

The logo for The Iowa National Guard. It features the word "The" in a vertical orientation to the left of a blue square containing the word "IOWA" in white. To the right of the square, the words "NATIONAL" and "GUARD" are stacked in a bold, red, sans-serif font. A small American flag icon is positioned above the word "GUARD".

The IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

Militiaman



Supporting
the presidential inauguration

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A few of the federally-activated Iowa National Guard servicemembers pose by the Capitol Building, after the National Guard Bureau requested approximately 1,000 Iowa Soldiers and Airmen to help assist in President Barack Obama’s inauguration.

The Iowa Militiaman Winter 2008

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This is our legacy

Today's Iowa National Guard is in very capable hands

First, let me begin by thanking the enlisted men and women of the Iowa National Guard who contributed to our success these past nine years. We succeeded because we approached our many challenges, not as individuals, or separate organizations, but as one team – Team Iowa.

Teamwork is the foundation of my command philosophy and is, I strongly believe, the foundation of our success. So, I thank each of you for being a team player and for being a valued member of the Iowa National Guard Team.

Together, we have made history in the Iowa National Guard. Just as our ancestors did during the Civil War and World War II, we answered our nation's call to duty with honor and distinction.

We trained and mobilized more than 12,000 Soldiers and Airmen. We've transformed nearly all of our Army National Guard units and undergone major conversions throughout the Iowa Air National Guard. We've closed and consolidated armories where needed, and expanded and built new facilities to maintain strength and readiness.

We've responded to natural disasters, here at home and across the country. We've trained for challenging exercises and prepared for difficult inspections. We've made hard decisions now, in order to position our organization for future success.

Team Iowa has earned a well-deserved reputation for accepting challenging missions and achieving remarkable results. This is the legacy

of our organization. This is your legacy.

As I prepare to turn over command to Col. Tim Orr, I leave knowing that you will continue to build on this legacy and that the Iowa National Guard will remain mission-focused and warrior ready.

And, I am confident that Brig. Gen. Orr, Brig. Gen. Greg Schwab, Brig. Gen. Steve Bogle, Brig. Gen. Janet Phipps, Chief Warrant Officer 5 John Wynn, Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris, Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary Garland and the rest of the senior leadership team will continue

to lead the Iowa National Guard in the challenging times ahead.

Orr is young and enthusiastic and will have sufficient time to chart a successful course that will take the Iowa National Guard to even greater heights.

I'm confident you will serve him with the same degree of professionalism and dedication that you provided to me. The Iowa National Guard is not about one person, or one position.

It's about the people who serve in her ranks.

And, after more than 42 years of serving among them, I know there are no finer citizens than the thousands of Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who proudly wear the uniform.

Thank you for your hard work, your commitment, your dedication, and for continuing to set the pace for Team Iowa.

God bless you and your families and God bless our Soldiers and Airmen serving in harms way.



TAG Sends

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

***Team Iowa has earned a well-deserved reputation
for accepting challenging missions
and achieving remarkable results.***

This is the legacy of our organization.

This is your legacy.

Suicide Prevention

By learning the subtle warning signs, leaders, Soldiers and friends can save lives

by Spc.

Amy Rickelman

Since Pfc. Joe had returned from his tour of duty in Iraq, his hometown buddies had noticed subtle changes after Joe began to tell them about the guilt he felt after three members of his unit were killed on a patrol he took part in.

He began to display massive mood swings and started drinking heavily. Formerly a model Soldier, he was written up by his first sergeant for arguing over whether or not they should bring rain gear out to the field.

Of course, his friends had talked with him, kidded with him, and told him everything would be fine, now that he was home. Joe gave away some of his most prized possessions, including his Jimmy Page-autographed guitar and entire Led Zeppelin record collection.

Joe told them he didn't need that stuff any more.

That was the last they saw of Joe. A week later, they found him dead, of a self-inflicted wound.



Suicide rates among servicemembers are a growing concern, due to increasing deployment rates, more cases of PTSD, and the high pressure demands of today's military environment.

In the two years Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Selof has served as full-time Support Chaplain for the Iowa Army National Guard, seven Iowa National Guard Soldiers have committed suicide.

Suicide rates among servicemembers are a growing concern within the National Guard due to increasing deployment rates, more and more cases of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as the high-pressure demands of today's military environment.

By the same token, suicide prevention is uniquely challenging for National Guard members. Because National Guard Soldiers only see each other two days out of the month, it's harder to identify the signs of suicide.

"Because of the way our training is set up, it is extremely difficult for the Soldiers to talk to other Soldiers or admit they need help," said Selof. Even though Soldiers may seem to be acting normally on drill weekend, they may just be disguising signs of suicide, leading fellow Soldiers to believe everything is okay. Five of the seven Iowa National Guard suicides occurred after a drill weekend.

Selof feels, communication is even more difficult for high-ranking officers, NCO's and females, "because they don't want to be perceived as weak," he said.

In order to become more aware of the signs of suicide, it is important for Soldiers to understand why servicemembers become suicidal in the first place. Some of the reasons include depression or mental illness, alcohol or drug use, family history, brain chemistry or serious illness.

"The number one reason that many young males commit suicide is the breakup of a relationship," said Selof.

Other factors that play a role include gender. More women actually attempt suicide than men, but more men succeed. Native Americans and caucasians have higher suicide rates than other groups. Suicide is most common among the elderly, but it is becoming more and more common among teens and young adults.

People who are married are much less likely to attempt suicide than those who are single, divorced, separated or widowed. Soldiers who are unemployed are at greater risk of suicide than their colleagues.

Suicide warning signs include talking about suicide, becoming severely depressed, preparing for death by giving away possessions, or

***Suicide prevention
continued on page 14***



Iowans take part in historic presidential inauguration

by Pfc Cassandra Monroe

Recent history has proven the Iowa National Guard is indeed a ready force. In addition to assisting with flood relief duties in areas of Iowa and Louisiana early this summer, Iowa Soldiers and Airmen also provided security assistance and support to Minnesota state police officials during the Republican National Convention.

Following the historic election of Barack Obama as the United States President, the na-

tion awaited the day of his swearing in. As the inauguration approached, the number of visitors in Washington D.C. grew rapidly, necessitating an increase in security and support. National Guard troops from several states, to include Iowa, were called upon to perform these duties.

