

The **IOWA NATIONAL GUARD** 

# Militiaman



**Happy trails**

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**On the cover:** A CH-47 Chinook from Davenport's Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation, transports the 100-foot section of a 127-year old cast Iron bridge from Hale to Anamosa. The three-sectioned bridge, transported across more than 15 miles of Iowa countryside, now resides at Wapsipinicon State Park, where it will become part of a recreational trail connecting Anamosa to the park. (Iowa National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden).

## The Iowa Militiaman Summer 2006

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# Are you making a difference?

**(Editor's Note:** The following are excerpts from the State of the Iowa National Guard Address to the Iowa Legislature, on March 27).

It is a great honor to stand before you representing the wonderful men and women of the Iowa National Guard. On their behalf I want to say a heartfelt "Thank you," for all you have done over the years to assist us in building a world class organization.

This extraordinary support has made it possible for the Iowa National Guard to serve our state and nation during unprecedented times. It helped us create a climate of success that is the envy of National Guard and state officials throughout the Nation.

Yet no measure of success matters if, at the end of the day, you can't say "yes" to one basic question – are you making a difference?

As I share our story with you, I challenge you to see how our Soldiers, Airmen and their families are making a difference – a difference in our communities – a difference in our state – a difference in our nation and a difference in the Global War on Terrorism.

Since 9-11, we've mobilized and deployed more Soldiers and Airmen than at any time in recent history – including World War II. You'd have to go to the Civil War era to find a higher operational tempo for the Iowa National Guard. And all of this is being done during a historic period of institutional change for our armed forces – changes that will affect us for years to come.

The effects of the Base Realignment and Closure process on the Iowa National Guard were positive. Once fully implemented and funded, we stand to gain four Armed Forces Reserve Centers – one at Camp Dodge, one at Middletown, one at Cedar Rapids and one at Muscatine. These projects will bring in more than \$100 million of military construction money into the state of Iowa.

Last year, the Iowa Army National Guard ended the year number one in Strength Readiness in the National Guard system. We are currently number two in the nation in strength readiness and are on a record-breaking pace for

recruiting new and prior service Soldiers.

Currently, we are exceeding the retention standard set by National Guard Bureau by more than four percent. With more than half the recruiting year remaining, we have reached 53 percent of our recruiting goal.

The Iowa Air National Guard is doing equally well. In 2005, we finished the year at 104 percent of assigned strength – 106 percent today – with a retention rate of 98 percent.

You know the great thing about our Soldiers and Airmen, is when they go somewhere, they always leave it a better place than when they arrived. If they see a problem they try and fix it. If they see someone in need they try and help.

Chief Warrant Officer 1 Al Kakac, and his

fellow soldiers from Task Force 168, looked across a barren stretch of underdeveloped Afghani farmland and saw an opportunity to help bring the green revolution to that desolate part of the world.

Working with the USDA and Iowa agricultural experts, Kakac helped develop the largest agricultural test plot in Afghanistan to teach Afghans how to be better farmers. Showing them it's possible to improve their corn yields by more than

100 bushels merely by planting corn in rows rather than scattering seeds on the ground got their attention.

Staff Sgt. Mark Matteson, another Task Force 186 Soldier, likewise saw a need and a way to make a difference. Matteson was appalled when he arrived in Afghanistan and saw children walking and playing barefoot. He emailed home and said send shoes – lots of shoes. Working through organizations like Shoes for Kids and family support groups, Matteson and his fellow soldiers were able to put shoes on the feet of thousands of Afghan children.

In Iraq, the 224<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion also saw a need and made a difference. Working with family members and Iowa businesses back



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## TAG Sends

**Maj. Gen.  
Ron Dardis,  
The Adjutant General**

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***Making a difference  
continued on page 16***

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## Iowa Guard continues to evolve

by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

In order to keep pace with today's increasingly complex missions, which range from terrorist threats, year-long combat deployments, and natural disasters at home, the National Guard must continue to evolve and transform to remain a viable force, as well as a strategic reserve for the Army.

For Iowa Soldiers, transformation means better opportunity

"The National Guard has undergone a total transformation in the past few years," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB), speaking before the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Defense. "The once ponderous Cold War strategic reserve transformed itself into an agile, lethal operational force capable of joint and expeditionary warfare—a uniquely flexible force simultaneously capable of responding to a broad range of civil and humanitarian crises.

