



MOUNTAINEER DEFENDER

Magazine of the West Virginia National Guard



**Just do it!
WVANG Airman
competes in All-Guard
Marathon**

**WVNG members
honored across the
country**

**Remembering Senator
Robert C. Byrd**

JITEC makes history

FALL 2010



Magazine of the
West Virginia National Guard
Fall 2010

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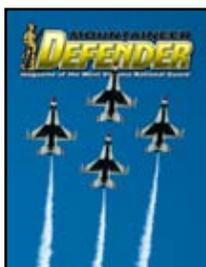


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On the cover:

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds take flight at the "Thunder Over the Blue Ridge" airshow in Martinsburg, W.Va. The show took place over Labor Day weekend and also included the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute demonstration team.

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



Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

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

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The Adjutant General

The West Virginia National Guard suffered a tremendous loss this summer when U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) died on June 28, 2010, at the age of 92. Senator Byrd was one of the most powerful men in this country.

He served in the U.S. Senate for 51 years, more than half his life, and spent most of that time fighting for two things -- to protect the Constitution and to make life better for West Virginians.

His work touched every aspect of our lives - homeland defense, education, healthcare, transportation, communications, military and veteran's affairs. He was a fervent advocate for the West Virginia National Guard whose strong support helped me build a world-class organization with an outstanding reputation for supporting federal, state, and homeland defense missions.

Senator Byrd is responsible for the growth of our Guard over the past 15 years. He singlehandedly funded most of our Facilities XXI plan to replace outdated armories, directing more than \$500 million for military construction.



Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett

He also led the effort to grow our homeland defense capabilities, securing hundreds of millions of dollars for Camp Dawson improvements, operation of the Center for National Response memorial tunnel complex, and to stand up the

Joint Interagency Training and Education Center.

Senator Byrd also saved both air bases in the state. He secured an agreement between the Air Guard and Air Force to put C-5 Galaxy aircraft at the 167th Airlift Wing in Martinsburg so the state wouldn't face the threat of having two of the same weapon systems. Then, in 2005, he led the fight against a Pentagon proposal to take Charleston's C-130 aircraft and move them to Pope Air Force Base. No one can forget the fiery speech he gave at the 130th when the base realignment and closure list was announced.

Senator Byrd was the best friend the West Virginia National Guard has ever had. He was also my dear friend, and we spent almost every Sunday evening talking about ways to make the West Virginia Guard a better place for soldiers, airmen and their families. We owe his family a huge debt of gratitude for allowing him to serve this great nation for more than 50 years and for his efforts to make our Guard the envy of other Guard units around the country.

The State Senior Enlisted Leader

The Enlisted Association of the National Guard United States held its 39th Annual Conference in St. Louis, Mo., August 8 - 12. Twenty-two Soldiers and Airmen of the WVNG attended this great event.

Attendees had a great time touring the exhibitor's hall looking at and trying some of the latest military equipment and listening to presentations on the programs that support our military. Members of the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center were also on hand to present the agency's capabilities.

Some attendees were involved in the director of the National Guard's Professional Development Program, which covers a range of subjects from the Joint EANGUS Conference Orientation to conference keynote speakers

with Gen. Craig R. McKinley presenting "The State of the National Guard." Everyone who participated in PD said they learned a lot and enjoyed meeting and asking direct questions of the National Guard's senior leadership.

One of the most popular events was the All States' Night. This was the time when everyone had an opportunity to exchange conference pins and enjoy foods from each state.

West Virginia Adjutant General Allen Tackett was on hand during the State roll call where he delivered a highly motivating speech and a hardy invite for everyone to attend the EANGUS conference that the WVNG will host in Charleston next year.

As I close, I would like to invite all of you to come to the 40th EANGUS Conference



Command Sgt. Maj. Vance

August 14 - 17, 2011. You will have a great time and learn how you can make a difference.

For more information please visit EANGUS.org and EANGWV.org web sites.

Thank you for all you do!

The State Command Chief Master Sergeant



Command Chief Master Sgt. Bowe

There is no greater honor than to serve our country during time of war, and we are very fortunate to serve in the greatest Air Guard units in the country. We have some of the most

technologically superior equipment and aircraft in the world. However, our equipment isn't what makes our units great -- it's our people. Throughout the Air Guard's history, success stems from developing and caring for Airmen.

Developing Airmen begins with recruiting. The Air Guard continues to attract the best and brightest America has to offer. During basic military training, instructors do an outstanding job of instilling Warrior Ethos, Air Force Core Values, standards and discipline into new recruits. Airmen leave BMT with a fire in their bellies and are motivated, physically fit and recite the Airman's Creed with ease. Our job as leaders is to keep this Warrior Ethos alive

-- refining their fire and spirit as we continue to foster their development.

