



MOUNTAINEER **DEFENDER**

Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard

SPRING/SUMMER 2005

BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE

Pentagon cutbacks threaten 130th Airlift Wing

Inside:

- Guard trains homeland defenders
- Army pilot lands crippled plane
- Fingerprinting Iraq's most wanted
- New OEF & OIF campaign medals





Magazine of the
West Virginia National Guard
Spring/Summer 2005



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On the cover:
BRAC hits WVANG
Read about it on Page 4

With ten on the tarmac and two in the hangars, 130th Airlift Wing officials parked twelve C-130 aircraft at the base during a joint training exercise in June to disprove Pentagon data that concluded the base's parking apron could hold no more than eight C-130's.

Photo illustration by:
Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD



Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

State Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj.
Lawrence R. Vance

**State Command
Chief Master Sergeant**

Command Chief Master Sgt.
Robert D. Chandler

**State Public Affairs Officer
& Editor-In-Chief**

Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

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The Adjutant General



Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

It's been a tough year. But now we face a fight tougher than any other in the history of the WVNG. The Secretary of Defense has recommended closing the Air Guard base in Charleston. I can't emphasize enough what a devastating blow it will be to our organization if President Bush and Congress approve DOD's recommendations.

Think about it, closing one of the nation's highest ranked air wings during a time of war. This unit was activated for Korea, Desert Shield/Storm and Iraqi/Enduring Freedom; recognized four times as Outstanding Flying Unit; over 161,000 accident-free flying hours; among best in nation in recruiting and retention, currently over 103% in strength with 95% retention; employs over 1,000 part-time and 300 full-time Guard members and contributes over \$71 million to

the local economy.

Make no mistake; this is not just about the Air Guard. Those C-130 aircraft are vital to the strength and readiness of the Army Guard as well. Having the aircraft in WV helps our Special Forces battalion maintain its jump proficiency. C-130s transport our combat heavy battalions to weekend training. Air Guard planes brought our soldiers home from mobilization stations upon their return from Iraq.

Closure of the Charleston base will have a destructive, demoralizing impact on our community, our state, and our service members whose efforts consistently make the West Virginia National Guard one of the highest ranked organizations in the nation. I urge you to mobilize your communities and help me save the 130th Airlift Wing.

State Command Sergeant Major

This will be the last time I address you as your state command sergeant major. I am honored to have had this opportunity and I thank God for leading me to the WVARNG as a career.

The last nine years have flown past. It has been extremely busy and very rewarding. I thank Maj. Gen. Tackett for selecting me as the SCSM. His leadership, guidance, support, and mentorship is priceless. He always directed me to work for and serve you and your families. Maj. Gen. Tackett's attitude toward soldiers/airmen and their families is guidance enough.

I feel blessed to have worked with the best that the greatest nation on Earth has to offer. The WVARNG, WVANG, federal employees, AGR personnel, state employees, and family readiness/family assistance personnel are without a doubt superior to others. Over the years you have proven that in peacetime and at war (which is the ultimate test of any military organization). All others are amazed by your accomplishments in combat, other deployments, preparing for/supporting deployments, and caring for each other.

As I attended conferences throughout the years, I was often asked, "How is the WVARNG so successful at everything you do?" My answer is simply that the men and women who serve West Virginia are the best! I believe that with all of my heart.



Bruce Coleman

Our retirees also own part of that success and are sometimes forgotten. Each of you have a great deal to be proud of.

Before this assignment I had very little exposure to the West Virginia Air National Guard. I have learned to respect you as individuals, leaders and as an organization like the WVARNG that is technically and tactically superb. Your flight support has separated the WVARNG from all other components of the U.S. Army. While others ride buses after long deployments, West Virginia soldiers are flown home to their families. In at least one instance, the C-130 and crew still had Iraq's sand on

them from their own deployment. The support didn't stop with airlifts. You were always there for any support needed such as family readiness, medical, security, administration, passports, maintenance, operations, photos, and the list goes on and on. Thank You!

The next state command sergeant major is Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence R. Vance. He is a great senior non-commissioned officer and leader. Please provide Command Sgt. Maj. Vance the same support and assistance you have given me. Together, you will take the enlisted soldiers and NCO corps of the WVARNG to the next level quickly!

