

THE WOLVERINE GUARD



D.O. Care in Iraq

Wolfpack in Iraq

127th Wing alert mission ends

177th RTI trains truckers



Capt. A. Dale Jackson, a physician and member of the Michigan Army National Guard Medical Command, listens to the heartbeat of a young child before administering treatment during a combined medical effort held at the Taji Sports Complex in Iraq on Jan. 1, 2008.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Greer, 30th SW/PAO

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The Wolverine Guard is an unofficial publication authorized under the provision of AR 360-1. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. It is published quarterly by the Michigan National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Office with a press run of 17,500.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments, articles, and information for publication to:

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Bullets

Military Relief Fund

In the fall of 2004, Gov. Granholm signed into law the Military Family Relief Fund Act. This act provides grants to qualifying families of military members in either the Michigan National Guard or Reserves who are called to active duty as a result of the national response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks or as a response to a national emergency declared by the president.

The fund is intended to provide financial assistance to families of soldiers contending with financial needs arising during active duty service or as a result of suffering a line-of-duty related injury or illness.

Families of currently activated members of the Michigan National Guard and Reserves are eligible for up to \$2,000 in grants to help address financial needs that result from the military member's deployment.

In order to be eligible for a grant from the Michigan Military Family Relief Fund:

- The need for financial assistance must have occurred during the time that the qualified individual served on active duty or directly resulted from serving on active duty while deployed.
- The qualified individual has served at least 30 days of active duty.
- There is a documented need for financial assistance for necessities of daily living that include food, clothing, housing, utilities, medical service, prescriptions, insurance payments or other needs.

The applicant must fill out a complete application.

If you need an application or have questions about eligibility, please contact Kathy Enderle at (517) 481-7646. Completed applications may be faxed to (517) 481-7644.



Holiday Cards for Wounded Heroes!

Holiday Mail for Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD. 20791-5456

Full Time Career Opportunities

Our best applicant pool comes from the professional, experienced and talented members of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard. In many cases, our Soldiers and Airmen bring valuable combat experience to the full time force.

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding full time career as an AGR member or a Federal Technician, apply today. There are many job opportunities posted on the www.michguard.com.

Click the "Jobs" hyperlink then select the applicable vacancies next to Active Guard Reserve (AGR) or Federal Technician. The application instructions are found within each job announcement.



TroopTube for You!

TroopTube is a new online video site managed by the Defense Department's Military OneSource online information network. TroopTube is designed to help military families connect and keep in touch while miles apart.

The direct link to TroopTube is <http://www.trooptube.tv>.



TRICARE Premiums Decrease

Effective Jan. 1, 2009, TRICARE will reduce the rates for TRICARE Reserve Select. Monthly premiums for TRS individual coverage will drop \$81 to \$47.51, and TRS family coverage will drop from \$253 to \$180. TRS is a premium-based health plan for National Guard and Reserve personnel available for purchase by members of the Selected Reserve who are not eligible for or enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefit plans.



2008 National Guard Internal Review Office of the Year

by Terri Michaelson, United States Property and Fiscal Office, IRR Division

Once again, the Internal Review Division of the United States Purchase and Fiscal Office has demonstrated its diligence, motivation and dedication by earning the prestigious NGB Internal Review Office of the Year for 2008.

The multiple award-winning team was chosen from 54 states and territories based on factors such as saving the Michigan Army National Guard more than \$1 million in monetary benefits, improved internal controls, and improved soldier readiness and system processes.

The award was presented in June at the Internal Review national training conference in Orlando, Fla. ♦



Pictured at left are Yves Mayard, National Guard Bureau-Internal Review, Duane Griffith, NGB-IR, Derrick Miller, Assistant Chief NGB-IR, and auditors from the USPFO, Harvey L. Jones, Ryan P. Taber, Terri Michaelson, and Janet Weber. Not pictured are David Milligan, Supervisory Auditor and Carol Colville, Auditor. Both have since retired.

PDHRA = Taking Care of Soldiers

By Sgt. Ethan McCallum, MIARNG Health Services

The Michigan Army National Guard Post Deployment Health Re-Assessment team would like to thank the units who participated in the PDHA program in 2008. More than 1,200 Soldiers were screened, up from 888 for fiscal year 2007.

As directed by Congress and the Department of Defense, PDHRA is mandatory for all Soldiers who returned from active duty (REFRAD) on or after March 10, 2005. Soldiers who returned before this date are not required to attend PDHRA screening, but are encouraged to do so. The post-deployment assessment is designed to help Soldiers document health issues or concerns related to their deployment. Eligible Soldiers can be placed on ADSW orders up to seven times to attend their medical appointments – with travel pay and per diem when appropriate.

So how does the process work? At the end of your deployment, you complete a Post Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA), either before leaving theater or at the demobilization site. Ideally, PDHRA screening is held 90-180 days after REFRAD, during drill weekend.

Soldiers who miss their scheduled unit PDHRA screening

should contact their unit to reschedule. Typically, there is at least one PDHRA screening each month, so rescheduling to complete PDHRA within the 90-180 day window should be no problem.

At the screening, members will complete a health questionnaire and be privately interviewed by registered nurses or physician assistants contracted by the Department of Defense. From the questionnaire and interview, the medical provider will determine if a referral for a full examination is warranted. Privacy laws protect all medical information. Receiving a referral and using PDHRA benefits has never resulted in adverse actions towards any Soldier to date.

The PDHRA team is here to help Soldiers and units maintain 100 percent compliance with Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau PDHRA requirements. The next PDHRA screening event is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2009 in Lansing. For additional information, contact Staff Sgt. Matt Martin, Sgt. Ethan McCallum, or Sgt. Dane Songer at 517-481-8366/7. ♦



TAG From the desk of The Adjutant General TALK



As my family and I sat down to enjoy our Thanksgiving meal this year, we paused to count our blessings. Like most of you, we expressed thankfulness for our families, our health, a job, friends and very significantly, the freedom to enjoy these great blessings. That discussion reminded us of how thankful we are for all of you who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms and our way of life.

Again this year, more than 1,600 Michigan National Guard members have missed the birth of a child, birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and other important events because of a deployment. I know we are all deeply grateful for their service and appreciate the sacrifices their families make.

In September, Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Slee and I visited members of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters, 126th Cavalry Squadron and 125th Infantry Battalion in Iraq and Kuwait. We also tracked down Michigan Guardsmen Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon and Col. Mark Van Drie. It was wonderful to see our Michigan National Guard Soldiers doing such great work and making such a difference.

This was my fourth visit to Iraq, and for the first time, we were able to make trips "outside the wire" to observe our Soldiers as they performed their missions and interacted with Iraqi citizens. It was exciting to see the tremendous progress there. The interaction was exceptionally positive and has contributed to the tremendous improvements in safety and security. We observed the 126th Cavalry as they performed convoy security operations. It was the most impressive logistical support mission I've ever seen. These troops provide the security necessary to move goods and materials safely into Iraq under exceptionally challenging conditions. It was truly an honor to make this trip and thank our Soldiers for their willingness to serve and sacrifice on our behalf!

I also want to thank our Air Guard for their tremendous work as they continue to respond to the transitions dictated by the 2005 Base Realignment Commission (BRAC). Congratulations to the 127th Air Refueling Group for a seamless transition to the refueling mission! I enjoyed my recent visit with you and came away impressed with the outstanding team you have built and the great work you do. The transition from F-16s to A-10s at Selfridge and from A-10s to C-21s and the Component Numbered Air Force at Battle Creek is well under way. Thank you for your hard work and can-do spirit. I am confident you will continue to lead the way in these new missions!

Thank you to each of you for your service throughout this year and your willingness to serve. You provide outstanding service to our nation and state and stand ready when called upon.

My family and I extend our best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year! May God bless each one of you!

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler shares a laugh with members of the Michigan National Guard's 126th Press Camp Headquarters during a "town hall" meeting at the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad on Sept. 26, 2008. The 126th, from Augusta, Mich., has been deployed since February 2008. Photo by Spc. Lisa S. Bates, 126th Press Camp Headquarters



During the "TAG Town Hall" meeting in October, Maj. Gen. Cutler awards each Michigan National Guard Casualty Assistance Officer a State Distinguished Service Medal. Here, Sgt. 1st Class Clyde Anderson, of the 1072nd Maintenance Company is pictured with the general. Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen Jr., JFHQ, PAO, MIARNG



In September, Maj. Gen. Cutler and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Slee visit Company A, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment Soldiers in Iraq. This is the general's fourth trip to Iraq, and the first time to travel "outside the wire." During the trip they also visited Michigan Guardsmen from the 126th Cavalry and the 126th Press Camp Headquarters.

As one reflects on Veterans Day it is hard not to stop and remember the contributions of our veterans and the Michigan communities that honor and recognize those veterans.

Those who share a common heritage of military service understand the importance of values and *duty to your buddy*. One such organization is the Forgotten Eagles. The Forgotten Eagles came together six years ago as a group of concerned Michigan citizens to assist the needs of veterans and their families. Every dollar raised by this group stays right here in Michigan. The Ride Around Michigan (RAM) is a three day motorcycle tour of the state. The members visit each Forgotten Eagles chapter and ride to various veterans' memorials. They cover all of Michigan's 83 counties including the Upper Peninsula. The Freedom Ride, done in conjunction with the annual RAM is dedicated to our fallen brothers and sisters and the POW/MIAs. As a result their fundraising, the Forgotten Eagles are one of the largest contributors to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. The Forgotten Eagles have donated \$67,000 to date. They have also donated \$20,000 to the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home and Grand Rapids Veterans Homes.

It is that same spirit of helping fellow vets which motivates Waino L. Liuha, the Upper Peninsula's "Veteran of the Year." Mr. Liuha has not forgotten his buddies at the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home and in the community. He has volunteered more than 2,000 hours at the Home. He assists in constructing barrier-free ramps for handicapped veterans and provides transportation for veterans to medical appointments. Waino exemplifies *duty to a buddy*.

The 11th annual Southeastern Michigan Veterans Standdown was held for two days in October with approximately 600 Michigan citizens in attendance. The community, with major contributions from the UAW and the John Dingell VA Medical Center provided food, clothing, and medical assistance. As a labor of love for our veterans, the UAW Region 1A Local 735, VVA Chapter 310, and Motor City Muscle Car Club sponsored a car show and raised \$25,000 for veterans at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center.

The Comstock Park Rotary, 25 men and women, had a vision for Grotto Park as a "Healing Garden" for the veterans living at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. Approximately 80 years ago, the Grotto Park adjacent to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home was a place filled with activity. A waterfall flowed into the ponds, the winding creek was lined with beautiful shrubs and trees, two arched bridges, a band stand and gazebos for entertainment and relaxation. Over the years, structures have deteriorated and the need for handicap accessibility into the park became evident. The Comstock Park Rotary undertook this project. The outpouring of community support was overwhelming. Our veterans have a Grotto Park "Healing Garden" to be enjoyed by the members, families, staff, and the Grand Rapids community. The wheelchair accessible park includes two bridges over trickling waterfalls, 10 benches, a gazebo, pergola and a band shell.

