

Volume 4 Number 2

April 2010

# ARKANSAS MINUTEMAN



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FROM THE DESK OF STATE FAMILY PROGRAM DIRECTOR CPT. JAMES NOLLEY

# Military Children: Everyday Heroes in Your Community

As the Family Program director for the state of Arkansas, I interact with people who make huge sacrifices along with our Soldiers and Airmen - their Families. The strain on the Families can be even more difficult when the servicemember is a parent. The U.S. military acknowledged this dynamic in 1986 when the Department of Defense (DOD) adopted the initiative, the Month of the Military Child (MOMC). April was designated as the month to recognize the unique sacrifices made daily by the children of servicemembers.

According to DOD statistics, more than 1.7 million American children under the age of 18 have at least one parent serving in the military. For instance, it is estimated that the U.S. Army (Active, Guard, and Reserve) has more than 900,000 military children with one or both parents having deployed multiple times. Children of Guard and Reserve servicemembers face unique challenges when a parent is deployed. Because they live in a civilian environment, they are not exposed to the same resources that are available to the child of an active duty servicemember.

We currently have three

Arkansas National Guard units in deployment status. Members of the 1037th Route Clearance Company, the Arkansas National Guard's Agriculture Development Team (ADT) and the 188th Fighter Wing are all deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These brave troops represent Families from the Northeast, Northwest and Central parts of the state and additional locations in between. The Families need our continued support during these times and their children need encouragement and understanding to deal with the long and stressful separations.

Our theme for this year is "Military Children-Everyday Heroes In Your Community." This stresses the heroic sacrifices military children and youth make every day, especially during this time of persistent conflict. Over the last few years, we have made great efforts to reach our geographically dispersed children and youth. This is especially relevant to Arkansas since many of our military families live in rural areas of the state. Recognizing the MOMC gives us the opportunity to highlight those programs and services that are available to every



**Captain James Nolley**  
State Family Program Director

military child regardless of where they live.

During the month of April, we would like leadership at all levels to communicate to military children through celebrations, speeches, posters, outreach efforts, the media, and face-to-face contact. We want them to know that we recognize their sacrifices.

Though April is the official month of the Military Child, there are events scheduled throughout the year geared

especially toward children and youth. Several Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) are having Easter egg hunts this year. The annual Minuteman Youth Camp will be held June 21-25 at Camp Robinson. The camp is open to all 10 and 11-year-olds through-

out the state but children who have or have had a parent deployed within the past year are encouraged to attend. Other Youth Program events include but are not limited to First Tee Golf events, Operation Military Kids camps, the Youth Council and increased youth involvement in Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) across the state.

To the friends and Families of our Soldiers and Airmen, we recognize your commitment and we admire your courage. Our Family Readiness programs are designed to be there to help our military Families at every step along the way. We know that the strength of our Soldiers and Airmen comes from the strength of their Families.

For more information about MOMC events or any other youth programs mentioned, please contact the State Youth Coordinator, Russell Hooks at (501) 212-4037 or visit us online at <http://www.arguard.org/family/youth.htm>.

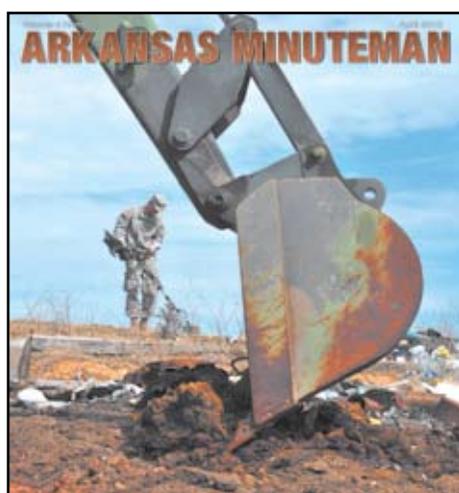


Photo by Capt. Chris Heathscott,  
Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs Office

## ON THE COVER

### LOOKING DEEP.

The **COUNTERDRUG** division of the Arkansas National Guard's Director of Military Support applies military skill and technology to help the DEA and local authorities in Newton County search the property of a suspected drug dealer.

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# Flying Razorbacks head to Afghanistan

By Capt. Heath Allen  
188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

## Airmen and aircraft depart for deployment

FORT SMITH, Ark. -- More than 200 members of the 188th Fighter Wing departed Fort Smith Monday, March 8, bound for Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

More than 800 individuals, which included the deploying Airmen and their families, filled the 188th's Consolidated Maintenance Facility to enjoy their final moments together before the deploying Guardsmen were transported to their awaiting airlift on the taxiway.

