

OCEAN STATE GUARDIAN



RING 5TH ANNUAL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

FALL 2005
EDITION

**AIR SHOW/OPEN HOUSE
SETS ATTENDANCE
RECORD**



Third Annual
CSM E. A. McConnell
Memorial
Golf Tournament



DIVERSITY TRAINING
IN PROVIDENCE, RI



VOLUME II ISSUE 4



**Ocean State
GUARDIAN
EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Adjutant General
Brigadier General John Enright**

**Assistant Adjutant General, Air
Brigadier General Michael Hickey**

**Chief of Staff
Colonel Brian Goodwin**

**Public Affairs Officer
LTC Micheal McNamara**

**Editor/Design
Sergeant John Cervone**

**Reproduction Staff
SFC Richard Rowe**



Reader Contributions are encouraged.

For guidelines contact the Public Affairs Office at:

**(401) 275-4193
(401) 275-4338 (Fax)**

Submit articles or photographs to:

**RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
COMMAND READINESS CENTER
645 NEW LONDON AVENUE
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND
02920-3097**

**Or you may e-mail:
michael.mcnamara@ri.ngb.army.mil**





OSG



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From The Desk Of The Adjutant General

Brigadier General John Leonard Enright Sr

Brigadier General Enright was born on June 28, 1947 in Providence, Rhode Island. He attended Hope High School in Providence, RI; earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administrations at Bryant College and a Master's Degree in International Relations from Salve Regina University. He enlisted in the United States Army in March 1967, receiving his commission from USA Field Artillery Officer Candidate School on January 16, 1968 and graduated from the US Army Rotary Wing Aviator Course in March 1969. He served on active duty from March of that year with one tour in South Vietnam from April 1969 to April 1970 with release from active duty in July 1971. He enlisted in the Rhode Island Army National Guard in July 1971 as a Captain. He completed a variety of courses to include; OH-58A qualification and IP course, UH-1H IP course, AH-1F qualification and IP course, Instrument Examiner Course, NVG IP course, Field Artillery Officer Advanced course, Resident Command and General Staff College, Aviation Safety Officer course, and the US Army War College. Brigadier General Enright has held an assortment of important command and staff positions within the National Guard to include: Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2/103rd FA Group; Platoon Leader/Operations Officer/ Executive Officer/Commander, Troop D, 1/26th Cavalry Regiment; Commander 1/126th Aviation Regiment; Commander 56th Troop Command; Staff Officer, Headquarters State Area Command; Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Rhode Island Army National Guard; and Chief of Staff, Rhode Island Army National Guard. Brigadier General Enright currently holds the position of Assistant Adjutant General, Rhode Island Army National Guard. Brigadier General Enright is a Master Army Aviator with 6,980 hours flight time and his awards include: The Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Medal with twenty-two Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; GWOT Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; the National Defense Service Medal; Rhode Island Star w/oak leaf cluster. His civilian affiliations include: Life Member, National Guard Association of the United States; Life Member, Association of the United States Army; Life Member, Army Aviation Association of America; Life Member, Reserve Officers Association; Life Member, US Army War College Alumni Association; Military Order of Foreign Wars, Rhode Island Chapter; and the American Legion, Post 311. He is married to the former Karen Farrell. They have two children, John and Kathleen. Brigadier General and Mrs. Enright live in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

America is a place of freedom and opportunity. We are caring toward neighbors in need and generous to the sick and struggling. We are a strong, decent, and good-hearted country. All of us are blessed to be citizens of the United States and are proud to call America our home. As a symbol of our patriotism, the American flag continues to invoke pride and resolve among our people, especially when we see it next to a headstone, on the masts of our military ships, worn by the generations of Americans who have proudly served our country, or emerging from the wreckage caused by a natural or man made disaster. Flying over public buildings, monuments, schools, and homes, our flag is testament to the ideals of American democracy. For more than 200 years, the American flag has served as a symbol of our country's enduring freedom and unity. Old Glory has welcomed generations of immigrants to America's shores and is displayed proudly on homes, at schools, and over businesses across our country. During times of war, our flag has rallied our citizens to defend the blessings of liberty at home and abroad. It has accompanied our troops into battle and been given to grieving families at the grave sites of fallen heroes. Today, as our brave men and women in uniform fight terrorism and advance freedom, the flag inspires patriotism and pride across our Nation and around the world. I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places.

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

JOHN McDONOUGH

STATE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD



To the men and women, of the Rhode Island National Guard, in uniform today, I certainly want to join in thanking you for your truly outstanding service to our country. You're doing noble work. And we're so deeply grateful to you. And future generations will be in your debt. All of you are members of the finest army on the face of the earth. Let there be no doubt about that! And I'm very happy to say that the U.S. Army is becoming more flexible, more innovative, better prepared to tackle the new challenges that we face. Of course, such a bright prognosis seemed anything but certain back in the U.S. Army's very earliest days. I recently was reading a book on General George Washington who, before he was President, of course, was the first Commander of the Continental Army. He feared that his task might be too great for him. And indeed the Army endured years of misery and setbacks. Continental Soldiers always seemed to be one misfortune away from defeat. They faced terrible shortages — of food, of supplies, of medicine, ammunition. And George Washington, of course, was within inches of being fired as a failure. Yet the United States would not be here today, as it is, without the courage and tenacity of those Citizen-Soldiers who against all odds — and despite all of the hardships they faced — followed through on the simple vow: that "We will be free." This has been the Army's proud calling ever since its earliest days. It has made its mark in history in engagements so storied that they can be summoned to our consciousness by the mere mention of the names: Gettysburg, Normandy, Ia Drang, and Iraqi Freedom. It was the United States Army whose Rangers parachuted into Kandahar in the earliest days of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the United States Army that sent the 101st Airborne to tackle the Taliban in the mountains of Afghanistan, and whose 3rd ID made the Thunder Runs into Baghdad with speed and audacity that caught the enemy by surprise. And it was the United States Army whose 4th ID pulled Saddam Hussein from a spider hole. And it is the United States Army that every day is going on the offensive against the violent extremists who killed 3,000 men, women, and children on September 11th, 2001. They've had to serve not just as Soldiers, but as diplomats; not just as warfighters, but as peacekeepers. And with every new challenge, they have demonstrated their ability to rise to the occasion. For over 200 years, the Army has been at the forefront of defending the freedom that makes our country such a very special place. The Army story is America's story — where men and women are judged not by race or religion or family heritage, but by merit. Where anyone with a desire to serve and anyone with the drive and talent can excel. May God bless all of you and may God continue to bless our wonderful country.

43rd MP Brigade in Germany for Warfighter Exercise



The 43rd Military Police Brigade participated in a "Warfighter Exercise", this past July, in Germany. The Warfighter exercise and the Battle Command Training Program were created in the early '80s to mentor key Army leaders. It was designed as a way to put expert retired Army officers in mentoring positions to work with corps and division commanders. The BCTP observer-controllers watch the exercise, take notes and tell the exercise players what they saw. Warfighter's computer simulation is technology at its best. The exercise players get realistic intelligence reports on enemy troop and vehicle movement from software programs that create the reports by combining satellite data with actual aerial photos of specific terrain where the exercise scenario takes place.



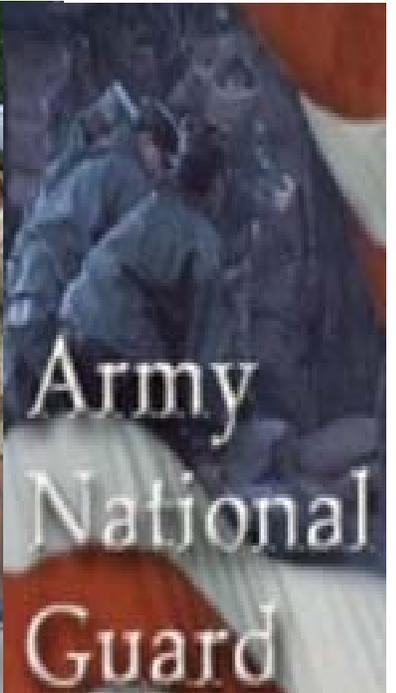


The Rhode Island National Guard's Family Assistance

Program conducted a Youth Development Program at Camp Fogarty, East Greenwich, Rhode Island. The Camp was held from July 10th to July 15th. Sixty four young adults, from communities throughout state, began their semi- military training on Sunday, July 10th and ended on Friday, July 15th. This type of "Youth Camp" allows young children to demonstrate their overall character and strengths while participating in various "Team Activities". Instructors and Counselors, from both the Army and Air guard, instruct the children in various actions such as learning to march, perform physical training, on a daily basis, and how to conduct themselves in a military camp environment. They make their beds and ensure that their area is neat and orderly. They raise the American Flag each morning and lower it each evening. They are taught the importance of this ceremony and are all given a chance to participate in it. They eat their meals in a military dining hall and are instructed on the importance of maintaining a proper diet. During the week long event they practice using "night vision goggles, they go hiking at Purgatory Chasm, camp out overnight and then participate in a rafting trip at the Zoar outdoor family resort. Their Counselors are all volunteers and their reason for volunteering is simply to try to help these young people develop ideas and skills that will help them in the future. Lt. Colonel Robert Behm and Laura Paton have been instrumental in making this event a success along with the other counselors and outside sponsors. This is just another way the National Guard tries to give back to the community that it has sworn to protect.







**RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD
5TH ANNUAL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
CLOSING CEREMONIES**





The Rhode Island National Guard Open House and Air Show set a new record for this year. The weekend event set a new attendance record for the largest single day crowd in the show's 13-year history. Over seventy five thousand people attended the performance on Sunday, June 19th and over forty thousand watched the National Guard's annual show on Saturday which featured performances by various aircraft, including thunderbirds, tomcats, and parachute teams. The SOC Parachute team, the Shockwave Jet Truck, military fighter jets and experimental planes along with the amazing Blue Angels performed to the enjoyment of their fans and a good time seemed to have been had by all. All proceeds from the Air Show are donated to charities throughout Southern New England.



THE AIR SHOW IS
NOT ALL FUN
AND GAMES





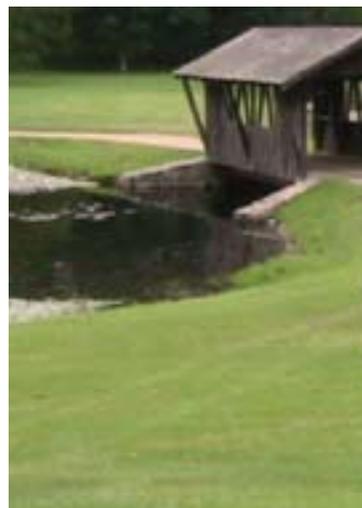
BUT THE CROWDS LOVE IT!



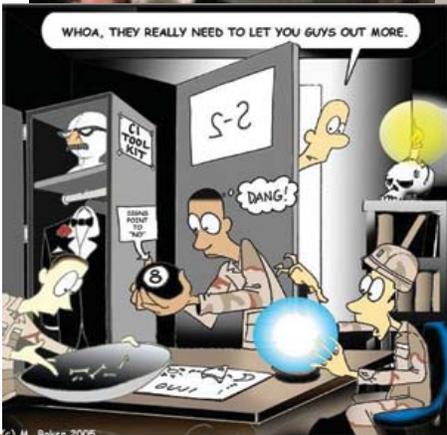


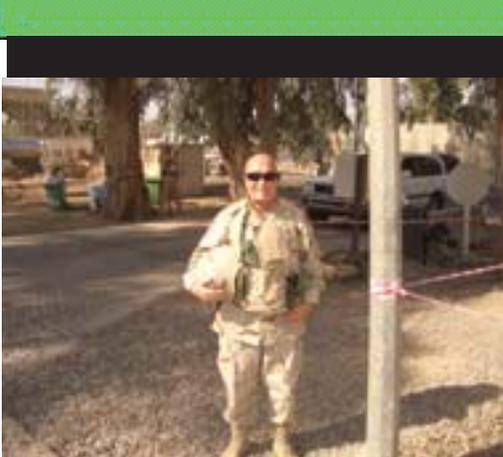
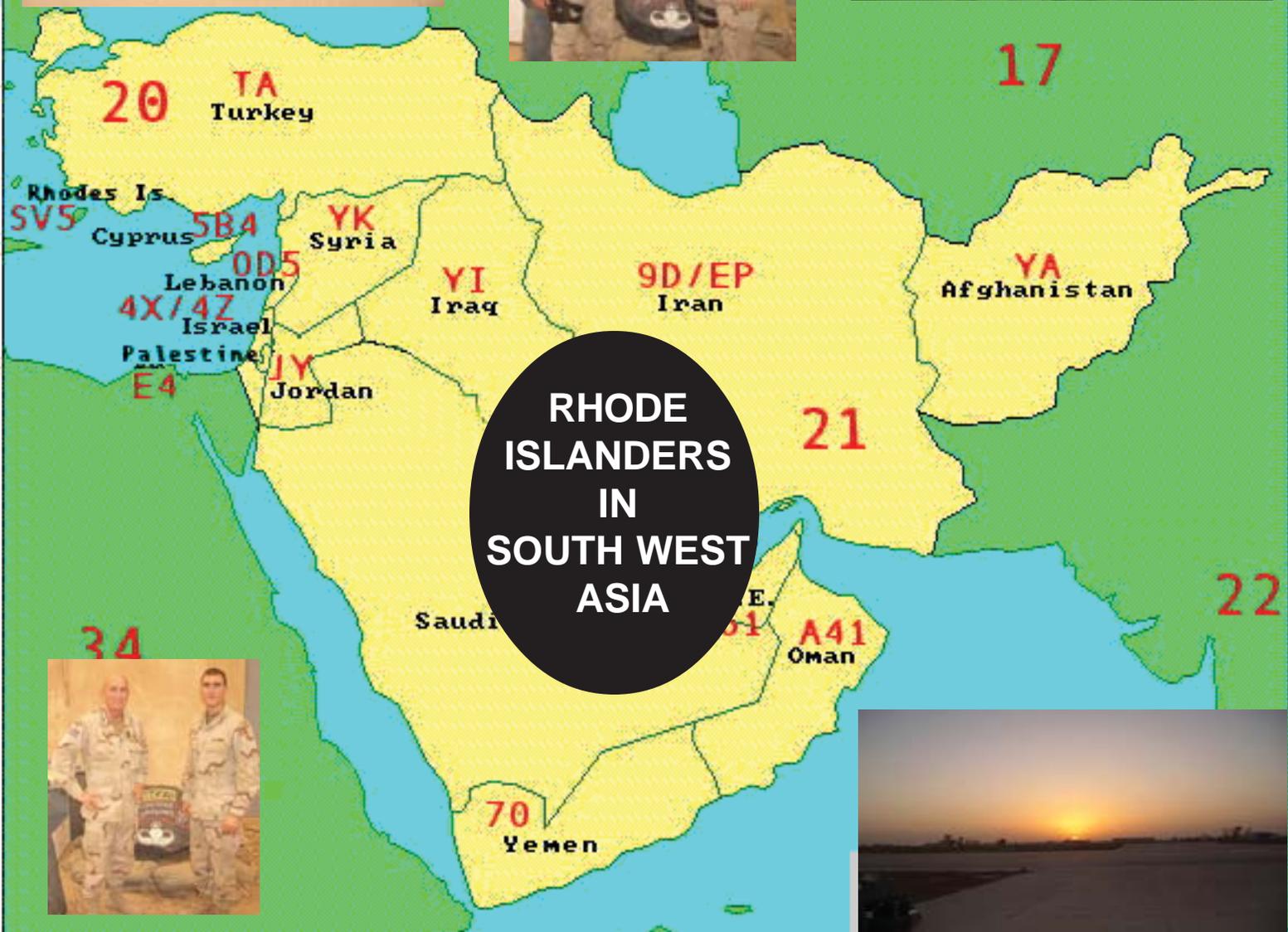
**SERGEANTS MAJOR
GOLF TOURNAMENT**
IN MEMORY OF
CSM EDWARD A. McCONNELL
DET. LT. - PROVIDENCE P.D.
THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING





RHODE ISLANDERS AT WAR





RHODE ISLAND RECRUITERS - "24/7 Soldiers"



Rhode Island Recruiters at the Convention Center.

At Camp Fogarty helping out at "The Youth Development" Camp.



Driving in heavy traffic, on Sunday, in downtown Providence.



Working With Youth Development



HELPING AT THE ROCK WALL

DoD Announces Increase in Death Gratuity and SGLI

The Department of Defense announced a significant increase in the death gratuity for the survivors of service members killed in action and the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage for service members deployed to designated combat zones. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Tsunami Relief Act 2005 (Public Law 109-13) increases this immediate cash payment from \$12,420 to \$100,000 for survivors of those whose death is as a result of hostile actions and occurred in a designated combat operation or combat zone or while training for combat or performing hazardous duty. The supplemental also increases the maximum amount of SGLI coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for all service members effective Sept. 1, 2005 and provides that the department will pay or reimburse the premiums to service members, who are deployed in a designated combat zone for \$150,000 of SGLI coverage. Until the effective date for the SGLI increase, the supplemental provides for a special death gratuity of \$150,000, retroactive to October 7, 2001, for survivors of those whose death is in a designated combat operation or combat zone or occurred while training for combat or performing hazardous duty. The Secretary of Defense has designated all areas where service members are in receipt of the combat zone tax exclusion as qualifying combat zones and all members deployed outside the United States on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom as participating in qualifying combat operations. Effective immediately, survivors of service members, who die in these qualifying zones or operations, will receive the increased benefits. The services will also identify eligible survivors of service members who died in these designated zones and operations since October 7, 2001 and begin making the retroactive payments within a few days. The process of identifying all eligible beneficiaries and completing these retroactive payments will take several months. Survivors of members who did not die in a designated combat operation or combat zone, but were training for combat or performing hazardous duty, will also qualify for the increased benefits.

