

Volume 3 Number 11

# ARKANSAS MINUTEMAN

January 2010

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## Arkansas Guard News

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## FROM THE TOP

# Winter safety message from the Adjutant General

Old Man Winter is here and with his arrival comes some significant challenges for the Arkansas National Guard. Daily hazards will challenge our commute to and from work each day as we experience periods of increased rainfall, snow, sleet, and ice. Additional challenges will occur as we respond to natural disasters in the state that leave our local communities without basic necessities such as food, water, and shelter.

In light of all the hazards that will occur this winter season, and regardless of whether they occur during our normal routines or an emergency response, I want to encourage every Soldier, Airman, state or federal employee, and contractors, to conduct a thorough risk analysis in order to lower the risk to its minimum. Ensure effective control measures are identified and implemented to reduce accidents and injuries. The use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to preserve life and limb, hearing and eyesight, should be used at home, and must be used during an emergency response. Automobile accidents continue to be the number one cause of fatalities during the

winter, with excessive speed as the greatest causal factor. Allowing additional time to travel to work, shopping, or visiting friends and Family may guarantee your survival on the roadways. Pledging to not drive under the influence of alcohol, and wearing your seatbelt can prevent unnecessary tragedy for everyone involved. Recent state and federal legislation demand that we avoid driver distractions, namely texting, while behind the wheel of our automobiles.

Be prepared at home for adverse weather by keeping an adequate supply of food, water, medicines, a first aid kit, weather radio, and a SAFE emergency heat source. Promptly clear walkways, steps, and driveways of snow and ice. Replace the batteries in all smoke/carbon monoxide detectors twice a year. Let's all strive to make this winter season full of the good things it has to offer - Family, friends, holiday festivities, sporting events, and outdoor activities. Temper your good times with some common sense so that the only loss we might experience in the Guard Family this season involves the opposing team.



**JANUARY ICE.** Maj. Gen. William Wofford coordinates additional Guard support via cell phone after visiting with community leaders in Mountain Home. Approximately 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen were called up to state active duty in support of civil authorities as a result of a severe ice storm that devastated the northern third of the state one year ago this month.

## ON THE COVER



**ONE OF THE Guard's most challenging tasks for 2009 was the re-integration of over 3,000 Soldiers after their return from Iraq in late 2008. See pages 6 and 7 for a quick look back at some other key events that were unique to the year as we close out an historic decade for the Arkansas Guard.**

## Guard takes on Operation Cold Front

*Camp Robinson Post Chapel accepting winter item donations for homeless*

**Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark.** – Each year across the state the number of needy or homeless rises. With the winter months brutally upon us the Arkansas National Guard would like to announce a new program aimed at saving lives by providing some basic needs to those who need it most. Operation Cold Front is a project set up to accept new or gently used winter items such as gloves, coats, blankets, and towels which will be distributed across the state to organizations directly helping Families and individuals in need.

The post chapel began accepting donations on Dec. 14 and will continue sending out these donations daily through January 31. Our goal is to donate 1,000 items by the end of January. Please look through your closets and help out those in need across the state. Please contact Sgt. Eric Flud with the Post Chapel at (501) 212-5620 or 5626 to coordinate your donations.

# Agriculture team prepares for Afghan mission

*Team to provide expertise in helping to rebuild agricultural infrastructure*

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Keith Moore

Arkansas Agriculture Development Team  
Public Affairs Officer

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** – The Arkansas National Guard formally stood up its first Agricultural Development Team (ADT) on November 7, 2009, to assist in the redevelopment of agriculture in Afghanistan. Arkansas is one of 10 states which have fielded or are preparing to field such teams.

The team's mission will be to augment the provincial reconstruction team in their assigned province with specialized agricultural expertise to educate Afghan farmers on improved methods of grain and fruit production, irrigation management, livestock herd health and management and redeveloping markets for farm products in Southern Afghanistan. The team is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in the first quarter of 2010 for its year long mission.

