



Militiaman

Aerial duel
in Big Sky
country



Ground Zero flag arrives in Iowa

CSM Norris gives final salute

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On the cover -- F-16's from the Iowa National Air Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing streak through Montana airspace seeking out F-15's from the Montana Air National Guard. Iowa's smaller, more maneuverable F16's, provided "dis-similar air-combat training" for the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing. (Iowa National Guard photo)

The Iowa Militiaman Summer 2009

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Our new mission, vision and customer focus

As part of my transition into office, I met with all the senior leaders from the Army and Air National Guard, both officer and Non-Commissioned Officers. It was during this meeting that I presented my leadership and command philosophy for the future.

I want every leader to know our new mission statement, our new vision statement, and our new customer focus.

These are listed in



Our new Mission
"The Iowa National Guard trains, mobilizes, deploys, sustains and reconstitutes units; Providing ready forces in defense of our nation, state, and community"

Our new Vision
"An organization of excellence, dedicated to providing a ready, full spectrum, joint capable force, serving our Nation, State, and Community"

Our Customer Focus
"Do what is right to take care of Soldiers, Airmen and their Families' needs"

the boxes below.

I created an Iowa National Guard "Campaign Plan," which focuses our efforts and energy through a series of priorities, focus areas, and key processes. It is important to all members of the Iowa National Guard that they understand our organization's six priorities (See below).

Since taking office, we have made several changes to our organization. We have hired a new Government Relations Officer who is responsible for synchronizing all the state and federal legislative issues and initiatives.

As I assume command of the Iowa National Guard, you need to know this organization continues to be strong, "Iowa Strong." We continue to remain at the top of many measured categories and near the top in all the rest of them.

Granted, we have room for improvement, but you will find organizational excellence scattered throughout this state. We have been blessed over the years with great leaders who provided the leadership and created the conditions and standards to allow us to grow and achieve our benchmarks.

TAG Sends
continued on page 15

The six priorities of our organization

- * Maintain our organizational readiness (Center of Gravity)
- * Provide trained war fighters and Airmen
- * Develop Soldiers, Airmen and leaders
- * Care for Soldiers, Airmen, families, and employers
- * Provide a joint domestic response
- * Adapt and transform to the operational force



Ground zero flag trek offers hope, reconciliation

by 2nd Lt. Brandon Cochran

On Wednesday, September 2, approximately 60 Iowans viewed a 17-foot by 32-foot reminder from Sept. 11, 2001, a day of infamy not yet eight years in America's past. Made possible by the United States Emergency Chaplains Corps (USECC), the Ground Zero flag paid a visit to the Iowa state capitol enroute to the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp in Little Sioux, Iowa.

The product of USECC's 2008 9-11 outreach project, the flag, initially saved by a construction engineer at Ground Zero, was conserved through the meticulous work of Greensburg, Kan. residents.

USECC works with Police, Fire and EMS agencies around the country in time of disaster. Every year on the anniversary of 9/11 they do an outreach and rebuild somewhere in the country that was hit by disaster.

This year, they are escorting the Ground Zero Flag through Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, with their final stop at the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp. In 2008 this camp was hit by a tornado and four Boy Scouts lost their lives.

The product of USECC's 2008 9-11 outreach project, the flag, initially saved by a construction engineer at Ground Zero, was conserved through the meticulous work of Greensburg, Kan. residents.

Escorted to the second floor mezzanine by a host of Emergency Medical Service workers, firefighters, police officers, Boy Scouts, veterans, and Iowa National Guard servicemembers, the 9-11 flag was lowered over the railing in solemn remembrance of those who suffered at the hands of terrorism, as well as unpredictable natural disasters.

Among those participating in the event were 11 Iowa National Guard members, both Army and Air, who were involved after a tornado ripped through the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp. On June 11, 2008, Troop C, 1st Troop, 113th Cavalry Dismounted Reconnaissance unit out of Le Mars, Iowa and Company D, Forward Support Reconnaissance Company, 334th Brigade Support Battalion out of Sioux City, Iowa, were mobilized to the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp.

Both units provided search and rescue support, while members of the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing provided generators and lighting units to aid

in the rescue efforts. Members of the Iowa National Guard team worked throughout the night, providing exhaustive search and rescue support before being released at 4:15 a.m. to return home.

Following a moment of silence, taps was played. Brig. Gen. Timothy Orr, the Adjutant General of Iowa, began the ceremony with opening remarks to the assembled Boy Scouts, service members, military and civilians. Orr touched upon the events that dominated the summer of 2008 –severe tornados and historic floods.

As he reflected upon the teamwork exhibited by state workers, Iowa National Guard members, and civilians during those times of hardship, he reminded the scouts how, they too, make a difference. By comparing the Scout oath and law to the Iowa National Guard's warrior ethos, Orr noted how one percent of those wearing a uniform, whether military or civilian emergency responder, started in the Boy Scouts. Subsequent remarks were rendered by Iowa Governor Chet Culver and USECC Director Steve Holden.

The Iowa State Capitol was one of several stops across three states for the USECC convoy. The flag arrived at Little Sioux Boy Scout Ranch on September 3 to conduct USECC's annual 9-11 outreach project.

This year's project, an open air chapel on the site where the four scouts lost their lives, was dedicated on Sunday, September, 6.





F16's/F15's face off in aerial duel over Montana

By 1st Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

Montana is a long way from California's Miramar Navy Air Station, made famous in the 1986 movie "Top Gun," but the action in the "The Big Sky" state was just as intense for two Air National Guard fighter wings the past summer.

Pilots from the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing, with their smaller, more maneuverable F16's, were more than happy to provide "dissimilar air-combat training" for pilots of the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing throughout Eastern Montana airspace.

While the 120th flew the F16 for many years, the "Vigilantes" began conversion to the older, larger, two-engine F15C fighter jet in January.

The bottom line, however, is the training provided by the Iowa fighter wing will assist the Montanans in becoming F15 combat

operational and mission ready by 2010.

Lt. Col. Troy Havener, who goes by the call-sign "Da'Nob," was one of three Iowa pilots to have had flight time on the F15. For Havener, a member of the Iowa Air National Guard since 2002, that opportunity came about while serving as an active duty Air Force pilot at Kadena Airbase in Okinawa.

Having an insider's knowledge of the opponent's aircraft, Havener said he generally knew the things that go on in their cockpit and the order in which they happen, allowing him the chance to present them problems and realistic oppositional tactics they may not otherwise face.

"We had the opportunity to orchestrate tactics that we knew would give them good training," Havener said. "We gave them as many different situations as we could, flying at supersonic speeds at 50,000 feet and then down as low as 500 feet in meeting them."