Developing Airmen is not something that stops with training. It's a continual process throughout an Airman's career. Supervisors should be sponsors for our Airmen. They must emphasize Air Force core values and standards, and deliver guidance to put Airmen on the path to a rewarding and productive career.

Our Airmen are incredible, and they need and deserve solid leadership from day one. Develop and care for your Airmen ... we need them to succeed! As always I appreciate all the sacrifices that you and your families make everyday. I thank you so much.

Recent threats prompt NGB Force Protection advisory

Recent events directed toward the Department of Defense and U.S. military in the National Capital Region and throughout the Continental United States require individual emphasis on maintaining vigilance and remaining completely aware of surroundings at all times.

These events also stress the importance of reporting suspicious activity to appropriate authorities quickly and accurately.

The NGB Office of the Provost Marshal recommends that major command installations and staff directorates review the following with all personnel:

Suspicious Activity Reporting:

Ensure personnel are aware of various methods they can use to report suspicious activity, such as iWATCH, eGuardian, 1-800-492-8477 Department of Transportation, or 1-800-CALL-SPY. Stress that there does not have to be a minute-by-minute recap but should contain as much detail as possible as to the description of the individual(s), vehicles, places, times, etc. as possible. The key is "If you see it, report it!"

Ensure personnel know what they are looking for.

Surveillance:

Can be static or mobile; it is usually conducted outside the perimeter of the target; can be either visual (naked eye, binoculars, etc.) or imagery (still, video, etc.) based. Potential adversaries can use various covers, such as commuters, lost drivers, maintenance workers, shop workers (in vicinity of target), etc. in order to blend in.

Personal Security Measures:

Ensure personnel know that personal security measures are always a good practice. Things like varying your routines, routes and schedules reduce the chance of becoming a terrorist target. Stress the basics: lock your home and car, don't leave valuables or governmental identification badges in plain sight, don't wear office identification in public, avoid commuting to and from work in uniform and be aware of your surroundings. These are key to sound personal security.



West Virginia National Guard Deployment Update

About 30 Soldiers in **Company C, 2/104th Aviation** are deployed in Afghanistan. The unit is expected to return to the Mountain State next summer.

1st Battalion, 201st Field Artillery is deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn. The unit is scheduled for a one-year deployment and will return in Fall 2011.

1092nd Engineer Battalion is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Soldiers are expected to return to West Virginia in Spring 2011.

Company C, 1st Bn., 150th Avn. Rgt. has been mobilized for a deployment to Kosovo. The unit is scheduled to begin training in January 2011.

Members of the 156th Military Police Detachment have been mobilized for deployment to the Middle East. The unit is scheduled to deploy in early 2011.

Approximately 30 Soldiers in the **Special Operations Detachment-Europe** are scheduled to deploy to Africa in early 2011.

The 240-day partial mobilization has ended for about 130 members of the **167th Airlift Wing** in Martinsburg, W.Va. More than 100 members of the unit remain deployed supporting military operations around the world.

More than 50 Airmen in the **130th Airlift Wing** are deployed around the globe for various AEF/ECS taskings. Airmen will be returning to the Mountain State through 2011.

130th crew chief competes on All-Guard Marathon Team

by Tech. Sgt. Phyllis E. Keith
130th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (September 22, 2010) -- A crew chief from the 130th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron ran her first race as a member of the All-Guard Marathon Team on July 25, competing in the San Francisco Half-Marathon in San Francisco, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Kristen M. Roles, 25, of Lester, W.Va., qualified for a spot on the All-Guard Marathon Team May 2 at the Lincoln Marathon in Lincoln, Neb.

"They have a tryout every year and take the top 15 females and the top 40 males," Roles said.

Roles has been running marathons for less than a year. Her first was the Air Force Marathon in Dayton, Ohio, on Sept. 19, 2009, where her time of 3:42:03 was good enough to earn a spot in the Lincoln Marathon.

In the Lincoln Marathon, Roles placed sixth, with a time of 3:35:08, among 15 female Guard runners selected for the team. She said the Guard hasn't told her yet, but she thought her next team race might be the Houston Marathon in Houston, Texas on Jan. 30, 2011.

Roles said she still keeps up with her training during the week. She said she competed in the 15-mile Charleston Distance Run on Sept. 4 "for fun."

In the fall, Roles is slated to deploy to Afghanistan for the third time in four years. She said being overseas is a good opportunity to train for the marathons since off-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eugene R. Crist, 130th AW Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Kristen M. Roles, a crew chief with the 130th Airlift Wing, Charleston, W.Va. poses for a portrait with the C-130H3 Hercules aircraft she maintains. Staff Sgt. Roles ran her first race with the All Guard Marathon Team, July 25, 2010, placing 135 out of 2,010 women, in the San Francisco Half-Marathon in San Francisco, Calif.

duty time is spent going to the gym.