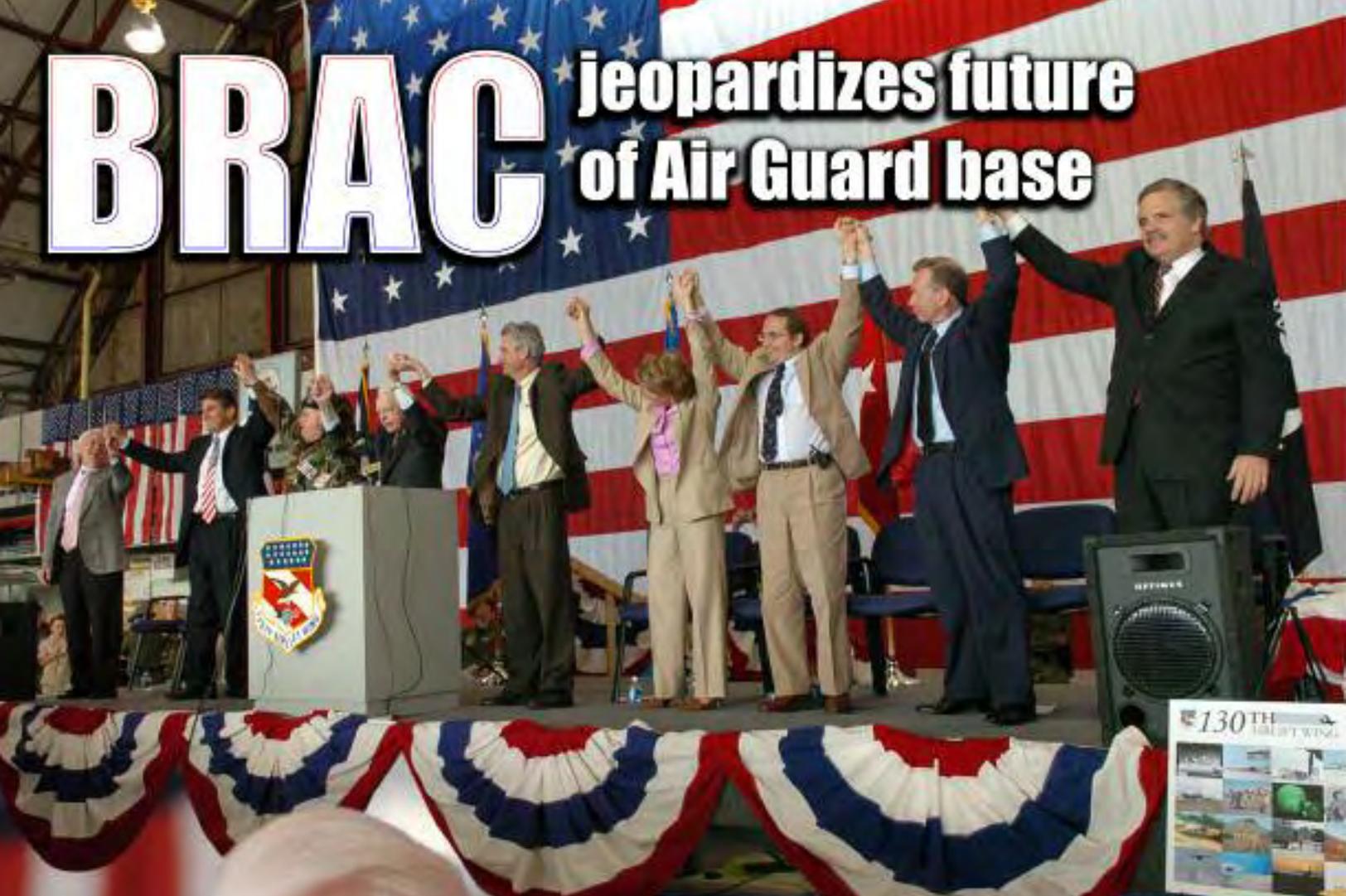
I want to express my deepest gratitude to each soldier, unit, staff section, retiree, and employee of the WVARNG for your continuous support of my efforts as the state command sergeant major. Linda and I wish each of you health, happiness, and success in the future. May God bless you, your families, the WVARNG, and the United States of America.

Editor's Note:

Command Sgt. Maj. Coleman left the State CSM position effective June 26. Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence R. Vance began his duties as the State CSM effective June 27.

BRAC

jeopardizes future of Air Guard base



Guard leaders, elected officials vow to fight DOD plan

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Top:

Maj. Gen. Tackett (third from left) stands in unity at the Charleston air base with elected officials vowing to contest the Department of Defense BRAC report.

Photo by Spc. David Dyer, 153d MPAD

Lower Left:

Senator Robert C. Byrd scorns the BRAC report during a gathering of military personnel and elected officials at the Charleston air base shortly after the documents release.

Photo by Spc. David Dyer, 153d MPAD

Lower Right:

A lone C-130 preparing to taxi was an ironic backdrop for a press conference held at Yeager Airport to challenge BRAC recommendations.

Photo by Spc. David Dyer, 153d MPAD

Center Right:

Senator Jay Rockefeller discusses the 130th Airlift Wing's capabilities with Col. Tim Frye, 130th commander, during a tour of the base.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

Center

Adjutant General Allen E. Tackett answers questions at a press conference following release of the BRAC report.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

Below

During a joint training exercise in June, 10 W.Va. Air Guard C-130s prepare for takeoff from the Charleston air base.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

Charleston's Air National Guard base at Yeager Airport will lose about 150 full-time and 600 part-time jobs under a Department of Defense plan to relocate the unit's C-130 Hercules aircraft to Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

The Defense Department's announcement on May 13 ignited a firestorm among state and local officials and left Guard leaders wondering how the 130th Airlift Wing, one of the nation's most called-on Guard units, could be recommended for realignment.

"This unit is on its 10th rotation to the Middle East," Adjutant General Allen

Tackett said at a hastily-called press conference with Gov. Joe Manchin after the DOD announcement.

"Members of the 130th have been serving side-by-side with their active duty counterparts for over three years."

Manchin said that closing the Charleston base and transferring the unit's planes to North Carolina "makes no sense whatsoever."

U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) criticized the Pentagon plan at a May 16 meeting with military members and concerned citizens. Standing in the base's huge aircraft hangar, Byrd said, "The men and women of the West Virginia Air National Guard deserve better."

Byrd was greeted with thunderous applause when he threw the BRAC report to the ground, declaring that it "did not pass inspection."

Unit members were shocked by the news that Air Force leaders want to dismantle a unit with such a proven record of serving the state and nation.

