifer James 152nd Medical Group
SSgt Rachel Larson 152nd Medical Group
SSgt Kathy Casas 192nd Airlift Sqdn
TSgt David Price 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
TSgt Tugba Giles 152nd Medical Group
TSgt Lisa Maciel 152nd Medical Group
TSgt Vincent Girolami 232nd Operations Sqdn

Order of Nevada



CW4 Ernie Stover 150th Maint Co
CSM Gregory Cook 992nd Troop Cmd

Nevada Distinguished Service Medal



SGM Darrell Stokke JFHQ

Nevada Medal of Merit



1SG Manuel Gurule 150th Maint Co
MSgt Douglas Larson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
WO1 Mark McAllister NVARNG Rec/Ret

Nevada State Commendation Medal



A1C Steven Snyder 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
CPL Garrick Most C Co, 422nd ESB

Nevada Outstanding Graduate Award



SGT Russell Hottell 1/168th MEDEVAC
SGT John Benham 3/140th S & S
SGT Eric Hintermeyer 3/140th S & S
SGM James Foreman JFHQ
COL Johnny Isaak JFHQ
SFC Benjamin Schinzing JFHQ
SGT Amy Batchelder NVARNG Med Det

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



1stLt Brook Thomas 192nd Airlift Sqdn
A1C Rueben Montero 152nd Maintenance Group
Capt Steve Mills 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Brian Moynihan 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Evan Kirkwood 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Justin Galli 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Jason Little 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Frank Magee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Capt Charles Steffens 192nd Airlift Sqdn
CMSgt William Moore 192nd Airlift Sqdn
LtCol Bartley M. O'Toole 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Brian Thayer 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Todd Hudson 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Hans Lienke 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Hillary Moynihan 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Derek Gardner 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Michael Ramsey 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Anthony Machabee 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Kevin Newberry 192nd Airlift Sqdn
Maj Allan Renwick 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt William Elliott 152nd Communications Flt
MSgt John Albertson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
MSgt Thomas Wainscoat 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt Christopher Cobb 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt William Hartzler, III 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt Steven Hunt 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt Bruce Ladd 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt Richard Murphy 152nd Maintenance Group
MSgt Shanon Hampton 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Michael Wilcox 192nd Airlift Sqdn
MSgt Joseph Henle 192nd Airlift Sqdn

AWARDS (cont'd)

MSgt David Raschen 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Ryan. 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Santiago Santiago 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Kevin Walen. 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Williams 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SMSgt Rosemarie Marston. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SMSgt Blake Martelle. 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Carly Holmes 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SrA Ryan Pratt. 152nd Maintenance Group
 SrA Marvin Smith 152nd Maintenance Group
 SrA Bartley J. O'Toole 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SrA Michael Faulkenberry . . 152nd Maintenance Group
 SrA Anastasia Brown. 152nd Maintenance Group
 SrA Marcus Eisemann. 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Jeremy Vanyi 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Paul Torrianni 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Christopher Duncan . . 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Jeffrey Miessler 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Nicholas Langton 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Rebecca Swatman 152nd Maintenance Group
 SSgt Brian Santor 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Lewis Roberts 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 SSgt Lilliana Garcia. 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 TSgt Garrett Dacay 152nd Maintenance Group
 TSgt Joshua Leggett. 152nd Maintenance Group
 TSgt Tristan Cornett 152nd Maintenance Group
 TSgt Ronald Reburn 152nd Maintenance Group
 TSgt James Wallis. 152nd Maintenance Group
 TSgt Dimitrius Kassebaum . . . 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Robert Winder. 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Shawn Plunket. 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Ernest Spandau 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Frank Tolete 192nd Airlift Sqdn

Nevada Honor Guard Ribbon



MSgt Robert Marshall 152nd Maintenance Group
 MSgt Rafael Chelli 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 MSgt Norman Albertsen, Jr. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt John Albertson 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Cathy Eidman 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Nancy Gran 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Douglas Larson. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Jon Wolland 152nd Maintenance Group
 SMSgt James Kenealy 152nd Airlift Wing
 SMSgt Gregory Bartlett. 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SrA Joshua Mutua. 152nd Maintenance Group
 SrA Jose Escobar. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Jauires Sosa. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Gurpreet Bhambra 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt Lea Pope 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 SSgt Mark Magee. 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 TSgt David Price. 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 TSgt Xiomara Young 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 TSgt Jayson Peoples 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada Recruiting Ribbon



A1C Merridy Stephenson 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 A1C Paul Contreras. 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 SrA Geane Mara. 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SSgt Joel Derouchey 152nd Communications Flt
 SSgt Lewis Roberts 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 TSgt Edward Richer, Jr. 152nd Airlift Wing

PROMOTIONS

LTC/LtCol

Jeffrey Zupon 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CPT/Capt

Brooke Thomas 192nd Airlift Sqdn

1LT/1stLt

Lance King 192nd Airlift Sqdn

CSM/SGM/CMSgt

Patrick Moore 1/168th MEDEVAC
 James Foreman. 17th Sustainment Bde
 Catherine Summers. 17th Sustainment Bde

