

OCEAN STATE GUARDIAN

SPRING 2006
EDITION



**Brigadier General Robert Thomas Bray
Appointed New Adjutant General
of Rhode Island National Guard**

Members of the 172nd Infantry
are silhouetted by the setting
sun as they patrol the streets
of Husseiniya, Iraq.

Members Of Task Force DragonWing Return
Home To Rhode Island On
Christmas Eve



THE OCEAN STATE GUARDIAN SPRING EDITION

War is an intractable issue that always seems to be in the news. Most philosophers who have written on war have provided singular explanations of why we wage war: they blame the environment, our genes, culture, technology, or even our reason. In other words, they claim that man cannot stop war – it is in his nature to wage war. Even political writers, on the subject, enjoy describing the details of the balance of power theories, but also, too often, employ the philosophical argument that war is inevitable or that conflict is innate in human affairs. As human beings, all we can truly hope for is that the true moral goal for humanity is to become more reasonable and to renounce violence.



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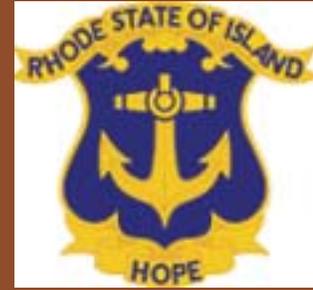
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From the Desk of the Adjutant General



Brigadier General
Robert Thomas Bray

On 9 February 2006, in a ceremony at the Rhode Island State House, Governor Carcieri introduced BG Robert Bray as Rhode Island's new Adjutant General. BG Bray brings more than 35 years of military service to the Adjutant General's position. Before coming to Rhode Island, BG Bray served as the Deputy Commanding General for the Army National Guard at the U.S. Army Field Artillery School in Fort Sill, OK.

Brigadier General Robert Thomas Bray brings a vast knowledge of military and emergency management experience to this very critical position. He has a national reputation and is highly regarded for this outstanding leadership style, for his great command of strategic planning, and his strong fiscal management skills.

BG Bray is a 35 year member of the South Dakota National Guard where he has held numerous command positions. He understands the many challenges that members of the National Guard and their families face, and this is truly a wonderful quality to possess during a time when the Rhode Island National Guard has had so many of it's members deployed. Also, in this post-9/11 world, we are confronted by a wide range of military, civil preparedness, and emergency management issues on a daily basis. BG Gray has direct experience with these issues as a commander in the National Guard and as a Fire Division Chief with the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Department, where he was responsible for all incidents involving hazardous materials.

BG Bray joined the South Dakota National Guard in 1971 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. In 2004, he was promoted to Brigadier General. BG Gray retired from the Sioux Falls Rescue Department after 27 years of service. He most recently served as Fire Division Chief, where he was responsible for Special Operations. Since the Adjutant General serves as the Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and is the liaison to the Federal Department of Homeland Security, BG Bray's experience, expertise and knowledge will greatly enhance all three positions and allow him to manage with continuity and stability during these troubling times.

The Brigadier general's military awards include the Legion of Merit, five awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, two awards of the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, six awards of the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, two awards of the National Defense Service Medal, two awards of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, three awards of the Army Reserve Components Overseas Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, four awards of the South Dakota National Guard Service Ribbon, South Dakota Desert Storm Ribbon, South Dakota Distinguished Service Ribbon, and the Army Superior Unit Citation. He served overseas duty in Germany and the Republic of Korea.

THE “WORD”

FROM THE COMMAND SGT. MAJOR!



Command Sergeant Major
John J. McDonough IV



1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, Battery (B)
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



The lobby to the north entrance of the State House is home to two famous Civil War cannons, each with its own unique history. The Gettysburg Gun was struck by three Confederate shells during Pickett’s Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. Two members of Battery B First Regiment Rhode Island Light Artillery were getting ready to load the cannon when a Confederate shell hit the muzzle, instantly killing officer William Jones. The second officer, Alfred G. Gardner, was struck in the left shoulder and died minutes later, shouting, “Glory to God! I am happy! Hallelujah!”

“Officers tried to load the gun, hitting the 12-pound iron ball with the side of an axe, but the muzzle was too damaged and the heat of the gun molded the ball in place. Even now, visitors can see the charge still lodged in the cannon. After the war, the Gettysburg Gun was displayed in Washington D.C. It came home to Rhode Island in 1874, and has been inside the State House since 1903. For 99 years, the gun remained loaded with its charge of gunpowder, until the potential danger was noted and the powder was removed in 1962. The lobby also houses another Civil War cannon, this one used in the Battle of Bull Run.

Military courtesy is an extension of the cultural norms that form a foundation for this great nation’s society. As warriors, in the profession of arms, we observe numerous additional customs that recognize the unique hierarchy, responsibilities, and traditions of military service. The manner in which we follow military courtesy reflects upon us as soldiers and indicates a great deal about our character in general. When addressing an officer it is a simple addition to one’s conversation to refer to them as “sir” or “ma’am”. This common courtesy can make all the difference between imbuing a professional demeanor and a sloppy one. The professional courtesy of a hand salute is an extremely basic concept that was originally established to display an unarmed right hand. Salutes distinguish our warrior culture as well as accentuate an outdoor greeting. Lack of a salute or trying to avoid making eye contact, engenders inattentiveness and malaise. When your hands are full, obey the spirit of the custom by a simple greeting instead of a salute. We owe our officers and ourselves this courtesy. Remember good military appearance imparts cleanliness, organization, and discipline. Hands in pockets, unzipped jackets, and inappropriate wear of headgear are all symptoms of a carelessness we must not become accustomed to or allow. Proper flag etiquette should be reviewed and practiced at least on a monthly basis. Military customs and courtesies are attributes of our noble profession that do not end or abate periodically and then automatically reestablish themselves. We need to establish them now as ingrained and sublime habits, and remind others of their responsibility to do the same. Remember, as General Patton said, “You are always on parade.”