West Warwick JAYCEES
of Kent County
ECOLOGY Weekend &
PEACE DAY Ceremony
A MEDITATION

“God has created me to do
Him some definite service.”

Saturday, May 14, 2005, an Annual Ecology Day was held at the JAYCEE Corridor & Arboretum Lane in West Warwick. Coincidentally, this was also the day that “Armed Forces Day” was being celebrated. On the site of the original RI Food Bank, now stands a City Park, dedicated to the future of not only West Warwick but of our Planet as well. Members of the West Warwick JAYCEES paid homage to RI Military Veterans and also to our Good Earth with prayers and by planting flowers. Mr. Gerry Fitta also read the following words written by Sgt. John Cervone as a memorial to the past a past that has bittersweet memories for many combat veterans.

“Although not as publicized as many Rhode Islander’s might enjoy, there is a certain degree of political and social friction regarding the war in Iraq today. Recent Anti-war demonstrations in Providence bear evidence to this fact, as well as various articles in our leading newspaper. It appears that not everyone in Rhode Island is in accord concerning the type of operations being conducted in the Middle East. I use the term Middle East as per South West Asia. Perhaps because of my age, or because most of my life has been filled with visions of the killing and the destruction and the hundreds of other horrors that have taken place there. Sad, also, that most have been perpetrated in the name of religion. As we are still living in a free society, we have the privilege to disagree with those in control, and are usually safe from any retribution. A free society, by the way, in which most of us have ensured the freedom of, by our service in foreign and hostile lands. As a Disabled Veteran of the War In Viet Nam, I remember the dissension and the political turmoil that existed throughout the active military at that time, and I also remember the way those in power tried to eliminate the dissension. I won’t venture to mention any of their methods, but suffice to say, none of them really worked. The active military of the early 1970’s was not an organization that many wanted to be a part of. It took decades to restore the U.S. Military to the pinnacle of success that it stands at today. Let us all pray, that none of us, who lived through those turbulent times, have to go through it again. Let us pray that this war comes to an end before public opinion becomes an obstacle that sends our nation spiraling into an abyss that will be very difficult to re-direct”



“Rhode Island National Guard Assist”, is a group of citizen volunteers who serve to support the troops by supporting their families. Their mission is to insure that our soldiers, while called to duty, can be confident that their loved ones are in safe hands. **Their goals:** to organize a volunteer corps, and match their skills with the needs of the families, and to demonstrate our active support for the brave men and women serving our country.



These photos were taken the 16 of March 2005, at Harbour Point Financial Group, in Providence. A certificate of appreciation was presented to them for offering their services to the National Guard families on RINGASSIST.

RI small-business award winners of 2005 announced

A Cumberland veterinarian has been named the 2005 Rhode Island Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration. Dr. Joyce R. Gifford, owner of the Abbott Valley Veterinarian Center, and nine other small-business owners and advocates were honored during the annual Rhode Island Salute to Small Business awards dinner on May 17, at the Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. Gifford opened her practice in 1998 with the last direct SBA loan issued in the state and she received help from SBA resource partners in developing her business plan. She recently received SBA-guaranteed loans to buy a building and purchase new equipment to build a state-of-the-art veterinary center and pet grooming salon. Other award winners include Rhode Island's SBA Entrepreneur of the Year, Jeffrey Jordan, who heads a marketing company called Rescue Productions, based in Providence. The recipient of The Jeffrey H. Butland Family-owned Small Business of the Year is Gordon A. Kilday Jr., president of Quonset Auto Body; Small Business Exporter of the Year is Charles F. Reade Jr., president of Reade Advanced Materials; the Financial Services Champion award goes to Laura M. DiSano, senior vice president of Bank of America of Providence. The Home-based Business Champion is Ann Marie Marshall of the Rhode Island Microenterprise Association; the Women in Business Champion is Louis Soares of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation; *the Veteran Small Business Champion is Lt. Col. Mathies J. Santos, Rhode Island Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve*; and the Small Business Journalist of the Year is Bridget Botelho, a reporter for the Providence Business News.



An ESGR "Employer Recognition Event" was held at Quonset Point on June 17, 2005.



DIVERSITY TRAINING IN PROVIDENCE



Soccer Field Dedicated To National Guard Hero

Friends and family wanted the memory of Staff Sgt. Joseph Camara to live on where it would make the most lasting impression — on a new soccer field named for him. Tedeschi Realty and the Shaw's Corp. turned an empty field in New Bedford's South End into the Sgt. Joseph Camara Memorial Soccer Field. Friends remembered Camara as the perfect police officer, the perfect soldier and the perfect friend. "As a soldier, he optimized what a noncommissioned officer should be, always putting the soldiers first, the mission first," said Sgt. 1st Class Dean Lawrence, who grew up with Camara and served on the police force and in Iraq with him. The police department will build a permanent memorial to Camara on the field. Camara and Sgt. Charles Caldwell were killed in 2003 when their vehicle struck a makeshift land mine near Baghdad. They were the first Rhode Island National Guard soldiers killed in action since World War II.

THE 43RD MP BRIGADE DEPLOYS

For the first time since the war on terror began 3 1/2 years ago, a Rhode Island National Guard unit is being deployed for a second time. One hundred members of the Headquarters Brigade of the 43rd Military Police, which spent seven months guarding detainees at Guantanamo Naval Base, in Cuba, in 2002, were deployed in August for a year's service in Iraq. It

is believed that the Rhode Island National Guard will continue to see deployments throughout the next several years, and it's extremely critical that all Rhode Islanders continue to support these outstanding young men and women. Our best wishes and blessings go out to our comrades and friends in the 43rd.



Spring FTX 2005

by Cadet Rachel Williams

A wise Cadre member once told me "that if it's not raining then we aren't training." On the Providence College ROTC Spring 2005 FTX, the cadets of Patriot Battalion did a lot of "training". From Friday April 22 to Sunday, April 24 cadets trained at Stone's Ranch, East Lyme CT, in what was frequently a torrential downpour. As an MSIII, that is, as a cadet in my junior year in college, this was my last chance for training before going to LDAC this summer. For those of you who are confused, LDAC stands for Leaders Development Assessment Course. Also known as Warrior Forge, LDAC is an intense 33 day camp designed to test the skills of every ROTC cadet from across the country and rate them in terms of their mastery of these skills. One of the skills crucial to LDAC success is the ability to lead at the squad and platoon level. During the FTX MSIII cadets were placed in charge of squad and platoons to sharpen their leadership skills. Friday night was spent patrolling and learning how to set up hooches. Unfortunately we only set up the hooches for practice and would not be sleeping under them. Majority of Saturday was spent conducting squad level exercises with missions ranging from knocking out a bunker to conducting an ambush. When it came time for my turn at leadership, the cadre put me in charge of leading my squad on a reconnaissance mission. My mission was a great success, but the cadre kept me humble by pointing out areas of improvement in my mission. These points as well as many others I picked up over the weekend are important learning tools I will take with me to LDAC this summer. The most interesting part of the weekend came Saturday night when the cadre decided it was time to think "outside the box" and get creative. As part of their plan they made me the platoon leader in charge of conducting a defense, something I had *never* done before. With more than 20 eyes watching me and waiting for guidance, I prepared to execute the biggest mission I had yet to face as a ROTC cadet. Three hours later I stood in the center of my Defense with blanks firing, simulation artillery exploding and glow sticks flying. When it was all said and done it was unclear who won this mock battle. Despite the mayhem caused by the lack of experience and the darkness of night I now have a better understanding of how to conduct a platoon sized element, defend, and work at night. Like the STX lanes this served as a great learning point that I will take with me to camp. By the end of the mission Saturday night, everyone's wet-weather gear had soaked through leaving every cadet cold, wet, and miserable. Yet, every cadet sucked it up and drove on. Even in the most miserable of conditions, the cadets of the Patriot Battalion proved that they have the guts and determination to succeed. I have no doubt that my fellow MSIIIs and I will all succeed at LDAC this summer.