"Sometimes we'll get together, a couple of us, and run the perimeter," she said.

Her advice for unit members who want to try long distance running, or who just want to improve their physical training times, is to invest in a good pair of running shoes and stay hydrated while exercising.

"I always try to help people if they need someone to run with," Roles said.

"It's always hard to get started, but once you get into it, it's enjoyable."

National Guard members, families benefit from commissary prices

by Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. -- Although the 167th Airlift Wing's base in Martinsburg has been expanded in recent years to accommodate its new C-5 Galaxy mission, construction of a commissary isn't in the cards.

But that hasn't stopped West Virginia National Guard officials from bringing commissary savings to units around the Mountain State. An on-site commissary sale was held during the 167th Airlift Wing's October drill weekend. Commissary officials from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., delivered five truckloads of products -- everything from diapers to dog food.

Chief Master Sgt. John H. Alderton, the Wing's command chief, said active and retired service members and their families benefited from the sale, which saved patrons anywhere from 40 to 60 percent off some items.

"It's all about the benefits that are provided to military members and their families," Alderton said.

Now in its third year, bringing the on-site sale program to communities around the state was a vision of West Virginia Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett.

"Our Soldiers and Airmen are entitled to commissary benefits but rarely get to use them because we don't have an active duty commissary in West Virginia," Tackett said. "Guard members won't realize any savings if they have to drive several hours to the nearest active duty base.

"Bringing these sales to West Virginia is part of our 'Fort West Virginia' vision," he added. "If our Soldiers are going to be treated like their active counterparts when it comes to training and deployments, then we owe it to them to make sure they have access to the same benefits as active duty service members."

Current and retired service members (and their families) who have a valid Department of Defense military identification card are eligible to shop at these sales.

NGAUS honors Tackett, Sencindiver for distinguished service



(Left) Maj Gen Tod M. Bunting, chairman of the board, National Guard Association of the United States, and Col. Murray Hansen, chairman, Awards Committee, present the 2010 NGAUS Distinguished Service Medal to West Virginia Adjutant General Allen Tackett. (Right) Bunting and Hansen present Lt. Col. Kim Sencindiver, NGAWV president, with the NGAUS Meritorious Service Award.



Photos by Mike Pitzer, NGAWV Public Affairs

West Virginia officer recognized for leadership excellence

by Sgt. Darron Salzer
NGB Public Affairs Office

ARLINGTON, Va., (May 7, 2010) -- A West Virginia National Guard member was presented the MacArthur Leadership Award from the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation during a ceremony here at the Pentagon May 6.

Capt. William M. Gorby, the battalion support company commander for West Virginia's 19th Special Forces Group, was recognized for demonstrating the ideals that MacArthur stood for -- duty, honor and country.

"Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought

to be, what you can be, what you will be," MacArthur told cadets at the U.S. Military Academy in 1962. "They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

Leadership is what it will take to get the Army through the challenges of the 21st century, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, said during the ceremony.

"All of these award winners have demonstrated the tremendous quality that we're privileged to have in our Army today," he said