"We gave them a full spectrum of training," he said, with a smile. "We helped them push the envelope and showed them new and different things with their aircraft and its capabilities."

While the Iowans were giving the Montana pilots all they could handle, the Iowans were also benefitting from the hands-on experience. Besides the great weather and airspace, the 132nd augmented this invaluable training with deployment preparations.

The Iowans deployed six aircraft and 75 Air Guard personnel to Great Falls, including administration support, life support, intelligence specialists, and maintenance support.

For 1st Lt. Jon Harbart, a nine-year Air Guard veteran, the trip was his first such "deployment," but one he'll never forget.

"For the first time ever, I got to dogfight against a different jet fighter, while learning

the strengths and weaknesses of the F16" said Harbart. "I discovered the F16 has mostly strengths, including a good air-to-air weapon system.

"The Montana pilots have come a long way in their transition to the F15, but they also have a bit more to do to develop their proficiency in deploying against smaller, more agile fighters," he said.

Both crews faced two flight missions each day. Those flying in the morning session began their morning brief at 6:30 a.m. and then took to the Montana skies. Following the mission would be a full instrumental debriefing, complete with graphics, until 1-2 p.m. The afternoon session's preflight brief would begin at 10:30 a.m., with a 5-6 p.m. debriefing.

The air wings would meet in four-ship versus two-ship, or four-ship versus four-ship scenarios, depending on whether they were flying Defensive, or Offensive Counter Air missions. In any case, the Iowans were responsible for replicating the latest enemy fighter tactics.

The Iowa and Montana air wings got to know each other pretty well during their June 2008 deployment to Balad Air Base, Iraq. After the two states began discussions on the possibility of conducting such an exercise, Montana asked for Iowa's assistance once the units returned stateside.



A maintenance crewmember gives a "thumbs up" to Lt. Col. Andy Uribe after completing a DACT mission against the Montana Air National Guard (Iowa National Guard photo by Sr. Master Sgt. Eric Peterson).

Test Squadron builds up leadership, bonds, at Wisconsin's Volk Field

Story and photos by

Master Sgt Mike Battien

More than 100 Fort Dodge-based Airmen of the 133rd Test Squadron spent their annual training at Volk Field, Wisc. to build stronger bonds, develop leadership in their younger members and perform their jobs under deployed conditions.

The 133rd is the smallest of the three Iowa-based Air National Guard units. They specialize in testing and evaluating Ground Theater Air Control Systems (GTAC), including computer software, avionics hardware, communication systems and other mission-critical equipment for both the Air Force and Air National Guard.

Since 9-11, their operations tempo has kept the unit so busy Squadron

Commander, Lt. Col. Robin Hosch, felt it was time to get away and develop much-needed relationships between the Airmen in a neutral environment.

"We definitely tried to break up the sections. The section is the one place I know they know everybody and they get along. I want them to get to know other sections and understand their rolls and know 'How can



(Top photo) Sr. Airman Robert Conley (left) and Tech. Sgt. Blaine Kamp take part in a rousing game of "G-TAC Dodgeball." Sr. Airmen Brian Householder (left) and Dan Gish complete their 1.5 mile run. Airmen are also tested on their physical conditioning with pushups and crunches.

I assist you and what can you do for me?"'

That meant developing a week-long plan of physical fitness training and testing, morale-building exercises and casual events meant to foster opportunities for unit growth.

The Combined Readiness Training Center at Volk Field provides a perfect location to accomplish these goals. The 133rd TS shares a "sister-relationship" with the 128th Air Control Squadron, based at Volk Field, so the settings are familiar and offer all the physical facilities needed to occupy the Airmen for a week.

A new, tactical Humvee training simulator also gives Airmen a chance to practice vehicle convoy maneuvers and weapons tactics and the Squadron learned a new field-game dubbed "G-TAC Dodgeball."

Disguised as a game of dodgeball with bases and zones, it's actually a prime method for developing leadership skills and tactics. Players are given assignments by team captains and must serve those assigned roles to help defeat the opposing force. In their first day of play, squadron leaders were able to see group dynamics shift from chaotic, individual play into team-based participation.

Another advantage of working at Volk Field is the ability for 133rd Airmen to work with their counterparts from the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Communications Maintenance Airmen assembled and tested new satellite systems. Several other duty sections were able to increase their career field knowledge by completing missions in a new work area.

The acting first sergeant, Master Sgt. Clayton Mackie, had high hopes for the deployment. "I think this is an opportunity to get some of our younger troops out and experience what it's like to deploy to some place other than Fort Dodge."

"It brings us out here with the people who have been doing the leadership thing for awhile. It helps us learn and pick up some good stuff so when it's our turn to lead, we're ready for it," said Airman 1st Class Nathan Ceja-Dare.

At the end of the week, these Airmen should leave Wisconsin with a greater understanding of their own group dynamics and an ability to positively influence the capabilities of Team Iowa.



(Bottom photo)
Tech. Sgt. Chris Kennedy (Top)
Airman 1st Class Eric Brookway (Left) and Sr. Airman Nathan Hutter Airmen had the chance to practice convoy and weapons tactics in the Humvee simulator.
(Top photo) Sr. Airmen Dillin Nixon and Josh Ratcliff work with a new satellite data-transmission system. This new satellite dish was linked to an older unit by the Airmen, allowing them to train on new and familiar equipment at the same time.

Briefs

National Guard data loss

Approximately 131,000 Army National Guard members could be affected by a recent data loss, which occurred when a personal laptop owned by an Army Guard contractor was stolen. Data included personal information on Soldiers enrolled in the Army National Guard Bonus and Incentives Program.

Army Guard members affected by the data loss were notified via First Class mail. The ARNG has taken steps to establish a call center and website. The call center is open Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. The toll free number is 877-481-4957.

The National Guard Bureau has also set up a Web page at <http://www.ng.mil> for Soldiers. The Web Site provides steps on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft and who to call if a Guard member believes any fraudulent activity occurs with his or her personal information.

ESGR awards presented

Three Iowa employers received the Iowa Freedom Awards in a recent ceremony officiated by Governor Chet Culver. Dick Rue, chairman of the Iowa Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and other ESGR officials joined in the ceremony.

Recipients of the 2009 Iowa Freedom Awards included:

- * Large Employer: Decker Truck Lines, Fort Dodge;
- * Small Employer: The Printer, Inc., Des Moines; and
- * Public Sector: Iowa State Patrol Post 14, Ottumwa.

In addition to presenting the Iowa Freedom Awards, Governor Culver signed a Proclamation designating September 14 – 20 as Iowa Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.

