

**The IOWA NATIONAL GUARD**

# Militiaman



**A new beginning**

**Brig. Gen. Orr assumes  
command of Iowa National Guard**

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*On the cover -- Brig. Gen. Tim Orr assumes command as the 27th Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard. Iowa Governor Chet Culver passes the National Guard colors on to Orr during the recent Change of Command ceremony at Camp Dodge. (Iowa National Guard photo by Justin Cato)*

## The Iowa Militiaman Spring 2009

**The Adjutant General**  
Brig. Gen. Tim Orr

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood

**135th MPAD Commander**  
Capt Tim Mills

### Editor

1st Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

### Contributors

Capt. Heather Guck  
Staff Sgt. Jerald Phippen  
Sgt. Matthew McArthur  
Sgt. Christina Beck  
Sgt. Chad Nelson  
Spc. Robert Jones  
Spc. Brian Lloyd  
Spc. Cassandra Monroe  
Pvt. Zach Zuber

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 the Department of the Army.

Address all submissions to:

**The Iowa Militiaman  
Public Affairs Office  
7105 NW 70th Ave.**

**Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824  
or e-mail: [paoia@ng.army.mil](mailto:paoia@ng.army.mil)**

# ‘Humbled by the opportunity to serve’

On March 26, 2009, I assumed command of the Iowa National Guard and became its 27<sup>th</sup> Adjutant General. Twenty-six distinguished leaders have preceded me - well-known stewards of the Iowa National Guard. It is a great honor and privilege to walk in their footsteps. My family and I are humbled by this opportunity to serve the finest group of Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, in Iowa National Guard history.

We look forward to the challenges this position brings, but more importantly to the time we will spend with the Army and Air team. Later this summer, my family and I will move to the Adjutant General’s house on Camp Dodge and establish residency – making the Iowa National Guard our home both literally and physically.

For my first *TAG Sends* column, I want to share a little of my background with you and talk about what is important to me from The Adjutant General’s fighting position.

My military career started 31 years ago when I enlisted into the Iowa National Guard as a high school senior into a Heavy Weapons Specialist assignment, HHC 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. I spent over eight years in the Brigade, leaving at the rank of Staff Sergeant to attend active component Officer Candidate School.

I am very proud of the fact that both my wife and I served as enlisted Soldiers and Non-Commission Officers before receiving our commissions. I owe a great amount of loyalty to the NCO corps for the encouragement and support I received as I crossed into the commissioned officer ranks. It was with the encouragement of three senior NCOs, that I completed the active duty Officer Candidate School program and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

I have been fortunate to be mentored by

some really great military leaders in the Iowa National Guard. Leaders, who took the time to ensure that I kept my career on track, focused my energy, provided sound guidance through the journey, and ensured I never forgot that we work for Soldiers. That is why, today, I stress to all Soldiers and Airmen, the importance of finding a quality mentor and establishing professional relationships that will assist you in your journey to achieving your goals and ultimately being the “Master of your own ship.”



I have been in command of the Iowa National Guard for three months and my experiences already have been tremendous. I have been working very hard to visit our units at home station, annual training and on overseas deployments to introduce myself and get to know our team and better understand their issues. I call this program my battlefield circulation plan and I intend to execute this program on an annual basis.

I have visited both Army and Air National Guard units at home stations, annual training, and overseas deployments. I had opportunities to see the 734<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group in South Dakota, the 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT in Camp Ripley, Minn., select units on Camp Dodge, and even had the opportunity to travel to Kuwait and Iraq to visit our truck companies, aero medical unit, Air National Guard fire fighters, and individually deployed Soldiers.

I will spend the remainder of this summer visiting annual training sites and preparing to kick-off the Community Covenant program around the state. In the fall, I will again visit units around the state during the week and on

## TAG Sends

Brig. Gen  
Tim Orr  
The Adjutant General

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**Tag Sends**  
*continued on page 17*

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# Brig. Gen. Tim Orr sworn in as 27th Iowa Adjutant General

by 1st Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

The week of March 22 proved to be a whirlwind of activity for Col. Timothy E. Orr and his family, as well as a momentous period for the Iowa National Guard.

On March 25, Orr became Iowa's newest brigadier general, following his promotion ceremony at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. Twenty-four hours later, in a Change of Command ceremony presided over by Iowa Governor Chet Culver, he became the 28th Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard.

Being afforded the awesome responsibility of commanding the Iowa National Guard is

truly a humbling experience, Orr noted.

"I realize that I have been entrusted with the leadership and care of our nation's most precious resource – the Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard – our Warriors, and their family members.

"Teddy Roosevelt once observed that far and away, the best prize that life offers is the chance to 'work hard at work worth doing.' This position certainly fits that description," he said.

Orr, a 30-year military veteran born in Winterset, Iowa and raised in Earlham and Boone, had been serving as the Deputy Adjutant General, Iowa Army National Guard. Former Ad-

jutant General of the Iowa National Guard, Lt. Gen. (IA) Ron Dardis, retired as The Adjutant General, but will continue working for Iowans after being appointed executive director of the Rebuild Iowa Office by Gov. Culver.

Orr began his military career by enlisting in the Iowa National Guard during his senior year of high school, graduating from Boone (Iowa) High School in 1979. After attending basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga.'s Infantry School, his first assignment was as a heavy anti-armor gunner with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Brigade.

He advanced through the enlisted ranks and was ultimately promoted to staff sergeant, until receiving his officer's commission through the U.S. Army's Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning on Aug. 20, 1985. Orr has commanded at the detachment, company, battalion, and brigade level.

"The future will continue to be challenging," Orr said. "However, the Iowa National Guard's tasks are of enormous importance to our state and nation. It is clear that in the months and years ahead, a great deal of responsibility will continue to rest on the shoulders of the wonderful Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard and it is an honor to serve with them.

"It will be my number one priority within the command to focus on the Soldiers, their

families, and their needs.

He then presented his current assessment to Gov. Culver of the Iowa National Guard being strong, "Iowa strong."

"I want everyone to know that I am committing all my energy, effort, focus and drive to ensuring that the Iowa National Guard is agile, adaptive, prepared for any mission and always ready in the event that Iowa, or the nation calls.

In closing, Orr pointed his most important thanks to those Iowa Soldiers and Airmen. "You are part of the most experienced, best equipped and most professional military to serve our state and nation and we all can, and should be, very proud of them," he said. "It is an honor to serve with you.

"There can be no higher privilege for any soldier than being allowed to serve once more with such wonderful Americans and to 'work hard at work worth doing.' You have my complete loyalty and dedication. Thank you for your service," said Orr.