It is such an honor to serve in my capacity with great men and women who are motivated by ***Taking Care of Our American Heroes***.

God bless you, God bless your families, God bless our Veterans, God bless America!



Brig. Gen. (Ret) Carol Ann Fausone



In August, the Forgotten Eagles motorcycle group tour 83 counties in Michigan to raise money for the Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund and Michigan's Veteran's Homes in Grand Rapids and Marquette. Photo by Gary Bredeweg

Proud of Our Veterans

*We are proud of our veterans.
Proud of you all.*

*You are patriots and heroes who
answered the call.*

*With courage, strength, and
sacrifice,*

you saw our country through.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you to you.

-Song written by Teresa Jennings



The 11th annual Southeastern Michigan Veteran's Standdown was held at the State Fair in Detroit on October 23 and 24. Photo by Donald Dreffs

Compassionate Bone Doc heals more than broken bodies

By Jill Higgins, Manager of Communications, Michigan Osteopathic Association, photos courtesy of Dr. (Capt.) R. Dale Jackson

Capt. R. Dale Jackson, D.O., M.P.H., is a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and a Michigan National Guard physician who chose to defer his residency until after serving his country and military colleagues in Iraq. He deployed to Iraq from November 2007 to June 2008. He is just one model of compassionate care in a country where dust storms, rocket attacks and simple logistics make teamwork and communication, listening in particular, integral components of health care delivery.

It was late evening when Capt. R. Dale Jackson, a doctor of osteopathic medicine and a member of the Michigan Army National Guard Medical Command stationed with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, at Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder south of Nasiriyah, Iraq, received a phone call about a gun truck team leader in his battalion stating that a Sgt. Smith had a sore throat and was wondering if he could see the “doc.”

“That raised an eyebrow,” said Dr. Jackson. “I knew I had to go see him.”

Since when does a sore throat constitute a minor medical emergency for a veteran Army Special Forces medic with 18 years of military experience, more than two dozen deployments in various countries, and now serving as battalion surgeon for 425 paratroopers? The truth is, it didn’t, but Dr. Jackson knew his patient. He knew that Sgt. Smith, a soldier reluctant to seek medical care even for injuries would never request anyone call the doc on his behalf for a minor irritation.

Dr. Jackson consistently employed his ability to see patients as a whole, a skill intrinsic to osteopathic medicine, during his eight-month deployment in Iraq between November 2007 and June 2008. In war zones, small medical problems can become large ones if not addressed. While the injuries sustained from combat and improvised explosive devices garner the most

publicity, acute ailments and minor injuries can become the greatest hindrance to mission success. Small cuts or acne under body armor can develop into cellulitis. The stressors of daily life coupled with sleeping problems can evolve into more debilitating mental health issues. Since the logistics of military duty do not always allow paratroopers to seek physician care for days on end, a battalion’s primary care physician is on call 24/7.



In May 2008, Dr. (Capt.) R. Dale Jackson, Michigan Army National Guard Medical Command, checks the GPS in his vehicle before leaving COB Adder, Iraq for a follow-up visit with a patient.

“As a battalion surgeon, you are really like a small hometown doc in many ways,” said Dr. Jackson. “You quickly get to know your medical section and patients intimately because you live, eat, travel, work and even risk death with them on a daily basis.”

That means that whenever a patrol stopped by COB Adder for supplies and maintenance, Dr. Jackson was prepared for midnight doctor visits. Every check up became an opportunity for prevention through education and simple reassurance that even the small things are bona fide, legitimate medical issues. Even though his patients would move around to combat outposts and on missions, Dr. Jackson would always follow-up care for an injury or illness with phone calls, e-mail, inquiries through medics or visits to combat outposts (COP) within days of initial care. He developed a reputation of genuine concern for his patients, which assured them of their importance to him.



Dust storms such as this one at Camp Adder, Iraq in February 2008, create complications, both as a barrier to transportation and as the cause of respiratory ailments.

In the case of Sgt. Smith who reported a hoarse voice, sneezing and trouble swallowing, Dr. Jackson diagnosed a laryngeal tear.

“He had recently inhaled a lot of dust and tried to hold in his sneezes,” said Dr. Jackson.

Without a CT scan to confirm the diagnosis, Dr. Jackson requested x-rays at COB Adder’s level II hospital, prescribed antibiotics and consulted with his “go-to” physician colleagues at the hospital: Thomas Essex, D.O., a National Guard internist, and Eugene Cox, M.D., an active-duty cardiothoracic surgeon.

“They shared my concern regarding what I thought was subcutaneous air of his soft tissue film. I called the U.S. military hospital (staffed by naval physicians) in Kuwait and arranged a transfer for a CT scan and an ENT [ear, nose, and throat] consultation.”

Smith remained at COB Adder on intravenous antibiotics until a dust storm cleared enough to permit medevac helicopter transport to Kuwait. A CT and endoscopy confirmed that Smith’s “sore throat” was indeed a laryngeal tear.

“It was self sealing, and he was back to duty in two weeks,” said Dr. Jackson, “but if we hadn’t started him on antibiotics when we did, he quite likely would have developed a significant infection.”

“Military units do not have extra people in them,” explained Dr. Jackson. “Losing a person for medical reasons – even if it’s only for a week or two – means there is a fire-team, squad or section whose mission is directly affected. Battalion surgeons and physician assistants must always remain cognizant of the far-reaching effects of the care they deliver.”

Continued on page 8



Dr. Jackson conducts a follow-up visit with an Iraqi police officer who recently had shrapnel from the 2004 battle of Faluja removed. Part of the 1st Brigade’s mission (the unit that Jackson is imbedded with) is to train the Iraqi police and army, which includes first aid and other medical training.



One American and five British soldiers prepare to move a wounded Iraqi soldier into the British military hospital in Basra, Iraq.



Dr. Jackson examines a Soldier at Camp Adder.



A helicopter departs the military hospital in Basra.

Operational Medicine

The 82nd Airborne Division's primary role was security over watch in southern Iraq. Its medical personnel augmented care at COB Adder's level II hospital which is run by National Guard area support medical companies and an active duty field surgical team. Dr. Jackson's mission was to provide preventative, primary and emergency care for his battalion, which included three COPs that act as extensions of the base in accomplishing route security, Iraqi police and army training, and civil-military operations (CMO).

"As a battalion surgeon, I supervised a medical section which provides support for CMO and COP operations," explained Dr. Jackson. "I supported them and the rest of the base by working two to four days a week at the hospital in both the outpatient clinic and ER."

As one of two physicians at COB Adder with Army flight surgeon training, Dr. Jackson picked up the duty of seeing the pilots and crew members of the base's Army medevac unit and flew with them as the medical officer on several missions during a period of heavy fighting. He visited the COPs every one to two weeks to conduct basic preventative health assessments, see issues beyond the medics' scope of practice and perform follow ups. Finally, he would go on CMO missions when needed to either set up casualty collection points to prepare injured Soldiers for evacuation or to conduct health-related assessments of an Iraqi medical facility.

He was originally assigned at Camp Taji, but was reassigned to COB Adder due in part to his special operations background and wide skill set in patient care and public health. Dr. Jackson completed his master's degree in public health in conjunction with osteopathic medical school.

COB Adder was down two providers and administrative duties were suffering as a result. Dr. Jackson wasted no time in conducting needs assessments of each COP and establishing standard medical operating procedures to improve patient care, communication with medical control and record keeping.

Using available technology plays a major role in making a patient feel cared for, according to Dr. Jackson. "Even when the doc is not where the patient is, knowing that you are getting physician-directed care and knowing the doc is always there to pick up the radio or phone is a big confidence builder for soldiers," he said.

Caring for the Mind

The osteopathic profession has a unique, philosophical connection with operational health care.

"The key to military medicine is to promote and maintain health first and then treat illness and injury when needed," said Dr. Jackson. "Preventative, primary and emergency medicine are the fundamentals of operational medicine. The goal is to keep troops mentally and physically healthy so they can do their job."

Education plays an integral role in this prevention, even when it consists of teaching paratroopers that talking about their feelings, and sometimes even crying, is not a weakness but a normal reaction in a stressful environment.

"The challenge with mental health in the military is a magnification of a problem we have in our society as a whole," contended Dr. Jackson. "I took advantage of every opportunity I had to explain to them that most of what we feel – positive and negative – about the situations we encounter over here are 'normal' reactions to stress. Quite often, recognizing these feelings in ourselves and talking about it with a buddy is all we need to do. Even when a stress reaction starts to become a stress syndrome and we need more help in our coping skills, this is not a 'weakness.' Asking for help in a situation like this takes a lot of personal integrity and courage to both recognize it and then ask for help."

Service with Compassion

Osteopathic physicians comprise approximately 10 percent of physicians in the armed forces, according to the Association of Osteopathic Military Physicians & Surgeons. Dr. Jackson became an osteopathic physician because of his experience as a special forces medic and encouragement from his military mentors and doctors.

"Whether or not people think we should have invaded Iraq, now the point is moot," said Dr. Jackson. "It is nothing less than an honor and privilege to be the doc for what I consider the best patients in the world. The men and women of the military give a lot, some more than others – and some give all."

This commitment earned Dr. Jackson the gratitude of his patients, the respect of his colleagues and the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Iraq. Though, he is the first to point out that he is only a representation of many physicians in both the military and the osteopathic profession who serve their patients with such compassion. ♦



Dr. (Capt.) R. Dale Jackson spells out "DOCTOR" during a visit to an Iraqi school in May 2008.

Prepare for challenges upon redeployment

By Capt. Robert Lagrou, D.O., Chief Mental Health Officer, Michigan Army National Guard Medical Command

Veterans and their families face multiple challenges during the reintegration process following deployment. In 2006, a study published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* by Jensen et al. [and others] demonstrates that spouses and children with a family member deployed to Operation Desert Storm reported higher rates of depression than those not dealing with deployment. Families reporting strong social support, stable employment, and access to medical care fared better.

National Guard members and reservists are more likely to report major problems adjusting to being home and marital difficulties than their active duty counterparts, according to an article by Charles Milken et al. in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2007. Four major challenges and suggestions for dealing are outlined in a recent article in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice: Welcoming Them Home: Supporting Service Members and Their Families in Navigating the Tasks of Reintegration*, by Ursula Bowling and Michelle Sherman:

Military families facing a future deployment and those dealing with reintegration will benefit from an awareness of the challenges and from suggestions about how to approach them. The challenges are redefining roles, expectations, and division of household responsibilities; managing strong emotions; abandoning emotional numbness and creating intimacy in relationships; and creating a shared meaning surrounding the deployment experience.

Spouses of military members take on greater responsibility as they endeavor to fill the gap left after a family member deploys. Often times, when the veteran returns, “stay behind” spouses have difficulty readjusting to their previous roles because of their new routines established during the absence. In some instances, spouses wish to continue some of their added responsibilities while others hope for a hasty transition back to former roles. When both spouses recognize this challenge, it will better prepare them to return to previous patterns or to establish a new household structure.

