

# Militiaman

Official Publication of the Iowa National Guard

Fall 2012



JCEP = JOB SUCCESS



IOWA - KOSOVO PARTNERSHIP



GRUELING LEADER TEST





4

**Building blocks to job success**  
Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden



8

**Iowa-Kosovo collaborate**  
Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Harpold



10

**23rd Bataan Death March**  
Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

7 » **Ordinance award to Iowans**  
Staff Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

14 » **A grueling leadership test**  
Sgt. Adrian Muehe

19 » **Classic A-7 Corsair restored**  
by Master Sgt. Bill Wiseman

## 3 TAG Sends

Maj. Gen. Tim Orr  
The Adjutant General

## 13 Family Readiness

Shalee Torrence  
Family Assistance Specialist

## 18 Education Office

Maj. Linda Perdue  
Education Services Officer

## 22 Through the Ranks

Command Sgt. Maj.  
John Breitsprecker  
Joint Senior Enlisted Leader

## 23 Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Col.) Paul Lippstock  
State Chaplain

**The Adjutant General** Maj. Gen. Tim Orr  
**Public Affairs Officer** Col. Greg Hapgood  
**Editor/Designer** Master Sgt. Duff McFadden  
**State Photographer** Staff Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

## Contributing Writers/Photographers:

Lt. Col. Travis "Chicken" Acheson  
1st Lt. Brandon Cochran  
by 2nd Lt. Jeremy McClure

The Iowa Militiaman is an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published by the Iowa National Guard State Public Affairs Office and is printed four times annually. News and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Adjutant General of Iowa or the Department of Defense.

Full color version available online at  
[www.iowanationalguard.com/  
publicaffairs/militiaman.htm](http://www.iowanationalguard.com/publicaffairs/militiaman.htm)

Follow the Iowa National Guard on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/IowaNationalGuard](http://www.facebook.com/IowaNationalGuard)

Address all submissions to:  
**The Iowa National Guard Militiaman Magazine**  
State Public Affairs Office  
7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824  
or e-mail: [paia@us.army.mil](mailto:paia@us.army.mil)  
Comm: (515) 252-4582  
DSN: 431-4582



## On the Cover

Photo by Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

The president of the Republic of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, and Maj. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard meet at the Iowa State Capitol during a recent Iowa visit in preparation for a meeting with Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds.

# 'New Norm'

## Rigorous pace, OPTEMPO levels off as we prepare, plan and exercise



As the 2012 training year comes to a close, we have faced many great challenges. Each of you continues to excel in your mission, even under the most challenging circumstances. Your dedication and support to this organization is greatly appreciated.

We continue to keep an extremely challenging pace in the Iowa National Guard, but I feel it's beginning to level off to what I would call the "New Norm."

We continue to have daily challenges – in our future overseas deployment requirements, homeland security preparations, consistent shrinkage in the federal and state budgets, the potential loss of the 132nd Fighter Wing aircraft, pending sequestration, a continuing resolution authority, force structure adjustments, recruiting and retention challenges, casualty operations, Soldier and Airmen wellness – and the list continues to grow.

Despite these challenges, Iowa's commands and staff are working extremely hard to train our Soldiers and Airmen, increase the already high levels of readiness in our deploying units, and continue to attract and retain talented Iowa Guardsmen and women across the state.

What does the near-term future hold for the Iowa National Guard?

Our numbers of deployed Soldiers and Airmen continues to drop. We are at our lowest number of mobilized since 9/11. Based off the President's guidance,

we expect to be out of Afghanistan after 2014. Either way, we will be ready for any mission that comes our way.

This summer, for the second time in our history, we conducted a state Annual Training period for all units in the Iowa National Guard between three locations, Camp Ripley, Minn.; Fort McCoy, Wisc.; and Camp Dodge. In addition, I had our state staff and leadership team deployed to Camp Ripley to support this annual training.

With all the deployments over the last 10 years, many of our Soldiers and Airmen reported this was their first annual training since joining the Iowa National Guard. The pace of our overseas deployments has peaked with the return of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and will continue to drop, unless something changes overseas.

Over this last year we mobilized 250 Soldiers and Airmen for overseas contingency operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Kuwait. We recently mobilized Company C, 2-211 General Support Aviation Battalion (Medevac) in July, and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1034th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in August to the Fort Hood, Texas mobilization platform to prepare for their Afghanistan deployment later this fall.

In the near future, there will be a few other Iowa National Guard units to be

deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

The 132nd Fighter Wing deployed last winter to Afghanistan in support of an Air Expeditionary Force rotation and returned in April. The 185th Air Refueling Wing continues to support Operation Enduring Freedom with air medical evacuation of our injured warriors and refueling missions across the globe.

As the demand for our units drops next year, we currently have only one unit to receive possible notification for OEF deployment in Training Year 2014.

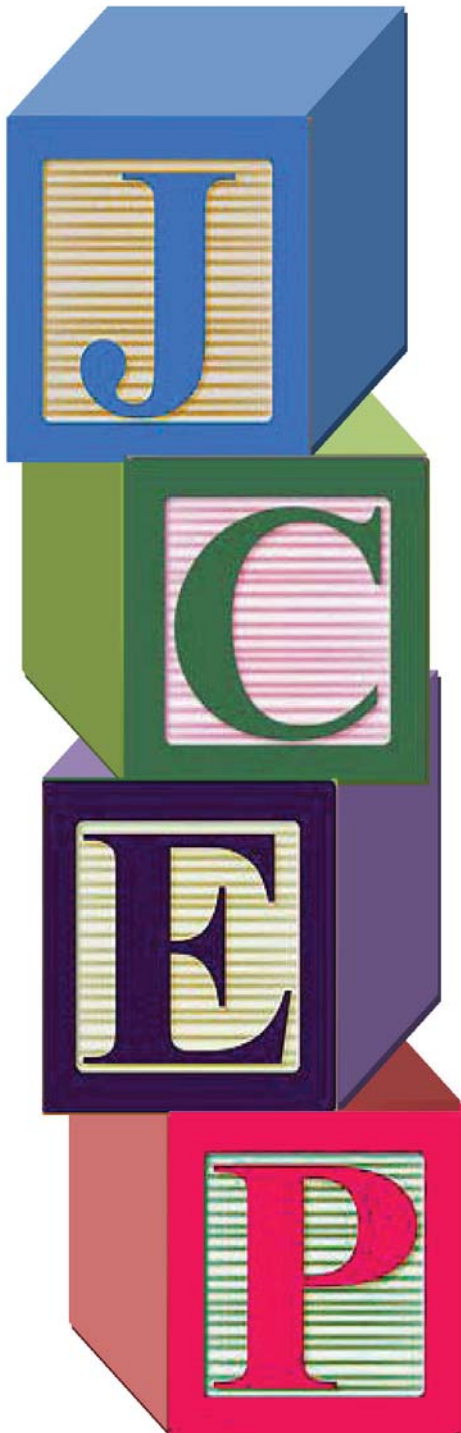
However, we won't consider our mission complete until we bring home all our wounded warriors currently rehabilitating at various posts. Please remember in your thoughts and prayers, the 16 members we still have recovering at these posts and the 68 others working through community-based treatment programs.

As part of our state homeland security mission, we continue to prepare, plan and exercise. Recently, we were sourced to support the January 2013 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C. with 100 personnel. I will tell you, after coming off the Missouri River flood operation which was the longest state disaster

---

**TAG Sends**  
**continued on page 21**

---



# Building blocks to job search success

by Master Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

Last fall, Capt. Tony Christoph, Operations Officer for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, returned home from Afghanistan. One of more than 2,600 troops, he was part of the Iowa Army National Guard's largest deployment since World War II.

A full-time Operations Officer with the Iowa National Guard, Christoph discovered, like many other Americans, that funding cuts had eliminated his job. He found himself thrust into a stagnant job market facing an uncertain future.

However, thanks to an innovative National Guard Bureau program – the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP) – Christoph was hired by the City of Ankeny Police Department within a few months of his homecoming.

Initially established in Texas as a pilot program in March 2010, JCEP was specifically designed to improve employment and reemployment rates for laid-off, under-employed and unemployed Guardsmen, particularly those returning from recent deployments.

Iowa was the second state to offer this unique program, laying down its roots Nov. 1, 2011. Not coincidentally, Iowa's program was established just as members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry were returning home from a year-long Afghanistan deployment.

Since its Iowa inception, the program assists an average of 120 participants per month, with 86 current hires and a goal of 100 hires within the first year.

While other job assistance programs exist, they typically focus on serving Soldiers transitioning from the military to civilian employment and life. JCEP focuses on the specific challenges faced by National Guard servicemembers who are deployed away from their employers or other job opportunities for extended periods of time.

