

Battle Born



Quarterly Magazine of the Nevada National Guard – Winter 2014



Up all night:

**Nevada Guard participates
in New Year's exercise,
Page 17**

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Comments and Contributions

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

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

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Battle Born

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On the Cover: Sgt. Angel Chavez of the 485th Military Police Company was one of about 200 Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen who spent New Year's participating in the Vigilant Sentinel domestic training exercise. Photo by Sgt. Walter Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade



REAL WARRIORS.

Photo by SGT Darrin A. Mickle



REAL BATTLES.

Photo by SrA Eric Harris



REAL STRENGTH.

Photo by MC 1st Class Chad J. McCleley

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MILITARY AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Stephanie Mock, Suicide Prevention Program Manager



Preventing suicide is everyone's business

Suicide prevention is a responsibility that everyone in the Nevada National Guard community must take seriously.

As the Nevada Guard's new Suicide Prevention Program manager, I am committed to ensuring our Soldiers, Airmen and their families have the assistance they need when confronting a crisis. By teaming up with the Nevada National Guard's Chaplain's Office and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Office of Suicide Prevention, we are making a concerted effort to rid our community of suicide.

One suicide is too many. Although Nevada has one of the lowest suicide rates in the National Guard, we must continue to strive to prevent individuals from believing there are no options but suicide to resolve a problem.

There are always reasons to live. It is just a matter of Battle Buddies, Wingmen and family members stressing those reasons and helping distraught service members connect with critical resources.

A startling number of military service members contemplate suicide. A 2012 survey revealed a high percentage of Soldiers ponder suicide. Of the 1,916 Soldiers who were surveyed, 196 (10.2 percent) had experienced suicidal thoughts. Out of those 196, 63 (32.2 percent) had made a plan to carry out a suicide attempt.

Out of those 63, 14 (22.2 percent) had attempted suicide. These are the same Soldiers and Airmen to our left and right in

our platoons and squadrons. They are our Battle Buddies and Wingmen, and they need our help – not just one weekend a month, but every day.

To help prevent future suicide, the Army and Air Force are hosting two-day suicide intervention skills training courses entitled Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. The training is conducted by Livingworks, a suicide-intervention training company. The training helps leaders in identifying the signs and symptoms of potential suicide and provides an avenue to safety for our Soldiers and Airmen at risk.

In conjunction with the Chaplain's Office and the Office of Suicide Prevention, the Nevada Suicide Prevention Program is dedicated to ensuring that every Nevada Guard team leader, squad leader, section leader and full-time support staffer receives ASIST training.

ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training – is taught by certified civilians and National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who sincerely desire to save lives. Currently, Nevada leads the nation in qualified ASIST trainers from the combined effort of the chaplains, the Office of Suicide Prevention and the Nevada National Guard Suicide Prevention Program.

The suicide prevention program is also dedicated to training family members in the identification of suicide warning signs that may be overlooked because service members

don't see their fellow Soldiers and Airmen every day.

The three-and-a-half hour program for family members is called safeTALK. The TALK steps are Tell, Ask, Listen and KeepSafe. Applying those steps in safeTALK teaches family members how to recognize signs and symptoms of potentially despondent individuals and whom to contact when their relative, friend, or anyone else needs assistance. SafeTALK is another tool to keep the community aware of suicide prevention and assist at-risk individuals.

The Suicide Prevention Program stands ready to assist the state's Airmen and Soldiers during their military careers and beyond. Please call me or anyone of the listed contacts if you or someone you know is in distress.

Call (775) 384-5819 for information on attending an ASIST or safeTALK course. ■

ESSENTIAL CONTACTS

Suicide Awareness:
1-800-273-TALK (8255) or visit:
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Suicide Prevention Program Manager:
(775) 384-5819 or write:
stephanie.l.mock@accenturefederal.com

Resilience Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator:
(775) 384-5810 or write:
michael.j.bordallo.mil@mail.mil

State Chaplain's Office:
(775) 887-7249 or (775) 887-7228

Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention:
(775) 689-2964

Director of Psychological Health:
(775) 224-4991 or (775) 788-9307

Military Family Life Consultant:
(775) 434-4881 (Adult) or
(775) 530-1277 (Child/Youth)
or visit: www.nevadaguard.com

Common warning signs or 'invitations' that someone may be contemplating suicide:

Actions:

- Giving away possessions
- Withdrawal from family, friends, school, work
- Loss of interest in sports or leisure
- Misuse of alcohol, drugs
- Impulsive/reckless behavior

Physical:

- Lack of interest in appearance
- Change/loss of sexual interest
- Disturbed sleep
- Change/loss of appetite, weight

Words:

- "All of my problems will end soon."
- "No one can do anything to help me now."
- "I just can't take it any more."
- "I am a burden to everyone."

Feelings:

- Desperate
- Guilty
- Lonely
- Hopeless/helpless
- Angry
- Worthless
- Sad

Eight Nevada Airmen receive long awaited combat medals

By Capt. Jason Yuhasz
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

RENO – More than a decade after participating in a battle in Afghanistan that included small arms fire, machine gun fire and mortar attacks, eight Nevada Air Guardsmen received long awaited Air Force Combat Action Medals at the Nevada Air National Guard Base here on Dec. 5.

The eight Airmen helped fend off an attack to Bagram Airfield on Feb. 22, 2002. All of the Airmen were with the 152nd Security Forces Squadron at the time of the incident.

According to the 152nd Force Support Squadron, the eight are the only Nevada Guard Airmen to receive Combat Action Medals during the ongoing Global War on Terrorism. The Air Force Combat Action Medal was first awarded in 2007 and may be awarded for combat actions dating back to Sept. 11, 2001. The award is reserved for Airmen who have physically engaged hostile forces with direct and lethal fire.

The Airmen received their medals from Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks. Sen. Harry Reid also attended the ceremony. Reid's office had helped the Airmen receive their medals after bureaucratic delays.



Photo: Senior Airman Ashif Halim, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley, right, receives the Air Force Combat Action Medal from Nevada Adjutant General Brig. Gen. William Burks on Dec. 5 in Reno. Dudley and seven other Airmen received their medals more than a decade after participating in a battle in Afghanistan in February 2002.

Airmen receiving Combat Action Medals were Senior Master Sgt. Michael Del Soldato of Sparks; retired Master Sgt. John Blevins of Reno; Capt. Lawrence Chappell of Pleasanton, Calif.; Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley of Incline Village, Nev.; retired Chief Master Sgt. Todd Shipley of Reno; Master Sgt. Harry Wheeler of Carson City; Master Sgt. David McNeely of Reno; and retired Master Sgt. Jerry Miller of Reno.

Blevins said the battle occurred just as an aircraft prepared for takeoff.

"It was a firefight around an aircraft we were trying to get off the ground before it was hit," Blevins said. "My team was working air flight operations. We started receiving tracer fire from the mountains, and it turned into a firefight."

Del Soldato, who is currently deployed, and Chappell were the only medal recipients not present.

Shipley said Del Soldato spearheaded the effort for the Airmen to receive their medals.

"The award of the Air Force Combat Action Medal didn't come easily for a Guard unit," Shipley said to a Reno newspaper. "(Del Soldato) was the one who contacted Sen. Reid's office and engaged them. Because of the perseverance by someone who is not here because he is deployed, this happened."

Reid noted that the Airmen were threatened with thousands of rounds of ammunition from the surrounding mountains aimed toward the base.

"Ladies and gentlemen, they are the heroes that make it safe for my children and grandchildren and America in general," Reid said. "These battles don't come very often, but when they come, they have to be prepared, and these heroes have honored Nevada and our country."

Retired Master Sgt. Daniel Baldrige of Reno is also set to receive a Combat Action Medal for his participation in the same battle. The processing of his award is not yet complete. ■

Vegas Soldier receives medal for saving toddler

Story and photos by Sgt. Walter Lowell
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – As 20-year-old Spc. Steven Thompson was about to leave his home with his family in August, he heard a bang at his door. He opened the door to find his neighbor in a panic.

He could discern only one word the frantic woman was saying: “drowning.”

The off-duty Guardsman sprang into action. Without hesitation, he darted to the neighboring backyard where a toddler’s birthday party had gone dangerously awry.

There, Thompson found a seemingly lifeless child who had just been pulled from the family’s hot tub. The toddler had no pulse and was not breathing.

Without hesitation, Thompson’s employed his military training and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation. With assistance from his mother, who had followed him over, they saved the boy’s life.

For his heroic actions, Thompson, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 17th Special Troops Battalion, received the Army Commendation Medal on Nov. 2 at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.

Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan, commander of the Nevada Army Guard, presented Thompson his award and praised his quick actions.

Also in attendance were several members of Thompson’s family, State Command Sgt. Maj. Jared Kopacki, and Eric Guideng, a field representative for Rep. Joe Heck. Guideng presented Thompson with a certificate of congressional recognition from Heck.

Thompson said he felt as if he was floating to the scene as he recalled his life-saving actions from the summer.

As he entered the backyard, he saw the boy’s mother kneeling over the seemingly lifeless body pleading for help. Her boy had been underwater for about five minutes. He and his mother continued CPR as emergency crews started to arrive at the scene.

“I performed CPR for probably 10 to 11 minutes,” said Thompson, who had supplemented some pre-military CPR training with the Combat Life Saver course shortly after joining his unit two years ago.

Still, the toddler was not breathing and had no pulse.

Just a minute before the Las Vegas Fire Department paramedics arrived, Thompson finally felt a pulse.

“Right after that, I saw his chest start to rise,” Thompson said. “I remember yelling out to my mom, ‘He’s breathing on his own.’”

