

# McCallum is new commander-in-chief

**Governor sees Guard as 'tremendous asset,' pledges to keep state tuition grant program**

*By Steve Olson  
and Tim Donovan  
At Ease Staff*

Scott McCallum became Wisconsin's 43rd governor and commander-in-chief of the Wisconsin National Guard Feb. 1. McCallum succeeded Tommy G. Thompson, who had been governor for 14 years until resigning to become Secretary of Health and Human Services in the administration of President George W. Bush.

McCallum, 50, is a Fond du Lac, Wis., native. He previously served in the Wisconsin state senate and was lieutenant governor in the Thompson administration.

Gov. McCallum invited At Ease into his office in early March to share his views of the Wisconsin National Guard with the 10,000 men and women who currently serve—and with their families and the retired members who remain



**On tuition grants: "...a very good return on tax dollars being spent."**



**On service: "...I view the people in the Guard as a tremendous asset."**



**On advocacy: "...I'll be at the forefront sticking up for the National Guard."**

members of our Guard family.

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**AT EASE:** Governor, you have seen the National Guard over the years as a citizen, a state Senator, as Lieutenant Governor and now

as the Guard's Commander-in-Chief. What impressions have you formed about the National Guard over the years?

**GOVERNOR MCCALLUM:** Well, I grew up in Fond du Lac with the National Guard and became very familiar with it because of the armory that was in the community and events that would take place around it. The armory was the center of the community, of course, and I remember Golden Gloves competitions and basketball teams playing in the old armory gym. So the Guard has always been very much a part of the community in Fond du Lac. In elected office there's a different perspective one gets, and that is the readiness of the Guard to protect our

communities in times of need—and the great service it provides to the state and to the country.

**AT EASE:** What was your first impression of the Guard as you completed taking the oath of office as Governor February 1st and the Guard's 132nd Army Band struck up "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "On, Wisconsin?"

**MCCALLUM:** From the Guard's perspective it may have been a first impression, for me it was only reinforcing an impression of excellence. Of course, I've been in on other inaugurations I've gone through as lieutenant governor. But it just reinforced what I already had as an impression—which is that of a top-flight unit.

**AT EASE:** How do you view

your role as Commander-in-Chief of the Wisconsin National Guard?

**MCCALLUM:** You know, interestingly, it's not as big a transition for me as some may think. Having been acting commander-in-chief when reviewing the troops on Governor's Day at Fort McCoy, I view the people in the National Guard as a tremendous asset to Wisconsin communities—and to the state.

**AT EASE:** Governor, we know your budget contains significant support of education, from the primary grades to technical colleges and universities. Particularly in view of the state's tight budget situation this

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## at ease

**Celebrating 24 years service to members of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard and their families**

Spring 2001



**Sgt. 1st Class Rick Frueh surveys the countryside from the window of a Royal Cambodian Air Force helicopter during a humanitarian assistance mission in Indochina.**

## Guard engineer helps Indochina, builds bridges to region's future

*By Mike Callen  
At Ease Staff*

Gazing over the Cambodian landscape through the open helicopter door took Rick Frueh back to earlier days in Southeast Asia. He was a member of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines (Amphibious), conducting night raids and rescue missions for a ship stationed off the Vietnamese DMZ in 1971 and 1972.

But that was then, and this was now. Instead of a Huey, he was in a Russian-built Mi-17 Hip helicopter belonging to the Royal

Cambodian Air Force. Instead of warriors scrambling for cover, he was surrounded by engineers and government workers seeking to improve the nation's infrastructure.

Sgt. 1st Class Rick Frueh, a member of the 264th Engineer Group, Wisconsin Army National Guard, is a bridge maintenance engineer in civilian life. The Army returned him to Vietnam and Cambodia with a team of Army Guard and Reserve engineers gathering data to design a health clinic in Vietnam and five road bridges in Cambodia. Team members were selected because of

their civilian expertise and their military jobs. They were the first U.S. Army engineers to work in either country since the end of the Vietnam War.

The mission began when our U.S. ambassadors to Vietnam and Cambodia requested assistance from U.S. Pacific Command. Both nations had suffered heavily from floods in 1999, and the ambassadors believed that these projects were ideally suited for United States Pacific Command's Humanitarian Assistance Program,

See 'Bridges' page 5

## Coming soon: a distance learning lab near you

*By Kelly Pensinger  
At Ease Staff*

In the old days, distance learning meant sitting so far back in the classroom you couldn't hear the teacher or see the blackboard; but now it has a whole new meaning. The Wisconsin National Guard is creating a network of 11 distance learning (DL) classroom sites throughout Wisconsin, which will offer military and civilian courses to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

This congressionally funded project called The Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP), a national network of classrooms and distance learning technologies, is now being incorporated into every state in the nation including the four U.S. territories.

"DTTP is the next generation means for providing on-demand training, in a cost effective, soldier sensitive manner for members of the military," said Lt. Shane Bradley, who has overseen the Wisconsin distance

learning network for eleven months.

The project is designed to help Wisconsin soldiers get high-level, quality training close to home. Members of the Guard, Reserve and Active components will be able to receive military training from locations within about 50 miles of their homes, eliminating the need to be away from family and jobs for a long period of time.

A major goal of the National Guard is to maintain a high level of unit readiness, and with distance learning, that goal can be achieved. When a soldier requires training, the unit readiness NCO could schedule the training at a nearby DL classroom.

The DL network is also expected to save money. With the cost of training one soldier to do his or her basic job soaring sometimes almost to \$100,000, the savings in travel costs and training time will eventually offset the cost of building the classrooms.

Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., a manage-

See 'Distance learning' page 3



**Chauncy Morris and Kerrie Gruber, consultants from Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., demonstrate troubleshooting techniques at the Madison distance learning classroom. Eleven sites around the state will soon provide training for Wisconsin soldiers. Watching from left to right are Master Sgt. Harry Schwab, Lt. Shane Bradley, Capt. Jeffrey Kurka, and Staff Sgt. Alan Foss. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.**

## Editorials

### Thank our legislators for past, future tuition grant support

A continuing challenge for the National Guard is to recruit and retain the very best of Wisconsin's young men and women to keep our ranks full and our readiness high.

Several years ago, then-Gov. Thompson and the Wisconsin state Legislature gave us the best single recruiting tool we have: the Wisconsin National Guard Tuition Grant program. Under this program, enlisted members of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard get their college or technical school tuition reimbursed up to 100 percent of the cost of undergraduate tuition at the UW-Madison campus. The program has been an astounding success. Not only does it help our units build their strength by attracting bright young men and women into the Guard, but it also builds brighter futures for these Wisconsin citizens as they pursue and achieve academic success.

The success of any Wisconsin National Guard unit depends on a lot of factors — and the hard work and dedication of every member. But in Wisconsin, we've also been fortunate to have outstanding support from all 132 of our lawmakers.

We are happy to report that our new commander-in-chief, Gov. Scott McCallum, continued the Guard tuition package in his 2001-2002 biennial budget proposal.

Public officials are always interested in knowing how their constituents are affected by the laws they pass and the programs they approve. If you have an opportunity to thank your state representative or senator for supporting the Guard Tuition Grant program, please do so, because they want to hear your views.

You can find your state legislator's address and telephone number in the Wisconsin State Blue Book, on the Legislature's web site: [www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us), or by contacting your unit's public affairs office.

Great benefits should never be taken for granted. Programs such as the Guard tuition program are offered only because our public officials are convinced the benefits are important to the National Guard and are a prudent investment to protect the Guard's future.

We thank the Governor and Legislature for their support. We hope you will thank them, too.

### Remembering fallen comrades

The deaths of 21 Air and Army National Guard members in a Georgia plane crash on March 3 has saddened the nation. It is nearly incomprehensible to imagine the loss of 18 members of the Virginia-based 203rd "Red Horse" Squadron, a rapidly deployable and highly specialized Air Guard civil engineering unit; the aircraft crew, three members of the Florida Army National Guard's 171st Aviation Battalion, also perished. Early indications suggest the C-23 "Sherpa" aircraft was caught in violent weather while returning the Air Guard members home from a training mission in Florida.

President Bush spoke for the nation when he eulogized those who perished:

"This tragic loss on a routine training mission reminds us of the sacrifices made each and every day by all of our men and women in uniform. The price of freedom is never free. Today's events remind us that it is sometimes unspeakably high."

We in the Wisconsin National Guard grieve for our fallen comrades, knowing that we all share the same pride of service to our states and nation as well as the risks inherent in that service. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and fellow unit members who will carry on.

## at ease

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## at ease: TWENTY YEARS AGO...



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Steven Helms

### From the Spring 1981 edition:

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, left, tested their winter survival skills in the extreme "northwoods" when they deployed to Thunder Bay, Ontario, in January for a weekend of training with Canadian forces.

### Other news from 20 years ago:

- 57th Field Artillery Brigade and state headquarters troops manned fire stations during a strike by Milwaukee firefighters in March. Nearly 350 soldiers were ordered to duty to assist Milwaukee Fire Department chiefs and assistants who filled in for striking firefighters.
- The 128th Air Refueling Group carefully guarded its "alert bird," a KC-135 tanker at Mitchell Field during the annual Global Shield exercise, which involved nearly 700 bombers, tankers, reconnaissance and command-post aircraft on bases around the world.

## Column left...CLICK!

By Keith J. Fenske  
At Ease Staff

Meet Michelle, Ever, Richard, Jermaine, Ben, and Natalie. They are not the remaining survivors on some uninhabited island, but are six new soldiers embarking on a journey through Army basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

As part of the U.S. Army's new ad campaign, "An Army of One", the public can follow these new soldiers day-by-day, week-by-week, by visiting the Army's official website, <http://www.goarmy.com>.

The Army's newly designed website focuses on individuals who are currently serving our country. It is an attempt to bring a more personal view of a soldier, and how each individual contributes to the "Army of One" theme. This unique aspect is presented quite well in the basic training section, dubbed "The Making of an Army of One."

The story begins by reading profiles on each soldier. Along with a written biography on each new troop, website visitors can also view a brief video clip as they each detail their reasons for joining the Army.

"I grew up on the west side of Chicago—a bad neighborhood with drug dealers and crime. This is something I want to do just to see if I can do it. See if I can make something of myself," said Richard Jones, a 19 year old recruit from Chicago. "I don't think I'll be afraid of anything anymore after I go through this."

Next, it is on to "Week 00: Reception." The new recruits arrive to the reception station, where they receive their first taste of Army basic training. Several video clips depict their initial experience as they surrender any contraband in the amnesty room; receive their clothing issue, ID card and dog tags. Other video clips take website visitors through the process of haircuts, inoculations, and an initial physical fitness test. The public can also view useful information, such as a checklist on what and what not to bring to basic training.

Also featured are drill sergeant biographies. The first drill sergeant introduced is Staff Sgt. Garrett, an transportation specialist



The U.S. Army shows off its new "Army of One" recruiting theme on a website featuring real soldiers, live chats and an inside-out look at Army basic training.

from Canton, Miss.

"Being a drill sergeant was something that I thought about probably all of my career since Basic Training. When I was in Basic Training I was really impressed with my drill sergeants. I always thought that one day, if I remained in the military, I wanted to do something like that,"

said Canton. "Making sure that the soldiers are trained and disciplined I guess would be the first primary goal of a drill sergeant. But it's so much more than that because you have to be able to counsel effectively. You have to be able to guide and direct and even manage."

As this storied training cycle of basic training unfolds, the website visitors will be able to click on links to each week the soldiers experience.

The redesign of the website is simple, yet effective. It keeps in mind that many users do not have high-speed access such as cable or digital subscriber lines, yet offers special features for those who do. Over a 56K modem, the website

loaded nicely, not keeping me waiting to see the content. It was nearly instantaneous from my fast DSL line.

I also enjoyed the ease at which I could obtain information on available Army jobs, recruiter locations, and some frequently asked questions about Army life. There is even a "Recruiter Chat" area, where you can log on during designated hours and have any questions answered in real time.

I think the Army has hit a homerun with this new website. It has lots of

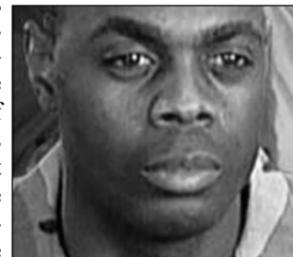
useful information for people interested in joining, along with ever-changing content to make people come back frequently. My biggest complaint is that there are no references to the Army National Guard, only the active Army and Reserve.

*Editors note: Sgt. Keith Fenske serves as a photojournalist for Detachment 1, 139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. As a civilian, he is the general manager for DOTNET Internet Services, a regional Internet Service Provider based in Fond du Lac, Wis. Fenske has worked as an Internet professional for seven years, including serving as Webmaster for U.S. Army Europe from August 1997 to February 1998, in support of Operation Joint Guard.*

*Fenske's regular reviews of military websites begins with this issue's look at the Army's recruiting website.*



Spc. Natalie Ortiz



Sgt. Leroy Durrah, Jr.

### Rated Items

(scale of 1-5, 5 being highest):

- Website content: ♂♂♂♂♂
- Ease of use: ♂♂♂♂♂
- Download speed: ♂♂♂♂♂
- Interactive features: ♂♂♂♂♂
- Relevant to Guard: ♂♂♂♂♂
- Total Rating: ♂♂♂♂♂

# Commander-in-chief

Continued from page 1

biennium, our young Guard enlisted men and women are grateful to see your support for continuation of the Guard tuition grant program. What sort of dividends to you see coming back to the State of Wisconsin as a return on this investment?

**McCALLUM:** The Guard tuition program should be viewed as providing a very good return on tax dollars being spent. This was a tight budget — as you know it has the lowest spending increase in over 30 years. But resources were put into the tuition program because it's a good return for taxpayers. People who are in the Guard understand discipline, they're hard workers and they make the best employees around.