"I had a great experience with the Iowa JCEP. Coming back from a deployment in which I lost my full-time job at home due to Department of Defense funding



cuts put a lot of stress on me,” said Christoph. “This program is a wonderful tool for Soldiers who are in need of assistance in finding civilian employment.”

What makes this program such a valuable commodity in this day and age, is while JCEP primarily assists the National Guard, it also aids other reservists, spouses, retirees moving to the civilian world, and veterans who seek help.

One of the key components of this National Guard Bureau-based program is the ability of JCEP specialists to work closely with both employers and prospective National Guard employees. They ensure employers are aware of, and know how to access, all the resources and benefits available in their efforts to hire Guard men and women.

In JCEP, Servicemembers find a distinctive tool to help them identify aptitudes and abilities honed through the military, arrive at a plan transferring them to a civilian job setting, and assist them in understanding and mastering key job search resources and services for optimal job placement.

While JCEP staff certainly can't guarantee participants will get the job, they do their best to ensure the resume and application are appropriate for that position. They also make sure the hiring manager is aware a JCEP participant is interested and has applied for the position.

While there is no single agency or organization responsible for developing a robust workforce, JCEP's intention is to partner with existing state and local agencies, such as workforce commissions, job centers, and community colleges, as a complimentary resource that helps participants seek and secure employment.

The first step to success, said Shawn Hippen, a JCEP Business Advisor and retired Iowa National Guard Soldier, is to build a resume.

---

## **JCEP**

***Continued on next page***

---

## **Sgt. Carlos Puente Morales: A JCEP success story**



### **Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Shawn Hippen**

Although I have never met Sgt. Carlos Puente Morales in person, the first thing I noticed talking with him was his infectious confidence. This is a young man with big goals and knows how to pursue them.

As a member of the Job Connection Education Program (JCEP) team, I had the privilege of watching Morales' dream of becoming a police officer come to fruition.

Morales first heard about JCEP while demobilizing at Fort McCoy, Wis. After registering on their website and receiving a welcome letter, Morales said he didn't know how much assistance to expect.

It began with a resume that reflected his skills and abilities. "I was surprised because it looked so professional and highlighted all of my accomplishments. My improved resume definitely gave me an edge over other resumes."

Morales then participated in a mock team interview to prepare him for his upcoming interview with law enforcement officials. Because of that, Morales said he felt "calm, secure, and very comfortable," during his actual interview, which he attributes to obtaining his dream job with the City of Ottumwa Police Department.

"The mock interview was the best. The tips and suggestions I received from the JCEP professionals were huge. I was truly set up for success and received excellent feedback. I was told by a member of the Ottumwa Police Department I totally smoked the

interview. The officer said I came out on top over all the other applicants."

One of the things Morales feels that makes JCEP successful, is the one-on-one interaction between the Employment Specialist and the Soldier. "The one-on-one was excellent. The process from beginning to end was so incredible. All the professional support, advice, suggestions, and feedback directly related to my obtaining employment.

"Everything the staff did for me, the follow-up emails and phone calls, brought me success." He said his follow-up, after he obtained employment, was just as important, because he felt the JCEP Counselor truly cared about him as a person.

Morales encourages other Soldiers to utilize JCEP. "It's a huge program offered to vets to improve on their skills, find a job, or better their employment. They give you everything you need to succeed in a very competitive world."

I love the confidence you can hear in Morales' voice.

"One thing that I can say, I am thankful I signed up for JCEP because it gave me an edge through the job search process. I am glad as a veteran, we can come back to the civilian side and have a program like this."

Truly we, the JCEP team, are the thankful ones, having the pleasure of seeing a young man's dreams come true by providing him with the skills to obtain his dream job.

“There’s a lot of one-on-one interaction during this part, as well as a lot of career counseling. They’re asked, ‘What do you want to do,’ and they figure out a plan. Sometimes, seeking further education or training is their best option at this time,” he said.

Next, are one-on-one interviewing techniques and mock interviews, which prepares them for the “big” interview. From job search referrals to Partner Businesses Application Assistance, JCEP offers servicemembers a firm, yet constructive follow-up throughout the hiring process. Mentorship and career counseling rounds out this distinct process

“JCEP is merely a tool for Soldiers,” said Christoph. “They still need to work hard and make it a job to find a job. The individual needs to be proactive in this process and not sit back and think just because JCEP is working hard for them, they don’t need to do anything.

“I strongly believe the work and time I personally invested in my job search, along with the assistance from JCEP led to the law enforcement opportunity I accepted,” he said.

According to Hippen, sometimes participants are just busy with their lives. While applying for jobs, they get excited about getting an interview, or even getting hired, they forget to call and let JCEP know.

“Our most successful participants are those that are actively maintaining communications with us, letting us know their status and using all the tools available to them.

“In some cases, participants are just looking for assistance converting their military training, skills and jargon in order to build an effective resume.

Once they receive their resume, job search and interview training, they sometimes begin their search on their own and we lose contact. Some con-

tact us right away, while others forget, making it difficult to know the exact impact on those we assist.

“In reality, the more active a participant is in JCEP, the more successful they are. The closer we work together, the quicker the hire happens,” he said.

With the addition of military commitments, as well as family and personal responsibilities, securing full-time employment can be difficult in today’s economy.

The Job Connection Education Program, which has now expanded operations to four States – Texas, Iowa Wisconsin and Tennessee –helps

provide the necessary tools needed for participants and state-wide companies to achieve their goals.

It’s a win-win situation for everyone.

“We’re NGB-funded, so I believe we’ve just begun to understand how employment is such a large part of our Soldiers’ lives,” said Hippen. “If our Soldiers have a great civilian career and family life, they’ll also have a great military life.

“We make a positive impact on our Soldiers’ lives, we hope it’s not long before we push this program out to all 50 States,” he said.

### **Society of Human Resource Managers survey identifies benefits of hiring employees with military experience:**

- ~ Strong sense of responsibility (97 percent);
- ~ Ability to work under pressure (96 percent);
- ~ Ability see a task through to completion (92 percent);
- ~ Strong leadership skills (91 percent);
- ~ High degree of professionalism (91 percent);
- ~ Strong problem-solving skills (90 percent);
- ~ Ability to multitask (89 percent);
- ~ Ability to adapt to changing situations quickly (88 percent);
- ~ Ability to give back to U.S. veterans by showing gratitude for their service (88 percent);
- ~ Positive impact on the image and/or credibility of organization (86 percent);
- ~ Sense of patriotism at organization (77 percent);
- ~ Technology/information technology skills and training (77 percent);
- ~ Strategic planning/foresight (74 percent);
- ~ Fulfillment of federal and/or state affirmative action requirements (73 percent);
- ~ Global perspective (61 percent); and
- ~ Knowledge/expertise of defense issues (60 percent).



# Six Iowa Soldiers Honored with Ordinance Award

by Staff Sgt. Chad D. Nelson

Six Iowa Ordinance Soldiers were recently recognized at the Reserve Components Advisory Group to the Chief of Ordinance for their contributions to the Ordinance Corps of the U.S. Army.

The Soldiers – Sgt. 1st Class John Rodda; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Beard; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Unkel; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Melissa Johnson; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Gorshe; and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Olsen – were presented the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award by Col. Gregory Mason, Army Ordinance Center

Commandant and Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan Muhammad, Ordinance Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

The Samuel Sharpe Award is a relatively new Army award. Introduced in 1994 by the U.S. Army Ordinance Corps Association, the award ensures Soldiers who display the highest standards of integrity and moral character, outstanding professional competence and selfless service are officially recognized.

It's estimated roughly 2,000 of these awards have been given to Ordinance Corps Soldiers across the entire U.S. Army, according to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Marvin Peters, the Command Chief

Warrant Officer for the Iowa National Guard and a 42-year veteran of the Ordinance Corps.

While the six Iowans who received the award have all served in the Ordinance Corps for at least 20 years, Peters said length of service alone isn't enough to earn this prestigious award.

"It's a way to recognize those who have made lasting contributions to the Ordinance Corps, not necessarily someone who has just been in for a long time," Peters said.

"No one act ensures a Soldier will receive this award," he said.



*Six Iowa Ordinance Corps Soldiers stand at attention while the orders are posted for the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award, April 5. The Soldiers (from right to left) are Sergeant 1st Class John Rodda, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Beard, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kevin Unkel, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Melissa Johnson, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Gorshe and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Chris Olsen. All of these Soldiers have served in the Ordinance Corps for at least 20 years.*

# Iowa National Guard supports Kosovo Security Forces

by Sgt. 1st Class  
Jeremy L. Harpold

Since officially recognizing its partnership with Kosovo last year, Iowa has been host to many delegates from its state partner. Ambassadors, high-ranking government officials and key members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) traveled to Iowa to learn from the Iowa National Guard. Iowa has sent many of its senior members to Kosovo for the same reason.

