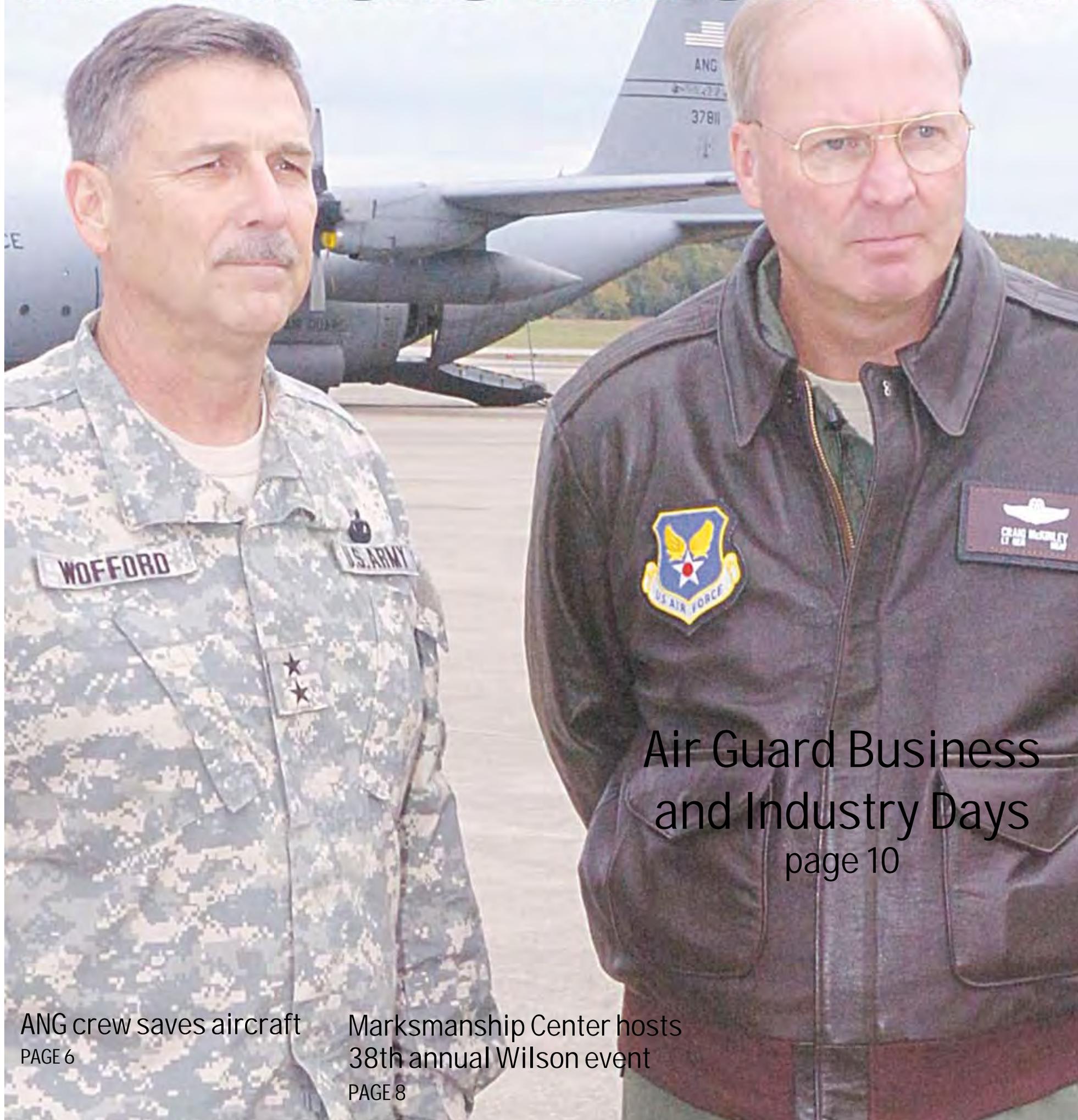


ARKANSAS MINUTEMAN



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and Industry Days
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ANG crew saves aircraft
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Marksmanship Center hosts
38th annual Wilson event
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Arkansas Guard News

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LT. GEN. CRAIG MCKINLEY, director of the Air National Guard, (right) and **Maj. Gen. William Wofford**, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard (left) hosted over 50 civic, business and industry leaders from throughout seven states at Little Rock Air Force Base on Oct. 23 for the Air National Guard's Business and Industry Days event. The program, conceived of by Gen. McKinley a number of years ago, is designed to provide an insight for employers into the equipment, mission, dedication and sacrifice of the National Guard. This insight fosters better relationships and continued Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves.

FROM THE TOP

Employers vital to Guardsman support triad

The Arkansas Air National Guard, with assistance and participation from the Army Guard, hosted Business and Industry Days at Little Rock Air Force Base. This event brought business, industry and civic leaders from seven states to the base and to Camp Robinson on October 23, 2008. Many of these invited guests were themselves employers of Guardsmen in their respective hometowns.

The Business and Industry Days program was established by Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the director of the Air National Guard, several years ago in order to shine a light on the capabilities of the Air National Guard, its varied missions, and the value of Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve. Employer support has been, and will always be, vital to the success of any Guardsman in performing his or her military role.

For many years we have worked diligently with employers to develop legislation, regulations, and programs to protect and assist Guard members in maintaining their employment status while away from their civilian jobs during a mobilization. As a result we are currently realizing unprecedented support from our employers – especially here in Arkansas. In fact, many have been nominated by their employees for the “Above & Beyond” award for the support they’ve given to their Guard employees that go beyond the requirements set forth in the law.

With the evolution of the Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force came the additional stresses on all three sides of the Guard support triad



Maj. Gen. William Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard (left) and **Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley**, director of the Air National Guard.

Photo courtesy of Arkansas National Guard

– Guard members, Families and employers. Action has been going forward in recent years for additional benefits and programs to assist both Guardsmen and their Families. These have come in the form of educational benefits, health coverage benefits, reintegration mandates, and other benefits in order to take care of our Soldiers/Airmen and their Families. The Soldiers and Airmen of the Arkansas National Guard are fortunate to receive such tremendous support from their employers, and they have come to realize that employers also sacrifice when our troops are deployed to support the global war on terror.

Nevertheless, opinions expressed by visitors to Business and Industry Days – both out-of-state and locally – was reflec-

tive of an overwhelming pride in their Guard employees. Many noted the level of responsibility, reliability and the leadership caliber of their Guard employees compared to their other employees. I am proud to hear such comments about our Guard members. I commend you for not only exhibiting our core values as skilled and professional Soldiers and Airmen, but also for taking those same characteristics to your civilian jobs; once again demonstrating the spirit and character that is - The Citizen Soldier.

As we prepare for the return of over 3,000 Arkansas Army National Guard Soldiers from Iraq, many on their second deployment, we have begun discussions with leaders in our communities, industries, and

with our legislators to identify ways that we can help support our employers.

Our support for employer incentives not only shows our thanks for the unwavering support they’ve provided our deployed Soldiers and Airmen, but also illustrates that hiring Guardsmen is good for their business. National Guard leadership realizes that without fortifying our support for our employers – there could be a much smaller future Guard.

I ask all of my fellow citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to take time this week to thank your employer for their continued support, especially if you’ve been deployed and returned to find your job ready and waiting for you. Our civilian employers are vital to our success.