Thompson was so intent while performing CPR that he didn’t notice that the boy’s



For his heroic actions in saving a drowning toddler last summer, Spc. Steven Thompson, a wheeled-vehicle mechanic with the 17th Special Troops Battalion, received the Army Commendation Medal on Nov. 2 at the Las Vegas Readiness Center.

family, emergency crews and local police had gathered around him, he said.

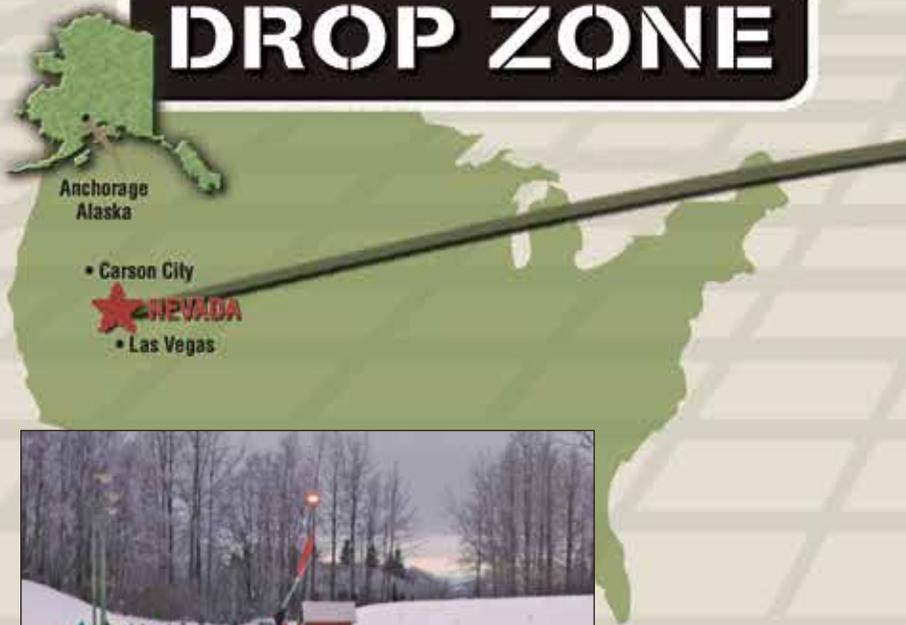
The child was hospitalized for about a week. Thompson visited with the boy the first night he was in the hospital and the first day he returned home.

The youngster was full of energy and even playing basketball upon his return home, said Thompson, who continues to keep in contact with the family. ■



Spc. Steven Thompson receives an Army Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Michael Hanifan on Nov. 2 in Las Vegas. Thompson received the medal for saving a drowning child last summer.

DROP ZONE



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

RENO – Nevada Air Guard Staff Sgt. Steven Wolfgang receives a warm welcome home from his girlfriend, Stacy Klein, and her son, Liam, at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in December upon the completion of his six-month deployment in Southwest Asia. Wolfgang was one of several Airmen from the 152nd Security Forces Squadron who arrived home Dec. 3 after completing their mission of providing base security in Kuwait and Jordan. Dozens of fellow Nevada Guard Airmen, family members and friends were present at the airport for the returnees' homecoming celebration.



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Staff Sgt. Matt Koerner of Kilo Troop, 1-221st Cavalry, skis the biathlon course at Kincaid Park during the National Guard Western Regional Biathlon Championships in Anchorage in January. Koerner, a Las Vegas resident, came in at 37th place in the 12.5-kilometer pursuit race to help the Nevada Guard team take fourth in the team standings. For more on the biathlon team, turn to page 16.

NORTH LAS VEGAS – The Nevada Army Guard's 240th Vertical Engineer Company, the 277th Heavy Haul Engineer Platoon and the 777th Concrete Detachment combined to erect a replica of the insignia of the Corps of Engineers outside of the North Las Vegas Readiness Center last fall during annual training. For engineers, a castle represents both the offensive and defensive aspects of the corps' role on the battlefield. The units spent more than 350 hours designing and building the symbol of the engineers at the readiness center. The castle includes more than 500 bricks and five yards of concrete. Army engineer castles of differing size and complexity are found across the globe, mainly in front of Army engineer unit headquarters.



Sgt. Walter Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – 17th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers Staff Sgt. Alfonso Zafra, Capt. Howard Hoover and Staff Sgt. Patrick Johnson perform flag-folding duties during the funeral of Donald Reid, 85, in December. Donald Reid was the older brother of Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, who attended the funeral. Sen. Reid, 74, wrote about his older brother Donald in his 2008 memoir, "The Good Fight."



Courtesy of 240th Vertical Engineer Company



Photo courtesy C Company, 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELERAM, Afghanistan – Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion, nicknamed the 'Desert Rats,' participate in medical evacuation training in January here in Helmand Province. The unit includes Soldiers from Nevada, California and Washington. The 1/168th performed the last MEDEVAC mission of 2013 in Regional Command-West and Southwest on New Year's Eve. For more on the 1/168th, turn to page 12.



Master Sgt. Lewis Roberts, 192nd Airlift Squadron

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy – Soldiers from the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) board a Nevada Air Guard C-130 in Italy in advance of airdrop training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany in November. Eight Airmen from the Nevada Air Guard's 192nd Airlift Squadron participated in the Combined Resolve 2013 Exercise that included military entities from 10 allied nations. The eight Airmen assisted with tactical airlift and air-land missions for 11 days and provided essential airdrop training to the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) throughout the exercise. While deployed, the Airmen transported more than 120 Special Forces Rangers and air dropped 54 special operators.

Diversity champion first Nevada Air Guard African-American general

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

CARSON CITY – Brig. Gen. Ondra Berry, the first-ever special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity for the chief of the National Guard Bureau, made military history again when he became the Nevada Guard's first African-American general in a ceremony at the Nevada Capitol on Nov. 12. Now the Nevada Air Guard's assistant adjutant general, Berry received his federal recognition as a brigadier general last October.

Gov. Brian Sandoval presided over the promotion ceremony in the Guinn Room on the second floor of the Capitol. He commented on Berry's outstanding military service and distinguished career.

"This is a great day for Nevada and the Nevada Guard," Sandoval said. "You really are a trailblazer, a leader and what I like to call a true Nevadan."

Berry follows the path blazed by other African-American military leaders including Brig. Gen. Benjamin Davis Sr., the first African-American general in the U.S. military (promoted Oct. 25, 1940) and his son, Gen. Benjamin Davis Jr., the first African-American general in the U.S. Air Force and the second in the U.S. military (promoted to brigadier general on Oct. 27, 1954).

"I know I stand on the shoulders of many who came before me," Berry said. "Does it bring on additional scrutiny, pressure, spotlight or expectations? Absolutely!"

"Every time an Airman puts on this uniform, somebody out there is scrutinizing them and their actions. That's what people do whether they are the first in their family to go to college, join the military and reach a certain rank or any number of firsts. To whom much is given, much is required – that's just the expectation."

Berry's new job entails advising Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks on matters concerning the Nevada Air Guard and acting as a liaison for the Nevada Air Guard. Berry had become the first special advisor for diversity and equal opportunity in NGB history when he was hired for the position by retired Gen. Craig McKinley in 2008.

"I am humbled by the promotion, and I appreciate the opportunity Brig. Gen. Bill Burks has given me. I will do my utmost to ensure he has made the right decision at the right time for the right person," Berry said.



Ondra Berry receives his stars marking his promotion to brigadier general from Gov. Brian Sandoval and from his wife, Margo Berry, during a ceremony in the Guinn Room at the Nevada Capitol on Nov. 12. Berry is the first African-American general in the Nevada Guard and is now the Nevada Air Guard's assistant adjutant general.

"My job is to directly support General Burks and help pursue the things the Nevada Air Guard requires to make it successful."

Berry is one of three Nevada Air Guard brigadier generals. Burks and Nevada Air Guard commander Brig. Gen. David Snyder are the other two.

Berry emphasized his belief that all Airmen

and Soldiers should aspire to reach their military goals. He quoted Whitney M. Young Jr. during his comments.

"It is better to be prepared for an opportunity and not have one than to have an opportunity and not be prepared." – You keep preparing and stay prepared for future opportunities; that's what I will do," Berry said. ■



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Robert Herbert, center, receives a round of applause from Gov. Brian Sandoval and Karen Wayland after his promotion to brigadier general at the Nevada Capitol on Nov. 14. For the first time since 1983, the Nevada Army Guard has two generals within its ranks.

Herbert becomes second general in Nevada Army Guard's current ranks

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

CARSON CITY – For the first time since 1983, the Nevada Army Guard has two generals within its ranks.

Robert Herbert, the Army Guard's assistant adjutant general, became the second currently serving general in the Nevada Army Guard when he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony hosted by Gov. Brian Sandoval at the Nevada Capitol here Nov. 14. Michael Hanifan, commander of the Nevada Army Guard, is the other general in the Nevada Army Guard.

According to retired Maj. Gen. Tony Clark, the Nevada Army Guard last had two generals serving concurrently in 1983, when retired Maj. Gen. William Engel was the adjutant general and retired Brig. Gen. Doug Byington was the commander of the Army Guard. Since Engel's retirement, the adjutant general's position has been held by an Air Guard general, allowing for only one Army general. Expanding force structure, including the addition of a brigade headquarters, led to the addition of a general within the Nevada Army Guard.

Herbert, 56, said he looks forward to serving on Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks' leadership team. He had served as the deputy commander of the Nevada Army Guard since 2006 before assuming his current position.

"I'm proud to be a part of Burks' leadership team, and I look forward to supporting our team in whatever way I can," Herbert said. "In my new role as assistant adjutant general, I hope to support General Burks' vision of expanding and strengthening the Nevada Guard."

