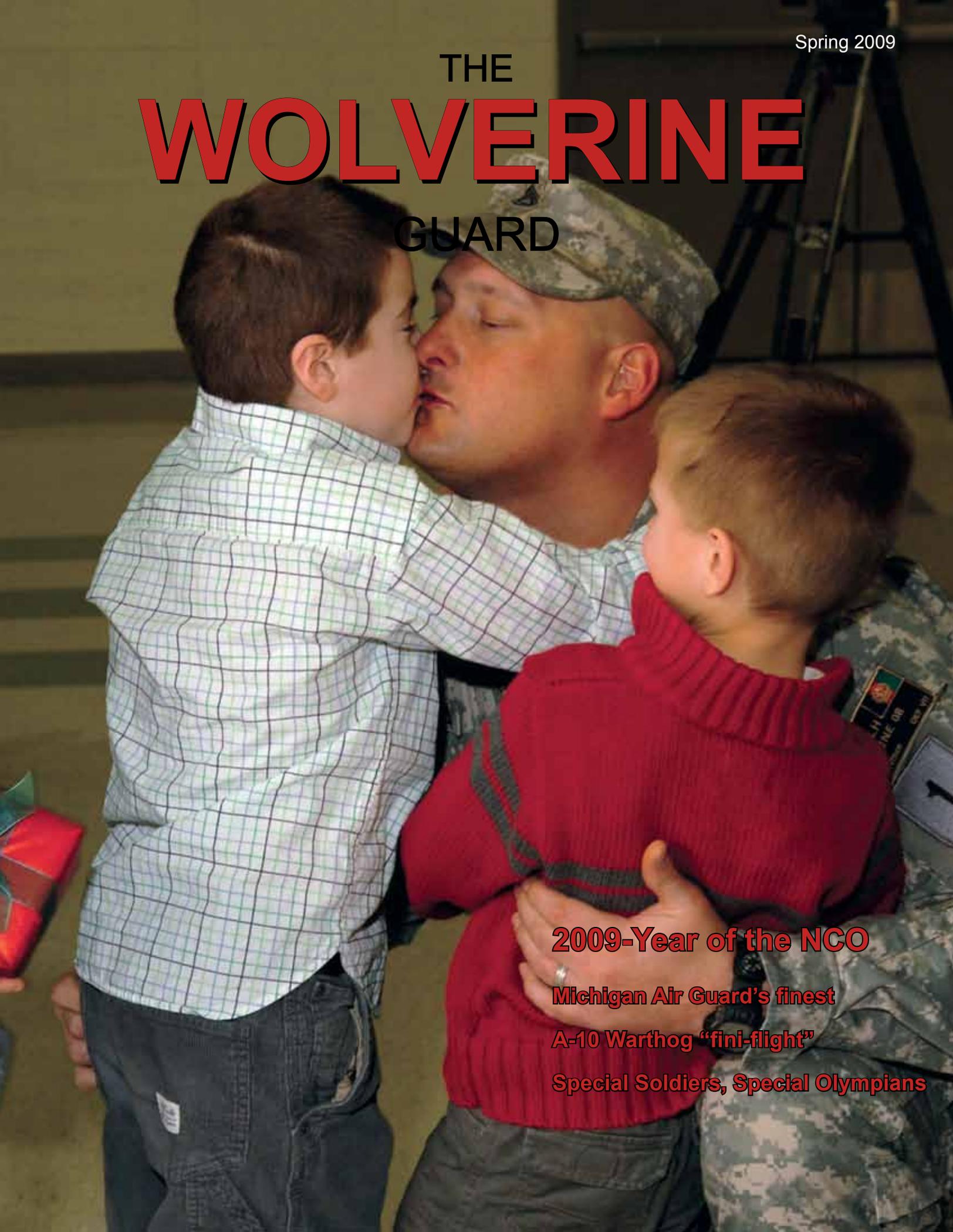


Spring 2009

THE WOLVERINE GUARD



2009-Year of the NCO

**Michigan Air Guard's finest
A-10 Warthog "fini-flight"**

Special Soldiers, Special Olympians



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler presents the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Craig McKinley, a desk clock mounted on copper in appreciation of the general's address to senior leaders and commanders at the 2009 Senior Leadership Conference in Kalamazoo, Mich., on Feb. 22.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG)



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler greets Sgt. Arlea Swager, of the 126th Press Camp Headquarters, based in Augusta, Mich., as she gets off the bus at the Fort Custer Armory for the 126th's homecoming celebration. The Press Camp returned to Michigan Feb. 6, after 12 months deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG)

★ ★ *From the desk of* ★ ★
The Adjutant General
TAG
TALK

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time observing and participating in one of our Road to Reintegration weekends. I enjoyed the opportunity to interact with Soldiers and their loved ones who were also in attendance. Several of the Soldiers attending this event were Soldiers I had spent some time with during my last visit to Iraq, so I particularly enjoyed seeing them again and reminiscing about our experiences together during that visit.

As I spent time at the Reintegration workshops, I was reminded of several things as I listened to the presentations and as I interacted with Soldiers and their loved ones. Although we know it, it's always good to be reminded of the tremendous sacrifices our Soldiers and Airmen, and their families make during the mobilization process and even as they come home. For that, I am always deeply appreciative. Secondly, I was reminded of the tremendous progress we've made in developing a first class reintegration program. I am very appreciative of the great leadership investment on the part of the entire Michigan National Guard leadership team. That, in partnership with the incredibly hard work on the part of our Family Support team, has resulted in a highly effective reintegration program. That's a huge investment in our overall readiness, today, tomorrow, and for many years to come. I thank you all!

As I visited with Soldiers at this event, I was also reminded that our present economy has presented us with another new set of challenges. All of us have been affected by the current economy and recession. For those of us with 401k's, well...we'd rather not talk about them! More importantly however, this economy has made it difficult for some of our returning Soldiers to find jobs. We've also had many of our Guardsmen laid off over the past several months. That is something we need to take on as a Guard Family. We are working with unit commanders to schedule Transition Assistance Programs and Job Fairs for our returning units. Any one needing this type of assistance would be welcome to attend each of these events. Ray Ladd, our Transition Assistance Advisor, and Gary Aten, our ESGR director, will be working with your commanders to make these events happen. At the same time, I would challenge each one of you in a leadership position to help your Soldiers and Airmen find a good job. The Guard Family has always been a great jobs network. It is now time to put that network to work on behalf of our unemployed Soldiers and Airmen. I ask each of you to take this mission on...we must be committed to leaving no one behind!!

I again thank you for your willingness to serve. There has never been a better time to do so. I am proud to serve with you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas G. Cutler".

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

MIANG

From the desk of
The Commander

TALK



In February, senior leaders from both the Army and Air National Guard met in Kalamazoo for the biannual Joint Leadership Conference. The theme of the conference “Leading through Change” was particularly appropriate in the case of the Air Guard.

Since the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) made their final determination in 2005, change has been a constant around the MIANG. The net effect of the BRAC action is that everyone in Michigan who flies or works on airplanes must either retrain or relocate.

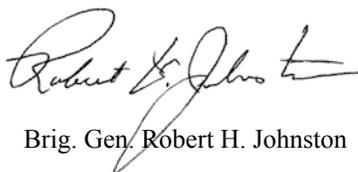
We are currently standing up four new missions around the state. The 110th Fighter Wing in Battle Creek has traded in their A-10s for C-21s and the CNAF (Component Numbered Air Force) mission which is tied to 17th Air Force in Germany. At Selfridge Air National Guard Base the 127th Wing has traded their C-130s tactical airlift mission for the aerial refueling mission of the KC-135. Additionally the F-16s have departed the fix and have been replaced by the A-10 Warthog. All these units were mature, combat tested, and at the top of their game when directed to change vectors.

I’ve heard it said that in life, change is inevitable, growth is optional. Naturally, change can bring anxiety, but with change also comes opportunity. The leadership at all levels in our organization recognizes this fact and is charging ahead to embrace the new missions with the same vigor that made them so effective in their previous missions. Leading through change can be tough work-- challenging commanders to use all the tools in their kit-bag.

In the coming months, key leaders at our bases will have the opportunity to participate in some excellent training that will be important as we reshape our units. The Diversity Champions course is more than just the latest version of diversity training. It is three days of leadership training that focus on maximizing our mission effectiveness.

Senior leaders from the Michigan Army and Air Guard, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs had the opportunity to preview the course in a two-day condensed session. I think everyone who attended agreed that this training is invaluable as we work our way through the challenges ahead.

Strive for inclusiveness in your particular squadron or section; take the opportunity to mentor someone who maybe does not quite “look like you” and yet has untapped potential. By capitalizing on the inherent talents of all of our Airmen we can ensure that we will remain relevant and viable well throughout the 21st century.



Brig. Gen. Robert H. Johnston



Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau the National Guard’s first four-star general (at left) is greeted by Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler and Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston on Feb. 21, at the Radison Plaza in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Gen. McKinley was the opening speaker at the 2009 Joint Michigan National Guard Senior Leadership Conference.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ, MIANG)

Leading through change can be tough work -- challenging commanders to use all the tools in their kit bag.

--Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston



Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston stands with Senior Airman Anthony Palazallo, Michigan’s 2009 Airman of the Year recipient. Palazallo is assigned to the 110th Maintenance Squadron as a hydraulic systems journeyman.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ, MIANG)



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Ploucha greets his sons Hunter, 9 and Isaiah, 4, at the 63rd Brigade Embedded Training Team's homecoming celebration at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing, Mich., following a one year deployment to Afghanistan. A fellow Soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Hilton, was killed during the deployment, making the homecoming celebration bitter sweet. (Photo by Staff Sgt. James Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG)

Commander in Chief

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Assistant Adjutant General, Army

Brig. Gen. James R. Anderson

Commander, Michigan Air National Guard

Brig. Gen. Robert Johnston

Assistant Adjutant General Future Missions, Air

Brig. Gen. James R. Wilson

Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone

Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security

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State Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Dawn Dancer

Editor *The Wolverine Guard*

Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

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On the Web: www.michigan.gov/dmva

Bullets

National Guard Child Care

Please assist the National Guard Child Care Program by distributing this survey link to National Guard members and their families.