This year-long relationship reached a high point when eight Iowa National Guard Soldiers traveled to Kosovo to work with the KSF Operations Support Brigade (OSB) during a 72-hour domestic response exercise.

This mission was no easy feat for the Iowans.

“It’s ... a demanding 72 hours,” said Col. Timothy Pheil, Chief of the Operational Support Brigade Mentoring and Advising Team. “We are going to do things in this exercise the KSF has not done before.”

The challenges began early as the Iowa team instructed the KSF, with their main focus on conducting After Action Reviews (AAR).

These reviews, an evaluation of the positive and negative aspects of a mission or exercise, can impact the way a unit operates. By identifying what worked and what didn’t, leaders are able to make adjustments, fix problems and sustain the successful.

“[The KSF Soldiers] listened to the recommendations ... and strived to fix their deficiencies and meet the U.S. Soldiers’ expectations,” said Lt. Col. Bill McClintock, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Iowa Army National Guard.



***“The exercise was one with greater tasks and difficulty than the KSF has ever been missioned with... but they have heart, determination and are motivated to do their very best.”***

***--Lt. Col. William McClintock***

Rarely used by the KSF, these reviews will help everyone in the KSF, especially Kosovo’s non-commissioned officer corps. Classes reinforced the role of the NCO in the KSF.

It was Pheil’s desire to “teach the NCOs to understand they are responsible for individual training.” He said the KSF’s NCOs were still learning their role and Iowa’s mission was to show how a good NCO corps functioned.

While the classroom provided the NCOs theory, the field environment was where the Iowa Team empowered them. Since the KSF needed to put theory into practice, this is where the continuous, 72-hour field training exercise, called “Friends One” in Albanian, paid off.

According to Brig. Gen. Imri Ilazi, the commander of the Operations Support Brigade, “They are skilled, intelligent individuals that need to learn to work as a team.”

The scenario involved a NATO train derailling in the town of Ferizaj. Three train cars were involved – one

with NATO troops, one with “hazardous chemicals” and one with “munitions and explosives.” Each car required multiple KSF units to work in unison.

“The challenge the brigade faces is the large variety of occupational specialties,” said Ilazi. “Search and rescue company, for example, has mountain, water and urban rescue. All are search and rescue, but all are different.”

To orchestrate such a diverse group, an Incident Command Post was established to manage the scene, while an Incident Response Command Post was established to manage resources.

The municipality’s first request for assistance came after civilian first responders were overwhelmed by the derailment. First to respond was the search and rescue company, followed by the firefighting company; both assets of the OSB’s Civil Protection Regiment.

The search and rescue team started extricating individuals from automobiles caught up in the derailment, using hydraulic tools to pull simulated victims from the wreckage. Exercise controllers then started a fire on one of the train cars, adding urgency to an already chaotic scene.



Once search and rescue became aware of the fire, firefighters were called in while search and rescue continued to remove victims from the train and cars.

With multiple commands on the scene, Bockenstedt and Catrenich assisted the OSB's on-scene leadership in establishing a centralized incident site command. This allowed officers to coordinate a proper response, which the NCOs and enlisted Soldiers carried out.

Following the response, the OSB and Iowa team conducted an AAR with each element. Each section walked through the process and then NCOs then took charge, bringing their comments to their company commanders.

The commanders identified fixes for when the scene was reset and played out. Proper use of the AAR resulted in a much improved second response and better management capabilities.

Other identifiable changes included the

roles of the NCOs. They took on more responsibility, directing troop actions and carrying out their commanders' intent. According to Pheil, these NCOs began to understand their place and became accountable for their Soldiers.

As the OSB was learning and adapting, the scenarios became more complex. When errors were made, scenarios were reset and repeated.

During an unexploded munitions and fire scenario, firefighters ran in before the Explosive Ordinance Disposal team could clear a safe passage. The firefighters became "casualties," learning the value of scene assessment and identifying dangers.

As scenarios grew, they learned their team wasn't just their company, but every Soldier within the OSB. The EOD started working with their Hazardous Materials Company counterparts, sharing equipment and tactics, while the medics worked together with search and rescue.

"The exercise was one with greater tasks and greater difficulty than the KSF has ever been missioned with," said McClintock. "They have heart, determination and are motivated to do their very best."

Like the KSF, the heart, determination and motivation of Iowa Soldiers helped set the stage for continued joint training missions. Through shared experiences such as these, the partnership program between Iowa and Kosovo will continue to grow.

---

***Capt. Brock Bockenstedt, Company B Commander, RSP, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Waterloo, conducts an informal after action review with NCOs from the KSF at a field training exercise in Ferizaj, Kosovo. (Iowa National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy L. Harpold)***

## The Iowa Team

**Lt. Col. William McClintock,  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Iowa Army National Guard**

**Maj. Kipp Lenth,  
Officer-in-Charge of Operations,  
Iowa Joint Operations Center**

**Capt. Jarid Catrenich,  
Company A Commander,  
Forward Support, 224th Engineer Battalion**

**Capt. Brock Bockenstedt,  
Company B Commander, RSP,  
Recruiting and Retention Battalion**

**Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Adams,  
1st Battalion, 168th Infantry**

**Master Sgt. Steven Dreher, Operations,  
Pre-mobilization Training Assistance Element,  
Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge**

**Sgt. 1st Class Nate Allen, Readiness NCO,  
294th Area Support Medical Company**

**Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Harpold, Readiness NCO,  
135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**





Completing a standard 26.2 mile marathon can prove challenging enough. However, if you factor in miles and miles of endless asphalt and desert, dry, searing temperatures and the occasional tarantula, scorpion, snake or bee, you have the makings for one memorable marathon.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Bataan Memorial Death March, held annually at the White Sands Missile Range, N.M., honors a group of World War II heroes responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines. On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers surrendered to overwhelming Japanese forces.

Thousands died after marching for days through Philippine jungles in the scorching heat. Those who survived faced the hardships of a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

Current marchers participate for many reasons – as a personal challenge, for the spirit of competition, or to foster esprit de corps. Some march in honor of a family member or for a particular veteran who survived or died during the actual Bataan Death March.

For the 15-plus Iowa National Guard Soldiers participating in this year's march, the reasons were as diverse as the Soldiers themselves.

Marching as Team Marilyn Gabbard allowed five Iowa women the opportunity to eulogize a former female mentor. Gabbard, 46, was killed when the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in which she was a passenger, was shot down northeast of Baghdad, Iraq in 2007.

They actually won the Female Military Light team event. The team, composed of Spc. Rachele Feil, 23, of Dubuque and a member of Detachment 1, Company A, 1st Battalion, 248th Area Support Battalion; Pvt. 1st Class Allison McCready, 19, of Cedar Falls, Detachment 1, Company

A, 376th Supply and Support; Spc. Brianna Alva, 23, of Davenport, HSC, 248th ASB; Sgt. Torey Lasater, 25, of Iverster, OSACOM; and Staff Sgt. Lani Hefel, 27, of Ankeny, 1034th CSSB, won in a time of 7 hours, 51 minutes and 39 seconds.

Lasater was a last -minute replacement for 27-year old Jamie Galvin, who was unable to attend the march. Her father, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Galvin, 54, of Moline, Ill. finished in 6:32:50, as part of Team Manny Lawton. SPC Tyler Hulsey, 21, of Lorimor, Iowa, meanwhile, stepped in at the last minute for Sgt. John Vorrath as Vorrath was competing in the Soldier of the Year competition.

"I participated in the march because of the sacrifices of the men who went through the actual March," said Hefel, a four-time competitor. "I did it for them because I thought to myself, 'If I don't honor these men, who will?'"

"This year, to pay it forward, we also marched in honor of Command Sgt. Maj. Marilyn Gabbard, who helped me during my pursuit for Soldier of the Year back in 2004," Hefel added.

For Capt. Sarah J. Jacobs, what began as a check off her bucket list became a homage to others. The first-time marcher from Mount Pleasant, Iowa wanted to challenge herself and accomplish "a life-time goal."