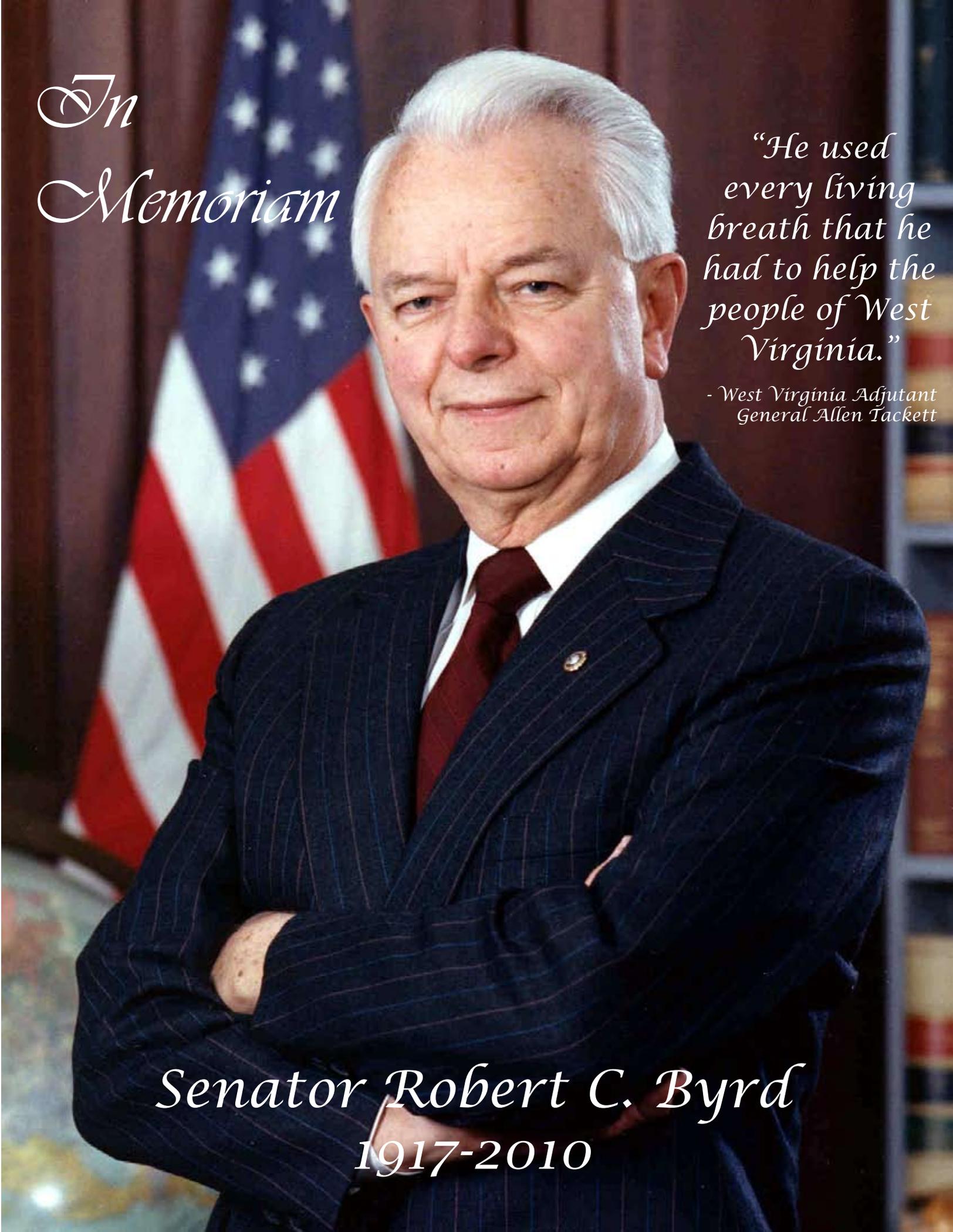
Guard recipients of the award said they have simply stuck to the basics and are truly humbled by the recognition.

"You have to maintain an esprit de corps and an ability to motivate," Gorby said. "When you have found that success, it motivates [your] men to complete the mission for them, not simply because they are following the protocol of rank and customs and courtesies."



Photo by Sgt. Darron Salzer, NGB Public Affairs

Cpt. William Gorby, battalion support company commander, 2nd Battalion 19th Special Forces Group, receives the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award for Leadership Excellence. Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., and a representative from the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation, presented the award.

A portrait of Senator Robert C. Byrd, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark pinstriped suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He has his arms crossed and is looking slightly to the right. In the background, an American flag is visible on the left, and a bookshelf is on the right.

*In
Memoriam*

*“He used
every living
breath that he
had to help the
people of West
Virginia.”*

*- West Virginia Adjutant
General Allen Tackett*

*Senator Robert C. Byrd
1917-2010*

Remembering Byrd

West Virginia's Adjutant General recalls late senator as mentor, partner, friend

by Spc. Anna-Marie Hizer
JFHQ Public Affairs Office

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- In the early morning hours of June 28, West Virginia's senior senator, Robert C. Byrd, passed away. At nearly the same time, West Virginia Adjutant General Allen Tackett's wristwatch stopped.

Some people might call that coincidence, but Byrd and Tackett shared a special bond that could explain the unrelated events.

Theirs was a relationship so profound it affected everyone it touched.

Tackett first met Byrd when he ran for office in 1958. Tackett was just a young man growing up in Cabin Creek, W.Va.

"My dad was a fairly prominent Democrat in Cabin Creek," he said. "Byrd met with my dad and other people at my house."

Growing up, Tackett had many more encounters with the rising senator. When Tackett became chairman of the state Democratic Party, he worked with many of

Byrd's employees. Tackett's daughter even participated in a commercial for the senator.

Fast forward to 1995 when Tackett was appointed as adjutant general. One of his first calls was to Byrd's office to talk about the future of the West Virginia National Guard. Because both men were so passionate about the people they served, bringing more jobs to the West Virginia Guard, and, as a result, the state, became a joint goal.

"He saw my dedication to the men and women of the West Virginia National Guard," Tackett said. "It paralleled his love and dedication for the people of [this state]."

Tackett praises Byrd for bringing millions to the Guard. New jobs, new facilities and new units -- such as the Joint Interagency Training and Education Center -- helped the Guard rise to the top of all National Guard units in readiness.

