



# MOUNTAINEER DEFENDER

Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard  
SPRING 2006



## 167th AW prepares for arrival of C-5s

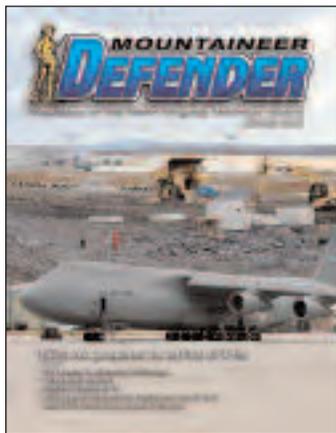
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- WV a leader in biometrics technology
- Deployment updates
- Basics of pandemic flu
- All WV guard computers to require new user ID card
- Meet WV's Soldiers and airmen of the year



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*On the cover:*

As construction continues at the Martinsburg Air Base, a C-5a Galaxy visits the facility that will be home to ten of its enormous siblings. Read more about Martinsburg's conversion to C-5s on Page 4.

Photo composition by  
Maj. Todd Harrell, Det. 1, 196th MPAD

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**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.  
Ronald D. Bowe II

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

Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

**Design & Layout**

Maj. Todd Harrell

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**Send comments/contributions to:**

State Public Affairs Office  
WV National Guard  
1679 Coonskin Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311

or

defender@wvchar.ang.af.mil



## The Adjutant General

I returned recently from my second trip to Iraq to visit Army Guard soldiers serving so admirably there. When I reflect on that trip, two words come to mind – Soldier First. We talk a lot about preparing for war, about developing the common soldiering skills necessary to go into harm's way. I'm happy to report that our soldiers have embraced the warrior ethos and, according to their active duty commanders, are doing an outstanding job supporting the mission.

I can't tell you all the great things troops of the 1257th Transportation Co. and 2/19th Special Forces are doing. But I will tell you this – we are taking the fight to the enemy, rooting out insurgents, and providing security at one of the most important bases in the region.

None of this would be possible without those of you left behind who helped these soldiers get ready for battle. I've seen the results of their technical training, seen improvements in mobilization preparedness, and seen these soldiers transform from mechanics and cooks to some of the best-trained, most capable soldiers in theater.

Our soldiers are still early in their deployments, but I'm comfortable that they are ready and willing to do their jobs and serve our country. Let's not forget these soldiers and their families as we head into the summer months, for they will not get to enjoy many of the summer traditions we look forward to.

I want to change gears now and ask



Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

you to consider what's going on here in the U.S. While Americans are concerned about military operations overseas, threats of future attacks on U.S. soil, and a volatile economy, there is another much less publicized issue that should concern us all.

Scientists around the world are warning of a flu outbreak that could kill millions of people and cripple the world's economy. Strains of the "bird flu," for which there is no human vaccine or cure, have already killed hundreds of people in Asia, Europe and Africa. Although there has not yet been human to human transmission of the disease, scientists believe this flu will reach America over

the next few years.

State officials, under the leadership of Dept. of Military Affairs and Public Safety Secretary Jim Spears, have already begun planning for such an outbreak. The Guard is uniquely qualified to assist state and local agencies, and we will likely play a significant role in the state's response.

Our Civil Support and CERF teams have specialized training and equipment for dealing with the flu virus and other biological agents. We have command and control capabilities that will be critical in coordinating the state's response. National Guard engineering, security and aviation assets may also be needed if an outbreak occurs.

I encourage you to be prepared on a personal level as well. Educate your families about the flu and how it spreads. Individual behavior and preparedness will be the greatest factors in decreasing the spread of the flu across the state. For more information, read the pandemic flu article on page 13 or visit:

[www.wvflu.org](http://www.wvflu.org)

The Guard has a responsibility to serve and protect the citizens of West Virginia, and we've done that very well in the past. West Virginians know that when the Guard rolls into their communities, help has arrived. Let's not let them down. Get involved in the planning process and be prepared to respond if this crisis reaches West Virginia.

## State Command Chief Master Sergeant



Command Chief Master Sgt. Bowe

Our core values: *Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do*. These values shape us as airmen of the West Virginia Air National Guard and guide us from the moment we take the oath to become military members.

*Integrity First* reminds us of moral character, which must be integrated into our lives through words and actions. *Integrity First* means being honest and loyal to our friends and families, our state, our Air Force, and our country. Integrity builds and strengthens our character through the daily exercise of words, actions and decisions.

*Service Before Self* implies sacrifice and commitment to our State and our Nation. This begins with duty, but it means much more. It means that going above and beyond

the call of duty is not the exception, but rather the rule – in peacetime and at war.

*Excellence in All We Do* reminds us that our actions reflect not only on ourselves but on all airmen and the Air Guard itself. It reminds us of Billy Mitchell, Doolittle, Spaatz, and Rickenbacker -- heroes who beat incredible odds. We have inherited a history of excellence, courage and greatness. We must live up to that heritage, become part of it and pass it on.

Guard members are men and women of good character. Core values provide a foundation to strengthen character as we rise to meet future challenges, threats and opportunities. We must maintain the moral high ground that our state and nation depend on.