As the adjutant general, Orr is responsible for command and control for 104 Army and Air National Guard Units and over 9,600 Army and Air National Guard members in the state of Iowa and is responsible for providing a force ready for mobilization.

Ver Planck Van Antwerp, was appointed in 1839 as the first Adjutant General of the Iowa territory.



*The colors are presented during the Change of Command ceremony for The Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard (far left). Lt. Gen. (IA) Ron Dardis presents his farewell remarks during the hour-long ceremony. (Iowa National Guard photos by Justin Cato).*

## 20th Bataan Memorial Death March

# 'This march will change you'

(Editor's Note: After reading "Raider" by Decorah, Iowa's Galen Kittleson, Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Fox was motivated to take part in the Bataan Memorial Death March with other Soldiers of the 248th Aviation Support Battalion. Sandy Sanderson's story about Glen McDole in the Des Moines Register prompted them to name their five-person National Guard Light team, Team McDole in honor of him. Their efforts resulted in a third place finish.)

by Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Fox

Last October, we had 15 Soldiers qualify by maxing their physical fitness test, but only nine were able to make the trip to White Sands, N.M.. One of them had done the march two years ago, while the rest of us were green-horns. I had heard and read about how hard it was, but until you truly experience that 26.2 mile course, there is no way to understand it.

It's not a marathon with your favorite shoes

on flat, even terrain. I'll now call that a "fun run." The March is a memorial and tribute to those men who died, or survived Bataan. Only a handful are still alive and about a dozen were at the event. For a modern-day Soldier, to see one of these men is an experience a civilian respects, but will never fully understand.

We who serve, don't do it for you, the flag, or our country. We do it for the Soldiers standing next to us, and for freedom. On that high desert, I had an opportunity to shake a man's hand who had survived the brutal reality that was Bataan. I shook the hands of as many of them as I could. Each time I did, I felt a connection with those men, who show up each year, reminding us why we do what we do. Their example gives us motivation and perspective about ourselves that can only be gotten in a few places.

During the opening ceremonies, there was a lot to see and hear that emotionally moved you. The grandstand stood in front of a giant



**1942 BATAAN DEATH MARCH**  
75,000 AMERICAN AND FILIPINO POWS MARCHED 60-MILES FROM THE BATAAN PENINSULA TO PRISON CAMPS. THE JOURNEY WAS FILLED WITH PHYSICAL ABUSE AND MURDER BY BAYONET STABBING, BEHEADING, DISEMBOWELMENT AND STARVATION. THOSE WHO COULD NOT KEEP UP WERE EXECUTED OR LEFT FOR DEAD.

**3RD PLACE**  
**248<sup>th</sup> ASB**  
NATIONAL GUARD TEAM  
LIGHT DIVISION!!!!!!!!!!!!

WANT TO JOIN US  
NEXT YEAR IN  
WHITE SANDS, NM?

ASK ANY OF THIS YEAR'S  
PARTICIPANTS AND  
START TRAINING NOW!



**2009 BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH**  
BACK ROW: 1LT BOSHEIM, PFC SCHILLING, CSM FOX,  
SSG GARRETT, MSG GALVIN  
FRONT ROW: CPT HURT, CPT MORTON, SGT HEPEL,  
PVT BARKER







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fire truck which flew an even bigger American flag. The National Anthem was sung and the chaplain opened with a prayer. The post commander gave some remarks, noting, "this march will change you."

The Army Chief of Staff gave his comments and two F-18's did a flyover I will never forget. By far, the most moving part of the ceremony was the roll call. The military has a tradition of calling the names of those who have passed away since they last assembled. These men are gone but not forgotten.

No doubt, every one of the 5,300 participants feels a lot of emotion. There were amputees, civilians (from very young to very senior) and military personnel (from all services and many allied countries), and even those who went barefoot the entire route.

The route is a small reminder of what the men of Bataan experienced, while the pain was also a reminder of what they endured. Guilt racked my brain when I wanted to complain about the terrain and when I thought my feet hurt, I came to another reality.

At mile 20 or so, I knew I had not prepared my feet well enough, nor had I changed socks enough and my feet were telling my brain they had never hurt this bad. And, my brain started to believe them.

Just before mile 20, I was catching up to a mom and her son doing the 15-mile honorary march. Before you assume they were slow, I should mention the son was a double amputee who was leaning onto his mom, who helped him take each painful step.

At that moment I was angry at my feet. I was angry because my feet had not earned the right to tell me about pain. That anger never left. In fact, it was one of the major reasons I finished. I pushed on with my race battle buddy and focused on finishing. I also thought back to the beginning of the race when the post commander promised this race would change me.

"Mission Accomplished, Sir."

With five or six miles yet to go, I was moving slower, but giving serious thought to what the day was about. I thought of the over 1,000 volunteers who made the race possible. Later, I discovered some of those volunteers had been here each of the last 20 years and there is a waiting list just to volunteer.

I remember about mile nine, a woman who was obviously a professional marathoner coming down the hill towards us at about her mile 19. As she passed a never-ending line of military members, she, with every exhale, uttered "Thank you for your service, thank you for

your service" She said this over and over all the way down the hill.

This was a woman who had a legitimate shot at winning the race, but found it more important to thank every Soldier, Airman, Marine, or Seaman she passed. That's impressive.

The hardest terrain on the route was just ahead and is appropriately named the "sand pit" or "gravel pit." A stretch that seems like miles, in reality, it's only a mile or so uphill. After getting through that, with about four miles to go, there was no doubt I would finish and looked forward to each mile marker as a victory.

At mile 25, we stopped to take one final picture next to the mile sign. I had taken my outer jacket off at mile 10, but it was time to put it back on and finish the race in style. We picked up the pace, running most of the last mile, ensuring we'd come in under eight hours.

As we crossed the finish line, we were greeted by four more Bataan survivors. I immediately removed my headgear and sunglasses, thanking each one of them for their sacrifice. My unit members who already finished greeted me. Our most junior member limped up to me and said "Sergeant Major, Thank you for the opportunity to do this with you."

I thought, "No, Thank you." Thank you for being a young American Soldier who took off from college, travelled 22 hours in a cramped van, woke up at 3 a.m. all to do this with me. You are a great American Pvt. 2. Phil Barker! He was not alone – they all thanked me before the trip was through and they are all equally great.

As I look back at my time, I think eight hours may seem slow to those who run marathons. Basically, I think I could have run it faster and next year I will. This year I enjoyed it all, even if some of it was pain that reminded me to enjoy the opportunity to feel a little pain in honor of those who had no choice. It really has nothing to do with the time though. It has everything to do with what we did with that time.

Sound familiar?

It took a full nights rest to wake up and say "I can't wait for next year!" We got in the van and headed home and everyone agreed we will be back to the Bataan Memorial Death March next year to never forget the Battling Bastards of Bataan.

