

Militiaman

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Spring 2013



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Militiaman

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On the Cover

*Photo by Master Sgt.
Duff E. McFadden*

Members of Mason City and Iowa City's 1133rd Transportation Company assist federal, state and local agencies with security and support missions during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.



Condition of the Guard

Annual Condition of the Iowa National Guard address to the Iowa General Assembly

(Editor's Note - The following speech has been edited for space.)

Gov. Branstad, Lt. Gov. Reynolds, members of the General Assembly, distinguished guests and fellow Iowans. Today, I deliver my fourth Condition of the Guard address and it's indeed an honor and a privilege to be here.

Today, I am proud to report the Iowa National Guard continues to be Mission-Focused and Warrior Ready.

This is a story that began in 1838, has transcended generations of Iowans, and is now carried proudly by the 9,400 Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who serve today. With a presence in 725 Iowa communities, men and women of the Iowa National Guard have demonstrated to their neighbors a sense of commitment and service that's the very best our state has to offer.

Tough, reliable, capable, resilient and above all, ready when called, we have fulfilled our statutory and constitutional responsibilities to help defend the nation and provide the governor with a state emergency response force for approximately one-third the cost of an active duty Soldier or Airmen, making the National Guard the best value for America.

Approximately 180 Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and I'm happy to report with that exception, the rest of our Soldiers and Airmen were home for the holidays.

Today we have approximately 260 deployed Soldiers and Airmen, our lowest number of deployed servicemembers since the start of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Over the last year we mobilized Soldiers and Airmen for overseas operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Qatar, Honduras, and Kuwait.

* Approximately 50 Soldiers from Co. C, 2-211th (MEDEVAC) General Support Aviation Battalion, Waterloo, were mobilized in July in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan with aerial medical capabilities.

* The 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Camp Dodge deployed 60 Soldiers to Afghanistan, providing area logistical support.

* The 186th Military Police Company deployed 40 Soldiers to Honduras as part of Joint Task Force Bravo, providing security and law enforcement support.

* The 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines experienced a very busy 2012 supporting overseas combat operations on its 10th overseas deployment since 1996.

* In Sioux City, 360, 185th Air Refueling Wing Airmen deployed around the globe in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Approximately 100 Soldiers from the 833rd Engineer Company in Ottumwa said goodbye for a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. This is the 833rd's third combat deployment since 9/11.

While we are grateful so many of our Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have returned home after a busy year of deployments, we mustn't forget those still recovering from wounds, injuries, or illnesses related to mobilization.

The past two years, more than 130 of our wounded, injured, or ill Warriors have received care at military treatment facilities across the country or from health care providers in their communities.

Today, I am proud to say we continue to make progress, as only 14 Soldiers still receive treatment at military facilities. However, for me, those deployments are not over until all of our men and women have returned home to their families.

Last year, President Obama announced the U.S. military would be withdrawing from Afghanistan by the close of 2014. We currently have just one Iowa National Guard unit receiving notification for potential deployment to Afghanistan next year.

**Condition of the Guard
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Iowa National Guard gives aid to local, state

By Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

For the second consecutive presidential inauguration, Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen represented the state of Iowa, helping to insure the safety and security of more than 800,000 attendees at the historic event.

In 2009, nearly 1,000 members of Iowa's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division were activated as part of President Barack Obama's initial inauguration. This year, 100 Soldiers from Mason City and Iowa City's 1133rd Transportation Company, Airmen from the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, and other assorted personnel were activated to assist federal, state and local agencies with support missions for the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

The Iowans were part of Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF-NCR), a joint service organization charged with coordinating all military ceremonial participation and support for the 57th Presidential Inauguration. Approximately 6,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen from 25 states and territories supplemented security, communications, medical evacuation and

other support during the presidential inauguration period.

After completing medical screenings, in-processing, and readiness briefings at Camp Dodge in Johnston, 1133rd Transportation Company Soldiers boarded the busses that would transport them to Washington, D.C. Nearly 20 hours and more than 1,100 miles later, they arrived at our nation's capitol.

"Our mission was to go out to Washington, D.C. and support the 57th Presidential Inauguration in support

of the Secret Service mission," said Capt. Rob Stangel, of Osage, Iowa, the 1133rd Transportation Company Commander.

"With the guidance we had been given, we knew we needed to remain flexible because we didn't get a lot of specific details, but I reckon in an operation like that, they don't look to give out a lot of details. From what we saw during our recon with the Secret Service personnel the day before, it was pretty close to what we were anticipating."



te and federal officials during inauguration

By 3 a.m. the first teams had arrived at their checkpoints more than three hours before they were scheduled to open. The Soldiers attentively listened to their final assignments, before fanning out to begin crowd management operations.

"We didn't quite know what we could expect from the crowds," Stangel said. "You prepare for the worst and hope the best happens. I think the best did

happen. You know our Soldiers did a good job talking to the crowd and getting them to respond when they needed. I'm really proud of the work they did."

After serving only two weekend drills with his unit, Pfc. John Elliott of Spencer, Iowa, was ecstatic to have been selected for the inauguration.

"I really didn't know what to expect, but it's been an awesome experience. I've been able to talk to a bunch of people while assisting them and giving them the okay to move forward into

their lines.

"It's been a great experience and I'd love to do it again," Elliott said. "This is one of the reasons why I joined the National Guard, because I would be able to go out and be a part of important things like this."

For Havelock, Iowa native Spc. Joshua Bonstead, it was a very unique experience.

"Our mission was crowd control at one of the entry points along the parade route," said Bonstead. "I worked up at the front of the gates before the people got in line. There were a bunch of people there early, so we got to interact with them, as well as assist people asking questions.

"We also worked with different groups of law enforcement agencies and other groups and they helped us make sure everybody stayed calm and there were no incidents during this ceremony. It was just a great experience," he said.

"I was really impressed with my Soldiers and how they conducted themselves," said 2nd Lt. Tyler Brockel.

"They were very helpful in not just



getting the public through the gates, but also helping them with directions and general information about what was going on in our area of operations.”

As the last vestiges of daylight swept across the D.C. skyline, the Soldiers were relieved of their checkpoint duties. Their mission completed, they would once again make their journey back to Iowa, within little more than 12 hours.

According to Master Sgt. Richard Slack of Ankeny, Iowa, his 1133rd Soldiers did an outstanding job, as he expected.

“Our people were just outstanding,” said Slack. “These were the best of the unit. So we knew when we went out there, we would be able to perform the task well.

“Our people were very motivated and very excited to be a part of this inauguration. As I tried to express to them, this was history that they were a part of, something they can look back on and talk to their families and tell them, ‘I was involved in the presidential inauguration in 2013,’” he said.

“You know we had a meaningful mission and I think the Soldiers were really proud of the work they did,” Stangel said.

“I heard plenty of positive things about the mission itself. There was very little complaining I heard about anything. The conditions were a little bit warmer than what we expected here, so I think the Soldiers enjoyed that,” he said.

Upon their return to Iowa, the 1133rd Transportation Company held a Change of Command ceremony, as Capt. Gavin Sandvig assumed duties as the new commander. Stangel now moves on to become the 1168th Transportation Company commander in Perry, Iowa.

