



## Colorado Army National Guard alerted to largest mobilization since World War II

**CENTENNIAL, Colo.** – The Colorado National Guard received a mobilization order from the Department of the Army for 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery. The Battalion, which is based out of Colorado Springs, has units in Longmont, Aurora, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and La Junta.

More than 450 Soldiers across Colorado called to serve with 3rd Battalion, 157th Field Artillery, will prepare for a 12-month mobilization and deployment in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) theater of operations in 2009. As the fires battalion for the 169th Fires Brigade, Soldiers are trained to perform field artillery missions using the track-mounted Multiple-Launch Rocket System; however, for this deployment, they will train and deploy to support infantry-style missions.

“The mobilization of 3rd Battalion requires the support of the entire Colorado National Guard. A deployment like this is historically significant for Colorado, and we are prepared to answer the call,” said Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado. “The Colorado National Guard will continue to demonstrate that we are a ready, relevant and reliable force in the War on Terror.”

Colorado’s 3rd Battalion, 157th was last deployed during World War II as infantry in Europe and was responsible for helping liberate the concentration camp at Dachau, Germany. Last commanded on the

battlefield by the late Brig. Gen. Felix Sparks, 3rd Battalion again makes history with the state’s largest mobilization since then.

Edwards maintains his support for the “Quality of Life” policy, which is to keep Soldiers on a predictable deployment cycle. Soldiers will not be involuntarily mobilized if they fall within a three-year window of their last deployment; however, many Soldiers have already volunteered to waive this.

The Colorado Army National Guard launched its Pre-Mobilization Training Assessment Team to validate training here in Colorado reducing the overall time Soldiers spend at a mobilization station by conducting much of the required training in Colorado, mostly at local armories and Fort Carson.

“Our goal is to reduce the amount of time Soldiers spend away from their families and employers,” Edwards said. “This new concept reduces the overall time Soldiers and units spend at mobilization stations by up to three months.”

Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Al Morris, who returned from Iraq with the 169th Fires Brigade last year, completed the unit’s artillery training qualification this spring and turned his training focus to infantry tactics as he anticipated the order for mobilization. Using

**See MOBILIZATION, p. 6**

## Men who made history make lasting memories

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Michael Cost

Applause rang out Oct. 17 inside the terminal of Baltimore Washington International Airport as elderly men and one elderly woman debarked their 737 aircraft to begin a weekend none of them would ever forget. Whether teary-eyed or smiling proudly, the World War II American veterans walked, caned or moved by wheel chair toward the exit of the airport and into an adventure some may never experience if not for the help of a local Colorado organization.

Rocky Mountain Honor Flight is a unique organization which provides these veterans an opportunity to not only see a historic memorial built in recognition of their service more than 60 years ago, but also enables them to tour the city of Washington D.C. for two days.

“This is all made possible by donations from various other organizations, these veterans do not have to pay for anything,” proclaimed Mark Schoenrock, a retired U.S. Army colonel and currently a “Guardian” with RMHF.

“This is all about them and the sacrifice they made ... some of these guys have the most amazing stories,” said Schoenrock.

“We were in the Guadalcanal and most of our planes had taken pretty heavy damage, there were five still able to fly, but we only had enough fuel for three,” said retired Air Force Col. John Thompson as he stood under the Guadalcanal portion of the Iwo Jima memorial in D.C.

“So three pilots, myself included, hopped in the planes and took off. The men on the front lines were taking quite a beating from the Japanese so we swooped around and did a strafing run down their line taking out quite a few of them,” said Thompson.

“As you can imagine, when you have a couple thousand Japanese troops firing up at you, you are bound to take a hit. The guy behind me was hit in the coolant but we just turned around making a second strafe past their line and this time I got hit in the coolant. By the time we were done, you could see the Japanese running back and that allowed those boys on the front lines a



**WASHINGTON D.C.** - Senator Bob Dole meets with World War II veterans in front of the World War II Memorial Oct. 18, 2008. Dole stayed in chatted with the veterans for close to an hour listening to their stories and sharing his own from the war.

chance to regroup and press forward,” said Thompson with a dead serious look on his face.

“After all of that took place, that ridge where we made our runs was known as ‘Bloody Ridge,’” Thompson said.

These trips to the U.S. capitol are a great

**See MEMORIES, p. 8**

## COLORADO NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



6848 South Revere Pkwy  
 Centennial, CO 80112-3904

### PUBLICATION STAFF

**MAJ. GEN. H. MICHAEL EDWARDS**

*The Adjutant General*

**CAPT. ROBERT BELL**

*State Public Affairs Officer, JFHQ*

**MAJ. RENEE CUNNINGHAM**

*Chief of Public Affairs, Joint Staff*

**1ST LT. DARIN OVERSTREET**

*Deputy PAO, Joint Staff*

**CAPT. MICHAEL ODGERS**

*Commander, 104th PAD*

**CAPT. NICOLE DAVID**

*Public Affairs Officer, 140th Wing*

**MAJ. LAURA KENNEY**

*Chief Public Affairs, 100th MDB*

For more information, visit the Public Affairs Office in the Joint Forces Headquarters-Colorado Building, or call Public Affairs at (720) 250-1050/1/2.