Byrd also led the fight against many threats to the Air Guard's presence in West Virginia. He convinced the Base Realignment and Closure Commission

to reconsider a Pentagon plan to close Charleston's C-130 Air Force Base, N.C., and \$280 million to fund a new Martinsburg air base to replace the mission.

Tackett recalled the many conversations and how they touched his business, politics and family.

"As we became closer, we began to talk almost weekly. I miss] the discussions we had. I felt about his family and mine.

"Having him there as a mentor, depending on him to help me, in my corner as a friend, helped tremendously," Tackett said.

The general also recalled that Byrd asked him to announce his decision to run for a ninth term that had never been done before.

"He told me 'Nobody has ever run for a ninth term in the Senate'."



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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eugene Crist, 130th AW Public Affairs

A special Honor Guard detail follows behind the horse-drawn caisson carrying the remains of Senator Robert C. Byrd. Members of the West Virginia National Guard provided the late senator with full military honors following his death on June 28.

a part of making history'," Tackett said. "He could have probably gotten anyone in the nation ... but he asked me."

The general also spoke of his feelings shortly before and upon hearing of the senator's death. Tackett said their weekly talks became less frequent, and he expressed concern to his wife, Sallie Pat, about Byrd's health.

"I called the week before [he passed], and one of his people told me 'he's just not available right now'," Tackett said. "I told Sallie Pat, 'that just doesn't sound good.'" A week later, news hit that the nation's longest-

serving senator had passed.

"It was like when I heard that my father had died ... the same feeling," Tackett recalled.

In the days following Byrd's death, the general often referred to him as "the Guard's best friend" and lamented how much Byrd had meant to him -- both professionally and personally.

"Senator Byrd was a one-of-a-kind person," Tackett said. "Not many people dedicate every ounce of their being to helping a state like Byrd did for West Virginia.

"He used every living breath that he had to help the people of West Virginia."





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Eugene Crist, 130th AW Public Affairs

A special Honor Guard detail carries the casket of Senator Robert C. Byrd outside the West Virginia state Capitol in Charleston.

West Virginia National Guard Soldiers, Airmen offer Sen. Byrd final military honors

by Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- With little notice, Soldiers and Airmen from the West Virginia National Guard converged on Charleston to help pay tribute to Sen. Robert C. Byrd.

The state's senior senator died on June 28.

For Spc. Bradley A. McDaniel it was a chance to honor his own kin. A military policeman with the 863rd Military Police Company, McDaniel said his great-grandmother, Eunice Byrd, was Sen. Byrd's first cousin.

"I am proud to pay tribute to a family member," McDaniel said. "He was a very important person."

And McDaniel wasn't alone in his admiration for the late senator.

Inside the West Virginia National Guard armory in Charleston, Soldiers and Airmen readied themselves and their uniforms proudly for the tasks that lay ahead.

Sgt. Jarrettee D. Hesse, an awards clerk for the state, brought a portable ribbon dispenser and camped out in a corner of the armory.

Handing a West Virginia Emergency Service ribbon to McDaniel, Hesse said he was met by a steady stream of Guardsmen wanting to make sure their Class A uniforms were squared away for any detail they were assigned with while honoring Sen. Byrd.

After all, you never have a second chance to make a

first impression, he said.

Nearby, Staff Sgt. Rhonda A. Loy, a cook with Charlie Battery, 201st Field Artillery, sized up her Honor Guard jacket.

Loy said she didn't hesitate driving through the night from Hagerstown, Md., when she received a call from her old unit -- the 157th MP Company in Martinsburg -- asking if she could serve as a member of the Honor Guard detail for Sen. Byrd.

"I am just glad that I could help out when needed," Loy said. "Senator Byrd was the Guard's best friend."

Hunkered down in another area of the armory, Spcs. Andrew E. Moore and Charlie E. Lantz cleaned dress shoes that they would wear with their Honor Guard uniforms. Moore, with the 154th MP Co., used furniture polish to bring out the shine.

"This is the biggest mission we've ever been given," said Moore, who acted as a pallbearer.

"It's quite an honor for us to be chosen," said Lantz, who is assigned to the 1092nd Engineer Battalion.

Using a toothbrush, Lantz meticulously cleaned any small bits of dirt that the seams of his black dress shoes had attracted.

Sgt. Jesse Byrd, Jr. is not related to the late senator, but said he is proud to share his last name with the historic legislator.

"It's a duty and an honor to be here," Byrd said. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Thunder
Thunder
THUNDERBIRDS!



'Thunder Over the Blue Ridge' roars across Martinsburg skies

by Staff Sgt. Sherree Grebenstein
167th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. -- More than 90,000 people attended the Thunder Over the Blue Ridge Air Show and 167th Airlift Wing Open House on Labor Day Weekend 2010.