American military members have participated in every presidential inauguration since April 30, 1789 when members of the U.S. Army, National Guard and Revolutionary War veterans escorted George Washington to his first inauguration ceremony at Federal Hall in New York City.

(Right) Spc. Nicholas Schaa, 1133rd Transportation Company, provides some last-minute instructions to inauguration visitors prior to admission to a security station near the parade route. (Below) Sgt. Tim Hesse, with the 1133rd Transportation Company provides directions to inauguration visitors. (Bottom) Soldiers from the 1133rd Transportation Company provide crowd control at one of the parade checkpoints, during the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. (bottom). (Iowa National Guard photos by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden)



Going 'green' with Net Zero

THE
TECHNICAL
& TACTICAL
EXPERT

THE WARRANT
HIGHLY SPECIALIZED

Warrant Officers are Soldiers. Often
called into one. You'll take your role
and train others in the process. The
military intelligence. Warrant Ofs
experts within their word.
Contact your local Warrant Officer
National Guard Recruiter for

NATIONAL GUARD

By Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

Imagine a military installation totally self-sufficient and independent of the local water and power grid. One that produces as much energy as it consumes, or returns water to the watershed so as not to deplete groundwater resources.

Ultimately, according to the Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, it comes down to being a good steward and a responsible neighbor.

She recently visited Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa, where she observed facilities and received briefings on the Iowa National Guard's energy, environmental, and construction initiatives.

With visionaries such as Hammack and the Iowa National Guard working hand-in-hand, environmental concepts such as "Net Zero" are not only possible, but viable.

Established in 2010, Net Zero is the U.S. Army's holistic approach to addressing energy, water, and waste at Army installations. This vision ensures sustainable practices are instilled and managed throughout the Army, maximizing operational capability, resource availability and well-being.

"Net zero is really an enabler, so if you think of it from a National Guard perspective, if a base is Net Zero, with Net Zero water, they're using as much water as they're taking from, or injecting back into a local aquifer," said Hammack. "It means that base is going to be able to operate in drought conditions, or should public water systems go down. Net zero energy means you're producing as much energy on base as you're consuming.

"If you're operating on a Net Zero basis, you're an asset to the community – you're a better corporate citizen and you're better able to serve the public in the way the public is asking you to serve. Sometimes that's to be the 'island in the storm,' to be the back-up in case there's a disaster occurring in the community. And that," she said "is really the mission."

"From a Camp Dodge perspective, our challenge to obtain Net Zero is monumental. Our goal is to produce all our needs by 2030, and at this point we don't produce any of our own energy yet," said Col. Scott Ayres, Director of Installation Management, Iowa National Guard.

"We've begun the process of planning to meet that goal, and we expect to use a combination of solar, wind, and geothermal sources. If successful, the Camp

Dodge of 2030 will produce and fundamentally use energy differently than we do today," he said.

Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010, Hammack is the primary advisor to the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army on all Army matters related to installation policy, oversight and coordination of energy security and management.

"Iowa is doing a lot of things right," Hammack said. "It's very interesting to take a look at how well-maintained the facilities are and how they're optimized for current use. Many of them are old facilities, but because they're well kept, Iowa has great use of them in the future.

"It's also good to see some of the Base Closure and Realignment Commission projects where there has been some consolidation efforts that increase the capability and capacity, so when we were at Camp Dodge to look at the new Joint building, that has some great classroom space, some great gathering spaces, it's certainly an asset to the state of Iowa, and certainly an asset to the Army as a whole," she said.

Having responsibility for 488 buildings comprising more than four million square feet, means the Iowa National Guard has



to be more than a discerning custodian.

“Our vision,” according to Ayres, “is to have facilities that make our Soldiers and citizens proud. Over the past dozen years we’ve been blessed with federal and state funds that have allowed us to focus our construction and renovation efforts to produce some high quality facilities, while closing and consolidating more than a dozen older, inferior armories and facilities.

“We intend to continue that effort to ensure we’re providing the best

possible facilities when and where they’re needed by the most economical means,” he said.

As Iowa continues to renovate two armories annually, plans call for two new Sioux City facilities – A joint Armed Forces Readiness Center to be shared with the Air National Guard and a Field Maintenance Shop, which replaces the current 1970s-era facility – as well as an Armed Forces Readiness Center in Davenport, to be shared jointly with the Army Reserve.

Iowa also now produces a more energy-efficient footprint, as evidenced by the Armed Forces Reserve Centers at Camp Dodge and Middletown, both receiving Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

Armed with the knowledge the military will be moving forward with “slightly reduced budgets,” Hammack said we need

to be comfortable working with what we have.

“We need to think about ‘needs,’ versus ‘wants.’ If you really need something, certainly there’s always going to be funds there so you can do your mission. But we have to work on our appetite suppressant as we enter an era where we’re coming out of war and returning to a peace-time economy. Our budgets are going to appropriately shrink, so we have to work with what we have.”

As for her Iowa stop, Hammack said, “it’s been a great visit. I’m very impressed with what’s going on here. I’ve been impressed with the capabilities, the passion and the enthusiasm among the Guard members I’ve met and knowing they’re doing the right things for the right reasons,” she said.

According to Ayres, it was a great opportunity and experience.”

“Ms. Hammack is the highest-level



Facing page - Col. Scott Ayres, Iowa National Guard Director of Installation Mangement, briefs the Honorable Katherine Hammack and Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, on the Iowa National Guard's energy, environmental, and construction initiatives during a working breakfast. Above - Orr gives Hammack a tour of the Camp Dodge Wellness Center. (Iowa National Guard photos by Staff Sgt. Chad Nelson)

person within the Army who’s responsibilities specifically include installations, energy, and environmental issues. Her visit allowed us to show her some of the reasons for our success and an opportunity to better understand how the Army can help us provide a better ready force through installations,” he said.

Condition of the Guard

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Gov. Branstad currently serves as co-chair for the President's Council of Governors in the Department of Defense. Working with the National Governors Association, their Adjutants General, and our Iowa congressional delegation, he minimized the disproportionate FY2013 cuts on the Air National Guard, and the Iowa Air National Guard's 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines.

The 132nd Fighter Wing will transition from F-16 fighter aircraft into three new missions: a Reconnaissance Group, with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft squadron; an Intelligence Group; and a cyber security mission. Of the 400 positions subject to elimination, these three missions allow us to keep about 970 personnel at the Airbase, with a loss of only 32 jobs, managed through retirements and transfers.

Another way we're supporting and adapting to the changing global and operational environment is through the National Guard's State Partnership Program. The Iowa National Guard's State Partnership Program with Kosovo continues to progress since its inception in March 2011.

The current focus is on non-commissioned officer and officer development, as well as cooperative initiatives in the disaster response and emergency management arena.

We have taken on a "Whole of Iowa/ Whole of Kosovo" relationship and have conducted more than 30 engagements between Iowa, the Kosovo Security Force, and Kosovo's Ministries of Defense, Business, Agriculture, Health, and Education over the past two years.

One of our near-term goals is to establish a sister city relationship with a Kosovo community. Our first sister city effort is between the City of Johnston and Peja, Kosovo.