I hope to see you there.

P.S. - It's Friday night before drill and I need to get at least six more miles on these week-old blisters before tomorrow.

# No vacation for Iowa's 185th Medical Group

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

(San Juan, Puerto Rico) -- Car accidents, gunshot wounds, broken bones, stab wounds... these are all things members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Medical Group don't generally experience on drill weekend. During a recent trip to Puerto Rico, however, 32 members of the Medical Group saw it all.

Centro Medico is located on 22 acres in the heart of San Juan, Puerto Rico and is the third largest level 1 trauma center in the United States and its territories. With a population of over 450,000 people in San Juan alone, they keep busy.

The trauma center sees over 7,400 patients and admits around 1,000 per year. Auto accidents account for 70 percent of these admissions, and if you've ever driven through San Juan, you can understand why.

With the number of patients that come through the doors, and the types of trauma seen at Centro Medico, spending two weeks there is an excellent training opportunity for the 185th Medical Group. This is the type of hands-on, fast-paced real life training most military medical personnel don't receive on their normal drill

weekend. Working with the trauma patients in the worst of conditions may someday translate to real-world battlefield hospital conditions.

"Centro Medico was an ideal location for this type of training because of the size of their trauma center and the cultural and language challenges to overcome," stated 1st Lt. Zac Johannsen, Medical Administrative Officer, 185th Medical Group.



"Also in Puerto Rico they have the opportunity to treat outside their credentialed field. This is especially helpful if there is something going on they can just jump in and help out rather than standing by and watching because it isn't 'their field.' This gives our staff the opportunity to do more diverse work."

Sr. Airman Katie Grenier is a nursing student at St. Luke's School of Nursing in Sioux City, Iowa. She was able to practice her every day nursing skills, such as IV starts, medication administration, and more.

"We do shots, blood draws and physicals on a normal basis (at the 185th) so when asked to do them at Centro Medico, I was very prepared," said Grenier. "I also had the opportunity to assist with suturing, chest tubes and surgery, administer meds, suction, and perform wound care."

"The doctors were very helpful and almost all of them spoke English," said Capt. Major Anderson, a critical care registered nurse in Tyndall, S.D. and a nurse with the 185th ARW. "We stuck with them as much as possible. The nurses were good, but not as many spoke English, making it harder to do things with them,"

Driving can take up to seven hours to transport a patient from one side of the island to Centro Medico, whereas the helicopter can get a patient to much needed care in an hour or less. Aeromed is a helicopter transport service used by Centro Medico to increase the response time of getting critical care to critically injured and sick patients in Puerto Rico.

"I was surprised how long it takes patients to get from the outlying hospitals or accident scenes to Centro Medico and how long it takes to get them to surgery once they're here," said Anderson. "In one case we were able to unload a patient from the helicopter. He had gunshot wounds in his head, chest and abdomen. Several of us were able to go to the operating room with him."

Gunshot wounds are quite common in Puerto Rico. Approximately 30 percent of the trauma patients entering Centro Medico are gunshot victims. Some patients are brought in and taken to the OR, but others get patched up and sent home.

"A guy came in at 10 a.m. with seven gunshot wounds and was released later that night. He had no surgery done to remove the bullets. They did not suture around the bullet holes, but covered them up with gauze and sent him home," said Grenier.

Maj. Gen. Ray Webster, Air National Guard

Assistant to the Surgeon General, was also along for the trip. Webster oversees programs such as this and wanted to get an idea of how things were going.

"This is the 19th group to go through Centro Medico since the program started three years ago," Webster stated. "Things aren't going as smoothly as I'd hoped, but we'll get the bugs worked out. We have Rudy assigned full-time to the program now to see that things get done."

Rudy, or Sr. Master Sgt. Rudolpho Davila, is the Air National Guard liaison for the program. Davila was on call for members of the 185th to contact if there were any issues. After all, when you bring more than 30 members of the U.S. military to a civilian hospital, throw in a few cultural and procedural differences, top it off with a language barrier and you're bound to hit a few bumps.

However, the experience gained, and the knowledge received was invaluable.

Dr. Juan Angel Nazario, is the head of Centro Medico, the "go to guy" for anything that goes on at the hospital and university.

"We are a teaching hospital. If you wish to stand back and watch, that will be fine. But if you want to jump in and work hands-on with the patients, you will be allowed and encouraged to do this, too," said Nazario during the Medical Group's in-brief

"We'd like to plan more trips like this in the future," Johannsen said. "We need to train in all the areas of our Readiness Skills Verification Program (RSVP). Going to Puerto Rico was a very good training opportunity and we look forward to more trips like this."

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*Dr. Mario Bernal, a resident at Centro Medico Hospital, and Maj. Emil Fernando, Iowa Air National Guard, operate on a patient (far left). (Below) Staff Sgt. Brock McNabb practices suturing on an orange while receiving instruction from Lt. Col. Doug Hoisington. Iowa Air National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Oscar M. Sanchez*



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# Briefs

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## **Credit Union changes hours**

The Greater Iowa Credit Union, located on Camp Dodge, has new hours for its lobby and drive-up services.

The new hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Credit Union will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.

## **Tax law changes**

You may have noticed an increase in your take home pay the last several weeks, attributable to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). However, it also could mean you're not having enough withheld to cover income tax liability and will owe money at tax time.

The Making Work Pay provision of ARRA provides a tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for married taxpayers filing jointly. If you have two jobs (technician and M-Day) each job will withhold as if its your only job – each job might withhold \$400 less, with you having had \$800 less withheld and only getting a \$400 credit on your tax return.

## **Brighter tax news**

For qualifying, first-time home purchases between Jan. 1, 2009 and Nov. 30, 2009, taxpayers can qualify for a refundable credit of up to \$8,000 (\$4,000 for married filing separately) and generally do not have to repay the credit.

A credit for energy efficient improvements to your personal residence can net you 30 percent of costs, up to a maximum credit of \$1,500. This is applicable to windows and doors, insulation, roofs (metal and asphalt), HVAC, water heaters (non-solar) and biomass stoves. Homeowners should be aware the energy efficiency standards are higher than what they were in 2007.

Also, the American Opportunity Tax Credit makes temporary changes to the education credits (also known as Hope Credit). A portion will be refundable.

## **Guard 'Tweet's, Tube and Flickr's'**

Social networking has hit the military, as the Air National Guard has its own channel on You Tube, while the Army National Guard has a presence

on You Tube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. Although one goal is to bring in new recruits, having a presence on these sites has other benefits as well. "This is the first time people have been able to interact so directly and immediately with what we are doing in the Guard," said Rick Breitenfeldt, who oversees new media initiatives for the National Guard Bureau.

