

Training: Providing Effectively Trained Warfighters

Militiaman

Official Publication of the Iowa National Guard

Spring/Summer 2010

Training in the 21st Century

Top Notch Training !

National Training
Centers in Iowa

Land Nav + Convoy :

2-34th BCT Trains for Deployment

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Governor Culver Visits Iraq

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On the Cover

Photo Illustration and Design
by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Tevis

On Page 10 of this magazine you will read about the state-of-the-art simulated training capability of the Distributed Training Operations Center located at the 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, Iowa.



Why we train!

Providing effectively trained warfighters

The Iowa National Guard continues to serve our Nation at war. The security environment is uncertain and complex, and the pace of change is accelerating rapidly. Today's full-spectrum operational environment demands more from our Soldiers and Airmen in uniform than ever before, and nothing is more important than training to ensure their success. We must continue to hone our ability to integrate joint and interagency assets, develop the situation through action, and adjust rapidly to changing situations to achieve operational adaptability.

One of the priorities on the Iowa National Guard "Campaign Plan" is "Providing Trained War fighters" that are capable of performing their mission overseas or at home, in a full-spectrum, joint capable environment. It is our responsibility to ensure that we provide our warriors with the relevant training necessary to combat the maximum possible versatility for the broadest plausible range of missions. In order to achieve success, we must learn from past failures and triumphs, adapt current training strategies, and develop new training concepts required to win today's wars, and hedge against an uncertain future.

The Iowa National Guard will do whatever the State and Nation asks us to do, from decisively winning wars, to promoting and keeping the peace, or protecting the Homeland. To this end, the Iowa National Guard must be strategically responsive and ready to be dominant at every point across the full spectrum of military operations. Today, the Iowa National Guard must meet the challenge of a wider range of threats and a more complex set of operating environments while incorporating new and diverse technology. We meet these challenges by providing trained war fighters, maintaining our organizational readiness, and adapting for future success.

Training for war fighting is one of our priorities in peace and in war. We achieve war fighting readiness by developing tactical

and technical competence and confidence in our Army and Air Warriors. Competence comes from our ability to achieve tactical and technical execution using Army and Air Force doctrine. Confidence is the individual and leader's belief that we can perform better than the enemy and the unit possesses the trust and will to achieve mission success.

Training is the means to achieve tactical and technical competence for specific tasks, conditions, and standards. Leader Development is the deliberate, continuous, sequential, and progressive process, based on Army values that develops Soldiers and civilians into competent and confident leaders capable of decisive action.

Closing the gap between training, leader development, and battlefield performance has always been the critical challenge. Overcoming this challenge requires achieving the correct balance between training management and

training execution. Training management focuses leaders on the science of training in terms of effective resource efficiencies measured against tasks and standards. Training execution focuses leaders on the art of leadership to develop trust, will, and teamwork under varying conditions. Leaders integrate this science and art to identify the right tasks, conditions, and standards in training, foster unit will and spirit, and then adapt to the battlefield to win decisively.

Effective training leads to units that execute the Army and Air Force's core competencies and capabilities. All leaders must be trainers who are "Mission Focused and Warrior Ready!"



Soldiers of the 1-168th Infantry Battalion prepare their vehicles for convoy to Mead Training site of Camp Ashland, Neb. March 6, 2010. Soldiers completed the land navigation course while on Ashland which completed an Army Warrior Task for the unit's mobilization requirement. The 1-168 is scheduled to deploy with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division later this summer. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus, 2-34th BCT Public Affairs)

Soldiers train on performing vehicle diagnostics at the National Maintenance Training Center at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. NMTC is a state of the art facility providing a collective professional training environment. (U.S. Army Photo courtesy of the National Maintenance Training Center)

National Training Centers in Iowa

Story by: Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Tevis

Some people think of Iowa simply as a farming state, covered with corn, cows, and an occasional house now and then, but hidden within the heart of its warm Midwestern hospitality are some of the most well-respected and demanding training centers in the country. From the days of long ago when Camp Dodge trained soldiers heading into battle during World War I, to the missions of the 21st century that modern warfighters face, Iowa has proven and continues to be a vital training arena for the backbone of our nation's military.

There are many outstanding training opportunities in Iowa, but for the purpose of this article we are going to focus on four of the most prominent training centers in the Des Moines area. The four training centers we are going to focus on for this article are: the National Maintenance Training Center located on Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center, the Warrior Training Center which is an offshoot of the NMTC on Camp Dodge, the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center part of the Counterdrug task force that also resides on Camp Dodge, and finally the Distributed Training Operations Center which is located at the 132nd Fighter Wing at the Des Moines International Airport.



National Maintenance Training Center

The National Maintenance Training Center began operations in June 1992. It is a premier sustainment training organization committed to developing adaptable leaders and logistics warriors capable of performing in the contemporary operating environment. The NMTC provides sustainment training to Field Maintenance Companies, Component Repair Companies, Quartermaster Supply Platoons, Brigade Support Battalions, Combat Service Support Battalions and Aviation Support Battalions throughout the Army. Multi-echelon training is conducted year round in both a technical and tactical environment in order to provide trained logistics warriors.

During 2008, the NMTC completed the Army's maintenance transformation from four levels of maintenance, including: organizational, direct support, general support, and depot to two levels of maintenance: field and sustainment. The NMTC continued the process of updating its training program and facilities in order to align them with the emerging two-level maintenance doctrine.

The NMTC's concept is to train and sustain the combat readiness of Logistical Support units and their Soldiers. This is accomplished by providing training on the Army's most modern equipment and current Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures. This training provides realistic Contemporary Operating Environment training based on first hand combat experience, Army Doctrine and Center for Army Lessons Learned products. Core logistic training as well as warrior task training is conducted

on Force Modernization equipment such as the Tactical Water Purification System, Palletized Load Handling System, Armored Security Vehicle, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck Wrecker, Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles and the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

The NMTC houses over 300,000 square feet of training facilities. The Field Maintenance collective training operations are located in three buildings. Each of these facilities is equipped with the tools, test equipment, parts, and items required for collective training operations. The Sustainment Maintenance Shop has one facility utilized for collective training in bay shop operations and offers the ability to train in assembly line training. The NMTC has its own fully functional live Supply Support Activity comprising 100,000 square feet supports repair parts supply for the NMTC activities, the Iowa Army National Guard and the Department of Defense distribution system.

The NMTC provides training to Sustainment Battalion staffs to support the overall Combatant Commander in several areas. The Battalion staff receives training on Military Decision Making Process, Operations Order development, and Operations Orders Execution. In conjunction with the Distributed Battle Simulation Program staff already at Camp Dodge, the Battalion Staff then executes an OPORDER through a culminating exercise utilizing the JANUS digital simulation suite.

The NMTC tactical trainers use simulators like Airsoft Rifles, Simunition Systems, remote detonated Improvised Explosive Device simulators and authentic role-player garb in field environments to train all levels of Soldiers in a multi echelon environment. The NMTC logistics trainers use FORCMOD equipment to train Soldiers in Water, Fuel, Ammunition and Sling load tasks. This program is designed to be a one-stop training resource with a primary focus on any unit that may rotate through the NMTC. All Soldiers will find the training experience enhances their warrior skills while mastering their technical skills to the highest degree possible.

Other training programs provided by the NMTC are: the M1 Abrams Technician Training Course, M2 Bradley Technician Maintenance Training Course, the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit training and maintenance program and the M88 Recovery Vehicle Repair Course for Soldiers

and technicians. Over 190 Soldiers and technicians of the Army National Guard have successfully completed these courses in 2009.

During 2009 the NMTC assisted the Army National Guard Bureau with the development of a logistics training strategy which supports the type and level of training those Army National Guard logistics elements should train in during the five years of the Army Force Generation Model. The training model progressively adds challenging training opportunities to the logistical support elements to better prepare Soldiers for future deployments.

This year NMTC increased its capacity to train 44 units each training year. This translates up to 7,300 Soldiers and 113,700 man-days of training per year. For more information, or to schedule training for your unit, check out the NMTC's website at www.nmtcia.com

Warrior Training Center

Just to the North of the National Maintenance Training Center's main building you will find the Warrior Training Center. The Warrior Training Center is home to a vast array of simulated training opportunities. Included in the Warrior Training Center are the following trainers: Call for Fire Trainer, Virtual Convoy Operations Trainer, Engagement Skills Trainer EST 2000, HUMMWV Egress Assistance rollover trainer and an Improvised Explosive Device simulator.