Some veterans seek a quick return to past roles and others feel overwhelmed and discouraged by a rapid switch to civilian and family responsibilities. Navigating this transition can be problematic for both parties. In addition, children adjust to changes in household structure and rules and may challenge a return to “old” ways. The challenge of redefining roles, expectations, and division of household responsibilities is eased if seen as an opportunity to establish a “new normal.” Some couples and families benefit from therapy to address issues of communication, problem solving, parenting skills, and conflict resolution.

The Army or “Hooah” mentality is a useful survival strategy when deployed to a war zone to keep one on guard and aware of their surroundings. However, for many veterans,

it is difficult to leave this intensity behind when they return. At home, this approach is less constructive and potentially detrimental. Strong emotions, anger, and irritability can cause problems in households and relationships. When normal emotions join forces with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, or post traumatic stress, it can result in chaos and complete disruption or breakdown in relationships. Although some have been able to learn to regulate their emotions and reactions on their own, most will not. Clinical experience suggests that the soldiers who accept help for themselves earlier rather than later are more successful at navigating their relationships with their spouses and children. The book “Finding My Way” by Sherman and Sherman is a helpful guide for teens living with a parent who has experienced trauma.

Another way many soldiers cope with the constant threat of a war zone is “emotional constriction” or numbing of emotions. Keeping emotions such as fear, disgust, devastation, and rage at bay is necessary for survival both emotionally and literally. Likewise, many spouses and children use similar tactics to deal with the pain associated with the absence of a loved one. This defense is a normal reaction for both groups. Consequently, they may have trouble letting their defenses down and resuming patterns of intimacy when the deployment has ended. Taking the pressure to return to “normal” off and allowing for some readjustment time may be helpful. Romantic and parent-child relationships may benefit from planned activities such as date nights, family nights, and “special time.”

An important and often overlooked task of reintegration is the ability of veterans and their families to create an integrated story or meaning of the deployment experience. The conception of a family narrative can be therapeutic for veterans and help to increase family togetherness. Sharing pictures, reading books, storytelling, and constructing a scrapbook are all ways to create a harmonious account of the time spent apart. Children may participate by drawing pictures and reading suitable children’s books with their parent. It is sometimes difficult for parents to know what information to share with children and teenagers so books on this topic or consultation with a professional may be helpful.

The saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” is especially true when deciding when to get professional help. Reintegration is a difficult process for many veterans and their families. Veterans and spouses who solicit for help before large problems occur have better outcomes. There are existing resources to help veterans, spouses, their children, and their families through local Vet Centers (www.vetcenter.va.gov), SOFAR (www.sofarusa.org), and our Michigan National Guard Family Program. More information can also be found on the Michigan National Guard Family program website. ♦

1437th builds bridges at home

By 1st Lt. Daniel M. Mills, Commander, 1437th Multi Role Bridge Company, photos by Sgt. D.B. Garee

In summer 2008, the 1437th Multi-Role Bridge Company in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., completed their equipment training on the Dry Support Bridge (DSB).

The training was conducted by WFEL Ltd., the British manufacturer of the DSB, and TACOM, the Warren, Mich., based item manager for the U.S. Army.

In about 90 minutes, Soldiers can have traffic rolling across a 40 meter gap.

The bridge has a military load classification of 100-ton wheeled vehicles and 80-ton for track vehicles.

Another bridging asset the 1437th has is the Improved Ribbon Bridge. These floating bridge bays are connected together to bridge a river or can be used as a raft for ferry crossings. ♦



Members of the 1437th have loaded the Dry Bridge System launch vehicle on an Improved Ribbon Bridge and prepare to “raft” it up the St. Mary’s River with Bridge Erection boats. The Improved Ribbon Bridge is another bridging asset the 1437th uses. These floating bridge bays are connected together to bridge a river or can be used as a raft for ferry crossing.



The Dry Support Bridge launch vehicle is capable of extending 40 meters which allows the overhead launch beam to support the bridge modules during construction. The completed bridge is lowered into place and the launch beam recovered and deployment is complete. Pictured above, the 1437th MRBC extends the overhead launch beam during the initial training on the DSB. For safety reasons while training, no gap was used.



Employees of WFEL, TACOM, and Soldiers from the 1437th Multi Role Bridge Company transport a Dry Support Bridge launch vehicle through the Soo Locks.

CMU Military Appreciation

By 1st Lt. Corissa Barton, JFHQ, Public Affairs

November 19, 2008 was a night too cold for anything outdoors, with the exception of one important college football game. This was a big one. For the first time since 2003, the Central Michigan Chippewas the ranked Ball State Cardinals from Muncie, Indiana. The Chippewas were on a winning streak and so were the Cardinals. A Chippewa win would clinch their third consecutive Mid American Conference West Division title and a possible first time ranking. As exciting as that was, the Chippewas had another reason to want the win.

Prior to the 2008 season, the Central Michigan football program forged a partnership with the 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment of the Michigan Army National Guard. The 125th Infantry deployed to Iraq in January 2008 and the Chippewas kept in touch with the Soldiers through the exchange of videos. Each team member's football helmet had a sticker with the infantry's logo and motto, "Yield to None."

"It is an honor and a privilege for us to be associated with the 125th Infantry," said CMU head football coach Butch Jones. "Their battalion has been a source of pride and a great example of commitment for our football program. The relationship has benefited our program by heightening the players' awareness of current events and the daily struggles those individuals go through to protect our freedom."

November 19 was also Military Appreciation Night at the stadium. Family members of the 125th were there to show support to the football team--and to see their deployed loves ones on the big screens in the stadium via satellite.

Megan Schopp, whose husband Sgt. 1st Class David Schopp is deployed to Camp Ramdi, Iraq with the 125th, saw video of him prior to the game.

Said Megan, "I saw him and got so excited, he is going to be on the big screen during the game."

His video, along with six others were played throughout the game. The Soldiers wished the team good luck and said hello to their family members in attendance.

To begin the game the National Guard



Humvee was driven to the field and Michigan Army National Guard Col. James Bartolacci, ran the game ball out to the referees.

The Michigan Army National Guard had many displays set up including a stationary howitzer, the NASCAR 88 display car, and inflatable obstacle courses.

At half time, approximately 60 Soldiers took the oath of enlistment to join the Michigan Army Guard. After the ceremony the 125th battalion commander, Lt. Col. Greg Durkac and the battalion's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Clarmont, were on the big screen thanking the Chippewas for their partnership and congratulating the newest members of the Michigan Army National Guard.

The Chippewas lost the game to the Cardinals, ending their winning streak. However, it was a happy conclusion for the families who were honored at the game and got to see a glimpse of their deployed loved ones.

The 125th Infantry Soldiers are scheduled to return from Iraq in December. ♦



Top photo: Sgt. 1st Class Glen Mudge gives a shout out to family and friends at the CMU football game, Nov. 18, via satellite from Iraq.

At left; Michigan Army National Guard Col. James Bartolacci runs the game ball out to referees at the start of the CMU vs Ball State Cardinals. The game night was also military appreciation night. Photos by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ, Visual Information

Newbie truckers train hard, have fun

Photos and story by Staff Sgt. James Downen Jr, JFHQ Public Affairs Office, Michigan Army National Guard



“Firers, watch your lanes.” This sounds like the start of a typical weapons qualification for any unit on the range at Fort Custer Training Center, in Augusta, Mich., right? Not so for the Soldiers attending the Michigan Army National Guard 177th Regional Training Institute’s 88M10 Motor Transport Operator course in September 2008. The Soldiers are not firing from the prone or kneeling position; they are shooting off the beds of M1078 Light Medium Tactical Vehicles (2.5 ton cargo truck) to qualify during a convoy live fire exercise.

The 177th was certified in May 2007 as an Institution of Excellence by Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) evaluators from Fort Lee, Va. Only two other 88M10 courses held in Washington and North Carolina have received this rating from TRADOC.



Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers shoot M16-A2 rifles on Sept. 17, 2008 during a convoy live fire exercise. The Soldiers are undergoing motor transport operator training at the 177th Regiment Regional Training Institute, Fort Custer, Mich.

The 177th RTI 88M10 course trains aspiring motor transport operators on three primary trucks, the 5-ton cargo truck, 2.5 ton cargo truck, and the M915 semi-tractor trailer with palletized loading system.

There are several 88M10 courses nation wide, but the 177th’s course is unique because according to course manager Sgt. 1st Class Scott Rhodes, it is the first to offer a convoy live fire exercise, and training on a skid mat run by a civilian agency (the Eaton Corporation working with the Michigan Center for Truck Safety.) The skid mat is made with a slick surface and has water sprayed on it to create driving conditions that simulate black ice.

The training the Soldiers undergo to earn the 88M10 MOS is tough, yet exciting. Pfc. Chester Bouknight of the Detroit based 182nd Forward Support Company found using night vision goggles while driving challenging.

“We did our first iteration on the driving lane without night vision goggles, and this is hard to do,” he said.

“On the second iteration we used the night vision goggles. The blackout drives stood out, but the depth perception was way different than normal vision. This took some getting used to!” said Bouknight.

Sgt. Timothy Partin of the Jackson, Mich., 1461st Transportation Company said his most challenging truck driving task was alley docking with a 5-ton cargo truck.

Partin said, “You must pull into an alley loading dock by backing in to it. There are cones you must avoid, and you stop at a prescribed distance within two feet of a dock that has rear bumpers.”

The 177th RTI 88M10 course has a unique part of its curriculum that no other Army motor transport operator



school offers. The school has an arrangement with the Eaton Corporation to send Soldiers through the Michigan Center for Truck Safety course at their facility in Marshall, Mich. The cost per Soldier is \$50; the Michigan Army National Guard saves hundreds of thousands of dollars in liabilities when a Soldier is able to avoid a crash using the techniques taught by Eaton. Rhodes said the savings incurred by preserving lives on the road are priceless.

This driving course, taught by Eaton driving instructor Thomas Reed, takes place on a skid mat. The students purposely drive in slick areas, putting their trucks into skids and jackknife situations, then use the steering techniques taught by instructor Reed to re-align their vehicles back on the road.

The training has a wartime use; insurgents in Iraq use oil slicks as a weapon against U.S. convoys. The techniques to correct a spinning truck on black ice works on oil induced slicks as well.

Sgt. Leigh Cole, also of the 1461st Transportation Company, said the skid training was applicable to his civilian job as a trucker.

“This training could be useful in my trucking career, especially the chopping technique for recovering from a skid on a slick road,” he said.

Chopping is accomplished by turning slightly and constantly as the driver steers towards the targeted direction desired for the vehicle to go.

The 177th RTI has taught motor transport operators since April 2007. TRADOC rated the course as an “Institution of Excellence” and the 177th RTI beat the TRADOC October 2007 deadline to begin training Soldiers by six months, starting in April 2007. Rhodes said that while he is proud of the 177th

Photo above and top of opposite page: two Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers receive training on recovery from vehicle skids at the Eaton corporation skid mat facility in Marshall, Mich. This training is in conjunction with the training the Guardsmen receive at the 177th Regiment Regional Training Institute to become qualified as motor vehicle operators.