Thank you for all of your contributions and sacrifices.



## A new era begins as the 167th Airlift Wing converts to C-5s

By Sgt. Sherree Casper  
Det. 1, 196th MPAD

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. – A large crowd gathered inside a hangar at the 167th Airlift Wing here on Feb. 4 to witness a new chapter begin in the rich history of the West Virginia Air National Guard.

Parked just outside on the aircraft ramp was a massive C-5 Galaxy transport plane. The plane was on loan to the 167th from Stewart Air National Guard Base in New York. Similar aircraft will soon find a new home in the Eastern Panhandle as the first of 10 funded C-5s destined for the Martinsburg base is expected to arrive in December.

More than 1,000 members of the Air Guard joined state and local officials at an hour-long ceremony to bid farewell to the last of the Wing's fleet of C-130s. The C-130s were transferred to other units, including the base's sister unit, the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, to make room for the enormous C-5.

"Less than a hour from now, the last of the C-130 aircraft will depart from this magnificent unit," said U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va. "With that departure, we will witness a turning of the page of the history of our state's beloved National Guard. As we, together, turn that page, there is a new chapter beginning."

"Even now, the 167th is beginning to transition to new missions and new challenges, which will culminate when the formidable C-5 aircraft begin to arrive one year from now," Byrd said.

In the late 1990s Adjutant General Allen Tackett and then-167th Wing Commander "Speedy" Lloyd sought to diversify the state's Air Guard units. Both senior officers knew that a state with two C-130 units was vulnerable during the Base Realignment and Closure and Quadrennial Defense Review processes. Byrd and Tackett worked with Air Force and Air Guard leaders to bring C-5s to Martinsburg.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Joseph, Det.1, 196th MPAD

The last of the 167th Airlift Wing's C-130s departs Martinsburg for its new home at the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston.

Tackett knew the project would take an enormous amount of federal funding, so he looked to the state's senior senator for help. Byrd responded by securing funding for the project, which, when construction is completed in 2009, will have brought more than \$200 million federal dollars to the Eastern Panhandle.

According to a press release from Byrd's office, the economic impact to the local economy will be \$50 million per year. Additionally, nearly 200 new full-time jobs will be added at the 167th Airlift Wing base.

Full-time jobs in aircraft and vehicle maintenance, command post and base supply are now being advertised. Additionally, 150 traditional Guard member slots will be created.



Years in the making, the transition to C-5s will be challenging, but one that members of the 167th appear eager to take on.

Capt. Andrew Schmidt, public affairs officer for the 167th said, "The conversion is important because it will keep this unit as a front line player in the war against terrorism and will provide a strong economic footprint in this part of the state."

Col. Eric W. Vollmecke, 167th Airlift Wing commander, believes the Wing is ideally suited to take on the new weapon system.

"Make no mistake, our new C-5 mission will be just as critical to the Air Force," he said. "The C-5 is a symbol of America. There is no other country on earth that can make such a massive aircraft and keep it flying the globe."

"There are many things that the active duty does well, but maintaining aircraft is something that the Guard and Reserve does especially well. We've proven over time that we can keep our planes flying no matter what the circumstances, and that's not going to change with the C-5s."

Lead engineer for the project, Lt. Col. Billy Burkhart, said the new construction will "totally transform the base."

Expected to be in service for the next 40 years, the C-5s will require an estimated \$220 million in upgrades to the 167th Airlift Wing base. Improvements will include three new hangars.

"The biggest hangar right now is 32,000-square-feet," Burkhart said, noting the largest of the new hangars will be almost three times that size.

He said the expansion project to accommodate the C-5s will enlarge the base from 100 acres to approximately 240 acres. Burkhart said the 14-acre ramp at the air base will have to be expanded to 44 acres to accommodate the U.S. military's largest aircraft.

One of the most striking additions to the small air base in Martinsburg is the 128-foot air traffic control tower. Completed in November 2005, it serves both the 167th Airlift Wing and Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport.

"It is the highest habitable building in Berkeley County," Burkhart said of the tower.

Burkhart said an added benefit of the massive construction project "is that many of the people working on the project are from the local community, from the local concrete and quarry companies right down to the garbage service."

The adjacent airport will also benefit from upgrades to the runway, which will be extended from 7,000 to about 8,000 feet.

"It will be the largest and newest runway in the Tri-State area," Burkhart said.

Burkhart touted cooperation between the Airport Authority and the Guard as vital to the conversion.

Rick Wachtel, chairman of the EWVRAA, agreed. "We have an excellent partnership with the 167th Airlift Wing," Chairman Wachtel said, adding that the Air Guard "brings \$2 million in services to the airport." Wachtel said those services include manning the air traffic control tower, providing security for the airfield, and plowing the runways and taxiways to remove snow during the harsh winter months.

"The base also mans the air crash rescue facility 24/7," he said.

The official announcement that the base would undertake such a

massive construction effort to house the C-5 created a lot of discussion in the community.

According to Lt. Col. Roger Sencindiver, wing chief of staff, two environmental impact statement scoping meetings were held to solicit public input. Sencindiver said all public concerns were addressed, and feedback from local leaders was "very positive."