And modularity is playing a large role in that change.

Modularity is the Army's major force transformation initiative, which involves the total redesign of the operational Army, both active and Reserve. It will provide "plug and play" force elements that are interchangeable, expandable and tailorable, to meet changing missions and needs.

"The Army Modular Force Initiative is the Army's most important transformational initiative for a reason; it involves the total rede-

sign of the operational Army into a standardized, stand alone, larger, more powerful, more flexible and more rapidly deployable force that will enable the Army to change the way it fights and the way it operates," said Dr. Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army."

However you look at it, said Lt. Col. Thomas Staton, deputy chief of staff – transformation, Iowa Army National Guard, the Army has changed its way of doing business.

Iowa's transformational development began in Training Year 2005, with much of the higher level planning being completed by the state. Figuring into the mix was analysis of the state's current organization, a review of the Army/National Guard Bureau needs, and projecting Iowa's future force structure.

Some Iowa National Guard units are inactivating because the Army, communicating with the Adjutant General, doesn't feel they have a relative, viable mission in the future. Some new units are being activated from scratch, while others are transitioning into entirely new entities.

"We are re-organizing units, with The Adjutant General ensuring we have a relevant force structure within the state to meet our combatant commander requirements," said Staton. "We're then converting those units into new modular concepts, i.e., the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT), which was an organic brigade and part of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

These modular BCTs provide improved in-



## Inactivating units

234th Signal Battalion  
 134th Quartermaster Battalion (Water)  
 HHD, Co. D, 109th Aviation Battalion  
 1-147th Aviation Battalion CAB  
 HHD, 734th Maintenance Battalion  
 1034th Quartermaster Company  
 3657th Maintenance Company  
 834th Engineer SIB  
 Co. A, Co. B, Co. C, 224th Engineer BN  
 DET 1, F, 106th Aviation PLT

34th CS (HHC/MMC)  
 Det 1, HHC, 34th Infantry Div.  
 Infantry HHC Brigade (AUG)  
 Det 1, HHB, 34th DIVARTY  
 1241st TMDE  
 Co. A, 109th Medical Battalion  
 767th Fire Fighting Team  
 Battery C, 194th Field Artillery  
 Troop D, Troop E, Troop F, 113th CAV

## Converting units

**From**  
 HHC, 2nd Brigade  
 1-113th Cavalry  
 334th FSB  
 185th CSB  
 1st BN, 194th FA  
 224th ENG BN  
 109th Medical BN

**To**  
 HHC, 2nd Brigade Combat Team  
 1-113th Recon. SQDN  
 334th BSB  
 185th Combat Service Support Battalion  
 1st BN, 194th FIRES BN  
 HHD, 224th  
 109th Medical BN (2007)

## Activating units

734th RSG  
 1034th CSSB  
 2-234th BSTB  
 248th ASB  
 2/147th AVN units  
 1/134th S&S units  
 2/211th AVN units  
 209th Medical (2007)  
 294th Medical (2007)  
 831st ENG Co. (HOR)  
 831st ENG Co. (MAC)  
 831st ENG Co. (SAPPER)  
 832nd MAC ENG. Co.  
 833rd Sapper Co.  
 1559th QM (TWDS)

ties, which allow brigade commanders to focus the effects of decisive combat power at the right place, at the right time.

In the Army of the future, there will be three types of BCTs – 1) Heavy (a mix of armor and mechanized infantry); 2) an Infantry BCT (IBCT) (Light, dismounted infantry; and 3) a Stryker BCT (with Stryker vehicles).

Iowa's 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT will become an infantry BCT. All other transformation within the state will support that specific, relevant, modular component.

"The critical part in all of this, even with all this change and transformation, is no Soldier will lose a position," said Staton. "They may change their patch, but they won't lose a position. There's a positive here for everyone. Some Soldiers may have to move to a new unit or armory in order to stay in their current Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), while some may need to reclassify to a new MOS."

For example, with the demise of the 234<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion, Company C in Marshalltown no longer has a viable signal mission. However, Marshalltown is now getting a portion of an aviation support battalion and a detachment of the 2133<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company, thanks to transformation.

Marshalltown Soldiers. Questions arose whether their position will remain with the incoming units, whether they would need to relocate, or even if their job specialty will continue to exist.

