



MOUNTAINEER DEFENDER

Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard

SPRING 2007



Cover story:

ReOrg!

Army
changes
keep state
relevant for
federal/state
missions

- 167th Airlift Wing welcomes first C-5
- Soldiers save injured motorist
- Governor visits troops at SW border
- TRICARE: check your benefits
- Air Guard names outstanding airmen



Magazine of the
West Virginia National Guard
Spring 2007



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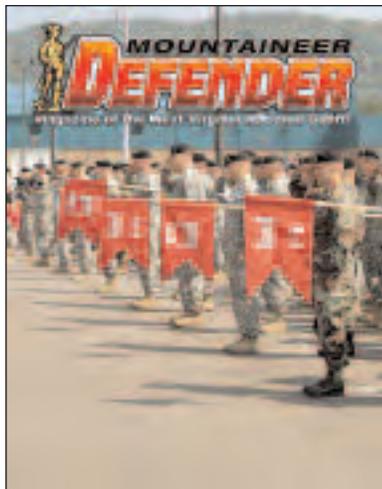


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On the cover:

In a historic ceremony, Soldiers of the 111th Engineer Brigade stand in the unit's first formation. West Virginia received an engineer brigade as part of the Army's ongoing transformation to a lighter, faster more lethal force.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. David Dyer
153d Public Affairs Detachment



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

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The Adjutant General

It's been more than five years since 9/11. None of us will forget the horror we felt watching airplanes slam into the World Trade Centers, or hearing that a third aircraft had torpedoed the Pentagon.

Events that took place on that fateful day caused a dramatic shift in our military structure and, more importantly, our nation's reliance on the National Guard. No longer are we a Cold War era strategic reserve force. We've evolved into an operational force facing a new enemy and its terrorist tactics at home and abroad.

In West Virginia, the Army Guard is transforming into a leaner, faster force that complements its active Army counterpart. We're adding units – military police, explosive ordnance disposal, and weapons of mass destruction – that are needed in today's battlefield environment. Our engineer, armor and aviation units are modernizing with the most current equipment and technology to be more relevant to the combatant commander.



Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

We've been given the force structure and equipment for these new missions because military leaders have confidence in the West Virginia National Guard. We consistently lead the nation in strength and MOSQ, and our performance in OIF, OEF, Kosovo, Katrina and the border security mission has been nothing short of outstanding.

Change doesn't come without a price, however. There will continue to be growing pains, but we must work hard and get our soldiers the training and experience necessary to succeed at the mission, whatever it may be.

Pull out the center spread in this magazine, look at the changes, and be proud of what our organization has become. We are positioned better than ever before to support our nation's military objectives. Let's take advantage of this opportunity and carry on the outstanding tradition of service to state and country.

State Command Chief Master Sergeant



Command Chief Master Sgt. Bowe

This is the second installment of my three-part series on Air Force core values. Service Before Self means placing the Air Force or Air Guard above our personal needs. This value runs counter to the culture in which we live today. Service Before Self tells us that professional duties take precedence over personal desires. At the very least, this value includes the behaviors of rule following, respect for others, faith in the system and self-control. Why is this value important to Air Force members? Being in the Air Force is not like traditional jobs. We're required to protect America's interests and security. Sometimes that calls for us to put our personal needs behind those

of the mission. Those who serve in the military are servants to the public. Living up to that responsibility requires personal sacrifice, far more than the casual "this is a job" mindset. Service Before Self can be demonstrated in many ways -- willingness to work long hours for the good of the mission, being prepared for TDYs, performing duties that you may not want to. All of you have sacrificed heavily over the past five years. By doing so you have demonstrated the highest standards of Service Before Self. The nation and state are proud of you. I ask you to keep up the outstanding job.

State Command Sergeant Major

This is an exciting time to be a member of the West Virginia Army National Guard. Soldiers have worked hard to accomplish goals in recruiting and retention, and simultaneously attended vital training in preparation for future deployments. Many of our citizen-soldiers have deployed.

Spouses have found themselves involved in areas of maintaining a household that had previously been taken care of by the Soldier. Things that were done by the Guard member had to be pushed onto the spouse, a family member or a friend.

"What can I do to help?" is the question many have asked. Some of these hardworking and dedicated FRG volunteers have made such a difference. Just knowing an FRG



Command Sgt. Maj. Vance

is strong takes a lot of pressure off a Guard member during his absence

The skills of spouses, other loved ones, and friends add so much to the unit FRG. The Unit FRG contains many familiar faces from the past. Retirees have become a vital part of many of the FRGs. The retiree's previous military training adds quality in many areas of the FRG operation.

Over the years volunteers have supported Soldiers. Now, with an official name, "Family Readiness Group," and being properly organized the families of Soldiers and Airmen of the WVNG are supported better than ever before. I want to encourage every Guardsman, family member, and

friend to seek to learn more on how you can get involved and add even more quality to your Unit FRG.



ReOrg!

Army Transformation brings new force structure and opportunities

Story and photos by Maj. Todd Harrell
Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

On a warm, sunny day last September, civilian rail workers secured the West Virginia Army Guard's last M1 Abrams tank to a railcar bound for California.