RTI’s achievements, the course instructors are ready for more.

“The 177th Regional Training Institute’s 88M10 course has dedicated instructors, equipment and the facilities needed to teach the 88M10 course year round,” said Rhodes. ♦



Michigan Guard Soldiers listen as Eaton corporation instructor Thomas Reed trains them on how to recover from vehicle skids. The Soldiers are receiving this portion of the MOS 88M10 qualification training in Marshall, Mich.

Soldiers from Michigan, Latvia, Afghanistan train together

Story and photo by Sgt. Lee Ender, 118th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

They wear three different uniforms, speak three different languages and represent three different nations, but they trained in October 2008 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany for the same purpose.

Citizen-Soldiers from the Michigan Army National Guard are teamed with soldiers from Latvia and Afghanistan for a nine-month tour in Afghanistan. They are here in the final stages of their training as they prepare to launch the mission next month.

This mission is a first for Latvia, one of the three Baltic States captured by the former Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II. Since regaining its independence, Latvia has been training alongside Guard Soldiers from the Wolverine State in the Partnership for Peace, which pairs former Warsaw Pact nations with National Guard units from states across the United States.

“We’re the first in the chute,” said Master Sgt. David Schneider, a Michigan National Guard Soldier who is a member of Michigan’s Joint Forces Headquarters. “There will be some growing pains, but I think we’re going to do just fine.”

Schneider is one of 11 Wolverine State Guard Soldiers joining the 32 Latvian soldiers each wearing patches with the “OMLT Lynx” on their shoulder. The team will help train the Afghans to take the lead to defend their nation.

“It’s the first large scale deployment of Latvian soldiers to the region,” said Schneider.

On this cold and windy Sunday afternoon, the Soldiers are in “the box” on a simulated combat patrol. It’s part of a situational training exercise that is designed to test their knowledge and demonstrate their teamwork.

Each nation began training in their homeland. The Michigan citizen-soldiers have been living and training in Latvia since June while the Latvians began their preparations in January. Here is where they put it all together prior to their deployment.



Latvian Army Capt. Druvis Kleins (left) compares notes with Master Sgt. David Schneider, Joint Force Headquarters, Michigan Army National Guard, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany on Oct. 19. Schneider is part of an 11-man Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams (OMLT) from the MIARNG who will partner with the first Latvian task force to serve in Afghanistan.

“We do it here and then we go right into theater,” Schneider said. “We don’t lose any of our momentum this way.”

Despite their diverse make up, the team tackles the scenario well. A roadside bomb has disabled one of the vehicles in a supply convoy. The convoy itself then comes under sniper fire.

The Latvians quickly tend to their casualties. They skillfully make their way through the wood line to capture the opposing force that is firing on them. The opposing forces scatter and they bring back a simulated casualty.

One of the leaders of the Latvian forces is Capt. Druvis Kleins, a 15-year veteran who has attended infantry officer training and special forces training courses in the USA.

“This is a very good team,” Kleins said. “We have good experience, and it’s the best team I’ve seen for the 15 years I have been in the Army.”

Kleins said this mission has attracted a great deal of interest in Latvia. Each member of the team has been specially

chosen for his or her special skills and experience.

The Latvian team members have received instruction in both the English and Dari languages. Kleins said he has one team member who is already fluent in Dari, which is spoken by the Afghan team members.

The time in Hohenfels has been good for his soldiers, Kleins said. It has helped reinforce much of the training they have already received in their base near the nation’s capitol of Riga.

Also praising the training in Hohenfels is Kleins’ counterpart, Afghan National Army 1st Lt. Aimal Obaidullah, a mortarman who serves as an infantry officer in the ANA. “The training is great,” Obaidullah said through an interpreter. “By doing this kind of training, we better understand our mistakes and can correct them and do our jobs perfectly.”

“They are very pleased,” Obaidullah said. “They are learning something new and they are very excited.” ♦

110th Civil Engineers in Romania

By Lt. Col. Fred Vollmerhausen, 110th Fighter Wing, CE

The 110th Civil Engineer Squadron, based in Battle Creek, Mich., was selected this summer by the National Guard Bureau to deploy for training to Mihail Kogalniceanu air base in South East Romania. The 110th Engineers, along with the 119th CES from Fargo, N.D., were chosen to renovate several buildings on the base that will be used to support training operations of U.S. armed forces.

The 110th arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu on June 15 after an 11-hour non-stop flight from Battle Creek. The team brought all the needed tools for the job, but the building materials were lacking and led to problems. When the team arrived, some of the split heating ventilation and air conditioning units had just arrived, leaving no time for the Fargo personnel to do anything with them. Master Sgt. Stephanie Cabanting of the 110th CE Squadron and her heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians found that about half of the units were on site.

The HVAC team installed what they could. Ironically the day the team was to prepare their tools to redeploy, the remainder of the units arrived. Even with this setback, the team installed and tested all the HVAC units prior to the team leaving. Tech. Sgts. Steve Contreras and Dan Salazar of the HVAC section spent a lot of time in the attic installing the equipment, starting very early due to daily temperatures near 100 degrees. Several electricians, including Staff Sgt. Phil Biwer who also had to run new lines up there. As if the heat was not bad enough, they had to wear Tyvek suits to protect themselves from the fiberglass insulation. It was hot.

The heat was not any better for those working on the ground, even painting the buildings was good for raising a sweat. The paint itself was interesting since the latex paint had the consistency of frosting and the oil base paint was thinner than water. You could literally take a paint brush, dip it in the latex paint and stick it to the wall. The interior painting could not be completed until moldy drywall was removed from the ceilings, new drywall installed and then finished with a substance called forgenfluffer or finkenfluger. The forgenfluffer



Members of the 110th Civil Engineers at Mihail Kogalniceanu air base, Romania.

is a dry product that was mixed with water. The problem with the stuff was that it would react differently every time. One time it would stay pliable for an hour and the next time it would harden while it was being mixed. Both Staff Sgt. Jamie Freeman and Senior Airman Kevin Taylor who worked with the substance will remember it for a long time.

In addition to the work done on base, several groups worked with U.S. Navy Seabees (construction battalions) on community projects. One group worked with the Seabees to repair a wall and install fence at a school in Visterna, and poured the only sidewalk in town. Master Sgt. Eric Weeber and Staff Sgt. Luke Wimby worked with the Seabees doing badly needed electrical repairs at a medical clinic. One final project completed off base was the repair of pop-up targets and construction of several small wood buildings for the Army at the Babadag training site by personnel from the heavy equipment and structures sections.

Through it all the 110th Civil Engineers did what was necessary to get the job done and made a positive impression on the Romanian people. ♦

A glimpse of the “front” from the 125th Infantry, 126th Cavalry

Sandstorm at Camp Virginia, Kuwait



A sandstorm looms just past these structures in May 2008 on Camp Virginia, Kuwait, the deployed “home” for the 1st Battalion, 126th Cavalry Squadron, Michigan Army National Guard. The photo to the right shows the camp 10 minutes later in the midst of the sandstorm. Photos by Capt. Steven Wilson, 1st Battalion, 126th Cavalry Squadron, MIARNG

Selfridge 9/11 alert mission ends

By Capt. Penny Carroll, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Since that unforgettable morning on Sept. 11, the F-16s at Selfridge Air National Guard Base have patrolled the local skies and stood alert, ready to answer the nation's call to identify or intercept unresponsive or threatening aircraft.

On Oct. 2, 2008, the 127th Wing officially handed off the alert mission to the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, Ohio, leaving the legacy of air sovereignty alert behind them.

A ceremony was held to commemorate the 127th's service to the nation at the alert facility originally slated to be demolished in September 2001. About 200 Airmen, family and community members filled hangar 6. The ceremony was planned to be held outdoors with a final scramble of the 127th Wing F-16s, but rain, wind and cool temperatures forced the crowd indoors and cancelled the takeoff of the jets. A ceremonial ringing of the klaxon and taxiing of two F-16s marked the end of the 24/7 mission.

After the ceremony, guests had the opportunity to see where 127th Wing Airmen had spent many holidays, birthdays and other important missed occasions while performing their duties around the clock behind the secure wires of the alert facility.

127th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Peplinski, told the crowd during the ceremony, "It's amazing to think how far we've come, from standing up this mission where we had Airmen living in tents, to protecting these skies for seven years, including providing air defense support for events like the Super Bowl a few years ago. Thanks to all of you who made this mission successful. We couldn't have done it without the unending support of our families, our friends and our community."

The deputy commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, Brig. Gen. Andre' Viens, presented the 127th Wing with a commemorative plaque and remarked on the constant vigilance of the "107th Red Devils Squadron."

He said, "In spite of being deployed for Operation Northern Watch; In spite of having to live in this old facility; In spite of numerous deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom; And in spite of a runway reconstruction that caused you to be based out of Battle Creek, you did not stop protecting the country for seven years."

Representatives from the Northeast Air Defense Sector also presented the wing gifts in tribute to the unceasing service of the Michigan Air National Guard.

Many of the Airmen who answered the call to duty were traditional status Guardsmen who now will be returning to the civilian workforce, or will face unemployment.

"I don't know how I'll react to having weekends off and not working 24-hour shifts!" joked Tech. Sgt. Harold Hayes, an aircraft armament systems specialist with the 127th Wing.

"I was placed on active duty orders in November 2001, and I've been here for the past seven years. As far as my plans go, I hope to get a technician position with the upcoming conversion to A-10s."



Brig. Gen. Andre' Viens, (at right), the deputy commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, presents Brig. Gen. Michael Peplinski, commander of the 127th Wing, a commemorative plaque in recognition of the 127th's support of the alert mission since Sept. 11, 2001.

"As we move from the F-16 to the A-10, our unit is feeling the loss of standing ready at a moment's notice to serve our nation," said alert facility commander, Lt. Col. William Hargrove. "But as we begin our transition to the missions of the A-10 Thunderbolt, and many of us transition back to our civilian occupations, we will maintain our readiness to answer the call from our nation again - at a moment's notice."

This transition is one of the last of the changes brought to the 127th Wing from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission. Earlier in the year, the wing converted its airlift mission to the KC-135 Stratotanker refueling mission. By the end of 2008, the wing will no longer be flying the F-16 as it finalizes conversion to the A-10 Thunderbolt. ♦



Lt. Col. William Hargrove, a 107th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, prepares to launch in an alert jet as Tech. Sgt. Harold Hayes, aircraft armament systems specialist, goes over the procedures checklist. The alert mission at the 127th Wing passed to the 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, Ohio, on October 2. Photo by John Swanson, 127th Wing

Michigan Homeland Security Regional Response 2008

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen Jr., JFHQ, Michigan Army National Guard

Michigan National Guardsmen and civilian first responders from 19 jurisdictions, to include Detroit and Oakland County, participated in the South East Michigan Urban Area Security Initiative Regional Response Exercise 2008 in Detroit, Sept. 17 through Sept. 19.