The Professional Soldier

Over the years we have heard this term used to describe members of the military who have made a career out of the military life. It can also be used as a term of respect for an individual who has performed his or her duties with both tolerance and pride. But in order to fully understand how the term applies to a military person, one has first to provide the context in which the word "professional" is used. While in some usages, professional denotes a 'career' or lifelong occupation, the term professional here will be used for a much more concise meaning. The precise definition will be the one we use when we refer to Doctors and Lawyers as professionals. Artisans and line-workers may perform important functions in society, but they lack the true professionalism that will be used here when referring to the professional soldier. This sense of professionalism is that which demands respect. The two main characteristics used to define professionalism are expertise and responsibility. All professionals must have expertise in their field that sets them apart from common people or from civilians. A doctor must go through years of school and residency in order to learn the details of the human body and the methods for treating illness. Even after completing this training, they still have to pass examinations that certify their competency in the field. Likewise, the professional soldier goes through a general and technical education, in order to become a professional military person. A professional person is also responsible to society. Instead of being set purely by the market forces, their salary is often regulated by professional customs and law. If the professional chooses to act in opposition to society, they cease to be professional. Only by improving society can they accomplish their goals. The professional military person is skilled in the management of *violence*. This is the primary skill which sets them apart from the common person or the civilian. In carrying out their ability in this skill, they are not working solely for monetary gain. They are not mercenaries, *soldiers who are paid to wage war*, but are instead a loyal member of society. Their motivation stems primarily from a love of the military craft and a desire to so utilize it for the benefit of society. A complex system of rules and regulations are followed by the soldier in carrying out their duty. Their 'clientele' are not individuals, but the collective state. The professional soldier is truly set apart from other members of society. In order to enter into the profession, they must be willing to sacrifice their own comforts and they must undergo a great deal of physical training and education in many diverse subjects.

They must also be prepared to sacrifice their lives for the greater good of their country and the individual doctrines they have been sworn to uphold and protect. Their uniforms, experiences and associations tend to set them apart from common men and women. The soldier's focus is the application of violence, but also of the management of that violence. There is a strong line drawn between the two. The application of violence can be considered a trade, performed by a person lacking in professional skills. The management and control, of that applied violence, places the emphasis on the nature and conduct of the individual controlling that applied violence or science. Therefore the degree of violence applied to a certain situation, by an individual, and also the amount of control exerted by the individual, will justify whether the person can be judged to be a professional or merely an applier of violence without discretion or control. A "Professional" soldier is also described as having a "Military Mind". When thinking of the military mind, characteristics of bellicosity and authoritarianism are most often brought forth. This definition, however, misses some of the key characteristics of a professional soldier. A true professional soldier subscribes to a 'universal' military ethic. This professional ethic is the same regardless of the national or personal associations of the individual military man or woman. The military person is essentially *Hobbesian* in their view of mankind. Like Hobbes, the professional soldier views man as inherently selfish and evil. The military ethic views conflict as a universal pattern throughout nature and sees violence rooted in the permanent biological and psychological nature of men. The military person owes their very existence to the conflicting nature of men. Were all men inherently good, there would be no need for military. Furthermore, success in warfare depends on the organization of groups. One person cannot win a war. The military must be made up of a group of people. Only in groups can men and women realize their true power. Furthermore, they must learn by experience. This experience can come either personally, or through the annals of history. The military person also owes their livelihood to the many conflicting nation states. War is always caused by the political means of the country. The professional soldier must be prepared to respond to those means.



The Professional Soldier

Thus, the military person is driven towards the increasing and strengthening of their military forces. Alliances and territorial expansion must be carried out in such a way to provide benefits that exceed the burdens placed on increased jurisdictional needs. The soldier does not desire to engage in war for war's sake. They may engage in a "preventive war", in order to safeguard national security. They always favor preparedness, but truly never feel prepared. They are respectful of their enemy and of the true nature of war. They want to prepare for war but always view the actual "Road to War" as a last resort. The professional military mind only goes to war when so ordered by the politicians. It is impossible for a person of today to be simultaneously well-versed in both the military and political roles. Thus, the military depends on the state for 'direction'. The military, however, is neutral. The political orders of the nation supersede the military ideals held by the soldier. The military thus exists to serve the state. They must carry out the orders of their political leaders no matter how militarily unsound they are. A soldier who ceases to be loyal and obedient ceases to be a professional. The soldier is judged not by the policies they implement, but rather by the promptness and efficiency with which they carry them out. In conclusion, the development of the professional soldier is a relatively new phenomenon, only gaining prominence in the last century. The professional soldier is marked by their expertise and responsibility. They must undergo a great deal of training to be able to master the skill of the management of **violence**. A professional soldier will remain in the field of military affairs, while allowing the statesman to run the political affairs. While doctors serve their patients, and lawyers their clients, the professional soldier has the high calling of selfless service to their state.

By: Sgt. John Cervone

Thomas Hobbes was born in London in 1588. He received his college education at Oxford University in England, where he studied classics. Hobbes traveled to other European countries several times to meet with scientists and to study different forms of government. During his time outside of England, Hobbes became interested in why people allowed themselves to be ruled and what would be the best form of government for England. In 1651, Hobbes wrote his most famous work, entitled *Leviathan*. In it, he argued that people were naturally wicked and could not be trusted to govern. Therefore, Hobbes believed that an absolute monarchy - a government that gave all power to a king or queen - was best.

Hobbes believed that humans were basically selfish creatures who would do anything to better their position. Left to themselves, he thought, people would act on their evil impulses. According to Hobbes, people therefore should not be trusted to make decisions on their own. In addition, Hobbes felt that nations, like people, were selfishly motivated. To Hobbes, each country was in a constant battle for power and wealth. To prove his point, Hobbes wrote, "If men are not naturally in a state of war, why do they always carry arms and why do they have keys to lock their doors?"

Governments were created, according to Hobbes, to protect people from their own selfishness and evil. The best government was one that had the great power of a leviathan, or sea monster. Hobbes believed in the rule of a king because he felt a country needed an authority figure to provide direction and leadership. Because the people were only interested in promoting their own self-interests, Hobbes believed democracy - allowing citizens to vote for government leaders - would never work. Hobbes wrote, "*All mankind [is in] a perpetual and restless desire for power... that [stops] only in death.*" Consequently, giving power to the individual would create a dangerous situation that would start a "*war of every man against every man*" and make life "*solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.*"

Despite his distrust of democracy, Hobbes believed that a diverse group of representatives presenting the problems of the common person would, hopefully, prevent a king from being cruel and unfair. During Hobbes' lifetime, business began to have a big influence on government. Those who could contribute money to the government were given great status, and business interests were very powerful. In order to offset the growing power of business, Hobbes believed that an individual could be heard in government by authorizing a representative to speak on their behalf. In fact, Hobbes came up with the phrase "voice of the people," which meant that one person could be chosen to represent a group with similar views. However, this "voice" was merely heard and not necessarily listened to - final decisions lay with the king.