Simulated weapons training is available on the following weapons: 9mm M9 semi-automatic pistol, 5.56 mm M-16 assault rifle, M249 light machine gun, 40mm belt-fed MK-19 Grenade Launcher, and the .50 caliber M2 heavy machine gun. Unit training can consist of Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Weapons Qualification, Convoy Operations, and Call for Fire.

Soldiers have 40 warrior tasks that are required training. This includes 17 shooting tasks, 5 communication tasks, 3 joint urban operations tasks, 8 move tasks, and 15 fight tasks. In addition, to the 40 warrior tasks there are also 9 battle drills that range from reacting to an ambush, to avoiding Improvised Explosive Devices.

Typically teams of 20 to 30 participants are trained at a time. Training usually lasts for three days. According to Simulations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge Staff Sgt. Luke Krier, "Most every state has simulated

trainers, but not like this.” The Warrior Training Center has hosted a number of units from other states, including: Maryland, Texas, Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Vermont, Montana, and many other states.

For more information you can call the Warrior Training Center at (515)727-3392



Midwest Counterdrug Training Center

The mission of the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center is to provide the highest quality training at the lowest possible cost to all those involved in the fight against drug trafficking and substance abuse. They train law enforcement officers, prevention and treatment professionals, as well as military members in the latest tactics and techniques for preventing illegal drug activity. The training is provided at no cost to the parent agencies and meals and lodging are provided for students traveling more than 50 miles for the training.

“In an era when training budgets, especially for small agencies, have almost ceased to exist, free training, especially when it includes lodging and meals for the students, will always be attractive,” says Upchurch, Director of Training for MCTC.

MCTC is part of the Iowa Counterdrug Task Force. Course instruction focuses on anything with a drug nexus. They cover drug identification, detection, prevention and education. Some courses also discuss the cultural aspects of the drug world.

“Not only do they provide free training. They offer very high level training by hiring the best instructors in the country. They contract with people who have real-world experience and who have a long history of success in doing this type of work. They are not just teaching it, they are actually out there doing it,” explains Lou Savelli, President of Homefront Protective Group Inc., one of the most decorated officers in New York City history and MCTC instructor.



The Warrior Training Center is home to a vast array of simulated training opportunities. Unit training can consist of Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Weapons Qualification, Convoy Operations, and Call for Fire. (U.S. Army Photo courtesy of the National Maintenance Training Center)

The contracted course instructors are highly-skilled specialists in their fields. They include DEA and ATF agents, and other law enforcement professionals as well as prior-service military personnel. Others are physicians that specializing in the mental and physical effects of drug abuse. Regardless of the instructors specialty they design classes specifically for each course topic.

With more than 60 unique course topics to choose from, students can learn anything from tactical entry to clandestine lab safety. K-9 teams can improve on detection techniques by

working together to locate illegal substances through a series of scenarios. Spanish courses help law enforcement, 9-1-1 operators and corrections officers communicate effectively in emergency situations or simple traffic stops. Officers can also gain tactical experience for any skill level at Camp Dodge's MOUT site.

“It is hard to imagine what training would be like without MCTC. How many cases would have gone unsolved and how many officers would not have received the lifesaving training they needed to do their jobs simply because



A team of DEA officers enters a building during a scenario to conduct a mock search warrant on a possibly hostile suspect. Officers attending MCTC's, DEA basic course get an opportunity to use the Military Operations in an Urban Terrain site in the Camp Dodge training area. (Photos courtesy of the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center)

their department did not have the funding,” says Sr. MSgt. Brad Thomas, MCTC Non Commissioned Officer in Charge.

Since its inception in 2003 MCTC has trained more than 80,000 students from across the country. All in all MCTC has saved departments all over the country millions of dollars that can be used in other ways in the community. It is calculated that in the state of Iowa alone MCTC has saved agencies \$7.5 million in training expenses.

For more information on MCTC, visit their website at www.counterdrugtraining.com



Distributed Training Operations Center

The mission of the Distributed Training Operations Center at the 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, Iowa is to provide persistent Distributed Mission Operations capability and expertise in support of realistic relevant training opportunities to warfighters in a networked environment. They do this through a series of Wide Area Networks that allow remote units to connect for simulation. Training is provided to Active-duty, Guard, and Reserve units throughout the Department of Defense. The focus is on frequent, small-scale, team level tactical DMO training opportunities for the warfighter. Over 1,450 individual training events were conducted in 2009 alone.

The scenarios that the DTOC provides strive to achieve a realistic environment in which players in virtual simulators at remote locations are able to train and fight much like they would in a “real-world” situation. According to the Commander of the DTOC, Lt. Col. Robert Martin, “There are three

primary missions the DTOC handles on a routine basis: Joint Close Air Support, air-to-air combat, and homeland defense.”

The Joint Close Air Support events are conducted through an operations section comprised of highly experienced current and former pilots, intel analysts, command and control specialists, and ground maneuver forces to include Joint Terminal Attack Controllers and Joint Fires Observers. These event controllers work with the external unit to identify training objectives, provide mission planning support, develop a comprehensive scenario, and then execute that scenario within the virtual battlefield. During an event, the DTOC provides the virtual battlespace and operates as the “white force” to generate and control both enemy and friendly forces within the battlefield. The result is a realistic, flexible event that challenges the warfighter and connects different weapons systems from across the services.

The air-to-air events provide a robust training venue for controllers located onboard the E-3 AWACS and for ground based Control & Reporting Centers. DTOC event controllers role-play both friendly and enemy forces, providing a realistic opportunity for controllers to work directly with current and qualified fighter pilots. Controllers are able to dictate the training objectives and conduct detailed debriefs to discuss the latest tactics, techniques, and procedures.

The homeland defense mission includes semi-annual exercises known as Amalgam Arrow which incorporates all levels of decision-makers, to include those within the National Command Authority. These joint exercises include all five services at over ten sites around the country and include partnership with coalition forces in Canada. Homeland defense units also conduct air-to-air proficiency training to complement the larger C2 exercises.

Staffed with both military personnel and civilian contractors, the DTOC is funded through the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserves, Air Combat Command, and other DoD agencies. It is the only DoD facility tasked to provide DMO to the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserves, and has become the leading provider of small-scale DMO for the Active Duty. The DTOC continues to expand in order to meet the growing demand from units. Over the last several months, a variety of new event controllers with unique skill sets have been hired specifically to cater to the new types of missions being requested by the warfighter.

Distributed Mission Operations has grown in leaps and bounds over the last two years. While far from perfect, it has matured to the point where units are now able to accomplish a variety of training requirements. According to Lt. Col. Martin, the DTOC operates under the same mantra of the Air National Guard, to “Do it Right, Do it Cheap, and Do it Now!”



An event controller for the Distributed Training Operations Center runs a simulation for a remotely connected unit. The DTOC handles approximately 10 to 12 events per day where remote simulators tie in with the DTOC's network for training. (Photos courtesy of the Distributed Training Operations Center)



Camp Dodge: Training America's Finest Since 1909

2nd Lt. Brandon Cochran



The adage, "some things get finer with age," applies to many things in today's society: cheese, wine, people, and so on. However, one does not readily consider that adage to be either an attribute of architecture or a characteristic of a physical location; Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center is an exception. What were once centralized training grounds for the Iowa National Guard in early 1909, has aged nearly 101 years, has become one of the premier National Guard training bases in the country. Trying to cover the complete history of a nearly 101 year-old mainstay of the Iowa National Guard in such a short article is a fool's errand. Therefore, only its humble origins, its historical highlights, as well as its bright future will be covered.

To do the story of Camp Dodge justice, one needs to start with the years leading up to 1909. At the turn of the previous century, Iowa National Guard Units, while hosted and supported by individual community based armories, shared a common need for a location to host their annual training camps. History shows us that in the years leading up to 1900, individual units within the Iowa National Guard conducted their annual training camps on various rented or leased properties around the state: Coralville Lake, Fort Des Moines, and several other locals. That was until the cost incurred by the Iowa National Guard, due to disorderly conduct and destruction to private property by inebriated soldiers, reinforced the need for a permanent camping and training ground to commanding officers.