"I did it as a tribute to all the POW's and our fallen comrades," she said. "I also wanted to make sure I did it when there were still Bataan Death March survivors that would be attending. It was such an

## WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH



*Back row from left to right: Sgt. 1st Class Spc. Daniel Kelly, Sgt. Phil Barker, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Galvin, Sgt. Taylor Heidman, and Alison McCready. Middle row from left to right: Anthony Van Cannon, Spc. Jacob Johnson, Lengen, Maj. Michael Tang, Sgt. Torey Lasater, and Sgt. Jeff Schwendinger.*



*The Female Military Light team event winners: Allison McCready, Spc. Rachele Feil, and Sgt. Torey Lasater.*



# BATAAN DEATH MARCH



John Shannon,  
and Sgt. Maj.  
Private 1st Class  
ight: Staff Sgt.  
n, Sgt. Travis Van  
ther, and Master



Light team, composed of Pvt. 1st Class  
pc. Rachele Feil, Staff Sgt. Lani Hefel,  
and Spc. Brianna Alva.

honor to meet those survivors and to put myself through something challenging to pay respects to their sacrifices," she said.

In 1989, the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began the memorial march to mark a page in history that included many native sons and affected many families within the state. In 1992, when the White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico National Guard teamed up to host the march, the event was moved to the missile range.

Since its inception, the march has grown from about 100 participants to approximately 5,200 marchers from across the United States and several foreign countries. While still primarily a military event, many civilians choose to take this challenge, as well.

Teams consist of five members and all members must cross the finish line within 20 seconds of each other. The minimum age is nine years old, providing they are registered and march with a parent/guardian or a member of their family 18 years or older.

The annual march benefits the local community, as well. When it comes time to pack the mandatory 35-pound ruck sack for the military heavy category, marchers are asked to bring beans, rice, nonperishable items, cans, macaroni, pasta, or cat/dog food to use as weight.

At the end of the march, these items can be dropped into the food bin located at the finish line, for donation to the Community Action Agency Food Bank. Last year's event brought in almost 11,000

pounds of non-perishable food items.

To say this is a rigorous and grueling course is an understatement. According to officials, "Historically, about 25 percent of marchers become casualties during the Bataan Memorial Death March. Over half of these casualties are foot or ankle injuries. People who train by walking four or five miles a day and then try to march 26.2 miles across the desert are the first to become casualties."

"This year was the hardest year by far," said Hefel. "The temperatures rose to a grueling 90-plus degrees. The heat, the wind, the dust, the sand and the dirt were brutal to your feet, body and mind. My team took off running and ran the first seven miles as fast as we could to cover as much ground as we could for what we knew was ahead of us.

"From mile eight to about mile 16 was all up hill. Then the rest of the way was rolling hills until the Sand Pit, which tore our feet apart. There is no way to train for the Sand Pit, unless you are near a beach. My team stayed together and cheered each other on the whole way. Without each other's support, some of us might have given up," she said.

"This event is both physically and mentally demanding," said Sgt. Tishauna Acklin, of Mason City, whose team placed third in the Military Co-ed Light category. "It takes a lot of training and even then it's hard to prepare yourself.

The route varies in terrain and the heat this year made it tough on a lot of participants. It was important for me as part of the team to keep an eye on my fellow team mates and stay together," Acklin said.

"After the march, I felt accomplished, exhausted and grateful," said Hefel. "Accomplished because we finished together as a team, exhausted because it took us almost eight hours a and grateful because we did it in honor of the men that died, the men that lived and for Command Sgt. Maj. Gabbard."



And while this year's event is now history, the Soldiers are once more looking toward next year's grueling challenge.

"Doing 26.2 miles will never compare to what the real Bataan was like, but it's a way for people to go out there and try to imagine what it was like for those men. It's a true honor and blessing. Your body is sore in places you never thought imaginable," said Acklin.

"I plan to continue to do the Bataan for as long as my body lets me. It's a well-organized event, a way to honor and remember those who have served and an experience that I will never forget. It is something I'll be able to share with my family and friends for years to come," she added.

"Anyone that is physically able and has the means should experience this event at least once, because it's a one-of-a-kind event with such a powerful message and purpose and its fun," said Jacobs.

"I've done it four times and would love to do it again, because the survivors won't be around forever and to pay it forward to them is the greatest feeling," said Jacobs.

"I believe it's important for people to understand why they participate in this event. For some it may be about the 'race' and for others it truly is a way to look back and remember," said Acklin.

"Before participating in this event, read up on the Bataan Death March and get an idea of what these men really endured. It will bring tears to a grown man's eyes.

"Trust me," she said. "I've seen it."

***The 24th Annual  
Bataan Memorial  
Death March  
is set for March 17, 2013.  
Registration will open  
in mid-November 2012.***

# Bataan Memorial Death March

## Iowa Team results

### Female Military Team

#### **Marilyn Gabbard (1st Place)**

Rachele Feil, 23, Dubuque, 7:51:38

Allison McCready, 19, Cedar Falls, 7:51:38

Brianna Alva, 23, Davenport, 7:51:39

Sgt. Torey Lasater, 25, Iverster, 7:51:40

Lani Hefel, 27, Ankeny, 7:51:41

**Total Time = 39:18:13**

### Co-Ed - Military Team

#### **William Dyess**

Phil Barker, 28, Marshalltown, 7:14:49

Tyler Hulsey, 21, Lorimor, Iowa 7:14:54 1

Tishauna Acklin, 26\*, Mason City, 7:14:54

Taylor Heideman, 26, Cedar Falls, 7:14:56

Daniel Kelly, 23, Boone, 7:14:57

**Total Time = 36:14:28**

### Light - Military Team

#### **Manny Lawton**

Anthony Vancannon, 30, Ames, 6:04:11

Travis Vanlengen, 29, Ankeny, 6:06:07

John Shannon, 39, Ankeny, 6:07:58

Stephen Galvin, 54, Moline, Ill., 6:20:28

Jacob Johnson, (DQ)

### Military ROTC Light

Place, Class Place, Name, Age, Hometown, Time

29, 15, Matthew Grussing, 21, Ames, 7:31:00

4, 3, Thomas Wilson, 21, Ames, 6:08:56

8, 6, Ian Hess, 22, Ames, 6:28:28

11, 2, Jacob Rajcula, 19, Ames, 6:46:16

## Individual Results

### Military Heavy

Place, Class Place, Name, Age, Hometown, Time

386, 35, John Breitsprecker, 49, Altoona, 11:15:23

### Military Light

Place, Class Place, Name, Age, Hometown, Time

430, 124, Severin Gibert, 37, Davenport, 11:01:47

374, 29, Sarah Jacobs, 32, Mount Pleasant, 9:39:09

124, 40, Jeff Schwendinger, 44, Granger, 7:16:09

392, 117, Michael Tang, 39, Grimes, 9:57:50

### Civilian Light

Arron Lincoln, 32, Des Moines (DQ)



## Meet your volunteers

# Bixler recognized with National Volunteer award

**Name:** Mary Bixler, FRG Volunteer

**MACOM / Unit:** 67th Troop Command, 109th Medical Battalion and 832nd Engineer Co.

### Tell us about your Family:

My husband Rob is an Agent II with the State of Iowa DCI-Gaming and Racing; my daughter Brandi does High Risk Obstetrical/Fetal Ultrasound in Phoenix, Ariz.; my son Aaron has been in the Guard for 13 years, deployed to Egypt in 2003-4, Iraq-2004-5, with the 224th Engineer Battalion, California/Mexico border-2007 and Afghanistan 2010-11 with the 832nd. He was recently promoted to sergeant and transferred to the 109th Med Bn. Maintenance Section. I have a 13-year old granddaughter, Abigail, who lives in Mt. Pleasant. She loves music. I also have a 10-year old granddaughter, Aicia, who lived with us while her Dad was deployed, and I am "on-call" daily for her. Both girls are active with the 832nd FRG.

### Tell us something fun or interesting about yourself:

I own and operate a 1917 Nichols and Shepard Steam traction engine and assist a friend on a 1923 Baker steam engine during the Old Threshers Reunion. I was creator and "Head Elf" of the North Pole Express Christmas event in Mt. Pleasant for almost five years. I was one of the original three crazy originators of the Haunted Rails event in Mt. Pleasant that now draws over 10,000 people in October. I consider myself very "diversified in my interests."

### How long have you been a FRG Volunteer?

I became a volunteer in 2004 when my son deployed to Iraq.

### How did you become a Volunteer?

I did not have any kind of FRG contact



**Mary Bixler, receiving the 2012 National Volunteer Award for Region 7, flanked by Maj. Gen. Tim Orr, the Iowa Adjutant General for the Iowa National Guard, and his wife, Suzanne Orr.**

in 2003 when my son went to Egypt and I was very lost for information and felt very disconnected. I was determined this was not going to happen again during another deployment. I attended several meetings when the 224th deployed to Iraq and knew I had found a place I could feel connected and informed. I also felt I could volunteer in a lot of ways to help families with their first deployment issues. There was not a lot of volunteer support activities from the unit's families so every person that could help was a warm body welcomed with open arms.