When the National Guard Bureau requested approximately 1,000 Soldiers and Airmen from the Iowa National Guard, Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division,

***“We’re
always ready
and we’re
always
there.”***

**Brig. Gen.
Steve Bogle**



Members of the Iowa Army National Guard await to board chartered buses for the ride to Washington, D.C. Capt, Duane Boyle, 185th ARW pilot, makes a few adjustments during the flight to Washington, D.C.



Iowa Army National Guard and Airmen from the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and 132nd Fighter Wing (FW), Iowa Air National Guard were tasked with this opportunity of a lifetime.

In the 170-year history of the Iowa National Guard, this was the first presidential inauguration in which Iowa troops have been called upon for assistance.

As National Guard leaders prepared the operational requests for equipment and troops, many of the Iowa Soldiers received notice of federal activation during their January drill.

Less than a week later, they arrived at Camp Dodge to undergo medical screenings, in-processing and unit readiness briefings. It was at those briefings, they learned what their specific tasks would be during Joint Task Force-D.C. and that they were to be sworn in as Special Police by Washington, D.C. law enforcement.

“The Iowa National Guard has an outstanding reputation,” said Army Brig. Gen. Steve Bogle, an Ankeny, Iowa resident and director of the Iowa National Guard’s Joint Staff.

“It’s a great privilege that Iowa was selected to assist with this task force. It shows the Iowa National Guard’s high state of readiness and willingness to sacrifice,” he said. “We’re always ready, and we’re always there.”

As Friday, January 16 dawned, Iowa Soldiers teamed up with Airmen from the Des Moines Fighter Wing and Sioux City’s Refueling Wing and boarded one of the 185th’s Boeing KC-135 Stratotankers enroute to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.



The Iowa Militiaman

“The Iowa National Guard is always there to do anything needed,” said Lt. Col Chuck Taylor, a pilot with the 185th ARW. Taylor flew the KC-135 transporting the servicemembers from Iowa to Maryland.

After reaching Maryland, the Iowans unloaded the aircraft and stationed overnight at the base gym. They were to begin duties upon arrival Gage Eckington Elementary School, where most of the Iowa troops would stay during the inauguration.

Airmen from the 132nd FW played a supporting role by setting up a kitchen facility (designed for rapid deployment and capable of providing two hot meals for 530 servicemembers daily) in the school.

“To complete the mission, nine volunteers were needed,” said Air Force Senior Master Sgt. William Umphress, a Food Service Superintendent with the 132nd Fighter Wing. “Instead, we ended up getting 13 volunteers.”

After setting up lodging facilities, their job began in earnest Sunday, January 18. The troops were tasked with traffic and pedestrian control, transportation, medical and logistical



(Far Left), Servicemembers unload their KC135 aircraft upon arrival in Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Equipment and supplies are brought into the Iowan’s D.C. home (Bottom photo). The Airmen and Soldiers were also able to do some sight-seeing, with this Airmen getting the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Memorial.

Iowa servicemembers provided traffic control, checkpoint security and assisted local law enforcement officials as Barack Obama was sworn in as our nation's 44th President.

support, communications, checkpoint security throughout the National Mall and surrounding areas and patrolling the streets. In the days leading up to the inauguration, they reconnoitered checkpoints, rehearsed procedures and coordinated with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies

Despite the brisk, cold weather, troops from Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, along with other Iowa Guardsmen, patrolled the streets and took the time to introduce themselves to area residents and businesses, while making sure their presence was known throughout the District of Columbia neighborhoods.

“We wanted to make sure the local businesses knew of the National Guard’s presence during the inauguration,” said Spc. Andrew Hansen, an infantry Soldier stationed in Storm Lake, Iowa.

The local residents and businesses were very appreciative of the National Guard presence.

“A local church welcomed the troops and opened the door for us, welcoming us to come in and get warm,” said Spc. Flora Sasa, a supply specialist with Company C, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Sasa, a naturalized citizen from Sudan who now resides in Des Moines, was also activated during Iowa’s June floods.

The day before the inauguration, many servicemembers had the chance to visit the National Mall. This was a great opportunity for the Iowans, many of whom had never been east of the Mississippi River. As the troops posed for photos, tourists began

snapping their own pictures of the Soldiers, who were taking in the surroundings of the Capitol Building. Afterwards, many tourists approached the troops, asking to pose for photos with them, or to just give them a pat on the back and heartfelt thanks for all they’ve done.

“We are so thankful our commanders let us take the time out to go see the national monuments,” said Pfc. Dustin Wendt, a network systems analyst with Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. “The memorials really touch you. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” she said.

“The people’s gratitude was very positive and overwhelming,” said Sgt. Kayla Davis, of Cedar Rapids, an automatic logistics specialist with Company B, Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

“It didn’t matter what task you were assigned, just being a part of this team and taskforce makes it all worthwhile,” she added.

On Inauguration Day, traffic was hectic, as tourists flocked toward the Capitol Building to see our nation’s new leader take the Oath of Office. The Iowa National Guardmembers did their part, providing traffic control, checkpoint security and assisting local law enforcement. Operations continued throughout the day and into the night, as inauguration festivities continued well into the wee hours.

The Iowans returned to their lodging to catch a few hours of sleep before returning home to their families, jobs and schools. As troops filtered back into Camp Dodge, they tackled out-processing duties and were addressed by Bogle during a closing formation.

They were then released to resume their daily routines, after having both witnessing history and becoming part of it.



2009 is 'Year of the NCO'

Since 1775, when the Army first set apart its professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps from other enlisted Soldiers by a distinctive insignia of grade, the NCO Corps has had a proud and distinctive history that continues on today, with their heroic service in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

NCOs are the backbone of the Army and the glue that has held this Army together through this protracted conflict. Even in an Army that is stressed and strained from more than seven years of conflict, Army NCOs have managed to care for our troops and ensure missions are accomplished on and off the battlefield.

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren has announced that 2009 will be "The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer." This has been established to thank and honor our NCOs, a time to tell their story and a time to highlight key initiatives being launched, benefitting our NCO Corps and their families.

According to Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, the Noncommissioned Officer Corps is what keeps the Army together.

"As I travel around the Army and I look at what we've accomplished over the past seven years at war, it's clearer and clearer to me that it is our NCO Corps that is providing the glue that's not only holding this force together at a difficult time, but enabling us to accomplish the near impossible every day," he said.

