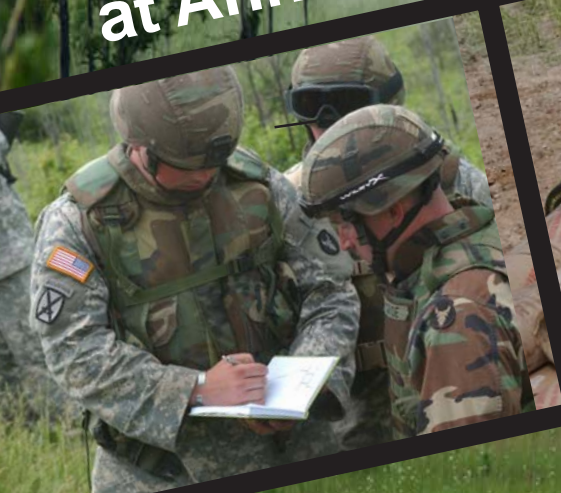


The



# Militiaman

**2nd BCT**  
at Annual Training



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**On the cover:** Approximately 900, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team Soldiers found the opportunity for practical, live-fire exercises during annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn. Here, Engineers of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion put their skills to work, blowing up simulated mortar tubes and rockets during a cache demolition. (Iowa National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rieks).



## **The Iowa Militiaman Summer 2007**

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# We must prepare our Warriors

As fall rapidly approaches, these are truly exceptional and exciting times. This is the most significant period of time in the history of the Iowa National Guard and will be recorded as such in the annals of history.

Thank you for your extraordinary service to your country and for the incredible sacrifices you and your families are making each and every day. You are truly, great Americans, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve with you.

This year, the Iowa National Guard theme is "Mission Focused – Warrior Ready," reflecting our organizational and individual priorities for the next year. We must always remember, we are a "mission focused" organization. Everything we do must support and enable the Iowa National Guard to accomplish whatever mission we are given.

"Warrior Ready" reflects our individual priorities for our Soldiers and Airmen. As leaders, we have an obligation to make sure our Warriors are ready to do what we ask of them. It also means, that in order for a Warrior to be ready, we must ensure his or her family, employer, and community are ready as well. Readiness must be our number one priority.

The bottom line is this: Everything we do to resource, train and prepare our Warriors must fit within this theme. If something doesn't, then it isn't a priority.

But, what does it mean to be a "Warrior?" Each service lives by a creed, and I think it's important to periodically stop and remind ourselves what it means to be an American Soldier or Airman. We are Soldiers and Airmen first, but Warriors always. I expect each and every one of you to live and lead by these creeds.

In the National Guard, we have three primary missions: 1) Federal; 2) State; and 3) Community. Each mission is equally important and interconnected with the others. The resources we receive for our federal mission enable us to maximize our response to our state mission, which in turn strengthens our ability to improve and support our communities.

Let there be no mistake; our federal mission

is our primary mission. This mission has become increasingly important in the Global War on Terror, as the Reserve Component has transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational force. This is not going to change in the foreseeable future, as we will continue to source units in support of the warfight.

And we yet face new challenges on an almost daily basis.

We continue to be engaged in a very fiscally-constrained environment. We're fighting the Global War on Terror on 3.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is staggering when compared to previous conflicts: World War II, at 38 percent of the GDP; the Korean War, at greater than 14 percent; and Vietnam was fought at 10 percent.

Since 1968, the GDP has grown by over 300 percent. However, the Defense budget has only grown by 68 percent. Since 1984, procurement and RDT&E accounts percentage of the Army budget declined from 31 percent to 17.5 percent (a similar figure, within the Air Force). In order to make up for this, we cut people to leverage money for modernization, recapitalizing the force on the backs of the Soldiers and Airmen serving today.

Everyone within the Iowa National Guard must stay engaged on issues affecting the organization. Know your reps within the ESGR, be involved with your unit's family readiness program and be involved within your communities.

Encourage your Soldiers and Airmen to get involved. Give something back to their communities and above all, tell their stories. They, more than anyone else, have the credibility to talk about and share what they have seen in service to their state and nation.

Our Soldiers and Airmen return from deployments more experienced, more mature and more focused. They have tremendous sto-



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## TAG Sends

Maj. Gen.  
Ron Dardis,  
The Adjutant General

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**TAG Sends**  
*continued on page 18*

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# Iowa Military Academy/185th Regional Training Institution celebrates 50th anniversary

Story and photos  
by Capt. Jamie Davis

In July 2007, the Iowa Army National Guard's Regional Training Institute (RTI) turns 50 years old and the pictures which line the halls speak of the evolution of the program.

From the very first 8x10 black and white photo, you get an indication of the program's origins. Forty young, Caucasian, male, second lieutenants stare back with a determined look of hope and promise in their eyes.

A quick scan of the remaining pictures tells the rest of the story. Each is of Soldiers, although they each sport different uniforms from different eras. The last RTI graduating class, represented by an 8x10, color, glossy photo, shows a class of racially diverse, mixed-gender Soldiers, showcasing officers of assorted ages, hopes and dreams.

The RTI program itself has evolved over the years. Many think of the RTI as training by officers – for officers. Those days, along with the black and white photos, are long gone.

Today, the RTI is the "School House of the Guard."

In 1957, following World War II and the Korean War, there was a shortage of Army officers. Each state was delegated to produce officers to fill their ranks. The Iowa Military Academy, as it was then known, came into existence.

While it's seen many changes over the years, the mission has remained the same: Production of future leaders. Iowa's Officer Candidate School has the same mission and training program as what is offered at Ft. Benning, Ga.

The current RTI

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***The process has and will  
continue to morph.***

***It mirrors the wants and needs  
of the Army and we intend  
to stay current in addressing  
those needs."***

**Col. Ron Albrecht  
RTI Commander**

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Commander, Col. Ron Albrecht, who assumed command in June 2006, has witnessed the evolution first-hand.

"The process has and will continue to morph. It mirrors the wants and needs of the Army and we intend to stay current in addressing those needs," said Albrecht.

"The RTI is part of the team. We train Soldiers to fill the leadership vacancies and identify Soldiers to be future leaders. But, it isn't just dedicated to training officers. It is now a leadership school and has been evolving into more of a career-path training program," Albrecht added.

Iowa took the lead with its Non-Commissioned Officer training. NCO Educational System courses, such as the Basic NCO Course, and Advanced NCO Course are offered, along with OCS and the second class of Warrant Officer Candidate School is now underway.

Due to a shortage of Warrant Officers the same concept was applied – take the same program and teach it locally, thereby producing tomorrow's leaders. The second WOCS class graduated 15 Warrant Officers, whereas in the past, Iowa sent only one or two Soldiers per year to out-of-state locations to complete their training.

Clearly, the program has paid dividends.

They plan on assuming a larger role in Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) qualification and leadership roles, and are getting more proactive in taking care of Soldier's needs.

Recently, they've added MOS qualification schools, such as Motor Transport Operator (88M), Health Care Specialist (68W) Sustain-

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*A walk through the  
RTI photo gallery  
stirs many  
memories of past  
classes.*



ment, and Cavalry Scout (19D) schools, with the hope of adding more MOS Qualification courses in the future.

They also offer Combat Lifesaver, Total Army Instructor Training, Instructor for Small Group Training, Company Level Pre-Command Course, and State-level Pre-Mobilization Evaluation courses.

Instructor Capt. Chad Cook has been with the RTI for a year-and-a-half, while Capt. Andrea Mayer has taught for two-and-a-half years.

"Iowa is networking to take care of the Iowa National Guard Soldiers and helping Soldiers find the right program that fits their leadership needs," said Mayer.

Growth does come with its challenges. The military's current operations tempo has taken a toll on recruitment and the RTI itself loses staff members due to deployments. Also, many commands are more selective these days as to who they submit for the schools.