Latest C-130J evolution arrives on desert ramp

by Capt. Vanessa Hillman 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs 6/13/2005

The faster more powerful C-130 Hercules J-models and the stretch version C-130J-30s arrived in Southwest Asia on June 7 and 8, bringing state-of-the-art technology to the war on terrorism. Airmen with the Rhode Island Air National Guard's 143rd Airlift Squadron, the California ANG's 146th AS and the Maryland ANG's 135th AS joined forces here as the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron supporting airlift missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. Looking at the aircraft from the outside, the untrained eye would be hard-pressed to see what the "J" fuss is about, but inside the aircraft it becomes obvious. The removal of the manual cargo locking system that required the loadmaster to walk to the front of the bay to lock cargo down gives loadmasters a break, said Master Sgt. Kevin Dodd, a loadmaster with the 746th EAS deployed from the 143rd AS. "There is no manual cranking of the cargo straps," he said. "(In the J-model) you flip a switch throughout the plane to lock the cargo in place, cutting fatigue time down." Also, pilots can "feather" the props when loading and unloading troops. With feathering, pilots "can turn the propellers as the troops walk in or out the back of the aircraft," Sergeant Dodd said. This eliminates the massive blast in the faces of people boarding. The high-tech Herk comes equipped with intense amount of avionics that are light years ahead of the previous models. "The new C-130J is a big flying computer," said Staff Sgt. Shea Reed of the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed from the 163rd AS. Combining such high technology and extreme desert heat can pose challenges for maintainers. "Anything will have problems in this heat, and there is more of a tendency for the avionics to short out, but that's something you can control," she said. "Especially with the J-model. The improvement to the aircraft's air-conditioning system, intended to prevent difficulties with the avionics, is a bonus to those who work on it," Sergeant Reed said. "New avionics means a new mindset for the crew," said Master Sgt. Kevin Givens of the 379th EAMXS' avionics communications and navigation systems section deployed from the 143rd AS. "The plane went from one computer cable line to nine, with each having a redundant system, totaling 18," Sergeant Givens said. "If a crew chief, loadmaster or other person on the team makes a change it can affect a number of other systems. It makes us work as a team," he said. "It creates a closer bond (among the crews)," Sergeant Givens said. "We get to learn more about their jobs, and they get to learn about ours." Avionics troubleshooting is another benefit of the new design, said Tech. Sgt. Russell Giroux, of the 379th EAMXS' avionics communications and navigation systems section deployed from the 146th AS. "Pilots and avionics technicians (get) more information to troubleshoot because the computer narrows what is wrong or gives you a fault code," he said. "You find your answer faster, saving time and money." However, all the advances would make for one big paperweight without the bird's new muscle. "Power is what gives us the capability over the other models — that is the biggest difference," said Lt. Col. Dan Walter, 746th EAS operations officer deployed from the Rhode Island ANG. The four upgraded engines deliver more raw power, equaling shorter takeoff distances, flying at higher altitudes and better fuel economy. "The additional speed and certain circumstances can double the capability (of the previous C-130 models)," Colonel Walter said. If two C-130s, one being a J-model, took off at the same time with equal cargo heading for the same destination, the J-model could arrive faster, aircrews could unload their cargo quicker and fly back with enough time to give them enough crew rest to fly another mission the next day."

AIR GUARD HISTORY

Mexican Border Crisis

In November 1915, Captain Raynal Cawthorne Bolling organized and took command of a unit that became the 1st Aero Company, New York National Guard. It is recognized as the ANG's oldest unit and its lineage is carried by the 102d Rescue Squadron, New York ANG. On 13 July 1916, the 1st Aero Company mobilized during the border crisis with Mexico. It trained at Mineola Field, New York. Bolling's unit was joined at Mineola by the 2nd Aero Company of Buffalo and 12 Guard officers from other states. Both air units remained at Mineola during the crisis.

Observation Aviation

After the war, National Guard aviation was placed on a permanent basis over the initial opposition of the Army's General Staff. During the interwar period, 29 Guard observation squadrons were formed. Their pilots, including Captain Charles A. Lindbergh of Missouri's 110th Observation Squadron, concentrated on honing flying skills and supporting ground forces training. Guard airmen also participated in state missions. For instance, Arkansas' 154th Observation Squadron flew some 20,000 miles carrying supplies and relief workers during the floods that ravaged that state in 1927.

An Ounce of Prevention.....

For some, the idea of death is an unpleasant one best avoided. Unfortunately, death itself cannot be so easily avoided and the failure to plan can cause additional stress for spouses and families when they are least able to cope with it. "Families can get overwhelmed when tragedy strikes," said Navy Captain Karl Bernhardt, director of Retired and Annuitant Pay for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). "Many of the retirees we support have wives, husbands and families who are left with unfinished business when the retiree passes away. Unfortunately, many have no idea that action is required to notify DFAS of the death in order to avoid overpayments of retired pay." In addition to maintaining the pay accounts of active and reserve military members, DFAS administers the Military Retirement Fund and pays approximately 2 million retirees each month. "We make every effort to strike a balance," Bernhardt said. "On one hand, we need to make sure each retiree is paid the right amount on time. On the other, we have a responsibility to safeguard the fund on behalf of the American taxpayers. When a retiree dies, his or her entitlement to retired pay ends and any payments made after that must be recovered." DFAS is required to recover all overpayments. In many cases, this means simply transferring funds from the retiree's bank account back to DFAS. However, if the funds have been spent or distributed, debt collection efforts can be initiated to reclaim the money. This can be especially difficult for elderly spouses. When a military retiree dies, a number of federal, state and local agencies have procedures for notifying DFAS. These include the Social Security Administration, Veteran's Administration, military service casualty assistance offices, and state and local veteran affairs offices. Overpayments occur when spouses and families fail to contact these agencies, or DFAS itself, and notify them that the deceased was a military retiree. "It falls to the spouse, children or close friends to take care of many things," Bernhardt said, "including the termination of retired pay. In many cases, the survivors don't know the requirements or procedures. Months later, they are burdened with collection efforts. It's a situation that can be lessened or eliminated with a bit of planning." The casualty assistance offices of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps encourage retirees to develop a checklist for their spouse and families to help them navigate the difficult transition when the retiree dies. Most military base casualty assistance or retired affairs offices can help in completing this list, or lists can be downloaded from the Internet from service and veteran organization Web sites. According to Bernhardt, a few hours spent gathering the information for the list will save months of aggravation and grief later on. "The checklist can be kept with a retiree's will and other legal documents. When the time comes and those documents are needed, the checklist is ready to guide the survivors through the legal and governmental processes. I would recommend putting the notification of DFAS near the top of the list." DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay Services maintains a customer contact center staffed with experts in all aspects of retired pay. The center can be contacted at (800) 321-1080. Callers who select the menu option for death notifications receive a higher priority and are routed to staff members who can assist them in terminating retired pay and initiating the process for survivor's benefits. A survivor's checklist can help eliminate the unwelcome surprises in life, allowing more time to enjoy the benefits the military retirement.

HISTORY OF THE M-16

It was originally developed as the Armalite AR-15 in the late 1950s and early 1960s by Eugene Stoner of Armalite Systems, formerly of Costa Mesa, California. The AR-15 was initially adopted by the U.S. Special Forces, and later found favor with the general army. It was later produced by Colt and other makers. The total quantity produced in all models worldwide has been about 7 million. The first revision to the M16 was minor—the replacement of the original "pronged" flash suppressor with a "birdcage" model because of complaints that the pronged version snagged on brush in Vietnam. Early U.S. users in the Vietnam war had numerous reliability problems. Some believe that this is because those users (who had allegedly been told that the gun required very little maintenance) had neglected maintenance and the neglected guns became extremely unreliable. However, other evidence points to subtle problems with compatibility between the ammunition and the early versions of the gun, such that even perfectly maintained and cleaned guns were unreliable. The gunpowder of early version M16 ammunition was clean-burning, and the gun did not require chrome plating in the receiver area. It is widely believed that a last-minute change to the gunpowder formula was made shortly before the gun was introduced into service. While resulting in a higher muzzle velocity, it caused the weapon to foul much more quickly, and because it lacked plating, it would tend to jam. In Vietnam, some soldiers were issued a unique version of the M16 called the XM-177 or CAR-15. The XM-177 had a shorter barrel (~26 cm) and a telescoping stock, which made it substantially more compact and significantly handier. Numerous problems with muzzle flash and loud report resulted in Colt modifying the design to produce the XM-177E1 and XM-177E2 toward the end of the Vietnam conflict. The final XM-177E2 had a 29 cm barrel with a long flash suppressor. This version became known as the "Commando" model and was issued in limited numbers to special forces, helicopter Air Force pilots, officers, radio operators, artillerymen, and troops other than front line riflemen.



