



# **MOUNTAINEER** **DEFENDER**

**Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard**

**EANGUS**

**Almost Heaven 2011!**

**Special Forces**

**Soldiers train with**

**Mali troops**

**Aviation Soldiers teach**

**English in Kosovo**

**Guard, civilians work**

**together during annual**

**Bridge Day event**

**WINTER 2011**



Magazine of the  
West Virginia National Guard  
Winter 2011

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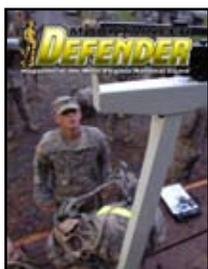


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**On the cover:**

A West Virginia Army National Guard Soldier Weighs his ruck before the 12 km Ruck March portion of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency test. All ruck sacks must weigh at least 15 kg (33 lbs) for the march. The three day event was held at Camp Dawson, near Kingwood, W.Va.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Flint, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment



**Adjutant General**  
Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer

**State Senior Enlisted Leader**  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Lawrence R. Vance

**State Command Chief Master Sergeant**  
Command Chief Master Sgt.  
Ronald D. Bowe

**State Public Affairs Officer & Editor-in-Chief**  
Lt. Col. David Lester

**Design & Layout**  
Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer

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**Send comments/contributions to:**

State Public Affairs Office  
WV National Guard  
1703 Coonskin Drive  
Charleston, WV 25311

or

MountaineerDefender@ng.army.mil  
visit us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/WV.NationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/WV.NationalGuard)



## The Adjutant General

The concept of Fort West Virginia is alive and well but has undergone a name change to more accurately reflect the jointness of the work we are doing in the West Virginia National Guard. Our vision statement will now be Joint Base West Virginia to more accurately reflect the joint nature of the WVNG and the broad spectrum of joint and interagency partners we support.

Joint Base West Virginia is the concept of us identifying gaps in national security and homeland security and finding opportunities for West Virginia to provide solutions to those gaps that are cost-effective, timely and of high quality.

We have active programs where we are providing unique services for the United States Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, as well as the DHS, FEMA and TSA. They are facing cuts in their budgets and we were first in the door to provide them cost effective solutions so that they



**Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer**

lose no capability. We can offer these solutions because of the diverse set of skills that W.Va.

Guardsmen have to offer.

During this time of looming budget cuts yet increased demand for capability, America now needs the Guard more than ever. Accomplishing missions at a reduced cost to the American people proves that the Guard continues to be the “best value for America”.

We are a fully trained combat force that becomes fully integrated and operational with their active duty counterparts on short notice to address threats to our country. Yet we remain in our communities during peacetime providing immeasurable services when state emergencies occur. The Guard IS the best value for America.

I am proud of the hard work and efforts you give on behalf of your state and country. You are what our founding fathers had in mind when they developed the concept of the citizen-soldier.

You and your families are true Patriots and a National Treasure.

## The State Senior Enlisted Leader

Wow! The end of 2011 is fast approaching. As the old saying goes “Time flies when you’re having fun”.

This year was filled with deployments and redeployments, retirements and national-level events. We celebrated new leaders and members and mourned the loss of W.Va. Guardsmen.

In January, members of the W.Va. Army and Air Guard participated in the retirement ceremony for our Adjutant General of nearly 16 years, Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett. Tackett and his wife, Sallie Pat, said farewell to their Guard family. Soldiers and Airmen worked tirelessly to ensure his farewell was conducted to the highest standard.

In August, WVNG members were on hand to help host the 40th Annual National Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States Conference. More than 100 Soldiers and

Airmen volunteered to support this wonderful opportunity to showcase the WVNG and our lovely state. The EANGUS leadership, along with leaders from other states and regions were impressed with how well the Army and Air Guard of West Virginia work together.

Recently, on Veteran’s Day, Soldiers and Airmen participated in events across the state such as parades and ceremonies. One ceremony was the dedication of the Female Soldier’s Memorial Statue in Charleston. Air Force Col. Paige Hunter and Chief Warrant Officer Siobhan O’Flaherty spoke at this event. My chest swelled with pride as these two proud female West Virginia Guardsmen paid tribute to all those female military members that went before them.

These are but just a few examples of the outstanding work the West Virginia Army and Air Guard Members provide their Community, State



**Command Sgt. Maj. Vance**

and Nation. I am proud to serve with such dedicated Guardsmen. As you spend the holidays with your family and friends tell them about our proud heritage and our members’ sacrifices and accomplishments. The West Virginia National Guard “Always Ready, Always There.”

## The State Command Chief Master Sergeant



**Command Chief Master Sgt. Bowe**

Every member of the West Virginia National Guard has one thing in common. We are all volunteers. There are many reasons why people join ... it could be for education, money or training. Regardless the reason, you chose to give of your-

self. During this holiday season, I encourage you to remember that desire to give.

There are many organizations that could use your help during the holiday season. Practically every shopping mall has what is commonly known as an “Angel Tree.” This tree is filled with names and wishes of local children. Those who wish can choose one or two names from the tree. Some area business and radio stations also have Secret Santa programs. In addition, the Marine Corps sponsors the Toys for Tots campaign.

It’s easy to get caught up in picking the perfect gift for someone and forget there are some who will not wake up to a bright Christmas morning. Imagine yourself as a child, waking up on Christmas morning to nothing under the tree.