"I think we have assembled a well rounded team of professionals who will go to Afghanistan and make the people of Arkansas proud as they convey to the Afghans how to rebuild their agricultural infrastructure," said Col. Stephen Redman, commander of the Arkansas ADT Team.

The 64 member team consists of volunteers from both Army and Air Guard units across the state. Many members of the team have degrees in agriculture or experience with agriculture on family farms, cattle ranches or with vegetable or fruit growers.

Although many members of the agriculture specialty section of the ADT

have real world experience, the team got some updated instruction on a variety of agriculture topics during a weeklong training with professors at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The educational program, provided by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in Little Rock, focused on arming the agri specialty team with knowledge on water and soil quality analysis, small herd health and management practices, food quality and storage practices; techniques to maximize fruit and vegetable production, irrigation and water resource management, poultry health and management and small scale power generation.



**NON-STANDARD TRAINING.** Dr. Dustin Clark, U of A Cooperative Extension Service Poultry Health Veterinarian (in blue lab coat) provides direction to members of the Arkansas Agriculture Development Team as they perform necropsy examinations on chickens at the State Poultry and Livestock lab. The lab work was part of the Guardsmen's weeklong agricultural specific training provided by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



**DISSECTION EXERCISE.** Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Cagle gets assistance from a poultry specialist with the U of A Cooperative Extension Service in examining a chicken for an intestinal parasite. The dissection exercise was part of the agriculture and small animal management training for members of the Guard's Agriculture Development Team preparing to deploy to Afghanistan in the spring of 2010. The week of education and training for the ADT was provided at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in cooperation with the U of A Division of Agriculture and the U of A Cooperative Extension Service.

In addition to farming basics, the agri specialists were introduced to the process for making biodiesel and other fuels from agricultural products and by-products. They hope at some point to be able to introduce these "green" solutions to the Afghans where only one percent of homes have electricity.

The compressed nature of the one week agri specific training at the university is indicative of this team's schedule so far. The ADT has been on a short fuse for preparation for this deployment. The decision to field a Team from Arkansas was made early this summer and the ADT held its first unit training assembly Nov. 7 – 8. There the team began preparing for their mission by conducting a detailed mission analysis and initiated a review of mission essen-

SEE AFGHAN, PAGE 5

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**FOOD TO FUEL.** Soldiers of the Arkansas Agriculture Development Team listen as a graduate student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock displays a container of biodiesel fuel and explains the steps in the simple process to create biodiesel from vegetable oils. The biodiesel presentation was part of a section on small scale power generation capability by Dr. Samy Sadaka, a bioenergy engineer with the U of A during the team's weeklong agriculture training at UALR Nov. 30 – Dec. 4, 2009. The ADT will deploy to Afghanistan during the first quarter of 2010.



**BIODIESEL PRODUCTION.** Dr. Samy Sadaka a bioenergy engineer with UALR explains the components and process of extruding oils from agricultural products to make biodiesel to members of the Arkansas National Guard's Agriculture Development Team using a portable system he constructed. The Guard team of agriculture specialists is slated to deploy to a province in southern Afghanistan in early 2010.

**JOINT MISSION.** Lt. Col. David Sheely, an Airman from the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith and a member of the Agriculture Development Team (ADT) for the Arkansas National Guard, examines components of a small power generation unit developed by Dr. Samy Sadaka at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on Dec. 2. Sheely is one of 64 volunteers from both Army and Air Guard units across the state in the Arkansas Guard's first 'Joint' mobilization.



## ► Afghan

Continued from Page 4  
tial equipment needed for the mission. From there the group went through the Soldier Readiness Process and pre-mobilization health assessments Nov. 20 – 22.

"It has been pretty quick, but I think that is why agricultural as well as military experience were deciding factors on

selection for team members for this first ADT," said Sgt. 1st Class James Holm, team leader for the agricultural specialty section. "We have come together quickly, pooled our knowledge and experience for the benefit of the team, and I think we have a good plan to begin assessing the needs of the province and start making a difference when we get to Afghanistan."