For more information about editorial policies, visit [www.cong.army.mil/highground/editpolicy.asp](http://www.cong.army.mil/highground/editpolicy.asp)

## Two DMVA employees earn top award

Story and photo by  
 Tech Sgt. Cheresa D. Theiral

**ARVADA, Colo.** – Two employees of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs were recognized as top achievers by Gov. Bill Ritter in a ceremony Oct. 15.

State Top Achievement Recognition (STAR) awards, are highly coveted prizes earned by a handful of those whose knowledge and skills stand over and above their civil service peers.

Brett Jackson, the resident mechanical and energy engineer of DMVA Facilities office, earned the STAR Green Government Initiatives Award for his constant efforts to reduce the environmental impact of construction and other projects in Colorado National Guard facilities. Some of Jackson's most visible efforts can be seen in the Colorado Army National Guard's new aviation facility at Buckley Air Force Base, which was recently certified as a Leader in Energy and Environmental Design by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Chuck Grube, manager of the air traffic control tower at Buckley Air Force Base, earned the STAR Manager/Supervisor of the Year Award. Grube is responsible for the supervising all other air traffic controllers at the facility, as well as developing local procedures and coordinating with surrounding air traffic control facilities. In addition to meeting this challenge on a daily basis, he is also charged with recruiting, maintaining and motivating his staff and ensuring 100 percent mission accomplishment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Approximately 100 state employees or teams were nominated for 2008 STAR awards. Of those, only six actually received awards, and two of them were DMVA employees.

Many state employees refer to the STAR awards as the state equivalent to the Academy Awards, because the likelihood of receiving either one is very small, said Janelle Darnell, executive assistant to the Adjutant General of Colorado.

STAR awards culminate all other State of Colorado employee recognition activities during the month of October, which Ritter recently named Employee Recognition Month.

State of Colorado is the largest single employer in the state, employing more than 55,000 employees statewide.



ARVADA, Colo. - Gov. Bill Ritter, flanked by Colorado Air National Guard Lt. Col. Timothy Conklin and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs employee Brett Jackson, at the 2008 State Top Achievement Recognition awards banquet Oct. 15, 2008. Conklin accepted the STAR award on behalf of Chuck Grube, manager of the air traffic control tower at Buckley Air Force Base, who earned the STAR Manager/Supervisor of the Year Award. Jackson, the resident mechanical and energy engineer of the Department of Military Affairs Facilities office, earned the STAR award for Green Government Initiatives.

## Joint Counterdrug task force takes anti-drug message to schools

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. Cheresa D. Theiral

**AURORA, Colo.** – Colorado National Guard’s Joint Counter Drug Task Force, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency and Miss Colorado, led the charge to bring an anti-drug message to 65 schools across the state during Red Ribbon Week.

While Red Ribbon Week officially lasts one week starting Oct. 23, the Colorado JCDTF started its presentations Oct. 13 in order to reach all the schools that requested its support.

“Red Ribbon Week is a DEA initiative that we are glad to support,” said Colorado Air National Guard Lt. Col. Chris Ryan, CO-JCDTF commander. “We have a great partnership with the DEA in Red Ribbon Week as well as other narcotics enforcement initiatives. Red Ribbon Week presents the National Guard in a very positive light in our communities while it plants a positive, anti-drug message in the minds of Colorado kids. It also helps us get our foot in the door to promote some of our more involved programs like ‘Stay on Track,’ a measurable, evidenced based, drug abuse prevention program we have recently started presenting in Colorado schools.”

Two Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopters and associated counterdrug crews kicked off Red Ribbon Week at Peiffer Elementary School in Littleton, Colo.

When Michael Moore, a DEA agent, asked a group of Peiffer students what they wanted to be when they grew up, answers ran the gamut; among them, artists, professional sports players and veterinarians.

“What you guys heard was a lot of hopes and dreams, a lot of big ideas aspirations that can all come true, but you can’t do one thing,” Moore told the students. “You can’t do drugs because it will take your dreams away. You guys can do and achieve anything you want. You guys have to stay in school, put your mind to it and make good decisions.”

Jamie Dukehart-Conti, Miss Colorado 2008, then described her three jobs: representing her state and community as Miss Colorado, being a nanny and being a Denver Broncos cheerleader, all while striving to be an elementary school teacher. She said she’s successful because she’s never done drugs.

“You need to make good choices and good decisions along the way,” said Dukehart-Conti. “It’s not always easy, but it is really,



**LITTLETON, Colo.** - Colorado Army National Guard Capt. Ryan Brock, Drug Demand Reduction administrator, addresses students at Peiffer Elementary School during Red Ribbon Week Oct. 13, 2008.

really important that when you say no to drugs, you mean no.”

Peiffer students then went on to make a pledge to stay drug-free.

“I promise to never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever do drugs,” the children sounded in unison.