RESOURCES FOR HELP TO SOLDIERS, AIRMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

■ Little Rock Veterans Hospital Mental Health Clinic, 4300 W. 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72205 (501)257-6748

■ For M-Day veterans – Call Nakia Williams at (501) 257-6706, Or call the HELpline (501) 257-5656

■ Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press “1”.

■ Military OneSource - Call 1-800-342-9647 or go online at MilitaryOnceSource.com and login for free.

■ The Beck PRIDE Center for Wounded Veterans at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Ark., Phone: (870) 972-2624 | Fax: (870) 972-2040

Kelly McCoy, Services Specialist, kmccoy@astate.edu, Direct: (870) 680-4110

■ Visit the Beck PRIDE Center For Wounded Veterans CHICKASAW BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR, 104 North Caraway Road, Jonesboro, Arkansas

■ Arkansas National Guard Chaplains' Offices – (501) 212-5621

■ Camp Robinson Troop Medical Clinic – for appointments: (501) 212-5262

Arkansas Soldiers honored for overseas service

Freedom Salute Ceremony thanks 213th Area Support Medical Company

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – Approximately 70 Soldiers of the Arkansas Army National Guard's North Little Rock based 213th Area Support Medical Company were honored Sept. 19 at a Freedom Salute ceremony at Camp Robinson for their service in Iraq.

While on a yearlong mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Soldiers served as the healers of the battlefield, providing "Level II" medical care throughout all of South Central and Southeast Iraq.

They returned to the U.S. in late June after having treated over 20,000 patients.

The unit's main job was to take care of all sick calls, emergency incoming and mass casualties on their assigned bases. "We provided [emergency medical services] for all coalition forces, U.S. forces and [third country nationals] that were on post," said Sgt. Jerry Claggett of Conway, Ark.

"We were also in charge of triaging any personnel that were coming on post; most of those were Iraqi Soldiers

and Iraqi Police."

Friends and family gathered with the Soldiers at the 233rd Regiment Regional Training Institute's general instruction building. Brig. Gen. Richard Swan, chief of the joint staff, served as the keynote speaker.

"It's a great pleasure to honor Soldiers like you," said Swan. "Job well done, 213th. And to the families, we especially thank you for your support and sacrifice."

The Freedom Salute is a nationwide campaign recognizing Army National Guard members who served in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and/or Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony each Soldier received an encased American flag, among other items presented.

The Arkansas National guard continues to have approximately 3,200 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized in support of overseas operations.

Since Sep. 11, 2001, the Arkansas Guard has supported the mobilization of over 11,000 troops.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

THANKING HER FOR HER SERVICE: (above) Spc. Amanda Clark of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 213th Area Support Medical Company accepts a special encased American flag from Maj. Gen. William D. Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, during a Freedom Salute ceremony at Camp Robinson Oct. 19.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

FLAGS FOR HEROES: (right) Encased American flags stand ready to be presented to members of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 213th Area Support Medical Company at a Freedom Salute ceremony held Sept. 19 on Camp Robinson.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

MCCLELLAN PINS WIFE. Spc. James McClellan presents a special spouses' pin to his wife Laura during a special Freedom Salute ceremony honoring the Soldiers of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 213th Area Support Medical Company, and their families, on Camp Robinson Oct. 19.

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Command chief focused on issues

By Master Sgt. Bob Oldham
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

BISMARCK, Ark. – With his military career coming to a close, the Air National Guard's command chief master sergeant still has his focus on enlisted Airmen and a vested interest in their success.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, the ninth ANG command chief master sergeant, was here Oct. 17-19 to speak with Arkansas Air National Guard chief master sergeants, first sergeants and select NCOs from around the state at the 7th Annual Enlisted Symposium at the Lake DeGray Lodge in Lake DeGray State Park.

When the chief was named to his current position, fitness of the force was an issue. Four years later, fitness is still at the forefront. Effective Oct. 1, the marginal category went away for Guardsmen. They still have to score a 75 to pass, but 74.9 or less is now a poor, or failing, score.

"I think you always have to strive for continuous improvement," the chief said. "If a 75.2 is the best that you can do, then that's OK. But you need to ask yourself, 'Is that the best I can do, or do I need to be shooting for an 80?'"

Enlisted leaders are concerned that Airmen are working toward just passing the test, referring to it as Fit to Pass instead of Fit to Fight.

"It's not about the test," he

advised Airmen at the symposium. "It's about readiness. It's about being fit. It's about a healthy lifestyle. We as leaders can't look at it as a once-a-year test. We have to think year-round."

He equated it to weapons qualification. The Air National Guard requires Airmen to have passing scores, and it needs Airmen with passing scores to deploy. The Air Force established 75 as the minimum passing score on the fitness test, but that's just the minimum. The rhetorical question each Airman has to answer is: Do you want an Airman on patrol with you who fired expert or near expert with the M-16 rifle or an Airman who qualified with the minimum qualifying score?

Weapons qualification is one of many war-skills or ancillary training requirements that are levied on an Airman's time these days, time that is precious as Airmen strive to stay qualified through on-the-job training.

"Corporately, we have to take care of the amount of ancillary training," the chief said, noting, that in some cases, unit leaders can glean efficiencies in their daily drill schedule to maximize training opportunities.

He said he'd like to see training requirements fall more in line with the Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployment cycle. For example, an Airman would deploy, return home and reconstitute, then have

a training cycle to prepare for the next deployment, putting training on a "20-month cycle."

The Air Force is currently looking at additional duties to see which should be streamlined or shelved to help ease some of the workload on Airmen. The

chief said the ANG will take its lead from the Air Force, and he's interested to see the results of the Air Force survey.

"They're not all going to go away, but have they outlived their usefulness?" he asked. In some cases, yes. In some cases, no.

As Airmen transition from the Battle Dress Uniform to the Airman Battle Uniform, the Air National Guard finds itself in unenviable territory. BDU stocks are now nonexistent yet ABUs aren't mandatory until fiscal year 2011. That means Airmen with worn

out BDUs can't get them replaced with BDUs and logistics readiness squadrons haven't been funded to outfit Guardsmen with ABUs.

"We're in a predicament we didn't ask for, and we don't have a whole lot of control over it," the chief said.

LITTLE ROCK Healthcare Profiles



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As parents, it's difficult to watch a child going through tough times. How long should you muddle through on your own, supporting your child as best you can? At what point does concerning behavior cross the line into scary behavior?

Questions bring more questions: "If I take my child for mental health help, will he be on drugs for the rest of his life? Will she be doomed to carry a label throughout her school years? Where will it end?"

David Streett, MD, offers words of reassurance: "Most of the kids we treat are just briefly deviating from their normal, healthy developmental path. If they get help early on, chances are they'll never need it again."

This father of three is a psychiatrist specializing in the care of children and adolescents. He serves as the Medical Director at Pinnacle Point Behavioral HealthCare System, Little Rock's premier provider of outpatient and inpatient mental health services for children and teenagers. Most kids, he says, will do fine with outpatient treatment. Therapy and perhaps medication will get them back on track. "The key," he says, "is early intervention."

Pointing out that most parents wouldn't hesitate to seek treatment for a child's possibly-broken limb, Dr. Streett urges parents to trust their instincts. "If you think something is wrong, do something about it," he advises. "Call us. One of our professionals will provide a free assessment of your child's behavioral health and recommend an appropriate level of service."