The air show was the largest ever held in the Eastern Panhandle and featured aerial acts both days by the prestigious U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team and U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team. The United States Air Force's A-10 East demonstration team and the U.S. Navy's VFA-106 Gladiators also dazzled the huge crowd below with their unique



Photos by Master Sgt. Emily Beightol-Deyerle Public Affairs

(Clockwise from top) The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team performs at Thunder Over the Blue Ridge in Martinsburg. A member of the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute demonstration team jumps with the U.S. Flag. Spectators shield their eyes from the sun as they watch the aerial performances.

flying maneuvers. Spectators were also treated to civilian aerial performances by several well-known aviators.

Two of the Wing's new hangers hosted a Kids Village and the VA Medical Center's 2010 Welcome Home American Heroes Celebration during the Open House.

Months of planning went into the inaugural event, which attracted visitors from around the world and was deemed a spectacular success by Wing leadership. Visitors had an opportunity to see how \$280 million in upgrades transformed the base to accommodate the massive C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft.

Col. Roger L. Nye, commander of the 167th Airlift Wing, noted that the Open House and Air Show allowed the public a chance to meet with Airmen who serve the community, state and nation.

"They got to see firsthand the great Airmen we have at the 167th Airlift Wing," Nye said. The commander lauded the Wing's efforts in hosting the Air Show and Open House, noting that Airmen "did some amazing things. Airmen of the 167th Airlift Wing should feel proud of what they accomplished," he said.



New code of military justice applies to Guard members 24/7

by Lt. Col. Robert E. Rockwell
167th AW JAG

On July 1, 2010, a new era for good order and discipline began for the West Virginia National Guard. Prior to July, all members of the Guard were subject to the West Virginia Code of Military Justice, which was a less effective version of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The new Uniform State Code of Military Justice is modeled after the UCMJ, which applies to all military members in Title 10 status. The USCMJ applies to Title 32 and seamlessly covers service members who were not covered under the UCMJ previously.

The USCMJ applies 24/7 and extends beyond the borders of West Virginia.

Possible disciplinary measures for enlisted members include fines, forfeitures, and reductions in pay grades. In addition,

a member may be restricted to a specified place and/or be required to perform extra duties. They may also receive written reprimand or admonishment.

A member may also be sent before a summary Court's Martial and the court may impose a sentence of confinement of up to one month, restriction for up to two months and forfeiture of two-thirds pay up to one month. A summary Court's Martial is for enlisted persons only and may be refused. If refused, the case may be referred to a higher court martial.

In addition to the summary Court's Martial, the USCMJ also streamlines the administration of discipline throughout the force. A special Court's Martial is an intermediate court in terms of severity. A special Court's Martial can impose punishment that includes Bad Conduct Charge, confinement up to one year,

reduction to the lowest enlisted rank and forfeiture of two-thirds pay per month up to one year. A special Court's Martial has a Military Judge and at least three jury members.

A general Court's Martial is the highest Court Martial and is reserved for the most serious offenses.

If a member is suspected of a serious offense, an Article 32 investigation is conducted. If the Article 32 Investigation concludes that the case should be referred to a general Court Martial, the accused faces life imprisonment, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to the lowest enlisted rank and a Dishonorable Discharge.

Other new features of the USCMJ include the suspension of driver's licenses if the fines are not paid in a timely manner.

Maj. Kelly Ambrose, JFHQ JAG, contributed to this article.

Family Programs employee honored for going the 'Extra Mile'

by Maj. James A. Martin
WVNG Family Programs Office

Judging for the 2010 Family Programs Volunteer Awards is complete, and we have a winner from West Virginia.

Gary Conley, a retired sergeant major from the West Virginia Army National Guard, earned the National Extra Mile Award for an Army volunteer. The award is presented to Air and Army Guard retirees who have distinguished themselves with outstanding volunteer service to state family programs.

While still active in the National Guard, Conley volunteered much of his off-duty time to helping West Virginia Guard members and their families. That service has continued into his retirement.

Conley's notable accomplishments include:

- Involved in grass roots planning for State Advisory

Council in 1989

- Helped establish State Family Council and Family Readiness Group structures
- Continues to serve on planning committee for State Family Day
- Served as Santa Claus for 20+ years.

Conley's true passion, however, lies with the annual Kids Kamp that started in 1991. He has been the acting director for many years and strives to make the camp a memorable experience for military children, many of whom attend while their parents are deployed. Those kids feeling homesick or needing a little extra encouragement get what the camp staff has come to call "quality time with Gary."

Conley's service to the West Virginia National Guard is truly second to none and he embodies the spirit of volunteerism.