Another challenge faced by the RTI, is the fact they are rapidly outgrowing the facilities they currently have. Many other schools at Camp Dodge and other programs are competing for those same resources.

"Resource management and command and control does pose a challenge for the RTI but these are welcome challenges, as we continue to provide leadership opportunities for the Guard," said Cook.

Another achievement the RTI is proud of is the overall leadership courses that have been offered.

In July 2007, the RTI celebrated 50 years of training future leaders. And not just officers – but rather, officers, warrant officers, senior NCOs, NCOs and those looking for MOS

schools – have all benefited and as a result, the Army itself has benefited from the RTI.

Looking forward from its inception, no one had an inkling of what the RTI would become. However, in looking back today, the RTI has had a tremendous impact on the history of the Iowa National Guard.

"It's important to recognize those who have gone before us, gone through the process and honor the foresight they had. It's an opportunity for us to pay tribute," said Albrecht.

No one knows what the next 50 years will bring, but each year, another class photo will be added to the wall as new leaders are brought into the ranks through the RTI program.

Each photo will feature different faces and different races, but each will continue to share the same look of determination, hope and promise, that these future leaders will bring to the state of Iowa.



*Whether it's in the classroom, or in the field, Regional Training Institution instructors provide innovative training for the best Soldiers - officers and enlisted - that Iowa has to offer. Through its unique, comprehensive training programs, RTI helps Soldiers find the right program that fits their leadership needs.*

# Iowa Soldier realizes dream, earns U.S. citizenship in Iraq

*"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;..."*

by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

**(Editor's Note: The 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry returned home to Iowa July 25).**

When his year-long deployment to Iraq with the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Division began, 29-year old Spc. Aly Diasse was one of approximately a dozen foreign-born Soldiers serving in the Iowa National Guard, who are not U.S. citizens.

An integral part of the unit's Company B, Diasse has always put mission accomplishment and the safety of his fellow Soldiers first. However, from his very first day in America, Diasse has dreamed of becoming a U.S. citizen.

On Nov. 12, Diasse, along with more than 40 other servicemembers, was honored with just that privilege, as they took the Oath of Allegiance at the Sustainer Theater, Logistical Support Area Anaconda, near Balad, Iraq.

According to Dr. Emilio T. Gonzalez, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, who was present at the ceremony, thousands of immigrant troops are making extraordinary sacrifices for their adopted country.

"These men and women have pledged to defend with their lives, liberties they have yet

to secure for themselves," Gonzalez said. "There is no more fitting way for a grateful nation to show its appreciation, than through granting qualified military servicemembers U.S. citizenship as soon as possible."

"You came from Africa to Asia, from Europe to South America. But today in Iraq – a country struggling for its own freedom – you are all Americans," said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during the keynote address.

For Diasse, a happy-go lucky guy who enjoys life and prides himself on keeping a positive attitude, that always-present smile spread even bigger that day.

"I am very glad about becoming a U.S. citizen," Diasse said. "Being a U.S. citizen is a great feeling and it gives me a better opportunity for my future."

*"...That I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;..."*

Originally from the West African country of Senegal, Diasse arrived in Iowa in May 2001, shortly after completing high school. He later obtained a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon. Diasse had a cousin who had lived in Iowa and after discussing school possibilities with him, he decided to put his roots down in Iowa City.

While he came to Iowa to continue his education, money proved to be an issue. In the meantime, Diasse continued to support and improve himself.

He went to work for Plastic Products Company, an injection molding plastic factory at West Branch. He met Ronni, his next door neighbor, who would soon become his wife. It wasn't long before their daughter, Amy, was born.

It was then that Diasse decided to look into the Iowa Army National Guard.

*"...That I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;..."*

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Edwards, an Iowa National Guard recruiter in Iowa City, remembers the day Diasse first walked into the Dubuque

*Spc. Aly Diasse takes part in the Oath of Allegiance as he becomes a U.S. citizen during his naturalization ceremony at LSA Anaconda, Iraq. (US Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Murray)*



Street armory. Besides his infectious smile, Edwards was struck by the young man's focus.

"As recruiters, we talk to people everyday," Edwards said. "Most people are afraid to make a commitment today, especially with a war going on and 24/7 coverage of the Iraq war on TV and in the media. A lot of people will say, 'Not right now, maybe later.'"

Diasse simply walked in and said, 'I want to join the National Guard.'

"I think it speaks very highly of his character. Even with all the media coverage, he wanted to help his family. He knew there was a chance he could deploy, and he still joined. Even though he wasn't a U.S. citizen, he was willing to enlist, despite the possibility of deploying."

Following basic training, Diasse graduated from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an 11B, or Infantryman. Edwards made the trip and was present for his graduation.

Edwards felt his commitment to this young man was by no means over. One of Diasse's goals, and the thing he talked the most about, was achieving U.S. citizenship. While it's somewhat easier to get U.S. citizenship through military service, it's by no means a decisive factor.

So, Diasse and Edwards made frequent trips west on Interstate 80 to Camp Dodge to work with the Judge Advocate General, or staff attorney, on the U.S. citizenship application process. Unfortunately, shortly after the process began, Diasse's unit was called up for deployment.

***"...That I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;..."***

On Oct. 7, 2005, Diasse and approximately 650 other Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, mobilized to Camp Shelby, Miss. for training. The unit had previously been mobilized in support of Operation Desert Spring from Sept. 2000 to Feb. 2001, providing security for U.S. military assets in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and was also mobilized for the Multinational Force Observer mission in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt from May 2003 to Jan. 2004.

The unit's primary mission since arriving in Iraq in May 2006 has been providing convoy security throughout the country.

A driver/gunner, versatile in any position, Diasse quickly went about his tasks, completing more than 40 missions and logging ap-

proximately 18,500 miles of combat logistical patrols.

"Diasse would do whatever is asked of him, and he always gives a lot of effort in everything he does," said 2nd Lt. Kent Greiner, his 1st platoon, Bravo Company platoon leader. "You never have to ask him twice on any tasks."

"He has a positive attitude, is always ready with a smile, and never sits a mission out," Greiner said.

And through it all, he continued to focus on his personal mission, taking classes, undergoing naturalization interviews and completing his coursework, culminating in the Iraq ceremony.

And when he returns to U.S. soil, he'll now enjoy all the rights and responsibilities of a U.S. citizen. Meanwhile, he's looking toward his family's future.

"When I get back, my plan is to go back to school, get an education and find a good job."

He said he'd like to work for the City of Iowa City if possible, but hasn't ruled out becoming an airplane mechanic, either.

And, he wants to continue in the Iowa National Guard.

"I love the Army life and I think I will reenlist. I chose to be an 11B because I love the infantry."

"I'm very glad of being a soldier and being able to give my family and my daughter freedom. I have learned a lot more in the last two years, than I have in my whole life. I think everybody should be a soldier at least once in their life, and see how much better a person you can be," Diasse said.

***"...And that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."***

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*One of Iowa's newest U.S. citizens enjoys cake with fellow 133rd Infantry Soldiers.*





# 133rd Infantry Division has no lack of experienced Iowans

By Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Clinton Wood  
1/34 BCT Public Affairs

(Editor's Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry returned home to Iowa July 25).

CAMP AL ASAD, Iraq – There is certainly no lack of experience in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Iowa Army National Guard Soldiers stationed here.

There are 10 Guardsmen with more than 25 years of service. They include Chief Warrant Officer Stephen Swisher of Council Bluffs, and Staff Sgt. Stephen Johnson of Dubuque, who have 30 and 29 years of service; and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Thomas Newton of Waterloo, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Plambeck of Persia, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joel Laird of Des Moines, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Donald Gilbert of Waverly, who each have more than 27 years of service.

This marks the first deployment for Swisher, Plambeck, Laird and Gilbert.

"I never dreamt I would stay in this long," Swisher, the battalion's maintenance technician, said with several laughs.