The Airmen will be deployed for more than two months as part of the 188th's Aerospace Expeditionary Forces rotation. The deploying Airmen will join approximately 75 members of the 188th already in Afghanistan, where they will be attached to the 451st Expeditionary Wing.

"We've prepared long and hard for this moment," said Col. Tom Anderson, 188th Fighter Wing commander. "We have some of the most highly trained, dedicated and capable personnel and I know they are focused on making this mission a success. I have confidence they will make us all proud."

This is the first combat deployment for the 188th as a unit since receiving A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthogs" on April 14, 2007. The 188th's last unit AEF rotation transpired in 2005 when 267 Airmen and 10 F-16 Fighting Falcons deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, while sharing a three-month rotation with another Air National Guard unit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately 50 members of the 188th deployed Jan. 4 and will be gone for the entire four-month rotation, which the 188th is sharing with the 175th Fighter Wing, an A-10 unit based in Baltimore, Md.

The 188th has deployed pilots, maintenance and support personnel over the past two weeks to bolster continuity between the 188th and the 175th.

"We have overcome many obstacles to reach this point and now we're ready to put all of our hard work and training to use in a combat environ-



U.S. Air Force photo by Technical Sgt. Stephen M. Hornsey, 188th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**FROM TOP LEFT, clockwise: Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas, shakes hands with members of the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith, Ark., March 8, 2010. The Arkansas Air Guard unit deployed more than 200 Airmen to Afghanistan as part of a Aerospace Expeditionary Forces rotation. A member of the 188th enjoys time with his family prior to departing for deployment. The unit will be deployed to Afghanistan for more than two months, marking the 188th's first combat deployment with the A-10 Thunderbolt II. Tech. Sgt. Josh Jones and son, Eli, spend time together before Jones' departure March 8 at Fort Smith. Family and friends of members of the 188th Fighter Wing wave goodbye as a McDonnell Douglas DC-10 with more than 200 Airmen on board takes off at the Fort Smith Regional Airport.**

ment," Anderson said.

The 188th surmounted myriad impediments following the Base Realignment and Closure Committee's 2005 decision to strip the 188th of its flying mission and its subsequent about-face, which designated the unit for an A-10 assignment.

According to Anderson, much toil and labor went into the successful aircraft conversion from the F-16 to the A-10A, and later an upgrade to the A-10C. The modified C models feature significant leaps in capability.

The 188th's ability to meet critical training requirements for its aviators was severely hampered in October 2008 when 168 of the Air Force's 356 A-10s were grounded because of

issues with wing cracks. The 188th found intuitive solutions and shifted into high gear to meet maintenance and pilot training requirements, ensuring the March 8 departure.

"The amount of training that occurred in that timeframe is absolutely incredible," Anderson said. "It wasn't easy. We had many obstacles along the way. But time and again the 188th stepped up. The 188th didn't make excuses; they made it happen even when the odds were stacked against us and our backs were against the wall. We not only met the requirements, we exceeded them."

While the 188th prepares year-round for its mission, it has conducted an intense training regimen over the past nine months in preparation for

its AEF rotation. The wing deployed approximately 300 operations, maintenance and support personnel, along with 13 A-10s, to Operation Snowbird at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz., July 25-Aug. 8, 2009.

The deployment to Davis-Monthan afforded the 188th the opportunity to conduct training and gain operational experience in a mountainous, desert terrain, which closely mimics the climate and conditions in Afghanistan. The 188th flew 186 sorties totaling 437 hours during its deployment to Davis-Monthan.

The wing also deployed approximately 200 pilots, maintenance and support personnel, and 10 aircraft, to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., Oct. 9-

23, 2009, for additional training as part of the Green-Flag West exercise. While there, aircrews engaged in battle exercises simulating conditions in Afghanistan.

While at Green Flag, the 188th dropped a diverse array of munitions and bombs, as well as firing 30 MM rounds from the A-10's seven-barrel Gatling gun.

"Our primary mission is to provide close-air support for the Army," Anderson said. "I know it's not easy for the families as their loved ones venture into a combat mission. We understand that it's not only the 188th members who make the sacrifice but the families as well and we'll all await their safe return."

McConnell said that many of the efforts to assemble the tents were mustered prior to the earthquake as part of an exercise that was slated for February.

"We had the earthquake in January so the exercise they were supposed to have turned into the real McCoy," McConnell said. "We geared up for the possibility of migrants right

about the time we were rotating out. They were talking about setting up about 1,400 tents before we left."

For the 188th Civil Engineering Squadron, it was an experience they won't soon forget.

"We got to be around a lot of history while we were there and whether or not the place closes down eventually or it doesn't, we know we were a part of that history," McConnell said.