"The good news is, we have a position for every Soldier in the Iowa National Guard," said Staton. "This is good for the state, as we remain truly relevant, fielding relevant forces and relevant units throughout the state.

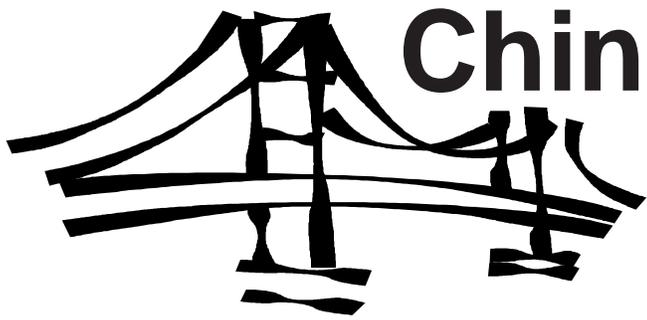
"In many cases, that MOS may not exist within the new unit, so the Soldier has a few options," he said. "Number one, he/she can stay in their MOS and transfer to a different unit. Number two, he/she can choose to stay in their current armory and reclassify to a different MOS; or finally, they can become a 'free agent' and go anywhere within the state and attain a new MOS.

"When Iowa looked at transformation, we wanted to ensure, first of all, MOS and gender diversity throughout the state and increased opportunities for all Iowa Soldiers, regardless

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***Transformation  
 continued on page 11***

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# Chinooks provide historic ride

**Story and photos  
by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden**

When the CH-47 Chinook helicopter first entered Army service in 1962, it was envisioned as an air transportation workhorse, moving everything from ground forces, supplies and ammunition, to armament and other battle-critical cargo.

Who would have thought it would be equally adept at transporting a 127-year-old bridge across more than 15 miles of Iowa countryside.

Such was the case in early March, as two aircraft from Co. B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 211<sup>th</sup> Aviation, Iowa Army National Guard, transported three-sections of a cast-iron bridge from Hale to Anamosa, gently settling them upon their new, 25-foot supports.

Once the bridge is fully re-stored, it will provide access across the Wapsipinicon River to a recreational trail connecting Anamosa to Wapsipinicon State Park.

Besides the interest generated by local and state-wide media, the operation was also documented by The History Channel's "Mega Movers" series.

"The Hale/Anamosa people were wonderful to deal with," said Col. Randy H. Warm, facility

commander of the Army Aviation Support Facility #3, Davenport, Iowa, and pilot of the second Chinook used in the operation. "They accepted our recommendations for completing the mission, which is a tremendous load off us. It was a real pleasure to work with such a helpful and enthusiastic group. My hat is off to them for their perseverance on this project."

The Hale Bowstring Bridge began life in 1879, spanning the Wapsipinicon near the Hale Township. It served the local population until its closure in 1997, due to significant rust and damage from the 1993 floods. In 1998, it was listed on the National Register as the longest-standing bowstring arch bridge in Iowa.

While most of the community was unsure of what to do with 61-plus tons of history, Rose Rohr, chairwoman, Jones County Historic Preservation Commission, showed great foresight. Her dream for the bridge began as a question mark, then "became a vision and challenge, and then a passion," she said.

"A landowner stepped up and agreed to sell 10 acres of his land to the park, so the bridge could actually be part of a trail system through the park and onto the road," said Rohr.

The 100-foot long section was moved from



its original abutments on Feb. 28, 2003, while the two 80-foot long bridge sections were moved Feb. 18 and 19. The pieces were refurbished and then staged, awaiting its fate.

“Being in preservation, I learned a few years ago that the National Guard had flown other bridges,” said Rohr. “Larry Lovetinsky, from Kent Park, near Tiffin, connected me to NNW Engineering, who had worked with the Guard previously. My first attempt to contact the colonel was negative. Our county engineer did not want this bridge and sent him some information that was not relevant to our case.

“Last year I called Col. Russell Perry (Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation and Safety, Iowa Army National Guard). He was interested, liked the idea, and set up the meeting with Col. Warm. We had a lot of people that went to Mt. Joy for that meeting. It was decided that if the bridge could be picked up and details could be worked out, they were interested. They were all great at that meeting.”