Families in Crisis Don't Have to Wait

Pinnacle Point offers free, confidential assessment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as a community service. Dr. Streett suggests that parents seek help if a child exhibits:

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- An inability to cope with feelings
- Frequent crying
- Pleas for help
- Fears of everyday things and/or possible disasters such as the deaths of family members
- No interest in playing
- Isolation
- Discussions of death and dying; statements like "I wish I were dead."
- Trouble sleeping
- Sexually provocative behavior
- Self-mutilation
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Where to go for help



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Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Oldham

CHIEF MASTER SGT. Richard Smith, the Air National Guard's ninth command chief master sergeant, shares a laugh Oct. 18 with Arkansas National Guard chief master sergeants, first sergeants and select NCOs from around the state. The chief was one of several guest speakers at the 7th Annual Enlisted Symposium.

Guard crew averts catastrophe

By Master Sgt. Bob Oldham
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. - Props 76, the call sign for an Arkansas Air National Guard C-130E, lifted off from the Little Rock Air Force Base runway Sept. 9 headed out for a three-hour proficiency flight for the crew, but what started as a training mission took a turn for the worse seconds after takeoff.

As the Hercules' propellers churned through the air toward the base perimeter, all four engines lost power -- from 15,000 inch-pounds of torque to 10,000 inch-pounds of torque -- causing the empty cargo aircraft to stop climbing into the clouds that overcast day and level off.

"You just don't see malfunctions that affect all four motors," Maj. Dean Martin, the 154th Training Squadron instructor pilot and aircraft commander on the mission, said as he reflected back on the flight.

At 800-1,000 feet over primarily wooded land, the crew didn't know it at the time, but they had only a few seconds to avert potential catastrophe.

Sitting in the right seat was Lt. Col. Rich McGough, Props 76 co-pilot who is also an instructor pilot in the squadron. Following his checklist procedures, he turned off the auxiliary hydraulic pump after the aircraft lifted off. Just after the colonel flipped the switch, the major noted that his vertical velocity indicator and collision avoidance system "went black." Both are on the same display in the cockpit.

"The auxiliary pump is the largest load on our electrical system," Major Martin said.

The flight engineer, Master Sgt. Doug McGro-



Photo by Lt. Col. Dom Sarnataro

THE CREW OF Props 76: (from left) Master Sgt. Doug McGroarty, flight engineer, Maj. Deano Martin, pilot; Lt. Col. Alan King, navigator; Lt. Col. Rich McGough, co-pilot; and Senior Airman Amber Sowder, loadmaster.

arty, switched the aircraft propellers to mechanical governing and turned the temperature datum system to null. That action, officials say, kept all four engines from flaming out, which could have resulted in a flaming heap of wreckage off the west end of the base's runway.

The temperature datum system controls the amount of fuel to the engines based on several engine parameters. Depending on the throttle position, the actual turbine inlet temperature, and the desired turbine inlet temperature the temperature datum system will send fuel or reduce the amount of fuel to each engine.

As soon as the flight engineer switched the system to null - essentially manually overriding the system - engines two, three and four roared back to life.

"The Rolls Royce engine rep on base said, 'Reducing the power would have caused all four engines to flame out,'" Major Martin explained.

Failing to take manual control of the engines would have also caused a flame out within eight to

10 seconds, Sergeant McGroarty said.

"When Doug brought the air turbine motor back online, No. 1 came back," the Major said.

The crew then flew an uneventful 12 minutes to the north and east and then back to the runway from the east.

The cargo aircraft touched down and glided 7,000 feet down the 12,000-foot runway before turning onto the taxiway. Under normal conditions, the aircraft could stop shorter, but the crew was hesitant to turn the auxiliary pump back on. They were also hesitant to reverse the engines. They knew they had plenty of runway and were willing to use as much as they needed.

The aircraft, a 1963 model, was impounded by maintenance for about two weeks as technicians and specialists studied and evaluated the cause. The culprit was a contact on a three-phase electrical bus that failed in one of the phases. Unfortunately for the crew of Props 76, it was on the essential bus, which runs several key compo-

seem like it was that big of a deal," the flight engineer said.

He said he's been more scared in previous in-flight emergencies, such as when he experienced a fire in the cockpit. Another hair-raising emergency was when an engine blew up on the wing.

With a combined 13,100 hours of flying time between the three of them, he credited flying with a pair of experienced pilots as one of the reasons they were able to land safely on the ground. Major Martin has more than 4,200 hours in the air, Colonel McGough has more than 4,700 and Sergeant McGroarty has more than 4,200.

But, he said, it goes deeper than that. "We've

flown together for 12 years," he said of his relationship with Major Martin. "We flew together in the 50th [Airlift Squadron], 53rd [Airlift Squadron] and the 189th [Airlift Wing]."

Today, the aircraft is back in service, and the crew members are back in the air training students.

To alert others in the Air Force who fly the C-130, the wing's chief of safety generated an Air Force Safety Automated System report, coding the incident as one that has "high accident potential." That coding notified by e-mail each C-130 flight safety officer around the Air Force of the incident so that they can brief their crews to be on the lookout for a similar scenario.

nents in the cockpit.

"At the time, it didn't

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NASCAR highlights 39th Brigade

MEMPHIS - The hood of the No. 5 National Guard Chevrolet bore the emblem of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Arkansas during the NASCAR Nationwide Series race held at the Memphis Motorsports Park on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

The 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team is the largest combat command within Arkansas. As a tribute to deployed units of the National Guard, the No. 5 National Guard-sponsored car of JR Motorsports will feature a different unit emblem on the hood for 19 of the 21 National Guard-sponsored races this season.

The driver for the No. 5 National Guard car for the race was Landon Cassill who made his second career start at the Memphis (Tenn.) Motorsports Park, and his 24th career start in the Nationwide Series races.

This was his 15th race piloting the No. 5 car and Cassill currently sits in second place standings for Rookie of the Year honors behind Bryan Clauson in the Nationwide Series.

Cassill shares the No. 5 JR Motorsports Chevrolet with top drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr., Mark Martin, Jimmie Johnson, Adrian Fernandez, Ron Fellows and Martin Truex Jr. The No. 5 team has posted two wins so far this season—Mark Martin won at Las Vegas and Ron Fellows won at Montreal.

Cassill will pilot the No. 5 National Guard Chevrolet

for the final time this season at Phoenix International Raceway on Nov. 8.

MEMPHIS CHASSIS: Crew chief Cam Strader chose JR Motorsports Chassis No. 402 for the weekend's Nationwide Series race at Memphis. Cassill previously drove the car to a sixth-place finish at Gateway International Raceway in July.

He also drove it at The Milwaukee (Wis.) Mile in June, when he started third and appeared poised to add another top-10 finish to his season. Cassill ran inside for most of the race, but finished the race 22nd.



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Civic leaders from 7 states see ba



CHECK IT OUT: - Vincent Horton, a Hobbs, N.M., civic leader, checks out the cockpit of an Arkansas Air National Guard C-130E aircraft during the Business & Industry Days event at Little Rock Air Force Base.

By Master Sgt. Bob Oldham
189th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

LITTLE ROCK AIR FORCE BASE, Ark. -- Fifty-five civic leaders from seven states climbed on aircraft, viewed C-130 simulators, fired rifles in a firearm training simulator and received briefings here Oct. 23 as part of the Air National Guard's Business and Industry Days.

Additionally, they flew on Army National Guard Blackhawk helicopters to nearby Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock to watch an airfield assault demonstration.

To close the event, they witnessed a formal retreat ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, Director of the Air National Guard, said the need for employer support of Guard members is at

an all-time high.