The 188th CES last deployed to Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq for four months in 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of an Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation. The 188th was also the lead unit during its stint in Kirkuk Air Base in Iraq.

The 188th CES experienced a surge of deployments in 2009. The 188th CES also had eight firefighters deployed to Kuwait for six months. They returned last September.

Five CES members, including one CE officer, three heavy equipment operators and one power production specialist embarked on a year-long deployment to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan in July 2009.

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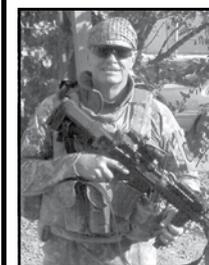
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- Pilot in USAF and Air National Guard 1973-1987 (T-37, T-38, F-15, A-7) 2400 hrs.



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# Mortar Fire



**LEFT, PVT. 2ND Class Nicholas Mitchell** of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, aims a 105mm mortar during a live fire exercise March 6, 2010 at Camp Robinson Maneuver Training Center. This was Mitchell's first opportunity to fire the weapon with his Guard unit

**BELOW, PRIVATE 2ND Class Nicholas Mitchell** receives expert instruction on the finer points of aiming a 105mm mortar from Spc. Kyle Cooper while Private 1st Class Josh Lambertus waits to "drop a round." Members of the 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, got the opportunity to perform an all day live fire at Camp Robinson Maneuver Training Center. The unit fired 80mm, 105mm and 120mm mortars into the evening hours.



**LEFT, PVT. 1ST Class Josh Lambertus** of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, prepares to fire a 105mm mortar during a day-long live fire exercise March 6 at Camp Robinson Maneuver Training Center.



U.S. Army photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, 119th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

# Air Guard strikes 'Silver' in green construction project

**By Air Force Master Sgt. Mike R. Smith**  
*National Guard Bureau*

ARLINGTON, Va. – A green building certification process that is the industry standard recently recognized the Air National Guard with its highest Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating to date.

The Arkansas Air National Guard's aircraft hanger project at the 188th Fighter Wing in Fort Smith was awarded a LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

"It was a very long and arduous process that involved many individuals, not just from the 188th, but from the construction and contracting side as well," said Col. Tom Anderson, the 188th commander. "Just to secure a LEED Silver certification alone is an incredible achievement ... but to be the first in the Air National Guard to attain such a feat for a maintenance facility speaks volumes of our civil engineering squadron's professionalism and dedication to executing a very difficult plan."

According to the USGBC, LEED certification includes "energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hornsey, 188th Fighter Wing

**A NEW HANGER** at the Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Fighter Wing received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certificate from the United States Green Building Council.

of resources and sensitivity to their impacts."

Officials said the Air Guard has more than 100-such construction projects in the LEED certification pipeline, but this is their first building to achieve a Silver rating, one of the highest ratings awarded. The USGBC has four certification ratings with "Certified" being its lowest, then Silver, Gold and Platinum.

"It was a challenging endeavor, but very rewarding," Anderson said. "What began as a lofty goal came to fruition, and we're very proud of this accomplishment."

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**OPERATIONAL SECURITY.** A Soldier with the Arkansas Guard's Counterdrug Program discusses the day's mission with the Arkansas State Police. Due to security concerns at the onset of the operations, the Soldiers and Airmen with the Counterdrug Program were required to remove all identifying patches from their uniforms.

**INSET, INITIAL SIGHTING.** Within the first four hours of day one, radar detected a large mass underground behind a barn on the property. A piece of the buried vehicle shown here is quickly uncovered near the surface of the ground. The vehicle had been stolen, stripped, crushed and buried. After all was said and done the Drug Enforcement Agency reported over \$200,000 in stolen property was recovered and six additional felony arrests were made.



# Drugs, Money and MURDER

Guard's Counterdrug Program helps uncover \$200,000 in stolen property.

*Story and photos by Capt. Chris Heathscott,  
Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs Officer*

MOUNT JUDEA, Ark. – In the early morning hours of Monday, March 8, this small town of 833 people in rural north Arkansas witnessed an unexpected parade of roughly 40 police and military vehicles. When the parade ended at the home of a local man suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, grand theft and murder, the mission for the Arkansas National Guard's counterdrug program had just began.

While the program's personnel were very familiar with the mission of supporting civil authorities in the state's drug interdiction and eradication efforts, this multi-agency operation provided the team with experience in a whole new aspect of the war on drugs. This time they were called upon to assist in the search for 20 year old Josh Middleton who was suspected to have been murdered in relation to his family's alleged drug

operation. Finding the body would be no simple task, as it was suspected to be buried in a vehicle somewhere on the family's property which spread out over 1,000 acres.

