

The **IOWA** **NATIONAL**   
**GUARD**

# Militiaman



**ANA ETT**  
**returns from**  
**Afghanistan**

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*Maj. Steve Boesen pulls security from an M1151 uparmored humvee near Orgun-E, Afghanistan, during a combat patrol to Forward Operating Base Tillman in Paktika Province. (Iowa National Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Hill)*

## The Iowa Militiaman Summer 2008

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The Iowa Militiaman is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published by the Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Office and is printed four times annually.

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

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# 2008 Condition of the Guard address

**(Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis' speech to the Iowa Legislature)**

I'm honored once again to stand before you and report on the Condition of the Iowa National Guard. Last year I reported the condition of the Iowa National Guard was strong – the strongest it had been in generations. Today, I stand by that assessment.

These are indeed challenging times for the one percent of Americans who proudly serve their nation in uniform. And it is increasingly true for the Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard, who make up nearly two percent of our nation's National Guard.

Our military is not weak or hollow; it is not broken. And I want you and the citizens of Iowa to know, the Iowa National Guard stands ready to meet anticipated state and federal missions.

Iowa is home to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division; nearly a full brigade combat team is headquartered in Boone, with supporting units stationed across the state. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT is called to active duty, and that time will come, it will be a significant event for the Iowa National Guard and the State of Iowa.

In today's global security environment, we expect our National Guard Soldiers to mobilize and deploy for 12 months once every four to five years, and our Airmen for 45 days every 18 months. This means the old mantra of "one weekend a month and two weeks a year" no longer applies to these citizen-warriors.

Not including a BCT mobilization, we believe, on average, the Iowa National Guard will deploy between 800-1,200 Soldiers annually, as well as approximately 600 Airmen every 18 months. Given the current environment, we believe, these are sustainable taskings.

Investments in training and equipment are meaningless if we turn our backs on the needs of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen when the deployment is over. Not only is this a readiness issue for the National Guard, more importantly, it's the right and honorable thing to do.

They have sacrificed for our state and nation; they have proven their ability to accomplish their missions; and they have kept faith with the American people. Now, we owe it to them and

future Soldiers to keep our end of the bargain.

In order to keep this promise, the Army must provide predictable resources to the National Guard. The Army has pledged to boost Army National Guard spending by \$23 billion through 2011 and promised further increases.

The Iowa Air National Guard will benefit if the Air Force succeeds in acquiring the necessary funds to rebuild what it calls the "required force." Initial plans call for stationing the KC-X Tanker at Sioux City and the F35 Joint Strike Fighter at the Des Moines Airport.

The Iowa General Assembly and our Commander-in-Chief, Gov. Culver, have been extremely supportive of our legislative proposals to help meet the needs of our Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, their families and their communities.

We see this in the Iowa National Guard Education Assistance program, which is helping nearly 1,100 Soldiers and Airmen attend college this year.

We see it in the state-matching dollars leveraging federal military construction and maintenance funding to maintain and refurbish old armories and build future Readiness Centers

in key demographic areas.

We see it in legislation that indirectly helps our servicemembers, like the recently-enacted military leave bill and legislation to help returning vets purchase a home, or help family members care for a loved one injured in battle.

You have done, and are doing, all we have asked of you. What our Soldiers and Airmen want more than anything else is your continued support. They will endure any hardship and sacrifice if they believe you still have faith in them. These men and women have devoted their lives to serving others.

I want to introduce you to some ordinary Iowans that serve their state and nation in extraordinary ways. These men and women live throughout our state; they represent more than 9,500 Soldiers and Airmen. These individuals are making a difference in communities, for the nation and for people around the world.

Let me give you an example of one such man.



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## TAG Sends

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

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***Condition of the Guard  
continued on page 18***

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# Iowans serving Afghans as ETT combat advisors

by Maj. Steve Boesen

**(CAMP CLARK, Afghanistan)**—On a cold, snowy morning in February 2007, 50 Iowa and two Minnesota Army National Guard Soldiers left the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division Headquarters at Boone and embarked upon a long journey in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

These combat advisors, known as Embedded Tactical Trainers, or ETTs, have been conducting combat and counterinsurgency operations with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

Initially formed into three, 16-man teams for the three months of training at Fort Riley, Kan., they were reorganized according to the needs of Task Force Phoenix Six, their higher headquarters in Afghanistan. These teams were broken into a Brigade Training Team, Infantry Training Team and a Combat Service Training Team while at Ft Riley.

The Brigade Embedded Training Team was sent to the Afghan Regional Security Integration Command (ARSIC)-West in western Afghanistan, while both the Infantry and Combat Service Training Teams were sent to ARSIC-East, along the Pakistan border. ARSIC-East is also known as the 203rd Afghan National Army (ANA) “Thunder” Corps.

Their primary mission is to build the capacity of both the ANA and Afghan National Police (ANP), so they’ll be able to conduct independent counterinsurgency operations when US forces depart. The ANP is receiving the primary

focus because the ANA was the main effort the preceding five years..

Sgt. Maj. Rick Ernst, of Bellevue, Iowa, has worked with the ANP in Khowst Province and started the PMT program there.

“We’ve come a long way in getting the ANA and ANP to do joint operations. When we first started, ANA commanders would not let the ANP onto their installations due to their unprofessionalism. Now, ANP are starting to train on ANA Forward Operating Bases.”

In order to build up the ANA and ANP, the advisors formed ANA Embedded Training Teams, or Police Mentor Teams, living with the Afghans they mentor in Combat Outposts or FOBs. One such FOB, Camp Clark, based in the Nadr Shi Kot District of the Khowst Province, has been in existence for almost two years.

Iowa combat advisors are conducting a mission that traditionally belonged to Special Forces. The ANSF also conduct partnered operations with coalition forces along the eastern border of Afghanistan, designed for three primary tasks: separate the enemy from the population so they can be captured or killed; achieve effects with the local national population; and conduct reconstruction.

These are classic counterinsurgency doctrines effective against Anti-Coalition Militia, or ACM. ACM is used to describe all those fighting against the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRoA) government, ranging from Al Qaeda, to drug smugglers.

Conducting operations in Afghanistan is fraught with danger. In addition to fighting insurgents, the weather and terrain are inhospitable for more than half of the year.

Winter brings several feet of snow and temperatures that dip under 30 degrees below zero in the elevations above 5,000-feet that border Khowst. Summers in Khowst Province bring temperatures that can rise above 120 degrees, with 100 percent humidity.

Driving in Afghanistan can also be a challenge. Conducting convoys in 14,000-pound up-armored humvees up mountains with narrow roads barely large enough for the vehicle, can give the most battle-hardened combat advisor pause.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jason King, a heavy construction worker from Council Bluffs, said, “Driving here is graduate-level stuff. When you’re not

*Maj. Steve Boesen conducts a humanitarian assistance drop with ANA in Wazi Zadrin District near Gerde Serai, Afghanistan. (Contributed photo)*





driving up mountains with 200-foot drop-offs, you're dodging camels and donkeys."

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are the leading cause of death for ANSF and coalition forces in Afghanistan. Khowst Province alone has been one of the leaders for the number of IED strikes.

Maj. Paul McNamara, Team Chief for 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps (4-1-203) and his team have responded to many IEDs with the engineers his team mentors.

"My Afghan engineers respond aggressively to IEDs all the time, they just lack the technology to exploit the sites" he said.

McNamara, of Waterloo, has led the 4th Kandak for more than nine months. "Many of these IEDs have been emplaced using lessons learned from the Iraq Theater."

When an IED is found, ANSF and their advisors can spend hours awaiting an explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) team to arrive and reduce the threat. Sometimes, the Afghans will take matters into their own hands, disarming the IED before their advisors or EOD arrive.

On one occasion, the 4-1 ANA Engineers received a call from the Khowst Provincial Cell to respond to an IED in Shembawhut, a village sympathetic to the ACM. Before a quick reaction force could be dispatched, the ANA had disarmed a 122mm Russian-made rocket and brought it back to the FOB.

1st Sgt. Matt Strasser, 4-1 Team Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and a cattle farmer from Rose Hill, has seen his share of IEDs.

"The ANA have gotten a lot better at identifying IEDs since we have been here and the local national population is providing more information as to where these IEDs are than when we first got here," he states.