"We're at war, and it's a long war," General McKinley said in a media interview on the base's flightline. "We've got to continue to outreach to the community."

Three main efforts drive that outreach: to ensure families are well taken care of, to ensure Guard members are taken care of and to ensure employers understand a Guard member's sacrifice.

"Today, we're focusing on the employers," General McKinley said.

One message the general said he tells employers is that Guard members bring sought-after characteristics to any job.

The National Guard brings great qualities to the work force – the military workforce and the civilian workforce," General McKinley said. "We're a drug-free organization. We have high physical fitness standards. Our education standards are extremely high."

Employers were enthusiastic in their support of the Guard.

"We cherish our Guard members," said Vincent Horton, Geo Group, Inc. from Hobbs, N.M. "We know and understand what we need to do to meet their needs." Another employer said B&I Days opened her eyes.

"I'm getting ready to hire, and this excellent program today is putting a new light on my hiring decision," said Carla Helton, with the U.S. Postal Service in Candenton, Mo.

Local military leaders were happy to show off the state's capabilities.

"We think this is a great opportunity to showcase not only the 189th [Airlift Wing] but the Air National Guard in this region of the United States and demonstrate employer support to the Guard and Reserve and express our appreciation for everything [employers] do," said Maj. Gen. Bill Wofford, Arkansas' adjutant general.

Civic leaders came from Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas and Colorado.

Brig. Gen. Riley Porter, Arkansas Air National Guard commander, echoed General McKinley's comments. General Porter owns a family business in Helena-West Helena, Ark., and said he knows first-hand the challenges small business



ABOVE, EXITING THE aircraft: - Civic leaders exit from a Blackhawk helicopter following a flight which transported them from Little Rock Air Force Base to the All-American Drop Zone at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock. The transport gave the business leaders a chance to ride aboard the same aircraft that would later be used in a combat capabilities exercise at the drop zone.

RIGHT, WATCHING THE Show: - Maj. Gen. Buddy Titshaw (left) ANG advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force; Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, and Command Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Guard Dick Smith join their guests, civic and business leaders from throughout seven states to watch a combat capabilities exercise at Camp Robinson's All-American Drop Zone. The exercise was part of the Air Guard Business and Industry Days program Oct. 23.



se, learn about Air National Guard



VIEW FROM THE COCKPIT: Business leaders tour the cockpit of an Arkansas Air National Guard C-130E aircraft during the Business & Industry Days event at Little Rock Air Force Base Oct. 23.



COVER FIRE: A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft from the Fort Smith based 188th Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard fly attack and support roles to secure the All-American Drop Zone from armed insurgents in preparation for the insertion of troops and supplies as part of the combat capabilities exercise during the Air Guard's Business & Industry Days event Oct. 23.



SUPPLY DROP: A C-130E from the Arkansas Air National Guard makes a strategic supply air-drop to troops on the ground as part of the combat capabilities exercise during the Air National Guard Business & Industry Days program Oct. 23.

owners face when making personnel decisions.

"[Guard members] come with a set of values employers are looking for," he said, citing integrity, service before self and

excellence in duty performance. He said those same Air Force core values are also appreciated by the civilian workforce.

(Arkansas Army Guard Staff Sgt. Chris Durney contributed to this article.)

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Marksmanship Center hosts 38th Wilson event

Exercise advances skills

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – The National Guard Marksmanship Training Center hosted its 38th Annual Winston P. Wilson Warfighter Sustainment Training Exercises, and 18th Annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting October 13-17 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark.

The purpose of these exercises is to promote marksmanship training and offer servicemembers from the National Guard, and international community, an opportunity to test

marksmanship skills and weapon systems in a battle-focused environment.

Shooters are tested on their ability to use their service rifle, pistol and machine guns in a variety of situations, distances and shooting positions. They believe these exercises help them not only sustain their marksmanship skills, but learn new skills from other soldiers. They can then take these skills back to their units and train other unit members.

“One of the biggest things about these exercises is camaraderie and trad-



Photo by Senior Airmen Julian Johnson, 189th Air Wing Public Affairs Office

SCOPING IT OUT- An international shooter uses his spotting scope to see where his teammate hit the target. The AFSAM and WPW sustainment training exercises test the skills of shooters as a team as well as individually.

ing stories and techniques with soldiers from other states and countries. These tips and stories range everything from how to wear equipment and the use of a sling, to how to obtain better accuracy when shooting, to the use of different optics,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rocky Richards, the New Hampshire Small Arms Readiness Training non-commissioned officer in charge. “Soldiers get a lot of feedback from actual war situations which can impress new soldiers, and be confirmed by older soldiers in a unit who have had an opportunity to serve their country abroad.”

Chief Warrant Officer Richard Tanner, the Texas State Marksmanship Coordinator, agreed.

“We learn from other states and countries by talking to them and observing them as they shoot. We pick up skills from them. If there is something worthwhile, we will use it and pass it on to other soldiers back home.”

The exercises at WPW and AFSAM stage different situations which help shooters practice their skills in a stressful, realistic environment.

“These [exercises] are all combat-oriented,” said Tanner, who is also a small arms instructor. “There’s a lot of running and gunning. You’ve got to be in shape to do this. When your heart’s beating fast, you’re breathing heavy and you have to squeeze the trigger at the target, that target might be the enemy one day. So, what you learn here really

benefits you in a real-world mission.”

Shooters who have never been to the exercises before are usually surprised at the high level of mental challenge the exercises bring.

“They put you under a high level of stress at times, just trying to figure out what is going on,” said 1st Lt. Zane Jerome Curtiss, a first year participant from Montana. “You’re always on your toes and have to think through the whole thing. In the selective target type situations, where you have a POW you don’t want to shoot, it’s similar to engaging the enemy within a civilian crowd.”

Many states aren’t afforded the opportunity to practice their marksmanship skills during the year, they just offer range time once a year for qualification purposes. The exercises at Camp Robinson give soldiers a chance to work on advancing their skills.

“Marksmanship is a perishable skill which needs to be practiced to remain proficient in your ability to put your service weapon into action and have a positive outcome,” said Richards, who has been coming to Arkansas for these exercises since 1987. “Soldiers in New Hampshire are very fortunate to have tremendous support from our state. They make sure we have three full teams to come down, plus support people. A lot of states aren’t that fortunate. Because of the support, we can go home and share the training, using the train-the-trainer concept with other

soldiers throughout the state.”

Many soldiers feel it is essential that commanders allow more time for all soldiers to receive advanced weapons training not only at exercises like the WPW and AFSAM, but also at the unit and individual levels.

“I’d like to see more state-level marksmanship training off drill weekends so we can just focus strictly on marksmanship,” said Curtiss. “Folks that are available, put them on orders so they can receive more specialized marksmanship training.”

Many soldiers also feel that commanders need to be aware of the need for sustainment training within their unit and the major issues preventing their servicemembers from attending the training.

In addition to hosting the marksmanship sustainment training events, NGMTC offers a variety of marksmanship schools soldiers can attend and receive advanced training.

“We need soldiers who are well rounded and well versed in all of the weapons platforms,” said Richards. “The schooling you can receive at the Marksmanship Training Center covers all of those facets in once place, not having to go numerous times to different locations to receive training.”

Shooters were very excited to receive the opportunity to learn new skills and see how their skills held up next to different states and countries. They believe marksmanship is the fundamental skill every servicemember needs to have in order to be successful in wartime situations.

