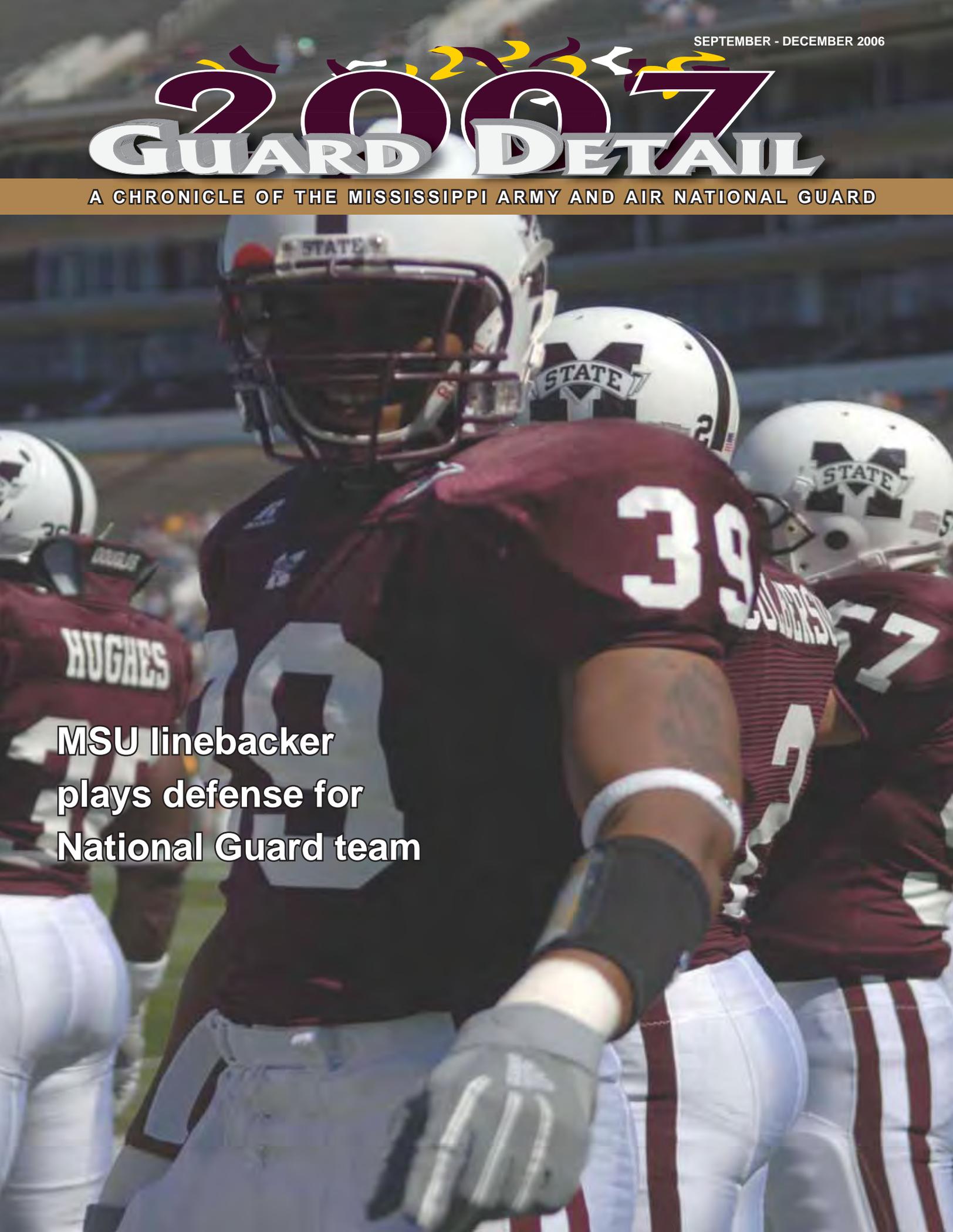


2007 GUARD DETAIL

A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD



**MSU linebacker
plays defense for
National Guard team**

2007 GUARD DETAIL

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2006 • VOLUME XV • NO. 3

• A CHRONICLE OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FRONT COVER

Photo by 1st Lt. Meagan Jones, 102nd MPAD



FRONT COVER: #39 Mississippi State University linebacker, Sgt. Tim Bailey, shows his fighting spirit on the football field at MSU and with his Mississippi Army National Guard unit in Det 2, 2nd Bn., 198th Armor in Cleveland.

(Photo by 2nd Lt. Meagan Jones) **BACK COVER:** A memorial plaque is placed at the old Booneville Army National Guard Armory to honor Soldiers killed 56 years ago (Photo by 2nd Lt. Andy Thaggard).

BACK COVER



GUARD DETAIL

The Guard Detail is an authorized unofficial publication produced three times a year by the Joint Force Headquarters, Public Affairs Office, under the provisions of AR 360-81. The opinions expressed in the Guard Detail are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard or the National Guard Bureau unless so indicated.

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FROM THE EDITOR Lt. Col. Tim Powell



Remembering A Friend

I had a close friend for many years who was literally like a brother and my right-hand man. We traveled thousands of miles together around the world and wore tracks in the highways in and around Mississippi, mostly between Jackson and Camp Shelby.

We met in 1982, when he was my driver while serving as Aide-de-Camp for Maj. Gen. Cohen Robertson, the adjutant general. After a few close calls in our jeep while visiting Soldiers in the field, General Robertson relieved him of his driving duties and I became the driver as well as the aide.

Through the years, I continued working along side my friend, mostly during the summers at annual training working in support of the White House staff or in Public Affairs projects. In the early 1990s, we began working together daily as Public Affairs employees of the Mississippi Military Department.

He was always up to something, but you can rest assured he was always doing something for someone else. I had trouble keeping up with him most of the time, so I issued him a pager which needs to be turned on in order to work. It never worked. I later gave him a cell phone, and he finally acquiesced and agreed to leave it turned on.

My friend was always willing to work, be it taking photographs, drawing countless signs, framing photos, awards, other pieces of art, and of course, anything the general needed. Even on weekends, he would volunteer for duty without the slightest hesitation. This was his modus operandi.

He was a former Marine and a Soldier's Soldier, constantly offering advice and counsel to younger troops in his own unique way, a way that no other person could. If you needed anything at all, he would have it or would find it, and I never questioned him about where he got it. I didn't want to know.

He retired from the Mississippi Army National Guard last October. During the November drill, we tried to contact him on his cell phone and at home with no success. He never returned our calls. He is truly missed.

SEMPER FI, STUMP! See you in Heaven, my friend.

Photo by Sandy Ates



Sergeant Major
William R. "Stump" Jones

Guard News and Views

TRICARE changes mean lower healthcare costs for Reservists

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19, 2001 -- DoD officials have enacted healthcare system changes to make life a little easier for reserve component members and their families following the Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom call-up to active duty.

The most significant change is a national demonstration project that waives all TRICARE deductibles for family members of Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom activated reservists and guardsmen for care received since Sept. 14.

TRICARE officials realized many of these families probably paid deductibles for their civilian health plans earlier in the year. They didn't feel it fair for them to shoulder another financial burden just because their sponsor was called up toward the end of the year, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Robert Styron, regional operations officer for the TRICARE Management Activity.

Another change for reserve component members is that TRICARE will pay for up to 115 percent of what is usually allowed for care under existing guidelines. Styron said the change would help reservists who live far from active military facilities in areas that don't have TRICARE provider networks. Their families probably would end up paying more out-of-pocket if TRICARE hadn't agreed to the higher fees.

The third change is that TRICARE officials have waived the need for Guard and Reserve family members to obtain non availability statements before receiving care from a civilian provider. Styron said DoD acknowledges many reserve families have existing

relationships with civilian providers.

"If you've already got these established relationships with a provider, we're not going to get in the way. We will allow you to continue seeing providers you know," he said.

Active duty family members don't need a non-availability statement if they're far from a military treatment facility. If they live near a military facility, however, they generally need the statement or they must pay for the care themselves.

DoD officials have explained that families of reserve component members called up for at least 30 days are eligible to use TRICARE benefits. Families of those activated for at least 179 days are also eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, which offers the most cost-effective way for military families to receive medical care.

For more information on these new benefits and on healthcare for reservists and guardsmen, visit [TRICARE for the reserve components](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm) at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/default.htm



National Guard celebrates 370 years of Service

Staff report

The National Guard recently celebrated its 370th birthday with a Web site dedicated to the organization and its history, according to a Guard press release.

At the ripe old age of 370, the National Guard is older than the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It is 139 years older than the Army,

Navy and Marine Corps, and 311 years older than the Air Force.

The Guard can trace its roots to 1636, when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which at the time was the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the Boston area to form three regiments, North, South and East.

"These first Minutemen answered the call, banding together for the common defense, an effort which grew nationwide to protect towns, states and, ultimately, the nation from all enemies, civil, natural and foreign," Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, wrote in a letter on the Web site.

More than 50,000 soldiers and airmen are currently serving overseas, while more than 9,000 are on duty at home, Blum's letter continued.

"Not unlike those Minutemen 370 years ago, today's Guard members are citizens who believe that an organized militia is essential to the common defense," Blum wrote. "With centuries of courage, commitment and tradition behind them, the National Guard proudly remains always ready, always there."

The Web site also features a letter written by Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We simply could not sustain current operations without the National Guard," Pace wrote. "The courage and sacrifice of every Guard member are truly inspiring. Your outstanding service as citizen-soldiers comforts those in need and protects our homeland."

How to avoid Identity Theft

With one unfortunate incident, 26.5 million U.S. veterans had their personal information compromised, and it could just as easily happen to anyone of us. The USAA Educational Foundation (www.usaaedfoundation.org) offers these tips to help military members

protect themselves from identity theft and detect if they've been a victim.

Nothing you can do will guarantee protection against identity theft in all circumstances. However, you can minimize your risk by managing personal information with care and caution.

10 TIPS

to prevent ID Theft



HOW TO DETECT ID THEFT

If you are a victim of identity theft, you can minimize damage to your name, finances, and credit history by detecting it early. To do so, you should begin taking the following steps immediately:

CHECK FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Carefully monitor every statement from your bank, credit card company, and other financial institutions. Review transactions carefully for unexplained charges or withdrawals, and dispute anything that looks suspicious. This is the most common way victims discover misuse of their identity.

REVIEW YOUR CREDIT REPORT

Order your credit report from any of the three credit reporting agencies at least once each year, and review it carefully. Make sure all personal information is correct, such as names, addresses, and phone numbers. Make sure all listed accounts are yours. Check inquiries on your credit report to see if they look suspicious or seem excessive.

EXAMINE MAIL

Scrutinize your mail for signs of identity theft. Have you received credit cards for which you did not apply? Are files or bank account statements missing? Have you failed to receive new credit cards as expected when current cards are about to expire? Have you received letters from debt collectors or businesses about merchandise or services you did not purchase?

If any of these situations arise, follow up quickly with creditors. An identity thief may be tampering with your accounts.

- 1 Memorize your Social Security Number. Never carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse.
- 2 Store your wallet or purse in a secure location while at work or public places such as fitness centers.
- 3 Buy a cross-cut shredder. Use it as a secure means of disposal for documents with personal or financial information--such as unsolicited credit card applications, credit receipts or utility bills.
- 4 Memorize your PINs. Do not write them down unless you must. Never keep them with their cards, and do not share them with anyone. If possible, do not use the same PIN for multiple cards or services.
- 5 Do not provide personal information over the phone, e-mail or internet unless the recipient is a known and trusted source.
- 6 Make sure the Web site uses encryption technology to safeguard your information. Most Web sites provide some acknowledgement that they are using encryption to transfer financial information. This acknowledgement may appear as a yellow padlock symbol in the status bar of your browser or a pop-up window indicating an encrypted or secured site.
- 7 Call the credit reporting agencies at (888) 5-OPTOUT or (888) 567-8688 to remove your name from all mailing lists the agencies supply to direct marketers.
- 8 Deposit checks directly to your bank account. Do not mail checks from your home mailbox if it is unsecured.
- 9 Do not have unnecessary personal information, such as Social Security or driver's license numbers, printed on personal checks.
- 10 Do business with responsible companies that take steps to protect their customers from identity theft.