Another critical partnership for the Iowa National Guard is right here in Iowa with our civilian employers. Nearly 80

percent of our Soldiers and Airmen serve part-time in the Iowa National Guard and full-time with Iowa businesses and governmental entities. Finding quality jobs with employers that understand and appreciate military service is key to the continued service and well-being of our men and women and their families.

Nearly 28 percent of our returning Warriors were looking for work at the end of 2011. Cooperation between the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, the Iowa National Guard's Job Connection Education Program, Iowa Work Force Development, Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, Principal Financial Group, and Greater Des Moines Partnership, assisted our Soldiers, Airmen and spouses to find gainful employment and reduced our unemployed to less than six percent today.

One of the reasons for this great success is the Job Connection Education Program. Iowa was the second state selected to participate in this National Guard Bureau-pilot program. Since Nov. 2011, 150 National Guard members, or their spouses, have found employment with civilian employers through Iowa's JCEP.

Other tangible evidence of Iowa's employer support is the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom award, awarded annually to the top 15 national employers for their support of National Guard and Reserve members. This past year, Des Moines' Nyemaster Goode law firm was selected. Since 2007, Iowa employers have won this award three times, including 2011 - 2012. This is a tremendous testament to the patriotism and support for Reserve Component military members and their families in Iowa.

Another reason we've been able to maintain our position as a national leader in readiness is because of the Iowa National Guard Educational Assistance Program, a program funded in its entirety by the state of Iowa.

This critical recruiting and retention tool helps ensure readiness and provides an invaluable benefit to our Soldiers and Airmen. This year, more than 1,400 of

our members received 100 percent tuition at the State Regents' rate to attend Iowa colleges, universities, and community colleges, keeping our young people here in the state and providing them with a high-quality Iowa education.

The Iowa National Guard is doing our part to stimulate the Iowa economy. This year, the Iowa National Guard brought in more than \$370 million of federal funding into the state, more than 97 percent of our department's budget. Our Soldiers and Airmen pay more in state property, payroll, and sales taxes than the state provides in state funding to the Iowa National Guard.

The Iowa Air and Army National Guard executed nearly \$16 million in federal funds for construction and capital projects. We completed new construction, renovations or additions in Miller Armory and the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office on Camp Dodge, the Davenport Army Aviation Support Facility, Fairfield Field Maintenance Shop, and the Iowa Falls and Shenandoah armories.

We currently have renovation and construction projects at the Council Bluffs and Dubuque armories. On Camp Dodge, we are consolidating the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Records Center, and the State Fiscal Office activities into one updated facility. By arraying these services under one roof, Iowa National Guard members, veterans, and military retirees will see improved veteran services, while Iowa taxpayers receive a greater value through more efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources.

Thankfully, 2012 has been a relatively quiet year for our emergency response operations, after the longest, continuous domestic response operation in Iowa National Guard history on the Missouri River from May to September 2011.

During the recent December blizzard, we mobilized 80 Guardsmen to conduct Highway Assistance Team missions with the Iowa Departments of Transportation and Public Safety and provided assistance to motorists stranded by the blizzard.

These assistance teams rescued nearly a dozen travelers from extremely hazardous situations and transported them to safety, as well as responding and assisting with a two-fatality, 25-car pileup on Interstate 35, south of Dows, Iowa.

And last week, we supported the 2013 Presidential Inauguration event in Washington, D.C., sending approximately 120 members of the 1133rd Transportation Company, Mason City, the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, and various other Iowa units.

The additional time we gained from quieter-than-normal combat, peacekeeping, and domestic operations has allowed our organization to re-focus on readiness, which drives everything we do.

First of all, your Iowa National Guard is a national leader in personnel strength management – recruiting and retention. Both the Iowa Air and Army National Guard began fiscal year 2012 with more than 100 percent of authorized strength. We have been at or above 100 percent strength for more than 10 years; a significant accomplishment considering all we've been asked to do since 9-11 with an all-volunteer force.

We are in the National Guard's top echelon for quality of recruits entering the National Guard in 2012. More than 20 percent of our basic training, advanced individual training, or technical school graduates are either honor or distinguished graduates, on the commandant's list, or in the top 10 percent at their respective military schools.

Iowa units received several significant awards in 2012:

- * The 132nd Fighter Wing and the 133rd Test Squadron won the 2012 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the 10th time for the 132nd and the sixth for the 133rd.

- * The 132nd Fighter Wing received the 2012 National Guard Association of the U.S. Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy, awarded annually to the two Air National Guard wings with the highest standards of flight safety. The

132nd's Logistics Readiness Squadron also won the 2012 Air National Guard Base Logistics Activity of the Year Award.

- * The 2nd Brigade Combat Team won the Citizen Patriot Unit Award, a national award given by the Reserve Forces Policy Board to one unit nationally for its substantial contribution to the security posture of the United States.

- * Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, currently deployed to Afghanistan, won the Eisenhower Trophy, given annually to an Army National Guard unit in each state rated the most outstanding during 2012.

While we're humbled by these prestigious awards, we're also extremely proud of the way in which we have been able to honor and remember Iowans who have selflessly served our state and nation.

It's projected Iowa will lose approximately 6,000 of its veterans this calendar year. Since 2000, the Iowa National Guard has partnered with Iowa veterans service organizations to provide eligible veterans and their family these richly-deserved honors. Since 2000, the Iowa National Guard's Military Funeral Honors program has been rendering professional funeral honors to all eligible veterans. This past year, our Military Funeral Honors program supported nearly 1,600 Iowa funerals.

We've also been fortunate to honor Iowa's living veterans. Last year, through a partnership with the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum and the U.S. Department of Defense, more than 3,200 of Iowa's Korean War-era veterans and their families were presented certificates of appreciation at a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

To assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam vets and their families, the Iowa National Guard has signed on to the National Commemorative Partner Program. The Iowa National Guard will plan and conduct events and activities recognizing the service, valor, and sacrifice of Iowa's Vietnam veterans and their families.

There's another group of great Americans serving our state and nation every day, but are often forgotten - the children of our military members, affected by the multiple deployments and absence of their parents during a critical time in their lives. For most, this includes repetitive separation from parents and other loved ones, and for many, it includes learning to live the "new normal" necessitated by combat wounds, injury, illness and loss. These children reside in nearly every community in Iowa.

A critical tool in reaching out to military children is the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. Over the last four years, MCEC has trained 530 Iowa education professionals and military family readiness personnel to understand and support military-connected children. By virtue of the exceptional participation by Iowans in this program, the Iowa National Guard is a national leader in the MCEC program.

As I come to a close, I hope I have left you confident the Iowa National Guard is in good hands and moving as one. We have executed every assigned mission, served our state at home, and deployed wherever needed at a moment's notice. And as the challenges of the last 10 years fade, we will face new challenges together.

Budget constraints and shifting priorities will impact how we operate, how we are organized, and what we are asked to do in the years ahead, but despite these changes, the Iowa National Guard will remain Mission-Focused and Warrior Ready.

This team will continue to take care of our Soldiers, Airmen, families, and employers as we proudly serve as your hometown military. And we are grateful for the continued support we receive from the Iowa General Assembly and the people of Iowa.