One important operation that combat advisors conduct with their Afghan counterparts are humanitarian assistance (HA) drops and medical assistance visits. Afghanistan is a country with no formalized health care or food distribution system to provide for its people, nor any means to get simple necessities like cold weather clothing to them.

HA drops show the Afghan people, isolated by mountain ranges, that the IROA is there to provide support. For a remote village, this may be the only time they see their government. These HA drops and medical assistance visits, coupled with local national clinics operated out of Camp Clark, help achieve goodwill between the locals and the ANSF, which results in less support for the ACM.

Before an HA drop, the Kandak commander



will host a Key Leader Engagement with the village elders to determine their needs.

For example, a Kandak commander I advised would always ask village elders for young men to become ANP, so they could get trained and come back to secure that village or district.

Iowa combat advisors, spending the bulk of their time with their ANSF counterparts, form strong bonds forged in the crucible of combat and the sharing of hardships.

When the advisor moves on, their counterpart often throws a going-away party, which always involves food and a small gift. I recently moved to another Kandak in Ghazni Province after mentoring the 1st Brigade, 203rd Corps Operations Officer. After some praise from the brigade commander, I received an afghan vest and scarf, used to make a turban. As the average ANA officer makes only a few thousand dollars a year, it means a lot to receive such a gift.

Capt. Dave McDill, an engineer combat advisor from Cedar Rapids, says, "This has been a very challenging, yet rewarding tour. I have gotten to work with some very professional and dedicated ANA officers and soldiers that have made this a uniquely rewarding experience."

These groups of Iowans, the third, fourth and fifth teams to have deployed here, were some of the last National Guard members to deploy under the old, 12 months "boots on the ground" National Guard policy. They will have served a total of 15 months away from their families, since they left home.

However, when they return in the spring, they can do so with the knowledge they have helped the ANSF get significantly better and contributed to the security of the Afghan people.

**(Editors note: This ANA Embedded Training Team returned home to Iowa, May 13, 2008).**

*Driving up a road in the Khowst-Gardez Pass at eight thousand feet. (Contributed photo).*

# ***G-RAP continues to provide Soldiers an active role in recruiting process***

**by Sgt. Chad D. Nelson**

For the last three years, Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers have had the opportunity to make \$2,000 for every person they help recruit into the National Guard. Through the Guard Recruit Assistance Program (GRAP), a Soldier becomes an active component in the recruiting process, working closely with a person interested in enlisting and their potential recruiter.

"We're trying to build the force," said Staff Sgt. Barry Leath, a recruiting and retention NCO. "By offering a program such as GRAP, National Guard Soldiers can help build our force by actively participating in recruiting drives by contacting and working with recruiters," he said.

As an incentive for Soldiers to assist recruiters, the Guard is offering cash bonuses for every person that enlists. A Soldier can make as much as \$8,500 for helping to recruit someone. Bonuses vary by instance.

The highest bonus is for helping someone become an officer. The most common bonus, \$2,000, comes from helping a person become an enlisted person. By helping a potential recruit decide on the "Active First" program, a Soldier can expect to see a \$4,000 bonus.

It's not all about money, though, Leath was quick to add.

"Soldiers shouldn't be trying to recruit people just for numbers and bonuses. This program is about helping Soldiers put more time into thoughtful recruiting efforts. Only by recruiting people who are proud to serve, who want to help their state and country, and wish to put the welfare of others before the needs of themselves, will the Army become stronger.

"These are the kinds of people the National Guard needs among their ranks to help the Army complete its mission," he said.

The more competent and capable Soldiers we have in our ranks, the stronger the Army will become.

"It's like a football team," said Leath. When our troops who are deployed have been overseas long enough, they are rotated out with Soldiers waiting in the states, just like football players in a game.

Leath said Soldiers should always be asking themselves, "How can we help that Soldier abroad come home and spend more time with his or her family?"

With more numbers, the Army can allow for a longer period of time between deployments, which means precious time spent home with friends and family, and time spent home with friends and family makes a Soldier stronger.

There are currently 2,496 recruit assistants,





which makes up roughly one-third of Iowa's nearly 7,500 Soldiers, according to Lt. Col. Todd M. Jacobus, battalion commander of the Recruiting and Retention Command.

"That's not good enough," said Jacobus. "I'd like to see all of our Soldiers enroll, so they're ready when a recruiting situation arises. We can do so much more with this program."

Enrolling is easy. All a Soldier has to do is visit [www.guardrecruitingassistant.com](http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com) and read the rules and restrictions of the program.

Enrolling isn't enough to be a fully effective RA, though, said Jacobus. "Ask for the assistance of a recruiter who is trained to talk to the public," said Jacobus. Recruiters are trained to prospect, interview and answer questions, he said.

By asking recruiters for assistance, RAs become more knowledgeable about the process and gain confidence and are more able to help recruit Soldiers.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class (Ret.) Gerald Keeler, a former recruiter and GRAPs most accomplished RA with 21 contracts, agrees with Jacobus. "Get in contact with recruiters and learn how to work with the community," said Keeler, who has been part of GRAP for just over a year.

"Everyone is a potential recruit. Every waitress and cashier is a possible recruit," said Keeler, who hands his business card to nearly everyone he meets.

"This is a great opportunity for not only retirees, but regular Soldiers and Soldiers who are college students, as well," said Keeler, adding that the added monetary bonus can better help students complete their studies.

"It's an outstanding program," said Jacobus. "We used to reward Soldiers who helped recruit with a pair of tube socks. Now we reward them with \$2,000."

This upgraded reward system seems to be working. Since its inception three years ago, GRAP has recruited 1,096 people.

"A Soldier is going to refer a friend or co-worker to the Guard because [the Guard] is such a great program. We're simply rewarding them for their efforts," said Jacobus.

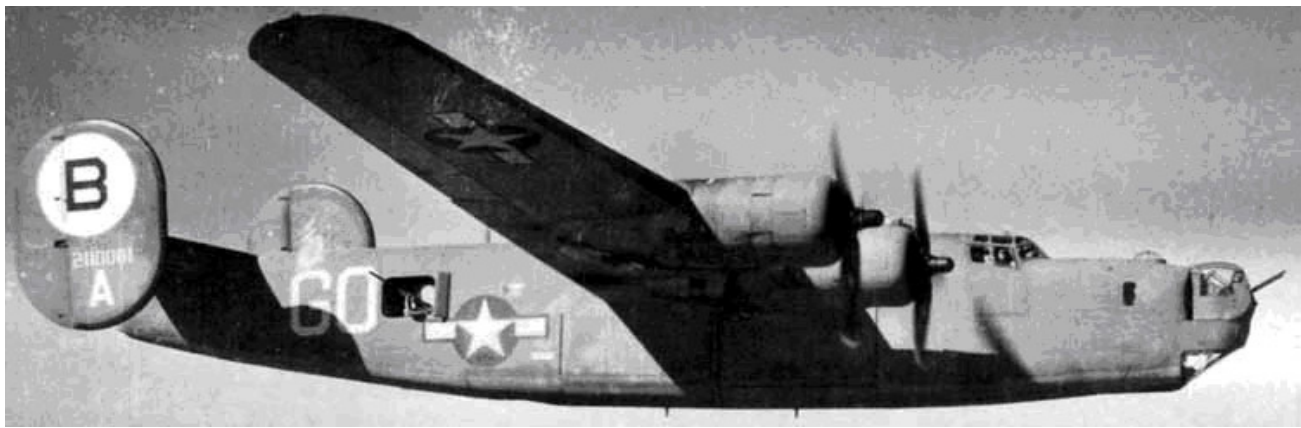
Ultimately, GRAP is a win-win for everyone involved, said Jacobus. The applicant has someone they know helping and supporting them through the process of enlisting, and the recruiters spend less time prospecting and more time talking to interested candidates.

"Most importantly," said Jacobus, "it increases the readiness of units, preparing them for their mission by insuring there are enough Soldiers for the job."



*(Previous page) Sgt. 1st Class Chad Jones chats with Guard Experience participants at an Iowa National Guard vehicle display at Fort Dodge; (top photo) Sgt. Daniel W. Lennon, AASF #1, explains aviation maintenance to Guard Experience participants, two of whom are new Guard members - PV1 Gemini Levonghom and PV1 Kevin R. Stewart, both of Company A RSP; (middle photo) Staff Sgt. Chad S. Allen talks with participants at Fort Dodge; (bottom photo) Sgt. Troxel demonstrates the basics of an artillery piece (Contributed photos).*





# **'On a wing and a prayer'**

**Chaplain candidates  
benefit from  
Airman's  
WWII experience**



*James "Pip" Pippenger (top left, standing), along with the crew of the World War II, B-29 Liberator, the Silver Chief, pictured above (Contributed photo)*

by Spc. Amy Rickelman

It was during World War II, on Dec. 25, 1944, that 1st Lt. James C. Pippenger and his men encountered heavy enemy anti-aircraft flack over Germany.