(More news on page 29).

2007- Protecting America at Home and Abroad

Chief, National Guard Bureau
Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum



This past year the National Guard demonstrated how superbly it simultaneously performs our dual missions, state and federal.

In August 2005, with more than 80,000 troops already mobilized for the global war on terror and faced with Katrina, a catastrophic hurricane, the Gulf Coast governors called upon the Guard. The Guard, the nation's preeminent military domestic response force, fulfilled our commitment to the governors and our neighbors. In spite of a massive wartime mobilization, the Guard mobilized and deployed the largest domestic response force in history. Soldiers and Airmen from all 50 states, the territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia deployed in record time in support of their Gulf Coast neighbors. Never before had every corner of America answered the desperate cry of our neighbors in such union. Truly, when you call out the Guard, you call out America!

Guard forces were in hurricane affected neighborhoods rescuing people within four hours of Katrina's landfall. More than 11,000 Soldiers and Airmen were involved in rescue operations on August 31. The Guard mobilized and deployed, in support of rescue and recovery, an additional 19,000 troops in the following 96 hours. Guard participation peaked at over 50,000 personnel on September 7. More than 6,500 Guard men and women were in New Orleans alone by September 2, 2005. The National Guard responded in spite of massive overseas deployment of personnel and equipment in support of our federal mission.

No state, regardless of its size, can handle a natural or man-made catastrophe of the magnitude of a Katrina. Emergency Management Assistance Compacts allowed governors of affected states to immediately call upon another state's National Guard as reinforcements for recovery efforts. In 23 states, the Adjutant General also serves as the State Director of Emergency Management, State Director of Homeland Security, or both. This is an important aid in the coordination of the civil and military response.

The National Guard has undergone a total transformation

in the past few years. The once ponderous Cold War strategic reserve transformed itself into an agile, lethal operational force capable of joint and expeditionary warfare—a uniquely flexible force simultaneously capable of responding to a broad range of civil and humanitarian crises.

The Guard serves our nation and communities across the full spectrum of domestic and warfighting missions. We fight narco-terrorism through our counterdrug programs. We work with our nation's youth through programs like StarBase and ChalleNGe to ensure they have a brighter future. We stand guard over America's critical physical and cyber infrastructure. Our Airmen fly the vast majority of air sovereignty missions over America's cities, while our Soldiers man air defense batteries in the nation's capital and the nation's sole ballistic missile interceptor site in Alaska. We conduct peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and the Sinai, stand watch aboard military cargo ships as they transit the Persian Gulf, guard prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, and train the Iraqi and Afghan national armies. Joint and multinational training, exercises, humanitarian support and a variety of other missions have taken the Guard overseas to more than 40 nations on five continents last year alone.

The Guard stands more ready, reliable, essential and accessible today than at anytime in its near-four hundred years of existence. Since 9/11, we have been employed around the world and here at home as an operational force in a variety of contingencies. It is a role that the Guard was not structured to perform before 9/11. The Guard—with the exception of those units mobilized for war—is still under-resourced for many of the missions it now performs. Army Guard units in particular remain manned at Cold War levels, lack a robust cadre of full-time support personnel, and are equipped well below wartime requirements. Other vestiges of this Cold War construct, such as a needlessly-long mobilization process, continue to hamper the most efficient use of the Guard.

Our nation's reliance on the Guard is unprecedented at this stage in a major war. At one point in 2005, the Army National Guard contributed half of the combat brigades on the ground in Iraq. The Army's leadership has acknowledged that the Army could not sustain its presence in Iraq without the Guard. As of

January 1, 2006, over 350 Guard men and women have given their lives while engaged in this global struggle.

Guard units bring more to the warfight than just Soldiers and Airmen. There is ample anecdotal evidence that the civilian skills Guard members possess make them exceptionally well suited for peacekeeping and nation building. An Iraqi policeman may have limited respect for an American Soldier who attempts to train him in the methods of civilian law enforcement. But, when that Soldier is a National Guardsman with 20 years of civilian experience as a police officer, that Soldier's credibility and impact as a trainer is vastly enhanced.

Guard support to the warfight is not limited to our role on the battlefield. The Guard's unique State Partnership Program continues to support Combatant Commander's Security Cooperation Plans and strengthen alliances with 50 allied nations around the world. This immensely successful program has grown from direct military-to-military exchanges to encompass military-to-civilian and ultimately civilian-to-civilian exchanges. Once again, the citizen Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard are the bridge that allows this to happen, with their combination of military and civilian backgrounds providing a sterling example of how America has peacefully balanced military and civilian interests for well over 300 years.

National Guard units deployed to combat since September 11th have been the best-trained and equipped force in American history. The U.S. Army invested \$4.3 billion to provide those units with the very best, state-of-the-art equipment.

This is an unprecedented demonstration of the Army's commitment to ensure that no Soldier, regardless of component (Active, Guard, or Reserve), goes to war ill equipped or untrained. With the help of the U.S. Congress, this was accomplished over a two-year period. It is now a reality for National Guard overseas combat deployments.

The Guard, since September 11th, has been well equipped for its overseas missions, and has demonstrated its Citizen-Soldier expertise across the full-spectrum of warfighting, peacekeeping, and security engagement with our allies. The response to Katrina, however, revealed serious shortcomings in the equipping of Guard units for Homeland Security and Defense. Guard units returned from the overseas warfight with a fraction of the equipment with which they deployed, leaving them far less capable of meeting training requirements, or more importantly, fulfilling their missions here at home.

The senior leadership of the U.S. Army has committed to re-equipping the Guard, the nation's first domestic military responders. The Army has a comprehensive reset plan that recognizes the Army National Guard's critical role in Homeland Defense (HLD) and support to Homeland Security (HLS) operations. This will take time and resources. I am confident that a real sense of urgency exists to make this a reality for America. The Guard currently has less than 35 percent of the equipment it requires to perform its wartime mission. We gratefully acknowledge the \$900 million down-payment Congress made on resourcing our needs as an operational force for HLD/HLS and the overseas warfight, and recognize the full cost of restoring readiness will require continuing long-term Congressional attention.

Satellite and tactical communications equipment, medical equipment, utility helicopters, military trucks and engineer equipment are the Army Guard's highest equipment priorities. We must ensure that this equipment is identical to that required for wartime use, so that Guard units remain interoperable with their active component counterparts for both HLD/HLS and warfight operations. We also need to invest in an extensive non-lethal weapons capability for use in both domestic and overseas contingencies.

Two years ago, I committed to the governors, our state Commanders-in-Chief that the National Guard Bureau would provide each of them with sufficient capabilities under state control, and an appropriate mix of forces, to allow them to respond to domestic emergencies. I also promised to provide a more predictable rotation model for the deployment of their Army Guard Soldiers, along the lines already in place for Air Guard units participating in the Air and Space Expeditionary Force deployments.

The National Guard Bureau is committed to the fundamental principle that each and every state and territory must possess 10 core capabilities for homeland readiness. Amidst the most extensive transformation of our Army and Air Forces in decades, we want to ensure that every governor has each of these "essential 10" capabilities: a Joint Force Headquarters for command and



DETAINEE SECURITY



INSURGENT PATROLS



HURRICANE OPERATIONS



control; a Civil Support Team for chemical, biological, and radiological detection; engineering assets; communications; ground transportation; aviation; medical capability; security forces; logistics and maintenance capability.

The final 11 Civil Support Teams were organized this past year, giving every state and territory the capability of rapidly assisting civil authorities in detecting and responding to a Weapons of Mass Destruction attack. These are joint units, consisting of both Army and Air National Guard personnel.

Air Guard personnel in the Civil Support Teams are part of a larger trend. The National Guard has leveraged homeland defense capabilities from the Air Guard far beyond the now-routine mission of combat air patrols over our cities. Every state fields rapid reaction forces capable of quickly responding to a governor's summons, and in many cases these forces consist of Air Guard security police.



The Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing of Jackson, provides freed Iraqi hostage, Jill Carroll, a journalist, safe passage home on a C-17 during one of its many missions to Iraq.

The Air Guard also provides extensive HLS capabilities with its communications, ground transportation, and chemical-biological-radiological detection units.

The civil engineering capabilities of Air Guard RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer) teams and the medical capabilities of Air Guard Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) systems proved extremely valuable in responding to Katrina. We are examining fielding these capabilities on a regional basis for more rapid response to future disasters.

Our 12 regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Packages (CERFP) provide mass casualty decontamination, medical

treatment, security and urban search and extraction in contaminated environment capabilities in addition to the special skills of the Civil Support Teams. These units are not dedicated solely to Homeland Defense, but are existing warfighting units that have been given a powerful new HLD capability by virtue of modest amounts of additional equipment and training. This program, a concept only two years ago, has already placed 12 certified force packages on the ground, with Congress authorizing an additional five in the fiscal year 2006 Defense Appropriation. It is now an important part of the Guard's increasingly sophisticated Homeland Defense capability.

The Guard has fielded six regional Critical Infrastructure Program—Mission Assurance Assessment (MAA) teams to conduct vulnerability assessments of Department of Defense critical infrastructure. These teams conduct force protection training and plan for emergency response to a terrorist attack or natural disaster striking our critical infrastructure. Four more teams will be fielded in fiscal year 2006. These specialized capabilities are available to any state or region, along with traditional Guard forces should they be needed.

The most critical transformation the National Guard has undergone since 2001 has been in the Joint Forces Headquarters in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (JFHQ-State). What used to be the State Area Command (STARCOM) and Air Guard State Headquarters, administrative organizations for peacetime control of units, has developed into a sophisticated headquarters and communications node capable of assuming command and control of units from all services and components when responding to a domestic emergency. Tested and proven during multiple National Special Security Events in 2004, these headquarters were further validated this past year by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

These headquarters, now operated on a continual 24/7/365 basis, must be linked together to provide robust capabilities to share secure and non-secure information within the State or Territory, to deployed incident site(s), and to other DoD and inter-governmental partners engaged in support of Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions. To support these needs in the near-term, NGB has fielded 13 rapid response communications packages—the Interim Satellite Incident Site Communications Set (ISISCS)—that are regionally-based, and which proved absolutely vital when the entire domestic communications infrastructure in the Gulf Coast region of the United States went

down during Hurricane Katrina. To satisfy the full range of required Command and Control, Communications, and Computer (C4) capabilities, NGB and U.S. Northern Command have collaborated on the Joint Continental U.S. Communications Support Environment (JCCSE) construct. When fully implemented, the JCCSE will provide U.S. Northern Command, U.S. Pacific Command, the National Guard Bureau, each Joint Force Headquarters-State, and our inter-governmental partners with the vital C4 capabilities and services to support continuous and accurate situational awareness of operational capabilities at the State or Territory and incident levels; enhanced information sharing and collaboration capabilities to facilitate mission planning, resourcing, and execution; and a fully integrated trusted information sharing and collaboration environment to facilitate coordination and unity of effort.

Today we are taking on the challenge of responding to a potential flu pandemic that could challenge domestic tranquility like no other event since the Civil War. The forward deployed JFHQ-State are the only existing organization with the intrinsic capabilities, knowledge of local conditions and realities, geographic dispersion, resources and experience to coordinate the massive state-federal response that would be required in a pandemic of the predicted magnitude. Aided by the JCCSE communications backbone, the headquarters can assist civil authorities as they share a common operating picture, request and coordinate specialized regionally-based response forces, and receive follow-on forces from other states, federal reserve forces, or active duty forces.

The Guard must continue to transform in order to maintain our status as a fully operational reserve of the Army and the Air Force, while at the same time increasing our ability to respond to terrorist attack or natural disaster at home. We must also continue to commit ourselves to recruiting and retaining a quality force capable of meeting these challenges for decades to come.