88th Army Band "The Governor's Own"

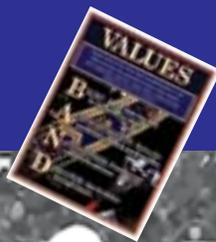


The mission of the 88th Army Band is: "To **provide music that promotes troop morale, unit esprit de corps, and support civil and military operations and ceremonies.**" Over the years they have performed that mission and performed it in an outstanding manner. But it needs to be remembered that these individuals are soldiers as well as musicians and they take pride in the organization they are a part of. Their pride has led them to partake in a program that will give tremendous exposure to themselves and to the Rhode Island National Guard. Over the next few months the 88th Army Band "Combo" will be performing at various sporting events, throughout the state. These "Combo Concerts" will be the thrust of their new recruiting presentations. They have already performed at a Providence Friars game, at the Dunkin Donuts Center, and at Bryant University. Their future performances will be a "Combo Concert" at RIC on April 13th and URI on April 14th. Their performances seem to bring out the best in their audiences and they are always greeted with enthusiastic applause and the end of their performances always leaves the crowd wanting more. As a unit they are extremely tight knit and strive for perfection. They are not afraid of constructive criticism because they know that the end justifies the means, and the end for them is giving a memorable performance.

I have enjoyed the time I have spent with all the members, as they are able to put their individual egos in the background, in order to strive for the unity that makes them a sound and viable organization.

They are sacrificing their time for the worthiest of causes. They are trying to bring the National Guard to the youth of Rhode Island in a very special way. Their methods do not include employing heavy weapons or biological radiation suits or even flights in helicopters. What they do is demonstrate to an audience that they are a military unit that has a goal of entertaining listeners with music both contemporary and patriotic. Their recruiting tools are their instruments and their ability to use those instruments very well. One of their greatest assets is their own individual personalities. They are willing to explain what they do in a very easy going manner. They do not try to impress others with their talents, but rather, they try to explain how an interested, talented person, could become a part of their organization. They recruit with their hearts. They are proud of what they do and their pride is evident in both their military appearance and their performances.

By: SgT J Cervone





A Mission of Mercy

by: Sgt J Cervone

Over the past few years we have seen many of our friends and relatives climb on board busses and set out for a lengthy trip to Southwest Asia. We have said goodbye with sadness in our hearts and at times tears in our eyes. It's not easy watching someone we are close to, going to war, in a far away land. But sadly, over the years it has become a scene that we are getting used to. As soldiers, it is not up to us to ask why; we are not allowed that solace. We have to accept our fate and the fate of our comrades, as something that we anticipated, when we chose to become a member of the military.

This past September, our nation witnessed some of the most horrid events that have occurred here in many years. In September of 2001, our world was cast into chaos by men intent on destroying the very fabric of our society. In September of 2005, our world was cast into chaos by the very elements of nature itself. Killer Hurricanes, destroyed and damaged parts of our nation, to such a degree, that man himself was completely at a loss as to how to bring order out of the chaos that was taking place. Fortunately, many of our nation's states responded boldly to the crisis in New Orleans and the surrounding areas that had been impacted by the hurricanes that struck there. The Rhode Island National Guard responded by sending Military Police to the region to help restore order and also to assist in humanitarian missions. Sometimes, the humanitarian assistance can be overshadowed by the many tactical and military operations that are transpiring at any given time. It needs to be remembered that they are no less important. In fact they are probably remembered long after the situations have returned to normalcy.

The 1207th Transportation Company performed one of those missions of mercy. They drove for three and one half days, in order to arrive in New Orleans as quickly as possible, so that they could give support to the Rhode Island MP's, who had been previously flown there. Their trucks were loaded with water, MRE's, flashlights and personal gear. They were stationed in New Orleans for twenty three days. For twenty three days they were assigned rescue missions. Using their vehicles, they assisted rescue teams in helping people who were trapped either in their homes, on top of their homes or floating in the water. They rescued over fifty people along with their various pets. As they rescued civilians, they also tried to help the people they were rescuing, to overcome the fear and sadness they felt at seeing everything they owned destroyed and underwater. They performed day and night missions using their wrecker and flatbeds to pull stalled vehicles off the highways in order to facilitate the flow of emergency vehicles. They performed their mission with pride and compassion. Their legacy is a young pup they rescued, who certainly would have died if not for their compassion. They found him in a shelter, alone and uncared for. They brought the pup, they named him "Storm", back to Rhode Island and the unit has cared for him ever since. Specialist Michael Wolfe and Sgt. Luis Castaneda explained to me what a great feeling it was to have helped so many people and how proud they and their entire unit were of the job they had performed under such dire conditions. We should all share their pride at having done such a great job. Let's also try to remember, as we go through our day to day routines, that in many ways our job is to help people here in Rhode Island and in any other state we may be called on to assist. These soldiers performed a real world mission not a tactical exercise. The people they saved were real and will remember them possibly for the rest of their lives. As soldiers we all perform our missions to the best of our abilities. The 1207th Transportation Company succeeded admirably in the performance and completion of their mission.



THE RHODE ISLAND FUNERAL HONORS DETACHMENT



The Rhode Island Funeral Honors Detachment is headquartered at the Armory of Mounted Commands, on North Main Street, Providence, RI. The members of the detachment provide Military Funeral Honors for all deceased Rhode Island Veterans. These dedicated individuals will participate in over 150 funerals a month. These committed airmen and soldiers participate in this program so as to ensure all deceased veterans receive the honors that are due to them. These soldiers and airmen perform their mission in cemeteries all over Rhode Island and at times even in Massachusetts. Many of the services are performed in chapels but quite a few are performed at graveside. This means that the firing team and the members of the flag folding detail are subject to whatever weather conditions exist that day. They perform their duties whether the sun is shining or whether there is ice and snow on the ground. A graveside service, that includes ice and snow, can make for a very precarious half an hour.