There was no band, fireworks or fanfare. Instead, this historic event was marked by the metallic ratcheting of chains echoing off the walls of the Combined Support Maintenance Shops at Eleanor, W.Va.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Richard Hylton was on hand to witness the end of an era. He pointed longingly at the skull and crossed bones stenciled on the side of the tank. The otherwise ominous symbol was humbled by the imposing presence of the 60-ton behemoth.

It's a bittersweet transition for members of the 150th who remember the arrival of the M1s in 1992. Hylton, a 20-year veteran of the 150th Armor Battalion, chronicled his service with the M1s.

"Every since we've been in M1s, I've been in the middle of it," Hylton said. "I hate to see them go. [In Iraq] when you



Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell,
Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

One of the National Guard's first M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles stand ready at the Eleanor facility.

rolled up and saw one guarding an intersection, it was a beautiful sight."

As rail workers did a final check on the M1, a rather unassuming pair of tracked vehicles in desert clad sat idly across the compound. The two M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, weighing a fraction of their M1 predecessor, mark the end of one era and the beginning of a new one.

Chief Hylton compared the two systems. "It's [Bradley] a good piece of equipment, but it's not as intimidating as the M1. Still, the equipment at this point, I don't think it

really matters, except that the Bradley will be a lighter, quicker deployment. It will get us to the battlefield quicker."

Hylton's praise for the M3 is indicative of the rationale behind the most significant restructuring in the history of the West Virginia National Guard.

The Bradley's arrival here is just one step in the Guard's move towards what the Army terms "modular transformation."

"Modular transformation" is one of those buzz phrases that has floated around the Department of Defense for years. Still, many soldiers, when questioned, don't understand how the concept applies to them.

Col. Mel Burch, commander of the 11th Engineer Brigade and a career West Virginia National Guard officer, said DoD has been working for years to change the way the Army fights.

"The goal of this process is to get the right soldiers to the fight as efficiently as possible. Modularity provides lighter, more lethal, yet highly mobile fighting forces that we can get to the battlefield quicker," explained Burch.

Units under Burch's command also underwent significant restructuring. Most engineer units in the state are fundamentally changing the way they do business.

Lt. Col. Bill Crane, administrative officer for the 111th, said many engineer units are moving away from what has been primarily a combat role to a mission geared toward construction and nation building.

The carbon copy Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta companies of the old 1092nd Engineer Battalion have now been replaced by mission-focused organizations like the 821st Horizontal Construction Company, the 115th Vertical Construction Company, the 601st Equipment Support Company, and the 193rd Engineer Support Platoon.

But those who want to be combat engineers in the Army Guard will still have a few options.

"We wanted to make sure we still had a full spectrum of engineer opportunities," Crane said, "so we're also getting a new Sapper company to give soldiers more combat-oriented opportunities."

Guard leaders say restructuring of state National Guard units, while sometimes painful through the transition period, will make state government better able to respond to natural disasters or terrorist events.

According to Col. Johnnie Young, deputy commander for the Army National Guard, state military leaders worked hard to make sure the Army's transformation plans did not affect the Guard's ability to do its state mission.

"We're in a team effort with the state," Young said. "We have a responsibility to protect and support the citizens of West Virginia and, in order to do that, we have to have the right mix of force structure and equipment."

Young explained the complexities of developing force structure and how West Virginia has learned to capitalize on the process.

"We're not waiting for National Guard Bureau to develop its plan. We get on committees at Guard Bureau and provide input about the capabilities of a small to medium state," Young said.

"We try to be on the leading edge. We're not waiting around to hear about it [force structure]. We're putting in our bids now."



151st Military Police Battalion Soldiers conduct weapons qualification during annual training.

Photos courtesy of 151st Military Police Battalion



It was aggressive planning, according to Young, that brought the new military police battalion to West Virginia.

Getting types of units that are as critical to civil response in the state as they are to the warfight overseas is important, said Young.

The right mix of equipment is also important to Guard leaders. With the military police battalion, the Guard received more than 100 Humvees, which are ideal for flood relief and other civil response missions.

Reorganization has also presented a windfall of opportunities for soldiers, and the state's leadership has become quite deliberate and methodical in developing its wish list.

"We look at a potential unit and ask if we can fill it and if it is a valid mission," Young said. "Our philosophy is pretty simple. We're looking for work to employ our people so they can raise their families."

But Young said strength is the single

factor that makes the Guard able to wield such influence at National Guard Bureau.

"We have a voice at NGB, they listen to us because we're able to keep our strength up," Young said. "They know if we take on an additional unit or mission, they can rely on us to recruit to the authorized force structure and execute the mission."

Burch agreed that many states are "donating" force structure under transformation while West Virginia stands poised to grow.

"All of this is due to us keeping up our strength," Burch said. "Every state is fighting to get engineers and military police. Strength is key."

Young attributes the organization's success, whether it is in recruiting, the overseas combat mission, or in operations to help secure the nation's Southwest border, to the Soldiers.

"It's the quality of our product," he stated. "It gives us the ammo to go before NGB and ask for more."



West Virginia's first C-5 Galaxy taxis to its new home at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg.

Photo courtesy of 167th Airlift Wing



Built to accommodate the C-5 aircraft, a massive hangar nears completion at the Martinsburg air base.