The 47-year old Swisher, a married father of three, enlisted in the Guard Dec. 1, 1976 at age

16. His parents had to sign a waiver for him to enlist. He said the supervisor of the furniture store he worked in and a Guard member advised him to join the Guard.

Swisher was a noncommissioned officer from 1981 until 1999, earning the rank of master sergeant in 1992. He became a warrant officer in 1999 and has worked as a full-time technician for the last 28 years at the Council Bluffs field maintenance shop, one of more than 10 in the state.

Becoming a warrant officer was one of his goals before leaving the Guard. "I did what I said I wanted to do," he said. "It feels like one helluva accomplishment. I've done my best."

Following this deployment, he said he wants to "drive on" for at least another year.

"It all depends on the technician program," he said. "If it has something good to offer, I'll probably stick around."

Johnson, 55, who served in the Army from 1969 until 1972, has to "stick around." He extended his enlistment for six years in 2004 after more than 20 years in the Guard (all in Company A, based in Dubuque).

He said he joined the Army as an engineer during the Vietnam War to "do something for his country" and at the same time earn money for college with the G.I. Bill.

He was very close to being sent to Vietnam instead of South Korea. While at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., 25 engineers left for Vietnam the first month. In the second month, 23 Soldiers left for Vietnam as he and another Soldier were deployed to South Korea.

Johnson, a married father of two, joined the Guard in 1984 on a one-year trial program.

He said he enjoys the Guard because he is able to do something different. When not deployed (this was his third), he is in his 30<sup>th</sup> year as a revenue agent for the Iowa Department of Revenue.

During his Guard career, Johnson has worked in several fields, including administrative and supply. Here, he is the battalion's liaison for convoy operations between several Army units.

"It was nice to get away from my civilian job a little bit and do something different," one of his reasons for staying in the Guard. "I just like doing it. To me it was a stress relief from my regular job."

Johnson's relatives also like serving in the military. His cousin served 27 years in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, his father served aboard a Landing Ship, Tank during the D-Day invasion at Normandy, France, in World War II, and his cousin is a major in the Iowa National Guard.

Laird, 44, also has strong family ties with the military. His father was a full-time Guard recruiter.

Laird, the motor pool maintenance control NCO, definitely made his father proud. He spent two years in the Guard from 1979-81, served in the Marines from 1982 until 1990 and re-joined the Guard in 1990.

Laird, a married father of five, said the reason for re-joining the Guard was because he had several years of service in and wanted "to come back in and do what I could."

His father passed away in 1989. "I figured if he gave his life for the military, so can I."

When he returns home, he plans to pursue the heating and air conditioning business he started before deploying. If this doesn't pan out, he said, he'll attempt to secure a full-time Guard position.

Newton, 45, and Gilbert, 49, don't have to worry about finding work as full-time Guardsmen. They have worked at the same Iowa maintenance shop for more than 20 years. Both also joined the Guard in 1979.

Newton, a married father of three, said he joined the Guard's maintenance field upon the advice of the manager of the hotel he worked at.

"I just enjoyed doing it. Actually, I figured I would be here for the long haul," he said.

His future plans are to attend the sergeants' major academy. He said he will stay in the Guard until he is 60 years old if he can.

This could be true for Gilbert too, a married father of four, who said he'll stay in the Guard until "they can't retain me any more."

He joined the Guard because his friends did and he wanted to "give back to the community."

He's enjoyed the Guard because he enjoys his job, which he said can be a rarity in the civilian workplace.

Plambeck, a motor sergeant, likes his Guard job as well. The married father of two has worked as a full-time technician at the same shop as Swisher for the last 19 years.

"Once I was a technician, I was more or less devoted to (the Guard)," he said.

He said he originally joined the Guard in 1979 for a \$1,200 enlistment bonus. "If not for being a full-time technician, I would have retired at 24 years," he said.

Two of his brothers have retired from the Guard after several years of service and his nephew, also a sergeant first class, is serving with the battalion here.

The other Soldiers with more than 25 years are 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Steven DeBoer, Sgt. John Rick, Staff Sgt. Walter Tapp and Sgt. Michael Sticker.

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# Briefs

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## ***New TSP number arriving***

Be on the lookout in late fall for a mailing from the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) with your new TSP account number. This account number will replace your Social Security number as your primary ID for your TSP account. You will need to use your account number when filing TSP forms. You will use it with your TSP password when entering the Account Access section of the TSP Web site and will use it with your TSP Personal Identification Number (PIN) to gain access to your account through the Thrift Line.

And, if you send TSP loan payments from your own funds, you will need to include your account number on the loan coupon that accompanies your check or provide it to your on-line bill-paying service if you have one.

Substituting this randomly selected account number for your Social Security number will make your TSP transactions more secure. The TSP is doing all it can to protect the security of your personal information. The rest is up to you. Be careful giving out your account number, and don't write it down where it can be seen by others who should not have access to it.

## ***Interest reduction program***

With the Iowa Student Loan Armed Forces Interest Reduction Program, interest on private student loans will be reduced to zero percent for up to 24 months if a borrower was deployed, is currently deployed, or becomes deployed between Sept. 11, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2008, or has a non-defaulted private loan owned (or serviced) by Iowa Student Loan, or has completed payment on such a loan during the eligibility period.

Iowa Student Loan is obligated to issue a 1099-C form for borrowers reporting a reduction of indebtedness of \$600 or more. Borrowers, or a representative, spouse or parent, should call Iowa Student Loan at 1-(800)-243-7552. A copy of their military orders confirming eligible service is required.

## ***Suicide prevention week***

Sept. 9-15 has been established as National Suicide Prevention Week. The Department of Defense theme this year, is "Suicide Prevention: Moving Forward with Education and Training."

The Army Center for Health Promotion

and Preventive Medicine has developed suicide prevention training based on actual suicide event reports, including vignettes and other interactive lessons, which will be provided in September.

Statistics show almost 50 percent more Army National Guard Soldiers have committed suicide this year than at the same time last year. Every suicide is a preventable tragedy for Soldiers, family members and communities.

## ***New airline gate procedures***

The Transportation Security Administration has issued a directive pertaining to military passengers at U.S. airports. According to Security Directive 1544-01-10w, families of military members may be granted access to sterile concourse areas to escort their military passenger to the departure gate or to meet a military passenger's inbound arrival at the gate.

The family member can go to the airline check-in desk the military member is flying on and receive a pass to go to the gate. They will still be required to have a pass and a photo ID to get through the security checkpoint for that gate.

## ***Imminent danger pay changes***

According to the Department of Defense, these locations will no longer be classified imminent danger pay zones: Angola, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia.

To ensure members are compensated appropriately, increases in hardship duty-location pay (HDP-L) for Angola, Georgia, and Sierra Leone are increased from \$100 to \$150 a month. Macedonia is increased from \$0 to \$100 a month.

All of the above changes are effective Nov. 1, 2007.

Hardship duty-location is compensation paid in designated hardship duty locations (i.e. areas where quality of life is substantially below that most members in the U.S. generally experience). Factors considered include physical environment, living conditions, and personal security.

Imminent danger pay is compensation paid at the rate of \$225 a month for duty in a foreign area in which the member was subject to the threat of physical harm or imminent danger on the basis of civil insurrection, civil war, terrorism, or wartime conditions.

## The armories of Iowa

# Remembering the coliseums

by Mary Jones

### Environmental Section

Throughout Iowa history, National Guard armories were located in many types of buildings. Community pride went a long way in determining how fine a hall housed a unit, and many cities erected massive structures that were used not only for its National Guard companies, but also for community gatherings of all sorts.

One of the finest types of these buildings were "The Coliseums," and a half dozen or so were built to house Guard units throughout the state. Although several of these still survive, there are three Iowa National Guard Coliseums which exist only in memory.