Today the program is managed by CW5 George Wilkins. Chief Wilkins is responsible for the over all management of the program which includes payroll, logistical operations and internal management. Andrew Boudreau and Sgt. Major Raymond Ferreira (Ret.) are the programs field managers. They are responsible for maintaining the daily team schedules, including hiring new members, maintaining a training program and keeping the every day nuts and bolts work squared away. But everyone involved in the program is ultimately responsible to the deceased veteran and the family of the deceased veteran. When a team arrives at a graveside it is time to put away all the petty annoyances and grievances that arise in everyday life. It is time to render the appropriate honors to someone who has served their nation faithfully. That is all that should be on the minds of the team members. Firing precision by the firing team and total concentration by the flag folding members is paramount. The team members are in the spot light and must always be aware of that. To be a member one should have a deep regard for those who have served before them and also an ego that allows them to practice tolerance and understanding. The program is designed for junior enlisted and junior NCOs, although at times it has become top heavy with higher ranking non commissioned officers. As a former team member, I can truly attest to the fact, that rendering military honors to a deceased comrade has both intrinsic and extrinsic rewards. The intrinsic reward of having an inner pride in ensuring the proper and correct honors have been rendered and an extrinsic pride in having been a part of an elite team of military professionals that performed a ceremony, as a team, in a truly expert manner.

By: Sgt John Cervone



An Old Soldier Can Teach Us Humility

James Bethel has been a member of the Rhode Island Honors Detachment going back to a time when there were only ten members and that included the Field Co-coordinator, Command Sgt. Major Raymond Morris (Retired). They did not have government vans or sedans to take them to the funerals back then. In order to render Military Honors to fallen veterans, they drove in old and tired military vehicles, that could be heard long before they were seen. Most of them had no heat in the winter and no air conditioning in the summer. There were never more than three members at a funeral and most times only two members were on hand. It took a special kind of person to dedicate their time and training to the Honors Detachment and Jimmy Bethel is that special type of person.

James Bethel has a calm and relaxed personality that has always allowed him to present the flag of his nation, to the veterans' family, in a way that can never be easily forgotten. As he presents the flag, he always "connects" with the receiver and the gratefulness in that person's eyes say all that needs to be said. Jimmy Bethel is proud of what he does and proud of his longstanding membership with the Honors Detachment. There are many individuals who can learn from watching and listening to Jimmy. I did. Jim Bethel's way of approaching his mission comes from his heart. He puts the deceased veteran and the veteran's family first and last. He is a true professional.

By: Sgt J Cervone



James Bethel

The Rhode Island Chapter of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association

To all past and present members of the Rhode Island Military. If you are a Combat Vet, ride a motorcycle larger than 500cc's, then you could apply for membership in the Rhode Island Chapter of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association. We are an association comprised of US Combat Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces that ride motorcycles as a hobby. Our reason for being is to address veteran's causes and issues. We have taken part in the "Toys for Tots Run", Christmas gifts to veterans at the RI Veteran's Home and other events in 2005. There will be much more in 2006.

To learn more visit their web site at www.cvma.org

To join contact: State Rep Mike Dalmazzi at mikedal2000@yahoo.com or by cell at 401-556-3160.

Or Contact: Andy Martel at andrew.martel@us.army.mil or by cell at 401-323-8649.

We look forward to hearing from you

Sincerely

Mike Dalmazzi State Rep "CVMA 556"



War and Time Wait for No Man

The desolate highway from this trash-strewn town of Trebil, on the Jordanian border into western Iraq, is littered with bomb craters and burned-out skeletons of supply trucks. They are grim reminders of the dangers that lurk along this main supply route for U.S. forces here. Rhode Island soldiers are well aware of the dangers present in this war torn area. Troopers of the 172nd Infantry Regiment have regularly traveled this highway along with their counterparts in the Georgia National Guard. The Rhode Islander's are presently serving with the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment Task Force, 48th Brigade Combat Team. Their assignment has been to protect trucks loaded with fuel, food and water. Roughly, usually 100 troops, in about 30 heavily armed military vehicles, are assigned to guard each convoy. And yet despite the overwhelming military presence, insurgents are aggressively attacking the convoys with rocket-propelled grenades and roadside bombs. Between Sept. 1 and Nov. 11, 2005, thirty seven roadside bombs hit convoys or were detected by soldiers before they detonated. One recent convoy was attacked with eight roadside bombs. More than 2 1/2 years after the invasion of Iraq, the ambushes underscore how insurgencies remain robust in many parts of the country, despite U.S. attempts to stamp them out. In western Iraq, Guard soldiers are tracking as many as five insurgent and militia groups operating around their supply routes. They include al Qaida in Iraq and Ansar al-Sunna. Both of these notorious terrorist organizations are linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a radical Sunni Muslim from Jordan. The Rhode Islander's are protecting convoys from bandits seeking to plunder supply-laden trucks in the Al Anbar province. The soldiers consider these enemies such a threat that they escort each and every supply convoy. Still, even with the overwhelming military presence, insurgents are aggressively attacking. Soldiers report that for every couple of insurgents detained or eliminated, there are busloads of them coming across the border to join the cause. The Guardsmen try to fool the insurgents by changing their travel patterns. But that's also considered a challenging task. There is only one paved highway between the Jordanian border and their supply hub at Al Asad Air Base, near the city of Hit. In recent months, several civilian truck drivers and U.S. soldiers from other units have been killed on supply routes across Iraq. Fortunately, the National Guardsmen have managed to keep their supply convoys running despite the attacks. But their vehicles have taken a beating from roadside bombs.