### What does being an FRG Volunteer mean to you?:

I have volunteered with a lot of organizations but with the FRG, I found "family" and I found friends who share a common bond of concern who bind together for the greater good. It is about something bigger than us. Knowing I

can share my experiences and knowledge and empower others is rewarding. I stay a volunteer because I feel I'm making a difference and I'm appreciated and that's important to me.

### What resources have you found are the most helpful to Families and Soldiers?

The State conference is probably the greatest tool that's the most helpful to FRG volunteers and family members. Joint Services Support and other trainings are also very valuable and the handouts are helpful. Using the internet as a tool is a must. There are so many resources and reputable organizations that have great information to help military families. There are a lot of ideas to keep the FRG fresh, interesting and educational for families. The Family Assisting Specialist I have worked with over the last seven years, as well as Family Readiness Support Assistance, are always available and give the answers I am looking for.

### What are your FRG Best Practices?

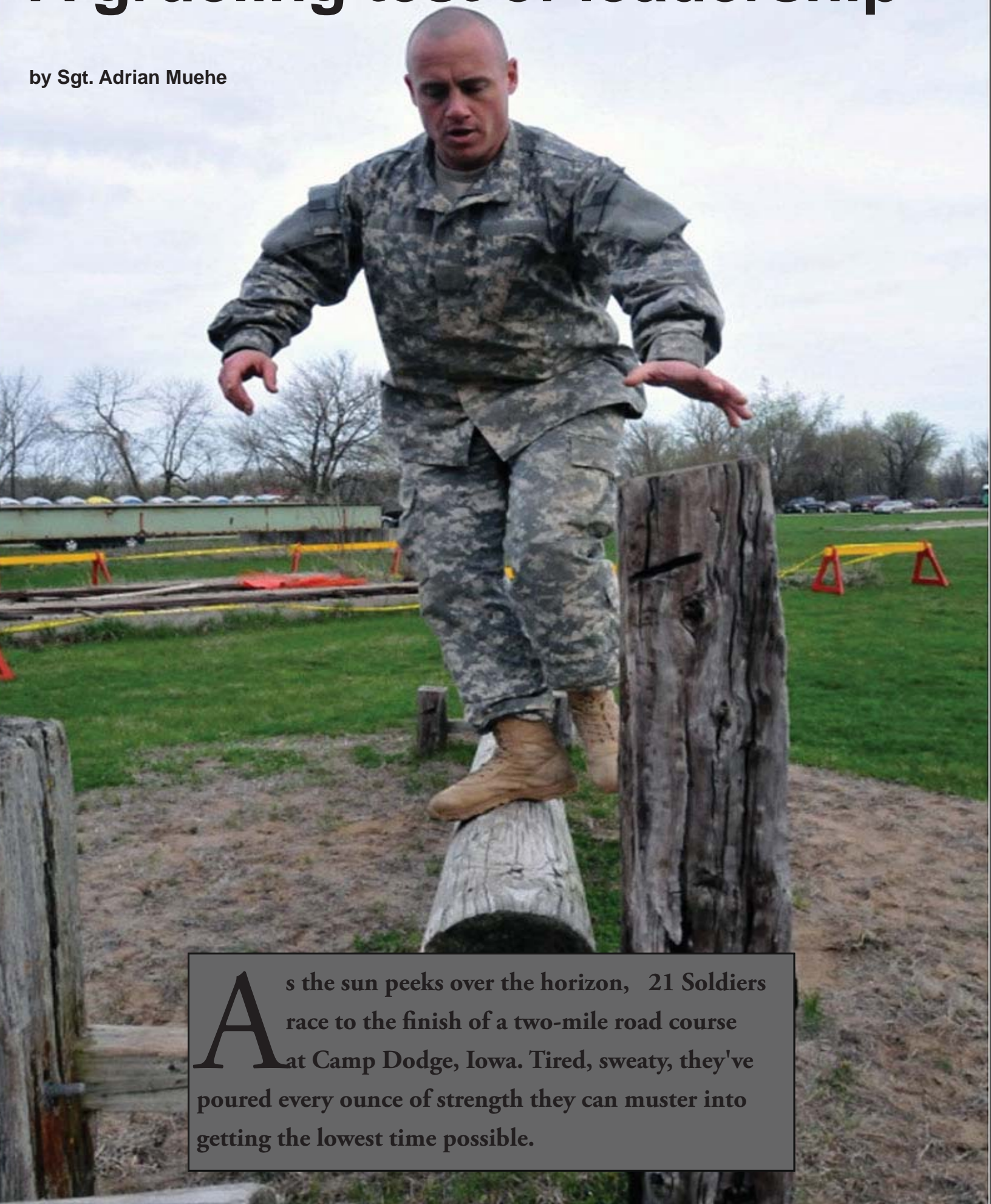
Write everything down. You never know when you are going to need it – and you will – and probably more than you think and absolutely with every deployment. Spend time researching and expanding your knowledge using the internet and taking classes on JSS or seminars. Use your Family Program specialists – you cannot do it all. Accept that with the military, everything changes and there are rules we have to abide by. Find ways to involve the kids. Every volunteer is valuable and has something to contribute.

### What advice would you share with other FRG Volunteers?:

Learn to be flexible. There are going to be a lot of personalities under a lot of different situations you will work with. Understand where that person is coming from before you form an opinion. Learn to be a "Gummy Duck." Be flexible and let the little things roll off your back.

# A grueling test of leadership

by Sgt. Adrian Muehe



**A**s the sun peaks over the horizon, 21 Soldiers race to the finish of a two-mile road course at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Tired, sweaty, they've poured every ounce of strength they can muster into getting the lowest time possible.



For these 12 junior enlisted Soldiers and nine non-commissioned officers, the tests of mental and physical endurance were just beginning, as they kicked off the Iowa Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition.

Of the 21 participants, two emerged as the best in the state. Spc. Seth Arganbright, of Johnston, Iowa, an automatic rifleman for Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, was named Soldier of the Year. Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year was given to Sgt. Chad Lawson, of Eagle Grove, Iowa, the operations NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT, 34th ID.

"It feels great to make it to this point," said Lawson. "At the same time, I don't

feel like I'm the best in the state – there are a lot of great NCOs in the Iowa Guard. It's an honor to be representing them here and now for the state of Iowa."

Lawson was notified only two weeks earlier he'd be participating in the contest, but he was still able to win over his peers who spent months training for the event.

"I hold myself to a constant state of readiness," said Lawson. "I try to uphold myself to what I believe a NCO should be, and that is to always be ready, healthy, and technically proficient."

Over the course of three days, all 21 competitors had to complete various tasks, including an Army Physical Fitness Test, combat water survival, weapons qualification, land navigation, an obstacle

course, a modern Army combatives tournament, a written exam, a nine-mile road march, and answer military questions before a panel of senior NCOs.

"It's intensity you don't usually expect," said Arganbright. "We [the competitors] learned real quick we all have different skill sets, strengths and weaknesses and while we were all competing against each other, everyone was helping everyone and pushing each other along. It really showed the camaraderie the Guard

has."

"It's just an honor to be here," said Sgt. Robert Higgins, a Badger, Iowa, native and a forward observer for Detachment 1, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery, 2nd BCT, 34th ID.

"From my experience through multiple deployments, I feel Iowa Soldiers are the best around, and to be here among the best of them is an experience I'll never forget."

The Best Warrior Competition is held annually at Camp Dodge and while it is one of the premier events the Iowa National Guard has to offer, there is little officer involvement.

"This is an NCO-driven event," said Capt. Phillip Turner, second officer-in-charge, 185th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), who was assisting with the combat water survival tests.

"This is to inspire confident and agile leadership within our junior NCOs and junior enlisted Soldiers," he said.

Also present at this event were Soldiers from the Kosovo Security Force, who are partnering with the Iowa National Guard for training, learning how to implement and empower their own enlisted Soldiers and leadership, while mirroring Iowa's training system.

"We are here observing with the intent of implementing a similar training event in our own country," said Command Sgt. Major Genc Metaj, the command sergeant major of the Kosovo Security Force.

He also said there is a high possibility some of his Soldiers may compete next year in Iowa's competition.

The competitors also took away the same message. Being junior NCOs and enlisted, they have a lot to learn from their leaders as they grow into becoming the future leaders of this organization.

"Being here with the top NCOs of the state and seeing how they operate and lead troops really sets an example for us junior enlisted soldiers," said Arganbright.



## 132nd returns from Afghanistan deployment

Lt. Col. Travis "Chicken" Acheson  
124th Fighter Squadron commander

**E**veryone – Job Well Done! As we prepare to depart, no doubt we should all be extremely proud of our efforts.

The first fighter squadron to perform a Close Air Support Reset. Move 300 miles south from Bagram Airbase to Kandahar Airfield in 24 hours. Not

a single missed ATO sorties. Simply incredible!