"The initial request came in for up to 20 troops, including our ground surveillance folks, aerial surveillance, and ground penetrating radar," said Lt. Col. Don Mabry, Counterdrug coordinator for the Arkansas National Guard. "The request also included bulldozers and backhoe type of excavator equipment."

The Guard was called out by the request of the Arkansas State Police in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Newton County Sheriff, and the 14th Drug Task Force, in order to serve an open ended warrant in the search for Middleton's body. Intelligence suggested that Middleton, who was reported missing in 2005,

had been murdered as a result of skimming money and drugs while working in his role to distribute methamphetamine across state lines.

"The request also included the 61st Civil Support Team partly because this family had the reputation of producing methamphetamines," said Mabry. "We didn't know how they were disposing of that toxic waste so we had the Civil Support Team on standby in case we accidentally stumbled across some of the toxic waste that was perhaps buried where we were digging."

Guard personnel used ground penetrating radar to scan the areas where credible evidence suggested the possibility of a buried vehicle. Game and fish personnel looked for other possible sites with signs of moved earth or other unnatural humps in the ground. While the majority of personnel

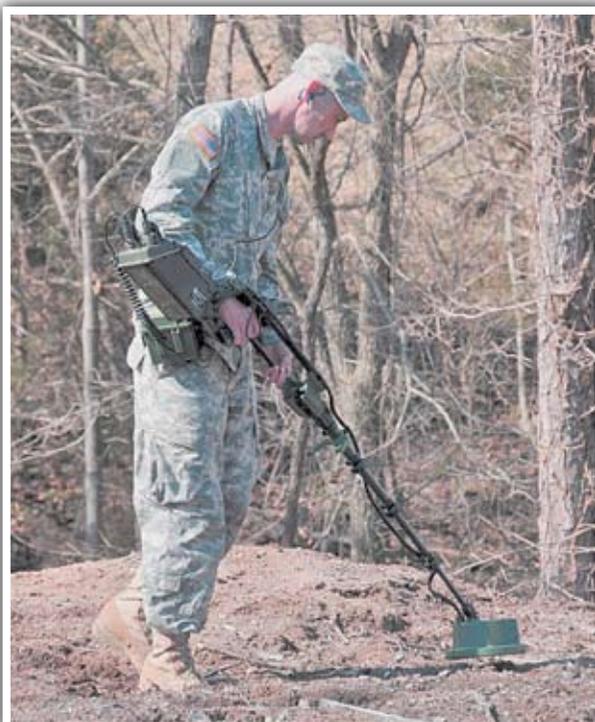
searched the ground, an Arkansas National Guard pilot flew others in a UH-72 Lakota in order to get a good look from the air.

"It was pretty intense," said Mabry. "It was a one week mission which is very unusual for counterdrug unless it's the marijuana eradication season."

Within the first four hours of day one, radar detected a large mass underground which set the Guard's engineers in action. Members of the Guard's 1038th Horizontal Construction Company from North Little Rock quickly uncovered the find.

Although this particular site didn't produce the Chevy Z71 pickup that was suspected to be Middleton's tomb, it did produce a different vehicle. This truck had been stolen, stripped, crushed and buried, but had no sign of a body inside.

"When we hit something, whether it's a



**GROUND PENETRATION.** GUARD personnel used ground penetrating radar to scan the areas where credible evidence suggested the possibility of a buried vehicle. "When we hit something, whether it's a rock, or it's a piece of metal, you get this excited feeling and butterflies in your stomach," said Staff Sgt. Tim Smith with the Guard's Counterdrug

rock, or it's a piece of metal, you get this excited feeling and butterflies in your stomach," said Staff Sgt. Tim Smith with the Guard's Counterdrug Task Force. "You just can't wait to dig it up to see what you found. In some cases you may not find anything, but in our case we did find some things that add to the case."

The search didn't stop after the initial find, and the discoveries didn't stop either.

"We found a truck that had a boat hooked to it. Boat and truck were buried together," said Spc. Michael Lynch, who is a member of the Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 39th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "It was exciting. Definitely got to do things you wouldn't normally do."

Lynch's team verified the large object buried underground after Game and Fish personnel spotted the unnatural hump in the saddle between two hills.

"Nobody really wants to see somebody who's been murdered," Lynch said after the engineers pulled the Z71 in question from the site of his team's find, "but to help law enforcement close the case on it would have been beneficial, so I had mixed feelings"

Lynch, who was called in specifically for this mission due to his knowledge of the ground penetrating radar, did not have to face the sight of a dead body with this discovery since this vehicle did not contain a body either.