Staff Sgt. Todd Isely and fellow crewmen from Army Aviation Support Facility #3 traveled to Hale the day before the lift to manage the rigging and weighing of the trusses. Despite cooler temperatures and approximately two inches of snow on the ground, they went about their task of preparing the slings.

As Wednesday, March 8, dawned, the mood among those in Jones County was almost as low as the early morning fog. The aircraft needed a minimum visibility of three miles and a ceiling of 1,000 feet to complete the move. Until the morning mists cleared, the birds would remain grounded.

However, approximately 45 minutes after the scheduled start, a Chinook could be heard. Minutes later, the first craft appeared in the southeast, bringing a cheer from the crowd.

Since 25 to 50 percent of the bridges’ weight came from the wooden decking — the smaller spans weighed approximately 41,000 pounds and the 100-foot long span weighed about 55,000 pounds — the decking was removed.

However, even without the planks, the approximately 19,600 pounds of the 100-foot segment was still very close to the Chinook’s 20,000-pound, maximum lift capacity. By comparison, each of the 80-foot spans weighed only 16,500 pounds. To save even more weight, one of the helicopters traveled with just enough fuel to complete their mission.

“The bridge actually flew very stable, although we were working close to our max capability,” said Warm. “When almost 20,000 pounds is hooked to the CH-47, you can feel it

through the airframe and the rotor system. After initially picking up the bridge at Hale, we made a slow, forward take-off with a very slight climb which allowed us to clear the trees to the east of the pick-up zone.

“We flew a course that we had flown the day before, which was devoid of towns and houses. In the event of an emergency, we did not want to airmail the bridge into someone’s living room.”

Once they approached the park, all of Warm’s movement commands came from his flight engineer, Staff Sgt. Layne Marti, who was laying on the aircraft’s floor, looking out of the hook access door directly above the bridge.

“Along with the inputs from the heavy load on the aircraft, we also had to contend with our own rotor wash that was directed back into the rotor system by the piers and the shoreline,” Warm said. “Hovering with that much weight and under those conditions was difficult, in addition to trying to set the four footpads of a 100-foot bridge onto four small notches on the abutment and pier.

“It took roughly 10 minutes to place the bridge in the exact location before releasing it from the aircraft. This was a true team effort and is exactly as we train. When we released the bridge I felt a huge wave of relief,” he added.

Warm wasn’t the only one feeling relief at that moment. For Rohr, it was the culmination of years of planning, prodding and positioning.

“I felt very overwhelmed. This part of the project, I always felt, was so crucial. I was relieved and thrilled to have such a historical event take place in our region and community.

“I was really humbled at the support of the Guardsmen, who were very friendly and approachable, and all who partnered with us to make the project and the day itself so memorable and successful. Thank all of you from the bottom of my heart,” she said.

After a brief press conference, where the pilots and crew answered questions, provided tours and met with members of the media, the aircraft returned to Davenport.

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*(Facing page) A span is placed upon the bridge abutment. (Below) Staff Sgt. Shad Myers rigs a section of the bridge to a crane, prior to weighing. Myers is a former Anamosa resident. (Bottom) The bridge, ready for transportation.*



# G-RAP

**NATIONAL GUARD**   
RECRUITING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## New tool provides leads, enriches, empowers

Iowa National Guard members now have a unique opportunity to cultivate quality prospective Soldiers into their units, and earn a substantial bonus in the process.

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed to help individuals become eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiter Assistant (RA). The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, Docupak of Pelham, Ala., and not the Army National Guard.

G-RAP is a voluntary program, and has no bearing on an individual's status in the National Guard. Once selected by Docupak, participants will act as an independent contractor. Docupak will help guide the RA and provide the necessary support needed to be successful.

This program is currently not available for Army, Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldiers, those on Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW), or Military Technicians. Being an RA is done on personal time, never on Soldier time.

To become an RA, individuals must success-

fully pass an online training course and agree to the terms and conditions relating to ethical, moral and legal behavior. Once this process is complete, the information will be reviewed and notification will be made within 24 hours. After an individual has received certification, an online account will be activated, a New Hire Kit shipped, and an introductory meeting with the local Recruiting and Retention NCO (RRNCO) will be arranged.

RAs will receive a \$50 debit card upon successful completion of the online training. They can then begin generating prospective Citizen-Soldiers.

Once a potential Soldier is identified and pre-qualified, the RA will facilitate a meeting with their local RRNCO. The triad of RRNCO, RA and potential Soldier will then work closely together to process the potential Soldier and move them towards accession.