During the last week of November, a 118th supply convoy was hit by two roadside bombs, narrowly avoided a third and possibly a fourth. The convoy started early on the morning of Nov. 22 and ended on Thanksgiving Day. The troops started their mission escorting about 100 empty supply trucks to Trebil. On the first leg of the trip, they rolled along a treacherous road called Route Uranium. Pocked with bomb craters, the road passes through a desert landscape. Soldiers wince on the narrow, one-lane route as they drive past suspicious-looking piles of gravel and sand, possible hiding places for bombs. A sign warns of mines off the road. Route Uranium eventually gives way to Route Mobile, a divided highway lined with the blackened carcasses of supply trucks. When the trucks break down, U.S. soldiers move them far off the road and blow them up so they cannot be used as booby traps. More than halfway through their trip, the 118th soldiers encountered some Marines stopping traffic. The Marines were about to detonate a bomb they found planted in the median. It was three mortar rounds connected to a car battery. When the Marines blew it up, the troops heard two explosions, the second possibly coming from another bomb planted nearby. Insurgents sometimes attempt to lure soldiers by placing a bomb, called a "come-along," in clear view. They conceal a second explosive nearby to kill troops who climb out of their armored vehicles to destroy the first bomb. The Guardsmen from Rhode Island are involved in a daily quest to find and destroy an elusive enemy while trying to protect themselves and their comrades. Their enemy has one distinct advantage over all. Their enemy has time on their side along with a ruthless disregard for any human life. Time is a friend to the terrorist, while as time drags on, in a war that seems to have an undetermined life span; it may slowly become an enemy to those trying to prevent the spread of death and violence.

By: Sgt. John Cervone



President Bush Honors Two Rhode Islander's

On Jan. 1, 2006, The President of the United States presented Purple Heart Medals to nine soldiers. Two of these soldiers were SPCs Chad Danusis and David Dyer. They are currently recuperating from wounds received while stationed in Iraq. They are both members of the 861st Combat Engineers, Rhode Island National Guard. President Bush visited Brooke Army Medical Center, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to wish wounded troops undergoing treatment there a happy new year, thank them for their sacrifice, and present nine Purple Heart Medals.

"I can't think of a better way to start 2006 than here at this fantastic hospital," Bush told reporters during a stop at the San Antonio post. He also went on to say that this hospital is filled with courageous young service members who, along with their loved ones, are making great sacrifices as they serve their country. At the hospital, Bush met with patients and their families at the Amputee Care Center that opened in January 2005. From there, he visited the Burn Center, which has treated 388 service members wounded in the war on terror, and intensive care unit. The 861st Engineer Company (CSE) is located in East Greenwich, Rhode Island.



The General ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding.

V Corps assumes command mission in Baghdad

Soldiers of V Corps headquarters, based in Heidelberg, Germany, officially assumed duties in Baghdad as the command staff for Multi-National Corps - Iraq, for the next 12 months. Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli accepted authority for MNC-I from Lt. Gen. John R. Vines in a ceremony at Camp Victory Jan. 19. Chiarelli comes to the MNC-I from Heidelberg as



well, where he served as commander of Task Force Victory.

Vines and his Soldiers of the XVIII Airborne Corps, who have served as the MNC-I staff for the past year, will now return home to Fort Bragg, N.C. to resume their positions with the XVIII. The 43rd Military Police Brigade is presently serving with members of Task Force 134, stationed at Camp Victory, which falls under the command of V Corps. About 100 members of the Guard's 43rd Military Police Brigade are guarding Abu Ghraib and two other prisons in Iraq.



Members Of Task Force Dragon Wing Return Home To Rhode Island



One hundred members of the 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard, returned home to Quonset Point, Rhode Island, on Sunday, December 18th, 2005.

While stationed in Iraq, "Task Force Dragon wing" logged over seventeen thousand flight hours in both UH-60 and CH 47 helicopters. Many of their missions involved inserting Coalition and Iraqi soldiers into areas called Direct Action Missions. These missions were flown at night utilizing NVG's. At times they flew under hostile conditions and were fired upon by surface to air missiles at least forty nine times. They not only moved troops and supplies but were also called upon to fly dignitaries to specific areas in theater. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Senator Jack Reed were just two of the distinguished visitors they transported. All told, they moved over 5,100 tons of cargo and over 66,000 passengers. These Rhode Islanders exhibited great personal courage and dedication to duty while operating in a combat zone. Once again, Rhode Islanders have risen to the challenge and continually raise the bar of excellence higher and higher.

By: Sgt. John Cervone



Guard unit's return a Christmas wish come true

Families get early Christmas gifts as Rhode Island troops return from Iraq

Tears streamed down the cheeks of many family members, as parents and children held on to each other as the two C 130j's flew over the Quonset Point, Air National Guard Base. Aboard those airplanes were the final returning members of the 126th Aviation Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard. The members of this National Guard Blackhawk unit were returning home, after a year long deployment in Iraq. This was Christmas Eve, and indeed, the holidays seemed to be on everyone's mind. Santa was present and many of the signs, held by family members and friends stated that, "All I want for Christmas is You." A feeling of joy was very apparent, as many of the returning soldiers exclaimed that it was good to be home, but to be home at Christmas time made it all the more wonderful. Getting back in time for Christmas was truly a miracle. And it only added to the beauty of the entire event. At 2:30 p.m, the troops began to disembark the C 130j's, to cheers and applause from a crowd of family members, friends and comrades. Brigadier General John Enright Jr., Interim Adjutant General of the Rhode Island National Guard, was among a contingent of Guard leaders and State officials welcoming the troops home. He walked through the crowd shaking hands, and lingered a bit to personally welcome home a few individual members of the regiment. Based in Iraq, the unit logged 12,430 UH-60 flight hours and over 4,750 CH-47 flight hours. Their mission included ferrying troops, supplies and equipment all over the country. They also were called on to transport VIPs like Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq. The Rhode Island aviators also flew various Congressional delegates including Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island. The "Dragonwing" crews were fired on by over forty-nine surface to air missiles and had six aircraft damaged. We are truly proud of our comrades and are all very thankful for their safe return to Rhode Island. *By: Sgt. John Cervone*



RHODE ISLANDER'S AT WAR IN IRAQ



RHODE ISLANDERS, AT WAR, IN IRAQ



Last December, the 115th Military Police Company was awarded the Valorous Unit Award. On February 4th, 2006, the Valorous Unit Award was presented to ten former members of the 115th Military Police Company along with two current members. The award was also presented to the families of SSG Camara, SGT. Caldwell and SPC Andrade.



103rd Field Artillery Review



The 103rd FA held their 35th Annual Artillery Review on Saturday, 3 December 2005, at the Armory of Mounted Commands. This also included a Change of Command for the 1st Bn 103d FA. LTC Mark P. Habershaw was outgoing and LTC Stephen M. Carty was given the Command.