Photo courtesy of 167th Airlift Wing

C-5 era begins in Martinsburg as 167th Airlift Wing takes delivery of first Galaxy aircraft

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

"Decoy 01 heavy, check wheels down, wind 280 at 12, cleared to land."

With those words, an air traffic controller working in the Martinsburg air base's new control tower helped 167th Airlift Wing members make history.

Col. Roger Nye, the Wing's director of operations, piloted a massive C-5 Galaxy aircraft from Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to Martinsburg on Dec. 4, 2006, marking arrival of the first of 11 C-5 aircraft the Wing will receive.

Nye stopped the aircraft less than 3,500 feet down the runway. "It was done. Decoy 01 was home," he said.

Unit members welcomed the public to the base on Dec. 10 for an Open House, which allowed those curious about the C-5 Galaxy to get an up close and personal look at one of the largest airplanes in the world.

Federal and state dignitaries were also on hand at the event to promote job growth and economic benefits the newer model aircraft will bring to the Eastern Panhandle.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) has championed the project since 1999. He is responsible for directing nearly \$150

million of the projected \$230 million-plus in federal funding to upgrade base facilities to accommodate the C-5, which is more than twice the size of the unit's last aircraft, the C-130.

Byrd beamed with joy as the hangar doors opened to reveal the gigantic aircraft bearing the name of his late wife, Erma.

"It's a good day for West Virginia. It's a good day for West Virginia," Byrd said.

Adjutant General Allen Tackett spoke of more than 200 full-time, high paying jobs that would be hired at the base as a result of the conversion from C-130s to C-5s.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin praised unit members for past accomplishments. Manchin thanked airmen for responding to a host of state disasters while remaining prepared to deploy for duty overseas.

Senior Air Force and National Guard Bureau officials were also on hand for the ceremony.

Editor's Note: The 167th has now received two of the projected 11 C-5 aircraft. Delivery of the remaining nine aircraft will be spread out over the next 18 months with final delivery by September 2008.

More jobs coming to Martinsburg air base Air Force selects base as regional C-5 maintenance site

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Air Guard leaders in Martinsburg are still buzzing over Sen. Robert C. Byrd's (D-WV) announcement in early December that 120 new jobs will be created at the base as part of the Air Force's regional C-5 maintenance program.

Byrd surprised Air Guard and community leaders at a base rally with news that the Air Force had agreed to locate one of three regional isochronal inspection sites at the 167th Airlift Wing.

As many as 33 of the massive C-5 Galaxy cargo planes will transit through the Martinsburg air base for periodic inspection each year as part of a comprehensive maintenance program designed to keep the Air Force's largest aircraft flying well into the future.

The Mountain State's senior senator received a thunderous round of applause from several hundred Guard members and a host of state and local dignitaries crowded into a base hangar to celebrate arrival of the Wing's first C-5 Galaxy aircraft.

Adjutant General Allen Tackett said the new jobs are in addition to the nearly 200 high-tech positions already scheduled for the base as part of the unit's conversion from C-130 to C-5 aircraft.

Things have changed drastically at the base since Col. Eric Vollmecke took command of the Wing in January 2004.

"This reorganization is an example of how the Air Force is working smarter given the current budgetary climate," Vollmecke said. "We expect similar changes in other areas such as personnel and supply.

"It's good news, and we're ready for the challenge," he said.

COMBAT LIFESAVER COURSE

By Spc. Cheera Rinker
153d Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers are now receiving extensive combat lifesaver training as part of a revised training plan implemented by state Army Guard leaders.

The decision to require CLS for all Guard soldiers was announced by Assistant Adjutant General John Barnette.

Maj. Gen. Barnette said it makes sense to offer 40 hours of CLS to every Army Guard member, because CLS is a skill set that translates very well into civilian life.

"Acquiring life-saving skills is important, but equally important is the self-assurance soldiers will have knowing they can help themselves and others in a time of crisis."

Current Army regulations require one in every 10 soldiers to be combat lifesaver certified. But Barnette wants to reduce that ratio for West Virginia Soldiers.

His rationale for requiring the additional training seems to be supported by statistics.

More than 3,200 service members have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan and another 12,000-plus injured.

Combat lifesaver training takes place over four days. Classes cover everything from evaluating a casualty to introducing fluids to stabilizing patients for transport.

According to Barnette, combat lifesaver training is only the beginning of an increased emphasis on safety.

Barnette has asked his staff to develop plans for offering motorcycle safety and defensive driving courses.

"I want all soldiers to be ever cognizant of safety and have the knowledge and confidence to conduct themselves safely in every situation," he said.

West Virginia Soldiers save injured motorist

By Sgt. Sherree Casper
153d Public Affairs Detachment

FORT PICKETT, Va. – Soldiers of the 201st Field Artillery enroute to a training exercise at Fort Pickett, Va., saved the life of an elderly Virginia man last September.

Traveling from the armory in Fairmont, W.Va., in a four-vehicle convoy, Soldiers in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 201st Field Artillery were southbound on Route 33 in Pendleton County, W.Va., when they came upon the one-vehicle accident.

A small compact Toyota had apparently run off the side of the road, hit a tree head-on and rolled over, said Staff Sgt. Harry F. Accor III, one of the first medics on site.

"There were no skid marks," said Accor of the rate at which the car was traveling.

The West Chester, Pa., resident said that while the female passenger in the car had died, the woman's husband was still alive behind the wheel.