After Docupak receives verification the potential Soldier has completed processing at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), \$1,000 will be paid to the RA's debit card. The final \$1,000 payment is made once Docupak receives verification the new recruit has shipped to Basic Training.

Participants will receive an IRS 1099 Form at the end of the year, and are responsible for filing/reporting their income and any associated taxes. For questions, go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or consult an accountant.

According to recent figures from Iowa National Guard recruiters, Iowa has a total of

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*"Remember, leaders lead from the front. A lot of people say they'll do it. They'll complete the training and then never do anything with it. Leaders go through the program and actually help recruiters complete their mission."*

**-- Staff Sgt. Howard Johnston**

1,437 Recruiting Assistants, who have been responsible for 132 newly-enlisted Soldiers.

One Iowan who is taking advantage of this new program is Staff Sgt. Howard Johnston, of Grimes. Johnston has been in the Iowa Army National Guard since July 2005, after having served 10 years as an active duty Marine.

Johnston said it was Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gerald A. Keeler, a recruiter for the 185<sup>th</sup> Iowa Army Medical Command, who turned him on to the program. A former Marine Corps recruiter, Johnston has been part of the G-RAP program since December. In that short time, he's officially brought in eight Soldiers, with two more awaiting confirmation.

"Staff Sgt. Johnston has been a great asset for the G-RAP Program," explained Keeler. "Johnston was a former recruiter and one of the top performers for the Des Moines USMC. He enlisted in July 2005 and became a valuable asset for the National Guard from the beginning, providing a lead at an average of one to two a week. And this was all prior to the G-RAP program."

"One of the ways I talk to people is, I own my own security agency," Johnston said. "When people come in to apply for a job, I hit them up about becoming a Citizen-Soldier after the interview. I'm also the vice president of the Des Moines Rugby Club, so, I talk it up with other rugby players, as well.

"The way I look at it, you walk past your mission every day when you're at Wal-Mart, Burger King, or the mall. There are people working at these places who only have part-time jobs, who aren't really happy with those jobs. You just need to talk with them, it's not that hard. If you walk past without talking to

them, that could be \$2,000 you're walking by," he said.

It's just a matter of getting out there and getting it done, Johnston said. "Don't be afraid to talk to people. It's a good way to build your unit up with people that you know and to make some extra money in the process."

Johnston said it only took him 35 minutes to complete the online training. Once that was done, he was ready to begin prospecting.

"Remember, leaders lead from the front. A lot of people say they'll do it. They'll complete the training and then never do anything with it. Leaders go through the program and actually help recruiters complete their mission," Johnston said.

According to Keeler, it's a collaboration that benefits everyone.

"I feel the recruiter and RA have to build a partnership together where they work as a team," said Keeler. "By working and getting to know each other's strengths and weak points, you can accomplish much more and achieve each other's goals by working smarter, not harder.

"As a recruiter, I have to build the trust that I will take good care of the applicant and the RA.

"By keeping the National Guard at the highest level of readiness we can, the RA can receive self-gratification from the G-RAP, as well as the satisfaction of helping others," he added.

With the extra money, Johnston is helping pay his mortgage.

Eligible individuals interested in becoming a Recruiting Assistant may apply online at [www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com](http://www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com), or call 888-291-6004.



*Flanked by Sgt. Brett M. Comegys (left) and Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard (right), Pfc. Andrea Sondgeroth is presented a \$1,000 GRAP check (Iowa National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden).*

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# Briefs

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## Tattoo policy changed

The Army has revised its policy on tattoos in an effort to bolster recruitment of highly-qualified individuals who might otherwise have been excluded from joining. Tattoos are now permitted on the hands and back of the neck if they are not “extremist, indecent, sexist or racist.” Army Regulation 670-1, which was modified via a message released Jan. 25, also now specifies: “Any tattoo or brand anywhere on the head or face is prohibited except for permanent make-up.”

For women, allowable make-up would be permanent eye-liner, eyebrows and makeup applied to fill in lips, officials said. Permanent make-up should be conservative and complement the uniform and complexion in both style and color and will not be trendy.

The change was made because Army officials realize the number of potential recruits bearing skin art has grown over the years.