103rd Field Artillery - continued



The Torch is Passed



CW2 COCCIO'S RETIREMENT



Know Your Enemy

This story is about a battle that occurred in a Vietnamese hamlet called Ap Boc. Ap Boc, was located fourteen miles northwest of My Tho, a village to the south of Saigon, in the Republic of Vietnam. An insignificant blot on the map, this hamlet was destined to become the proving ground in the Viet Nam War. The battle of Ap Boc would give credence to the fact that the Viet Cong had become an effective fighting machine, and would also highlight the weaknesses of the South Vietnamese military. The South Vietnamese government was perhaps, the greatest weapon the Viet Cong possessed. The corruptness of the Diem government literally oozed into every corner of the nation. Diem placed incompetent lackeys in high government and military positions. His disregard for his own people helped the Viet Cong gain the respect and trust of many of the villagers, who willingly provided support and recruits over the years. The ARVN army themselves provided much needed arms and other military equipment to their enemy. Thanks to the carelessness of the ARVN troops, the Viet Cong were increasingly armed with modern American weapons. The ARVN soldiers sometimes sold their weapons or the VC captured them. In the latter half of 1962, Viet Cong battalion commanders began to study the American war machine, which was being implemented by the South Vietnamese military and devised tactics to overcome it. They then worked at convincing their junior officers, non commissioned officers and troops that if they did not panic, and used the terrain to their advantage, they could be successful in defeating the American advised southern army. The extent of the ferocity of the Viet Cong became apparent on October 5, 1962, near the "Plain of Reeds". A 40-man ARVN Ranger company was ambushed by a group of guerillas. The VC fired into the Rangers from their camouflaged foxholes. The majority of the Rangers were killed and wounded within the first few minutes of the firefight. Reinforcements and an air strike were called in. The VC were hit with bombs, rockets, and napalm and yet they did not run. They stayed concealed and did not panic. When they did leave the field they did so in an orderly fashion. They took all their dead and wounded and policed up their brass. To even the most naive observer It appeared that the time of American technology, striking fear into the VC was coming to an end. This victory would fill the Viet Cong with patriotic fervor, and they would use it as a rallying cry in the South. Early in January of 1963, the ARVN 7th Division, along with its contingent of American advisors, were in command of the northern half of the Mekong Delta. There were 38,000 ARVN troops in this area, against an estimated 15,000 guerillas. Even though outnumbered the Viet Cong had the strategic and tactical advantage on the battleground. They determined the course of the war in this area because of their knowledge of the terrain and the support of many of the local villages.



Lt. Colonel John Paul Vann was the American advisor in charge of this region. His many attempts to destroy the Viet Cong in the area had usually been thwarted by the ARVN army's timid approach to battle.

The ARVN troops were usually

on the defensive, reacting to the guerilla moves, and lacked the cooperation of the local peasantry. Their leaders were usually content to allow the VC to escape rather than pursue and destroy. The disaster at the Plain of Reeds had made the ARVN even more timid. As advisor, John Paul Vann was determined to make the ARVN troops more aggressive something the French had little success with in their colonial war with the Vietnamese. Lt. Col. Vann's opportunity to finally fight the VC in a stand up battle materialized at Ap Boc. But again, poor intelligence reported the presence of at least 120 guerillas in the Ap Boc area. There were, in fact, 320 heavily armed guerillas dug in and safely camouflaged in the Ap Boc area. Even so, Lt. Colonel Vann and his Vietnamese counterparts devised a plan to trap and destroy the Viet Cong in Ap Boc. The plan was both simple and direct. It's only flaw were the personnel being directed to carry it out. The ARVN 7th Division infantry battalion (approximately 330 men) would land to the North by helicopter. While this was taking place, two battalions of Civil Guards would march up from the South. To ensure the presence of over powering fire power, a company of thirteen M113 armored personnel carriers, with infantry on board, would advance from the southwest. They would position themselves around the village in order to keep the VC from retreating. The three marching elements (the division battalion and the civil guard battalions) were capable of handling a reinforced company of guerillas with the support of artillery and fighter bombers. The M113's and the mounted infantry were to be held in reserve. There were additional infantry companies in reserve at Tan Hiep (ARVN HQ) which could be sent in by helicopter if needed. Now, keep in mind that only 120 VC were reported in the area and yet over 1200 heavily armed ARVN soldiers were going to attack them. The additional 200 VC that were there should have had no effect on the battle at all. The ARVN still had an almost 9-1 advantage. Even Lt. Col. Vann believed that defeat was almost impossible with the amount of men and firepower being thrown at the enemy. As has happened to many great battle plans over the years, Montgomery's Market-Garden comes to mind, the human element can sometimes send a great plan crashing down in flames. The Battle at Ap Boc shall go down in history as such a travesty. In the first place, the VC knew every movement the ARVN were making as they were monitoring them on "captured" or purchased, American radios. The ARVN troops did not practice comms security, so it was very easy for their foe to checkmate their every move, when and if they made a move.

Know Your Enemy

At this point it could probably be said that the VC were entrenched on dispersive ground - fighting in their own territory, and the ARVN soldiers were approaching on desperate ground - ground on which they could only be saved from destruction by fighting without delay and fighting hard. They chose to do neither. What they did was to inform the VC of their every movement and then as the VC began to pour murderous fire into their units they also began to panic and fall into complete confusion.

The first groups to be routed were the civil guards. They marched right into a Viet Cong ambush and were cut to pieces. They retreated and took cover, firing their weapons into their own retreating comrades in the confusion. The second civil guard battalion advanced to assist the first. They also ran into heavy resistance. The civil guard commander then set up a defensive perimeter and radioed HQ to send up the reserve companies. Since the VC continued to monitor the ARVN communications, they knew immediately that reinforcements were on their way. The reserve companies were being flown in on H-21's piloted by Americans. The VC opened fire on them resulting in the destruction of five helicopters and inflicting heavy damage on many others. In order to prevent the ARVN infantry from being over run, Lt. Vol. Vann ordered the American personnel carriers to get into the battle and drive the VC back. As they advanced on the enemy, the VC poured heavy fire into the advancing APCs. Many of the APCs halted their advance and hid behind the downed choppers, firing their weapons into the sky. The Viet Cong had stopped the ARVN advance right in its tracks. They had completely routed a force that was superior to them in manpower and weapons. The ARVN simply froze in place and allowed the VC to remove themselves from the battlefield at nightfall. They simply vanished into the night with their dead and wounded. These so called "pajama clad" guerillas had successfully shot down five helicopters, killed over eighty soldiers and wounded an additional one hundred. Three American "advisors" were killed and another eight wounded.