As a testament to power of positive influence, first grader Jenasey Martinez decided she wanted to be a Soldier, a helicopter pilot and Miss Colorado when she grows up, because after only a half hour anti-drug presentation, she sees awesome opportunities ahead.

“I think I’m going to be a powerful woman,” said first grader Jordan Parker, who doesn’t yet know what career path she’ll take. “I’m going to do something, but I’m not going to do drugs.”

Students were also given an opportunity to walk around the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter to see the drug interdiction helicopter up close.

The CO-JCDTF supports local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations and schools with a variety of services to help rid Colorado communities of the effects of drug abuse and associated social issues. For more information, visit <http://www.cong.army.mil/jso.html>.

## Celebrating women in the Army

Contributed by  
Army Capt. Holly Peterson

**F**rom Oct. 20 through Nov. 14, the U.S. Army is honoring the achievements of its women warriors as part of a three-week “Celebration of Women in the Army.” The commemoration coincides with the 30th anniversary of the full integration of women into the Army with the disestablishment of the Women’s Army Corps by former President Jimmy Carter.

Throughout the U.S. Army’s history, women have proven that when freedom is threatened, they are equal to any task... and when their country calls, they respond — not in gender-hyphenated roles — but as U.S. Army Soldiers. Today, women in the Army experience a level of equality

and opportunities that exceeded those available in the larger civilian community. With the advent of the all-volunteer force, Army leadership recognizes the invaluable contributions of its woman warriors.

Throughout our history, women have made sacrifices for our nation; our female Soldiers — these mothers, sisters, daughters and wives — place the needs of our nation above their own. Female Soldiers play a vital role in the Army of today; they are leaders — officers and noncommissioned officers; doctors, pilots, mechanics, military police officers and engineers. Our female Soldiers’ patriotism, fighting spirit and ability to reach across cultures strengthens our nation’s

presence around the world. We honor all female Soldiers for their strength, service and willingness to sacrifice everything for the freedom and liberty cherished by all Americans.

Today, women represent 14.1 percent of the Army National Guard, and women make up more than five percent of the general officers on active duty, with Lt. Gen. (P) Ann Dunwoody poised to become first woman to achieve the rank of a four-star general in the U.S. military.

If you know any women warriors, let the CONG Public Affairs Office know. Call the (720) 250-1054 email [congpa@ng.army.mil](mailto:congpa@ng.army.mil).

## Chaplain preaches suicide prevention

Story by  
Army Maj. Laura Kenney

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** – “I need your help. This problem is too big to handle by myself.”

With that plea, Chap. (Lt. Col.) Andrew Meverden, State Chaplain of the Colorado National Guard, began a presentation on suicide prevention in a class held Sept. 18. The audience was a mixture of Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and the 117th Space Battalion – both Colorado National Guard units assigned to U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command – and civilian contractors. The class was given at the headquarters of the 100th MDB.

“It has to be a team effort. The new theme is ‘shoulder-to-shoulder.’ That’s the only way we can combat this sad and tragic thing,” said Meverden.

Meverden, tall, rangy, normally cheerful and expressive, taught the day’s class with a sober and solemn mien.

“There has been such a huge stigma about mental illness, and this has contributed to a culture of Warriors not seeking help. But that culture is changing – now Air Force pilots can even ground themselves from flying,

something unheard of ‘back in the day.’

“We are working hard to establish a climate in which seeking help is not a character flaw but instead a sign of strength. The military overall is reviewing policies and procedures that would prevent Soldiers from asking for and getting the help that they need.”

The chaplain graphically demonstrated how issues such as depression often have physical roots. Interlacing his fingers and holding them up to the audience, he explained how trauma can affect the synapses between nerve endings, causing them to literally misfire. A physical reason for what is still viewed largely as “only” a mental problem. Medication and therapy can create new pathways in the brain – findings increasingly born out by medical science and research.

He also gave his own personal best advice for dealing with people who appear depressed.

“Believe it or not, low blood sugar can tremendously influence your mood. One of the first things I do when counseling someone who is really down is feed them. Stock ‘em up on sugar, calcium, protein – you’d be amazed at how different the world can look,

short-term, after a healthy meal.”

Meverden quoted research that shows that most familial arguments occur before dinner. His advice? Eat first, maybe do the dishes to give the food time to settle, then discuss major issues.

In another visual depiction of how Soldiers can intervene to prevent suicide, the chaplain briefly displayed a short video clip of actor Gary Sinise playing a guitar. He asked the audience, “Does anyone know who that is?”

A southern-drawled “Lieu-tenant Da-an!” came in a chorus back from the audience. Sinise played the depressed and suicidal lieutenant in the famous movie, “Forrest Gump.” Lt. Dan is rescued physically and then spiritually by the character played by Tom Hanks. Brief vignettes from the movie refreshed the audience’s memories.

“How did Forrest help Lieutenant Dan?” asked Meverden. “By helping him get back a purpose in life.”