185th Sr. Airman in food contest

The 2009 Hennessy Travelers Association's Educational Foundation (HTAEF) Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence will be held at the CIA's Greystone Campus in Napa Valley, California October 4 – 10. Sr. Airman Jeffery Demers from Sioux City's 185 Air Refueling Wing, will be among the 25 Armed Forces honorees serving in foodservice operations around the world.

Since 2006, the (HTAEF) has hosted the

annual HTAEF Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence to recognize and honor outstanding military personnel serving in foodservice operations around the world.

Gold Star medallions missing

Recently, the Gold Star medallion, located on the front of the Iowa Gold Star Museum, and the concrete Gold Star Medallion located in the rock bed in front of the building were stolen.

The Gold Star was made of steel and measured approximately 24-inches from point to point. It was of course painted Gold. The Medallion was made of concrete, unpainted and 18-inches in diameter. It displayed the National Guard Emblem.

If anyone has information regarding these items, please contact Officer Art Hague, at (515) 240-3742, or Col. (Ret) Russ Bierl, at (515) 252-4531. Bierl has offered a reward for information related to the theft.

New 132nd FW website unveiled

The 132nd Fighter Wing at the Des Moines Airport has a new cyber-home. www.132fw.ang.af.mil will take you to the unit's new online home and your source for up-to-the-minute information, pictures and video of the Wing. You can also find important links to Air Force-wide issues and news.

The 132 FW posts new material on a regular basis so log in frequently to see what the Wing is doing right now.

Holiday greetings being taped

Three Joint Hometown News Service broadcast teams have begun to tape video greetings from servicemembers stationed overseas. The greetings will be aired on commercial TV and radio stations in the United States throughout the holiday season.

Video and audio greetings are separated by state, and in some of the more populated states such as California, Texas, Florida and New York, stations will receive the tapes or DVDs based upon region.

People who have family in more than one area can do several holiday greetings.

Stations usually begin running greetings on Thanksgiving and continue through New Year's Day. Many greetings air multiple times during the holidays and usually on more than one station, said Erich Schwab, who is coordinating the program.

This is the 26th anniversary of the program.



Saluting Iowa's Heroes

Gold Star Military Museum



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Museum addition progress report

The new 18,000 square foot addition to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is now almost completed. According to museum director Russ Bierl, plans are set to move current exhibits and many new items into the building addition this fall.

The museum anticipates significant help from the Iowa National Guard and their volunteers to move the large and heavy items into the new building.

The museum plans an Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony April 8-10 and the traditional celebration of the museum's Memorial Day activities on May 24, 2010.

One of the museum's new additions is a periscope from a U.S. Navy nuclear-powered attack submarine. The 42-foot periscope, which was acquired from the

Naval Station Newport Navy base at Newport, R.I., was installed through the roof with a giant, 80-foot construction crane.

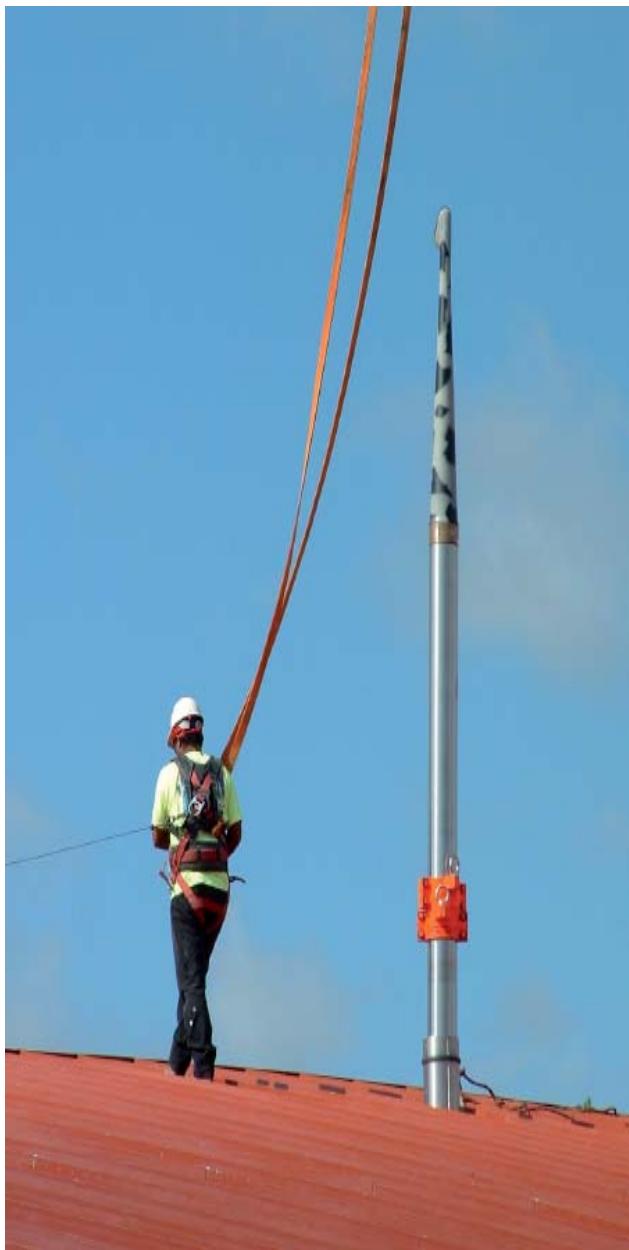
Other new exhibits at the Iowa Gold Star Museum will include a World War II-era M3 Half-Track, a Vietnam-era M113 Armored Personnel Carrier, World War I Liberty Truck and a UH-1 Huey helicopter and a AH-1 Cobra helicopter.

The Museum's 18,000-square foot addition includes an exhibit gallery four times larger than the current gallery, a multi-purpose classroom that will seat 130 people, a large lobby and an expanded library. Funding for the \$4 million project is through the State of Iowa Rebuild Infrastructure Fund.

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Summer 2009



(Above) A construction worker toils next to the new submarine periscope. Doyle E. Vande Lunde, Commander of the Iowa WWII Submarine Veterans Association, (left) looks through the newly installed periscope at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum new addition.

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

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum's permanent exhibits tell the stories of Iowans who have served in defense of their state and nation, beginning in the early

settlement of the state in the 1840s, through the Global War on Terror.

An extensive exhibit honors the 34th Infantry Division ("Red Bull" Division), which holds the distinction of serving the most continuous days in combat of any division in the European Theater of Operation during World War II. The museum also contains one of the finest military small arms collections in the Army system.

The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except holidays. Group tours are welcome and available by appointment; contact the museum for scheduling. For additional information or questions about the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, contact the Museum at (515) 252-4531 or visit the museum website at www.iowanationalguard.com.

Make plans to visit the new museum addition next year.