Col. Tim Frye, commander of the 130th Airlift Wing, voiced the concerns of his troops. "What more can we do?" he said. "We've deployed our people away from home every time the Air Force asked. "We consistently rank higher than any other C-130 unit in terms of recruiting and retention."

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, whose 2nd Congressional district includes the Charleston air base, said the 130th "belongs on the commendation list, not the BRAC list."

But past performance wasn't high on the list of factors considered important by DOD.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

Gov. Joe Manchin and Adjutant General Allen Tackett discuss strategies for fighting the Pentagon's plan to take Charleston's C-130s.

According to the BRAC report, Defense officials gave priority consideration to "military value," a concept encompassing four criteria: capabilities in joint warfighting; condition of land, facilities and airspace; ability to handle future force requirements, which

the Air Force has yet to finalize; and cost of operations and manpower implications.

DOD's failure to provide detailed information about the loss of jobs and benefits drew the ire of airmen meeting with Byrd.

Master Sgt. Pete Ruddle, a 20-year Guard veteran and fireman at the Charleston base, learned his job is slated to move to the Martinsburg air base under the DOD plan.

Ruddle was upset at the lack of information provided by DOD. "I want to know what my options are because I'm not moving my family to Martinsburg," he said.

Junior members of the organization weren't sure how the realignment would affect them either. Senior Airman Danielle Massey, 19, of Nitro, W.Va., is less than

See BRAC, Page 6



CES commander honored for work in Iraq 130th engineer improves water infrastructure in Iraq



By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle
Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Lt. Col. Jerry Webb, 130th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, received the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service at a Pentagon ceremony in January. Brig. Gen. Don Riley, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented the award to Webb on behalf of L. Paul Bremer III, Coalition Provisional Authority administrator.

Webb, principal hydrologic and hydraulic engineer for the Corps, was honored for his work as Senior Advisor to the Minister of Water Resources, Coalitional Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq, from October 2003 to March 2004.

Webb was sent to Iraq by the Corps to assist in rebuilding critical Tigris and Euphrates River basin infrastructure damaged during coalition attacks to remove Saddam Hussein and his Ba'athist regime from power.

Webb developed an annual program to repair and maintain the country's critical water infrastructure that serves more than 26 million Iraqis. His group also initiated a master planning process for management of key river basins, laying the foundation for a more peaceful and democratic Iraq.

According to Webb, it wasn't easy operating in a combat zone. "We had nightly attacks on the Green Zone [CPA headquarters]. "My staff had to drive across Baghdad every day and go through the tunnel of death."

BRAC (Continued from Page 5)

two years into a six-year enlistment and attends college at Marshall University under the Guard's tuition assistance program.

According to Massey, tuition assistance was important in her decision to join the Guard. "I'm concerned about my college benefits. "I want to serve my country, but I might have to leave the state if the military takes away the assistance I get for college."

Guard officials hoped to get answers to these questions in June when data analysts from the BRAC Commission and Chairman Anthony Principi were slated to visit the base.

Commission members offered Guard leaders a second chance to make their case at a regional hearing June 28 in Charlotte, N.C. Tackett hopes base officials can convince the Commission that data used by DOD to evaluate the base's capabilities was flawed.

Frye scheduled ten aircraft to fly from the Charleston air base on June 4 to prove that DOD criteria were misapplied to the 130th. More than 14 planes were parked on the Air Guard ramp that day.

This is contrary to DOD's findings that the air base parking apron can't accommodate more than eight C-130 aircraft.

Tackett believes this is but one example of bad information used by the Pentagon to rate the 130th Airlift Wing. "If they want a unit that can park 12 or 16 aircraft, we can do it here in Charleston."

State and local leaders vowed to help the 130th fight the Defense Department plan. Kanawha County Commissioner Kent Carper promised to "turn the general aviation runway into a parking lot if that's what it takes to keep these C-130s in Charleston."

Nine members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission will scrutinize DOD recommendations before submitting a final list of bases to President Bush in September. Bases may be removed from the list through a majority vote of the Commission.

If the president approves the list, it will go to Congress, which must approve or deny the list within 45 legislative days.

Pentagon recommendations will close or realign 27 Air Guard units, about 30 percent of the total Air Guard strength.

DOD officials say it is necessary to realign the active and reserve forces to better prepare for 21st century threats.

More than 800 military installations and 29,000 troops will be affected by the Pentagon's plan.

WVGuard
Provides

FREE
Motorcycle
Safety
Course
to Members



The West Virginia National Guard is proud to announce a joint motorcycle safety program for both Army and Air Guard members. The program provides both the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Basic Riders Course and the Experienced Riders Course. These courses are provided at no cost and are the exact same instruction that is given on the civilian side. Graduates are given completion cards that are valid at the WV DMV for obtaining a motorcycle endorsement.

In addition, a Rider Coach class will be conducted in July. The Rider Coach class is essentially the "train the trainer" course allowing graduates to teach both the Basic and Experienced Rider courses.

For more information and scheduling contact:

Lt. Col. Craig Lambert, JFHQS Safety Office at 304-561-6325.

West Virginia National Guard to host Joint Interagency Training Center - East

Members of West Virginia's 35th Civil Support Team prepare equipment at the Center for National Response during a joint exercise with Georgia's CST and Atlanta's Urban Search and Rescue Team.



The Jist of JITC-E



Col. Jim Hoyer, Dep. Commander for Installations and Homeland Defense, visits with Phillip J. Stober, Program Manager for New York Task Force 1.