SPOTTING A TEAMMATE. A shooter from Texas uses his scope to spot where his teammate is hitting the target. In this timed exercise, soldiers and airmen shoot out of a building at targets of different distances.



Photo by Senior Airmen Julian Johnson, 189th Air Wing Public Affairs Office

TAKING AIM- SERVICE members fire from alternate shooting positions during one of the exercises at the 18th Annual Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting. Shooters from all over the world come to Camp Robinson every year to test their skills and learn more advanced marksmanship skills.



Photo by Senior Airmen Julian Johnson, 189th Air Wing Public Affairs Office

LOCKING IN- A shooter locks in on his target during one of the AFSAM exercises. Each course of fire tests shooter’s skills to fire their service weapon from different shooting positions and at different distances.



Photo by Senior Airmen Julian Johnson, 189th Air Wing Public Affairs Office

Six nations complete International Warfighter Training Exercise

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – Over 100 top shooters from Canada, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States met October 13-17 to participate in an annual marksmanship ritual, the Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting (AFSAM). The event is hosted by the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center (NGMTC), and this was its 18th consecutive year.

An opening address was delivered by Brig. Gen Dwight Balch, Chief of Staff-Air, to the accompaniment of the “first shot”—a loud dispatch from a howitzer borrowed from the 1st of the 206th Field Artillery in Russellville. “Our Marksmanship Center is known throughout the world as THE place for basic and advanced marksmanship training. The events we host each year increase our readiness for success in the war zone. In fact, the shooters you meet here may be fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with you in actual combat,” he said.

After the rousing eye-opener, the shooters took off for the ranges in search of new personal records in rifle, pistol and machine gun disciplines. The U.S. team, composed of skillful marksmen from the Air and Army National Guard, shot a total of 3322-120 to take highest honors and nab the Lexington Green Team Trophy. The Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team from the U.K. came in second, with a score of 3166-110, and the British Army Combat Shooting Team came in third with an aggregate score of 3059-89.

At the awards banquet at Little Rock's Embassy Suites Hotel, retired Lt. Gen. Herbert Temple, Jr., former Chief of the National Guard Bureau was among the distinguished speakers and guests at the banquet and awards ceremony. Gen. Temple commented, “I'm proud to see how this center has grown and how each of you here tonight is carrying what you learned this week back to your own services and your units. I'm confident the future of our countries is secure when I see



Photo by Senior Airmen Julian Johnson, 189th Air Wing Public Affairs Office

WORKING AS A team- Shooters carry a dummy back to the firing line to complete an exercise in which they must complete a small obstacle course, run to different yard lines and shoot their service weapons.

the fine work all of you are doing here.”

The awards banquet culminated the week-long exercise where individuals and teams representing six nations were tested in not only their physical conditioning, but their levels of marksmanship skill. The current AFSAM exercises are both arduous and relevant to the crucial marksmanship skills needed by today's Warfighter.

The exercises are all live-fire events, and they are designed to put the shooters through multiple simulated combat scenarios each day incorporating “move-and-shoot” tactics such as overcoming obstacles, shooting around barricades, defending from inside a shelter or recovering a downed comrade.

Gen. Temple congratulated the participants on yet another safely-run, combat-focused event aimed at sustaining a critical soldier skill—combat marksmanship. He praised the hard-fought individual exercises that went into the total scores and commented on his satisfaction at finding so many serious military members from all over the globe gathered together once again to share ideas and improve their techniques in small arms weaponry—all leading to sustainment in

the real world in hot spots like Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting is generally regarded as the pinnacle of international combat shooting and is equivalent to a cross-service marksmanship championship for foreign democratic nations and the U. S. Air and Army National Guard. The events pits marksmen against other shooters and teams in stress-induced scenarios that are timed, require physical maneuvering between firing positions, require reloading or changing weapons, or incorporate all three conditions under live-fire conditions. The stress levels generated by the events simulate the closest thing to ground combat training today.

Col. Steve Miles, NGMTC Commander, reminded the participants of the relevance, recruitment and sustainment value of an exercise like the AFSAM. He said, “It's important to remember that the experiences, training, and skills a Warfighter gains through participating at the Armed Forces Skill-at-Arms Meeting are not sports-related. They are actual lessons that individuals and teams take back to their nations and their units and pass on to those headed into harm's way.”

AFSAM RESULTS

Lexington Green Team Trophy (Grand Aggregate)	Team 227-11 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (A Team) 226-15 3. Royal Navy/Royal Marines Combat Shooting Team (A Team) 211-12	Combat Shooting Team Machine Gun P.O.W. Trophy 1. U. S. All Guard Shooting Team (A Team) 246 2. U. S. All Guard Shooting Team (B Team) 229 3. Norwegian Combat Shooting Team (B Team) 213
1. U.S. All Guard Shooting Team: Sgt. 1st Class Tommy McGee (LA) 3322-120 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team 3166-110 3. British Army Combat Shooting Team 3059-89	Razorback Rifle Trophy (Unknown Distance Firing) 1. United States Army Reserve Shooting Team (B Team) 2. United States All Guard Shooting Team (B Team) 3. United States All Guard Shooting Team (C Team)	Minuteman Trophy (Combined Arms Barricade) 1. U.S. All Guard Shooting Team (A Team) 804 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (A Team) 709 3. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (B Team) 691
Lt Col John Berheim Trophy (Individual Pistol Aggregate)	National Guard Infantry Team Trophy 1. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (B Team) 971-0 2. Royal Navy & Royal Marines Combat Shooting Team (A Team) 949-0 3. Royal Navy & Royal Marines Combat Shooting Team (C Team) 929-0	Commander-in-Chief Rifle Trophy (Service Rifle Team) 1. U.S. All Guard Shooting Team 2004-120 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team 1925-110 3. U. S. Army Reserve Shooting Team 1873- 95
1. Staff Sgt. John Robertson USAR Shooting Team 470 2. Sgt. 1st Class Russell Moore USAR Shooting Team 464 3. Maj. Scott Klawon USAR Shooting Team 457	Commander-in-Chief Pistol Trophy (Gen. George Patton Exercise) 1. U. S. All Guard Shooting Team (A Team) 839 2. U. S. Marine Corps Shooting Team (A Team) 829 3. U. S. Army Reserve Shooting Team (A Team) 805	Conaway Cup (Close Quarter Battle) 1. U. S. All Guard Shooting Team 1318-0 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team 1241-0 3. British Army Combat Shooting Team 1206-0
Rapid Fire Engagement Cup 1. British Army Combat Shooting Team (A Team) 2. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (C Team) 3. Territorial Army Combat Shooting Team (B Team)	Royal Air Force Service Rifle Trophy (Individual Rifle Aggregate) 1. Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Blackwell (TX) 998-14 All National Guard Team 2. Spr. Kumar Pun 980-10 British Army Combat Shooting Team 3. Maj. Stuart Bruce 979-15 Territorial Army	Hager Hollon Trophy (Over- all Individual Aggregate) 1. Sgt. 1st Class Charlie Blackwell 142 All National Guard Team 2. Staff Sgt. John Robertson 141 USAR Shooting Team 3. Maj. Scot Klawon 139 USAR Shooting Team
Australian Marksman Trophy (Fallen Comrades Exercise) 1. United States Marine Corps Shooting Team (A Team) 2. United States Army Reserve Shooting Team (A Team) 3. British Army Combat Shooting Team (A Team)	Canadian Forces Service Rifle Trophy (Apache Alley Engagement Exercise) 1. United States All Guard Shooting Team (B	

Embrey takes control of Fort Chaffee at Change of Command

Landreth honored for service and leadership during tenure

By Staff Sgt. Chris A. Durney
Arkansas National Guard Public
Affairs Office

FORT CHAFFEE MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Ark. — Lt. Col. Robert E. Embrey, of Con-

way, Ark., officially accepted command of the Arkansas National Guard's Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center at an Oct. 5 change of command ceremony.

