

The **IOWA NATIONAL GUARD**

Militiaman

**Hurricane
Gustav:
Iowans provide
fast response**



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A long line of Iowa National Guard military vehicles from the 224th Engineer Battalion head south in direct response to a request for assistance from the state of Louisiana. More than 450 Iowa National Guard members responded to Hurricane Gustav relief efforts. (Iowa National Guard photo by Sgt. Gary Theel)

The Iowa Militiaman Fall 2008

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Iowa National Guard always responds in ways large and small

It has been more than three months since the Iowa National Guard's historic response to the unprecedented spring flooding and destructive tornadoes that devastated many parts of our great state.

Since that time, I've had many opportunities to reflect on and speak about the remarkable contributions made by you – the Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees of the Iowa National Guard team.

As the waters rose and powerful tornadoes struck with little warning, the men and women of the Iowa National Guard responded in ways large and small.

As the rising flood waters forced residents from their homes, and in some cases the evacuation of entire communities, you rushed in to reinforce levees, help rescue stranded citizens, backup overextended law enforcement officers, protect critical infrastructure, and assist public works crews.

In the face of unbelievable turmoil and confusion for many Iowa citizens, the arrival of the National Guard brought reassurance and calm to their distressed communities.

Your response to these disasters was truly historic. Even with more than 1,600 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, we mustered an additional 3,900 from the Iowa National Guard team for State Active Duty during the peak of the response.

It was the largest movement of military personnel and equipment in the state of Iowa at one time since the Civil war.

We recalled the 734th Regional Support Group from annual training in South Dakota, flew Airmen from the 185th Air Refueling Wing to Cedar Rapids and maneuvered the entire 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division throughout southeast Iowa to get ahead of rising flood waters.

You helped rescue stranded residents and evacuated patients, reinforced stressed levees,

conducted security patrols, moved critical infrastructure, provided emergency fuel resupply for power generators, executed reconnaissance missions, line-hauled and emplaced sandbags and operated trucks, helicopters, and KC-135 tankers to reposition Soldiers and Airmen around the state.

You provided critical infrastructure protection and support throughout the affected area.

Thanks to your efforts, critical facilities such as power plants, fuel and pipeline services, communications centers, water treatment plants and waste water treatment plants in more than 16 inundated communities remained operational.

Overall, your response to this statewide emergency was an incredible success. The Iowa National Guard received praise and support from the Governor, local and regional business and civic leaders, as well as everyday Iowans. You were received and welcomed with open arms wherever you went.

It was humbling to see the response of Iowans to your presence in their communities. The goodwill you built in coming to the aid of Iowans in their time of need will long be remembered.

Some worried that our overseas deployments would hamper our ability to conduct our state mission. You easily laid that concern to rest. Overseas deployments have helped, not hurt us.

In Kosovo, the Sinai, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Iowa National Guard men and women are known for applying their civilian-acquired skills to their military missions.

In Parkersburg, the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp, and in flood impacted communities across central and eastern Iowa, you applied the skills



In the face of unbelievable turmoil and confusion experienced by many Iowa citizens, the arrival of the Iowa National Guard in their beleaguered communities brought reassurance and calm.

***Flood response
continued on page 15***

TAG Sends

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



Coming to Louisiana's aid

It didn't take Hurricane Gustav very long to cut a wide swath of destruction once it made landfall in Louisiana. And, it didn't take long for the state of Iowa to respond to Louisiana's plea for help.

Within hours of Hurricane Gustav sweeping through the Gulf coast area, more than 450 members of the Iowa National Guard, many with memories of the June 2008 Iowa floods still fresh in their minds, were flying and driving south to provide much-needed relief.

In conjunction with the office of the Governor, Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management and the National Guard Bureau, it wasn't long before the Iowa National Guard began state activation to provide assistance, coordination and planning in support of hurricane relief operations.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those along the Gulf Coast," said Iowa Governor Chet Culver. "It was only three years ago that this area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and now they are threatened once more by Hurricane Gustav. Just as the people of America

stood with us during the floods of June, Iowans stand with the people of the Gulf Coast during this trying time," he said.

"I offer Governor Jindal and the people of Louisiana our full support, and as we speak, nearly 250 Iowa National Guard Soldiers have been deployed to the region. Iowa will do anything it can to help, including, if necessary, taking in evacuees. Three years ago, Iowans were there to help, and we stand ready to do so once more," he added.

After receiving the initial request from the state of Louisiana, approximately 465 Iowa National Guard members were quickly mobilized and headed south toward Alexandria, La.

Among the units dispatched to central Louisiana were the 734th Regional Support Group; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 185th Combat Sustainment & Support Battalion; 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment; 2168th Transportation Company (Sheldon), with subordinate units in Sioux City (Detachment 1) and Fort Dodge (Detachment 2); 134th Ambulance Company (Washington); Co. B, 2nd Platoon, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion (Davenport); 185th Air refueling Wing (Sioux City); and the 224th Engineer Battalion (Fairfield). These units



Vehicles from the Iowa National Guard begin arriving in Alexandria, La. (top). Delivering the essentials (left), Pfc. Joshua A. Ness, 2168th Transportation Co., backs his truck into place at one of the Points of Distribution (PODs) in Opelousas, La. (Iowa National Guard photos by Sgt. Gary Theel)

walked throughout the state of Louisiana, but primarily operated from Camp Beauregard, in Alexandria, La

The 211th General Support Aviation Battalion provided one CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter, for search and rescue, evacuation of residents, transportation of supplies and equipment, and other missions as requested.

The 185th Air Refueling Wing flew one of its KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft to transport Soldiers from Iowa to Louisiana.

The 185th CSSB provided movement control of transportation assets, logistical support, and additional missions as assigned.

More than 200 Point of Distribution Sites (PODS) were established throughout Louisiana, where residents could receive supplies such as food, water and ice. The 2168th Transportation Co. was tasked with moving supplies from the central distribution point to these PODs.