Seventy-four percent of the Army National Guard's units are impacted by the U.S. Army's conversion to a modular force structure. The Army National Guard contribution to the modular total force includes 34 Brigade Combat Teams, six Fires Brigades, 10 Combat Support Brigades (Maneuver Enhancement), 11 Sustainment Brigades, 12 Aviation Brigades, an Aviation Command and three Sustainment Commands. These units are identical in structure to those in the active component, and, when resourced like their active counterparts, will allow a seamless

transition between active and reserve forces in combat with minimal time required for train up.

However, to make the Guard's units truly interchangeable, we must man them like the active Army, with an overhead allotment for trainees, transients, holdees, and students. Otherwise, we are forced to continue the debilitating practice of stripping other units of personnel whenever we mobilize a unit for war. In the same way, our full-time manning levels are also based on a Cold War construct, and assume that our units will have ample time to make up for a lack of readiness after mobilization. Cold War era manning levels limit the Guard's ability to perform as a modern, operational force.

The National Guard continues to engage with Joint Forces Command and the Army to transform the lengthy and redundant mobilization process for Army Guard units, one of the last vestiges of our Cold War military construct. The no-notice deployment of 50,000 Guard members to the Gulf Coast for Hurricane Katrina, as well as the fact that over half of all current Army Guard members had been previously mobilized, makes the argument for streamlining mobilization more powerful than ever before in our 369 year history.

The Air National Guard will continue to leverage its existing capabilities as it evolves to remain a full partner in the Future Total Air Force plan. The response to Hurricane Katrina reaffirmed the critical need for intra-theater airlift. The unprecedented, timely response would have been impossible without the Air Guard's airlift.

The Base Realignment and Closure process removed the last flying unit from some states. Though the Air National Guard is expanding in such non-flying missions as intelligence, security police, and unmanned aerial vehicles, it is impossible to maintain a healthy, balanced Air National Guard structure in any state without some manned aircraft. The National Guard Bureau is entrusted to allocate Guard units among the states, and working together with the Air Force and Air Force Reserve, I will attempt to maintain manned aircraft in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia.

Members of the 155th Brigade Combat Team provide protection for their Forward Operating Base location at Kalsu. About 3,500 members made up one of the first brigade combat teams to serve during Operation Iraqi Freedom. U.S. Army Photo.



The Air National Guard is at full strength, with retention and recruiting programs to fill the ranks. The Army National Guard has turned the corner and has begun to increase in strength due to the increases in bonuses and the funding of new recruiters authorized by Congress in 2004. However, we can do more to strengthen recruiting. Historically, Guard units enjoy close camaraderie because they are built around a network of Soldiers and Airmen who actively recruit their friends and family into their units. We acknowledge and encourage this powerful source of strength by promoting both the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) and the "Every Soldier a Recruiter" (ESAR) initiatives, rewarding Guard members who make the extra effort to bring new enlistees into their units and sponsor them through the initial entry process.

Retention of current Guard members, particularly those in units returning from overseas, is well above pre-September 11th levels. Nevertheless, we must remain aware of the negative impact that our most critical need—lack of equipment—has on our ability to recruit and retain Soldiers. Morale suffers when Soldiers cannot train for their wartime or domestic missions for lack of equipment.

Our priorities this year to maintain a vibrant, capable and agile National 1UGuard are recruiting and retention bonuses and initiatives, equipment reset

and modernization and obtaining critical domestic mission resources. Our nation's future security mandates that the Guard continues to transform to meet challenges both at home and abroad.

Critics maintain that more than four years of continuous service at home and abroad have stressed the National Guard to the breaking point. I emphatically disagree. Morale in the National Guard is superb. We fight a fanatical enemy overseas that has already demonstrated his desire to destroy our families and our nation. At home, the gratitude our nation displayed to its Army and Air National Guard in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been invigorating. We understand the mission and purpose for which we have been called.

We have been, and we remain, America's minutemen—Always Ready, Always There!





Pearl Harbor and September 11 Paralleled

By American Forces Press Service



Sixty-five years ago the United States endured an attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, that for the next 60 years — until Sept. 11, 2001 — stood as the most devastating enemy attack on U.S. soil.

Like the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor has been called a defining moment in U.S. history. It caught the country by surprise, rallied its people against their attackers and thrust the nation into a long, difficult war against tyranny.

On the 65th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, they present more parallels, and possibly lessons, for today's global war on terror. Within hours of the surprise attack in the early-morning hours of Dec. 7, 1941, more than 2,400 Americans were dead. Five of the eight battleships at the U.S. Fleet's Pearl Harbor base were sunk or sinking, and the other battleships, as well as ships and Hawaii-based combat planes, were heavily damaged. By crippling the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Japan hoped to eliminate it as a threat to the Japanese Empire's expansion south.

The Sept. 11 attacks, in contrast,

were more symbolic than tactical. The World Trade Center in New York -- which al Qaeda had previously attacked in 1993 -- stood as a symbol of the U.S. free-market economy. The Pentagon represented the U.S. military's command center, but not its operational arm. The other intended target -- either the White House or the U.S. Capitol, many people speculate, if the passengers hadn't commandeered their hijacked plane over Shanksville, Pa. -- represented the epicenter of the democratic U.S. government. When the smoke cleared, the death toll from Sept. 11 topped even the devastation of Dec. 7, 1941, with almost 3,000 people, mostly civilians, dead.

Both the Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11 attacks had another similar consequence: pushing the United States into war. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Dec. 7, 1941, "a day which will live in infamy" and signed the Declaration of War against Japan the following day. Adm. Mike Mullen, chief of naval operations, described what the United States was up against when it entered World War II during a late October visit to Oklahoma City. "Things were tough," Mullen said. "Our fleet had taken a devastating blow. Japanese troops occupied Korea, China and would soon take over the Malaysian peninsula, Singapore and the Philippines."

Nazi Germany, which already controlled a vast empire, declared war on the United States four days after the Pearl Harbor attack, Mullen noted. Despite different challenges in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, Mullen said, they ultimately boiled down to a common denominator. "There were clearly two competing visions of the world: one of freedom, the other of tyranny," he said. "And tyranny appeared to have the upper hand."

Mullen urged his Oklahoma City audience to "fast forward to today" and the global war on terror.

"If the attack on the destroyer

Cole, the treachery of 9-11, if events across the globe from London to Lebanon, Baghdad to Bali, from Pyongyang to Tehran, have taught us anything," he said, "it is that the struggle we currently face is also about two competing visions of the future and our vision of hope and prosperity and a secure future for our children (and) all children."

In his National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2006 proclamation, Bush noted similar challenges facing the United States today.

"In the 21st century, freedom is again under attack, and young Americans have stepped forward to serve in a global war on terror that will secure our liberty and determine the destiny of millions around the world," he said. "Like generations before, we will answer history's call with confidence, confront threats to our way of life, and build a more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren."

Bush recalled the resolve Roosevelt demonstrated as the United States went to war. "We are going to win the war and we are going to win the peace that follows," Bush said, quoting Roosevelt.

Speaking in October at the dedication of the USS George H.W. Bush in Newport News, Va., the president praised the dedication World War II veterans demonstrated to ensure that victory.

He called U.S. troops fighting today's war on terror "a new generation of Americans every bit as brave and selfless as those who have come before them" and said they, too, will see the fight through to victory.

"Freedom is again under attack, and young Americans are volunteering to answer the call," he said. "Once again, with perseverance, and courage, and confidence in the power of freedom, a new generation of Americans will leave a more hopeful and peaceful world for generations to come."

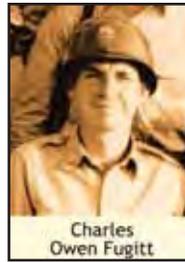
It Happened One Christmas



Billy W.
Mooney



Freddie E.
Fulghum



Charles
Owen Fugitt



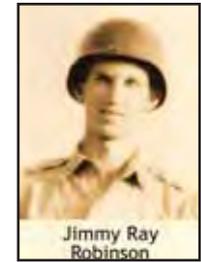
Lawrence S.
Burks



Hugh Thomas
Weatherbee



William Howard
Duncan



Jimmy Ray
Robinson

By Sandy Ates,

Booneville was a bustling little Mississippi town on December 22, 1950; residents were watching a basketball game at the gymnasium, people filled the streets shopping for Christmas; , and members of the local Army National Guard armory were making preparations for deployment.

Company B, 198th Tank Battalion, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit, had been drilling that day in preparation for their departure for active duty in the Korean Conflict. Some were busy taking care of paperwork, others outside performing maintenance on vehicles and a few others were happily cleaning their carbines in the wash room of the armory. Suddenly an explosion rocked the armory.

Coach Bill Ward of Booneville was one of the guardsmen on duty at the National Guard armory on Dec. 22. Ward said they were preparing for deployment and that he was outside the armory washing tanks, and unaware of the tragedy taking place inside the armory.

The cause of the incident has never been officially established though it is believed gasoline was being used to clean weapons and the fumes reached an open-flamed heater and ignited.

According to Ward, the building was not destroyed but it was raised a little bit. The washroom inside the northwest corner filled with fire and thick, black smoke rose from two-feet above the floor.

"You could hear them back there, screaming, and then they began to crawl out, under the blanket of smoke," Ward said, "Some of them were wearing fatigue jackets which were on fire and their hair was singed. All of them were burned and filled with smoke. As they crawled out, we grabbed them and carried them to the hospital. Two died instantly, four others died the next morning with the final survivor passing away the next



A monument honoring seven members of Company B, 198th Tank Battalion killed in an armory explosion at this site on Dec. 22, 1950, was dedicated in Booneville, to honor the fallen Soldiers. Shown above are from left, the Hon. Billy McCoy, Miss. House of Rep., Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the adjutant general of Miss., Mr. Cecil Ray Weatherbee, brother of one of the Soldiers killed in the explosion, and Brig. Gen. Augustus Collins, former commander of the 155th Brigade Combat Team.

night. One had used what time he had left to plan his funeral before he, too, succumbed."

It became a Black Christmas for the Town of Booneville in 1950. Unit members of the small armory and local residents were in utter shock about the incident at the armory, which then was located on Third Street. On Christmas Day in 1950, seven of the unit's Soldiers were dead: William Howard Duncan, 31; Charles Owen Fugitt, 21, and Freddie Fulghum, 18, all of Booneville; Lawrence Sidney Burks, 30; Billy Wayne Mooney, 18, and Jim Robinson, 19, all of Thrasher and Hugh Weatherbee, 18, of Rienze,

There was little time to mourn or honor the loss of the seven Soldiers who died, because those that survived the accident left by train from Booneville on Jan. 16, 1951, for Fort Jackson, S.C., to go from there to join U.S. troops fighting in the Korean War;

they returned nearly two years later.

There were about 100 soldiers in the Booneville unit when the fire broke out--most of the Soldiers were 17-20 years old.

Ward and others who survived the tragedy thought it was time that they paid tribute to the lost Soldiers, and formed a monument committee to erect a monument to honor the seven. According to Ward, the names of the seven Soldiers are inscribed on the war memorial on the courthouse square but he wanted to see further honor made.

On December 22, 2006, on the corner of Third Street and Coach Billy Ward Drive, the site of the old National Guard armory (currently used as a baseball field house), a monument was dedicated to those seven young men at the very site where they had fallen 56 years ago.

A photograph of three soldiers in full military combat gear, including helmets and tactical vests. They are gathered around a map, looking intently at it. The soldier on the left is looking towards the camera, while the other two are looking at the map. The background is a bright, overcast sky.

Mississippi Guard's Quick Reaction Force Stays Ready

—Story & Photos By Sandy Ates,—

Members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 114th and 113th Military Police Companies of Clinton and Brandon, Miss., respectively, serve as special Quick Reaction Force (QRF) troops for this nation's Homeland Security operations, and also serve around the world as a top notch protection force for both military and civilian communities at home and abroad. Recently about 40 QRF Soldiers participated in a routine task force exercise to reinforce mission skills and keep them prepared for whatever call comes their way, according to the 112th Military Battalion's top enlisted leader, Sgt. Maj. Kevin Donahoe.