Family fun for everyone



(Top) Families are encouraged to bring their cameras and take photos of their children wearing military uniforms. **(Right)** As evidenced by this youth group, children love to view military equipment and hear the stories of how they were used by our soldiers.



**Iowa Gold Star
Military Museum**

According to Col. (Ret) Russell Bierl, Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Director, guests are encouraged to make their visit to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum a family outing. One of the many fun events families can take part in at the museum, is taking photos of their children dressed in period military uniforms that are supplied on site.

The museum has a number of World War II uniforms, helmets and military headgear for children to try on and to be photographed. This summer, the museum set a record for the number of visitors viewing the exhibits and artifacts. Many of the children who visit the museum with a youth group, often bring their entire family back for a second look.

The Gold Star Military Museum will move into their new building addition this fall and will be open on a limited basis in mid-October.

The large exhibit gallery will not be open to the public until a later date to be determined.

**7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824
(515) 252-4531
www.lowanationalguard.com
E-mail: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.

A brief military history of the 'Dog Tag'

by Master Sgt. (Ret.) John Talbott

If you're the curious type, you may have wondered how military issue "dog tags" came about. In fact, if you have your father's or grandfather's dog tags, you can find out very specific information about their enlistment.

Women who served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (later the Women's Army Corps), the Army Nurse Corps, and even American Red Cross members all had classifications denoted in their serial numbers - and all documented on their dog tags.

The U.S. military "Dog Tag" was officially introduced over 100 years ago on Dec. 20, 1906. In 1916, a second tag was introduced to make a pair. On Feb. 12, 1918, the Army adopted serial numbers, so as not to confuse Servicemembers with identical names, serving during the First World War.

The vast majority of today's members of the Armed Forces were born after 1967, when the Department of Defense decided to replace those serial numbers with individual social security numbers.

In October 1938, tests were conducted for the introduction of new identification tags and in 1940, "Tag, Identification, M-1940," the official nomenclature for the dog tag, was adopted.



A tale of two dog tags - A World War I dog tag is located on the left, with a World War II dog tag on the right. In 1940, "Tag, Identification, M-1940," the official nomenclature, was adopted.

The Iowa Militiaman

In October 1938, tests were conducted for the introduction of new identification tags and in 1940, "Tag, Identification, M-1940," the official nomenclature for the dog tag, was adopted.

In 1942, the first tag was suspended on a necklace, 25-inches long, with the second tag on a separate necklace extension no longer than two and-a-half inches below the first. Those first models were made from materials such as rayon, nylon, cotton, and plastic.

Then, in 1943, the first metal chain was introduced, consisting of hooks and catches. It was replaced by the stainless steel bead type we use today.

Serial numbers were in a logical sequence, starting with the Regular Army being assigned the number "1," followed by the second numeral indicating the Corps area or Service command. There were nine Corps Areas in 1940, under four Army Areas.

An example would be "11XXXXXX," for Regular Army, First Corps, followed by the digits.

National Guard serial numbers started with "20," with the third digit indicating the Corps Area or Service Command. The Corps Area numbers were in numerical order and included the states assigned to that U.S. Corps.

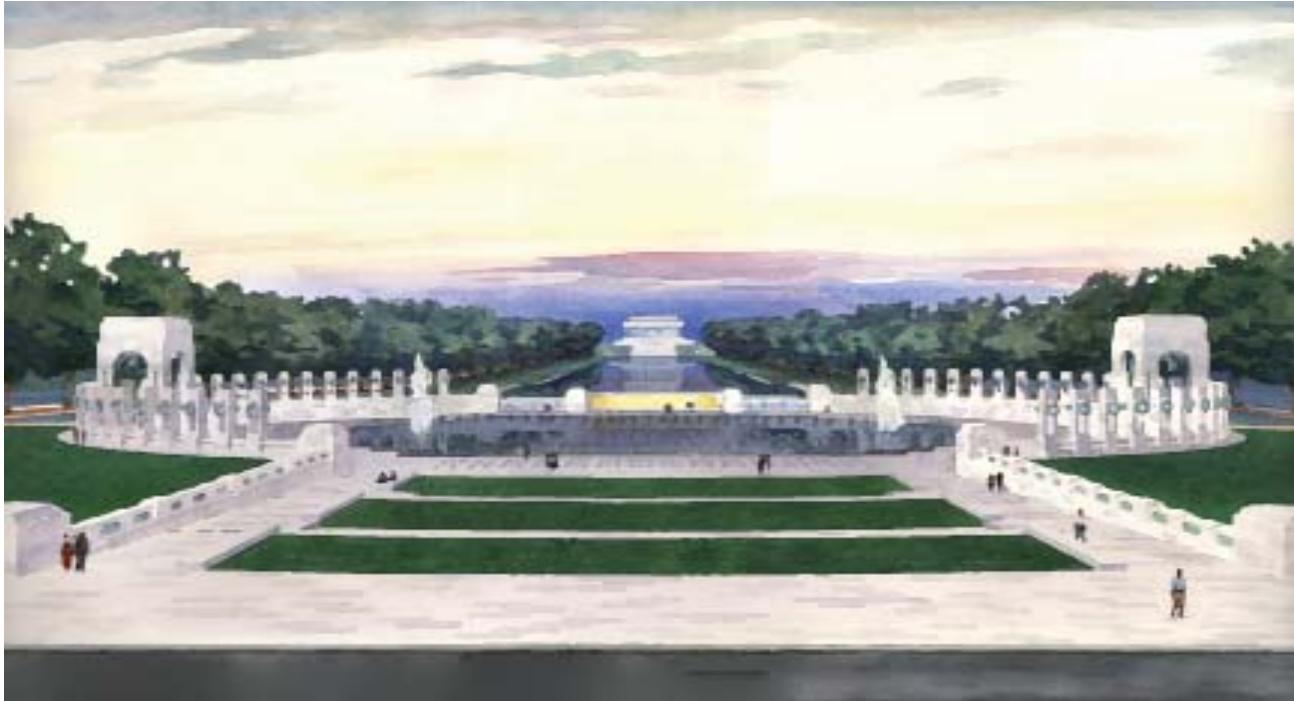
For instance, if you were in the Iowa National Guard, your serial number would start with "20," then the number "7" for the Seventh Corps Area that included Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Corps area numbers began in the eastern U.S. and moved westward.

Servicemembers who were inducted via the draft, began with a "3," then the Corps Area number, and the six-digit number. Officers started with an "O," followed by a hyphen, then the number. For example, Gen. 'Black Jack' Pershing's number was "O-1." Gen. Douglas MacArthur's was "O-57," and Gen. George S. Patton's was "O-2605."