As the search continued, the Guard was called upon to transport Josh Middleton's stepfather and alleged leader of the drug ring, who was suspected of being responsible for the younger Middleton's disappearance.

"Law enforcement had monitored phone calls that he had made while in jail trying to arrange an ambush of the law enforcement transport of the prisoner from the Benton County detention center in Rogers to Jasper in Newton County for his arraignment," said Mabry. "The request came through as a prisoner transport, but in actuality what we did was for the



**LOOKING FOR AN** answer. A crowd of civil authorities and Guard personnel look on as a member of the 1038th digs up an area that sparked the sensors on the Counterdrug team's ground penetrating radar. "It was great to have so many different people from so many different agencies all come together for a common goal and to succeed at that goal and work together smoothly and seamlessly," said Staff Sgt. Sam Hardin, an imagery analyst with the 123rd Intelligence Squadron who provided his expertise for the mission. "I think it was very successful."



safety of the law enforcement personnel."

Since the Guard can legally transport prisoners in custody of law enforcement as part of the Counterdrug mission, the UH-72 Lakota helicopter and its pilot took on that additional role in the operation.

The body of Josh Middleton was never found, but after all was said and done the Drug Enforcement Agency reported over \$200,000 in stolen property was recovered and six additional felony arrests were made.

"The sheriff told us at the end of the mission, 'if we would have found the body, that would have been the icing on the cake, but we got the cake,'" said Mabry.

"The operation was deemed a success because of all the stolen property we found," said Newton County Sheriff Keith Slape. "We've got such limited manpower in Newton County. We're a very rural area and a vast county too. I'd have been here with six deputies for several years trying to figure this out. It expedited everything with the Guard there."

"It was great to have so many different people from so many different agencies all come together for a common goal and to succeed at that goal and work together smoothly and seamlessly," said Staff Sgt. Sam Hardin, an imagery analyst with the Arkansas Air National Guard's 123rd Intelligence Squadron who provided his expertise for the mission. "I think it was very successful."

**RIGHT, SEARCH** high and low. Game and fish personnel roamed the area on four wheelers looking for signs of moved earth or other unnatural humps in the ground, while an Arkansas National Guard pilot flew civil authorities in a UH-72 Lakota in order to get a good look from the air.



**LEFT, UNEARTHING** A find. A Soldier with the 1038th Horizontal Construction Company from North Little Rock digs up a vehicle that was found buried underground as Drug Enforcement officials look on with members of the Guard's Counterdrug Team.



**JACKPOT. A SOLDIER** with the 1038th Horizontal Construction Company unearths a truck that had been stripped, crushed and buried. The vehicle identification number remained intact however, allowing civil authorities to verify the vehicle had been stolen. Task Force. "You just can't wait to dig it up to see what you found. In some cases you may not find anything, but in our case we did find some things that add to the case."

**INSET, HEAVY EQUIPMENT.** A member of the 87th Troop Command's 1038th Horizontal Construction Company pushes dirt to clear an area where intelligence suggested a vehicle may have been buried.

# Fort Chaffee provides unique training for deploying Arkansas aviation unit

By Capt. Heath Allen  
Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

FORT CHAFFEE MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Ark. – When Soldiers from the Arkansas Army National Guard's 77th Theater Aviation Brigade hit the ground in Kosovo this summer, they will do so running, and flying.

A key reason members of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation, and Detachment 1, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 238th Medevac seem to be brimming with confidence is the months of intense training they are receiving before deployment.

Much of that confidence comes from mission-specific training at Fort Chaffee, where the 114th recently spent 12 days. A daily battle rhythm utilizing real-world intelligence, and equipment similar to what they will use while deployed, helped prepare the 114th for its first overseas deployment as a group.

"This training exercises my tactical operations center, staff planning and the ability of my staff to refine procedures and communication," said Lt. Col. Tim Taylor, 114th commander. "It also allows me to assess the weaknesses and strengths of individuals and gives my operators the opportunity to become familiar with the capabilities and limitations of the equipment they will be using in Kosovo."

According to Taylor, computer-based battle rehearsals helped bolster chemistry between other units on the ground and in the air with the hope of fostering a safer, more effective operational envi-

**RIGHT: CAPT. BRIAN TAYLOR, RIGHT,** addresses the battle captain in a tactical operations center training exercise at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center's Battle Training Complex March 2, 2010. Taylor is a member of the 77th Aviation Brigade's Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation. The training is to prepare the 114th for an upcoming deployment to Kosovo.

**BELOW: MASTER SGT. Terry Martin, right,** engages in a tactical operations center training exercise at Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center's Battle Training Complex March 2, 2010. Martin is a member of the 77th Aviation Brigade's Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 114th Aviation. The training is to prepare the 114th for an upcoming deployment to Kosovo, the 114th's first overseas deployment as a unit.



ronment.