In 1901, Adj. Gen. Melvin Byers acted upon that need. Identifying both a need for a centrally located camp near the state capital and that Des Moines was already host to a U.S. Army Installation at Ft. Des Moines, in 1904 the Iowa National Guard and the State of Iowa moved forward with the purchase of 160 acres adjacent to Ft. Des Moines. What was initially seen as the stopgap for that annual-training-need soon was realized to not be the best solution for the Iowa National Guard. Even with the investment of money and resources in the seeding of the grounds and the building of several temporary buildings, after two years of non-use by the soldiers, the ground was deemed not dry or level enough for use by any of the regiments of the Iowa National Guard.

While several years went by, the need never faded. When the federal government purchased 320 acres of land northwest of Des Moines for use as a shooting range in 1906, the Iowa National Guard promptly began proceedings to sell its land near Ft. Des Moines and begin

negotiations to purchase land adjacent to the new federal firing range. This proved to be an eventful but long next three years. The Iowa National Guard had trouble liquidating its land on the south side of Des Moines, decided purchasing land next to the federal range to be uneconomical, and decided upon and purchased land, in 1909, near the already established Inter-Urban Railway system. Camp Dodge, namesake honor of Iowa Civil War hero Maj. Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, was christened and opened for use by Adj. Gen. Guy Logan in 1910.

While the grounds were used sparingly in the days leading up to U.S. entrance into World War I, Des Moines' bid to be one of 16 U.S. Army national training camps changed the trajectory of Camp Dodge history forever. Camp Dodge was selected as the 13th National Cantonment. During World War I, Camp Dodge consisted of 1,500 buildings, a 500-bed hospital, a power plant, and training ranges. It was also home to more than 10,000 horses and mules. As an induction site, Camp Dodge was the starting point for 118,000 soldiers, 37,111 of which were from Iowa, and the demobilization point for 208,000 Midwest based soldiers.

Borrowing upon the vision of Camp Dodge as a national training center second to none as

put forth by Adj. Gen. Louis Lasher in the early 1920s, Camp Dodge moved into the future on the cutting edge of training. The recipient of several aesthetic Works Progress Administration projects during the Great Depression, Camp Dodge again became an induction and training base during World War II. In the decades that would follow World War II to present day, Camp Dodge became home to the National Maintenance Training Center, the Battle Command Training Center, the Midwest Counter Drug Training Center, the Regional Training Institute, the Ordnance Training Regiment, the Military Entrance Processing Station, the US Marine Corps Recruiting Station, as well as a military home to many current and bygone members of the Iowa National Guard.

With over 4,400 acres of training space, ranges, and cantonment area, Camp Dodge is entering its second century with a new name, Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center, and the same familiar legacy. While buildings, people, and installation names on post change, the heritage of Camp Dodge is there to remind us of its humble origins and its continued impact on the writing of U.S. Military History.

*For more information on the history of Camp Dodge, please visit the Iowa Gold Star Museum located on CDJMTTC.



34th Infantry Division Association Reunion



The 63rd reunion of the 34th Infantry Division Association since World War II will be held September 9 - 11, 2010 in Des Moines, Iowa. The reunion will be hosted by the Des Moines Chapter at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Urbandale. The Hotel is located on Merle Hay Road, two blocks off of Interstate 35 / 80.

Des Moines is the traditional home of the 34th Infantry Division and the site of the 34th Infantry Division World War II monument. Reunion guests will visit the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and participate in a Red Bull Memorial Service and Military Ball.

All past and present 34th Infantry Division soldiers and their families are invited to participate. For more information or to make reservations, please contact retired Col. Russell Bierl at (515) 965-1882 or retired Lt. Col. Mike Musel at (515) 252-4531.

Correction: The open house for the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum was printed incorrectly in the Winter 2009 issue of the Militiaman magazine. The open house will be held in the Fall of 2010.



Training in the 21st Century

Story by: Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Tevis

Flip on the TV or jump on the internet and you will soon find out that we live in a much different world now than we used to. From heightened security procedures at local airports and government buildings, to the images and stories from the troops overseas, we live in a world where the enemy is getting smarter and the rules are ever-changing.

To successfully engage the enemy and protect our military forces and homeland, it is no longer good enough to just anticipate their next move and react to their threats and attacks. Often times there appears to be little that can be done to stay a step ahead; however thanks to recent programs focused on updating our military strength and technology, we are witnessing a revolution in the way we plan, engage, and attack the enemy.

To tackle this new front, new strategies have been dedicated to develop and provide more realistic, relevant, and thorough training to our warfighters. One increase in recent years has been in the arena of Distributed Mission Operations.

DMO is a key component of the Air Force Training Transformation initiative and enables Airmen from throughout the United States and the world to train together for combat missions within a virtual world. Serving as the hub for the Air Force's small-scale, tactical DMO training is Iowa's own Distributed Training Operations Center. Established in 2004 as part of the 132nd Fighter Wing in Des Moines, Iowa, the DTOC's mission is "to provide persistent Distributed Mission Operations capability and expertise in support of realistic relevant training opportunities to warfighters in a networked environment." While the DTOC may be the Air Force's small-scale DMO provider, there is nothing small about the impact the DTOC and DMO has had on the community. In 2009, the DTOC provided almost 1,500 training events, far outpacing any other DMO provider within the entire Air Force.

The DTOC provides the operational environment for the virtual battlespace by linking together a wide array of high-fidelity flight simulators. The DTOC itself does not operate the simulators, but rather serves as the "brain" that connects the remote simulators at various locations throughout the country through secure, encrypted T-1 lines. Although connecting multiple remote units at one time is possible, units typically request one-on-one blocks of training time. This unit-level focus allows for a multitude of training scenarios specifically tailored to the unique training requirements of that individual unit and warfighter.

Because DTOC personnel are intended to be the training aid during the scenario, the entire event is tailored around the customer. The DTOC event-lead for a specific event works directly with the unit to identify its training requirements and then develops a scenario that best meets its needs. If necessary, the DTOC will also produce and distribute any mission materials that are needed to ensure the event is as realistic as possible. Events are typically scheduled in blocks of 90-120 minutes, and there are usually ten to twelve events each day. Compare that to the four events per week that were being handled back in 2006 and the popularity and value of the DTOC becomes readily apparent. Events are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, but the DTOC tries to accommodate as many unique requests as possible, and is continuing to expand in order to meet the growing demand from the units.

Part of the growing demand stems from the units' ability to challenge themselves during a DMO event without having to worry about the risks and consequences associated with live training. As Roger Townsend, Contract Program Manager for the DTOC notes, "unlike live-fly training where a single mistake can result in the loss of life and property, a mistake in DMO is an opportunity to literally pause, learn from the mistake, and then simply continue with the training." Likewise, DMO is an ideal environment to work on the part-task

training items that often get overlooked due to time and budget restraints of live training. Townsend compares the DTOC training to that of a football team getting ready for the big game. Rarely will a team simply run a full-up scrimmage each and every practice. Rather, the value of practice is the ability to work on fundamentals, identify and correct weaknesses, and run the same play over and over until the team gets it right. Just as the best football teams spend hours on basic blocking and tackling drills, units have found the DTOC is the perfect venue to hone their fundamentals in preparation for combat, the ultimate "big game."

One of the factors contributing to the expansion of DMO usage within the Air Force is the "white force" event controller construct pioneered by the DTOC. Often called a "manned constructive," the DTOC uses current and/or qualified operators to accurately role-play whatever agencies and weapon systems are needed to inject realism into the DMO scenario. The manned constructive concept has proven to be extremely popular with the warfighter, primarily because it offers a dynamic and realistic training environment that rivals, and often exceeds, the realism of live training. According to Townsend "climbing into the simulator used to be the last thing a pilot wanted to spend his time doing, but that changed with the introduction of the DTOC and its white force controllers." The realism and experience offered by the event



(Far Left) The Distributed Training Operations Center employs numerous current and former pilots as event controllers. These "White Force" personnel provide realistic training for remotely connected simulated training scenarios. (Above) The DTOC provide's the operational environment for a virtual battlespace linking together a wide array of high fidelity flight and mission crew simulators. (Photo courtesy of the Distributed Training Operations Center)

controllers, coupled with immersive visuals and sound effects, draws the warfighter into the scenario. The DTOC routinely hears from Airmen that the ninety minute event took them back to their deployment experiences, and some of them forget that they are even in a simulator.