"We saved the man's life," Accor said. "It was obvious that his wife had died on impact."

According to Accor, the driver had broken his back, pelvis, hip and ribs from the impact of the crash. The elderly man had also sustained severe lacerations and head trauma.

"He was in critical condition," Accor said. "There was severe internal bleeding."

After extracting the man from the car, the medics treated him for his injuries while other members of the unit - all combat lifesaver certified - directed traffic until arrival of the South Fork Volunteer Fire Department from Pendleton County.

Accor, Sgt. Robert Furrey, Spc. Michael Marx-Gibbons, and Staff Sgt. Aaron Sailor provided initial treatment to the man while Sgt. 1st Class Charles Carpenter, Sgt. Robert Branham and Pfc. Jeremy Foley

directed traffic.

"They secured the scene for us," Sailor said. "They stopped all traffic until the scene was secure. They did an outstanding job. Everyone took a job without direction and stepped up to the plate."

"We did our own extraction," Sailor said. "We had him out before the fire and EMS crew arrived. We were just doing our jobs."

A combat lifesaver, Branham said his training experience in Iraq helped him deal with the roadside emergency.

"I was heavily trained in Iraq by the medics and combat lifesavers," said the Fairmont resident.

"It was an eye-opening experience for me," Marx-Gibbons said. "I am glad that he lived."

Accor said civilian medics transported the elderly man to Harrisonburg, Va., for treatment.



Guard says goodbye to great Soldier, leader Brig. Gen. Broadwater dies at age 56



Brig. Gen. W. Craig Broadwater, 56, died unexpectedly on Dec. 18, 2006, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Broadwater gave more than 34 years of distinguished service to his country. He served as Assistant Adjutant General for Installations and Homeland Security, West Virginia Army National Guard, at the time of his death.

Broadwater's most recent deployments included duty as Commanding General, Joint Interagency Task Force-High Value Individuals, Multi-National Force-Iraq and Deputy Commander, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, Djibouti.

He is survived by his wife, Chong, and their children, Chandra, Taeja and Shane.

West Virginia National Guard Deployment Update

- Nearly 300 National Guard members are on duty supporting military operations around the world.
- More than 60 members of C Company, 150th Aviation remain in Iraq flying Black Hawk helicopter missions in support of U.S. and coalition forces.
- Six members of the 753d Explosive Ordnance Company continue to support NATO and the Operation Joint Guard mission in Kosovo.
- Nearly 50 members of the 1863d Military Police Company (Provisional) are serving at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Polk, La., supporting Operation Noble Eagle.
- About 100 members of the Air and Army National Guard are on duty in New Mexico supporting Operation Jump Start, President Bush's plan to augment the U.S. Border Patrol along the Mexican border.
- More than 50 soldiers and airmen of the West Virginia National Guard have been deployed around the world supporting individual taskings. Those service members are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Africa, England and Germany.
- Members of the 130th Airlift Wing will soon begin a scheduled overseas deployment in support of Operations Iraqi/Enduring Freedom.

Current as of March 2007

Defense chief changes policy for Guard, Reserve call-up

WASHINGTON, (AFPS) – The Defense Department will soon begin compensating troops who are required to mobilize or deploy early or extend their deployments, and will reduce the time reserve-component members are mobilized involuntarily to 12 months, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced Jan. 11.

Gates, speaking at a news conference with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said he will put in place a program to “compensate individuals in both active and reserve components that are required to mobilize or deploy early or extend beyond the established rotation policy goals.”

Pentagon officials drafted a proposal for

the secretary, but it is not yet final. The department currently offers involuntary assignment incentive pay, but only covers service members involuntarily extended beyond a 12-month tour.

Gates also announced that DoD will change how it manages reserve-component forces to increase unit cohesiveness and reduce the length of mobilizations.

Under the new plan, Guard and Reserve members will mobilize for a year, rather than the current practice of mobilization for 16 to 24 months, he said.

Gates said that the changes were made independent of President Bush's change in strategy in Iraq, announced Jan. 10.

New Tuition Assistance Application Procedures

for West Virginia National Guard Educational Encouragement Program

Eliminate the hassle of manually preparing applications (pink/blue or green forms) and Memorandums of Understanding by applying on-line. Just go to:

www.wvguardtuition.com

2008

APPLICATION

SUSPENSE DATES

Fall Semester	1 August
Spring Semester	20 December
Summer Term	15 April
<small>(Summer term requires pre-approval by EEP Office)</small>	

IMPORTANT:

To apply on-line, you must:

» Furnish a copy of your grades, grade point average, and hours completed to the EEP office. Send to the address below.

» Attend all drill and annual training for past 12 months.

NOTE: If you've been flagged as unexcused for any period of inactive duty, the system will not allow you to apply on-line.

West Virginia National Guard Educational Encouragement Program

1703 Coonskin Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1085
304-561-6306

kathy.kidd@wv.ngb.army.mil



State Guardsman commands active forces in Djibouti

McMillie works to prevent the spread of terrorism in Africa

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

A 28-year Air Force veteran and member of the West Virginia Air National Guard was chosen by U.S. Central Command to oversee air operations for Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa in Djibouti.