Sgt. Richard L. Whitney, Jr., 2168th Trans. Co., said he was working at his civilian job as the Chief of Police in Rockwell, Iowa, when he received "the call."

"I don't have any problem with this, it's better than my last deployment," Whitney said.

Pvt. 1st Class Joshua Ness, who lives with his mother and father, said "Somehow, they knew I was getting called up before I did." According to the 2168th Transportation Soldier, their last words, he said, were, "Be careful."

Support is being provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national, mutual aid agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during Governor-declared or federally-declared emergencies. Once the conditions for providing

assistance to a requesting state have been set, the terms constitute a legally binding contractual agreement that make affected states responsible for reimbursement.

Since rolling into Louisiana, the National Guard has provided more than 74,000 Meals-Ready-to-Eat and 23 pallets of water. There are 20 National Guard engineer work teams with heavy equipment clearing roads, and more than 70 Iowa National Guard aircraft providing logistics support and damage assessment in the affected regions of Louisiana.

Approximately 11,000 National Guard members performed security patrols, search and rescue, commodity distribution, route clearance, and other recovery activities to help expedite the return of citizens to their homes

Nearly 1,900 National Guard security forces personnel provided security presence patrols and curfew enforcement in New Orleans and Baton Rouge in support of local law enforcement.



(Top) Members of the 224th Engineers Battalion use heavy equipment to remove tree limbs and debris from Highway 182, between Berwick and Bayou Vista, La. (Left) Iowa National Guard Soldiers load this Chinook with supplies in Port Barre, La., for a Point of Distribution 100 miles away in Houma.

Warrant Officer Corps

‘A ton of knowledge,’ a world of experience

by Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

The goal of many Soldiers in the Iowa National Guard is progression through the ranks and mastering their field of expertise. Every Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), though, presents a promotion roadblock at some point, sometimes forcing a Soldier to wait years for a promotion or forcing them into another MOS altogether.

There is a third option, however. A soldier can become a Warrant Officer, a path which provides opportunities for progression through the ranks and provides Soldiers an avenue to become expert in their Army career fields.

Unfortunately, most Soldiers know little about the Warrant Officer Corps and what it has to offer. Undoubtedly, most think of aviation warrant officers, but that constitutes only about 23 percent of the Corps.

While the aviation side does provide a fast-paced, exciting, Army career, the technical side is where most Soldiers will find their niche, with 24 career fields from which to choose.

The first step for a Soldier wanting to become a warrant officer is assembling his or her pre-determination packet. This packet includes, among other things, letters of reference from current Warrant Officers and Officers, a resume and any required requests for waivers.

“The packet can be long, but it’s worth your

time,” said Warrant Officer Candidate Shawn P. Tew, who is training to become a property book Warrant Officer.

After completing the packet, prospective Warrant Officer Candidates must wait 30-45 days for approval. This approval status is a crucial step in the process, as it ensures the Soldier is matched with the best possible career.

Once approved, the Soldier then chooses where they want to train. They can either go to Ft. Rucker, Ala. for five weeks of training, or they can train during seven months of drill weekends at Camp Dodge.

Candidates undergo three phases of training. The first phase spans roughly two months and involves approximately 70 hours of distance-learning modules. Next is a five month Inactive Duty Training period with physical training, tests and ruck marches. Training culminates with a two-week camp.

Tew opted to train at Camp Dodge.

“In all reality, this program is great,” said Tew. “I could stay here with my family and job.”

The Warrant Officers in charge of training are confident there is no difference between the two training options.

“When these candidates come out of the [seven-month training] program, they share the same experience as those at Rucker,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Marvin Peters, Warrant Officer Candidate School Commandant.

Such traditions as “The Grove” – a cement patio located at the Warrant Officer school at Ft. Rucker – has been recreated here at Camp Dodge to ensure the Warrant Officer Candidates do, in fact, share these experiences. The



***“The Warrant Officers Corps
is the smallest Corps
in the Army,
but we have a ton
of knowledge.”***

**Chief Warrant Officer 3
Jeffrey W. Lee**

cement patio at Camp Dodge is also referred to as "The Grove."

After completing their specialized training, these Soldiers become part of one of the most elite corps in the Army – the Warrant Officer Corps.

"The Warrant Officers Corps is the smallest Corps in the Army, but we have a ton of knowledge," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey W. Lee, Recruiting and Retention Command.

One benefit of being part of this elite corps is the predictable progression through the ranks. A warrant officer can expect to progress from Chief Warrant Officer 1 to Chief Warrant Of-

ficer 2 in just two years. This predictably continues all the way to Chief Warrant Officer 5.

With a greater possibility of promotions, varied career choices, and superb training, the Warrant Officer Corps has much to offer any Soldier interested in changing paths and becoming a leader in the Iowa National Guard.

For more information on becoming a Warrant Officer, contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffrey W. Lee at (515) 252-4640, or by e-mail, at jeffrey_lee1@us.army.mil. Interested personnel may also visit the warrant officer homepage at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.htm.

***"When these candidates
come out of the
[seven-month training]
program, they share
the same experience
as those at Rucker."***

**Chief Warrant Officer 5
Marvin Peters**

Warrant Officer/ Officer Symposium

This year's Iowa National Guard Officer/Warrant Officer Symposium played host to 178 Soldiers, family members and guests at the West Des Moines Sheraton.

Recruiters provided a weekend full of opportunity, information and discussion about the benefits of becoming an officer or warrant officer in the Iowa National Guard.