On behalf of our men and women and their families, thank you for this opportunity to provide an update and assessment of the Iowa National Guard. Your Iowa National Guard is truly making a difference every day.

Maintaining readiness with DLA surplus

By Jeff Landenberger
and Ken MacNevin

Sgt. Maj. Timothy Perkins manages equipment at the Iowa National Guard's United States Property and Fiscal Office and he's got a message for those discounting Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Disposition Services as a source of supply. Look again, he said, because you might find a thing called readiness, or training, or stewardship.

Perkins said he can prove it, and he'd like to see Guard units from other states rely more on DLA Disposition Services.

"Our state is a real firm supporter of this," Perkins said. "Last year we got \$7.8 million worth of stuff from DLA Disposition Services, and this year, so far, we are up to \$5.6 million."

While Perkins personally trusts DLA Disposition Services as a regular source of supply, he acknowledges others may be skeptical: "The problem is getting rid of this myth that it's all garbage."

Enter readiness. Perkins says National Guard property acquired from DLA has gone toward that ever-ending mission in the Guard: maintaining unit readiness.

Each Guard unit maintains a list of required equipment and a count of how many of those items are in stock. These are things the unit has to have to perform its core functions and designed capabilities, or, what used to be known as the "wartime" mission.

For rookies in the readiness business, a mandatory Unit Status Report (USR) must be produced to count key items of equipment and supplies on hand.

Some of the Iowa units once had low readiness ratings, said Perkins. Now, "some units have gone from an S-3 readiness rating – which is having 60 to 79 percent of their equipment – to over 90 percent, which is an S-1 rating.

"They give a rating based on how many of those [reports] you have filled,"



Chief Warrant Officer Three Troy May (left), the property book team chief for the United States Property and Fiscal Office, Iowa National Guard, and Sgt. Maj. Timothy Perkins, equipment manager, United States Property and Fiscal Office, stand next to hundreds of boxes of flatware in the Iowa National Guard's distribution warehouse at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Perkins said. "You want to be an S-2 or an S-1. As an S-2, you have to have 80 percent of all your equipment. The higher [level of fill] you are, the better off."

Perkins said he has to remind people no matter the reason they acquire property, it's already paid for, so they avoid spending money for something Uncle Sam already has.

What about positive impacts on training? Perkins said he's got those too.

He recently acquired five used Simulated Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles from DLA for Iowa.

"We have units that are authorized MRAPs but won't see them for years and years," Perkins said. "To practice crew drills and those kinds of things, we grabbed those."

The MRAPs will stay at Iowa's joint training base, Camp Dodge, so units from across the state can train with them.

And what about just plain stewardship? Perkins said he sees it in the national stock numbers of items on DLA's reutilization inventory.

For example, Perkins said he found plastic silverware sitting in Germany. The kind of plasticware you'd take to a picnic. A big picnic.

Perkins said, even after shipping costs, the requisition of two entire CONEX boxes of the utensils – the kind a chow hall full of soldiers uses during an annual training period – "saved \$88,000 for the Iowa National Guard just on this one acquisition alone."

Then there's the weekend duty kind of stewardship. DLA Disposition Services occasionally receives excess property like office supplies. Perkins said during the most recent drill weekends, 65 Iowa Guard units were issued \$500 in office supplies acquired through DLA disposition.

"Five hundred dollars times 65 units impacts our budget significantly," he said.

Considering the season, it's like Santa landed on 65 National Guard armories' roofs and saved the Iowa Guard (and taxpayers) \$32,500 by reutilizing property already paid for.

Does that jingle your sleigh bells?

What's new for Family Readiness

The last couple of months have brought a few changes to the staff and programs of the Warrior and Family Services Branch here in the Iowa National Guard.

Unfortunately, we've had to say goodbye to a few staff members as they moved on to new positions, within and without the Iowa National Guard. But we've also welcomed new members to the team.

Just as the staff is changing, so are some of the programs we provide to Soldiers, Airmen and families. Our Youth and Strong Bonds programs have added a few new events and we've also added a full-time Personal Financial Counselor to the team.

The Youth Program has added "Leadership/Lifeskills Events" for youth ages 6-18. At these events, youth will be provided the opportunity to network with other military youth as well as develop their leadership skills.

The Annual Youth Symposium has been revised to "Regional Youth Symposiums" for ages 11-18, to be held in western, central and eastern Iowa. This revision, allows them to come together to connect and develop important life skills to aid in



their resilience and ability to respond to life issues.

Strong Bonds has added two new programs to their repertoire, as well as two new events. The two new programs are "Couple's Communication" and "Active Military Families."

"Couples Communication" focuses on

the seven components of a healthy relationship and effective communication. The "Active Military Families" program celebrates the strengths of each family and helps members recognize and build on great things about themselves.

The two new events are called "Alpha" (with a four-hour training block) and "Bravo" (with an eight-hour block). These events, coordinated with the unit commander and chaplain, can be incorporated into a unit's training schedule, providing a reduced time commitment for Soldiers and their families, yet providing the same instruction as a full Strong Bonds event.

We would like to welcome Mark Gelbman, our new full-time Personal Financial Counselor. He comes with more than 10 years of experience. Mark can provide personal financial support and financial counseling to servicemembers and their families.

He can also provide financial training, such as money management, home buying, preventing foreclosure and raising financially-savvy kids.

Mark can be contacted at (515) 661-3054 or mgelbman@MFLC.Zeiders.com.



60/5,400 4/2,500

BVU graduate student earns high ROTC ranking

Buena Vista University (BVU) graduate student, Jamie L. Oberg, was ranked 60th out of more than 5,400 Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) cadets from across the country in this year's prestigious national Order of Merit List (OML).

"Cadet Oberg exemplifies what ROTC is all about," says Capt. Jared Gledhill, assistant professor of military science and officer in charge of the ROTC program at BVU. "She is a true scholar, athlete and leader. She is a role model for other cadets to follow, and a mentor to all."

Each year, the OML ranks commissioning cadets based on academic and leadership factors including grade point average, performance in a national leadership course and in specific leadership dimensions, physical fitness test scores, and observations made by ROTC instructor cadre.

"I was very surprised but pleased that my performance ranked me in the top one percent of cadets," says Oberg, a native of Mapleton who is earning her master's degree in school guidance and counseling.

"I feel this is a great honor for any cadet and I am pleased I was able to achieve these high standards."

After earning her bachelor's degree in interdepartmental studies – health

***"The military allows me
to continually push myself
as well as have
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and women.***

***I've learned valuable skills
that will benefit me
in my future career
as an Army officer."***

-- Cadet Jamie Oberg

science from the University of Iowa in 2010, Oberg completed her basic training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

She then went on to earn her military occupational specialty (MOS) as an intelligence analyst at Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Ariz. before returning to Iowa and deciding to attend BVU.

"My intentions are to build a career path that will serve me my entire military career," says Oberg, who will commission in May 2013 as a military intelligence officer in the Iowa Army National Guard.

"Daily, I look forward to the best leadership experiences possible through tough and demanding field

training, leadership opportunities, and developmental experiences."