Approximately one half

of the all-volunteer group making up the ADT have been previously deployed. The team begins pre-mobilization training at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center in early January. They will spend most of the month conducting field training and live-fire operations. The Team moves to their mobilization station in February and should deploy into the Afghanistan theater some time in March.

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## A LOOK BACK

# 2009: Another historic year for the Arkansas

It has been another extremely busy year in our history. Although our number of troops serving overseas had dropped to their lowest levels since the war on terror began in 2001, the challenges we faced throughout the year were just as tough – if not tougher – than years prior. The following offers a quick glance at some of the Arkansas Guard's top stories that were unique to 2009. For a more thorough list of the year's top stories, take a look at our 2009 Annual Report at [www.anguard.org/PublicAffairs/index.asp](http://www.anguard.org/PublicAffairs/index.asp).



### December 2008

The heaviest task of the year was a result of the over 3,200 Soldiers who returned from Iraq with the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in late 2008 at the conclusion of the brigade's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The year 2009 saw the implementation of the Arkansas Guard's 30, 60 and 90 day reintegration training events to assist the Soldiers in their return to civilian life. The events each concluded with Freedom Salute ceremonies in honor of each of the Soldiers along with the Families and communities who supported them throughout the deployment.

### Jan. 25, 2009

The National Guard Professional Education Center on Camp Robinson held a groundbreaking ceremony to launch construction of the \$18.4 million GED Plus complex which is anticipated to assist approximately 7,000 new Soldiers from across the nation each year in earning their GED.



### Jan. 27, 2009

After an incredible 81 state active duty missions in Fiscal Year 2008, the Arkansas Guard shattered that number in January and February alone when a devastating ice storm hit 23 counties across the northern third of the state. Nearly 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen were called up to state active duty to support civil authorities in the affected communities.



### Feb. 13, 2009

Over 60 Soldiers with the Prescott and Camden based units of the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team arrived in Chidester, Ark., to support civil authorities in the search for three-year-old Dominick Wesley Arceneaux.

### March 1, 2009

Thirty-four Airmen with the 188th Fighter Wing's Security Forces Squadron returned from a six-month deployment to Manas, Kyrgyzstan.

### April 7, 2009

The 233rd Regiment Regional Training Institute opened the doors to its new 25 series career management field course offering -- the 25U, Signal Support Systems Specialist course at Camp Robinson.

### April 9, 2009

Another round of state active duty missions began when a powerful tornado struck the communities of Mena and Dierks. Members of the 39th IBCT assisted local law enforcement and emergency response agencies in Mena while Airmen from the 188th Fighter Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron



deployed two water purification units and power generators to help Dierks.

### April 22, 2009

After supporting Saline County authorities in the successful search for missing persons in the vicinity of Lake Norell, Arkansas Guard aviators joined efforts in Sebastian County to search for a missing 67 year old man with Parkinson's Disease.

### May 8, 2009

Due to concern of a potential pandemic and the spread of the new H1N1 influenza A virus, a news conference was conducted at the Arkansas Department of Health, to announce four confirmed cases of the virus which had been identified on Camp Robinson. The infected individuals were four of 40 Active Duty Air Force troops from other states who were training at the National Guard Marksmanship Training Center.

### June 4, 2009

An Arkansas Guard OH-58 Kiowa helicopter with a Guard pilot and two law enforcement officers aboard crashed into the Buffalo River in the vicinity of Buffalo Point at around 1:30 p.m. All three men aboard the aircraft sustained only minor injuries and were transported to medical facilities for treatment. The heavily damaged aircraft was quickly recovered and returned to Camp Robinson for an investigation.