It's also a way of saying "Thank you" to Guard members who have helped us with their public service as Wisconsin citizens. You've made a commitment to us and we're going to make a commitment to you. We know this is a good return because you're great citizens and the likelihood is that you're also going to be great employees making important contributions to your state and your communities.



Gov. McCallum

**AT EASE:** At the National level, Governors have had a big impact on the National Guard, standing shoulder-to-shoulder at the National Governors Association to shape Guard-related defense policies, and many Governors have also taken Guard issues to the Secretary of Defense one-on-one. Do you intend to take the Guard's causes to Washington?

**McCALLUM:** I do if it's necessary. I'm hopeful that we have a very good friend in the White House now — someone who understands Guard issues and who'll be supportive. But if it's necessary, the governors will work together and I'll be at the forefront sticking up for the National Guard.

**AT EASE:** What Guard issues are most important to you?

**McCALLUM:** Most important are the training and readiness of the Guard, and providing opportunities for people in the Guard. You have made a commitment to your state — you're helping us and we want to make sure we're helping Guard members as well.

**AT EASE:** As the Guard assumes a larger role in U.S. military operations around the world, the Wisconsin Guard will undoubtedly carry its share of the load. What would you tell a Guard member called up by the President to serve in Southwest Asia, the Balkans — or in some other yet-to-be-determined hotspot — as their command transfers from you to the President of the United States?

**McCALLUM:** As you know, the roles [for the Guard] continue to grow and the number of missions for the

Guard is growing. Of course I've already had the chance to wish Godspeed and best wishes to people as they've left in very tough times...when they leave their families and they don't know what is awaiting. I've also had a more joyous opportunity to greet people as they've come back — in some cases stepping out of the way as they see their families for the first time and want to "get the Governor out of the way" so they can be with their wives. And that's much more joyous. I did it as Lieutenant Governor and I certainly think what they are doing is a great service to the state and nation and deserving of my recognition.

**AT EASE:** You had an opportunity as Lieutenant Governor to welcome the 832nd Air Ambulance Company home to West Bend

— and to help send off the 128th Air Refueling Wing to Operation Allied Force. Will we see you again if and when future Wisconsin Army or Air Guard units are mobilized into federal service?

**McCALLUM:** You know, our men and women who are in the service to our state and to the country deserve the recognition. And they deserve to be told "Thank you" in person.

**AT EASE:** Thank you for taking time so early in your term to help us get acquainted with our new Commander-in-Chief. Is there any parting message you'd like to leave with the 10,000 men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard and their families?

**McCALLUM:** The people in the Guard should know that they are appreciated. We don't often enough get an opportunity to say "Thank you." But I know it every single moment. Just this week I was on the phone with our Emergency Management office in case we needed to do something. I don't want that "in case" to come up, but we know it invariably will. It gives us great peace of mind to know we have the men and women who have been trained for whatever situation that might come up, and that they are competent people who will do a great job.

## Blue Devil + Red Arrow = Strong Medicine

By Gordie Blum  
At Ease staff

The Wisconsin Army National Guard will take part in Operation Blue Devil, a joint medical exercise run by the United States Army Reserve (USAR), at Fort McCoy in August.

Blue Devil coincides with the 32nd Infantry Brigade's two-week annual training period at the fort, and brigade medical, infantry and field artillery assets have been tapped to provide realism to the exercise, which will incorporate all aspects of treating and evacuating frontline casualties.

"It will be about as realistic as you can get without actually inflicting casualties," says Lt. Col. Terry Noack, of the Plans, Operations and Training Office in state Guard headquarters. "And it's the first time we've been able to put an entire operation like this together, allowing combat, medical, evac (evacuation) and hospital units to work together."

According to Noack, the scenario will develop in stages. As sol-

diers of the 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, and 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery progress through their scheduled lanes training, some will become mock casualties. The "wounded," who will have been "zapped" using the Army's Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System (MILES) gear, will be given cards describing their injuries.

Combat medics will be the first on the scene. They must take immediate action to treat and evaluate the soldier to determine what further action, if any, is needed. Noack stressed that at any point in the scenario, soldiers can be taken off the front lines by whatever means necessary.

"Evacuation is a big part of this," he said. "We will have ambulances and medevac (helicopters) standing by."

Soldiers not requiring immediate evacuation from the front lines will be transported by vehicles back to the battalion aid station, where they will be treated and evaluated again.

Soldiers requiring further medical attention will be moved through

an ambulance exchange point to the brigade aid station. There, they will be treated by medics from Company C, 132nd Forward Support Battalion, assisted by USAR forward surgical teams.

Soldiers who need even more extensive medical treatment can be taken from there to one of two fully staffed USAR combat support hospitals.

Besides the Wisconsin infantry, artillery and medics participating, Minnesota-based elements of the National Guard's 34th Infantry Division will take part in the exercise. The division's Medical Operations Center will coordinate the use of divisional medical assets, and the 133rd Air Evacuation Wing, Minnesota National Guard, will provide helicopter throughout the battlefield.

Said Noack, "This exercise is an opportunity for the infantry to see just what kind of medical support is available to them when they're on the front lines. We hope that the professionalism they see in the medical troops will be a comfort to them as they go into battle."

## Distance learning

Continued from page 1

ment and technology consulting firm in McLean, Va., has been working with the National Guard to set up DL labs throughout the 50 states, 3 territories and the District of Columbia. Two consultants from the company set up shop for a week at the new Department of Military Affairs DL classroom to educate Information Management personnel on the lab equipment, operation and needed troubleshooting techniques.

Each DL classroom will be equipped with two cameras, two large monitors, an instructor's workstation, and student workstations.

All sites will have the same functional characteristics, though some will have more student workstations than others. Students will be able to:

- Conduct research on the Internet.
- Take an interactive computer-based or web-based training course.

- Collaborate with colleagues across the nation in a live two-way video conference.

- Enroll and participate in a college or university distance learning program.

- Schedule and monitoring course progress and completion

through software installed on the classroom workstations.

Slowly but surely, classrooms are being built, resources are getting up and running and soon soldiers will be taking courses.

Watch for updates in future editions of At Ease.

## Many state units have other annual training plans for 2001

Many Army Guard units around the state will be busy long before 32nd Brigade annual training (AT) begins in August.

"Most of our Troop Command and engineering units will be doing their AT during June," said Lt. Col. Terry Noack of the Plans, Operations and Training Office.

For instance, the 229th Combat Support Equipment Company will be busy helping expand an airport runway in Palmyra, Wis.

"They do a lot of projects like that," says Noack of the 229th. "They helped build a Boy Scout camp one year. It's nice when a unit can do their training and accomplish something of value to a community, rather than just digging a hole at McCoy and backfilling it."

As part of that exercise, the 229th will be evaluated according to its annual Training Assessment Model (TAM). Noack says that all high priority units undergo a TAM evaluation annually by external evaluators to see how well they conduct their wartime missions.

The 1157th Transportation Company is another company

that will be evaluated as part of its AT. The 1157th will be doing lanes training as part of "Operation Golden Cargo," a national transportation operation.

"The 1157th will be supporting real military missions, moving and transferring equipment," said Noack.

Similarly, the 1158th Transportation Company will be hauling heavy equipment to support ATs around the state.

"It's the one time of the year they get to haul the big stuff — like tanks," Noack said.

Other Annual Training plans include:

- The 724th Engineer Battalion performing river crossings at Camp Ripley, Minn., in June.

- The 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) providing medevac support and conducting lanes training in June.

- The 147th Command Aviation Battalion providing air support to all ATs.

- Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Brigade participating in a Warfighter exercise at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., in August.

## Youth Camp volunteers needed, applications available

Volunteer and camper applications for the 2001 Wisconsin National Guard Youth Camp are now available. The camp will be held June 29 to July 1, at Fort McCoy.

Applications are now available on the Family home page on the Wisconsin Army National Guard intranet or by contacting the Family Office. The camp is intended for children of Army and Air National Guard members who are between the ages of 8 and 17.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of positions such as

counselors, activity support, administrative support, public affairs, logistics, security, cooks, fund raising, and medical.

Youths and volunteers who would like to participate should complete the application and return it, along with application fee, to TAG, DMA, WI, ATTN: WIAR-PA-FAM, P.O. Box 8111, Madison, WI 53708-8111 no later than May 18.

Early application is encouraged as space is limited.

Questions can be directed to the State Family Program Office, 1-800-292-9464.

### Wisconsin Army Guard Distance Learning (DL) Sites

Location	Workstations	Completion date
Appleton armory	18	October 2001
Chippewa Falls armory	12	Completed
Fort McCoy (WMA)	18	Completed
Hayward armory	3	August 2002
Madison (STARC)	18	Completed
Marinette armory	3	2003
Milwaukee armory (RSA)	12	Completed
Prairie du Chien armory	6	August 2002
Stevens Point armory	12	June 2001
Superior armory	3	2003
Tomahawk armory	12	May 2001

## State News Briefs

### Sen. Moen to chair committee

State Sen. Rod Moen, D-Whitehall, has been reappointed chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

"I am pleased that I have been given the opportunity to continue to serve as chair of this committee," Moen said. "I have had a long and abiding interest in issues affecting our veterans and members of the state's Army and Air National Guards."

During the last legislative session, Moen was a force in enacting legislation that established the state Military Funeral Honors Program for veterans, and legislation to continue health care coverage for families of state employees who are activated to serve on military duty in the U.S. armed forces. He also introduced legislation, later enacted, which allows school boards to grant high school diplomas to veterans who left school early to serve their country during wartime, and also legislation giving the National Guard greater flexibility to respond to disasters.

"I look forward to continuing my work with Veterans Secretary Ray Boland and Adjutant General James Blaney and all Wisconsin veterans and Guard members," Moen said.

Moen is a recipient of the Department of the Army Commanders Award for Public Service in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Wisconsin National Guard. Moen was named the 1997-98 Legislator of the Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the 1999 Legislator of the Year by the American Legion. He also received the 1999 VFW Service Recognition Award, and the 2000 Outstanding Legislator of the Year by the Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veterans Organizations, among others.

Moen is a retired naval officer who served 22 years of active duty in the U.S. Navy, including a tour of duty in Vietnam, before retiring in 1976. This will be his third term as chair of the committee.

### Fort McCoy invites public for Armed Forces Day events

Civilians and soldiers are invited to attend Armed Forces Day activities at Fort McCoy Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities will include Humvee rides and displays of memorabilia, uniforms, weapons and equipment from the nation's conflicts. Winter, desert and forest combat scenarios will also be displayed. Other activities will include camouflage face painting and making personalized "dog tags." Refreshments will also be available.

The World War II Commemorative Area will have a display of major combat vehicles from World War II through the 1980s. Included are Huey and Cobra helicopters, M-60 and Sherman tanks, howitzers, and armored personnel carriers. Visitors may touch the tanks and have their photos taken in front of the equipment.

"The event is an opportunity for the public to get acquainted with the role of the McCoy installation in today's military environment as well as a time for Fort McCoy to show its appreciation to its neighbors," said Ruth West, Fort McCoy community relations assistant. All activities will be located at or originate from the Commemorative Area near the southeast corner of the main part of the base, which is closest to Gate 15, along Highway 23. Information is available by calling Ruth West at (608) 388-2407.

### New, lower state home loan interest rates for veterans

Wisconsin veterans have available to them home loans at a new low rate of 6.8% interest. The loans are especially attractive because there are no discount points, no funding fee, no private mortgage insurance required and the 6.8% rate is fixed for up to a 30 year term. The loan must be used to buy or build the veteran's principal residence, or to make alterations, construction or repairs of their principal residence, including garage construction, and may not be used to refinance an existing mortgage.

These state veteran mortgage loans no longer carry maximum income limits, so higher income veterans may qualify. However, the amount of the home mortgage may not exceed \$279,750.

Home improvement loans for eligible veterans are available at 7.45% interest, and the veteran may borrow up to \$25,000 with 15 years to repay the loan. Veterans now may have more than one of these home improvement loans if they have sufficient equity and can repay multiple loans.

To obtain one of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) home loans, veterans must meet military service and state residency requirements set by the Wisconsin legislature. Because of recent improvements in its home loan program, the WDVA can now fund more home mortgage and home improvement loans to eligible veterans, including those who entered military service after 1976 or who have been out of service for more than 30 years. In addition to veterans with wartime service, Wisconsin veterans who served two or more years on active duty during peacetime are eligible for WDVA home loans and other benefits. Unremarried spouses of deceased veterans who were eligible for WDVA home loans may also qualify for home loans.

For more information about WDVA home mortgage and home improvement loans, veterans should contact the Veterans Service Office in their county, or visit the WDVA web site at [www.dva.state.wi.us](http://www.dva.state.wi.us).

# Wisconsin winter br-r-r-ings outdoor training opportunity

By Steve Olson  
At Ease staff

Wisconsin's winter landscape is ideal for more than just skiing, skating and sledding. It also is great for crawling under concertina wire while being shot at by snipers.

Guard soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, used the cold and snow dur-

ing their January drill for some winter training outside their armory in Kenosha. The struggle against the elements added realism to the unit's common task training. "We generally spend a lot of time doing maintenance and learning field artillery tactics," said Pfc. Daniel Langevine of the survey section. "This infantry training is a little different and helps us learn things we might have to do someday."

In addition, the winter outdoor

training "helps get us ready for our first week of annual training at Fort McCoy in March," said Staff St. Allan DeLine, unit readiness NCO. "We can get used to wearing all our cold weather gear."

The battalion, with batteries in Kenosha, Racine, Oak Creek, Whitewater, Elkhorn and Burlington, split its annual training period again this year into two increments — one week in March and the other in August.



Soldiers in Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery in Kenosha rescue a soldier with simulated wounds as part of their winter training in January. Photo by Mike Gourlie.

# New airmen tour bases for Air Guard 'big picture'

By Kelly Pensinger  
At East Staff

Medics toured the weapons training facility and weapons specialists observed an air refueling mission during the annual Air Guard Junior Enlisted Orientation, which brought together young airmen to see aspects of the Guard they normally aren't exposed to.