The Chaplains Corner

By: Sgt John Cervone

Minister Universal Life Church

Spiritual warfare just like physical warfare is real. Every day that we see American soldiers being killed and maimed in combat an unseen battle rages around us and in us. The unseen battle that rages around us consist of the forces of good against the forces of evil. The price we pay to enter this battle is our soul. What is the most dangerous aspect of this battle? In war, we usually have a general idea of who our enemy is. When we enter life's daily battles we are not that fortunate. Our enemy comes disguised in many costumes and in many hosts. He will tempt us with kindness and promises of future fame and fortune. He will try to confuse us into believing that only we are important and that we should not allow the results of our actions to sway us from our chartered course. No one is more important then we are and we should crush anyone who attempts to hinder our quest. We are surrounded by temptation and evil every day of our lives. How can you fight against a force that seems so overpowering and overwhelming? As soldiers, when we go into a battle we bring the tools of our trade with us and we wear whatever we believe will protect us from a fatal wound. We would not bring a knife to a gun battle so when we are fighting the forces of evil we need to bring the correct state of mind with us. To fight victoriously, we need to dress properly and carry the right weapons. Sounds simple enough. The Word of God even tells us what to wear and what to fight with. However, the problem is that all the equipment is spiritual in nature and must be utilized by faith. Faith in what we have been brought up to believe is our weapon. The "Golden Rule" is our weapon. That is not the rule which states to; "Do unto others before they do it to you". We should try to treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated. Compassion is not a weakness but in many ways it shows true strength. Who among us has never made a mistake? Who among us can remember when someone did us a good turn just because it was the right thing to do? Selfishness, pride and arrogance are but a few of the enemies we must fight against on a daily basis. Prayer is one of the weapons you can use to battle and defeat your enemy. Look in the mirror and tell yourself, "Today, I will place upon my head the helmet of salvation in order to guard my thoughts and I will proudly wear my vest of righteousness to protect my heart from the influence of my enemies. On my feet I shall wear sandals of peace and I shall try to share that peace with others. I will not use a sword or lance as a weapon in order to defeat that evil which is attacking me. Instead, I will pick up my shield of faith and use it to protect me from my enemies' fiery darts. I shall use it consistently and will always keep it in good condition. My sword shall be the spirit which is your word. Your word is more powerful that any physical blade and I shall wield it effectively. I shall always bear in mind that the truth of your promises will defeat the attacks of my enemies. To defeat these enemies on a daily basis we must draw on the divine power of our God. We need to remember that God has given us the authority to combat the devil where ever we may find him. Every day our enemy Satan and his forces will try to take advantage of our weaknesses. The Devil will use lies and temptations in order to defeat us. But he will be unsuccessful when we are battle ready and we will truly see the glory that our Lord has waiting for us, not here on earth among the proud and the foolish, but in heaven with the brave and the righteous.

***Subject: F-16 noise complaint...**From the Arizona Republic on-line. A complaint post from a moron, and the reply.

Complaint: Quote: A wake-up call from Luke's jets, Jun. 23, 2005, 12:00 AM - Question of the day for Luke Air Force Base: Whom do we thank for the morning air show? Last Wednesday, at precisely 9:11 a.m., a tight formation of four F-16 jets made a low pass over Arrowhead Mall, continuing west over Bell Road at approximately 500 feet. Imagine our good fortune! Do the Tom Cruise-wannabes feel we need this wake-up call, or were they trying to impress the cashiers at Mervyns' early-bird special?

Any response would be appreciated."

The reply is classic, and a testament to the professionalism and heroism of the folks in the armed services. The response:

Quote:

Regarding "A wake-up call from Luke's jets" (Letters, Thursday): On June 15, at precisely 9:12 a.m., a perfectly timed four-ship of F-16s from the 63rd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base flew over the grave of Capt. Jeremy Fresques. Capt. Fresques was an Air Force officer who was previously stationed at Luke Air Force Base and was killed in Iraq on May 30, Memorial Day. At 9 a.m. on June 15, his family and friends gathered at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City to mourn the loss of a husband, son and friend. Based on the letter writer's recount of the flyby, and because of the jet noise, I'm sure you didn't hear the 21-gun salute, the playing of taps, or my words to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques as I gave them their son's flag on behalf of the president of the United States and all those veterans and servicemen and women who understand the sacrifices they have endured. A four-ship flyby is a display of respect the Air Force pays to those who give their lives in defense of freedom. We are professional aviators and take our jobs seriously, and on June 15 what the letter writer witnessed was four officers lining up to pay their ultimate respects. The letter writer asks, "Whom do we thank for the morning air show?" The 56th Fighter Wing will call for you, and forward your thanks to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques, and thank them for you, for it was in their honor that my pilots flew the most honorable formation of their lives.

CO 63rd Fighter Squadron - Luke Air Force Base

** Exactly as e-mailed to me by Lieutenant Colonel M. Santos*

All of America over-weight by 2058 University of Missouri-Columbia scientists predict.

Children are getting more and more overweight, and a University of Missouri-Columbia professor says if the trend continues, every youngster in America will be obese by 2044. And every adult will be dangerously overweight by 2058. Professor Frank Booth presented his conclusions in a lecture in Nashville, Tenn., at an annual conference for the American College of Sports Medicine. Booth's findings are based on data from previously published studies by other researchers, along with statistics from the Federal Centers for Disease Control. His study focused on children and physical inactivity, but he said eating habits also are a major contributor to obesity. Booth acknowledges that obesity will probably never actually reach 100 percent of the population, but he said the trend is important. It demonstrates the crisis. "There are limitations to our example, but our example is meant to show the extremeness of our problem," Booth said. "No one wants to harm children, and, essentially, allowing this to occur is allowing harm to our children." Booth, a physiology professor, said a 1950s study estimated children spent 10 hours a week in sedentary activities during their waking hours, such as playing board games and watching television. Current data shows children now spending, on average, about 45 hours per week in sedentary activities such as playing video games and watching television. He said childhood obesity rates remained flat at 4 percent until the mid-1980s. Now 16 percent of U.S. children are considered obese. Not only is obesity rising each year, but the rate at which it is rising is increasing, he said. "At least initially, adults have to take the responsibility. They're not sufficiently taking responsibility now. If they were, what is occurring would not be occurring," Booth said. "A lot of times, parents say, 'Do your homework,' or 'Do the dishes.' Parents have to say, 'Go outside and play.' ... Children do not have the mental maturity to decide on their own to be active." He suggested families take walks or do other outdoor activities together. More than just parents need to be involved, he said. Schools and social networks, such as the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, need to be continually encouraging more physical activity. A separate recent study, released by the Centers for Disease Control, concluded that being mildly overweight is OK and being obese is not as dangerous as previously thought. The CDC study has come under heavy criticism from scientists, and CDC chief Julie Gerberding has since acknowledged potential flaws in it. She pointed out that obesity increases the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, renal failure and some cancers. Booth said being mildly overweight should never be considered OK. "The problem is, you're not permanently in the overweight category," he said. "You become obese." Tom LaFontaine, a practicing exercise physiologist in Columbia, was at the conference and heard Booth's speech. In addition to working with patients on diet and exercise plans, he teaches part time at MU. "I think Frank is right on target," LaFontaine said. "Obesity has been rising exponentially for 20 years." From television remote controls to riding lawn mowers, LaFontaine said, Americans have engineered physical activity out of their lives. If this prediction comes to fruition, then in fifty three years, our nation is going to be in sad shape, (No pun intended), indeed. What is wrong with us? Why are we letting a problem that can be controlled by using a little self control and denial overtake us? Years ago, Nancy Reagan, the President's wife, became famous for implementing a phrase whereby children could turn away from drugs. "Just Say No!" Simple but supposedly effective, I guess. Why can't we just say no to food? Where has our self esteem and our self image gone? Have we truly become a nation of sheep born and bred to blame anyone and anything but ourselves for our problems? Apparently, we have. Have we totally lost our self control and can not even stop ourselves from turning into obese, slovenly, sorry looking individuals? Apparently, we have. Apparently, we have met the enemy, and the enemy truly is us.



This? OR This?

The Decision is Truly Ours!



Commentary on the Pledge of Allegiance

by **Red Skelton**

As a schoolboy, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture.

I --Me; an individual; a committee of one. **Pledge** -- Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity. **Allegiance** -- My love and my devotion. **To the Flag** -- Our standard; *Old Glory*; a symbol of Freedom; wherever she waves there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts, Freedom is everybody's job. **of the United States of America** -- That means that we have all come together. **States** -- Individual communities that have united into forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose. All divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country. **And to the Republic** -- Republic—a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people. **For which it stands, One Nation** -- One Nation—meaning, so blessed by God. Under God, **Indivisible** -- Incapable of being divided. **With Liberty** -- Which is Freedom; the right of power to live one's own life, without threats, fear, or some sort of retaliation. **And Justice** -- The principle, or qualities, of dealing fairly with others. **For All** -- For All—which means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Pledge of allegiance to the flag; manner of delivery

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, 'I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.', should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Respect for flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

No part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. **The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing.** Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart. (k) The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

National March

The composition by John Philip Sousa entitled 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' is hereby designated as the National March of the United States of America.