Within a subsequent OML ranking, Oberg was named fourth in the nation out of over 2,500 cadets who are commissioning in the Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve. She was also ranked as the number one cadet within the Cyclone Battalion (which comprises the ROTC programs at BVU, Drake University and Iowa State University).

"I've wanted to be a cadet for as long as I can remember," says Oberg, who will graduate from BVU in May 2014 and plans to remain active in the Iowa National Guard and become a school counselor.

"The military allows me to continually push myself as well as have the opportunity to mentor dedicated young men and women. I've learned valuable skills that will benefit me in my future career as an Army officer."

"As Jamie's instructor, I could not be prouder of what she has accomplished and what all of the cadets have accomplished this year," adds Gledhill.

"Jamie proved that a cadet from a relatively new program can become one of the top cadets in the nation through hard work and dedication."

Rendering proper honors

The Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center has resumed a time-honored service tradition, with the playing of "Reveille" at 7 a.m. every morning and "Retreat" every evening at 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is broadcast through the post emergency notification system, with the sound of a bugle and canon blast.

All Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center personnel and civilians are expected to render the proper honors.

During Reveille, individuals outside will come to attention and render the appropriate honors to the flag at the first note of music. When in a formation or a group, the senior servicemember order the group to "Present Arms" at the first note of Reveille and "Order Arms," at the last note. Those in civilian clothing will remove their headgear and place their right hand over their heart.

The bugle call "Retreat" is sounded just before the actual lowering of the flag of the United States. At the last note, a canon is fired. Then, the bugle call "To the Colors" is played and the flag is lowered.

During Retreat, individuals outside will come to "Attention" during the "Retreat" bugle call. Following Retreat, at the first note of "To the Colors," individuals outside will render a hand salute. In formation, the senior servicemember will call the group to "Parade Rest" at the bugle call, and then "Attention" and "Present, Arms" during the first notes of "To the Colors."

Individuals will end their salute at the last note of music, while the senior service member will give the command "Order, Arms" to a group or formation.

Those in civilian clothing will remove their headgear and place their right hand over their heart at the first note of "To the Colors." Service members not in uniform and retired service members may render the hand salute if they choose.

All personnel driving on the installation must stop. Servicemembers and government civilian personnel will turn off and exit their vehicles to render appropriate honors. Disabled persons and small children are not required to exit. If in a group in a military vehicle or bus, only the senior occupant exits and renders honors.

During both ceremonies, resume your regular duties at the conclusion of the music.

Throughout U.S. Army history, Retreat has been a daily ceremony held as the national flag is lowered at the end of the day. This ceremony dates back to the Revolutionary War and the American Army. At that time, it was sounded by drums, the normal musical instrument found in infantry units of that period. The ceremonies of Retreat in the afternoon, coupled with Reveille in the morning, constitute a dignified homage to our national flag from its raising to its lowering.

Retreat has always been at sunset, as its purpose was to notify sentries to start challenges until sunrise, and to tell the rank and file to go to their quarters.

For any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact Master Sgt. Jeff Peterson, CDJMTC Operations Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge at (515) 252-4218.



Walter receives promotion as first female Brigadier General in Iowa Air National Guard

Indianola resident Col. Jennifer L. Walter recently made history, becoming the first female Iowa Air National Guard brigadier general during a promotion ceremony at the Des Moines-based 132nd Fighter Wing. She then assumed duties as Chief of Staff, Iowa Air National Guard at Camp Dodge's Joint Forces Headquarters.

Since January 2011, Walter has served as the 132nd Fighter Wing's Vice Wing Commander, providing command and control for more than 970 personnel and 21 F-16 aircraft. She was promoted to colonel in March 2005.

Walter began her military career as an Air Ops Specialist in the Kansas Air National Guard, before joining the Iowa Air National Guard in September 1975. After serving 11 years as an enlisted Airman, she received her commission from the Academy of Military Science at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., (1986). She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Upper Iowa University (1989).

Walter has served within the Iowa Air National Guard's Operations Group, Maintenance Group, Mission Support Group, Wing Staff and Joint Forces Headquarters. She has also deployed as part of Operation Southern Watch to Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait and as the 755th Air Expeditionary Group Commander at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Her military awards include the Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal (with two devices); Air Force Commendation Medal (with four devices); Air Force Achievement Medal (with three devices); Meritorious Unit Award; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with six devices); Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal (with three devices); Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with one device); and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.



Maj. Gen. Tim Orr (left) Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, presents a General Officer flag to Brig. Gen. Jennifer Walter (right) at her promotion ceremony to Brigadier General at the 132nd Fighter Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, Des Moines. Brig. Gen. Walter is the first female General Officer in the history of the Iowa Air National Guard. (US Air Force photo by Master Sgt Robert P. Shepherd)



Col. Drew DeHaes (left) presents Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Cochran (right) an award as he accepts responsibility as Command Chief Master Sgt. of the 132nd Fighter Wing, Des Moines, at his Change of Responsibility ceremony held in the Dining Facility. (US Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Linda E. Kephart)

'America's Army— Our Profession'

During 2013, the U.S. Army will launch the "America's Army - Our Profession" program to enhance the education, training and pride of service for Army professionals. Generating an inspirational and aspirational dialogue for Soldiers and civilians, they'll reaffirm their understanding of themselves as professionals, recommitting to a culture of service, and identify with the Army Ethic and culture.

Each quarter's training will have a different theme with supporting on-line resources to assist in providing high quality training. 1st Quarter – Standards and Discipline; 2nd Quarter – Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions; 3rd Quarter – Military Expertise - Certified Army professionals; and 4th Quarter – Trust - The bedrock of our Army Profession.

For more information, check out "America's Army - Our Profession" at <http://cape.army.mil>.

Vet documents free through HRC

Army veterans who served on active duty or in the Army Guard and Reserve, and their family members, are eligible to receive service-related documents for free through official sources.

Soldiers who separated in October 2002, or later, can submit a signed Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records," to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command by:

A signed request can be scanned and emailed to askhrc.army@us.army.mil.

- Mail signed forms to:
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Attention: AHRC-PDR-V/Department 420
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402.

- Soldiers who separated before October 2002 should submit a signed SF 180 to the National Archives and Records Administration's National Personnel Records Center:
National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63132-1002.

- Call the NPRC directly at 314-801-0800.

Many "for profit" third-party commercial businesses are charging for these services, often advertising they can expedite processing or delivery times for documents. These claims are false because no increased levels of service or access to veteran records are provided to these commercial entities.

Contact information for each State National Guard Agency can be found at www.nationalguard.mil/resources/states.aspx. Veterans can also access their information directly through a joint partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense known as eBenefits.

For more information about eBenefits, visit www.ebenefits.va.gov.

***"In no other profession
are the penalties
for employing
untrained personnel
so appalling
or so irrevocable
as in the military."***

Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Wellness coach available

Do you need help making changes that will improve your health or well-being? Consider partnering with the Military OneSource Health and Wellness Coaching Program. The Health and Wellness Coaching Program is a free resource for individuals who wish to improve their health and overall well-being.