The survey link is found at www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB228AQH9A7LQ

The target audience: National Guard families with children who are preparing for deployment or returned from deployment in the two last two months.



OEF and OIF Veterans

Join Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America to link up with other veterans, get information on special veteran discounts and to gain access to a veterans only online social network. Visit IAVA.org for information.



MSU and DMVA partner to offer homeland defense and security certificate program

The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University have teamed up to launch the first of four new courses in homeland defense and security for Michigan National Guard and other military or public safety personnel.

The certificate program has been adapted from the curriculum developed for National Guard personnel by the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security in Monterey, Calif., and delivered by MSU through the national University and Agency Partnership Initiative. For additional information, including how to enroll, visit <http://criminaljustice.msu.edu/academic/certificate.php?certificate> or call (517) 353-5272.

Child Care \$\$\$ available

If you are a military spouse of a National Guard Title 10 activated member and are either employed, seeking employment (for 60 days), or going to school, you qualify for \$100 per month per child for full time care (licensed provider required). Call the National Guard Child Care Program 1-888-NGCCP-99 (888-642-2799) to apply, or e-mail ngccp@guardfamily.org.



MSU Disabled Veteran's Assistance:

Beginning Fall semester 2009, new and returning undergraduate veterans with a military-related disability who are Michigan residents and working on their first baccalaureate degree will qualify for an aid package that covers full costs without loans.

The student must document his or her status as a disabled veteran with MSU. The student will be awarded a combination of federal, state, and MSU gift funds, combined with veteran's educational benefits and Michigan Rehabilitation Services benefits (if eligible), along with a work component.

If the student cannot work due to the disability, the work component will be omitted in favor of additional grant funding. Expenses covered - tuition and fees, room and board, books, health insurance, and personal and miscellaneous costs of attendance. The cost of supporting a spouse or dependents is not covered with these funds, although federal and/or private student loans may be available on a case-by-case basis.

Students must apply for federal aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form located at www.Fafsa.edu.gov. Students are expected to apply for veteran's educational benefits if eligible. For more information, visit: www.fnaid.msu.edu/veterans website or call the MSU Registrar's office at 517-355-5032.

How are you *really* doing?

By Chaplain (Col.) Herbert Heavner, JFHQ, MIARNG

How many times have you asked someone these questions: How are you today? How is everything going? What's happening? We all do it. We ask the question, we pause for a moment, and then we generally move right along in the conversation hardly paying any attention to the response.

We don't mean to not pay attention--we all lead very busy lives. We move from one place to another and from one conversation to another without taking time sometimes to really see what is going on. We try to pay attention but there is always so much to do in so little time.

There is a big push right now across the Army components to make certain that all Soldiers pay close attention to how their fellow Soldiers are really doing. The specific subject matter is suicide awareness and prevention training. The Army is mandating participation in a new training package called "Beyond the Front". It is an interactive video that allows the audience to place themselves into two individual situations. The audience make choices that make a difference in selecting the path that the Soldier in the video takes, which may or may not lead to suicide.

The video is realistic. The subject is serious. In each situation, the bottom line is we all need to pay attention to those around us and not be afraid to ask the tough question: How are you doing? And sometimes, are you thinking

of taking your life? Obviously this isn't just the casual greeting of the day.

What I'm talking about is a serious inquiry with heartfelt concern that asks the question: How ARE you doing, really?

I encourage each of you to ask the question! Especially if you sense there are some real issues going on with a friend, family member, co-worker, or anyone you come in contact with who seems to be going through a rough time.

A member of our Guard team who recently suffered the loss of a loved one by suicide told me, "Chaplain, please tell people to ask specific questions if they think someone is considering taking their life." That same person also told me: "If anybody even remotely thinks a friend or loved one is acting out of character and knows that there are other stressful things in their life, ask the hard questions. And be specific!"

Please take this advice and don't be afraid to ask! And when you do ask, stop and really listen.

Finally, you can be assured that there is a God who is asking the same question: How are you? He cares about you and He knows about the battle that is going on within your mind. He wants to reassure you there is hope. He wants to share His love with you. If you are hurting, He wants to help. If you have lost sight of the reason for living, God can help you discover the joy of life. God bless you!

Michigan Army National Guard chief of staff joins GO rank

At a pinning ceremony on Jan. 10, 2009, Burton K. Francisco was promoted to the rank of brigadier general at the Joint Force Headquarters, in Lansing.

Brig. Gen. Francisco serves as the director of the Michigan National Guard joint chief of staff office. Prior to this assignment, he has served in several key positions, most recently as the commander of the 63rd Brigade, Jackson, Mich., the director of the Michigan Joint Force Headquarters Human Resource Office in Lansing, Mich., and the commander of the 51st Civil Support Team, Augusta, Mich.

Gen. Francisco began his military career as an enlisted Army Guard Soldier with Company C, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, MIARNG. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and then was commissioned May 1983 as a second lieutenant.

When asked how he felt about the new rank, Brig. Gen. Francisco credited the enlisted corps. "My success is attributed to the fine non-commissioned officers I have been privileged to serve with," Francisco said in an e-mail.

He added, "I am humbled by the promotion to brigadier general and remain committed to leading and representing the Soldiers of the Michigan Army National Guard."





2009 declared Year of the NCO Tuskegee Airmen honor Michigan Army Guard NCO

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin, JFHQ, MIANG

In recognition of the Army NCOs commitment to service and willingness to make tremendous sacrifices for their nation, the Secretary of the Army has established 2009 as "The Year of the NCO." This edition of the Wolverine Guard features Master Sgt. Miguel Gonzales who adds an element to his service by positively effecting the Detroit metropolitan area.

On Jan. 24, 2009, three distinguished guests dropped by the Olympia Armory in Detroit to participate in the promotion ceremony of Master Sgt. Miguel Gonzales, the training NCO for the 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery.

The distinguished guests are former Tuskegee Airmen; Richard Jennings, Lt. Col. Alex Jefferson (retired U.S. Air Reserve), and Cmdr. Ross Fowler (retired U.S. Coast Guard). They came to pin the rank of master sergeant on Gonzales and to recognize Gonzales for his ongoing commitment to help the citizens in the Detroit metro area through his involvement with many social programs.

Gonzales was assigned to the 182nd Field Artillery in 1987. For the past 13 years, he has participated in a Special Emphasis Programs Managers' (SEPM) group in the Detroit area to promote equal opportunity. His involvement with outreach efforts such as the Detroit Metro Youth Day, Cinco de Mayo, Detroit Clean Sweep, March of Dimes, United Negro College Fund, Civil Air Patrol has helped establish positive and effective relationships within the Detroit metro area.

It does not appear that Gonzales plans to slow down his support to the local community. He is involved with many veterans service groups such as the Tuskegee Airmen, the Triple Nickel Parachute Infantry Association, the Civil War Research Group, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Hell Cats, the Women's Army Corps, the Indian Head Association, the 761st Tank Battalion, the 268th Nurses Station, and the Montford Point Marines.

As chairman of the Color of Liberty, Gonzales has spent many hours promoting, finding sponsors, and coordinating displays, workshops and lecture material for participating organizations.

Over the years, more than 500 Reserve Officer Training Cadets from Detroit area high schools as

well as students in adult education programs were able to attend events because of his resourcefulness to provide busses to transport attendees.

As a member of the SEPM groups, he has gathered information about symptoms of unfairness in the workplace and helped analyze situations to identify why the symptoms existed. After identifying potential problems, the group provides guidance to minimize or eliminate policies or practices that could lead to discrimination complaints.

The community involvement of Gonzales has been significant over the years; enough to get the attention of the Tuskegee Airmen.

These Airmen fought a good fight against discrimination in their former days, but did not have a special emphasis programs manager's group, such as the one that Gonzales is involved in, to look out for their best interests.



Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Gonzales, 1st Battalion, 182nd Field Artillery stands ready for promotion to master sergeant on Jan. 24. Three members of the Tuskegee Airmen; Richard Jennings, Lt. Col. Alex Jefferson (retired U.S. Air Reserve), and Cmdr. Ross Fowler (retired U.S. Coast Guard) were special guests and participated in the promotion ceremony. Also pictured is Lt. Col. Leonard Rusher, the 182nd battalion commander. (Photo courtesy of 1st Lt. Demetries Luckett)

RRC Mentors Lead the Way

By Laurie Stone, JFHQ, Recruiting and Retention Command, MIARNG

When the Michigan National Guard was asked to support a campaign to boost mentorship in Michigan, leaders from the Recruiting and Retention Command embraced the mission by participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization's "Lunch Buddies" program, launched Jan. 26 in Lansing.

MIARNG Recruiting and Retention commander, Lt. Col. Shawn Harris and his executive officer Maj. Steven Gauss met at Gardner Middle School with newly assigned "little brothers".

In addition to developing big brother-little brother relationships, the lunch event supported a partnership between the Guard and Michigan Communities Service Commission.

The Adjutant General of Michigan, Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, has pledged to enroll 500 Guard members as mentors through the partnership by 2010.

Gen. Cutler said he believes Guard members may find the mentor role a natural fit.

"Who better than citizen-Soldiers and Airmen to mentor our young people? Guard members are goal-oriented, motivated individuals who are part of a dedicated team serving communities across the State."

Michigan National Guard members and employees

of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs are encouraged to donate their time to a mentoring program of their choice. According to mentoring organizations, one hour a week can make a difference in a young person's future and positively affect the youth in our communities.

Statistics show children with mentors are 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs; 27 percent less likely to use alcohol; 52 percent less likely to skip school; are better able to get along with peers and family members; and are less likely to end up in prison.

For information about becoming a mentor, contact Amber Reiss at Mentor Michigan, 517-241-3493, reissa@michigan.gov, or Antonio Guevara of Big Brothers Big Sisters Detroit, 313-309-0500, guevaraa@bbbsdetroit.org.

Information is also available at www.mentormichigan.org or www.bbsdetroit.org and through unit retention NCOs.



Maj. Steven Gauss, MIARNG RRC, executive officer, spends time with his "Little Brother" at Gardner Middle School in Lansing, Mich. (Photo courtesy RRC)

PDHRA Policy Change

By Staff Sgt. Matthew Martin, JFHQ, PDHRA, MIARNG

Effective Dec. 3, 2008, the National Guard Bureau changed the policy for eligible Soldiers to be placed on active duty special work (ADSW) orders to attend Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) related medical appointments.