Martinsburg City Councilman Gregg M. Wachtel said having the C-5 make a new home at the 167th Airlift Wing is critical to the community.

"I think it will have a very positive impact on the economy," Councilman Wachtel said. "It keeps the Air National Guard base here and adds Guard positions to the area." Councilman Wachtel said he hopes C-5 industry-related businesses eventually relocate to the community.



Photo courtesy of the 167th Airlift Wing

A vintage photo shows a bustling air wing at Martinsburg during the 1960's complete with Lockheed C-121 Constellations.



Right: One of Martinsburg's last C-130s is dwarfed by a visiting C-5.  
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Joseph, Det.1, 196th MPAD



George Karos, who has been the mayor of Martinsburg for the past five years, lauded the arrival of the C-5 to the 167th Airlift Wing.

"I imagine it will bring more (jobs) in," Karos said. "I like to call it the domino effect."

Karos explained that when the conversion is completed and the Wing begins flying missions, the surrounding businesses will benefit.

"More traffic means more business, and I think that's good for the economy," he said.

In a nutshell, Karos is convinced the C-5s will bring an economic boost to the local economy.

"It's a positive thing for the Eastern Panhandle," the mayor said. "I'm happy that they are here."

Karos said the Martinsburg City Council, Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport Authority, Berkeley County Commission and West Virginia National Guard "will make a great team."

"I look forward to what the future brings," he said.

While the Martinsburg air base and surrounding community ponder a future that involves supporting one of the Air Force's most important strategic airlifters, officials at the Charleston air base believe the

conversion is good for them as well.

Many of the C-130 aircraft leaving Martinsburg will end up just a 45-minute flight southwest at the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, replacing that unit's older C-130 fleet.

Guard leaders see the arrival of the C-5 planes in Martinsburg and the transfer of C-130s to the base in Charleston as a win-win situation.

After all, less than a year ago the future of the 130th Airlift Wing was in doubt. The Defense Department had announced it was considering closing the base, which would have meant the loss of 150 full-time and 600 part-time jobs.

Now, a C-130 unit will not only remain in

Charleston, but its members will fly the more modern H3 version of the C-130, which has enhanced avionics, better night vision goggle capability, and improved weather radar.

With ten C-5s on the way for the 167th and the future of the 130th secure, the West Virginia National Guard has made yet another leap forward towards modernization of its force and maintaining its status as one of the best prepared and equipped organizations in the United States military.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Joseph, Det.1, 196th MPAD

In the shadow of a visiting C-5, a crew member from the 167th heads to a C-130 bound for its new home at the 130th Airlift Wing in Charleston, WV.

## C-5a Galaxy Facts

The C-5 has a wing span of 222.8 feet, length of 247.8 feet and stands 65.1 feet tall. It has a wheel base of 83.1 feet and a maximum take-off weight of 769,000 lbs.

The length of the cargo compartment is longer than the distance flown during the Wright brothers' first flight.

The paint alone weighs 2,600 pounds, and the power output of each engine is equivalent to that of 800 average automobiles combined.

Its cargo area can hold the equivalent of:

- 10,682 bushels of unshelled Virginia peanuts
- 100 Volkswagen Beetles
- Six Greyhound buses
- Three battle tanks
- Enough fuel for the average American car to make 130 roundtrips from Los Angeles to New York or 31 trips around the world.



Maj. Gen. Allen Tackett demonstrates the iris scanner that secures access to his office.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD

## WV pioneers biometrics technology

by Mike Pitzer

Security for critical infrastructure is a must in today's world. Quick, efficient authentication is crucial for access to military installations and other key facilities.

Security at military installations has taken on a new look in this millennium, and the West Virginia National Guard has taken advantage of the state's expertise in biometrics to stay in step with increased security requirements.

Currently, the WVNG uses two iris scanners for entry into the Adjutant General Office suite and two fingerprint scanners for entry into the WVNG Joint Operations Center. During heightened security, the devices provide an efficient and rapid means of identifying and granting access to key personnel. "Our partnership with the Biometrics Fusion Center has led the Guard to implement this new security system, which includes previously installed fingerprint authentication devices on several personal computers to prevent unauthorized access," said Adjutant General Allen E. Tackett.

The West Virginia National Guard uses biometrics to authenticate personnel accessing various areas. "Working with

the BFC allows the National Guard to be on the forefront of identification technology," stated Col. Jim Hoyer, deputy commander for Installations and Homeland Security. "Embracing this innovation adds to our homeland security expertise."



Photo by: Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
Journalist Rick Steelhammer interviews (right to left) Maj. Gen. Tackett and David M. Lohman, Deputy Director of the Biometrics Fusion Center.