Meverden continued, “Research has shown that one’s self-image ac-



tually affects **See CHAPLAIN, p. 7**

## Commissaries to promote Warrior Care

Story by Kevin L. Robinson  
American Forces Press Services

**FORT LEE, Va., Oct. 30, 2008** – The Defense Commissary Agency will join other Defense Department organizations in observing November as Warrior Care Month.

The observance is designed to inform military members and their families about the many programs that are, and will be, available to assist wounded warriors.

In a memorandum announcing this initiative, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said he wants to focus DoD’s efforts in drawing attention to improvements for the support of wounded warriors.

Through Warrior Care Month, Gates said, he also intends to send “a clear message to our servicemembers and the public that there is no higher priority for this department than caring for those who have made personal sacrifices in the defense of our nation.”

Throughout November, commissaries will display posters to emphasize wounded warriors and the programs that exist for their care and support. Throughout the year, personnel from DeCA’s human resources and equal employment opportunity offices have teamed to recruit wounded warriors, along with civilians with targeted disabilities and veterans with a 30 percent or more disability rating.

“Our men and women in uniform who have been wounded or injured deserve more than our spoken gratitude,” said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and chief executive officer. “During Warrior Care Month, the Defense Commissary Agency will do its part to focus more attention on the resources to support our troops in their recovery and rehabilitation.”

In addition to posters in commissaries to raise awareness, DeCA will use its Web site, [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com), to highlight programs and initiatives being provided through the warrior care system and to direct visitors to the agency’s job opportunities for wounded warriors.

To further help wounded warriors and their families with any questions, concerns or problems during their recovery process, DoD created a Web site, [www.warriorcare.mil](http://www.warriorcare.mil), to provide a lasting gateway for resources and ongoing programs. The site includes a directory to find information throughout DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs about the military health system and existing service programs. Over time, warriorcare.mil will grow as new programs are introduced, officials said.

The term “wounded warrior” applies to all wounded, ill and injured military members and veterans. Each military service has specific units to address the needs of these troops. The Marines and the Army, for example, have established wounded warrior battalions and warrior transition units, respectively, to assist their servicemembers as they receive medical treatment.

Military OneSource also has created a 24-hour Wounded Warrior Resource Center that can be reached by telephone at 800-342-9647 and by e-mail at [wwrc@militaryonesource.com](mailto:wwrc@militaryonesource.com). The center is staffed with trained consultants who will direct callers to the military or federal agency that can best help them. The consultant is expected to maintain contact with the caller until their question or concern is resolved, officials said, though the center is not designed to replace existing military units that support wounded warriors.

## Local school thanks veterans

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. Cheresa D. Theiral

**AURORA, Colo.** – Sunrise Elementary School hosted its fifth annual Veterans Day parade to honor former and current members of the U.S. armed services Oct. 17.

Among the numerous honorees were 12 current members of the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard, from Buckley Air Force Base.

The Airmen officially kicked off the parade by leading the children from their classrooms into the schoolyard, then lined up on a sidewalk across from the playground and cheered as students marched by with patriotic displays.

Three Airmen also sat on the judging panel.

A second grade class chanted, “We love America!” along the parade route. Another class made a helicopter out of cardboard and rolled it down the sidewalk in a wagon. A fifth grade class marched in cadence and carried a cardboard mosaic, so that when each child held up his or her individual tile, a simulated American flag was displayed on one side and “USA” on the other. Kindergarteners in an after school program gave veterans five fives.

“It was awesome,” said Master Sergeant Mike Sundin of the 140th Maintenance Squadron, whose wife Nikki is a first grade teacher at the school. “It’s nice to see that as tumultuous as the world is right now, kids are

still learning about and respecting our country.”

“It’s good to see kids display patriotism and creativity at the same time,” said Staff Sgt. Desmond Lyles of the 140th Maintenance Squadron, who sat on the judging panel. “It makes me proud, and it’s good to be appreciated for what we do.”

“I think I enjoyed it more than the kids,” said Senior Master Sgt. Lawrence Aragon of the 140th Operational Support Squadron, who was also a judge. “It’s nice to see patriotism is still alive in kids, and for them to take the time to make signs and say ‘thank you.’”

And when it came time to name the official winner, “All the kids were winners,” said parent Mary VanMinnen.

While Veterans Day is officially a few weeks away, Tamara Speidel, the assistant principal of Sunrise Elementary, said the event is simply intended to honor those who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces, and was timely in respect to current national events.

“It’s important for students to learn about what freedom is and how we obtain it,” she said. “We feel fortunate we live in a country with freedom. This isn’t what it’s like anywhere else.”

Select children also interviewed veterans, including Tech. Sgt. Sarah Klassen of the 120th Fighter Squadron, in preparation for a “Super School News” segment, scheduled for broadcast on channel 6 the week of Nov. 19.



**AURORA, Colo.** - Spectators clap and cheer as fifth grade students hold up their mosaic display simulating the American flag during a Veterans Day parade at Sunrise Elementary School Oct. 17, 2008.