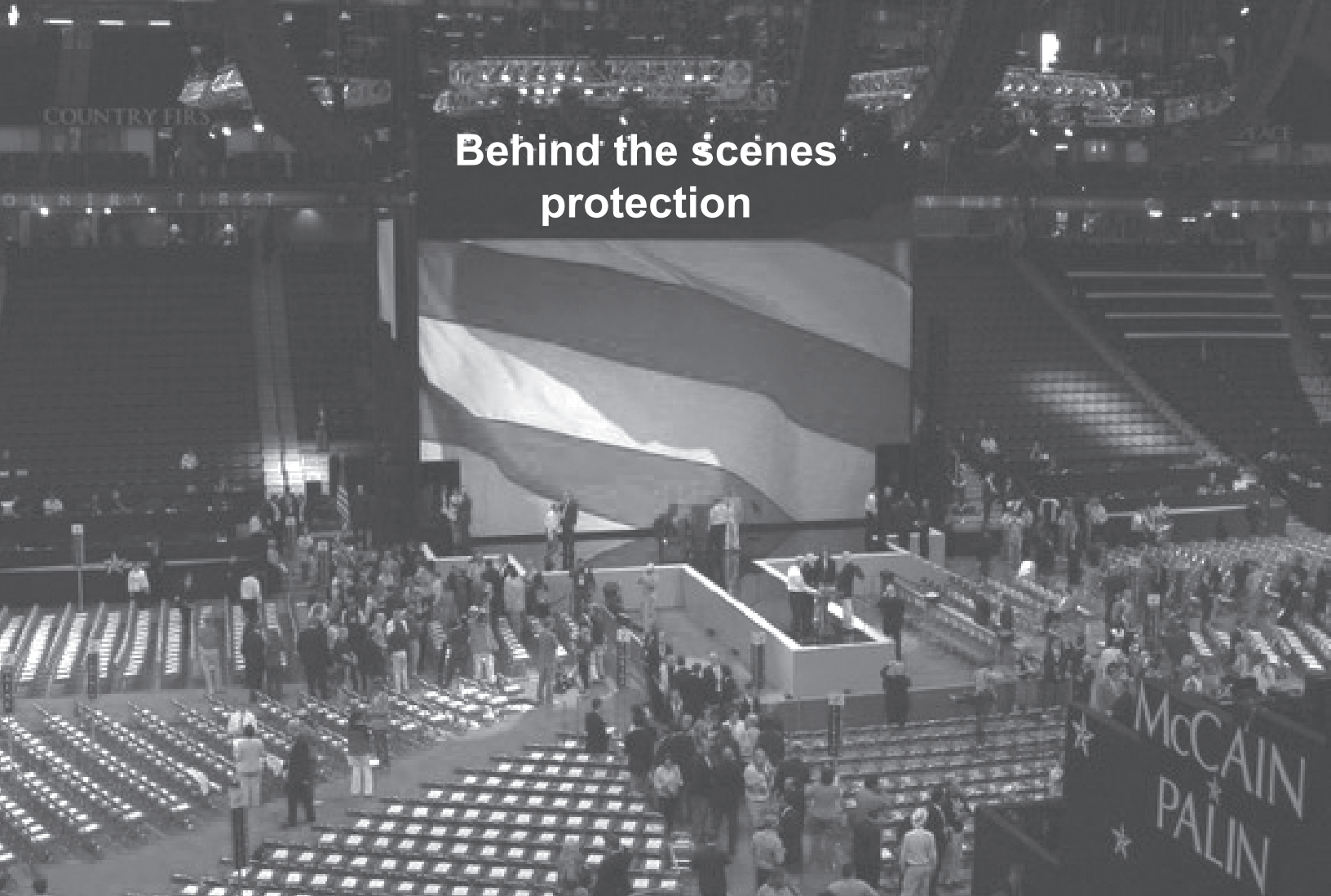
Speakers provided information from their field of expertise, while options were explained for Officer Candidate School, Warrant Officer Candidate School and Direct Commissioning.

The 11 breakout sessions allowed Soldiers to ask individual questions and provided them the freedom to seek information specific to their individual situation.

For many Soldiers, it was an eye opener to the many benefits the Guard offers, including retirement and education benefits, as well as resources for military families



(Far left) More than 175 Soldiers and family members turned out for the recent Warrant Officer/Officer symposium, held at the West Des Moines Sheraton. (Top) Sgt. Jozie A. Wells and Private 1st Class Tina M. Morrow head out to one of the 11 breakout sessions provided at the annual symposium. (Below) Sgt. 1st Class Troy Roff and 2nd Lt. William Speicher go over officer ascension packets with a prospective officer candidate during the day-long symposium. (Iowa National Guard photos)



Behind the scenes protection

71st CST ensures convention-goers enjoy a safe and secure environment

by Pfc. Cassandra Monroe

The recent Republican National Convention (RNC), held in Minneapolis, Minn., called for many separate and diverse elements to come together as a team to ensure the safety and security of all convention participants.

Designated a National Security Event, authorities established a military joint task force, which included approximately 1,600 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard personnel from active duty, reserve and National Guard forces.

National Guard forces included about 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Alaska. Their missions range from providing security missions to aviation and logistics support, from assisting local law enforcement with traffic control to pro-

viding a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) response capability.

One such organization arising from this joint task force is the Radiological Monitoring Team, an interagency partnership which includes National Guard Civil Support Teams (CST), the United States Department of Energy (DOE), and many other federal and state agencies.

The team works together to provide radiological monitoring and support, as well as being prepared to respond to a significant radiological event if one were to happen. Team members also ensure their assigned perimeters are safe and free of radiological activity.

One important component of this monitoring group is the Iowa National Guard's 71st Civil Support Team, a 22-member unit made up of full-time Soldiers and Airmen.

For the 71st Civil Support Team, training and preparation for the convention was a challenge. The team rose to that challenge, however, becoming more proficient. Working in an environment like this provides real-life benefits for these Iowa National Guard members.

"As far as the team goes, it's the variety of the training and the practical application that's important," said Lt. Col. Tim Glynn, 71st Civil Support Team commander. "When it comes down to working with the Department of Energy, it allows us to work the radiological side. This is an area we don't work with back in Iowa because there are not very many radiological sources available," said Glynn.

Supporting the DOE allows the Des Moines-based 71st CST to expand its technical skills. "We are hazardous material technicians, but that side of the area is one we don't get to use much," he said.

Working with the civilian teams also requires a change in uniform for this operation.