All Army leaders share the same goal: to accomplish their organization's mission, while taking care of the Soldier. The enduring roles of an NCO are that of a leader, trainer, role model, mentor, and standard-bearer. The overarching role of staff NCOs is to free up staff officers and enable them to make critical decisions in a timely manner.

NCOs ensure their subordinates are prepared to function as effective unit and team members. While commissioned officers command, establish policy, and manage resources, NCOs conduct the Army's daily business.

During the year, the Army will accelerate NCO development of strategic initiatives; develop new initiatives that enhance the training, education, capability, and utilization of the NCO Corps; showcase the NCO story to the Army and the American people; and honor the sacrifices and contributions of the NCO Corps, past and present; and acknowledge the challenges in recruiting, retention, and leadership.



Briefs

On-site Commissary sales

The Offutt Air Force Base Commissary will conduct an On-Site Case Lot Sale on Camp Dodge the weekend of April 4-5. They will also conduct an On-Site Sale at the Sioux City Air Base June 6-7. The Fort Leavenworth Commissary will also conduct an On-Site Sale at the Fort Dodge Armory on those dates.

The Offutt Commissary will return to Camp Dodge August 29-30, as part of the Iowa National Guard Retiree Day activities. All ID card holders authorized commissary benefits are encouraged to attend these sales. During the first Camp Dodge sale, the commissary will bring a refrigerated truck full of frozen meat, cut and packed at the Offutt Commissary, as well as other pre-packaged meats.

Two weeks before the sale, the commissary will offer a list of what's available and prices. To receive this list, e-mail Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris at doyle.norris@us.army.mil.

Monthly TRS premiums decrease

Effective Jan. 1, TRICARE will reduce the rates for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Monthly premiums for TRS individual coverage will drop 44 percent, from \$81 to \$47.51, and TRS family coverage will drop 29 percent, from \$253, to \$180.17.

Established in 2005, TRS is a premium-based health plan for National Guard and Reserve personnel available for purchase by members of the Selected Reserve who are not eligible for, or enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefit plans.

Iowans attend Army bowl game

Staff Sgt. Michael Levine, 2168th Transportation Company, and Sgt. Brandon Burgus, 134th Medical, were selected to attend the January 2009 Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas. The game was broadcast on January 3, from the Alamodome on NBC.

This year's Bowl was the ninth annual game, which pitted 90 of the nation's top high school football players in a classic East-West challenge.

Iowans attend Army bowl game

The Army will phase out use of the so-called "Stop Loss" program between now and January, according to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates.

"Effective this August, the U.S. Army Reserve will no longer mobilize under stop loss," Gates said. "The Army National Guard will stop doing so in September, and active Army units will cease employing stop-loss in January."

The Army is able to make this move because of three reasons, Army officials said: The changing conditions in Iraq, a new unit rotation program that is being put into place, and the increase in the size of the Army. Over the next 18 months, the drawdown in Iraq will far outnumber the increase in Afghanistan, Gates said.

Media ban lifted at Dover AFB

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ended an 18-year-old policy that barred media from photographing the arrival of American war dead at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The new policy reverses a ban put in place in 1991 by then President George W. Bush. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama asked Gates to review the policy of media coverage of the fallen returning to Dover Air Force Base. He said Gates came back with a policy consistent with that used at Arlington National Cemetery.

Although the ban has been lifted, media still do not have open access to arrival ceremonies; they must be invited by the families of the fallen.

Gordon joins National Guard team

This season, three-time Daytona winner Jeff Gordon will be the special program driver creating awareness and support for various National Guard programs, including the Youth Challenge; Active First, College First; Path to Honor; and Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve.

Gordon will drive the No. 24 Dupont/National Guard Chevrolet, which will feature each of these programs on its hood, during races at Texas Motor Speedway on April 5; Darlington (S.C.) Raceway on May 9; Michigan International Speedway on June 14; Chicagoland Speedway on July 11; Richmond (Va.) International Raceway on Sept. 12; and New Hampshire Motor Speedway on Sept. 20.

"I'm pretty excited to work with Jeff this season under the Guard banner," said Dale Earnhardt, Jr., fellow Hendrick driver, who joined the National Guard NASCAR team last year.



Saluting Iowa's Heroes

Gold Star Military Museum



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Camp Dodge to celebrate 100 years



by Mary Jones

On April 12, 1909, William McHarg and his wife, Maggie, placed their signatures on a warranty deed, sealing the start of land purchases for a permanent Iowa National Guard training camp in central Iowa.

One year later, Adjutant General Guy Logan directed the post to be christened Camp Dodge, in honor of Iowa Civil War hero and industrialist, Maj. Gen. Grenville Dodge.

One hundred years have since passed and Camp Dodge has seen many changes. Most importantly, though, it remains the home of the Iowa National Guard.

To honor the centennial year, a series of events are planned throughout 2009 to celebrate the history of Camp Dodge and the people who have passed through its gates. The motto, "100 Years of Defending Liberty," has been chosen to reflect the many missions of this post.

A collection of speakers, a band concert, and several all-day events will be held during the year-long celebration. In addition a book, *Images of America: Camp Dodge*, is to be published in 2009. It will feature many rarely seen photos from the files of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

The main Kick-Off event will be held April 5 in conjunction with an Open House at the new Iowa Army National Guard Freedom Center.



100 years of Camp Dodge: (Above, left), Soldiers perform weapons training during World War I at Camp Dodge. (Bottom, left) A 7th Service Command convoy enters Camp Dodge through the Beaver Drive entrance in 1944. The Camp Dodge Commander, Col. Orson B. Powers (1942-1944), reviews the convoy from his vehicle. (Contributed photographs).



What's For Chow?

A century of U.S. military rations

by Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl

The U.S. military has taken its responsibility for feeding Soldiers over the past 100 years, seriously. Since 1901, following the Spanish-American War, Army officials recognized the garrison-type ration was not the all-inclusive answer for combat use.

The first attempt to make an individual field ration was the "Iron Ration" (1907-1922). It consisted of three, three-ounce cakes of beef bullion powder and cooked wheat; three, one-ounce bars of sweetened chocolate; and salt and pepper packets. The ration was issued in a sealed tin weighing one-pound and designed for "emergency use only."

The "Reserve Ration" (1917-1937) was issued during the latter part of World War I, to feed troops away from their field kitchen. It originally consisted of 12-ounces of bacon, (or one pound of canned corned beef), two cans of hardtack biscuits and a packet of ground coffee, sugar, and salt. There was also a separate "tobacco ration" of 0.4-ounces of tobacco and 10 cigarette rolling papers, later replaced by brand-name, machine-rolled cigarettes.