Col. Mike McMillie, who serves as the State Air Guard Headquarters Director of Operations in his drill status assignment, took command of the 449th Air Expeditionary Group during a ceremony at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, on Jan. 11.

“I believe very strongly in this mission,” said McMillie. “Doing things like we do here helps stabilize this region and presents a positive face for America.”

A 1978 graduate of the Air Force Academy where he earned the moniker “Smacko,” McMillie manages 70 airmen responsible for aeromedical evacuation, air refueling and search and rescue missions throughout the region.

“But, it’s often the humanitarian projects that have the greatest impact,” according to McMillie, .

“Drilling wells and building schools, providing medical treatment to the indigent population, and giving aid to flood victims in Kenya and Ethiopia are types of non-kinetic mission we use to win hearts and minds,” he said.



Photo by Chief Mass Communication Spc. Eric A. Clement, U.S. Navy
Col. Mike McMillie assumes command of the 449th Air Expeditionary Group at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, on Jan. 11.

His troops operate in a region that flanks a major transit route for oil being exported out of the Middle East. Djibouti is strategically located at the southern mouth of the Red Sea and along the western range of the Gulf of Aden.

McMillie believes the Horn of Africa mission is just as important in the war on terror as operations ongoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

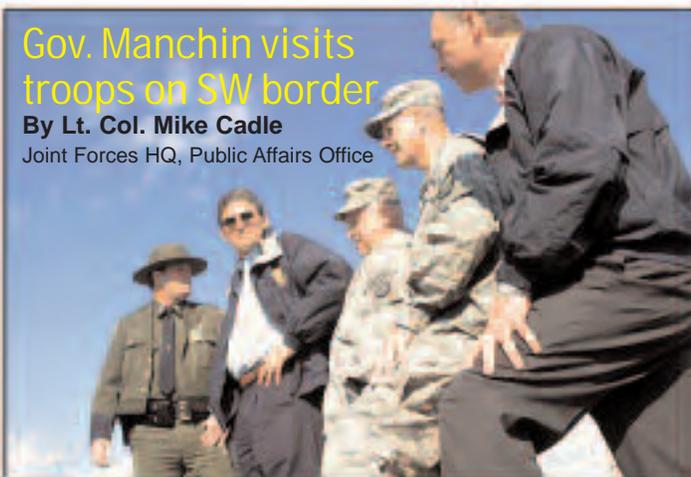
“The Horn of Africa has seen areas that support Al Qaida, and the efforts here are set up to convince people that we aren’t the “boogie-men” the radicals wish to portray us as,” he said.

“Effectively, we are an operation that strives to prevent a future Afghanistan in this part of the world by engaging before things get to the point of being a threat to the United States.”

McMillie’s area of operations is about two-thirds the size of the continental U.S. and encompasses the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

More than 1,500 military members from all branches of the U.S. military and its coalition partners serve the combined task force.

Senior Airman Sarah Stegman, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, contributed to this article.



Gov. Manchin visits troops on SW border

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office
Gov. Joe Manchin (second from left) paid a December visit to West Virginia Soldiers serving along the Southwest border. Manchin was accompanied by (l to r) Border Patrol Agent-In-Charge Roger San Miguel, Adjutant General Allen Tackett, Assistant Adjutant General John Barnette, and West Virginia Dept. of Military Affairs and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary Jim Spears.

Gov. Joe Manchin spent two days in mid-December visiting West Virginia National Guard troops in southern New Mexico who are assisting in U.S.-Mexico border security efforts as part of Operation Jump Start.

Manchin accompanied Adjutant General Allen Tackett and Military Affairs and Public Safety Secretary Jim Spears to the Santa Teresa Border Patrol Station, just west of El Paso, Texas, and north of the Mexican border, to visit with soldiers working along the border at suspected border crossing points known as entrance identification sites.

The governor also attended Christmas dinner in Las Cruces, N.M., with members of Task Force Mountaineer, which includes Guard members from West Virginia, New Mexico and Georgia.

About 110 members of the West Virginia National Guard are supporting Operation Jump Start, with about 90 soldiers and airmen working in support of Task Force Mountaineer’s efforts in the El Paso, Texas, Border Patrol sector that spans 52 miles from Santa Teresa to Columbus, N.M.



TRICARE for dummies

We can't possibly answer every TRICARE question in this article. However, we've attempted to break this complex benefit down into simple parts to reduce the stress when determining your healthcare benefits. The simplest way to look at TRICARE is to consider your duty status.

If you are a drill status Guard member, NOT on active duty...

- » Injuries or illnesses incurred in drill status or other periods of inactive duty are managed by your local medical unit under the line-of-duty (LOD) process.
- » You are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select (Tier 2 or 3) healthcare coverage. Premiums are based on civilian employment status and availability of civilian employer healthcare coverage.
- » You may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program. This is a premium-based system.

If you are or have been on active duty orders for more than 30 days for a contingency (only applies to Operations Enduring/Iraqi Freedom/Noble Eagle)...

- » You may be eligible for pre-activation medical and dental benefits for up to 90 days before your orders begin.
- » You are covered for TRICARE healthcare benefits at no cost if your care is managed by a TRICARE approved primary care manager.
- » You are covered for TRICARE Remote Dental Program at no cost.

If you are or have been on active duty for more than 30 days for a non-contingency (ADSW, training school, Southwest border mission, etc.)...