In addition, sometimes it’s easy for us to miss someone much closer who might be struggling.

Keep an eye out for your fellow Airmen and Soldiers who may not be in the usual “holiday cheer.” If you don’t feel comfortable talking directly to that individual, talk to your Family Readiness Office or Commander. Now, more than ever, we have to look out for each other.

Whether you pick a name off a tree, donate to Toys for Tots or another program, just help. No matter what your beliefs, the holiday season is a great time for reflection and to remember those less fortunate. It is also important to note those Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen who will not be waking up in their warm bed on Christmas morning. They continue that long-standing military tradition -- to give of themselves.

As always, I appreciate all that you and your families do. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

# Protecting PII: Everyone's responsibility

by 1st Lt. Daniel Armstrong  
WVNG Judge Advocate General Office

Every day we work around and with Personal Identifying Information. Did you know that we are obligated to protect that PII? Did you know that we can request certain records about ourselves based on the same law?

The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended at 5 U.S.C. 552a, protects records of living American citizens and aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence which can be retrieved by personal identifiers such as a name, social security number, or other identifying number or symbol. Other PII requiring protection are personal cell or home phone number, driver's license number, employment information, education information, security clearance, personal email and home address among others. Much of this information is kept on alert rosters in the company or flight area. Care must be taken to ensure that all PII is protected from being disclosed.

One of the easiest ways to protect PII is to simply not leave PII unattended. Ensure that records are locked in cabinets or offices. Do not remove PII from the office work space unless the mission so requires and do not extract PII from protected information systems. Limit access to PII and properly destroy records when retention requirements are met.

Unfortunately, PII is not always protected and breaches occur. A breach of PII is the actual or possible loss of control, unauthorized disclosure or unauthorized



access personal information to persons other than those with authorized "need-to-know" in order to perform official government duties. Therefore, a breach would occur if a blackberry or computer is lost or stolen. Within one hour of discovery of a breach, the person discovering the breach must report the incident, even if the breach is only suspected to US-CERT by filling out the report located at <https://forms.us-cert.gov/report/index.php>. Immediately thereafter notify your chain of command, J6 and the State Privacy Officer (currently Maj. Kelly Ambrose) via email.

Additionally, the Commander must submit a CCIR. At this point further reports must be filed with <https://RMDA.Army.mil/privacy/foia-incidentreport1>.

asp, law enforcement and credit card companies when appropriate. Finally, within 10 days of the discovery of the breach, the director or commander of the organization who's PII was breached must notify the affected individual(s).

One of the benefits of the Privacy Act is that an individual is entitled to access his or her qualifying records and to request correction of these records if applicable. The Privacy Act also prohibits disclosure of these records without the written consent of the individual(s) to whom the records pertain unless one of the twelve disclosure exceptions enumerated in the Act applies.

To find out more about the Privacy Act's requirements and protections please see AR 340-21 or AFI 33-332.

## News You Can Use

### Blog offers tips, ideas for families of deployed servicemembers

While You Were Away is committed to providing resources and training to develop resiliency and strengthen families. Our primary aim is to provide products, resources and services that not only support children, teens and families but strengthen and give them resiliency skills that will last a lifetime.

Megan Egerton Graham is the author and creator of the While You Were Away series of books. Her husband continues to be

an active member of the Canadian armed forces.

For information and tips, please visit <http://blog.whileyouwereaway.org>.

### Program offers healing for wounded warriors

The mission of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is to assist in the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings.

For more information, please visit [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org).

[projecthealingwaters.org](http://projecthealingwaters.org).

### Website offers tutor services for military families

The Defense Department offers military families access to free, online tutoring at Tutor.com. The site offers professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying and test preparation. Services are available to students of any age -- from kindergartners to high school seniors -- with help offered in more than 16 subjects.

For more information, please visit <http://www.tutor.com/military>.

# Enlisted Association conference comes to Mountain State

by Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer  
JFHQ Public Affairs Office

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (August 18, 2011)** -- More than 1,800 Guard members from all 54 states and U.S. Territories took to the Mountain State this summer for the 40th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States conference. The event was held in Charleston, W.Va. the week of August 14-17.

The EANGUS mission is to provide National Guard members a voice on Capitol Hill through lobbying and presentation of bills and measures on issues that impact Soldiers and Airmen. Since uniformed members are prohibited from lobbying personally, EANGUS members (made up of retirees, family members and dedicated friends of the Guard), work for them. Their efforts have resulted in improvements to many programs that service members rely on such as Tricare, retirement issues and Veterans' benefits.

On hand for this year's event were more than a dozen guest speakers, including W.Va. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe and Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall, senior enlisted leader, National Guard Bureau. The senior leaders spoke with Soldiers and Airmen on issues facing both the National Guard and the military as a whole. One point that nearly all of the speakers pressed was the need



(Above) Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Roger Hagan, EANGUS President, addresses delegates and attendees during the 40th Annual National Conference August 15. (National Guard photo by Spc. Penni Harris, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment) (Below) Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer, West Virginia Adjutant General, addresses the crowd. (National Guard photo by Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer, JFHQ Public Affairs Office)

to give the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, West Virginia's Adjutant General, noted that the mission of the National Guard is expanding and changing at a rate not seen before.