If you prefer to work independently, Military OneSource also offers the Living

series — free, online, self-directed health and wellness coaching programs to help you make lasting lifestyle changes.

Focus areas for coaching include: weight management, fitness and nutrition, health condition management, stress management, and life transitions (adapting to lifestyle changes such as deployment, moving, becoming a new parent, or retirement). You can participate by phone or online.

The coaches provide you with information, support, encouragement, and accountability, so you can attain your goals and achieve your maximum potential at no cost to you!

To sign up for a health and wellness coach, call 800-342-9647 and a Military OneSource consultant will register you and schedule your first session right away.

TRICARE benefits continuation

United Healthcare Military and Veterans began dual enrollment operations with Tri-West, beginning full health care administration on April 1.

The majority of TRICARE beneficiaries will experience little to no change during this transition. Each West Region beneficiary can expect to receive a Welcome Package by mid-March, which includes important dates and details about claims, electronic automatic payment renewals, referrals and authorizations.

The Welcome Package is also available on the UnitedHealthcare website at www.uhcmilitarywest.com.

The most important transitional action pertains to personnel who pay TRICARE fees by recurring automatic payment through their bank account or through a recurring debit/credit card payment.

Personnel who pay their TRICARE fees by one of those methods must submit the Electronic Payment Authorization Form to UnitedHealthcare. For personnel paying by allotment, no action is required.

Army, Air Force reintegrates TA Program

Both the U.S. Army and Air Force have restored their federal Tuition Assistance (TA) programs effective April 10.

Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are again able to apply for TA for the remainder of federal Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) under the rules that governed TA usage prior to the suspension.

For the balance of FY13, the eligibility rules for use of TA, the

\$250 semester hour cap, and the annual ceiling of \$4,500 remain unchanged. The only limitation to TA usage will be that no enrollments are authorized with start dates between March 8 and April 9, 2013.

Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen continue to be eligible for state education benefits under the Iowa National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP), which was created under Iowa law (see Iowa Code 2011 Section 261.86), funded entirely with State tax dollars, and available only to

Iowa National Guard members. This program may pay up to 100 percent tuition at the Iowa Regents' rate for Iowa public and private universities, colleges, and community colleges.

Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen may also continue to pursue their educational goals with Veterans Administration education benefits, if applicable, that include the Montgomery GI Bill, including Active Duty (Chapter 30), Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606), Reserve Education Assistance Program (Chapter

1607), the Post 9/11 GI Bill, and federal grants and other financial aid.

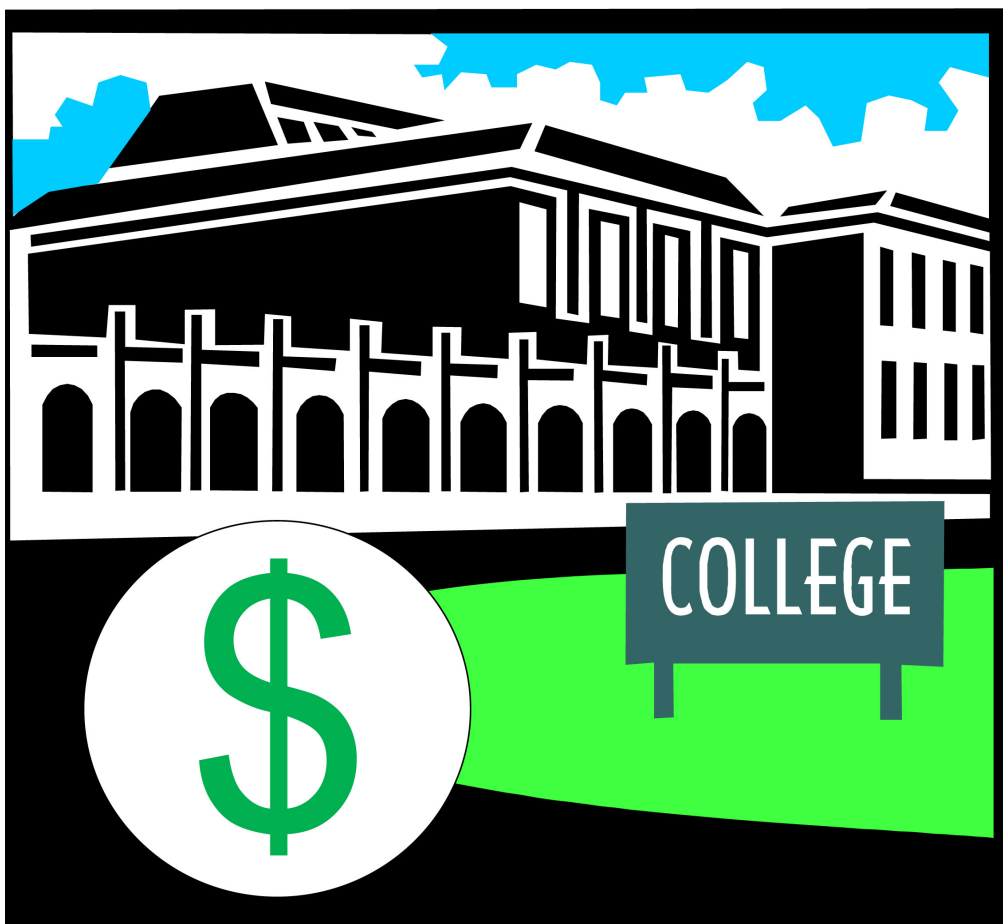
As the TA program restarts, servicemembers are reminded to utilize the Academic Testing Program, CLEP and DSST exams, to assist in fulfilling degree requirements. As free retests are no longer authorized, servicemembers need to utilize all available resources to prepare for their exams.

Iowa National Guard Soldiers and Airmen should contact

their local education centers for questions and updates. Updated information will also be posted to www.goarmyed.com (Army National Guard only) and www.iowanationalguard.com. If you have additional questions, contact the following:

-Iowa Army National Guard: Maj. Linda Perdue at linda.s.perdue.mil@mail.mil or office 515-252-4517

-Iowa Air National Guard: Sr. Master Sgt. Brian Roupe at brian.roupe@us.af.mil or 712-233-0412.



Iowa Airman learns from harsh childhood in Africa



Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kazeze performs with the 132nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard during the 2012 Annual Awards Ceremony held in the 132nd hanger in Des Moines. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Linda K. Burger)

By Master Sgt. Todd Moomaw
and Tech. Sgt. Sara Robinson

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Kazeze proudly serves as an Air National Guard Technician and member of the 132nd Fighter Wing Base Honor Guard.

As an Air Guardsman, he comprises a diverse team of 106,000 Americans on call in 54 states and territories.

He grew up in the African countries of Malawi and Ethiopia. As the child of an United Nations statistician/demog-

rapher, he says he learned valuable lessons that stick with him today.

"No man is an island. There were people in bread lines, and Ethiopia's socialist dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, would not accept outside help," Kazeze said. He learned no man or country can go through life without help at some point.

Hundreds of thousands were killed from the use of hunger as a weapon under Mengistu's rule. Mengistu was overthrown, fled to Zimbabwe and convicted of genocide in absentia.

