

# The Iowa Militiaman



**Welcome  
home  
1034th**

# Contents

- 4**     **Iowa unit repairs anything**  
by Sgt. Greg Heath
- 5**     **A letter from Iraq**  
by 1st Sgt. Chris Fox
- 6**     **1034th Quartermasters return**  
by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills
- 8**     **Diversity goals updated**  
by Senior Master Sgt. Russ Schuck
- 10**    **135th MPAD takes part in  
Korea's Ulchi Focus Lens**  
by Sgt. 1st Class Duff E. McFadden
- 14**    **For love of the game**  
by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rieks
- 16**    **BCC-X established**  
by Lt. Col. Richard A. Breitbach
- 17**    **Iowan earns AMC award**  
By Col. Robert E. King

## ***In Memorial***



### **Staff Sgt. Brian K. Betts 1959-2003**

A long-time member of the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Betts passed away Sept. 11 in Yarmouth, Iowa.

Betts served as pastor of Yarmouth's First Baptist Church and as chaplain for the Des Moines County Hospice.

He also served with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. and in Germany. He deployed as part of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

He is survived by his wife, Trudy, and daughters Amber and Ashlee, as well as his parents, LeRoy and Vivian, and brothers Alan and Roger.

## **The Iowa Militiaman Fall 2003**

### **The Adjutant General**

Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis

### **Public Affairs Officer**

Col. Robert King

### **Commanding Officer**

Maj. Michael Wunn

### **Print Officer**

2nd Lt. Melanie Meyer

### **Editor**

Sgt. 1st Class Duff E. McFadden

### **Staff**

2nd Lt. Jamie Davis

2nd Lt. Tim Mills

Master Sgt. Tim Saylor

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rieks

Sgt. David Kyle

Spc. Karla Rockwell

Pfc. David Gomez

Pfc. Alicia Dill

Pfc. Catie Beck

Pvt. Heather Easton

Photographer: Chuck Poch

The Iowa Militiaman is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published by the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa 50131, and is printed four times annually.

The news and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Adjutant General of Iowa, or the Department of the Army.

Address all submissions to:

**The Iowa Militiaman  
135th Public Affairs Detachment  
Camp Dodge**

**7700 NW Beaver Dr.  
Johnston, IA 50131-1902**

**or E-mail:  
paoia@ia.ngb.army.mil**

**Deadline for the Winter issue  
will be Dec. 1, 2003**

# Stay the course

Exactly two years have passed since terrorists attacked our homeland and initiated the Global War on Terror that has heavily involved the men and women of the Iowa National Guard.

On Sept. 9, Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard, was our distinguished guest at an AUSA meeting. Schultz gave a very energetic talk on the mobilization of the Army National Guard. His message was straightforward – expect more Iowa men and women to be called to serve this great nation in the Global War on Terror.

Currently, we are processing soldiers of the 1-113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Squadron for their rotation to Bosnia and Kosovo. I wish them good luck and God speed on this mission. Members of the 1-194<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery have returned after a yearlong Operation Noble Eagle deployment. Congratulations to the soldiers and the leadership on a job well done.

On Sept. 13 and Oct. 2, we welcomed home members of the 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster company from Afghanistan. Also, since the last issue of *The Militiaman*, pilots from Detachment 34<sup>th</sup> OSACOM returned home after a very successful deployment to Kuwait and Company B, 1-147<sup>th</sup> Aviation, from their assignment with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

Welcome home everyone! Outstanding performances by all.

Recently, the Vice Chief for the Army announced that all units mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom would remain in country for one year unless the combatant commander determines that unit is no longer needed.

This means our soldiers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters will be deployed longer than expected. I encourage the families of deployed members to continue to work closely with our Family Readiness team.

I ask everyone on the Iowa Team to help out in any way you can to ensure our families have the support they so richly deserve. Our soldiers and airmen are performing their mission in an outstanding manner, and are very proud of their accomplishments. We are also very proud of their accomplishments and give them our undivided support and pray for their safe return. I will soon be visiting our men and women in Iraq and I will convey to them how proud we are of them and how much we appreciate the sacrifices they are making.



We held our Joint Adjutant General Commander's Conference in August. The Command group provided considerable information on (1) steps taken by the Iowa Guard to position the team for future success; (2) challenges and road ahead for the Iowa team; and (3) senior leadership perspective on key issues affecting the Reserve Component forces.

I encourage the organizational leadership to share this information with their soldiers and airmen.

The Iowa Team is doing an outstanding job with the transformation process to include re-roles, new missions, reorganization and the establishment of the Joint Forces Headquarters-Iowa. We clearly face challenges with the road ahead, ensuring our units remain ready, reliable and relevant in the future – a challenge the Iowa Team is ready for.

Lastly, on Aug. 21, Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Kirchoff was laid to rest in Cedar Rapids. The night before, I presented his family with the Bronze Star he earned while serving in Iraq. My deepest sympathy to the Kirchoff family – their son is a hero to us all.

May we all pray that no more Iowans will have to give the ultimate sacrifice as we fight this war on terrorism.

---

## TAG Sends

Maj. Gen.  
Ron Dardis,  
The Adjutant General

---

# Iowa unit repairs anything mechanical, electrical

by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — For soldiers at Bagram Air Field, if anything mechanical or electrical breaks down there is only one place to take them.

The challenges of keeping everything up and running falls into the laps of a small army of mechanics, electricians and metal workers from the 3654th Maintenance Company, Iowa Army National Guard.

The 64 citizen-soldiers work on jobs ranging from repairing night vision goggles and Mark-19 Grenade Launchers, to overhauling humvee engines and bringing broken air conditioners back to life.

“We’re all inclusive; we have all the shops you would have in a peacetime environment in one company,” said 3654th Company commander Capt. Chad Stone.

The company encompasses a multitude of different maintenance functions, to include light and heavy wheel maintenance, an allied trade shop (metal work), communication equipment repair, generator repair and armament repair shops.

The company was mobilized in Iowa in March and after two months at Fort Reilly, Kan., being validated for active duty, they arrived at Bagram Airbase in late June.

Along with 11 planeloads of equipment, the Iowa National Guard soldiers also brought a lot of experience with them to Afghanistan.

“As a National Guard unit, we’re unique in that the jobs a lot of our people do here are the jobs they do back home in everyday life,” said

3654th 1st Sgt. Larry Kientz.

Many of the soldiers in the unit are full-time technicians who work for the Iowa National Guard maintaining military equipment back at their home stations.

“It’s pretty easy for us to keep on top of things,” said full-time technician Staff Sgt. Scott McKenzie, radio repair and electrical supervisor.

Often the only thing holding them back is lack of parts to do the job.

“It’s hard for us to get all the parts we need here because Iraq has higher priority right now,” Stone said.

“Some days we’re busy, but some days we’re just waiting for parts and we can’t do anything,” said Spc. Rowland Valderrama.