The entire deployment – not a single Operations cancel and not a single maintenance cancel. I know what you're saying, "It's no big deal. We do

that all the time."

Yes – you are correct, that's how we roll. However (think about it for a minute) in combat under the microscope when it really counts – mega huge deal. You make it look easy.



### 2012 Afghanistan Deployment Highlights

- Over 800 combat missions flown, with pilots logging more than 3,200 hours cumulatively;
- Numerous munitions employed in Close Air Support of International Security Assistance Forces;
- Over 270 132nd Fighter Wing Airmen returning, with approximately 220 arriving as part of Saturday's main body;
- Over 50 of these Airmen were deployed for six months;
- These were the first U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard F-16s based at Kandahar, Afghanistan;
- This was the first Air National Guard unit to move all aircraft, equipment and personnel in the middle of a combat deployment. All told, the unit moved 167 tons of cargo and 293 personnel from Bagram to Kandahar;
- Three pilots eclipsed more than 3,000 F-16 flight hours for their careers during this deployment;
- In the unit's last four major combat deployments (going back to 2005 and including this tour), the 132nd Fighter Wing has accomplished 1,964 combat missions and 7,870 flight hours, for a 100 percent completion rate of scheduled combat flights.

The first U.S. based F-16 unit ever to operate out of Kandahar. We were handed a Maintenance building and an OPS building and told to stand up the very foundation by which the F-16 Viper will operate out of this base for years to come.

Thank you Tech Sgt Andrea Jones for running with the "Flag Flying Program." The 124th flew (at last count) 1,226 American flags.

A special thank you to our "Guest Help" who volunteered to deploy with us. We hope you enjoyed your time with us as much as we enjoyed our time with you!

The list goes on and on. There's not enough white space to single out every outstanding performer. I am extremely proud to serve with all of you.

Let's finish strong, stay sharp and do our best to give a clean hand-off to the fine folks from the McEntire Air National Guard.

Goodbye Afghanistan – It's been a slice!



## **Iowa law waives CDL drive test**

House File 2403, signed into law by Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, authorizes the Iowa Department of Transportation to waive the drive skills testing requirement for a Commercial Drivers License for Iowans who are on active duty in the military service or separated, honorably, from such service in the last 90 days, provided the applicant meets certain experience and safety requirements.

Interested applicants with questions about the new law should call the motor vehicle information line: Statewide toll free 800-532-1121, from Des Moines 515-244-8725, TDD number 515-237-3192.

## **Free pass for National Parks**

Service members and their families will be able to enter all of America's national parks free of charge for a year. The pass – the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Pass, which normally costs \$80 – became available to service members and their dependents on Armed Forces Day, May 19.

Military personnel can get the passes at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee by showing their military ID. Family members also will be able to obtain their own pass, even if the service member is deployed or if they are traveling separately.

The passes allow the holder and passengers in a single private vehicle access to some 2,000 sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where entrance fees are charged per person, it covers the pass owner and three adults age 16 and older.

## **BV Cadet dual finish third**

Buena Vista University Cadets Jaime Oberg and Matthew Hanson recently placed third in the Annual ROTC Buddy Ranger Challenge at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. They started the morning at 4 am with a 15-kilometer road march with 35-pound packs, then

competed throughout the day at eight different stations, finishing up with a five kilometer trail buddy run. To give an example of what type of athletes these cadets are, they competed all day and then ran a 21-minute 5k trail run.

They placed third out of 18 Co-ed teams and were in the top five percent of all the cadets. More than 130 teams competed from 29 schools, representing 13 States. They won two events and placed second in two others.

## **Nyemasater Goode earns award**

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Honorable Erin C. Conaton, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and James G. Rebholz, National Chair, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), presented the 2012 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award to Michael Thrall, chairman, Nyemasater Goode, P.C. of Des Moines.

The Freedom Award, presented September 20 in Washington D.C. to 15 employers from across the nation, is the highest recognition given by the U.S. government to employers for their outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Representatives of each award recipient also met privately with General Martin E. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## **Paid training for unemployed vets**

Unemployed veterans ages 35 to 60 can apply for up to 12 months of paid training through a new program sponsored by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The program provides 12 months of training assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program, which currently pays \$1,473 per month. Participants must be enrolled in a community college or technical school program approved for VA benefits.

The program must lead to an associate degree, non-college degree or certificate. Eligible veterans may call 800-827-1000 to learn more about the program, or visit [http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other\\_programs/vrap.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/vrap.html). Applicants will receive a letter in the mail letting them know if they are eligible to participate,

## **Reservists may now respond to Homeland Disasters**

New authority in this year's Defense Department authorization act allows the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps reserves to be called up in response to natural disasters or emergencies.

Except for a crisis involving a weapon of mass destruction, the reserves historically have been prohibited from providing a homeland disaster response, Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, the Chief of the Army Reserves, told reporters.

"In a lot of cases, there were reserve-component Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who were close at hand with the capabilities needed, but didn't have the authority to act," he said. "Finally, we got the law changed. This new legislation says that now we can use Title 10 reserves."

## **Iowa units earn national awards**

A pair of the Iowa National Guard's most storied units, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division ("Red Bulls"), and the 132nd Fighter Wing, have been recognized with national awards.

The 2nd BCT was awarded the Department of Defense's Citizen Patriot Unit Award, presented by the Office of the Secretary of Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board.

The Des Moines-based 132d Fighter Wing received the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, as well as the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophies.

# NGEAP for 2012-13 Academic Year

All Iowa National Guard service-members who plan to apply for the National Guard Education Assistance Program (NGEAP) are reminded applications must be submitted by July 1 for the Fall 2012 term, and Dec. 1, 2012 for the Spring 2013 term. Any applications received after these dates will not be accepted.

Eligible Iowa National Guard Members may complete and submit their application online at <https://ihaveaplaniowa.gov/default.aspx>. Applicants may go to [www.iowanationalguard.com/Education/TuitionAssistance.htm](http://www.iowanationalguard.com/Education/TuitionAssistance.htm) for instructions.

The Iowa National Guard Education Services Officer will approve applications based on eligibility and date of submission. No late applications will be approved.

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission compiles and posts the approved recipient rosters on their website at [www.iowacollegeaid.gov](http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov). Each school's financial aid office will verify enrollment and coordinate with the Iowa College Student Aid Commission for payment of NGEAP awards. Approved applicants should ask their school how/when it'll request certification for the NGEAP award.

NGEAP funding is subject to annual appropriation by the Iowa General Assembly. The amount of assistance awarded under this program cannot exceed the member's cost of attendance as determined by the member's college or university. NGEAP is currently funded at 100 percent of the Iowa regents tuition rates for academic year 2012-13.

Maximum NGEAP awards for academic year 2012-2013 will be determined at a later date – the actual awards are calculated based on the number of NGEAP applications received for each term and the actual cost of tuition. The Education Services Officer will provide an update as

soon as the award is determined.

Spring semester awards may be adjusted up or down based on available funding in order to stay within budget requirements. NGEAP will NOT fund Summer terms.

The Adjutant General of Iowa can make changes to funding limits at any time during the 2012-2013 academic years to ensure fair and equitable distribution of funds to applicants.

Members of the Iowa Army National Guard may use NGEAP in conjunction with federally-funded programs such as the Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance program. Members receiving federal benefits which pay tuition directly to the institution are also eligible to receive NGEAP. In some cases, receiving financial aid from other sources may reduce the NGEAP award.

Based on Iowa Code section 261.86, NGEAP provides educational assistance to members of the Iowa National Guard. Administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission, NGEAP is for members of the Iowa National Guard who have not met the requirements of a baccalaureate degree and are enrolled in an Iowa college or university accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

While the Adjutant General of Iowa ultimately determines eligibility for NGEAP, Soldiers must meet these prerequisites.

- (1) Be an active member of the Iowa Army or Air National Guard;
- (2) Be a resident of the state of Iowa (residency is determined by the Adjutant General);

(3) Have satisfactorily completed Initial Entry Training through one of the following:

(a) Completed Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, or TECH School;

(b) Completed One Station Unit Training;

(c) Completed the Reserve Officer Training Corps Leader's Training Course and contracted as a Cadet in a ROTC program within the State of Iowa;

(d) Enlisted under the Iowa National Guard Officer Candidate option (eligible upon enlistment);

(4) Attend an Iowa college or university accredited by the NCA;

(5) Have NOT met the academic requirements for a baccalaureate degree or completed a total of eight semesters of undergraduate courses.