**Clinton Coliseum**

## The Clinton Coliseum

**101-109 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Clinton, Iowa**

The Clinton Coliseum was built as the Battery A, 1<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Armory, in 1914. The building was designed by architects John Morrell and Sons, who also designed many other Clinton landmarks.

During the 1930s, part of the building was converted into the Modernistic Ballroom. "The Mod," as it was known to the locals, was host to bands conducted by Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo and Lawrence Welk.

Guard units used portions of the Coliseum until 1951. Throughout this time the building's owners continued to hire dance bands – now of the rock n' roll variety - until a Christmas Eve fire destroyed the building in 1958.

**Coliseums**  
*Continued on page M4*

## Recent donations presented to the museum

We are most thankful for three donations received at Retiree Day 2007. Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James Anderson, of Cedar Falls, donated a World War I (Trench Art) 75mm artillery shell. He also donated a 105mm artillery Fleschett pack from the Vietnam War. What was an infantryman doing with this stuff?

Another donation was an excellent set of World War II Class A uniforms from Master Sgt. (Ret.) Mike Halpin, from Marion.

The third donation was a rare Model 1910 Haversack and Pack carrier from Capt. (Ret.) Wayne Calhoon, from Spencer. This was an item that some Guardsmen and Marines used in early WWII.

# 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reg., 27<sup>th</sup> Div. Soldiers reunited

by Col (Ret) Russell V. Bierl

Director, Iowa Gold Star Museum

Before their recent meeting at Camp Dodge's Gold Star Military Museum, the last time Capt. Aloysius T. Rolfes and Staff Sgt. Henry G. Hull saw each other was October 1945.

Rolfes had served as commander of Company E, 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and Hull was the Mortar platoon sergeant during the World War II island campaign of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. They trained together in Hawaii, made the invasion on Yellow Beach at Makin and fought together at Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa from September 1943 to October 1945. They also were together on the first plane the division sent into Japan for occupation duty.

Col. (Ret.) Rolfes was drafted into the Army from Le Mars, Iowa in 1942 and initially trained at Camp Barkley, Calif. He was chosen to attend Officers Candidate School and following graduation at Ft. Benning, Ga., 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rolfes was assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Al fondly remembers his first Company Commander, Capt. Ben Ryan of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division, New York National Guard. Ryan suggested Rolfes attend the Ranger School at Schofield Barracks and Al considered that suggestion a direct order. Rolfes successfully completed the Ranger training and also served as a trainer.

Rolfes first served as a platoon leader with Co. E, and several Pacific island campaigns later, was assigned as commander and promoted to captain. Ryan was wounded on Saipan and told Rolfes he would look up his parents back in Iowa. Al says Ryan kept his word, treating them to a night in Des Moines, according to a letter Al's mother sent him. She said they were very happy to visit with Ryan and hear about their son.

Rolfes remembers well going ashore on Yellow Beach at Makin. When the front ramp of the landing craft dropped, he was thrown into the water. His Soldiers followed and stepped off into water up to their chest. The crew that was manning the landing craft were all killed by machine gun fire and "I thought we were all goners," said Rolfes.

"Sgt. Hull, who was on our mortar team, provided our only fire support. They were really good at adjusting their fire. They could drop the round right on the enemy after the first couple rounds," recalls Rolfes.

Hull first served as an



**Capt. Aloysius T. Rolfes**



**Staff Sgt. Henry G. Hull**

ammunition bearer and rose up through the ranks to staff sergeant.

Hull remembers they were not ready for the snipers on Makin Island. He said, "The Japs tied themselves into the tops of coconut trees and fired on our men. We soon fixed them with 20 rounds fired into the tree top from a Browning Automatic Rifle."

Following the Makin Island campaign, the 27<sup>th</sup> Division returned to Schofield Barracks to refit and retrain before heading off to Saipan and Tinian. Rolfes recalls they were originally supposed to assault Tinian Island, but the Japanese forces on Saipan were stronger than expected. Illumination was provided by Navy ships and the Division used that light with effect to kill some 2,500 Japanese moving on their flank in a Banzai attack.

After the Saipan/Tinian campaign, the Division moved to the New Hebrides Island group for rest and retraining prior



*Former Capt. Al Rolfes (right) and Staff Sgt. Henry Hull hold a copy of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division history. They fought in Company E, 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, on Makin, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa, as well as serving on occupation duty in Japan.*

to assaulting Okinawa. Rolfes remembers the Okinawa campaign as very hard fought, the final island before American forces would attack the home islands of Japan.

During the battle for Okinawa, Company E was down to 38 men from the 182 assigned when they were pulled off the line one morning, provided hot food, and 140 replacements. They were sent back in the late afternoon with the replacements, having no training time to integrate the men for a combat environment.

Once Okinawa was secure, Rolfes recalls the excitement when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. When the Japanese surrendered, Rolfes said Co. E was the first unit of the division to land by air on Japan and he was amazed at the lack of hostility by the Japanese. He recalls that all the men received 30 Yen. Rolfes went on to say that "their experience on Japan was favorable."

Rolfes declined to stay on active duty, choosing to return home to LeMars and the farm. He married, began farming with his father, joined the Iowa National Guard in 1947 and became commander of Company K, 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry in LeMars. Rolfes went on to a full-time career with the Iowa National Guard, eventually becoming Chief of Staff. Rolfes retired in 1985, with 39 years of service.

"Looking back at my experience, I consider myself truly blessed," Rolfes adds. "I lost a lot of friends. There were plenty of good guys who didn't make it out of there alive. I was never wounded," he said, "but I came close plenty of times though."

Rolfes lives in Des Moines, while Hull is from Chillicothe, Mo. They found each other through a news story on Iowa Public Television.

## Great news on Gold Star Museum expansion

The Governor has signed the appropriations bill which includes funding for the construction of an addition to the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge.

The Museum will receive \$1 million in July 2007, with an additional \$3 million to be received over the course of the next two years (2008-2009), after further approval by the legislature and governor. Senators Daryl Beall, Steve Warnstadt, Matt McCoy, and Jack Kibbie, and Representatives Dennis Cohoon and Wes Whitead were very instrumental in seeing this bill pass the legislature.

Funding is from the State of Iowa, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriation budget.

All veterans need to give a special thank you to these people when you see them. Also a special thanks to Bob Holliday and the rest of the Museum Board for their effort

in working with the state legislature to get this appropriation through.

We hope to have architectural plans for the 23,600-square foot addition approved by the first of the year.

Stand by for more updates on this museum expansion.

## Memorial Day open house

The Gold Star Museum was again open for the Memorial Day Holiday as a special site to remember our fallen Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen.

For the second year in a row, the Memorial Day open house at the museum was a roaring success. We had approximately 1,300 people attend the event which included the Van & Bonnie WHO radio show broadcast from the Museum.

A standard Army Breakfast of "Stuff on a Shingle," Army coffee, as well as "Bug Juice" was provided to all visitors who attended the open house.



*A Model 1918, World War I U.S. Army Liberty Truck. Pictured are Staff Sgt. Daryl Heldt from Co G, 1/334 BSB and two WWI re-enactors in period uniforms. The truck will be exhibited in the new addition.*

### Iowa Gold Star Military Museum

7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824  
(515)-252-4531

[www.iowaNationalGuard.com](http://www.iowaNationalGuard.com)

Museum E-mail contact:  
[goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov](mailto:goldstarmuseum@iowa.gov)

#### Museum hours

Open Mon – Fri, 8 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.

Open Saturday 9 a.m. -- 4:30 p.m.

Retiree Coffee every  
Wednesday morning at 9 a.m.

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**Coliseums  
Continued  
from page M1**

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**Des Moines  
Coliseum**

**Locust Street and  
Des Moines River  
Des Moines, Iowa**

This riverfront Coliseum, built about 1907, was used by a number of National Guard units, including Companies A and B, 55<sup>th</sup> Regiment, the 56<sup>th</sup> Regiment Band, and the Sanitary Detachment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment. By 1923 Companies C and D, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn., 168<sup>th</sup> Regiment, had moved to this site as well.