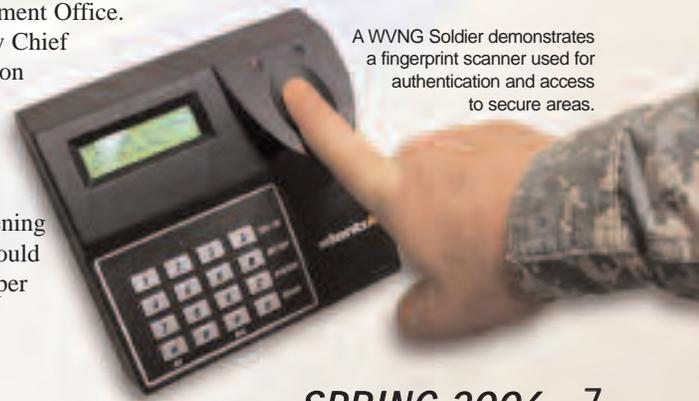
The Biometrics Fusion Center located in Fairmont, W.Va., is the test and evaluation unit of the Biometric Management Office. The BMO reports to the Army Chief Information Officer who acts on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics, the Secretary of the Army.

"September 11 was a watershed event in terms of heightening the awareness that persons should be identified by more than paper credentials," said Sam Cava,

Biometrics Fusion Center director.

Biometrics is at the heart of the Biometric Identification System for Access system, which has been fielded in numerous locations worldwide. Azimuth Corporation, based in Morgantown, W.Va., is responsible for the design/build of the core system.

With the Biometric Identification System for Access (BISA), the U.S. military can ensure that all foreign nationals with access to U.S. military facilities have been cleared against U.S. databases of known terrorists and suspected enemy combatants. Once cleared, applicants receive biometrically enabled ID cards that must be used every time they enter a U.S. facility. The West Virginia National Guard assisted in the loading and transport of the systems to priority locations.



A WVNG Soldier demonstrates a fingerprint scanner used for authentication and access to secure areas.



Photos by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 A technician with Raydon Corporation (left) administers door gunner simulation training to Staff Sgt. Patrick Cain prior the Soldier's deployment with the 150th Aviation.

Air Guard leaders greet Staff Sgt. Kristin Catsonis and other members of the 130th Airlift Wing as they return home from serving in Afghanistan after serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.  
 Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD

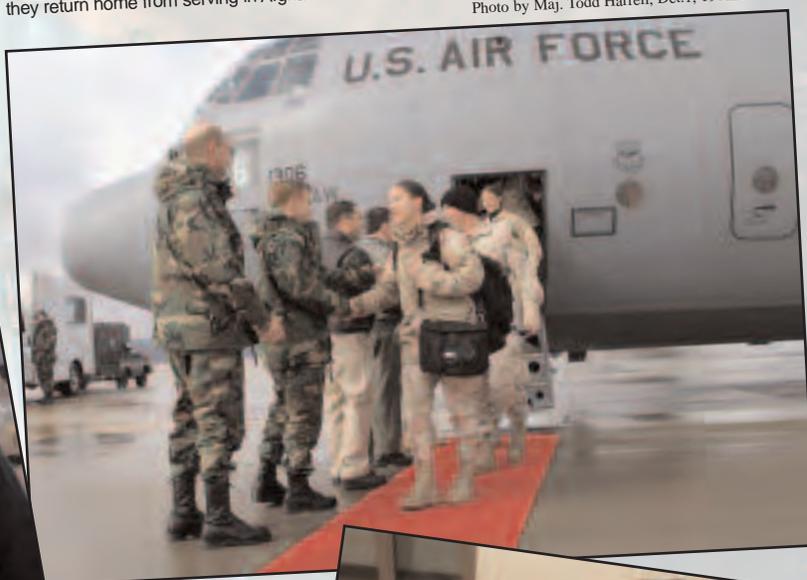


Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 Secretary Jim Spears of West Virginia's Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety meets with members of the West Virginia CERF-P during a capabilities exercise in Washington, D.C.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 Sgt. 1st Class William Moore assists Sgt. Brandon Koon in donning the new EOD-7 bomb suit being fielded to members of the 753rd EOD.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 Adjutant General Allen Tackett and 130th Wing Commander Col. Tim Frye greet members of the 130th Airlift Wing upon their return from Germany after supporting Operation Joint Forge.



Photo by Spc. Joseph Clay, 1257th Transportation Company  
 (left to right) Sgt. Anthony Brewer, Staff Sgt. Anthony Johnson and Sgt. John Stroud break for a photo while serving with the 1257th Transportation Company in Iraq.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det. 1, 196th MPAD  
 Members of the West Virginia CERF-P perform medical evaluation procedures while being observed by Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau, CERF-P commander Lt. Col. Larry Wheeler and others during a recent demonstration at the Nation's capital.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 (right to left) Lt. Col. Harold "Junebug" Campbell visits with Staff Sgt. Scott Ramsey and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Whitehouse as they prepare to depart for Fort Sill during the mobilization of the 150th Aviation.



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD  
 Staff Sgt. Andrew Redman (far left) and his brother Senior Airman Dustin Redman (far right) are greeted by their father, Master Sgt. Roger Redman, mother Patti and Andrew's fiancée Bethany upon their return from deployment to Afghanistan.

# 1257<sup>th</sup>: Secrets to success while serving in Iraq

From the Editor:



The Huntington-based 1257th Transportation Company was one of the first units of the West Virginia National Guard to be called to active duty after 9/11. Many unit members were surprised when their mission called for a stateside tour providing transportation support in New York.