Herbert likely has one of the longest drill weekend commutes in the Nevada Army Guard. When the Senate is in session, he lives in Washington, D.C., where he works as a senior policy advisor for Sen. Harry Reid.

"I have a house in Las Vegas that I wish I could live in full time, but I also work for the majority leader of the Senate in a capacity that requires me to be in Washington," Herbert said. "I will travel back to Nevada for drill and will remain in constant contact with the Nevada Guard leadership when I am in Washington, both to provide guidance for operational strategy and to shape broader strategies for how the Nevada Guard supports local and national priorities."

Herbert rose through the military ranks of the Nevada Army Guard's aviation community. He has accrued more than 7,000 military and civilian flight hours and is rated as an instructor pilot and instrument examiner and a maintenance test pilot. From 1995-2001, Herbert served as the director of aviation for the Nevada Army Guard. In that position, he oversaw the maintenance and operation of

27 rotary and fixed-wing aircraft, a \$300 million annual budget and a staff of 250 military and civilian personnel.

After becoming a legislative assistant for Reid in 2001, Herbert became the senator's director of appropriations and senior policy advisor in 2004. In his position, Herbert oversees 12 federal spending bills for Reid and advises him on transportation, defense, veterans and homeland security issues.

Herbert joined the Nevada Guard in 1982 after a six-year stint on active duty. He spent much of his active duty time flying helicopter patrols over the West Germany and East Germany border. He joined the Nevada Army Guard as a test pilot and was involved in the modernization of the state's rotary aircraft fleet in the mid-1990s as the Nevada Guard transitioned from CH-54 Skycranes and UH-1 Hueys to CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks.

Herbert said one of the most memorable missions the Nevada Guard supported while he was the director of Army aviation was the relief effort the Guard provided in the wake of the historic 1997 flooding in Reno and Sparks.

"The Nevada Guard helped provide relief and rescue operations to thousands of affected Nevadans," Herbert said. "It demonstrated the importance of the National Guard on the front lines to help protect our citizens." ■

Nevada aviation unit speeds trauma patients off battlefield

By Cpl. Paul Peterson, Regional Command Southwest Public Affairs



Cpl. Paul Peterson, Regional Command Southwest Public Affairs

Afghan National Army medics and U.S. military personnel rush a wounded Afghan Soldier to a Charlie Company, 1/168th Aviation, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Forward Operating Base Delaram in Afghanistan on Nov. 14. The unit includes about 40 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers as well as California and Washington National Guard Soldiers.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELARAM, Afghanistan – Twenty minutes after an injured Afghan Soldier arrived here on Nov. 14, Helicopter 865 touched down outside the medical tent. It was 8:50 a.m.

Afghan National Army medics had rushed the injured Soldier to the base without delay. They stanchied the blood flow from the gunshot wound in the Soldier's lower abdomen and noted the exit wound perilously close his spinal column.

The nature of the wound posed a significant threat to the Soldier's life, so the medics requested to airlift him to a surgical facility. The airlift mission would be performed by Charlie Company, 1/168th General Support Aviation Battalion. The unit includes about 40 Nevada Army Guard Soldiers as well as California and Washington Guardsmen. Charlie Company left Nevada last year on March 31 and returned in early March.

Within minutes, medical personnel prepared the casualty for his 25-minute flight to Camp Bastion, where trauma care specialists awaited his arrival. The medical evacuation helicopter was ready, rotors spinning and set for takeoff.

Wind swelled beneath the blades of the UH-60 Black Hawk and washed over the litter crew as they dashed toward the open door on the left side of the bird. A final, powerful gust ruffled the blue medical blanket over the patient as the team slid the wounded Soldier into the helicopter and closed the doors for takeoff.

"We have an hour to get the patient to a

major hospital from the time they incur their injury," said Sgt. Jeffrey Jacobs, a flight medic with Charlie Company. "A majority of that time involves transportation. A lot can happen in 20-25 minutes."

Spc. Ryan Waller, the lead medic for the flight to Camp Bastion, secured the patient and prepped an intravenous line as the sudden, gut-sucking motion of liftoff grabbed everyone in the small cabin.

"The 'Golden Hour' takes into account the time of injury to surgery," said Waller, an Aromas, Calif., native. "We have to assume the worst. If we get there a minute too late, the patient may die."

The hour mark already loomed over the injured Soldier by the time Waller and Jacobs began their treatment. Goosebumps bristled on the victim's skin as the chill from blood loss and strain set into his body.

The two medics wrapped the ANA Soldier in a green wool blanket and strapped an oxygen mask around his face.

"The fact we are taking them up in altitude means they're automatically going to be hypoxic," Waller said. "The oxygen levels in the blood are not going to be as high as on the ground. The patient is already injured, so that's one of the things we can always count on."

Waller and Jacobs moved feverishly about the helicopter in silent coordination. Waller prepped a syringe, holding the needle out for his partner to see, as Jacobs tied off the patient's right arm and coaxed a vein to the surface.

"We've gotten used to each other's body language and the flow of events," said Jacobs, a native of Elk Grove, Calif. "I can look at him, see what he's doing, and prep for what's next."

Jacobs slid a needle into the Soldier's arm near the bend in the right elbow. Waller did the same on the other arm. "The trust factor is huge," Waller said. "I know if he is off doing something, it's important for the patient."

The two have handled about 30 trauma cases during their six months in Afghanistan.

"The two medics in the back are performing the jobs of almost eight people in the hospital," Jacobs said.

The nature of the helicopter itself is a constant challenge for the team, Waller said.

The medics crawl around the fuselage on their knees, attached to the helicopter frame by a safety strap. The weight of their gear and the cramped conditions make it difficult to conduct traditional assessments on patients. The sheering sound of the engines drowns out their ability to communicate verbally.

Unable to feel for a pulse or listen to the patient's lungs, they rely on an array of sensors, medical equipment, and pure instinct to monitor the patient's vital signs.

"The back (of the helicopter) really is where we shine," Waller said.

By 9:11 a.m., Helicopter 865 touched down at Camp Bastion, where Waller and Jacobs turned the patient over to critical care personnel waiting by the flight line. They had met the Golden Hour deadline. ■

Air Guard recognizes superior achievements, accomplishments

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

RENO – Extraordinary achievements and accomplishments by Airmen in the Nevada Air National Guard this year were recognized in December during the annual Nevada Air National Guard Awards Ceremony held here in the 152nd Maintenance Squadron's fuel cell hangar. Several civilians and Soldiers were also recognized during the ceremony.

The first person to receive an award was local journalist Brad Bynum of the Reno News and Review. Bynum received the Nevada State Commendation Medal for his coverage of Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Bledsaw and Dana Bledsaw.

Bynum's timely and relevant article, "Guard Your Heart," profiled the Bledsaws, who are Nevada Guard's first same-sex couple registered for federal health benefits. The article showcased the Nevada Air Guard's diversity and underscored the organization's family nexus and support of all lifestyles.

Eight members of the Security Forces Squadron were then recognized for their bravery in Afghanistan during a 2002 deployment. They initially received their Combat Action Medals during an earlier



Courtesy 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Shawn Plunkett of the 192nd Airlift Squadron, right, receives his Silver Sentinel Award from Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks at the annual Nevada Air Guard Awards Ceremony in December.



Courtesy 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton of the 192nd Airlift Squadron accepts a Commander's Award for Excellence from her squadron commander, Col. Kyle Reid, at the annual Nevada Air Guard Awards Ceremony in December.

ceremony that included Sen. Harry Reid. The security forces Airmen recognized were Master Sgt. Clinton Dudley, Master Sgt. Harry Wheeler, Master Sgt. David McNeely, retired Chief Master Sgt. Todd Shipley, retired Master Sgt. John Blevins, retired Master Sgt. Jerry Miller, Senior Master Sgt. Mike Del Soldato and Capt. Lawrence Chappell.

Former 152nd Airlift Wing commander Col. Jonathan Proehl then received a Legion of Merit award. In addition to several other achievements, Proehl was recognized for his participation in relief efforts after a deadly earthquake and tsunami struck Japan. He also served as the emergency preparedness liaison officer between Nevada and the National Security Emergency Preparedness Directorate in Florida during Hurricane Irene. He led relief operations following Hurricane Irene and participated in relief-shipment operations during Hurricane Sandy.

Three Airmen from the 192nd Operations Group – Maj. Evan Kirkwood, Maj. Kristofer Pfalmer and Capt. Erik Brown – received the annual safety award for their implementation of new tools associated with the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard system.

Continued on page 25

Nevada Guard recognizes top 2013 Airmen

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

RENO – The top performers in the Nevada Air National Guard in 2013 were recognized here Jan. 25 during the annual Airmen of the Year Banquet.

The Airman of the Year award went to Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton (192nd Airlift Squadron). Tech Sgt. Christopher Bernard (152nd Operations Support Squadron) won the Non-Commissioned

Officer of the Year title and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year award went to Master Sgt. Yantzy Arnell (152nd Security Forces Squadron). Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Crawford (152nd Civil Engineer Squadron) won First Sergeant of the Year.

Honors for Company Grade Officer of the Year went to Capt. Dana Grigg (152nd Airlift Wing) and Senior Airman Torrey Eldridge was the Honor Guard Member of the Year. ■

Despite end of combat op Afghanistan deployment



Det. 45 ready for takeoff in King Air 300 aircraft

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

RENO – Although U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan are set to cease by the end of 2014, Nevada National Guard deployments to the war-torn country will continue.