(6) May not be an AGR or Technician of the Iowa National Guard.

To remain eligible for NGEAP, Iowa National Guard members must maintain satisfactory duty performance and maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution where benefits are utilized or applied. Members of the Iowa National Guard who are awarded NGEAP funds and become ineligible may have their awards recouped.

Questions about NGEAP should go to the Iowa National Guard Education Office at (515) 252-4468, or by e-mail at [edcationsia@nag.army.mil](mailto:edcationsia@nag.army.mil), or see your college or university financial aid office.

**NGEAP applicants must submit their fall 2012 school request no later than July 1. Any applications received after July 1 will not be eligible for funding.**



## 185th ARW restores classic A-7 Corsair

by Master Sgt. Bill Wiseman  
185th Public Affairs

A piece of 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) history received a facelift courtesy of the 185th fabrication shop and the crew in the Air National Guard paint facility in Sioux City.

An A-7K Corsair with tail number 81-073 is now complete with new metal work and fresh paint making it look like it did in the height of the Cold War when it flew in the mid 1980's.

The A-7 has a lot of history with the unit, with Tech. Sgt. Bruce Johnson's name on one side as the crew chief and Capt. Andy Erickson's name on the other side as the pilot.

The first stop for the historic jet's return to glory was the fabrication shop where it would get a facelift. According to Tech. Sgt. Pat Schroeder, 185th Fabrication Shop, the whole shop helped with the restoration.

"She was in pretty good shape considering that she sat for over 15 years," Schroeder said.

The shop spent a little over four months repairing the corrosion and prepping the old K-model to be a proud representative of the Iowa National Guard's 185th Tactical Fighter Group as a static display.

Schroeder said it was a lot of fun working on a vintage plane and "getting to see how all of the stuff worked" as he put it.

After the fabrication shop was done, it was off to the Paint Facility where the staff started work on sanding and taping in preparation for a new paint job. The finished product displays the green and gray paint scheme from the height of the cold war era of the mid-1980's and was one of five paint schemes that were applied to the jet over the years.



***An A-7K sits in front of the Air National Guard Paint Facility in Sioux City after receiving new metal work and fresh paint. The paint scheme depicts the colors used in the mid-80's when it was used as the Air Force's primary air-to-ground attack aircraft. The 185th Fighter Wing in Sioux City flew the "Corsairs" from 1977 until converting to the F-16 Falcons in 1991. The 185th now flies KC-135 Stratotankers. The Corsair will eventually be featured at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. (National Guard Photo by Master Sgt. Vincent De Groot)***

This is not the first vintage aircraft to be painted here - they have painted numerous historic aircraft like the F-80, RF-84, F-86, F-100 and the F-4 among others.

With fresh paint making the Corsair look like it came off the production line the two seat K-Model is now waiting for a ride to its new home at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa.

Originally a U.S. Navy aircraft, the A-7 was first used by the Air Force in 1965 to replace the F-105s. The most important difference from the Navy and Air Force versions is the Allison TF41-A-1 turbofan engine, which provided more thrust, and a considerable boost in performance.

The Air Force version had a fixed, high speed refueling receptacle behind the pilot that was created for the KC-135's flying boom, rather than the long probe the Navy required. In addition, a lot of improved avionics upgrades were added throughout the lifetime of the A-7.

The Air Force A-7 was later updated to carry a laser spot tracker; this added the capability to drop guided bombs.

A total of 459 A-7's were built and assigned to tactical fighter wings like the 185th. Production of Corsairs continued through 1984, yielding a total of 1,569 aircraft built.

In 1977 the Air Force began replacing the Corsairs of active duty squadrons, subsequently transferring the aircraft to Air National Guard units. By the end of the A-7 era, the aircraft was flown exclusively by the Air National Guard.

Col Dave Simon, the 185th Maintenance Group Commander and one time A-7 bomb loader, remembers that time, "Now when a unit wanted to do a 'local modification' they could send the change request to the Guard Bureau instead of the Air Force, it made the process much easier" said Simon.

The autonomy of the more 'organic' Air National Guard served the aircraft and the Air Force well by greatly extending the lifetime of the A-7 and keeping it a viable weapons system for many years.

The 185th Tactical Fighter Group flew the A-7 Corsair from 1977 until converting to the F-16 Falcons in 1991. While flying the A-7s, the unit won the Spaatz trophy for the second time in its history in 1990, recognizing them as the best Air Guard unit in the country.

The 185th also earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit award five times -1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, and 1991. In addition, the 185th's Logistics Group also won its second Daedalian Trophy, which recognizes the best maintenance team in the ANG.

In 1989, the 185th won the 12th Air Force A-7 gunnery meet for the second time and in 1989, the 185th received the Gunsmoke A-7 Maintenance Team Award for its aircraft.



One of the teams participated in memory of Petty Officer 1st Class John Douangdara who died in a 2011 helicopter crash while serving in Afghanistan. A South Sioux City, Neb. native, Douangdara joined the Navy and became a Military Working Dog handler. Douangdara was serving in support of U.S. Navy SEALs when the Chinook helicopter he was in was shot down.

The team's participation reminded many you don't have to go far from home to find heroes who've paid

## 2nd Annual POW/MIA Remembrance Run/Walk kicks off Sioux City Memorial Day weekend

by 2nd Lt. Jeremy McClure  
185th Public Affairs

**M**emorial Day weekend is the official kickoff to summer. While many were out enjoying the weekend, a few took time out to show their appreciation for those military personnel who have sacrificed for us all.

The 2nd Annual POW/MIA Remembrance Run/Walk, held on a Sioux City, Iowa high school track, began at noon on May 25, ending on May 26.

Participants paid \$25 to run or walk as long as they wanted, to show appreciation for the sacrifices made by service-members in defense of our nation. Many made it a team effort, as approximately 400 participants ran or walked more than 3,300 miles during the 24-hour event.

The Red Bulls, a team from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron,

113th Cavalry, based in Sioux City, took top honors after logging in 495.6 miles. They received a traveling trophy and will compete for it again next year.

The event was organized by members of the Sioux City Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing. 1st Lt. Jennifer Carlson, Master Sgt. Marty Hogan, Master Sgt. John Sandman, and Master Sgt. Joe Donovan spent many off-duty hours organizing, promoting and recruiting sponsors to make the event happen.

"It was humbling to see people running in the middle of the night and in the rain to show their support of those who sacrificed," said Carlson.

"This was a concept that started six or seven years ago," said Hogan. "Twenty-four hours is a sacrifice. Giving up part of your weekend is about remembrance," said Hogan.

the ultimate price.

"The run is not about raising money, it's about raising awareness for the Freedom Park and what it means and what it will mean for future generations to come," added Carlson.

The money raised from this event will be used to support the Siouxland Freedom Park - a 55-acre park set alongside the Missouri River in South Sioux City, Neb. Recently, a dog park honoring military working dogs was completed and opened to the public.

A pentagon-shaped interpretive center, a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and several trails are a few of the features planned for the expansive park.

For more information on the Siouxland Freedom Park and the POW/MIA Remembrance Run/Walk, go to <http://www.sioxlandfreedompark.org/>



---

## ***But not forgotten continued from page 23***

---

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

In 1953, the U.S. Army asked for more chaplains. Here at last was the opportunity he was looking for. Nearly 30-years old, he was granted permission to be an Army Chaplain. He wanted to make up for not being in the service while he was going to Loras. This was his "payment" to his country.

He was commissioned a first lieutenant and sent to South Korea, just as the war there was coming to an end. Cpl. Tony Musarra served side-by-side with Chaplain Barragy as his chaplain assistant. Musarra recalled, "I will never forget this one day in particular. A jet came into our

view crashing, and Fr. Bill and I were the first to get there. Fr. Bill attended immediately to the dying."

While Bill's first responsibility was to his troops, he kept a special place in his heart for orphans and there were many orphans in South Korea. He reached out to them.

"When we arrived at the orphanage, we were greeted by the nuns and many children. Bill would talk with the children, and they would sit on his lap. Bill helped them to not feel the pain of the war. There was one particular boy that identified with both myself and the Chaplain. The three of us became very good friends," Musarra remembered

After Korea, Bill was stationed in Japan and Germany. In 1958 he was promoted to captain, and then off to Fort Benning, Ga., to become a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. The training was intense, just the kind of test Bill was looking for. He was tough, he was afraid

of nothing and he enjoyed the physical training.

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

It was now 1965, and Bill had been promoted to major. And the U.S. was becoming increasingly involved in a place where the Cold War of the 1950's was starting to become very "hot." It was only a matter of time before this chaplain would be going to war in Vietnam. Public opinion was sharply divided, but this was familiar ground to Bill. He simply kept his focus on the people whom he was being called to serve.