Sun-Tzu wrote in his famous observations of warfare, "*The Principles of Warfare*" - "Generally the one who first occupies the battlefield awaiting the enemy is at ease; the one who comes later and rushes into battle is fatigued. Therefore those skilled in warfare move the enemy, and are not moved by the enemy. The ARVN troops, who were on the attack, may not have been fatigued but they were certainly not highly motivated. On that fateful day the Viet Cong proved true the axiom that "*though the enemy is many, he can be prevented from doing battle. Therefore, know the enemy's plans and calculate their strengths and weaknesses.*"

By: Sgt John Cervone



Sun Tzu was born into minor nobility in what is now Shandong, a part of China north of Shanghai that became famous for Confucius. Sun Tzu was given a good education and like *Machiavelli*, he wrote a military treatise in order to get noticed and hired by royalty. Sun Wu expanded his 13 chapter *Art of War* into 82 chapters and trained an army. Eventually he broke the peace by invading the southern state of Yue. Even though his troops were usually outnumbered he was always victorious.

Some considered his death to be another of his deceptions. Many believe that if we are to win the war against terrorism, we must, as Sun Tzu in "The Art of War" wrote, "Understand the enemy." And we must, all of us, Americans, Europeans, Arabs, Asians, Muslims and non-Muslims, unite against it. It is up to all of us to create the conditions that will make this essential unity possible.

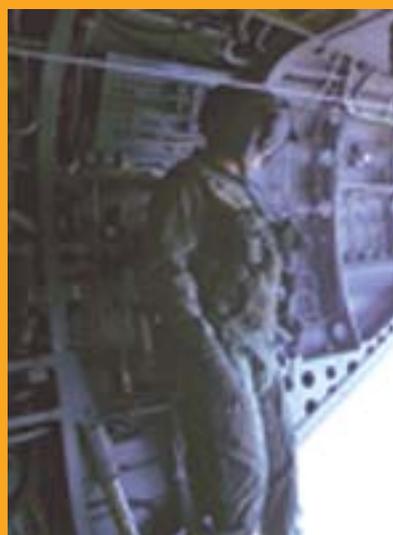


Niccolo Machiavelli was born in Florence, the second son of Bernardo di Niccolò Machiavelli and his wife Bartolommea di Stefano Nelli. His father was a lawyer of some repute and belonged to an impoverished branch of an influential old Florentine family. Machiavelli served the Republic of Florence after the expulsion of the Medici in 1494, travelling to European courts in France, Germany, as well as other Italian city-states on diplomatic missions. During this time he would draw influence for his work. The Prince, from the European leaders he met. In 1500 he was sent to France to obtain terms from Louis XII for continuing the war against Pisa. Louis XII was also the king who committed the five capital errors in statecraft summarized in The Prince, and was consequently driven out of Italy. When Pope Julius II restored the Medici to power in 1512, Machiavelli's name was found on a list of 20 persons supposedly involved in a conspiracy to oppose Medici rule, including co-conspirator and disputed friend Giovanni Battaini. He was briefly imprisoned, and tortured, in the Bargello in Florence. It is likely he had no part in the plot, and maintained his innocence throughout. When Pope Leo X became pontiff in 1513, himself a member of the Medici family, he secured the release of Machiavelli and sent him into exile. Machiavelli returned to Sant'Andrea in Percussina, where he devoted himself to literature. He died in Florence in 1527 and his resting place is unknown as well as the tombs of his conspirators friends and family, however a symbolic tomb in his honor can be found at the Basilica di Santa Croce di Firenze.

RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD

"LEAPFEST 2006"

INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTE COMPETITION



anyone seen sgt
cervone today?



SATURDAY, 12 AUGUST 2006
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



**RHODE ISLAND NATIONAL GUARD
OPEN HOUSE & AIR SHOW**

24-25 JUNE 2006

Featuring:
USAF Thunderbirds
Sean Tucker
Mike Mancuso
Frank Ryder
Shockwave Jet Truck
Combined Arms Demo
Black Daggers Parachute Team
Mat Chapman
Ed Hamil
Chuck Lischer



Military Equipment Displays from the RI National Guard

Gates open at 9:00 AM both days
Show runs from 10:00 AM till 4:30 PM
No Pets & No Coolers!

Admission is Free!

All is General Admission! There is no Preferred/VIP seating!
\$10 Parking Donation directly supports the Hasbro Childrens Hospital



SAYING SO LONG TO A GOOD FRIEND



*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never thought upon,"*

Lt. Colonel Albert Guarnieri Jr. retired this past winter from the Rhode Island Army National Guard. He served his country for over 37 years as an enlisted soldier and an officer. Lt. Colonel Guarnieri possessed two unique traits that he brought to the National Guard. He was a combat veteran of the Viet Nam War and he had the combat badge to prove it. When he retired, that left very few of us that can make the claim, as to having been a Viet Nam Veteran. I'm not even sure how many of us are left. He also had a sense of humor and was not afraid to make people laugh and did not mind making sport of himself. He was a confident man in both his inner being and his accomplishments. He never took himself too seriously but he did his job and did it well. Back in 2001, during an exercise at Fort Drum, I had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time. I needed his assistance in a matter of international relations. After making me laugh for about five minutes, he began to set up a portfolio of the actions I should take and began to put into place the tools that I would need to succeed. That's what I will remember about the LTC. He could make people laugh and at the same time accomplish the mission. He will be missed for both his knowledge and his personality. We could use more laughter in this world and he was able to supply us with it.