Their aircraft, a B-24 Liberator nicknamed the *Silver Chief*, lost two engines, forcing them into an emergency landing in Belgium. Though the plane itself was riddled with bullets, the crew of 10 were unharmed.

"Gather under the wing boys, we're going to have a prayer" Pippenger said.

This experience inspired "Pip" Pippenger to form the Church, State and Industry Foundation (CSIF), dedicated to providing financial assistance to the clergy, men and women, who intend to become military chaplains.

Pippenger, who speaks four languages, lived in Venezuela for 45 years, dealing in the manufacture, import and export of machine parts. This enabled him to take in the different perspectives others had of America. Pippenger realized the key to understanding each other was unity in faith and leadership – not so much one specific religion – but rather, morals.

"Morals should govern politics, not vice versa," he added.

The best people to rectify this situation, he felt, were military chaplains. So, through a friendship built over early morning cups of coffee, Pippenger and friend Brad Dirks, now secretary/treasurer of the CSIF, began the roots of a foundation which now has granted over \$85,000 in scholarships to eligible candidates over its three years of existence.

The CSIF offers 17 annual grants of \$5,000 each to Chaplain Candidates/Seminarians interested in Chaplaincy in any branch of service. The grants are available to seminarians from any faith group recognized by the Department of Defense.

Candidates must have a regionally accredited Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in any subject to be eligible. If they are

currently enrolled in a seminary, then they may apply to be a chaplain candidate. Eligible Soldiers will eventually be required to complete the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course, a 12-week course offered in three increments of four-weeks each.

These scholarships are beneficial to both the recipients and the military, as there is a shortage of military chaplains. The Army is required to provide one chaplain per battalion (500 to 600 Soldiers). The shortage is most notable among Roman Catholics in the military, as they make up approximately 25 percent of the force, but the share of Catholic priests doesn't even approach 10 percent.

The CSIF, a tax exempt charitable organization, hopes that with more financial aid and awareness of the program, more donations will be offered and more candidates will be able to take advantage of the program.

"With more donations and fundraising, more scholarships would be available to be given" stated Chaplain (Col.) (Ret.) Timon Davidson, president of the Church, State and Industry Foundation.

Applications are competitive. Criteria include (but are not limited to) chaplain candidate status, seminary status (must have completed first year), financial need, letters of recognition, grade point average, records of prior service, minority and gender status and keeping a balance in the number of awards given among faith groups, branches of service, and the Active, Guard and Reserve components.

They phrase, "On a wing and a prayer," originated with the World War II patriotic song "*Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer*" (1943), by Harold Adamson and Jimmie McHugh. It tells of a damaged warplane, barely able to limp back to base:

"Comin' in on a wing and a prayer.  
What a show, what a fight.  
Boys, we really hit our target for tonight.  
How we sing as we limp through the air,  
Look below, there's our field over there.  
Though there's one motor gone,  
We can still carry on.  
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer."

Adamson and McHugh were awarded the Presidential Certificate of Merit by President Harry Truman. The phrase hit a chord with the public and was made into a film, "*Wing and a Prayer*," released in 1944.

Approximately 40-50 applications are received each year, but only 18 scholarships were granted this year.

2nd Lt. Brian S. Jones, the most recent scholarship recipient, is a second-year student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque.

Jones said he first heard about the scholarship from Davison.

"It is a true honor and calling to pursue Chaplaincy in the Army National Guard. I can't think of a more vital ministry than making God's presence known and serving the heroes who wear our nation's uniform," Jones said.

"Our soldiers and their families unselfishly give and sacrifice so much for our communities and nation, and they deserve all of the support, care, and ministry that we can provide," said Jones.

While the group sports a single vision, its purpose is threefold—encouraging seminarians to become military chaplain candidates; financially recognizing candidates who have stayed the course and are now becoming commissioned chaplains; and to encourage qualified civilian clergy to become newly-accessioned military chaplains.

"It has been a true blessing to have my life touched by Mr. Pippenger and the CSIF foundation," said Jones "What an inspiration to see a man of faith give so much of his time and money to ensure that our troops will always have the support of the Chaplain Corps no matter where they serve.

"Without a doubt, attending Seminary and the very nature of being a full-time student is a very expensive endeavor. This scholarship is directly enabling me to continue my studies while easing my concerns over how to pay tuition and expenses, without incurring further debt. This allows me to focus more of my energy on preparing for full-time ministry and honing my skills so that I can be an effective Pastor and Chaplain, and hopefully have a positive impact on the people I serve," added Jones.

The Church, State and Industry Foundation is a qualified public charity and is the largest military chaplain's scholarship fund in the nation. To find out more about the Church, State and Industry Foundation you can visit their website at [www.chaplain-csif.com](http://www.chaplain-csif.com).

To find out more about applying for a Chaplains Scholarship, contact Maj. Matt Dial, Officer Strength Manager for the Iowa Army National Guard, at [matthew.dial@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.dial@us.army.mil) or Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Selof, Chaplain for Joint Forces Headquarters, Camp Dodge, at [gary.selof@ng.army.mil](mailto:gary.selof@ng.army.mil).

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## Briefs

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### **Iraqis fly with Iowa Army Guard**

The Iraqi Air Force is working with seven members of the Iowa National Guard's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 376<sup>th</sup> Aviation (Security and Support) to receive flight and mechanical training on the OH-58 Kiowa helicopter. The unit departed Iowa Feb. 15 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Iraqi Air Force is receiving proficiency training on the OH-58 aircraft, due to its similarity to the Bell Jet Ranger, currently used by the Iraqi Air Force.

### **Marathon team named**

Capt. Tim Mills, a member of the Iowa National Guard marathon team, qualified for the "National Guard Marathon Team," by virtue of his 53<sup>rd</sup> place overall and 12<sup>th</sup> in age group finish at the Lincoln Marathon. His final time was three hours, two minutes and one second.

Sr. Airman Melissa Knight also qualified for the team by finishing in a time of three hours, 18 minutes and 17 seconds. She was 138<sup>th</sup> overall and the 12<sup>th</sup> female to cross the finish line.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dean Robbins, a member of the Iowa team finished in three hours, 28 minutes and 22 seconds, 208<sup>th</sup> overall.

### **Seeing red on your PDHR?**

If your AKO spotlight is showing red for your medical readiness, you need to complete your Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA). There are two options to complete this assessment.

Option One – Begin the PDHRA online and then complete it over the phone. Logon to AKO at <https://apps.mods.army.mil/mwde/secure/AKOForms.asp> and log on with your AKO username and password. You must then call (888) PDHRA-99 to discuss your responses with a healthcare provider.

Option Two – Complete the PDHRA entirely over the phone. If you do not have access to a computer or AKO, call (888) PDHRA-99 and complete the assessment over the phone.

Visit <http://www.virtualarmory.com/mobiledeploy/PDHRA> for more information.

### **Army unveils new Ops field manual**

The Army's new field manual for operations, FM 3-0, brings the first major update of Army capstone doctrine since the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition,

unveiled at the U.S. Army Winter Symposium, features several changes, including the operational concept and operational environment; stability operations construct; warfighting functions and stability mechanisms.

FM 3-0 brings a philosophical shift of how Soldiers and commanders are empowered to complete their missions and adapt to their surroundings. Stability operations are viewed as important – if not more so – than offensive and defensive operations. It also institutionalizes simultaneous offensive, defensive and stability or civil-support operations as the core of the Army's doctrine.

### **Guard hosts new IndyCar**

A new 240-mph, No. 4 National Guard IndyCar was unveiled recently at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. The car, a 3.5 liter, V-8 Honda, will be driven by Brazilian Vitor Meira for Panther Racing team owner John Barnes.

"We've been involved with NASCAR for a number of years," said Maj. Gen. Ray Carpenter, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard. "This is the next step in racing for us. It's a great, great opportunity for us to showcase our National Guard capability in a different forum. The benefit for us is that it provides another venue for us to tell the National Guard story and reach out to a target population."