The Des Moines Coliseum burned in 1949.



**Des Moines Coliseum**

**Ottumwa Memorial  
Coliseum  
and Armory  
100 Church Street  
Ottumwa, Iowa**

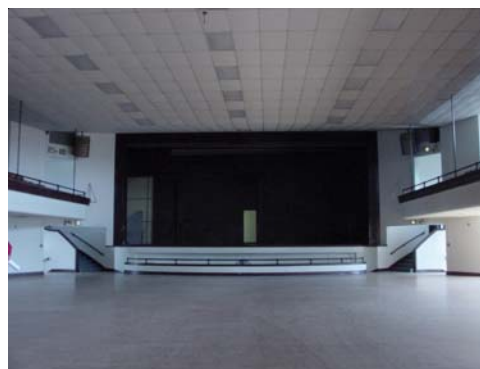
The 1934 Ottumwa Memorial Coliseum was built for both community events and for Troop E, 2nd Squadron, 113<sup>th</sup> Cavalry use. It was designed by architect George M. Kerns.

The Coliseum included a riding hall, blacksmith shop and stables on the ground level. The main floor housed an auditorium and stage, and included an orchestra pit and a balcony. The balcony level also housed supply rooms and offices.

The building was used until at least 1953 by Battery C of the 113<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. It was used by the community long after the Guard left the site. In 2004, after preservationists' efforts to save it were exhausted, it was demolished for the construction of a new civic center.



**Ottumwa Memorial Coliseum**



**Coliseum main floor and stage**



**During demolition**



# Iowa Soldier/educator recognized as National Distinguished Principal

by Spc. Alicia Dill

Command Sgt. Major Chris Myers, of the 1st Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, spends drill weekends as a Soldier in the Iowa National Guard. But in his civilian job, he leads a much younger troops. As principal of Cedar Rapids' Garfield Elementary School, Myers is making a difference among his students and fellow educators.

A former first grade teacher, Myers was selected by his associates to receive the 2006 Iowa Principal of the Year Award from the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Recognition for Myers' outstanding leadership wasn't finished, as he was also selected as the National Distinguished Principal for the State of Iowa at the national level.

He relates his achievement in the classroom and leadership as principal to his learning experiences in the Army.

"Soldiers are no different than students in the fact that they have things they need and an education to gain. The only difference is the setting the education occurs in," said Myers, who began his Iowa National Guard career in 1983.

"In the Soldiers' world, a lack of education can lead to death. In the education world, a lack of education can lead to an academic death. Neither one of these is pleasant," he said.

With almost 25 years in educating Soldiers and students, Myers has learned to adapt to any situation either position has put forth.

"The experience of going through the military and being yelled at by numerous people at many levels, prepares one quite well for dealing with those unhappy parents that come into your building now and again," he said.

"In addition, learning about leadership in the military helps one learn how to deal with many types of learning, that one leadership style doesn't fit them all. Education also teaches you to apply your patience and ability to adapt to situations for use in the military."

One such situation occurred in May 2004, when he deployed to Afghanistan. Serving as operations sergeant major, Myers went beyond

*One subject that makes Iowans proud,  
is the quality of public education.  
Taxpayers across the state expect  
their tax money to prepare students  
for whatever life may bring.  
Whether it's pride or expectations  
that drive Iowa educators to excel,  
one Soldier/elementary school  
principal takes both to the classroom.*

the expectations of his position, and with the help of Sac City students and teachers, gave something back to the people of Afghanistan.

After meeting with a local principal in Afghanistan, Myers had a list of basic school supplies the students needed; paper, pencils and pens. He got in touch with the interim school principal where he worked to see if a donation project was feasible.

"One thing led to another and soon the children in Sac City were gathering supplies for the school. Businesses in Sac City donated money for shipping the supplies and individuals donated money for the same," he said. "Children raided closets and desks for everything they could and begged parents to buy more. When it was completed, they had enough supplies to fill a pickup truck to overflowing," he said.



*Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Myers, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, is recognized as the 2006 Iowa Principal of the Year, as well as the National Distinguished Principal for the State of Iowa, by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. (Contributed photo)*



# Through the ranks

by State Command Sgt. Maj. Doyle Norris

For this issue, I would like to discuss the improved Enlisted Promotion System for the Iowa Army National Guard. Probably the highest profile program this Headquarters administrates is the Enlisted Promotion System.

After all, what Soldier doesn't look forward to getting promoted?

However, there are several requirements which must be met just to get your record before the promotion board, and then there is the board itself.

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel realized how important this program was and hired a full time Enlisted Promotion Manager for the State. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Teresa Conradi, who was selected, has been one busy Soldier.

This was also the year we went to an automated board process. No more 201 files; everything is done from your electronic file and even the scoring is electronic thanks to the State Information Management section.

Once the panel members became familiar with the electronic process, the acceptance was almost unanimous. The promotion lists are now available from any RCAS computer and the lists are updated almost daily.

Remember, to be eligible for promotion to the next higher grade, you must meet the time in grade and time in service requirements. You must have completed all phases of NCOES for your current rank and of course, not be flagged for adverse action.

The boards for promotion to sergeant major, first/master sergeant and sergeant first class will be conducted in November 2007 and the boards for staff sergeant and sergeant will be held in February 2008.

You should be looking for your NGB Form 4100 (Administrative Promotion Points) soon. Also, take time to have someone in your NCO Support Channel explain the different declinations available to you before you sign your NGB Form 4100.

Each year I see there is confusion on the



declinations and what they mean, so don't be afraid to ask for assistance.

My final request is for each Soldier to monitor the list and know where they stand on the list. We found 38 Soldiers who were left off the original list and the Headquarters conducted a stand-by advisory board and a supplemental board to add those Soldiers who should have been on the list in the first place.

These boards are conducted on a quarterly basis.

If you have a question about why your record was not looked at, first, ask your NCO Support Channel. Your platoon sergeant, as well as your first sergeant, probably have the answer for you.

But, in case of an oversight, the fastest way to get added to any upcoming board is to let your NCOs know the situation. Your Battalion Command Sergeant Major also has insight to the process and can work any issue that needs attention.

Our new State Enlisted Personnel Manager, Sgt. Maj. Renee Blodgett, Conradi and I stand ready to correct any deficiency that is brought to our attention.

We have improved this process by leaps and bounds. I have more confidence in this system than I have had since becoming the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the State.

Our Soldiers are doing great and wonderful things all around the world. It is incumbent upon the senior leadership of the State to reward such an outstanding display of professionalism and dedication by ensuring our best Soldiers are promoted.

Remember, you are not promoted for what you have done in the past, you are promoted for what you will do in the future. Providing the extra responsibility that goes along with the extra rank will enable the Soldiers of the Iowa Army National Guard to reach even loftier heights.

We are proud Iowans and we are professional Soldiers!

# Out with the old, in with the new

First and foremost, the Education Services Officer, Capt. Don Enright, begins a year-long deployment with the 1st Battalion, 194<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery to Kosovo. Enright will serve as the Battalion S-1, Personnel Officer. There have been many changes to improve the availability of the Education Office for Iowans – new web sites have been added, with more personnel getting out to units. You can thank Enright for that; his passion in education has been greatly appreciated. Thank you and good luck!!

So, you may ask, who is going to be the new Education Services Officer? Well, the Iowa National Guard would like to welcome home 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Mitchell. Before leaving for his 15-month deployment to Afghanistan, Mitchell served as Guidance Counselor. Mitchell is excited about being back in the Education Office.

The online application for the National Guard Assistance Program (NGEAP) has been a great success. Soldiers/Airmen can now enter an email address when the application is sent to the State Tuition Assistance manager, so an email response is returned when the application is received. When logging onto [www.iowanationalguard.com](http://www.iowanationalguard.com), under the “Army Education” tab, Soldiers can find the latest info on all the education programs we offer.