After the war, there were attempts to improve rations, based on input from the field. In 1925, the meat ration was replaced with canned pork and beans. In 1936, there was an attempt at variety, by having a menu of corned beef, and pork and beans.

The "Combat Ration" (later called the C-ration) and the "Emergency Ration" D bar, were developed from 1936-45, and provided sustenance for Army combat Soldiers and Marines in WWII. The C-ration emerged as the pre-eminent individual ration of the war, completely superseding the K ration, which also had been introduced for combat use.

Combat Soldiers had a choice of meat and beans, meat and potato hash, or meat and vegetable stew. A series of early-war group rations was eventually combined into the 5-in-1 (later, the 10-in-1 ration), for groups.

An important end product was the establishment of a definition of a "ration" and subsequent classification dividing all "field" rations into four groups: Field Rations A, B, C, and D.

Field Ration A was a garrison ration which provided fresh food for central messing. Field Ration B was similar to the A-ration, except canned items replaced fresh foods. Field Ration C was defined as a

complete, food-for-a-day packaged ration to be carried by Soldiers. An emergency bar, when other sources of food supply failed, was provided in the Field Ration D.

Initially, C-ration cans were marked with paper labels, which soon came off and made a guessing game out of meals. Soldiers and Marines receiving an unpopular menu item often found themselves powerless in bargaining for a more palatable one.

Sgt. Bob Gates, Co. H, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Korea, said, "I always wanted to get the pork and bean or the beans and weiners ration, because you could eat them cold. No one wanted the meat hash, or mutton stew meals, not even the Koreans.

"The best trading stock were the Lucky Strike or Camel cigarettes, with the Chesterfield and Pall Mall brands considered of lesser value," Gates said.

Master Sgt. Joe Boitnott, Co. D, 168th Infantry, remembers being issued British Combat Rations during "Operation Torch" in North Africa. "I didn't care for the canned mutton, but I sure enjoyed the 'Players' Brand Navy Long-Cut Cigarettes that came with the British ration," he said.

Originally, the accessories and condiments came in a 12-ounce can. Later, it was placed in a plastic pack. This pack contained sugar, water purification tablets, a flat wooden spoon, a piece of chewing gum, a four-pack of cigarettes, a book of 20, moisture-resistant matches, a paper-wrapped P-38 can opener (with instructions), and several sheets of toilet paper. The P-38 can openers were generally worn on the GI's dogtag chain to facilitate opening their next meal.

The C-ration was, in general, liked by Soldiers and Marines, but the cans were heavy and cumbersome, and the menu, monotonous. Despite its intention for infrequent use,

the necessities of combat made the C-ration the only source of sustenance for some troops, often for weeks and months on end.

In 1943, a ration board reviewing medical examinations after long-term use of Type C-rations recommended they be restricted to a maximum of five continuous days. In WWII and Korea, this was seldom followed.

The C-ration was used by U.S. troops during the Korean War and well into the Vietnam conflict, until it was replaced by the M-Unit, or Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE).



The Combat Ration (C-Ration)



Taking part in the indoor museum addition ground breaking were (from left to right) Col. Vince Reeper, State Quartermaster; Col. Scott Ayres, Director of Facilities; Terry Boettcher, Museum Board; State Senator Daryl Beall; Cdr. (Ret.) Larry Spencer; Gov. Robert D. Ray; Congressman Leonard Boswell; Bob Holliday, Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Association President; State Senate President Jack Kibbie; and Maj. Gen Ron Dardis, The Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard.

Ground broken on \$4 million museum addition

by Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl

Despite wet conditions, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum held its groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, October 15, for the new museum addition at Camp Dodge.

Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis, the Iowa National Guard Adjutant General, representatives from the Iowa state and federal delegations, and local officials participated in the ceremony, held inside at Camp Dodge's Rec Hall.

The primary speaker was Iowa State Senate President and Korean War veteran Jack Kibbie. He was assisted by Cdr.

(Ret.) Larry Spencer and Museum President Bob Holliday.

The 18,000-square foot addition will more than double the size of the existing museum. The addition will also feature an interactive exhibit gallery, a multi-media classroom and auditorium that will seat 130 people, and an expanded library.

The \$4 million addition was designed by Architects Schipper & Kastner, of Des Moines, and the general contractor is Jensen Builders, Ltd., of Ames. Completion and remodeling of the original building is set for December 2009.



Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

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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.**

Gold Star Museum volunteers recognized at annual dinner

by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mike Musel

It was an evening of praise, recognition, and support, as Iowa National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis, honored three long-time Iowa Gold Star Military Museum volunteers with the Commanders Award for Public Service at the museum's annual Volunteer Dinner.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 (Ret.) Bob Manke, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Moritz and Roger Raines were each recognized for their years of service as volunteers. The award for Moritz and Manke were actually presented at a later date by Museum Director Russ Bierl and Board Vice President Bob King.

Dardis gave a special thank you message to each of the 45 men and women who volunteer their time and energy at the museum.

Bob Holliday, Memorial Association president, thanked the Adjutant Generals office and staff for their support of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum during the past year.



Iowa National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Ron Dardis, recognizes Iowa Gold Star Military Museum volunteer Roger Raines.



Col. (Ret.) Robert King (left) and Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl (right), pose with Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret.) Bob Moritz.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Palmer Olsen, Iowa National Guard, has donated a World War II, GMC, CCKW, 6x6, Army truck to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum.

This is a great addition to the museum as it is the only World War II vehicle the museum has in its collection.

The truck was an early model with a wooden box. After WWII duty, the vehicle served it's last military assignment with the Minnesota National Guard as an Engineer Bridge truck.

The vehicle is fully operational and will be used to help tell the story of WWII.



Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl congratulates Chief Warrant Officer 2 (Ret.) Bob Manke on his recent award.

MAIT team stands at the ready to assist, instruct maintenance

By Pfc Catherine Black

For Army units around the state in need of assistance, an addition to the Joint Forces Headquarters called the Maintenance Assistance and Instruction Team (MAIT) will travel around the state upon request to provide support.

The team's mission is to assist, instruct and offer assistance to units with problems concerning equipment maintenance or operator education. Having a well-versed team is crucial to offering instruction on almost any equipment in the Army inventory, said Master Sgt. Alan Thompson, MAIT Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge.