The whirlwind tour began Nov. 3 as 28 young men and women gathered in Madison for a briefing from Brig. Gen. Al Wilkening and then proceeded to the 115th Fighter Wing. There the airmen came face-to-face with 500-lb. bombs in the weap-

ons training facility, a 20mm cannon, and an F-16 fighter. The next day the group witnessed a firepower demonstration at Hardwood Range and toured Volk Field.

They wrapped up the weekend by flying aboard a KC-135R tanker on an air refueling mission, and then touring the 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee.

"It's a good overview," said Senior Airman Trevor Woodward of the 115th Fighter Wing. "You get to see the function of all three bases. I think it's a good program that allows young troops to meet other people. It makes you feel proud to be a part of it."

Continuing that pride and commitment is a prime goal of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

"The Junior Enlisted Orientation program is not only a popular event for our young enlisted members, it is a great retention tool," said Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Chisholm, then the state's senior enlisted advisor.

"We feel that these young airmen could be our future leaders. Showing them the larger picture of the Wisconsin Air National Guard will increase their knowledge of the important part they have in our success and start them thinking about their contribution in the years to come."



Master Sgt. Doug Syse shows Air Guard members a 20mm cannon from an F-16 in the 115th Fighter Wing's gun shop. Selected Air Guard junior enlisted troops received tours of Headquarters and Air Guard facilities in a weekend orientation. Photo by Kelly Pensinger.

# Bridges to new Indochina future

Continued from page 1

which funds similar projects through U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), in Central and South America. U.S. Army Pacific provides most of the engineer support for Pacific Command's foreign engagement programs and was tasked for this project. Since the vast majority of Army engineer assets are in the reserve component, U.S. Army Pacific has a close relationship with the Army Reserve, 412th Engineer Command, Vicksburg, Miss., to more effectively use reserve component technical engineer support for such projects. Additionally these missions provide excellent training vehicles for future contingency operations.

Frueh credits Maj. John Larson with getting him assigned as the only noncommissioned officer on the team. The 412th project liaison officer at U.S. Army Pacific and team leader, Maj. Jim D'Arienzo, knew Larson because they had worked together on projects in the Marshall Islands and Nepal. D'Arienzo asked him to recommend someone with bridge design experience. The 264th

Engineer Group plans officer didn't have to look beyond his own design section for someone with exactly the skills the team needed.

The team assembled in Hawaii for final preparations and flew to Vietnam via Japan and Bangkok, arriving in Hanoi on July 28. It wasn't long until Frueh realized this mission would be unlike anything he had ever done for the Guard. In a series of briefings and visits, embassy staff and host government officials emphasized the importance of the mission. "It was clear that this was a high visibility mission and the embassy and the host governments both wanted it to succeed," said Frueh. "We quickly understood that we could not fail."

Frueh is quick to compliment D'Arienzo with putting together a team that was up to the challenge. "Maj. D'Arienzo made sure the team had all the skills we needed in-country. We had expertise in bridges, roads, structures and project management, everything we needed right there on team," he said. The other team members, besides D'Arienzo and Frueh,

Majs. Benji Jackson and Paul Rush, both from the Army Reserve, and Capt. Doug Burno from the Ohio Army National Guard.

Time was a problem. Twelve hour workdays were the norm, but visiting the sites, gathering the data and completing the designs by Dec. 15 so the contracts could be let for construction in 2001 was not going to be easy.

The already ambitious schedule was complicated by the fact that the team had to learn local building methods, materials and capabilities before they even started designing the projects. They visited community clinics and inspected bridges and roads. They also talked to local contractors and government officials. "We just kept asking, 'How do you build things here?'" Frueh said.

For the community clinic near Hue, Vietnam, the team started with a plan already approved by the Vietnamese government and modified it based on discussions with Red Cross officials and contractors. They beefed up the footings and foundations and added a large, covered, heavily reinforced second floor balcony to make it more flood-resistant. Told that people planned to use it as a shelter in future floods, they raised the roof so the space above the second floor could be a temporary storm shelter with food storage area and emergency generator. They also used a locally developed,



**Working in formal planning meetings like this and through countless conversations in the field, the team learned about local building practices so their designs could be built by local contractors using available materials and equipment.**

typhoon-resistant metal roof and truss design and modified the wiring to reduce the damage and avoid loss of power when the first floor was flooded.

In Cambodia, the team focused on a 16-kilometer section of road in Pursait province. The team identified the most critical sections of the roadway and designed five replacement bridges for those sections. The new bridges will slab span type bridges be made of reinforced concrete and the roadway will be raised about 1.5 meters above the existing bridge decks. The designs call for using local materials and the bridges will be able to withstand future flooding.

Frueh said there is no comparison between Cambodian roads and the modern road system in Wisconsin. The roads there are single-lane, unpaved and not part of an overall roadway system. "I would say they are about the same as rural roads were in Wisconsin in the 1920s and 30s," he said. Since most of the traffic is motor bikes, bicycles and pedestrians he said the narrow roads are quite adequate for the volume, but with no money for maintenance, they need bridges that can withstand annual floods.

Technical support was also different. At home, bridge engineers have teams of professional surveyors with Global Positioning System (GPS)-linked equipment to site a job, as well as specialists in soils, materials and a host of other specialties for expert advice. For this mission in Southeast Asia, the team used a transit set brought from the states,

crunched their own numbers on laptops and relied on their collective experience.

Materials and construction equipment were another challenge. Getting concrete, steel and other materials to a construction site is rarely an issue in the U.S. But it was a big factor in designing these projects. As Frueh put it, "When the only cement factory is on the other end of the country with no real road system and there is no heavy equipment, you have to adjust to what is there." The designers had to use local materials and manual labor.

Despite the long days and many challenges, Frueh enjoyed the time. He would gladly go back as a tourist or on another design team. It is really a beautiful country and the people are friendly, helpful and showed no trace of bitterness or anger. "The war is ancient history to most of them and they have moved on. Maybe some of us could learn from their example," he says.

And it was fantastic professional experience. Going back to basic civil engineering, innovating, and meeting the design challenges was very rewarding and there is great satisfaction knowing his work is really going to help others.

In January, Larson, D'Arienzo, and a contracting officer returned to Cambodia to let contracts for three of the five bridges and hire a quality assurance contractor to oversee construction. Before long, the team's work will pay off when Cambodians begin using the bridges they designed.



**Sgt. 1st Class Rick Frueh**



**The effects of seasonal flooding are clearly visible on these bridges in Cambodia. With data and knowledge of local construction techniques gathered last August, the team of Guard and Reserve engineers designed five bridges to replace damaged structures with new, flood-resistant structures. Photos by Rick Frueh.**



**ABOVE: Closeup reveals condition of Cambodian bridge.**

**RIGHT: Team members, who wore civilian clothes for the mission, are shown with their U.S. Embassy escorts in front of a Russian Mi-17 Hip helicopter before their return flight to Phnom Penh. Team members were (left to right): Capt. Doug Brunot (kneeling), Maj. Paul Rush, Frueh, Maj. Benji Jackson and Maj. James D'Arienzo.**



# Reflections of retiring Air Guard chief of staff

*Editor's Note: Wisconsin Air Guard chief of staff Brig. Gen. Gene Schmitz retires this year following a career that spanned parts of five decades. At his retirement luncheon in February, Schmitz reflected on his career and on the changes he witnessed while advancing from a newly commissioned tanker pilot to a general officer with more than 11,800 flying hours — including combat support missions during Operation Desert Storm. This farewell message captures Schmitz's recollections and passes along some advice.*

By Brig. Gen. (retired) Gene Schmitz

Over the course of 35 years one confronts many experiences. They can often take routine forms such as personnel turnover, unit training activity, mission requirements and new equipment; or they can be more dramatic and interesting such as issues of local/state/national politics, defense department initiatives, global conflict and leadership dynamics at every level. Whatever the case, they had a big impact on me.

In 1966 I started my career in a white, male-dominated Air National Guard where the focus was primarily on smoking, drinking, flying and partying (back then, I might add, one was not concerned about placing these activities in any particular order or priority). This was the era of the "good old boys" and the "flying clubs." It is referred today as the "Old Guard." The following concepts and programs were not even in our military vocabulary back then: diversity, equal employment opportunity, social actions, retention, community support, weight control, drug testing, ESGR, RUTAs and SUTAs, to name a few. Our

lives were not complicated. We attended the UTAs and performed "summer camp" in the summer.

Quite frankly, the Guard transformation has been so dramatic that little is left from the past. Here are three of the major areas of explosive change:

**Computers.** Can you envision a workplace without a computer (of any kind) — no internet, servers, satellites, global position system, motion simulators, VCR, compact disks, DVDs, pagers, cell phones or turbofan engines? As hard to believe as it may seem, we actually just made it work with a sharp pencil, slide rule and propellers.

**Deployments.** Except for the Korean and Vietnam War, Air Guard units performed mostly local flying and an occasional unit deployment. Milwaukee was an exception. The unit had a unique overseas deployment opportunity — "Creek Party," 17-day tours three to four times a year to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, from 1966 to 1976. Normally, units seldom wandered far from home base. However, starting with Desert Shield in August 1990, Air National Guard units have been going nonstop to places all over the globe supporting the U.S. Air Force. Now, "summer camp" is year-round and activations occur periodically.

**Programs.** Looking back, unit members in the mid-60s lived in an environment that contained few programs and little

constraint. Here are some of today's initiatives that were not even on the horizon back then: selective retention, ROPMA, RTAP, total quality, EEOC and tuition assistance. Today there are at least fifteen programs that the average troop must confront and understand.

What era sounds the most appealing to you — the old or the new? I've had the best of both worlds. Although I've had the privilege of experiencing the old, relaxed approach, I also found myself propelled into today's complicated culture. Regardless of the era, there are still those basic principles

for success that work in any culture and in any environment. This is what worked for me:

- Focus on doing your very best. Don't let circumstances become your excuse. Keep a positive attitude. Always be mentally terrific. Don't have your hands out — there are no free lunches. Become an expert in your area of responsibility. Do more than is expected of you and I guarantee that you will get noticed, get promoted and get to the top.

- Don't stop learning once you leave school. You must continue to take classes, seek more education, and read...read...read. "The ability to effectively express yourself is the most critical element to advancement." Learn to speak with authority and persuasion.

- Learn how to get along with people.

Go out of your way to make it work. Build good relationships where ever and whenever possible. These associations build trust and create bonds of friendship. Positive things happen when you least suspect it.

- Get involved in areas outside your comfort zone. Do different things. Take on new challenges. Broaden your skill levels. Do kind deeds without seeking fanfare or recognition.

- Include your spouse in the activities of military life. Share information about commitment, priority, and requirements associated with National Guard membership. Give excessive amounts of credit to your spouse for all his or her "duty time."

I must say that I am not happy to leave this great National Guard: I'm leaving membership in the best military organization in the world, I'm leaving a job that is totally fulfilling and rewarding, I'm leaving behind hundreds of friends and acquaintances, and I will no longer regularly wear the wonderful blue uniform — just being in it made me beam with pride.

I've had a fantastic adventure because there were people who cared about me and who helped me along the way. So pay close attention to those around you who take the time and effort to offer words of wisdom, give constructive criticism, offer counsel and show a genuine concern about your success. I have been truly blessed over the span of my military career — great job, leadership opportunities, world travel, caring family, excellent health and lots of friends. So I end my thoughts with a heartfelt "Thank you." Thanks for your friendship and support. Thanks for all you may have done to bring me to this retirement moment. It was a great journey. God bless you, and God bless the National Guard.



Brig. Gen. Gene Schmitz

## Great Guard benefit: Catch a hop on 'Space A'

By Mike Callen  
At Ease Staff

When you think about Guard benefits, you may think of pay, tuition assistance, or retirement — but what about a low-cost weekend in Hawaii?

Wisconsin Guard members are eligible for Space Available ("Space A") flights and don't have to travel to an active air base to do it. You can catch a 128th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 tanker from Milwaukee and, thanks to the wing's excellent reputation, they get invited to some great places — including Hawaii.

As the name implies, Space A depends on there being empty seats on a Department of Defense aircraft. Guard Members are eligible under Defense Department regulations and Milwaukee is a surprisingly good place to "catch a hop."

To give as many Guard members as possible a chance at these flights, the 128th works through designated contacts in the Army and Air Guard. Currently they are: Chief Warrant Officer Mike Kreisler for the Army Guard, Master Sgt. Brian Bierman for the 115th Fighter Wing, Senior Master Sgt. Bill Milen for Volk Field and Senior Airman Wendy Hendricks for state headquarters.

When a mission with Space A seats is scheduled, each contact is given a block of seats and a deadline to fill them. After the deadline, any eligible traveler can book unused seats.

Here is how the system worked for one January mission to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii: An aircraft and crew from the 128th received a mission to provide inter-island airlift for a Hawaii Guard drill weekend, and there were 42 passenger seats available on the tanker to and

from Hawaii. The passengers assembled in base operations included airmen from the 128th Air Refueling Wing, the 128th Air Control Squadron, the Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, and the 115th Fighter Wing.

The Army Guard contingent included soldiers from 132nd Forward Support Battalion, 32nd Military Police Company, 57th Field Artillery and 32nd Brigade. Many were traditional Guardsmen on college break, but there were also full-timers on leave, dependents, retirees and even a sailor returning from leave.

Space A travel is "no frills" in a big way. Passengers must show up early, load and unload their own bags, bring most of their own meals and not expect a beverage cart. The lavatory is a porta-potty behind a curtain. Recommended dress on board the aircraft in January was Wisconsin winter casual; until they touched

down in Hawaii, everyone was glad to have the extra layers for warmth.

But hops have their own advantages. Commercial airlines don't have bunks and won't let you bring a sleeping bag or air mattresses to rack out in an open space on the floor. The view from the boom operator's area beats anything you will ever see from the window of an airliner. The crew members are enthusiastic, can tell you anything you wanted to know about the plane, and have great tips on things to do in Honolulu. Above all, the price was right.