The exercise consisted of three simulated terrorist attacks and involved first responders at the local government, local hospital, state, and federal level.

Regional Response 2008 was planned months in advance of the exercise by members of all participants, including a team of Michigan National Guardsmen headed by Maj. Audrey Brown.

The simulated attacks began with two incidents that took place at 9 and 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 18. The first took place at the Detroit Waste Water and Sewage plant, which had a chlorine tank hit with a simulated Improvised Explosive Device. The result of the “attack” was a large cloud of deadly chlorine gas that affected the surrounding community. The second incident occurred at a petroleum refinery, which had a fabricated large scale fire in the fuel tank farm area. First responders were tasked to deal with these attacks and were evaluated on their performances.

Later in the day, first responders were hit again with a chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and explosive incident at the Oakland County Combined Emergency Services training facility. The Michigan National Guard 51st Civil Support Team participated by testing first responders for radiological, chemical and biological contamination. As the exercise progressed, the 51st CST and the Michigan State Police sent a joint team to the building where the CBRNE device was detonated to gather contamination data so civil authorities could evaluate the severity of the attack on the community.

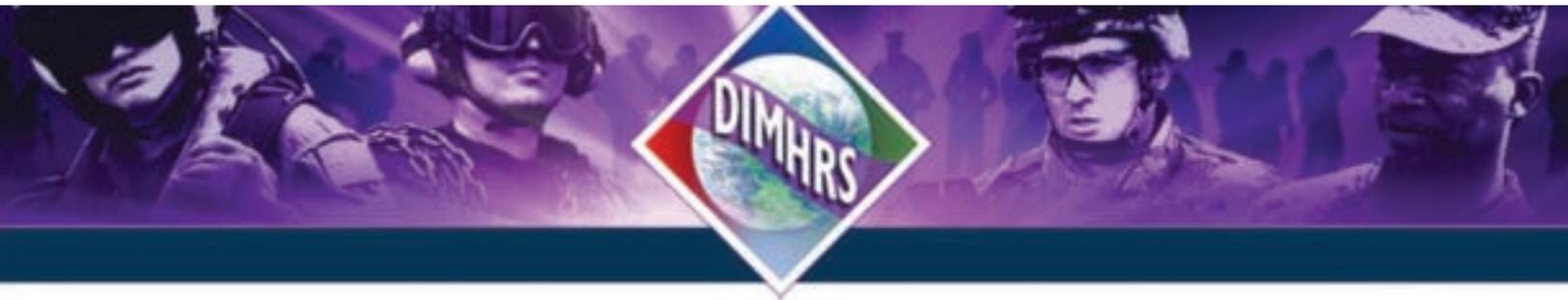
At the conclusion of the exercise on September 19, civil and military participants conducted a joint after actions review of the training and noted of what changes and improvements in procedures are needed to better protect the lives and property of Michigan citizens in case of an attack. Hopefully, these dedicated professionals will never have to put their training to use. ♦



Michigan Army National Guard Soldiers of the 51st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) and Michigan State Police Officers conduct Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive analysis with detection equipment during “Regional Response 2008” in Detroit on Sept. 18, 2008. The exercise tested Southeast Michigan’s regional response capabilities to threats including CBRNE.



Michigan Army National Guard 51st Civil Support Team member Maj. Jason Awadi (in center) briefs participants prior to the Homeland Security Regional Response exercise held Sept. 17 - 19 in Detroit. Pictured from left to right is the incident commander from the Oakland County Sheriffs department, 51st Civil Support Team members Sgt. 1st Class Dave Holmden, Awadi, 2nd Lt. Jason Corner, and Maj. Philip Rusiecki.



DIMHRS and DTS on track

By Bobbie Jo Freund

Defense Integrated Military Human Resource Systems (DIMHRS) will be the new personnel and pay system for all Soldiers in the Michigan Army National Guard. This system is set to go live on March 1, 2009.

DIMHRS will integrate every Soldier's personnel and pay information into one database. The system is a secure, self-service system that will give Soldiers 24/7 access. All Soldiers will be issued identification numbers to help prevent identity theft.

Every Soldier will need an active Army Knowledge Online (AKO) e-mail account. Their individual DIMHRS user Id and log-in information will be sent to their AKO e-mail account.

Soldiers will need their common access cards (CAC) to gain their personal information and will be able to make changes such as a mailing address or next-of-kin contact information directly online. The new system will allow a Soldier to review pay stubs, request vacation time, apply for awards, prepare promotion packages and re-enlist. Soldiers will be able to track the progress of their requests from initial submission to final approval.

All Soldiers will be paid on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Bonuses and incentives will be paid on these days. Service members can elect to have their discretionary allotments disbursed either once or twice a month.

Under normal conditions, spouses and dependants will not be given direct access to DIMHRS. If a special circumstance exists where a spouse or family member would require access to DIMHRS, they should contact the legal assistance office to obtain a special or general power of attorney.

It is highly recommended that all Soldiers go to the Army DIMHRS website at www.dimhrs.mil to learn more and become familiar with the changes brought by DIMHRS such as twice-a-month pay, new terminology, and the new pay slip.

There is an eight-hour basic foundation course that all Soldiers are encouraged to take. Go to <https://ssi.learn.army.mil> logging in with your AKO username and password. On the left side of the screen, under Course Catalogs, click on DIMHRS Training – Self Enroll. Then scroll down to the next Basic Foundation Course that has an enroll link on the right side of the screen. For additional information contact Bobbie Jo Freund by e-mail: Bobbiejo.Freund@ng.army.mil or 517-481-8349. ♦



Defense Travel System A New Era of Government Travel

The Defense Travel System (DTS) is a web-based system for Soldiers and Airmen to request official travel orders and complete official travel vouchers. Fulltime employees of the Michigan Army National Guard began using the program during fiscal year 2008. Beginning March 2009, it will become mandatory for all Soldiers to utilize DTS for their travel orders and reimbursements. The Michigan Air Guard is on board with their AGR members and will implement the system with their technicians in the next coming months, with their traditional members to follow-on.

To access the DTS system, go to www.defensetravel.osd.mil. From this link, you will find web based training, online user guides and other helpful information. It is the starting point to

request official travel orders and to prepare travel vouchers. The web-based training link will familiarize you with the program.

First time users of DTS need to log onto DTS with their CAC to confirm and apply their digital signature. After you have registered your CAC, you can sign and submit requests for travel orders and travel vouchers at any computer with a CAC reader and the internet.

For assistance with DTS, contact your unit Official Defense Travel Administrator. If they are unable to assist you then you can contact the state's DTS help desk; **Dean Decanter, (517) 481-7810 or David Clark at (517) 481-7808**. Additional information is available on AKO or on the RCAS portal. ♦

Michigan Army Guard Wolfpack on the move in Iraq

By Lt. Col. Charles E. Clark, Jr., 272nd Regional Support Group, Michigan Army National Guard

In August 2008, members of the Michigan Army National Guard 272nd Regional Support Group (RSG) “the Wolfpack” located in Jackson, Mich., were activated to provide support to the Iraqi Army as a Logistical Military Advisory Team (LMAT).

The 272nd RSG, commanded by Michigan Army Guardsman, Col. Dan Leatherman, was tasked to provide four LMAT teams to train and mentor the Iraqi army. Forty-one members of the Michigan Army National Guard and one member of the Virginia Army National Guard were selected to staff the four teams. Each LMAT is comprised primarily of officers and senior non commissioned officers with various military occupations specialties to include logistics, maintenance, refueling, combat medics, communication, food service, supply, ammunition, and human resources management.

After the teams completed their initial activation requirements in Michigan, they received preparatory training at Fort Riley, Kansas, throughout August and September. This specialized training prepared them for their deployment in an environment that is austere and at times can be extremely dangerous.

Their mission although not always glamorous, is vital to help the Iraqi army to stand on its own and defend their country’s freedom in a region of the world where freedom is a very precious commodity.

The challenges are many: overcoming supply shortages, adapting to the climate and environment, and the ever-present wartime risks. There are also the professional challenges such as adapting to the religious and cultural differences and learning to communicate through interpreters.

In the end, the key to mission accomplishment can be defined by one essential word--TEAMWORK. The LMATs and their Iraqi counterparts work together as a team, Soldier to Soldier, to ensure they continue to succeed in training and to improve the Iraqi defense forces. The equipment used may not always be the same, but leadership, Soldier skills and logistical support is a constant that is universal and applies to all professional armies around the world.

At this time, the four LMATs have deployed to their various locations in Iraq and provide the ever changing support that their mission requires, working one day at a time with their Iraqi counterparts until their mission is complete. ♦



Photo above: Members of the 272nd “Wolfpack” gather for a photo during pre-mobilization training at Camp Grayling.