Story and photos by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Pitzer
Defender Magazine

In the fall of 2000, West Virginia National Guard Adjutant General Allen Tackett oversaw the opening of the Center for National Response Tunnel complex.

The former West Virginia Turnpike tunnel, spanning 2,800-feet adjacent to Interstate 77 in rural southeastern Kanawha County, was converted into an exclusive real-world training environment for first responders.

"We saw the need for homeland defense training as far back as 1997 when we started positioning the West Virginia National Guard to be a leader for terrorism training," said Tackett. "After 9/11 the world changed. "We started receiving phone calls about the training facility we operated."

The tunnel is part of a five-location plan for the new Joint Interagency Training Center-East.

Camp Dawson is the main campus where military first responders, law enforcement and others will train and prepare for homeland defense scenarios.

Col. James Hoyer of the West Virginia National Guard serves as deputy commander for installations and activities. "We already have classes being conducted at Camp Dawson, training at the tunnel complex, and are working on plans for a 6,000-40,000 acre range in West Virginia to complete our facilities," said Hoyer.

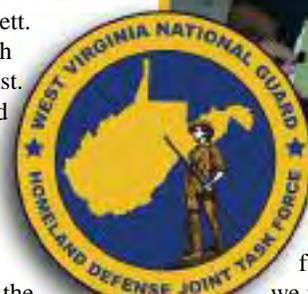
JITC-East also includes a command element in St. Albans and an industrial complex training center and an urban training village near Camp Dawson.

The primary mission of JITC-East will focus on education and training of Critical Infrastructure Programs, as well as Full Spectrum Vulnerability Assessments and Civil Support Teams.

"This is a natural mission for the National Guard," said Tackett. "The Guard has trained with civilian responders in the past. "The civilian community and the military both bring special expertise. "It is important for those who will respond and work together to train together."

Training is continuing at the tunnel complex and Camp Dawson for the National Guard and civilian community. In April, the Georgia National Guard's 4th Civil Support Team and West Virginia's 35th CST trained with the Georgia Search and Rescue Team in a real-world scenario conducted at the CNR tunnel facility.

Over 22,000 civilian and military first responders have trained at the complex since its opening. "This is the right thing



to do," added Tackett. "We had the tunnel facility functioning prior to 9/11, and we trained first responders who were some of the first units deployed to Afghanistan.

"At a critical time for our nation, the West Virginia National Guard is leading the way to help facilitate civilian first responders and military weapons of mass destruction training," said Tackett. "JITC-East will serve the growing demand for joint training focusing on homeland defense and security."



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD
 Lauren Setser and her brother Dakota talk to the media during a homecoming ceremony for their father, Capt. Jeff Setser, along with other members of the 201st FA returning from Iraq.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD
 Sgt. 1st Class Charles Brown instructs a visitor on an M-60 during a 151st Military Police sponsored law enforcement career day held in Charleston.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Randy Buckner, 130th MXS
 Lt. Col. Randy Buckner, 130th Maintenance Squadron commander, stands on the frozen tarmac of McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Maintenance members are rotating to McMurdo to support Operation Deep Freeze, a National Science Foundation mission.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD
 Members of the 201st Field Artillery prepare to fire a 21-gun salute during the inauguration ceremony of Governor Joe Manchin III in Charleston.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD
 A patriotic welcoming awaits members of the 3664th Transportation Co. during a homecoming celebration at the Charleston air base. Members of the 3664th returned home after more than a year serving in Iraq.

Photo by Col. J. Brooke Taylor, 167th AES
 Maj. Keith Fletcher, Maj. Sam Sapio and Senior Airman Jared Shank of the 167th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron transfer a patient from a Blackhawk chopper to a C-130 at Baghdad International Airport to move him from Iraq for more definitive medical care.





Photo courtesy of Chief Master Sgt. Dave Boyles, 130th AS
 130th Airlift Wing conducted humanitarian flights in Afghanistan earlier this year, dropping supplies into Afghan villages that were inaccessible by ground due to heavy snowfall.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Sharp, 130th CF
 Twenty-six civic leaders from across West Virginia travelled with the 130th Airlift Wing on a whirlwind tour of Germany. Here, the group poses with a C-130 on the Ramstein Air Base ramp.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

Maj. Alex Kugajevski, U.S. Army (left) and Cadets Amperello and Vasuez of the Peruvian Military Academy visit the 130th Airlift Wing flight line with Capt. Todd Miller of HQ, WVANG during an ROTC cadet exchange visit to the Charleston Air Base.



Photo courtesy of 167th Airlift Wing

Adjutant General Allen Tackett presents 167th Airlift Wing Staff Sgts. Brad Runkles (left) and Derek Brown with Purple Heart medals at a formation during the unit's April drill. Runkles and Brown were injured performing vehicle convoy operations in Iraq.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

130th Airlift Wing firefighters Senior Airman Jeff Elswick and Tech. Sgt. William Haynes inspect a civilian aircraft with its pilot, Mike Duffy. The firefighters responded to the accident that occurred as the plane was taxied at Yeager Airport in Charleston.



'I couldn't give up on the airplane'

Army Guard pilots land C-12 safely after landing gear malfunction



By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle
Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Two Army Guard pilots landed a C-12 aircraft safely at Harrison-Marion Regional Airport in Clarksburg on Jan. 27 after the plane's landing gear malfunctioned during a routine training flight over north-central West Virginia.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Marian Clemens and his student from the Florida Army Guard were performing instrument approaches at Morgantown's Shepherd Field when the landing gear in-transit light illuminated during climb out, indicating that the landing gear wasn't fully retracted.