### July 11, 2009

The new \$19 million, 102,000 square foot, Armed Forces Reserve Center opens up near the front

gate of the Fort Chaffee Man. The new armory houses unit National Guard's 142nd Fire Army Reserve's 341st Engin



### July 14, 2009

The Arkansas Army Na its newest workhorse heli kota, at a ceremony at the port Facility on Camp Rob

### July 29, 2009

Just two hours after de chemical incident in Conway

# Arkansas Guard



neuver Training Center. s of the Arkansas Army es Brigade, and the U.S. eer Company.



ditional Guard unveiled opter, the UH-72 La Army Aviation Sup- inson.

ploying to a simulated y as part of an exercise,



the 61st Civil Support Team responded to a real-world chemical incident. An unknown chemical found leaking from a truck in a parking lot 10 miles from their training site had the CST responding for real.

## Aug. 28, 2009

Family and friends cheered wildly as 32 members of the 189th Security Forces Squadron completed the final leg of their journey home from a six month deployment to Manas, Kyrgyzstan.



## Sept. 18, 2009

In a press conference at Camp Robinson, Maj. Gen. William Wofford and Governor Mike Beebe sent out a call for help to the communities of Arkansas in an effort to reverse the continually rising trend of suicide in our force.

## Sept. 22, 2009

In preparation for the potential of a catastroph-

ic earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone, Arkansas Guard leaders participated in a St. Louis workshop to help prepare the eight states which would likely be directly affected in the event of a 6.5 magnitude or greater earthquake in order to identify potential shortfalls and mold a unified response.



## Nov. 10, 2009

Over 200 Soldiers with the Jonesboro and Paragould based 1037th Route Clearance Company of the 875th Engineer Battalion departed the state with an emotional sendoff headed to Fort McCoy, Wis., in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan in early 2010, after having returned home from Iraq just two years earlier.

## Dec. 3, 2009

The city of Cabot fulfilled a goal set in 2001 by breaking ground for a new National Guard armory that promises to bring an estimated \$1 million annually into the local economy.



## Dec. 23, 2009

Famed actor Judge Reinhold (Beverly Hills Cop, The Santa Clause, Fast Times at Ridgemont High, Stripes, etc.) joins the fight to reverse the continually rising trend of suicide in the Arkansas Guard with the production of a public service announcement calling out to the communities of Arkansas for their assistance in identifying our Guardsmen in need.

# Civil Engineers spend holiday season upgrading Guantanamo facilities

By **Spc. Tiffany Addair**  
Joint Task Force Guantanamo  
Public Affairs  
and **Capt. Heath Allen**  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba -- The 1943 holiday hit "I'll be Home for Christmas" just didn't have the same ring to it for many members of the 188th Fighter Wing this past holiday season.

Approximately 50 members of the 188th's Civil Engineering Squadron spent the holiday away from home. The Airmen departed their home station in Fort Smith, Ark., July 24, 2009, to embark on a six-month deployment to Cuba where they joined the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

The primary objective of JTF Guantanamo's 474th ECES is to handle construction issues at Camp Justice and the Expeditionary Legal Complex in support of military commissions at the naval station.

The 188th joined with elements of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Air Wing, Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Fighter Wing and the New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing. The four units replaced service members from the 130th Airlift Wing of the West Virginia Air National Guard.

The 188th CES is one component of a team of engineers from the 474th ECES, which maintains generators and electricity as well as furnishing carpentry skills and utilities maintenance. The 188th CES also helps to provide pest control services,



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cody Black

**SETTING GOALS.** Members of the 188th Civil Engineering Squadron complete finishing touches on soccer goals for detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Dec. 8, 2009. The Squadron is currently attached to the 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron which supports Joint Task Force Guantanamo by maintaining the Expeditionary Legal Complex and Camp Justice facilities and infrastructure along with detention facility improvements.

heavy equipment operation and liquid fuel support with assistance from administrative, work control and operations teams, which labor to coordinate all of the projects.

The 474th ECES, which is also known as the Base Emergency Engineering Force (BEEF), also labors to complete projects on the naval station and JTF to help upgrade the conditions for the service members and detainees.