"Since 9/11, the Guard had melded seamlessly into the fight alongside our active duty forces. They are now an operational reserve of the "total force," which means that the United States cannot fight a war without the National Guard," Hoyer said. "Now as the war draws down, those same National Guard warriors are following in the steps of the Citizen Soldiers that served before them and putting down their weapons and transitioning back into civilians."

West Virginia Congressman Nick Joe Rahall II echoed Hoyer's statements in a letter to EANGUS participants.

"You consistently answer the call of duty," he said. "You deserve a seat at the head table ... we have a responsibility to support the great sacrifice that the men and women of the National Guard make.

In addition to hearing about national-level Guard issues, Soldiers and Airmen were lauded for their commitment to service.

"I am proud of you. I am proud of your service to our nation," Jelinski-Hall stated during one of her presentations. "Now, more than ever, your leadership is needed ... development of junior enlisted members of the National Guard is vital to the success of our military and nation."

But the week was not all speeches and presentations. This year's Welcome Night event was held at Power Park. Members

had the opportunity to meet and mingle with others from across the nation while enjoying food and a softball tournament. Attendees were also treated to tours of West Virginia's Capitol Complex, including the Governor's mansion and Cultural Center.

All-Area Hospitality Night filled Charleston's Haddad Riverfront Park with hundreds of service members, EANGUS supporters and family members. Live music, a car show and regional food -- such as New England clam chowder and "possum" jerky -- were highlights of the evening. Many members echoed that they always look forward to seeing friends from past conferences as well as meeting many new ones at the social events.

On the final night, participants donned dress uniforms and formal wear for the EANGUS Banquet. Some Soldiers and Airmen carried their states' flags in the "parade of flags," while others honored those who would not be able to attend in the POW/MIA "Table for Four." The often-emotional tribute pays homage to those military men and women who have yet to return home.

As the evening (and conference) wound down, speakers once again took to the stage to thank the WVNG for their hospitality and talk a bit about the way forward for the National Guard as a whole. Many shared the sentiment that, despite uncertain economic times, the Guard and its members would stand strong.

"We are in an era of operating on a lean budget," Jelinski-Hall said. "Together, we will weather this storm. That is who we are. We are the National Guard."



# West Virginia Soldiers team with Mali forces for training

by Staff Sgt. Allison Hill  
153rd Public Affairs Detachment

**KINGWOOD, W.Va.** (November 23, 2011) -- West Virginia Army National Guard Special Forces Soldiers assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, are ensuring soldiers of the 33rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, Mali Defense Forces, Mali, Africa understand how to effectively conduct aerial resupply drops during a five-day pathfinder familiarization course in Kingwood, W.Va. The course began Nov. 17.

About 25 Malian and U.S. soldiers participated in a combined exercise to learn tactical logistics aimed to enhance the understanding of aerial resupply operations and necessary security factors in order to maximize joint stability and security efforts.

"We are training with the 33rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, Malian Defense Forces as well as four different U.S. Army units," said Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Adkins-Castro, 2-19th Special Forces Group. "This training mission is very critical to everyone, it is beneficial anytime we can equally reciprocate training so we can exchange tactics, techniques and procedures."

The combined exercise provided



Mali Defense Forces soldiers gather information from members of the West Virginia Army National Guard's 2-19th Special Forces Group about products and supplies they will be using in an upcoming aerial resupply exercise.



Mali Defense Forces soldiers gather information from members of the West Virginia Army National Guard's 2-19th Special Forces Group about products and supplies they will be using in an upcoming aerial resupply exercise. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Allison D. Hill, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)

instruction on aerial resupply familiarization and drop zone operations. All service members trained on drop zone selection, requesting aerial resupply, different methods of dropping supplies via air transport and security operations.

"Normal pathfinder's school is roughly a month long ... we are conducting this training event in four to five days," Adkins-Castro said. "We will train on the planning aspect as well as pathfinder and drop zone operations. Malian Defense Forces will construct a drop zone and perform security operations during this event."

"The Malian soldiers are learning principles of patrol, tactical communications and aerial release ports," said Sgt. 1st Class Gillins Herschel, 21st Theatre Support Command. "This gives the Malians the ability to coordinate effectively and understand tactics the US Army uses in order to provide a cohesive support system."

Malian Defense Forces were introduced to U.S. Army shipping containers for aerial drops and discussed equipment and materials they would be able to obtain in their country that are comparable.

"Mali defense forces want to extend the arm of their logistical capability and be able to provide humanitarian assistance in the farthest regions of Mali," Adkins-

Castro said. "This capability gives the MDF the means to call for resupply and receive it while being secure in the drop zone during any threat whether it be drought, famine, or security, in which the military needs resupplied."

Both organizations learned tactics from each other in order to operate effectively. Mali and U.S. Army forces will be more prepared to work together in the future.

"What I will take home to Mali, is that my soldiers impressed me especially about airborne operations techniques and techniques of airborne drops is necessary for our country," said Malian Defense Forces Staff Sgt Sidi Kola Gadiaga. "This training mission is important to Mali because Mali is a big place, it is important that Mali soldiers are well trained and well equipped. We hope that the mission with the Americans will help with the materials that will be needed for airborne operations for the future."

"We learned a lot of things, principally we learned the different techniques of airborne drops and different ways to recover equipment that has been dropped," said Capt. Souley Barka, Malian Defense Forces. "We hope to use these techniques to profit our operations, knowing how to do airborne drops helps us approach situations with a much larger tool set."