W.Va. gets 'first-of-its-kind' National Guard homeland defense unit

by Lt. Col. Mike Cadle
JFHQ Public Affairs Office

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (September 11, 2010) -- Sept. 11 is a date that brings back bad memories for many Americans. On this date in 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 Americans and launching America into a war that continues more than nine years later.

Amidst somber reflections on the ninth anniversary of the attack, the West Virginia National Guard introduced a new homeland defense unit whose mission is to prepare for and respond to future attacks.

An activation ceremony for the Joint Interagency Education and Training Center was held on Sept. 11 at the Charleston Air National Guard base. Gov. Joe Manchin and Adjutant General Allen Tackett hosted the ceremony

"It's ironic that on the anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on American soil, we are now standing up a new unit to help the nation better anticipate and deal with the effects of future attacks," said Tackett.

JITEC is the nation's first permanent homeland defense unit in the Army National Guard. Brig. Gen. James Hoyer, director of joint staff for the National Guard, told the Charleston Gazette that the permanent designation is vital to the future of the unit.

"This puts the unit in official standing with the military and allows us to begin getting permanent funding from the Department of Defense," Hoyer said.

Steady funding from DoD will replace supplemental appropriations used to fund JITEC for the past several years. To date, JITEC has trained about 94,000 first re-



Photos by Mike Pitzer, JITEC Public Affairs

(Above) Brig. Gen. James Hoyer speaks at the activation ceremony for JITEC on Sept. 11. (Below) Lt. Col. Jeffrey Price unfurls the unit guidon.

sponders, conducted more than 1,600 training exercises, and performed 200 vulnerability assessments on critical infrastructure in 30 states. JITEC has also supported Presidential inaugurations, State of the Union addresses, the G-20 Summit, and the Super Bowl.

"There is no other unit like this in the Army," Tackett said. "JITEC has been a leader in homeland defense training and preparedness for many years. Today is a testament to the outstanding reputation we enjoy within the Pentagon."

JITEC operates from three locations -- Camp Dawson in Preston County; Center for National Response (former W.Va. Turnpike highway tunnel) in eastern Kanawha County; and the National Guard armory in St. Albans.



Barnette leaves legacy of service, pride

by Lt. Col. Mike Cadle
JFHQ Public Affairs Office

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The commander of the West Virginia Army National Guard retired in June after 43 years in uniform.

Maj. Gen. John E. Barnette, 64, of Charleston, served as head of state ground forces since 1995. The general led the Army Guard through one of the most tumultuous periods in state history, but says he sees this as a time of transition.

"I feel like this is more of a graduation, finishing one phase of my life and moving onto another. I've thoroughly enjoyed my military career," he said. "It's been a wonderful experience to serve with quality men and women in the West Virginia National Guard. The thing I'll miss the most is the people."

Barnette is quick to recognize soldiers who had a significant impact on his career.

"Ed Gatens was my first sergeant when I was in Troop B [1/150th Armor] in Dunbar. He was my first mentor and a true friend. He is retired and living in Florida, but we still maintain contact," the general said.

Like many Guard members, Bar-



nette also had a chance to serve with a relative, his cousin, Col. Andy Barnette. "I really admired Andy because he taught me the concept of 'first a soldier'," Barnette recalled. "I remember coming back from the firing range and seeing him in the mud firing expert with his rifle. That had a lasting impact on me and other soldiers."

Barnette believes two significant events in military history significantly impacted his career. The first was the move to an all-volunteer force. "The Guard of the 70's is not

the Guard of today," he said.

The second was the Guard's evolution into an operational force after 9/11. "The leadership and professionalism of the Guard 20 to 30 years ago does not compare to what it is today."

The general added, "I'm so proud of the leadership we've developed at the battalion and company levels. Our leaders are really talented and seasoned, and I'd go to war with any of them and be proud to serve under them."

Barnette pointed out several highlights of his long and distinguished career. "I am fortunate to have been a part of over 70 FEMA-declared disasters in all 55 counties. I'm proud of my service in Korea, which allowed me to represent West Virginia and the National Guard in a way that made a difference.

"Probably my most significant work was in providing leadership and helping shape the response after Hurricane Katrina," Barnette said.

Now that he no longer dons the ACU, Barnette plans to focus on three things: his family, teaching and his consulting business. "I plan to continue working with the Guard on quality improvement issues, in the ACOE [Army Communities of Excellence] area. And I'm going to spend more time with my grandkids, which is my favorite thing to do," the general said with a smile.

Asked for a parting thought, Barnette was quick to go back to the people. "One more time I'd express appreciation to our soldiers and their families for their commitment, dedication, professionalism and sacrifice. It's truly an honor to be part of your team, and I want to say thanks," he said. "I'd also tell them that what they're doing is vitally important to our state and nation."