That recently included the installation of a new soccer facility, which resides in the recreation yard at Guantanamo's Camp 6. Members of the 188th assigned to the 474th finished that project Dec. 8. The final touches included the construction of new soccer goals.

The project was the first step of a two-week construction plan to upgrade detention facilities, a strategy that will continue until the last detainee leaves GTMO.

Navy Lt. Todd N. Taylor,



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cody Black

**KEEPING IT HOT.** Senior Airman JoAnne M. Lewis and Master Sgt. Ronnie J. Piovesan, with the 188th Fighter Wing, repair a water boiler at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Dec. 16, 2009. The Airmen are deployed with the Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron which is currently attached to Joint Task Force Guantanamo's 474th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

Camp 6 officer-in-charge, said improvements to the detention facilities are made continuously.

"While detainees are in our custody, we strive to enhance facilities in accordance with the safe, humane, legal and transpar-

ent care and custody of detainees," Taylor said.

Taylor said detainees receive recreation daily. While many sports are offered, Taylor said the majority of the detainees prefer soccer. Taylor said the

**SEE SEASON, PAGE 11**

## FUTURE SOLDIER



**GUARD FAMILY.** Maj. Regina Allen and her husband Capt. Michael Allen look on as their son looks through items found in the "Future Soldier Kit" that he received during a Freedom Salute ceremony held Dec. 6. The ceremony was held in honor of approximately 20 members of the Arkansas National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters who had returned from Iraq with the 39th Brigade Combat Team in December 2008. The Freedom Salute is a nationwide campaign recognizing Army National Guard members who served in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and/or Iraqi Freedom.

## VETERANS BENEFITS APPEALS



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# Groundbreaking marks beginning of new armory construction

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Durney

Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

CABOT, Ark. – On Dec. 3, 2009, the city of Cabot, Arkansas, fulfilled a goal set eight years earlier with the ground breaking of a new National Guard armory that promises to bring an estimated \$1 million annually into the local economy.

City and county leaders joined with the Guard, the state, and construction and architectural firms to celebrate construction of the new 35,540 square foot Cabot Readiness Center. The \$9.9 million facility is being built to house the 125 members of Company F, 39th Brigade Support Battalion, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The environmentally friendly building was designed by Lewis, Elliot,

McMorran, Vaden, Ragsdale and Woodward, Inc., and is being constructed by Nabholz Construction Company. The facility will boast a state-of-the-art geothermal heating and cooling system, and has received a Silver certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The building is set to open in early 2011.

“This is a great way to symbolize what the Guard is doing here today,” said Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, to a large crowd of supporters. “The Guard is a part of the community and this facility represents a tremendous boost to the Cabot economy.”

According to Cabot Mayor

or Eddie Joe Williams, city leaders addressed the possibility of bringing a Guard unit to Cabot in 2001, but

found that it wasn't feasible. When the 39th Infantry Brigade transformed into the 39th IBCT in 2005

forward support companies were added to the brigade's battalions.

“This is an exciting and

long-awaited day,” said Williams, “this armory ground breaking is one of the most

**SEE NEW, PAGE 12**



**PROUD LEADER.** Cabot Mayor Eddie Joe Williams addresses a large turnout during the groundbreaking ceremony Dec. 3, 2009 for the new Cabot Readiness Center. With the event, construction began on the new 35,000 square foot, \$9.9 million facility with an anticipated opening in early 2011.

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# Top volunteers recognized for service in Military Funeral Honors program

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Durney

Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – The Arkansas National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Program recognized its top volunteers at an awards ceremony Dec. 11, while noting a record year for the program in 2009.

The full-time program was created in November 2006, and has grown every year to the point where the team of 111 volunteer Guard members performed over 300 missions in 2009, including over 80 in December alone. The teams are divided into four regions across the state.

The program also works closely with, and certifies, veteran service organizations such as the American

Foreign Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to provide final military honors to veterans.