The bird's eye view of the battlefield available in the event control centers at the DTOC resembles a video game, but after standing behind one of the controllers you soon realize that this is not a game. And after listening in to the event and subsequent debrief, you quickly appreciate the quality of training being provided.

The quality of training is a direct result of the military and contractor personnel at the DTOC. Capt. Shawn Tapps, who currently flies F-16s for the 132nd FW, is the plans and integration officer at the DTOC. He commented that his training and experience as an F-16 pilot is critical in his current role. He, along with all of the event controllers, understands what injects and challenges are appropriate for a given training event. For instance, he has experienced the challenges associated with conducting close air support within an urban environment. This experience allows him to craft scenarios that deal with these challenges, to include target identification, collateral damage concerns, and adherence to the theater rules of engagements. Tapps said that "the training scenarios provided by the DTOC at times can seem so real that pilots have often left the simulators drenched in sweat because of how realistic the scenario appeared to be."

Scrolling through the list of possible aircraft and vehicles available for a scenario is like looking through an online store of the world's military inventory, both air and ground weapon systems. This flexibility allows the DTOC to support virtually every airframe within the Air Force, to include: A-10 Thunderbolt II, F-15 Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-1 Lancer, E-3 Sentry AWACS, E-8 JSTARS, and RC-135 Rivet Joint. The DTOC also works extensively with Homeland Defense Units, Control & Reporting Centers, Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, and Air Operations Centers.

According to Tapps, "the array of various backgrounds and experiences among the event controllers is what makes the training so realistic and valuable." The DTOC utilizes the most current Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures and operational doctrine in order to ensure the quality and realism of the training. Mission materials are designed to reflect real-world products, and scenarios are often based on events that occurred in theater as early as 24 hours prior. Each event concludes with an in-depth mission debrief

that leverages the experience of the DTOC's event controllers to complement the in-house instruction available within the unit itself.

According to Townsend, "Within the Air Force, this is the only organization of its type. Nothing else of this scale exists in the Active Duty, Guard or Reserves." In fact, the product is so valuable and respected by the Active Duty that over half of the DTOC's missions in 2009 were conducted for active duty units.

The Airborne Warning and Control System community in particular has come to rely on the DTOC as an integral part of its training program. The AWACS schoolhouse and four operational squadrons are based out of Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The oddly shaped AWACS aircraft, with its signature rotating radar dish mounted to the top, is now one of the main DTOC customers. Prior to contacting the DTOC, Tinker was struggling to get controllers through the training pipeline and out into the operational community. Together with the DTOC, AWACS utilized DMO to accomplish several aspects of the requisite schoolhouse training. This innovative approach allowed Tinker to address its backlog while maintaining the high level of training that it demanded.

In addition to the many collaborative partnerships the DTOC maintains, one special relationship is with the Iowa Air National Guard's 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge, Iowa. The 133rd TS is tasked with the mission of operational development, testing, and evaluation of new and emerging Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance technologies. The 133rd TS has the unique responsibility of being the only Air National Guard unit with the mission to test Command and Control equipment before it even hits the field. Because the 133rd is involved in the testing and fielding of the latest CRC equipment, its personnel have become invaluable to the DTOC's expansion into air-to-air training. Much like the 132nd FW, several traditional guard members from the 133rd work full-time at the DTOC. In fact, one of the newest hires is an officer from the 133rd. The success of the DTOC is due, in no small part, to its ability to leverage the extensive experience inherent within the National Guard. A large portion of the DTOC personnel are either full-time technicians on military status or traditional reservists employed as contractors with the DTOC. It truly has been a win-win partnership for the Iowa Air Guard.

Although originally envisioned as a CAS-centric training organization, the DTOC has

quickly become the go-to source for air-to-air training. This enthusiasm and demand for DMO from the air control community has been phenomenal. In response to the growing demand, the DTOC has aggressively expanded the number of current and qualified fighter pilots within its event controller staff. Not only has the DTOC leveraged the co-located F-16 squadron in order to provide additional pilots as event controllers, but it has hired support from across the country and services. Two of the most recent event controllers come from the Naval Aviation community. One of them, a F-18E/F Super Hornet pilot and current instructor at Meridian Naval Air Station, provides connected units with a unique joint perspective to the DTOC's air-to-air and air-to-ground events. He, along with another former Hornet pilot has allowed the DTOC to expand the scope of events it offers its customers. These units have found it valuable to be exposed to the subtle differences they can expect when working with aircraft from the Navy and Marines.

The increase in DMO usage has not been confined to just the C2 community. Similar growth in the JTAC and air-to-ground arena, particularly with units preparing to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, has lead to additional hires of DTOC event controllers with significant air-to-ground experience. One of the newest event controllers, a retired Army National Guard soldier, brings his rich background of Army fires to the operations team. He joins a retired Marine Joint Fires Observer, a retired Iowa Army National Guard battalion commander, and a retired JTAC instructor to form a ground team with over 80 years of combined experience.

The DTOC will continue to expand in order to meet the training requirements of the warfighter. A new facility is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2010 which will triple event capacity. It will include six new event control centers, a new network control center, room for seventy-five personnel, a robust scheduling, intel and weapons shop, and conference hosting capability. No matter how big the DTOC gets, Lt. Col. Robert Martin, the DTOC Commander, is committed to ensuring that its singular focus remains on meeting the training needs of the individual warfighter. According to Martin, "The world we live in may have changed, but the DTOC is at the forefront of training the men and women ready to rise to that challenge."

To schedule training with the Distributed Training Operations Center visit their website at www.airdmt.net

2-34th BCT Trains for Deployment

by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus



Soldiers of the 1-168th Infantry Battalion shoot an azimuth on the Land Navigation course on Mead Training site of Camp Ashland, Neb. March 6, 2010. The land navigation course completed an Army Warrior Task for the unit's mobilization requirement. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus, 2-34th BCT Public Affairs)

In the morning hours of March 6, 2010, Soldiers of HHC 1-168 Infantry Battalion prepared their vehicles in the cold wet fog, to convoy out to the Mead Training Site of Camp Ashland, Neb. Once at Mead, the infantrymen walked laboriously through the snow and mud on the land navigation course while helicopters of the Nebraska National Guard flew overhead. Once the Soldiers were completed with the course, the unit could "check the block" on their Army Warrior Task training list.

Each soldier of the 2-34th Brigade Combat Team is required to complete the AWT training, in accordance with the regulations that govern them, to prepare themselves for the mobilization scheduled for later this summer. Along with AWT training, soldiers also have other tasks they must complete in order to be as prepared as possible for their deployment to Afghanistan.

One way that the 2-34th is able to stay on track to complete the required training is by assigning a Pre-mobilization Training Assistor Element. The individuals selected for the task were Maj. Mike Tang, normally the brigade Information Operations officer, and 1st Sgt. Robert Hosler, first sergeant of A Troop of the 1-113 Cavalry Squadron. Their job is to assist the deploying Iowa National Guard units with four primary tasks: planning, resourcing, execution and documentation of all required training.

"Basically you are the adjutant general's eyes and ears," said Tang while explaining his current mission. "You have to certify that the units are completing the training to standard.

Once that is complete, the TAG can sign-off that you've met the requirements for the United States Army Forces Command and 1st Army."

The PTAE team ensures that the units train all of their Soldiers in the 32 AWT and 12 battle drills as well as theater specific individual required training, theater specific leader training and Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace training. All of this training will teach Soldiers the skills they need to know to go into combat, as well as give them an understanding of the situation over in Afghanistan.

National Guard Bureau and the State TAGs made the decision to complete the training in-state rather than at mob-station so that units could focus on collective tasks rather than individual tasks once they were mobilized, CSM William Adams, the 334th Brigade Support Battalion's command sergeant major had said. Completing the training on drill-status cuts down the amount of time spent at the mobilization site before deployment.