Warrant officers started with the prefix "W," Flight Officers with "T," and Army Specialist Corps with an "S." WAC members started with an "L" for officers, "A" for enlisted and a "V" for warrant officers. The Army Nurse corps began with the prefix "N."

The Army even issued dog tags to American Red Cross volunteers, of whom there were thousands during WWII. They wore different uniforms and insignia and their tag identification was prefixed by the letters "ARC," followed by the number.

This brief explanation should pique your curiosity for a more in-depth study about military serial numbers and military "Dog Tags."



Physicians assistant provides assist in original western Iowa Honor Flight

by Sgt. Chad Nelson

Since its inception in 2005, the Honor Flight program has helped more than 17,000 veterans of World War II visit that Washington D.C. memorial.

Conceived by Earl Monroe, a physician's assistant and former Air Force captain, the program thrives on public donations and volunteers to help those vets who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to visit their memorial.

"There are approximately three million World War II veterans left in the U.S., who are dying at a rate of 1,200 to 1,500 each day," said Capt. Wendy Johnson, a physicians assistant with the Iowa National Guard's Army Medical Detachment.

"Soon, that generation and their first-hand accounts of history will be lost to us. This trip was such a solemn experience for the vets, many of whom were at times moved to tears," she said.

Johnson, had an opportunity to assist on an Honor Flight serving western Iowa vets in 2008.

"Knowing they don't have much time left, it was a great motivation to help them see this [memorial]," she said. "Unfortunately, a lot of us forget about World War II and the sacrifices they made. We don't really have the opportunity to hear their stories."

Johnson spent the day tending to the veterans, ranging from minor scrapes and cuts, to caring for diabetics and those with emphysema.

One of the most rewarding experiences

for Johnson, however, was witnessing their heartfelt reaction upon viewing the World War II memorial.

"It was long overdue," Johnson said. Even after all this time, they still carry all those memories."

She noted how World War II was the largest and most violent armed conflict in the "history of mankind. The U.S. lost 400,000 troops, with 175,000 of those being National Guard Soldiers," she said.

Besides the WWII memorial, veterans had the opportunity to visit other memorials. Two former Marines were able to visit the Iwo Jima memorial, while those who also served in the Korean War visited that memorial. Besides the WWII memorial, the veterans were most touched by the Changing of the Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

While observing the memorials, the veterans stood in silence, many of them shedding quiet tears as they remembered their experiences -- little food, no communications with loved ones, extremely long deployments and all of their friends who were lost in the war.

For Johnson, the trip ultimately reminded her of the servicemembers who came before her and what they experienced, while illustrating just how far the military has come.

Through her volunteering, Johnson was able to see first-hand how much those veterans appreciated the opportunity to visit a recently erected memorial, honoring some of the greatest men and women in military history -- the veterans of World War II.



Through the Ranks

by Senior Enlisted Advisor
Command Sgt. Doyle Norris

This is not the job I signed up for!!!

When I started in this position in March of 2002, I thought I knew what I was getting into. After all, I had been at the Troop Command level for 10 years and was about as involved in the Guard as any traditional Soldier could be.

But later that year, the entire 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle. As 2003 arrived, the State was mobilizing units at a record pace for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry was sent to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Units were coming and going through a revolving door. We also sent units to Kosovo and Egypt.

***To be successful
in a position
such as the one I have had
the honor to serve,
I would say TIME is the key.
Time away from home,
time to do the job right,
time to listen,
time early in the morning,
time late at night
...time...time...time.
It is now time for my wife,
kids and grandkids."***



Today, while the pace has slowed somewhat, our number one priority remains preparing our Soldiers and units for mobilization. We stay committed to this important task.

Things changed back at the state-level, as well. We were building rear detachments and providing more resources to our families. The term "contractor" brought on a new meaning as we sometimes struggled to integrate these workers

into our force.

Our Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year program grew from a board appearance, to a four-day, hands-on competition that is second-to-none. We developed a Freedom Salute program to thank Soldiers and their families for serving their nation in time of war. We automated the Enlisted Promotion System and put measures in place to take "the good ole' boy" selections out of the process. Our Soldier Readiness Process was refined to include all the post-mobilization tasks required to be completed while in the State.

Sadly, we also had to deal with the passing of some of our Soldiers, who made the ultimate sacrifice. We reworked an awards ceremony that was normally conducted during the visitation period. We honored the service and the life of those who are now gone. We not only conducted funerals with full military honors for our fallen Iowa National Guard Soldiers, we also conducted the vast majority

***Through the ranks
continued on page 17***

What's New?

Effective August 1, a new GI Bill is available. If you served on active duty after 9/11/2001, you may be eligible for this great new benefit. The Post-9/11 GI Bill brochure has general information and the GI Bill website includes a section on frequently asked questions, as well as the latest available information.

Troops to Teachers came into existence under Public Law 107-110, the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001." The aim of the program is to attract service members to the teaching profession as a second career. The program's focus is an emphasis upon quality teachers for high-need schools and high-need school districts throughout America.

In 2008, the state of Iowa entered into a Troops to Teachers consortium and now participates in the program.

Post-9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports more than 25,000 service members and veterans applied for the Post-9/11 GI Bill in the first two weeks of pre-certification for the new benefits program. VA's online application system staggered under the weight of the May 1 first-day rush but has since recovered, VA officials said.

If you apply for Chapter 33 benefits, you should expect to receive a certification letter from VA informing you whether you qualify and at what level. Chapter 33 payments are based on cumulative active duty service after Sept. 11, 2001. To qualify for maximum payments including full tuition, a living stipend and book allowance, requires three more years of active service.

Initial VA guidance approved Chapter 33 and the transfer of entitlement to a spouse or dependent for Active Duty (Title 10) status only. During the week of Aug. 1, 2009, however, VA changed this guidance and now reports the Transfer of Entitlement as an Armed Forces benefit. More information on who is eligible for Transfer of Entitlement and how to transfer benefits can be found at VA.Gov.

For more information about this program, contact Staff Sgt. Brian Bullock, GI Bill Manager, Education Services Office, Iowa Army National Guard.

If you'd like a unit briefing on the new Chapter 33 program, please contact Maj. Don Enright, Education Services Officer, Iowa Army National Guard. Enright can dispatch

ESO personnel to any Army or Air Guard unit to provide a detailed briefing on all education benefits and services available to members of the Iowa National Guard. Working with Enright can ensure the briefing schedule fully supports a unit's training schedule.

From the Education Office



Troops To Teachers

Would you like to be a teacher?

Did you know that Iowa participates in a federal program designed to help you enter the teaching profession? Did you know that 60 percent of Iowa's teachers are eligible to retire...or will be eligible to retire within the next four years? If you've ever thought about teaching, or of teaching as a second career, Troops to Teachers might be of interest to you.