"The training uses real places... and real units that we know will be going," Taylor said.

Capt. Bettye Dufour, 114th operations officer, said that rehearsing with real-world intelligence will be a boon to mission efficiency.

"This training allows us to prepare using real maps of real areas not some fictitious place or scenario," Dufour said. "A lot of the intel and maps are very current and allow us to truly understand what we're going into. In my last deployment in 2003, we trained on maps of Fort Hood [Texas] that were made to look like Iraq. This training is very new, different and we feel it will be very effective."

According to 1st Lt. Daniel Jennings, the head of Fort Chaffee's Battle Training Complex, the war-fighting simulations mimic challeng-

es that commanders will face on the battlefield. It hones battle planning by staging interactive tactical-level combat in real time using, high-resolution graphics on digitized terrain portrayed in military map format.

"It's fully interactive," said Jennings. "It models indirect fire, air and ground movement, engineer and natural obstacles, observation, terrain effects, logistics, field fortification and many other factors that affect tactical combat."

The data is translated and appears on a Blue Force Tracker Emulator, which allows each trainee to view the action from a computer screen. Each individual involved in the exercise views the same operating picture.

Dufour said the Blackhawk helicopters the 114th will employ in theatre are simulated in training by an icon on the screen.

"Someone will have to move that icon to do the mission we planned," Dufour said.

"Being able to practice this in a safe environment at Chaffee allows us to knock off the rust so when things happen in theatre, we've trained like we will fight and we'll know exactly what to do and be able to expedite the process and be more effective."

Taylor, who has been the 114th commander since November 2009, said the training at Fort Chaffee helped his battle captains polish their decision making aptitudes amid controlled chaos, and tested their composure under duress.

"We put them through scenarios that help everyone exercise the daily battle rhythm that we'll experience in country," Taylor said. "Chaffee's a more controlled environment but the training allows us to see what works for us and what doesn't. It's a great environment for our staff to get valuable training that we can't get everywhere."

"It's very beneficial

and the location allows us to remain mission-focused during the entirety of the exercise. This particular place provides a very good training environment."

The 114th conducted additional training at Camp Robinson Maneuver Training Center in North Little Rock, Ark., in mid-March to complete warrior training tasks, and will venture to Camp Atterbury, Ind., and Fort Rucker, Ind., be-

fore completing training requirements in Germany prior to entering theatre operations.

"We're getting the equivalent of four years of training in less than a year," Taylor said. "We're getting so much support to help us be successful on this mission. It's a great learning event. A captain gets to be a company commander for an entire year on active duty. That's something you can't get on a weekend."

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# Magnolia armory dedicated to former TAG

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – The Arkansas Army National Guard’s Magnolia armory was dedicated to the memory of a former adjutant general during a ceremony there March 5, 2010.

The late Maj. Gen. James H. “Jimmie Red” Jones was honored by having his name attached to the home of the Guard’s Troop B, 1st Squadron, 151st Calvary Regiment of the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

“One of the main reasons we do this is not just to pay tribute to a truly deserving man – to a great civil servant – but also as an example to those Soldiers that come after him,” said Maj. Gen. William Wofford, the adjutant general of Arkansas.

Jones died in his home in Hot Springs, Ark., on Sept. 1, 2008 at the age of 88. He served as adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard from Feb. 1, 1979 to June 14,

1981, and again from Jan. 11, 1983 to Feb. 10, 1984.

Jones joined the Arkansas National Guard in 1938 and entered active service in 1942 as an aviation cadet. He

was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 and flew 30 combat missions as the lead bombardier with the 93rd Bomb Group. He was released

from active service in August of 1945.

“The determination and tenacity that he developed during those early years would serve him well,” said Maj. Gen. (re-

tired) James Ryan, a former adjutant general of Arkansas, who served as guest speaker during the ceremony. “He was a person of exceptional knowledge and ability.”



**A PROUD WIDOW** – Col. (retired) Shirley Jones, the widow of the late Maj. Gen. James H. “Jimmie Red” Jones, speaks during a ceremony in which the Magnolia armory was dedicated to the former adjutant general of Arkansas.



Photo by Capt. Chris Heathscott, Arkansas National Guard State Public Affairs Office

**UNVEILING THE NAME** – Soldiers with Bravo Troop, 1st Squadron, 151st Calvary, unveil lettering on the Arkansas Army National Guard’s armory in Magnolia renaming the structure in honor of the late Maj. Gen. James H. “Jimmie Red” Jones, a former adjutant general of Arkansas.