# Jackson County AFRC opens on Veteran's Day

by Sgt. Joseph Bitet  
316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

**JACKSON COUNTY, W.Va.** (November 11, 2011) -- The West Virginia Army National Guard and Army Reserve held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Veterans Day to celebrate the sacrifice our vets have made in a constructive way.

The 21.5 million dollar facility will be home to both WVNG's Detachment 1, 821st Engineering Company and the Reserve's Ammo Platoon, 261st Ordnance Company and the 1st and 6th Platoons of the 44th HRC Company.

According to a press release from the late Senator Robert C. Byrd about the center, "Soldiers from both the West Virginia Army National Guard and Army Reserves deserve state of the art training facilities to prepare for future deployments and service to the state and nation."

Construction of the new center can be tied back to many hard working public servants. Byrd and the former Adjutant General West Virginia National Guard Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett were instrumental in securing the project through the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Senator Jay Rockefeller made additional enhancements to the facility through a grant, which demonstrated his dedication to the citizens of West Virginia.

"Despite tough economic times, the people of West Virginia stand behind our troops and the development of this center," said Maj. Gen. Melvin L. Burch, WVARNG. "It will bring jobs to the community and keep our Soldiers trained the way they should be. It's a win for everyone."



Maj. Gen. Melvin L. Burch and Jackson County Commissioner Don Stephens unveil a plaque of Major General Allen E. Tackett that will be mounted on the Jackson County Armed Forces Reserve Center. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joseph Bitet, 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command)

Brig. Gen. Peter S. Lennon, commanding general, 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, added, "It's a great day to be a Soldier and a great day to be an American. This is a wonderful accomplishment, but we need to continue to strive for greatness. We owe it to our young men and women to afford them every opportunity. It

is my commitment that the Army Reserves and National Guard will continue to be partners and ensure proper, joint training is the result of this."

With the opening of this AFRC we are honoring veterans the way they should be honored; by giving them adequate training that they need to accomplish their mission.

## 130th Airlift Wing member takes final flight

by Lt. Col. David Lester  
JFHQ-WV Public Affairs Officer

The last Vietnam-era war aircrew member in the 130th Airlift Wing made his last flight August 18. He retired from the military in early September.

Master Sgt. Scott Johnson voluntarily joined the United States Air Force in 1970 as Security Forces Specialist. He

was stationed in Thailand in 1972-1973 protecting USAF and Thai assets during the Vietnam War.

He continued his service as a Security Policeman in the West Virginia Air National Guard until 1993 when he became a C-130 loadmaster for the 130th Airlift Wing.

He has participated in Operation Provide Promise (Bosnian

Humanitarian Airlift in 1994), Operation Provide Hope (Rwandan Humanitarian Airlift in 1996), Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom logging more than 500 Combat Missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Johnson has been awarded seven Air Medals for actions in Afghanistan and Iraq.



(Left) Spc. Chad Ruggles competes in the High Jump portion of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency test. The three-day event was held at Camp Dawson, near Kingwood, W.Va. (Above) A Soldier reaches for the edge of the pool during 100-meter swim portion of the GAFB test. (Right) West Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers compete in the Ruck March portion of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency test. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Todd Flint, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment)



Members of the West Virginia National Guard's 249th Army Band play during the inauguration ceremony for Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Nov. 13. Members of the W.Va. Army and Air National Guard participated in the ceremony ushering in West Virginia's 35th Governor.



# Inside the WVNG

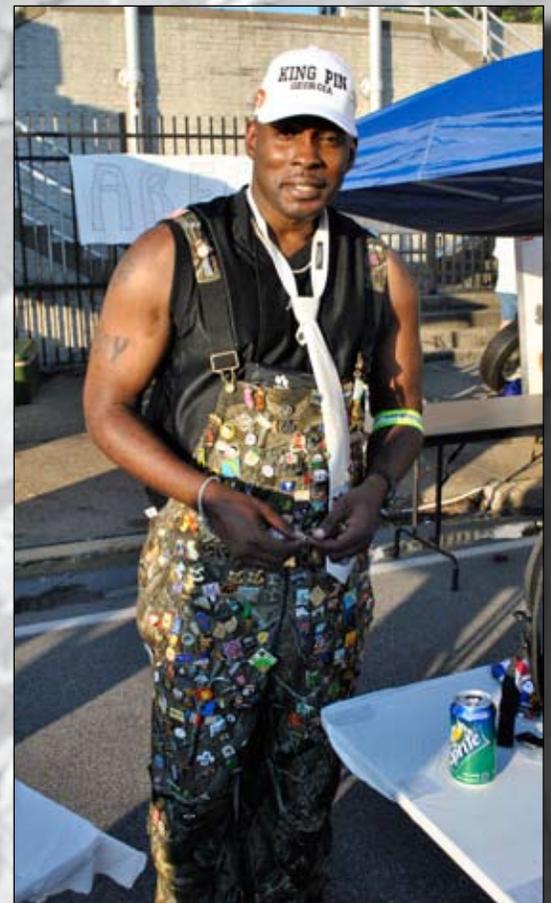


(Right) Staff Sgt. Michael Hewitt receives the Air National Guard Traffic Management NCO of the Year trophy from Maj. Charles Nassar Sunday, June 5, 2011. Hewitt was nominated for the award by Senior Master Sgt. Floyd Angelo. (Below) Master Sgt. Zoe Shetley receives her Air National Guard Logistics Plans Senior NCO of the Year trophy from Capt. Chris Tusing on Sunday, June 5, 2011. Shetley, with over 17 years of experience in logistics, was nominated for the award by Capt. Tusing. (U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Dickson)