Even with the lack of parts, the unit has completed over 300 job orders in a little more than a month in-country.

“Back home you had the luxury of having every tool and every part and everything you needed to get the job done,” said heavy wheel mechanic Staff Sgt. Noel Isaac. “Here you have to improvise just to keep things up and running.

“A lot of people will just put stuff on hold while they wait for a certain part to get in, but our guys will take the initiative and come up with a plan to make a needed part, fabricate it from scratch or plan another way to make it work. It just shows how dedicated these guys are to their job.”

As National Guard soldiers, they know sometimes people will have preconceived notions about what they are capable of accomplishing.

“I don’t think we’ve had to prove anything,” Stone said. “I think that there were some people initially that had some misconceptions about what a National Guard unit could do compared to an active duty unit, but once our soldiers got in the shops all those stereotypes were thrown to the wayside.”

“If we weren’t a good unit we wouldn’t be over here,” added Sgt. Richard Ford, heavy-wheeled mechanic. “I know every morning at our formations they tell us that other units are talking about us already and saying we’re doing a good job, and that makes us feel pretty good.

(Editor’s note: This story is reprinted from the Defend America website, <http://www.defendamerica.mil>

---

Heavy-wheeled mechanics Sgt. Gary Fuller and Spc. Marc Thurman remove the engine from a forklift while completing repairs (US Army photo by Sgt. Greg Heath)



# A letter from Iraq



**(Editor's note: The following letter is from 1st Sgt. Chris Fox, 186th MP Co. It has been edited for brevity.)**

Hello everyone,

This is my mid-tour update. Some of you get emails, and some of you I only have snail-mail addresses for. I have been a little slack in my correspondence for about a month. The fact is it's almost too hot to write. Plus, not a lot of changes, so I hate to bore everyone with the same old stuff.

The days run together and time is flying by. I haven't missed a state fair or Canada fishing trip in many years. This year will be different. With the way things are going, it could be even longer.

No complaints though. It's what we signed up for. Okay, one complaint—I miss everyone and wish you could all meet me in Munich for Oktoberfest. That probably won't happen either.

So, after 110 days of living in the hottest conditions I have ever seen, we are getting a/c installed. We still live in a big warehouse and we framed up the inside and it will be cool in there very soon. By cool, I mean 90 degrees. Any cooler, we'll need to put on a sweater.

The dust is crazy. The amount of dust that accumulates inside each day is the equivalent of not dusting your house for at least a year. It's not like sand, there is no sand here. It's like moon dust. Actually, it's the same as powdered sugar.

We have a little PX right in our base camp, so we can buy all the hygiene products, pop and chips we want. Things we can't get are magazines, newspapers from home, Mac and Cheese, Ramen noodles, plain M&Ms, olives, peppers, spinach and other things I am craving. Army food for six months makes a man go skinny, Margo, however, has been mailing me most of these items and I usually consume them on the spot. We have all lost so much weight. Some needed to. I call it the desert diet.

I have been downtown many times to buy

fans, freezers, wire and other hardware items. The Iraqi people are really very friendly, Of course, there are some exceptions, like the towns of Tikrit and Fujilah and some sections of Baghdad and Saddam City. Some towns still have extremist groups and we only go there when we must.

My unit is so heavily armed that nobody really wants to mess with the bull, if you know what I mean. Other units suffered some casualties and in most cases, it is because they let their guard down. If you look like you can defend yourself, they leave you alone. So that is how we look and are all the time.

The media tends to focus on the negative. I see a lot of positive things everyday. Positive things don't sell newspapers though. We bought a satellite dish and a big TV and set up a big tent and put a/c in it for everyone to watch TV and movies. We watch a lot of Fox News and CNN.

We built a ping pong table with a sheet of plywood and 2x4's and made a net out of mosquito netting. Margo sent some paddles and balls so we had to build the table. That was a month ago and the paddles are beyond repair. Worn out. We should be getting replacement paddles soon.

We don't get much time off which can be a good thing because there isn't much else to do. Some people will be coming home on leave starting in September. About half the company said they want to take leave so we are going to try to make it happen on a rotational basis.

I haven't decided what I'm going to do yet. It would be very hard to leave here with so much going on. Not that this place can't run without me. I spent the last four years building a team that can function on it's own. These soldiers are my kids though, and being gone for two weeks under these circumstances doesn't seem like the right thing to do.

I wish all of you could be here for just one day. I know there are things that have happened I will never be able to describe to you accurately or

---

*A letter  
continued on page 19*

---

# The 1034th Quartermaster Co. returns home

by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills

A young boy stands outside Camp Dodge's Miller Armory holding a welcome home sign. He's waiting for his dad.

With his younger sister by his side, the two wait, rocking back and forth impatiently. He re-adjusts the sign, hoists it back into the air and rests it against his body, giving his tired arms a rest.

Thirteen-year-old Nick and seven-year-old Kashley Sneller have been waiting months to see their dad, Sgt. Roy Sneller.

It's not just Nick and Kashley that are waiting. Signs, American flags and balloons move slightly up and down and side to side as a group of family and friends anxiously wait the arrival of the 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company from their deployment in Afghanistan.

A truck pulls up and a man in desert camouflage quickly gets out of the vehicle. The tight, anxious air is broken by a scream of joy from his wife. She runs toward the street, and the two embrace at the front of the truck.

With tears of joy, Sgt. Chad Workman buries his face in his wife Kristal's shoulder as if the good memories of home flashed back in a moment. His son Adam and daughter Kayla join the



hug, as well.

Smiles appear as the crowd enjoys the display of joy and affection not even Hollywood could reproduce.

Minutes later, a large brown bus pulls up. The crowd gets loud with cheers and applause as the 20 other soldiers file off the bus to join Workman.

This was the scene on Thursday, Oct. 2, when the remaining 21 soldiers of the 1034<sup>th</sup> returned home after more than seven months in Afghanistan.

According to Maj. Ed Graybill, Iowa National Guard Deputy Public Affairs Officer, 63 soldiers from the 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company arrived home Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. These remaining 21 soldiers comprised the Supply Support Activity platoon, completing final demobilization operations at Fort McCoy, Wis.

According to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Karla Pfeiffer, 1034<sup>th</sup> commander, they're a quartermaster unit and therefore responsible for providing supplies. While in Afghanistan the unit provided fuel, maintenance supplies and ran a multi-class SSA (Supply, Support, Activity).

"Things provided through the SSA are any-



Debra Bricker gives husband Staff Sgt. Trent Bricker a kiss after the 1034th Quartermaster Company was released to their families (right). Nick and Kashley Sneller wait for their father, Sgt. Roy Sneller, outside Camp Dodge's Miller Armory (top right). (Iowa Army National Guard photos by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills).

thing from repair parts to toilet paper,” says Pfeiffer. She said while the 1034<sup>th</sup> did an excellent job, “I think we set new standards. The active duty was really impressed with this unit.