Three Nevada Army Guard units – Detachment 45 Operational Support Airlift, the 72nd Military Police Company and the 1864th Transportation Company – are set to deploy by July 2015. The units will assist International Security Assistance Forces in their respective support specialties as the troop drawdown in the country continues.

“Even though combat operations will end, there will still be a demand for support units to assist in Afghanistan as the U.S. pulls out its personnel and equipment,” said mobilization sergeant Master Sgt. Steve Lawrence. “There will be a need for logistical and combat support for several years to come.”

The 40-Soldier C Company, 1/168th Aviation (MEDEVAC) unit just returned from Afghanistan a few weeks ago. (See related article, page 12.)

The next Army Guard unit set to go “out the door” is Detachment 45 Operational Support Airlift. The small unit, with about 15 Soldiers, is set to depart in June and return in April 2015. While deployed, the unit will conduct aerial surveillance, combat support and airlift operations over Afghanistan while flying King Air 300 aircraft modified for military use. It’s likely the detachment will be based at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

When in Nevada, the unit operates C-12V model Beech Super King aircraft. Det. 45 is the only Nevada Army Guard aviation unit that flies fixed-wing aircraft.

The Nevada detachment is set to combine with operational support airlift detachments from Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Alabama to

Operations, as loom



Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Glen Spadin prepares for takeoff in a Nevada Army Guard C-12 to Boise, Idaho, in January. Spadin is set to command Detachment 45 Operational Support Airlift during its upcoming nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

In autumn, the 72nd Military Police Company based in Henderson will begin a highly visible mission in Afghanistan to perform personal security for several high-ranking ISAF officials in Regional Command Capital. The company will send its first rotation of about 30 Soldiers to Kabul in September. A second rotation of 30 Soldiers will replace the initial detail in the summer of 2015.

According to 1st Sgt. Michael Spaulding, the 72nd will be the first National Guard unit to perform the personal security detail for the ISAF officials. He said it shouldn't come as a shock that the Army chose the 72nd to complete the mission.

"The 72nd has some of the best military policemen in the Army," Spaulding said. "The 72nd has been one of the Nevada Guard's busiest units since 9/11 and has always done a spectacular job on its deployments."

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

With 160 Soldiers in the unit and just 60 positions available on the detail, spots for the deployments promise to be highly sought after.

"It's competitive for the slots," Spaulding said.

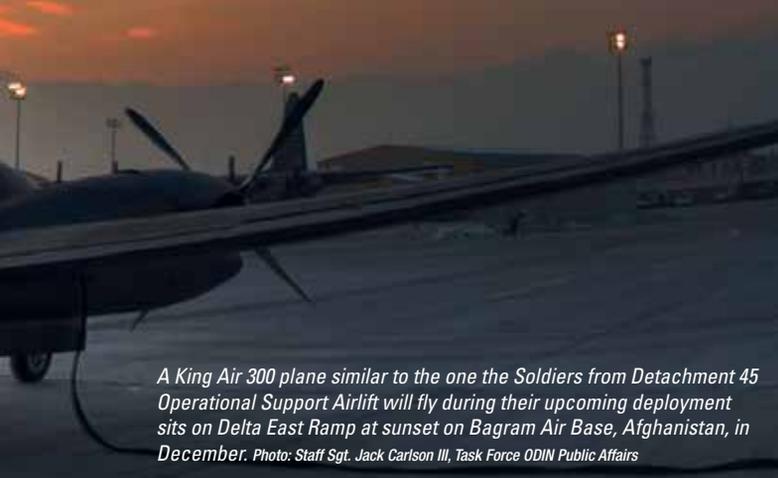
Pre-deployment training for the 72nd is set for locations in northern and southern Nevada as well as Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

"We are preparing for worst case scenarios," said Spaulding, who noted that an attack on the ISAF headquarters took place in December. "Violence could continue to occur around Kabul even during the drawdown."

The 1864th Transportation Company, which specializes in transporting cargo and liquids using tractors and trailers, is set to depart for Afghanistan in the summer of 2015. The unit will deploy about 115 of its 170 Soldiers.

The 1864th will be the fourth Nevada Army Guard unit to serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The only Nevada Guard casualty incurred during Operation Iraqi Freedom was an 1864th Soldier participating in the unit's Iraqi deployment nearly nine years ago. One day after his 21st birthday on June 16, 2005, Spc. Anthony Cometa died in a vehicle accident while providing escort protection in Iraq about 10 miles north of the Kuwait border. ■



A King Air 300 plane similar to the one the Soldiers from Detachment 45 Operational Support Airlift will fly during their upcoming deployment sits on Delta East Ramp at sunset on Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in December. Photo: Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III, Task Force ODIN Public Affairs

form a company. The newly formed company will then operate as a special aerial task force that observes, detects, identifies and neutralizes enemy actions. Det. 45 is set to provide the task force with about six pilots and eight aerial electronic sensor operators. Competition for the aerial electronic sensor operator jobs was fierce, as more than 100 Soldiers applied for the eight vacancies.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Glen Spadin, 43, will command Det. 45 during its deployment. Spadin, a Sparks resident, transferred from the Alaska National Guard to Nevada just last year. He became a fixed-wing pilot in 1994 and has deployed previously in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Det. 45 has deployed to southwest Asia several times since 2001. Its most recent deployment was to Iraq in 2010.

Although the majority of Det. 45's personnel will be deployed until next spring, all Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen can continue to request airlift support, as air crews from nearby states will be available to fly missions during Det. 45's absence. Call (775) 972-2749 for information.

Undaunted Nevada Guard biathlon team 4th at regional meet

Staff reports

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Undaunted by poor training conditions caused by a shortage of snow and the inexperience of some of its team members, the Nevada National Guard's biathlon team placed fourth at the Western Regional Championship here Jan. 11-12. Biathlon is the sport that combines cross country skiing and rifle marksmanship.

Nevada placed three individuals in the top 25 of the two-day contest that included a 10-kilometer sprint and 12.5-kilometer pursuit.

"Considering the lack of snow in the Tahoe region leading up to the event and the fact several of our athletes were participating in their first big competition, I would say the team surpassed all expectations," said team coach Master Sgt. Shane Jensen of Joint Force Headquarters. "The team has a tremendous amount of raw talent and potential. The future of the team is promising, and I wouldn't be surprised if we can crack into the top three teams soon."

Competing on a familiar course at Kincaid Park, Alaska skiers dominated the field with five of the top 10 places and won the gold medal. Colorado claimed the silver medal and Montana just edged out Nevada for the bronze.

Nevada glided into its fourth place finish based on the strength of several athletes making their debuts at the regional competition, including Spc. Lars Nielsen of the 609th Sappers (24th), 1st Lt. Alex Stackhouse of the 593rd Transportation Company (33rd) and Staff Sgt. Matt Koerner (37th) of the 1-221st Cavalry. Koerner, a Las Vegas resident, became the first southern Nevadan to compete on the biathlon team at a regional event.

Nielsen proved to be the top novice biathlete in the field, as the first-time participant skied 12.5 kilometers in 1 hour, 16 minutes while hitting 12 of his 20 targets.

Sgt. John Koch of the 609th Sappers matched Nielsen's shooting in the pursuit with 12 targets recorded. He skied the course in 1:09 to claim 20th place.

Veteran biathlete Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka of Joint Force Headquarters was poised to crack the top-15 after three rounds of shooting in the pursuit, but a 0-for-5 series on his final standing targets left him in 17th place with a time of 1:06. Studenicka is one of just a few remaining old-time National Guard biathletes who has competed against former National Guard biathlon Olympians



Master Sgt. Shane Jensen, Joint Forces Headquarters

First Lt. Alex Stackhouse from the 593rd Transportation Company skis the 12.5-kilometer biathlon course during the National Guard Western Regional Championships at Kincaid Park in Anchorage, Alaska, on Jan. 12. Stackhouse finished in 33rd place to help the Nevada Guard secure its fourth-place team finish.

including Wyoming's Rob Rosser and New York's Curtis Schreiner.

All five skiers qualified to participate in the National Guard's Chief of the Guard Bureau Championships in March in Vermont.

All Nevada Guardsmen are eligible to participate in biathlon. (Funding for Air Guard athletes is sometimes inconsistent.) For more information on joining the squad, call (775) 886-7737. ■

National Guard Western Regional Jan. 11-12 at Kincaid Park, Anchorage, Alaska

Team results:

1 – Alaska Guard. 2 – Colorado Guard. 3 – Montana Guard. 4 – Nevada Guard.
5 – Wyoming Guard. 6 – Oregon Guard. 7 – Idaho Guard. 8 – California Guard.
9 – Washington Guard.



Sgt. Walter Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Military policemen Spc. James Jackson, left, and Sgt. Christopher McClung of the 485th Military Police Company monitor activity in the baggage claim area at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve while participating in the Vigilant Sentinel exercise. About 200 Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen participated in the exercise that coincided with the New Year holiday.

Nevada Guard helps ring in new year in Vegas

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

LAS VEGAS – More than 200 Nevada National Guard Soldiers and Airmen rang in the new year with security cohorts from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Transportation Security Administration while participating in the three-day Vigilant Sentinel joint domestic training exercise that concluded on New Year's Day.

Guardsmen from the 485th Military Police Company, the 152nd Security Forces Squadron, the 140th Aviation Detachment and support personnel from the 17th Sustainment Brigade participated in the exercise, said Master Sgt. Robert Hahn, sergeant in charge of the tactical operations center. He said the Nevada Guard had Soldiers and Airmen in key locations throughout Las Vegas for the duration of the exercise.

One unit's mission entailed setting up a mock helicopter casualty evacuation point that could have been potentially used in a real world emergency if needed. Other participants in the exercise were positioned at McCarran International Airport.