## Colorado Army National Guard recruiting officers

Story by  
Army Capt. George O’Neill



As an Enlisted Soldier, have you ever asked yourself if becoming an officer is right for you? Every December, the 168th Regimental Training Institute located at Fort Carson collects numerous applications from Soldiers around the state who want to become either a warrant officer, or a commissioned officer for the Colorado National Guard. These Soldiers will be attending our State’s Warrant Officer Candidate School and Officer Candidate Schools.

The eligibility criteria needed to attend WOCS include having a GT score of 110 or higher, being less than 52 years of age on the date of commissioning, holding the rank of E5 (E4 with military occupational specialty experience) and previously attending Primary Leadership Development Course or Warrior Leaders Course. Depending on the warrant branch, some college may be required. To become a warrant officer candidate, you need to predetermine your branch, meaning that you need to select a vacant



warrant officer position before you begin WOCS. The deadline to predetermine for WOCS is Dec. 1. For information on how to predetermine, please contact Chief Warrant Officer-3 Tami Brown at (720) 250-1352.

The basic eligibility criteria needed to attend OCS include having a GT score of 110 or higher, being less than 42 years of age on the date of commissioning, having a minimum of 60 college semester hours (90 hours needed to commission) and the ability to pass an Army Physical Fitness Test. With these qualifications and a letter of recommendation from your unit commander, you will be eligible to attend OCS. The deadline to submit an OCS application is Dec. 12. Your full-time unit personnel will assist you in filling out the application. For more information on the OCS program, please contact Capt. George O’Neill at (720) 250-1063.

Now is the time to earn your commission and continue your contributions to the Colorado Army National Guard!

**From MOBILIZATION, p. 1**

experience he gained from his previous deployment and the unique training requirements for their upcoming mission, Morris put his Soldiers through an intensive three-week annual training in June that included using a mock village for operations in urban terrain, combat foot patrols and interacting positively with civilians on the battlefield.

“Our upcoming training will continue on weekends and will ramp up after the holiday season. It will include hand-to-hand combat,

defense against improvised explosive devices, emergency combat life saving, and cultural and language training,” Morris said.

The Colorado Army National Guard currently has approximately 160 Soldiers deployed. While the Colorado National Guard continues to support the War on Terror, it maintains sufficient forces and capabilities to deter or respond to emergencies and potential homeland security threats here in Colorado. These forces and capabilities are also available should they be requested by the Governors of other states or by United States Northern Command.



## Odierno assumes command of Coalition Forces in Iraq

Story by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Services  
DoD photo by Airman 1st Class Matthew Plew

**CAMP VICTORY, Iraq, Sept. 16, 2008** – Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno assumed command of Multinational Force Iraq from Army Gen. David H. Petraeus during a ceremony at al Faw Palace here today.

The change of command occurs after incredible progress in the country, said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who traveled to Baghdad to participate in the ceremony.

“When General Petraeus took charge 19 months ago, darkness had descended on this land,” the secretary said. “Merchants of chaos were gaining strength. Death was commonplace. Around the world, questions mounted about whether a new strategy – or any strategy, for that matter – could make a real difference.”

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted that a national intelligence estimate in January 2007 doubted whether Iraq could reconcile over 18 months.

“Here we are, 18 months later, and Iraq is a vastly different place,” Mullen said during the ceremony. “Attacks are at their lowest point in four years, 11 of 18 provinces have been turned over – including the once-written-off Anbar province – to Iraqi security forces, who are increasingly capable and taking more of a lead in operations.”

The Iraqi government is providing for its people, the legislature is passing laws and the courts are enforcing justice, the chairman said. “In more places and on more faces we are seeing hope; we see progress,” the admiral said.

Mullen said he looks forward to working with Petraeus as the general takes over the reins of U.S. Central Command next

month.

Petraeus put all the credit for the progress in Iraq at the feet of “the men and women of the coalition and with the many courageous diplomats and Iraqis with whom we have served.”

Petraeus thanked the Iraqi civilian and military leaders for their leadership. “You have risked everything to help your country make the most of the opportunity that our forces and yours have fought so hard to provide,” he said.

The Iraqi people also have made the strategy work, standing with the new Iraq against extremism, Petraeus said.

“You’ve endured tragic losses and countless hardships, but you’ve begun the process of repairing the fabric of a society ripped apart by the horrific sectarian violence of 2006 and into 2007,” he said. “There will always be a place in my heart for the ‘Land of the Two Rivers’ and the people of Iraq.”

Petraeus noted that when he took command he told coalition servicemembers that the situation in Iraq was “hard, but not hopeless.” The coalition and Iraqi partners stemmed the tide of violence and helped Iraq step back from civil war, Petraeus said.

“Al-Qaida in Iraq, though still lethal and dangerous, is on the run and reduced in capability,” the general said, “and militia activity – while still a threat as well – has



been reduced dramatically.”

Coalition troops adopted the counterinsurgency strategy wholeheartedly, and they played unconventional roles to bring about change in the land, Petraeus said. “You have, in short, been builders as well as guardians, statesmen as well as warriors,” he said.