- » You are not eligible for pre-activation medical and dental benefits.
- » You are not eligible for Transition Assistance Management Program benefits when released from active duty.
- » You are covered for TRICARE healthcare benefits at no cost if your care is managed by a TRICARE approved primary care manager.
- » You are covered for TRICARE Remote Dental Program at no cost.

If you have been released from active duty for a contingency operation...

- » You are eligible for TRICARE healthcare benefits for 180 days under the Transitional Assistance Management Program. There are no monthly premiums but co-pays and deductibles apply.
- » You are eligible for temporary healthcare benefits for up to 18 months under the Continued Health Care Benefit Program. Plan requires monthly premiums, deductibles and co-pays.
- » You are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select (Tier 1) benefits. You are eligible for 1 year of coverage for every 90 days of active duty. Monthly premiums are required.
- » You may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program. Monthly premiums are required.

If you have been released from active duty for a non-contingency operation...

- » You are not eligible for Transitional Assistance Management Program benefits.
- » You are eligible for Continued Health Care Benefit Program benefits. (See previous section for description.)
- » You are eligible for TRICARE Reserve Select (Tier 2 and 3) benefits. Monthly premiums are required.
- » You may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Program. Monthly premiums are required.

Dependents of Guard members are also eligible for the same types and levels of TRICARE healthcare and dental coverage as the Guard member sponsor as listed above, depending on the sponsor's status.

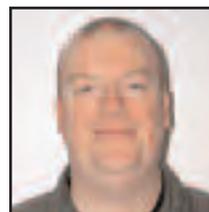
The most important thing you can do to ensure your dependents are covered is to update dependent information in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).

Please contact your unit/state TRICARE representative for more information or visit:

www.tricare.mil

Word on the Street

*Describe your experience
with TRICARE.*



Capt. Benny Karnes

130th Airlift Wing

"I thought I might have a bad experience after hearing horror stories, but TRICARE was good to us. Anytime I had a question I got it answered."



Tech. Sgt. Matt Athey

167th Maintenance Squadron

"The TRICARE system has been really good for me and my family. I have two boys that have had their share of medical care, and I have never had a problem."



Maj. Gwendolyn Nerstad

Joint Forces Headquarters

"I've relied on TRICARE both as a dependent and as a sponsor. I found the TRICARE reps to be very helpful and pleasant when I called to ask questions."



Sgt. Jefferson Wyne

Joint Forces Headquarters

"I live in a rural part of the state. My wife had trouble finding providers while I was deployed. It also took almost a year for some of the bills to get paid because TRICARE and my civilian health provider were arguing over who was responsible."

SF soldier gets big payday from GRAP

Recruiting efforts net private more than \$20K

By Lt. Col. Mike Cadle

Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

A 2/19th Special Forces soldier has become the poster child for the West Virginia Guard's Recruiting Assistance Program.

Pvt. Kevin Fraley of the battalion's Support Company helped enlist 12 soldiers into the Army National Guard since hearing his commander speak of the program's benefits during a recent drill period.

Fraley has high praises for the program. "I really like this program and how user friendly it is. It really has been easy to earn extra money," he said.

The Special Forces Soldier admits that much of his recruiting success is based on the mystique surrounding Special Forces.

"It's not hard to sell people on Special Forces," he said. "They want to go to airborne school, jump out of airplanes, things like that."

Fraley's success is proof that a small amount of work can pay big dividends. Recruiting and Retention NCO Sgt. Joe Taylor helped Fraley land speaking engagements at Spring Valley High School and the Cabell County Vocational-Technical Education Center.

He also got to work fun events like the Monster Truck Jam and Toughman Contest at the Big Sandy Arena in Huntington.

Fraley said he has benefited greatly from the GRAP program. "I put quite a bit of money into savings and used the rest to buy a new motorcycle."



Air Guard GRAP up and running strong!

Air Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting ANG recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the ANG. RAs earn \$2,000 for each new recruit who enlists and reports to Basic Training or for each prior service member who affiliates with a unit for three months and performs three drills.

Upon applicant enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment of a non-prior service applicant to Basic Training. As for prior service recruits, the RA will receive the initial payment of \$1,000 upon the applicant enlisting in the Air National Guard, and the second \$1,000 payment upon the applicant successfully completing 90 days in their drilling unit. Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

130th Airlift Wing GRAP success stories

- Tech Sgt. Buck Douglas, 130th Mission Support Flight, received \$8,000. He Recruited two non-prior service applicants and two prior service applicants.
- Staff Sgt. Mark Greathouse, 130th Aerial Port Squadron, received \$6,000 for recruiting two non-prior service applicants and one prior service applicant.

167th Airlift Wing GRAP success stories

- Staff Sgt. Ryan Cloonan, 167th Maintenance Squadron, projected eight applicants for enlistment. Two have enlisted earning Staff Sgt. Cloonan \$4,000.
- Airman 1st Class Nathan Craft, 167th Maintenance Squadron, projected eight applicants for enlistment. So far, two have enlisted earning Airman 1st Class Craft \$4,000.



Need a little extra cash? Try GRAP!

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program rewards M-day Soldiers and Army Guard retirees for their recruiting efforts. Soldiers work with Recruiting and Retention NCOs to identify potential enlistees and to promote benefits of the Guard.