Eligible Soldiers must complete two steps to receive orders and pay:

No later than three days before the appointment, Soldiers **must** submit the appointment **time, date**, and **location** of appointment, and date they completed the PDHRA to their unit administrative or readiness NCO. After the appointment, **verification of attendance** must also be submitted to them. Pay **will not** be processed until the Soldier shows proof that they attended the appointment.

Soldiers must meet the following criteria for ADSW orders:

- Have received a referral for evaluation or treatment at the PDHRA. Be aware that a Veterans' Affairs appointment made at a PDHRA screening is not the same as a referral. These are listed in block 9 on page 5 of the DD Form 2900

(which was generated at the PDHRA screening).

- The appointment must be for the evaluation or treatment of a medical or behavioral problem that was listed in block 9 on page five of the DD Form 2900.

Soldiers do not require ADSW orders to attend medical appointments, but must have approved travel orders.

Soldiers on ADSW orders for PDHRA appointments will receive one day of pay, one retirement point, and may submit a DA Form 1351-2 through their unit for travel pay and expenses **within 35 days of their appointment**. The PDHRA is designed to encourage Soldiers to get treatment for any injuries, physical or psychological, sustained while in defense of our country. Soldiers should take advantage of this benefit: they spent their time ensuring the safety of our country, now they need to take time to ensure their health is taken care of.

POCs for the MIARNG PDHRA team are:
Staff Sgt. Matthew Martin, matthew.martin6@us.army.mil;
Sgt. Ethan McCallum, ethan.mccallum@us.army.mil
Sgt. Dane Songer, dane.songer@us.army.mil.



Flying is a Team Effort

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG

Hollywood typically portrays the pilot as a “Maverick” or “Han Solo” loner character. The Michigan Army National Guard Aviation Soldiers of Grand Ledge Army Aviation Support Facility 1 (AASF 1) prove the loner image to be patently false. Instead, the Grand Ledge AASF 1 is a beehive of aviation teamwork.

AASF 1 is home to three units: the 3rd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, and the counter drug Reconnaissance and Interdiction Detachment (RAID) Team.

I visited AASF 1 on Feb. 3, 2009 and saw that every aspect of a helicopter crew member’s duties involves teamwork with another part of the AASF 1. The clothing and survival equipment they wear daily is maintained at the Aviation Life Support Center (ALSC). Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Spagnuolo, an ALSC technician explains, “The flight suit, helmet and survival vests they wear are fitted here. We literally equip the aviation crews from head to toe and make repairs as necessary to their equipment. We have an industrial sewing machine that can sew anything. We also make covers for external helicopter parts as well.”

Flight Operations monitor the flights going out of the Grand Ledge facility. Warrant Officer Kibeet Chelilim, a pilot and flight ops technician, expounds on the other areas Flight Operations covers, “We maintain all pilot

records and interact with civilian control towers. We handle the publications pilots need to operate their aircraft and issue equipment such as keys to the aircraft and night vision goggles. We also handle communications with flight crews starting with take off and finishing when they land.”

Helicopter maintenance is a multi-faceted process. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Kruckeberg of Company C, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation gives a break down of the maintenance process,

“Each crew has an assigned laptop computer for the aircraft they fly. When the mission is complete, they enter flight data to the central maintenance computer. AASF Grand Ledge provides services ranging from Aviation Unit Maintenance [company level], Aviation Intermediate Maintenance [battalion level], and we can do some depot level maintenance as well. An active component unit of our size stops at the Aviation Unit Maintenance level.”

Kruckeberg went further, “We perform base 10-hour, intermediate 40-hour service, and 360-hour overhaul services on all aircraft. We schedule our flights and maintenance in such a way that the services are done in a staggered manner. This allows a commander to plan for so many aircraft to be available at any given time for missions.”

Technical Inspector Staff Sgt. Brian Hosey, of Company D 1/147 AVN explains his role in the maintenance process, “Once a maintainer becomes a subject matter expert, you can progress to technical inspector in the quality control section. My day starts with administrative actions using a computer automated system. We often interact with the Sikorsky Corporation because we just received six new M-model Blackhawks from Sikorsky and these are handled under warranty. I inspect the work of mechanics, insuring work is done to standard. It’s a challenging job, never a day goes by that you walk out of this building without learning something new.”

Sgt. Steve Suchek, a Company C, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation mechanic reinforces the safety mantra constantly echoed at Grand Ledge, “Safety is the first consideration in all we do. Our toolboxes have molded foam so we can check quickly and insure no tools were left on the aircraft. Tools on an aircraft are a safety hazard.”

On Feb. 10, 2009, I accompanied pilots and crews of three UH-60M Blackhawk helicopters on a readiness level progression mission. The training objective was to train new crew chiefs and medics for multiple ship operations and terrain flight. This was being done for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

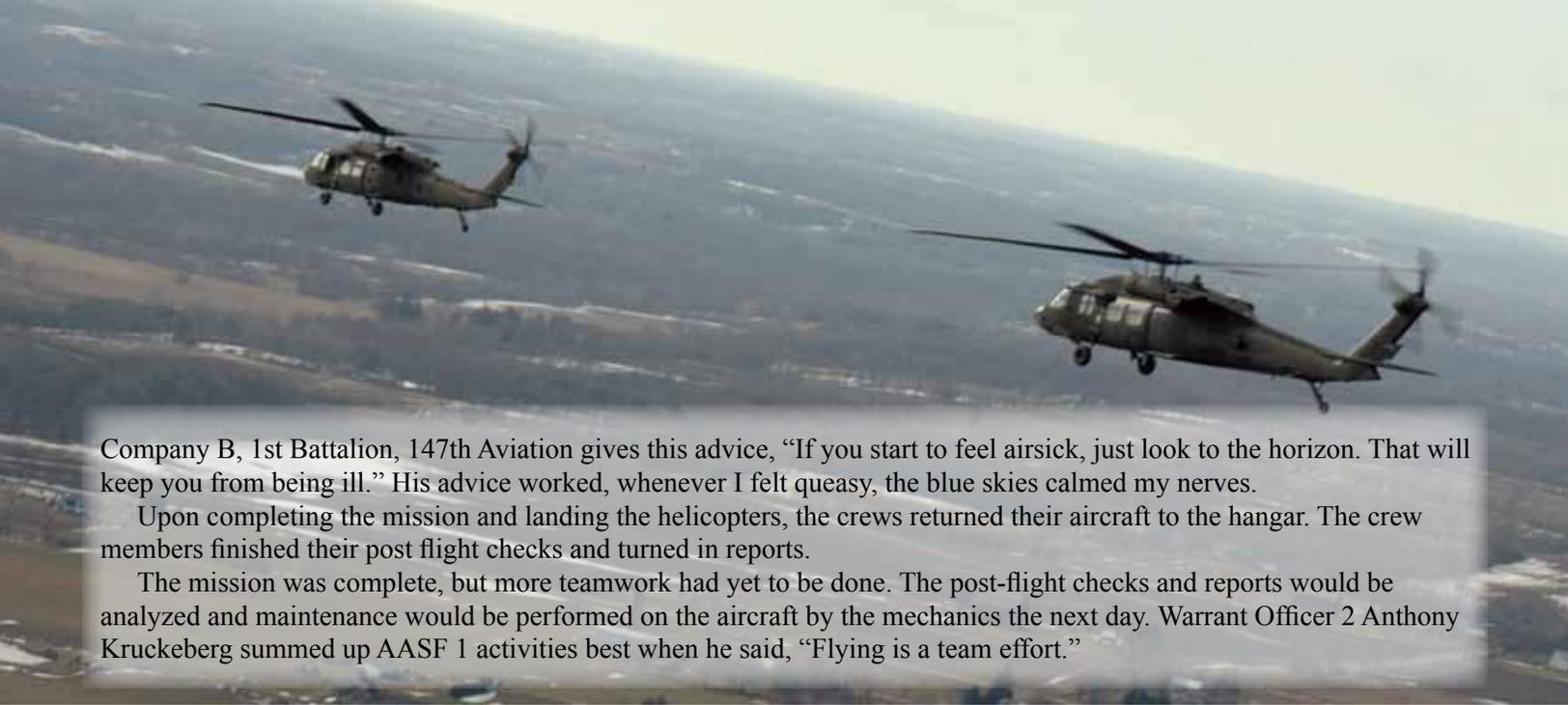
During the flight briefing Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeremy Brewer gave each crew member a card with an emergency situation listed on it. The crew members had to describe how to react to each situation. Active participation was a constant part of the briefing.

“All crew members are an important part of the team. Everybody has input. Our crew chiefs insure the safety of passengers and aircraft. There’s an old aviation saying, Crew chiefs and maintainers own the aircraft, pilots just rent it!” said Brewer.

The flight training consisted of three landings and very low or “nap of the earth” flying. 1st Sgt. Steve Williams of



Sgt. Steve Suchek of the Grand Ledge, Mich., based Company C, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, repairs UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter passenger seats at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Grand Ledge, Mich.



Company B, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation gives this advice, “If you start to feel airsick, just look to the horizon. That will keep you from being ill.” His advice worked, whenever I felt queasy, the blue skies calmed my nerves.

Upon completing the mission and landing the helicopters, the crews returned their aircraft to the hangar. The crew members finished their post flight checks and turned in reports.

The mission was complete, but more teamwork had yet to be done. The post-flight checks and reports would be analyzed and maintenance would be performed on the aircraft by the mechanics the next day. Warrant Officer 2 Anthony Kruckeberg summed up AASF 1 activities best when he said, “Flying is a team effort.”

Camo Kids, Inc. brings MI Guard families to WMU basketball game

By Angela Simpson, Michigan DMVA, Public Affairs

On March 8, 2009, many Michigan National Guard families were treated to a Western Michigan University campus tour, an inspirational talk from WMU Basketball Coach Steve Hawkins, free game tickets, T-shirts, backpacks, wristbands, and snacks.

Their special day at WMU in Kalamazoo, Mich., was made possible by an organization called *Camouflage Kids, Inc.*, an Indiana based non-profit organization that serves military families of all ranks and branches.