1SG/MSG/SMSGt

Douglas Ramey 150th Maint Co
 Dennis Basilio 1864th Trans Co
 Frederick Springer C Co, 422nd ESB
 Elizabeth Liemandt. HHC, 422nd ESB
 Don Gable 991st Troop Cmd
 Heather Addamo 421st RTI
 Scott Wofford 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 Jason Miller. NVARNG Med Det
 James Fowler 17th Sustainment Bde
 Jeffery Wilkinson JFHQ

SFC/MSgt

Jeffrey Lashua 100th Quartermaster Co
 Benjamin Krainbrink. C Co, 422nd ESB
 Robert Pool. C Co, 422nd ESB
 Joe Sherych 92nd CST
 Matthew Shilk. 92nd CST
 Michael Johnson 421st RTI
 Chad Prawitz. 421st RTI
 Lemuel Iniguez 421st RTI
 Benjamin Schinzing JFHQ
 Thomas Slaughter JFHQ
 Travis Johnson. NVARNG Rec/Ret Det
 Suzette Schrupm NVARNG Rec/Ret Det
 Ted Ziegenfuss. NVARNG Rec/Ret Det
 Jason Shipp NVARNG Training Site Det
 Michelle Farmer 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Paul Ochs 192nd Airlift Sqdn

SSG/TSgt

Jose Contreras-Orozco 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Nicholas Hammond 1/168th MEDEVAC
 Robert Knight 1/189th Aviation
 Heather Ibarra. 100th Quartermaster Co
 Timothy Beghtol 137th MP Co
 Daniel Thomassian. 137th MP Co
 Michael Xavier 150th Maint Co
 Mirna Cambero 240th Engineer Co
 Jason Goodberlet. 240th Engineer Co
 Cordell Munier 3/140th S & S
 Jessie Bosquez. HHC, 422nd ESB
 Tammy Nelson HHC, 422nd ESB
 Todd Loreman 485th MP Co
 Samuel Acevedo 72nd MP Co
 Roberto Caceres-Valencia 92nd CST
 Carlos Esparza 92nd CST
 Lawrence Taylor. D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Alfonso Vargaguerra. D Troop, 1/221st Cav

Carmen Fioravanti 150th Maint Co
 Timothy Jeffers. 150th Maint Co
 Jesse Cox 593rd Trans Co
 Matthew Jaramillo. 72nd MP Co
 Nigel Harrison JFHQ
 Sean McCoy JFHQ
 Marvelle Cranford JFHQ
 Mark Newton JFHQ
 Nathan Daisley L Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Michael Krieger. NVARNG Med Det
 Mike Nguyen NVARNG Rec/Ret Det
 Kelly Gannon 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 Joel Derouchey. 152nd Communications Flt
 Alexander Muniz. 152nd Maintenance Sqdn
 Jessica Bean. 152nd Medical Group
 Jennifer James 152nd Medical Group
 Terry Fitzgerald. 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Joshua Zumsteg 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Norman Jennings 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Lisa Mitchell JFHQ

SGT/SSgt

Roosevelt Daymon. 1/221st Cav
 James Ketelsen 100th Quartermaster Co
 Thomas Lafferty 100th Quartermaster Co
 Julia Martinez. 100th Quartermaster Co
 Joel Spencer. 100th Quartermaster Co
 Ronald Gogan. 137th MP Co
 Garrison Paine 137th MP Co
 Micah Gill. C Co, 422nd ESB
 Savannah McCarthy HHC, 422nd ESB
 Christian Cale 609th Engineer Co
 Reid Geary. 72nd MP Co
 Beth Juliar. 72nd MP Co
 Christopher Goodman D Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Darrel Mally 150th Maint Co
 Angel Salazar 72nd MP Co
 Michael Dilay HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Adrian Felix HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Alvis Keene HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Jessica Hana JFHQ
 Robin Kinney JFHQ
 James Miller K Troop, 1/221st Cav
 Patrick Brunson NVARNG Rec/Ret Det
 David Snyder 152nd Airlift Wing
 Teresa Thurtle 152nd Airlift Wing
 Keith Trimble. 152nd Airlift Wing
 David May. 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Lea Pope. 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Justin Melcher 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 Kristine Schwind 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Michelle Venkataramiah . 152nd Operations Support Flt
 Anthony Haley. 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Timothy Cruze 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Rachael Hillmann. 232nd Operations Sqdn
 Michael Link 232nd Operations Sqdn

CPL

Taerik Berry HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Jordan Coleman HHT, 1/221st Cav
 Michael Ward. HHT, 1/221st Cav

ENLISTMENTS

1/221st Cavalry

Richard Bailey
Stephen Barry
Alex Bennett
Daniel Borden
Jose Caceres-Valencia
Cody Clark
Jesse Cunnally
Roosevelt Daymon
Alexander Elkind
Orvil Garita
Jonathan Grier
Todd Hensley
Adrian Jauregui
James Jordan
Daniel Lawrence
Branden Lillegaard
Gregory Lowry
Eric Mangino
David Neeley
Daniel Truglio
Carlos Valiente
Andrew Wetmore
Cristian Zavaladiaz