There are links to tuition assistance applications, updated rates for GI Bill payments (every October), current bonus MOS information, as well as Frequently Asked Questions. If Soldiers still have questions, they may contact the ESO office at [Educationia@ia.ngb.army.mil](mailto:Educationia@ia.ngb.army.mil).

The Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance (ARNG-FTA) has a new website, [www.nationalguardbenefits.com](http://www.nationalguardbenefits.com). The online application has many improvements, including a statement of understanding for Soldiers to review and approve, functions with drop-down menus and radial buttons, and an easier to understand layout.

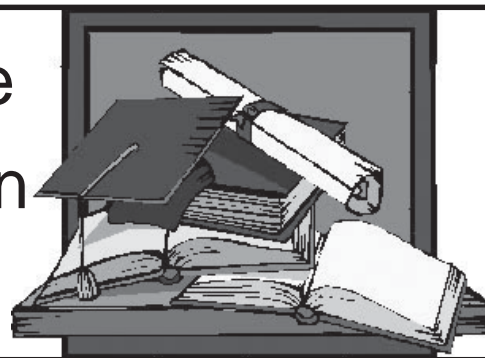
Since this is a first-come, first-served program, Soldiers should apply online at least 30 days prior to their course start date. Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers attending, or wanting to attend college, need to contact the Rock Island Arsenal at (309) 782-2065 to sign up for Federal Tuition Assistance and use the “GoArmyEd” web site.

Soldiers can also find out here if they’re eligible for Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) Chapter 1607. The NGB issues an Eligibility for Mobilized Soldiers (EMS) document providing information to help those

who have been deployed. Ch 1607 is a VA-administered benefit, used much like the Ch. 1606 GI Bill.

In the GI Bill arena, Reservists may use it for college, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, correspondence courses or flight training. If a Soldier is in school, they must contact the VA certifying official at their college or university. Once the paperwork has been sent to their Regional VA, it takes 10-12 weeks to process the claim, so start the process early.

## From the Education Office



If you are applying for Ch. 1606 and need your Notice of Basic Eligibility, it’s found in your iPERMS Soldier file. When applying for Ch 1607 (for those deployed), submit your mobilization orders and DD 214 to the VA certifying official at your college. If the Soldier has a kicker, it will also need to be submitted. All documents can be found in iPERMS. For those applying for programs other than college, contact the VA or visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

Another important piece is the Information, Management and Reporting Center, or iMARC. This online database, managed by NGB, is the database of record for all education and incentive programs. The ESO tracks all bonuses (enlistment and re-enlistment), GI Bill benefits, Student Loan Repayment and ARNG-FTA using this system. Unit Readiness NCOs, Admin NCOs, First Sergeants, and OICs can gain access by applying for a login and password at <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil>.

The biggest change to iMARC has been the upgrade of the GI Bill tab. Units can now see if a soldier has used Ch. 1606, Ch. 1607, Ch. 30 and kicker, all in one tab.

From online applications to updated websites, these improvements have allowed us to help more Soldiers in a shorter amount of time and get more information in front of more Soldiers. Our goal is to continually improve our processes to become more efficient and find new ways to take care of our soldiers.



*Recruit Sustainment Program Soldiers turn their full attention to donning protective masks as part of NBC training.*

## ***RSP provides benefits for Soldiers, Iowa Guard***

**Story and photos  
by Spc. Michael Kelly**

Standing in ranks at attention, this group of mostly 18-year-olds could fit in well with any Army unit preparing for physical training. They stand quiet, tall and perfectly motionless, as they wait to hear from their sergeants.

However, these young men and women have yet to attend basic training. They are part of the Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP), which the Army National Guard uses to help prepare young recruits for the rigors of basic training.

With all the mental, physical, and emotional stress recruits encounter during basic training, who couldn't benefit from preparatory training prior to basic? That is where the RSP comes in.

According to Sgt. Eric Wendt, a Company D cadre member from Shelby, Iowa, RSP is designed to give recruits a feel for military structure before attending basic training. The goal of the RSP program, which began in February 2005, is to make basic training easier by identifying problems recruits may have and correct them prior to their ship-out date.

The program also benefits recruits by giving them an idea of what to expect and help them adapt to the changes they will experience. A

National Guard benefit is a lower attrition rate of recruits failing basic, with a 20 percent lower attrition rate than the active duty Army.

Recently, RSP Soldiers were put through their paces at the Council Bluffs National Guard armory. During this particular weekend, the cadre and RSP participants were preparing for their consolidated weekend at Camp Dodge, involving all the other RSP programs from around the state.

Other Iowa RSP locations include Camp Dodge (Company A), Waterloo (Company B), Fairfield (Company C), LeMars (Company E), Algona (Company F), and Clinton (Company G).

Saturday morning starts much the same as any other National Guard drill – the recruits form up for muster and receive the plan of the day. The difference, however, is instead of wearing BDU's, or ACU's, these recruits are all dressed in PT uniforms with the exception of a few in civilian attire sprinkled in.

Following the morning formation, the recruits participate in a modified Army Physical Fitness Test; one minute of pushups, one minute of sit-ups, and a one-mile run.

Once PT is over, the recruits meet with the

cadre to ensure all their individual paperwork is in order before they are broken down into small groups. They then cycle through several stations where they receive training and instruction in military skills throughout the day.

Over the course of a weekend, these recruits receive extensive instruction in skills such as drill and ceremony; military customs and courtesies; the operation and cleaning of the M-16A2 rifle; map reading; and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare. Some of the classes are entirely lecture-based instruction, while others are distinctively hands-on.

For example, in the map reading class, training involves theoretical instruction, while the NBC classroom provides recruits the opportunity to don their protective masks and learn just how messy the charcoal in the Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) suits can be.

Throughout the classes, recruits are attentive and enthusiastic, asking various questions. They are universal in their praise of how the program helps prepare them for basic training, as well as becoming better Soldiers.

Princeton Hervey, 18, from Missouri Valley, enlisted as an 11B Infantryman. He said the program helped him by "Giving me a taste of what is to come. It begins to instill some of the discipline I'll be expected to have in basic training."

According to Brian Anderson, also 18 and a future Infantryman from Shelby, "In addition to the discipline and Soldier skills we're introduced to, the physical training helps to get us ready for PT in basic training and gives us an idea of what to expect."

Jennifer Mordock, a 17 year old from Creston, echoed Anderson's words.

"The RSP program gets us prepared for basic training by instilling discipline, teaching us soldier skills, and getting us in shape through PT," she said.

*RSP participants take part in a modified PT test, with one minute of pushups, sit-ups and a one-mile run.*




## ***An interesting sunrise service***

The most interesting sunrise service that I ever attended took place in, of all places, Tikrit, Iraq. As Deputy Division Chaplain for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, at Forward Operation Base Danger, it was my job to plan and carry out the service.

I arranged for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Wind Band (who played for our Protestant services) to play. The director of the gospel choir was happy to bring her group down and sing a special number. I had written a short play about the angel who rolled away the stone, that a female major and I performed.

But, there were two other things that really made the service memorable for me. One was that we met at the ruins of a large sixth century Christian church. The other was that one of our interpreters, a Caldean Christian named Mrs. David, spoke Aramic.

A stylized illustration of a chalice (cup) on the left and a map of the state of Iowa on the right, both rendered in a dark, textured style.

## Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain (Col.) Jim Luder  
Iowa State Chaplain

After all the singing, the reading of the scriptures and the play, the last thing of the morning was when our interpreter said the Lord's Prayer in Aramic and then one of our Chaplains led us in saying the Lord's Prayer in English.

Just as Mrs. David finished the Lord's Prayer in the original language of our Lord, the sun appeared over the top of the church ruins. I suddenly felt connected, not only with my brothers and sisters in the Lord who gathered there with me, but also with the Christians who had worshipped the same Lord in that location over 14 centuries ago.