Why is the Flag patch "backwards" on Military uniforms?

Army Regulation 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia," updated most recently September 5, 2003, addresses explicitly the proper and lawful placement of the U.S. flag patch on the Army uniform.

The regulation states that when authorized for application to the proper uniform the American flag patch is to be worn, right or left shoulder, so that "the star field faces forward, or to the flag's own right. When worn in this manner, the flag is facing to the observer's right, and gives the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward. The appropriate replica for the right shoulder sleeve is identified as the 'reverse side flag'."

Guard Civil Support Teams Provide WMD Expertise to Communities

Members of the 61st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team at Camp Robinson like to think of themselves as a fire department. “We’re ready to go, but we don’t go until the bell goes off,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Keith Bauder, commander of the unit since it stood up five years ago. The “bell” would sound in the event of an attack or incident involving chemical, biological or radiological agents, nuclear hazards or high-yield explosives. As one of 55 units of its kind nationwide, within the National Guard, the 61st CST would respond to, advise and assist local and regional authorities. “Our mission is to help the first-responding community,” said Bauder. The first 10 civil support teams were established shortly after then-President Clinton announced their formation in 1998 and were certified — meaning they were fully staffed and met specific training and performance standards — in 2001. The Arkansas unit was part of the second phase of CST roll-ins, established in 2000 and certified two years later. Today, every U.S. state and territory has a team, with 32 certified and another 12 expected to get certified by late summer. The Arkansas team, with 16 full-time members — 16 Army National Guard and six Air Guard — is part of a national network that Bauder said brings specialized skills to support local responders during emergency. Teams undergo 15 months of individual and unit training, then fine-tune their skills daily so they’re ready to respond during a crisis: identifying agents or substances involved, evaluating the threat, and helping local authorities determine the best response. “We practice hazardous-material and WMD detection on a daily basis, and we work with our equipment on a daily basis,” said Army Maj. Robert Baye, the team’s medical officer. “This is our fulltime job, not a distraction or an additional duty like it is for most other people. And that’s probably our greatest strength.” Local and state authorities who train regularly with the 61st CST are “very, very receptive” to the unit and its capabilities, Bauder said. “We’re held in high esteem by the community,” Baye said. “We bring something to the table and into the fight that not a lot of people have.” Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, “the bell has gone off” for the unit 17 times. Six incidents involved anthrax scares. Others involved a chemical plant explosion in nearby Conway, Ark., and the illegal dumping of fly poison. In February 2002, the unit was called into action when the space shuttle exploded over Texas, carrying tanks of highly explosive chemicals with it. “This shows the kinds of situations we’re capable of responding to,” said Army 1st Lt. Mike Allen, the survey team leader. “It doesn’t have to be a terrorist event.” During each incident, the unit deployed with its two key pieces of equipment: a mobile lab used to analyze chemical and biological agents, and a communications suite capable of linking responders and their local, state, federal and military headquarters. “With each mission, we take away important lessons learned and apply them to our training so we can become even better at what we do,” said Army Staff Sgt. Wright Cookus, the survey

team chief. Cookus, who had 12 years of experience in the nuclear-biological-chemical specialty before becoming a full-time 61st CST member, said he enjoys the mental and physical challenges of the job. Other unit members say they like being on the forefront of new technologies and techniques in emergency response. “Everything we’re involved with is high-tech and cutting-edge,” said Baye. “That makes this a really cool job.” But the greatest satisfaction, they said, is knowing that they can help make a difference in the event of a catastrophic event and help protect their local communities. “It feels good knowing that if you do everything the way you’re supposed to, fewer people will get hurt and you’ll help minimize the losses,” Cookus said.



New Program Offers subsidized child care to Guard, Reserve

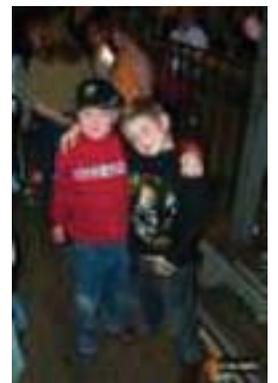
The Defense Department has joined forces with national agencies to help Guard and Reserve families in finding and affording child care while Mom or Dad are deployed in support of the global war on terrorism. "Child care, as you know, is one of the top (concerns) voiced by families as well as by Commands on what's needed," said Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's Office of Children and Youth. Her office monitors the new program, dubbed Operation Military Child Care. DoD, in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which administers the program, designed this initiative to benefit those who do not live near military installations, Witte said. "We have a contract with NACCRRRA to assist us in finding spaces outside the military community for those Guard and Reserve (members) who are deployed and active duty (people) who are not near a military installation," Witte said. "We also hope to assist in reducing the out-of-pocket expense to the servicemember." When a parent is deployed, she said, the remaining parent may discover that child care is something the couple hadn't had to think of before. And need is not the only consideration. The extra expense can be shocking. While OMCC doesn't fully subsidize child care, it does work to reduce the financial burden, Witte said. The fees are based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration total family income and the care provider's actual cost, among other things. To take part in the program, a family member would apply through NACCRRRA via a special Web site or by a toll-free call to (800) 424-2246. The child-care provider also must apply — an important step because of how the subsidy, which comes through the Children and Youth office, is paid out, Witte noted. "The subsidy goes to the program, not to the individual," she said. The program officially kicked off March 3, but has been operational as a pilot program since late November 2004, Witte said. About 40 families are through the application process. "We feel like this is one area to provide assistance for the total force," she

said. "We had not been doing much prior to this time for the Guard and Reserve as far as child care and school-age programs have gone." She said the new program could get about 5,000 Guard and Reserve servicemembers' children into child care.



But that number could fluctuate if there is a change in the funding, she pointed out, which comes in the form of supplemental funding through Congress. Congress has funded the program for \$7 million, Witte said, though officials hope to expand the program in the future to try and accommodate some of the 38,000 children of active duty servicemembers in need of child care. NACCRRRA also supports the Guard and Reserve through a program called Operation Child Care. OCC is a voluntary NACCRRRA program that provides up to six hours of free child care to Guard and Reserve families whose deployed servicemember is returning home for rest and recuperation. "(NACCRRRA) felt it was service back to the nation to thank the servicemembers for their sacrifices," Witte said. Witte said NACCRRRA is a very well-respected alliance of all the child-care resource and referral agencies in the nation.

"Bring your buddy to drill" has been a staple tool in the commander's recruiting tool box for years. The theory is the same; current soldiers and airmen are going to be the best recruiters. They know why they joined, what interests their friends, and their friends are more likely to take their recommendation at face value. Bring your buddy to drill takes the word of mouth process one step further by inviting the member's "buddy" to come and observe training for a day. A Guard member can not only tell a friend about the unit, but also show what the unit does. The buddies are shown videos of deployed Guard units, briefed on the history of the National Guard and shown military equipment, including the M-16 rifle, the Squad Automatic Weapon and a night vision scope. Soldiers who refer buddies that enlist in the National Guard also earn incentives that can include Guard logo items, promotions, or even a trip to Airborne School, depending on the number of referrals who join.



Rhode Island National Guard History

The 43rd Infantry Division was inducted into federal service on Feb. 21, 1941. The National Guard unit was primarily made up from infantry regiments of the 172nd Vermont, the 103d Maine, and the 169th Connecticut. The 118th Combat Engineers from Rhode Island made up the fourth New England state in the 43rd. Other units from among these four states were the 118th Medical, HQ Division (Headquarters), the 103d; the 152nd; the 192nd, and the 169th Field Artillery Battalions. The division first trained at Camp Blanding, Florida. It was supposed to be only a one-year stint, but Dec. 7, 1941 changed all of that. The 43rd was now in for the duration of the war. After completing advanced training in Mississippi, and large scale maneuvers in Louisiana and the Carolinas, the 43rd shipped out of Fort Ord, California in October of 1942. It took the transport ships almost three weeks to reach New Zealand.



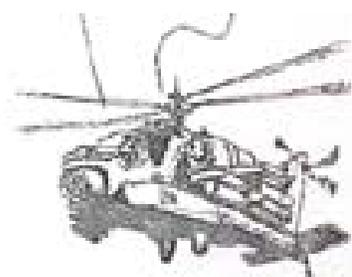
Stationed first in New Zealand, the 43d Division island hopped its way up the Pacific chain. Operations were conducted on many islands, some well known, others never before heard of. Guadalcanal; the Russell Islands; New Georgia, where the 43rd took heavy casualties taking Munda airfield. The Drinimour River in New Guinea, Luzon and Manila in the Philippines. The 43rd was slated to be one of the first invasion forces on Japan proper. It was thought by many that the division could well be decimated. Japan surrendered instead, and the 43rd went to Japan as an occupation force. For their actions in the Philippines, the 43rd was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation. The 43rd Division was nicknamed the "Winged Victory" Division after Gen. Leonard F. Wing. He took over command in 1943. Gen. Wing was the only National Guard officer to command an active duty division in World War II.