Barnes' car has 18 races scheduled in the 2008 IndyCar series, including appearances in Australia, Canada and Japan. It's the first time the National Guard has participated in the Indy Racing League.

### **Enlistment waivers standardized**

The Department of Defense has announced changes to improve the enlistment screening process by standardizing enlistment criteria and generating uniform reporting of waiver types all across the services.

The most noticeable change to this policy is in the area of conduct waivers. Previously, each service categorized offenses differently, making it impossible to provide reliable comparisons across services, over time.

The new policy goes into effect Oct. 1 and does not prohibit further changes in the management of the military's screening for service in the armed forces, but it does represent another affirmative step in sustaining the pattern of success that has come to characterize the All-Volunteer Force.





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

Vol. No. 5

Summer 2008

Issue No. 2



## Gold Star Military Museum addition approved

The architectural plans for the new Iowa Gold Star Military Museum addition have been approved. Plans for the 23,000-square foot addition include an exhibit gallery four times as large as the current gallery, a multi-purpose classroom that will seat 130 people, a large lobby and an expanded library.

Current plans call for construction to begin in Fall 2008. Senators Daryl Beall, Steve Warnstadt, Matt McCoy, and Jack Kibbie, and Representatives Dennis Cohoon, and Wes Whitehead were very instrumental in seeing this bill pass the

legislature. Funding is through the State of Iowa Rebuild Infrastructure Fund.

All Guardsmen and veterans need to give a special thank you to those people who have made expansion of the museum possible.

Special thanks also goes to Museum Board President Bob Holliday, Building Committee chairman Terry Boettcher and Exhibits Committee chairs Col. (Ret.) Bob King and Bob Conley. A private fund-raising drive will commence later this year to furnish exhibits for the new addition.

## *34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association reunion set*



The 2008 Reunion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division will be held Sept 4-7, in Des Moines at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road.

The Des Moines Chapter, will host the event. Thanks to the hard work of the committee, we have been able to reduce the cost of the event to \$80 per person, which buys the buffet and banquet dinners, bus fare and Hospitality Room.

Call Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Don Prock at (515) 265-3546, or the Gold Star Museum at (515) 252-4531, for more information.

Besides the normal reunion events, we hope to add a tour of the Rifle Range at Camp Dodge's Iowa National Guard base for a briefing on small arms weapons and to observe range fire on the pop-up target marksmanship range.

We will also be able to observe Soldiers training on a laser weapon indoor firing range, plus visit the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge, home of the 34<sup>th</sup> "Red Bull" Infantry Division Memorial.

This reunion is for all current and past Soldiers who have served with the 34<sup>th</sup> Division during times of peace or war. We especially want to invite our young men and women who served with Red Bull units during the Cold War and The Global War on Terror.

Family members of former "Red Bull" Soldiers are also encouraged to attend and make acquaintance with their fathers' old war buddies.

# 1902, 3-Inch Gun Limber restored

By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael J. Musel

Recently displayed in the atrium of the Iowa National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters was a model of the 1902 3-Inch Gun Limber restored by Iowa Gold Star Military Museum volunteers CW2 (Ret.) Peter H. Lentz and Mr. Ed Woodruff.

For many years, the limber stood outside the Council Bluffs Organizational Maintenance Facility before it was donated to the museum in 1999. Lentz and Woodruff conducted the research, located or fabricated the missing parts and restored the limber during the winter of 2007-2008.

Specifications for the limber are from the "Handbook of the 3-inch gun material model of 1902" published by the U. S. Army Ordnance Department in 1917.

The limber became an integral component of the U. S. Army's Field Artillery system after 1836 when Secretary of War Lewis Cass officially approved a gun carriage design called a "stock trail" field carriage.

The stock trail, a single-piece carriage, was stronger than a split trail carriage, simpler to make, and it afforded a shorter turning radius for the gun, thus offering greater maneuverability. The limber served as an all-purpose connection between a towed item and the horses.

The limber served as the hitching point for the cannon. Normally six horses harnessed in pairs pulled the limber, which consisted of the axle and two wheels on top of which was mounted an ammunition chest.

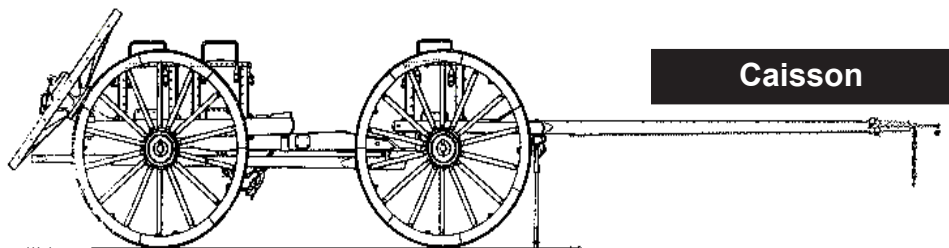
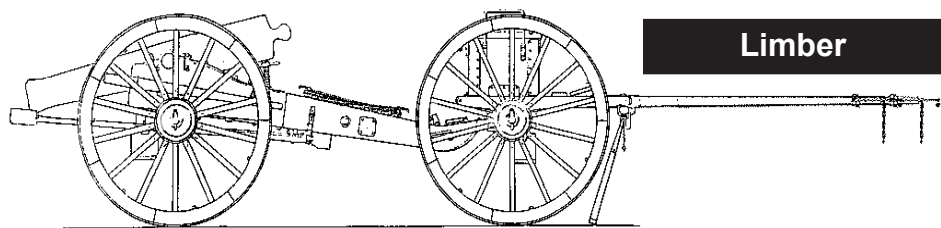
The three-inch cannon limber carried 39 rounds of ammunition and the weight of the limber, tools, equipment, and ammunition amounted to 1,740 pounds. The top of the ammo box served as a seat for the cannoneers and included handles so they could hang on.

At the rear of the axle tree

was a pintlehook to receive the lunette of the cannon trail. This arrangement permitted an infinitely flexible hitch allowing the limber to turn horizontally as well as move vertically. The turning angle of the limber with the gun carriage was 80 degrees.

The all-purpose limber also hauled the caisson, a two-wheeled cart that carried two extra ammunition chests, a spare wheel and an extra limber pole slung beneath. There was one caisson for each artillery piece in a firing battery.

Independent of the caisson, a limber pulled the battery wagon which held supplies, and separately, another limber pulled a traveling forge for use by the blacksmith in keeping the battery's hardware in repair



*Pictured, from left to right, are CW2 (Ret.) Pete Lentz; Bob Holliday, Museum board President; and Ed Woodruff. Lentz and Woodruff were responsible for researching, locating and fabricating missing parts, and rebuilding the 1902 Limber.*



# Sgt. Joseph J. Wieland – ‘Always a Soldier’

Sgt. Joseph J. Wieland, 87, of Waukeez, Iowa, and a former Iowa National Guard 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Soldier of World War II, passed away March 26. Joe is survived by Joanne, his wife of 56 years, and two daughters and a son.

Joe was born July 24, 1920 and enlisted into Troop F of the 113th Cavalry (H-MECZ), Iowa National Guard, prior to the United States entering World War II. During peace time, Troop F drilled at the Red Horse Armory at 1915 Prospect Road, Des Moines.

The Adjutant General of Iowa's report for 1941 shows that Joe was inducted into the active military service of the United States on Jan. 13, 1941, along with the entire 113<sup>th</sup> Squadron. The call to duty, an executive order of President Roosevelt, was for a period of 12 consecutive months, unless relieved sooner.

Prior to the invasion of Europe in 1944, the 113th Cavalry Regiment was split into the 113th and 125th Cavalry Squadrons. Joe was a member of the reorganized 125th and finished the war in Troop E, which was the 75mm mechanized howitzer troop equipped with the M8 motor carriage.

Joe survived his service in World War II, returning home as a proud veteran of the U. S. Army following the end of the war.

Sgt. Joe Wieland epitomized the credo: "I was a Soldier, I am a Soldier, I will always be a Soldier."

During his post-war years, Joe was active in the local



*From left to right: Bev White, Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary; Joe Wieland; Sgt. 1st Class John Wilson, Army National Guard Recruiter; 2nd Lt. Ben Johnston, 113th Cavalry; and Betty Howe, VFW Auxiliary.*

Veterans of Foreign War post in Waukeez. Joe supported his community and the Iowa National Guard, by annually serving as the Veterans Day speaker at the Waukeez Senior High School. He performed this class room service, with the assistance of local National Guard Recruiter, for 20 years, speaking about his experiences during WWII.