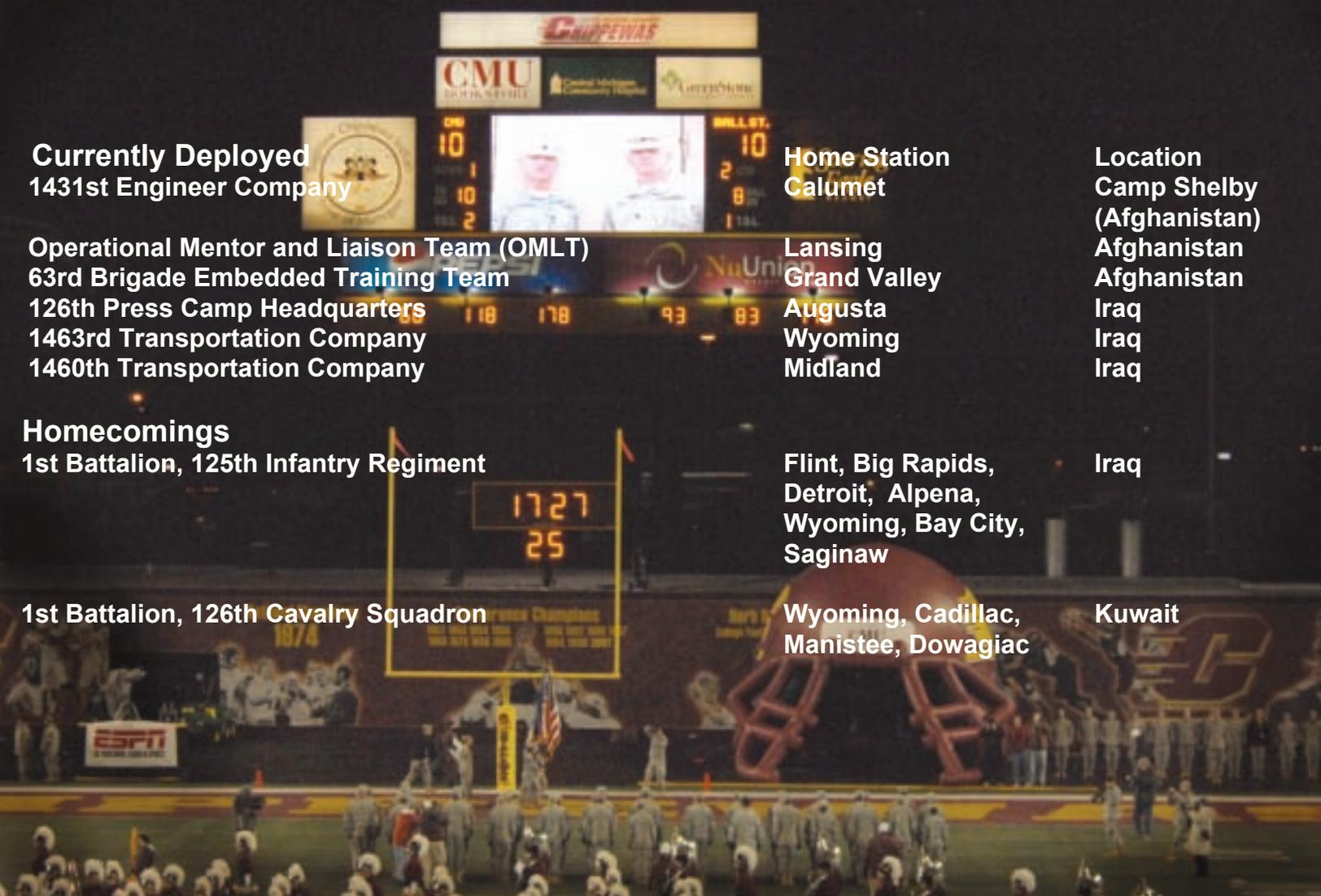


Above right: Col. Dan Leatherman, brigade commander of the 272nd Regional Support Group and commander, of Logistics Military Advisor Team (LMAT), exits the Rollover trainer during pre-mobilization training at Camp Grayling.

At right: Sgt. 1st Class Stephan Samsel, an ammunitions logistics specialist is pictured here (fourth from the left) with some of his Afghanistan comrades. Samsel works hand in hand with the Afghani Soldiers and is part of the 272nd Wolfpack Logistics Military Advisor Team.



Photos courtesy of the 172nd Regional Support Group



Currently Deployed
1431st Engineer Company

Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT)
63rd Brigade Embedded Training Team
126th Press Camp Headquarters
1463rd Transportation Company
1460th Transportation Company

Home Station
Calumet
Lansing
Grand Valley
Augusta
Wyoming
Midland

Location
Camp Shelby
(Afghanistan)
Afghanistan
Afghanistan
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq

Homecomings

1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment

Flint, Big Rapids,
Detroit, Alpena,
Wyoming, Bay City,
Saginaw

Iraq

1st Battalion, 126th Cavalry Squadron

Wyoming, Cadillac,
Manistee, Dowagiac

Kuwait

The battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment, Lt. Col. Greg Durkac (at right on the big screen) and the battalion command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Clarmont congratulate new enlistees to the Michigan Army National Guard during Military Appreciation Night at Central Michigan University. Durkac and Clarmont are deployed to Iraq. They and other Soldiers of the 125th Infantry greeted friends, family, and the CMU football team at the CMU Chippewas' stadium. Prior to the Chippewas' 2008 football season and the 125th Infantry's deployment to Iraq, the team and the unit forged a partnership. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ, Michigan Army National Guard

MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD IN HISTORY

Do You Know the History of the Griffin Patch???

The griffin is the official symbol of the Michigan Army National Guard and is worn by Michigan Army Guardsmen who are not regimentally aligned or who do not belong to major commands, which are authorized their own patch.

Based on the Michigan Crest approved May 29, 1926, the griffin insignia is described as a blue shield 2.875 inches high and 2.375 inches wide with a yellow griffin sergeant on a twist of yellow and blue. The color and emblem are similar to those already authorized for the flag of the Adjutant General of Michigan, commander of the Michigan National Guard.

The crest is derived from the figurehead on the ship of French explorer Rene'-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, who built "The Griffon" in the calm waters above Niagara Falls in 1679. La Salle built the ship to carry his expedition, supplies and furs through the upper Great Lakes eastward and chose the griffin in honor of his patron, Count Frontenac, governor of New France, whose coat-of-arms boasted the fierce mystical animal.

The Griffon was the first sailing vessel built by Europeans to sail the Great Lakes.



La Salle's ship was the first European ship to navigate the Great Lakes bordering Michigan. He sailed through Lake Erie, up the Detroit River, through Lake Huron and on to the settlement at Michillimacinaac on Mackinac Island. La Salle visited St. Ignace, sailed into Green Bay and finally down into Lake Michigan. From there, La Salle and his crew left the ship to continue their journey south and the Griffon set sail back to Niagara. It sank somewhere in northern Lake Michigan. The first sailing vessel on the Great Lakes also became the first shipwreck on the Great Lakes. The Griffon's remains have never been found.

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

September 1 through November 30, 2008

Army Guard Col.

Gavin, Eugene W.

Lt. Col.

Boucon, Philip G.
Clark, Charles E.
Decker, Richard H.

Maj.

Kirby, Bryan T.
Reeves, Allen J.

Capt.

Hall, Megan E.

1st Lt.

Ashford, Anthony A.
Barnett, Skip D.
Bedells, David J.
Dickson, Lyle E.
Gonzalesnavarre, Cary A.
Grubb, Crystal M.
Isley, Charles F.
Sawyer, Matthew T.
Vanhout, Jacquelyn R.
Zimmerman, Courtney A.

2nd Lt.

Bennett, James R.
Brainard, Robert G.
Broksma, Matthew A.
Chase, Kevin J.
Deutsch, Moses M.
Forsystek, Leon M.
Hatchew, Tina M.
Korpi, Zachary A.
Limas, Ruben J.
Osbeck, Gary M.
Owens, Ashley C.
Piper, Tyler R.
Reed, Jesse L.
Rookus, Joshua G.
Stimson, Jacob O.
Ventline, Christopher
Wilt, David C.

Warrant Officer 2

Altz, Michael F.
Anderson, David H.
Cheremie, David M.
Grimes, Richard J.

Warrant Officer 1

Huck, James P.
Hyde, Frederick C.
Yokie, Michael J.

Sgt. Maj.

Bowen, Loyd T.
Colladay, Bonnie J.
Scott, Stephen R.

Master Sgt.

Bauer, Daniel W.
Leffel, David R.
Pike, Duane I.

Sgt. 1st Class

Baker, George R.
Ballard, Lawrence C.
Binkley, Thomas A.
Cortese, Scott D.
Courtright, Steven B.
Dellner, Robert W.
Desjarden, Edward A.
Kemp, Diane K.
Linfield, Kenneth P.
Martin, Christopher J.
Palacios, John M.
Smith, Kent A.

Staff Sgt.

Adair, Christopher A.
Baker, Joseph H.
Banks, Jeremy A.
Bates, Todd D.
Burns, Ritchie A.
Cobb, Christopher L.
Dilley, Darrel R.
Elizalde, Steven I.
Featherstone, Raymond
Gross, Jodi L.
Hansen, Andrew S.
Husband, Tanika R.
Ivey, James A.
Jacobsen, Kent L.
James, Susan R.
Keener, Jordan M.
King, James L.
Kosal, Troy P.
Layman, Jeremy L.
Lehnen, Michelle A.
Londot, Ryan A.
Luczak, Christopher P.
Lynn, Mark E.
Mason, Troy J.
Mayer, Matthew M.
Mcclish, William R.
Mcdaniel, Steven J.
Moore, Dean A.
Nelund, Robert W.
Nowicki, Christopher
Peck, David E.
Prys, Rodney E.
Ratliff, James D.
Rivard, Matthew P.
Root, Sarah B.
Row, Mark J.
Schueller, Dean G.
Schulte, Joseph D.
Stevens, Dale M.
Taylor, Amanda K.

Vanburen, Derek T.
Villa, Roberto G.
Wagner, Charles J.
Weber, Ian M.

Sgt.

Andersen, Kenneth
Baird, Garry J.
Barkey, James W.
Barnes, Aaron V.
Barrons, Charles C.
Bennett, Aaron M.
Betz, Dale A.
Brown, Steven V.
Bultema, Jordan R.
Bussard, Paul D.
Cain, Richard D.
Chubb, William J.
Cleberg, Grant E.
Cooley, Elijah D.
Cox, Michael T.
Craig, Louis R.
Davis, Jeffrey M.
Donahue, Dennis J.
Dunn, Christopher L.
Ehrig, Patrick M.
Elliott, James D.
Figueroa, Rafael A.
Fisk, Wesley L.
Gartner, Patrick R.
Gazvoda, Anthony A.
Godbehere, Daniel M.
Gould, Brian C.
Griggs, Ferris W.
Guerra, Logan M.
Handberg, Jaquelyn N
Hartlerode, Randall L.
Hartney, Torey J.
Herrick, Shane D.
Hoag, Susan A.
Hoolsema, Eric J.
Hooper, Donald E.
Howard, Paul R.
Izydorek, Nicholas J.
Jacobs, Hunter J.
Kaiser, Alexandra E.
Kieswetter, Matthew
Kinney, Scott S.
Maslowski, Joshua D.
Mcclure, Kyle J.
Moak, Jeffrey A.
Mohr, Mark D.
Nelsen, Craig A.
Nelson, Ryan J.
Perez, Amaury G.
Reppert, Anthony G.
Robitaille, Robert E.
Rosborough, Carl E.
Siegrist, Leonard M.
Sinnott, Brian D.
Snyder, Christian C.
Sorrelle, Noah B.
Spoon, Darrin F.
Spoor, Michael N.
Sprague, Jonathan R.

Stevens, Robert A.
Stemple, David J.
Stott, Eric A.
Swartzendruber, Lance
Taylor, Amy L.
Tuggle, Scott R.
Ware, Wesley J.
Warren, Bryon D.
Webster, Mark L.
Whalen, Heather K.
White, Nicholas K.
Wilson, Mark H.
Zielinski, Luke F.
Zylstra, Jason E.

Spc.

Acosta, Jose A.
Adams, Brian G.
Alexander, Alexeis A.
Angell, Troy J.
Assenmacher, Nicholas
Baker, Christopher L.
Bannatyne, Jeremy J.
Barber, Matthew P.
Barker, Brittany T.
Barnett, William A.
Baron, Allison D.
Bartlett, Kristen D.
Beavervogel, Eric J.
Bohannon, Michael J.
Bouknight, Chester T.
Bouman, Shelly M.
Brahmer, Benjamin R.
Brindley, Brandon D.
Brown, Jacqueline A.
Burke, Shaun A.
Byerly, Chris R.
Byers, Amanda L.
Cadeau, Jean B.
Campbell, Seth A.
Carlton, Timothy W.
Carrington, Crystal L.
Chachulski, Patrick R.
Choice, Andre L.
Clampit, Benjamin L.
Clapp, Temple R.
Coe, Robert C.
Conkey, George S.
Conn, Matthew P.
Copeland, Desi A.
Coston, Clifford C.
Cummings, Dewayne
Davis, Joshua A.
Deyoung, Travis L.
Dobias, Gillian L.
Dobson, Daniel C.
Dorland, Aaron D.
Doyle, Jason P.
Driver, David K.
Dudonis, Aaron T.
Dunkley, Richard T.
Durnan, Nicholas J.
Eckert, Jason C.
Ede, James L.