In order to qualify for the program, you must be a drilling member of the Iowa National Guard with a minimum of six years of military service. Nationally, most service members who register for Troops to Teachers have more than six years of service. The next question you should ask yourself is whether or not you'd extend or commit to serving an additional three years in the Iowa National Guard.

If you answer, "yes" and you have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, you can register for Troops to Teachers. Once you register, you may be eligible for financial assistance in addition to any other federal or state financial aid- or military-based education assistance.

Financial assistance can include stipends of up to \$5,000 to reimburse the costs associated with becoming certified to teach, or bonuses of \$10,000 to those hired to teach in a high-need school. Both the stipend and bonus require a three-year teaching commitment.

Priority for stipend and bonus money is given to those troops who plan on becoming certified to teach in math, science, special education or vocational/technical areas.

If you have further questions, please visit Proud to Serve Again.com, or contact Maj. Tom Beasley, M-Day Education Services Officer, Iowa Army National Guard.

When you are ready, Iowa is ready

Last year taught us that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. From the tornados that decimated Parkersburg and surrounding communities, to rising flood waters which caused the evacuation of over 35,000 Iowans, the summer of 2008 will go down as Iowa's biggest disaster. Although we don't know when the next disaster will strike, we do know emergencies will happen. It is time to be ready and here are some simple steps to take.



1. Make a plan

- Talk with your household members about the primary dangers you face – fire, severe weather, and flooding are major disasters in Iowa. Go over two ways to get out of your house and identify an outside meeting place. In the case of severe weather, be sure everyone knows the safe room for your home.
- Plan for your pets. Be ready to take them with you and prepare a list of family, friends, boarding facilities and pet friendly hotels. Most public shelters do not accommodate pets.
- Think of any special needs you might have including medicines.
- Establish an out-of-town relative or close friend who can serve as a communication point if your family is scattered.

2. Make a kit

- Have enough water – one gallon per day per person – and food to sustain yourself for at least three days.
- First aid kit
- Extra clothing and blankets
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Unique family needs such as prescription medicines, infant formula or diapers

For more tips go to www.bereadyiowa.org. Be ready and you'll help Iowa be ready.



Is this heaven?

You'll find family in the 'New Jerusalem'

There are many views of what happens to a person when they die.

But, strangely enough, except for those who believe in reincarnation, most religions teach that you go somewhere.

There is a name in the Bible that describes heaven. It is the expression, "New Jerusalem," and it tells us two things about heaven. One, it's new, and two, it's Jerusalem.

So what does it mean that it's new?

Well most of us like new things – New cars, new houses, new motorcycles, etc. God tells us he will make everything "new." There is nothing that is recycled, refitted, or reconfigured – it is all brand spankin' new.

With God, it is always new. It never wears out. We love things that are new. And, in heaven all things will be new.

But it is not only new, it is also Jerusalem.

I've never been to Jerusalem, but Jerusalem is a town. Think about the town you live in and think of all the good things about it. Go ahead, I know it's easier to criticize than to say things that are nice.

Every city, town, village, and hamlet has their own particular things about it that people who live there like.

A man moved to a small town and after he had lived there for awhile, asked how long it takes for someone to be considered a local. He was answered, "No time at all, so long as your grandfather was born here."

That's why I like the town I live in. My grandfather was born here. I graduated from high school here, with a cousin who is the same age. I've got relatives buried in all three town cemeteries.

In essence, I like the town I live in because I'm one of "them." I joined the American Legion. My name is on one of the stones of the Veterans Memorial with my cousin and my uncles.

And you know what? I like that. I like belonging. They accept my shortcomings and my sins and my personality, because they know me.

But, just think what's its going to be like to go to heaven. There, we'll be part of the New Jerusalem, we'll fit right in.

Why?

It's not because the New Jerusalem is the town where my grandfather was born. It's



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain (Col.) Jim Luder
Iowa State Chaplain

because it's the town my Father built and my elder brother Jesus bought with his death on the cross.

And everyone who lives there are not cousins, uncles or aunts, but rather siblings – brothers and sisters. Everyone who lives there is family.

But they are not like my earthly family – because they are all now perfect.

So, no matter where you live now, no matter if you feel a part of your city, town, village, or hamlet.

There is a city called the New Jerusalem where you can go and live forever, because you will be "one of them."

You'll be "family."

TAG Sends continued from page 3

However, it was not by them alone. We got there by the hard work of captains, lieutenants, first sergeants, master sergeants, sergeants first class, staff sergeants, and Soldiers who responded in teams to accomplish the goals we laid out.

As we move forward, I ask all of you to join with me in redefining where we want to go with the Iowa National Guard and then work together to achieve our goals.

On behalf of my wife Suzanne, son Jacob, and daughter Elizabeth, we are proud to serve you in our new responsibilities and we will give you 110 percent effort in everything we do.

We are honored and privileged to serve each and every one of you.

"Warrior Ready"

Iowa's latest OCS/WOC graduates

2nd Lt. Laura K. Walker

There are many reasons a Soldier will transition from the enlisted to officer ranks. Some Soldiers join the Iowa National Guard knowing they'd like to go to Officer Candidate School. Other Soldiers don't decide until they've been in for a few years.

Some Soldiers decide they'd like to become technical experts in their field. This thinking leads a select few individuals down a new route, the route to becoming an officer or warrant officer in the Iowa National Guard.

On Aug. 16, 20 graduates of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) School stood in front of family and friends and took their oaths of office, or received certificates of eligibility. The guest speaker for the graduation was Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter.

The ceremony was the culmination of 18 months of hard work and dedication for eight of the lieutenants, while the other two completed the Accelerated Officer Candidate School in eight weeks. OCS began with 56 potential lieutenants and over the next 18 months, that number slowly dwindled to the final 10.

Throughout the course, whether traditional or accelerated, candidates spent long hours in the classroom learning how to write operation orders and develop leadership skills. They spent many days and nights in the field testing their new-found skills and completing multiple land navigation courses.

"Of any school I have been to, military and civilian, none have taught me so much about leadership in such a short amount of time. I have grown by leaps and bounds to be the person I am today," said 2nd Lt. James Foley.

Warrant Officer Candidates trained at Camp Dodge one weekend a month, for seven months, with their final two-week event held at Camp Atterbury, Ind. during the summer.

Some individuals chose to attend the WOC School in Fort Rucker, Ala. This program condensed all their training into a five-week period. Chief Warrant Officer 1 John Angier graduated July 17; Chief Warrant Officer 1 Ryan Donkersloot and Marty Osmundson, graduated Aug. 4, from Ft Rucker.