Clemens, a 38-year Army aviation veteran and senior instructor pilot at the Fixed Wing Army Aviation Training Site in Clarksburg, took turns troubleshooting the problem with his student pilot

while the other flew the aircraft.

Officials at FWAATS, Army Maintenance Command and its contractor, Dyncorp, helped Clemens troubleshoot the problem. At one point, Clemens used a screwdriver to remove the floorboards and a survival axe to close a circuit on the gear's motor while attempting to manually lock the gear in place.

Out of options, Clemens decided to land the plane. "We flew around until the wing tanks were empty and only 57 gallons remained in the main fuel tank," he said. "We shot a practice approach to see how the plane would glide with full flaps and the gear partially down."

According to Clemens, the landing went better than planned. "We shut engines off at 100 ft. above ground and had a heavy glider at that point. "It took a lot of work to keep straight, but control was better after the right gear collapsed," he said.

"This is what we train for," Clemens said. "But I take a very small amount of credit. "There is no question that a lot higher power was helping out and looking out for us."

Lt. Col. Vincent Johns, FWAATS commander, had high praise for Clemens. "If I was in a plane in that situation, I would want Mr. Clemens piloting it," he said. "There is no better pilot in the West Virginia Army Guard."

A safety investigation team was convened to determine the cause of the landing gear failure. Preliminary reports indicate a large, steel jack screw that works through a brass nut in the landing gear actuator failed, allowing only a limited span of operation. The failed actuator was sent to Dyncorp and Army Maintenance Command for analysis.

Earn While You Learn and Get an Army Commission!

With the Early Commissioning Program

The ECP program is tailored for soldiers who have already completed one of these three requirements: three or more years of Junior ROTC, Leaders Training Course at Ft. Knox, Ky. or Basic Training with the National Guard. Applicants who meet the criteria are eligible for three different two-year scholarship opportunities:

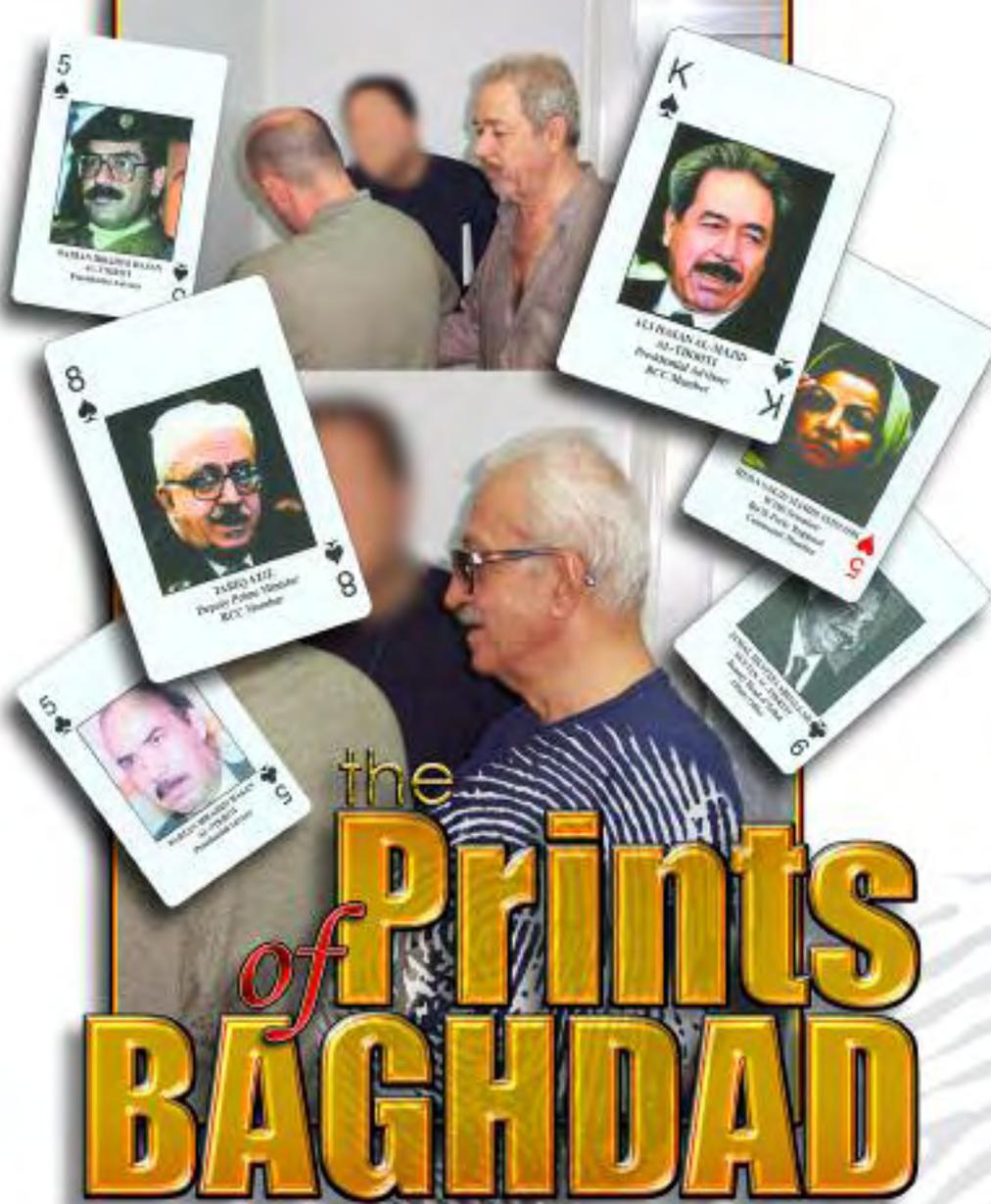
- 1) Military Junior College Scholarship (MJC)
- 2) Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship (GRFD)
- 3) Dedicated Guard Scholarship.