Members of the program are trained extensively on all aspects of military honors, including precision casket carry, flag folding and rendering of honors. Many of the missions performed included both casket and gun salute teams.

Four members of the program were honored with an Army Commendation Medal for their commitment to the program. Spc. Joseph Capps and 2nd Lt. Sean Burger of the 142nd Fires Brigade, Sgt. Gregory Russell of the Joint Force Headquar-

ters Medical Detachment, and Sgt. Joseph Sawyer of the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade each received the medal.

Sgt. 1st Class Gus Raney of the Institute Support Unit at Camp Robinson received the Arkansas Exceptional Service Medal for participating in over 220 missions over 12 months.

Three retired members of the Arkansas Guard were recognized for their contribution to the program. Thomas Musticchi, Richard Howard and Jeffrey Boland each received Certificates of Appreciation from Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas during the ceremony.



**HIGH HONOR.** Sgt. 1st Class Gus Raney received an Arkansas Exceptional Service Medal from Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, during a Military Funeral Honors program awards ceremony Dec. 11 at Camp Robinson. Raney participated in over 220 MFH missions over 12 months.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION** about the history of the Arkansas National Guard, visit our museum located on Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock. Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday – Friday. For tour information, contact the museum at (501) 212-5215.

## THIS MONTH IN OUR HISTORY...

Sixty-nine years ago, January 6, 1941, the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment and the 206th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-aircraft) were ordered to active duty as the United States began preparing for possible involvement in the growing global conflict. The 142nd moved to Fort Sill, Okla., where the 3rd Battalion was disbanded.

In February the Regiment moved to Camp Bowie, Texas, and began a long period of extensive training, including participating in the Louisiana Maneuvers in the

summer of 1942. On February 25, 1943 the 142nd Field Artillery Regiment was disbanded. The headquarters was redesignated the 142nd Field Artillery Group, the 1st Battalion became the 936th and the 2nd became the 937th. These were independent battalions equipped with the 155mm howitzer. The 206th began moving to Fort Bliss, Texas, in early January 1941. After extensive training, the 206th left Fort Bliss in August and arrived at Dutch Harbor, Alaska August 16, 1941.



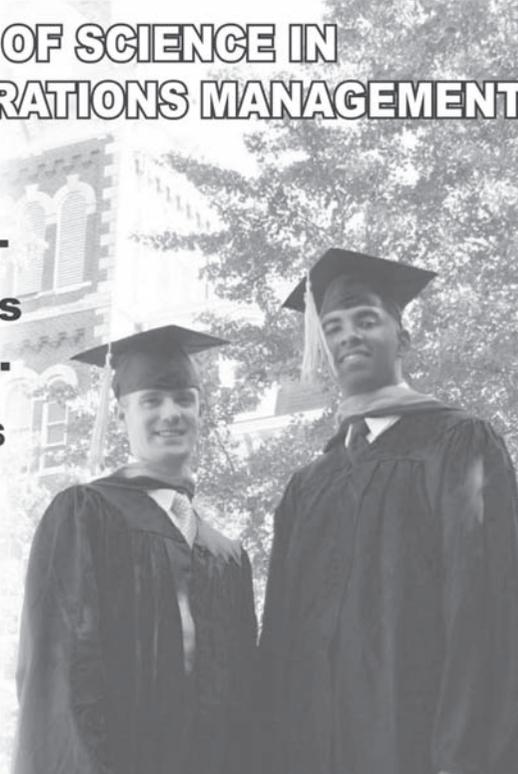
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# Vietnam Veteran makes final flight, retires after 42 years



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, 119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

**END OF AN era.** – Chief Warrant Officer J.D. Johnson shakes off the water after being doused following his final flight as an Army aviator Dec. 4, 2009. Col. Mark McMullen, the state Army aviation officer, and a large crowd of Soldiers, friends and well-wishers greeted him with hugs, handshakes and back slaps. Johnson retired on Dec. 6, ending a 42 year career that began during the Vietnam conflict.