"We wear civilian clothes to blend in with

our partners," said Glynn. "We have to blend in so we won't call any attention to ourselves."

While convention participants are busy considering party issues, radiological monitoring officials are quietly going about their business.

"Some of the things we are trying to prevent here at the RNC are terrorism attacks that have radiological components that can be used as a radiological diversion device," said Steve Buntman, the Department of Energy's senior energy official for the Republican National Convention.

"Our radiological assistance program can respond anywhere in the United States within four hours of an event," said Buntman.

"There are mutual agreements, and good cooperation among our partners," he added.

The DOE provides the subject matter experts, which come from the department's national laboratories.

"We bring our scientists and we bring the capability to address a variety of situations, from the planning and preparation of this event, all the way to consequence management activities," said Buntman.

"This is a unique event and the National Guard is doing what it always does - which is to be there to help civil authorities and back them up when there is an event that requires more capabilities than what they can handle," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Kelly, joint task force commander and assistant adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard.

Recent deployments and mobilizations have made National Guard Soldiers and Airmen better prepared to assist with missions like the Republican National Convention.

When they return from overseas, they have more experience in conducting small-unit, tactical operations and working with local authorities, said Kelly.



Lt. Col. Tim Glynn, 71st Civil Support Team commander, goes over plans with 1st Lt. Dave Jablonsky, the survey team leader from the North Dakota National Guard Civil Support Team. (Iowa National Guard photo)

Briefs

Recreation fees waived

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will waive day-use and camping fees for Servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians who are on mid- or post-deployment leave from duty in a hostile fire zone supporting the Global War on Terror.

Personnel on leave will be required to show identification and leave forms upon arrival to the recreation sites to obtain the waiver, officials said. The waiver will also apply to all immediate family members accompanying them on their visit.

The waiver will be applied to day use and camping fees and will be waived on a walk-up and space available basis. In addition, state, local and other managing entities of recreation areas located on Corps lands are encouraged, but not required, to comply with this waiver of fees in the areas they manage.

National Guard gets new medevac Blackhawk helicopter

A new medical evacuation version of the Blackhawk helicopter was unveiled recently at the National Guard Association of the United States conference.

The HH-60M Blackhawk is capable of carrying up to six litter patients, or walking wounded to the nearest medical treatment facility, wherever that may be. It also has a bigger (701D) engine, an all-glass cockpit for better visibility, an improved gear box for the main transmission and an externally-mounted electric hoist.

A Vermont aviation unit, with a detachment in Massachusetts, will get the first M-series off the assembly line. A total of 42 new Blackhawks will be delivered to four states in fiscal year 2009.

USMA ranked sixth best college

A recent report by Forbes.com on America's best colleges ranked West Point, the U.S. Military Academy, the sixth best in American Colleges on the quality of education the Academy provides and how much its students achieve.

Besides 25 percent of the rankings based on student evaluations of courses and instructors, another 25 percent depends on how many of the school's alumni, adjusted for enrollment, were listed among the notable people in "Who's Who in America."

The other half of the rankings were based equally on three factors – the average amount

of student debt left after graduation; the percentage of students graduating in four years; and the number of students or faculty, adjusted for enrollment, who have won nationally competitive awards like Rhodes Scholarships or Nobel Prizes.

Flu season approaching

Each year, five to 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu, resulting in approximately 200,000 people being hospitalized, threatening military readiness.

Flu immunizations are mandatory for all active duty, National Guard and reserve personnel. The Department of Defense has established a goal of having 90 percent of these people vaccinated by Dec. 31. The vaccine is available by injection or intranasal spray.

"The Sarge" sets Top Fuel record

U.S. Army Top Fuel pilot, Tony "the Sarge" Schumacher, became the winningist Top Fuel driver in National Hot Rod Association history after capturing the inaugural Carolinas Nationals at zMax Dragway in Concord, N.C. Schumacher's win was his seventh straight and 12th of the season.

Almost lost during the record-setting day for Schumacher was the widening of his Top Fuel points lead, going 46-points up on teammate Antron Brown. Schumacher is attempting to win his fifth consecutive title and his sixth career crown.

USA best in shooting

Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit won four medals recently and the coveted title of "Best Nation in the World" at the Consell International du Sport Militaire (CISM), at the Rodberget Shooting Center in northern Sweden.

Winning a CISM Gold Medal in the 50-Meter Sport Rifle Prone Team Match was the USA Women's Rifle Team of Sgt. Kelly A. Dove, Spc. Nichole M. Cooper, and Reservist Lt. Col. Rhonda L. Bright. Earning Silver were Sgt. 1st Class Jason A. Parker in the Men's 300-Meter Three Position Standard Rifle Slow Fire Individual Match; Sgt. 1st Class Thomas A. Rose in the Men's 25 Meter .32-Caliber Center Fire Pistol Individual Match; Earning Bronze was Sgt. 1st Class Eric A. Uptagrafft in the Men's 300-Meter Military Rapid Fire Rifle Individual Match.

Saluting Iowa's Heroes **Gold Star Military Museum**

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Iowa plays host to September's 34th Infantry Division Association's reunion

The 2008 Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division was held September 4-7 at the Des Moines Holiday Inn. The reunion, which was a great success, had more than 60 people in attendance. S. Don Singlestad, president of the 135th Infantry Regiment, greeted everyone as he ran the association meetings.

We especially appreciated the families of former Red Bull members who attended and made acquaintances with their fathers' old war buddies.

New Officers of the association are: President – Richard Holmes; 1st Vice-President – John Ray; 2nd Vice-President – Pat Skelly; 1-Year Trustees – Leslie Jerome, John Churchman and Don Prock; 2-Year Trustees – Roque Riojas, Michael Beaman and John Sunins; 3-Year Trustees – S. Don Singlestad, Larry Lewer and Gene Alexander; Secretary – Russell Bierl; Treasurer – Michael Musel; Sergeant-at-Arms – Mildred Fencel; Historian – Pat Skelly; and Chaplain – Clinton Wolf.