"Our NGB (social media) sites don't focus on recruiting as much as they do on telling our joint story and letting people who support the Guard have a place to share their opinions and connect with others who are in the same boat," he added.

## **Guard joins Helmets to Hardhats**

The Army National Guard has joined the U.S. Army Reserve's partnership with a nonprofit program that pairs servicemembers with construction careers. Helmets to Hardhats is a free, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty servicemembers with construction training and careers.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, signed an employer partnership initiative agreement with Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, the chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, and Darrell Roberts, executive director of Helmets to Hardhats, at a recent Pentagon ceremony.

## **Summer safety message**

All of you – Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and our families – are our most valuable resource and it's paramount we adhere to a "Back to the Basics" approach to safety. It's incumbent upon us as leaders to stress the importance of using proper judgement when engaging in off-duty activities.

While there is no shortage of hazardous, off-duty activities, please give special emphasis to: Boating and watercraft safety; motorcycle safety awareness; click-it-or-ticket driving safety; driving under the influence and fatigue; grilling and food preparation; heat injury prevention; water and swimming safety; camping and hiking safety; adverse weather; and extreme sports.

Safety is extremely important to us and we ask you to make it a focus at every level. It is our responsibility to remain safety-focused. The National Guard thanks you for your service and challenge each one of you to make this summer season the safest in National Guard Bureau history.



Saluting Iowa's Heroes

# Gold Star Military Museum



Vol. No. 5

Spring 2009

Issue No. 2



A World War II reenactor demonstrates military equipment to young visitors during the Memorial Day Museum Open House and S.O.S. breakfast held at the Freedom Center Armory.

## Museum hosts annual Memorial Day celebration at new Freedom Center Armory

By Col. (Ret.) Russell Bierl

Over 3,000 people visited Camp Dodge for the Memorial Day Museum Open House and S.O.S. breakfast hosted by the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum and the Iowa National Guard. Visitors began arriving well before 5 a.m. for the "Same Old Stuff" breakfast at the new Freedom Center Armory.

According to museum officials, "This is the largest crowd we have hosted in the past three years of Memorial Day events. At one time the mess line stretched from the drill hall, down the corridor, to the front door of the Freedom Center."

Van Hardin, of WHO Radio's Van and Bonnie Show,

broadcast their Memorial Day program live from the Freedom Center drill floor, from 5 to 9 a.m. Visitors were also treated to a large military vehicle display, including a World War I Liberty Truck, World War II Jeep and Weapons Carrier, Korean War Jeep and ¾ Ton Truck, Vietnam-era M151 Jeep and modern Armored Security Vehicle, (ASV) currently operated by the 186<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

**Memorial Day  
Continued on page M2**

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## Memorial Day Continued on page M2

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Brig. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and his family partook of the S.O.S. breakfast and enjoyed visiting with the Soldiers and area residents in attendance. Orr fired the 105mm Howitzer in a salute to our fallen veterans at the close of the day-long program.

The large crowd also enjoyed a flyover by a National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and the privately-owned WWII-era Army PT-19 trainer, flown by Brig. Gen. Tim Griffith, former Iowa Air National Guard Chief of Staff and co-piloted by Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Curator, Mike Vogt,. The day's events were coordinated by Col. (Ret.) Robert King.

Representative Tom Latham presented six, long-overdue service awards to Army Spc. Richard Corey, from Dexter, Iowa, during an awards ceremony conducted at the Freedom Center drill hall. Corey earned these awards, which included the Army Commendation Medal and the Iraqi Service Ribbon, for service with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Iraq.

Bob Holliday, president of the Iowa National Guard Memorial Association, thanked the gathered volunteers, Soldiers and re-enactors supporting the Memorial Day

Museum event, who all assisted in making this open house memorial event a grand success.

As Holliday noted, "We invite all of our Iowa Gold Star Military Museum friends to come and visit us again next year in our new museum building addition which will be completed in December 2009."

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*Bottom photo - Brig. Gen. James and Vicki Kessler (left), Maj. Gen. Bud and Bobbie Lawson and Brig. Gen. Tim Orr (right) enjoy the "real Army S.O.S. breakfast". Top Right photo - Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Arthur and Pvt. 1st Class Ann Lewis serve more hungry customers during the Memorial Day open house. The mess section served more than 1,500 S.O.S. breakfasts in a three-hour span. Bottom right photo - Col. (Ret.) Robert King, former Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Officer, renders a salute during the playing of "Taps" at the conclusion of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Memorial Day open house. Staff Sgt. Treg Marcellus, 34th Army Band, played "Taps." The conclusion also included a Blackhawk helicopter flyover and the firing of the salute guns. Bottom Left - Congressman Tom Latham presents an award to Spc. Richard Corey. The medals were earned while Corey was serving on active duty in Iraq, with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.*





## Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824  
(515) 252-4531  
[www.lowanationalguard.com](http://www.lowanationalguard.com)  
E-mail: [goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov](mailto:goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov)

**Museum hours**  
Mon. - Sat., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
(Except for holiday weekends)  
Retiree Coffee every Wednesday at 9 a.m.



# ***Missing In America Project memorializes eight Iowa vets***

by Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl

The Iowa National Guard and Iowa National Guard Memorial Association supported the Missing In America Project at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter, on April 24. More than 2,000 people attended the memorial service for eight Iowa servicemen who had no one to claim their remains after their passing.

The Missing in America Project supports the burial of the cremains of veterans who have been forgotten in mortuaries and state hospitals across the country. The MIA Association found the remains of eight unclaimed Iowans, which included three Vietnam veterans, three Korean War veterans, and two World War II veterans.

The American Legion of Iowa and the Old Guard Riders were the main sponsors of the event. Chaplain Jeff Clark gave the eulogy and final service for the veterans at the committal shelter of the cemetery. An Iowa National Guard Color Guard, Firing Squad, and 34th Army Band bugler supported the ceremony under the leadership of Sgt. Maj. Timothy Perkins.

Other Iowa National Guard attendees included Air National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Derek Hill, Chaplain

(Maj.) Gary Selof and Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl.

The mission of the MIAP project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect.

The impetus for this program began in November 2006, after the Idaho State Veterans cemetery interred 21 cremains of forgotten veterans, with full military honors and the dignity these fallen heroes so richly deserved.

The second phase of the MIA Project will be the creation of a network of individuals working with local funeral homes, state, and national agencies to ensure, from now on, the cremated remains of any unclaimed veteran will be identified, claimed and interred in a timely manner. This ongoing project will most likely be a cooperative effort between many voluntary service organizations.