Hickam Air Force Base, near Honolulu, is a great Space A destination. There are visitors' quarters on base and at the neighboring Pearl Harbor Naval Base. There is also a military-only resort, the Hale Koa, on Waikiki Beach. It has everything you expect in a resort hotel — a variety of restaurants and bars, swimming

pools, beach access, equipment rentals, an office to book tours and even an exchange. If the Hale Koa is full, they can give referrals to hotels that charge comparable rates and are close enough that you can still use the Hale Koa's meals and services.

Departing Milwaukee about 9 a.m. Friday, the travelers were in Honolulu early enough to check in to their hotels and find a suitable place to watch the sunset over the Pacific. Over the weekend some headed to the beach for swimming and snorkeling while others took organized tours around the entire island. Showtime on Monday morning, was 0600 and everyone got on the return flight with no problem. By late Monday, they were safely in Milwaukee.

To find out about upcoming flights and eligibility contact the 128th Air Refueling Wing Flight Services office at (414) 944-8489.

## Crowley to head state Vets board

Lt. Col. Bill Crowley of the Wisconsin National Guard State Area Command (STARC) was elected chairperson of the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs on Feb. 9.

The board oversees the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison and the National Guard Museum at Volk Field, retirement and nursing homes for veterans and spouses in King and Union Grove, three state veterans cemeteries and loan and grant programs for eligible state veterans.

Crowley, a resident of Baraboo, was appointed to the Board of Veterans Affairs in 1997 by Gov. Tommy Thompson. In civilian life, Crowley has been the

Columbia County veterans service officer since 1989. He is responsible for helping the more than 5,000 veterans in Columbia County obtain state and federal benefits and services.



Crowley

He began his military career by enlisting in the Marine Corps. He served with the First Marine Division in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.

Ten years after completing his Marine Corps service, he enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in 1979. He became a commissioned officer following his graduation from the Wisconsin Military Academy in 1981.

## Staff, command changes

Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Yapundich became the senior enlisted advisor for the Wisconsin Air National Guard Jan. 1. Yapundich is the ninth person to hold the top enlisted position in the state.

He succeeded Command Chief Master Sgt. Jim Chisholm, who held the position for three years.

Yapundich first enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1967. He has been a full-time technician with the 128th Air Control Squadron — first in Milwaukee and now at Volk Field



Yapundich

— since 1973. Yapundich is also an alternate representative to the Air Guard's Enlisted Field Advisory Council, which helps Air Guard enlisted members find solutions to problems that affect the enlisted force.

### Army Guard

One Wisconsin Army National Guard battalion has a new commander and one command will change later this Spring.

Lt. Col. Ramona Kane is the new commander of 2nd Battalion, 426th Regiment at the Wisconsin Military Academy. Kane succeeds Lt. Col. Jerome Jochem, who transferred to Headquarters, State Area Command.

Command of 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry will transfer from Lt. Col. Daniel Jensen to Lt. Col. Todd Nehls.

Nehls, commander the 54th Civil Support Team, will be succeeded by Lt. Col. Marshall Schlichting.

# Nominate your boss for Patriot award

By Julie Friedman  
At Ease staff

If you're lucky enough to have an employer who supports your commitment to the Guard, the Wisconsin Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) wants to help you recognize him or her.

Through the "My Boss is a Patriot" award program, the ESGR honors both large and small employers whose policies support or encourage participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

On the other hand, if you're having problems with your employer related to your service obligations, the ESGR is also there to help. Although committee members are all volunteers, they receive training on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and can help mediate employment issues between the service member and the employer on an informal basis.

There are eight area committees in the state, and each committee assigns one member to every Guard and Reserve unit within their area with the goal of making a personal visit at least once a year.

During these "Mission One" visits, they explain the ESGR organization and its main function of building retention through better employer relations. They also provide fact sheets that outline the rights and responsi-

bilities of both the service member and the employer according to USERRA.

The visits also provide an opportunity for unit members to identify employers who could benefit from participating in a "Bosslift" or a "Briefing with the Boss" sponsored by the ESGR.

All unit members are encouraged to submit a nomination for the "My Boss is a Patriot Award" if they feel their employers have been supportive. Each person nominated receives a certificate of recognition and a lapel pin. Those employers who go above and beyond what is required by law may be considered for higher state awards if the service member takes the time to add supporting comments on the form.

Award presentations are handled at the unit level. Some commanders invite employers to the unit and present the awards during an open house or a bosslift, while others sometimes deliver the award in person to the place of business. If distance is a factor, service members may elect to present the award themselves or have it mailed to the employer with an accompanying letter of thanks from the unit commander.

This is your chance to thank your employers for the occasional sacrifices they have made in employing a member of the Guard. Award nomination forms are available in most unit orderly rooms or from the unit's ESGR representative.



## Truax Field becomes "North Pole"

Thirty special children, with family members, arrive at Truax Field, Madison, on a simulated flight to the North Pole staged by Milwaukee's 440th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve. Eligible special needs children were identified by the Family Support and Resource Center in Madison. On the appointed day the 440th flew the children and their families on a C-130 transport aircraft from Milwaukee to Madison. On arrival at Truax, they visited Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at the "North Pole," which was set up in the fire and rescue building of the 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard.

## Engineer guides both Guard and civilian projects

By Capt. Scott Walters  
128th Air Refueling Wing

Lt. Col. Craig Coursin's civilian job complements his position with the 128th Air Refueling Wing perfectly. When not in uniform, Coursin is the vice president of the Zimmerman Design Group, one of Milwaukee's oldest and most prestigious architectural firms.

During drill weekends, Lt. Col. Coursin is the commander of the 128th Air Refueling Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron, an organization that has taken responsibility for many capital improvement projects on several continents, besides those on base.

"My job at Zimmerman Design Group revolves around project management from concept design to construction," Coursin said. "It's a good fit. Whatever I do here as a civilian, I apply on the job at the 128th."

"I would say 75 percent of my time at Zimmerman Design

Group is spent managing several design and construction teams and making sure we keep the projects on track. The rest of the time I spend writing proposals and meeting with clients; general marketing to attract new business and building relationships."

Coursin has spent the past 12 years as an architect and the vice president of Zimmerman helping to develop capital projects throughout the U.S., but primarily in the Midwest. Some of the higher profile programs Coursin was directly involved with include the historic restoration of the Wisconsin Electric Power Company building in downtown Milwaukee, the \$26 million improvement program at Waukesha County Technical College, and the DNR's contact station which is scheduled to be constructed on Milwaukee's Lake Park Island starting in 2002.

Coursin believes his employer possesses a favorable culture in that allows him and others

within its workforce to participate in the Air National Guard.

"They are flexible and allow me to shift responsibility when I need to perform an assignment with the Air Guard. But it's a two-way street because I must be conscience of the effect my absence will have on a project."

"Before taking part in a deployment, I need to make an effort here to ensure everything is handled. It would be very difficult for the company if I just left a program for two weeks (to participate in my annual training)," he said.

The Zimmerman Design Group has a long list of employees that have served in the military. Some have served distinguished careers as Army engineers while others performed duty in the Air National Guard with the 128th Air Refueling Wing.

"It's a great team here at Zimmermann. When I go, they carry the ball."



As Vice President of the Zimmerman Design Group, Craig Coursin (center) participates in the topping off ceremony at the construction site of the Wisconsin Electric Power Company building in downtown Milwaukee.

## 'First shirt' waxes eloquent about civilian network job

By Capt. Scott Walters  
128th Air Refueling Wing

When Master Sgt. Mauricio Morales is not pulling duty with the 128th Air Refueling Wing as the Support Group's first sergeant, he tends to rack-up frequent flyer miles. As a civilian, Morales is a computer infrastructure consultant with S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., based in Racine, Wis. And because his territory covers all of Latin America, Morales repeatedly travels to Central and South America.

"My responsibilities at Johnson Wax can be summed up this way: I work to get computers from many different countries to talk and perform with each other," Morales said. "And with all these viruses going around, it can be a real challenge."

It's a large network that Morales cares for, stretching from the United States to Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil. Given that he speaks fluent Spanish (he immigrated to the United States from Columbia when he was 17 years old), he can hit the ground running when he arrives to update a computer information system.

"I would have to say that I'm most proud of an anti-virus project I developed for Johnson Wax in the whole Latin Region," he said.

"I engineered on-site, an anti-virus delivery method so that every work station in Latin America received the program and was protected. Part of the project included automating the process, documenting it, and

training all the users. I had to draw on all my training and education to make it happen and it did without a hitch."

As a traditional Guardsman, Morales performs several tasks as the "First Shirt" of the Support Group. He monitors the weight control program, coordinates the annual walk/run physical fitness test, and performs records reviews.

"I enjoy my job with the Guard because it's a break from the normal routine I carry out at Johnson Wax," Morales said. "And my employer is great to work with when it comes time to perform duty with the Air Guard," he said.

"S.C. Johnson and Son is a very understanding employer. It's a big company with plenty of support. You couldn't find a better place to work."



Senior leaders from Briggs and Stratton recently flew on a tanker to get better acquainted with the mission of the 128th Air Refueling Wing. This major Milwaukee corporation has been very supportive of the 128th, having designed a unique logo, which was placed on the aircraft shown above. The nose art reflects the partnership between the 128th and Briggs to build awareness among other Milwaukee area employers. Photo by Todd Whipple.

# 32nd answers

By Tom Doherty

On Tuesday evening, Oct. 15, 1940, the lights went out in Marshfield.

Earlier, sidewalks along a six-block stretch of Central Avenue had filled with families bundled against the autumn chill.

Children on their fathers' shoulders gazed down toward Seventh Avenue. Teenagers snaked through the crowd. Middle-aged couples stood quietly at the curb.

At 7:30 sharp the fire bell clanged and the streetlights went out. All the bright storefronts darkened.

It was the sort of gathering that presages disaster: crowds huddling in darkness as a volcano trembles, barbarians mass at the gates, clouds of locusts approach. Or, in cities across the oceans these days, as the cosmic static of distant bomber fleets grows into a brain-rattling roar.

In Marshfield the ground was firm; no invaders threatened; the sky offered nothing more ominous than slow-moving clouds under a full moon.

Most everyone knew the blackout was prearranged, the melodramatic brainchild of some Rotarian or Elk on the organizing committee. Still, people were quieted by a vague, other-worldly sense of threat. A few were inspired toward pranks and feeble jokes — a need to whistle in the dark. Figures moved along the street, stooping at intervals and igniting flares. These were the Great War vets, according to the schedule in the newspaper.

Sirens screamed through the darkness. Fire trucks flashed by in the red glow of the flares.

Minutes later the lights came on, then a sound of drums, cymbals, marching music, and down Central Avenue strolled Mayor Leonhard and other city officials, looking left and right, acknowledging individuals in the crowd — but not too gaily or eagerly. This was a serious occasion, af-

ter all, an historic evening.

The 135th Medical Regiment Band followed, a feature in Marshfield parades since the days of the Spanish-American War.

Finally, along came the guests of honor — C Company, 123 men strong, 1903 Springfield rifles on their shoulders, Capt. Lupient in the lead, then Steger, Steger and Cherny, and another Steger back in the ranks somewhere with guys like Rapp and Laufenberg, Pankratz and Markee.

Scattered among the marchers were newcomers in civvies, some just out of last spring's high school class. They gazed self-consciously at the heels of the men in front, their own uniforms stacked and waiting in warehouses down south.

Most of the men managed to compose themselves as befits soldiers embarking upon serious business, but a few hopeless amateurs beamed into the crowd, and others snuck occasional glances, seeking eye contact with a fellow shoemaker from Thorogood or veneer maker from Roddis, a girlfriend, a younger brother.

## Young men's options fading

The options open to single, healthy young men were fading fast.

Tomorrow, men between 21 and 35 years of age were to report to fire stations and schoolhouses across the nation to register for the draft.

Sooner or later nearly all the men lining the streets of Marshfield would have to choose — Army, Navy, Air Corps, or the local National Guard units. And within days that last option would be gone.

The Guard was being activated — the first great influx into an army just coming alive after 20 years. There would be no more hometown units to join, just the great body-processing system on the federal level.

But tonight belonged to those who had already made their choice.

A week ago, formal notification had finally come from Washington, and representatives of all the civic clubs in town gathered at the firehouse to plan the send-off gala. At eight this morning the unit was officially inducted into the Army. No longer were they Marshfield's Company C. As of this day they were C Company, 1st Battalion, 128th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Division, U.S. Army.

## Grim news

News from all over was grim that month. Kids were dying from polio. Al Capone was seen cruising the streets of Hurley, Wis., in the back of a big sedan. Cowboy actor Tom Mix was killed in an auto accident near Florence, Ariz.

News from overseas was less lurid but far from encouraging. Ever since the Japanese signed the Tripartite Pact, allying themselves with Hitler and Mussolini, Americans had been packing up to leave the Far East. Both the Navy and Standard Oil were forbidding employees from bringing families to Asia. Church groups called in their missionaries. Offices of steamship lines in Shanghai were swamped with Americans eager to get out.

On the other side of the world, the battle for Britain was over but the Blitz was on. Frustrated in his attempt to destroy England's air force, Hitler's deputy, Hermann Goering, turned his attention to London. If he could not break the



October, 1940: Sporting duffel bags and bravado, two Red Arrow Division soldiers board a southbound train as a fellow Guard member gazes wistfully from the car behind. Photos courtesy of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.



If one enlisted man can peel 50 spuds an hour, then three enlisted men can peel...well, quite a few. Kitchen police duty, KP for short, was a staple of military life.



High spirits: More volunteers than strictly necessary load gear from a 32nd Division truck into a baggage car of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway.