The 1257th is also one of the first units from the Mountain State to be mobilized for a second tour. Unlike the first mobilization, however, this call-up would take the unit overseas where they now serve in Iraq.

Though the 1257th traditionally serves as a transportation company, its current mission required a shift in focus. Upon arrival in Kuwait, the unit received new training that prepared its soldiers for a site security mission.

By all accounts, the 1257th has proven themselves effective at the new mission.

A recent letter from 1st Sgt. Freeman to unit members provides some insight into the challenges the unit faces and some of its secrets to success. It is being reprinted here because it is a universal message that applies to units throughout our organization.

*“ The 1257th Transportation Company began active duty on September 5th, 2005. We have been in Iraq for six months. This is a major milestone defining the arduous path we have followed to arrive at this point in time. Last year at the Guyandotte VFW, I spoke of the thin green line that has served the state during disaster relief from Wheeling to Welch. That line has changed from green to brown and now serves our nation in Iraq. The time has passed seemingly quickly, and then at other times, it has dragged by. The unit is engaged in many different tasks working simultaneously to accomplish our mission of helping spread freedom to a nation that has never truly known democracy and a free way of life.*

*There is no substitute for the support provided by friends and family. The letters, cards, care packages and well wishes are a great way to support your soldier. By watching the news you can understand that this place can be physically as well as emotionally draining. A letter from home is always an emotional pick up for the soldier that receives one. The burden of our mission will be lessened by the support received from family and friends. We truly appreciate everyone who has worked so diligently in supporting this company.*

*The soldiers of the 1257th must look to the future and the successful completion of our mission; every soldier will have to look in the mirror, to the inner self and discover the strength to endure this time of separation from home. We must face our future with a positive mental attitude, accepting the challenges that lie ahead and working hard to overcome certain adversity and hardship. I am proud of all the Soldiers of the 1257th. Each Soldier continually strives to work together as a team member. The road we have taken to get to this point has not been easy. However, that trail is behind us and we are better Soldiers because we have taken the path less traveled.”*

ISG Freeman





## Families Honor 1/150th

By Barbara Martin

1/150th Family Readiness Group

When soldiers of the 1/150th HHC were mobilized in October 2003, the Family Readiness Group rallied around them for a heart wrenching send off, one of the best the state has ever seen.

But it didn't stop there. The FRG stood beside its soldiers through the deployment with endless fundraisers, sending support packages to the soldiers, school supplies to the Iraqi children, and helping the families when the need arose.

So when the time came in February 2005 for the proud Soldiers to return home, FRG members and area businesses decided to honor soldiers in a way that would last for generations to come. They planned a monument that would pay tribute to Soldiers and their fight against terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The monument includes the unit's crest, "We Can Take It," the 30th Brigade's "Old Hickory" and the 1st Infantry's "Big Red One." The Soldiers can stand proud in knowing that everyone who enters the Bluefield Armory will know the sacrifice 1/150th Soldiers made of leaving loved ones behind.



Members of the 753rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit display their new EOD-7 bomb suits.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell  
Det. 1, 196th MPAD

## 753rd Suits Up

By Spc. Debra Gill  
Det. 1, 196th MPAD

The West Virginia Army National Guard has been tasked with an important new mission. It now has an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit. A first for the Mountain State.

The small contingent of specially-trained Soldiers with the 753rd EOD unit based in Kingwood, W.Va., are on call 24/7 to respond to a suspected explosive device. Soldiers were recently acquainted with the protective suit that they have three minutes to don.

The Advanced Bomb Suit, or ABS, is "100 miles better than what we've had before," said Francis Hayden, who instructed Soldiers on the wear of the ABS. The suits cost nearly \$20,000 each.

On April 8, Soldiers with the 753rd EOD unit were given hands-on training on the ABS. The first and only EOD unit in West

## Firefighter mission in Iraq mirrors mission at home

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ Public Affairs Office

Nine firefighters from Charleston's 130th Airlift Wing deployed to Iraq in January, marking the first deployment since 9/11 for members of the unit whose primary responsibility is protecting Yeager Airport.

"We waited a long time for this deployment," said Master Sgt. Pete Ruddle, one of three assistant chiefs at the 130th Fire Department and assistant chief of operations for the deployed 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

Ruddle said the mission in Iraq is not much different than what firefighters face every day at Yeager. "The biggest difference is we're doing our jobs in a wartime environment. We always have to be aware that there are bad guys on the other side of the fence," Ruddle said.

130th firefighters responded in February to an accident involving a 60-ton crane belonging to Kellogg, Brown and Root, a defense contractor doing construction work on the base. The crane had flipped over, pinning the operator inside.

Tech. Sgt. Matt Lyons, assistant chief of training for the 506th, said crews worked more than three hours to remove the operator from the crushed cab. The patient was treated for shock and



hypothermia but returned to work only two days later.

Training is another important part of the firefighters' mission. Senior Master Sgt. Gary Johnson, fire chief at the 130th and the deployed 506th, oversaw the construction of a smoke simulation burn trainer at Kirkuk.