The operation took place during what is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year in Las Vegas. The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that more than 335,000 people visited the Las Vegas valley to celebrate the new year.

Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks said the Nevada Guard participated in the operation primarily to exercise its role in the Defense Support of Civil Authorities mission. DSCA is support provided

by Department of Defense services in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities for domestic emergencies, law enforcement support and other domestic activities.

"The National Guard is the hometown militia," Burks said. "For the citizens of the great state of Nevada, we're here for them."

Hahn said the exercise provided an ideal opportunity for Nevada Guardsmen to train in lockstep with local police and security personnel and learn about civilian security techniques and tactics. He said the presence of the uniformed Guardsmen participating in the exercise at public sites such as the airport likely improved the sense of security among revelers.

Participating Soldiers and Airmen welcomed the opportunity to work with the civilian organizations and did not complain about delaying their New Year's toasts until the exercise concluded.

"It's really exciting, and you gain a lot of experience," said Senior Airman Christopher Adams, a security forces specialist with the 152nd Security Forces Squadron. "You get to work with a lot of different individuals who have trained in different ways, but everyone comes together to do the same mission."

Burks said the Vigilant Sentinel exercise was only the tip of the iceberg in terms of National Guard support of joint military-civilian operations. He said the Nevada Guard will continue to expand and improve its support of civilian authorities. ■



Sgt. William Lowell, 17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Patrick Johnson and Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany McKimmy, the only two mortuary affairs specialists in the 17th Sustainment Brigade, take a break from their training at the Clark County Coroner's Office in Las Vegas in December. The Clark County Coroner's Office supports the Nevada Army National Guard by allowing mortuary affairs Soldiers to perform mortuary affairs-related occupational duties at the coroner's facility.

Mortuary affairs Soldiers honored to serve in somber field

By Sgt. Walter Lowell
17th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

LAS VEGAS – Their chosen military occupation – mortuary affairs – is arguably the most somber of all Army professions.

But Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany McKimmy and Staff Sgt. Patrick Johnson, currently the only two mortuary affairs specialists in the entire Nevada Army Guard, say they are privileged to serve in the demanding, exclusive – and sometimes gloomy – field of mortuary affairs. Both Soldiers are in the 17th Sustainment Brigade.

Army mortuary affairs personnel perform duties relating to deceased personnel, including recovery, collection, evacuation and establishing identification. They also inventory, safeguard and evacuate personal effects of deceased personnel and serve as recovery specialists on behalf of the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. When required, they also manage the logistics needed to transport remains back "home" to the United States in a timely manner.

"It is an honor for me to be prepared to take care of deceased Soldiers who gave their life for the same cause that I said I would give my life for," McKimmy said. "People in the military who have sacrificed their lives for

their country deserve nothing but the very best care."

Johnson succinctly summed up the priorities of a mortuary affairs Soldier. "We ensure that fallen U.S. service members are returned home with the utmost dignity, respect and speed possible," Johnson said.

There are only about 1,100 mortuary affairs Soldiers in the entire Army, including active duty, reserve and National Guard Soldiers. It's one of only a few Army occupations open to any Soldier regardless of previous military experience.

Soldiers enter the mortuary affairs field by graduating from an eight-week school conducted at Fort Lee, Va. Students receive hands-on training the first week of school to decide if they are suited for the emotionally, physically and intellectually demanding job.

McKimmy, previously an Army paralegal, switched occupations because of potential career progression in mortuary affairs.

Johnson was previously a tanker in the 1/221 Cavalry headquartered in Las Vegas. He changed jobs in early 2011 to explore other career options.

McKimmy often trains and works with the Clark County Coroner's Office in Las Vegas. She said the coroner's office allowed her to

work in the forensics lab and even shadow an investigator in the field.

Johnson hasn't worked with the coroner's office yet, but he plans to train with the office's staff in the near future.

Johnson said his mortuary affairs job is very sobering, but he does receive some satisfaction with the realization he is fulfilling a promise by helping get a Soldier "home."

"The most difficult aspect of the job is the knowledge the person we are assisting has loved ones," Johnson said. "It's not a job you enter lightly, and it's not a job for everybody."

McKimmy said the hardest part of the job is "letting go" when the work day concludes. In fact, she bears evidence of how hard it is to "let go" of the past in mortuary affairs.

She still wears a black metal bracelet with white lettering on her left wrist that memorializes the first Soldier she assisted in the mortuary affairs process.

"He was a 19-year old kid, and I thought about him non-stop for months and months," McKimmy said. "It takes a certain type of person to do what we do."

There is one opening for a mortuary affairs staff sergeant in the 757th Combat Services Support Battalion. For information on the vacancy, call (775) 674-5016. ■

Retired lieutenant colonel pens financial advice book based on Guard experience



Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep

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

CARSON CITY – The same values and discipline acquired in military service can also be used to achieve personal financial freedom, writes retired Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep in his newly released book, “Combat Finance.”

Neddenriep describes “Combat Finance” as a financial self-help book that examines the uncertainties of life’s financial battles and clarifies economic topics in an understandable manner to help individuals achieve worry-free financial freedom. Some of the main subjects broached include mortgages, savings, insurance and portfolio diversity.

Neddenriep’s 224-page book includes numerous anecdotes and experiences drawn from his 23-year career in the Nevada Army Guard. He retired from the Nevada Guard last year after serving as the commander of the 1-221st Cavalry for three years. Neddenriep was previously the executive officer during the 1-222nd Cavalry’s deployment to Afghanistan in 2009-2010.

The memories of many conversations with chaplains during his long military career prompted Neddenriep to write the book upon his retirement in February 2013.

“I heard repeatedly that relationships and financial issues are easily the top two stressors for service members whether they are deployed or at home,” Neddenriep said. “Anybody can pick up the book, and it can assist them, but I was cognizant a key audience for the book would be military members.”

Neddenriep’s experience in the financial world matches his long military career. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1994, he became a financial services consultant for a Wall Street firm. Today, he is a senior vice president and wealth advisor for that company with offices in Elko and Reno.

In the book, Neddenriep writes that both military and financial strategies require plans, processes and discipline.

“I wrote ‘Combat Finance’ to help instill the values, principles and discipline it takes to succeed financially,” Neddenriep said. “By following fundamentals and maintaining self discipline, getting your finances under control is easy when you have a plan and a process – it doesn’t have to be like getting a root canal.”

The nine chapters of the book roughly link basic military tenets to financial topics, starting with Basic Training (which emphasizes living within one’s means) and continuing with Choosing Your Forward Operating Base Wisely (how to make housing decisions) and on to Build Your Armed Forces, Not a Gun Collection (the importance of asset allocation).

The book also contains several in-depth interviews with well-known national and Nevada Guard Soldiers and Airmen, including retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ken Preston, retired Brig. Gen. Bob Fitch and retired Col. Steve Spitze.

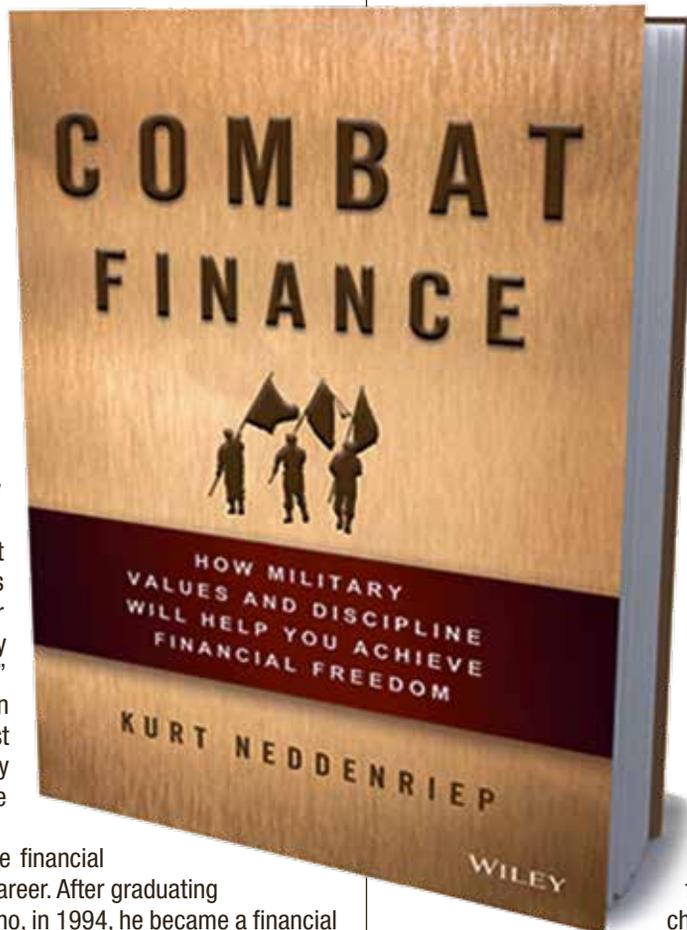
The book, including the preface and acknowledgement sections, is full of references to current and retired Guardsmen. Neddenriep makes it clear that his 23 years in the Nevada Guard provided much of the foundation for “Combat Finance.”

“Without the spirit of initiative and constant self-improvement that the Wildhorse Squadron and the Blackhorse Regiment instilled in me, I would not have had the experience necessary to write ‘Combat Finance,’” Neddenriep said.

“Combat Finance” is published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. It can be purchased from several retailers, including Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble, for about \$18 (about \$14 for a Kindle edition).