Iowa's MAIT consists of six members. Lt. Col. Duane Howard is team chief and instructs on safety, maintenance, management, maintenance sustainability, drivers licensing duty appointments, and the Standard Army Maintenance System-Electronic; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Edgington teaches wheeled and tracked vehicle maintenance; Sgt. 1st Class Scott Fitch educates personnel on small arms, howitzers and night vision systems; CW2 Michael Baldus trains on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) equipment and reports; and finally, Thompson tutors personnel in communications.

MAIT began in the mid-70's and offered similar commodities as today, with the addition of a supply person. Although they follow the same drill schedule as Joint Forces Headquarters, MAIT will split-train, or even come along on annual training to assist units with particular missions.

Thompson agrees MAIT is not a well-advertised program. "Many think it is an inspection, or that we report our findings to a higher headquarters."

He assures individuals that utilizing MAIT as problem identifiers and solvers is not an invitation to be cited for any shortcomings, but rather to be used as a resource for improvement and sustainable education within each unit.

"It is not an inspection and we don't report our findings," Thompson said.

The MAIT is under direct supervision of the deputy chief of staff for logistics, but delivers training and assistance to units at their commanders' request. This is a service to utilize before an inspection, or deployment, to hone in on weak spots, or areas in need of improvement.

Unlike other Army units, members of MAIT

would not deploy together as a unit, but each member is subject to deployment based on their Military Occupational Specialty, or on a volunteer basis. Two MAIT members have already deployed, fulfilling duties with their original units.

As active drilling members, the MAIT preparation process for fulfilling a training request begins three months prior to the scheduled visit. During this time, the unit assembles and is briefed on what training requests need filled, what equipment is needed, as well as transportation arrangements and specific day and time requirements. The primary goal is for the MAIT to train a unit's commander and key personnel, so they in turn can more efficiently pass on the training within their unit.

"The best part of the job is we get to meet and train young, bright soldiers of the Iowa Army National Guard," said Thompson. "We get to see soldiers at their very best. The enthusiasm, the energy and the commitment is all there."

In addition to providing support in training classes and equipment, MAIT offers units CD's, handouts and manuals to assist after their departure in further understanding of equipment operation. This can be especially helpful for units who have received equipment upgrades they aren't familiar with, or well-trained on.

Ultimately, Thompson wants all units in the state to be aware of the service MAIT provides. "We are very happy to fill requests for training, because that's our job. We will travel anywhere, teach, assist, and mentor the units' leadership upon their request," he added.

The Maintenance Assistance and Instruction Team (MAIT) offers instruction on almost any equipment in the Army inventory. (Contributed photo)





Through the ranks

by Senior Enlisted Advisor
Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris

In a recent article, I mentioned a law was recently changed that allows veterans to render a hand salute when the United States flag passes by, such as in a parade. This law also authorizes a hand salute when the *National Anthem* is played.

I realize that change is difficult, but Congress wanted to do something for veterans and that's the reason this law was passed.

This law authorizes a hand salute, both indoors and outdoors, whenever the flag is honored and/or the *National Anthem* is played.

As I read the law, it does not pertain to the Pledge of Allegiance. The law does not specify what to do with headgear. My interpretation would allow any headgear to remain in place.

We, here at Headquarters, will do our best in getting this information out to all of the Veterans organizations and community groups in the state. You can help in this endeavor. The law, as written, can be found at the bottom of this page.

The Senior Non-commissioned Officer leadership of the Iowa National Guard has finalized the On-Site Commissary sales for 2009. The Offutt Air Force Base Commissary will conduct an On-Site Case Lot Sale on Camp Dodge the weekend of April 4-5, in conjunction with the State Family Conference and the Iowa National Guard Freedom Center Open House.

The Offutt Commissary will also conduct an On-Site Sale at the Sioux City Air on June 6-7.



On those same dates, the Fort Leavenworth Commissary will conduct an On-Site Sale at the Fort Dodge National Guard Armory. The Offutt Commissary will also return to Camp Dodge August 29-30, as part of the Iowa National Guard Retiree Day activities.

All ID card holders – active, traditional, or retired – authorized commissary benefits are

encouraged to attend as many of these sales as possible.

Two weeks before the sale, the commissary will e-mail a complete listing of what will be available at the sale, as well as prices. During the first Camp Dodge sale, at least, the commissary will bring a refrigerated truck with frozen meat, cut and packed at the Offutt Commissary, as well as other pre-packaged meats, so bring your coolers along.

If you would like to ensure you receive a copy of this list, please send an e-mail to me at doyle.norris@us.army.mil and I will make that information available to you as soon as I receive it. The Camp Dodge Post Exchange will also have special items on sale and the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will be open for this event, as it is every Saturday.

The senior NCO's of the Iowa National Guard have been the driving force behind this effort and we really want to encourage all our Airmen and Soldiers to take advantage of this benefit.

Section 1. Conduct by Members of the Armed Forces and Veterans out of Uniform During Hoisting, Lowering, or Passing of Flag.

Section 9 of Title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking "all persons present" and all that follows through the end and inserting "those present in uniform should render the military salute."

Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes..."

The Education Office would like to thank Guidance Counselor, Capt. Anne Maniscalco for her hard work. Maniscalco is now serving on active duty at Ft. Riley, Kan. as a Blackhawk pilot. Her duties were managing the Federal Tuition Assistance and the Education office while Capt. Don Enright was deployed. Thank you and good luck!!

Speaking of Enright, he has returned from his Kosovo deployment with the 1/194th Field Artillery. He served with Fort Dodge's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery as the S-1 Personnel Officer. Enright returns as the Education Services Officer and will continue managing the Education office. Welcome back and a job well done in Kosovo.

The Education office would also like to welcome a new member. Spc. Lisa Langel-Cordes was hired as the Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) Manager in July 2008. Langel's duties will be approving FTA applications and contacting colleges and universities so Soldiers' tuition is paid. Langel is also a member of Camp Dodge's 294th Medical Company as a combat medic. Welcome aboard!

Taking over Guidance Counselor duties is Chief Warrant Officer One Matt Wolf, hired in January 2006 as the GI Bill Manager. Wolf's main duties include managing the National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP), Test Control and counseling Soldiers about their education benefits and goals.

The Spring semester deadline for the NGEAP online application is December 15. When applying, there will be a code to enter. Contact your VA certifying official, or the Education office for your code. Once you have applied for the NGEAP and the State Tuition Assistance Manager has received the application, they will determine if the Soldier is eligible.