Ehrke, Justin M.
Ericksen, Jon R.
Ester, Sheldon W.
Estrada, Calderon E.
Feliciano, Andrew J.
Fletcher, Herbert C.
Flowers, Brian K.
Floyd, Scott M.
Forgie, Timothy A.
Fowler, Elias R.
Frank, David P.
Freeze, Robert J.
Fricke, Christian W.
Frizzell, Jesse J.
Fuller, April A.
Gage, Daniel L.
Garcia, Camillo R.
Garcia, Davy L.
Geister, Stephen L.
Gibbs, Nateria M.
Grattan, David L.
Gray, Jeffery A.
Greenway, Kyle M.
Grenier, Donald J.
Gustafson, Anthony J.
Hagenbuch, Michael B.
Haire, Jeremy K.
Harmon, Thomas W.
Harper, Justin B.
Harvey, Joseph T.
Hatfield, James L.
Hefflin, Joshua A.
Heltunen, James R.
Henderson, Michael R.
Hering, Joshua S.
Holcomb, Glennis L.
Holtz, Jacob A.
Hotsinpiller, Joseph T.
Houghtaling, Aaron J.
Hudak, Christopher J.
Hurlless, Austin L.
Husband, Elmer R.
Huver, Ann M.
Isham, Douglas N.
Jackson, Crystal L.
Jackson, Larry D.
Jett, James E.
Kaiser, Steven J.
King, Brian J.
Kivela, Benjamin D.
Kliemann, Elyse A.
Krieger, Kristin J.
Kujat, Daryl R.
Lancour, Leroy P.
Langlois, Lance R.
Levitski, Bradley D.
Lewis, Courtney J.
Little, Anthony R.
Long, Raymond W.
Mann, Bradley A.
Martin, Lamarr A.
May, Bryan L.
McLane, Adam M.
Merrell, Herbert A.
Michlewski, Christy

Miller, Alvin L.
Miller, William E.
Mitchell, Gregory C.
Modak, Salem B.
Moore, Joshua D.
Moriarty, Albert W.
Morris, Michael L.
Morrison, Jeremy B.
Morrow, James P.
Mosley, Dorohn D.
Moule, Bradly S.
Murdock, Michael R.
Nardone, Matthew R.
Nemeth, Robert J.
Nichols, Christopher
Nunley, Joseph R.
Oconnor, Jared M.
Oganyan, Stanislon
Olczak, Travis J.
Olson, Wayne R.
Ostyn, Roscoe J.
Owens, Phillip L.
Parsons, Christopher
Partington, Regina
Paulson, Todd R.
Person, Joshua G.
Persons, Clinton M.
Picard, Adam J.
Prince, Clifford J.
Proffitt, James W.
Prpich, Steven M.
Pruden, Adam N.
Racine, Nathaniel P.
Ramirez, Mario A.
Reed, Walter J.
Resendez, Mario E.
Rheaume, Zachary
Robinson, Johnathan
Ross, John A.
Rossow, Laura L.
Roussin, Melissa B.
Rumph, Russell E.
Salih, Mohamed M.
Schatzberg, Steven
Sclesky, Robert J.
Seager, Brandon S.
Seageren, Robert A.
Sentz, Robert F.
Seymour, Natasha
Shankel, Jason D.
Shay, Daniel C.
Smith, Alexander V.
Smith, Dee T.
Smith, Jesse D.
Smith, Joshua A.
Snell, Gerald W.
Sobh, Nasser E.
Spiekerman, Daniel J.
Spohn, Cynthia J.
Stitt, Chad M.
Stoepker, Toni L.
Stump, Ryan T.
Syrek, Casey L.
Taha, Ahmed A.
Tatum, Skyler J.

Thang, Pau K.
Theoret, Ryan D.
Thomas, Joshua J.
Tibbles, Benjamin R.
Vandeusen, Shaun L.
Vroman, Christopher E.
Ward, Michael W.
Weiler, Chad A.
Wheeler, Ronald F.
Whipple, Craig R.
Wilkins, Michael W.
Williams, Crystal M.
Williams, Jordan P.
Williamson, Brad A.
Wilson, Brandon M.
Wilt, Jay A.
Windsor, Daniel A.
Wirsing, Michael A.
Witt, Matthew J.
Wolfe, Anna M.
Wright, Steven W.
Yerkes, Jerry D.
Young, Joseph J.
Zielinski, Thomas J.

Pfc.

Albarkat, Sharif M.
Aldrich, Tommy L.
Alexander, Joshua I.
Allan, Miles V.
Armstrong, Chanda
Ashton, Samantha L.
Augustine, Chance
Aumann, Brandon C.
Balduf, Justin V.
Barkwill, Marian L.
Barney, Cornelious T.
Block, Shon G.
Blumberg, Nathan A.
Bobbitt, Ana E.
Bofenkamp, Joseph
Boogren, Sarah M.
Bouchard, Justin M.
Bowman,
Christopher W.
Boyd, Joshua M.
Brentley, Joseph M.
Brent, Vernon J.
Brockington,
Benjamin A.
Bromley, Bernard E.
Buchanan, Michael
Burgess, Erin L.
Burgess, Jordyn N.
Byl, Martha M.
Caddy, Anthony A.
Campbell, Melanie M.
Carpenter, William A.
Carson, Daniel A.
Clark, Robert D.
Cole, Curtis M.
Colegrove, Sage A.
Cook, Jennifer M.
Cooper, William B.
Crego, Michael E.