This lengthy project will require many man-hours to ensure we have done our utmost to discover every forgotten veteran and procure each a dignified resting place. This will also be a labor of love, a task of redemption, for a debt of service that can never be repaid.

# Iowa ESGR hosts employer awards

On May 2, the Iowa Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held its annual Employer Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines.

This event, which recognizes employers from around the state of Iowa for their continued support of employees who serve in the military, recognized 22 companies for their support.

The State Chair Award is presented by the Iowa ESGR State Chair, Barry Spear, to employers that show continued support of their employees who serve in the Reserve Components. This year, three 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-one

Iowa employers have been selected to receive this award, which is the second-highest award the Iowa ESGR can confer.

The Pro Patria award is the highest honor a state ESGR Committee can give to employers. 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 Reserves.

This year, three companies received this honor: Decker Truck Lines of Fort Dodge; The Printer, Inc., of Des Moines; and Iowa State Patrol Post #14, of Ottumwa. All three companies showed exceptional support for not only their employee, but for others who are in the military, as well.

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

## **Pro Patria Recipients**

Decker Truck Lines, Fort Dodge

The Printer, Inc., Des Moines

Iowa State Patrol, Post 14, Ottumwa

## **'Above & Beyond' Award Recipients**

Eaton Corporation, Shenandoah

Shaw Electric, Dubuque

Hawkey Concrete, Mediapolis

Tri-City Electric Company, Davenport

Dr. Pepper Snapples Group, Davenport

Eaton Corporation, Belmont

Evergreen Packaging, Inc., Cedar Rapids

Heidman Law Firm, Sioux City

Iowa Highway Patrol Post 13, Mt. Pleasant

City of Bettendorf Police Department

Pella Corporation, Pella

Alliant Energy, Dubuque

Marsh Affinity, Urbandale

Iowa Board of Parole, Des Moines

RGS Services, Grimes

West Des Moines Dental Center

Charles City Police Department

Sears, Dubuque

Wells Blue Bunny, LeMars

Mason City Police Department

Red Oak School District

## **State Chairman's Award**

GKN Offhighway Systems, Armstrong

Van Meter Industrial, Cedar Rapids

Winnebago Industries, Forest City



# Through the Ranks

by Senior Enlisted Advisor  
Command Sgt. Doyle Norris

For the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on our nation, the Iowa Army National Guard is focusing on Annual Training periods. We currently are experiencing the lowest number of Soldiers deployed from the State of Iowa since the airport security missions immediately began after the attacks and when the 194th Field Artillery Battalion was mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle in 2002.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team headed to Camp Ripley, Minn., in late May with all its battalions, except for the Brigade Support battalion and the Field Artillery battalion. The 334th Brigade Support Battalion accomplished annual training at Camp Dodge in May, concentrating on technical and staff training. The 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery will head for Camp Grayling, Mich. in late August for new equipment training.

The 734th Regional Support Group and the bulk of their subordinate units headed to South Dakota to participate in Operation Golden Thunder in early June. Last year, the 734th and the rest of the Iowa units on the ground were



the first units in the history of the Iowa Army National Guard to be recalled from annual training to assist the citizens of Iowa during the terrible floods of 2008.

We also have some companies doing annual training in locations such as Fort McCoy and Volk Field, Wisc.; Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.; as well as in the state of West Virginia. Our Officer Candidate Classes will again train in the state of Washington.

A final footnote... Our new Adjutant General is a fantastic, energetic leader. He has taken the time to evaluate where we are as a state and is slowly making changes that are needed for our organization to be successful in the future.

One of his first changes is that he would like to refer to those we now refer to as retirees as "alumni." Alumni continue to serve and many of you who have chosen to retire do just that.

Whether it's in support of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or for those who just check in with their local armory or air base from time to time, your care and concerns are appreciated.

The benefits you enjoy as a retiree were earned and are far better than we could have ever imagined. So, your support of the change in terms would be greatly appreciated. It really does express the sentiment that our current leadership team wants to portray.

As I said earlier in this article, we are currently at a lull in the number of Soldiers and Airmen deployed.

However, as long as our Nation is at war, we need to stand ready to help support the military initiatives that our country's leaders order the Department of Defense to undertake.

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***"However, as long as  
our Nation is at war,  
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to help support  
the military initiatives that our  
country's leaders order  
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to undertake."***

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### **Welcome to Sgt. 1st Class Bullock**

The Education office would like to welcome a new member to the Education team. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Bullock was hired as the Montgomery GI Bill Manager in January 2009. Bullock's duties include GI Bill responsibilities, kicker actions, education assistance and control number requests. Bullock also serves as a senior instructor for Company H, Recruit Sustainment Program in Cedar Rapids. Welcome aboard Sgt. 1st Class Bullock!

### **New post-9/11 GI Bill**

As many of you are aware there will be a new Post 9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33 starting Aug. 1, 2009. Applications are now being processed online at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). To learn more about this benefit, visit the VA website. Remember, this benefit may be used only for educational purposes and is an irrevocable decision if you decide to participate. To become eligible for Ch 33, Soldiers must have at least 90 aggregate days of Active Duty, or serve 30 days continuous with a service connected disability.

### **Website to use CAC access**

Starting May 8, 2009, the National Guard Benefits website located on the [iowanationalguard.com](http://iowanationalguard.com) website will only allow Common Access Card (CAC) access. This is the website all National Guard Soldiers (except AGR) will use to apply for Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance. Soldiers will need to purchase a CAC reader, or go to their local armory to apply for Fed TA. After Soldiers apply for Federal TA, they will receive two emails. If you do not receive either email within five to 10 business days, please contact the education office. Maj. Donald Enright will be the point of contact for your FTA questions while Spc. Lisa Langel-Cordes is on deployment. This is a first-come, first-served benefit.

### **Deadline upcoming**

Deadline for the National Guard Assistance Program (NGEAP) online application is August 31 for the fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester. If you apply late, and must enter a code, you can either contact your VA certifying official or the Education Office.

Once Soldiers have applied for NGEAP and the State Tuition Assistance Manager has received the application, the manager will determine if the Soldier is eligible for the tuition assistance. Remember that each Soldier/Airman will receive two emails when applying for

NGEAP. The first email will tell them if the Education received the application. The second will tell them if they have been approved.

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## From the Education Office



Upon receiving the second email, take it to your college or university financial aid office and they will request the tuition assistance. For spring 2009, we had over 1,200 Soldiers/Airman use this benefit. Remember, this is a first-come, first-served tuition assistance.

### **ACT available for Soldiers**

Another important test is the ACT, for Soldiers that are serving. This free test is offered at JFHQ in Johnston. Many need this test for college acceptance. If interested in taking the ACT test, contact [educationia@ng.army.mil](mailto:educationia@ng.army.mil). They will set up an exam date and results may take up to 4-6 weeks.