## Doherty brings Guard's colorful history to life

By Tim Donovan  
At Ease Staff

Tom Doherty didn't know too much about the Wisconsin National Guard when he signed up to try a year in the Guard back in 1978. Then one day at the former state headquarters armory in Madison, he stumbled across a box of old records, photographs and artifacts. The discovery kindled a burning interest in the Guard's history. For the next 16 years, Doherty, a member of the 112th Public Affairs Detachment, chronicled the lives and exploits of Wisconsin militiamen — from the Civil War through two world wars — on the pages of *At Ease*.

These were not dry history lessons; Doherty always breathed life into his words — he made the people and places he wrote about real. Reading Doherty, you almost hear the "crump" of artillery at Juvigny ringing in your own ears...you can feel the dampness of Buna on your skin.

Doherty was 25 years old and already a college graduate when drafted into the Army in 1965. After basic training he was trained as a personnel specialist, shipped to Vietnam in 1966 and assigned to the public information office of the 1st Signal Brigade.

"I never got shot at," Doherty recalls of his Vietnam duty; but serving as a PIO, he got around

the country and sharpened his learned-on-the-job journalism skills by writing stories about soldiers. For one year, he covered the signal brigade, once landing what he considers an "exotic" publishing credit: *The Saigon Post*.

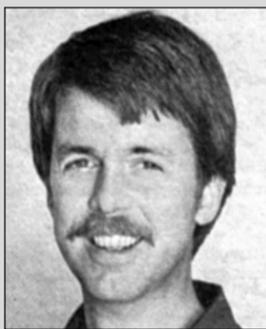
"It was a story about Army photo coverage of Operation FRANCIS MARION in the highlands west of Pleiku. The lead stories that day [June 10, 1967] were about the cease-fire ending the Arab-Israeli war and a 'mistaken' attack by Israel on a U.S. Navy radio ship," Doherty remembers.

Those bigger stories pushed Doherty's piece to the back page, where it competed with ads for floor shows at the Eden-Roc Hotel and a massage parlor on Do Tham Street.

Fame can be as fickle as it is fleeting.

Doherty left the Army in 1967 and put journalism aside for a decade until he joined the Guard for a year under the "Try One" program in 1978. "[Sgt.] Denny Trinrud gave me the rattiest web gear he could find," Doherty remembers. But it was only a one-year hitch. Until he found that box of records and photos and artifacts.

Researching his stories, Doherty conducted countless interviews with Wisconsin Guard veterans to uncover the human experiences so often missed in dusty, conventional histories. Those interviews, valuable as they were at the time, became priceless as these last veterans of the Span-



Doherty in the mid-80s

# WE WERE

## WWII bugle call

British sword, he would go for the heart and guts.

From Sept. 7 to Nov. 3 an average of 200 German bombers made nightly runs over London, 57 continuous nights of fire bells and ambulances, of endless hours in crowded basements and subways, of emerging at daybreak into smoke, rubble and flooded streets.

The only good news from England was that invasion was no longer possible, at least not this year.

U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt and his challenger in the election next month, Wendell Willkie, repeatedly told the nation the U.S. would not become involved in war; but evidence of our growing military strength was apparent in every community and cast a shadow over their assurances.

In Wisconsin, hundreds of big Army trucks were rolling off assembly lines in Janesville. Briggs and Stratton and the J. I. Case plants in Milwaukee were turning out millions of dollars worth of artillery shells. The Peterson Boat Works in Sturgeon Bay was making motor launches for the Navy. Woolen mills in Chippewa Falls and West Bend were weaving blankets for the War Department.

Across the country dance bands were playing "There's Something About a Soldier," and indeed, after two decades in the shadows, the soldier was back in the limelight. For young Guard members it was a heady experience.

### Milwaukee songs, tears

In Milwaukee, the 160 men of Company K, 127th Infantry, a Polish-American outfit from the South Side, went on stage before their families and neighbors at the Modjeska Theater. Individually and in groups they sang, danced and recited poetry, remembering a homeland that no one in the theater had heard from since the German invasion a year ago.

At the Eagles Club across town, 10,000 young Milwaukeeans attended a farewell dance for local units of the 121st Field Artillery. Governor Julius P. Heil led the grand march with the 14-year-old daughter of a Guard officer. Young women in party dresses got teary-eyed and young soldiers' chests swelled as Milwaukee's mayor, Carl Zeidler, led them in singing "God Bless America."

At the North Shore Country Club officers of the 121st and their wives held a dinner-dance of their own. Signs of patriotism were more muted here and career opportunities more openly discussed. Many had spent years preparing for command. Soon they would have a chance to show their stuff and take whatever rewards came their way.

And so it went throughout the country for those few days in mid-October before the trains and convoys started south. A few old-timers failed their physicals and reluctantly joined the observers on the sidelines, while some young men rushed to the recruiters before the deadline.

### No kiss for the Dairy Queen

In Marshfield at 7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 21, 1st Sgt. Steger marched the men of C Company to the Miller Building for breakfast, then dismissed them for the morning. Most went home to say goodbye for the last time, but a few hurried to the depot to see Wendell Willkie.

His campaign train was making a stop, just time enough for the local Dairy Queen to go on board with a longhorn cheese and a "Marshfield Cheese Week" cap. She did not get far. The gifts were accepted by an aide, and when the candidate emerged, capless, he could only wave at well-wishers. Rumor had it he'd lost his voice. So there was no speech, no kiss for the Dairy Queen, no cheesecutting ceremony, just a wan smile and a tired wave. Probably the only person who was not disappointed was state senator Melvin Laird, father of the future congressman and defense secretary, who boarded the train and traveled to Wausau with the first family-to-be (or so he hoped).

At noon the troops arrived at the Chicago and Northwestern railroad station after a full-dress parade through town. Now the tears flowed. Only after a few blasts from the train whistle did men break free and climb aboard.

The windows were thrown open and the faces that crowded them were suddenly very sober.

The sadness they had been fighting off for a week had settled inescapably upon them. The throng on the depot platform saw a blur of khaki arms as the train picked up speed.

### Eau Claire getaway

In Eau Claire, Battery D of the 126th Field Artillery, formerly a mounted machine gun unit until its conversion a few weeks ago, marched to Omaha Depot cheered by the whole student body of Eau Claire High School. Both the commanding officer, Capt. William Sherman, and his executive officer, Lt. Claude Craemer, were teachers at the school, and many of the troops were present or former students, and so classes were dismissed in their honor.

The soldiers would miss the school's production of "Our Town," scheduled for the next two days.

Sherman was determined to avoid the trap that had snared his colleague, Capt. Marshall Lassek of



**Three mobilized Guardsmen exercise the soldier's age-old prerogative to snatch forty winks while in transit. Louisiana was only a temporary destination on a journey that would eventually take 32nd Division soldiers to combat in the Southwest Pacific.**

B Company: Lassek had been mobbed at the station the day before by tearful parents seeking last-minute assurances. Sherman did not linger on the platform but quickly disappeared into the train, leaving Craemer and the other lieutenants to hustle the troops aboard. Minutes ahead of schedule and well before the dazed citizens knew what was happening, the train began to move.

A clean getaway, Sherman exulted; no overlong good-byes, no maudlin, shaken-up soldiers. Gone before the gloom could set in.

But suddenly the train jerked to a halt. He leaned to the window. Back on the platform two uniformed men were moving on a sea of hands and shoulders to the baggage car. They'd almost been left behind.

### No gaiety at Madison depot

In Madison, the late afternoon of Oct. 20 was cold and gray, the

air dense with smells of coal fires and wet leaves. The crowds were still, the soldiers somber as G Company, 128th Infantry, marched from the armory on Market Place, around the domed magnificence of the State Capitol building and all its watching statuary, and down West Washington Avenue to the Milwaukee Road station.

There was no small-town gaiety in the music of the drum and bugle corps that followed, only a resounding march-time beat. The parading units were all military – veterans, reservists and Guard members.

Of the 86 men of G Company, 30 were newcomers. They dimly perceived the onlookers walling the parade route but could not make out faces. They concentrated on footwork, on keeping time and looking good.

At the station, in the unearthly glow of floodlights, Mayor Law

spoke, echoing the sentiments of parents and Guard members around the nation: "If we show enough strength, there will be no need for further effort." Comforting thoughts for young men leaving home for the first time.

Then the sober business was over. There was a sudden crush of soldiers and families, a roar of voices. Spirits were suddenly high, the mood unaccountably gay in spite of the tears.

Hundreds and hundreds of donuts appeared, and a few lost-looking men, those who had already said good-bye, or who had no families, stood around eating them.

After rifles and packs were stowed on the train, men filled the open windows, and young women were hoisted to them for a round of hurried clinches – a delirious melding of lust, patriotism and

**See 'Bugle call' next page**



**"For it's 'Hi, Hi, Hee' in the Field Artiller-ee...." Badger State gunners strike a relaxed pre-war pose around a 75mm towed howitzer.**

## Bugle call for Red Arrow

Continued from page 9

pride in the local team.

Shortly after 6 p.m., the three coaches filled with Madison men slid out of the floodlights into darkness, until the last windowsill of wide-eyed, open-mouthed faces was gone, and 5,000 townspeople were left amid the glaring lights and the plates of donuts, gazing down empty railroad tracks. No one was ready to face the prospect of one less place at the supper table.

### Key appointments

That day the War Department announced the appointment of a general named Eichelberger as superintendent of West Point.

Douglas MacArthur was Generalissimo of the Philippines army. U.S. Army brass in East Asia shrugged off MacArthur. The Philippines job was a good one for him, they felt — full of pomp and ceremony and opportunities for grandiose theorizing, but lacking authority to tamper with the real work of the Army.

At Fort Bragg, the Ninth Infantry Division had a new assistant division commander, a man named Edwin Forrest Harding. Harding and Eichelberger had been classmates at West Point, graduating in 1909. Harding had returned to the academy in the '20s, when MacArthur was superintendent, to teach history.



Harding: Future CG

His only combat experience was in the classroom and at the typewriter — as a teacher in the Fort Benning Infantry School and editor of the Infantry Journal.

For much of his career Harding's goal had been to retire as a full colonel, and in the sluggish decades between the wars even that had seemed an extravagant hope. Now, at 52, he had his first star.

He was one of the chosen few to be groomed for command of a division in the new citizen army, and suddenly his career blossomed with possibilities unimaginable a few years ago. In his amiable, low-key

way he welcomed the challenges and he waited. Whenever the Army wanted to give him that division, he was ready.

### South by train and truck

For four days the trains swept southward, picking up companies of the 128th Infantry Regiment from the western side of the state; the 127th from the eastern side; and medical, service, band, supply, and some artillery units from all over. Of the 10,000 men — 82 units from 58 Wisconsin towns — most went south by train.

For some men the melancholy of departure lasted the whole two days of the trip, but others were up to old tricks as soon as the station was out of view. Decks of cards were unlimbered. Forbidden bottles materialized.

The troops traveled in style. Pullman cars for most, with a cook stove and walls of canned goods in the baggage car. Three hot meals per day.

One night three trains bearing nearly 700 Guardsmen converged on Janesville, near the Illinois border. Families and girl friends who had driven from Stoughton, White-water, Edgerton, Monroe and Platteville swarmed over the platforms of two separate Janesville stations, searching out the right train, coach and window for a last glimpse of their soldier.

Members of the 32nd Division's Tank Company, a Janesville organization that was not to be mobilized for another month, had been called out to help police keep the crowds back from the trains.

They knew they would not be going south to join the division. The Army was in a rush to catch up with the German model of an armored force. Companies like theirs were being combined into battalions — concentrated armor attack forces — but still sadly deficient in tanks, training,



"For some men the melancholy of departure lasted...but others were up to old tricks" — even before their train left the station. Four artillerymen from Milwaukee's 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery — only recently converted from a cavalry unit — play cards in a baggage car, amid wisps of cigarette smoke and puffs of locomotive steam, on the battalion executive officer's footlocker. Capt. Everett C. Hart had been promoted to the rank of major before this photo was taken.

and a thorough comprehension of armor's aggressive new role.

Given the events of the past year — the piecemeal annihilation of every resisting force in Europe by the Germans, the entry of Italy's huge and modern military machine as Germany's land-hungry ally, then Japan's joining forces with Italy and Germany in the Far East — they had reason to regret being separated from the home state organization they had trained with for two decades. Eighteen months later they would regret it even more.

The two veteran field artillery regiments, the 120th and 121st, took their guns and heavy equipment south by convoy. Most batteries of the 121st collected at the regiment's Whitefish Bay headquarters and set out from there, a modern wagon train of green, smoke-belching trucks carrying troops and gear under ribbed canvas canopies, 75mm field guns in tow, weaving through big city suburbs and

small towns, through corn fields in the North and cotton fields in the South.

Up in Chippewa Falls, the local battery of the 120th paraded through town behind a flag that had been presented to the militia unit in 1897, the gift of the Women's Relief Corps. The last time it had been carried through the streets of Chippewa Falls was in 1917, when the hometown unit started its journey to the Western Front.

Way up in the port city of Superior, men of the 120th's Headquarters Battery were up at the crack of dawn on a cold bright Sunday morning, loading frosty trucks lined up beside the armory.

A few well-wishers had gathered, reluctant to leave their cars on this fiery morning, a sharp wind off the lake rattling the elms overhead; and so the men ran back and forth among the cars, shaking hands, leaning briefly through the windows, then jogging back to the armory to haul more file cabinets

and personal gear to the trucks.

There was no pretense of military discipline. Men wore red flannels under their uniforms.

At eight o'clock the convoy moved slowly away amid cheers and the braying of auto horns. Then it was cruising along quiet streets of ramshackle, turn of the century houses where the air was laced with the smells of bacon and coffee, rumbling through a town just coming awake on a Saturday morning.

With 10,000 men from Wisconsin and 4,000 from Michigan, a total of 75,000 from the upper Midwest flooded south to learn how to soldier, a tidal wave about to break over an old National Guard post in Louisiana called Camp Beauregard and a sedate, Old South metropolis nearby named Alexandria.