Kazeze appreciates where he is

in life due to what he experienced in Africa growing up. Eventually, outside forces set up refugee camps, providing food. Kazeze and his family were part of the few lucky evacuees to Kenya.

Attending high school in Hailsham, England, exposed him to many different cultures.

"I enjoyed time in England, school was like a big melting pot," Kazeze said. "I made a lot of friends and met people from every continent – Muslim, Buddhist, the whole gamut of religions."

When the time came to attend college,

he set his sights on the United States. However, after four years in England, he had picked up a thick British accent.

He watched VHS tapes of U.S. television to study the American accent. Watching shows like "The A-Team," "Knight Rider" and "Battlestar Galactica" helped him learn the dialect.

Kazeze was now ready to attend college. Following in his father's footsteps, a Drake University alum, he looked into Iowa schools. Grand View University offered what he was looking for, so he majored in television and radio production. During his time at Grandview he considered joining the military, but didn't.

The events of 9/11 renewed his interest in the military. By then, Kazeze was 28 years old and too old to join active duty so he decided he could best serve our country as a member of the 132nd Fighter Wing.

After basic training, Kazeze worked in civil engineering as an electrical power production specialist. He now works in maintenance as an aerial ground equipment specialist.

Kazeze became a United States citizen while in the Iowa Air National Guard. He reflected on a visit to his parents, who retired in Malawi.

"It's interesting going back (to Malawi) as a U.S. citizen. I fly into Lilongwe, a big modern city, and as I go into the country it gets less and less developed, until it's just bushmen," he said.

Even today, Kazeze uses lessons he learned during his childhood in Africa. He is a well-rounded Airman, an American citizen and appreciates the time he spent in Africa.

He learned, as humans, we're all in this together and we all need each other in one way or another.



Driving simulator offers dose of 'text reality'

by Tech. Sgt. Rich Murphy
185th ARW Public Affairs

Members at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, Iowa recently had the opportunity to safely test their skills at texting and driving.

The PEERS Foundation, a nonprofit organization focusing on helping young men and women make healthy decisions, brought in a driving simulator to highlight the dangers of texting while driving.

The simulator, a Toyota Corolla connected to a virtual reality program, shows how dangerous texting and driving can be. Users strap on the virtual reality goggles and attempt to text while driving through a scenario. The program records how many traffic violations they commit, as well as how many pedestrians are hit.

The 185th ARW Wing Commander, Col. Brian Miller, drove the simulator and the results were disturbing. "I ran over the center line quite a few times, and I killed a dog," said Miller.



Col. Brian Miller, 185th Air Refueling Wing Commander, test drives a texting virtual reality simulator. The PEERS Foundation brought in a driving simulator to highlight the dangers of texting while driving. (Iowa National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Oscar Sanchez)

According to statistics provided by the Centers for Disease Control, more than 15 people are killed and approximately 1,200 people are injured each day in car accidents due to distracted driving.

It's against Iowa law to email or text while driving. Despite the law and other state bans across the nation, the CDC has found 52 percent of U.S. drivers between 18-29 reported texting or e-mailing while

driving at least once in the last 30 days.

Furthermore, more than a quarter of these young men and women report texting or e-mailing "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving.

The PEERS Foundation aims to raise awareness, especially among teens, of the dangers of distracted driving. Dillon Richardson, a representative from PEERS, said the simulator shows others the dangers of distracted driving.

"We travel to schools and organizations across the nation, helping folks understand how dangerous texting and driving can be," said Richardson.

The PEERS Foundation contacted Sr. Master Sgt. Rick Irwin, the 185th safety manager, about the simulator. "Every year we are required to address road safety issues. We thought this would be much more effective than simply lecturing our Airmen about the dangers," Irwin said.

For more information on PEERS, or the texting and driving simulator, visit <http://www.peerawareness.com>.

But not forgotten

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1,000 extra Soldiers. Nerves were frayed, tempers rose, fights broke out and Fr. Bill was busy talking with the troops. They finally landed at Cam Ranh on July 29, 1965. The war was "on!"

Vietnam was lined with mines and booby-traps and surrounded by danger, one had to be alert at all times. Yet there were periods of boredom and loneliness -- anything but comfortable, anything but safe. During the day, you could talk, at night you didn't want to make noise. But that became part of the problem.

This is where you can think too hard; this was very difficult for the young Soldiers. Lt. Col. John Gilboux stated, "The difference between the hero and the coward -- the hero controls his fear."

As a chaplain, Fr. Bill played a crucial role with the 101st Airborne. He had the natural ability of relating to his Soldier and for many, just his presence was enough to ease their minds. Fr. Richard, a priest from the Archdiocese of Dubuque and a former U.S. Army Chaplain, said, "It's reassuring for the Soldiers for the chaplains to visit them in their work place and having the presence of the chaplain, just being there with the chaplain. A big part of our work as chaplains was just visiting."

Fr. Bill's assignment gave him tremendous freedom, as he could go wherever he thought he was needed most and that usually meant the front battle lines. Command Sgt. Maj. Sidney Brown said, "He was a gung-ho chaplain. He talked to the Soldiers. He was with us all the time. He was up on the line. The chaplain is a great morale factor for the unit. Fr. Bill was a great morale builder."

When he wasn't on the battle lines, he would be celebrating the sacraments, often presiding at mass in the jungle. Lt. Gen. Henry Emerson recalled, "Almost every time we were going off on a new offensive operation, Fr. Bill would celebrate mass and bless the troops. This

would give us a good feeling before we would go into battle, to have been with a man of God like that."

Col. Bob Murphy added, "Fr. Bill put a sense of normalcy back into life for us. It's not Kansas. Then we'd celebrate mass, and it is Kansas and it's okay."

Vietnam was a difficult war, often called the "helicopter war." In February 1966, the 101st Airborne went on an operation and came under heavy machine gun fire. Fr. Bill came on a Medivac helicopter. Monte Cox, a 101st Airborne medic, said, "Fr. Bill and I dragged the wounded Soldiers off the field. Fr. Bill didn't hesitate. As soon as they asked me to go, Fr. Bill told me, 'I'll go with you.' It wasn't his job, but he was so spiritual -- no one asked him to go, he just did it."

The tragedies of this war are well documented. Over 1,000,000 Vietnamese and 58,000 Soldiers died. The 101st Airborne had their own special services, which Fr. Bill became all too familiar with. Gilboux stated, "If you have ever witnessed a military memorial service, you'll forever remember it."

Rev Bill Libby, a U.S. Army chaplain said, "The empty boots and the Soldier's rifle turned up, with the Soldier's helmet on top of his rifle, this was a physical symbol of each Soldier we lost. It was a powerful experience for the Troops."

SP/4 Peter Griffin, 101st Airborne, remembered, "What I remember most about Fr. Bill would be at the end of every memorial service he would have us bow our heads and say a prayer for the one who would be the next to die. It made you stop and think about war, and the situation you are in. Personally, Fr. Bill made me think."

Early in May 1966, 1st Brigade of the 101st and 502nd fought in the jungle of Nhan Co (near the Cambodian border). On May 4, 1966, Fr. Bill was doing his duties on base. The 502nd had located and surrounded the NVA. They called for replacements and Fr. Bill jumped on the next helicopter. He didn't have to go, but his Soldiers needed him spiritually.