Soldiers can anticipate being at mob-site for 60 to 90 days, but completing a large portion of the training while still in Iowa has allowed the Soldiers to spend more time with their families and friends before being activated.



A Soldier of the 1-168th Infantry Battalion plot points on the map for the land navigation course on Mead Training site of Camp Ashland, Neb. March 6, 2010. The land navigation course completed an Army Warrior Task for the unit's mobilization requirement. The 1-168 is scheduled to deploy with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division later this summer.. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus, 2-34th BCT Public Affairs)

How to: Become a Family Readiness Volunteer

Interested in volunteering or attending training for the FRG? You may have heard the term FRG and have been wondering what it is. The Family Readiness Group is a unit Commander's program that consists of Soldiers, civilian employees, family members and volunteers belonging to a unit. The FRG provides mutual support and assistance, and serves as a network of communication among the family members, the chain of command, and community resources.

The mission of the FRG is to assist Commanders in maintaining readiness of Soldiers, Airmen, families and communities. The FRG is to act as an extension of the unit in providing official, accurate command information. In addition, FRGs promote self-sufficiency, resiliency, and stability during peace and war. Effective FRGs are active even when a unit is not deployed. The FRG consists of several volunteer positions to include: FRG Leader, Treasurer, Secretary, Telephone Tree Chairperson, Newsletter Chairperson, Family Sponsorship Coordinator and Special Events

Coordinator. Example activities that an FRG may include are creating newsletters and informative websites, hosting social events, and offering educational classes on personal finances, stress, and time management. There are several benefits of the FRG. If you are interested in volunteering, attending FRG Volunteer Leadership Training or finding out more about your FRG, please contact Shalee Torrence, Family Readiness Assistant, shalee.torrence@us.army.mil or 515-252-4781.

JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT

Become a member of Joint Services Support by registering at www.jointservicesupport.org and you will have access to a full range of services and information JSS Portal has to offer including events, volunteer tracking, training, and much more. For more information and questions regarding JSS please contact Shalee Torrence.

FAMILY READINESS CONFERENCE AND YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

The 2010 State Family Readiness Conference will be held May 21-23 at the Polk County Convention Center, Des Moines, Iowa. The State Family Readiness Conference is a fun-filled weekend filled with a wide range of activities and information for servicemembers and their families. Training topics for couples, parents, single soldiers and youth will include: Personal Financial Management, Dealing with Educators, Dealing with Difficult People, Strengthening your Marriage, Building resiliency in Children, Military Benefits and much more. Key Speakers include: Brig. Gen. Orr, Iowa State University Coach Paul Rhoades, and National Speaker Steve McCurley. For more information and to register please visit www.jointservicesupport.org or contact Shalee Torrence shalee.torrence@us.army.mil.



Military members and spouses listen intently during the General Session at last year's annual Family Readiness Conference. (Iowa National Guard photo courtesy of the Family Readiness office)



Governor Culver visiting with the Siems Family on the BNSF Holiday Express Train Ride. Staff Sgt. Kent Siems of Company C 334 BSB, his wife Angel and their children Aaron and Becca attended the event held in Des Moines on December 7, 2009. The BNSF Holiday Express was sponsored by BNSF Railroad to honor and thank National Guard members and their families for their service. Service members and Families ride in fully restored vintage train cars decorated for the holidays and enjoy hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies. Santa gives each family a keepsake ornament from the railroad, and Governor Culver visits with attendees during the ride. (Iowa National Guard photo courtesy of the Family Readiness office)

Service Member BENEFITS

HIGHLIGHTED AT "YELLOW RIBBON" SEMINAR

by Staff Sgt. Rich Murphy



Richard Jorgensen, a representative from the Sioux City Veterans Center, explains to members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, some of the services available to veterans through the VA. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Wiseman)



Susan Oeffner, a beneficiary services education representative, explains the benefits of Tricare to Senior Airman Anthony O'Tool, 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, during Yellow Ribbon event. The Yellow ribbon event was held to help members understand some of their benefits. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Wiseman)



Leola Klosterbuer and Donna Deloy, representatives from the Sioux Falls Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center, explain to members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Sioux City, Iowa, some of the services available to veterans through the VA. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Wiseman)

“ We have some excellent services that we provide to most of the veterans returning from deployments. Unfortunately, many military members are unaware of the services they have earned. ”

Michele Kuhlmann
Counselor, Sioux City Vet Center

The 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Family Readiness Program hosted the "Yellow Ribbon Pre/Post Deployment Seminar" for several military members and their families at the Stoney Creek Inn in Sioux City, Iowa.

The seminar, organized by 185th ARW Family Programs Coordinator Lori Risdal, is part of a government appropriations bill that pushes to ensure all veterans going on deployments or returning from deployments understand the various benefits and services available to them and their family members.

"We want to make sure that our service men and women know what resources they have available to them. This event pulls together Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs (VA) programs," said Risdal.

Some of the programs that were discussed at the seminar included TRICARE, the G.I. Bill program, American Red Cross, Veterans Affairs, and Military OneSource. Representatives from these programs provided short briefings about the services provided and set up booths where attendees could seek further information.

The seminar also included briefings on behavioral health, stress management, and financial preparedness.

Counselors from the Sioux City Vet Center, a federal VA program that provides confidential and private counseling and support for combat veterans, also attended the seminar.

Michele Kuhlmann, one of the Vet Center counselors, said, "We have some excellent services that we provide to most of the veterans returning from deployments. Unfortunately, many military members are unaware of the services they have earned."

In addition to the benefits available to service members, the seminar also focused on military family concerns. Risdal said, "It is really the family that has to deal with many of the stresses of the deployment, so we really encouraged family members to attend."

David Brown, a Military and Family Life Consultant, also attended the seminar to discuss several resources family members have access to. He said, "We try to offer resources that help family members through the stresses that come with deployments."

One of these resources that Brown promoted was Military OneSource (MOS). MOS provides up to 12 free counseling sessions, DVDs, books, and educational materials to help family member through the deployment.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Patten, a member of the 185th ARW Security Forces, was one of the servicemen in attendance. "This [seminar] is really helpful. We learned about the new G.I. Bill and other things I did not know we had available to us."

Patten is preparing for his fifth deployment with the 185th ARW Security forces. "Even though I have done this before and I already know some of this stuff, it is nice to learn about the benefits."

The Yellow Ribbon Pre/Post Deployment Seminar will be offered four times a year to serve the many men and women who continue to serve in deployments around the globe.

For more information about this seminar or what services or benefits are available, you can contact Lori Risdal at lori.risdal@ang.af.mil or contact the Family Readiness program at (712) 233-0817.

[FUN-DAY MONDAY]

by Maj. Randy Higginbotham

When I heard a Soldier say, "Sir, that was the hardest work out I have ever done...That was cool, when are we doing it again?" I knew we had achieved what all leaders dream of. These Soldiers did physical training because they wanted to, not because they had to. Then the true litmus test came and validated this: The Active Guard/Reserve group in the 224th Engineer Battalion raised their average Army Physical Fitness Test scores 31 points on average. The journey was long and demanding. It started with "hard love" intentions and produced physically fit Soldiers.

When I returned from the Intermediate-Level Education course in May 2009, it was time for the biannual AGR APFT. I had been gone for four months at the resident school and was the Officer-In-Charge of the 224th Engineer Battalion. I was actually on vacation and came in to take the test with the Soldiers and then return home to finish my time with my family. To my shock, six AGR Soldiers failed the APFT and three failed the weigh-in. I was very disappointed and carried out the required counseling of all those who failed. I then returned home and pondered what to do about those who failed the test. While at home, I decided swift action was needed and did my homework on the plan to tackle this problem. It turns out that five of the failures were at the battalion headquarters, where I worked. Three of the five were young, junior non-commissioned officer types. I thought to myself, these young guys should be killing us older guys on the APFT. But the sad reality is that they were not.

My action plan to fix this problem was simple. I figured that PT with the boss was the best motivation I could present because I felt I was a good example and in good shape. I originally named the event "Mandatory PT," but the Soldiers quickly named it "Fun-Day Monday".