By: Sgt. John Cervone



Going full circle. Soldier concludes Iraq tour with same unit from Vietnam

By Sgt. Susan Redwine
159th CAB PAO

Few Soldiers can claim to have a career spanning 38 years, but one pilot on the LSA not only has those bragging rights, but can also say he finished his career where he started it.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Alford began his military career as a pilot in Vietnam with Company A, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment in 1967, and recently was able to fly with the very same company in Iraq. Alford arrived in Iraq last year with his National Guard unit, 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment., from Rhode Island, and has been flying UH-60 Blackhawk missions. Alford said the veterans of Company A form a very active network. He learned through Internet correspondence his old unit, nicknamed the Comancheros, would deploy to Iraq to the very same base as his current National Guard unit. After that, it was just a matter of touching base with his former unit to arrange a mission and come full-circle in his military career.

"Before they even arrived in country, I had been e-mailing back and forth," Alford said. "So I had a good idea when they arrived in country and what they were going to do. I sort of forced myself on them after that. "One of my first rides was with the Comancheros," he said. "I wanted one of my last flights to be with them. I don't plan on coming back again." The unique nature of Alford's mission also made an impression on current Comancheros. "To see something like this come about and materialize is one of the most motivating things that I could have for my Soldiers and myself," said 1st Lt. Robert Massey, a Company A platoon leader. Alford, who works full-time for the Social Security Administration and lives in Framingham, Mass., said he left the military after his tour in Vietnam, but joined the National Guard in 1988 because he missed flying and the camaraderie of fellow Soldiers. Current members of Company A are aware of the unique pride that keeps their unit together and eagerly point out that they can trace their lineage back to Vietnam. Chief Warrant Officer Joshua D. Havill, a Blackhawk pilot for Company A, said in his 12 years of service, he never had a unit patch until he became a Comanchero and said it as an example of how to establish unit pride. The unit develops a new patch for each deployment or mission. For Alford's last mission, he was able to put on the Comanchero's latest patch and gave his crew souvenir patches with the design he wore in Vietnam. "The standard for earning that patch is being fully-mission qualified," Alford said. "But you also have to be one of the guys, too. You have to earn it from your peers." Part of the bond the unit shares comes from the Soldier lifestyle. "You're away from home and 24-7 you're around each other," Massey said. "This is your family. You depend on each other. "It's the people that make the camaraderie, that's where the tradition lies," he said. "The people that have come and gone from this unit ... people that are motivated and excited to do the job make it fun." This enthusiasm is apparent in the unit's Soldiers. "I think I'm blessed," said Pfc. Richard Montgomery, Blackhawk crew chief for Company A.

"There's no other place I want to go. The people here are really wonderful and there are rich traditions. It sounds kind of corny, but I like it. It's a lot of fun, I love flying with these guys." Montgomery, who also flew with Alford during the mission, said Alford was very down-to-earth and answered the many questions posed to him. Alford also said he was able to mentor the current Comancheros because of his experiences in both Iraq and Vietnam. "You have to keep in mind that you can get shot at and die any day," he said. "You can't get complacent. You have to keep it in your head all the time." "I had a lot of questions for him," Montgomery said. "He told me everything I wanted to know." Montgomery said he was able to ask about Alford's experiences in Vietnam, how many flight hours he's logged, the types of aircraft he's flown and even his family. "Knowledge drips off the guy," Havill concurred. Alford said he enjoyed the flight he took with the Comancheros here. "It was great. I loved it. It was fantastic." Alford will be redeploying to the United States in December.



Language Means Very Little



Georgia's soldiers are learning the art of "cawfee" talk in Iraq. Yes, "cawfee." As in how the Yankees in their unit pronounce coffee. Add "dawgs" for dogs and "bettuh" for better. Then throw in some Northern phrases like "wicked bad," which means really good, and that is enough to make the Georgians' heads spin. National Guard soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment of Rhode Island, are serving in the 48th Brigade Combat Team, with scores of Southerners. After fighting alongside the Southerners for months in Iraq, some Rhode Islanders find the culture clash has become a source of much good-natured bantering. Some of the Southerners have started dropping their r's like New Yorkers. Others do it just to tease each other. Sgt. Jesse Bowling of Lumber City, Georgia, smiled when he spotted one of his Rhode Island buddies, Spc. Gregory Carter, wandering around piles of auto parts at the motor pool recently. "Cawter!" Bowling shouted. "Did you find some pawts?" "When he first said 'pawts,'" Bowling explained, "we said, 'Are you going to do some cooking?'" The Northerners also say they have trouble understanding their counterparts from the South. The Georgians greet them with "y'all" and pronounce "pens" as "pins." Carter laughed as he talked about how he heard a Georgian use a made-up word. "I learned a new word from these guys, 'The onliest thing you got to worry about.'" Carter said, imitating his friend. Despite their occasional communication problems, the soldiers appear to get along well — even when they talk about the Civil War. On the night before Thanksgiving, a few of them were excitedly discussing the war at Camp Korean Village, a small U.S. military outpost near the Jordanian border. First Lt. Jeff Ahern of Johnston, R.I., proudly talked about how he plays a Union soldier in Civil War battle re-enactments. Sitting across from Ahern, Capt. William Bailey of Milledgeville said he played a Confederate soldier once. These soldiers may tease each other in their off time but when it's time to take care of business, they move as one cohesive unit and one mindset. They watch each others backs and it does not matter how they pronounce that statement. Soldiers look out for one another, it's always been that way and it will always be that way. *By: Sgt. J Cervone*

SOD-G Team Member Deployed To Nairobi



LTC Richard Keene (center), of the SOD-G, is pictured here with members of the Nairobi Fire Department. These fireman, and the truck in the background, responded to the U.S. Embassy bombing in 1998. LTC Keene is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa.



Special Forces Soldiers Return Home

On Friday, January 20, 2006, thirty five members of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Rhode Island Army National Guard, returned home to Rhode Island. They were coming home after having been deployed to SouthWest Asia for one year.



" ONLY COMEDY CAN
TRULY EPITOMIZE REALITY"

Don't be so upset Chief -
See, I'm perfectly all right.



You're not
authorized
combat pay
because tech-
nically, you're
not supposed
to fight.



I need two volunteers, who don't
owe me money, Cervone, you're not
one of them, to go on a perfectly
safe mission.



Put down
that equip-
ment and
stand at
attention,
soldier.
How long
have you
been in the
Army?

OCEAN STATE GUARDIAN

SPRING 2006



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