### **Contact your VA Certifying Official**

If a Soldier is in school, they must contact the VA Certifying Official (VACO) at their college or university, to obtain GI Bill benefits. The MGIB-RC, CH 1606 went up to \$329 on Oct. 1, 2008. Once the paperwork is sent to the VA in St. Louis, or any other Regional VA, it may take 10-12 weeks to process the claim, so try to start the process early. If you are applying for CH. 1606 and need to obtain your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), it may be found in your iPERMS Soldier file. Also, provide your kicker contract if you have one. Don't forget your end-of-month verification, by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or the W.A.V.E. program online.

When applying for Ch 1607, for those that have deployed, you need to 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 for this benefit, by calling 1-877-823-2378. For those who have a kicker, it also needs to be submitted with the application. All documents can be

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**Education Office**  
**continued on page 19**

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# Buena Vista to add ROTC program

by **Officer Candidate Brian M. Clark**

Faculty and students are excited for the opportunities the new Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program is bringing to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.

The faculty is excited because it coincides with the mission of the university: Leadership, hands-on learning and student development. It will bring new ideas, expand the student base and be incorporated into the existing leadership curriculum of the university.

While many students choose not to attend private universities due to high costs, faculty feel this program will give more students the opportunity to attend.

"Offering a ROTC program was a great match for the mission of the university and a great opportunity to help students attend," said Dr. David Evans, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

The ROTC program is expected to have a positive impact on recruitment of new students who have a special interest in a military career, he said. The BVU program will be the only one offered in western Iowa and will be a branch of the ROTC program at Iowa State University (ISU).

"This program will make it economically feasible for more students to attend BVU, and will provide those students with excellent leadership training and career opportunities," Evans said. "It also allows BVU to have a role in educating the next generation of military leaders, and thus to have the university's values and ideals represented in the officer corps."

ROTC pays for tuition, which is \$25,540 per year for full-time status. The program also allows the additional benefit of a GRFD scholarship to pay for room and board the last two years of attendance. Soldiers who are members of the Simultaneous Membership Program can also collect the Montgomery G.I. Bill, along with a stipend

of \$350-\$500 a month. ROTC adds an additional \$350 per month kicker to the G.I. Bill.

The G.I. Bill can provide up to \$1,300 per month tax-free with the addition of a kicker, if the student had deployed, or was eligible for Chapter 30. There is also a tax-free stipend of \$1,200 a year for books. Soldiers in the program are non-deployable, which allows them to finish their education without interruption.

While ROTC brings many financial benefits to the table, its greatest benefit is in the personal development, teamwork and leadership opportunities the program provides. It will provide students at BVU an advantage to succeed within the university and in roles outside of the university as well.

1st Lt. Jared Gledhill is excited to help develop the BVU ROTC program. "Our program is a great opportunity for the Iowa National Guard's men and women to go to a great private university for little to no cost for the soldier," Gledhill said.

With input from BVU, the Army has started the process to hire an ROTC instructor. The instructor will be employed by the Army but have faculty status. Other ROTC programs in Iowa are offered by the University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, University of Dubuque and Coe College.

For more information about ROTC, the final 2009 Officer/Warrant Officer Symposium will be held at the Freedom Center (Building S70) on Camp Dodge, August 15, beginning at 8 a.m..



*Buena Vista President Frederick V. Moore (left) and Lt. Col. John Soupene, Professor of Military Science, shake hands following the signing of the formal agreement between Buena Vista University and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (Contributed photo).*

# The question is: What's in a name?

In his classic play about human love, William Shakespeare has Juliet ask the question, "What's in a name?"

As she thinks about Romeo, Juliet asks:

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose,

By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes."

Juliet's whole idea, of course, is since their families are enemies, if his name were something else, then all would be well.

Names are an interesting thing. On the one hand, they can have very little meaning. But, on the other hand, there are certain names that have a great deal of meaning. Have you ever had to tell your kids when they keep asking for things, "Look our name is not Rockefeller."

I have a little problem with names, as my first name is Alton. I have always gone by Jim.

One time I applied for a job at Huffman's Welding. The interview was really not going well, so when Bob Huffman looked at the application and said, "Well Alton, what do they call you, Al?"

Since I knew I wasn't going to get the job I said, "Sure, everyone calls me Al."

Then he said, "So Al, can you start on Monday?" I worked there three years and everyone called me Al.

However, sometimes names are very important. In Psalm 91, we see some names that are given to God and these names of God tell us something of Himself.

In verse one, God is called the "God Most High." It suggests the exaltedness and overwhelming majesty of God, signifying the supremacy of the deity. God is seen here as the God of power and might. He is God most high. He is the God who is above all other Gods.

God is the only one in the universe that doesn't have to answer to someone else. God is completely sovereign and totally in control. There is no higher power than God.

Also, in verse one, he's called "the Almighty," or "the all-powerful." We see here both his position: "Most High," and power: "Almighty."

Next, he's called "Lord." This is the personal name for God. In Exodus 3:13, when Moses asked God what his name is – this is the name God gives to Moses. It means, "I am that I am, or I will be what I will be." It carries the idea of God's self-sufficiency.

**The Iowa Militiaman**



## Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain (Col.) Jim Luder  
Iowa State Chaplain

### *Psalm 91*

*1 He who dwells in the shelter  
of the Most High will rest  
in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*2 I will say of the LORD,  
"He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*

It carries the idea of God as the eternal one. God is greater than time. God is greater than space. God created time – He Himself has no beginning or end. God created space – He is the first and the last.

While we say this is the name of God, in a way, it really isn't. Everything we know of has a name. We need names to distinguish one thing from another.

So, everything in the universe is given a name. God named Adam, Adam named Eve and the animals. Eve named her children, and ever since, somebody, somewhere, has named everything else that has a name.

But no one named God, because there was no one before God. God is not just one object among others, He is the source of everything. All other things exist, because he created them and allowed them to change and develop.

He simply exists "on his own" and therefore is not given a name like other things. He is simply the eternal one who is, was, and always will be. The Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

But in the second verse, the psalmist gets really personal, "He is My God." He is not just the God of Moses. He is not just the God of our fathers. He is not just the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, But he is my God.

It doesn't matter how long we've been a member of a particular church, or how many times we're baptized, what matters is our relationship with God -- He's "my" God.



## Alaskan exercise offers prime experience

by Lt. Col. Mike McMillian  
132nd Fighter Wing

One Red Air MiG aircraft had already been splashed and another group of adversaries were avoided altogether. This kept Blue Air strike aircraft untargeted so they could deliver bombs into the command bunker directing the surface-to-air missile system engaging them.