100th Quartermaster Co

Ellis Barba
Justin Hollins

Jose Jimenez
Andasol Lozano
Lawrence Magee
Derrick McCullough
Curtis Millette
Christopher Ortiz
Karina Padilla
Kurtis Padilla
Tyler Rodil
Bruce Walker
Trayvon Washington Gooden

137th MP Det

Harry Green

150th Maintenance Co

David Angell
Darrell Hurlburt
Jarvon Miley
Timothy Stephenson
Mitchell Vaughn
Justin Baileyduan
Christopher Brown
Kalani Kahalepo
Nicholas Mapes
Arlo McGovern

152nd Aircraft Maintenance Sqdn

Tasha Jensen
Sonia Aguilar

152nd Airlift Wing

Brandon Encallado
Stefani Washington
Roseann Hill

152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

Charles Neill
Brendan Edgington
Robert Thorpe
Hilary Bush

152nd Communications Ft

Jacob Ellis

152nd Force Support Sqdn

Kaitlind Becker

152nd Intelligence Sqdn

Caleb Bogdanowicz

152nd Logistical Readiness Sqdn

Garrett Madsen
Megan Dabner
Timothy Contreras
Kraig Kimball

152nd Maintenance Grp

Ladd Crooker

152nd Maintenance Sqdn

Devin Steffens
Brandon Herbert
Quentin Young
Charles Burow
Emmanuel Paguio
Matthew Stewart
Joseph Patchen
Jennifer Turnball
Carson Fisher
Alyse Snyder

152nd Security Forces Sqdn

Richard Sharber
Randi Martinez
Charles Baker
Matthew Farley
Elliott Canaday
Scott Riek
Scott Danielson

17th Sustainment Bde

William Mathson

1864th Transportation Co

Jazz Sadik

192nd Airlift Sqdn

Tony Silva
Dornan Bland
Christopher Des Roches
Hugh Weldon

240th Engineer Co

Martin Abrego
Juan Almaraz
Jaime Alvarez
Robert Case
Jeffrey Daybell
Shane Flores
David Gonzalez
Lashonne Jones
Terrence Jones
Michael Maddy
Kerilyn Mangum
Edward Ojeda
Andre Rose
Sean Skarecky
Chad Trammell

3/140th S & S

Laura Taylor

B Co, 422 Sig Bn

Raymond Allenclock
Ciana Benson
Marc Dorsett
Mark Gonzales
Jason Gordon

485th MP Co

Scott Butler
Kirsten Day
Adam Gardner
Mark Goulart
Christopher Joseph
Michael Sehorn
Lauren Young

593rd

Transportation Co

Hilary Arnold
Benjamin Haigh
David Millhoff
April Carr
Steven Davidson
David Gotaas
Chase Rauchle
Joseph Thurston
Dustin Greener

609th Engineer Co

Ryan Adkins
Toby Atkins
William Cagle
Erik Cetovick
Ryan Dix
Justin Lantz

Jose Macias
Frank Nash
Cameron Roberson
Joseph Rodriguez
Jesse Welshonse

72nd MP Co

Jessica Done
Reid Geary

777th Forward Support Co

Michael Bitner
Ricky Bunch
Matthew Egan
Cassie Gerry
Christopher Kawakami
Brian Kiplangat
Unique Lee
Justin Perry
Jason Reid
Nicole Wolovitz

92nd CST

Nicholas Agle

992nd Troop Cmd

David Balfour

C Co, 422nd ESB

Maurice Vinson
Neil Apuna
Telly Kidman
Justin Rose
Jeffrey Spurlock
Kevin Sutliff
Aaron Timm

Det 2, B Co, 422nd Signal Bn

Eugene Bousley
Kenneth Case
Oscar Mezaocampo
Alexander Snyder
Justine Vitug
Katrina Wilson

HHC, 422nd ESB

Jorge Gutierrezdealba
Alexander Matter
Corey Metzker

JFHQ

Jared Volk

NVARNG Med Det

Victoria Areerob
Matthew Morales
Sara Rome
Jessica Sosa

NVARNG Rec/Ret

Joshua Boothe
Kenneth Wheeler

RETIREMENTS

MAJ Richard Binderim II JFHQ
MSgt Annette C. Boucher 152nd Mission Support Ft
CMSgt Richard L. Depaoli 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
MSgt David E. Hansen 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
SGT Terry Hilke 777th Fwd Support Co
CPT Christopher James 992nd Troop Cmd
LTC Philip Kerrigan JFHQ
SMSgt Steven R. Martin JFHQ
SFC Richard Martinez JFHQ
LtCol Brett McCann 232nd Operations Sqdn
MSgt Robert D. Perry 152nd Airlift Wing
LTC Randall Seeber JFHQ
TSgt Richard A. Shannon 152nd Airlift Wing
CW4 Ernie Stover 150th Maint Co
SSG Donald Thorpe 485th Military Police Co
SSG Theadore Wilkens HHC, 422nd ESB



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