“We’re over-achievers.”

Family is just as important, whether on the home front, or overseas. Staff Sgt. Trent Bricker’s wife, Debra, understood this and along with Linda Morshead, the two ran the Family Readiness Program.

“We put together a monthly newsletter for all the families, we had a picnic in July and we kept in contact with everyone. We became the point of contact for the other families and any questions they might have.

While Debra said no cell phones were allowed

overseas, “They were able to call once a week. That made a huge difference — just to hear his voice once a week.”

Sgt. Bricker, who’s aware that more Iowa units may be called to help America stay safe and free, has some advice.

“Be confident in your abilities,” he said. “Don’t let your fears play on you. Make it an adventure and make it fun. That’s all you can do.”

Like the rest of the 1034<sup>th</sup>, he was reunited with his family. With tears of joy, he continued to hug his wife Debra and nine-year-old son, Alex.

The 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company has returned home.

## While cavalry deployment begins

by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills

Approximately 296 soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Squadron, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, located at Sioux City, the Cavalry’s Troop A and Troop B, at Camp Dodge and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Boone, have been ordered to federal active duty.

Mobilized as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and the war on terrorism, they will serve as part of Joint Task Force Guardian, a peace-keeping force serving in Kosovo.

The respective communities showed their support during separate send-off ceremonies throughout the state.

Standing outside Boone High School, Spc. Josh Rockwell gives his mother a hug before boarding the bus.



“My husband is in Iraq and now they’re taking my son to Kosovo,” said his mother Patty Rockwell. “I have mixed feelings. I’m sad and I’m proud. People take our freedom for granted here. They can’t do that over there. So we send these guys over there and hopefully, it will make it better.”

“We’ll do the command and control for the Multi-National Brigade East Sector, which is made up of U.S. and Greek troops, and a Polish-Ukraine unit,” said Maj. Steve Osborn, of Johnston. “The mission is part of a peace-keeping operation. KFOR is to maintain peace in Serbia. It’s a UN and NATO operation to the ‘T.’”

The unit is being ordered to active duty under a partial mobilization call-up that authorizes the president of the United States to order members of the national guard and reserves to active duty for one year that can be extended for an additional year by the Secretary of the Army.

Portions of these units have not previously been activated for federal service since World War II.

Patty Rockwell gives her son, Spc. Josh Rockwell, a hug following the Boone send-off ceremony. (far left). Meanwhile, children are given bears during the send-off ceremony at Sioux City (left). (Iowa Army National Guard photos by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills and Sgt. 1st Class Duff E. McFadden).



# Iowa Guard diversity goals updated

by Senior Master Sgt. Russ Shuck  
Iowa National Guard Diversity Manager

Recently, the Iowa National Guard Strategic Plan for Improving Diversity was reviewed and updated by Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis.

The vision remains the same as in the previous edition: "The Iowa Team: Diversity is Readiness." The Mission Statement also remains the same: "The Iowa Team is committed to readiness/mission accomplishment, reflects the communities it serves, values differences and ensures each individual has the opportunity and means to reach maximum potential."

Though the vision and the mission remain the same, the new version of the plan is more condensed to make it easier to read and understand.

Commanders who attended the 2003 commanders conference last August received a copy of the new diversity plan that includes a letter from TAG talking about the commander's role in the Iowa National Guard diversity initiative.

It does not end there. Each of us, at every rank, have a role in making today's National Guard a diverse organization.

Today's workplace is very different than it was 20 years ago. The future holds even more change. To illustrate, look at some of these facts, taken from various census projections:

- We're getting older. By 2006, the number of workers ages 45-54 will increase more than 50 percent.
- Companies will be managing several generations of workers. From the veteran workforce to baby boomers, generation Xers to the Net generation.
- New workers entering the workforce in the next five years will be 20 percent non-white men and 65 percent women.
- By 2050, minorities will make up nearly half of the nation's population.
- More women will enter the workforce, as fewer men do, and more of those women will have

college degrees.

- Workplaces will reach into a pool of people with disabilities in greater numbers.

The list goes on.

As the workplace continues to undergo shifts that are necessary to harness the talents of a diverse working population, the National Guard will need to be proactive in recruiting from a diverse workforce to maintain and grow a visible National Guard organization of the future.

Diversity within the organization can't be achieved by simply recruiting new members. Diversity will not be fully realized until it's visible in all ranks throughout the organization. That means we also need to be proactive in retaining and mentoring new members so they can grow and become the effective leaders of tomorrow's National Guard.

Mentoring needs to start immediately following the enlistment in the Guard, so the talent we recruit today can grow into the leadership of the future.

What is a mentor? The dictionary defines a mentor as a trusted counselor or guide; a tutor or coach. This is a very short and simple definition that is very easy to understand, but it can be very difficult to do. It takes a lot of time and patience. It requires you to give something of yourself that you will see little or no recognition for. Yet it is one thing we can all do, that can have a positive impact on the Guard and its future.

Read the mission statement again. "The Iowa Team is committed to readiness/mission accomplishment, reflects the communities it serves, values differences (here's the Diversity) and ensures each individual has the opportunity and means to reach maximum potential (here's the Mentoring)."

Think about it. The changes that are coming are inevitable, but it's up to us, the members of the "Iowa Team," to embrace it and make it a positive change toward the future.

## Why soldiers fight

Dr. Leonard Wong, associate research professor at the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute has released a study, "Why They Fight: Combat Motivation in Iraq," which validates the popular belief that unit cohesion is a key issue in motivating soldiers to fight.

Originally, the question rose from Samuel Stouffer's "The American Soldier" study released in 1949. For the current study, soldiers were asked the same question: "Generally, in your combat experience, what was most important to you in making you want to keep going and do as well as you did."

The report is on the institute's web site at [www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi).

## Shoomaker sworn in

Gen. Pete Schoomaker was sworn in as the Army's 35<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff by The Honorable Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary of the Army. President George W. Bush nominated Schoomaker in June to replace retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the former Army Chief.

As the Army Chief of Staff, Schoomaker will be responsible for the training, equipping, readiness, and welfare of the Army. He will also serve in a dual role as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Schoomaker, who retired from the active Army in December 2000, came back on active duty to assume the position after being confirmed by the Senate Thursday. He most recently served as Commander-in-Chief, United States Special Operations Command, based at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., from November 1997 to November 2000. Prior to that he commanded the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., from August 1996 to October 1997.

## Reserve, Guard job center opens

The 125,000 Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers currently mobilized for the war on terror will have help finding jobs when they go home. The Army Career and Alumni Program Demobilization Center, which opened Sept. 29 in Alexandria, Va., can help them find new jobs, said James Hoffman, program director.