He enjoyed telling Waukeez High School students about his time in the service. The discussions were serious, as well as light-hearted.

At the most recent session, last November, Joe "had the crowd in a hush as he spoke of his life, how he got into the National Guard, the loss of a close friend in combat who died in his arms, and even told some jovial tales of the night he and his men found an abandoned bottle of cognac that the Germans had left behind."

Sgt, Joe Wieland  
epitomized the credo:

'I was a Soldier,  
I am a Soldier,  
I will always be a Soldier.'



**Iowa Gold Star  
Military Museum**

**7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824  
(515)-252-4531  
[www.iowaNationalGuard.com](http://www.iowaNationalGuard.com)**

**[goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov](mailto: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.**



# Museum to honor, remember POWs

By Pfc Catherine Larson

"When we first got to the camp, we were dying off pretty fast from wounds, exposure and malnutrition," said Darwin W. Hill, a former Korean prisoner of war.

An Army Soldier left wounded after being marred with shrapnel from two hand grenades, Iowa native Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hill was captured in North Korea at the start of the Korean War and held prisoner by the Chinese Communists for nearly three years.

Hill, captured on Nov. 28, 1950, his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, reflects on conditions of the camp and says, "They marched us all night, every night. They gave us just a handful of corn in the morning and in the evening. It was like this all winter. In the spring they started giving us soybeans. I still say this is what kept us alive."

Hill's story, as well as many other Iowa POW's is now alive at the Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge.

The POW room, which opened in April, features its own video monitor showing interviews with several veteran war prisoners. The veterans represent the U.S. Army, Iowa National Guard, U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Air Force from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The exhibit, a renovation of an existing Prisoner of War gallery originally installed about 1996, will utilize POW-related photographic, documentary, and artifact resources collected by the museum during the last 12 years.

With grant funding from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino and the American Legion of Iowa, museum staff developed new graphic panels incorporating many of the two-dimensional resources to more effectively tell the story of Iowa POWs.

During the last decade, museum staff conducted several video interviews with Iowa POWs. An interactive video component will allow visitors to hear edited versions of these interviews as the veterans themselves tell of their POW experiences.

Sharing our Soldiers' stories is important in passing on our military's history for generations to come. From WWII, with its few surviving veterans, to the Korean War, to Vietnam, each Soldier carries his individual experience, and the all encompassing experience of time-honored duty.

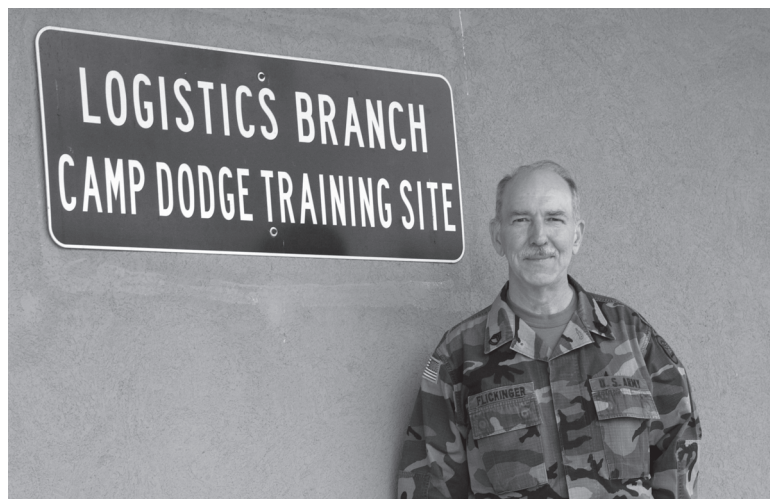
The exhibit will be available at the museum through Summer 2009.

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*Prairie Meadows officials viewing the new POW exhibit are John Tinker, surveillance director; Dan Byers, human resources director; Julie Stewart, community relations director; and Iowa National Guard Memorial Association president Bob Holliday. (Bottom) Louis Kirk, American Legion of Iowa Foundation; Molly Cooney, National Guard Memorial Assn. Board member; and Russell Bierl, Director of the Gold Star Museum, check out the new exhibit.*



# March retirement ends 30-year Training Site legacy



*Sgt. 1st Class Charles "Flick" Flickinger retires after nearly 30 years of service with Camp Dodge's Training Site (Iowa National Guard photo by Pfc. Brandon Babbitt).*

**By Pfc. Brandon Babbitt**

"The Guard has always been good to me," Sgt. 1st Class Charles "Flick" Flickinger said with a smile following his March 2 retirement ceremony, held at Camp Dodge.

Flickinger, a senior petroleum sergeant, began his military career with the active duty Army in 1970, joining the Iowa National Guard in 1979. He's been with the same unit, Camp Dodge's Training Site Command, since its inception, nearly 30 years ago.

"This is a much-deserved retirement, but at the same time, it's a bittersweet feeling to lose such a dedicated soldier," said Lt. Col. Shawn Oglesby, the Logistics Division chief.

"Part of the legacy of this unit is leaving with him today. Sgt. 1st Class Flickinger has held just about every position within the Training Site, with the only exception being the commander" he added.

Flickinger, who has never been deployed, has witnessed how the Guard has evolved in recent years. "When you enlist today, it's not

Flickinger added.

Physical fitness is something "Flick" always took pride in, as long-time Training Site member Master Sgt. Jim Renner attests. "I could never beat Chuck in PT. The guy just has some amazing physical abilities at his age. Chuck's a great runner who can still run a 17-minute, two-mile and beat some of the younger guys."

Flickinger wasn't always into staying fit, but when he hit 40 years of age, he decided to make some changes.

"I re-dedicated myself to fitness at age 40," Flickinger said. "I didn't like being achy and sore after I took the test each year, so I decided to do something about it by staying in shape and eating healthier all year long."

The 56-year-old Flickinger was born in Creston, Iowa, and is a graduate of Greenfield (Iowa) High School. A resident of Corydon, Iowa, Flickinger serves as a tax specialist for the state of Iowa in his civilian job.

He and wife Angela have been married for more than 37 years and have two children, son, Aaron and daughter, Kimberly.

When asked what he'll miss the most, Flickinger paused and thought for a moment.

"I will miss the camaraderie with the other Soldiers and the feeling of family the Guard gives," he said.

Sunday moved on and so did the career of Sgt. 1st Class Jim Flickinger.

just theoretical that you could get deployed, it's a very real possibility. It wasn't like that when I joined back in the 70's."

Another visible change for Flickinger is how the Guard has evolved into a more professional organization.

"I think today's National Guard is a much more professional military with all of the NCO schools, weight standards, and Physical Fitness Tests that are given,"

*"This is a much deserved retirement, but at the same time, it's a bittersweet feeling to lose such a dedicated soldier."*

**Lt. Col. Shawn Oglesby  
Training Site Commander**





# Through the ranks

by Senior Enlisted Advisor  
Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris

The Qualitative Retention Board (QRB) is a process where Soldiers who have qualified for retirement pay at age 60 (and have the letter to prove it) are examined to determine if they meet the quality standards to continue their service in the Iowa Army National Guard after serving 20 years.

Yes, serving 20 years in the Iowa National Guard will allow you retirement benefits at age 60.

The greatest benefits, however, are the ability to enter in the TRICARE system until you reach age 65, when you qualify for TRICARE for Life.

The other big benefit is a retirement check based on a formula of how many days you served during your military career.

But once you have passed your 20<sup>th</sup> year of service, there is a system of checks and balances that is used to determine whether you may continue serving once your retirement benefits are locked in.

The QRB is convened annually. A full-colonel, another field grade officer and three command sergeants major look at the records of those Soldiers who have completed 20 years of service. Your records are looked at every other year, unless a deficiency is noted. Then you get what is called a "relook."

Basically, this relook gives you one year to resolve the issue that has been brought to your attention by the QRB.

The most common issue is non-completion of the required Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) course. For instance, if you have been promoted to Staff Sergeant, and you never completed the Basic NCO Course (BNCOC), you would be given one year to complete BNCOC to satisfy the education requirement.

There are circumstances that may allow you more time (if you have been deployed, it is impossible to go the school) and the QRB takes this instance, as well as others, into account.