# Warrant Officer Corps boasts long history

by CW4 (Ret.) Wesley Bender

Officially, the Army Warrant Officer Corps birthday is July 9, 1918, when Congress established the Army Mine Planter Service as part of the Coastal Artillery.

At that time, most of the Iowa National Guard was deployed to Deming, N.M. and the 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment deployed to Europe with the 42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division during World War I.

The early history of the Warrant Officer Corps and the U. S. Army Bands coincide in time. It was felt Army bands required experts who could lead instrumental musical groups in support of military functions. Gen. John "Black-jack" Pershing, Commander of all Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe during WWI, dis-

covered the band music of France and Great Britain was greatly superior to that of the U.S. He believed bands were essential to troop morale and in 1920, implemented an intense program to improve the Army Band Program.

Pershing knew, to have a great band was to have a leader who could achieve the desired results. The band leader's duty had to include conducting techniques, music theory and having knowledge of harmony, range, and characteristics of instruments.

These Warrant Officer Band Leader's talents had to provide everything included in today's Warrant Officer definition.

The Act of 1920 expanded use of warrant officers, authorizing appointment of warrant officers in band-leading activities, plus clerical and administrative experts. The Iowa Adjutant General's reports for the first two decades afterwards show 12 different Iowa Warrant Officer band leaders, the first being Leslie Leo Schmidt, Band Leader for the 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry's Band in Fairfield. He was appointed Nov. 25, 1922.

On Dec. 12, 1922, Cleveland Dayton was appointed Warrant Officer Band Leader for the 113<sup>th</sup> Calvary Band. There was a band for each regiment; the 133<sup>rd</sup> Infantry (Fairfield), 113<sup>th</sup> Calvary (Ottumwa), 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Council Bluffs), and 185<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (Boone).

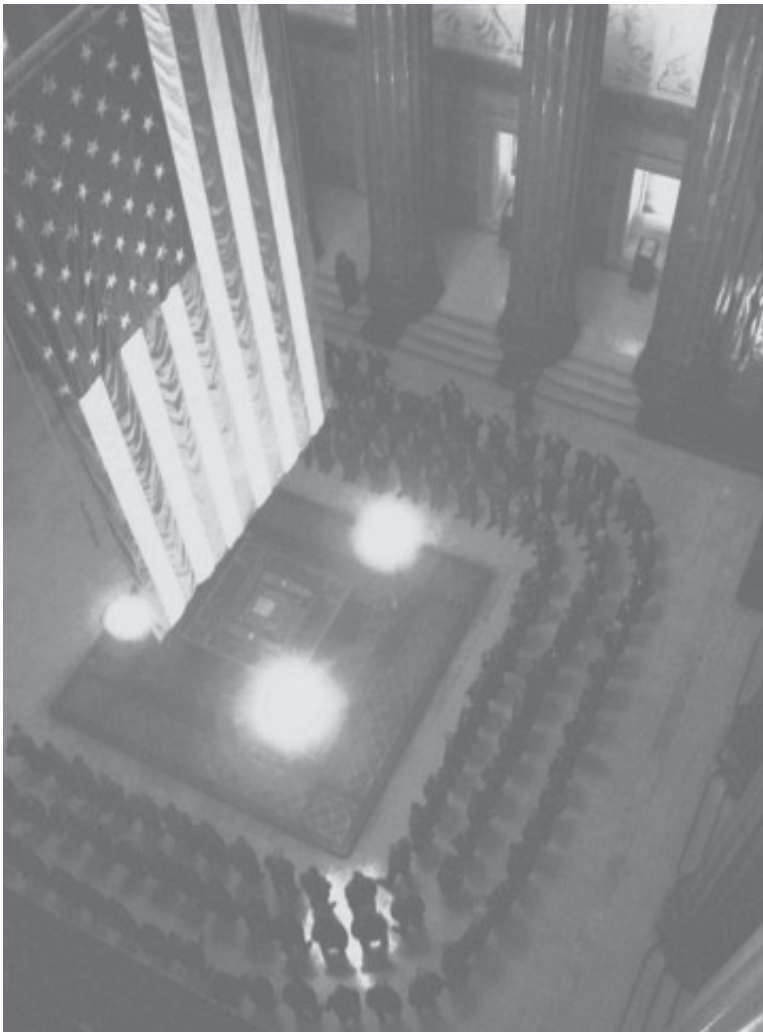
At no time during the 1920's and 1930's, were Warrant Officers serving in any other capacity in the Iowa National Guard.

All Iowa National Guard units deployed during WWII - the bands included - and Iowa National Guard units did not return until late 1945. The Act of 1941 provided many provisions for today's Warrant Officer rank. Most of the 40 occupational areas were incorporated into the structure.

The first "Tables of Organization and Equipment" (TOEs), after the war, assigned strength statewide at 37 Army and five Army Air Corps Warrant Officers. The first Iowa Transportation, Personnel, Supply, Communication, and Ordnance Warrant Officers were appointed in 1946-48. Engineer, Foodservice, Finance, Medical, and other Warrant Officers were appointed in the years that followed.

In 1947, after the US Air Force became a

*More than 100 WOC graduates take part in their swearing-in ceremony at the War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis, Ind. (Contributed photo)*



branch of the service, Army Aviation became seriously interested in the helicopter when air rescue, during WWII, alerted the Army to its great potential.

The Army TOEs, published in 1950, showed positions that called for Warrant Officer Helicopter Pilots. The Army did begin the inception of the Warrant Officer Flight Program in 1955 and the first class of two Warrants and 17 Warrant Officer Candidates (WOCs) graduated in April of that year. The Army training base used was Camp Rucker, Ala.

In October 1955, the Army expanded. The program was transferred to Camp Wolters, Texas. Iowa Warrant Officer pilots trained there and went on to advanced flight training at Fort Rucker. The first Warrant Officer helicopter pilots were assigned to the Waterloo-based 1063<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company.

After studying personnel files, it was discovered the first Warrant Officer helicopter pilot was WO1 Max John Oltman, appointed Oct. 28, 1959. During WWII, he was an Army Air Corp Flight Officer and on Aug. 4, 1944, became a pilot.

The Iowa National Guard continued to grow and by 1970, the assigned Warrant Officer strength was 92. Later in the 1970s Iowa Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joe May, appointed Jean Nelson the first female Warrant Officer.

Army National Guard Warrant Officers were integrated into the Army's professional development program in 1978 and in 1984, the Army Chief of Staff chartered the Total Warrant Officer Study Group (TWOS). This was the first Department of the Army-level comprehensive study of Warrant Officer Management from pre-appointment to retirement.

The establishment of the (other than aviation) WOC School was the direct result from recommendations of the TWOS. CW4 Louis Cavros is the first Iowa National Guard, non-aviation candidate, to graduate from an Army WOC School, held at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., in 1987.

The culmination of TWOS was the passage of the Warrant Officer Management Act (WOMA) in 1992. Provisions of the new law included the grade of CW5, conditional appointment to WO1 upon completion of WOC School, and establishment of a Warrant Officer Career Center at Ft. Rucker. Gerald Klinkefus was Iowa's first CW5, pinned in May 1993.

The Army Training and Leader Development Plan (ATLDP) released in 2002, makes fundamental changes for the Warrant Officer Corps,



completing recommendations made by the TWOS study. These provisions represent the most significant changes within the Warrant Officer Corps since the inception in July 1918.

Included are Warrant Officer recruiters (Iowa's is CW3 Dennis Hall), a Command Chief Warrant Officer and the WOC School underwent a complete transformation.

These changes ensure Soldiers becoming warrant officers have skills relevant to an Army at war. WOC School is no longer just "Basic Training on Steroids," to quote the February 2006 Army White Paper.