However, training isn't over for these commissioned officers and warrant officers. For many, their journey is just beginning. The lieutenants will continue onto their Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC II), at Ft. Benning, Ga. or Ft Sill, Okla., for seven weeks.

They will then proceed to their respective BOLC III courses, depending on what branch they chose.

The newly-commissioned warrant officers will continue their training at the Warrant Officer Basic Course at various locations, depending on what branch they commissioned.

Officer Candidate School Class 54-09.

2nd Lt. Gary Carter Jr., Infantry, Det. 1, Headquarters Service Company, 248th Ambulance.

2nd Lt. Brian Clark, Infantry, Co. D, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry.

2nd Lt. James Foley Quartermaster, Co. F (-), Forward Support Co., 334th Brigade Support Battalion.

Benjamin Hartweg, Certificate of Eligibility, (Delaying Commissioning).

2nd Lt. Dennis Henrickson, Engineer, 831st Engineer Co.

2nd Lt. Jamie Moore, Engineer, 832nd Engineer Co.

2nd Lt. Aaron Neely, Ordnance, Co. B, 334th Brigade Suppot Battalion.

2nd Lt. Jacob Paulus, Ordnance, Det. 1, Co. E, 334th Brigade Support Battalion.

Thomas Pottebaum, Certificate of Eligibility, (Delaying Commissioning).

Jonathan J. Ruden, Certificate of Eligibility, (Delaying Commissioning.).

Warrant Officer Candidate School

Chief Warrant Officer 1

John Angier, Aviation, Co. C, 2/147 Aviation.

Ross Aronson, Property Accounting Tech., 67th Troop Command.

Jack Canida, Engineer Equipment Repair Tech., 3655th Maintenance.

Kevin Copeland, Food Service Tech., 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Ryan Donkersloot, Information System Tech., Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1034th Combat Service & Support Battalion.

William Fascher, Unit Maintenance Tech. (Light), 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Douglas Griffin, Engineer Equipment Repair Technician, 67th Troop Command.

Casey Hill, Supply Systems Technician.

Bradley Johnson, CH 47 Pilot, Co. B, 2nd Battalion, 211th Aviation.

Thomas Milleson, Unit Maintenance Tech. (Light), 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Marty Osmundson, Utilities Operation and Maintenance Technician, Joint Forces Headquarters

Joseph Reiter, Unit Maintenance Tech. (Light).

James Richardson, Unit Maintenance Tech. (Light).

Scott Snyder, Unit Maintenance Tech. (Light), 734th Regional Support Group.

2nd Cavalry

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large rail depots, 60 locomotives, 500 rail cars, machine shops and flouring mills, and a large number of Army wagons." (Regimental History) This was another serious loss for the rebel forces.

More time in the saddle followed for the 2nd Iowa Cavalry. Despite the trials and tribulations of military life, on March 28, 1864 a sufficient number of the men reenlisted for another three-year term, thereby allowing the 2nd Iowa Cavalry to add "Veteran" to the title of their regiment.

In late 1864, the regiment fell back to Nashville, Tenn. where Gen. George H. Thomas, Union Army, was preparing to defend against Gen. John B. Hood, Confederate Army. After preparing his defenses, Thomas decided to rid the countryside of the rebel army.

On December 15, the Union army advanced with the 2nd Iowa Cavalry on the right. This battle was the greatest battle in which the 2nd Iowa Cavalry participated and ultimately

helped end the Civil War by driving Hood and his forces from the vicinity of Nashville.

Brevet Brig. Gen. Datus E. Coon's farewell upon the disbandment of the brigade, General Order No. 11 tells their story very well.

"Veteran Companions: This day the identity of the old Second Brigade is lost, and its unflinching battle line, that covered our retiring forces at WestPoint and Prairie Station, that saved a disorganized command at Okolona, that raised the well-earned cry of victory at Hurricane Creek and Tupelo, that presented its unbroken front to Hood's advancing hosts at Shoal Creek, Mt. Carmel, Linville, Lawrenceburg Pike and Franklin, and that taught the world a new lesson in cavalry warfare when it waved its victorious battle flag on the captured redoubts before Nashville; that unwavering battle scarred line has at last by order of your Department Commander been broken, and in parting I feel proud in giving expression to the heartfelt God speed and sincere well wishes mutually exchanged by the officers and men of the brigade ... while better cause for honest pride I shall never have than this: I once commanded the Second Brigade." (Regimental History).

Through the ranks

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of funerals for other active duty Iowans.

The Headquarters went through a reorganization that gave Iowa a Joint Senior Enlisted Leader as well as a State Command Sergeant Major. I want to thank Steve Waller, Craig Franken and Louis Wolfgram for serving as the State CSM and setting the bar at an extremely high level for professionalism. I could have not survived without their invaluable contributions.

I also want to thank Jim Clark, Al Slagle and Gary Garland of the Iowa Air National Guard. They served as the Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Iowa Air Guard during my tenure and I also owe them a debt of gratitude for trying to help me understand the Air Force.

While this is not the job I signed up for, I am extremely proud of the Iowa National Guard's accomplishments and the way we have taken care of Airmen and Soldiers. It has been a lot of hard work.

To be successful in a position such as the one I have had the honor to serve, I would say TIME is the key. Time away from home, time to do the job right, time to listen, time early in the morning, time late at night...time...time...time. It is now time for my wife, kids and grandkids.

I stand ready to assist the Iowa Guard in any endeavor where I can add anything positive – all they have to do is call. But, they may just have to wait until I return from time with my wife, time with my family or time by myself. It will be nice to mow and trim my yard the way it should be done, rather than doing it quickly because I have another trip to make.

Iowans can be proud of their National Guard. Our young Airmen and Soldiers continue to amaze me with their performance of duty and professionalism. While the news of the day may have you believe something else, I have faith in our future with the professionals I have come into contact with during this last tour of duty.

Maj Gen Mark Zirkelbach said it best at his retirement earlier this year when he said, "It's been an honor to serve."

It truly has.

Providing a welcome respite in long road to recovery

By Pvt. 2 Jennifer Montagna

Returning home after a deployment can be the happiest time for a Soldier. Coming home because of injuries, though, can make it difficult to adapt to a regular life. The long journey to recovery is riddled with obstacles, including separation from their unit and family.

In the past, injured Soldiers would often spend extended amounts of time rehabilitating in recovery facilities far from home.

However, the Community-Based Warrior in Transition Unit-Illinois (CBWTU-IL) located at the Rock Island Arsenal, is attempting to change all that. The unit's mission is to place injured Soldiers, once they become well enough to travel, in the care of physicians near their home. This type of treatment allows them to be within their family support network and gives them the ability to receive treatment from local physicians and specialists.