Col. Louis Landreth re-

linquished command after more than two years at the helm of the 65,000 acre training post situated near Fort Smith. Landreth is slated to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Task Force Phoenix.

During the ceremony inside the post auditorium, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Dickerson handed the post colors to Landreth, who then handed them to Brig. Gen. William Johnson, the deputy adjutant general of Arkansas, effectively relinquishing command of Fort Chaffee. Johnson then handed the colors to Embrey, giving him command of the post. The colors were then returned to the Fort Chaffee command sergeant major for safe keeping.

Embrey, a native of Fayetteville, most recently

served as the deputy chief of staff for Engineering, housed on Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. Embrey transferred into the Arkansas Army National Guard in 1990 after serving with the 528th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy) in Monroe, La.

He graduated from Little Rock McClellan High School in 1982, and from Southern Arkansas University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He earned his Masters of Science in Education from Northeast Louisiana University in 1988. Embrey was commissioned in 1985 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He and his wife Diana have two children and live in Conway.

During his command, Landreth oversaw numerous



ACCEPTING COMMAND: LT. Col. Robert E. Embrey assumes command of the Arkansas National Guard's Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center during an Oct. 5 ceremony in the post auditorium. Col. Louis Landreth relinquished command to Brig. Gen. William Johnson, left, the deputy adjutant general of Arkansas, who then presented the post colors, and command, to Embrey.

improvements and changes throughout Fort Chaffee, in addition to major relief operations due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Over 2,300 evacuees from New Orleans

were processed through the post, and over 2,200 were housed at Fort Chaffee for over a week while the Gulf Coast recovered from the hurricanes.



READY TO PASS on command: Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Dickerson passed the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center colors to outgoing commander Col. Louis Landreth during an Oct. 5 change of command ceremony. Lt. Col. Robert E. Embrey, center, prepares to accept the colors, and command of the 65,000 acre post.

Anderson takes helm at 188th Fighter Wing

FORT SMITH AIR NATIONAL GUARD STATION, Ark.: -- Unit members, families, congressmen, senators and senior staff members of the Arkansas National Guard crowded into the main hanger here Sunday, October 5, 2008, to witness a change of command ceremony. Col. Kevin Wear, commander of the 188th Fighter Wing since May of 2006, stepped down handing the helm and responsibility for the wing to Col. Thomas Anderson.

Wear, a command pilot with over 2,500 flying hours, retires at the pinnacle of a 30-year career. He was instrumental in, and some say "the driving force" behind, the community effort to save the flying mission at the 188th during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission hearings.

"He worked diligently with Guard and community leaders to build an undeniable justification to keep

a fighter wing flying within the Arkansas Air National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Riley Porter, commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Porter lightened the atmosphere of the ceremony telling some lesser-known, yet amusing stories about both Wear and Anderson from their careers as young, ambitious pilots.

Following the exchange of the unit colors, signifying the relinquishment of command by one officer and the assuming of command by the new commander, both Wear and Anderson addressed the crowd.

"I have been honored and blessed to have had the opportunity to lead such an incredible group of Airmen," Wear said looking out at the formation of 188th members assembled in front of the stage. "It is exceptional professionals like you, dedicated to the mission and the values of this great unit that make my job look easy. When I

took over as commander I remember saying that I wanted to make this a first-rate unit. But what I hadn't stopped to realize was the fact that this is a first-rate unit."

Wear went on to thank the members of the unit, the leadership of the National Guard, the Arkansas congressional delegation, the City of Fort Smith and especially his family for their cooperative support and contributions to the 188th and to the success of his career.

In his first address to the unit as commander, Anderson echoed the privilege of serving as the commander of such a fine unit as the 188th Fighter Wing. He stressed that many hard hours had been spent in the conversion from F-16 to A-10 by many unit members. He added that there were many challenges still ahead for the unit, but that the unit was ready to meet those challenges head-on for the future.



LEADERSHIP TRANSITION: COL. Kevin Wear (left) and Col. Thomas Anderson (right) listen to remarks by Brig. Gen. Riley Porter during change of command ceremonies at the 188th Fighter Wing at Fort Smith on Oct. 5. Col. Wear retired after over 30 years with the Air National Guard and will continue his civilian career as a command pilot with Federal Express Corporation.

In a gesture of commitment to continuing the ideals and vision for the 188th, and in appreciation for Col. Wear's tireless work to save the unit's flying mission, Anderson pledged to leave Wear's name emblazoned on the unit's namesake aircraft – tail number 0188.

"Col. Wear, on behalf of your dedication to the 188th Fighter Wing, I pledge as long as I am wing commander your name will remain on aircraft 188", Anderson said drawing a rousing round of applause from the crowd.

Once the change of

command ceremony concluded, Brig. Gen. Porter returned to the podium for a retirement presentation for Wear, who now plans to continue his career as a command pilot for Federal Express Corporation in Memphis.

'Challenged' youth take a break to enjoy National Guard Day

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. — Approximately 60 cadets participating in the Arkansas National Guard's Youth Challenge Program celebrated the completion of their first half of the program's 22-week residential phase on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

Celebrating the halfway point of the program, the "at risk" youths participated in catching, cleaning and frying up their own fish, along with enjoying a day full of football, volleyball, and rock climbing. The teens also got an opportunity to see Dale Earnhart Jr.'s National Guard sponsored racecar, #88, and the Arkansas National Guard Fishing Team's boat operated by Master Sgt. Vince Sherrill.

Youth Challenge is a statewide program that provides an opportunity for Arkansas' young men and women ages 16-19, who are high school



READY TO SERVE. Celebrating the halfway point of the program, the Youth Challenge cadets took a day to play volleyball, football and other activities as well as participating in a fishing derby and cookout. The class is scheduled to graduate on Dec. 12.

dropouts, unemployed or underemployed, to complete their high school education. It is a voluntary program



NATIONAL GUARD RACING! Maj. Gen. William Wofford and two Youth Challenge cadets pose for a photo in front of Dale Earnhart Jr.'s National Guard sponsored racecar, #88. Arkansas' Youth Challenge Program is sponsored and conducted by the Arkansas National Guard in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Arkansas Department of Education.

that offers a disciplined environment for those who enroll to learn life skills along with preparing for and potentially earning their general education diploma.

This is the 31st class for the Youth Challenge Program in Arkansas. The class is scheduled to graduate on Dec. 12, 2008, at which point the graduates begin

the 12-month mentorship program. Arkansas' Youth Challenge Program is sponsored and conducted by the Arkansas National Guard in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Arkansas Department of Education.

Students are now being accepted for class 32.

The deadline for

enrollment is 9 January 2009. Applicants must be drug free and not currently involved with the criminal justice system (including not being on probation or parole).

Information and applications for Youth Challenge are available at www.ngycp.org or by calling toll free 1-800-814-8453.

MEDCOM, State Surgeon's Office move to larger facility

By Sgt. Charissa Bell
119th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. — The Arkansas Army National Guard's Medical Command and State Surgeon's Office has moved from the Troop Medical Clinic and building 6401 on Camp Robinson to building 15301, known previously as the old 148th Evacuation Hospital Armory.