Neddenriep said that a portion of every book sold would go toward financial education for military service members. He said he envisions a financial course similar to the current chaplain-led Strong Bonds relationship enhancement program where individuals

and couples can receive financial instruction in a retreat-style atmosphere. ■



Retired Nevada Army Guard Lt. Col. Kurt Neddenriep recently wrote a financial self-help book entitled “Combat Finance” that includes numerous anecdotes and experiences drawn from his 23-year military career. Photo: Courtesy combatfinance.com.

Simultaneous membership program combines officer training, Guard service

By Cadet Nicolette De Los Angeles, University of Nevada, Reno, ROTC program

RENO – College students interested in becoming military officers while also serving in the Nevada National Guard may want to consider joining the U.S. Army’s Simultaneous Membership Program.

The SMP is composed of full-time college students enrolled in their school’s Reserve Officer Training Programs who also serve as Army National Guard Soldiers.

Upon completion of their bachelor’s degree (or master’s degree) and the ROTC’s advanced course, cadets receive commissions as second lieutenants in the Army. The newly commissioned officers then serve in the Army National Guard, the Army Reserves or on active duty. The officers’ service obligation time is usually eight years.

Currently in the Nevada National Guard, there are 29 Soldiers participating in the SMP program at the University of Nevada, Reno, and 14 Soldiers participating in the program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

There are many economic and educational benefits associated with the Simultaneous Membership Program.

The SMP provides cadets a monthly ROTC stipend of \$350 for sophomores, \$450 for juniors and \$500 for seniors. The cadets also receive E-5 (sergeant’s) pay for their National Guard drill. (Higher-ranking Soldiers receive drill pay based on the military pay schedule.) Qualifying Soldiers can also receive their G.I. Bill benefits.

On campus, cadets strive to become effective leaders in both garrison and tactical environments through lectures and hands-on training.

During their training weekends with the National Guard, SMP cadets apply their classroom training in a real-world military environment with their respective Nevada Guard units – an opportunity unavailable to traditional ROTC cadets. The cadets learn about leadership during their National Guard



Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno, ROTC
Cadet Michael Colyer completes an obstacle course during a Reserve Officer Training Corps Leadership Development and Assessment Course last summer. Colyer is one of 29 University of Nevada, Reno, students currently participating in the Army’s Simultaneous Membership Program which includes both ROTC training and National Guard service.

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drills as they “shadow” a lieutenant and are responsible for multiple unit tasks and duties.

UNR Cadet Adam Mastrantonio said he gained valuable experience during his Nevada Guard annual training last year with the 485th Military Police Company during a two-week stint at Creech Air Force Base.

“I led both night and daytime training missions,” Mastrantonio said. “Some missions included reconnaissance in a convoy, cordon and search operations and base defense.”

SMP cadets also qualify for tuition assistance programs offered by both the National Guard and ROTC.

Reserve Army Forces also offer Guaranteed Reserve Force Duty scholarships to cadets who opt to serve as second lieutenants in the National Guard or Army Reserves rather than the active duty Army. The scholarships include \$5,000 for tuition and \$600 for books. Because Nevada state university fees are waived for Nevada Guard Soldiers, however, the funds could go toward other college-related expenses.

For information on the UNLV SMP, call (702) 895-0452. For information on the UNR program, call (775) 682-7472. ■



Tech. Sgt. Todd Lawson, 152nd Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates the M-9 pistol firing lane in the new Modular Containerized Small Arms Training Set at the Reno Air National Guard base before it started its certification testing. The MCSATS, just south of building 400, is expected to become fully operational in May. Photo: Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

New marksmanship facility hits bull's-eye

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

RENO — In terms of proximity, ease of access and cost savings, the new Nevada Air Guard Modular Containerized Small Arms Training Set hits the bull's-eye. The versatile marksmanship facility is the only one of its kind in the entire Air National Guard and is set to be fully operational this spring.

The MCSATS is right on the Air National Guard base here and gives the majority of Nevada's 1,100 Airmen easy access to a state-of-the-art indoor facility that gives the High Rollers an opportunity to hone their marksmanship skills.

The \$5 million set is made up of 24 bullet-proof containers configured to make a safe shooting facility. Marksmen can qualify with pistols and rifles up to and including 7.62 mm caliber weapons.

The 6,000-square-foot, 12-lane range features bullet traps to recover spent munitions. The facility is climate-controlled and provides scenario-based shooting situations for personnel to train and qualify annually or in advance of a deployment. The modular containers can be relocated if needed.

"The Air Guard is often tasked to support federal overseas contingency missions along with other domestic operations, contingencies and events, and the missions continually require personnel to be weapons-qualified," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert Taulman, the 152nd Security Forces Squadron superintendent.

The previous range used by Airmen for qualifying, the Washoe County Parks and Recreation Regional Shooting Facility, was distant from the air base and didn't meet the stringent Air Force range guidelines.

Thirty miles away, the Washoe County facility

required extra man-hours and resources to use. With the elimination of many of the costs associated with the old facility (travel, box lunches, extra payroll), it's estimated the Air Guard will save \$360,000 annually by using the new, on-base facility.

The MCSATS is considered a very "green" system because the expended lead is reclaimed and recycled. The set exceeds Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations for safety, noise reduction and air quality.

It's likely the facility will be open to service members in all branches as the Air Guard assists in the widespread effort to reduce qualifying costs and increase training and readiness capability throughout the military.

Local law enforcement agencies are also likely to use the range. Thirteen local organizations have already expressed interest in using the range and could potentially contribute toward maintenance costs in exchange for access to the MCSATS. It's estimated that about 1,500 first-responders may eventually use the facility for training.

"The biggest advantage with the new facility is we can conduct quality marksmanship training 24 hours per day, seven days per week and 365 days per year and simulate all shooting conditions," Taulman said. "In the past, we were able to shoot just 12-15 days per year.

"This facility is a force multiplier that provides quality marksmanship training, and in the end, MCSATS will maintain readiness and save lives." ■



Staff Sgt. Mike Getten

Senior Airman Chelsea Ureta, 152nd Security Forces Squadron, demonstrates the M-4 carbine firing lane in the new Modular Containerized Small Arms Training Set at the Reno Air National Guard base. The new MCSATS, just south of building 400, is undergoing certification testing and is expected to become fully operational in May.

485th sergeant on target during Wounded Heroes Elk Program hunt

By Dylan Woolf Harris, Elko Daily Free Press

ELKO – After a four-hour wait for his quarry to come into range, it took Staff Sgt. Rutilio Lara just one 477-yard shot to down a bull elk on his Wounded Heroes Elk Program hunt on Nov. 25.

Lara, 29, the training sergeant for the 485th Military Police Company headquartered in Reno, was the Nevada Army Guard's representative in the Wounded Heroes Elk Program hunt this fall. The hunt was organized and primarily sponsored by the Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association, Winecup Gamble Ranch and Leupold Optics.

For the past three years, the NOGA has provided a military veteran with an all-expenses-paid guided elk hunt on the Winecup Gamble Ranch. The participant also receives a Remington Model 700 Sendero rifle and Leupold & Stevens scope.

"The hunt truly was a once in a lifetime experience," Lara said. "I couldn't even express to those guys how thankful I am. It's absolutely an amazing program."

Lara served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. It was on his second tour, in March 2005, when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

"We were driving through the Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad, and our vehicle hit a roadside bomb," Lara said. "The impact of the explosion managed to pick up our Bradley fighting vehicle and flip it on its side."

The six Soldiers in the vehicle survived, and all were later awarded Purple Heart Medals.

"It was a massive explosion," he said. "We're lucky, very lucky."



Courtesy Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association

Nevada Army Guard Staff Sgt. Rutilio Lara poses with the bull elk he shot on a Wounded Hero Elk Project guided hunt on the Winecup Gamble Ranch on Nov. 25. For the past three years, the Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association has provided a military veteran an all-expenses-paid guided elk hunt on the Winecup Gamble Ranch. Inset: Lara displays the Remington Sendero rifle he received in conjunction with his Wounded Hero Elk Program hunt in November.

During his three tours, Lara survived multiple IED attacks.

Lara, a Nevada native, husband and father of three, drove from his home in Washoe County to the Winecup Gamble ranch on Nov. 21. On Nov. 24, he spotted the elk he would eventually shoot, a 6-by-6, 335 point bull, he said. But before he was able to scope a clean shot, a two-track ATV spooked a second elk, which sent his elk running away, he said.

The hunters set out following the animals. "We tracked him throughout the day. We were glassing the area, and we found him again," Lara said.

Lara said his hunting party tried to close in on the elk, but the elk decided to change their direction, and the two groups never crossed paths.

Soon it was dark, and the group called it a night.

The next day, Lara and the guides went back to the same area where they first found the elk and hoped for better luck. Fortunately for Lara, the bull elk was back.

"We picked him up again," he said.

The elk began wandering on one ridge with the hunters paralleling it on the opposite ridge.

"Luckily, he wandered on his ridgeline right into the junipers and just sat down," Lara said.

And then the waiting began.

"We knew exactly where he was. I could see him through the scope, and he bedded down," he said. "I sat there for two and a half hours, and it took another hour and a half until he presented himself and I could get a clean shot."

Clean it was. Lara took one shot, he said, and the elk dropped. ■

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Airman loves wild life as volunteer game warden

By Master Sgt. Paula Macomber
152nd Airlift Wing

RENO – As one of only two reserve game wardens in the state, Master Sgt. James Kocijanski of the 152nd Maintenance Squadron leads a wild life.

When he's not working for the squadron's quality assurance office, Kocijanski – nicknamed "Kozz" – works several days each month as a volunteer reserve warden for the Nevada Division of Law Enforcement. While on the job, he protects the state's wildlife resources, enforces wildlife regulations and ensures the safety of the boating public.