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# 1037<sup>TH</sup> Starts mission, Families bond together in their Absence

By Donna L. Shelton



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

**DAD AND SON** – A Soldier with the 1037th Route Clearance Company gets a last minute hug from his son before boarding a bus Nov. 10, 2009 as the unit departed Jonesboro for mobilization.

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. -- The Soldiers in the 1037th Route Clearance Company officially arrived in Afghanistan at the end of January 2010. While adjusting to their new surroundings overseas, their relatives, friends and supporters here in Arkansas look for creative ways to support the Families left behind.

One family has a great deal of experience dealing with deployments.

"It gets harder each time he deploys. But I am so proud of my Soldier – the commitment I see in him," said one of the wives.

Now serving as a Family Assistance Coordinator (FAC), this is the third time in their ten year marriage that she has seen her husband and his brother deployed overseas.

Their mother said she finds strength by helping both sons' wives and her grandchildren any way she can. Her newest daughter-in-law is expecting a child soon and dealing with her new husband's absence has been difficult for her.

"We (the family) have had a lot more experience dealing with the realities of the separations than she has. She didn't know what to expect. Because we have been through it before, we're there to help her through it. It's a stressful time for our family, but we are a strong family unit."

Meanwhile, the Soldiers of the 1037th have gotten to work starting their mission in route clearance patrols. Training does not end once the Soldiers start their mission. According to a sergeant with the 1037th, when the troops



**THE GROUP** – Soldiers of the 1037th Route Clearance Company in Afghanistan.

first arrived in Afghanistan they spent time completing the theater-specific required training on IEDs, vehicle rollovers, and the use of specialized route clearance equipment. While the Soldiers are continuing to hone their expertise, their Families are on a mission of their own.

"We at Family Programs have so many resources to deal with the stress of separation. Counseling sessions are free of charge and available for relatives and even friends of the deployed Soldier. The Beck Pride Center has been great to us as well. They provide Family forums where the adults can share their experiences, counseling is available, and they provide childcare.

"Separation can be especially hard on the children; that's why we have all kinds of materials that we offer the parents. Books, DVD's and other resources help reach the child and get them to communicate about their feelings and help them find ways to cope.

"I can't think of a more rewarding career than serving as a FAC. My only wish is that more Families take advantage of the many services offered by the Arkansas National Guard Family Programs. The programs helped me on his previous deployments. Now I have the opportunity to help someone else."

For more information, Families are encouraged to contact the Family Assistance Center near you, call 1-800-446-4645.

## OCS takes on Big Dam road march

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark – Guard leaders and platoon trainers with the Arkansas National Guard's Officer Candidate School led the way on a 10 mile road march along the Arkansas River in North Little Rock early Saturday morning, March 6.

Seven Officer Candidates with the school's traditional Class 53 completed the 10 mile march while 30 other aspiring officers took on the first five miles as part of their requirements in the school's "Phase Zero."

The road march began at North Little Rock's Burns Park and briefly touched into Little Rock when the contingent crossed over the "Big Dam Bridge," which spans the Arkansas River.

While the new cadets completed their portion of the event back at Burns Park, the remaining seven candidates kept moving along the river shore until they arrived at the 10 mile point near Arkansas' Inland Maritime Museum, by the Main Street Bridge, in North Little Rock.

Other Guard leaders who joined the candidates and their platoon trainers on the march included Col. Louis Landreth, commander of the 233rd Regional Training Institute, which oversees OCS; Col. Robert Mason, commander of the Arkansas Guard's Medical Command;



**ACROSS THE BRIDGE:** Officer candidates from the Arkansas Army National Guard's 233rd Regiment Regional Training Institute Officer Candidate School participate in a 10 mile road march that took them across the Big Dam Bridge from North Little Rock to Little Rock March 6, 2010.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

**BIG DAM ROAD MARCH:** Guard leaders joining in on an Officer Candidate School 10 mile road march included, from left to right, Col. Robert Mason, commander of the Arkansas National Guard's Medical Command, Maj. Richard Garringer, OCS commander, and Lt. Col. Franklin Powell, deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Lt. Col. Franklin Powell, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel; and Maj. Richard Garringer, commander of the Officer Candidate School.

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# Air Guard recruiter given lifetime award

## Has "recruited a wing" over 33 years of service

**By Sgt. 1st Class  
Chris A. Durney**

*Arkansas National Guard  
Public Affairs*

CAMP JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Ark. – One Airman can boast that he has recruited a whole wing of personnel for the Arkansas Air National Guard, and for that he has received a lifetime achievement award.