Another issue that comes to the surface re-



gards whether you have a trend of not passing the APFT or not meeting the standards of AR 600-9. In today's military, being in shape is a necessity to survive the rigors of combat and the environmental stress that our Soldiers go through in theaters of operation such as Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

The APFT is only an indicator of how close you really are to being in shape. If you can't

get at least 60 points in each event, you probably are not in good physical shape. If you do not meet the weight standards or the prescribed body fat tables, you are probably not ready to perform at your peak.

If you continually fail to meet either standard, you will probably be given a relook – one last chance to either meet the standards, or retire.

Our force is getting younger. The length of the deployments, the dwell time between deployments, the harsh climates where our units are deployed and the lack of physical fitness back home has led many who have attained their letter of retirement to chose that option at an earlier age.

Even though these benefits cannot be touched until the Soldier reaches the age of 60, we are seeing more retirements than at any time in our recent history.

If a Soldier does what is required, there is no reason to worry about the QRB ending a career earlier than desired. Our leaders in Congress have all agreed the National Guard and Army Reserve are no longer a strategic reserve, but it's essential to the defense of our country that we take the role of an operational force, ready to serve when called.

We owe it to our newer Soldiers to give them only the best leadership we can develop. Do what is expected of you and you will be a part of that leadership.

Lower your standards and we will thank you for your service, but we will also set you aside so others may step up to meet the challenge.



## Ed Office welcomes Maniscalco

We would like to welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anne Maniscalco, who is taking over as Guidance Counselor. She is replacing 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dave Mitchell who did an outstanding job as the Federal and National Guard Education Assistance Program tuition assistance manager.

Maniscalco will be handling all the Federal TA and NGEAP. She will also become the Test Control Officer. Along with those duties, she will be counseling Soldiers on college benefits and how to obtain their degrees.

We would also like to welcome Maj. Tom Beasley as the M-Day Education Services Officer. Beasley was the full-time ESO from May 2000 - April 2004. His duties are to counsel Soldiers on their military education benefits and he is also Test Control Officer-qualified.

If you, or your spouse, would like to take a CLEP, ACT, or any other test when Joint Forces Headquarters drills, contact Beasley by email at [educationia@ng.army.mil](mailto:educationia@ng.army.mil). Tests range from certification exams and college-credit-by-examination programs to language aptitude tests. However, please give plenty of notice.

## Montgomery GI Bill update

Currently the MGIB-SR, Chapter 1606 has no updates and still offers \$317 for full-time studies. Be prepared for the rates to go up Oct. 1. Rates may be found at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov) web site.

The new Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607 has new updates. Starting April 1, Soldiers will have to make a monthly verification using the VA phone number at (877) 823-2378, or using the W.A.V.E program online. You can also visit the [iowanationalguard.com](http://iowanationalguard.com) website to learn more.

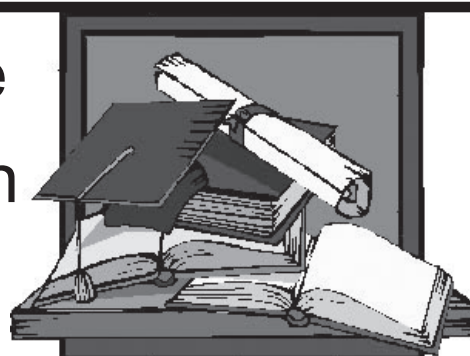
Another update is that Soldiers can use their benefits as a drilling member of a reserve unit up to 10 years from their date of discharge.

The last big change is, if Soldiers are deployed multiple times and their total months add up to 36 or more, the VA will process the Soldier's claim for the 80 percent rate instead of the 60 percent rate. If this applies to you, turn in multiple DD 214s from each mobilization to the VA certifying official at your college.

As many of you know, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 133rd Infantry were deployed to Iraq from 2005 to 2007 and were not eligible for MGIB-Active Duty, Chapter 30. However, in the past six months the education office and the 133rd staff have been busy, getting these Soldiers the education benefits they deserve, processing packets to the Army Board of Corrections so the Soldiers can enroll for CH 30 benefits.

As of July, 68 Soldiers have enrolled for Chapter 30 benefits from the 133rd Infantry since they returned in August 2007. Chapter 30 has a much higher rate for full-time students, who may use this benefit up to 10 years from the date of their Active Duty discharge. The education office would like to thank the 133rd full-time staff for their hard work.

# From the Education Office



## Tuition Assistance

The National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP) had a deadline of Dec. 15, 2007 for those attending second semester classes.

For future reference, when a Soldier fills out the online application on the Iowa National Guard website, they will enter their email address. Once the Soldier submits the application, he or she should receive an email from the education office stating they have received their application. The next step is for the Soldier to print the final page for their records.

There will be a second email sent to the Soldier telling them their application has been approved or denied. Once the Soldier has received this second email, they will need to contact their school's financial aid office and tell them they are on the roster.

For the 2007-2008 school year, the NGEAP awarded \$3,135 per semester, or \$223 per credit hour for part-time students.

Federal tuition assistance has not changed. The education office has found that Soldiers who apply for this benefit are not receiving an approval email. If this happens, you may call the education office at 515-252-4468 or email [educationia@ng.army.mil](mailto:educationia@ng.army.mil).

Soldiers in Iowa may use Federal Tuition Assistance for out-of-state schools, online schools and summer months. You can learn more about this on the [iowanationalguard.com](http://iowanationalguard.com) web site.

Fed TA is still \$250 a credit hour up to \$4,500 per Fiscal Year.

# Iowa ESGR hosts employer awards

by Doug Enright

On April 5, the Iowa Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held its annual Employer Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Johnston.

This event, which recognizes employers from around the state of Iowa for their continued support of employees who serve in the military, recognized 27 companies for that support.

There were five business organizations that received the "Seven Seals" Award at the conference. These organizations have made significant contributions and aided in promoting the ESGR mission to their membership and others. The organizations have also signed strategic partnership agreements with the Iowa ESGR.

The organizations are: Iowa Association of Business & Industry, Iowa Society of Human Resource Management, Iowa Bankers Association, US Department of Labor, and Iowa Workforce Development.

The State Chair Award is presented by the Iowa ESGR State Chair Barry Spear to employ-

ers that show continued support of their employees who serve in the Reserve Components. This year, four companies received this award.

The Above and Beyond Award honors the employers of Reserve Component members who have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Twenty Iowa employers have been selected to receive this award, which is the second-highest award the Iowa ESGR Committee can confer.

The Pro Patria award is the highest honor a State ESGR Committee can give. It is given to the employer(s) in the state who has provided the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

This year, two companies received this honor: Pella Corporation and Musco Lighting. Both companies showed exceptional support for not just their employee, but others who are in the military as well.

For more information about the Iowa ESGR, visit [www.iowaesgr.org](http://www.iowaesgr.org).

## Pro Patria Recipients

Pella Corporation (Pella)

Musco Lighting (Oskaloosa)

## 'Above & Beyond' Award Recipients

Al-Jon Manufacturing LLC (Ottumwa)

BTI Special Commodities Inc (Des Moines)

Indianola High School (Indianola)

Cargill Corn Milling (Eddyville)

Midland Forge (Cedar Rapids)

Pekin Community Schools (Packwood)

Networking Solutions (Waterloo)

Kraft Foods (Davenport)

Duane Arnold Energy Center (Palo)

CPM Roskamp Champion (Waterloo)

ADDOCO Inc (Peosta)

Fareway Stores Inc. (Humboldt)

Farm Bureau Financial (Ankeny)

GuideOne Insurance Group (W.Des Moines)

Vital Support Systems (Urbandale)

Waste Management of Iowa (Des Moines)

Mercy North ASC (Ankeny)

Quality Traffic Control Inc (Des Moines)

Wells Fargo Financial (Des Moines)

Dubuque Stamping & Manufacturing Inc

## State Chair Award Recipients

Ankeny Police Department (Ankeny)

Spencer Hospital (Spencer)

Faith Baptist Church (Fort Dodge)

HD Supply Waterworks (Grimes)

## ***'Let us run with perserverance...'***

About three years ago, I had the opportunity to see the Des Moines Marathon. My chaplain assistant, Aaron Johnston and I went because a friend, Master Sgt. Rick Hornsby, was running. We dubbed it, a "morale support mission."

It was an absolutely gorgeous day and there is a large, grassy slope where spectators can watch runners for at least a half-mile before they cross the finish line.