Recipients of the MJC, GRFD, or Dedicated Guard Scholarships will serve in a Guard unit while enrolled in the USA ROTC Program at one of the five military junior colleges. Currently, Cadet Command will work with the WVARNG to place as many scholarship recipients in these colleges as we can send them.

Scholarship Benefits:

- \$350 monthly cadet pay during MSIII academic year
- \$400 monthly cadet pay during MSIV academic year
- Tuition
- Cadet Uniforms
- Academic fees
- \$900 per year for books
- E-5 pay for National Guard drill

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITY, PLEASE CONTACT:
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the of Prints BAGHDAD

W.Va. Guardsman puts the finger on Iraq's most notorious

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle
Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Tech. Sgt. Aldo Burdi walked toward the mess tent at U.S.-controlled Baghdad International Airport on July 4, 2003, daydreaming about fireworks that would be exploding across the U.S. as America celebrated its independence.

His thoughts were broken by a sound no soldier wants to hear, a distant *thwomp!* that sounded like a mortar tube discharging its shell. Not knowing if the base was under attack, he stood frozen on the gravel road, wondering if the lunchtime attack that occurred earlier in the day would be repeated.

Suddenly, the Russian made rocket was directly overhead, shrieking towards its final destination just a few yards away.

"I was shocked to be standing in a room, next to a guy, a genocidal maniac, who was being prosecuted for killing tens, maybe even hundreds of thousands of people."

Burdi

The blast knocked Burdi to the ground, blowing his helmet off and raining gravel the size of ping-pong balls.

He stumbled for cover between two semi trucks, struggling to regain his composure. While his family and friends were celebrating America's independence, Burdi was almost killed fighting for the independence of a country more than nine thousand miles from home.

National Guard members have been called like never before to support military operations in Southwest Asia. But Burdi, base historian for the 130th Airlift Wing, wasn't called to military duty by the President. Burdi was sent to the Middle East by his civilian employer, the FBI.

"I volunteered to go," Burdi said. "After 9/11, FBI Director Mueller stated that the war on terrorism should be the agency's primary focus." Burdi said part of that effort was updating the agency's fingerprint identification system, and "I asked the unit chief if I could go. "This was the first time a mobile fingerprint system would be used in an austere, wartime environment."

Burdi said his military background and network administration skills made him a good fit for the team that was assembled for the overseas mission.

According to Burdi, his team's mission was to photograph, fingerprint, and collect biographical data – name, place of birth, height and weight – from detainees for inclusion in the West Virginia Violent Gang Terrorist Organization File database kept in Clarksburg.

Detainee information would be sent via satellite to the FBI center at Clarksburg and compared against existing profiles in the National Crime Information Center database in Washington, D.C. Burdi's team and field agents all over the world could determine if insurgent profiles matched those in the system in less than twenty minutes.

After training at Fort Bliss, Texas, in March 2003, Burdi's team waited several months for the order to deploy. Burdi said he couldn't believe the date they were given. "It was pretty ironic that I deployed to Iraq on September 11, 2003, which was the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks that got us into this conflict in the first place."

Working at Baghdad Airport, the team was in country about 10 days before processing the first group of terrorists – high ranking Ba'athist regime

See Prints, Page 12

officials allegedly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens.

Burdi said he had heard how ruthless the Ba'athist regime was. "I was shocked to be standing in a room, next to a guy, a genocidal maniac, who was being prosecuted for killing tens, maybe even hundreds of thousands of people."

Many of the detainees were cordial, according to Burdi. "They wanted to talk because they had been isolated; not about what we were doing there, but just to exchange pleasantries." But those of higher status in the regime, Saddam's brothers and general officers of Iraqi's former military "stood proudly but remained quiet," Burdi said.

"These are the same people featured in the DOD-sponsored deck of playing cards. "My team processed 42 out of the 52 people in the deck of cards," he said.

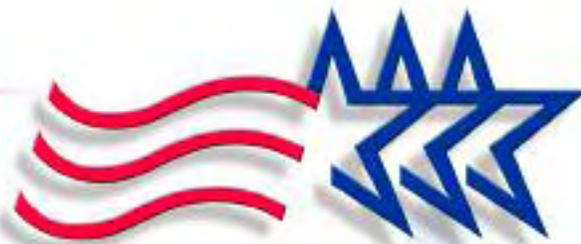
As the war progressed, Burdi's team chief coordinated with military intelligence officials to find out where detainees were being held. Burdi traveled by Army helicopters to Balad, Tikrit, Mosul, As Sulaymaniya and Kirkuk to process detainees being held in those areas.

Many detainees held in these locations came from outside Iraq, Burdi said. "Some, when questioned, admitted they were in Iraq to kill Americans. "Their disdain for Americans was evident."

Burdi said he spent a lot of time reflecting on the war after his 60-day tour of duty. He's not sure the average American understands what is going on there. "Americans only know what is fed to them by the media," Burdi said. "They don't see the whole story, that we are building schools, rebuilding the infrastructure, repairing sewage systems. "They don't see the little things individual soldiers are doing, like helping Iraqi citizens in isolated villages get access to medical care."