Lt. Col. Greg Durkac, his wife Kristine, son Garrett and daughter Brooke, were one of the Michigan Guard families who attended. Durkac recently returned from a one-year deployment which included about eight months in Iraq.

About the special treatment he said, “Camouflage Kids is a great program that gives Soldiers and families a chance to enjoy activities which aid in the reintegration process after a deployment. It was a great break from the high optempo of military life. All the soldiers and families I talked to enjoyed the fun and really appreciated the efforts of so many people who gave their time for our military families.”

Camouflage Kids was founded in 2005 by basketball coach Jeff Nix and his business partner Ray Stults. The program purchases tickets to football and basketball games for U.S. military members and their families as a way to engage children in academics and to provide a fun event. Many of these families are coping with a loved one’s deployment.

The Michigan National Guard’s Family Support Group works closely with Nix to organize all of the details for events in Michigan. They take great effort to make sure Michigan Guard families join in the fun offered by Camouflage Kids, Inc.

During the WMU game the kids were introduced as a group while the teams warmed up, then stood with the players on the court during the national anthem.

Several “Senior Day” awards and recognitions were made, bringing tears to some in the crowd.

Since 2005, the number of teams participating in Camouflage Kids and the amount of financial support has steadily grown as word gets out about this unique program.



Brooke Durkac, daughter of Lt. Col. Greg Durkac, (who recently returned from deployment to Iraq with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry) poses with Western Michigan University cheerleaders, Jessica Kraft and Emily Bainbridge at Reed Fieldhouse in Kalamazoo, Mich. Brooke’s family was among several Michigan military families who were treated to WMU game tickets and other goodies compliments of Camouflage Kids, Inc. (Photo by Jeff Nix, Camouflage Kids, Inc.)

Michigan Air National Guard's Finest

Airman of the Year

Senior Airman Anthony Palazzolo
110th Maintenance Squadron



Senior Airman Anthony Palazzolo is a hydraulic systems journeyman and has been a member of the Michigan Air Guard since June 2003. He has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Palazzolo is pursuing a bachelor degree and is employed as a temporary technician at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.

1st Sergeant of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Kristina Person
110th Fighter Wing Mission Support Group



Senior Master Sgt. Kristina Person is a network infrastructure systems craftsman and the first sergeant assigned to the 110th Mission Support Group, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. She enlisted in the MIANG in 1993 and has eight years U.S. Navy service. Sgt. Person is a member of the Base Honor Guard and serves as the bugler in addition to other funeral honor duties. She has a

bachelor's degree in business leadership and works full-time for the state as an information technology specialist.

NCO of the Year

Technical Sgt. Christopher Keller
Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center



Technical Sgt. Christopher Keller is a medical services craftsman and has been a member of the Michigan Air National Guard since April, 2003. He has 10 years active duty Air Force service. He deployed to support Operation Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and to Qatar in 2008. He is pursuing a registered nurse degree.

Honor Guard Member of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Kristina Person
110th Fighter Wing Mission Support Group



Senior NCO of the Year

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Downey
110th Fighter Wing Communications Flight



Senior Master Sgt. Paul Downey is a network infrastructure systems craftsman and the NCOIC of the Standardization and Evaluation section. He joined the Michigan Air National Guard in 1994 and has 15 years US Army Reserve service. He is employed at OMNI Community Credit Union as the chief operations officer. He has deployed to Italy in support of Operation Deny Flight and

Recruiter of the Year

Technical Sgt. Steven Sellers
127th Wing Mission Support Flight



Technical Sgt. Steven Sellers is a production recruiter at the 127th Wing and has been a member of the Michigan Air National Guard for 11 yrs. He is currently pursuing an associate's degree in the human resource area.

to Shaw Air Force Base in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

2009 Tips-Up for the Troops Charity Troop Appreciation Event

On June 13th, 2009, the *Brain Injury Association of Michigan* will host a free "Heroes In Helmets" joint civilian and military family reunion style event. One key activity within the event will be the 3rd Annual "Tips-Up for the Troops" Veterans Charity Bass Tournament, presented by *Legal Help for Veterans*. The bass fishing event is held specifically for veterans as a way to say "Thank-you" for their service.

The events will be held at the Kensington Metropark in Brighton, Mich. There will be free food, fun, entertainment, and games for everyone. Proceeds will benefit the Brain Injury Association of Michigan to help Michigan's military combatants and civilians by "Creating a Better Future through Education, Advocacy, Research, Support and Prevention".

While the Troops are tackling the big bass at "Tips-Up", everyone else will enjoy a full schedule of fun such as: family fun walk, classic car show, Midway displays, entertainment, Farm Center and Nature Center "tours", swimming, boat rides, hay rides, working dog shows, canoeing, bike rides and roller blade - (bring your skates and bikes-- helmets and safety equipment required) and the many other family oriented activities. Plan to bring the gang and we hope to see you there!

Registered veterans and their family members are eligible for:

- Free admission to Kensington Metropark
- Free participation in the "Tips-Up for the Troops" Bass Fishing Tournament (Michigan fishing license is not required)
- Free events start at 9 a.m. and goes all day long
- Free Tournament "Weigh-in Show" and entertainment (starts at 1:30 p.m.)
- Free "All-American" family style BBQ (starts at 2 p.m.)

APPLICATION DEADLINE May 15, 2009

Name _____ I _____ am or _____ am not a U.S. Military Veteran.

Names of Others Attending with you: (please indicate first and last names and relationship to you)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____

Street address, PO Box, Apt # _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Alt Phone () _____ Email _____

Sign me up for: (Indicate the number that will attend each event – All events are FREE to Veterans and their families)

_____ BBQ _____ Family Fun Walk _____ Kid's Casting Contest _____ Nature Center Tour

_____ Farm Center Tour _____ Kids Games _____ Canoe Trip _____ Softball Game _____ Shore Fishing

Bass Tournament Participants: _____ Boater _____ Non-Boater Boat Year//Model: _____

Veteran Info: _____ Army _____ Air Force _____ Navy _____ Marine _____ Coast Guard

I (or your family) _____ do _____ do not require handicap access parking and provisions.

I _____ have or _____ have not been awarded a Purple Heart.

I _____ am or _____ am not an OIF / OEF Veteran.

I _____ am or _____ am not a combat Veteran of any conflict.

I _____ do or _____ do not require fishing equipment.

_____ I understand that I do not need a Michigan fishing license for this event.

**Mail to: Brain Injury Association of Michigan
Attn: Tips-Up Registration
7305 Grand River, Suite 100
Brighton, Michigan 48114-7379**

Fax Form to: (810) 229-8947

Questions: Call Rick Briggs at (810) 229-5880

APPLICATION DEADLINE May 15, 2009



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BASE

A-10 PILOTS’ “FINI-FLIGHT” AT BATTLE CREEK

By Technical Sgt. Alec Lloyd, 110th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs



For 12 pilots of the 110th Fighter Wing, the weather forecast for their last Unit Training Assembly flying the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft had a twist – after landing they could expect to be sprayed down with a mixture of cold water and champagne by friends and family.

This tradition is called the “fini-flight,” a venerable tradition with roots going back at least 40 years.

According to Master Sgt. Kenneth Glidden, an operations technician with the 172nd Fighter Squadron, fini-flights commemorate the last flight for a pilot in a type of aircraft, organization, or career.

“I think it’s great,” Sgt. Glidden said. “I can’t think of a better way to go out. It’s not only for the pilot; it’s memorable for the crew chiefs who launch for the last time.”

Given the normal rate of retirements and reassignments, a fini-flight takes place every couple of months, but with the departure of the A-10C, they have been coming fast and furious.

Three four-ship flights completed fini-flights over the November UTA weekend, with two on Saturday and one on Sunday. Upon their return, the aircraft taxied under an arch of water supplied by two fire trucks and then parked on the ramp. Once all was in order and the engines shut down, the pilots climbed down and were met with a cheerful deluge.

“I don’t know if this is the best day or the worst day of my life,” said a soaking wet Capt. Daniel Drag.

For some unlucky pilots, the hosing down on the flight line was not the end of their ordeal.



Lt. Col. Kier Knapp, an A-10 pilot assigned to the 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, receives the “fini-flight” ritual shower in November 2008 after his final flight in the A-10 “Warthog” aircraft. Pictured are Ryan Knapp, Lt. Col. Stephan Otto, Lt. Col. Knapp and Capt. Brian Prichard. Some of the pilots will transfer to the 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, the new home for the A-10. (Photo by Technical Sgt. Derek Blumke, 110th Fighter Wing)

“I’m going to kill the lieutenant that froze my flight suit,” joked Maj. Michael Lowes after finding his change of clothing mysteriously had been placed in the squadron freezer.

The fun has a bittersweet side for pilots and ground crews alike. Senior Master Sgt. James Trainor is the weapons element superintendent with the 110th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and his voice fills with pride when he recounts the Wing’s achievements with the A-10. “We’re 11-0, we’ve never lost a game, never failed an inspection. I left a year ago yesterday [Oct. 31, 2007] to go to Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Neither the C-21 nor the C-27 missions have a role for the Weapons Element, so they have been actively engaged in helping members find new places. Some are going with the aircraft to the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, while others are cross-training. He praised the leadership for checking up on members, helping them with resumes and finding opportunities.

Sgt. Trainor said that cooperation between the two organizations has been good.

“They [Selfridge] have especially been impressed with how neighborly we’ve been about training them.” He said there is a strong satisfaction among his shop that they are passing on aircraft in good shape.

For prior service members, the transition is less jarring because they are more used to using different airframes. Technical Sgt. Donald Berry, an avionics technician with the 110th Maintenance Squadron, has been at Battle Creek for six years. Before that, he worked with the C-130, HH-60 and the A-10 so he is used to frequent changes in aircraft. What bothers him the most is the disruption to the people.

“I’ll miss the camaraderie,” he says of the transition. “It’s a small unit and everyone pretty much gets along.”

Some members are going to the 110th Communications Squadron while others are leaving for the Component Numbered Air Force.

Wing Commander Col. Rodger Seidel was one of the pilots who completed his fini-flight Saturday. As a command pilot with 4,000 flying hours in the A-10 and someone who has poured countless more hours into building a strong future for the base, the celebration had special meaning.