All of the Soldiers that failed their test in May 2009 passed a make-up record test before the next scheduled biannual test in October 2009.

The PT plan used is simple and has reaped many benefits. The workouts always include a variety of exercises but will at a minimum include push-ups, sit-ups and running. These are the three testable events on the APFT, so they must be included. The other exercises of interest are the spice of life. No single Monday workout is like another. It changes to keep the interest of those working out. The workouts are the selling point to the whole program. We include a lot of weird, but fun events such as the tractor-tire-flip event or the litter pulls. We get strange looks from those that pass-by when they see a Soldier pulling another in the new combat litter sled between orange cones trying to get the best time of the day. We often have timed contests that test cardiovascular



Sgt. 1st Class Brandon McElwee is holding the feet of Staff Sgt. Rusty Cabossart. (Iowa National Guard Photo by Maj. Randy Higginbotham.)

strength and build endurance. It's all in name of getting in shape but it's fun and contagious!

Since passing the test, AGR Soldiers are still attending Fun-Day Monday workouts on their own accord. In fact, all AGRs in the building are attending this work out day for the exercise, not just those that needed it. If you are ever in the Fairfield area, join the group and bring your military PT uniform! Experience FUN-DAY MONDAY for yourself!



Staff Sgt. Klay Vermazen on the starting line to pull the tractor tire. (Iowa National Guard Photo by Maj. Randy Higginbotham.)

Afghanistan Pre-Deployment Training Program

by Rob Shaul, Military Athlete www.militaryathlete.com

This program is designed to build your legs and lungs in preparation for deployment to the steep, rocky environment down range in Afghanistan. It is also designed to use minimal equipment, and thus be utilized to train up personnel without access to full featured gyms, bunches of equipment, and/or personnel who have little lifting experience. This is a 6-week long program and makes the assumption that athletes will be training 5 days/week, yielding 30 total training sessions.

The program is build around the following exercises and activities:

DOT Drill - The DOT drill is a basic-level plyometric drill used in collegiate and high school weight rooms across the country. It serves as a great warm up. Also, it helps build ankle and knee joint strength, key for hiking and rucking over uneven terrain.

Leg Blasters - Leg Blasters are an intense, body weight only, lower body complex of exercises which builds incredible leg strength, and lactate tolerance. Also, we've found it key to building eccentric leg strength. Down range, you'll be climbing plenty of steep hills, but you'll also be hiking down them. Coming down forces your legs to work eccentrically, and can lead to crippling soreness in the early weeks. Leg Blasters will help you prepare for this.

Step Ups - Step ups are a basic, butt-kicking single mode exercise used to build sport-specific climbing leg strength and cardio in a controlled, gym environment. During this program, expect to do thousands of step ups with a 40# pack. This is the primary exercise I'll use to get your legs and lungs ready for long patrols in hilly Afghanistan.

300m Sprint - This sprint is divided up into twelve, 25m lengths. The athlete shuttles back and forth between two cones, 25m apart for 6 round trips (12x lengths). Sprinting is a key survival fitness attribute for military athletes facing combat, and the 300m sprint will help build leg strength and anaerobic endurance in a very sport-specific way. By the end of this program, you'll be doing six 300m sprints in a full kit and helmet.

Sandbag Getup - We've found that core strength is a huge determinate of performance. Even more important, a strong mid section protects vulnerable limbs. I'm using this exercise to make you not only strong, but durable. The sandbag getup is an old school, basic exercise which builds core strength like no other, plus it makes you breath like mother. Expect to do hundreds of these with an 80# sandbag.

Tabata Calf Raises - One of the first muscles to fatigue when hiking steep hills is the calf muscles. We use the Tabata interval protocol and calf raises to help strength your calves. The Tabata protocol is a 4-minute long interval of 8 rounds, 20 seconds work, 10 seconds rest. Tabata Calf Raises are 20 seconds continuous, rapid calf raises, unloaded, for 20 seconds, followed by 10 seconds in a holding "rest" position up on your toes (it's really not a "rest.")

Upper Body Strength Endurance - One thing you'll notice about this programming is you won't be spending much time doing upper body training. We've purposely limited upper body work to a circuit of strict pull ups, dips and push ups, which double in volume over the course of the program. Why the limitation? Because you won't be climbing hills in Afghanistan on your hands. Everything begins and ends with the legs. We put our attention here.

Rucking - You'll be doing bunches of rucking down range, and nothing will prepare you for rucking like rucking. On the other hand, too much rucking can lead to nagging joint and other overuse injuries. You'll ruck once a week on this program, in a full kit, helmet, carrying a weapon, with an extra 25# in a ruck sack.

Distance Running - You'll run relatively short distances at a moderate pace on this program. Moderate pace distance running will help build your aerobic base, add durability to the connective tissue in your joints, and work to flush out the lactic acid and other waste products from your legs and other muscles.

Request the complete program for free, delivered as a PDF by going to: http://www.militaryathlete.com/page.php?page_ID=35



The 185th Air Refueling Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, Sioux City, Iowa, hosted their open house on the newly updated base gym on March 6, 2010. The 185th spent approximately fifty thousand dollars on equipment and renovations. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Oscar M. Sanchez)



Tech. Sgt. Carl Ragar, from the 185th Air Refueling Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, Sioux City, Iowa, exercises in the newly updated base gym on March 6, 2010. The 185th spent approximately fifty thousand dollars on equipment and renovations. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Oscar M. Sanchez)



The newly updated weight room of the Wellness Center at the Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center houses various forms of equipment available for use by servicemembers. (Iowa National Guard photo by Justin Cato, State Photographer).

Farewell Maj. Don Enright

The education office would like to say farewell and thank-you to Maj. Don Enright for his time and tremendous effort as the Education Services Officer over the last five years. During Enright's tenure as the ESO, he brought the education office from a paper based tuition assistance application to a totally online application. He also developed the current "Army Education" tab on the www.iowanationalguard.com web-site. This is a great tool for the Iowa National Guard members because it is a one-stop-shop for information and applications. The education office continually updates this website as new information becomes available.

Good luck Maj. Enright, you will be missed!

ACT for soldiers that are serving

This test is free to you and is offered at the Joint Force Headquarters building in Johnston, Iowa. Many of you need this test to be accepted into college. If you are interested in taking the ACT test, contact the education office. They will set up an exam date for you. Results may take up to 4-6 weeks to receive.

National Guard Education Assistance Program

As of March 1, 2010 there is a new application process for the NGEAP. Servicemembers in the Iowa National Guard will need to establish an "I Have a Plan Iowa" account. There is a link and PowerPoint presentation on the education office web-site for assistance. The deadline for the online application for the NGEAP is Aug. 31 for the fall semester. Late applications require a remark with a valid reason why the application is late. All late applications will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis. Once servicemembers have applied for NGEAP and the State Tuition Assistance Manager has received the application, the manager will determine if the servicemember is eligible for the tuition assistance. Remember this is a first-come-first-served tuition assistance program.

Federal Tuition Assistance

As of May 8, 2009 Army National Guard - Federal Tuition Assistance applicants must use their Common Access Card to apply. We recommend soldiers visit their nearest armory or Reserve Officer Training Course department on campus to apply for FTA. If you think you have applied for FTA but have not received any emails to your Army Knowledge Online account, please contact the education office.

FTA is not a guaranteed benefit. It is a first-come-first-served program and is dependent on availability of funds. Those who apply early stand a better chance of receiving FTA. Applications can be submitted any time prior to the start-date of the course and up to 30 days beyond the start-date. Applications submitted over 30 days after the start-date will be subject to a request for exception to policy. The decision to fund will be made by National Guard Bureau, not the state education office.

Student Loan Repayment Program

Soldiers who have Student Loan Repayment Program will receive a DD 2475 at the last known home of record signed by an education services representative. Make sure if you have moved that your unit is aware of the new address. The form will be sent up to three months prior to the soldier's contract start-date. This form is to be filled out by the Soldier or Power of Attorney, if deployed. On the DD 2475, section three is to be filled out completely. The "Loan Holder Name" is the loan lender, not the Soldier. The form is to be mailed or emailed back to the education office to be processed. The education office will send the DD 2475 to the lender and the lender will complete section four. The lender will return the DD 2475 to the education office for payment processing.