(Left) Air Force Master Sgt. D.J. Brogan (left) and Spc. Shane Stanhill toast the "Table for Four" ceremony during the 40th Annual Enlisted Association of the United States National Convention All-States Banquet in Charleston. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Penni Harris, 153rd Public Affairs Detachment) (Below) One of many "pin collectors" at the EANGUS Conference All-Area Hospitality night at Haddad Riverfront Park in Charleston. Every state and territory typically brings their own custom pin to exchange during conferences. Some attendees have participated in multiple EANGUS conferences and boast hundreds of pins. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer, JFHQ Public Affairs Office)

Senior Airman Jodie Sites performs a pre-flight inspection on a C-5 Galaxy aircraft on November 5, 2011, at the 167th Airlift Wing, Martinsburg, WV. In addition to being a loadmaster at the unit, Sites is also an elementary school teacher and she is taking graduate classes to earn her Master's degree. (National Guard photo by Staff Sergeant Michael Dickson)



# 201st FA troops return from Kuwait deployment

by Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer  
JFHQ Public Affairs Office

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** (August 26, 2011) -- The final flight of members of the 201st Field Artillery Regiment landed at Yeager Airport August 26, marking the end of their deployment to Kuwait.

Soldiers began returning home in early August. The 201st is based in Elkins, W.Va., but boasts members from across the state.

Family members and friends were waiting, balloons, banners and flags in hand, to welcome Soldiers home. In addition, West Virginia National Guard's Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Vance, State Command

Sergeant Major, and other senior staff members, were on hand to welcome troops back to the Mountain State.

For nearly a year, members of the 201st maintained operational control of Camp Buehring in Kuwait. They successfully filled the force protection and life support needs for thousands of tenant and transient personnel.

Lt. Col. Clay Coatney, commander of the 201st, said that the last 10 months "flew by." He commended his Soldiers for doing "things the right way," amassing an excellent safety record with no serious injuries.

This return symbolized the completion of the 201st's deployment and another chapter in its rich legacy as the Army's oldest continuously serving unit.



Family members, friends, community supporters and members of the West Virginia National Guard were on hand August 26 to welcome members of the 201st Field Artillery Regiment. Men and women from the Army's longest continually-serving unit recently completed a 10-month deployment to Kuwait. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Anna-Marie Hizer, JFHQ Public Affairs Office)

# Bridge Day highlights Guard, civilian cooperation

by Mike Pitzer  
JITEC Public Affairs

**FAYETTEVILLE, W.Va.** (October 17, 2011) -- Bridge Day is an annual event held at the New River Gorge Bridge, the third longest steel arch span bridge in the world, near Fayetteville, W.Va. The bridge is 876 feet tall and becomes a platform for base jumpers, vertical rappel teams and over 100,000 visitors to view the events.

For more than 10 years the West Virginia National Guard Joint Interagency Training and Education Center has been a part of the West Virginia Bridge Day interagency security team. Working from a core strategy to carry out operations, federal, state, and local security assets form a professional team with the goal to provide a safe and secure environment for dignitaries, event participants and the general public.

Prior to the daylong event, West Virginia National Guard members help conduct security surveys, coordinate communications, and many other issues to provide a successful Bridge Day.

During the three-day mission National Guard skills and capabilities are leveraged with team members from the FBI, West Virginia State Police, West Virginia Homeland Security, and local police. The National Parks Service serves as team leader with the event happening in the New River National Park.

“The JITEC CIP and CBRNE missions give the National Guard a great asset for supporting large events like Bridge Day” said Lt. Col. Randall Isom, JITEC Commander. Many hours of preparation along with a challenging terrain keeps the teams busy.

The crowd swells during the six-hour event as thousands of viewers, vendors and jumpers move across the bridge. The bridge is part of a major freeway -- U.S. Route 19 -- and runs through the New River National Park. “We are a key asset for the event, we secure the bridge after it has been cleared” said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Lewis, JITEC CSM.

The JITEC Critical Infrastructure Protection Program supports the Department of Homeland Security, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Security, and National Guard Bureau in protecting the nation’s



West Virginia National Guard members monitor activity from below the New River Gorge Bridge on Bridge Day 2011. (Photo by Mike Pitzer, JITEC PA)

infrastructure. The JITEC Chemical Biological Nuclear and Explosives battalion program trains and evaluates CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package and Homeland Response Force as well as operating the unique Center for National Response tunnel complex. This CIP and CBRNE operational capability is a vital part of preparing for large national

events and makes the JITEC an important interagency partner.

“A large event like Bridge Day allows the special skill sets of the National Guard to be leveraged as an interagency partner,” said Maj. Gen. James A. Hoyer, Adjutant General for West Virginia. “The combined effort of government agencies has made this a safe event for many years.”