The center responds to questions about eligibility for transition services and benefits as well as offer referral to other service providers such as the Department of Labor and Department of State Employment Office and Veterans Affairs.

A returning Reservist or Guardsman can be put in touch with the person who can help by calling 1-877-722-2270 or emailing [acap4rc@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:acap4rc@hoffman.army.mil). Additional details are at [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil).

## New Iraq zip codes announced

The U.S. Military Postal Service has assigned new geographic zip codes for units and personnel serving in Iraq. The new zip codes will decrease the time it takes for service to receive their mail, officials said, as well as to improve postal service throughout Iraq.

Family members and friends of service members and civilians assigned to V Corps and 3rd COSCOM units that currently use zip code 09302 and 09372 for their letters and packages are now required to use a new zip code that reflects the unit and individual's actual geographic location within Iraq.

The new geographic zip codes are as follows: Al Asad 09333; Babylon (MND CS) 09332; Balad (LSA Anaconda) 09391; BIAP 09335; Mosul (LSA Diamondback) 09334; Tallil (LSA Adder) 09331; Tikrit (FLB Sycamore) 09393; Umm Qasr (Camp Bucca) 09375; Rasheed 09390; Victory Base 09342; Camp Dogwood 09344.

For service members assigned to the below listed units, the zip code numbers will not change, and they remain as follows: 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) 09325; 1st Armor Division 09324; 4th Infantry Division 09323; 3rd ACR 09320; 2nd LCR 09322; 82nd Airborne Division 09394, 09384, 09368; 173rd Airborne Brigade 09347.

## Aid to deployed small businesses

The United States Small business Association now has available a Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan (MREIDL) for small businesses that employ military reservists who are called to active duty.

This program will provide loans to eligible small businesses to help cover operating expenses that would have been met if the essential Guard/Reserve employee had not been called to active duty service during a period of conflict.

Working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills, which the business cannot otherwise pay. The interest rate is calculated at four percent with a maximum term of 30 years.

To download this application, go to [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).

---

# Briefs

---

# Korea provides dynamic training for 135th MPAD

by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Duff E. McFadden

What happens when you toss together Cornhuskers, Hawkeyes, a two-week exercise, and a trip half way around the world?

You produce one dynamic training opportunity for National Guard units from neighboring states.

The units – the 111<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, Nebraska National Guard, Det 1, 111<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, Wyoming National Guard, Det 2, 111<sup>th</sup> Press Camp, Montana National Guard and the 135<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, — recently participated in South Korea’s Exercise Ulchi Lens, in support of the 19<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command.

“As a press camp headquarters, we’re a corps level asset,” said Lt. Col. Dan Lonowski, 111<sup>th</sup> Press Camp commander. “According to doctrine, a press camp will be augmented by

several mobile public affairs detachments. In our case, we’ll have as many as 11 MPADs operating under us during wartime.”

While the 135<sup>th</sup> MPAD had scheduled this year’s annual training for soldiers’ schooling, Korea was too unique of a training opportunity to pass up

“We learned late last summer we had an opportunity for a Korean deployment,” said Capt. Michael Wunn, 135<sup>th</sup> MPAD commander. “They needed an MPAD to participate in Exercise UFL, and asked if we’d be interested. Even though it’s not what we had planned for annual training, it was feasible.

“It’s important for us to work with the 111<sup>th</sup> as they’ll be our higher headquarters if we were to mobilize in defense of Korea,” Wunn continued. “So it’s important for us to train with them, to coordinate with them and to get to know their folks. All the training and coordination accomplished here lays a firm foundation to take back to our home station.”

During a normal drill weekend, these units keep busy with common task training, MOS skills, and providing stories for their respective state publications.

However, the training provided by an exercise such as UFL can be immeasurable.

“I expected it to be a good training opportunity for two reasons,” Wunn said. “First, it gave us an opportunity to work with our war-trace,





Staff Sgt. David Conklin, Det. 2, 11th Press Camp Headquarters, Montana National Guard interviews a soldier during Exercise Ulchi Focus Lens (bottom left). A scene from one of Daegu's side streets (above). A Buddhist temple (below). Members of the 135th MPAD enjoy a little down-time (upper right), as well as an opportunity to do a little shopping (bottom right). (Iowa Army National Guard photos)



which we've not been able to do. Secondly, it gave us the opportunity to train on tasks we're not able to train on during IDT weekends."

While the Iowans are used to ODTs, having been to Germany the last two years, for the 111<sup>th</sup>, Korea forged new challenges.

"There's always challenges and unexpected rewards when you work with a new unit," Lonowski said. "Just being able to work side-by-side with your war-trace units is in itself, a great benefit.

"Plus, it's always valuable to train with other units that have the same MOS as you. You learn from their leaders and hopefully, their leaders will take away something from your unit, as well," he said.

According to Spec. Karla Rockwell, the best part of the trip was the overall experience. "I really enjoyed the people, the culture and trying different foods.

"I didn't think the people would be as friendly as they were. They really made you feel welcome in visiting their country," she said.





# Through the ranks

by State Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris

It was recently my honor to host a Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Staff Ride to the Gettysburg Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg, Penn. Forty-nine middle-grade NCO's departed early on a Thursday morning. We invited a former Senior Army Advisor, Col. (Ret.) Tom Walsh, to accompany our group to act as our guide.



During Walsh's 30-year career, he had been assigned as an instructor at both West Point and the Army War College. His knowledge of the Civil War and the Battle at Gettysburg may have started as a class he was tasked to present, but it was obvious that his desire to understand what happened during the four-day battle at Gettysburg was very personal.

We arrived on the battlefield early Friday afternoon and immediately started to tour the grounds as Walsh walked us through the prelude and the start of the battle. A feeling of eeriness soon came over the entire group. We were standing on a place where American blood was shed, a place where ideals had been fought for. It was a humbling experience.

We stayed at the battlefield until dusk and then retired for the evening. On Saturday morning, we returned to the battlefield and stood on

Little Round Top as Walsh described what happened on the final day. As the fog lifted, it provided a dramatic backdrop to a significant event in American history. After a short time in the town of Gettysburg, we headed back home.

There were a lot of things that went on during that extended weekend. Some of today's leaders got to set foot on a piece of historic ground. These same soldiers were able to meet fellow NCO's from all over the State of Iowa. Different units, different missions, different parts of the great Hawkeye State were all represented that weekend.

We conducted an information-sharing session as well as a time of questions and answers about current topics and changes that are happening within the Army as well as the Iowa National Guard.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank some soldiers. To those who were selected by their commands to attend this trip, thank you for giving of your time to go on this initial outing.

To Command Sgt. Maj. Tiedt and Sgt. Maj. Waller, thanks for being the senior mentors. Master Sgt. Matt Schmell did a great job as the NCOIC.

Sgt. Maj. Dale Blodgett and Staff Sgt. Michelle Clevenger did yeoman's service in putting this trip together. I can never repay Col. Walsh, but to say thanks.