"The purpose of this exercise is twofold," said Donahoe. "We are here to conduct our homeland security mission and get our troops coordinating with the local law enforcement, while trying to work out any potential problems. Every time we conduct these exercises we find potential problem areas, so our

second purpose is to bring together cohesiveness to function as a team and find solutions."

Donahoe stressed the importance of communications during operations, saying, "Communications is most essential—more critical than not having your weapon—without it you will get killed." He commended the QRF teams for their performance during the Sept. 22 exercise.

Constantly coordinating with forward and rear emergency operations centers, the QRF is responsible for clearing and securing buildings and facilities of weapons, insurgents or anything that looks suspicious, said 1st Lt. Demetrius Wilson, officer-in-charge of Task Force Alpha who arrived at the training site via helicopter and went in to first clear the area. "After clearing and cordoning off entrances, Task Force Bravo will come in and establish the perimeter and provide security to ensure what needs to stay outside the perimeter stays out, while providing safe clearance

for emergency vehicles, like ambulances, coming in and out of the area."

In a homeland security scenario, the QRF would relieve local law enforcement entities and work with local emergency operations teams as well as the Mississippi Army National Guard's 47th Civil Support Team, located in Jackson, Miss., who provide support to defuse any potential hazards at locations within the borders of Mississippi and other areas around the country that require the teams' support.

Providing security is the main mission of military police personnel both at home and abroad, something that the Mississippi Guard's military police teams know all too well both in practice and battlefield conditions.

The most recent test of their skills was during Hurricane Katrina. The QRF was quick to converge on the Mississippi Gulf Coast after the killer storm swept ashore, leaving a path of destruction throughout the



Platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Stanley Mitchell of Louisville, Miss., reviews exercise notes before briefing his platoon on tasks as part of a recent Quick Reaction Force (QRF). He's a member of the 113th Military Police Company of Brandon, Miss.

entire state. They provided untold hours of security, surveillance and rescue missions around the clock giving much relief to masses of victims along the coast. Because of the expertise and rapid response of the team and other members of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard, mission essential operations were carried out with few security and safety issues and problems were minimized on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The call for military police assistance is expected during wartime. The entire 112th Military Police Battalion served during Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and was among the first called during the Persian Gulf War, and also served a year in Iraq. During Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the 114th MP Co. was deployed to Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Hood, Texas, as the posts' security force and at Guantanamo Bay to perform detainee operations. The 113th MP Co., performed force protection for coalition troops located in Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

All Soldiers of the Mississippi National Guard's military police units and the QRF team say they can be called up at any time because of their dual role, so sustained training is vital. The professionalism and versatility of the battalion's QRF is widely known and they can stand proud of their reputation to accomplish their mission both at home and overseas.



1st Lt. Courtney Sanders (left) of Roxie, member of the 113th Military Police Company in Brandon, and 1st Lt. Demetrius Wilson of Crawford, and 114th MP Co., officer-in-charge of Task Force Alpha, determine the next action to be taken by the Quick Reaction Force team.



No entrance is granted into the exercise area when faced by these four guardsmen from the 113th MP Co. (above) who bear their weapons. They are from left: Sgt. 1st Class Donald A. Young of Brandon, Staff Sgt. Andre D. Cameron of Byram, Spc. Christopher S. Bounds of Jackson, and Spc. Marquindon J. Lynch of Noxapater. (Inset) Spc. Bounds takes aim.



These Mississippi Army National Guard members from the 113th MP Co., are ready for action during Quick Reaction Force training exercises at Camp Shelby. They are from left Pv2 Nick Sutherland of Madison, Spc. Lauren Short of Florence, Pfc. Zeigler Stephen of Brandon and Pvt. Adam Joe of Philadelphia., Miss.



Football field VS Iraqi battlefield

"I value everything so much more after being away from home for a year."

By: 2nd Lt. Meagan Jones, 102nd MPAD

The rigor of playing college football requires many attributes not found in just any average student. The dedication of lengthy practices while obtaining a college degree as a full-time student, the loyalty of taking care of your fellow players and believing in the guidance from the coach, the hard work and perseverance essential from each individual carrying the school colors with the belief that they can win any game. These are just a few qualities found in the core of each player on the field and could also be said of characteristics found in Soldiers serving in the U.S. military, even in the Mississippi Army National Guard (MSARNG).

When not suited up with a football helmet, shoulder pads and wearing the number 39 on his Mississippi State University (MSU) uniform, Tim Bailey serves as a specialist with Detachment 2, 2nd Battalion, 198th Armor, based in Cleveland, Miss., a part of the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and completed an 18-month deployment to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom with Troop A, 98th Cavalry, based in Louisville, Miss.

Beginning his football career as an exceptional player at Riverside High School in Avon, Miss., Coach Tim Horn knew Bailey exhibited all the qualities of becoming a college football player. "Timmy is everything you would want your kid to be. He was a great student, respectful and a great athlete," Horn said while watching with pride as Bailey warmed up prior to an MSU football game against West Virginia during the 2006 season.

Ending a 19-season losing streak at Riverside, Bailey led the team in a 7-3 winning season during his senior year. "It's exciting to see a kid that you coached play so well and at this level," Horn said while recalling the success of his former player and his role in the achievement of Bailey.

Like many other Soldiers deciding to enter the military, paying for college weighed heavily on Bailey's mind, especially if a college scholarship was not available. "I knew I really did want to go to college but my parents didn't have the funds to get me there and there were really no jobs available to get me where I wanted to go," Bailey said.

"At the time, I was in high and joined the military to pay for college and then received offers from colleges to play football. The schools didn't like the idea that I would have to go to basic training and AIT [Advanced Individual Training] after graduating high school, so those scholarships were no longer available," he added.

In August of 2001 Bailey arrived at Fort Sill, Oklahoma to attend basic training and realized the things he learned on the football field carried over into other aspects of his life. Bailey said getting through something as difficult as basic training depends

much on those around you going through the same experience, "you build those relationships to make times easier and you depend on each other."

After basic training this hardened linebacker on the football field underwent nine weeks of training to receive a military occupation specialty (MOS) of a petroleum supply specialist, 77F. Still determined to play college football, Bailey returned to his hometown in October 2001 to attend Mississippi Delta Community College in the spring with the aspiration of receiving another chance at a football scholarship with a senior college. While playing for Mississippi Delta Community College, Bailey led the team to a winning season and received scholarship offers from the University of Mississippi, the University of Alabama, Texas A&M and Mississippi State University.

By this time Bailey had another obstacle to cross before he could enter into any one of the senior colleges offering him a chance to play college football; activation with the MSARNG.

In July 2004 Bailey's unit was called up to active duty to fight in the War on Terrorism. After deciding to accept the scholarship from Mississippi State University, Bailey was told by the coaching staff that a scholarship would be there waiting for him when he returned from his tour of duty in Iraq. "That really motivated me to make it back home; I knew I had something to come home to," Bailey said.

Before going to Iraq, Bailey trained at Camp Shelby, a mobilization station just south of Hattiesburg, Miss., with Troop A, 98th Cavalry as part of the 155th BCT activation.

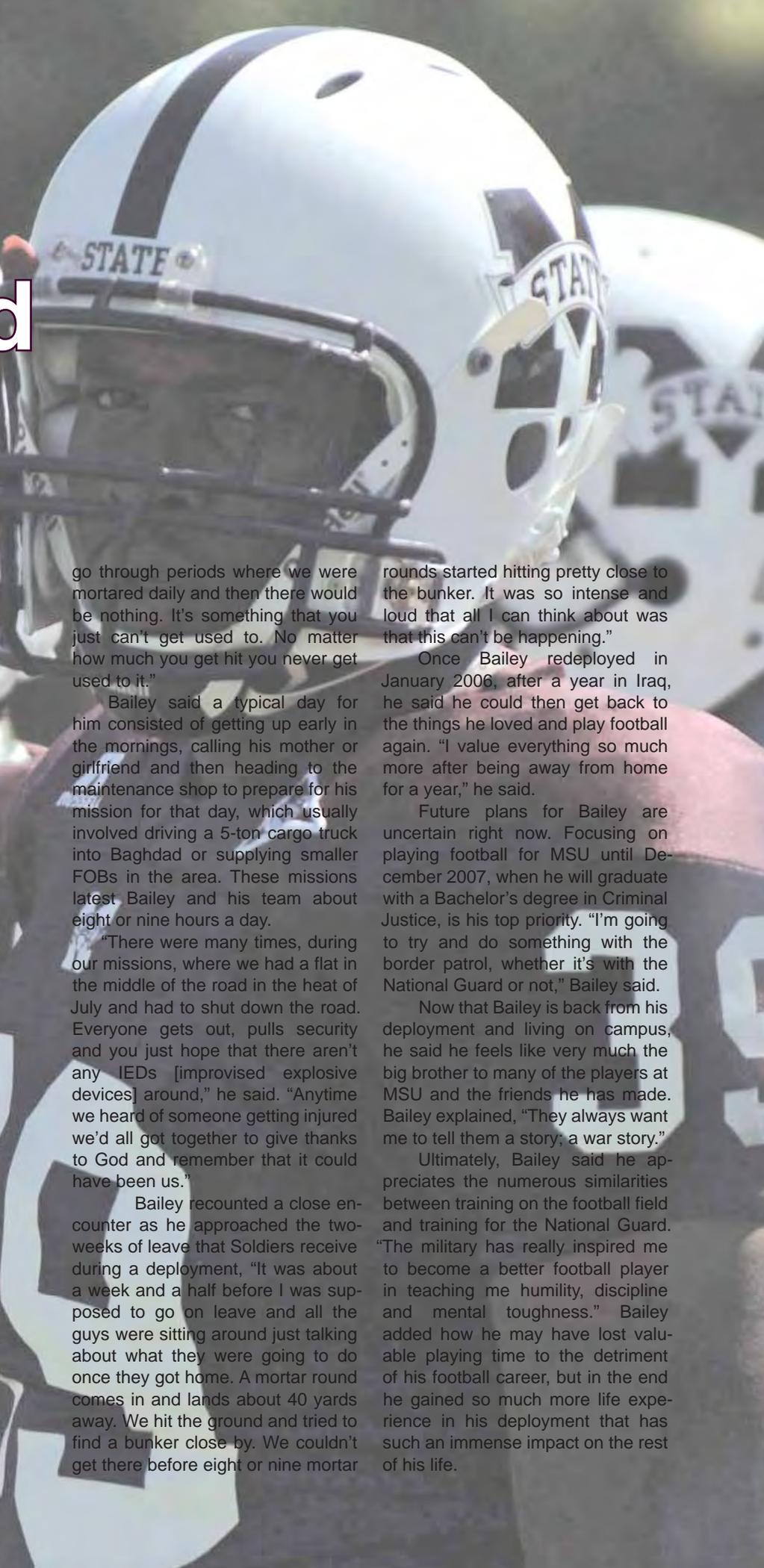
Bailey said that while at Camp Shelby for six months of training prior to the deployment he and his unit engaged in combat training and practiced tactical situations in the field. "We spent a lot of nights out in the woods where we really got to know each other and started functioning like a team."

During the sweltering summer months at Camp Shelby, Bailey created bonds with his fellow Mississippi Guardsmen much like the connections shaped on the football field. "You have teammates and you build those relationships to make times easier," Bailey said while remembering the rapport he formed with his fellow guardsmen.

Members of the 155th BCT made their way to Kuwait in January 2006 to issue additional equipment and to make final preparations before crossing into Iraq to take part in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bailey, along with members from his guard unit, was stationed at Forward Observation Base (FOB) Kalsu, about 30 miles south of Baghdad.

"We definitely received a lot of mortar attacks," Bailey said while describing the activity surrounding FOB Kalsu. "We would

d



go through periods where we were mortared daily and then there would be nothing. It's something that you just can't get used to. No matter how much you get hit you never get used to it."