The CBWTU operates across a six-state area consisting of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana. The CBWTU program currently serves Army National Guard, Army Reserve Soldiers and, on exception, Active Component Soldiers.

They work with other Army and governmental agencies to support these Wounded Warriors with transitional benefits assistance, employment and re-employment, state bene-

fits, and reintegration into the fighting force.

1st Lt. Bryan Huebsch, who has been with the unit since July of 2007, works to improve the way injured Soldiers are treated. From finding health care facilities near warriors' homes and families, to organizing "Musters" (conferences that boost Soldiers' morale), Huebsch directs Soldiers towards the tools they need to stay on mission.

He said the Army hasn't always been viewed as having the most efficient healthcare, and the CBWTU is striving to improve that.

"The CBWTU improves the image of how we help our Soldiers," said Huebsch. He also points out that a Soldier's stop at Rock Island is not a permanent situation.

The CBWTU holds monthly Musters, where Soldiers have a chance to meet Army and governmental agencies, such as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, to talk about these Soldiers' options on returning to their civilian jobs, transitional benefits assistance, employment and re-employment, state level benefits, or even reintegration into the fighting force.

To qualify for the program, a soldier must have a serious, or severe injury, which would require more than 60 days of recovery. There must also be a recovery center within 50 miles of their home.

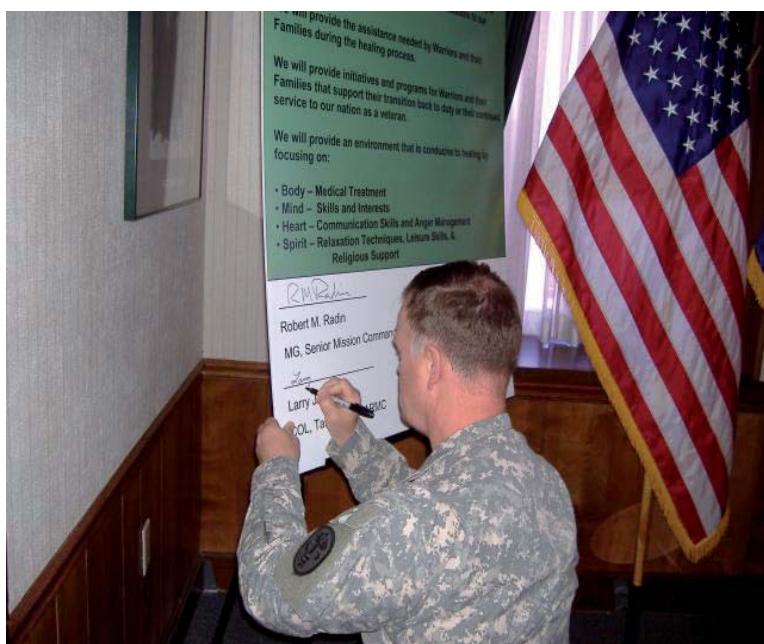
Master Sgt Earl Harper, Iowa National Guard, was medically evacuated from Iraq in 2007 and became part of the CBWTU. After spending two months at Fort Bliss, Texas, he returned to Iowa in October 2008. Harper said there was a lot of down time at Ft. Bliss, and he didn't feel like part of a unit.

"The medical system seems to be overwhelmed and this program will help improve Soldiers' care," said Harper

Harper believes being home with a good support system and feeling useful is good for the recovery process. Having since returned to Camp Dodge, Harper said he feels he's supporting the mission again and once more part of a unit. This, he feels, helps keep his morale high and quickens the recovery process.

Through 2008, more than 1,200 Wounded Warriors have entered through the doors of the CBWTU.

Col. Larry Heisler signs the Army Warrior Health-care Covenant at the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., affirming the commitment of the Arsenal's leadership to the Soldiers and families served by the CBWTU-IL. (Contributed photo)



The Iowa Militiaman

"An exciting life"

Iowa's 2nd Regiment Volunteer Cavalry

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

Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

While desperate fighting occurred throughout the Civil War for Iowa's Second Regiment Volunteer Cavalry (2nd Iowa Cavalry), several of the missions would most likely be labeled as "fun" or "enjoyable" by the hard-riding cavalrymen as they busted up the Confederates.

These men were destined to play a major role, while serving with the Army of the Mississippi following the Battle of Shiloh in their area of operations, generally headquartered in southwest Tennessee and northern Mississippi.

On May 30, 1862, a force including the 2nd Iowa Cavalry captured Booneville, Miss. and "found standing on the railroad track an engine disabled, 26 cars loaded with 10,000 stand of arms, 1,000 small and side arms, 800,000 rounds of ball cartridge, 100,000 rounds of fixed ammunition for six and eight pound guns, three mounted field pieces, one car of horse equipments and team harness, haversacks, cross belts, and equipment for 10,000 men; and a large amount of stores.

"The railroad depot was filled with commissary stores, 3,000 stand of arms, shells of a large size, medical stores and 300 kegs and barrels of powder. The train and buildings were at once set on fire and everything destroyed, thus inflicting great damage to the rebel army which had just evacuated its stronghold at Corinth and was in full retreat southward." (Regimental History)

Shortly after this feat of arms, "the 2nd Iowa Cavalry and the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, under

the command of Col. Phil Sheridan, met eight regiments of rebel cavalry and after an eight-hour fight, defeated and drove them back, leaving their dead and wounded on the field" (Regimental History).

Hard fighting followed through the end of 1862, with the officers and men of the 2nd Iowa Cavalry always in the saddle during the day and often into the night.

Movie buffs familiar with the movie, "The Horse Soldiers," starring John Wayne as Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, are viewing a segment of an actual April 1863 Civil War raid that included the 2nd Iowa Cavalry as part of the Union force commanded by Grierson.

As the raid began, the 2nd Iowa Cavalry was detached from Grierson's main force and sent east to cut the Mobile & Ohio railroad which diverted the Confederates attention, thereby giving Grierson a free hand to continue his march through Mississippi.

Grierson's raid spread confusion throughout the Confederate ranks and provided vital assistance to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant while he moved his Union Army of the Tennessee down the Mississippi River past Vicksburg.

Later, in August 1863, the 2nd Iowa Cavalry once again spread chaos and destruction throughout the Confederate infrastructure at Grenada, Miss., where "they destroyed two

2nd Cavalry
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The Iowa Militiaman

**Sgt. (Ret.) Mark Wiedenhoff,
113th Cavalry
from Adel, Iowa,
is dressed as an
1865-era "Trooper"
on his horse,
Blondie, during
the Homecoming
Ceremony for
Troop A, 113th
Cavalry Regi-
ment, at Camp
Dodge. (Contri-
buted photo).**



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