After recently concluding a long reserve stint with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Kozz still wanted to assist law enforcement officials. One option he considered was to become a volunteer game warden. The reserve game warden program did not exist until Kozz recognized the potential for volunteer wardens, so he helped write the grant to establish the program.

After the program was created, Kozz and Jim Gunnell became the state's first volunteer game wardens when they swore into their positions on Oct. 10, 2012.

"My position as a game warden gives me an opportunity to assist law enforcement, but still interact with people in a 'sporting' atmosphere and help Nevada's wildlife," Koss said.

Both Kozz and Gunnell previously served as reserve sergeants for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office in the late 2000s. Only prior law enforcement individuals with certain criteria are eligible to become volunteer game wardens.

In his position, Kozz does everything a full-time game warden does – except get paid. There's no monetary compensation. But just like full-time game wardens, reserve wardens receive comprehensive wildlife field forensics and restraint techniques training.

Kocijanski experienced his first close encounter with a bear last Nevada Day. On his way to his office, he heard about a bear traipsing through a populated area of Carson City.

Kozz hauled the bear trailer to Carson City and linked up with another game warden who had located and tranquilized the bear. Kozz subsequently helped process the bruin before it was relocated to a remote area the next day. The process included affixing a microchip and ear tags to the bear, marking his gums and lips, and estimating the bear's age and measuring its dimensions.



Photo: Courtesy Nevada Division of Law Enforcement
Master Sgt. James Kocijanski poses with a bear the Nevada Division of Law Enforcement tranquilized in Carson City on Nevada Day. Kocijanski is one of only two volunteer reserve game wardens in the state.

Kozz, a New York native, has volunteered his time throughout his 32-year military career. He first volunteered with the sheriff's office in 1996 with the search and rescue crew. In 2001, he became a reserve deputy and was later promoted to sergeant. He recorded more than 615 hours of volunteer service in 2002.

In December 2010, Kocijanski received a Jefferson Award for community service in conjunction with his volunteer law enforcement work. Founded in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, the Jefferson Award is one of the highest honors for public service in the

United States and is sometimes considered similar to a "Nobel Prize for public service."

Kocijanski began his career in the Air Force in 1981 and is set to wrap up his career in the Nevada Air National Guard in September 2014. He looks forward to his military retirement because it will allow him to concentrate on expanding the reserve warden program and give it his full attention, albeit still as an unpaid volunteer..

"I love animals, I love the outdoors, I love law enforcement, and I love wildlife," Kozz said. "I don't need to get paid to do what I love to do." ■

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Pioneer Predator pilot sees blue skies ahead – remotely

By Maj. Dennis Fournier
Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs

Editor's note: Last names of individuals in the article do not appear due to Air Force policy.

LAS VEGAS – When he was selected to become a Predator pilot, Nevada Air Guard Capt. Adam had no idea he was destined to become a pioneer in Air National Guard history.

Adam is the first Air National Guard graduate of the 18X MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft pilot training course, according to Cathy Rico, chief of graduate flying training at the National Guard Bureau, and Col. Dana Hessheimer, commander of the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing. The 18X course produces trained Predator pilots from Airmen with no previous traditional, manned-aircraft piloting experience.

Previously, RPA candidates were selected from a pool of pilots with experience flying manned aircraft such as F-16s, A-10s and KC-135s. The select pilots then attended the RPA initial qualification course and quickly became RPA operators.

To become a Predator pilot, Adam first completed a nine-week undergraduate RPA course. Students enrolled in the course fly a minimum of 39 hours in the DA-20, a two-seat, general aviation aircraft designed for flight training.

Adam then spent four months at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, to train on a T-6 simulator to learn instrument flight rules. Finally, he attended the MQ1-B initial qualification course for 10 weeks at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., to master MQ-1 airframe capabilities and dynamics.

Lt. Col. Warren, Adam's commander in the 232nd Operations Squadron, explained the circumstances surrounding the decision to place Adam directly into Predator training. The 232nd Operations Squadron is a Nevada Air Guard classic-associate unit outside of Las Vegas.

"Budgetary constraints made the decision to enroll Adam in the 18X pipeline an efficient one," Warren said. "In Adam, I saw an officer who sincerely wanted to be a Predator pilot and a Nevada Guardsman, so my staff and I worked hard to help make that happen for him. The Nevada Air Guard and the warfighters are the beneficiaries."

Adam said he was grateful for the support he received from both the Air Guard and



Maj. Dennis Fournier

Capt. Adam trains on the MQ1-B Predator flight simulator Jan. 9 in Las Vegas. Adam has flown more than 300 combat hours since becoming the first Air National Guard graduate of the 18X MQ-1 Predator remotely piloted aircraft pilot training course. (The photo is edited for security reasons.)

active duty leadership while on his odyssey to become a pilot.

"The support of the 232nd Operations Squadron, especially from the many who were there for my 'winging' ceremony, has been nothing short of incredible," Adam said. "I am indebted to the Nevada Air National Guard for the opportunity."

Adam, 34, received his commission through San Diego State's Air Force ROTC program and then spent six years as a navigator on the EC-130. While on active duty, Adam kept his eye on RPA operations and, realizing the certain growth of RPA flying programs, pondered his own future in remotely piloted flight.

The Las Vegas resident said he is not concerned with the prospect of being labeled 'just' an RPA pilot.

"I am a huge proponent of RPA and I want to be a pioneer for this evolving capability," Adam said. "RPA is the future and more manned airborne platforms are going to migrate toward remotely piloted flight."

"I am the youngest RPA pilot in the Nevada Guard, and I look forward to growing with this capability and contributing to the future. I see nothing but blue skies ahead."

Since his graduation, Adam has flown more than 300 hours collecting visual information that became intelligence products for ground forces. He has not employed his

airborne weapons yet, but his training has prepared him for any scenario.

He said flying the Predator is challenging, and he still has much to learn.

"The building block approach in the training curriculum has prepared me for this incredible responsibility," Adam said. "This is a very dynamic platform with countless capabilities, and my training has given me the confidence to fly and execute in a sink or swim environment where the only option is to swim."

Adam comes from a military family, and he welcomes the opportunity to continue serving in the Nevada Air Guard. His two sisters also currently serve in the Army and Navy respectively.

"I want to continue the legacy of service that my father began with his 27 years of service in the Navy," Adam said.

Adam stressed the importance of family support throughout his career.

"My military service and my transition to the Nevada Air Guard would not have been possible without the support of my mom and dad, and specifically my wife," said the father of two. "She has endured my hectic deployment and training obligations and has been supportive of my career decisions. Her understanding of shift work, deployments and additional duties make my success in serving my country her accomplishment."

"This is a dream come true." ■



Staff reports

152nd Operations Support Flight expands into squadron

RENO – Signifying its ongoing expansion, the Nevada Air Guard's 152nd Operations Support Flight officially became the 152nd Operations Support Squadron in a ceremony here in November at the Nevada Air National Guard Base.

According to the Air Force, a flight is an organization of 49 or less Airmen, and a squadron consists of 50 or more Airmen. The 152nd Operations Support Squadron already has more than 100 aircrew.

Lt. Col. Jon Schulstad explained how the squadron surpassed the mark of 50 Airmen. "Support personnel from the [152nd] Operations Group were realigned and added to the operations support flight," Schulstad said. "Now we have the personnel and structure to increase our training capacity as a separate squadron."

The newly formed squadron will prioritize meeting the training requirements of 192nd Airlift Squadron personnel.

Governor's Ball set for May 3

The Governor's Ball is set for May 3 at 6 p.m. at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa in Las Vegas. All Guardsmen, active-duty service members and military retirees are invited. For information, call (775) 887-7250.

Army Guard supply team earns perfect score

CARSON CITY – When the scores were released for this year's command logistics review team inspection, the Nevada Army Guard U.S. Property and Fiscal Office supply management team discovered it had scored a rare, perfect 100 percent score.

An inspection team scrutinized Nevada Army Guard logistics management in 14 areas in January, including unit level supply activities. A total of 15 units, shops, facilities and sections across the state were reviewed.

"The clothing records I inspected had no faults, which is very rare," said Sgt. Maj. Shawn Glenn, a CLRT unit supply inspector. "This was the first time I've seen that in a state."

In the areas of unit supply management and financial liability investigation of property loss management, the CLRT gave the Nevada Army Guard the highest possible rating.

The CLRT inspection team recognized seven Soldiers and one civilian for their contributions to supply management. The personnel recognized were: Sgt. Eric Robinson, USPF0; Sgt. Vera Salazar, Joint Force Headquarters; Staff Sgt. Arthur Mc Keller, 777th Forward Support Company, 1-221 Cavalry; Staff Sgt. Anderson Munoz, USPF0; Master Sgt. John Bogdan, 17th Sustainment Brigade; Master Sgt. Kevin Cobb, USPF0; Capt. Laura Boldry, JFHQ; and Ronda Lethcoe, JFHQ.

Air Guard recognizes superior achievements, accomplishments

Continued from page 13

The annual diversity award was presented to Master Sgt. Xiomara Young from the 152nd Force Support Squadron for her support of the diversity council throughout the year.

The Chief's Award was presented to Dr. Trudy Gilbert-Eliot for her commitment to the Key Volunteer program and for her exemplary service in the wake of several tragic events that occurred this year.

Next awarded were the commander's excellence awards, which follow:

- The 152nd Airlift Wing recognized Staff Sgt. Russell Tom from the 152nd Comptroller Flight.

- The 152nd Operations Group awarded Airman 1st Class Rita Middleton with its Commander's Award for Excellence.