Fr. Bill's CH-47 and several other helicopters took off. Not long into the flight,

the Chinook exploded and crashed. Col. Gerard Landry recalled, "There were few, if any instances I can recall personally, where we lost so many Soldiers in one jungle incident. Like a punch in the stomach, a CH-47 goes down with more than 20 Soldiers on board!"

This was a devastating loss. Two weeks later, a memorial service was held, and this time Fr. Bill was part of the group being remembered and prayed for. He was that "next Soldier to die" he always had the Troops pray for.

Fr. William Barragy was only 42-years old. He may be gone, but he's not forgotten! Fr. Richard Kuhn said, "Life is short. It isn't how long you live, but what you have accomplished in the life you have and it isn't what you do sometimes, but the love that prompts you to do it and Fr. Bill had that love and that purpose in his life to be all things to all people as much as he could. He had given his life to the church and his country."

According to Robert Meisch, his nephew, "He was doing what Jesus wanted him to do. He was full of the Holy Spirit. The true measure of a great man is one who puts others in front of self and there was no fame or recognition or monetary gain involved. It was service to his brothers and sisters, and he loved them enough to lay down his life for them."

Chaplain (Maj.) William Barragy was the first chaplain to die in combat in the Vietnam conflict. Here are some final thoughts about this great Iowa Chaplain:

- "Sleep in peace, the battle's done, be it known, that you have won...In the Kingdom of God, your life will never end. For, it was you, who laid down his life, for his friends" -- Peter S. Griffin, "Thoughts, Memories and Tears"

- Shortly after he died, those who knew Fr. Barragy raised money to build five classrooms in a Catholic orphanage and school in South Vietnam. They named it "The Chaplain Barragy Wing."

- On July 3, 1966 Fr. Barragy was posthumously awarded The Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service.

Fitness, Education, Values



What Iowa Warriors need to focus on

As I have been out visiting units this spring, I've been extremely impressed with the professionalism and positive attitude with which our Warriors are conducting their missions.

During these visits I have spoken with many of you about my focus areas – Fitness, Education and Values – those areas in which our NCO Support Channel must stay fully engaged. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley said “As a leader, if you check something, the Soldiers will focus on it.”

These are the areas we need to be checking. Each of these areas has a direct impact on individual and organizational readiness. They are equally important to our junior and senior Warriors alike.

Fitness – Over the past three years, we have applied additional resources, training and effort to Warrior fitness. We have new equipment in virtually every Armory. Our units are scheduling and conducting physical training during Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training.

We must continue to motivate our War-

***We are the ambassadors
to our communities
and what
our communities know
about the National Guard,
they learn from us.***

riors to conduct individual PT during the remainder of the month. We must check with them on their progress and show them we care about their success. I believe we are moving in the right direction, but I also know we have much work left to do.

Education – My focus is primarily on Professional Military Education. Our services are relying more and more on distance learning. By now all of our Soldiers should be familiar with Structured Self Development (SSD) as part of the Non-Commissioned Officer Education System (NCOES).

From our Soldiers just returning from Advanced Individual Training, to our command sergeants major, we all have an

SSD requirement.

Beginning in April, SSD will be a prerequisite for attendance at NCOES. Like fitness, SSD must be a priority for our organization, our Soldiers and our leaders.

Values – We are the ambassadors to our communities and what our communities know about the National Guard, they learn from us. We are an example of everything that is good about our country and it is important for us to remember that.

Do we look, act, and talk like professionals, both in and out of uniform? Are we making good choices consistent with our values? Are we taking care of each other? Are we fully engaged as battle buddies and wingmen?

With all the uncertainty out there right now, it's easy to take your eye off what's important. Fitness, Education and Values are the very foundation of our profession. They are the important things we must continually check and focus on.

Thanks for all you do – Warrior Ready!

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Col.) Paul Lippstock, Iowa State Chaplain

But not forgotten, Part II

continued from last issue

he was sent to St Mary's in Baltimore, Md. In 1948 he returned home to the Archdiocese of Dubuque and was ordained a priest. For the next five years he served in parishes in the areas of Dubuque and Waterloo.

In 1953, the U.S. Army asked for more chaplains. He wanted to make up for not being in the service while he was going to Loras. Nearly 30 years old, he was granted permission to be an Army chaplain – his "payment" back to his country.

He was commissioned a first lieutenant and sent to South Korea, just as the war ended. Tony Musarra served side-by-side with Chaplain Barragy as his chaplain assistant. Tony recalled, "I will never forget one day in particular. A jet came into our view crashing, and Fr. Bill and I were the first to get there. Fr. Bill attended immediately to the dying."

While Fr. Bill's first responsibility was to his troops, he still kept a special place

for the orphans in his heart and there were many orphans in South Korea. Tony remembered, "When we arrived at the orphanage, we were greeted by the nuns and children. Fr. Bill

would talk with the children and they would sit on his lap. He got them to forget the pain of war. There was one particular boy who identified with myself and the chaplain and the three of us became very good friends."

After Korea, Fr. Bill was stationed in Japan and Germany. In 1958 he was promoted to captain and the next year he was off to Ft Benning, Ga. to become a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. The training was intense and was just the test Fr. Bill was looking for. He liked these types of challenges – he was tough, he was afraid of nothing and enjoyed the physical training.

Near the end of 1964, he was assigned as Chaplain to the "Screaming Eagles," 101st Airborne Division Headquarters. He was going to serve with one of the most decorated divisions in military history and was proud to be doing this.

It was now 1965, and Fr. Bill had been promoted to Major. The U.S. was becoming increasingly involved in a place starting to become very "hot." It was only a matter of time before Chaplain Barragy would be going to war in Vietnam. Public opinion was already sharply divided, but this was familiar ground to Fr. Bill. He simply kept his focus on the people whom he was called to serve.

In early July 1965 they loaded a boat headed to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam with

**But not forgotten
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Qualified Soldiers sought for Honor Guard detail

The Iowa Army National Guard Honor Guard is seeking Soldiers of all ranks who are interested in performing Military Funeral Honors on a regular/occasional basis. These Soldiers will render professional military funeral honors, in accordance with service tradition, to all eligible veterans.

Interested Soldiers must:

- 1) Be available to perform honors for a minimum of 12 services per year;
- 2) Be willing to travel within a given area of the state. Government vehicles will

normally be provided, but occasionally, individuals may need to use a Privately-Owned Vehicle. Those individuals will be reimbursed for missions that require travel more than 50 miles away; and

- 3) Be in compliance with AR 600-9, have passed their most current APFT, and not have a physical condition or profile prohibiting lifting.

Benefits include:

- 1) One Unit Training Assembly pay based on your rank/years of service, or \$50 (whichever is more) for each day you

perform Honor Guard funeral details;

- 2) One retirement point for each day you receive stipend pay for performing funeral details;

- 3) Potential full-time opportunities as a member of the Honor Guard staff; and

- 4) The privilege of rendering military honors to those who have honorably served our country.

If you have the character to join our ranks, call the Iowa Funeral Honors office at 515-252-4421.