“I strapped the airplane on 30 years ago,” Col. Seidel said after his soaking. “I don’t think there’s anyone from my FTU [formal training unit] still flying the plane. Flying the A-10 afforded me the opportunity to work with great people, including Maintenance, Operations and Support.”

At right: Col. Rodger Seidel smiles as he prepares to step out of his A-10 Thunderbolt II at the completion of his official “fini-flight” at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Nov. 1, 2008. (Photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins, 110th Fighter Wing)



Capt. Daniel Drag, an A-10 pilot assigned to the 172nd Fighter Squadron, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, receives a thorough soaking after his final flight in the A-10. Pictured in the foreground from the left: Capt. Aaron Bohn, Capt. Drag, Airman 1st Class Brian Burdett, Capt. Jeremy Stoner, and Capt. Ryan Schipper. (Photo by Technical Sgt. Derek Blumke, 110th Fighter Wing)

New Jet for the 110th Fighter Wing

By Technical Sgt. Jonathan Stein, 110th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs

After much anticipation, the C-21 Learjet was unveiled Dec. 6, 2008 at the 110th Fighter Wing, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. The jet replaces the A-10C Warthog as the flying mission for the 110th.

The Wing Commander, Col. Rodger Seidel began the event by thanking the members of the 110th Fighter Wing for their dedication to the A-10 mission and stating that he looks forward to their ongoing commitment to the C-21.

“This brief ceremony marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next for the 110th Fighter Wing,” said Col. Seidel.

He commented that from 1991 until November 2008, the members of the 110th Wing have flown and maintained the A-10 around the world, from Thailand to Afghanistan. They have supported eight combat/contingency deployments, totaling more than 5,000 flying hours, with 45 percent direct combat flying hours.

The unit has received four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, one with a valor device, and unit member have received 14 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 Bronze Stars.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler remarked on the transition of the C-21. “It is a bit sad to see the end of an era,” said Gen. Cutler, “but the C-21 is a bridge to the future.”

State Senator Mark Schauer was the second distinguished visitor and said it was a sad occasion to say goodbye to the A-10 aircraft but that he celebrates the new mission. He extended his thanks to the unit and said, “I will be your full partner going forward.”

After their remarks, the C-21 was unveiled with new markings that include the 172nd Airlift Squadron badge on the forward fuselage, Battle Creek on the wing, and Michigan on the tail.

So, what about the pilots who have stepped out of the cockpit of the A-10 and into the C-21? Lt. Col. Stephan Otto and Maj. Matthew Young are the first pilots trained to fly the C-21. Lt. Col. Keir Knapp will complete flight training by March 2009.

“It’s a much better quality of life,” said Lt. Col. Otto. “Training for the C-21 is only three weeks in length compared to six months of training for the A-10.”

With the possibility of being part of the Joint Operational Airlift Center’s mission which specializes in the airlift of senior defense officials within the continental United States, the C-21 brings more opportunities for the pilots to acquire flying hours, and unlike the A-10, where routine flying is for training; these pilots will fly customers around the United States.

“It’s a bridge mission to the cNAF. [Component Numbered Air Force; provisional air component headquarters for potential contingencies.] The C-21 will give members of the 110th the opportunity to maintain their training and keep the base and equipment functioning,” said Lt. Col. Knapp.

All three pilots mentioned that the C-21 has unique challenges such as limited visibility, switch panel layout, and overall pilot situational awareness.

The aircraft has difficult rear visibility unlike the A-10, which has a canopy that provides greater visibility.

Currently the 110th Fighter Wing has two C-21 jets and expects an additional three to seven aircraft. The maintenance crews are ramping up, and the pilots will likely begin flying in April 2009.

The 110th leadership anticipates that the wing’s new mission will be operational and flying within a year.



Col. Rodger Seidel and Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler stand alongside the new C-21 Learjet at an unveiling ceremony on Dec. 6, 2008 in the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base hangar. The C-21 is a National Guard Bureau “bridge mission” for the wing, and will provide a segue until the CNAF mission is in place.

(Photo by Master Sgt. Dale Atkins, 110th Fighter Wing)



Master Sgt. Denise Rankin

TEAM BUILDING: Attendees of the Diversity Champions Workshop participate in a team building exercise.

Diversity Champions

By Chief Master Sgt. Bob Dobson, JFHQ, MIANG, State Human Resource Advisor

The U.S. military has long held the sacred oath to "leave no Soldier or Airman behind." That commitment was foundational to a recent Diversity Champions Executive Workshop held in East Lansing, Jan. 22-23, 2009.

Diversity Champions workshops are rolling out across the Air National Guard.

Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the new director of the National Guard Bureau, has said, "Diversity is a cornerstone of the Air National Guard's strategy to be an effective, efficient, highly innovative military force."

Gen. McKinley and his senior staff attended a Diversity Champions workshop last year while he was still serving as director for the Air National Guard.

He became convinced of its value to shape and diversify the ANG and committed to fund a workshop for every Wing in the Air National Guard over the next two years.

"The challenge for us is to create and sustain a culture that grows adaptable Airmen who can function in diverse mission environments," said Gen. McKinley.

Many Michigan Air National Guard members will soon benefit from the general's commitment. Battle Creek and Selfridge ANG Bases will each host a Diversity Champions workshop in 2009. This training should help solidify existing efforts to create a culture in which every Airman is able to lead and serve to her or his fullest potential. The goal is to host additional workshops in 2010 and beyond.

In preparation for this rollout Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, the Adjutant General of Michigan, convened Army and

Air National Guard senior leaders from the Michigan Joint Force Headquarters, the two Air National Guard bases, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Veterans Affairs and the Michigan Homeland Security directorate for an executive version of the workshop.

During the training, attendees were challenged to come up with a meaningful team name. Michigan's team chose the team name of "The Great Lakers" to identify with our unique state and also to suggest the "greatness" with which they will lead their organizations as Diversity Champions as well as the greatness that they know lies within the members of the Army and Air Guard.

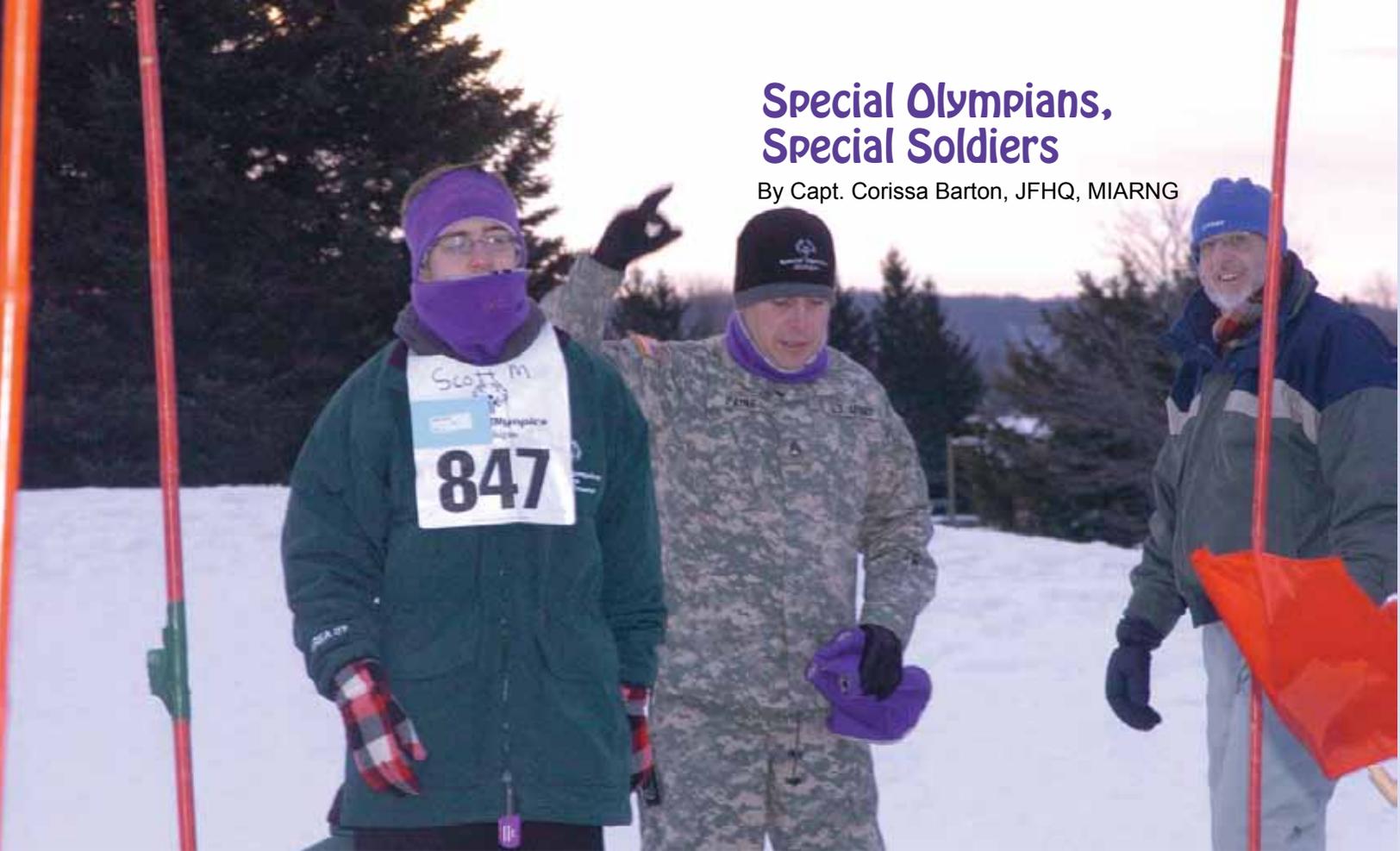
Through interactive discussions, powerful video clips and challenging teamwork activities, workshop attendees came to understand that diversity is not a social program, it is a leadership imperative. To successfully meet the challenges ahead, we cannot afford to leave the talent in our Airmen and Soldiers untapped.

Sir Winston Churchill once said, "To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered a choice to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be his finest hour."

Perhaps this year you will be "tapped on the shoulder." Are you prepared?