Most Iraqis are happy that Sadaam is no longer in power, according to Burdi. "Only a small percentage of citizens are fighting us, and those are mostly Sadaam loyalists and Al-Quaida elements." Burdi said it's unfortunate the media chooses to sensationalize the bad things happening in Iraq.

Burdi said he would go back to Iraq if needed. "It's one of the most difficult things I've had to do, but I believe it's so important to our homeland security."



TRICARE coverage available for more guard members

Guard members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after Sept. 11, 2001, may be eligible for the TRICARE Reserve Select health plan. Guard members may buy individual or family plans if they meet three criteria:

- 1) served on Title 10 for more than 30 consecutive days after 9/11
- 2) served continuously on active duty for 90 days or more under such order
- 3) must enter into an agreement to serve in the Selected Reserve before leaving active duty.

TRICARE Reserve Select offers comprehensive health coverage similar to TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra. Members will access care from any TRICARE authorized provider, hospital or pharmacy – TRICARE network or non-network. Members may access care from a military treatment facility on a space-available basis only. Pharmacy coverage is available from any MTF pharmacy through the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program and from TRICARE network and non-network pharmacies.

Reserve Select coverage includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Urgent and emergency care
- ✓ Family health care
- ✓ OB-GYN and maternity services
- ✓ Health screenings and immunizations
- ✓ Behavioral health care
- ✓ Annual eye examinations
- ✓ Laboratory and radiology services
- ✓ Prescription drug coverage.

For more information, go to:

www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect.

Guard hires full-time TRICARE representative

Lisa Silver was hired as a health benefit advisor to handle TRICARE issues for National Guard members. Silver will be working in the Family Assistance Center, 1703 Coonskin Drive, Charleston, W.Va. 25311. She can be reached at: (304) 561-6822 or lisa.silver1@wv.ngb.army.mil.

Silver will not handle AGR TRICARE issues. Army AGR personnel should continue working TRICARE issues through:

Human Resource Office
(304) 561-6423 or (304) 561-6425.

Air Guard AGR personnel should work their TRICARE issues through:

Master Sgt. Vern Smith
130th Medical Group
(304)-341-6395





Hearts & Heraldry

History of the Purple Heart

By Maj. Todd Harrell

153d Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

With a heritage spanning more than two hundred years, the Purple Heart is today one of the oldest and most respected awards in the U.S. military.

The Purple Heart was initially called the "Badge of Military Merit" by its creator, General George Washington, who had announced the award on May 3, 1783. During the Revolutionary War, there were only three recipients of the award. After the war,

most records of the Merit Badge were lost until the 1920's when efforts began to reinstitute the award.

Marking the biennial of Washington's birth, the War Department Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur announced the re-release of the Army's Purple Heart on February 22, 1932. Along with the new medal came the requirement that the award be granted for wounds sustained as the result of enemy action.

The Purple Heart has continued to evolve over the years. On December 2, 1942, President Roosevelt extended the award to cover Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. This eligibility was eventually made retroactive to encompass World War I. President Kennedy added civilians serving with the armed forces while President Reagan included military personnel wounded or killed during terrorist attacks.

Though requirements have changed over the years, the Purple Heart will continue to represent the sacrifice made by those who selflessly serve our armed forces.

Serving With Heart

Nineteen* West Virginia Guardsmen have received Purple Hearts since 9/11:



SSG Derek Brown
167th Airlift Wing

1LT Mark B. Houck
Det 1 HHC 1/150 Armor

SGT Michael W. Jennings
Co.B 1/150 Armor

SPC Norman B. Jones III
Svc. Btry 1/201st FA

SGT Brandon M. Long
Co.C 1092d ECB

SPC Steven A. Parrish
HHB 1/201st FA

SGT Clinton D. Ridenour
Co.B 1/150 Armor

SFC Ronald S. Rinto
Co.C 2/19 SFG(A)

SFC Daniel J. Rose
Special Operation Det.E

SSG Brad Runkles
167th Airlift Wing

SSG Michael T. Samuel
Co.A 1/150 Armor

SSG Bradley J. Sergent
130th Airlift Wing

SSG Donald A. Scurlock
Co.C 1/150 Armor

SSG Darwin E. Stemple Jr.
Btry. A 1/201st FA

SGT DeForest L. Talbert
Co.C 1/150 Armor

SSG George E. Terry
130th Airlift Wing

SSG Gene A. Vance
Co.C 2/19 SFG(A)

SPC Timothy L. Whitley
3664th Maint. Co.

SGT Steven W.
Workman
Co. C 1/150 Armor



Medals
Left to Right:
Iraqi Campaign
GWOT Service
GWOT Expeditionary
Afghanistan Campaign

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On November 29, 2004, President Bush authorized two new medals for service members. The Afghanistan and Iraq campaign medals were established to recognize service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The release of these awards has resulted in some confusion about their relationship to the Global War on Terror Service Medal and the Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal. While these medals may seem somewhat redundant at first, their purpose is to fairly and accurately reflect the diversity of service that our forces support.

The most common question with these awards is whether or not you can be awarded the GWOTE and a specific campaign medal. Guidance for these awards is initially specified in Public Law 108-234 which states, "Upon application, a member by reason of service may be awarded either the Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal in lieu of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal." Simply put, only one of these four medals is authorized for

the same period of service. An individual may be eligible for more than one of these awards for separate deployments.