Odierno, who is beginning his third tour in Iraq, served under Petraeus as commander of Multinational Corps Iraq. Gates said the pair formed “an incredible team” in putting the troop surge and the new counterinsurgency strategy to work, and that Odierno “knows that we are at a pivotal moment where progress remains fragile and caution should be the order of the day.”

“And as we proceed further into the endgame here,” Gates continued, “I am sure he will make tough, but necessary, decisions to protect our national interest.”

Petraeus will take command of U.S. Central Command in late October.

## Colorado Air National Guard commemorates '68 call-up

Story by Air Force Capt. Kristin Haley  
and Tech. Sgt. Cheresa D. Theiral  
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Wolfram M. Stumpf

**DENVER** – The 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard commemorated the 40th anniversary of the Guardsmen’s mobilization following the 1968 Pueblo Crisis in a ceremony at the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum Oct. 4.

The '68 Call-Up Reunion recognized the Southeast Asia mobilization and honored the 900 Guardsmen who deployed during that time.

The formal program included speakers such as Maj. Gen H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado; Maj. Gen. (Retired) John France, former Adjutant General of Colorado and former 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron operations officer mobilized for the 1968 call-up; and General John Michael Loh, former commander of United States Air Force Air Combat Command.

“What an honor and what a privilege it is to be here with my heroes,” said Edwards, as he implored upon current COANG members to carry the torch of their forerunners. “You must always remember your past as you look forward to the future, because it’s those heroes who set the bar so high for the Colorado Air National Guard.”

In addition, Brig. Gen. Trulan A. Eyre, 140th Wing commander, honored the family of Maj. Clyde Seiler, an F-100 pilot who was killed in action, and Maj. Perry Jefferson, an intelligence officer who was missing in action for 39 years. The two members of the 120th Tacti-

cal Fighter Squadron were lost while stationed at Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam, within three weeks of the unit’s return to Buckley Air National Guard base in 1969.

“Perry Jefferson ... he was the ultimate nice guy,” said '68 veteran Gene Eddy, an F-100 crew chief. “All our pilots were top notch pilots and they were our friends, all at the same time. When we went over there [Vietnam] we were a team, and we stayed a team.”

The reunion also united current Colorado Guardsmen with those involved in the 1968 mobilization and demonstrated that not matter how technology changes, some things will always stay the same – things like operational security, camaraderie and the desire for the latest in electronic gadgets.

“We didn’t know we were going to Vietnam until we were in the air,” said '68 Call-Up veteran Larry Meis.

“We had some great times,” said former Colorado Guardsman Richard Slack. “Everybody kind of sticks together and

looks out for each other. Here, you’re kind of a big family.”

“We always had a lot of orders from the guys over in Vietnam to bring them this or that back, like electronics or stuff like that,” said Meis, who was assigned to a crew that flew to Hong Kong for parts. “One time I had \$10,000 in \$10 bills to bring back stuff for the guys, cameras and all that kind of stuff. Prices were good in Hong Kong.”

The 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron was the first Air National Guard unit called to combat in the Vietnam conflict.



**DENVER** - 140th Wing retirees Ken Love and Dewey Hicks share memories at the '68 Call-Up Reunion the at Wings over the Rockies Air & Space Museum Oct. 4, 2008.

### From CHAPLAIN, p. 4

the level of neuroepinephrines in a person’s brain. People need to be treated with dignity and respect. Removing the stigma from mental health problems is a huge step toward giving our Soldiers, many of whom have experienced horrific things while serving their country, that dignity and respect.”

Getting to the nitty-gritty of how the Army in particular is planning to combat the rising tide of suicides, Meverden described how each Soldier can be “an ACE in the hole.”

Revolving around the time-honored and proven buddy system, the program, summarized on a facsimile of a playing card, requires Soldiers to:

Ask your buddy if he or she is having thoughts of killing him or herself.

Care for your buddy – calmly control the situation and remove any means that could be used for self-injury.

Escort your buddy to someone who can help – such as the chain of command the Chaplain, a behavioral health expert – and never leave your buddy alone.

Meverden has seen firsthand the increasing rate of suicides.

“Prior to 9/11, I probably was called in five to six times a year. Since that terrible day, it’s 10 to 15 times a year.”

“Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. If you can help your buddy get through that temporary time of sorrow and anxiety, help him or her through that time of crisis, you will have done a wonderful thing,” said Meverden.

**Anyone looking for assistance can get help from the offices listed below. The Colorado National Guard has programs available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

- Military Family Life Consultant (720) 250-1194
- Youth Military Family Life Consultant (720) 250-1198
- Military OneSource (800) 342-9674
- State Chaplain (720) 250-1074
- Wing Family Program Coordinator (720) 847-9116
- Family Assistance Center Coordinator (720) 250-1186

## From MEMORIES, p. 1

opportunity not only for these veterans to see the memorials, but to share each other's stories and meet other veterans as well, some of whom served in the same areas and in the same conflicts.

"John Thompson saved our butts," said Bill Allen, a retired United States Marine when speaking of the strafing runs he and the other two pilots did that day at Guadalcanal.