---

## ***But not forgotten continued next issue***

---

---

## ***TAG Sends continued from page 3***

---

in our history, this has been a relatively quiet year with no major disasters. We hope this trend continues into next year.

In March 2011, the National Guard Bureau announced the Iowa National Guard was selected as the newest member of the State Partnership Program, with the Republic of Kosovo. The announcement is great news for the Iowa National Guard and our future. Since then, we have conducted more than 30 exchanges between Kosovo and Iowa.

During our state Annual Training, Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry hosted officers and NCOs from the Kosovo Security Force and I had Brig. Gen. Xhavit Gashi, Military Attaché to the U.S., partner with me for the entire annual training. This upcoming training year, we have more than 15 exchanges planned for our Soldiers and Airmen.

Despite the continued high operations tempo, deployment numbers, and the

state disasters we have supported over the last 10 years, this organization continues its day-to-day work and in the process, has received numerous national recognitions for our performance.

- The 132d Fighter Wing received the National Guard Association of the United States Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque, as well as the Maj. Gen. John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophies.
- The 132nd Logistics Readiness Squadron won the Air National Guard Base Logistics Activity of the Year Award.
- The 2nd Brigade Combat Team won the Citizen Patriot Unit Award presented by the Reserve Forces Policy Board for, "substantial contribution to the security or defense of the U.S."
- This year, HHC, 1034th CSSB received the Eisenhower Trophy as the top Superior Unit in the State.

We also have very good news in the readiness arena:

- The Iowa Air National Guard is at 97 per- cent strength and the

Iowa Army National Guard is at 98 percent of allotted End Strength and 101 percent of our Force Structure.

- Our Army basic training ship rate is at 92.1 percent, well within the National Guard's top 10.
- As for the quality of our recruits, we are in the top 10 percent. Approximately 20 percent of our basic training graduates are either honor or distinguished honor graduates.
- This year we were successful in getting support for additional funding to raise our Iowa National Guard Education Assistance Program (state tuition assistance) to 100 percent of the Iowa Regents' rate. In addition, we're working legislative proposals that include exempting Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training pay and tax credits for businesses that hire Guard members.

Thank you for all your hard work this past year. You have made a difference in the success of the Iowa Army and Air National Guard. I know I can depend on you to continue this hard work as we begin our new Training Year!

# Best of the best

## The epitome of who we are as Citizen Warriors

Each year, the Iowa National Guard conducts military competitions to select and recognize our best Soldiers and Airman. I want to take this opportunity to briefly describe those competitions and congratulate the competitors, the winners and all those involved who make these competitions happen.

While there are many differences in how these contests are conducted, the results are the same – to identify the Best of the Best.

The Air National Guard's competition, the Outstanding Airman of the Year (OAY), is an arduous selection process conducted by the State Command Chief, Command Chief Master Sgt. Ed Schellhase and his team to identify the best Airman, Non-Commissioned Officer, Senior NCO, First Sergeant, Honor Guard Program Manager and Honor Guard Member for the Iowa Air National Guard.

This process starts each August as subordinate units submit nominees for achievements that occurred during the calendar year which stand the test of "whole life/whole career" scrutiny. They are evaluated on three main areas – Leadership and job performance in their Primary Duty AFSC/MOS significant self-improvement; and base or community involvement. This process evaluates everything from physical fitness to professional military education, what they do on-duty and while deployed and what they do in their communities.

The unit-level award winners then compete at their base level, which occurs in October/November. Base award winners then go on to compete at the state level in January, where they face a Joint Forces

Headquarters board. State winners are then submitted for competition at the National Guard Bureau level, with those winners going on to compete at the Air Force level for the coveted 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year award.

The Army National Guard's Best Warrior Competition (BWC) is similar in that it begins with Soldiers competing at the unit level. Those winners then go on to compete at the battalion level, before moving on to state competition. The State BWC was a three-day event conducted at Camp Dodge March 27-30, with 21 Warriors representing each of the Iowa National Guard's major subordinate commands.

The BWC tests physical strength, endurance, and tactical and technical competence. Our Warriors competed either head-to-head, or through testing in an Army Physical Fitness Test, a Combat Water Survival Test, an obstacle course, both day and night land navigation, combatives, qualification on assigned weap-



ons, and a nine-mile road march with full combat equipment.

Additionally, they face an appearance board where they are asked approximately 90 questions within 30 minutes on general military topics, followed by a written exam and an essay. This was a hard fought contest, which came down to the very last event to determine the best of the best (See enclosed article).

These competitions identify the very best Soldiers and Airman in today's Iowa National Guard, as well as those Soldiers and Airman who demonstrate, on a daily basis, their respective values. My congratulations go out to all the winners.

Warrior Ready!

### **This year's winners for the OAY competition:**

**Airman of the Year:** Sr. Airman Joshua J. Eernisse, 133rd Test Squadron

**NCO of the Year:** Master Sgt. Randall L. Maines, 133rd Test Squadron

**Senior NCO of the Year:** Master Sgt. Brenda Safranski, 132nd Fighter Wing

**First Sergeant of the Year:** Master Sgt. Keith R. Kutz, 133rd Test Squadron

**Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year:** Tech Sgt. Emily J Vondrak,  
185th Air Refueling Wing

**Honor Guard Member of the Year:** Staff Sgt. Alex CM Raveling,  
185th Air Refueling Wing

### **BWC winners for Iowa:**

**Soldier of the Year:** Spc. Seth Arganbright - 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry

**NCO of the Year:** Sgt. Chad Lawson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division

This year, the BWC and OAY State-level winners were recognized during the Adjutants General call by Maj. Gen. Tim Orr and presented the Camp Cup. They were additionally recognized during the Enlisted Association conference, along with the Outstanding Army Soldier and NCO of the Year.



# Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (Col.) Paul Lippstock, State Chaplain

## But not forgotten

Several months ago I presented an article entitled "No Greater Love Than This." It was about 32-year old Father Aloysius Schmitt, the first chaplain killed in World War II on Dec. 7, 1941. He was stationed onboard the USS Oklahoma in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He spent his childhood in St Lucas, Iowa, and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

In today's article I present "But Not Forgotten," about 42-year old Father William Barragy, the first chaplain to die in combat in the Vietnam War on May 4, 1966. He spent his childhood in Rockwell, Iowa and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

How do you measure someone's life? The answer is often how we impact the lives of others. If that's the case, then Bill led quite a life. He was a humanitarian, a man of faith, a hero. Simply put, he did it all.

Born in 1923 in Kansas City, Mo., Bill was the youngest of three siblings. His parents separated early, so he was sent to his uncle in Rockwell. "To grow up without a father was difficult, especially during the time of the Great Depression. But it gave him an insight into what it was like to be at the other end of the pole, especially economically," said his nephew Robert Meisch.

Bill was especially able to relate to orphans, who grew up like

him in an unconventional family, like his friend, Mary Clemens. She recalls, "Bill showed love and care for people that everybody else seemed to reject. He had a soft spot for orphans. I should know. I was one of them."

But Bill also had an adventurous side. He was always looking to make life interesting. His cousin Tom Meany recounted, "Bill had no fear of anything. He had no fear at all."

Faith was also another characteristic he embodied. From a very young age he knew he was going to be a priest and wanted to be the "Pope of Rockwell, Iowa."

In 1941 the United States entered WWII. Just a few months earlier, he had enrolled at Loras College in Dubuque, following his call to become a priest. As many young men rushed to join the military, Bill was "torn" between entering the service and following the call to become a priest.

He decided to stay at Loras, but it didn't sit well with everyone. Some branded Bill a "coward," some a "draft-dodger," because he was in the priesthood. He would never forget this and it made a difference in his life.

To do his part, Bill agreed to pray for a Soldier every day. He also sent Rosaries overseas to chaplains to give to the enlisted. It marked the beginning of his service to God and country...*Pro Deo et Patria*.

After graduation from Loras, he was sent to

**But not forgotten**  
**continued on page 21**





# IOWA NATIONAL GUARD

## JOB CONNECTION EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Unemployed? We can help!

JCEP is an employment partnership initiative, funded by the National Guard Bureau, designed to provide relevant and timely workforce training and job-placement assistance to Iowa National Guardsmen and their spouses.

- Employment assistance
- Online job search training
- Preferred hiring by partner employers
- Resume Assistance
- Job Blasts
- Interviewing Skills
- Referrals
- One on One Counseling
- Mock Interviews
- Personal assistance throughout the state

**For Employment Assistance call:**

**Camp Dodge Office: 515-252-4285 / 4145    or    Toll Free: 800-294-6607 x4285 / 4145**