If you have already been awarded the GWOTE, you may request the campaign medal in its place. The new campaign medals do not replace the GWOTE entirely. West Virginia continues to deploy soldiers and airmen to locations other than Iraq and Afghanistan who may be eligible for the GWOTE.

So which medal should you wear? The Army Military Awards Branch has yet to establish the precedence of these medals as they relate to other military awards. Other campaign medals however currently take precedence before the GWOT and GWOTE.

For those concerned about promotion, five points each are awarded for the campaign medals, GWOT and GWOTE.

Its unusual to allow service members a choice of awards, but then again, these are unusual times. The new campaign medals and Global War on Terror medals are evidence of the new and constantly evolving battlefield.

*Award recipients not listed should contact their unit administrator to make sure all appropriate records are updated.



Martinsburg chief named top airman in W.Va. Air Guard

Chief Master Sergeant Susan E. Lesh, 167th Airlift Wing superintendent of nursing services, was presented the James K. McLaughlin trophy at the unit's April drill in recognition of her selection as the Air Guard's outstanding airman for 2005.

Lesh joined the West Virginia Air Guard in 1983, beginning as a medical technician and working her way up to the nursing superintendent position. Promoted in November 2003, Lesh became the first female chief master sergeant in the history of the 167th.

Lesh's work at the 167th, outside the continental U.S., and in her hometown earned her the title of airman of the year. She supported the Medical Group's Combat Medical Readiness Training and the Wing's Operational Readiness Exercises and Inspection. She also deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and to Central America for humanitarian missions in Honduras and Peru.

Lesh is actively engaged in community activities and serves as co-trustee for the Lesh Family Foundation, which provides funding for a medical facility in the Philippines. She works on a committee that ensures playgrounds are designed to meet the needs of handicapped children and instructs disaster preparedness seminars for first responders.

Lesh will go on to compete in the Air National Guard's Outstanding Airman of the Year competition.

State winners were (by category):

Airman Category:

Senior Airman Jessica I. Camerlin
167th Logistics Squadron

Non-commissioned Officer Category:

Tech. Sgt. Markus L. Bays
130th Logistics Squadron

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Category:

Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Lesh
167th Airlift Wing

First Sergeant Category:

Master Sgt. Charles A. Palmer
167th Airlift Wing.



Now Accepting Nominations for the In-State Boss Lift

at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, WV

9-11 September, 2005

Here's a chance for your employer to learn first hand what guard members do as part of their military service. This is a comprehensive program covering all aspects of military life from weapons training to orientation flights.

For more information, contact your state ESGR coordinator:

Ed Bowman
(304) 561-6024/6025

News you can use



TRICARE claim deadline

Generally, claims must be filed within one year of the date of service or from the date of discharge from an inpatient facility. This rule also applies to repayment of pharmacy claims.

For more information, go to:

www.tricare.osd.mil/claims

Federal Bureau of Prisons announces job openings

Guard members are encouraged to apply for a variety of positions within the federal prison system. The system needs guards, counselors, case managers, mechanics, and other occupations.

To review current job openings in West Virginia or for more information, go to:

www.bop.gov

Veterans' records available

Copies of veterans' discharge and separation papers may be obtained by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Mil Pers Records, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

In a medical emergency, information may be obtained by calling NPRC:

Army, 314-538-4261

Air Force, 314-538-4243

Navy/Marine Corps

& Coast Guard, 314-538-4141.

W.Va. Veterans Affairs offices

Beckley	(304) 252-8220
Charleston	(304) 343-3825
Huntington	(304) 523-8387
Martinsburg	(304) 263-6776
Morgantown	(304) 285-4001
Princeton	(304) 425-5653
Wheeling	(304) 232-0587

Woman, Supervisor of the Year nominations sought

Nominations for Woman of the Year and Supervisor of the Year competitions are being accepted in the Human Resources Office at the Coonskin Army. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting Maj. Kenny Hale at 561-6430.

Camp STARBASE seeking kids

Children ages 9-13 are invited to participate in Camp STARBASE, July 25-28, 2005, at the Charleston air base on Coonskin Drive. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Participants can be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. and must be picked up before 4:30 p.m. Best thing of all...the camp is FREE.

Please call STARBASE at 341-6440 to obtain an application.

Harley-Davidson extends warranties for deployed service members

Harley-Davidson is continuing its longstanding tradition of serving America's military by extending the warranty on any service member-owned motorcycle for the number of days that member has been deployed.

Contact your Harley-Davidson dealership for more information.



Family Appreciation Day

For the Soldiers and Airmen who continue to protect our state and nation and the families who support them, West Virginia presents this event in appreciation for your selfless service. Please join us

Saturday, August 6th, 2005
at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, West Virginia.

Events include children's activities, rock wall, rappelling, fishing, and paddle boats and more!

Representatives will be available from USAA, ESGR, Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Family Readiness, Chaplains, and R&R. All previously deployed service members that have not registered with the VA are encouraged to bring their DD-214 and register with the Veterans Administration at this time. There will also be a representative from Family Readiness to review the new benefit, Tri-Care Reserve Select, insurance available for M-Day soldiers and families. For more information, contact:

Capt. Allen Martin
304-561-6607 or DSN 623-6607
james.a.martin2@wv.ngb.army.mil



B.J. Embry cheers the arrival of a 130th Airlift Wing C-130 transporting his father, Spc. David Lee Embrey, and other members of the 201st Field Artillery as they return home from their 12-month deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, 153d MPAD

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