And, oh yeah, a big 'atta boy to Phil, our bus driver, who drove while we slept.



An aerial view of Camp Dodge (Iowa Army National Guard photo by Chuck Poch).

# What powerful images come to mind?

by Chaplain (Col.) Timon Davison

When you hear the word “power,” what kinds of images come to mind?

Some might think of guns, bombs, and bulldozers. There are a lot of man-made objects that are very powerful.

Yet, what about the wind, the rain and things in nature? Many of these things are very powerful, too.

But what about forces you don’t really see, which come from God, such as faith, hope and love? Aren’t those things powerful as well?

So, which is greater: The power it takes to change things on the outside, or the power it takes to change people on the inside? I think the powers that deal with people and life are the most important powers of all.

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus points to the power that people have, especially those who are in touch with God. “Salt of the earth” and “light of the world” are powerful expressions.



With God’s help the things we can accomplish and overcome are endless.

As we continue to deal with the dangers and uncertainties of these trying times, may we stay in touch with God and then harness the power of faith, hope and love.

These are the most important powers of all.  
God Bless you,  
Amen

## Iowan helps dispose radioactive waste

by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Carolyn Tenney

Lt. Col. Bill Metcalf, an M-Day Joint Headquarters officer with Facilities at Camp Dodge, has been around this year.....around Southwest Asia and around depleted uranium.

As a full-time member of Headquarters, Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Metcalf has participated in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Blue Dragon (a classified mission in Afghanistan). He commanded the U.S. Army Contaminated Equipment Retrograde Team (ACERT) in Southwest Asia, operating out of a military van.

During Operations Blue Dragon, Metcalf and his seven-person team, mostly private contractors, discovered radioactive material (“dirty bombs”) that could potentially be used by terrorist organizations. The 20-hour “D-Day portion of the operation was supported by 250 security personnel from participating countries.

As part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Metcalf and his team reconned Udari Range #8, in preparation of removing 120mm depleted uranium (DU) rounds and 30mm “penetrators.” Because of training requirements, clean-up was postponed until Oct. 2003. The ACERT submitted clean-up requirements, provided support cost estimates and prepared work plans.

Deploying with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, the

ACERT conducted battle damage assessment, surveying vehicles, including tanks, twice for radioactive contamination. A vehicle collection point was established so contaminated equipment could be shipped to the U.S. to be disposed of. Metcalf said unexploded rounds could just be picked up; it was the exploded rounds that “crapped stuff up,” as he put it.

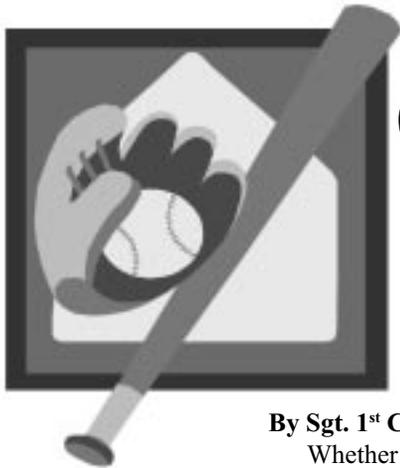
Traveling with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Div. proved to be an adventure. Convoys were backed up for 20 miles. It took 15 days, traveling across the desert, to get near Baghdad. Metcalf and his crew were bogged down for six of those days because of a “100-year” sandstorm.

The team collected, packaged and shipped for disposal unwanted low-level radioactive material in the Kuwait Area of Operations. Team members also supported the 75<sup>th</sup> Brigade, collecting and disposing of radioactive material found in Iraq that could be used in building weapons of mass destruction.

Metcalf brought back albums of photos and several souvenirs to share, including candy wrappers and an Iraqi beret. Although not a “souvenir,” per se, one item was seen in a lot of Metcalf’s photos – a “Simpson’s” comic book, entitled, “Radioactive Man – Man of Radioactivity.”

And one reflective of how Metcalf felt at the end of his first mission as ACERT commander.

# For love of the game



By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paul Rieks

Whether in the left field bleachers or behind the third base dugout, whatever the country, baseball constitutes excitement, drama and an old-fashioned love for the game.

The Republic of Korea is no exception. They cheer for their team, have a snack in the stands and bring their entire family to the ballpark.

It's a community in love with "America's Pastime" and the Samsung Lions have captured the hearts of the people of Taegu. As I watched the pre-game warm-up, I couldn't hold back the excitement and anticipation of the opening pitch.

Once the game started, however, I realized some of the differences between baseball in Korea and in America.

Koreans play the game with a purpose — to get to the end of the game. Pitchers are only allowed three warm-up tosses between innings, and the batters are already standing by home

plate waiting to begin.

Korean pitchers take very little time between pitches and the coaches do not tolerate walking batters. Pitchers are removed from the game when they start losing control of their pitches.

In America, a pitcher can use between five and seven warm-up tosses between innings, take additional time between pitches, and coaches will give a pitcher a second chance, even if they have walked a batter or two.

These may seem like petty differences, but the game I witnessed was practically over at the two-hour mark and nine runs had scored. Make no mistake, these Korean players know how to play the game.

One part of the ball game that pleased me was the unconditional respect each player had for each other, the opposing team, the game itself and most importantly, the umpires. If a pitch was thrown too high and inside, the batter didn't answer back with a stare; he knew this was part of the game.

If a batter is hit by a pitch, there is no confrontation, just a slight bow of the head by both players and play continues.

It's a game, America's game, being played by Korean's who've made it their pastime. And they look and act like professionals.

As I was sitting in the stands, I noticed how the crowd reacted. Korean's cheer for their team, yell at the umpire and have a good time. The cheering came in the form of chants, flag waving and on occasion, a loud cry of disbelief after a strikeout or bad play by the home team.

In every baseball game, there's always someone heckling the home plate umpire and this game was no exception. The heckling fan wasn't disrespectful, just very opinionated. Not once did the home plate umpire respond to the heckler's actions with a glance or gesture.

When a player from the opposing team made an outstanding play, or hit a home, not one Korean from the home side of the field acknowledged the excellence in any way. Korean's respect their team and support them during good times and bad. But in Taegu, their loyalty is with the Samsung Lions and no one else.

There are many lessons to be learned from our friends from Korea. The Korean ball players play the game of baseball the way I remember it from the 1960's back in the United States.

They play baseball because they love it, not because it's a way of life. There are very little advertisements or endorsements for these players, yet they enjoy a comfortable lifestyle that reminds them daily they are professional baseball players, South Korea's finest.



## ESC helps meet education needs

Do you want/need a college degree, but don't know how to fit it into your already full life? Are you looking for employment in the civilian sector and want to be competitive and marketable? Are you a lieutenant that needs a degree? Are you wanting to further your military career?