Bailey said a typical day for him consisted of getting up early in the mornings, calling his mother or girlfriend and then heading to the maintenance shop to prepare for his mission for that day, which usually involved driving a 5-ton cargo truck into Baghdad or supplying smaller FOBs in the area. These missions lasted Bailey and his team about eight or nine hours a day.

"There were many times, during our missions, where we had a flat in the middle of the road in the heat of July and had to shut down the road. Everyone gets out, pulls security and you just hope that there aren't any IEDs [improvised explosive devices] around," he said. "Anytime we heard of someone getting injured we'd all got together to give thanks to God and remember that it could have been us."

Bailey recounted a close encounter as he approached the two-weeks of leave that Soldiers receive during a deployment, "It was about a week and a half before I was supposed to go on leave and all the guys were sitting around just talking about what they were going to do once they got home. A mortar round comes in and lands about 40 yards away. We hit the ground and tried to find a bunker close by. We couldn't get there before eight or nine mortar

rounds started hitting pretty close to the bunker. It was so intense and loud that all I can think about was that this can't be happening."

Once Bailey redeployed in January 2006, after a year in Iraq, he said he could then get back to the things he loved and play football again. "I value everything so much more after being away from home for a year," he said.

Future plans for Bailey are uncertain right now. Focusing on playing football for MSU until December 2007, when he will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, is his top priority. "I'm going to try and do something with the border patrol, whether it's with the National Guard or not," Bailey said.

Now that Bailey is back from his deployment and living on campus, he said he feels like very much the big brother to many of the players at MSU and the friends he has made. Bailey explained, "They always want me to tell them a story; a war story."

Ultimately, Bailey said he appreciates the numerous similarities between training on the football field and training for the National Guard. "The military has really inspired me to become a better football player in teaching me humility, discipline and mental toughness." Bailey added how he may have lost valuable playing time to the detriment of his football career, but in the end he gained so much more life experience in his deployment that has such an immense impact on the rest of his life.

#39 at MSU

#155 at Kalsu



Sgt. Tim Bailey and his Guard friends share much of their experiences together.





LAST ROTATION

184th Container Management Element Closes Container Mission

By 2nd Lt. Andy Thaggard

A two-year deployment for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) ended with the homecoming of their Container Management Element (CME), in December 2006.

Tasked with building a system to track and manage over 141,000 containers, in 13 different countries, in support of both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, the 184th CME was comprised of 80 Soldiers deployed in two separate year-long rotations to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We were the first to take on that mission," said Brigadier General Roger Shields, commander of the 184th ESC. "At that time, the detention rate on containers was over \$17 million per month. As the team comes home, the detention rate will be between \$3 to \$4 million. Those taxpayer dollars can be used to do better things."

Based in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, the first rotation of Soldiers of focused on overcoming two major obstacles that plagued theater logistics operations since 2001.

According to Col. Chuck Hardee, commander of the first CME rotation, containers were being used for many things other than transporting sup-

plies: warehouse space, offices, living quarters, force protection barriers and maintenance bays. The CME introduced policies limiting the non-transportation use of containers.

The second major obstacle was to overcome the methods used to account for and track containers. Audits by the General Accounting Office and the U.S. Army Audit Agency revealed flaws in the existing systems, and changes were ordered.

In 2004, the Strategic Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) came up with the concept for a single database that could meet all requirements, but it wasn't until March of 2005 before a database was functioning. The web-based database, called the Container Management Support Tools (CMST), was created, managed and maintained by the 184th CME.

To better improve the CME's ability to track container locations and enhance data management, CMST was integrated into the Battle Command Sustainment and Support System (BCS3) in November, 2006, during the CME's second rotation, under the command of Col. Phil Fisher.

During both rotations, 184th Soldiers on Container Assistance Teams (CATs) at logistical forward operating bases (FOBs) throughout Iraq and



Members of the 184th Expeditionary Command survey container management operations near Kuwait.

Afghanistan provided inventory assistance, CMST training, and served as program quality control agents.

Two 184th Soldiers were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries received during mortar attacks while at FOBs in Afghanistan.

Using data generated by CMST, the CME was able to propose and implement a procedure that kept com-

mercially-owned containers from being shipped beyond the sea-port of embarkation (SPOD). Using a trans-load operation at the SPOD, commercial containers are emptied into government-owned containers and then immediately released back to the owner, removing the potential for detention (late) fees for more than 18,000 containers.

The ability to track containers through the use of CMST, and the extensive use of radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) to give real-time data, allowed the 184th CME to generate a comprehensive reporting tool. More than 17 daily reports and 13 weekly reports allow commanders at all levels to analyze trends and make well-informed logistical decisions.

Not only are equipment and supplies now able to get to their final destination much quicker than before, the age-old problem of reordering supplies due to 'lost in shipping' has been greatly diminished.

More than 2,800 CME-trained CMST users now exist throughout the world, including some trained at Camp Shelby. Nearly 40,000 detention-drawing containers have been returned to their owners.

The success of CMST in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations elevated the visibility of the 184th CME. Through the education and training of their senior leaders, CMST is now established as the Theater Container Manager for CENTCOM, the European Command and the Pacific Command.

The estimated overall annual savings to the American tax-payer over the two-year 184th CME mission exceeds \$174 million.

Nominated for a Meritorious Unit Commendation, the 184th succeeded in mitigating the largest logistical crises in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"The 184th is leaving in country a well established container management program," said Shields. "CMST is being taught military-wide. The 1188th USAR, that is taking our place, trained at Camp Shelby - and was taught by 184th Soldiers. Every container management slide, Army-wide, has the 184th CMT's name on it."

Maj. Vernon Newman and Col. Phil Fisher, of the 184th ESC, contributed to this article.



Brigadier General Roger Shields, commander of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) recently served as the first director of Mobility Forces-Surface (DM4S), a new role under the modular logistics concept, during the annual multi-national exercise Ulji Focus Lens (UFL) in South Korea.

Under the modular concept, tasks that were normally performed by senior transportation units, such as a transportation command element, are handled by the staff section of a sustainment command or brigade.

According to Shields, this has been identified as a weakness in ongoing operations in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations (AOR), as well as the Pacific Command (PACOM) AOR.

The DM4S position, a general officer position, was developed to address this weakness, and was tested by PACOM during the UFL exercise in Korea.

The DM4S will manage and control all transportation operating units in a theater of operation. This includes the ability to effect changes in the flow of forces and supply into/out of the theater, based on the needs of the combatant commander.

"This was the first exercise play using the DM4S," said Shields. "I thought it was very successful. It took the burden of coordinating the movement of troops and supply off of the sustainment command and brigade unit until the (troops and supply) arrived at the tactical assembly area, which is a large portion of the operation."

The DM4S role will be integrated into the modular sustainment command structure within the CENTCOM AOR, and will positively affect the flow of forces into Iraq and Afghanistan.



Job Well Done!

Green Berets undaunted by special missions

By Maj. Danny Blanton

An age-old economic paradigm states that “value is derived from scarcity.” Perhaps this explains the high demand placed on the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group since the beginning of the war on terrorism. The battalion, headquartered in Jackson, recently returned from its second tour of duty in Afghanistan since U.S. forces overthrew the Taliban regime in early 2002. The soldiers returned from their first tour in October, 2003.

Two years later, President Bush called for the Green Berets again to assist with a resurgent Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters in the Southwest Asian country. The battalion subsequently mobilized in late September, 2005, spent 90 days at Camp Shelby Joint Training Center to complete theater-specific training requirements, and arrived in country in early January 2006.

The battalion, composed of soldiers from Mississippi, Illinois, Maryland and Kentucky, returned from their second tour in September.

Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert S. “Stacy” Coleman, said the frequency of the tours was a benefit to the soldiers, and was in no way detrimental to morale.

“When you consider the soldiers that had already deployed to theater knew the area, the terrain, and the customs, it was definitely a benefit,” he said. “Every soldier that had previously deployed (in 2003) had to volunteer for this mobilization, so all the soldiers who went wanted to go.” Approximately 70 percent of the battalion had deployed in 2003.

The familiarity with the country would indeed prove to be very beneficial, considering the battalion would ultimately operate in every corner of Afghanistan. The battalion was headquartered at Bagram Air Force Base, with each of its 18 Operational Detachments –Alpha (ODA, or A Teams for the Mr. T fans) positioned in every region of the country.

“We were able to fall in and immediately go to work, because of our familiarity with the country,” Coleman added. “We already knew the Sheiks, and key personalities in the area.”

Those personalities, both good and bad, were the central focus of the battalion’s mission. Known for their ability to take down high-profile targets with ease, special operations soldiers will be the first to tell you they are there to help the local populous as well.

“Our primary mission was foreign internal defense (FID), but we are there to help the people as well,” Coleman added, stating that within the nine months the battalion was in country, they spent a staggering \$1 million in commander’s emergency relief program (CERP) funds for the Afghan people. Coleman added that the willingness of soldiers to help the Afghan populous was a contributing factor toward the people’s acceptance of American troops some five years after the operation began.

“Most of the people were still glad we’re there, because they saw what we were doing for them and appreciated it.” The battalion was responsible for building schools, giving out school supplies, and digging wells to give the people clean drinking water.

“We did most of this without using internal assets, but hiring locals to do it with local labor,” Coleman added. “This not only gave them the benefit of the added resources, but also gave them employment as well. It also gave them more pride in the projects because they built it themselves.”

Each Special Forces Battalion deploys with a compliment of physicians, dentists, veterinarians, and physician assistants. Since medical support was already in country for U.S. forces, this allowed the battalion’s medical professionals to devote their time to the locals, providing medical care for more than 40,000 Afghan people and approximately 5,000 animals. “Some of the people we were treating lived in such remote areas they had never seen a doctor before,” Coleman said.

While humanitarian assistance is not only beneficial to the local populous, it is also an operational necessity to gain the acceptance of the people. This enabled the battalion to plan and execute several joint operations with Kandaks, or Afghan National Army Battalions. Each ODA would conduct joint training and joint missions with their assigned Kandak.

“Over the time we were in country, the Afghan forces improved a great deal,” Coleman said. “They were operating at company and battalion level by the time

we left.”

One particular mission, planned and overseen by one of the battalion’s ODAs, was the largest Afghan Army operation since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. It consisted of a brigade-sized Afghan force deploying into a contentious area of East Central Afghanistan and maintaining a presence in the area for one month. This included the Afghans sustaining themselves during the period.

“Sustaining a forward-deployed



Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross (center), the adjutant general of Mississippi, visits with members of Mississippi's special forces troops in Afghanistan recently.

brigade for a month might not seem like much to American forces, but it was a big deal for the Afghans,” Coleman said.

This type of professionalism and competence displayed by the guardsmen further gained the acceptance of their active component counterparts. Coleman took great pride in the working relationship between his battalion and the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF) they worked for in country. “We couldn’t have asked for a better relationship with our higher headquarters,” he said.

Emphasis of this was the decision by 7th Special Forces Group Commander, Colonel Ed Reeder, commander of CJSOTF, to attach two active component companies under his command to the command and control of Coleman. “We were one of two battalions he had under his command, and our layout made it more advantageous that we have control of those two companies.”

In all, the missions, both civil and combat, demonstrated the growing demand for special operations forces in the war on terror. The broad spectrum of abilities carried by these soldiers cannot be duplicated by conventional forces. But then, they were named “special” a long time ago.

Qui! Canadians train at Camp Shelby



By Sandy Ates

Canada, America's neighbor and ally to the north, sent about 1,000 land Soldiers of the 35th Canadian Brigade Group (CBG), a reserve unit from Quebec City, to participate in training at Camp Shelby as part of a week-long annual training period recently.

Canada has a reserve force comprised of citizen soldiers, sailors, and aircrew who train and are posted to Canadian Forces (CF) operations or duties on a casual or ongoing basis. Each reserve force is operationally and administratively responsible to its corresponding environmental command (land, sea, and air). CF reservists number about 23,000 (all ranks, all services) and maintains a "total force" policy, much like that of the U.S.