The five year Periodic Physical Exam was replaced with the annual Periodic Health Assessment approximately 18 to 24 months ago in an effort to provide the most current, yearly medical screening possible for Soldiers. The physical examination was previously accomplished every five years for Soldiers, and now the PHA will be conducted every year. The new Department of the Army directive places an increased emphasis on individual medical readiness requirements.

According to Col. Robert Mason, MEDCOM commander and Arkansas National Guard state surgeon, a major addition to the PHA

process is preventive health care counseling for identified risk factors.

"Every Soldier in the guard, every year, is required to have a PHA. The PHA is designed to be a symptom based screening process to identify conditions that may be unhealthy for a Soldier, or would prevent a Soldier from being mobilized. These new requirements caused the numbers of PHAs we perform on a monthly basis to increase significantly. With that change we needed a larger facility and more equipment to accommodate the number of Soldiers per drill weekend to accomplish the mission."

According to the Army directive, the PHA will consist of three parts.

Part 1 is conducted annually and includes Soldier demographics, current medications and allergies, an overall statement and review of current health, a system review of medical problems (illness/injury), family history reviews for particular diseases, and other personal data.

Part 2 consists of laboratory data, hearing tests, immunizations, vital signs

(height and weight, blood pressure) vision, dental, preventative counseling and other necessary screenings.

Part 3 is a face to face interview with a credentialed health care provider that reviews parts 1 and 2, and determines any referrals, profile requirements, dental reviews or mental health reviews that may be needed.

Mason stated that in addition to medical readiness, other deployable assessments will eventually be implemented into the PHA. Screenings that focus on family readiness, legal and chaplain issues will be added and carried out at the new facility in conjunction with the PHA as one comprehensive event.

According to Mason, a current-less than 12 months old-annual PHA is required before a Soldier can attend annual training, be considered for promotion, attend some Army schools and deploy.

"In our experience, medical, family readiness care plans, family issues with the chaplain and legal issues have been the major factors that have rendered a Soldier non-deployable. We are try-

ing to identify Soldiers who need some help mitigating those problems to make them part of the deployable force."

The pre-screening/medical history portion of part 1 can be completed online through the Army Knowledge Online website prior to arriving at the PHA site, which greatly improves the efficiency of the process, says Mason.

If not completed prior to arrival, it will be done onsite and each Soldier must have a common access card, and medical and dental records in hand. A letter of instruction is sent to the unit for each scheduled Soldier with pertinent information to prepare for the PHA.

"Within 60 to 90 days, our hope is that the whole PHA process will function within this one building," said Mason.

"I think this facility gives us the capability to better serve the Soldier, better take care of the Soldier and to be able to better determine medical readiness and deployability readiness for the Soldiers within the Arkansas Army National Guard," added Mason.

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Arkansas Guard riding high! ~ Big Dam Bridge Bike Ride

By Adrienne Brietzke
Public Affairs Office

With the sun just starting to burn off the early-morning haze, over 1600 bike riders gathered at the base of the Broadway Bridge in North Little Rock that Saturday morning in late September, getting mounted up and ready to ride.

Suddenly, the "whump-whump" of a helicopter came up over the horizon; a large Blackhawk helicopter was flying in low along the bridge towards the riders as they sat ready to start the race. Passing directly over the throng and banking away to the east, the loud "thump-thump" of the rotors reverberated through everyone on the ground like a gigantic heartbeat.

Then, with a loud "boom!" the riders took off, streaming across the bridge past Maj. Gen. William D. Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, as he stood next to the howitzer he'd just fired.

As the bikers coursed past Wofford on their first leg of the race, many of them



FORMING UP. Members of the Arkansas National Guard Bike Team form up at the start line in the early morning, in preparation for the start of the Big Dam Bridge Bike Ride. Team members include Capt. John Burns, CW3 Veronica Austin, Capt. Bryan Shipman, 1Lt. Melissa Shipman, CW4 Samuel Wright, CW2 Reginald Murrill, Maj. Ricky Pettigrew, Spec. Jeremy Brown, Maj. Justin Ray and Sgt. 1st Class William Kapales.

offered him their thanks. "This was really an impressive sight to see," he said. "I'm glad to see us taking such a large role in supporting our community neighbor here in North Little Rock. The turnout is just tremendous and I'm proud of our own Arkansas National Guard bike team participating and all our other Guard folks who are participating in it and supporting it."

In it's third year, the Big Dam Bridge Bike Ride is hailed by biking groups as

a "premier event" and the Arkansas National Guard was front and center for the weekend of 26-27 September. Completion of the new \$12 million Big Dam Bridge in 2005 saw the genesis of the annual North Little Rock bike ride, - a graduated-distance route starting at the Broadway Bridge, going over the Big Dam Bridge and circling back around to downtown North Little Rock.

In recognizing the ongoing growth of the event, Lt. Col. Mark McMullen, State



WHERE THERE'S SMOKE... Maj. Gen. William D. Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard, fired the howitzer for the official start of the Big Dam Bridge Bike Ride on Broadway Bridge in North Little Rock. Staff Sgt. Timothy Parks, Spec. James Thuma and Sgt. Raymond Holson of 1st of the 206th Field Artillery Rear Detachment rose well before dawn to make sure the howitzer was in place for the start of the race.

Aviation Safety Officer, called for a meeting with different AR NG units and the race organizer, Fred Phillips with DLT Multisports, early in the year to determine how the Arkansas Guard might lend it's support. "I'd like to see us have a large footprint for this event, since it seems to be growing and attracting such a nice size crowd," said McMullen. "I think this is the type of event that would provide the Arkansas National Guard the opportunity to demonstrate a high profile

in the community." With that, the planning started.

This year, for the first time, Maj. Ricky Pettigrew and CW4 Reggie Murrill formed an Arkansas National Guard bike team to participate in the ride. As the team attracted a growing number of riders, they entered other, earlier races in preparation for the Big Dam Bridge ride.

The team, in it's colorful Arkansas National Guard uniforms, was front and center when the 77th Aviation Brigade came flying in low

over the start line in their Blackhawk helicopter. The crew, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chuck Doiron, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Christopher Red, Sgt. Jonathan Watson, and Sgt. Jason Bruce could all be easily seen as they looked down on the crowd, just before banking off to head to eastern Arkansas.

Along with the Blackhawk flyover and the 1st of the 206th Howitzer to provide the start gun, the Arkansas Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention managed to secure the The new 230-mph, No. 4 National Guard IndyCar driven by Vitor Meira for Panther Racing team owner John Barnes, was also on display Friday and Saturday, along with Master Sgt. Vince Sherrill's Arkansas National Guard bass boat, featuring the POW/MIA and fallen Soldier tribute on the engine.

Overall, the Arkansas Army and Air National Guard did a tremendous job supporting the event. As Wofford said, "A good time was had by all!"

National Guard gains in full-time manning, controlled grades

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE (DC)

ARLINGTON, Va.: - An increase in full-time manning for the Army National Guard and controlled grades for both the Army and Air National Guard were included in the 2009 National Defense Authorization Act signed by President Bush on Oct. 14.

The increase in full-time manning for the Army National Guard authorizes an additional 3,564 personnel, including 2,110 Active Guard Reserve slots above the budget request.

National Guard officials said it is the biggest increase in the Army Guard in 22 years.