I believe there are some similarities between running a marathon and the race we call life.

First of all, runners have to train. The marathon is reserved for individuals who are serious about running. They begin their training in even smaller steps, a mile or less a day. They then add to it, a bit at a time until they're ready.

I guarantee, everyone running the DM marathon has been training. No one got up that morning and said, "Gee this is a beautiful day, I think I'll run the Des Moines marathon." Most had a plan to run so many miles a day and work up to whatever they needed to be able to finish.

In many ways life is like that. The Apostle Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, compares life to a race. "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training," he says. He adds it was that way in his own life. "Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly."

Paul said there was purpose to what he did. He was like an athlete in training.

The announcer gave each person's name and where they were from as they finished and people would applaud and cheer. And it was amazing just how much speed a runner could pick up after running 26-miles when they heard their loved ones cheering them on.

The author of the letter to the Hebrews tells us there are fans watching us run the race of life, as well. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

The "great cloud of witnesses" are those who, from ages past, have run the marathon of life and are to be of encouragement to us. They are there to cheer you on as you run your race.

After the race was over, Rick showed us a computer chip that recorded his time. While we were watching, a father came in and just before he crossed the finish line, he picked up his two kids and finished with them.

Now, while there is a winner, every runner is competing against himself and his own time.

According to an article in "The Guardian,"



Paul Tergat holds the world record for the marathon. The 34-year-old Kenyan ran 2:04.55 through the streets of Berlin, erasing 43 seconds off the mark set by America's Khalid Khannouchi in London a couple of years ago.

It's the same way in life. I am not running against another Soldier, or another chaplain. But, I am running against what the Lord has called me to do and how I can best serve Him.

If we are running against what we can do and not against someone else, then the fact that all the finishers got rewarded was significant.

When we saw Rick, he had a medal around his neck for finishing the race. The same is true of life – if we are to be rewarded for what we have done, we need to be faithful always.

An old preacher was asked if he had served the Lord all of his life. He answered, "Not yet."

For the one who runs, there is good news, for at the finish, there is someone waiting. I told you Aaron and I were there when Rick finished. Do you think he was looking for us.

Not on your life. You know why?

There was a drop-dead, gorgeous blonde waiting for him. He wasn't anticipating Aaron and I being there. We were just curious attendees. But Jeannie, his wife of 20+ years was there because she loves Rick, supports him and wants him to do his best.

In a very special way, the same thing happens when we finish the race as Christians. The Apostle Paul tells his young apprentice Timothy there is someone who is waiting for him at the finish line and he is the one who will reward him for the race he has run.

In Second Timothy he writes, "Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

For the Christian, there is someone waiting for us, someone who is also all together lovely, and someone who cares about us and loves us and supports us through the race.

And, that is the one we are looking to see – Jesus.



More than 37 years of service

## Vietnam vet still serves proudly

by Tech Sgt Brian Cox  
185<sup>th</sup> ARW Public Affairs

In May of 1971, at the age of 22, like many of the young men in the early '70s, Claire Welte was drafted into the United States Army and sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for basic training and advanced individual training.

This was the beginning of a long and storied military career for Welte. Less than a year later he found himself stationed with Military Assistance Command Vietnam Headquarters, (MAC-V) as a clerk typist in Saigon, Vietnam on Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Vietnam was quite a change for a young man straight off the farm near Danbury, Iowa. "Nobody wanted to be there. All we could talk about was getting home," said Master Sgt. Claire Welte, who today works as a Vehicle Maintenance technician in the Iowa Air National Guard.

"I was there at the end (of the war). It was 7:30 in the morning, the treaty had been signed, and all of a sudden rockets started coming in. There is nothing you could do. Just wait until the attack is over," said Welte.

Thirty-seven years later, things have changed slightly for Welte, a member of the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Iowa Air National Guard, in Sioux City, Iowa. Since the year 2000, Welte has volunteered to deploy six times to the Middle East, including Iraq in 2004.

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*"I was there at the end (of the war).  
It was 7:30 in the morning,  
the treaty had been signed,  
and all of a sudden rockets  
started coming in.  
There is nothing you could do.  
Just wait until the attack is over."*

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Master Sgt. Claire Welte (left) works on a John Deere 850c bulldozer while stationed in Kuwait in 2004. Then-Spc. Welte (right) stands by a reinforced fighting position at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon, Vietnam during service in the 1970's. (Contributed photos)



His wife has never liked him volunteering for overseas deployments during wartime but, along with their now full-grown children, she has learned to accept it.

"I did it because I like to travel and see new places," Welte said. "I made a personal decision to deploy. Everyone's situation is different. But when you deploy, the experience you gain makes you more valuable to the military and to yourself. Everybody should deploy at least once."

Welte knows things don't always go as planned overseas and the experience of operating in a "real world" environment can be invaluable back in his home unit.

His civilian job as a service manager with John Deere in Sioux City, Iowa lends itself well to his current military job in vehicle maintenance. He gets to work on heavy equipment and make sure the equipment is up and running when needed.

Experience acquired from his many deployments including those with the 185th ARW helped him earn a Bronze Star for maintaining 97 percent mission readiness of combat vehicles while deployed to Iraq in 2004. This was no small task considering the hostile environment and lack of availability of spare parts while he was there.

"You just have to learn to adapt. We would scrounge parts from different pieces of equipment or improvise and make new parts so we could get the equipment working again," said Welte.

Things have come full circle for Welte. "When

I came home from Vietnam (February 1973), my family was at the airport to meet me. And that was it. You were embarrassed to wear the uniform, and would rather be seen wearing civilian clothes," he said.

The difference from then to now is evident from his last overseas homecoming. "I will never forget this. When we returned to Baltimore from Kuwait, there was a whole group of people from the USO there to welcome us home. It almost brought tears to my eyes."

When asked if he had any final thoughts on retiring from the Air National Guard, Welte said, "I enjoyed the mission and I enjoyed serving. However, all things must come to an end." As for his retirement plans, there will be no discernable change aside from having a few more weekends free.

Welte does have a small piece of advice for new Airmen. "If you keep an open mind, pay your dues and maintain a positive attitude, the Guard can take you places."

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and see new places. I made  
a personal decision to deploy.  
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But when you deploy, the experience  
you gain makes you more valuable  
to the military and to yourself.  
Everybody should deploy at least once."*

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## ***Condition of the Guard continued from page 3***

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His name is Capt. David Harper, a traditional Soldier assigned to the 224th Engineer Battalion. When not serving in uniform, Capt. Harper is the Dean of Students at Pekin High School in Packwood, Iowa where he also coaches football, wrestling, basketball, track, and baseball.

Capt. Harper has served more than 11 years as an Enlisted Soldier, including six months deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991, on State Active Duty in support of the 1993 Floods, and most recently on Active Duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from October 2004 to January 2006.

Capt. Harper's contributions are significant. But he is one of many such men and women serving in the Iowa National Guard today.

Staff Sgt. Anthony R. Duong was our top recruiter last year, bringing 31 new Soldiers into the Iowa Army National Guard. Also significant is the outstanding relationship he has developed with the high schools, particularly Sioux City North where he is an assistant wrestling coach and peer mentor.

Staff Sgt. Duong has established an exceptional reputation among athletes and the general student population, because they know he is there to do more than just recruit.

Sgt. 1st Class Steve Groon was selected as national recipient of the In-Service Recruiter / Intra-State Transfer Coordinator award. His sole mission was to talk Soldiers leaving Active Duty into coming to Iowa, where they could attend an Iowa college and serve in the Iowa National Guard. Many of us talk about ways to get people to come to Iowa. Sgt. 1st Class Groon did more than that – he turned talk into action by delivering 30 new Iowans last year.

Augustine & Sons, is a 2,000-acre grain and livestock operation near Rose Hill, Iowa with only two full-time employees. This family farm is the first Iowa recipient of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom award presented to employers for outstanding support.

Augustine & Sons is making a big difference for the family of 1st Sgt. Matt Strasser, currently serving overseas with an Afghanistan National Army Training team. But don't take my word for it; listen to how Strasser describes what his employer has done for his family:

"Thank you for allowing my family to live on the farm during my first deployment, rent-free.

"Thank you for taking my boys fishing and watching their sports while I'm gone. Thank

you for watching them when they're sick so my wife, Jessica, can go to work, and for flowers on our kitchen table when she's had a rough day."