Next year's National Reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association will take place in Carlisle, Penn., July 15 - 19. Carlisle is home to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, the Military History Institute, and the Army War College. All of these organizations will support us as we explore our "Red Bull" and Fifth Army history, while learning and discussing the future of our Armed Forces and its upcoming leaders.

Current plans include a tour of the Gettysburg battlefield, a visit to the Military History Institute library, and seeing the Army Heritage Center reconstruction of World War II camp buildings, World War I trenches, and other representations of early American military life.

Col. Ron "Curly" Albrecht, Commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division (top), was the featured speaker at the 34th Infantry Division Reunion. More than 60 people were present for the 2008 reunion, which was held at the Des Moines Holiday Inn (left) in September. (Contributed photos)



Memorial Day a huge success at Museum

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum hosted a public open house and complimentary military-style breakfast on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26.

The "S.O.S." ("Stuff on a Shingle") breakfast provided guests the genuine military recipe of creamed beef gravy on toast. The Museum also served fresh "Army" coffee and "Bug Juice" (orange drink) throughout the day.

The Museum set a new record, as more than 1,900 people visited the museum on Memorial Day and more than 1,250 hungry visitors were fed. In fact, at one time, the line to enter the museum ran from the front door, all the way down past the flag pole and half-way down to Des Moines Ave.

Van and Bonnie, local radio personalities for Des Moines-based radio station WHO Radio 1040, broadcast their show live from the Camp Dodge Museum.

The Museum would like to thank the Camp Dodge Training Site for their support. This year's event included a visit by the National Guard Patriot Chopper, as well as a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter fly-over. They'd also like to recognize the 28 volunteers and their spouses for assisting in this unique Memorial Day ceremony.

While Memorial Day is a special day reserved for remembrance of fallen servicemembers from all wars, the Museum encourages everyone to visit a cemetery, or attend a memorial service to remember our fallen veterans.

As construction of the museum's \$4 million addition should be well underway, next year's Memorial Day event will be held at the new Camp Dodge Freedom Center. There will be exhibits, re-enactments and displays for this annual celebration.

Established in 1985, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is the only federally-recognized repository for military artifacts in the state of Iowa. The mission of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is twofold: to preserve Iowa's military history and honor the military service of all Iowans.

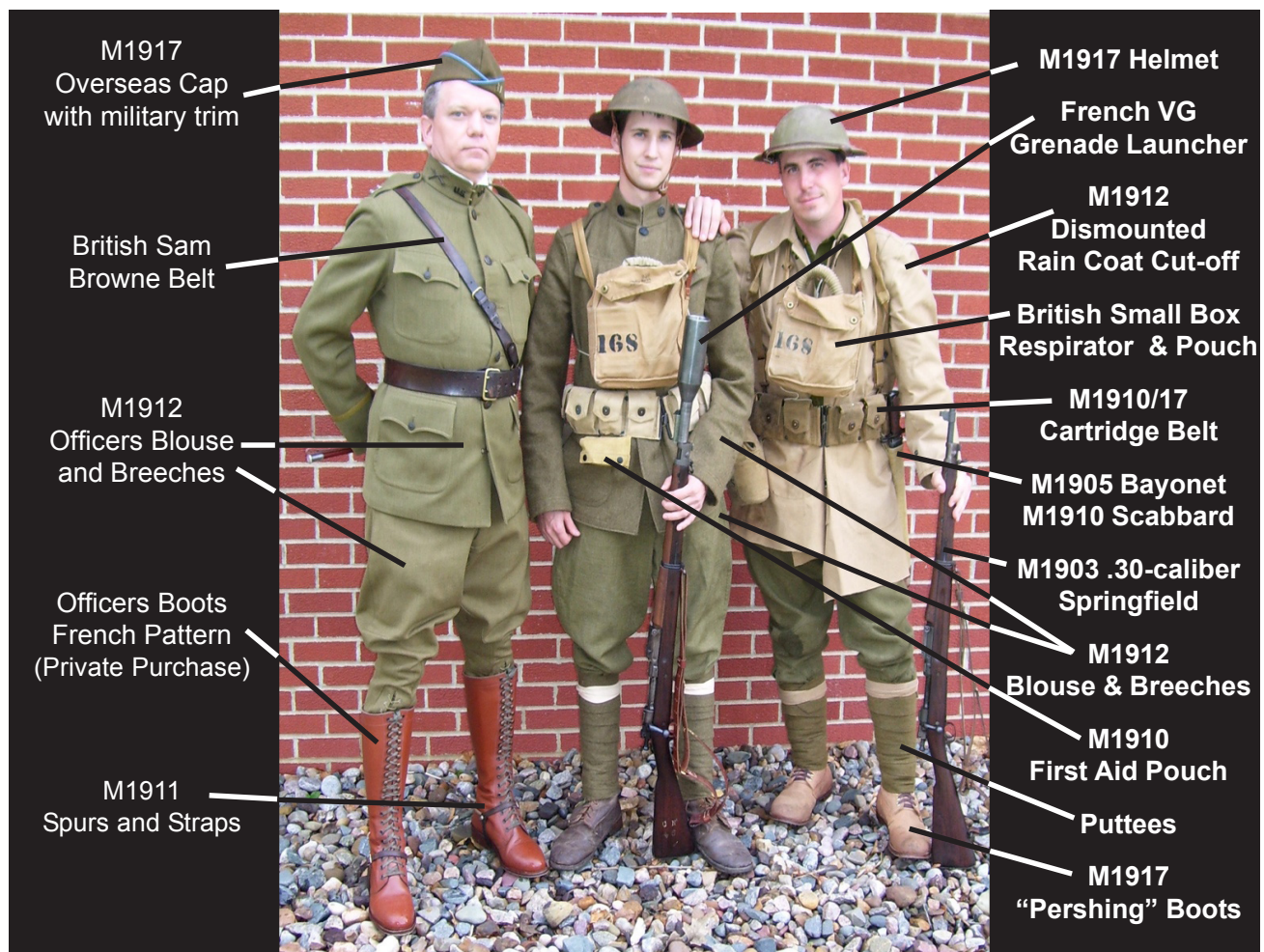
The Museum's permanent exhibits tell the stories of Iowans who have served in defense of their state and nation, beginning in the early settlement of the state, through the Global War on Terror. An extensive exhibit honors the 34th Infantry Division which holds the distinction of serving the most consecutive days in combat

of any division during World War II. The museum also contains one of the finest military small arms collections in the Midwest.