Army and Air National Guard Promotions continued

Crocker, Justin K.	Mann, Quincy L.	Tanner, Daniel R.	Furman, Michael R.	Pelton, Britny L.	Air Guard	Makrianis, Alexander
Cross, Joshua A.	Martin, Cody W.	Taylor, Mark J.	Gallegos, Derek M.	Perry, Emerald D.	Lt. Col.	Meeuwsen, Gregory S.
Crossman, Dana M.	Mccauley, Matthew	Thompson, Justin D.	Gearhart, David M.	Phillips, Steven R.	Degraaf, Kenneth G.	Renkowski, Jeremy J.
Crow, Amber N.	Mccormick, Jack E.	Thorsen, Alexander P.	Geliske, Randy J.	Plichta, Amanda L.	Fink, Angela M.	Shaner, Brian J.
Cudney, Joshua W.	Mcgill, Sean T.	Torres, Miguel A.	Genta, Justin M.	Pomeroy, James A.	Miner, John R.	Stahl, Michael S.
Dadah, Ryan M.	Memahan, Coady	True, James W.	Gieras, Jordan E.	Porritt, Cody E.	Schroeder, Kurt L.	Tear, Christopher M.
Defouw, Kevin G.	Metz, Steven L.	Tuckey, Charles T.	Gill, Justin R.	Pruitt, Alexas J.	Spehar, David J.	Tichenor, Nathan W.
Depue, Bradley S.	Moncivais, Paul A.	Vasquez, Corrina G.	Gonzalez, Joseph L.	Pueblo, Jonathon J.	Vogelheim, Karl A.	Vanderkooy, John E.
Devries, Jeremy R.	Moore, Rachel A.	Villegas, Joshua A.	Haan, Zachary D.	Putman, Jason L.	Ward, Stephen J.	Whalen, Martin T.
Doran, Robert J.	Moore, Thomas E.	Volker, Anthony M.	Hamlin, Rebekah E.	Reynolds, Steven K.		Wimby, Luke D.
Dunn, Brandon S.	Morrish, Jesse L.	Vuocolo, George J.	Hardy, Antonio D.	Rock, Jessica L.	Maj.	Yelencich, Jeffrey J.
Dupuis, Paul J.	Muldoon, Christopher D.	Wagner, John F.	Hart, Jesse A.	Ronan, Sean M.	Kaufman, Brett J.	
Dzielinski, Paul M.	Murphy, Trevor P.	Watkins, Tony L.	Hearold, William G.	Rosier, Jesse M.	Rusk, Gregory M.	Staff Sgt.
Eddy, Matthew P.	Nolan, Jessica J.	Webb, Benjamin D.	Heller, Richard L.	Rouse, Michael A.	Weiss, David B.	Batsios, Christos V.
Eitrem, Jeremy M.	Nosakowski, Stanley	Webster, Bianca N.	Herzog, Jacob D.	Sandoval, Noel A.		Butler, Melvin G.
Fairbanks, Kayla M.	Ochenski, Kenneth	Wehner, Justin P.	Hogan, James D.	Scott, Julian M.	Capt.	Detiege, Arthur R.
Fawley, Gregory J.	Oconnor, Daniel P.	Wentzel, Joseph A.	Hollingsworth,	Shipman, Bryan A.	Bohn, Aaron L.	Dinser, Alexander J.
Felton, Eric S.	Odea, Devin Q.	White, Laria J.	Timothy R.	Short, Scott A.	Finfrock, Nathan D.	Edenburn, Anthony E.
Fernandezmiranda,	Oleary, Rebecca A.	Wiegel, Joshua L.	Horn, Allison J.	Simon, Daniel A.	Guy, Daniel E.	Ireland, Sean P.
Manuel R.	Orvis, Michael D.	Williams, Andrew J.	Houghtaling, Sue A.	Skarl, Jeffrey B.	Hunter, David L.	Jankowski, Brian D.
Fitzpatrick, Scot J.	Patel, Nimeshkumar	Williams, Mark A.	Howard, Denny E.	Sloan, Warren D.		Johnson, Adonnis D.
Forner, Caleb R.	Patterson, Christian	Wilson, Gary J.	Hoyt, Matthew W.	Space, Evan S.	1st Lt.	Manley, Brandon L.
Fries, Jordan R.	Patterson, Steven P.	Wilson, Timothy N.	Jamieson, Brook L.	Stefan, Charles P.	Axe, Andrew J.	Manley, Brandon
Frye, Jeremy C.	Pena, Donovan D.	Wilson, Travis L.	Javellana, Edwin B.	Stephens, Justin J.	Charlebois, Jay A.	Motycka, Paul A.
Fudge, Lloyd V.	Perry, Carmen J.	Winegar, Matthew A.	Jezeck, Jesse J.	Stevens, Matthew D.	Devries, Bryan J.	Pardieu, Yves M.
Garcia, Brandon J.	Persons, Justin J.	Woodruff, Joseph E.	Johnson, John F.	Stultz, Christopher R.	Freudenburg, Lucas	Pranga, Jonathan A.
Geml, Justin G.	Piche, James G.	Woycik, Matthew S.	Judge, Kevin R.	Surdam, Glynn A.	Gregory, Wesley A.	Pritchett, Brandon E.
Gerhardt, Philip P.	Pierpoint, Alex J.	Wright, Travis A.	Kaupp, Ian R.	Swearingen, Seth A.	Hendrickson, Matthew	Scicluna, Charles D.
Gillett, Calvin J.	Poehner, Scott L.	Wurst, Colin T.	Keller, Sarah M.	Taylor, Sarah J.	Totsch, Daniel A.	Spiech, Bradley A.
Gilliland, Richard R.	Polen, Olivia B.	Zelenskiy, Sergey L.	Kinder, Benjamin F.	Tribley, Tabatha R.	Voss, Thomas S.	Zielonka, Gregory N.
Gilmour, Michael J.	Pop, Monroy G.		Kish, Joseph M.	Twiss, Michael M.		
Girr, David J.	Potter, Damon B.	Private 2	Knowles, Bryan C.	Urmanski, Thomas A.	Chief Master Sgt.	Senior Airman
Givens, Tenera R.	Pries, Amanda A.	Agnew, Litunja N.	Krol, John G.	Vanburen, Drew B.	Pionk, Keith M.	Barker, Joseph W.
Gooding, Joshua D.	Prochno, Michael L.	Allison, Stephanie L.	Law, James A.	Waldo, Alyssa J.		Barnabe, Anthony C.
Greiner, David M.	Pumford, Jason L.	Anderson, Jeffrey A.	Layton, Bradley M.	Welburn, Daniel A.	Senior Master Sgt.	Dilley, Thomas C.
Griffes, Gary L.	Ramirez, Tiffany L.	Barron, Ashley M.	Le, Kythao N.	Wells, Timothy J.	Combs, Charles C.	Elsholz, Joshua S.
Grogg, Eric S.	Ratliff, Eric J.	Bean, Joshua J.	Leatherman, Kurt W.	Whipple, Robert W.	Downey, Paul J.	Gilbert, Nicky L.
Haines, Brandon C.	Rennells, Christa S.	Beebe, Abraham W.	Lewis, Gordon M.		Downing, Mark A.	Graham, Andrew K.
Halvorsen, Derek L.	Rick, Allison G.	Bjunes, Alicia M.	Lloyd, Tad M.		Fowke, Edward A.	Hoppenrath, Nicky L.
Hammons, Thomas E.	Rider, Shane A.	Bluhm, Kerry T.	Long, Derrick D.		Martin, Darrel S.	Kearns, Justin S.
Hansen, Jenna L.	Riley, Patrick J.	Bogdan, Blake E.	Loniello, Sam M.		Martinez, Hector M.	Margo, Kristian M.
Hawkins, Kimberly A.	Rodriguez, Daniel R.	Bolles, Morgan T.	Mance, Donquell D.		Mcgilpin, Richard B.	Pineau, Ryan A.
Howell, Jacob T.	Roerink, Jason D.	Bradburn, Timothy A.	Martin, Erick C.		Radabaugh, Keith J.	Reynolds, Anthony D.
Howland, Brock C.	Rogers, Cecil C.	Brooks, Steven L.	Mays, Charles J.		Schafer, Randy L.	Roach, Mitchell T.
Humphrey, Mitchell S.	Rollins, Kevin B.	Bunker, Rachel L.	Mcmillan, Michael V.			Roland, Jessica M.
Huska, Ryan J.	Ronan, Stephen A.	Buzzo, Billie R.	Merren, Jerrett T.		Master Sgt.	Sawgle, Justin B.
Idstein, Ryan M.	Sargent, Jesse L.	Campbell, Michael W.	Milnickel, Matthew		Bishop, Jeremy D.	Schmidtfranz,
Johnson, Jeffrey J.	Sayler, Joshua C.	Caruso, Frank A.	Mohamed, Juana B.		Buehner, Jennifer M.	Amanda K
Jones, Andrew W.	Schemenauer,	Chavez, Angel M.	Moore, Michael P.		Holt, Annette I.	Spaans, Jordan D.
Jones, Eric M.	Nathan G.	Clark, Andrew D.	Morgan, Daniel E.		Jackman, Brian J.	
Kanary, John G.	Schmits, Jeffrey A.	Coleman, Mark W.	Morgan, David W.		Schellhase, Jennifer	Airman 1st Class
Kase, Diamond L.	Shoemaker, Orrin D.	Cruz, Troy M.	Morrow, Stephanie L.		Torres, Jerome A.	Matchinski, Dustin N.
Kelley, Daniel G.	Smith, Cole M.	Dake, Kristen D.	Mosley, Toney B.			
Kivela, Steven C.	Smith, Jeffrey F.	Davis, David A.	Mott, Chad T.		Tech. Sgt.	
Klotz, George O.	Solinski, Kendall A.	Dellar, Denise M.	Mulder, Jacob M.		Brodsky, Patrick M.	
Lasley, Jenny L.	Soper, Jeremiah J.	Draper, Michael A.	Mullins, Staci K.		Coss, Eric J.	
Latendresse, Tyler	Spivey, Bobby J.	Drummond, Daniel J.	Murphy, Benjamin G.		Eichaker, David E.	
Lawrence, Kevin J.	Sprutte, Lucas A.	Elliott, Willie B.	Nickelson, Ronald D.		Fuller, James A.	
Leiter, William L.	Stepanski, Kayla M.	Fields, Adam J.	Niemi, David E.		Gault, Mikel R.	
Lindsey, Jessica D.	Stepanski, Ryan P.	Flores, Pablo A.	Nunez, Christopher S		Golema, Christopher P.	
Lippert, Deanna D.	Steppig, Justin L.	Flynn, Tierney M.	Patsey, Joshua C.		Griffin, John L.	
Lomax, Steve M.	Suarez, Ruben S.	Foster, Adrian D.	Peabody, Jessica L.		Jenny, Christopher G.	
Long, Jill A.	Sullivan, Blaine R.	Fouts, Steven J.	Peet, Matthew G.		Kronenwetter, Christopher	
Maldonado, Estevan	Sylvester, James R.	Frankovich, Kyle J.	Pelshaw, Steven D.		Lloyd, Alec H.	

210th MPs dedicate memorial to Fallen Heroes

Article and photo by Sgt. Jaquelyn Handberg, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 210th Military Police Battalion

On Sept. 28, 2008, the Fallen Heroes Memorial Foundation and 210th Military Police Battalion held a “Lest They Be Forgotten” memorial ceremony for the Fallen Heroes of the 210th Military Police Battalion from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Iraqi Enduring Freedom. The ceremony was held at the Taylor National Guard Armory. During the ceremony, a memorial was dedicated to honor the four fallen 210th military police warriors who dedicated their lives to serve our country.

Family Readiness members Nicole Cadotte, Ann Morris, Amy Rye, and several others prepared and served a luncheon before the ceremony, which began with “Scotland the Brave” played on the bagpipes by Jacob Mack. The 1775th Military Police Company posted the colors while 12 year old T.J Craven sang the national anthem. He later performed his own song, *Forgotten Heroes*.

More than 200 family members, friends, fellow Soldiers, retirees, Taylor City Council members, and past and present commanders and sergeant’s majors from the 210th attended the ceremony. The Patriot Guard and American Legion Riders stood proudly with biker vests and jackets decorated with military pride.

During the service, Command Sgt. Maj. Sandra Chwierut, 210th Military Police Battalion, presented certificates of appreciation and Fallen Heroes coins to those who helped make the memorial a reality.

Said Chwierut, “During this week of the 67th anniversary of the military police corps, I can think of no better way to honor our Fallen Comrades who epitomized what the military police corps represents: *Assist, Protect, Defend*.”

Brig. Gen. Michael Nevin, commander of 177th Military Police Brigade, spoke of the freedoms that the Soldiers fought for and of the sacrifices they and their families have made in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Family members and special guests Tim and Linda Frank, Derek Gagne, Audrey Stout, and Kate and Alexis Wright, unveiled a monument that reads:

In honor of all who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom. Never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

210th MP BN Fallen Comrades: SGT Craig S. Frank, SFC James D. Priestap, SPC Brandon L. Stout, and SGT Thomas G. Wright.

Atop the pedestal stands the traditional bronze Fallen Soldiers symbol of a helmet atop a M-16 rifle, a pair of combat boots, with four sets of dog tags for the four 210th Fallen Heroes.

As the ceremony came to an end, you could hear bagpipes playing *Amazing Grace*. The family members of the fallen heroes unveiled the memorial. As we paid tribute to these brave souls, we also paid tribute to all Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice or will do so in the future.

May we honor them and make sure our fallen heroes are never forgotten.



Family and friends gather on Sept. 28, 2008 at the Taylor, Mich., armory for a “Lest They Be Forgotten” memorial ceremony hosted by the Fallen Heroes Memorial Foundation and the 210th Military Police Battalion. The memorial pictured honors four fallen warriors from the 210th who dedicated their lives to serve as American Soldiers. Honored guests at the ceremony are (left to right) Audrey Stout, Tim and Linda Frank, Derek Gagne, and Kate and Alexis Wright.



TAPS

Sgt. 1st Class (ret) Roger J. Bechtel, 71, June 8, 2008
Chief Warrant Officer 5 (ret) Martin R. Bliss, 45, May 24, 2008
Pvt. Brian A. Brennan-Baker, 21, Oct. 16, 2008
Lt. Col. (ret) Raymond J. Brooks, 78, Sept. 12, 2008
Maj. (ret) James R. Bussard, 79, Oct. 18, 2008
Col. (ret) Daniel G. Colwell, 77, Aug. 20, 2008
Capt. (ret) Larry R. Cook, 74, Oct. 9, 2008
Staff Sgt. (ret) William C. Coy, 72, May 26, 2008
Lt. Col. (ret) Ronald A. DeCicco, 81, Sept. 6, 2008
Maj. (ret) Frank A. Delaney, 89, July 7, 2008
Staff Sgt. (ret) Archie Eaddy, 87, May 2, 2008
Col. (ret) Paul D. Frakes, 74, May 24, 2008
Sgt. (ret) Dan J. Gaffney, 64, Sept. 1, 2008
Spc. Ryein J. Hildabridle, 24, Nov. 4, 2008
Sgt. 1st Class Timothy S. Hiske, 40, Oct. 8, 2008
Sgt. 1st Class (ret) Otis Kleaver, 79, Sept. 18, 2008
Staff Sgt. (ret) David L. McGrier, 85, Oct 1, 2008, 85
Spec. 6 (ret) Clinton A. Peckham Jr., 73, Sept. 4, 2008
Tech. Sgt. (ret) John J. Plackowski, 86, Oct. 3, 2008
Maj. (ret) David C. Sabedra, 59, Aug. 29, 2008
Sgt. Russell A. Swanson, 73, Sept. 29, 2008
Col. (ret) David V. Sweigart, 68, Nov. 18, 2008
Warrant Officer 3 Michael R. Trimble, 60, Oct. 16, 2008
Staff Sgt. (ret) Shane K. Tropp, 40, Nov. 17, 2008
Petty Sgt. (ret) Richard R. Whitney, 70, June 14, 2008
Lt. Col. (ret) Darwin E. Zeller, 72, Oct. 16, 2008

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