# Army Aviators teach English to Kosovo teens

by Spc. Evan Lane  
200th Public Affairs Detachment

**CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo** -- Adile Isafi and Emin Bajrami want what most people want: a good future for themselves and their country. And with help from Soldiers from Camp Bondsteel, they are achieving that future. Every Tuesday and Thursday, Soldiers spend their day off chatting with Adile and Emin, along with more than 100 other students, preparing them for the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

KFOR soldiers began hosting free English courses in 2007 in cooperation with Next Steps of Youth, a local non-governmental organization, said Naim Bajrami, the Task Force Aviation translator and liaison to the schools participating in the classes.

The ultimate goal of the program, said Naim, is to prepare the students to do well on the TOEFL, an admissions requirement for most English-speaking universities.

"I want to study in America," said Adile, who said she plans on attending a university in either Iowa or Kansas. "I'm going to become a surgeon and come back to Kosovo to help my country."

Adile taught herself Spanish through telenovelas, Spanish-language soap operas. She applies that same determination to improve her English skills for the TOEFL.

The curriculum has grown over the years into a full-fledged program, augmenting English courses being taught in the Ferizaj and Gjilan schools. While attendance is free, it is available only to those who show interest and strong work ethic in their high school's program.

Classes in Ferizaj are held in the Cultural House. The large building is lent to the instructors twice a week by the Ferizaj municipality. Inside, several group tables are arranged by skill level, so each of the 120 students is placed in a smaller group discussion setting with their peers and a Task Force Aviation instructor. All students start at a beginners'-level table and progress as they get better.

Adile and Emin are both currently in an advanced class taught by Spc. Heath



Staff Sgt. Carol McManis (center) and her class pose for a picture before returning to the subject at hand, grammar. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Evan Lane, 200th Public Affairs Detachment)

Wragge, a chaplain's assistant from Heartwell, Neb., with Task Force Falcon.

"He keeps us laughing the whole time," Adile said.

"He gives us the will to learn to more and more," said Bajrami.

That positive environment was noticeable everywhere, with laughter peeling from all of the tables and smiles on each of the students' faces. Those conversations are a large part of the success of the course, which has helped students obtain scholarships to English speaking schools in countries such as Belgium and America.

"I know former students now working at Camp Bondsteel as translators, working in government, studying abroad," said Naim. "It's all made possible by their language skills. We're preparing these kids for their own futures."

"They can all speak really well, but they still have to learn their adjectives and parts of speech so they can talk about random stuff and fill a conversation," said Wragge. "The TOEFL is like the English portion of the ACT [American College Testing]. It's tough!"

"The students are intense, though.

They come in and they have a purpose. They know what they're trying to do," he continued, stating he finds the work rewarding.

Throughout the interview with Adile and Emin, they both conversed with a level of fluency that illustrated how productive their time with the Task Force Aviation instructor has been. Naim, while available for translation, was able to sit and listen as the two laughed and talked about their hopes.

"I'm going to go on to international relations," said Emin. "I love English. I love everything about it. It's in my blood."

Emin said he wants to return to Kosovo after attending a university abroad, possibly to a position in Kosovo's government.

"My father taught me that knowing a language is knowing a culture," Naim said as he talked about the program's successes.

With capable teenagers like Adile and Emin, the knowledge gained from Wragge and the other instructors will help them not only learn more about English-speaking cultures, but allow them to assist in creating brighter futures for themselves and their country.

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# WVNG 156th Military Police Detachment lays down the law

by Sgt. Richard Wrigley  
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

**CAMP MARMAL, Afghanistan** (October 24, 2011) -- The primary objective of the 156th Military Police Detachment, West Virginia National Guard, attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, is to keep law and order in Regional Command North.

They have done that ... and so much more.

With just 45 Soldiers in the detachment, it is amazing that they are able to successfully complete this mission, let alone the multitude of other tasks that they take on, said Capt. Kenneth Murray, a native of Fairmont, W.Va.

Some of these additional responsibilities include mentoring and training the various Afghan national security forces and helping with the biometric enrollment of Afghan national prisoners, workers and security forces, said Murray.

Protecting coalition forces while conducting route reconnaissance, area and point security is also a top priority for members of the unit, Murray added.

"All of the Soldiers here have gone to schools and are meant to perform in specialized roles, such as criminal investigators, and traffic and accident investigators," said Murray. "Generally, a law and order detachment is augmented by another MP company which would handle the patrolling, but here we're forced to be the road MP, as well as the investigator," he added.

"To be dealt all the different mission sets that we've been assigned, with the minimal amount of people that we have ... [the soldiers] are doing a terrific job," said Murray.

Investigator Shane Bryant, a native of Logan, W.Va., and team chief of investigations at Camp Marmal, also said the unit has made significant advances since the beginning of their deployment.

"It's all about building a strong foundation, and then building on top of that ... we're only the second MP unit to

be here [at Camp Marmal]," Bryant said. "Looking back to what it was like when we first got here, and to what it is now, our unit has made leaps and bounds."

Success can also be seen in the relationship that has been fostered between the 156th MP Det. and its operational parent unit, the 1st ACB.

"Working with the 1st ACB has been fantastic," said Murray, "The support we've received from the 1st ACB has been outstanding. They've taken us under their wing and treat us just like any of their other subordinate units."

The effect of the MPs has had a positive effect on the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, said Lt. Col. Michael Burns, a native of New Brockton, Ala., deputy commanding officer of the 1st ACB, 1st Cavalry Division.