The Army National Guard Education Support Center (ESC) serves as a centralized education support activity for all 54 states and territories by providing Army National Guard soldiers, spouses, and ARNG federal employees direct assistance in accomplishing their academic goals.

The ARNG ESC is located at the Professional Education Center, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Ark. They are open from 6 am to 6 pm central time. Call 1-866-628-5999 Monday – Friday, or via e-mail at [esc@ngpec.org](mailto:esc@ngpec.org)

The ARNG ESC will provide personnel with a degree completion roadmap that will apply personal and professional achievements towards college-level credit. Complete the on-line application and their staff will assess your military experience and civilian education.

**Military Assessment** Did you know that your military training and experience are worth college credit? By completing basic training and AIT you can earn anywhere from 6-18 college credits or more! Students receive credits from life experiences, college level examinations, traditional courses, and professional certification.

Life experience includes military training and experiences, government agency training, and corporate training programs. Nearly 2,000 colleges and universities accept varying amounts of college credit earned through life experience. As your civilian and military careers progress, you can earn more and more college credit.

Your documented Army training experience, contained on the Army ACE Registry Transcript Service (AARTS), is an automatic data feed for much of your military credit assessment. You can verify your AARTS today at <https://aartstranscript.leavenworth.army.mil>.

College Level Examinations (CLEP) are a popular way for ARNG soldiers and spouses to earn college credit. Instead of taking a college course, you can take a test and earn as much as three college credits. In fact, credit by examinations can be earned in nearly 150 subjects, free of charge at the STARC Education Office. To set up a day and time, call 800-294-6607, ext. 4579.

## From the Education Office



Examination credit recommendations are automatically streamed into your military credit assessment. The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) provides up-to-date listings of college level examinations at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/>.

College courses are the most traditional way of earning college credit. The ESC only needs a transcript copy to complete your academic assessment. However, they need a legible copy from each of your colleges or universities.

Professional certification is another way to earn college credit and an excellent opportunity to use military experience to gain certification/licensure. There are over 200 examinations given from 40 different certifying agencies - 30 national exams including food services, fitness, electronics, medical, automotive, and more!

The exams must be related to your military occupational specialty (MOS) and only the exam costs are reimbursed. Contact the professional agency for an application and study materials. For more details on becoming professionally certified contact the DANTES website at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/>.

**Degree Planning** Once your assessment is completed, your academic assessment is merged into three-degree plans that meet your prescribed educational goals. Your ESC counselor balances a soldier's or spouse's needs and earned credits against the requirements of each school.

The ESC is partnered with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) providing a robust network of institutions that meet the unique needs of the ARNG. SOCGuard provides our soldiers with educational advice and coordinates with SOC members and network colleges to help ARNG soldiers realize their full potential.

This network ensures that each degree plan protects students from degree program changes; maximizes the use of non-traditional credit; minimizes the academic residency requirements and; maximizes the transferability of college credit already earned.

For more information on SOCGuard go to [www.soc.aascu.org](http://www.soc.aascu.org).

# The Battle Control Center—Experimental

by Lt. Col Richard A. Breitbach

It is often said that necessity is the mother of invention, and when dealing with battle management platforms, this has never been more accurate. As terrorism and numerous conflicts threaten global peace, there has been a dramatic demand for more Command and Control (C2) assets.

For the past 15-20 years, the emphasis has been on building air-centric C2 platforms such as the Airborne Warning and Control System and the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System. These platforms, along with Rivet Joint, have provided the US Air Force the capability to rapidly respond to any conflict around the world.

While the airborne C2 domain will continue to play a prominent Air Force role, the terrorist threat has brought about the need for improved ground-based C2 assets. Therefore, the need to modernize the Control and Reporting Center (CRC) has become more urgent.

This modernization effort began during Joint Expeditionary Forces Experiments (JEFX) in 1999 and 2000 at Nellis AFB, Nev. The progress made during JEFX 2000 had profound implications for many organizations across the USAF and the Air National Guard, including the 133<sup>rd</sup>. Because of their efforts, the unit was chosen to re-role to a new mission of test and evaluation.

Realigning the squadron, now known as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Test Squadron, provided the USAF with an organization that could focus on the continued modernization of the CRC.

This paved the way for the eventual fielding of the NORAD Contingency Suite (NCS) after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Lessons were learned to further develop the BCC and prepare for the first attempt at deployment. Developed at Langley AFB in April 2002, it capitalized on a new Remote Voice and Radio Capability

(RVRC) being tested at the 133<sup>rd</sup>.

It also called for developing a prototype system that could be used by the test squadron and industry representatives to baseline a facility to meet the C2 mission at the tactical level. This system, called the Battle Control Center—Experimental (BCC-X), would represent a major accomplishment in modernizing the CRC and ensure joint interoperability with other C2 platforms across the services.

The Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) Paxtuxent River, Md. was the lead for building the BCC-X. The team at NAWC and the 133<sup>rd</sup> brought up the concept of housing the BCC-X in two (three-in-one) shelters. One shelter was dedicated for operations and the other for data and voice communications.

During the last week of June, the BCC-X was introduced to Air Force leadership at Webster Field, Md. It was then shipped to the 133<sup>rd</sup> at Fort Dodge, for the official demonstration.

Once the BCC-X was in place at the 133<sup>rd</sup>, the unit connected with the 728<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron at Baghdad International Airport to interface with the AN/TPS-75 radar in Iraq, and with the Joint Interface Tactical Information Data Module to present the data link picture.

Connections were made with the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) located in Qatar, to display the theater-wide picture using Joint Range Extension (JRE) equipment. A satellite shot with the 141<sup>st</sup> Air Control Squadron (Puerto Rico) allowed for a data link picture over the Caribbean, and the unit brought in the air picture from Iowa and the Midwest region using both local and FAA radars in Iowa and Minnesota.

133<sup>rd</sup> operators conducted live control missions over Iowa and in the Crypt Military Operating Areas, and talked with KC-135s on refueling missions over Iraq. The ability of the BCC-X to fuse this amount of data onto a single display demonstrated a significant step forward in the evolution of Command and Control at the tactical level. This, along with the capability of the BCC-X to conduct Distributed Mission Operations (DMO) in a simulation environment, marks a giant leap for ground-based C2 operations.

Part of the overall Battle Control System (BCS) modernization plan, the BCC-X will eventually become the BCS-Mobile and will be interoperable with the BCS-Fixed effort to re-engineer the Air Defense Sectors. This will allow both BCS entities to provide a seamless homeland defense capability, and also a system that can be easily integrated into any campaign plan.



# Iowan earns AMC NCO of year award

by Col. Robert E. King

Sgt. Shane E. Smith, of Clive, Iowa, was recently selected as the U.S. Army Material Command's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year. He is assigned to Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 194<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Iowa Army National Guard.

The announcement and presentation of awards were made during a recent banquet in Washington, D.C.