Recruiting Assistants are paid \$2,000 for each recruit that enlists and reports to Basic Training. The first \$1,000 payment is made within 30-45 days of the enlistment, and the remaining payment is made when a non-prior service recruit ships to Basic Training, or a prior service recruit completes four months of drill periods. Payments are made to the RA via direct deposit or Visa debit card.

Recruiting Assistants also have the option of receiving healthcare benefits from United Healthcare. Coverage includes medical, dental, vision and life insurance and is available for either individual or family coverage. At this time, healthcare coverage is not available for retiree RAs.

In addition, RAs receive credits to order free National Guard branded merchandise that can be used to promote awareness of the Army Guard in local communities.

RAs also are eligible for promotions to win Xbox 360 game stations, plasma televisions, iPods and more.

WVARNG GRAP SUCCESS STORIES

- Staff Sgt. Samuel Baldwin, Company C, 2/104th Aviation, recruited four soldiers under GRAP. He used the extra \$8,000 cash to buy a new four wheeler and fly his family to his son Jake's graduation from Basic Training.
- Spc. Bethany Christy, Headquarters Support Company, 1092d Engineer Battalion, used the \$10,000 she earned under GRAP for vacations, home improvements and bills.
- Spc. Michael Day, Forward Support Company, 1092d Engineer Battalion, helped recruit three soldiers under GRAP earning himself \$6,000.
- Sgt. Shawn Griffith, 821st Horizontal Construction Company, who said he only puts about three to four hours per week into GRAP, has recruited six soldiers since he began GRAP. He characterizes his extra income as "fun money."

If you have a GRAP success story or know of an outstanding GRAP participant, please contact Emily Myers in R&R Command at 561-6383.

CONGRATULATIONS!

WEST VIRGINIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD AIRMEN OF THE YEAR



Airman of the Year and James K. McLaughlin trophy recipient

Senior Airman Karen G. McKinney
130th Aerial Port Squadron

In addition to outstanding performance in her military assignment, McKinney was recognized for her community service work while deployed to Afghanistan and after her return home.

While in Afghanistan, McKinney volunteered for the Adopt-a-Village program. She left the security of the base on humanitarian missions to distribute food, toys and clothing to local Afghan villages.

Upon her return to the U.S., McKinney began an extensive series of lectures at local schools, educating children about her experiences in the Air Force and her work overseas supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



NCO of the Year

Staff Sgt. Andrew D. Redman
130th Aerial Port Squadron



Senior NCO of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Gary L. Johnson
130th Civil Engineering Squadron



First Sergeant of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Janise W. Hill
167th Aerial Port Squadron

Officer and Enlisted Association State Conference just around the corner

Members of the National Guard Association of West Virginia and Enlisted Association of the National Guard of West Virginia held their state conference on April 27-29 at Camp Dawson.

Conference activities kicked off Friday with the annual golf tournament at the Preston Country Club, followed that evening by "Margaritaville." A picnic style dinner was served and the drinks were "smooth and tropical," according to NGAWV president Jeff Warfield.

Conference planners hoped to create a tropical atmosphere in the mountains of north-central West Virginia so attendees could break out their print shirts and flip flops for an evening of fun and relaxation.

Both associations had business sessions Saturday morning, which were followed by a spouse luncheon and outdoor concert Saturday afternoon. Conference activities concluded Saturday evening with a formal banquet.

Maj. Gen. Hunt Downer, Louisiana's assistant adjutant general for Army, was the banquet guest speaker. Maj. Gen. Downer and his West Virginia counterpart, Maj. Gen. John Barnette, ran the emergency operations center at Belle Chasse, La., during hurricane Katrina, which served as the hub for much of the relief provided to citizens of Louisiana who were hammered by the hurricane more than a year ago.

Lt. Gen. Clyde Vaughn, director, Army National Guard and a great friend of the West Virginia National Guard, was the guest speaker at the business session.

For more information, visit:

www.ngawv.org

What to do with that tax refund?

Don't waste extra cash; smart tips for wise spending

Don't spend the refund before you receive it.

It's tempting to make purchases using credit in anticipation of receiving a refund and paying off the debt later. If an emergency arises, you may not be able to pay off the purchase. If you do plan on splurging on something, pay cash after you receive your refund.

Retire your debts.

Use your refund towards repaying the balance on your high-interest credit cards. Or, get ahead by making an extra car or house payment. Just be sure there are no prepayment penalties and tell your lender to apply extra funds to the principal balance, not the interest.

Save for a down payment on a home or vehicle.

If home or vehicle ownership is one of your long-term plans, a larger down payment will lower your monthly payments and interest costs. If you already own a home or vehicle, protect your investment by repairing and maintaining your possessions.

Save for college.

Even if you take advantage of state tuition assistance programs and the Montgomery GI bill, you may still have additional expenses. Or if you have children, you can contribute to a college 529 savings plan for future college expenses.

Reconsider your withholdings.

If you receive a large refund, make sure you are not over withholding on your W-4. Rather than give the government an interest-free loan, you can make better use of those funds by having them go into your paycheck every month.

Start an emergency savings account.

Financial experts recommend keeping a short-term savings account of at least \$1,000 and a longer-term savings account with 3 to 6 months pay to cover emergencies.