Changes include pilot programs to conduct WOC Schools at 13 different states Regional Training Institutes (RTIs). Iowa's first WOCS class had 12 Candidates training at Camp Dodge's 185<sup>th</sup> RTI. In September 2006, the candidates completed their training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. and were appointed Iowa's newest warrant officers.

The Iowa Army National Guard appointed then-CW4 Julia Mosman to replace retired CW5 Billy Foley as Iowa's second Command Chief Warrant Officer. Mosman became the first female CW5 upon her promotion, April 20, 2006.

Since 1922, Iowa Soldiers who possess the knowledge and skills have received authority from the Secretary of the Army to be a leader and technical expert. The Army Warrant Officer, no matter what specialty, should read the duties of the Army Bandmaster. That incredible duty position is an example of what Pershing had in mind when he wanted a leader and expert.

That legacy is what all Warrant Officers carry today.

*Recent graduates of the first Regional Training Institution Warrant Officer Candidate school pose following completion of their 10-month course. (Contributed photo)*

# Annual Training provides realistic, real-world training for 2nd BCT



*Members of the 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry, fire mortar tubes, as 734<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group Soldiers perform rear security during annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rieks and Sgt. 1st Class Chris Silver)*

It's been three years in the planning, but approximately 900, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team and 734<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group Soldiers finally found the opportunity for practical, live-fire exercises during annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn.

A mere 10-hour convoy drive from Iowa's Camp Dodge, Camp Ripley, located in the northwestern tier of Minnesota, allows Soldiers to compress two weeks of intense, hands-on training into realistic, real-world scenarios.

With 62 ranges and 80 training areas scattered across an 18-mile by six-mile training site, including an impact area large enough to lob a Volkswagen, there is more than enough room to deploy an entire brigade combat team.

"During this annual training exercise, our goal is to replicate a deployment experience every step along the way, from beginning to end, and to reinforce how we train and fight as a brigade combat team," said Col. Tim Orr, commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT. "The Brigade will oversee and support battalion training through its Brigade Support Battalion and Brigade Special Troops Battalion.



"We expect and are prepared for challenges during this exercise. We must learn how to operate as a brigade combat team, with a new force structure, new equipment and new doctrine. We must figure out how to properly communicate, how to support each other and to fight effectively as a brigade," he said.

According to Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patrick Ihns, platoon sergeant, Company C, 1st Battalion, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the training provided at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, proved invaluable.

"All our Soldiers need to be fundamentally sound," said Ihns. "For a lot of these guys, this is their first opportunity to have such intensive training."

"I love it," said Spc. Andrew Wenman, a Co. C infantryman. "This training is a challenge, but worth the effort, because overseas, this is the number one battlefield," he said.

"Getting back to basics is always a good thing," said Sgt. Maj. Carroll Tunesvik, 734<sup>th</sup> RSG sergeant major, completing his 33<sup>rd</sup> AT at Camp Ripley. "Soldiers are never too old to learn something new."

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

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ries and experiences to share and are tremendous role models for the young people in our communities. They served with distinction and are looking for ways to continue making a difference.

A ready, responsive joint force is, as always, our most critical asset. Ultimately, our readiness is measured not only by our ability to provide trained and equipped forces and adaptive leaders committed to excellence and doing what's right, both globally and here at home, but by continuing the Iowa National Guard's legacy of selfless service and sacrifice, and making a difference every day to meet tomorrow's challenges.

# 1st Regiment of Iowa African Infantry

by CW4 (Ret.) David L. Snook

Iowa's heroic contribution to the Union victory in the Civil War is well-documented. The State furnished 48 infantry regiments, nine cavalry regiments, and four artillery batteries for the Union war effort. Approximately 76,000 Iowa soldiers served, and 27 received Congressional Medals of Honor, and 13,000 died.

However, one unique organization frequently overlooked in Iowa's Civil War achievements is the First Volunteer Infantry Regiment of African Descent. This can be attributed to the regiment eventually being redesignated the 60th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops.

Six of the Regiment's 10 companies and approximately 700 of its 1,153 personnel were free black men from Iowa. The rest of the Regiment, which included numerous escaped slaves, was recruited in Missouri.

On May 22, 1863, the War Department issued General Order No. 143, which established the Bureau of Colored Troops. Fifteen states, including Iowa, raised black volunteer regiments. By 1865, over 180,000 black Soldiers and Sailors had served the Union cause.

The response of Iowa's African American population to this call to arms was truly overwhelming. In 1863, Iowa's entire black population numbered around 1,500. From this number, over 700 black men volunteered for service, representing almost every man of African descent in the State who was capable of military service. (Dyer, Frederick H., Compendium of the War of Rebellion, 1908, p. 1733).

Approximately a third of the First Iowa African Infantry Regiment gave Keokuk or Lee County as their place of residence. Others hailed from Davenport, Des Moines, Newton, Iowa City, and Keosauqua. (Morris, William S., "Black Iowans in Defense of the Nation" in Outside In: African American History in Iowa, State Historical Society of Iowa, 2001)

Alexander Clark of Muscatine was initially appointed as the Regiment's sergeant major but failed the physical because of an old leg injury. Nevertheless, when the Regiment was officially organized July 27, 1863, "Clark was on hand to present the Regiment with its national banner, sewn by the black women of Keokuk and Muscatine." (Morris, p. 97)

For the majority of its service, the Regiment performed garrison duty at Helena, Ark. The Regiment did engage in one major battle, the Battle of Wallace's Ferry in July 1864. A portion of the regiment, organized as a 360-

man reconnaissance force, encountered a greatly superior Confederate force under the command of Gen. Jo Shelby.

In a fierce four-hour battle, the men of the 60th Regiment endured alternating artillery salvos and infantry charges. Seven members of the force were killed, including the commander, Adjutant Theodore W. Pratt of Keokuk.

Just before what might have been the final Confederate charge, a 15th Illinois Cavalry detachment broke through the rebel encirclement and opened up a route for withdrawal.

"Gathering up their dead and wounded, the (men of the 60th) now began a retreat, stubbornly yielding, inch by inch, each foot of ground, until night threw a mantle of darkness over the scene and the Confederates ceased their firing." (Dykstra, Robert R., Bright Radical Star: Black Freedom and White Supremacy on the Hawkeye Frontier, Harvard University Press, 1993, pp. 197-198)

The white commander of the black artillery battery attached to the 60th Regiment filed the following after-action report:

"During the whole fight the colored men stood up to their duty like veterans, and owing to their strong arms and cool heads, backed by fearless daring alone that I was able to get away with either of my guns. They marched 18 miles, fought five hours, against three to one, and were as eager at the end as at the beginning for the fight. Never did men, under such circumstances, show greater pluck or daring."

While there were no Medal of Honor recipients in the First Iowa Infantry of African Descent, Iowa did become home to one black winner of the nation's highest award for combat bravery. James D. Garner of Yorktown, Va. enlisted in the 2nd North Carolina Colored Infantry, which was redesignated the 36th Infantry Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops in 1864.

After the war, Gardner moved to Ottumwa, Iowa. In September 1905, he was buried in an unmarked grave in Calvary Cemetery. On July 4, 1994, "a monument was erected in his honor by the Medal of Honor Historical Society, in cooperation with the Wapello County Historical Society, the Ottumwa Civil War Roundtable, and the Ottumwa Cemetery Trustees."

(Note: Volume V of the Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion includes the names of all the soldiers who served in the First Iowa African Infantry. This valuable resource is located in the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum located on Camp Dodge.)

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## Iowa National Guard History

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**Extend to Defend is a retention program designed to help units do a better job at recognizing their Soldiers that extend their enlistment in the ARNG. Soldiers are presented with a certificate in an appropriate holder with an embedded coin. There is a version for married and unmarried Soldiers. There are three levels of award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The levels are based on the number of years the Soldier has served. 1 to 9 years is Bronze, 10 to 14 is Silver and 15 to 20-plus is Gold. Contact you Battalion Career Counselor for more information.**



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