The award selections were made after three days of competition that included a written exam and essay, a physical training test, and common task tests that evaluated numerous different soldier skills, such as first aid, nuclear, biological and chemical decontamination, and land navigation.

The soldiers also appeared before a formal military board for uniform review and to respond to questions on basic soldiering, training, current events, and leadership.

Smith received the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his achievement, as well as a plaque of excellence, several gift certificates and other awards, and a three-day trip for his family to Hawaii.

Gen. Paul J. Kern, AMC commanding general, presented the awards, and AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Tyler Walker II. Before announcing the winners, Kern congratulated all of the award candidates for their accomplishments and hard work.

Each received a commanding general coin, a sergeant major of the army coin, a command sergeant major coin, a certificate of accomplishment, and a gold watch from the Government Employee Insurance Company.

"What you've done this week is just a small example of the leadership and skills you bring to your units – an example of the great things you do every day and will do in the future," said Kern.

Smith was ordered to federal active duty with the Iowa Army National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 194<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery August 2002. Their mission was to provide protection of vital mili-

tary installations in the midwest in support of Operation Noble Eagle and the war on terrorism.

His battery was assigned to the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) with duty at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich. The battalion arrived home in late July.

"This was an incredible competition – very challenging", said Smith. "I'm honored to receive this award and represent the Army Material Command and the Iowa Army National Guard.

The Army Material Command is located in 149 locations, including more than 40 states and 38 countries, and is supported by 50,000 military and civilian employees.

The Army Material Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award is a very prestigious award involving over 20,000 non-commissioned officers.

---

Sgt. Shane Smith eats an MRE during the U.S. Army Material Command's NCO of the year award competition.



# The Iowa Guard in Desert Shield/Storm

The military buildup in the Middle East, organized primarily by the United States, had two goals – the defense of Saudi Arabia and the liberation of Kuwait. Military operations in support of the first goal came to be called Operation Desert Shield. The actual military offensive against Iraqi military forces in Kuwait would be termed Operation Desert Storm.

The first U. S. forces to reach the region were the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> airborne divisions and three Marine brigades. The combined Allied force would eventually number about 700,000, with 540,000 being Americans. Other nations making significant contributions included Syria (20,000), Egypt (35,000), Saudi Arabia (40,000), Britain (35,000), France (10,000), and Kuwait (7,000).

By November, it was clear that economic pressure alone would not force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. On Nov. 29, the United Nations voted to set a Jan. 15 deadline for the removal of Iraqi troops. On Jan. 12, Congress gave President George Bush the authority to use the American military to carry out U. N. Resolution 678 for the restoration of Kuwaiti independence. With the failure of a last-minute diplomatic mission to Baghdad, led by U. N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, all possibilities of a peaceful end to the crisis appeared to have been exhausted.

With the passage of the U. N. deadline, the war began. The Persian Gulf War was essentially fought in two phases – a six-week air assault and a follow-up, 100-hour, ground campaign.

Allied air attacks devastated Iraqi defenses. The Iraqi air forces were either destroyed or driven into hiding, leaving ground forces with little or no protection. Using sophisticated new weapons systems, such as Tomahawk cruise missiles and GBU-15 “smart” bombs, the Allies inflicted enormous damage, not only on military targets but on supply bases and communication centers as well.

On February 22, President Bush announced that Iraq would have until noon (EST) the next day to begin withdrawing from Kuwait. If not, the Allied offensive would continue, a clear signal that the land war was about to begin. Iraq gave no reply but signaled continued defiance by dynamiting Kuwaiti oil fields.

At 4 a.m. on Feb. 24, coalition ground forces began their attack. The strategic plan, developed by General Norman Schwarzkopf and his staff, contained three basic elements – a decoy maneuver to draw Iraqi forces to the coast and two

coordinated ground attacks, one from the south and the other from the west.

The first element of the attack was a well-planned feint. A 17,000-man Marine force seemed poised to make an amphibious landing at Kuwait City. The attack never came, but thousands of Iraqi troops were drawn to the coast and wound up, in effect, facing the wrong direction.

The second element of the offensive was a coordinated attack by Kuwaiti, Syrian, Saudi and other Arab units, with the aid of the U. S. Marines, through Iraqi mine fields and other defenses into southern Kuwait. The attack was a complete success, and Iraq forces were soon in total disarray, either retreating or surrendering.

The final element of the plan was a massive attack from the west by American, British, French, and Arab forces. Perhaps the most daring maneuver was the launching of the largest helicopter assault in military history, as 4,000 men of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division were airlifted 60 miles inside Iraqi territory to establish a forward supply base. This maneuver allowed rapidly advancing Allied forces to occupy much of southern Iraq and block all escape routes for retreating Iraqi forces. In the most intense engagements of the war, the U. S. VII Corps and XVIII Corps met and overwhelmed units of Iraq’s elite Republican Guards in northern Kuwait and southern Iraq.

By the fourth day of the land war, February 27, it was clear that fighting was coming to an end. The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division seized Kuwait International Airport. Meanwhile, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division secured all entrances into Kuwait City, allowing Kuwaiti forces the honor of being the first to enter the capital. By evening, the 100-hour war was over.

The Persian Gulf War was the first test for the Army’s Total Force Policy. Seventy-five thousand National Guardsmen were mobilized, 43,000 of whom actually deployed to the Middle East. Due to a combination of inadequate supply and Regular Army prejudice, only a limited number of combat arms (infantry, armor, artillery) National Guard units were mobilized. The great majority of National Guard soldiers sent to the Middle East served in combat service support units. All of the Iowa units that served in the war were combat service support units.

The first callup of Iowa Army National Guard soldiers began in September of 1990. This marked the first federal mobilization of the Iowa National Guard since 1968. On Sept. 30, the 1133<sup>rd</sup> Trans-

portation Company (Mason City) deployed to the mobilization station at Fort McCoy, Wisc. On Veterans Day, 1991, they flew from Volk Field, Wisc., aboard U. S. Air Force C141s, to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. It would be 267 days before they would return home.

Other Iowa Guard units followed. In November, the 134<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Washington), the 209<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Iowa City), the 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company (Camp Dodge) and the 1187<sup>th</sup> Medical Company (Boone) were mobilized.

In December, the 1168<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company (Red Oak and Perry) was mobilized, followed by the 186<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company (Camp Dodge). In January, 1991, the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 34<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion, and the 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company (Knoxville, Chariton, Oskaloosa and Camp Dodge) were mobilized.