Their route paralleled Huck Finn's travels down the Mississippi a century earlier. Like Huck, most were about to begin their education out in the world.

## Milwaukee Guard, Reserve units to host city-wide Armed Forces Week events

Aircraft displays, ceremonies, a band concert and a ball game will mark the City of Milwaukee's annual Armed Forces Week celebration May 14-20. This year's theme, "Answering Our Nation's Call," refers to the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the call-up of forces for WWII, 50 years since the middle of the Korean War, 40 years since the Berlin Crisis call-up, and 10 years since the call-up for Operation Desert Storm.

The week's events begin Monday, May 14, with "Armed Forces Day at Miller Park," featuring a 12:05 Milwaukee Brewers-Pittsburgh Pirates game. The pre-game show will include massed color guards of all of the armed services, an aircraft flyover, the National Anthem, and first-pitch ceremonies.

By special arrangement with the Milwaukee Brewers, tickets in the Terrace Reserved seating area are available to military personnel and veteran's organizations at half-price (\$5.00). These tickets are only available through Milwaukee-area military organizations and the Milwaukee Armed Services Committee;

they will not be available at the Brewers Ticket Office.

The annual Navy Recruit Review and Graduation Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m. in the Wisconsin Center Auditorium, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave. This one-hour indoor ceremony celebrates the graduation of a class of recruits from Navy basic training at Great Lakes, Ill.

On Saturday, May 19 — Armed Forces Day — and Sunday, May 20, the 440th Tactical Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, will host its annual display of modern and classic aircraft, vehicles and equipment.

This popular event provides an opportunity to see the Air Force's latest fighters and bombers alongside some historic World War II "warbirds" provided by the Oshkosh-based Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and the Confederate Air Force (CAF). All of the Armed Services will be represented in a wide variety of displays, booths, and exhibits.

This year, the aircraft scheduled to be on display will include: C-130, KC-135, F-15, F-16, F-4, F-

5, F-117, KC-10, and a Coast Guard helicopter.

The weekend at Mitchell Field also includes free airplane flights for children ages 8-17 on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission and parking for the event are free. Parking will be available at the Milwaukee Area Technical College South Campus lot, with shuttle buses running to the event. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Armed Forces Week activities will come to a crescendo Sunday, May 20, with a concert featuring the 84th Division U.S. Army Reserve "Railsplitter" Band. The concert is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the historic Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells Street. This program is free and open to the public.

The annual Armed Forces Week events are sponsored and coordinated, as they have been for the past 50 years, by the Milwaukee Armed Service Committee (MASC), a group of military and civilian volunteers. Further details are available on the Armed Forces Week Hotline at (414) 482-6100, or at [www.armedforces.org](http://www.armedforces.org).

### Top engineer squad leader



Staff Sgt. Mark W. Koehn of the 229th Engineer Company of Prairie du Chien was awarded the Army Combat Engineer Sergeants (ACES) award on Dec. 10, 2000. The ACES award is presented annually by the Army Engineer Association and recognizes outstanding squad leaders.

# Aviators recognized for safety contributions

By Julie Friedman  
At Ease staff

Two members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's aviation community were honored for their contributions to safety during the annual aviation safety awareness stand-down held Jan. 6-7 in West Bend and Madison.

Two awards are presented each year, one to an officer and one to an enlisted soldier, and this year both went to members of the 832 Medical Company (Air Ambulance), West Bend.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jimmy Szajkovic received the Lt. Col.

John S. Sarko Award, which honors the long and distinguished career of Wisconsin's first state aviation officer.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Marquardt was the winner of the CW4 Darold M. Hoelz Award, which is a tribute to another Guard aviation pioneer who served as a pilot and maintenance supervisor for more than 36 years.

Szajkovic, who has been in the Guard for 18 years, is the 832nd's instrument flight examiner. He is responsible for training and evaluating each of the unit's 30 aviators on instrument proficiency at least once a year.

He has also been a presenter at the aviation safety conference each year, sharing his perspectives from his career in civilian aviation. He has worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for 28 years, currently serving as Safety Program Manager at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee.

"It's been a nice marriage between my civilian career and the military," he said. "I enjoy sharing information with the Guard aviators because they hear about crashes, often they even know the pilots, and I can fill them in more on the investigation findings."

In his award nomination letter, unit commander Maj. Brian Leeson praised Szajkovic for sharing his safety mindset by participating as a presenter each year. "His topics have varied from year to year, but they are always extremely pertinent to the safety of our air crews and the aircraft. It is very apparent that safety is not just a topic for Jim to present, it is a way of life," Leeson wrote.

Marquardt has been a member of the 832nd for his entire military career, which began in 1980. He has served as a refueler, helicopter repairer, supply sergeant, and ground support equipment repairer.

He has also been a full-time technician at the unit since 1996, but prior to that he worked for 24 years at Briggs & Stratton in Milwaukee.

"I learned a lot there about OSHA requirements for things like



CW4 Jimmy Szajkovic, right, prepares to administer a "no notice" instrument flight evaluation to Maj. Greg Frings in one of the 832nd's UH-1H helicopters.

lifting device operations and spill prevention plans, and we use a lot of that here," he said.

As the airfield service section supervisor, Marquardt is responsible for all the ground support equipment needed to maintain the unit's 15 UH-1H "Huey" helicopters. He has also developed a unit training program for safe operation of each piece of equipment.

Leeson noted in his nomination letter that Marquardt was awarded two "commendables" during the unit's most recent inspection, including one for establishment, documentation and supervision of the training program. The second was for his

Quality Surveillance Program.

A few years ago Marquardt took the initiative to modify and adapt a computer program, originally designed for use in motor pools, for use in dispatching and tracking the maintenance of every piece of aircraft ground support equipment in the inventory.

"It's much easier than constantly checking the paper files. Each Monday I can simply print out a sheet showing everything due for maintenance that week, so I know that each piece of equipment is getting looked at and maintained on the proper schedule," he said.



Staff Sgt. Dennis Marquardt proudly displays his safety award on his work bench in the maintenance shop at the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), West Bend. Photo by Julie Friedman.

## Engineers, gunners take Governor's Trophy

By Tom Michele  
At Ease Staff

A team representing the 724th Engineer Battalion won the pistol competition, and the 120th Field Artillery team won the rifle competition in the annual Governor's Trophy Match held March 3 at Headquarters, State Area Command, in Madison.

Teams are made up of four shooters, two soldiers and two juniors, the juniors being under 18 years of age. The 724th shooters were Staff Sgts. William Burant and Corey Neabling, Amy Zalewski and Matt Zaszinski. The team from the 120th comprised Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Little, 1st Sgt. Duane Peterson, Mark Dennis and Jimmy Kama.

The match is a one-day, state-

level event, with no advance to any further level of competition. Teams use .177-caliber Daisy air rifles and pistols to shoot at targets 10 meters (33 feet) from the firing line. Rifle participants fire 10 rounds in the prone position, 10 rounds sitting, 10 rounds kneeling and 10 rounds standing, with 10 minutes to complete each position. The pistol is done only in the "gentleman's pose," standing and with one hand in pants pocket. The shooter gets 40 rounds, shooting 10 rounds at a time, with 10 minutes allowed for each 10-round set.

The second-place pistol team was from the 732nd Maintenance Battalion, and a Headquarters, State Area Command team placed third. The 107th Maintenance Battalion placed second in the rifle competition, with third place to Co. B, 724th

Engineer Battalion.

Individual pistol results were: Lance Luther first, David Trieloff second, Cory Ploessl third, and Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Little first in open competition. Individual rifle results were: Lucas Kraus first, Amy Zalewski second, Aleshia Herr third, and Staff Sgt. Cory Neabling first in open competition.

The match is conducted by the Headquarters, State Area Command Small Arms Readiness Training Section (SARTS), which also conducts yearly matches for military personnel using the 9mm Beretta combat pistol, the M-16 combat rifle, the M-60 machinegun, and the M-24/M-14 sniper systems and sponsors Wisconsin Guard participation in national matches and biathlon championships.



Tyler Geoffroy, 10, shoots his air rifle in the prone position during the Governor's rifle and pistol trophy match. His father, Sgt. 1st Class Al Geoffroy, of the 832nd Medical Company watches the target. Photo by Tom Michele.

## Beret award will test Army history knowledge

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers will be required to undergo a test on the Army's history as a "rite of passage" before donning their new black berets, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley.

In an interview Feb. 8, Tilley answered questions that he said soldiers across the Army have been asking him as they prepare to adopt the headgear June 14.

Tilley said the BDU cap will continue to be worn in the field after June, but its name will change to "patrol cap." He said in order to have 1.3 million berets ready by the Army birthday June 14, the military had to contract with several overseas firms. And he said units across the Army will soon begin classes on proper wear of the beret.

Many of the Army's general officers attended a one-hour block of instruction about wear of the beret as part of the recent Army Commander's Conference in Washington, D.C. The commanders also discussed spe-

cific "rites of passage" that might be required before new soldiers don the beret.

"You know, a lot of people ask me about this rite of passage," Tilley said. While the Army leadership is still considering what soldiers must do in order to earn the beret, he said one thing is certain: "We're going to have a test; an undetermined amount of questions right now, but we're going to have a test that talks about the history of our Army."

Not only the test, Tilley said, but the beret itself will emphasize the Army's history. The new beret flash derives from the nation's Revolutionary War experience. "The blue flash represents the Continental Army and the 13 stars represent the 13 colonies," he added.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki announced in October that soldiers will begin wearing the black beret on June 14, the Army's first birthday of the new millennium. He said the beret will be a symbol of the Army's transformation to a lighter, more

deployable force.

"Starting next June, the black beret will be symbolic of our commitment to transform this magnificent Army into a new force — a strategically responsive force for the 21st century," Shinseki said. He then charged the sergeant major of the Army to come up with a plan to implement the beret's adoption Army-wide.

Tilley admitted that some soldiers of the Army's elite Ranger units were concerned about sharing their traditional black berets with the rest of the Army.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that, this beret was not just [worn by] the Rangers," Tilley said. As early as the 1920s, the beret was worn by British tankers. And U.S. Army "heavy" units — such as the armored cavalry — wore the black beret in the 1970s.

"We're not taking anything from anybody, we're just being all that we can be and we're just moving forward," Tilley said.

Soldiers Army-wide will be issued their first beret in April, Tilley said, in order to give them time to prepare to wear it properly.

A second beret will be issued in October, he said.

"And so we have to prepare ourselves on how to put on the beret," Tilley said.

Tilley had NCOs working at the Pentagon attend a "Sergeant's Time" class on wearing the beret Jan. 23. A session on wearing the beret was also given to 230 of the Army's top NCOs at the first Nominative Command Sergeant's Major Conference last month at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"The reason I did that is I wanted them to go back and start teaching their soldiers within their units on how to wear the beret," Tilley said.

Tilley said berets will be worn with the battle dress uniform in garrison, as well as the Class A and B uniforms. The BDU "patrol cap" will be worn mostly in the field, Tilley said, when the Kevlar helmet is not being used. That's one reason behind the name change of the BDU cap, he said.

Tilley also said soldiers will not blouse their boots when they wear the beret and women will still be able to wear the Class B skirt with the beret.



# Volk trainers bring 'war chaos' to Florida base

By Rosemary Heiss  
Hurlburt Field Public Affairs

Forty-nine members of the Volk Field combat readiness training center brought four truckloads and two airlifted pallets of equipment and supplies to Northwest Florida to create a war in early February.

It was a mock war, aimed at training the 16th Special Operations Wing, U.S. Air Force, how to survive and operate in hostile situations.

The Volk Field group, led by Lt. Col. Terry Meissner, chief of contingency plans and operations, went to Florida to help the 16th become a cohesive unit with a single mission: to fight and keep people alive, Meissner said.

Most fatalities in war occur during the first 72 hours. The training the Volk Field cadre provides is designed to reduce the number of fatalities in real wartime situations by introducing airmen to warlike scenarios in a safe environment.

This training is one of about 10 exercises the team will do this year, but it's one of only two they'll do outside Wisconsin. Most of the training they provide is done at Volk Field. According to Senior Master Sgt. Dan Skowronski, superintendent, they do two "road shows" per year.

The need for the training they provide is based on a 1980 study done in Germany to determine the ability of U.S. forces to withstand Russian special forces attacks. After the study was complete, the United States determined there was a need to provide its troops with the ability to survive and operate (ATSO).

ATSO is the capability of a unit to integrate its support mission with its flying mission, which gives people and equipment a better chance to survive, defend and recover from attack.

In 1990, Volk Field's people were tasked to provide ATSO training because their staff included veterans who had experienced conflict dating back to the Vietnam War. Just as training had gotten underway,

it was halted during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Though the war postponed the training, it highlighted the need for it.

After Desert Storm, the Volk Field team began conducting realistic, comprehensive and diverse ATSO training scenarios to prepare Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and active-duty members for conflict.

"Our desired outcome is to make people respond to events while continuing what they need to do," Skowronski said. "We want response to attack to become second nature."

Meissner emphasized the training isn't an inspection and doesn't get assigned a grade. His unit merely provides training and guidance on how to improve unit readiness.

Some of the areas that the Volk Field unit focuses on include deployment; force bed down; camouflage, concealment and deception; air base ground defense; command, control and communications; sortie generation, recovery and regeneration; medical services and redeployment.

The team is trained to look at the overall process and find weaknesses. Then, they make recommendations for improvement. Their recommendations are based on years of ATSO training experience. They take ideas from every unit they train and share them with other units.

Their training isn't done with input cards; they use "visual information" to create reality, said Skowronski.

"An old axiom in training is that you retain 10 percent of what you hear, 25 percent of what you see and 80 percent of what you do," said Meissner. "With Volk Field training, you do ATSO training."