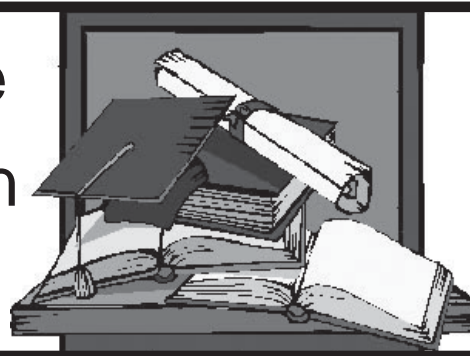
Remember, each Soldier/Airman will receive two emails when applying for NGEAP. The first tells the applicant the Education office has received the application. The second tells the applicant if the application has been approved. Once you have received the second email, take it to the financial aid office at your college or university and they will request tuition assistance. Over 1,000 Soldiers and Airman used this benefit in Fall 2008.

Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), or the 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.

Another important free test is the ACT for Soldiers. Spring is just around the corner and

we offer it at the Joint Forces Headquarters at Camp Dodge. Many need this test to get accepted into college. If you are interested in taking the ACT, contact educationia@ng.army.mil and the Education center will set up an exam date for you. Results may take up to 30 days to receive.

From the Education Office



If a Soldier is in school, they must contact their VA certifying official, to help obtain GI Bill benefits. The MGIB-RC, CH 1606 went up to \$329 October 1 for FY 09. Once the paperwork has been sent to the VA in St. Louis, or any other Regional VA, it may take up to 10-12 weeks to process, so start the process early.

If you are applying for CH 1606 and need to obtain Notice of Basic Eligibility, it can be found in your iPERMS file. Also, give them your kicker contract if you have one. Don't forget to do your end of month verification, 1-877-823-2378 or the W.A.V.E. program online.

When applying for CH 1607, for those that have deployed, submit your mobilization orders and DD 214 to the VA certifying official at your college. Don't forget to do your end of month verification, at 1-877-823-2378. For those with a kicker, submit it with the application. All documents can be found in your iPERMS file. Contact your unit if you need help in using iPERMS.

For those applying for programs other than college, contact the VA or visit www.gibill.va.gov. Remember if you have been deployed 90 days to one year, you can receive 40 percent of the Active Duty GI Bill. If you have been deployed one to two years, you can get 60 percent. For two continuous years, or multiple deployments that add up to 36 months, you can receive 80 percent. Chapter 30 MGIB is \$1,321.

**Education Center
continued on page 14**

Education Center continued from page 13

For those Soldiers eligible for MGIB-AD, Chapter 30, submit your DD 2366, DD 2366-1 (if available) and a copy of your mobilization orders to your VACO. These forms can be found in iPERMS if you bought into the Chapter 30. You still need to verify at the end of each month and the rates can be found on the www.gibill.va.gov web site.

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

Education at educationia@ng.army.mil, or by calling (515) 252-4468.

Another very important piece of our Automation system is the Information, Management and Reporting Center, or iMARC. This online database, managed by the National Guard Bureau, is the database for all education and incentive programs.

The ESO office tracks all bonuses (enlistment and re-enlistment), GI Bill benefits, Student Loan Repayment and ARNG-FTA using this system. Unit Readiness Non-commissioned officers, Admin NCOs, first sergeants, and Officers-in-Charge 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 representative can look up information about bonus or student loan payments, GI Bill eligibility, and tuition assistance applications.

Suicide prevention continued from page 5

amending a will, or sudden changes in their personality, including a lift in spirits.

Now that the reasons and symptoms of suicide have been explained, it is possible to focus on how to help prevent Soldiers from attempting suicide. The most important thing to remember when talking to or dealing with a suicidal person is to listen. They need to know someone cares and that they have someone to trust.

Most people think they shouldn't ask someone how they're going to kill themselves, but it is a very important question to ask. The more detailed a plan someone has, the more serious they are, and the more urgent their situation is.

Most critically, a person with suicidal thoughts should never be left alone. Weapons should be taken away from them and, if necessary, the Soldier should be taken to a civilian hospital for observation.

If you're having suicidal thoughts, talk to someone you trust. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

"The most important thing is that you trust the people you're going to talk to," said Selof. This includes calling a suicide hotline, talking to a mental health professional or asking a friend or relative to stay with you. It is also critical to avoid alcohol and other drugs as they impair thinking and judgment skills," he said.

For more information about suicide prevention, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Selof, at (515) 971-3792, The National Suicide Prevention Hotline, at (800) 273-8255 or visit www.pdhealth.mil.

Soldiers take time from their busy schedules to take part in recreation at Camp Dodge. This postcard, taken during World War I, is one of many on display as Camp Dodge prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2009. (Contributed photo)



Christians are a lot like garden vegetables

I myself have never been a gardener. In fact, I once helped my wife with a garden when we were in Seminary. My wife told my mother I had spent an hour with her in the garden and Mom said it was an hour more than I ever spent in the garden at home.

So, gardening is not always something that has excited me, like it does other people. However, I believe that the Lord must really love gardens, for he mentions them a lot in the Bible.

The Bible story of mankind begins in a garden.

Jesus spends his final hours before his crucifixion in a garden.

There are 49 references to the word “garden” in the Bible.

The majority of the references to gardens are actual, literal gardens. But there are also many references to people being like gardens.

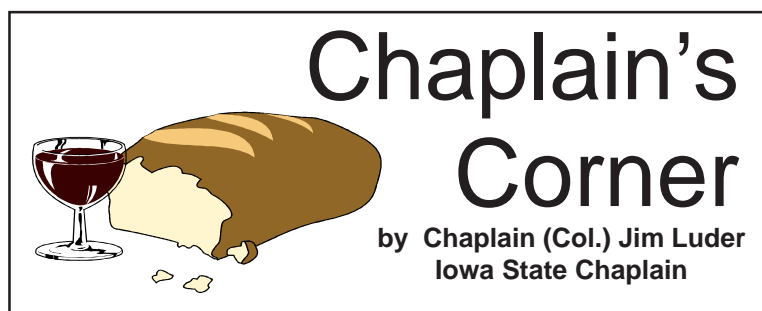
We know there are all different kinds of gardens in the world. There are flower gardens, where at times the gardener is as much of an artist as he is a gardener, and there are vegetable gardens. This is the most common type of garden where I live. People plant all kinds of stuff, mainly so they can give it away.