Special Olympians, Special Soldiers

By Capt. Corissa Barton, JFHQ, MIARNG



Military members take an oath to support and defend against all enemies foreign and domestic. For one week in February however, members of the 210th Military Police Battalion, Michigan Army National Guard, were able to relax a bit and live under another oath.

“Let me win; but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” This is the oath of athletes participating in the Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) State Winter and Summer Games.

And for 32 years, the 210th Military Police and other Michigan National Guard units and retirees have volunteered at the games. The winter games are in Traverse City, Mich. This year, the events were alpine and cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, figure skating, snowboarding, and speed skating. The Soldiers volunteer at the event sites and traffic control points where the most interaction with athletes occurs.

“The honest friendship and goodwill I experience while volunteering for the games keeps me coming back every year,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Cech, of the 144th Military Police Company.

The 144th Military Police Company has taken the lead on running the events since the beginning. Cech has been a volunteer at the games for the last five years.

Another volunteer from the 144th is Staff Sgt. Bill Paine. He has volunteered for the past 11 years and is well known for his use of the “challenge coin”.

The coin idea developed about five years ago when two volunteers, Ben and Helen Tewellen, bought wooden nickels to give to the athletes. The nickels have the 210th Military Police Battalion logo on one side and the Special Olympics Michigan logo on the other. Originally, they were intended to be a souvenir from the Soldiers to the athletes, but a few years ago, Paine decided they should be given more like a traditional military challenge coin for outstanding effort.

Since then, Paine has matched athletes push-up for push-up as they earn their coins; working together in a playful, competitive pursuit of victory.

“They constantly challenge me and the other Soldiers now. Some of the athletes aren’t able to do push-ups so they do sit-ups, jumping jacks, or they sing with the Soldiers,” said Paine. “Their determination and enthusiasm is inspiring and contagious.”

There are 39 different SOMI areas in the state. Paine is now an honorary member of Area 27 which has more than 300 athletes from Livingston County, Mich. A few years ago, Paine was challenged by an Area 27 Special Olympian to race their snowshoe coach, Michele McLeod. Paine and McLeod battled it out to the finish line. Ever since that competition, Paine has raced McLeod, while a rookie Soldier volunteer races an Area 27 athlete who feels ready for the challenge.

During this year's winter games, Paine was given a purple neck and ear warmer because of his honorary team member status.

The Soldiers volunteer every year and the athletes look forward to the interaction with them.

"It's hard to put into words," said Paine. "They look at us as an inspiration, when in fact they are the inspiration to us. One year an athlete, probably 40 years old, told me she wanted to be just like me when she grew up."

In many cases, SOMI is a good training ground to build athletes' sports skills, interpersonal abilities and confidence to prepare them for involvement in mainstream sports. Just like other athletic events, they win, they cope with penalties, they are disqualified, and sometimes they lose.

"The only disappointment I have ever seen an athlete exhibit was when he or she felt bad for a fellow athlete who may have struggled or had a poor event," said Cech. "I have never seen an athlete feel sorry for him or herself. These athletes epitomize selflessness."

There are many ways Soldiers can get involved with SOMI, including the annual Polar Plunge. This event is held in the winter at local lakes and ponds with donors plunging into frigid water. Anyone can participate in their local area by raising a minimum donation of \$50.

Other Special Olympic areas have events such as basketball, bowling, soccer, cycling and hockey tournaments. For more information about Special Olympics Michigan, visit www.somi.org or specialolympics.org.



Staff Sgt. Bill Paine, a member of the 144th Military Police Company, Owosso, Mich., races Special Olympics Michigan, snowshoe coach, Michele McLeod, during a break from his volunteer service at the Special Olympics Michigan State Winter Games held in Traverse City, Mich., Feb. 5, 2009. Paine has volunteered for 11 years with SOMI and this year was presented a purple scarf and ear warmer by SOMI Area 27 (Livingston County). He is now considered an honorary member of their staff.

Photo opposite page: Staff Sgt. Bill Paine gets ready to start the Special Olympics Michigan snowshoe competition during the winter events held each year at the Grand Traverse Resort, in Traverse City, Mich. For the past 32 years, members of the 210th Military Police Battalion have volunteered at the SOMI winter games. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller, JFHQ, MIARNG)

Michigan Guard Soldier receives \$500 NGAM education grant

Sgt. 1st Class Idris Valez from the Michigan Army Guard Recruiting and Retention Command, receives a National Guard Association of Michigan education grant check for \$500 from Lt. Col. Shawn Harris, on behalf of the NGAM association.

Twice annually, NGAM awards educational grants to members in the grades of E-2 through E-8 and first lieutenant through captain.

Winners are selected on June 15 and November 15.

Applications are available on-line from the NGAM Website (www.ngam.org), under the "Grants" link.

Mail completed applications to NGAM, P.O.Box 810, Cadillac, Mich., 49601.



Staff Sgt. Jim Downen



Currently Deployed

- Det 15, Operation Support Airlift
- Det 2, 351st Aviation Support Bn
- Embedded Training Team
- 1431st Engineer Company
- Operational Mentor and Liaison Team
- 126th Cavalry Squadron
- 1463rd Transportation Company
- 1460th Transportation Company

Home Station

- Lansing
- Grand Ledge
- Lansing
- Calumet
- Lansing
- Wyoming
- Wyoming
- Midland

Location

- Fort Benning (Iraq)
- Fort Sill (Afghanistan)
- Fort Riley (Afghanistan)
- Afghanistan
- Afghanistan
- Kuwait
- Iraq
- Iraq

Homecomings

- 126th Press Camp Headquarters
- 63rd Brigade Embedded Training Team

Home station Location

- Augusta Iraq
- Wyoming Afghanistan

Chaplain (Col.) Herbert Heavner of Joint Force Headquarters, Michigan Army National Guard gives the benediction at the 1st Battalion, 126th Cavalry Squadron's homecoming ceremony Dec. 12, 2008, at the Resurrection Life Church in Grandville, Mich. The Soldiers left Michigan in January 2008 for mobilization training at Fort Hood, Texas. They arrived in Kuwait in April and provided convoy security and security force protection missions between locations in Kuwait and Iraq. Currently there is still a remnant of the 126th Cavalry Squadron Soldiers still deployed to Kuwait. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG)

NATIONAL GUARD IN HISTORY

Did you know that women were not authorized to join the Michigan National Guard until 1967?

As the National Guard reorganized its units after World War II, there were no women among the troops. Because of the Guard's dual federal and state mission, there was no central authority to grant women access to its ranks.

Starting in the mid-1950s, some Air Guard commanders received permission from the National Guard Bureau to employ female "augmentees", drawn from the Air Force Reserve, to work in their medical units. This policy permitted women officers to conduct "traditional" stateside training in Guard medical facilities. If these units were mobilized, the women would return to their Reserve "parent" organization and the Guard's readiness for deployment would be compromised. It was clear that women must be allowed to serve directly as members of the Guard in order to maintain unit preparedness.

In July 1956, Congress enacted passage of Public Law 845, authorizing female officers in the National Guard. By the end of 1957 the Air Guard had 42 female nurses. By 1960, the Army Guard included 56 women in their force of 401,765.

On Nov. 8, 1967, Public Law 90-130 authorized the enlistment of women in the National Guard.

(Source of information: <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/guard.html>)

Today's Michigan National Guard is comprised of a little more than 14 percent women. There are 1,273 females in the Michigan Army Guard, 100 of which are officers and 426 women in the Michigan Air Guard, 42 of them are officers.

Michigan Air and Army National Guard Promotions

Dec. 1, 2008 through Feb. 15, 2009

Air Guard

Maj.

Peterson, Parker C.

1st Lt.

Ahrens, Sharon M.

Chief Master Sgt.

Jonesrenfroe, Jonai E.

Mason, Carrie L.

Senior Master Sgt.

Dark, Kenneth J.

Dilliner, Timothy M.

Doty, Aaron G.

Foster, Steven R.

Geliske, Barry S.

Shipley, Harold J.

Thalhamer, Patti L.

Master Sgt.

Contreras, Stephen J.

Daggett, Dean P.

Deming, Cassandra D.

Laguardia, Carmen K.

Lemoncelli, Vincent P.

Perigo, David M.

Skirpan, Peter L.

Tyrer, Richard C.

Wilson, Forest E.

Tech. Sgt.

Adams, John R.

Benjamin, Robert M.

Bicker, Jared C.

Blasky, Byron J.

Cone, Mark E.

Davidson, Barton C.

Emmendorfer, Mark A.

Heaton, Daniel J.

Hernandez, Daniel J.

Lab, Chad A.

Laitila, Kevin J.

Martinez, Jason M.

Mitchell, Michael W.

Nitz, Jody J.

Packer, Michael J.

Petitpren, Les J.

Rodriguez, Nolan R.

Salem, Christina L.

Scott, John M.

Seams, Alek S.

Wilson, Sherlyn M.

Wolford, Erik M.

Wontorcik, Matthew G.

Staff Sgt.

Barner, Robert A.

Chaves, Tina S.

Childers, Damon J.

Ferguson, Ryan M.

Gapczynski, Emily E.

Gross, Kenneth J.

Hatfield, Shawn L.

Huerta, Victor F.

Kowalski, Travis L.

Lootens, Jason C.

Moore, Jon C.

Nacewicz, Anthony S.

Palazzolo, Anthony J.

Pommer, Tina S.

Sabo, Ryan J.

Santiago, Emily E.

Slone, Kingsley M.

Toth, Joseph J.

Tournaud, Robert S.

White, Jarrit D.

Senior Airman

Anderson, Lindsey M.

Arnold, Elisabeth T.

Bechtel, Jennifer E.

Butters, Keegan C.

Cochran, Dale A.

Colden, Elisabeth T.

Fulton, Sadie Z.

Pratt, Elizabeth K.

VanDriessche, Elizabeth

Airman 1st Class

Matchinski, Dustin N.

Army Guard

Brig. Gen.

Francisco, Burton

Lt. Col.

Mcnamara, Michael

Vern, Thomas

White, Victoria

Maj.

Gerwolds, Bryon

Lagrou, Robert

Macquarrie, Douglas

Capt.

Barton, Corissa

Beelen, Gary

Martinus, Brian

Rodgers, Shannon

Rolling, Jason

1st Lt.