"Instead of handing someone a yellow card that says, 'What would you do if...,' we actually produce a scenario," Skowronski said. "We'll have unexploded ordnance that's consistent with what's on NATO charts, for example. We try to hold simulation to near zero because we want people to respond to events that are really



Staff Sgt. Fred Danlag, 9th Special Operations Squadron, dons his chemical warfare gear at the 16th Special Operations Wing's permanent exercise facility during an orientation to the Ability To Survive and Operate (ATSO) exercise. Photo by Senior Airman James Davis.

going on around them."

To accomplish this, they use a training area separate from the rest of the base and turn it into a war zone using realistic weapons and smoke. In Florida, they used the wing's permanent exercise facility at Hurlburt Field.

"We primarily train Air National Guard units, but we also train Air Force Reserve and active-duty units," Meissner said. "We provide hands-on, intensive training at the request of the unit commanders."

The bottom line is, it's better to sweat in peace than to bleed in war.

Col. Robert Leonik, the 16th Operations Group commander, who played the role of deployed location commander in the exercise, mirrored Meissner's sentiment when he said, "Practice doesn't make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect perfor-

mance. It's not true that you train like you fight. The reality is, you fight like you've trained."

Although training isn't specifically designed to prepare units for operational readiness inspections, units that have had Volk Field's ATSO training do better on ORIs than units that haven't. In fact, of 58 units that didn't have the training, 53 percent rated marginal or unsatisfactory on their ORI, while units with the training consistently rated satisfactory or higher.

The program that Volk Field's people use to teach ATSO received rave reviews from the Air Combat Command inspector general, who gave them a superior performance award and called them "a highly motivated and experienced cadre, planning and executing the combat readiness training course's ATSO training program."

# RAOC runs with big boys at Fort Hood

By Tom Michele  
At Ease staff

"When the senior people at III Corps at Fort Hood see our Bucky Badger shoulder patches, they recognize it and know we do our job." That is one of the ways Master Sgt. Bradley Guse described the 332nd Support Center (Rear Area Operations Center) annual training at the active duty Army base in Texas in November and December.

"We were working with the big boys," Guse said. "They were learning from us and that is ex-

tremely neat for us. When I walked into the 13th Corps Support Command Tactical Operations Center and talk with their top officers, they know we have the picture."

Most of the 332nd's 37 soldiers went to Fort Hood for two periods, a "ramp-up" Nov. 11-19 and again Dec. 7-18 for the Warfighter Command Post Exercise. That included the 13th CSC, 64th Corps Support Group and 89th Military Police Brigade, all active duty and permanent party units at Hood. The annual exercise included 10 to 15 thou-

sand soldiers.

The 332nd is at home in Berlin, Wis., and is part of 64th Troop Command, Wisconsin Army National Guard. Lt. Col. Randall Socha is the commander and Guse is the 332nd's acting first sergeant.

All 12 of the U.S. Army's RAOCs are Guard units. The 332nd is rated number one of the 12, and has been in the top two positions for at least four years.

Maj. Brian Metcalf, 332nd executive officer, said the Warfighter Exercise is a computer simulation to test how the corps

functions and integrates, from corps command level down through battalion level.

"I love going to these things," Metcalf said. "It is a great opportunity for us to perform our mission, to work with, be a liaison to and support rear area logistical elements. It's a lot better than training at Fort McCoy. We actually deal with the units we would deploy with if we were mobilized to federal duty."

"The exercise went well," Metcalf continued. "We identified areas we need to improve on, but there were many areas we did very well on as we interacted with our active duty counterparts."

The importance of that is threefold, according to Metcalf, "One, we keep getting invited back for more training; two, part of our mission is to educate and train other soldiers on many of

these levels and areas of rear battle operations; and, three, for our unit to get the best training opportunity in preparation for our wartime mission."

Because the unit had a large percent of their personnel participating, they were able to practice skills they don't normally get a chance to, particularly being a liaison office working with combat divisions.

"Something that impressed me about the way our personnel operated," Metcalf said, "was that we work very well together, as a unit. Our soldiers are interchangeable with various others in the three sections that make up our unit, operations, plans and area damage control. When we set up our TOC, everybody has assigned tasks, pitching tents, setting up generators and setting up map boards. From private to major, it all goes up well."

## Camping with all the luxuries

Love the outdoors? Love the outdoors but hate the idea of sleeping on the ground? Fort McCoy has a deal for you. Pine View Campground has camping facilities open year round with five cabins, one duplex, 136 recreational vehicles. There are also tent camping sites with picnic tables and grills, and most are equipped with electrical hookups.

Comfort stations now have hot showers and flush toilets. Large picnic areas include shelters, tables, grills, restrooms, play-

ground equipment, sand volleyball and horseshoe pits. Life-guards provide a safe swimming environment at the beach.

Forget something at home? There is a store located near the beach stocked with food, beverages, snacks, ice, firewood, camping supplies, fishing accessories and bait. Paddleboats and canoes are available as well as an 18-hole miniature golf course.

For more information on this or many other great deals and tips on how to prepare a camping trip, visit [www.mccoymwr.com](http://www.mccoymwr.com).



Wisconsin's 332nd Rear Area Operations Center personnel tear down one of their operations tents at Fort Hood, Texas, Dec. 19 as they prepare to head back home.

## A Year in the Guard

The previous issue of At Ease included a 2001 pay chart showing monthly drill pay for members of the National Guard. In this issue we are including a chart showing the "cash value" of National Guard membership (and attendance at all scheduled drills and annual training periods) for an entire year.

**Members of the National Guard perform 12 weekend drills and 15 days of annual training. These estimated annual pay rates do not include food and housing allowances received by many members when they do their two-week annual training.**

	Years of Service														
	< 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
<b>Commissioned Officers</b>															
O-10												23,204	23,318	23,803	24,648
O-9												20,295	20,587	21,010	21,748
O-8	14,360	14,831	15,142	15,230	15,618	16,270	16,422	17,040	17,217	17,748	18,519	19,229	19,704	19,704	19,704
O-7	11,933	12,744	12,744	12,836	13,316	13,680	14,103	14,523	14,945	16,270	17,390	17,390	17,390	17,390	17,477
O-6	8,844	9,716	10,353	10,353	10,393	10,838	10,897	10,897	11,257	12,611	13,254	13,897	14,262	14,632	15,351
O-5	7,074	8,305	8,880	8,989	9,346	9,346	9,627	10,147	10,827	11,511	11,838	12,160	12,526	12,526	12,526
O-4	5,962	7,260	7,745	7,853	8,302	8,668	9,260	9,722	10,042	10,364	10,472	10,472	10,472	10,472	10,472
O-3	5,540	6,281	6,779	7,328	7,678	8,063	8,385	8,799	9,013	9,013	9,013	9,013	9,013	9,013	9,013
O-2	4,832	5,504	6,339	6,553	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688	6,688
O-1	4,195	4,366	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277	5,277
<b>Officers with more than four years as enlisted or warrant officer</b>															
O-3E					7,678	8,063	8,385	8,799	9,147	9,346	9,619	9,619	9,619	9,619	9,619
O-2E					6,688	6,900	7,260	7,538	7,745	7,745	7,745	7,745	7,745	7,745	7,745
O-1E					5,637	5,845	6,057	6,267	6,553	6,553	6,553	6,553	6,553	6,553	6,553
<b>Warrant Officers</b>															
W-5												9,745	10,080	10,416	10,752
W-4	5,645	6,073	6,247	6,419	6,715	7,006	7,302	7,590	7,888	8,174	8,467	8,753	9,050	9,342	9,641
W-3	5,131	5,565	5,565	5,637	5,867	6,130	6,477	6,688	6,919	7,183	7,445	7,707	7,969	8,232	8,495
W-2	4,493	4,862	4,862	5,021	5,277	5,565	5,776	5,988	6,194	6,422	6,656	6,890	7,123	7,357	7,357
W-1	3,743	4,292	4,292	4,651	4,862	5,080	5,299	5,516	5,736	5,955	6,174	6,339	6,339	6,339	6,339
<b>Enlisted</b>															
E-9							6,566	6,715	6,903	7,124	7,346	7,564	7,860	8,153	8,528
E-8						5,506	5,666	5,814	5,992	6,185	6,386	6,590	6,884	7,176	7,586
E-7	3,846	4,198	4,358	4,515	4,677	4,837	4,996	5,155	5,312	5,475	5,636	5,793	6,071	6,372	6,826
E-6	3,308	3,655	3,817	3,973	4,136	4,297	4,458	4,613	4,772	4,888	4,973	4,973	4,978	4,978	4,978
E-5	2,902	3,253	3,410	3,572	3,733	3,897	4,054	4,217	4,217	4,217	4,217	4,217	4,217	4,217	4,217
E-4	2,706	2,990	3,151	3,310	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471	3,471
E-3	2,551	2,745	2,906	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909	2,909
E-2	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455	2,455
E-1	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190	2,190

Annual pay rates are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

## Servicemembers Group Life benefits increase 25 percent

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2001 — Eligible troops will automatically be insured for a maximum \$250,000 in coverage through the military's life insurance program starting April 1.

The new coverage marks a \$50,000 increase over the previous maximum provided by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI).

The premium for maximum coverage will be \$20 monthly, said Tom Tower, as-

sistant director of Department of Defense military compensation office.

Participants can then decrease or maintain their levels of SGLI coverage, Tower said, adding that service members who want less than \$250,000 of coverage after April 1 must apply for it through unit finance or personnel officials.

"If you don't want the increased insurance, you have a 30-day grace period to decline it, otherwise, you'll have to pay at least two months of increased coverage," he said.

The government and commercial in-

surers underwrite SGLI, which has been in existence since 1965, said Tower. It has been more than eight years since the last increase in maximum coverage, he added.

He said 98 percent of all service members are covered by SGLI and 80 percent have maximum coverage. This shouldn't be surprising, he noted, as military members, like police and firefighters, often perform hazardous duty.

At 80 cents for each \$10,000 of coverage, SGLI rates are competitive, and coverage "is guaranteed, whether you're an aviator, sailor or tanker," Tower said.

Service members can also convert their SGLI policies to the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program after they leave the service, he said.

Tower noted congressional interest in extending SGLI coverage, in lesser amounts, to service members' family members.

"It looks like there is support for passing that this year for spouses and children," Tower said. "It certainly would make SGLI one-stop-shopping for family life insurance. Can't say it's a certainty, but it looks like a good possibility."

## Badger biathletes vie in Vermont

By Steve Olson  
At Ease staff

Peanut butter and jelly. A suit and tie. Dogs and fire hydrants. Some things just naturally go together.

Skiing and shooting do not.

The heart-pounding rigors of cross-country skiing are not conducive to holding a rifle steady and sure while firing.

Overcoming the inherent incompatibility of skiing and marksmanship, Wisconsin Guard members tested their remarkable physical endurance and steady nerves while competing in the National Guard Bureau Biathlon Championships at Ethan Allen Firing Range in Vermont, Jan. 21 to 27.

Coached by Master Sgt. Robert Theim, of the Small Arms Readiness Training Section, the Wisconsin Guard biathletes had several outstanding performances.

Senior Airman Heidi Hutson of the 115th Fighter Wing of Madison won first place in the Women's 7.5-kilometer Novice Sprint Competition. She also

placed 21st in the Women's 15-kilometer Race.

The men were led by Tech. Sgt. Mike Zeigle of the 115th Fighter Wing who raced to 18th place in the Men's 10-kilometer Sprint Competition. Other Wisconsin biathletes in the 10-K race were:

■ 25th place — Staff Sgt. Charles J. Munich of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 264th Engineer Group of Chippewa Falls

■ 27th place — Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Conway of Company C, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation of Madison.

■ 48th place — Capt. Shaun Mistlebauer of Company A, 1st Battalion, 632nd Armor of Merrill.

■ 66th place — 2nd Lt. Jon Van Roo of the 115th Fighter Wing.

In the men's 20-kilometer race, Zeigle took 21st place, Conway was 22nd, Munich was 32nd, Mistlebauer was 43rd and Van Roo was 66th.

For the overall men's combined standings, Zeigle was 18th, Conway was 22nd,

Munich was 28th, Mistlebauer was 46th and Van Roo was 68th.

In the team patrol race, Wisconsin was sixth overall. Coach Theim said, "We were only three seconds behind California, 40 seconds behind Utah, and 1 minute and 13 seconds behind third-place Ohio. With just a little better shooting or skiing, we would have been on the podium."

In the 4 x 7.5-kilometer race, the Wisconsin relay squad took seventh place. The team's combined score for the patrol and relay races garnered sixth place overall.

In addition to the National Guard championships, Zeigle competed in the Conseil International du Sport Militaire, sponsored by the International Military Sports Council, on Jan. 29 at Ethan Allen. He placed 18th overall in the competition, which included biathletes from Chile and Argentina.

Assessing his team's success in 2001 and looking at 2002, Theim said, "with a little work we could have the best state team ever next year."



Members of the Wisconsin National Guard Biathlon Team, which competed in the National Guard championships in January, are: (kneeling, left to right): Jon Van Roo, Heidi Hutson and Charlie Munich; (standing) Coach Robert Theim, Mike Conway, Shawn Mistlebauer, and Mike Zeigle. Photo courtesy of biathlon team.



A UH-1 Huey helicopter was the backdrop as ground was broken for the new flight facility in West Bend. Pausing after the groundbreaking ceremony are, left to right, Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, state Sen. Mary Panzer, and West Bend Mayor Mike Miller.

## Ground broken for new West Bend flight facility

At Ease staff

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's top priority military construction project is underway in West Bend. Ground was broken for a new Army Aviation Support Facility at the West Bend airport March 9.

U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner led a contingent of federal, state, local and military officials at the ceremony, which was also attended by facility workers and unit members eager to see work begun on the long-needed project.

The new facility will include a 55,700-square foot maintenance building, a 27,700-square foot aircraft storage hangar and a 52,000-square yard aircraft and vehicle parking pavement system. The facility is being

built on a new 17-acre site leased to the Guard by the City of West Bend.