"The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade has definitely benefited from its relationship with the 156th MP [Detachment]," said Burns. "There is no doubt in my mind that soldiers and civilians enjoy a safer and more disciplined environment because of the presence of Capt. Murray and his Soldiers."



Spc. Stephanie Brown, a native of Lost Creek, W.Va., and a traffic accident investigator in the 156th Military Police Detachment, attached to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, inspects supplies that are being shipped back to the U.S. as soldiers of the 155th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, 10th Transportation Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade, prepare to redeploy back to Fort Eustis Oct. 24. Customs checks all equipment and supplies that are to be shipped back to the U.S. and are one of the many responsibilities of the 156th MP Det. (U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)



Investigator Shane Bryant, a native of Logan, W.Va., and team chief of investigations at Camp Marmal, 156th MP Det., performs a retinal scan of a local Afghan prisoner in the Balkh provincial prison Oct 23. Soldiers of the 156th MP were at the prison in order to fulfill just one of their many mission sets, by enrolling the local Afghan national prisoners into a biometric system, enabling coalition and Afghan forces to create a viable database in order to forensically identify criminals.



First responders from the 167th Fire Department and Security Forces Squadron respond to an aircraft crash and begin recovery operations alongside civilian agencies on September 17, 2011 during an open house and air show at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg West Virginia. A T-28 aircraft with the Trojan Horseman crashed several minutes into the group's performance. Although the pilot was killed, there were no injuries on the ground. (National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Dickson)

# First responders answer call in aftermath of Air Show incident

by Maj. Andrew Schmidt  
167th AW PAO

**MARTINSBURG, W.Va.** (October 5, 2011) -- With the tragic crash of a T-28 aircraft on base on the first day of the Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Air Show and Open House, community members were able to see first-hand how 167th Airlift Wing first-response teams do their jobs in real-world situations.

"The fire and security teams responded immediately, and everyone in uniform knew the community was looking to them for guidance and reassurance," said Col. Roger Nye, 167th Airlift Wing commander. "Everyone was professional and kept the community informed and calm in a tense time. I couldn't be more proud of this Wing."

"This kind of quick and effective response is what happens when you train over and over for the worst possible outcomes," he said.

Fire Department personnel were on the scene within seconds and quickly discerned that it was a recovery rather than rescue operation and acted accordingly, said Maj. Paul A. Henry, 167th Civil Engineering Squadron operations officer.

"The fire dawgs trained well, they had everything down, and their response was spot-on," he said. You couldn't ask for a better response ... everyone made the right decisions and the right calls at all levels."

Security Forces personnel integrated with military and local civilian agencies during the initial emergency response, then transitioned seamlessly into recovery mode and assisted federal agencies with the investigation, said Capt. William M. Lemon, 167th Security Forces commander. "All facets of the Security Forces operation were accomplished with professionalism and attention to detail. This mindset was apparent from the start and lasted throughout the initial 17-hour work day, continuing until the investigation was complete on-site," he said.

"I'm very proud and fortunate to be part of such an excellent team, and I'm honored to be their commander."

The groundwork for the response was laid out well in advance of the event, said Maj. Tracy Adams, who served as the director of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on that day. "We had the EOC set up before the air show started just in case such an event happened," he said.

Multiple agencies worked in conjunction

in the EOC, including the Berkeley County Sheriff's department and the Berkeley County Ambulance Authority. All were involved in the response.

The job of the EOC is to provide support for the first responders in any way that they need it," he said, adding that the Repair and Reclamation (R&R) crash and recovery team was provided with equipment and supplies to help with the recovery of the aircraft wreckage.

No one in attendance was hurt as a result of the accident, which happened about three hours into the event, and the crowd of about 20,000 spectators was evacuated from the base in a swift and safe fashion by Security Forces and other uniformed personnel. The crash site was distant from any spectators.

The pilot, John "Jack" Mangan of Cornelius, N.C., died as a result of the crash. He was an Air Force veteran and a 1979 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy.

"We were fortunate that the safety measures put in place by the Federal Aviation Administration ensured the safety of those on the ground," said Maj. Gen. James Hoyer, Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard.

# 167th Airlift Wing C-5s fly in historic surge

by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle  
167th AW Public Affairs Office

**MARTINSBURG, W.Va.** (October 20, 2011) -- Flying seven of its 11 assigned C-5 Galaxy aircraft, the West Virginia Air National Guard's 167th Airlift Wing recently participated in an historic "surge."

Based in Martinsburg, W.Va., the 167th demonstrated its readiness, power, flexibility and partnership capabilities during the exercise which tested the nation's largest military airlifters.

The military exercise -- which took place Oct. 17-21 -- brought together 41 Active Duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve C-5 Galaxy aircraft and crews. The historic "surge" is designed to more than double the normal day-to-day workload of the C-5 units participating in the exercise.

The C-5 aircraft routinely delivers equipment, supplies, cargo and passengers to military forces stationed worldwide. With its ability to fly more than 6,000 miles without refueling, the U.S. military's largest aircraft provides the flexibility needed to meet the demands of contingency and humanitarian missions.

Lt. Col. Donald Magners, a pilot for

the 167th Airlift Wing, says the missions flown during the exercise are similar to the missions flown during any given week.

According to officials at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, the "surge" tests the ability of the U.S. Transportation Command and its air component, Air Mobility Command, to rapidly provide strategic airlift capability in response to large-scale crises and contingencies.