Chief Master Sgt. Jesse J. "Buddy" Burns, II was recognized by the National Guard Bureau's Air Guard Recruiting Service for his incredible achievement of having recruited 880 men and women into the 189th Airlift Wing over 33 years of recruiting service.

Burns was surprised by his award Feb. 23, 2010 during the National Guard Bureau's annual Recruiting and Retention Conference in Dallas, Texas.

"Aw jeez, it was neat," says the always affable Burns, "it was a great experience to receive an award I didn't expect." Since 2003 Burns has served as the Arkansas Air National Guard Recruiting and Retention superintendent.

The Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Fighter Wing recruiting office was also recognized by NGB as the tops in the Air National Guard, and the 189th took home the top retention rate award for the nation during the conference.

Burns began his recruiting career in 1977 after graduating school, and even then he seemed to have a way of knowing people who would make an impact in the world. One of his classmates was a Sgt. Stephen Swank, who had a three year old daughter at the time. She's now an Oscar winning actress.

Since then he's kept his famous connections closer to home by recruiting into the Air Guard some very familiar names, including Col. Alice Sander, Col. Rick Oxner and Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Arnold. One very notable name among his recruits is the now retired Command

Chief Master Sgt. Normal Gilchrest who served as the state command chief master sergeant until 2009.

"I've seen a lot of my recruits come in, serve and retire," says Burns. "I've actually seen some recruits come in who are grand kids of some of my recruits."

"When I began my career I had a \$10.00 [Government Services Administration] briefcase, no desk or phone, and a worn out GSA Ford Pinto," explains Burns. "I managed to find a manual typewriter and Senior Master Sgt. Bob Arnold let me use a desk in the Security Police unit. I made my recruiting phone calls from a pay phone in the hall way."

Burns has come a long way since then, working out of his own office at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Robinson.

"I have my own private office complete with a desk, multi-line phone with headset, laptop computer, a late-model government vehicle, a blackberry and a Mobile Recruiting Office," says Burns.



**NEW RECRUITERS** – Buddy Burns, back row, far left at the Air Force Recruiting school, began his recruiting career in 1977. Actress Hillary Swank's father, Stephen, is in the third row, third from the left.

Born in Little Rock in 1953, Burns enlisted into the Arkansas Air National Guard after graduating high school, and became a Fuels Specialist. Before being selected to be a Production Recruiter for the 189th in 1976, Burns cross trained into the 189th Security Police and eventually became a Flight Supervisor. While with the Security Police, he created a unit Color/Honor Guard.

Once he became a trained recruiter, his career blossomed. He is known for having taken a creative approach to consistently maintaining 100 percent strength in the 189th, the 123rd Intelligence Squadron, 154th Weather Flight and the Marksmanship Training Unit.

Among his notable contributions is an aggressive officer recruiting program



*Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs*

**THE CHIEF** – Chief Master Sgt. Buddy Burns in his office at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Robinson.

that brought the wing's officer strength up to 100 percent. He is also credited with carrying out a minority recruiting program that significantly improved the Arkansas Air National Guard's diversity goals. Along the way he has earned a Meritorious Service medal with one oak leaf cluster, an Air Force Commendation medal and a host of NGB recruiting awards.

"It's the reward of helping people, and of helping kids get an education, that's really important to me," says Burns. "I've always loved watching them grow as individuals and as citizens."

"It's almost like watching your own children grow up," says the father of four. "But now, it's fun because I get to sit on promotion boards for some of my own recruits. That's the real reward."

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## Women's History Month Celebration

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Chris A. Durney, Arkansas National Guard Public Affairs

March is Women's History Month and the Arkansas National Guard's Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Office of the Human Resources Office paired with the Little Rock Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission to celebrate this important observance.

A special program was conducted March 24 at the Little Rock City Hall that featured a guest speaker, and an array of awards were presented to those who have helped expand women's roles in business and society.



**MS WATTS** – Ms. Lynnette Watts, executive director of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas served as the guest speaker during the Women's History Month observance at Little Rock City Hall on March 24.



**A SPECIAL CAKE** – A special cake was prepared for the Women's History Month observance at Little Rock City Hall March 24. The program and celebration was produced by the Little Rock Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission in association with the Arkansas National Guard

## Minuteman Youth Camp



The Arkansas National Guard is now accepting applications for the Minuteman Youth Camp. This is an annual camp conducted at Camp Robinson for 10 and 11 year-old youth throughout Arkansas. Children who have or have had a parent deployed in the past year are encouraged to attend.

Information about the Minuteman Youth Camp can be found at <http://www.arguard.org/family/families.htm>.

Download your application today!

<http://www.arguard.org/family/2010MMYAPPLICATION.pdf>

Volunteers are also needed. Download your application here!

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