The expansion is needed to relieve severe overcrowding at the current facility and allow eventual conversion to UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The construction site is adjacent to the existing facility, which has served the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) as hangar, maintenance facility and armory since it was built in 1960. The existing building will be remodeled for continued use as the unit's armory.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$11,069,400, with the federal government paying \$10,204,030 and the state picking up the remaining \$865,370. Construction will begin in April, with completion scheduled for the fall of 2002.

## Captain lauds officer exchange program

By Julie Friedman  
At Ease staff

"Watch for the information on this program and get your application in."

That's what Capt. Scott Southworth enthusiastically advises other officers who might be interested in a foreign exchange program in the United Kingdom or Germany.

Southworth, commander of the 107th Maintenance Company in Sparta, was assigned to Maintenance Battalion 11 in Delmenhorst, near the northern port city of Bremen. The installation is also the headquarters for

Logistics Regiment 1. Both units are part of the active army, or "Bundeswehr" as it's known in Germany.

"We learned that the reserve forces in Germany are quite different. They don't have regular drills like we do, but they do train more with their active army counterparts so that's how we were integrated," he said.

One of the things that impressed him most was the German's detailed system of tracking maintenance activity. "I learned things there that I'd like to implement in my own unit," he said.

"I think the benefits to NATO

are the most important thing about these exchanges, because if we're called up we'll need to work together," he said.

The knowledge and experience Southworth gained during the exchange program proved beneficial for his entire unit, as the 107th was already slated for a three-week deployment to Germany in October.

"I would highly recommend the exchange program for any eligible officer," he said. "I made a lot of friends, developed a respect for different ways of doing things, and have a lot more confidence now about deploying with a NATO force."



Capt. Scott Southworth fires a German army G3 rifle at a range near the Delmenhorst training base in northern Germany. The G3 is the Bundeswehr's equivalent to the U.S. Army's M-16 but fires a 7.62mm round, the size of an M-60 machinegun round. Photo courtesy of Scott Southworth.



Two members of Company A, 173rd Engineer Battalion run across a snowy field wearing their whites. The Onalaska unit completed their winter field exercise at a nearby Boy Scout camp.

## Onalaska engineers don whites to train in snow

By Adam Bradley  
At Ease Staff

Company A, 173rd Engineer Battalion, completed a successful winter field training exercise (FTX) February 10.

After Saturday morning formation, the 58 Onalaska unit members left for Camp Decorah, a local Boy Scout camp located 15 minutes north of town. The soldiers wore "whites" that camouflaged them in the snow.

The company practiced movement and containment, reacted to ambush, navigated through mine fields, breached a wire obstacle and practiced dismounted skills on a land navigation course.

The unit brought along six local high school students to participate in the training. "We invited schools to train with us," said 1st Sgt. Peter J. Curtis, Readiness NCO.

"We put them in the unit and let them be a 'Guard member for a day.'"

"It's nice to have new guys around. I think they'll have a good time and pick up some experience," said Pfc. Jonathan E. Barnett.

Not everything went as planned. Due to cold temperatures, the weapons froze up during a force-on-force night ambush involving the three platoons.

"As nice as it is to see how well I really know my rifle, I would have liked to have my rifle work a little more smoothly," said Barnett.

But fixing the frozen weapons just turned out to be another great training opportunity for the soldiers, said Curtis. "The FTX is a good morale booster for the soldiers," said Curtis. "It is also an excellent recruiting tool and has produced one enlistment per year."

## Plan ahead to ease deployment stress

By Julie Friedman  
At Ease staff

If you were suddenly called to active duty on short notice, would you spend your last days at home enjoying time with family and friends or frantically rushing to put your affairs in order?

Fortunately, most Wisconsin units called up in recent years had at least a few weeks to a few months to prepare, but NOW is the time all guard members should make sure their families are well informed and prepared to handle personal affairs. Waiting to prepare until a mobilization occurs puts too much stress on the family and Guard member.

The Wisconsin National Guard Family Program has created a comprehensive mobilization

handbook filled with valuable advice for single soldiers and airmen as well as families. It includes important information on benefits, forms for recording important military information, and telephone numbers for further assistance on a variety of topics.

It also features a helpful checklist with questions about finance, medical, transportation and housing issues. Take some time to go over the checklist, together with your spouse if you're married, then gather all your related paperwork and organize it in a safe but accessible place.

Some of the things you will need may include:

- Legal information, such as wills, powers of attorney, marriage and birth certificates, military dependent identification

cards, and vehicle titles.

- Bank books or account numbers for checking, savings and certificates of deposit.

- Account information and balances on credit cards, car loans, mortgage or other loans.

- Insurance policies, including life, health, auto, homeowners or renter's insurance.

- Medical, dental and immunization records. (Don't forget pets! Are their shots up to date?)

- Automobile registration, service records, and date of next plate renewal or safety inspection. (Where are duplicate keys?)

Homeowners should make sure family members know the location of the fuse box or breaker box and how it works, as well as the main water valve and gas control valve in case of emergencies.

They should also make a list of plumbing, electrical and furnace repairmen, as well as lawn care and snow removal services if needed.

If you're single you may still need a trusted relative or roommate to handle things like bill paying or pet care while you're gone, so having the pertinent paperwork handy will make things easier for them. Also, any guard member who is a single parent should plan to leave his or her children in the custody of a guardian who has power of attorney to obtain medical treatment for the children if necessary.

Another suggestion for all households is setting up a budget for mortgage/rent, heat, electricity, water and sewage, tele-

phone, insurance, loan payments and other monthly expenses. Compare your base pay to what you make at your civilian job. Will it be enough to cover all your financial obligations?

The Family Handbook explains how to apply for financial protection under the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, and also lists several military and government agencies that can provide emergency financial assistance.

Copies of the handbook are available through your unit's Family Support Group leader or by calling the Family Program Office at 1-800-292-9464. They can also assist you in forming a Family Support Group if your unit does not yet have one.

## National News Briefs

### Congress extends VA home loan

Congress has extended two 1992 improvements to the Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loan Guarantee Program that were due to expire in 2001.

Congress passed legislation early in 2000 that allows National Guard and Reserve members to apply for the VA Home Loan Guarantee Program through December 2007. The 1992 legislation established the benefit but made it good only through 2001, according to Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guarantee Service.

Veterans whose service was in the Guard or Reserve make up about 3 percent of the loans VA handles, Pedigo said. "Because of the success of the program, congress decided it would be appropriate to extend the eligibility of the Guard and Reserve."

To be eligible, Guard and Reserve members must have at least six years Guard or Reserve service, but it does not need to be consecutive years.

Active-duty veterans buying their first home have paid a funding fee of 2 percent of the loan since about 1992 when Congress raised it from 1.25 percent. The increase was to expire in 2001 but a recent change extended that to three years.

Active-duty veterans buying subsequent homes are unaffected because they pay a funding fee of 1.25 percent of the loan amount. Guard and Reserve members pay a 2.5 percent funding fee.

Information is available by checking the DVA Internet homepage at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

### Register saves story of women vets

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery currently lists only about 18 percent of all servicewomen and female veterans, something the memorial's staff is working to correct.

A register inside the memorial has listings for approximately 300,000 of the 1.8 million women who served in the military. Visitors can type in the name of a servicewoman they know and the database will retrieve the woman's picture, rank and a quote about the most memorable event during her military career. Visitors can obtain a printout of the record for \$5.

"People will come in and say their mother served - they are very proud to see their mother or grandmother's name in the computer," said retired Brig. Gen. Connie Slewitske, vice president of the memorial's board of directors.

"You can be registered as soon as you become a veteran, which is about 24 hours after you join the service," said retired Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, the president of the memorial's board of directors.

Registration is a way to preserve an important part of history, Vaught said. The memorial has no access to military records, so it must use other methods to register veterans.

The memorial asks for a \$25 donation upon registration, which helps offset the cost of maintaining the database, said Jennifer Finstein, public relations and education coordinator for the memorial. Vaught added that although the donation is appreciated, "you don't have to donate to register."

To register with the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, call 1-800-222-2294 or e-mail [wimsa@aol.com](mailto:wimsa@aol.com).

A copy of the registration form can be downloaded from [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org).

### Honors paid to Desert Storm fallen

Hundreds of family members and friends gathered Feb. 25 in Greensburg, Pa., to honor loved ones lost during Operations Desert Storm 10 years ago. At 12:28 p.m. local time, exactly 10 years after an errant Iraqi Scud missile struck a temporary barracks housing Army Reserve soldiers — bugler and World War II veteran Julius Falcon blew "Taps." A roll call and 21-gun salute followed.

The Iraqi missile killed 28 U.S. soldiers and wounded 99. Thirteen of the dead and 43 of the wounded were from the Greensburg-based 14th Quartermaster Detachment. The little water purification unit sent 69 people to war and suffered the highest casualty rate of any coalition unit.

The ceremony was one of several around the nation marking the 10th anniversary of the end of Operation Desert Storm. Gulf War fighting officially ceased Feb. 28, 1991. Nearly 470,000 active duty U.S. troops served in the operation; 217,000 Guardsmen and reservists were called to active duty. Nearly 300 Americans died in Gulf War service.

### Bush asks \$310.5 billion for defense

President Bush has recommended a defense budget of \$310.5 billion for fiscal 2002. He spoke before a Joint Session of Congress Feb. 27 and called his fiscal 2002 budget request an overall "reasonable" 4 percent over the fiscal 2001 budget.

The budget request concentrates on personnel and includes an extra \$1.4 billion boost in military pay and \$400 million to build or refurbish military housing. "Our men and women in uniform give America their best, and we owe them our support," Bush said.

In documents released by the Office of Management and Budget, Bush also called for changes in the Cold War strategy that still dominates U.S. military planning. The military must change if it is to remain relevant and able to defend the country and American interests. "We'll promote the peace, and we need a strong military to keep the peace," Bush said. "Our defense vision will drive our budget, not the other way around."

## Guard supports vets' funeral honors

By Steve Olson  
At Ease staff

The sounding of Taps, the firing of rifles and the presentation of a folded flag at veterans' funerals have a special significance to all who have proudly worn a military uniform. This profoundly dignified and solemn ceremony provides a final tribute to veterans and solace to their loved ones.

Unfortunately, in Wisconsin and around the nation, it has been increasingly difficult to provide military honors at veterans' burials. Because of an aging veterans' population, more are dying and fewer are left to perform military honors at their comrades' funerals. During the next 10 years, approximately 12,000 veterans will die annually in Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA).

To ensure that veterans receive the tribute they've earned, the Wisconsin National Guard is a major part of the Wisconsin Funeral Honors Program, implemented last year.

Working with the WDVA, the Wisconsin Air and Army Guard provide funeral honors teams around the state. Veterans' service organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, still perform the majority of these duties.

"Many times, we may team up with the Army Reserve or other branches of the service along with the American Legion and VFW," says Lt. Col. Ken Grant, a full-time member of the State



Members of the 115th Fighter Wing Honor Guard render a gun salute at the burial of a Wisconsin veteran. Photo courtesy of the 115th Fighter Wing.

Area Command who helps coordinate the program for the Army Guard. "In many units, we have soldiers who are on a call list. They are contacted when there is a funeral honors mission in their unit's area of the state. If M-day soldiers are not available, then the AGR (Active Guard-Reserve) and technician force from a unit will help provide the honors."

Funeral directors and members of veterans' families have voiced their appreciation for the Guard's involvement in providing funeral honors. "Some families have written letters and notes thanking the soldiers," Grant says. "Their comments are very sincere and show the importance

and necessity for all branches of the military to ensure every veteran receives the proper military honors they deserve."

Guard volunteers throughout the state are needed for funeral honors duty. Guard members receive one day of pay or a \$50 stipend (whichever is greater) plus one retirement point for each day they participate. Based on their individual situation, Guard members also could receive funds for mileage, uniform maintenance, and meals.

If you would like to be on a call list for funeral honors duty in your area, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Johnson, military funeral coordinator, by calling (toll-free) 1-800-335-5147 extension 3245.

## Hall of Honor to induct first members

By Joni Mathews  
Family Support

The Wisconsin Army National Guard Hall of Honor program began in August 2000. This annual award was established to ensure proper recognition by the adjutant general, of those individuals who have made exceptional or sustained contributions to the Wisconsin Army National Guard and to promote remembrance of Wisconsin's military heritage.

Selection into the Hall of Honor is the highest recognition the adjutant general can bestow upon a member of the Wisconsin

Army National Guard. As a foundation, the awardee must have distinguished himself or herself through exceptional achievement and devotion to duty, and have exemplified the core values of military service — duty, honor, service, respect, loyalty, integrity, and personal courage.

After careful consideration and comprehensive review of a nominee's career, individuals were selected for this honor by a board of senior leadership representatives from each of the major commands and representatives from the Retiree Council.

The Wisconsin Army Na-

tional Guard Hall of Honor for 2000 inductees are: Maj. Gen. (Ret) Julius J. Chosy, Command Sgt. Maj. (Deceased) Carl J. Gieg, Col. (Ret) Thomas J. Makal, Lt. Col. (Ret) Herbert M. Smith, Brig. Gen. (Deceased) Arvin Ziehlendorff, Maj. Gen. (Ret) Jerome J. Berard, and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Richard J. Boye.

The induction ceremony will be held at the State Capitol on Sunday, June 3, 2001 at 2 p.m. in the Rotunda. This event is open to the public and RSVPs are due by May 16, 2001. For questions or to attend the ceremony contact Maj. Joni Mathews at (608) 242-3480.

## Rail loading among the jack pines



Members of the 724th Engineer Battalion practice rail loading some of their equipment at a local lumber yard near Hayward, Wis., in October. Load training is just one of the many mobilization tasks designed to test the units ability to deploy quickly. Photo by Lt. Col. Marshall Schlichting.

# at ease



Soldiers of Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery from Kenosha practice the stretcher evacuation of a wounded comrade during winter training in January. Photo by Mike Gourlie.

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