The last units of the Iowa National Guard to be mobilized were those of the 224<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion from Fairfield, Mount Pleasant, Burlington, Ottumwa, Centerville, Muscatine and Keokuk. Individual members of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing (Sioux City) and the 185<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group (Des Moines) were also mobilized. All told, 2,016 Iowa Guardsmen (1886 ARNG and 130 ANG) were called to active duty during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The record of accomplishment of the Iowa units is a tribute to their hard work and professionalism. The 1133<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company drove over 2.1 million miles while sustaining the highest operability rate (98%) of any unit in their battalion. The 1168<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company

logged over 525,000 miles and received the Meritorious Unit Citation for its outstanding contributions during then war. Medics of the 209<sup>th</sup> Medical Company treated thousands of patients, including prisoners of war. The 209<sup>th</sup> Clearing Company (Iowa City) was the only medical unit in the U. S. Army to serve in three nations during the conflict – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. Iowa military police units escorted and processed over 38,000 enemy soldiers and handled security at prisoner of war compounds. The 1034<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company provided millions of gallons of fresh water, while serving in their new role as a water distribution company at Log Base Echo near the Tri-Border region of Saudi Arabia.

The 3654<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company was called upon to serve stateside at Fort Irwin, California, and the 224<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion was stationed in Germany to serve as the combat engineer battalion for the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Iowa Guardsmen returned home with a sense of accomplishment. Nearly one-fourth (23.9%) of the total personnel of the Iowa National Guard had been mobilized. This was the highest percentage of any state in the Fourth Army region and one of the highest in the nation. In addition to the awards and decorations earned, Iowa soldiers returned with many personal reminiscences, such as Michelle Rhodes' unique assignment as "caretaker" of the 1133<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company's mascot, a goat named "Alice." Memories connected with service in the Gulf War and the feelings of pride they engendered would remain with these Iowans for the rest of their lives.

---

**A letter  
continued from page 5**

---

openly. It's strange to think about it being a year of my life. When I was younger and on active duty, that time didn't seem to be as valuable. Now, though. A year seems like a fortune.

There are no guarantees though, and life isn't about years or months or weeks. It's about what you do today. So today, even though I am writing the generic Merry Christmas, this was our year letter," I am thinking about home and doing all the things that seem normal."

At the same time, I look at the hundreds of Iraqi children that come up to me and kiss me on the cheek, give us the thumbs up, or a high-five. I see their parents stand back from the crowd of children who are clinging to my hands, legs, and bullet-proof vest, and know that they (the parents) may know only two words of English. I know this when I read their lips saying, "Thank

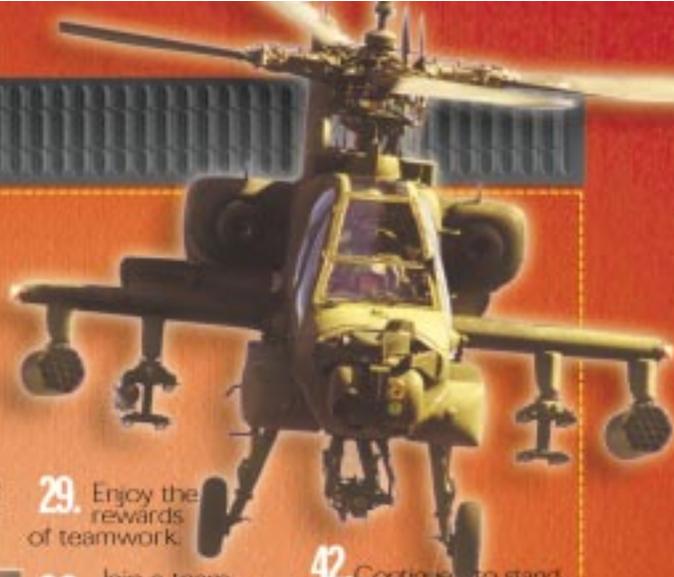
you." I hope these kids have a better life than their parents. I know that the parents want the same thing.

Don't believe everything you see on the news. There are a lot of goals and objectives being accomplished here that just haven't been reported yet. We take freedom for granted sometimes. Even I do. It's good to be here and see freedom being made possible.

If they choose to embrace it and rise to the challenge, remains to be seen. I hope they do so I can come back and see this place without having to carry 56 pounds of gear and two weapons in 125-degree heat. I still like going downtown even with all that crap on. It's like a parade and I am king. I think every soldier feels like that.

Take care and I hope to see you sooner than later.

Chris.



**1.** Earn combined federal and state educational benefits like the Montgomery GI Bill and Tuition Assistance.



**2.** Receive an Affiliation Bonus for accepting a Guard position in your current MOS.

**3.** You may qualify for a different MOS upon joining the Guard.

**4.** Become an officer.

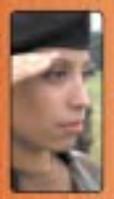
**5.** Earn the equivalent of 4 days of active duty pay for each weekend drill you attend.

**6.** Use your enlisted experience to become a warrant officer.

**7.** Get money that you need to help pay for college or vocational training.

**8.** Become part of a team that values making a difference by serving others.

**9.** Learn new skills and gain experience that will change your outlook on life.



**10.** Serve part-time while attending school or pursuing a full-time career.

**11.** Serve your

**13.** Be a member of America's oldest military institution.

**14.** Make history while creating your future.



# 54 reasons to join the Army National Guard



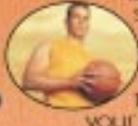
**15.** Get college credits for Guard training.

**16.** Train for the challenges that lie ahead in life.

**17.** Most Guard members serve one weekend a month and two weeks a year.

**22.** Earn state educational incentives up to 100% free tuition.

**23.** Keep your body in great shape so you'll be ready to face any challenge that comes your way.



**24.** Be an important part of America's Homeland Defense.

**25.** Get a sense of

**26.** Be a part of

**29.** Enjoy the rewards of teamwork.

**30.** Join a team that counts 19 U.S. Presidents among its distinguished Alumni.

**31.** Help your community and neighbors in times of natural disaster.

**32.** Learn skills that can help you in your civilian career.

**33.** Maintain your discount shopping privileges at PX's.

**34.** Maintain your discount shopping privileges at commissaries.

**35.** Serve in the community you live in and serve your country.

**36.** Participate in peacekeeping and humanitarian support missions throughout the globe.

**37.** Maintain your free educational testing benefit.

**38.** Operate the same types of equip-

**42.** Continue to stand for values as timeless as our nation: duty, honor and country.

**43.** Serve as a mentor to a neighborhood youth in need.

**44.** Accept the challenge of leading soldiers who will look up to you, personally and professionally.

**45.** Continue to take advantage of Space-A travel.

**46.** Have the chance to transfer to another Guard unit should you need to do so.

**47.** You may qualify for a full-time or active position in the Guard.

**48.** Defend freedom.

**49.** The Guard is family and values the family members of our soldiers.

**50.** Network with other Guard members in your community.

**51.** Experience all of what you liked in the active service, just do it.

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Permit No. 1223

thought possible.



**48.** Test what you're made of. And go further than you could ever dream of.

**41.** Ships that last a lifetime.



00 Guard serving in states and