"He kept the Japanese off of our necks and here we are just meeting for the first time," said Allen.

"I sat down and starting talking to him about his story and I just couldn't believe it ... we were both at Bloody Ridge and never knew each other and here we meet ... it's just great," said Allen excitedly.

All these former service members had their accounts of what happened to them; some recalled battles they took part in which have since become a huge part of history in this country.

"I was at the Battle of Iwo Jima for six days and our job was to conduct mop-up operations there," said Gerald Krutsch, a retired Army lieutenant colonel.

"I was a staff sergeant at the time and I was a light weapons section leader. We had the .30 caliber machine gun, 61 millimeter mortars as well as a Browning Automatic Rifle and several riflemen to give support," said Krutsch.

"We encountered sporadic fighting throughout the six days I was there and by the time we were done — there were only five

Japanese survivors," Krutsch proclaimed.

Krutsch, and a Japanese survivor of the battle, were later featured in a Japanese documentary called "Iwo Jima — The Island of Death." Krutsch received a Bronze Star for valor during the battle.

These veterans got to tour Washington D.C. and see many different memorials, all at no cost to them. Food was even provided for them by RMHF. Most of them, bound by wheelchairs or having to use walkers to get around with, would have never had the opportunity to be involved in such an adventure due to financial reasons, overall physical condition or other circumstances — but it was made possible by RMHF.

"On this trip we have 35 veterans and 15 guardians," said Shoenrock.

"It is up to the Guardians to take care of the veterans, get them to these sights and provide whatever support they need," he said.

It has been more than 60 years since these veterans served in the last world war, one which caused a worldwide mobilization of more than 100 million troops. The trip they took from Colorado to Washington D.C. to see these memorials not only brought back old memories, but also made new ones.

"I think this trip is great," said Krutsch.



World War II veterans watch the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery Oct. 18, 2008.

"It would've never been possible for me otherwise because of the cost and I am very thankful for the opportunity to be here," he said.

Upon arrival back at Denver International Airport main terminal, bagpipes could faintly be heard as the veterans boarded an elevator to meet back up with family members for the ride home.

The elevator doors slid open to reveal a crowd of approximately one hundred grateful American citizens clapping, holding signs stating "Thank you for your service!" Two men in Scottish kilts played hymns on bagpipes as miniature American flags were vigorously waved. It was as if the veterans had returned from the war that day ... and those 60 years had never gone by.

Once again, tears as well as smiles emerged as these veterans completed a three-day trip put together solely to honor them and their sacrifices.

It takes not only donations from various organizations, but dedicated people to make all this possible for the former service members. Although their organization may not be world famous, Rocky Mountain Honor Flight and its volunteers are now a top-notch memory for at least 35 veterans from WWII.

*As a 25-year-old combat veteran, I am grateful to have been a "Guardian" on this trip. It was an honor to spend time with the veterans as they visited their memorials throughout Washington D.C. It was a very touching moment for me when these American war heroes viewed the monuments built in honor of their experiences. I hope every veteran of every war gets the opportunity to do such a trip as time passes and their war fades in their memories. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your great service to this nation. — Sgt. Michael Cost*



Ret. Marine Corps pilot David Gavin looks at the same model aircraft he flew in WWII. He said that he shot down two Japanese Zeros using this very same model plane.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment who are recent recipients of the Sikorsky Rescue Award:



Capt. Troy Brown  
Chief Warrant Officer Steve McElhenny  
Staff Sgt. Marc Belo  
Staff Sgt. Bryan Scott

The award is given to acknowledge the humanitarian efforts of all pilots and crewmembers who put themselves in harm's way to save others and fulfill company founder Igor Sikorsky's vision of the helicopter as a unique and powerful life-saving instrument.

## Flying by Denver

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Liesl Marelli



DENVER METROPOLITAN AREA, Colo. – Colorado Guard Soldier Sgt. Elisa Locke, a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation, scans her sector outside the UH-60 Black Hawk for aircraft while traveling in the Denver area, Oct. 8, 2008. Locke, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, is one of two female Black Hawk crew chiefs currently assigned to 2nd Battalion 135th Aviation.

## ATTENTION COLORADO GUARDSMEN!

National Guard Bureau is looking for Soldiers and Airmen to highlight in its "Above and Beyond" recognition program.

This is an opportunity for leaders to select your most outstanding Soldiers and Airmen for this recognition.

Stories suggestions by NGB for the program include:

- "Hurricane Heroes" – National Guardsmen/women who helped rescue efforts, assisted local community police, and other noteworthy actions.
- Major awards and decorations
- Exceptional acts of bravery and humanitarian efforts whether on or off duty.

To request the "Above and Beyond" form, please email [congpa@ng.army.mil](mailto:congpa@ng.army.mil) or call the CONG Public Affairs Office at (720) 250-1054/3.