Medics from the base hospital were some of the first to experience what it felt like to be a first responder. Nurses and doctors donned more than 55 pounds of protective clothing and equipment before entering the chamber. Johnson said the experience is very much like the continual training that firefighters do to keep up their skills.

*Editor's note: The group returned to Charleston on May 16 after serving more than four months in theater.*

Virginia came on-line in September 2004. It currently is at 100 percent strength with 22 Soldiers strong.

Sgt. 1st Class William Moore, the readiness and operations noncommissioned officer, said the Military Occupation Specialty is one of the most difficult academically to master. The school has a 75 percent washout rate, but the Mountain State pulls in a 60 percent pass rate, one of the highest percentages for any MOS.

Soldiers attend a 10-week school in Alabama followed by 22 weeks in Florida. Moore, who hails from Petersburg W.Va., was adamant on what type of Soldier it takes to tackle an IED. "You gotta have your head cranked on right," he said, in reference to the mental state of a Soldier who literally risks being blown up.

Hayden stands 100 percent behind the suit's effectiveness.

"The president of the company has blown himself up 19 times just to show the reliability of the suit," he said.

Requirements for the MOS include a GT score of 105, memorization abilities, top secret clearance, and no color blindness.

"You don't want to cut the green wire when it should have been the red," said Moore.

The 753rd EOD's readiness NCO said the unit could possibly face deployments overseas.

If that happens, Moore said the 753rd EOD will be ready.

# Barnette gets second star

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



Brig. Gen. John Barnette was promoted to the rank of Major General at a promotion ceremony on Jan. 23 in the Charleston Armory War Room.

Adjutant General Allen Tackett and Brig. Gen. Barnette's uncle, Andy Barnette, pinned West Virginia's assistant adjutant general for Army with a second star before a crowd of about 100 of his family members, friends and co-workers.

Barnette's promotion marks the first

time in the West Virginia National Guard's history that the state has had two officers in the rank of Major General serving simultaneously.

Barnette joined the West Virginia National Guard in 1967. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Engineer branch in 1969. He was appointed to his current position as assistant adjutant general and commander, Joint Task Force, Joint Forces Headquarters in 1995. Barnette also serves as the deputy chief of staff for personnel of the Eighth Army in Korea, a position he accepted in 2004.

Barnette has an associates degree from Concord College, bachelors degree from West Virginia State University, masters degree from West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, and a doctoral degree from West Virginia University.

He lives in Charleston with his wife, Karen. He has two children – Scott and Aimee and four grandchildren – Caleb, Joshua, Alyssa and Noah.



Photo by Sgt. David Dyer, Det. 1, 196 MPAD

The parent workshop led by Barbra McFadden (upper right) discusses how parents can make their children more successful.

## New program strengthens Guard families

By Sgt. David Dyer  
Det. 1, 196th MPAD

GLEN JEAN, W.Va. – The first Military Family Workshop and Health Fair was held at the Glen Jean Armed Forces Reserve Center on March 18. The event was organized by the West Virginia National Guard Child and Youth Program Office.

The workshops started at 10 a.m. for parents and children. The parents workshop had instruction on dealing with 10-15 year olds and the 40 Developmental Assets for Successful Youth. The middle and high school kids also covered the Developmental Assets in their workshop and information on healthy relationships. A play group was available for younger children to allow parents to attend the workshop.

"Our goal is to educate military families on the information and services available to them," said Susan Izzo, the WVNG Child and Youth Program Coordinator.

After lunch, representatives from The American Red Cross, Military One Source, Carelink Health Management Service, Operation Military Kids in partnership with 4H, the National Military Family Association, Adolescent Health Program, and the Child and Youth program office had displays and information for military families.

"If we can help one family with something they didn't know about, then it's worth it," said Izzo.

For more information on future Military Family Workshops or the Child and Youth program, please call (304) 561-6821 or toll free at 1-866-986-4326.



### Standard Training for all Motorcycle Riders !

It's that simple! If you ride a motorcycle on a military installation, the MSF Safety Course is now required.

Since 9/11, the number of service member motorcycle fatalities has doubled to nearly 350 with more than a thousand injuries.

West Virginia National Guard takes this issue seriously and so should you!

That's why we now offer the MSF Basic and Experienced Safety course free of charge to West Virginia Guard members.

For more information or to schedule a class, **contact:**  
Lt. Col. Craig Lambert  
JFHQS Safety Office  
304 561-6325

#### 2006 Course Schedule

10 JUN	- Experienced
22-23 JUL	- Basic Course
12-13 AUG	- Basic Course
15-16 SEP	- Basic Course

Additional classes to be announced

See a current schedule on the WVARNG web site.





# A layman's guide to the flu pandemic

By Col. Michael McIntosh  
Joint Forces HQ State Surgeon

Much has been written about an impending flu pandemic based on the spread of avian or "bird" flu overseas. It is important to separate fact from theory and "best guess" analysis when discussing this topic.

Each year many of us deal with the "ordinary" flu season as a nuisance and interruption to our lives. Military members are required to take a flu shot, and it is recommended that other target groups take it as well. Americans take a flu shot for the prevalent strain that is occurring at the time. Thirty to 60 million people contract the ordinary flu each year, and about 36,000 elderly or weakened Americans die.