Career Counseling

If you are struggling to choose a degree, the education office has updated the "Career Counseling" tab, on the Iowa National Guard web-site. This will allow you to complete an online application, and the Education Support Center will provide you with three degree plans.

Post 9/11 (Chapter 33) GI Bill

As many of you are aware, there is a new Post 9/11 (Chapter 33) GI Bill, which started Aug. 1, 2009. This GI Bill allows servicemembers to transfer their GI Bill benefits to their spouses or dependents. Applications are being processed online at www.gibill.va.gov. If you want to learn more about this benefit, you may do so by visiting the VA website. This benefit may be used only for education purposes and is an irrevocable decision. To become eligible for Chapter 33, servicemembers must have at least 90 aggregate days of active duty or serve 30 days continuous with a service connected disability. On the Iowa National Guard web-site, the education office has posted a new "Chapter 33" tab with a PowerPoint presentation to assist soldiers in applying for and transferring their Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent.

For servicemembers who want to receive Montgomery GI Bill, you must contact your Veterans Affairs Certifying Official (VACO) at your college or university. The VACO will help process all VA benefits. The MGIB-Select Reserve, Chapter 1606 will increase to \$333 Oct. 1, 2010. Servicemembers must provide a copy of their Notice of Basic Eligibility and GI Bill kicker (if you have one) to the VACO. The VACO will send the documents to a VA Regional Office. It may take up to 10-12 weeks to process the claim, so try to start the process early. If you are applying for Chapter 1606 and need to obtain your NOBE, most likely it can be found in your iPERMS soldier file. If you need assistance locating your NOBE, contact your unit of assignment. Don't forget to do your end of month verification by either calling 1-877-823-2378 or going to the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment program online.

Remember: if you have been deployed 90 days to 12 months, you are eligible for 40 percent of the Active Duty GI Bill; if you have been deployed 12 months to 24 months, you are eligible for 60 percent; and if you have been deployed for over 2 years on one order, you are eligible for 80 percent of the Active Duty GI Bill. For those servicemembers who are eligible for MGIB-Active Duty, Chapter 30, you will need to submit your DD 2366, DD 2366-1 (if available) to your VACO. These forms can be found in your iPERMS soldier file if you bought-in to the Chapter 30. You still need to verify at the end of each month and the rates can be found at www.gibill.va.gov.

« On the Ground »

Governors support Soldiers

Story by Spec. Jessica Zullig

U.S. Army photos by Specs. Jessica Zullig and Darwin Seehusen



“ It's one thing to talk about support at home and another to actually be on the ground with them. ”

Governor Chet Culver, Governor of Iowa

Two governors visited Contingency Operating Base Speicher here today to express their gratitude for Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governors Martin O'Malley, Md., and Chet Culver, Iowa, joined 58 Soldiers from Iowa and Maryland for lunch. Major General Tony Cucolo, Task Force Marne Commanding General, hosted the luncheon where Soldiers talked to their governors about their mission and asked about home.

“I couldn't be more excited to be here to talk with our Iowa Soldiers,” said Culver. “It's one thing to talk about support at home and another to actually be on the ground with them.”

Iowa native, Sergeant Michael W. Volkert, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division stationed at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, said the visit from the governors lets him know their politicians care.

“It brings kinship from your home state to know that they are taking time to come half way across the world to see us,” he said.

“It's good to have the governor see what Soldiers have to go through while in theater ... to have him here stomping down the same trail Soldiers stomp down,” said Sergeant 1st Class Paul Rieks, a Waterloo, Iowa, native.

Rieks is currently deployed with the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment out of Camp Dodge, Johnston, Iowa.

Cucolo was equally encouraged by the governors' visit. “I've been in the Army 31 years in June and I've never seen the support so strong,” commented Cucolo. “It gives you energy for the long run. It gives you energy to put up with what we put up with.”

After the luncheon, the governors headed for a tour of route clearance vehicles, un-manned aerial vehicles and the Joint Operations Center. “My goals for today were to show off the great Soldiers from Iowa and Maryland to their chiefs of state and have two significant civilian leaders depart Northern Iraq with a better understanding of how complex this battle space is and how hard the mission is,” said Cucolo. “That way, they can take that back home and talk to other senior civilian leaders.”



The Joint Staff Defines Their Mission

by Brig. Gen. Roy Webb

- » Since 2008, the Joint Staff has continued to improve and validate contingency plans for state emergencies.
- » At the state level, the Joint Staff will mostly be working with the Homeland Security Office and the Governor.
- » They will be the Joint Trainer for the Iowa National Guard, and the Command Headquarters for the 71st Civil Support Team, Counter Drug Team, the Director of Military Support (DOMS) and the Joint Operation Center.

The Joint Staff of the Iowa Guard has been given clear guidance by The Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Tim Orr. They will be responsible for all military support to civilian authorities (MSCA). They will be the Joint Trainer for the Iowa National Guard, and they will be the Command Headquarters for the 71st Civil Support Team, Counter Drug Team, the Director of Military Support (DOMS) and the Joint Operation Center. These taskings have allowed the Joint Team to move forward and define their own mission within the Iowa Guard.

The most important mission of the Joint Team is the MSCA mission. They understand their role in this situation. They support their civilian counterparts as the civilian agencies will take the lead. The first responders and the local Emergency Operations Centers will be the lead authority. At the state level, the Joint Staff will mostly be working with the Homeland Security Office and the Governor. Most emergencies that Iowa deals with are small in scale and only involve a small number of soldiers and airmen, like a winter storm rescue mission or opening an armory as a warming center. These are small in scope, but still critical to local communities. The Joint Operations Center and the DOMS handle these missions by issuing orders, tracking mission status, and taking care of soldiers and airmen. The Joint Staff becomes the command and control headquarters and Joint Task

Force Iowa in the event of a major disaster in the state. The floods of 2008 was the last full mobilization of JTF Iowa. In that mission JTF Iowa under the command of Brig. Gen. Bogle, had over 4000 Army and Air Force members working for the task force.

Since 2008, the Joint Staff has continued to improve and validate contingency plans for state emergencies. They do this by training and command post exercises throughout the year. This summer the Joint Staff took the Lead in Vigilant Guard, a national and regional exercise developed specifically for MSCA missions. This exercise involved a challenging scenario of a flood, train wreck with chemical gas release and evacuation, a pandemic flu, and a foreign animal disease outbreak. Vigilant Guard forced the staff to work with all state major subordinate commands, air wings, state and regional partners, both civilian and military. The Joint Staff received high praise for their preparedness and execution of this difficult mission.

The Joint Staff looks forward to their future and their role within the state. They have accepted the mission as the "Joint Trainers". If Major Subordinate Commands and Air Wings are interested in training with the Joint Staff on MSCA operations, they are encouraged to contact the Joint Staff. The Joint Staff runs quarterly exercises.



Flood waters fill the streets of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 13, 2008. The Iowa Air National Guard mobilized by the state to help with flooding in Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Des Moines, Iowa. The Air and Army Guards joined forces in law enforcement duties in protecting flooded areas and providing general assistance to the public. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Oscar M. Sanchez-Alvarez)

Capt. Jeffrey Mann, a soil scientist with the 2-130th Field Artillery Battalion out of Hiawatha, Kan., currently serving with 1-6th Kansas Agribusiness Development Team, Task Force Mountain Warrior, teaches students from Nangarhar University how to test soil for nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium using chemical tablets, soil and water. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Raney)



Members of the Nebraska National Guard agribusiness development team work alongside Afghan farmers who went to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 24, 2009, to learn how to assemble grain bins. A Nebraska group shipped the bins to Afghanistan, which are designed to store seed and harvested grain. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Lory Stevens)



734th ADT Aims to Cultivate Victory in Afghanistan

by Capt Peter Shinn
Public Affairs Officer,
734th Agri-Business Development Team

When it comes to running a counterinsurgency campaign like the one the U.S. is waging in Afghanistan, the people are the prize. And since agriculture accounts for at least 80% of Afghanistan's economy, it was perhaps not surprising that boosting the Afghan ag sector was a key part of President Obama's Afghanistan strategy, which he announced in a major policy speech at West Point on December 1st.