**By Spc. Stephanie Hernandez**  
119th Mobile Public Affairs  
Detachment

*"It's not what you do. It's who you meet on the way." – J.D. Johnson*

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – J. D. Johnson has seen a lot in his 42 year military career, from the jungles of Vietnam to the Arkansas countryside, and most of it from the cockpit of an Army helicopter.

Chief Warrant Officer Johnson hung up his flight helmet at an emotional ceremony Dec. 6, 2009, at the Arkansas National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility on Camp Robinson. The 62-year-old Guard flyer capped a career that began when he took a flight aptitude test just to get out of doing Kitchen Patrol.

"I had just been drafted and was in basic training when the first sergeant

asked me if I wanted to take the test," said Johnson. "It got me out doing the work."

Johnson spent the early part of his military service flying the UH-1 Iroquois, better known as the Huey, in Vietnam. "It was a year of being immortal and bullet proof," said the gray haired Johnson.

On Dec. 4, 2009, Johnson took his last flight in the left seat of the Guard's newest helicopter, the UH-72 Lakota. A spirited crowd of fellow aviators, Soldiers and Robinson Army Airfield emergency personnel greeted him with a power-

ful stream of water from a fire truck. The Chief then received a steady stream of hugs, handshakes and back slaps after the thorough dousing.

Johnson is actually two years beyond the military's mandatory retirement age, but he was granted a service extension while flying a UH-60 Blackhawk along the Mexican border during Operation Jump Start.

"I didn't want to come off that mission because it was important to me," said Johnson. He retired as a member of the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade's 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation.

Johnson said he could

not pick out any one mission that stood out in his long service to his country. He claimed that every mission is as important as the next because they are, in his words, all designed to make someone else's life a little easier, or to keep them out of harm's way.

"Everything we do in aviation is geared to directly support somebody on the ground," said Johnson

Johnson said he was proud to have served his country for so many years, and as he thought about his long military career he said, "It's not what you do; it's who you meet on the way."

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## Season

Continued from Page 8  
construction of the goals provides detainees with a more competitive game of soccer.

"The soccer goals are built to regulation," said Tech. Sgt. Bailey M. Coleman, a heavy equipment engineer with the 188th, attached to the 474th ECES. "The goals are sturdy and permanent now. It makes for a more realistic game for the detainees."

Until the last detainee leaves, GTMO will continue normal operations, modifying detention facilities to enhance the quality of life for detainees.

Members of the 188th CES are scheduled to return from the deployment in January 2010.

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## ► New

Continued from Page 8

exciting days in Cabot's history. To Company F: welcome to Cabot."

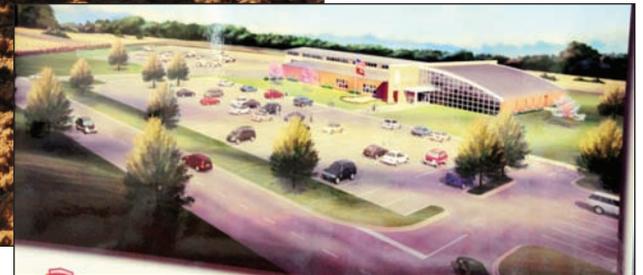
According to Wofford, as the Guard worked to identify the best locations for the new units, the city of Cabot was singled out to support the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry, of the 39th. Although all of the forward support companies belong to the 39th BSB, each company is assigned to the battalion it supports, including Company F.

The 15 acre site will include a 5,800 square foot drill hall, 4,000 square feet of office and administrative space, kitchen facilities, a physical fitness room, storage and maintenance areas.



**BREAKINGGROUND.** A line of city, county, state and Guard leaders help to break ground during the ceremony to mark the beginning of the new facility's construction.

**INSET, FUTURE ARMORY.** An artist's rendition of the new 35,000 square foot Cabot Readiness Center, which is slated to be completed in early 2011. A Ground-breaking ceremony was held in Cabot, Ark., Dec. 3, 2009.



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