Photos by Sgt. Waine Haley, 150th ACR

West Virginia National Guard units stand on the West Virginia Power Park field for Maj. Gen. John Barnette's Change of Command ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Debra Richardson, 1-201st Public Affairs

A Soldier with the 201st Field Artillery Regiment takes aim at his "enemy" during combat skills training at Fort McCoy, Wis.

Paintball range offers realistic urban training

by Sgt. Debra Richardson
1-201st Field Artillery Public Affairs

FORT MCCOY, Wis. -- Blue eyes squint against the mid-day sun as the Soldier lowers his left ear to the ground, meticulously dragging his legs with his arms stretched forward, slowly moving his entire body across the trench.

With a paintball gun simulating an M-4, the Soldier peeks above sandbags to observe enemy elements. As his eyes peek over the top of the sandbag, rapid fire is heard and the Soldier yells out to his squad members, encouraging them to use suppressive fire while he continues to advance toward the front line. Pinned down behind a house, he makes one final attempt to move forward when he is struck by yellow and purple paintballs. He falls to the ground screaming for a medic and after several minutes, raises his weapon in the air to signify he is dead.

Members of the West Virginia Army National Guard's 201st Field Artillery loaded into five-ton trucks October 14 and drove to the paintball range at Fort McCoy, Wis. While some Soldiers were busy conducting weapons qualification, combat lifesaver classes, and other training, Lt. Ryan Coss, platoon leader for Company C's 3rd platoon, organized training on the nearby paintball range.

"We've been practicing and rehearsing maneuvering tactics and procedures for days now, so we brought the Soldiers to the paintball range so they could practice these techniques in a real-world scenario," Coss said. "The Soldiers were broken up into four squads and had to work as a team to move over, under and around obstacles while maintaining cover and concealment to reach their objective."

The four-hour range allowed each Soldier to act as team leader and

squad leader in basic scenarios, which promoted the execution of lower level infantry tactics. Wooden houses with open windows, trenches dug two feet deep and hard plastic structures offered the Soldiers obstacles and cover to simulate an urban environment the Soldiers are likely to encounter in the Middle East.

"The paintball range allowed us to utilize real, moving targets and assault a physical objective while operating as a squad," remarked Spc. Josh Higginbotham, a cannon crewmember with Co. C, 201st. "I learned easier ways to move forward and experienced the deadly effect of utilizing suppressive fire."

Medics also participated in the paintball range and were able to implement various life-saving tactics during the scenarios. As Soldiers were struck by paintballs, they shouted for medics who were forced to move under fire to provide battlefield aid. The medics applied tourniquets and bandages when the rounds struck limbs, but if the rounds struck the chest or head the medics had to remove that Soldier from the kill zone. Because the medics could see the wound and knew how the Soldier was injured, they were able to provide immediate field care.

Many Soldiers said they preferred using the paintball range over dry-ranges because they were able to see, feel and hear the rounds, which significantly improved the realism of the training. The Soldiers also noted their happiness at switching up the normal training routine.

"This training lifted my spirits," said Pfc. Anthony Wiley. "I was getting bored with all the normal training, but we came out here, conducted beneficial training and had a great time doing it."

News You Can Use

Walt Disney Orlando tickets for military members, retirees

From Oct. 24, 2010 to Oct. 1, 2011, active and retired U.S. military, National Guard or Reserves, may purchase four-day Walt Disney World Armed Forces Salute tickets for themselves and up to five family members or friends for \$138 per individual.

Three-day passes may also be purchased for \$99 each.

For more information, visit <http://www.shadesofgreen.org/4day.PNG>.

WikiLeaks website guidance

Military personnel should not access the WikiLeaks website to view or download the publicized classified information. Doing so would introduce classified information on unclassified networks.

There has been rumor that the information is no longer classified since it resides in the public domain. This is not true. The subject information was not “declassified”

by an appropriate authority and requires continued classification or reclassification. View the entire memo at https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af/USAF/content/af_wikileaks.

Avoid prescription drug abuse

When using prescription drugs it is important to ensure that they are used only in ways intended by the prescribing doctor and are used only for specified medical purposes. Taking a friend’s prescription painkiller for your backache is considered abuse.

It is essential that you ensure your prescription is current while taking the medication.

It is important for you to remember that if you or a loved one are abusing prescription drugs, resources are available. Your state’s Prevention Coordinator can locate treatment based on your location, and sometimes can even find financial assistance to cover your cost.

Free tutor service available to 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.

Once online, the student and tutor work together in a virtual classroom, where they can chat, draw on a shared whiteboard, upload files and browse the Internet together.

Active-duty servicemembers, National Guard and reserve personnel on active duty in a deployed status, Defense Department civilians in a deployed status and their dependents are eligible to participate. Families who aren’t eligible can access the service for a fee.

People can sign up by visiting <http://www.tutor.com/military>.