The National Guard has been working on improving the Afghan agriculture sector since 2007 through its Agri-Business Development Team or, ADT concept. Several National Guard ADTs from a handful of states are

currently on the ground in Afghanistan. And the Iowa National Guard has constituted the 734th ADT for deployment in late summer. Colonel Craig Bargfrede, a Minnesota native with 16 years of agribusiness experience, commands the 734th ADT.

"The mission of this team," Bargfrede said, "is to work with provincial, district agricultural leaders, and down at the local level with local farmers, in developing their agribusiness infrastructure."

The vast majority of Afghan ag producers are subsistence farmers who are literally trying to feed their families and maybe have some left over to market. That means the 734th ADT will likely tackle a highly diverse menu of small-scale agricultural projects.

"Projects from animal husbandry," Bargfrede said, "to irrigation, to crop production, vineyard production and etcetera."

The broad scope of projects the ADT may face is one reason members of the team will receive basic agricultural training from Iowa State University (ISU) Extension personnel before deploying. Lt Col Neil Stockfleth is an Iowa Air National Guardsman who has also worked for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for 20 years. He is heading-up the ADT's group of agricultural specialists. Lt Col Stockfleth pointed out around 75% of the five or six dozen members of the ADT will specialize in security, transportation or some other non-agriculture related skill. That's why he said it's so important for all members of the ADT to get basic agricultural training.

"Everybody's going to be out in the field at some point," Stockfleth explained. "There's

going to be opportunities to interact with Afghans all through this deployment and so we want everybody to have a knowledge of basic agricultural items.

Dr. Gerald Miller retired in February from his post as Associate Dean of ISU Extension, and continues to serve as a consultant to ISU. He said the pre-deployment training for ADT members will consist of basic agronomy, horticulture and livestock management skills. And if the 734th ADT runs into an ag-related issue requiring more expertise after arriving in Afghanistan, Dr. Miller promised ISU Extension personnel are just an e-mail away. Indeed, Dr. Miller views the relationship between ISU and the 734th ADT as a true partnership.

"Yes, we would see the detachment as our extension staff on the ground," Miller said.

The relationship between ISU and the 734th ADT is one factor that will help contribute to the mission's success. And COL Bargfrede has no doubt the 734th ADT, along with all the other National Guard ADTs, are integral to the U.S. strategic vision for victory in Afghanistan.

"The counterinsurgency strategy – this fits in perfectly," declared Bargfrede.

Fits in perfectly because of the ADT's emphasis on improving the sustainability and profitability of everyday Afghan ag producers. That, Bargfrede said, gives Afghan citizens a much bigger stake in their own country's future.

"And by doing this it is our goal to deter them from participating in the insurgents' operations," Bargfrede concluded.

Training Never Stops

Invest yourself and your team into good training!



“ Training is the most important thing we do in the Army. Don’t ever forget that. Don’t lose sight of it when you are wrestling with all those other alligators. There is time for good training if we do the planning. Make it happen. ”

Sergeant Major of the Army Glen E. Morrell, 1984

The Iowa National Guard is on the threshold of one of the largest deployments of warriors to a combat zone in our history. As you move around our organization and talk to our warriors you gain a real appreciation for how many moving parts we have out there. You see how many tasks are being completed simultaneously. Tasks such as: manning, equipping, and training are all critical as we equip units and prepare them for their upcoming missions.

Sergeant Major of the Army Glen E. Morrell, said it very well in 1984, and it is relevant today. He said, “Training is the most important thing we do in the Army. Don’t ever forget that. Don’t lose sight of it when you are wrestling with all those other alligators. A lot of people say, ‘Well, I have a lot of training distracters. I have to do this. I have to comply with that.’ There is time for good training if we do the planning. Make it happen. Do not use those distracters as a crutch.”

SMA Morrell’s message applies to all of our Army and Air Force warriors regardless of specific missions. Training is the most important thing we do. Well planned, well executed, realistic training will build confidence in us, our teams, our units and it makes us effective and relevant on the

battlefield. Regardless of whether we are training for a deployment in support of contingency operations, rear detachment operations, or support to civil authorities, the principles of training remains the same. Our Non-Commissioned Officer's have a huge task as they train individuals, crews and small teams.

As we continue to build units, move warriors, and field new equipment, it is critical that we establish training plans which allow us to master the basics. Our leaders must be proficient on their technical tasks as well as the warrior tasks before they can effectively train as a team, squad or platoon. Our training must be as realistic as possible to replicate the conditions of the battlefield.

In addition to sound training practices like mastering the basics, enforcing the standards, and making training as realistic as possible, here are a few more thoughts I have on training.

1) We need to develop good training habits with regard to physical fitness, uniform, maintenance of equipment, and safety. Keep in mind that what you do or how you react in training, is what you will do or how you will react when you are on the battlefield.

2) Be aggressive with your training plans and use the time available wisely. Don't be satisfied with the one "Go" on a task. Plan multiple iterations while changing conditions and increasing complexity. Remember, if you waste or misuse the time available, you will not get it back.

3) As a leader, invest yourself and your team into training. Be responsible for the quality of training you are involved in even when you are not running it. During most training events you will see things whether they are administrative or logistical problems that could have been executed differently. Talk about it in your After Action Report, make a note, fix it next time, but don't dwell on it. Rather, concentrate on sustaining or improving the task at hand.

4) Finally, training never stops. All of our warriors who have deployed understand that you continue to train throughout your deployment.

The challenge over the next several months will be to focus on the most important thing we do, training, while continuing to focus on completing all necessary tasks which are also important to make our mission a success.

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Maj. Mike Crawford, 2-34th BCT Support Chaplain

Training Resources for Local Pastors

Pastor, as a leader of a local church, you are key to bringing support to military families in times of need such as a deployment creates. As a concerned clergyperson, you can educate yourself about the emotional needs of military families and seek to support them through your messages and ministries. I'll highlight three ways church leaders can learn more.

1. Web-based training:

Pastors can access a variety of information at the following websites:

www.militaryonesource.com The one-stop spot for an overwhelming amount of information.

www.jointservicesupport.org Offers many training topics in powerpoint format, courses in interactive format, and a wide variety of articles in the files library. (Site requires free registration.)

www.militaryfamily.org Article on "10 Things Military Teens Want you to Know"

2. Military Family Support Ministry-

The state chaplain's office is partnering with churches that would like to offer services to military families. Services could include (but are not limited to):

- * Counseling for individuals and families
- * Child Care, respite care by screened workers
- * Basic household and auto repairs
- * Child and teen education and mentoring
- * Transportation
- * Emergency food, clothing and housing
- * Family Readiness Group meeting support
- * Financial Counseling
- * Crisis and grief counseling
- * Parenting classes

Participants in the program will receive newsletters and email updates regarding general needs of families and ways churches can help. Pastors can get further information by contacting Master Sgt. Jason Crandall at 515-727-3817.

3. The Raise Your Right Hand and Repeat After Me Learning Method

Truly the most thorough and comprehensive training for pastors who want to serve military family comes by choosing to enter the military as a chaplain. Serving in the National Guard would enable you to continue your local church ministry, while exponentially expanding your pastoral influence by immersing yourself in a culture, community and team dedicated to sacrifice, shared suffering and service to others..

CH Crawford can be contacted at 515-727-3892 or michael.v.crawford@us.army.mil.



Alabama Air National Guard Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Robert Hicks prays with two U.S. servicemembers. The Baptist minister is assigned to the hospital to comfort Guard troops who have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell)





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by Becky Coady, Deputy Director
Iowa ESGR Committee

There are over 80,000 employers in the state of Iowa. Over 10,000 employ National Guard or Reservists. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve has developed a program to reach out to those employers. Our "Employer Lunch and Learns" are scheduled throughout the state and concentrate on promoting ESGR as a resource to them. We invite the Department of Labor to present the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Due to the upcoming deployment of the 2-34th Brigade Combat Team units, we have included a piece on the deployment process as we often have questions from employers on why their employees have to do so much extra military training when they will be deploying. We have several events already scheduled for this summer. Call our office for dates in your area.