## Weigh to Stay program

The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, AKO and the WebEx Corporation are providing access to a registered dietician to meet the requirements of AR 600-9 (Army Weight Control Program).

Weigh to Stay, the Army’s standardized weight control program, is a 4.5 hour program consisting of three classes and three follow-up sessions. Upon course completion, participants receive a certificate that can be used for retirement points.

Attendance is confidential and will only be reported to your commander at your request. Registering for these classes will not enroll members into the Army Weight Control Program, and participants may register for the course even if they are not flagged.

Participants must register through AKO, complete a DD2870 and an electronic survey. Once registered, participants will have access to private training calendars, dietician information, discussion groups, and access to weight loss materials.

## SBP Open enrollment

The Department of Defense is allowing military retirees, who opted out of some or all of their Survivor Benefit PLAN (SBP) coverage, to have another opportunity to elect coverage until Sept. 30.

Upon a retiree’s death, SBP provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of military re-

tired pay. Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse, age 62 or older, was reduced to 35 percent to reflect Social Security benefits. This reduction will phase out by April 2008, and the full 55 percent will be paid, regardless of the spouse’s age, in accordance with the Fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

To make an open enrollment, a retiree must submit a DD Form 2656-9, “Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RSBP) Open Enrollment Election.” This form is available electronically at [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf). Applicants will be formally notified of any costs and have 30 days from the date of the notice to cancel by notifying the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or the reserve component, in writing.

## Income program launched

The Defense Department has established the Reserve Income Replacement Program to pay eligible Soldiers, mobilized for extended or frequent periods, the difference between their monthly civilian pre-mobilization income and their current total monthly military compensation.

To qualify, servicemembers must: Be serving on active duty in an involuntary status and have completed 18 continuous months of involuntary active duty; or have completed 24 cumulative months of involuntary active duty within the last 60 months; or be serving on involuntary active duty for 180 days or more that starts within six months of separation from a previous period on involuntary active duty for at least 180 days.

Guard members serving on involuntary active duty, earning at least \$50 less than their normal civilian income, must verify eligibility. Financial records submitted with the application must include their most recent federal income tax return or other record of earnings that shows gross income from the 12 months before mobilization.

The first payments will be made at the end of August. Congress authorized the Reserve Income Replacement Program as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2006. The authority for RIRP will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

To find the DoD Policy Guidance, Compensation Calculator and downloadable Eligibility Verification Form, visit <http://www.dod.mil/ra/>.



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## Japanese, Spanish-American items highlight new acquisitions

Thanks to the generosity of James Polka, of Urbandale, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum recently acquired several captured Japanese military items from World War II.

One item is an olive drab Japanese cotton tunic field uniform jacket, summer weight, with buttoned underarm vent openings. The tunic was part of the standard enlisted man's M98 uniform. The front buttons and pocket buttons are smooth brown with built-in shanks. Of the same fabric is a pair of Japanese cotton, full-length field trousers with securing tapes. They complete the warm weather uniform.

The pair of black Japanese rubber-soled, canvas-upper "Tabi" shoes, with separate big toes reminded Col. (Ret.) Al Rolfes of his experiences during WWII. "Tabi shoes were especially useful for Japanese snipers. They made it easier for them to climb trees in the jungle," he said.

The Japanese naval enlisted personnel field cap is a darker olive drab, with a cloth label (printed in Japanese) inside. Small grommets serve as air holes and a simple cloth tie in the back enables a slight adjustment for fit.

These acquisitions complement a WWI-era Japanese entrenching tool already in the Museum's collection.

In December 2005 the museum received a collection of artifacts, documents and photographs relating to the Spanish-American War service of Cpl. Walter A. Fleming, of Osceola. Fleming enlisted on June 13, 1898, in Company I, 51<sup>st</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry and deployed with the regiment to the Philippines.

Several new museum artifacts were among the Fleming items, including a late pattern 1898 khaki Field Service Coat imported from China with a photograph of Fleming in the Philippines wearing the coat. Also included is a khaki woven 50-loop cartridge belt with pattern 1887 "H" buckle plate.

The items were delivered in a Spanish-American War era wood footlocker stenciled with the insignia of Company I, 51<sup>st</sup> Iowa Infantry. Other items included hand-written orders, medals, a pattern 1884 tinned iron meat can (mess kit), leggings, and a black leather Spanish Army cartridge pouch.