Air Ambulance Company Returns To Rhode Island After 18 Months

Members of the 249th Air Ambulance Company returned to RI after 18 months of deployment. The soldiers left Rhode Island in November 2003. They've been in the southeastern part of the United States providing air medical evacuations for the U.S. military.

SOD-G RETURNS TO RHODE ISLAND

Eleven members of Special Operations Detachment G arrived back home in Rhode Island this past June. They had been deployed for nearly one year. They spent time in Djibouti, Iraq, Yemen and Kenya.



Aerial Porters Move the World

In keeping with the lead of my fellow commanders who have chosen to educate you on the mission of their respective squadrons, I thought it fitting to expound on the job of the Aerial Port Squadron in the hopes of demystifying the mission of the squadron "at the end of the base". An aerial port is designed to provide an airbase with a cargo and passenger movement capability anywhere in the world. Our Designed Operational Capabilities statement requires us to be capable of supporting a maximum on ground of three aircraft within 24 hours of deploying anywhere in the world. What does this mean? Simply that we need to be capable of simultaneously loading or unloading three aircraft, regardless of type, under any conditions, as well as planning and reporting these activities. Seems like a simple enough requirement right? Look a little closer. For starters, aerial porters must be able to see all incoming and departing air mobility flights in order to effectively plan for their handling. Our Air Terminal Operations Center (ATOC) has the organic capability to feed into the Global Transportation Network via any mode of in-transit visibility software in order to predict and report any mobility aircraft events which take place at our location. ATOC personnel must be able to manipulate global tracking software to accurately reflect updates to troop and cargo movement as well as aircraft locations. ATOC personnel are also responsible for insuring "on time, every time" service for incoming and departing mobility aircraft and assigning and tracking ramp personnel in order to achieve this standard. In so far as handling aircraft is concerned, our ramp personnel must be able to download any type of military or civilian contractor airframe. This requires a detailed knowledge of cargo and material handling equipment and the ability to match and operate the correct equipment for the requirements of a specific type of cargo. ATOC load planners and ramp personnel both, need to understand and apply the intricacies of the aircraft load-planning process and need to be adept at both the manual load planning method and the complex automated load planning system. Additionally, ramp personnel are also required to show proficiency in downloading aircraft in combat conditions with engines running, and also in blackout conditions utilizing night vision goggles. Aerial porters are also responsible for passenger and cargo handling. Cargo personnel are required to track, store, and retrieve cargo which is either en-route, embarking, or terminating at their particular port. The nature of the various types of cargo being shipped in the area of responsibility (AOR) in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom (OIF and OEF) speaks to the skills required by cargo personnel in order to effectively accomplish their mission. Aerial porters need to be certified as hazardous material handlers in order to insure regulatory compliance in storage, packing, and movement of hazmat materials, which accounts for about 35 percent of all cargo moved in the AOR today. Though usually considered a secondary or additional function, aerial porters are also required to maintain proficiency in aerial delivery. Accordingly, many air transportation technicians (2T2s) have earned their rigger wings and are responsible for the safe packing, rigging, and retrieval of cargo parachutes as well as the manufacture and maintenance of training and actual cargo bundles. This aerial port function is most visible while in-garrison as the Port supports the Wing's airdrop mission. Once deployed however, this mission is typically assumed by the Army yet it remains a great example of the versatility required of your standard aerial porter. Given the breadth of the Port's mission, I'm sure you are wondering how many AFSCs are required to make it run? Aside from training, the first sergeant, personnel, and administrative, only one AFSC comprises the actual "Port". 2T2 personnel are required to gain and maintain proficiency in each of the key skill areas described in this article. Versatility is the norm as opposed to specialization. The importance of aerial porters in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) has never been more apparent. The 2T2 career field has been identified as a stressed career field since the inception of the GWOT. 2005 saw the 143rd Aerial Port activate two unit training codes (UTCs) for a one-year period. These 25 aerial porters bolstered the ranks of their active duty colleagues at McGuire AFB, N.J., one the Air Force's larger aerial ports of embarkation, before being sent forward to Karshi-Khanabad Air Base (K2), Uzbekistan for an AEF rotation. While at K2, the 143rd APS provided the only aerial port capability to the base and was widely recognized for their expertise and mission effectiveness. Many of the procedures currently being employed at that major Port facility were created and instituted by 143rd personnel. Currently, the 143rd APS is anticipating a formal tasking to activate another 24-person UTC for one year in 2006. As with the first activation, 24 additional unit members have already volunteered for this activation and are currently being trained. Additionally, three of our five officers have, or are about to, deploy to the AOR in support of OIF, OEF or both. They will fill operational spots at theater aerial ports as well as staff key positions at the Combined Air Operations Center in support of Air Mobility planning and execution. In fact, the 143rd APS contributed 9,427 mandays in support of the GWOT alone in 2005. That's what we call making a contribution! As you can see, the 143rd APS is alive and well and continuing to show that it is ready and relevant.



By: Lt. Col. Denis Riel,

AIR GUARD NEWS



TSGT David Durning



Captain Ronald Cloutier

National Guard runners from across America paced each other and kept each other motivated during the running of the 2005 Lincoln All Sport/National Guard Marathon, held May 2, 2005, in Lincoln, NE. Among the runners were Captain Ronald Cloutier and TSGT David Durning of the Rhode Island Air National Guard.

Airmen with the Air Force's premier expeditionary entertainment troupe, Tops In Blue, sang the national anthem before game 6 of the National Basketball Association finals on June 21. Eighteen vocalists from the 2005 Tops In Blue team performed the anthem before the nationally televised game between the Detroit Pistons and the San Antonio Spurs.

PROMOTIONS

To Senior Airman

Jarrod F. Pinette

Adam K. Pontbriant

To Staff Sergeant

Brad S. Branconnier

Nicole L. L'Heureux

Ryan K. Switzer

Steven J. Tellier

To Technical Sergeant

Michael D. Turillo

To Master Sergeant

Dennis J. Stone

To Chief Master Sergeant

Scott F. Lunn

DIVERSITY IS OUR FRIEND

If we are ever going to cross ethnic lines, we must first deal with the unbalanced views we have about one another. Anyone who says that they do not have biased views or thoughts about anyone else is probably not being completely forthcoming. We are only human and in order to make sense out of our differences we need to start with a very simple assumption. That assumption being that diversity is God's idea. The United States of America is a heterogeneous society, and part of the challenge that we face – and the reason why we need to face it – is because we've got bad and unbalanced information about each other. We must learn to tolerate and not obliterate. We need to build a community that it is safe for differences. It matters less where we are from – what really matters is where we are going. We need to accept our diversity. Let us embrace it and make it work for us and not against us. Let us accept diversity as the art of thinking independently together

LOCAL HUMOR



You Should See Him At The AirShow!

Diesel? Try JP-41.

Cervone, How Much Diesel Did You Use?

Airmen from the 143rd head to Southwest Asia

Thirty more members of Rhode Island's Air National Guard deployed to Southwest Asia this past July to fight the war on terror. Outside the brick building P-1, on Quonset Air Base, the sky was misty and bleak. Inside the dining hall, there had been an attempt at cheerfulness. A flag covered the cafeteria line. Mission Accomplished, said one of three banners. Great Job. God Bless America. The room bustled with that pre-trip anticipation, but included a more sober twist. Envelopes were on the giveaway table. The Washington Lodge 5 of the Masons had donated free phone cards. Children got coloring books titled When My Parent Has to Go Away. The 30 members of the 143rd will join 600 Guard members deployed overseas in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Though not based in Iraq, the 143rd will be close to war. The unit will maintain the C-130J cargo plane and then fly the new military aircraft on missions into Iraq and Afghanistan. The week before a Rhode Island crew conducted the first combat airdrop in the C-130J, opening the back door of the plane and pushing supplies into a hostile region on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The deployment is relatively short: 60 days. But the Guard is rotating its Air Guard in and out of Southwest Asia. Some members were on their second or third rotation, some on their first. Knots of families clustered, hugging, laughing, committing to memory one another. Nine o'clock came fast. The blue buses idled outside in the rain. Just pumped up, ready. Ready to go do our job!" said Sgt. Lee Exline, 52, one of the California Air National Guard members who flew to Rhode Island to join the 143rd. We say Good bye and God bless to our departing comrades.