The reservists of the 35th CBG were weary from their long journey from Quebec, Canada, to Camp Shelby, but wasted no time, and literally hit the ground' running, according to the group's leadership, as they underwent intense, real-life training, which according to Brig. Gen. Christian Barabé, a visiting official dignitary of the 35th CBG, will accommodate them in future conflicts.

"We like it here," said General Barabé. "It is very difficult to do this type of training back in Quebec with six feet of snow. This camp has some extremely good facilities, some of which are being rebuilt. Camp Shelby has been good to us"

Training exercises were for artillery, infantry, engineers and military police Soldiers so that they would be proficient at platoon level tasks.

This is the brigade's second trip to Camp Shelby according to the 35th CBG public affairs officer and translator, Warrant Officer Marie-France Poulin.

Poulin noted that many of the reservists were students who dedicated their winter break to the training.

"This is a very good training opportunity for them," said Maj. Tim Simpson of Camp Shelby. "They are the only other forces to train at Camp Shelby, and we've enjoyed working with them. It's an experience for us to see how another country does things. They can learn from us and we can learn a few things from them."



Canadian Army Reserve Soldiers line up to keep role-playing Iraqi civilians from entering a mock village called Trebil on Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. (Photo by Spc. Michael Williams, CSJFTC PA)



Col. Earnie Shows (2nd left), commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center (CS-JFTC), presented (from left) Brig. Gen. Christian Barabé, Brig. Gen. Marc-Préfontaine and Brig. Gen. Denis Tabernor with large replica of the installation coins. The three Canadian military leaders were visiting Camp Shelby to witness the training offered to Soldiers of the 35th Canadian Brigade Group (CBG). (INSET) Col. Shows presents Col. Simon Hebert, commander of the 35th CBG, a framed replica of the CS-JFTC installation flag and coin. (Photos by Spc. Michael Williams, CSJFTC PA)

The operational elements of the Canadian Forces (CF) are: Maritime Command (MARCOM), or the navy; Land Force Command (LFC) or the army; Air Command (AIRCOM), or the air force; Canada Command (CANCOM), responsible for all operations within Canada; Canadian Expeditionary Force Command (CEFCOM), responsible for operations outside of Canada; and Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM), responsible for special forces. The Command-in-chief of the Canadian Forces is vested with Queen Elizabeth II, as Queen of Canada. However, since 1904 the Monarch has allowed the Canadian viceroy to exercise the duties ascribed to that post, and since 1905, to hold the title Commander-in-Chief. The forces are commanded by National Defence Headquarters located in Ottawa, CF train to defend Canadian sovereignty, and serve operationally in Canada, in support of NATO tasks, and around the world in international and United Nations peace missions. The majority of the CF speak French.

State Partnership Program 2006 in Bolivia participants are from left Mr. Jon Jacobs and son Derrick, Superior Optical, Ocean Springs, Miss., Master Sgt. John Hollingsworth, media coordinator, HQ, Air National Guard; Claudia Munoz, U.S. Embassy coordinator, Donna Tugwell, civilian nurse, and Col. (Ret.) Earl Malone, optometrist, 186 ARW. Photo by Col. John Tugwell, 186th Air Refueling Wing, MSANG



NEW GLASSES--Four-year old (right), Helena proudly displays her new glasses, complements of the State Partnership Program (SPP) mission in Bolivia. The EYEREDY mission is an ongoing project by the SPP. Photo by Master Sgt. John Hollingsworth.



State Partnership Program

Mississippi and Bolivia

By 1st Lt. Murray Shugars, 102nd MPAD



Senior leaders from Bolivia recently visited Mississippi as part of the State Partnership Program. Participants met with Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the adjutant general of Mississippi, and the Mississippi Development Authority. The delegation was given private tours of an Air National Guard C-17, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center, and the state capitol. Topics covered during the visit included: natural disaster remediation and response planning; past and potential training opportunities for Bolivian and Mississippi forces; and potential economic development projects.

Pictured, from left, are: Maj. Walter Blankenship, MSANG, State Partnership Program Coordinator; Maj. Marko M. López Sanzetenea, Aids for Bolivian Chief of Defense; Col. Armando Carrasco Nava, Chief Administrator for the Bolivian Armed Forces; Gen. Wilfredo Vargas Valdez, Bolivian Chief of Defense; H. Javier Zavaleta López, President of the Defense Commission, Bolivian House of Representatives; Maj. Igor Serrudo Santelices, Aid for Bolivian Minister of Defense; Col. James Campbell, Commander, U.S. Military Group Bolivia; Maj. Tanya Rawlins, U.S. Military Group Bolivia. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Andy Thaggard)

The Mississippi National Guard's State Partnership Program (SPP) managed to achieve successes this year in spite of setbacks such as Hurricane Katrina and political turmoil in the Republic of Bolivia.

"The fact that we were able to accomplish four events, three in Bolivia, was spectacular," said Air National Guard Maj. Walter E. Blankenship, Mississippi's SPP coordinator. "All three were very humanitarian in nature, helping the people in Bolivia who received us with open arms."

Because of its unique federal and state missions, the National Guard administers this program, which partners U.S. states with emerging democracies. Its objectives: to demonstrate military subordination to and support of civilian authority, to help develop democratic institutions, to nurture open market economies for economic stability and to represent U.S. humanitarian values.

"We gather experts and trained professionals from Mississippi to help the Bolivians develop programs that encourage growth in sectors of the community that need and want our help," said Blankenship. "We focus our efforts on the western half of the country, where the need is greatest."

The Republic of Bolivia is divided geographically and economically. The eastern half is well-developed lowland, part of the Amazonian rainforest, and the people enjoy a relatively high standard of living. The western half, on the other hand, consists of the Altiplano plain of the Andes Mountains, one of the most extensive high plateaus on earth, according to Wikipedia, rising to altitudes of nearly 21,500 feet. The conditions are austere, a flat and desolate landscape where farmers struggle to subsist.

"We don't want to go

down there, wave the flag, take pictures and get on the plane and come home," Blankenship explained. "We want to help establish long-term relationships, steady engagement with the country."

To do this, the SSP provides seed money and facilitation for organizations in the state that can have a long-term impact on Bolivia.

"That's a big part of my job as coordinator—to facilitate organizations like the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Mississippi State University, organizations that can continue their relationship with Bolivia well beyond the scope of our little program," Blankenship said.

"We try to engage Mississippians with Bolivians," said Maj. Henry B. Cook, Plans and Operations Officer for Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson. "We have a lot in common with them. We're both simple people, we work hard for everything that we get."

One of the three efforts—dubbed the Mississippi Civilian/Military Medical Event—took place on a military base in El Alto, a large city 14,000 feet above sea level. The team consisted of two optometrists, two opticians, a nurse and a medical technician. They administered 1,094 eye exams and dispensed over 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses from July 27 to Aug. 6.

"They're so appreciative of any little thing you do to help," said Air Guard Tech. Sgt. Lyla M. Pinter, who participated in the event as a medic.

"Toward the end of the week, this four-year-old girl, brown eyes and happy smile, arrived. Unfortunately, the machine used to grind the glasses had broken down.

"Jon Jacobs and his son Derrick, civilian opticians, went to the cavalry stables and got a file, and they ground those lenses down by hand to fit them in these tiny frames. When he put

them on the child, her face lit up because for the first time she could see clearly," said Pinter, an information management technician at Joint Forces Headquarters.

Another successful event was the Disaster Preparedness Conference held in the capital, La Paz, July 31—Aug. 5. Civilians from Mississippi disaster relief organizations participated, including representatives from the Mississippi Southern Baptist Convention, the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. The audience consisted of representatives from 25 Bolivian volunteer organizations. Using lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippians detailed strategies for responding to disasters and donated training materials.

"Katrina affected this year's events in positive ways. Before Katrina, we hosted Bolivians at about four civil defense events with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Three or so weeks after Katrina, we had a group of Bolivian civil defense folks come to Mississippi. At the time I was the National Guard liaison with MEMA. We arranged a tour of the coast, including New Orleans. It was very productive for them because they got to see how we prepared for an emergency and then how we responded to the worst natural disaster to ever hit the United States," said Blankenship.

"I presented the lessons learned from both MEMA and the National Guard, specifically focusing on the volunteer efforts during and after Katrina," said Blankenship, who oversaw the conference. "We talked about how to handle donations, working with organizations familiar with taking donations, and so on."

"One of the challenges

is that Bolivian volunteer organizations don't talk to each other," said Cook. "Here in Mississippi, all the volunteer organizations have gotten together and set up an organization to coordinate their efforts. This helps avoid the problem of two or three groups showing up at one town providing clothes and two or three different ones showing up at another town providing food. So, if you need clothes, you have to go to that town, and if you need food, the other one."

The final event focused on agriculture: Greenhouse and Cheese Production, Lake Titicaca, Aug. 19—26. The civilian participants included three Mississippi State University faculty members and a nutritionist with the Kellogg Company.

"We've had a real success with Mississippi State University," said Blankenship. "This was the second year that MSU participated in the program, and the school is developing ways to establish a long-term relationship with the country."

The team gave classes on various subjects, including cheese and yogurt production; seed, water and land management; and cattle nutrition, care and breeding.

"The cattle feed in the Altiplano is poor," said Cook, who oversaw the event. "The people use reeds from Lake Titicaca, but the reeds have little nutritional value. We recommended that they use soybean meal, soybean cake and whole cottonseed as potential alternative cattle feeds. These are available and obviously more nutritious."

"We're partnered with a country that faces difficult challenges. We're promoting democracy while establishing long-term relationships. That's good for us and for the Republic of Bolivia," said Blankenship.

Guard Recruiting Assistant earns top dollars part-time

Story and Photo Sgt. Allison Bullock



Cadet Brannon Poland

Brannon Poland's success with the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (GRAP) had a very humble beginning. His initial goal was to obtain the \$50.00 that Docupak originally paid as an enrollment incentive to all GRAP applicants registering into the program. He had no idea that he would become Mississippi's top ranking Recruiting Assistant in 2006.

By Dec. 7, 2006, Poland referred 12 enlistments, according to the Docupak database, with plans for more by month's end. At \$2,000 per enlistment, Brannon has gotten much more than originally expected.

So, one must ask, what is Brannon Poland's secret?

He attributes his success to honesty and trust. With each applicant, he paints an honest portrayal of the Guard through stories of his own experiences in the Military. His admittance that not everything is perfect in the Guard, but the good definitely out-weights the bad is what wins the trust of his applicants. He presents each potential soldier with the benefits that are available to them through Army Guard service. He avoids "push-sales", and lets the benefits speak for themselves. His experiences have led him to believe that the Guard's Educational benefits seem to be the best tool for recruiting.

Brannon, like all recruiting assistants is not left alone to complete the task. When a recruiting assistant has found an interested qualified applicant, they then contact a recruiter in their area to complete the enlistment process. Brannon has gained knowledge and sound advice from working with full-time recruiters on enlistments. This relationship makes for a winning combination, and helps the applicant make a smooth transition from citizen to soldier. Brannon's job, like other recruiter assistants, is to initially sell the idea of the Guard, as well as insure potential applicants meet all enlistment requirements. Recruiting assistants are also required to follow up after the enlistment process by maintaining contact with the recruit until he or she successfully ships to Basic Training.

The GRAP program has been the perfect part-time job for Brannon. He is currently enrolled at the University of Mississippi, where he majors in Criminal Justice, and is working towards a commission through the university's ROTC program. His part-time job with GRAP, only five hours a week, has brought him \$24,000 so far. Not bad pay for a college student. Ole Miss is just one of the places that Cadet Poland finds his potential applicants, he said that virtually everywhere he goes there is someone that is interested in finding

out information about the Guard. He continued to say that people will approach him and ask about the Army Guard simply because he is wearing a T-shirt displaying a Guard logo. Moreover, everyday tasks such as working out in the gym or going to the mall can result in profit.