- The 152nd Maintenance Group recognized its 56 Airmen who deployed to the Central Command's area of responsibility for Air Expeditionary Force 9/10.

- The Mission Support Group Commander's Excellence Award was presented to the 152nd Structures Shop, a section within 152nd Civil Engineer Squadron.

- The 152nd Medical Group presented its Commander's Award for Excellence to Capt. Leslie Mays.

- The 152nd Intelligence Squadron awarded Master Sgt. Michelle Anderson with its Commander's Award for Excellence.

- The 232nd Operations Squadron recognized Master Sgt. Joshua Johnson with its Commander's Award for Excellence.

- The State Headquarters' Commander's Excellence Award was presented to Master Sgt. Daphne Ross of the human resources office.

The Silver Sentinel Award is presented annually by the adjutant general and recognizes superior performance. The recipients of Silver State Awards this year as determined by Brig. Gen. Bill Burks were Capt. Dana Grigg from the 152nd Airlift Wing's Judge Advocate Section and Master Sgt. Shawn Plunkett from the 192nd Airlift Squadron's flight engineer section.

Two Nevada Army Guard Soldiers were also recognized for their achievements this year. Spc. Nathaniel Hill received accolades for winning the 2013 Nevada State Soldier of the Year competition and then placing first in the Region 7 "Best Warrior" of the year event. He placed third in the national competition.

Spc. Cherice Stormfeltz of the 593rd Transportation Company was recognized for her selection as the 757th Combat Services Support Soldier of the Quarter and 17th Sustainment Brigade Soldier of the Quarter. She subsequently won the 17th Sustainment Brigade Soldier of the Year and the 311th Sustainment Command Soldier of the Year awards. ■

Community remembers Landsberry as extraordinary teacher, Airman, Marine

By Spc. Michael Orton
106th Public Affairs Detachment

SPARKS – Sharon Landsberry, the wife of the Nevada Guardsman and teacher killed during a school shooting in Sparks in October, recounted during a tearful memorial ceremony here on Nov. 2 that her husband had reconnected with friends and reiterated his Marine values just two days before he died.

Master Sgt. Michael Landsberry – Sparks Middle School seventh-grade math teacher and Marine veteran who joined the Nevada Air Guard in 2001 – died Oct. 21 after a 12-year-old student fired gunshots that killed Landsberry and injured two others before the shooter took his own life.

More than 1,000 people, including Gov. Brian Sandoval, attended the memorial service that included full military honors at the Sparks Christian Fellowship church.

Sharon Landsberry said her husband had played golf with friends and recited a Marine anthem entitled “Ask Me What I Was” just days before the incident. She repeated part of the anthem during her eulogy to her husband.

“I have seen death and felt its warm breath. It did not faze me for I was different. I was a warrior. You ask me what I was? It was my destiny, until my last breath, to be a United States Marine. And my spirit shall live forever,” she said.

Witnesses said Michael Landsberry acted in a heroic manner and tried to stop Jose Reyes when he realized the student had a semi-automatic pistol and had fired shots outside the school building moments before class started.

“Mr. Landsberry’s heroic actions, by stepping toward the shooter, allowed time for other students in the playground area to flee,” Washoe County School District Police Chief Mike Mieras said.

Government officials, military personnel, family and friends spoke during the ceremony. One of them was Andrea Cook, Landsberry’s stepdaughter, who graduated from Navy basic training a few days after the shooting.

“I love you, Dad, and I will make you proud,” Cook said. “One of the hardest things was to graduate from boot camp and not have you there because you were the reason I joined. You were the reason I pushed so hard in my physical fitness assessment and studied for my tests. I just wanted to make you proud.”

“There’s no such thing as an ex-Marine and (Landsberry) lived that,” said Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Bill Burks. “He lived the core values. He was the consummate military professional, and with his Batman personality and pictures of him in costume, he just had this unique sense of humor.”

Landsberry’s impact and influence on his students was well represented during the memorial ceremony.

“He had such a great personality,” said Chelsey Avera, a student of Landsberry’s whom he nicknamed “Cherry Top” because of her red hair. “He would always make people smile. He liked to walk down the halls at school on Wednesdays yelling, ‘Hump day!’ He was our hero.”

Landsberry enlisted in the Nevada Air Guard in 2001, the same year he began teaching in the Washoe County School District. He deployed to Kuwait in 2006 and Afghanistan in 2011. During his military career, Landsberry earned more than 20 awards and decorations.

“No one could have imagined or anticipated what happened that day,” Sandoval said. “What is conclusive, though, is Michael



Master Sgt. Michael Landsberry

Landsberry’s selfless act to give his own life that others may live.”

In Cook’s closing words, she summed up what fellow teachers, military personnel, family and friends had expressed throughout the ceremony.

“You have always been a hero, and your friends and family knew that, but now the whole world knows that,” she said. “You’re my hero, and I will make you proud of what I will do. I love you.” ■



Spc. James Pierce, 106th Public Affairs Detachment

An honor guard Marine salutes the family of Marine veteran and Nevada Guard Airman Master Sgt. Michael Landsberry during a memorial service held at Sparks Christian Fellowship church on Nov. 3. Landsberry was killed Oct. 21 during a school shooting at Sparks Middle School, where he was a teacher.



AWARDS • PROMOTIONS • RETIREMENTS

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Meritorious Service Medal



1SG Dennis Basilio 240th Engineer Co
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 CW3 George Cohenno 777th FSC, 1-221st Cav
 SFC Ryan Davidson NVARNG Rec/Ret
 MAJ David Evans 421st RTI
 LTC Jeffrey Hansen JFHQ
 SFC Charles Harger 421st RTI
 1SG Harry House NVARNG Rec/Ret
 MAJ Jeffrey Johnson JFHQ
 MAJ John Lyle 92nd Civil Spt Team
 1SG Rodney Medina B Co, 422nd Signal Bn
 SSG Ivan Parsons 1/189th Aviation
 SSG James Perkins JFHQ
 MSG Shauna Reese HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 SGM Glen Roberts HHT, 1-221st Cav
 CW2 Stephan Rundell HHT, 1-221st Cav
 LTC James Walker HHC, 17th Sust Bde
 Lt Col James Fleitz HQ NVANG
 CMSgt Mark Bailey 152nd Medical Grp
 Lt Col Thomas Bass 232nd Operations Sqdn
 MSgt Michael Landsberry 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 LtCol Caesar Garduno 192nd Airlift Sqdn

Army Commendation Medal



MSG Thomas Sauls JFHQ



Air Force Commendation Medal



MSgt James Speth 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Dominic Tanzi 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Colleen Glynn 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 TSgt Kipp Westphal 152nd Intelligence Sqdn
 SSgt Wayne Bejosano 232nd Operations Sqdn

Air Force Achievement Medal



SSgt Joseph Hodges 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 SrA Elliott Canaday 152nd Security Forces Sqdn

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal



Capt Dana Grigg 152nd Airlift Wing
 SMSgt Torry Thompson HQ NVANG
 TSgt Stephanie McLaughlin HQ NVANG
 SMSgt Rosemarie Marston 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada Overseas Deployment Ribbon



Maj Michael Komorous 232nd Operations Sqdn
 SMSgt Tregg Jackson 152nd Operations Grp
 TSgt Dean Vasquez 232nd Operations Sqdn
 TSgt Michael Yahne 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Timothy Contreras 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 SrA Jacob Eldred 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn

Nevada State Commendation Medal



SrA Nicole Munley 152nd Force Spt Sqdn
 AB Karina Espinoza 152nd Force Spt Sqdn

Nevada First Sergeant Ribbon



1SG Daniel Quintana 240th Engineer Co

Adjutant General's Outstanding Graduate Award



PFC Kendra Aber NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SSG Michael Frazer JFHQ
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 SSG Benjamin Rogers L Trp, 1-221st Cav
 SPC Crystal Sanchez 100th Quartermaster Co

Nevada Safety Ribbon



Maj Evan Kirkwood 192nd Airlift Sqdn
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 Daniel Keeton 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 Cassandra Smith 152nd Security Forces Sqdn
 Jerzy Horst 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Miguel Nava-Flores 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Matthew Fickus 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 Brooklynn Cilonis 152nd Maint Sqdn
 Jade Hunter 152nd Force Support Sqdn
 Hunter Perry 192nd Airlift Sqdn
 John Baughn 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn

RETIREMENTS

SFC Kevin Malone 1/189th Aviation
 MSG Michael Young JFHQ
 LTC Mark Ensign JFHQ
 SFC Louis Toncks NVARNG Rec/Ret
 SFC Chris Childers 150th Maint Co
 1SG David Pectol 92nd Civil Spt Team
 BG Francis Gonzales JFHQ
 SSG Sean Stephenson JFHQ
 SFC Lord Alvarade 1864th Trans Co
 SGT Aaron Rolston 991st Aviation
 SFC Ulises Pierluissi 92nd Civil Spt Team
 SSG Caitlin Koffarnus 757th Combat Sust Spt Bn

TSgt Christopher Geraci 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 TSgt Kelly Bitz 152nd Medical Grp
 SSgt Christopher Back 152nd Communications Flt
 MSgt Ronnie Sherwood 152nd Maint Grp
 SSgt Randall Lemas 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 CMSgt Kenneth Gray HQ NVANG
 SSgt Kenneth Bennett 152nd Log Readiness Sqdn
 MSgt Timothy Franklin 152nd Communications Flt
 TSgt Stephen Bracher 152nd Civil Engineer Sqdn
 CMSgt Mark Bailey 152nd Medical Grp
 MSgt Erin Fierro 152nd Maint Grp
 Lt Col James Fleitz JFHQ



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