One Iowa National Guard theme we want to emphasize this year is legacy of service. We picked two families to represent the many families that serve their state and nation in the Iowa National Guard over multiple generations.

Before I introduce them, there is another family that has earned an enduring place in our Iowa National Guard family. For them, and nearly 20 other Iowa National Guard families over the last six years, this distinction came at a horrendous price – the loss of a loved-one.

A beloved husband and father, Master Sgt. Scott Carney died in a HUMVEE accident in Herat, Afghanistan Aug. 24, 2007. Carney left behind a beautiful wife, Jeni and two adoring sons, Jacob and Justin. Through the loss of their loved-one, they learned the true meaning of service and sacrifice. For them, these are not mere words, but consequential actions that have forever changed their family.

Jeni, Jacob and Justin, though your loss is great, I hope you find some small measure of comfort in knowing Scott's legacy and dedication to serving others lives on in the men and women of the Iowa National Guard – a family to which you will always belong.

The Corell family has a long and proud military legacy. A great uncle served as a general officer during World War I. Grandfather Benjamin Preston fought in World War II as a Marine in the Pacific earning three Bronze Stars at Guadalcanal and two Corells served in the Marine Corps after the Korean War.

Staff Sgt. Wade Corell, a full-time Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) Soldier, enlisted in the 1-133 in 2000; Sgt. Travis Corell, an AGR recruiter in the Waterloo area, also enlisted into the 1-133<sup>rd</sup> in 2000; and Sgt. Tyler Corell, enlisted into the 1-133 in 2002, and currently serves as a Rifle Team Leader.

In 2005, when the 1-133 was alerted, Col. Ben Corell was the battalion commander. His wife asked he take only one son with him on the deployment. Tyler insisted he choose him. In all, more than 50 family members deployed with the 1-133 to Iraq.

Family legacies are not unique to the Army National Guard. The Iowa Air National Guard has many as well.

The Kenagy family is a wonderful example of an Iowa Air National Guard family legacy. For three generations, the Kenagy's served their state and nation in an exemplarily manner. Sr. Master Sgt. Dwight Kenagy served in the Air



Guard for more than 30 years, including a deployment with the 185<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing to Vietnam from 1968-1969; Master Sgt. David Kenagy enlisted in the Air Guard in 1992 and in 1995, became a full-time technician; Sr. Airman Keith Kenagy is currently serving in Operation Jump Start; Airmen 1st Class Brian Kenagy serves in the electric shop at the 185<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing and starts college in the fall. And last, but certainly not least, Dannette Kenagy, has represented the 185th Family Readiness Group since 1994, serving as a state council representative in our readiness program.

Today, nearly 1,500 Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are serving or preparing to serve on active duty in support of the Global War on Terror. I'd like to highlight a few of their accomplishments.

The 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, deployed more than 560 members in spring 2006 to the Iraqi province of al-Anbar, at that time, one of the most dangerous parts of the country.

Originally scheduled to return home in April 2007, the 1-133<sup>rd</sup> was extended four months by the "Surge," making their's the longest continuous deployment of any National Guard unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and earning the distinction of being the longest serving Iowa military unit since World War II.

Two Soldiers from the unit were Killed-in-Action, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scott E. Nisely and Sgt. Kampha B. Sourivong, during combat operations near Al Asad, Iraq, on Sept. 30, 2006.

This unit's incredible journey was captured by the CBS program "60 Minutes," which devoted an entire hour to telling the story of the Ironman Battalion. The program, titled "Fathers, Sons and Brothers," was a unique, one-of-a-kind project.

The 16-Soldier Afghan National Army-Combat Service Support Embedded Training Team (ANA-CSS ETT) provided advanced logistical and combat service support training to the Afghan National Army.

The ETT trained Afghan Army and local police, secured cities and towns, opened new schools, donated supplies, and aided economic and industrial development of Gardez. They also performed more than 120 Combat missions with the Afghan National Army.

The 1034th Combat Service Support Battalion deployed 76 Soldiers – 23 had previously deployed – to Iraq in early August 2006, where the unit conducted multi-functional logistics operations at Logistical Support Area (LSA) Anaconda near Balad, Iraq.

Company C, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation

Battalion (Air Assault) mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Based at Balad Air Base north of Baghdad, they conducted combat operations throughout Iraq. In June, the unit conducted several air assaults in support of the surge operations in Diyala province. Co. C led in mission execution, conducting 740 missions and accumulating more than 7,850 flight hours.

The Iowa Air National Guard has also deployed a number of its members in support of the Global War on Terror.

Its Medical Group volunteered for deployment to Iraq. The team completed more than 20 air evacuations; provided sick call for hundreds of Army and Air Force personnel; provided tactical Combat Care training; and compassionately counseled the U.S. Army Mortuary staff struggling with their difficult duties.

Lt. Col. Davis was named Air National Guard Outstanding Biomedical Sciences Officer and Outstanding Physician Assistant of the Year.

Col Jennifer Walters, Capt. Christopher Latcham, and Chief Master Sgt. Sean Larson from the 132<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where they supported nearly 1,400 delayed Airmen in 35 austere locations throughout the country.

Few missions are as satisfying than coming to the aid of a neighbor in need.

Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday last summer, 26 Iowa National Guard members did just that after deploying to Fredonia, Kan. to provide water purification services to the town's 2,600 residents after Fredonia's municipal water supply was contaminated by extensive flooding.

These Iowa National Guard Soldiers provided more than 3.1 million gallons of potable water for their Kansas neighbors. Those who remember the floods of 1993 can appreciate what this meant for the residents of Fredonia.

Few of us will forget the one – two punch of the ice storm/blizzard combination that nearly shut down the state last February. There's nothing like an old-fashioned Iowa blizzard to remind us of the importance of our state mission.

Nearly 600 Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen responded with the skill and professionalism the citizens of this state have come to expect. We conducted generator missions, highway assistance team support, provided armories for shelters, and even transported an expectant mother to Des Moines.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thanks for listening to my comments, and thank you for your continued support of the men and women who proudly serve in the Iowa National Guard.

Thank you!

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**Congratulations TOP GUNS!** The first three Recruiting & Retention NCOs to exceed their annual mission, are recognized as Top Guns! Staff Sgt. Chad S. Allen (Fort Dodge) had his 25<sup>th</sup> enlistment of the year on April 9; Sgt. 1st Class Tyson J. Geertz had his 25<sup>th</sup> enlistment on April 12; and Staff Sgt. Anthony R. Duong had his 25<sup>th</sup> enlistment on April 26. HOOOOAH!



**Staff Sgt. Allen**  
**Fort Dodge**



**Sgt. 1st Class Geertz**  
**Mount Joy**



**Staff Sgt. Duong**  
**Sioux City**

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## **ESAR – G-RAP**

**Financial Compensation for Referring Leads** - In December 2005, the National Guard kicked off two programs to incentivize the referral of leads that result in enlistment into the Iowa Army National Guard. Upon completion of training, Recruiting Assistants are eligible for a \$2,000 payment. If you refer officers and health professionals, you may be eligible for up to \$8,500. Find out more about these programs by contacting your local recruiter, or the Recruiting & Retention Commander by phone: (515) 252-4133 by e-mail at: [todd.jacobus@us.army.mil](mailto:todd.jacobus@us.army.mil)

- **Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP)** - This program is for traditional (M-Day) Soldiers and retirees. Information may be found at: <http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com>, or by contacting the program manager at (205) 605-6115, or e-mail, [kelley.stephens@docupak.com](mailto:kelley.stephens@docupak.com)
- **Every Soldier A Recruiter (ESAR) Program** - This program is for Soldiers serving fulltime, including Active Duty personnel, AGRs, Military Technicians, and ADOS personnel. Information may be found at: <http://www.1800goguard.com/esar/> or by calling (866) 566-2472, or e-mail, [esarwebhelp@docupak.com](mailto:esarwebhelp@docupak.com)

**Help the recruiting force support the Iowa National Guard  
by participating in these outstanding programs.**

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**Engagement of Strength Force** - We are in a very exciting part of the year! From May 27 to June 25, we had 361 recruits ship to Basic Combat Training. In addition, we will be kicking off summer recruiting programs throughout the State oriented toward increasing the readiness of our units. To be successful, we need the support of the entire team, including everyone who serves in uniform, even our retirees, who truly are centers of influence throughout our communities. Please find your local recruiter and ask them how you can be of assistance.