The museum is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except holidays. Group tours are welcome and available by appointment; contact the museum for scheduling. Contact the Museum at (515) 252-4531 or visit the museum website at www.iowanationalguard.com

Some of the more than 1,900 visitors line up for a breakfast of SOS at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum. Below, Col. (Ret.) Robert King is interviewed on the Van and Bonnie radio show, as they aired a live remote broadcast from the museum. (Contributed photos)





U.S. Doughboys, Circa 1918

A trio of World War I re-enactors help provide a special insight into military life at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Memorial Day event. Pictured, from left to right, are Capt. Tom Clegg, Pvt. Sam Cady and Pvt. Derek Orwig. (Contributed photo)



Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

**7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824
(515)-252-4531**

www.iowaNationalGuard.com

goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov

Museum hours

Mon – Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(Except for holiday weekends)

**Retiree Coffee every
Wednesday morning at 9 a.m.**



(Above) Don Prock is thanked for his service as outgoing Secretary/Treasurer of the Association. (Top left) Three soldiers from Co D, 168th Infantry Regiment, were mobilized 67 years ago for WWII. Ben Thatcher, Dominic Dellavedova and Joe Boitnott all served together throughout the war in North Africa and Italy. (Bottom left) The 34th Army Band Combo, led by CW4 James Goodwin, played for the Association reunion banquet.

Italian road designated 34th Infantry Division “Red Bull Highway”

During the 34th Infantry Division’s 2008 reunion, an official Italian highway sign from the 34th U.S. Infantry Division “Red Bull” Road was presented by Paolo Cecconi, the Mayor of Vernio, Italy.

The Friday evening ceremony included presentation of an official proclamation from the Commune of Vernio, with English translation copies also available.

This reconstructed road connects Vernio to the A1 Autostrada at Barbarino di Mugello, which passes near the memorial to Torricella (Hill 810), which will be officially dedicated and opened on Sept. 20, 2009.

Cecconi was assisted in his historic remarks and presentation speech by Riccardo Barni of Prato, Italy, Amy Worthen of the Des Moines Art Center, Maj. Jay Morsching of Camp Ripley Minn. and historian Patrick Skelly.

Any Association members who will be traveling in Italy at that time are invited to attend the dedication ceremony as honored guests.

Contact Pat Skelly for more information.



Pat Skelly, 34th Infantry Division Association Historian and Mr. Paolo Cecconi, the Mayor of Vernio, Italy. (Contributed photo)

Earns gold award

Iowa National Guard recognized as best in installation management



The Iowa Army National Guard was recognized as the best installation management program in the country during the Army National Guard's Construction and Facility Management Officers annual conference, held recently in Las Vegas. Region IV, consisting of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, was declared the best region, with Iowa winning the region, as well.

With 902 of a possible 1,000 points, Iowa was the only state to receive a Gold Award. Rated excellent in four of the eight areas in which all states were judged, they received the Fred Aron Award, named for the division chief for Army Guard installations from 1971-92.

It was no surprise that Iowa scored so high in winning the big prize, said Col. Michael Bouchard, Installations Division chief. "Iowa has the best reputation among the 54 states and territories by far," he said.

Col. Scott Ayres, Iowa's construction and facilities management officer, said the National Guard Bureau award represents "acknow-

ledgement of the fine job this office has been doing for the Soldiers and facilities of the Iowa Army National Guard. It also symbolizes the product of the emphasis Iowa leadership gives to installations.

"In Iowa, it is one of the three legs of producing a ready force, joining training and personnel," he said.

The Iowa Army National Guard has 42 armories, in addition to Camp Dodge, the state's Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. Iowa's strategy is to build one new armory as often as possible (the track record is one every five years), and to totally renovate each armory every 20 years.

According to Ayres, the keys to Iowa's success are:

- * Setting a goal of having armories reflect the type, condition, and quality of our new local colleges and high schools. That goal is to provide facilities that make our Soldiers and citizens proud.

- * Using funds to modernize older armories to accommodate the increase of female soldiers. This requires modern restroom facilities for both sexes, and in some cases, replacing female latrines that were located in janitor's closets with full restroom and shower facilities.

- * A commitment to continuing education for all personnel at the NGB and particular profession level. Our employees are our strongest asset.

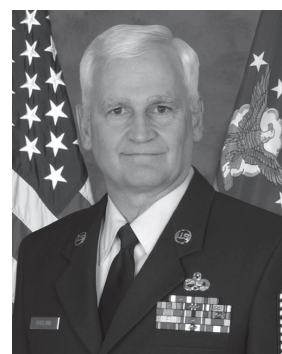
***"Iowa has the best reputation
among the 54 states
and territories by far."***

**Col. Michael Bouchard
Installations Division Chief**



Through the ranks

by Senior Enlisted Advisor
Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris



Introducing the new Army, Air Guard senior NCO's

In this issue, it is my honor to introduce two outstanding individuals who have already given much of their lives in the defense of our country and have been selected to serve at the highest level here in the state in the final assignments of their respective careers.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Garland is the top enlisted non-commissioned officer in the Iowa Air National Guard. His previous assignment was as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the 132nd Tactical Fighter Wing in Des Moines. He replaces Allen Slagle who retired in 2007.

Garland has over 37 years of service to the Iowa Air National Guard and has served at every enlisted level in his career. His years of service as a full-time technician also exposed him to the day-to-day life of an Airman. He is uniquely qualified to fill this important billet and I look forward to working with him.

Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wolfgram has been selected as the third traditional State Command Sergeant Major for the Iowa Army National Guard. He replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Craig Franken who retired in August.

A veteran of the Vietnam conflict, Wolfgram has served at every level of leadership within the Army rank structure. He has a combat arms background, but also has experience within support-type units.

He was instrumental in the early days of our

Military Funeral Honors team training for the Army and is an outstanding leader who will assist the units as the transformation process finalizes and as units continue to deploy.

My position continues to evolve and for the record, I will try and explain my new duties. I am now officially the "Joint Senior Enlisted Leader" of the Iowa National Guard.

Garland has the over-watch of the Iowa Air Guard, just as Wolfgram has over the Army. I will use these two fine non-commissioned officers to work through the service-specific issues and will also coordinate with the State and Joint Staffs to resolve issues that must be handled at the State level.

I hope to be more visible out in the State and I have a whole lot more to learn about the Air Guard. I am excited about the possibilities and look forward to the challenges that this new position holds.

The changes in the structure of the military, not to mention moving from a strategic reserve to a fighting-ready operational force, have not been easy. The officers who have planned these changes have done a good job, but it has been the enlisted corps, both Army and Air, that has caused the changes to become today's reality.

It is an exciting time to be in today's military and we need to continue to look to the future and be ready as our nation continues to call upon us for the defense of our great country.

Education Office here to assist you

The deadline for online application for the National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP) has come and gone for the Fall 2008 semester. Soldiers and Airmen can still apply for tuition assistance for the Fall 2008 semester, but applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Soldiers and Airmen are encouraged to apply for the Spring semester now.

Remember, each Soldier/Airman will receive two e-mails when applying for NGEAP. The first e-mail tells the applicant the Education office has received the application. The second e-mail states whether the application has been approved or denied.

Financial Aid offices will contact the Iowa College Student Aid Commission to receive the tuition assistance that will be applied to the Soldier's or Airman's account.

Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), or the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, can be retaken in the Education Office. A request memorandum can be found on the website in the testing tab. Requests must be written by the Soldier's unit.

Many issues have been addressed in the GI Bill arena. Reservists may use their GI Bill for college, on-the-job training/apprenticeships, correspondence courses and flight training. If a Soldier is in school, they must contact the VA certifying official at their college or university. They will help obtain your GI Bill benefits.

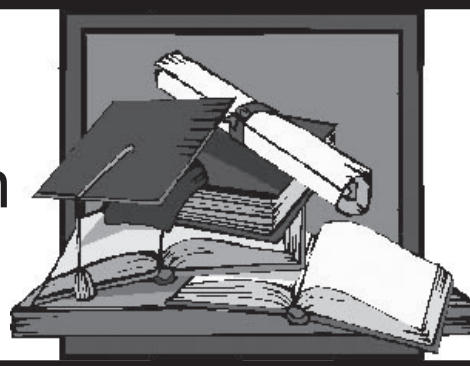
The Montgomery GI Bill Reserve Component, Chapter 1606 will be going up from \$317 per month, to an amount to be determined Oct. 1, 2008 for FY 09. Rates will be posted on the website.

Once the paperwork has been sent to the VA in St. Louis or any other Regional VA, it takes 10-12 weeks to process the claim, so try to start the process early. If you are applying for Ch. 1606 and need to obtain your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), most likely it can be found in your iPERMS Soldier file. Don't forget to do your end of the verification process, by calling 1-877-823-2378.

For those who have been deployed and are applying for CH 1607 need to submit their mobilization orders and DD 214 to the VA certifying official at your college. Don't forget to do your end of month verification for this benefit, at 1-877-823-2378.

For those of you who have a kicker, it also needs to be submitted with the application. All

From the Education Office



documents can be found in your iPERMS Soldier file. If you need to know how to use your iPERMS, contact your unit.

For those applying for programs other than college, you need to contact the VA or visit www.gibill.va.gov. This website will tell you how you apply for the GI Bill.

If you are struggling in choosing a degree, the Education Office has updated the Career Counseling tab, at www.iowanationalguard.com. This will allow you to do an online application and the Education Support Center will provide you with a degree plan.

Another very important piece of our Automation system is the Information, Management and Reporting Center or iMARC. This online database, managed by NGB, is the database of record for all education and incentive programs. The ESO office tracks all bonuses (enlistment and re-enlistment), GI Bill benefits, Student Loan Repayment and Army National Guard - Federal Tuition Assistance, using this system.

Unit Readiness NCOs, Admin NCOs, First Sergeants, OICs and 2OICs can gain access to this system by applying for a login and password at the website, <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil>.

Once access has been granted, a full-time unit rep can look up information about bonuses or student loan payments, GI Bill eligibility, and tuition assistance applications.

**To contact
the Iowa National Guard
Education Center,
call (515) 252-4468**

Iraqi Air Force bids farewell to Iowa trainers



Staff Sgt. Marshall Lantz, Det. 1, 1 134th Security and Support Battalion crew chief, performs a receiving inspection on an OH-58 Kiowa. The helicopters were shipped to Iraq and then flown to Camp Taji to be used for Iraqi Air Force pilot training. (Photos by Sr. Airman Julianne Showalter, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing)



Members of Det. 1, 134th Security and Support Battalion, Iowa National Guard, pose with gifts presented by their Iraqi counterparts.

TAJI, Iraq – Soon, a group of Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers will be departing Iraq, leaving behind a legacy of training and friendship with their Iraqi Air Force partners.

“This day, I would like to say goodbye to our dear friends who gave serious assistance and backup for our air force,” said Lt. Gen. Kamal Barzanji, Iraq Air Force (IqAF) commander. “They did a major job to build our new Air Force.”

“We would also like to thank their families,” said Kamal. “Because they were so patient waiting for them to do their duties here. Our salute to their families to wish them all the best happiness and joy.”