Although Brannon may make it sound easy with the hours he has invested for the enlistments he has received, it does have its obstacles. He normally averages one enlistment out of ten applicants. The other nine normally fall short of enlistment due to troubles with ASVAB testing or physical requirements. He encourages all GRAP participants not to become discouraged with lost applicants, but rather realize not every person you will meet will be eligible to join the Guard.

Poland insists that as an active member of his National Guard unit, one of his jobs is continuously add good people to his team. "It is great to be rewarded for something I was doing anyway."

Pfc. Dustin Turner and Pv2 Joseph Stone can also vouch for the GRAP program's success. To date, Stone has 11 GRAP accessions and trailing right behind him, Turner with nine. Both young men are considering careers as full-time recruiters.



Army...Strong Recruit Sustainment Program

By Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd MPAD

The young man stood facing the towering wall. His eyes drifted up the faux stone to his goal, a little red button 50 feet up the wall. Only small outcroppings barely large enough to provide a hand hold or foot rest broke the smooth surface of the cliff.

Squaring his shoulders, the young man gripped the wall and began his slow, but steady, ascent beside four other Mississippi Army National Guard recruits.

Like the rock wall, the Recruit Sustainment Program is designed to help young men and women overcome obstacles and get them ready for a career in the Army National Guard.

"This is a program that was designed to prepare new recruits mentally, physically and administratively for their active duty training requirements," said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Etheridge, RSP coordinator for the Southwest Mississippi area.

The length of time a recruit stays in the RSP varies, he said.

"They start the program when they enlist and they stay in it until their ship date," Etheridge said.

Some recruits stay only 30 days or less while others may be part of the program for two years or more if they enlisted in the summer following their junior year in high school and have a late report date for basic training. Some students

will go through basic training before they are seniors and remain with the program upon their return until they graduate and can attend their military occupational specialty school.

Regardless of their basic training status, Etheridge said, the recruits are "active drilling members of the National Guard" and subject to its rules and regulations.

During RSP drill weekends, which are held by the recruiters assigned to the area, the recruits and soldiers are trained in basic soldiering skills. Skills learned here will help the recruits perform better during basic training. The young soldiers awaiting MOS schools also benefit from the training, Etheridge said.

"We all need to know our basic skills and we all should train on them constantly," he said.

Pfc. Nathaniel Adams of Crystal Springs agreed and said the RSP had served him well at basic training.

"I love it. It prepares you for basic training so you won't be so dumbfounded when you get there," he said.

Adams was one of 156 recruits and soldiers attending drill at the Brookhaven Armory Dec. 4. In addition to basic skills training, recruits that weekend were able to climb a rock wall to instill confidence.

"Slow is smooth and smooth is fast," a recruiter shouted to encourage recruits during a race to the

top.

"Rock-climbing is not a full contact sport," another recruiter added as two young men jockeyed for the same outcropping. Both fell off the wall, but were saved by the safety harnesses.

The confidence instilled in recruits by overcoming the wall is an invaluable training tool, Etheridge said, because it extends into every facet of their training.

"Confidence is critical during training," Etheridge said. "If a soldier is confident he is much more likely to succeed in whatever mission he is given."

The RSP provides young recruits the confidence they need to excel as soldiers.



Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Etheridge,
RSP Coordinator, Southwest Mississippi

SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN .



47th Civil Support Team Earns Certification

Members of the 47th Civil Support Team were among the many National Guard CST teams nationwide to receive its certification. The unit, stationed in Flowood at the Mississippi National Guard Base, received certification in October from Congress for its completion of 20,000 combined hours of training. Their certification plaque was presented by Assistant Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Ike Pylant during a ceremony in December.

The Civil Support Team provides support to civil authorities at a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosives incident by identifying the agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising

on response measures and assisting with request for additional state support.

Pictured above are kneeling (L-R) Sgt. 1st Class Robert N. Goldsmith, Tech. Sgt. Robert C. Smith, Lt. Col. Gordon M. Ditto, Capt. Ronald A. Rogers, and Sgt. Christopher A. Petermann. Standing (L-R) are Staff Sgt. James D. Bell, Capt. Stephen K. Waggoner, Sgt. 1st Class Peter J. Eargle, Master Sgt. Kevin J. Hanke, Sgt. Carl E. Smith, Staff Sgt. Jeffery S. Winstead, Sgt. Anthony R. Ross, Sgt. Domingo R. Rodriguez, Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy L. Garland, Staff Sgt. Christopher L. Watts, Capt. Thomas J. Mallard, and First Sgt. John T. Raines. The team consists of 42 members.

(Photo by Sandy Ates, JFH-MS-CM-PA)



Michael Lister (second from left) president and CEO, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, Gulfport Mayor Brent Warr (right) and LTC Richard Poole recognize Mississippi Staff Sergeant Quinton Martin as a finalist in the Jackson Hewitt National Guard "Heroes of the Year" campaign. Sponsored by Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, an industry leader providing full service individual federal and state income tax preparation, this year-long search recognizes individuals, families and employers for their exceptional support for National Guard mission and values. (PRNewsFoto/Jackson Hewitt Tax Service Inc.)

.. IN THE NEWS

Mississippi Guardsmen Honored with Americanism Award

Photo by Sandy Ates, JFH-MS

One award is now held by nearly 13,000 winners this year, but making the decision as to whom would receive the Exchange Club of Jackson's single, annual Americanism Award was, according to Club leaders, really quite easy.

The Americanism award is presented to people who make major contributions to the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi National Guard has been a major player in the role of Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) since 9/11, and were called upon to help in emergency operations during Hurricane Katrina. Previous winners of the award include Sen. Trent Lott and the late U.S. Rep. Sonny Mont-



gomery. This is the first time given to such a large group of people.

Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the adjutant general of Mississippi, was asked to be guest speaker for this year's special Army/Navy extravaganza program, and to accept the award on

behalf of the men and women of the Mississippi National Guard. He accepted the award from club member, A. M. Zeidman during a recent luncheon program. (photo above).



THORNTON APPOINTED STATE SURGEON

Lt. Col. Stanley N. Thornton of Metairie, La., recently was appointed State Surgeon for the Mississippi Army National Guard by Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the Adjutant General of Mississippi.

Thornton joined the Mississippi Army National Guard in 1988. After basic training at Fort Campbell, Ky., he enrolled in the ROTC program at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. He was com-

missioned as a junior officer while serving with the 4th Battalion, 114th Field Artillery, and later, after receiving a medical degree, transferred to the medical corps, serving with Company C, 106th Forward Support Battalion. While with the battalion, Thornton served as field surgeon, medical director of the MCTS, and most recently, served with Company B, 161st ASMB (Alabama Army National Guard) in Nashiriyah, Iraq.

Thornton graduated from USM with a BS in chemistry I 1991. He graduated from the University of Mis-

issippi Medical Center with an MD degree in 1996. He completed internship and residency at UMMC in Internal Medicine, graduating in 1999. Thornton practiced Internal Medicine at Hattiesburg Clinic from 1999-2005 before accepting a Cardiology fellowship at Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans. As he serves as the Mississippi Army National Guard's State Surgeon, he will pursue a career in interventional cardiology in south Mississippi after completion of his training.



Forest Armory Dedicated to Sen. Cochran

The Forest Armory is now the Thad Cochran Army National Guard Readiness Center. The Mississippi National Guard honored the state's senior U.S. senator with the new designation in a recent ceremony because of his untiring support of our nation's defense. The tribute was for his actions in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the Mississippi National Guard. Cochran is serving

his fifth term in the Senate. He previously served six years in the House of Representatives. The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee is himself a former officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was grateful for the honor and spoke highly of Mississippi's Soldiers. Shown above in the unveiling of the dedication plaque are from left to right, U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering (R-Dist.

3); Hon. Nancy Chambers, Mayor of Forest; Sen. Thad Cochran; Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, Mississippi Adjutant General, Chancery Clerk Billy Frank Alford, Scott County; Lt. Col. Mark Valentine, commander, 1/204th ADA, and Rev. Byron Howard, Leesburg Baptist Church. *(Photo by Sgt. Maj. Stump Jones.)*



MY BOSS IS A PATRIOT

Don Payton, second from right, of Eaton Aerospace in Jackson, accepts the "My Boss is a Patriot" award from Capt. Diana Lebedev, second left, and Derwood Boyles, far right, both from the Mississippi Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Jackson. Employee Joel Smith, far left, of Madison, Miss., nominated Eaton for the award in recognition of its support of his service with the 172nd Airlift Wing, Mississippi Air National Guard. *Photo by Yuri Lebedev, Eaton Aerospace.*



Philadelphia Readiness Center Dedicated in Honor of Fallen Soldiers

The Readiness Center in Philadelphia was dedicated in December to honor two of 367th Maintenance Company Soldiers killed while serving in Iraq. The new center, home to the 298th Corp Support Battalion and 367th Maint. Co., was named in honor of 1st Lt. Matt Stovall and Sgt. Joshua Ladd. Unveiling the dedication plaque were from left, Maj. Gen. Harold A. Cross, the adjutant general of Mississippi, parents Randy and Deborah Ladd; parents Ernest and Ellon Stovall; the former Mrs. Natalie Stanfill, and son, Walker Stovall. This is the first of several readiness centers around the state to be dedicated in honor of the Mississippi National Guard Soldiers who lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom. *(Photo by Master Sgt. Billy Collier)*

Brookhaven unit brings Christmas joy to needy children

By Sgt. Scott Tynes, 102nd MPAD

More than 200 children in the Brookhaven area will experience the joys of Christmas this year because of the efforts of local Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers.

Soldiers of Company E, Forward Support Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion, gathered to celebrate the holiday Dec. 3 with their families and brought toys to donate to Brookhaven Outreach Ministries, a local charitable organization that strives to meet the needs of those who have nowhere else to turn.

"We are registering those that are not on any other list," said the Rev. Jerry Durr, president and founder of the ministry. "These are the ones who fell through the cracks. This will help us tremendously."

The toy drive was voluntary, said Company Commander Capt. John

Boler, but he did not believe any soldier arrived without a toy to donate.

"We're a military organization, but we also support this community," he said. "If anything comes up in the community and they need our support, we try to do that."

Boler said the toy drive was a first for the unit since its reorganization in August. Many of the soldiers with the former infantry unit are still present, he said, but transfers have also seen a lot of soldiers find new homes and brought new soldiers to the unit.

"So, this is actually the first year this company has done this. It's actually our first Christmas party," he said.

Durr said the unit contacted him to see how they could help assist others during the Christmas holidays and they determined the toy drive was the most advantageous.

The unit had become familiar with Brookhaven Outreach Ministries during

its 2005 deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Staff Sgt. Lucius Washington, training NCO.

The Family Support Readiness Group had developed significant ties to the organization during that time, he said, and the charity provided some assistance to families of soldiers who needed it while the soldiers were overseas.

Boler said he hopes to make the toy drive an annual tradition for the company.

Durr was excited about the prospect.

"I thank God for this," he said. "The morale of the National Guard units and the troops is extraordinary. They really are here to protect and serve our community."

Deer Management at Camp Shelby

By Lindsey Smith, JFH Environmental Office

The Dr. Andy Watson family of McComb, within two months, lost their Victorian-era home to an arsonist, and then hit a deer while on their way home from a weekend trip, wrecking the family car. Despite losing nearly everything they owned, the Watson's hold firm to what is really important, they still have each other...and hunting.

Andy grew up hunting on a family camp in Noxubee County and has passed the tradition onto his children. He has taught them how to care for the land and wildlife as well as how to harvest game. It is undeniable how important Mississippi land and hunting are to the Watson's and their way of life.

Many of our Mississippi National Guard personnel can relate to the Watson's' devotion to the land; however some are not fortunate enough to own land. Camp Shelby provides an opportunity for all guardsmen to hunt game.