As the threat warning system audio blared in their ears, pilots of the Iowa National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing "Hawkeyes" dispensed chaff in an attempt to break the lock of the surface-to-air missile system's radar.

Finally, after a minute that seemed more like 10, the surface-to-air missile system's radar dropped lock long enough for the pilots to deliver their weapons squarely into the heart of the bunker. All that was left was their 80-mile dash for home through the mountains of Alaska, at 500 feet and 540 knots.

Scenarios like this one played out 114 times for the 132nd Fighter Wing, as they tested the limits of their tactical flying abilities in the Red Flag North exercise at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, from April 15 to 2 May 2.

Red Flag-Alaska, a series of Pacific Air Forces commander-directed field training exercises for U.S. forces, provides joint offensive counter-air, interdiction, close air support and large force employment training in a simulated combat environment.

It provides U.S. and allied pilots, aircrews and operational support personnel the opportunity to train and improve their air combat skills in preparation for a myriad of worldwide operations.

Conducted on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex, the largest training range in America at more than 65,000 square miles, air operations are flown out of Eielson Air Force Base,

in Fairbanks and Elmendorf Air Force Base, in Anchorage. Units are organized as an air expeditionary wing at Eielson, with a subordinate air expeditionary group at Elmendorf.

Near the conclusion of the Vietnam War, it was determined if a pilot could survive his first 10 flying missions, the chances of being shot down during the rest of the year-long tour dropped dramatically.

Red Flag was then created to give Air Force pilots a chance to get those first 10 critical missions under their belt before encountering the real thing. To achieve the level of realism needed to simulate flying in an actual major conflict, Red Flag North deploys up to 14 Red Air (Bad Guys) aircraft and 19 surface-to-air threat systems, with most of those being actual adversary systems manned by live operators.

To adequately counter the threat, Blue Air (Good Guys) launched 30-plus aircraft packages covering the full spectrum of combat capabilities; E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), KC-135 tankers, EA-6B jamming aircraft, F-15 air-to-air fighters and F-16 multi-role fighters all working together to degrade the enemy's air-to-air and air-to-surface defenses to successfully put bombs on target.

The 132nd FW supplied six multi-role fighters in each of these 30-plus aircraft packages.

Faced with the most realistic and difficult major conflict training profiles flown anywhere in the world, the "Hawkeyes" of the 132nd FW excelled.

And thanks to the hard-working 132nd FW Maintainers, the unit was the only fighter squadron at Red Flag North to launch all scheduled sorties, as well as the most lines configured with live or heavy-weight inert ordnance.

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**Tag Sends**  
*continued from page 3*

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drill weekends in order to reach both full-time and M-day personnel.

I am tremendously impressed with the Soldiers, Airmen, and leaders I've meet during these visits and confident they will take the Iowa National Guard to the next level. Many of these have deployed once, twice, and in some cases, even three times in support of the Global War on Terrorism. I am reminded

that this sacrifice is voluntarily and that those individuals are making a difference in our world of their own freewill and without a draft.

However, for many of our members, it is not just themselves, but their families who are sacrificing and serving. It is the unsung heroes at home that keep the porch light burning, pay the bills, and take care of the kids, while our Soldiers and Airmen serve overseas. It is truly a team effort by all to continue serving our state and nation.

In my next column, I'll talk to you about my command mission, vision, campaign plan and my priorities.

## 132nd earns prestigious award

The 132nd Fighter Wing, recently won the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, presented to the most outstanding Air National Guard unit in the United States equipped with jet fighter or reconnaissance aircraft.

Last year was busy for the 132nd, as 387 Airmen deployed to the Middle East for combat operations in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. In addition, members deployed to Puerto Rico; Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nev.; Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center, Ga.; and Eielson Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Members also deployed to Arizona for Operation Jump Start, constructing barriers for enhanced border security. Last June, essentially all home station Airmen participated in response and recovery operations in support of Flood 2008 operations.

The Wing is continuing to build on its record of over 83,000 flying hours without a major mishap. The last Class A accident was in April 1989.

This award is not the Wing's first national award. The 132d has received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award eight times.



*Tech. Sgt. Oscar Sanchez and Tech. Sgt. Brian Cox, from Sioux City's 185th Air Refueling Wing, recently took home several awards in the 2008 Air National Guard media contest. Cox was awarded first place in the "Portrait/Personality Photo" category, while*

*Sanchez received a first place nod for his "Feature Photo" entry, second place finishes in the "Pictorial Photograph" and "Picture Story" categories and a third in "News Photography." Judges scored 200 entries, a 75 percent increase in total submissions.*

# Are you ready for retirement?

## courtesy of Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As an Army National Guard Soldier, you are often quick to respond, "Yes, I'm ready."

But, are you ready to retire? Have you taken the time to plan for your future? And, more importantly, do you know the Army has a retirement program that'll help you and your family prepare for and support you after retirement?

Retirement is a process, not an event, and it is a complex and life-changing one. Knowing where to go for assistance will help you and your family in preparing for retirement.

For Guard Soldiers and families, support comes from your State G-1 Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) offices, State Joint Force Headquarters and state Military Personnel Management Officers (MPMOs).

For all components, Retirement Services Officers (RSOs) at Army installations worldwide (listed at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/rso.asp>) support retiring and retired Soldiers and families.

There are two types of retirement points earned towards non-regular retirement: Inactive Duty (IDT) points and Active Duty (AD) points.

IDT Points may be earned by:

- Inactive Duty Training/Unit Drill
- Equivalent Training (ET)
- Additional Flight Training Period (AFTP)
- Additional Unit Training Assembly (AUTA)
- Jump Proficiency Additional Unit Training Assembly
- Funeral Honors Duty (FHD)
- Junior Leader/Civil Disturbance Leadership Training
- Training Preparation Assembly
- Annual Training Assembly (ATA) Individual Use Other
- Mobile Conduct of Fire Trainer (MCOFT)
- Management/Support Assembly

Each full anniversary year will earn a Soldier 15 membership points (partial years will earn partial points).

Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) awards one point for every three credit hours completed, provided the Soldier is not in an active duty status at time of completion.

Originally established by law in 1949, the maximum number of IDT points a Soldier could earn was 60 points. The points allowed depend on the time of service:

Before Sept. 23, 1996 = 60 points

From Sept. 23, 1996 until Oct. 30, 2000 = 75 points

From Oct. 30, 2000 until Oct. 30, 2007 = 90 points

Since Oct. 30, 2007 = 130 points

You can find more information and specific guidance in Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1215.7 (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/121507p.pdf>).

Next, you need to know how many points you have earned. RPAM, formerly known as Retirement Points Accounting System (RPAS) provides an automated method to ensure timely recording and verification of all retirement points earned during your career.