The current discussion centers on a new flu strain, H5N1 or "avian" flu, which originated in the Orient and may create the next pandemic in the world. Currently, H5N1 is thought to be transmitted only from poultry to poultry and poultry to humans. A pandemic would occur if a virus succeeded in spreading from human to human. We have seen this happen at least three times in the past 100 years.

In 1997, avian H5N1 virus was first found to cause disease in humans. The mortality approached 50%. Because of the high death rate, health officials began a massive eradication program to control infected chicken populations. Since then, there have been several cases of human H5N1 infections, prompting the experts to fear an impending pandemic.

H5N1 has been shown to be eradicated by viral antibiotics, namely Tamiflu and Relenza, both manufactured in the U.S. Also promising is an experimental vaccine being tested in the U.S. The government has ordered massive doses of the anti-viral agents and vaccine for stockpiling. It is not clear, however, whether the H5N1 virus will mutate rapidly and render the treatments ineffective. The CDC and World Health Organization are actively monitoring developments. If the avian strain, H5N1, invades the U.S., rapid detection, containment and treatment will be the only effective ways of preventing a much feared pandemic.

For more information on preparing for a pandemic flu outbreak, please visit:

[www.wvflu.org](http://www.wvflu.org) or [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

## CAC to the future

### Members will need ID card, PIN to log onto military computers

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ Public Affairs Office

Military computer systems are constantly under attack by sources outside DOD. These attacks frequently impact the military's ability to communicate and, in the worst cases, allow access to sensitive information while degrading operational readiness.

DOD has adopted a two-tiered approach to ensuring computer network security. The Common Access Card Cryptographic Login Capability requires use of a member's military ID card and a user developed PIN before allowing access to military computers.

Members of the Air Guard are already using this system to access computer networks at both air bases in West Virginia. Implementation is just beginning in the Army Guard. DCISM specialists have developed a plan for training the force and acquiring equipment so that implementation of this program can be completed in the Army Guard by July 1.

Army Guard members must take action to prepare for implementation of this system or risk loss of access to networked computer systems.

#### Compliance with the following criteria will ensure access is maintained.

- All users must have a minimum of a favorable National Agency Check w/Investigation security clearance. Interim clearances approved by the Adjutant General are the only exceptions.
- Users must have the Common Access Card USB hardware installed on their computers. (CAC readers have been sent to all units for distribution)
- Software for the CAC reader must be installed on all computers. J-6 personnel will visit units to install required software.
- Members must have a current CAC (ID card) and PIN. Soldiers choose a personalized PIN at the time the military ID card is issued.

Once this transition to a more secure network is implemented, soldiers will only be able to sign onto a computer by using the CAC (ID card) and PIN. Access is controlled by software, so there is no workaround to gain access.

**After July 1, soldiers who don't have a CAC or PIN will not be able to use the system.**

# MRB Finance troop wins top ANG honor

A delegation of chief master sergeants from both air bases met at the Air Guard headquarters in Charleston in January to select the state's top airmen for 2005.

Seven candidates vied for honors in four categories – Airmen of the Year, NCO of the Year, Senior NCO of the Year, and First Sergeant of the Year. The winner in each category then competed for the James K. McLaughlin trophy, which recognizes the state's most outstanding airman. The winners were:



## CST soldier is NCO of the Year; MP wins Soldier of the Year

Sergeants major from across the state converged on Camp Dawson in March to conduct the 2006 West Virginia National Guard Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year, Soldier of the Year, and Sergeant Audie Murphy Club competitions.

Sgt. Theodore Scouras of the 35th Civil Support Team beat other candidates to win the NCO of the Year and the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club competitions. Spc. Larry Eskew of the 151st Military Police Battalion was selected as Soldier of the Year.

The competition began with the APFT and weigh-in. Sgt. Scouras was truly inspiring during the two-mile run as the early morning temperature only reached a chilly 24 degrees. Next, Soldiers got into their field gear for the Land NAV Course. Day One of the competition ended with Warrior Task Testing. Soldiers were graded in NBC, first aid, M-16 operations, and a mystery task by one of the 17 command sergeants major grading the competition.

Day Two began with an evaluation of each competitor's essay on "Retention Issues of the WV Army National Guard." Soldiers then took a 25-question written test prior to a board interview.

Maj. Gen. Tackett honored the top soldiers with several awards during an awards ceremony held immediately after the competition concluded. Sgt. Scouras and Spc. Eskew received the Army Commendation Medal, Governor's trophy, and an Adjutant General coin. Scouras will also receive a \$200 savings bond for being selected NCO of the Year, and Eskew a \$100 savings bond for winning Soldier of the Year.

**Editors note:** Both soldiers went on to compete in the First Army East Soldier of the Year Competition held at Fort Pickett, Va., in April. Details regarding the competition were not available at press time.

Selecting the winners was a very difficult process, according to state Command Chief Master Sgt. Dee Bowe. "We evaluated some very high caliber individuals who were outstanding in each category," Bowe said.

Nominees for each award were judged in three areas – leadership and job performance in primary duty, significant self-improvement, and base or community involvement. Bowe said the difference between candidates in each criterion was very small.