Camp Shelby's landscape is comprised of rolling hills of longleaf pine forests with a scattering of oaks and hardwoods and a dense, grassy ground cover. This sort of ecosystem offers some of the best hunting in Mississippi, according to Mr. Russ Walsh, a Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Wildlife Biologist. Walsh says, "Frequent prescribed burns are conducted on Camp Shelby (U.S. Forest Service lands) to maintain the longleaf pine habitat for the threatened gopher tortoise, and this burning encourages favorable wildlife habitat." In addition, a multitude of narrow creeks support numerous wetland communities, while also providing ideal drainage for the upland forests.

Camp Shelby's Environmental Department, The U.S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy work hard to maintain Camp Shelby's longleaf pine ecosystem, which in turn, sustains abundant wildlife populations for you and your family to enjoy.

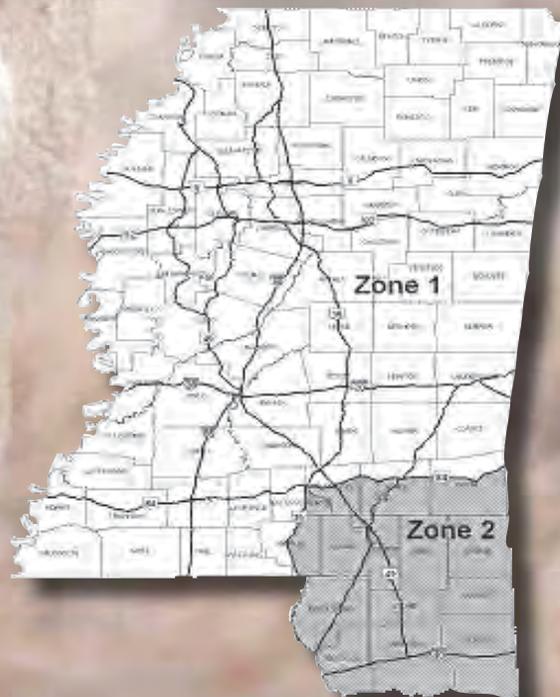
Hunters should note a few things about Camp Shelby's hunting requirements. Hunting is permitted on all National Forest land, except in the impact area, as long as the hunter has a valid hunting license. Hunting is prohibited on state and Department of Defense (DoD) land, which includes the cantonment area. To hunt MDWFP Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Mississippi residents must pay \$16.85 for a WMA User Permit and non-residents must pay \$31.85 (there is an Armed Forces 14-day Military License available for \$33.70). Also, if you hunt in Zone 2 (refer to the map), you must take only legal bucks

during the December 24, 2006 - January 17, 2007 gun season and the January 18, 2007 - February 12, 2007 primitive weapon season.

Remember too, safety is crucial during this hunting season due to damage incurred by Hurricane Katrina. Before you begin your hunt, notice any potential dangers, such as hanging limbs and snags (dead, standing trees). Also, Walsh would like to provide a valuable tip. He said, "This year's late summer drought made acorns fall early. This means that the acorn crop has been spotty throughout this hunting season. So for best results, find acorns. Transition zones between feeding and bedding areas, such as young pine plantations, are good places to set up."

Successful land management is a result of proper habitat management and appropriate land use. Camp Shelby environmental managers are able to enact proper habitat management, but must depend on hunters to do the rest.

Remember, hunting is a privilege Mississippians are fortunate to have. Take advantage of what our great state has to offer. Anyone interested in learning more about Mississippi hunting and land management should visit www.mdwfp.com or contact your district MDWFP biologist. Make sure to ask about the MDWFP newsletter, Wildlife Issues. If you are interested in learning more about land management on Camp Shelby, please contact Mr. Chris Potin at (601) 558-2833.



Guard Jobs

Finding a good job can be a challenge for anyone when faced with the competition in today's job market, but members of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard who are unemployed have an advantage over the average citizen. Mississippi Guard Soldiers and Airmen can turn to the National Guard for possible employment career opportunities statewide in the full-time Guard workforce.

The Mississippi National Guard continually advertises job opportunities in the guard that go unanswered simply because our Guard members are sometimes not aware that the opportunities exist. Although the Guard cannot mail job announcements to individual members, you can however learn what types of vacancies are available by checking our Human Resources and State resources web sites.

Federal Technician and Active Guard and Reserve positions may be accessed at www.ngms.state.ms.us/hroinfo/hrohhomepage.htm, and look under Current Job Opportunities in the Mississippi National Guard. State job vacancies can be found at www.ngms.state.ms.us/statehro/, and click on Career Opportunities. Job applications for both sites are available for downloading on each web site.

Excellent career opportunities are available in the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard, and all Guard men and women who are interested are encouraged to visit these sites and check them out.



Department of Defense ID cardholders are eligible for weekly condominium rentals at 3,500 resorts in 80 countries worldwide. Provided by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and sponsored by Resort Condominium International, the Armed Forces Vacation Club offers space-available condominiums for \$299 a week. The program gives Soldiers and other Defense Department workers affordable accommodations in condominiums that would otherwise go empty, according to Verlin Abbott, RCI director of AFVC. For more information, visit the Armed Forces Vacation Club Web site at www.afvclub.com.

Battle Uniform Available to Deploying Airmen

The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

Most Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment.

By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets. The cost for the uniform, pants and coat, runs about \$81. Additional items will also need to

be purchased. The green boots are priced at \$100. The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011.



The new Airman battle uniform design is a pixelated tiger stripe with four soft earth tones -- tan, gray, green and blue. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration)

Tudor serves as Transition Assistance Advisor between reserve component and VA

By 2nd Lt. Andy Thaggard

Mr. Ed Tudor recently took over as the full-time Transition Assistance Advisor for Mississippi. He serves as a liaison between reserve component Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

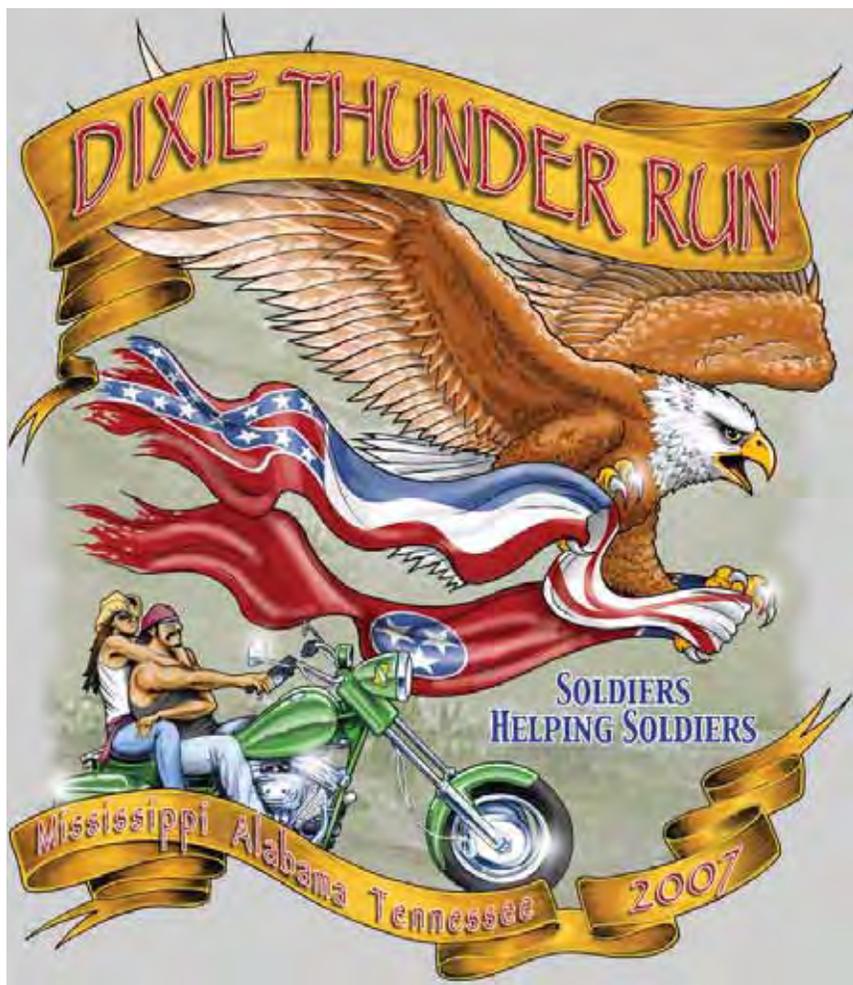
He is charged with assisting in securing benefits earned for military service, such as: VA medical care, disability, education & training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, home loans, burial, dependents and survivor benefits, life insurance, and Tricare.

"The most important thing I do, is to help Soldiers receive benefits they have earned during their military service" said Tudor, a retired Command Sergeant Major from the 20th Special Forces Group.

Mississippians transitioning from active duty back to civilian life and military retirees are encouraged to contact him with questions regarding their earned benefits. Mr. Tudor can be contacted at (601) 313-6162 or Edwin.Tudor@NG.Army.Mil.



Ed Tudor, Transition Assistance Advisor for Reserve forces in Mississippi.



2nd Annual Dixie Thunder Run

The Dixie Thunder Run is a benefit ride to raise money for injured soldiers & the families of soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

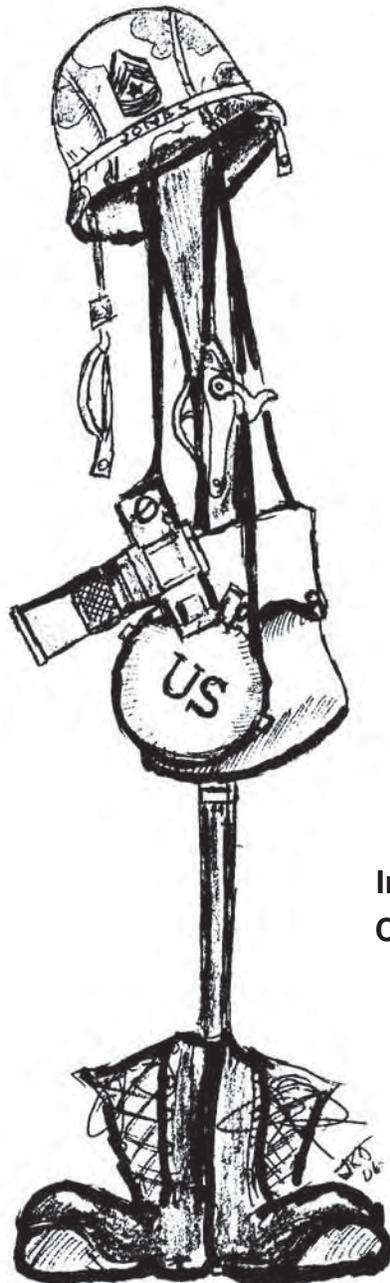
The motto "SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS" is testimony to the ride's beginnings when a few soldiers of the 155th BCT of Mississippi chose to get together to help out fellow unit members. As it spread by word of mouth, soldiers and citizens from numerous units and states wanted to show their support for America's Finest by participating in the Dixie Thunder Run.

The inaugural ride (2006) traversed the state of Mississippi by starting in Tupelo, home of the 155th's Headquarters, with a stop in Meridian, and culminating in Hattiesburg. This is to recognize all units who served in the Brigade during OIF III, as they come from all parts of Mississippi.

This year's rally (2007) will be a Tri-state event involving Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. One organization from each will receive the proceeds. The route is planned for Tupelo, Ms to Tusculumbia, Al to Memphis, Tn. Updates will be posted at the Web site www.dixiethunderrun.org. Dates are 19 & 20 May, 2007.

ON MY COMMAND - LAST CALL

SGT MAJ WILLIAM "STUMP" JONES



In dedicated memory--
CW2 Keith Davis

MARINE, ARTIST, PHOTOGRAPHER
LIVING HISTORIAN, GUARDSMAN
FRIEND...



The above plaque was placed at the original site of the Booneville Army National Guard Armory, December 22, 2006, where seven members of the unit lost their lives. Next to the plaque is a monument recognizing the unit and Soldiers killed, and behind them is the old armory building where today it is used as a baseball field house. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Andy Thaggard).



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