Typically, the 167th Airlift Wing has no more than two to three C-5 aircraft supporting these types of missions at any given time. This week, the unit doubled its efforts by providing seven aircraft for the exercise, according to Col. Richard Robichaud, commander of the Wing's 167th Operations Group.

"We're playing a really key role in the nation's airlift efforts, to support war efforts and our forces worldwide," Robichaud said.

There are usually only 18 global C-5 missions in the system on any given day. The best C-5 daily achievement since 2007 was 33 C-5s flown without mobilization.

According to Air Force officials, the surge tests the U.S. Air Forces' readiness and capability at a time when the military branch faces intense, ongoing demands



A C-5 Galaxy aircraft assigned to the 167th Airlift Wing, takes off from Shepherd Field, Martinsburg, WV on October 19, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle)

on its capacity. It provides a valuable opportunity to exercise and evaluate its enterprise - enhancing readiness and strategic agility.

"With a surge like this, it takes a little time to prepare and some time to recover, but it's nothing out of the ordinary for us," said Lt. Col. Steven Truax, deputy commander of the Wing's 167th Maintenance Group.

Truax said the Wing is demonstrating an "increased capability ... but we don't have to change anything to accommodate that."

Adding: "Capability and flexibility is what we do every day out here."

## Acheol Tips for beating flu bugs before they attack

by Maj. Stacy Hess  
Occupational Health Nurse/  
State Radiation Safety Officer

Influenza (flu) is a serious, contagious, respiratory disease that can lead to hospitalization or even death.

Influenza is spread by direct contact and inhalation with airborne droplets containing influenza viruses. These droplets are transmitted thru the air when a person coughs or sneezes then land on an object or another person. The droplets can live from hours to weeks. If you touch an object with these droplets, then touch your mouth or nose and inhale the droplets, you may develop the flu or flu symptoms. There is no cure for the flu.

### *Prevention is key!*

There are some basic steps you can take for flu prevention.

- Get Vaccinated.

The flu vaccine given this year by the WVARNG is FLUARIX, the preservative-free, Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine. This year's vaccine was formulated with three influenza strains; Influenza A (H3N2), Influenza B and Influenza A (H1N1). The viruses in the inactivated influenza vaccine have been killed, so you cannot get influenza from the vaccine. It takes about two weeks after receiving the flu shot to develop protection against the flu. Protection lasts for about a year.

- Good Hand Hygiene. Wash your hands often using soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your mouth or nose without first washing your hands.



- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, use the sleeve of your shirt at the bend of the elbow to cover your mouth or nose.

- Avoid contact

with sick people.

- If you are sick, stay home. If you have the flu or flu symptoms, you are contagious until 24 hours after your fever is gone.

- Practice good health habits: Get plenty of sleep, eat healthy, take a multi-vitamin or vitamin C supplement, drink plenty of fluids, stay active/exercise, and manage your stress.

For questions, and/or treatment options, please contact your primary care provider or local health department.

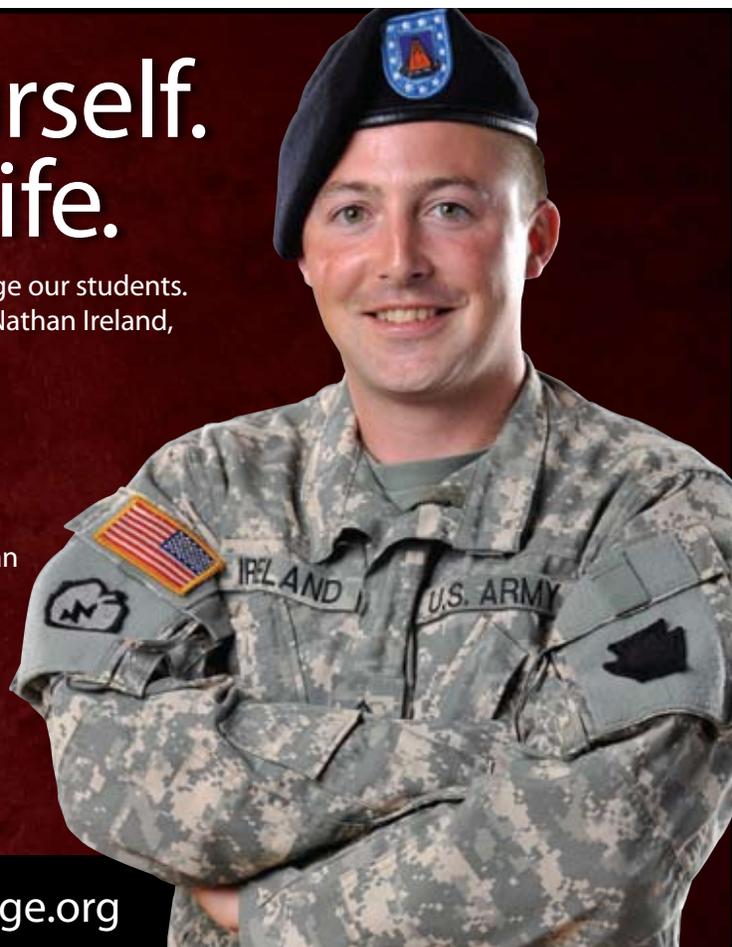
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