Wyatt is on the dean's list while pursuing a Nursing degree at Shepherd College and is very active in her local community. Butler is a senior examiner flight engineer who deployed several times in support of OIF/OEF. Preece provides great leadership for the 130 AW First Sergeant's Council and is an outstanding mentor to young airmen in the Maintenance Squadron. Mueller reversed a downward trend in the 167th's travel card delinquency program, which could result in a \$10,000 refund for the Wing.

Bowe wants to see more nominees for next year's competition. "It is extremely important that we recognize our enlisted force, because they keep the Air Guard in business," he said. "We have high quality people and they deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments."

# News you can use

## New web site automates Army tuition assistance

Soldiers on active duty, including enlisted soldiers of the Army National Guard pursuant to Title 10 or Title 32, are eligible to request TA online for courses that begin 1 May 06 and beyond. To be eligible for future TAsoldiers must register at:

[www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com)

## Help for soldiers who earn less when mobilized

The Reserve Income Replacement Program pays involuntarily mobilized members of the reserve components who face lengthy or frequent mobilizations the difference between civilian and military pay. For more details, visit:

[www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

## TSP e-mail scam hits military networks

Some TSP participants have received an e-mail scam purporting to be from the TSP. The e-mail asks for confirmation that the participant has added an e-mail address to his or her TSP account. Links in the e-mail take the member to a bogus version of the TSP account access screen where it asks for a social security number, PIN and, ultimately, banking information.

This scam is not an official TSP communication. Members should never give any personal, credit or banking information in response to unsolicited e-mails. If you responded to this e-mail, please notify your bank or credit card company and the TSP office at 1-877-968-3778 and ask them to block access to your account. For more information, visit:

[www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov)

## Americans still admire their military, poll says

The military continues to be the most admired institution in America, according to the latest Harris poll. A total of 47 percent of Americans said they have a "great deal" of confidence in the military. Law firms, Congress, organized labor, major corporations and the press were found at the bottom of the poll.

## Army now permits some tattoos

The Army now permits tattoos on the hands and back of the neck if they are not "extremist, indecent, sexist or racist." Any tattoo on the head or face is prohibited. Permanent make-up for women is allowed as long as it is conservative and complements both the uniform and the soldier's complexion. Refer to AR 670-1 for more information.

## Program helps military spouses get training, find employment

The Working Women in Transition project serves women who have arrived at a significant transition in their work lives. The desired outcome for participants is an increase in wages, receipt of a promotion, entrance into a degree program, new employment, or a chance to own a business. Contact the Family Assistance Center at 304-561-6380 for more information.

## Army bans commercial body armor

Army officials recently announced that soldiers may no longer wear body armor other than Army-issued interceptor body armor (IBA). Officials fear that some manufacturers don't meet the stringent protection standards found in Army-issued equipment.

## Mental health screening available

Voluntary, anonymous mental health and alcohol self-assessments are now available through in-person contact or online screening. The DOD Office of Health Affairs provides mental health screening and educational materials at no cost to Guard units nationwide. For more information, visit:

[www.mentalhealthscreening.org/military](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/military)

or call (781) 239-0071

## Air Force battle uniform finalized, in production

The new airman battle uniform is ready for production and will be available in FY 2007. The new design is a pixilated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones of tan, grey, green and blue. The ABU will have a permanent crease and will be offered in 50-50 nylon-cotton blend permanent press fabric.

The uniform will have four pockets on the front of the shirt, a small pencil pocket on the left forearm, and two pockets on the lower legs. Airmen will wear tan t-shirts and suede cowhide boots. To see a photo, visit:

[www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil)

## "The Supply Sergeant" extends discount for WV guardsmen

A long time provider of custom military nametapes and patches (including ACU items) now offers a 10 percent discount on purchases by members of West Virginia National Guard. To receive 10 percent off orders, enter **WVNG** in the discount code box during checkout at:

[www.nametapes.com](http://www.nametapes.com)



The West Virginia National Guard will conduct the 40th annual Youth Leaders Camp (YLC) at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, W.Va., 24 - 30 June 2006. YLC is for 15 - 17 year olds who have the desire to be a leader in their community.

Kids Kamp is open to children of WV National Guard Members ages 9-15.

Its an opportunity for summer fun and adventure!

To attend or volunteer for these events, please contact:

Kid's Kamp  
June 24-29, 2006  
Susan Izzo, 561-6546  
[susan.izzo@wv.ngb.army.mil](mailto:susan.izzo@wv.ngb.army.mil)

Youth Leader's Camp  
June 24-30, 2006  
Master Sgt. Sherry Claus  
(304) 201-3134





From left to right: Spc. Mike Conner, Staff Sgt. Jeff Edmond, Sgt. Sonny Gould, Spc. Michael Walker and Master Sgt. Sherry Claus return from New Orleans along with the other staff members of Task Force West Virginia. Their return in February marked the completion of West Virginia's five month role in the relief operations following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Det.1, 196th MPAD

State Public Affairs Office  
West Virginia National Guard  
1679 Coonskin Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311