Falls, Chasity

2nd Lt.

Bravata, Jason

Cremonte, Andrew

Love, Kyle

Lundquist, Ryan

Vanschoick, Parker

Warrant Officer 3

King, Todd

Warrant Officer 2

Mcdevitt, Kevin

Warrant Officer 1

Agle, Anthony

Balcer, Andrew

Williams, Aaron

Master Sgt.

Allen, Jeffrey

Balwinski, Sharon

Gonzales, Miguel

Hackworth, David

Hahn, Charles

Kotila, Jack

Merrrow, William

Nault, Robert

Sgt. 1st Class

Anderson, Tamara

Bender, Keli

Berdan, Todd

Boyd, Kenneth

Chase, Kevin

Dean, Ross

Hathaway, George

Hawkins, Venice

Hoopingarner, Billy

Knight, Christina

Lytte, Andrew

Oneill, Dennis

Palmreuter, Nicholas

Passino, Matthew

Philpott, Bruce

Primeau, Wilfred

Roach, Rodney

Silk, Rodney

Stewart, Tommy

Stitt, Bradley

Vany, Michael

Waller, Robert

Staff Sgt.

Acker, Lauranna

Adrian, Billy

Alcorn, Ivor

Amerson, Wesley

Anderson, Michael

Arthur, William

Bartholomew, Damon

Brace, Brian

Bretz, Joseph

Cadotte, Christopher

Carrick, Phillip

Collier, Larry

Conway, Paul

Daw, Jason

Dexter, Rocky

Diehl, James

Duke, Garret

Garbrecht, Richard

Gyulveszi, Stacy

Hall, Jeffrey

Hart, Paul

Holly, Andrew

Hooyman, Bruce

Howard, Cassandra

Howie, David

Hulet, Jeffrey

Inks, Ryan

Jannausch, William

Kilpela, John

Knapp, Zia

Lamb, Ryan

Leach, Gregory

Mayne, Samantha

Mcginnis, Misty

Morris, Adam

Napier, Myzell

Palmer, Edward

Palmer, John

Phillips, Vernetta

Pickford, Tomy

Reyes, Sergio

Rochefort, Roger

Rogers, Chanda

Root, Aaron

Sanders, Kenneth

Schroeder, Tomasz

Smith, Dennis

Taylor, Kristin

Thayer, Jason

Thorpe, John

Turnbull, Hugo

Tyler, Val

Weage, Rick

Wilson, Barry

Wolf, Steven

Sgt.

Ambrose, Timothy

Anderson, Tiffany

Barry, Steven

Beader, Jennie

Bishop, Paul

Blades, Charles

Brale, Steven

Burch, Anthony

Campbell, Angela

Castle, Jeffery

Cornielle, Franklin

Corrie, Paul

Cummings, Jerry

Dannemiller, Marcus

Davis, Desmond

Debri, Mark

Deur, Aaron

Do, Luu

Doughty, Latisha

Dugan, Andrew

Durand, Jaime

Ecker, Tamera

Feasel, Walter

Ferguson, Diana

Finger, Bryce

Foreman, Kathleen

Frye, Frederick

Garnick, Michael

Goslee, Charles

Griffin, Joshua

Groulx, Forrest

Heady, Charles

Hervey, Christopher

Hill, John

Hiner, Daniel

Hood, Darrell

Hurst, Mark

Hutchinson, Eric

Huver, Ann

Isham, Douglas

Kemp, Darnisha

Kendrick, Jamiel

Kissel, Beth

Kue, Andrew

Larimer, Shaun

Malenfant, Anthony

Marshall, Terrence

Marth, Cory

Marth, Joseph

Marzic, Christopher

May, Michael

Mccarty, Patrick

Mespaden, Erik

Meadows, Arthur

Meier, Mark

Melvin, Aaron

Mickus, Brandyn

Moes, Dominic

Montague, Harold

Oconnor, Michael

Omelianoff, Matthew

Povey, Travis

Queen, Gary

Reed, Jason

Rescoe, Stewart

Reynolds, Ryan

Rhodes, Rasheed

Rickman, Ross

Roberts, Joshua

Schwartz, James

Scott, James

Sells, Shawn

Shapardon, Christopher

Simburger, Emily

Skaj, Terri

Smith, Christopher

Stjohn, Michael

Tarris, Jeremy

Taylor, Matthew

Thomas, Daniel

Thornburg, Cory

Torres, Fernando

Truitt, Latasha

Vanvoorst, Aaron

Spc.

Acosta, Jose A.

Abbeg, Christopher

Almstadt, Raymond

Ames, Lucas

Anderson, Andre

Athan, Robert

Baker, Brittny

Barrera, Gabrielle

Baumgartner, Daniel

Beard, Matthew

Bennett, Kevin

Bitney, Kyle

Blunt, Nicholas

Boldt, Oren

Brendel, Matthew

Brock, Jasmine

Brown, Armanda

Brown, Matthew

Brown, Sean

Bylsma, Jennifer

Cady, Tyler

Candela, Angela

Cantrell, Jeremy

Chapman, Tracy

Clark, Joshua

Coffey, Stephen

Coston, Michael

Covey, Sean

Crittenden, Jessica

Cuba, Bryce

Davoren, Eric

Depew, Kimberly

Deutsch, Erica

Dheel, Beecher

Dietrich, Joshua

Doman, Scott

Doran, Robert

Dowell, Daniel

Dykstra, Travis

Army National Guard Promotions continued

Hubers, Rebekah	Routheaux, David	Enriquez, Julio	Niemi, Elwood	Private 2	Maranian, Johnathan	Rockefeller, John
Inlay, David	Ruff, Thomas	Erbetta, Joseph	Noe, Alexa	Agnew, Litunjia N.	Mcghan, Brandon	Roscoe, Alexander
Inman, James	Rundell, Jason	Fasten, Maxwell	Oler, Trisha	Abbott, Shane	Miller, Justine	Rowden, Tyler
Johnson, Timothy	Sadiq, Najma	Fasten, Maxwell	Osteen, Travis	Adams, Matthew	Miller, Michael	Rysdyk, Jason
Jones, Eric	Schroeder, Michael	Finkbeiner, Jordan	Peck, James	Agar, Amber	Moore, Andrew	Schwab, Calvin
Kenney, Scott	Schultz, Aaron	Fleming, Kimberly	Peet, Matthew	Alcorn, Terry	Nash, Ashley	Shankster, Alexander
Kinnunen, Steven	Schwab, Nathan	Flores, Pablo	Pelton, Britny	Alciseo, Matthew	Nellist, Leland	Sielawa, Carol
Klush, Michele	Shankster, Alicia	Flynn, Tierney	Perry, Emerald	Allor, Jessica	Newell, Austin	Smith, Charles
Kosinski, Tyler	Sheridon, James	Fowler, Lloyd	Peterson, Maraya	Archambeau, David	Norton, William	Smith, Lindsay
Kozan, Andrew	Sibbald, Phillip	Fricke, Tanya	Phillips, Steven	Arndt, Jordan	Oneil, Brian	Spencer, Christopher
Kraniak, Joshua	Sissom, Jonathon	Gage, James	Plichta, Amanda	Aulgur, Lydia	Palmer, Marilyn	Stenzel, Michael
Kreitner, Jeffery	Smith, David	Gallegos, Derek	Pomeroy, Justin	Baisden, Brittani	Papenfuse, Gillen	Stonicepher, Michael
Kremhelmer, Joshua	Smith, Richard	Gearhart, David	Pratt, Gage	Ballard, Scott	Pasanski, Shawn	Stremick, Cassandra
Lamay, John	Stengel, Michael	Genta, Justin	Prichard, Kevin	Barth, Chad	Pawczuk, Joseph	Taylor, Caitlin
Leclair, Kyle	Stout, Jonathan	Glasser, Emily	Pruitt, Alexas	Blakely, Joshua	Peabody, Dustin	Taylor, Vincent
Link, Keith	Stull, Nicholas	Gonzalez, Joseph	Pueblo, Jonathon	Blight, Nathan	Prawatsrichai, Robert	Thelen, Scott
Lippert, Deanna	Sylvester, James	Gross, Daniel	Reedy, Sawyer	Bliss, Justin	Queener, Tiffany	Trouten, Aaron
Liu, Yalin	Tanner, Daniel	Haan, Zachary	Reinbolt, Frank	Bobo, Akua	Raup, Jeremy	Truong, Sang
Lomoro, Jacob	Tanner, Nicholas	Hagan, Brain	Renkema, Joseph	Brant, Cody	Reyescarlson, Manuel	Vanbronkhorst, Lee
Lorway, Sean	Taylor, Ryan	Hanna, Derrick	Riccomini, Kristopher	Carrothers, Nicholas	Richardson, Cierra	Vidlund, Joshua
Luebke, Michael	Thayer, Melica	Hagan, Brain	Rittmaier, Lorne	Chirikas, Bernard	Riggs, Patrick	Vlaz, Cory
Martin, Cody	Torres, Miguel	Hanna, Derrick	Riutta, Cody	Cook, Zachary	Riley, Donald	Weir, Leon
Martin, Derek	Tripp, Matthew	Hatz, Jason	Rizor, Bethany	Crockett, Michael	Rivard, Nicholas	Wood, Chaz
Maus, Kyle	Turk, Durrell	Hay, Kent	Rizzotti, Kimberly	Csernai, Jarred	Robb, Eric	Wright, Nicholas
Maybe, Luke	Turner, Kevin	Haywood, Maegan	Romanowski, Gene	Cummings, Demaurio	Robbins, Nicholas	
Maycroft, Andrew	Ulrich, Alex	Hebert, Peter	Rosier, Jesse	Dausman, Jeffrey	Robishaw, Blaise	
Mccloskey, Timothy	Usher, William	Heckroth, Matthew	Rossow, Eric	Davio, Daniel		
Mcnutt, James	Vanotteren, Michael	Hoisington, Jason	Rouse, Michael	Demske, Joshua		
Meier, John	Werer, Logan	Hollister, Bradley	Sandoval, Noel	Diaz, Alfredo		
Meixner, Ryan	Wesoloski, Michael	Hoyt, Matthew	Scheuneman, Sarah	Dietzel, Jacob		
Metcalf, Joshua	Wheeler, Richard	Huskey, Joseph	Schippers, Jessica	Drew, Michael		
Metz, Steven	Wheeler, Sheila	Innes, Drew	Scott, Julian	Dunham, Justin		
Meyer, Taylor	White, Justin	Jamieson, Brook	Sherlund, Aaron	Egan, Thadeus		
Mihlfeld, Ian	Wilk, James	Jefferson, James	Shipman, Bryan	Elliott, Jonathon		
Mills, David	Williams, Justin	Keller, Sarah	Short, Scott	Fidler, Trey		
Mobley, Steven	Williams, Justin	King, Zachary	Shubert, Robert	Fisher, Jason		
Moncivais, Paul	Winters, Timothy	Klemkosky, Donovan	Simerson, Keith	Galloup, Michael		
Moore, Ryan	Worden, Alex	Koszla, Robert	Skriba, Scott	Gearhart, Matthew		
Moore, Timothy	Ybarra, Nicolas	Krol, John	Sleight, William	Griffen, Edward		
Moore, Timothy	Zborner, Patrick	Krzyzanowski, Angela	Sloan, Warren	Harbin, Jim		
Moreno, Timothy	Pfc.	Lamotte, Raoul	Smith, Dana	Harmon, Brian		
Munn, Matthew	Adams, Jeffrey	Langmeyer, Luke	Spalding, Thaddeus	Hawley, Shawn		
Murphy, Christopher	Adams, Kyle	Latimer, Jonah	Spear, Matthew	Henry, Jeremiah		
Myers, Vern	Anderson, Jeffrey	Lavigne, Brandon	Statler, Kyle	Hickman, Timothy		
Navarre, Adam	Anger, Melissa	Law, James	Stevens, Matthew	Hill, Alisha		
Nelson, Michael	Auge, Randy	Louis, Ryan	Stewart, Nicholas	Holcomb, Jennifer		
Nickson, Sean	Barker, Michael	Macauley, Alvin	Straub, Aaron	Houle, Justin		
Niemi, Joshua	Bean, Joshua	Main, Christian	Strom, Ryan	Huckabay, Jane		
Nobles, Tamala	Beebe, Abraham	Mallett, Andre	Swearingen, Seth	Huey, Jeremiah		
Ottusch, Josef	Bejger, Jason	Mance, Donquell	Symons, Joseph	Hutchens, Ian		
Owens, Jenna	Bell, Jason	Manea, Emanuel	Tarvas, Dakota	Jerz, Joshua		
Palmer, Robert	Belusar, Dakota	Markham, Andrew	Taylor, Sarah	Johnson, Alex		
Pappas, David	Campbell, Charles	Mcdonald, Mark	Twiggsvaldez, James	Johnson, Scott		
Patterson, Katie	Chavez, Angel	Mckenna, Joshua	Vanburen, Drew	Jones, Philip		
Phillips, William	Coleman, Mark	Meddaugh, Kevin	Vickers, Tyler	Kerby, Robert		
Pickard, Jaime	Collins, Steven	Meis, Ashlee	Wallace, Joshua	Kimbel, Adriane		
Plesko, Steven	Conner, Keith	Melton, Samuel	Weaver, Derek	Koetsier, Christopher		
Poehner, Scott	Crafts, Joshua	Merren, Jerrett	Weedon, Megan	Krueger, Jeremy		
Pohly, Karen	Cripe, Matthew	Miles, Kyle	West, Devan	Lane, Micah		
Pushies, Richard	Cruzramos, Jose	Mills, Justin	Wilcox, Patrick	Larm, Trent		
Ralston, Patrick	Dake, Kristen	Milnickel, Matthew	Winkler, Jaykob	Lee, Jeong		
Rath, Scott	Darling, Marcellus	Mitchell, Dustin	Young, William	Lee, Jordan		
Reeser, Jordan	Davis, Brent	Moes, Dannik	Zeman, Mark	Locricchio, Lawrence		
Reinhardt, Andrea	Dean, Amanda	Mohamed, Juana		Magnan, Caleb		
Rieser, Amanda	Delisle, Michael	Morrow, Stephanie				
Ritter, David	Dilyard, Amber	Moyryla, David				
Robinson, Matthew	Doran, Michael	Mullenix, Mary				
Rosedale, Damien	Dubay, Ivy	Murto, Lucas				

The Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior
and member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States
and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and
mentally tough,
trained and proficient in my warrior
tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms,
my equipment and myself.

I am an expert
and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy,
engage, and destroy
the enemies of the
United States of America
in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom
and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

Soldiers fought together, buried together

Story and photo by Master Denice Rankin, JFHQ,
MIANG

On a cold February morning last month, a Michigan Army Soldier was laid to rest in section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery. The remains of Spc. Byron W. Fouty, 19, formerly of Waterford, Mich., and Staff Sgt. Alex Jimenez who was from Lawrence, Mass., were buried together, Feb. 17, 2009, closing yet another chapter of their loved ones grief.

On May 12, 2007, seven Soldiers from the New York based 10th Mountain Division, were ambushed and overtaken by a large group of insurgents. Four Soldiers; Sgt. 1st Class James D. Connell Jr., of Lake City, Tenn.; Pfc. Daniel W. Courneya, of Nashville, Mich.; Cpl. Christopher E. Murphy, of Lynchburg, Va.; and Sgt. Anthony Schober, of Reno, Nev., were killed. One Iraqi soldier was also killed during the attack, and three U.S. Soldiers were missing.

The search for the missing Soldiers began almost immediately and within two weeks, the body of Pfc. Joseph J. Anzack, of Torrance, Calif., was found.

But the family and friends of Fouty and Jimenez held out hope for their Soldiers safe return.

In May 2008, Armed Forces Day events were coordinated by Gordon Dibler Jr., of Oxford, Mich., the step-father of Fouty, to honor all servicemen and to remind the public of the missing Soldiers.

Sadly, on July 9, 2008, the remains of Spc. Byron W. Fouty and Staff Sgt. Alex R. Jimenez were located and identified near Jurf es Sakhr, Iraq. The two soldiers had separate burials -- Fouty in San Antonio and Jimenez in New York.

On Feb. 16, 2009, the remains that were not positively identified received a group burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Fouty's mother, Hilary Meunier, Jimenez's wife, Yaderlin Jimenez, and Dibler, were seated on the front row at the grave site in Arlington Cemetery. Sgt. Jimenez' father, Ramon "Andy" Jimenez, and four of his brothers were also among the family and friends assembled for a final goodbye.

The Secretary of the Army Pete Geren was there and knelt to speak to each family member after the ceremony.

Dibler and John Dearing, the father of MIARNG Soldier, Pfc. John Dearing who was a member of 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry, Michigan Army Guard, when he was killed in Iraq by and IED, are planning an Armed Forces Day event May 17, 2009. The event will include a motorcycle rally which will begin at Boomers in Waterford and a ceremony culminating at Springfield Oaks Park in Springfield Township.



Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren, kneels to speak to Gordon Dibler Jr., of Oxford, Mich., on Feb. 17, 2009 at Arlington Cemetery in Virginia. Dibler was the step-father of U.S. Army Spec. Byron Fouty, of Waterford, Mich., whose remains, along with a fellow Soldier, Sgt. Alex Jimenez, were buried together at the national cemetery. Also pictured above in the right foreground is Hillary Meunier, Fouty's mother.



TAPS

1st Sgt. Chester H. Vandort, (ret), 92, June 22, 2008
Warrant Officer 4 Frederick C. Henich, (ret), 75, Aug. 31, 2008
Pfc. Robert M. Dance, 71, Sept. 12, 2008
Warrant Officer 4 Donald Deboer (ret), 86, Nov. 11, 2008
Sgt. 1st Class Gary W. Ferguson, 69, Dec. 4, 2008
Master Sgt. Raymond L. Bower, (ret), 73, Dec., 6 2008
Sgt. 1st Class Robert M. Banfield (ret), 58, Dec. 6, 2008
Staff Sgt. Jerry L. Root, (ret), 65, Dec. 14, 2008
1st Sgt. Clyde H. Delong, (ret), 83, Dec. 22, 2008
Sgt. Eugene R. Anthony, (ret), 59, Dec. 23, 2008
1st Sgt. James A. Rowley Jr., (ret), 55, Dec. 24, 2008
Command Sgt. Maj. William G. Hall, (ret), 84, Dec. 25, 2008
Sgt. Maj. Gerald C. Terry Sr., (ret), 89, Dec. 27, 2008
Staff Sgt. Willie B. Reece (ret), 51, Dec. 29, 2008
Master Sgt. Peter J. Otter (ret), 81, Dec. 31, 2008
Warrant Officer 2 Gordon C. Riley (ret), 77, Jan. 1, 2009
Warrant Officer 2 Milton J. Frey (ret), 76, Jan. 4, 2009
Master Sgt. Jerome G. Carman (ret), 66, Jan. 5, 2009
1st Lt. Faye E. Carpenter (ret), 83, Jan. 6, 2009
Col. Edward E. Eckart (ret), 73, Jan. 11, 2009
Master Sgt. Michael J. Clark (ret), 56, Jan. 12, 2009
Sgt. 1st Class Michael L. Mansberger (ret), 79, Jan. 20, 2009
Lt. Col. Martin T. Reams (ret), 69, Jan. 27, 2009
Lt. Col. George W. Bachman (ret), 90, Jan. 30, 2009
Master Sgt. Frank a. Sass (ret), 82, Feb. 3, 2009
Master Sgt. Wayne H. Gregory (ret), 77, Feb. 9, 2009
Lt. Col. George Holden Jr., (ret), 66, Feb. 14, 2009
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth G. Giese (ret), 62, Feb. 22, 2009



Staff Sgt. Linda Snelling, Sgt. 1st Class Michelle McMichael and Warrant Officer 2 Michael McCombs stand among fellow Operational Support Airlift, Detachment 15 Soldiers during the unit's deployment ceremony, Feb. 27, 2009 at the Joint Force Headquarters in Lansing, Mich. The three Soldiers received federal awards in recognition of past outstanding service. The detachment is now training at Fort Benning, Ga., in preparation for a nine-month deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Downen, JFHQ, MIARNG)

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