"Full-time manning is a critical component to increasing readiness in the Army National Guard," said Army Col. Marianne Watson, the Army National Guard's personnel chief. "The full-time manning increases will be targeted to support personnel readiness, transformation initia-

tives and increasing unit level readiness throughout all 54 states and territories.

"This growth, although significant, must be continued to fully support the transition of the ARNG from the strategic reserve construct to an operational force," Watson said.

The increase in controlled grades for full-time officers and senior enlisted members of the Army and Air National Guard will help to reduce delays in promotions. This applies to lieutenant colonels and colonels in the Air Guard, and first sergeants, master sergeants and sergeants major, as well as majors through colonels, for the Army Guard.

"The increase in Air National Guard controlled grades and military construction authorizations will provide needed flexibility to the ANG as it continues to bed down critical new Air Force missions to meet our responsibilities to the combatant commanders and our governors," said Air

Force Col. Jeffrey A. Lewis, director of Manpower, Personnel and Services for the Air National Guard.

National Guard officials said this increase provides a total of more than 1,000 new Active Guard Reserve promotion opportunities across the National Guard.

Other major National Guard provisions included in the NDAA include:

-- Mobilized officers can be considered for unit vacancy promotions back at home.

-- The president and governors can consent to the appointment of a National Guard officer for "dual hat" status in advance of actually taking command of forces, which will guarantee continuity of command. This section of the legislation also specifies that they will not be subject to the Posse Comitatus Act, which generally prohibits federal military personnel and units of the National Guard under federal authority from acting in a law enforcement

capacity within the United States.

-- The age limit for chaplains and medical officers increases from age 64 to 68, which equalizes the age limits between the reserve and active-duty components.

-- Funding was authorized for seven Army joint cargo aircraft, but none for the Air Force program.

-- For fiscal 2009, Congress appropriated \$22.9 billion for the National Guard, which is an additional \$1.2 billion, or 5.4 percent, over the president's request of \$21.6 billion.

-- The Army Guard's operations and maintenance account and the Air Guard's personnel account were funded below the president's request, but all other accounts were appropriated more than requested, National Guard officials said.

-- The law also authorizes a 3.9 percent pay raise for servicemembers, to take effect Jan. 1. This represents a 0.5 percent increase over the president's initial

request.

-- Funds were appropriated to continue action on recommendations of the president's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. De-

fense Department officials said the funds will ensure world-class health and rehabilitative care to warfighters who are wounded, ill or injured in service to the nation. (October 22, 2008)



SAFETY QUIZ WINNER. Sgt. First Class Jacob Musaddiq is presented a \$100 gift card to Chili's Restaurant by Chief Warrant Officer 2 - Darrin Webb of the National Guard Safety Office at Camp Robinson. Musaddiq, a full time tech supply supervisor at the Army Aviation Support Facility, was the first 100 percent correct respondent to last month's safety quiz. This month's quiz is located on the opposite page. Complete it and send in your answers today.

296th Medical Company receives upgrade training

By Sgt. Charissa Bell

119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – The 296th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) received updated training for cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures at Guzman Drill Hall in Hot Springs on October 4.

Recently improved CPR procedures are being taught to Soldiers and medics that require a new and more vigorous approach to the familiar life saving technique.

Staff Sergeant Robert MacConaugh, state combat

medic and credentialing coordinator, explains the new standards.

"They've increased the number of compressions, and also changed the hand placement and method of delivering some of the compressions. They've increased it up to where they're shooting for a hundred compressions per minute so that we have better circulation in the blood and the oxygen in the body," MacConaugh says.

Breathing has been enhanced, which enables medics to practice with advanced methods of opening airways. Continuous compressions

don't allow medics to pause to deliver the breaths like the old method, says MacConaugh. "It enables the blood to circulate and to get the oxygen in there so that we have a better chance of increasing victim survivability," MacConaugh states.

According to MacConaugh, all certification periods are two years long. That is not only a requirement with the Arkansas Heart Association but also a requirement of the national registry, which is one of the organizations that certifies the medics.

The new standards of CPR are more physical than those

of the old technique.

"With more compressions the Soldiers have to work on their endurance. You are looking at longer, stronger and more sustained compressions. With the new method, they are seeing how physical training is a major factor for their physical health," says MacConaugh.

MacConaugh says that depending on the theatre of operation, MEDEVAC transport time could range from ten minutes to one hour, which means that the medic could be doing CPR the whole time.

The October class includ-



CPR EXAM. Spc. Samantha Pool, 296th Medical Company (Ground Ambulance) medic, practices listening to the airway of the dummy using the chin-tilt method during training for the new standards of CPR at Guzman Drill Hall in Hot Springs, Ark, Oct. 4.

ed both – medics which were others who were receiving re-certifying on CPR, and their initial training.

'Yellow Ribbon' training program kicks off for the Arkansas Guard

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – In preparation for the upcoming return of 3,000 of its Soldiers from deployment in Iraq, the Arkansas National Guard is kicking off its "Yellow Ribbon Family Reintegration Training Program" this weekend. The program is designed to help Families prepare for the return of their Soldier by offering training such as "Marriage Enrichment & Battlemind," presented by Arkansas Guard chaplains; "Resources for Guard Families," presented by Military OneSource consultants; and "Preparing

Kids for Reintegration," presented by Military Family Life consultants.

The overarching goal for this new program is to assist our Soldiers and their Families through the difficult process of reintegration that may accompany a long-term deployment. The event also provides Family members with the opportunity to speak to State Family Assistance Center Specialists as well as Rear Detachment personnel who will be there representing their Soldier's unit. The three-hour training takes place in various locations across the state

beginning at 1:30 p.m. each Saturday afternoon through November 8, 2008. Families are highly encouraged to attend one of the training events which will have childcare available onsite at each location. Although training is scheduled across the state, travel reimbursement is also available for Families who must drive further than 50-miles one way to the event.

Families interested in attending the training are asked to contact the Arkansas National Guard's State Family Readiness Office to register by calling (501) 212-4102.

YELLOW RIBBON TRAINING LOCATIONS:

November 1, 2008

Pine Bluff – Huckabee Nature Center
– Contact Deitrea Williams at (870) 830-7271

Fort Smith – Grand Ave. Baptist Church
– Contact Bruce Bowen at (479) 619-8497

Little Rock – First Baptist Church on Main
– Contact Craig Collier at (870) 723-6132

Forrest City – Forrest City Civic Center

– Contact Belicia Sims at (870) 514-6942

November 8, 2008

De Queen – Sevier County Museum –
Contact Cynthia Sawyer at (479) 234-8316

Mountain Home – American Legion
– Contact Lynn Blevins at (870) 821-0297

Jonesboro – Central Baptist Church –
Contact Theresa Jaques at (870) 273-8404

Little Rock – Faith Baptist Church –
Contact Judy Luyet at (501) 499-3051

AUTUMN SAFETY

1. Heating equipment should be inspected

- Every year
- When you move into a house
- When it's not working

properly

- All of the above

2. Space heaters should be how many feet from things that can burn?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

3. The main reason for wearing hunter orange clothing while hunting is to:

- make it more difficult for game to see you
- continue an old tradition
- make yourself more visible to

other hunters

- confuse game

4. The carry method that offers the best control of your firearm is:

- cradle carry
- shoulder carry
- two-hand carry
- side carry

5. You should always wear fall protection when hunting from a tree stand?

True or False

Answers from last month's quiz: 1. (D), 2. (B), 3. (C), 4. (C), 5. (A), 6. (B), 7. (B).

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