Six months ago, the six volunteer Soldiers from Det. 1, 134th Sustainment and Support Battalion came from Waterloo, Iowa, and surrounding areas. They brought a fleet of U.S. Army OH-58C “Kiowa” helicopters and the know-how to keep them flying.

These Soldiers and aircraft formed the training base for much of IqAF’s expansion this year.

The OH-58C has an airframe similar to the Bell Jet Ranger helicopters that are used by the Iraqi Air Force as training aids for new pilots. Iraqi mechanics learned to maintain the OH-58C, and Iraqi pilots learned the basic flying skills they need to fly the Russian-designed Mi-17 that is IqAF’s main combat helicopter.

The Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters, purchased by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, will be integrated into the Iraqi’s existing helicopter squadron and used in a support capacity.

“This is my office,” said Iowa Army National Guard Soldier Staff Sgt. Marshall Lantz, as he pointed to an OH-58C.

“I spent six months here, five months with the actual aircraft. It was pretty rough duty. It was starting at eight in the morning until noon to do dailies and fix what the pilots broke. Go back take power naps, be back on the flight line at six and go to eleven, twelve, one, or two o’clock in the morning for night flights.

“That went on six days a week for four months. That was our routine,” said Lantz.

Lantz has been working with the OH-58 for 32 of the 36 years he’s been in the Army. Before that, he was a combat engineer. He didn’t work on the Kiowa during the Vietnam War, but recalls, “they flew over my head.”

As if to signal the completion and success of the Guardsmen’s mission, an Iraqi pilot made his first solo flight in the OH-58C with an Iraqi trainer. This was the first time an all-Iraqi crew flew the American helicopter.

Thank God for 'unanswered prayers'

In 1994 Garth Brooks recorded a country/western song entitled, "Unanswered Prayers."

If you don't remember the song, the opening line tells the story of Garth and his family running into his old girlfriend at a football game. He then tells us he had once prayed she'd be his girlfriend for all time.

Remember the words:

"She was the one that I'd wanted for all times,

And each night I'd spend prayin' that God would make her mine,

And if he'd only grant me this wish I wished back then,

I'd never ask for anything again."

But after meeting with this old girlfriend he adds these words:

"Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers,

Remember when you're talkin' to the man upstairs,

That just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care,

Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."

That's kind of an interesting thought, isn't it?

It kind of goes against everything that we preach, doesn't it?

We have people give testimonies of how God has answered their prayers.

And that is a good thing, we ought to thank God for answering our prayers.

But too often we forget God also blesses us with unanswered prayers.

Just because God doesn't answer in a certain way, doesn't mean he doesn't care. He often withholds something so he may give us something better.



I'm sure the Apostle Peter was glad the Lord didn't answer his request in Luke 5:8 when he said to the Lord, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Another prayer that isn't answered is the one made by the former madman of Gadera, who, after Jesus had healed him, asked Jesus if he could go with him and Jesus told him, "No."

But then Jesus told him why when he said "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you."

In the song Garth does not tell us exactly why he is happy with his wife and not his old girlfriend.

His old girlfriend may have gotten fat or ugly.

Maybe she had joined the Hare Krishnas and when he saw her, she was wearing one of those orange robes and had her head shaved.

Maybe she was schizophrenic, or bi-polar.

Maybe she had a spider tattooed on her cheek.

We're not sure just why, but for some reason he realizes he loves his wife and family. Even though he didn't know it, God had planned all along for him to be as happy as he is.

So let us remember, when we don't get our prayers answered, God may have something better in mind for us.

Flood response continued from page 3

you learned through multiple overseas deployments to help our fellow Iowans.

Due to their overseas experience, our staffs were better prepared to mobilize, maneuver, and provide logistical support to nearly 4,000 Soldiers and Airmen serving on state active duty. Using Iowa Air National Guard resources in key locations allowed us to maintain a reserve and preserved freedom of action as we fought our way down the rivers.

The use of a Joint Staff as the operational

staff for the floods allowed the Army and Air components to continue their support of our Federal mission, mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers and Airmen even as the floods were occurring.

Whether you were serving on the overnight shift in a headquarters or an emergency operations center, driving long hours to deliver critical supplies or flying multiple missions to provide leadership with situational missions, you can take pride in the fact that we worked as one team, under the Governor, for the benefit of Iowans in their time of need.

Congratulations, and thank you for a job well done!



Tremendous leadership opportunities await you as a commissioned officer in the Iowa Army National Guard! Find out more information about Officer Candidate School, Reserve Officer Training Corps Program and the Direct Commissioning Program by taking the first step contact Maj. Amy J. Price, Officer Recruiter, at amy.price@us.army.mil or call (515) 252-4136.

Anyone can nominate individuals to become officers at <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com>

Help your unit fill vacant positions, provide a friend with an opportunity to serve their state and nation, while attending college AND earn yourself \$2,000. HOW? Through the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). Find out more at: <http://www.guardrecruitingassitant.com>

Congratulations to the 146 Recruit Sustainment Program split-option Warriors who graduated from Basic Training and to the 161 RSP Warriors who graduated from Advanced Individual Training this summer. You, and your families have reason to be very proud. On behalf of a grateful Nation, "THANK YOU."



**1st Sgt. Alan G. Paulding
Waterloo (Team East)
NCOIC of the Year**

**Congratulations
To These Top-Performing
Professionals.
Job Well-Done!**



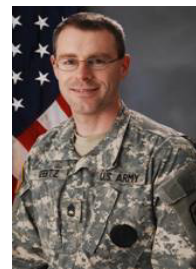
**Sgt. 1st Class Sean M. Eckhardt
Davenport (Team Charlie)
State Recruiter of the Year**



**Sgt. 1st Class Dale Boicourt
Johnston (Team Delta)
Regional Recruiter of the Year**



**Staff Sgt. Anthony R. Duong
Sioux City (Team Jedi)
Regional Recruiter of the Year**



**Sgt. 1st Class Tyson J. Geertz
Davenport (Team Charlie)
Regional Recruiter of the Year**