But every garden produces something. It like in the movie, “Second Hand Lions,” where a salesman had sold them what appeared to be all different kinds of seeds. But when they planted it, corn came up in every row. If we plant corn, corn is what we’ll get.

The same thing is true in our Christian lives. We’ll produce what is planted. The question is what is planted in the garden of our life?

Pastor Alton Coleman says, sometimes Christians behave much like some of the vegetables we find in the average farmer’s garden.

He says, first there is the bell pepper Christian. They are nice and shiny on the outside, but



there is very little on the inside; in fact, they are almost hollow. Remember, it’s what’s inside that counts. You can look really good on the outside, but it’s what’s inside that really counts.

There’s also the green bean Christian. Remember the green bean is the “running/climbing” bean. They are good if you can get them to produce, but to do so, they must be staked and tied, or they will run all over the place. They take the path of least resistance. This is the kind of Christian who doesn’t seem to be able to stick with any one thing. They are always running off to pursue the next big adventure in their Christian life.

There’s also the okra Christian. Remember, okra irritates the skin, so you have to use gloves to handle it. Some Christians are like that, they must be handled with kid gloves or they will get irritable and stir up others.

There’s also the Irish potato Christian. They’re all eyes but still can’t see, they have no discernment. They are kind of like Doubting Thomas – they are a “seeing is believing” kind of Christian.

Another type of Christian is the corn Christian. They’re all ears! They’re always waiting to hear some bit of “juicy” gossip! Often times Christians have a unique way of getting around the sin of gossiping. They say, “I wouldn’t tell you this but I want you to pray about it.”

But remember, there is also the sweet potato Christian. These have a natural sweet flavor. Sweetness is a way of life. Cut them anywhere and they are still sweet. Fry them, bake them, boil them, they are still sweet. When this kind of Christian is persecuted and tried, they always exhibit the sweetness of the Christ who lives within. Regardless of how they are treated, the natural sweet flavor still comes through.

So as we conclude, we ask the question, “What kind of vegetable are you?”

May the Lord help us all to be “sweet potato” Christians, who are always showing forth the sweet love of Christ to a lost and dying world.

The same thing is true

in our Christian lives.

We’ll produce what is planted.

The question is,

what is planted

in the garden

of our life?



Security Forces return to Iowa

by Tech. Sgt. Wendy S. Oh
185th Air Refueling Wing

Six months, 186 days. That's the length of time 32 members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Security Forces Squadron spent securing the base at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia. Six months may not seem like a lot of time to some, but when you're away from family and friends and the comforts of home, six months can be a very long time.

Airman 1st Class Jonathan LaCroix worked as a public relations representative at the front gate at Eskan Village. He was the first American they would see when entering the base. They would have U.S. Army drivers transporting people from India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and even Yemen, coming to the base.

"It was all pretty routing," stated LaCroix. "Going to Silver Flag Alpha in Las Vegas really helped train us for the deployment."

What was the hardest part about being away for so long?

"Things here didn't stop; birthdays, anniversaries, school events," said LaCroix. "Things just went on without you."

LaCroix is currently attending Iowa State University and said they were very helpful in working with him on his schedule and coursework while he was gone.

Being a woman in uniform presented challenges of its own for Sr. Airman Janice Brouwer.

"In the Muslim world, a woman is to be seen and not heard. The Muslim men would talk to my male counterparts and not say a word to me. Over here (in the U.S.), it's very different. Women tend to get more attention than men. I



Staff Sgt. Daven Dekok proposes to his girlfriend, Tiffany Bauerly as the 185th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces Squadron returned home after a six month deployment at Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia.

had a hard time getting used to that," she said.

Brouwer worked the night shift, doing perimeter security at Eskan Village.

Both LaCroix and Brouwer have been in the Air National Guard approximately two years and this was their first deployment.

Would they go back again?

"Oh yeah, I'd go back," said LaCroix and Brouwer, enthusiastically.

The homecoming became very special for Staff Sgt. Daven Dekok. After hugging his daughter, he knelt down on one knee and pro-

***Iowa return
continued on page 17***

Chaplain's assistant named best in Air National Guard

by Sr. Airman Dave Riddle
132nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs
Iowa Air National Guard

On Sept. 6, Master Sgt. Ed Vos received the Samuel Stone Award for the Air National Guard 2007 Chaplain Assistant of the Year. The award was the second time Vos has been recognized as one of the Air National Guard's finest., as he was named the Air National Guard Transportation NCO of the Year in 1995.

"I've had a varied career and I'm very blessed to be successful in all of it," said Vos. "It's an incredible honor to be presented this in more than one career field."

The citation, read by 132nd Chaplain (Maj.) Jim Broome, bubbled with numerous accolades from current and former supervisors.

"He epitomizes the can-do, professional leadership expected by our Air Force," wrote a Wing Chaplain Vos worked with in Al Udied. "[He] will always stand out as the best chaplain assistant to come this way," wrote a Chaplain from CENTAF Command.

Vos served 60 days at Al Udied Air Force Base, located in Qatar, last year. He also spent 121 days in Afghanistan this year. On that deployment, he had the chance to work with coalition members from Great Britain, Canada, Australia and Holland. At both bases, he assisted in addressing the spiritual needs of some 8,000 armed forces members.

Both trips were voluntary and during the presentation of the award, Vos thanked Col. Mark D. Hammond, 132nd FW Commander, for giving him the opportunity to deploy. He also thanked Broome for nominating him and his wife for her support.

Originally a member of the Marines, Vos began his Air National Guard career in Trans-



Master Sgt. Ed Vos poses by the unit sign at Al Udied Air Force Base, located in Qatar. Vos was named the Samuel Stone recipient as the Air National Guard 2007 Chaplain Assistant of the Year. (Contributed photo).

portation, moving to Security Forces, before entering the Chaplain Services career field in 2004.

You might say Vos showed early promise in the field. At that year's Operational Readiness Inspection, his work on the prayer request boxes earned a 'Best Seen in Air Force' accommodation, the only one received by the 132nd that inspection.

The following year at the Chaplain Services Institute in Montgomery, Ala., Vos was named Top Graduate.

"He injects a renewed enthusiasm, positive attitude, and commitment to excellence into all he serves for and with," said Broome.