A group of Rhode Island National Guard troops returned home, from SouthWest Asia, this past summer. Thirty members of the 143rd Airlift Wing arrived back home at the Quonset Air National Guard base on Saturday, July 16th, 2005. The troops' return is part of the 143rd's on going rotation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The rotation is expected to last through the end of this year.

U.S. Air Force C-130J conducts first-ever combat airdrop

U.S. Air Force history was made this past July when the newest addition to its cargo fleet proved another capability during the first-ever U.S. Air Force C-130 J-model combat airdrop. The C-130J "stretch" successfully dropped 12 bundles of civic aid and supplies weighing 16,000 pounds during two airdrops in the vicinity of Kandahar, Afghanistan. These air drops were part of the larger civic assistance program ground units run concurrent with their maneuver operations. The newest model Hercules includes turboprops with composite propellers, digital avionics including a heads up display for each pilot, reduced manpower requirements, increased reliability and lower operating costs. It comes in standard-length or a stretched version that can accommodate two additional pallet positions. "The contribution to the war effort we provide is profound - anywhere, anytime, anyplace," said Lt. Col. Brian Jurkovic, 379th Expeditionary Operations Group deputy commander. "Supporting the warfighter is what we are about, it's all we are about, and we'll do whatever it takes to deliver what he needs to execute his mission. That is the essence of (tactical) airlift and that's what sets us apart from everybody else." The deployment of the C-130J into Southwest Asia June 7 is the second time the new model has been in the U.S. Central Command theater of operations. A Rhode Island Air National Guard crew from the 143rd Air Wing, Quonset-Holland ANG Base, deployed to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, flew this mission. There are C-130Js owned and operated by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Air National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air



Force, Danish Air Force and the Italian Air Force. The last Coalition airdrop carrying civic assistance bundles was dropped June 17 in the vicinity of Bagram, Afghanistan.

Flag Folding

As an Army and Navy custom, the flag is lowered daily at the last note of retreat. Special care should be taken that no part of the flag touches the ground. The Flag is then carefully folded into the shape of a tri-cornered hat, emblematic of the hats worn by colonial soldiers during the war for Independence. In the folding, the red and white stripes are finally wrapped into the blue, as the light of day vanishes into the darkness of night. This custom of special folding is reserved for the United States Flag alone.

How to fold the Flag



To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with another person so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise **over** the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



Fold the flag **again** lengthwise with the blue field on the **outside**.



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

YOUR ARMY HUMOR



SUPPLY



“The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.”

Calvin Coolidge

Soldiers words from Iraq

It has been very cold and rainy here every day. The mud is unbelievable; it sticks to your boots and just keeps building up until you are like 4 inches taller. Everyone here is sick, from the commander on down at least a little. I have been struggling with sinus problems since Kuwait. I just can't seem to kick it yet, but I am better off than a lot of people. I have been flying around Baghdad a lot. All we do is go from LZ (landing zone) to LZ all day long taking people just 5 miles down the road and back. We fly everyone from generals to UN bigs to civilians. I guess nobody wants to take the chance of getting kidnapped or attacked, but there haven't been any lately.

A Soldier's Words

I pack a few belongings, say goodbye to family and friends And leave my home to serve my country.
I am a soldier. I train for war And one day in my camouflage of green, I hide unseen in forest, swamp or sand-My gun in hand to slay the enemy.
I fight horrible wars in order to establish peace.
I deny myself liberty so I can bring freedom to others. I respect all cultures and all religions.
I am an American soldier - defender of Democracy-A bridge to freedom, honor, justice, mercy, hope.
My buddies are my family. I live on whatever sustains me.
I sleep in ditches with little water
And no shower for weeks on end. I never complain about the hardships of life. I welcome them.

Things are going good here in Mosul and will be better when we get back. I have been having a lot of trouble with the nbg email addresses. I hope this gets through. I am running the PSD team which is the Personnel Security Detail for Col. Rooney. The first day we were out with just the 103d guys we got hit by an IED. Nobody got hurt. they, The anti Iraqi forces set it off early and it just broke some windows. Then they hit us 6 days later and again nobody injured. Other than that, like I tell my wife, nothing has happened.

“Rascals, do you want to live forever?”

(Ihr Racker, wollt ihr ewig leben?)

- Frederick the Great, 1757.

When the guards hesitated at the battle of Kolin.

“I would rather he had given me one more division”

- Rommel, when Hitler made him a Field Marshall

“Blood alone moves the wheels of history.”

- Benito Mussolini

“The first method of estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.”

- Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince

All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us...they can't get away this time”

- Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller, USMC

“War is delightful to those who have had no experience of it.”

- Desiderius Erasmus,

Dutch humanist, ca. 1466–1536



War is too important to be left up to the politicians!
General Jack T. Ripper
Dr Strangelove

The purpose of all war is peace.
- Saint Augustine, 354-430

ARMY GUARD PROMOTIONS

PVT ARRUBLA ANDRES
SPC BARLOW PETER
SGT BERGANZA ALIDA
SSG BRUNELLE KEVIN
SFC CARREIRO CHRISTOPHER
SPC CROPLEY JASON
SPC CRUZ BRIAN
SGT DAVIS ZACHARY
SGT DIAZ EDWIN
SSG DUNCAN JEHU
PVT FABERLLE PEDRO
SGT GAGNE JASON
SFC GEREMIA RAYMOND JR
SGT HOLLINRAKE DAVID
SFC LETOURNEAU KENNETH
SGT LEWIS MATTHEW
SPC MARTIN EDWARD II
SGT MARTIN JOSEPH
PVT MONTOYA JUAN
SPC MUSCO JEROME JR
SFC ODOOVAN DARREN
SGT OLIVEIRA DANNY
PFC ORELLANA WILLIAM J
SPC PALMQUIST TIMOTHY
SPC QUINONES JOSE JR
SGT RODRIGUES PAULO
PVT SALEMI AMANDA
PFC SANTOR JOSEPH
SPC SIMONEAU ROBERT
SFC SMITH JON DANIEL
PVT SNELL JOSHUA BRIAN
SFC SNYDER EDWIN
SFC STORM HENRY
SFC WALLACE ANDRE

SFC ANGEL GREGORY
SPC BARBRIE MICHAEL
PFC BEAULIEU JASON
SFC BLANCHETTE GARY
PFC BROSNAN DAVID
SFC CARDENTE ANTHONY
SGT CASAVANT PETER
PVT COSTA NICHOLAS
PVT CUDWORTH CORDELL
SPC CUMMISKEY ADAM
SGT DALPE DAVID
SGT DASILVA ANTONIO
PVT DENTON PATRICK
SGT DIRAIMO JOHN M
SGT ELDERKIN CHRISTOPHER
SGT FISHER KRISTOFOR
PFC FRENCH WALTER
SGT FREUDIGMANN MARIA
PFC GEMMA MICHAEL
SGT GIRARD STEPHEN
SPC GONZALEZ JOSE
SGT GUGLIELMO DOMENIC
PFC GUIMARAES NELSON
SSG GULLIFER MATTHEW
SFC HARRIS KEITH
PVT HENNE GRANT
SFC HOLLAND JASON
SFC JACQUES PAUL 5
SGT JAMEEL SHAFQA
SPC JASWELL JASON
PFC JENNINGS CRAIG 2
PVT JUMELLES GIANNY
PFC LAPIERRE DOUGLAS
SGT LUBO LUIS

PVT MCMILLIAN JUSTIN
SGT MELLO ERIC
SGT MOTA ANTONIO
SPC NAGBE NATHAN
SGT NATALE COSTANTINO
SFC NELSON CARL
SFC PALMER KENNETH
SPC PECKHAM ANDREW
SGT ROACH MELANIE
SFC SILVA WAYNE
SGT SMITH KEVIN
PVT STLAURENT JAMES
SGT VIEIRA JOHN
SGT WILLETTE CATHERINE
MSG WONG MICHAEL
PVT WOOD MEGAN



US ARMY HISTORY

Since its birth on 14 June 1775, over a year before the Declaration of Independence, the United States Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation. It won the new Republic's independence in an arduous eight-year struggle against Great Britain, at times providing the lone symbol of nationhood around which patriots could rally. During the Civil War it preserved the Union through four years of bitter conflict that turned brother against brother. It has repeatedly defended the United States against external threats, from the "second war of independence" with Great Britain in 1812 through the crusades that finally rid the world of the specters of Nazi totalitarianism, Japanese imperialism, and world communism. The defense of the nation has always been the Army's primary mission but, not its only one. From the beginning the Army has also been involved with internal improvements, natural disaster relief, economic assistance, domestic order, and a host of other contingencies. Although these missions may not have always been those it would have chosen for itself, our Army has drawn great satisfaction from knowing that when the nation was in need, it answered the call.

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