This article is provided to service members and their families as part of the Military OneSource program, which offers information and support on a wide range of family and personal issues. To access the program just go to www.militaryonesource.com or call Military OneSource today. From the United States call 800-342-9647. From overseas call collect 484-530-5908.

News you can use

Web site helps say thanks to troops

Send a card to servicemembers serving in Iraq. Visit the Xerox Corporation sponsored web site at:

www.lets saythanks.com

Servicemembers can honor parents, spouses, employers

No service member can be successful without support of loved ones. Nominate your loved one for a Freedom Salute award. The package includes:

- Official Army lapel pin
- Official Army decal
- Certificate of Appreciation signed by Chief of Staff/Sec of Army
- Letter of thanks signed by Chief of Staff/Sec of Army

For nominations, go to:

www.freedomteamsalute.com

Remember wounded service members with greeting cards

Greeting cards can be sent to wounded soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Mail cards to:

A Recovering American Soldier
C/O Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001.

Please remember our wounded soldiers, particularly during the holidays.

SGLI reimbursement available

Members who serve in OIF/OEF can be reimbursed the monthly premium for the first \$150,000 of SGLI and the \$1 monthly premium for traumatic injury protection. Call your finance office for more info.

New credit card scam targets consumers

Another credit card scam is more difficult to detect than previous cons. The person calling presents himself as a Fraud/Security manager for your credit card company. He then gives you all your personal information and tells you your account has been flagged for suspicious activity. He then asks for the last three digits on the back of your credit card to verify that you have the card so he can begin an investigation.

Remember...never give personal or financial information over the phone unless you know the party to whom you are speaking.

Soldiers now authorized to purchase Microsoft Office for home use...cheap!

Soldiers are now eligible for a full licensed copy of Microsoft Office for use on their home computer.

There is a \$20 shipping & handling fee and an Army Knowledge Online account is required for eligibility verification.

For more information, visit:

<https://ascp.monmouth.army.mil/scp/software/hup.jsp>

ID card locations

Active and retired service members can get ID cards at these locations:

HQ, WVARNG, Charleston.....561-6382
130th AW, Charleston.....341-6279
Arm For Res Ctr, Cross Lanes.....776-0600
Camp Dawson, Kingwood.....791-4308
Arm For Res Ctr, Glen Jean.....465-2504
Fairmont Armory.....363-1010
167th AW, Martinsburg.....616-5295

Please call ahead before you visit these locations

National Football League offering free ACT/SAT study guides

NFL players represented by the Victory Sports Group are offering free ACT/SAT study guides to military families AT NO COST. The programs usually cost \$199.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>

Get special social security credit for military earnings

In some cases, special extra earnings for military service from 1940 – 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training only, not for inactive duty.

Social Security cannot add these extra earnings until you file for benefits.

For more information, visit:

www.ssa.gov

Guard to sponsor Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses for 2007:

- May 21-25 • Jun 9-10 • Jul 14-15 •
• Aug 11-12 • Sep 15-16 •

For more info, contact the State Safety Office at 561-6325.

Where to find your Family Assistance Center...

Charleston FAC

1703 Coonskin Dr., Chas., WV 25311
1-866-986-4326 1-304-561-6545
noble.w.lanham@us.army.mil
david.t.kent@us.army.mil

130th Airlift Wing FAC

1679 Coonskin Dr., Chas., WV 25311
1-800-228-1204x6625 1-304-341-6625
sharon.peters@wvchar.ang.af.mil

167th Airlift Wing FAC

222 Sabre Jet Blvd., Martinsburg, WV 25403
1-866-986-4325 1-304-616-5576
susan.sanders@wvmart.ang.af.mil

Glen Jean FAC

Glen Jean Armory, 409 Wood Mountain Rd.,
Glen Jean, WV 25846
1-866-986-4324 1-304-201-3221
suzanne.e.bragg@us.army.mil
tina.marie.cook@us.army.mil

Point Pleasant FAC

RT1 Box 333 B, North Point Pleasant, WV 25550
1-877-277-9503 1-304-675-3950
stacy.toler@wv.ngb.army.mil

Wheeling FAC

538 Girty's Point Road, Wheeling, WV 26003
1-866-773-0422 1-304-201-3586
carrie.nelson3@us.army.mil

Camp Dawson FAC

240 Army Rd., Camp Dawson,
Kingwood, WV 26554
1-866-219-7339 1-304-791-4055
ann.weihclark@wv.ngb.army.mil

41st Annual Youth Leaders Camp

2007 camp will be held 16-22 June at Camp Dawson, Kingwood, West Virginia for kids 15-17 years old.

Applications due to
Sgt. 1st Class Brad Boyer
by 15 May 2007

For more information call:
(304) 201-3134

17th Annual Kids Kamp

Camp Dawson will host 2007

Kids Kamp 16-21 June.

Applications are due 1 May 2007

For more information, contact:

Susan Izzo: (304) 561-6821

Toll free: (866) 986-4326

susan.izzo@wv.ngb.army.mil



West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin overlooks the U.S.-Mexico border with Spc. Thomas Mulcahy (left) and Spc. Randy DeBerry.

Photo by Maj. Todd Harrell, Joint Forces HQ, Public Affairs Office

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