Iowa return

continued from page 16

posed to his girlfriend, Tiffany Bauerly. Through her tears, as she hugged him after he placed the ring on her left hand.

His three-year old daughter, McKenzie Dekok was thrilled to have daddy home and to be getting a new mommy, too.

"We've talked about getting married, but he

just hadn't proposed," said Bauerly. "The wedding is set for May."

Her excitement was evident as she smiled through her tears, showing off her ring to family, friends and onlookers, witnessing the proposal.

"It was a perfect day for a homecoming," said Col. Brian Miller, 185th Commander. "The sun is shining and there's no wind to speak of."

And for 32 members of the 185th ARW and their families, it was a very good day, indeed.

Why is there a giant cannon



on the hilltop of Camp Dodge?

by CW4 (Retired) R. Wesley Bender

Above is an M115, eight-inch Howitzer, proudly displayed at Camp Dodge. The gun represents the unbelievable missions carried out by Iowa's 194th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II.

The entire 34th Infantry Division was activated on Feb. 10, 1941, to include Iowa's 185th Field Artillery, and shipped off to Camp Claibourne, La. The Artillery Regiment was transferred to Fort Dix, N.J. shortly after war was declared and redesignated the 194th Field Artillery Regiment (8-inch).

In March 1942, the regiment was transferred once again, this time to Fort Bragg, N.C., where the 1st Battalion became the 194th FA Battalion and trained extensively on the "new" M115, eight-inch Howitzer.

Training not only gun crews, but fire direction centers, forward observers, communications, and the command, proved fruitless because there was no ammunition for training purposes.

Lt. Col. Doran, the 194th S4, scrounged and came up with 290 World War I-vintage shells. These squat, blunt shells weren't very desirable, but they did fit into the chamber of the eight-inch howitzer. The powder was old and only for mid-range use.

Firing tables did not exist for this weapon, and none would be available. No one knew if this old ammunition could be used effectively, or not, but with many of the unit's officers and senior Soldiers being veterans of WWI, and many of those being former engineers in the

explosive industry, the risk was undertaken.

The entire artillery team, with the first, second, and further rounds plotted, rudimentary firing tables were made using successive approximations. Later, qualification tests with the right ammo were passed. Furthermore, whole lists of "lessons learned" were catalogued and used throughout the gun's service.

It wasn't until August 1943 when the 194th actually left Ft. Bragg for Algeria. The batteries moved through North Africa by motor convoy and the eight-inch howitzer was pulled by the new prime mover, a Mack 7 1/2-ton truck.

On Dec. 6, 1943 the 194th was in position at Presenzano, Italy, when their observation plane was shot down and the pilots missing. The Group moved to positions in the vicinity of Mignano, Italy by December, 17, where they supported operations until January 17.

Those operations included the taking of Mt. Perchia, Mt. LaChiaia, and San Vittere by the II Corp.

Reports showed ammunition totaled 379 tons – or 2,771 rounds of eight-inch Howitzer and 2,037 rounds of 155mm. January operations supported the 36th Division, the British 46th Division, the French and the 34th Division. During one five-day period, after the 34th Division crossed a river, the Group expended 6,091 rounds of eight-inch ammo.

During the month of January 1944, the 194th, eight-inch Howitzer had 657 missions, firing 11,432 rounds equaling 1,143.2 tons of ammunition. In this first month of major battle, Group Headquarters dealt largely with

reconnaissance and position studies, improvement and coordination of intelligence and communications, and assistance in overcoming supply difficulties.

The official "Historical Record" for February through July 1944, read like a novel – battle after battle, mission after mission. The most inspiring accounts in these records are the letters written by the major players in the campaigns. While some letters are written in a foreign language, all the letters are inspiring because of the gratitude given to the artillery and praise for their success in destroying the enemy.

On July 23, 1944, when officially moved from its combat position into bivouac, the Group had completed its 246th day of continuous combat without rest. This record compares favorably with others for the longest period of continuous combat operation in the field under all kinds of conditions for artillery.

The 34th Division Association records are extensive and thorough. The unit was in Italy through September 1944, then moved into France until March 1945 when they entered Germany. The 194th entered Salzberg, Austria on May 7, 1945, for a total of 5,021 miles since

arriving in North Africa in September 1943.

A side bar to this story: One has a difficult time imagining the complexity of every faction of the duty. The amount of ammunition for instance, made in ordnance plants in the US, shipped through hostile waters, unloaded at impromptu ports, convoyed to the combat zones, and distributed throughout all the gun batteries. The 194th Field Artillery Group directed the first eight-inch, M115 Howitzer committed into battle, fought with heavy artillery throughout the war, and inflicted great damage upon the enemy, expending 126,897 rounds of eight-inch ammo.

Upon demobilization after WWII, the 194th was reactivated in north central Iowa in 1947 as a Corps-level General Service battalion and assigned the 155mm, M114, "Pig" Howitzer. The battalion was mobilized and deployed to Germany, in 1952, during the Korean Conflict.

In 1968 the 194th was reorganized into a divisional Direct Support, 105mm Battalion, along with the 34th Infantry Division, with units in Humboldt, Spencer, Algona, Estherville and Storm Lake. In 2002 the 194th was mobilized for the post 9/11 Homeland Security mission.

In 2007, the battalion was again mobilized and served a year-long peacekeeping mission in Kosovo.

Take a few minutes and see the M115, eight-inch Howitzer at the scenic overlook at Camp Dodge. Imagine what the Soldiers of the 194th thought during those battles in Italy while you are standing beside that monster.

Iowa National Guard history

***Firing tables did not exist
for this weapon,
and none would be available.***



Camp Dodge Centennial Celebration



1909-2009

Schedule of Events



March 11

"Centennial Overview—100 Years of Defending Liberty"
Joint Forces Headquarters Building, Enhanced Class Room

April 5

Official Centennial Kickoff
Freedom Center Open House
Iowa Army National Guard Freedom Center

May 25

Gold Star Museum Memorial Day Open House
Iowa Army National Guard Freedom Center

June 6

34th Army Band Concert
Camp Dodge Parade Field

July 8

"My 20 Years at Camp Dodge"
Major General Warren G. Lawson
Joint Forces Headquarters Building, Enhanced Class Room

August 17

Iowa State Fair Veterans Day Parade

August 29

Iowa National Guard Retiree Day
Iowa Army National Guard Freedom Center

September 9

Camp Dodge Employee Appreciation Day
Camp Dodge Parade Field