Soldiers must receive an NGB Form 23A and A1 (Annual and Detailed Point Statement) every year. If not, contact your unit readiness NCO or state JFHQ RPAM. If you find a problem with your points statement, contact one of these offices for a correction.

When a retirement date is set, the state JFHQ will transfer the Soldier to the servicing Transition Center (a list is at: [http://www.militaryconnection.com/army\\_trans.asp](http://www.militaryconnection.com/army_trans.asp)) for final processing, discharging the Soldier from state-only (or federal recognition from the State ARNG, for officers) for assignment to the Army Reserve and placement on a retired list.

State MPMO/G-1 or other designated staff members conduct pre-retirement briefings during the 18th or 19th year of service. At your briefing, you'll learn about Reserve Components Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP), retirement benefits, medical care, discharge procedures, and the retired pay application process. Spouses should also attend these briefings.

One of the most important decisions you'll make for your family is Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) election. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is the only way retired pay continues after death of the retiree.

The primary purpose of SBP is to provide survivors with a portion of a retired Soldier's pay. Retired pay stops when a retiree dies – survivors do not receive any monthly payment unless the retiree elected some level of SBP coverage before he/she retired. Retirees cannot elect SBP coverage after retirement.

RC-SBP allows RC Soldiers who have received Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay at age 60 to continue a portion of future retired pay entitlement to their enrolled

beneficiary(ies) if they die before receiving retired pay at 60. There are three Options:

Option A (Decline to Make an Election Until Age 60) (No RC-SBP Participation). If you choose this option and die before 60, your beneficiaries won't receive any portion of your future retired pay entitlement. If you are married at the time of election, your spouse must concur with the election not to enroll in the RC-SBP.

If you have no eligible dependents when you make your RC-SBP election and you later marry, or acquire a dependent, you have one year from the date of the marriage or acquiring the child to make an election. That election becomes effective upon the first anniversary of the marriage or acquiring the dependent child.

Option B (Deferred Annuity). If you die before your 60th birthday, your beneficiary is entitled to an RC-SBP annuity on the day you would have reached 60. If you die after 60, the annuity is payable immediately. Option B becomes your SBP election at age 60. If you are married when you make this election, your spouse must concur.

Option C (Immediate Annuity). Under this option, annuity payments to designated beneficiaries begin immediately upon your death, whether you die before or after age 60. Option C becomes the Soldier's SBP election at 60. The spouse must concur if the retiring Soldier elects to cover less than full retired pay.

What happens if your spouse doesn't concur with your SBP election? You're automatically enrolled in RC-SBP Option C, covering full

retired pay.

You must complete the DD Form 2656-5, Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) Election Certificate, 90 days from receipt of the letter for an RC-SBP election.

For National Guard Soldiers and Families, military retirement is a two-part process. Before reaching age 60 and the start of retired pay and medical care, you are in the "gray area." As a "gray area" Reserve retired Soldier, you will have some benefits – you can use commissary, Exchange, and installation facilities and space-available travel (for you, not your spouse until you reach age 60).

In the "gray area," you have the option of purchasing coverage in both the non-subsidized retiree dental plan and the federal long-term insurance program. You will also start receiving the Army Retirement Services bulletin, "Army Echoes." To receive Echoes and get back issues by e-mail, go to <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp>.

If you choose to resign from the Guard until age 60, you are not eligible for these programs or benefits. You must keep the Human Resources Command-St. Louis informed of your address and status both for mobilization purposes and to ensure they have your address when it's time to mail your retirement packet at 1-800-318-5298, ext. 4.

To learn more about the retirement process, contact your Unit Readiness NCO or JFHQ Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) office representative, Sgt. Joshua Eberly, at (515) 252-4499.

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### **Education Office** **continued from page 13**

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found in your iPERMS Soldier file.

If you need to know how to use iPERMS, contact your unit. For those applying for programs other than college, contact the VA or visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) to apply for the GI Bill.

Remember, if you have been deployed 90 days to one year, you can receive 40 percent of the Active Duty GI Bill. If deployed one to two years, you can get 60 percent, and for 2 continuous years, or multiple deployments that add up to 36 months, you can receive 80 percent. Chapter 30 MGIB is \$1,321.

#### **MGIB-AD eligibility**

For those Soldiers who became eligible

for MGIB-AD, Chapter 30, you will need to submit your DD2366, or DD 2366-1 (if available) and a copy of your mobilization orders to your VACO. These forms can be found in your iPERMS Soldier file if you bought into the Chapter 30.

You still need to do your end-of-the-month verification by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or the W.A.V.E. program online. The rates can be found on the [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) web site.

#### **Need help choosing a degree?**

If you are struggling choosing a degree, the Education Office has updated the Career Counseling tab, on the [iowanationaguard.com](http://iowanationaguard.com) website. This will allow you to do an online application and the Education Support Center will provide you with a degree plan. The best way to contact the Education Office is [educationia@ng.army.mil](mailto:educationia@ng.army.mil), or call 1-515-252-4468.

*To those family members whose Solder is currently at Basic Combat Training or Advanced Individual Training -- Thank you! Your son or daughter left Iowa a citizen and will return as a Citizen-Solder. You have reason to be proud and we are grateful to have you as part of the National Guard Family.*

- The Recruiting & Retention Force



**Recruiting & Retention Battalion  
Needs Your Support**

**Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (G-RAP)**

<http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com>

G-Rap is one of the best force multipliers in the history of the National Guard. We need the efforts of the entire team to build readiness within our ranks and G-RAP creates and rewards (\$2,000 for enlisted accession; up to \$7,500 for officer accession) to those who participate. The following individuals are eligible to participate in G-RAP: M-Day officers and enlisted Soldiers; AGR enlisted Soldiers; Currently mobilized enlisted Soldiers; Soldiers assigned on ADOS orders (not assigned to Recruiting and Retention) and ARNG Retirees with 20+ years of verified service. If a person has signed a contract as a traditional M-Day Soldier, they are eligible to submit an application. An applicant is not required to complete BCT to be eligible to participate. Talk with your unit recruiter about this program.



**LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**



Officer/Warrant Officer Symposium - The third information briefing on officer and warrant officer opportunities for 2009 will take place on Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Freedom Center (Building S70). Contact Maj. Amy Price (Basic Branch Officer) at (515) 252-4136, or [amy.price@us.army.mil](mailto:amy.price@us.army.mil); or Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeff Lee (Warrant Officer) at (515) 252-4596, or [Jeffrey.leel@us.army.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.leel@us.army.mil) to register for more information. Please come see how you can take the next step in your military career and take advantage of the outstanding opportunities in our "leadership academies."