## Slingin' a load

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Liesl Marelli



GUERNSEY, Wyo. – Colorado Army National Guard Black Hawk Crew Chief Staff Sgt. Marc Belo and Air Force Master Sgt. Tom Freeman, a C-130 loadmaster, check over cargo that will be transported by aircraft to an alternate location Oct. 8, 2008. While Belo directs the pilots where to fly the aircraft, Freeman will be below the aircraft and once properly aligned, will attach the item for transportation. "Black Hawks are designed to move equipment around the battlefield. An external hook is one of the ways to do it if it's too large to fit inside," said Colorado Crew Chief Sgt. Elisa Locke.

## Guardsmen help Broncos' wives raise money for charity

Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Liesl Marelli



DENVER – Staff Sgt. Adam Dorey of the Colorado Army National Guard and Holli Williams, partner of Broncos quarterbacks coach Jeremy Bates, stand outside a gate at Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High among the foot traffic of Broncos fans to help raise money for Colorado's hungry and homeless Oct. 12, 2008. Soldiers assigned to the Colorado National Guard donated their time to help with the Broncos' Wives Food Drive, which helped raise more than \$37,000.

## DLI offers free online language materials

**PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, Calif.** - The Defense Language Institute has launched a new Web site that offers hundreds of “language survival kits” and other materials free of charge to deploying service members.

DLI’s Foreign Language Center developed the Language Materials Distribution System Web site and went live July 1. To view the shopping cart, go to: <https://lmds.dliflc.edu>.

The Language Survival Kits offered on the Web site are pocket-size booklets with audio CDs, in over 30 languages, ranging in topics from public affairs, cordon and search, to medical terminology.

DLIFLC also offers new Headstart language DVD programs that use cutting-edge technology and computer animation to teach 80 hours of self-paced lessons and are designed to teach survival phrases in Iraqi Arabic, and Afghan Dari and Pashto.

Language materials can be viewed, downloaded, and ordered at [www.dliflc.edu](http://www.dliflc.edu) under the Products tab. Users must register and receive DLIFLC account approval before placing an order. Some products are not available for download to the general public, officials said. *(Contributed by Army Public Affairs)*

## November is Native American Heritage Month

*INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR*

- What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

- One of the very first proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day.

- In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kan., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

- The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

- The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

- In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

## Upcoming veterans events in November

- Nov. 2, 6 p.m., on the Wings of Eagles concert presented by Veterans Administration National Medical Chorale and Symphony Orchestra, Denver First Baptist Church, 3800 E. Hampden Ave.

- Nov. 6, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 18th Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Denver Armony, 5275 Franklin St. Homeless veterans will have the opportunity to receive assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies for employment, rehabilitation, social services, flu shots and other necessities.

- Nov. 8, 10:00 a.m. Veterans Day parade, downtown Denver. Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, the Adjutant General of Colorado, will be on hand for the event. Immediately following the parade, members of the Colorado National Guard will read the names of our fallen Colorado service members at the Veterans Memorial monument in Lincoln Park, across the street from the state capitol building.

- Nov. 8, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., 101st Band concert, Ralston Valley High School, 13355 W. 80th Ave., Arvada. Admission is free.

- Nov. 9, 10 a.m., rededication of 1st Lt. William Wise grave site at Riverside Cemetery, 5201 Brighton Blvd., Denver. Wise and his son were members of the 2nd Colorado Cavalry. The elder Wise fought against the Confederate Army in Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas during the Civil War.

- Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m., premier of “The Wars We Fought: Frontline Stories of Colorado Veterans.” The film presents the recollections of Colorado veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam in vivid detail. Community College of Aurora Fine Arts Building, Room F100, 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, Aurora.

- Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 14th Annual Aurora Veterans Salute, 7711 E. Academy Blvd., (Hangar 1) at Lowry.



# 101st Army Band



## **Free Concert To Salute Our Veterans**

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

**3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Ralston Valley High School**

**13355 W. 80th Ave. ~ Arvada**

**No Tickets Required**

**Call 720-847-8615 for Information**

14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
2008 Aurora Veterans Salute

In Honor  
of those who Served



Wednesday,  
November 12, 2008

*proudly presented by*  
Aurora Center  
for Active Adults



*title sponsors*

**Raytheon**



WINGS  
OVER THE  
ROCKIES  
AIR & SPACE MUSEUM



*event sponsors*



*hosted by*

**Wings Over the Rockies  
Air & Space Museum**  
7711 E. Academy Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80230

**9-10:45 a.m.**

Coffee Social &  
Museum Tours

**11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

Luncheon &  
Veterans Tribute  
LUNCH PROVIDED BY  
Carrabba's Italian Grill

Veterans & Military • \$15  
Non-Military Guests • \$20

General registration  
begins August 1, 2008  
303-739-7950

Reservations for groups of 8  
or more, call 303-739-7954.

Group registration &  
payment due Oct. 3, 2008.

*in partnership with*

**Buckley Air Force Base  
460th Space Wing**

**Colorado Air National  
Guard, 140th Wing**

**Air Reserve Personnel Center  
Aerospace Data Facility**

[auroragov.org/recreation](http://auroragov.org/recreation)