

# at ease

A man in a military flight suit is hugging his family (a woman and two children) in front of an aircraft. The man is wearing a green flight suit with a patch on the shoulder. The woman is wearing a brown leather jacket, and the children are wearing a green jacket and a blue and white patterned sweater. The background shows the fuselage of a large aircraft.

SPECIAL FEATURE

**Wisconsin  
Guard gears up  
for long haul**

At Ease gets a Makeover!

# at ease

June 2003

# DEPLO



## at ease

Official Magazine of the Wisconsin  
Army and Air National Guard

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Dan and Mary Naylor show support for their daughter, Spc. Laura Naylor, at the unit's send-off ceremony on March 18.

Special Cover Feature

# DEPARTMENTS



Kelly Bradley Taylor, a member of the 32nd Military Police Company,

## FEATURE

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Read up on what your Wisconsin National Guard has been doing since Sept. 11, 2001, and what each Army and Air Guard unit is doing now.

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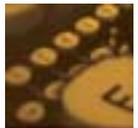
Meet Brig. Gen. Fred Sloan, the new commander of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

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After 25 years, *At Ease* has a brand new look. Come on in and check us out!

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## DEPARTMENTS

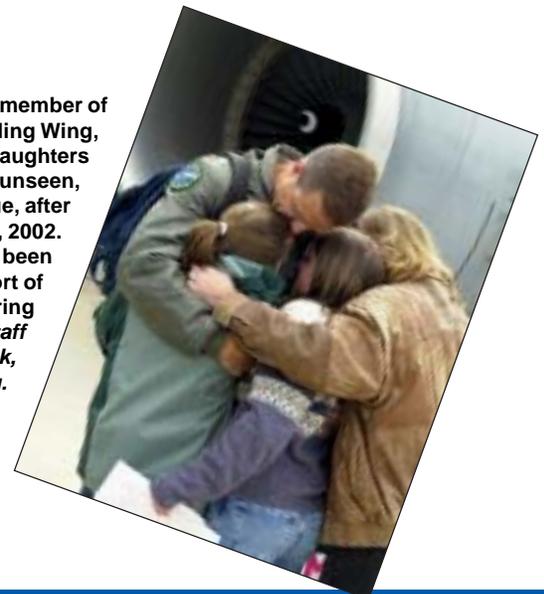
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## Front Cover:

Maj. Pete Hoffmann, a member of the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee, embraces daughters Trina, left, Rachel, unseen, Kasey and wife Sue, after returning home May 1, 2002. The 128th ARW has been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Sobczyk, 128th Air Refueling Wing.*



# From the top



**Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening**

I don't need to tell anyone — particularly National Guard members or their families — what an extraordinary time we are living in. Since 9/11, no American has entirely escaped the attack on America or the consequences. That is especially true for members of the U.S. armed forces — including the Wisconsin National Guard.

The day I was sworn in as Adjutant General of Wisconsin, last August 9, there were 513 members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard serving on active duty and the large-scale Army Guard mobilizations had not yet begun. Nearly ten months later, at the end of May, there are about 1,900 Wisconsin Army Guard soldiers and just under 400 members of the Wisconsin Air Guard mobilized — and more than 1,100 of them are deployed overseas.

Clearly, the Wisconsin National Guard's soldiers and airmen remain ready, relevant and respected as they execute their missions at home and abroad.

This issue of our new magazine-format *At Ease* focuses on the historic mobilization of the Wisconsin Guard currently underway. This magazine cannot possibly tell all of the stories of all of our soldiers and airmen, but it captures the scope of our current involvement in U.S. military operations both at home and overseas.

Some men and women of the Wisconsin Guard are serving right in their hometowns, others are on duty at stateside military installations, and many are deployed to the other side of the world. All of these soldiers and airmen of the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard are doing great things for America.

None of this would be possible without the support of our Guard members' families, employers, neighbors, and friends. The strong community and family support for our mobilized Guard soldiers and airmen has been incredible. And it's important. Thank you.

As you explore the first edition of this new magazine you will see snapshots of the Wisconsin Guard in action — or preparing for action — as we continue our support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

I hope the next edition of *At Ease* will feature more of our troops coming home following their successful missions in service to America.

*Albert H. Wilkening*

## Sloan is new Air Guard commander

Brig. Gen. Fred R. Sloan took command of the Wisconsin Air National Guard March 1. As deputy adjutant general, Sloan leads approximately 2,300 men and women in the Wisconsin Air National Guard's four major commands and the state headquarters. The Air Guard's major commands are the 115th Fighter Wing, Madison; the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee; Volk Field Combat Readiness Training Center, Camp Douglas; and the 128th Air Control Squadron at Volk Field.

Sloan is a Milwaukee native and 1970 graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He was commissioned in the Wisconsin Air National Guard in 1971 and received his pilot's wings in 1972 after attending undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. A command pilot with more than 6,000 flying hours, Sloan has flown a variety of U.S. Air Force



**Brig. Gen. Fred R. Sloan**

aircraft, including the F-102 fighter interceptor, O-2 and OA-37 observation aircraft, and both A-10 and F-16 fighters.

Up until his new assignment, Sloan's entire 32-year career was spent at Truax Field, Madison, beginning as a pilot in the 176th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. Other assignments included deputy commander for operations, vice commander and, for the past 14 years,

commander of the 115th Fighter Wing.

"General Sloan brings a wealth of experience, savvy and management skill to this new position," Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening said when announcing Sloan's appointment. "He is widely respected throughout the Air Force and is the dean of Air Guard fighter commanders," Wilkening said.

On June 1, Sloan began an additional assignment: Air National Guard assistant to the commander of Air Combat Command and the director of Air National Guard Forces, Headquarters, ACC, at Langley Air Force Base, Va. As the Air Guard assistant to ACC commander, he is responsible for advising Air Combat Command on all issues impacting the Air National Guard. Air Guard units make up nearly 50 percent of all ACC combat aircraft and include more than 64,300 Air Guard members throughout the United States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

# At Ease gets makeover

By Kelly Bradley  
Editor, *At Ease*

We're turning over a new leaf. And it's in color.

The Wisconsin National Guard's official newspaper, *At Ease*, was born in 1976. It has brought the accomplishments of the Wisconsin Guard home to soldiers, airmen and their families for over 25 years. *At Ease* has informed readers, military and civilian alike, on the great things our Guard does — like cleaning up after tornadoes and floods, serving in hostile environments around the world, conducting training and exercises, and building parks and playgrounds to help our communities.

The time-honored tabloid newspaper has come to an end; but a new, full-color magazine is born.

This is the premier issue of the new *At Ease*. Our mission remains the same: To let you know what your Wisconsin National Guard is doing. We plan to bring you more articles on training and on real-world operations, with a focus on the people who make it all happen.

The June 2003 *At Ease* is a special feature issue on the recent mobilizations and deployments in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. We have profiled each Wisconsin National Guard unit called to active duty since September 11, 2001. We hope it helps our readers learn what Guard units, other than their own, have been doing to support the War on Terror. We are indebted to soldiers and airmen in many units for providing photos and information for this issue.

Future issues will display a more “normal” format, with long and short features, news briefs and thumbnail profiles of Guard people in the news. This magazine is a work in progress and we welcome your suggestions and ideas.

*At Ease* has always been blessed with gifted writers, talented photographers and hundreds of motivated contributors to grace its pages. But we wouldn't be successful without the men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard doing great things every day. Your efforts, your achievements, your service to community, state and nation are the subjects *At Ease* exists to cover.

Keep up the good work.

May 1976



Sept. 2002



June 2003



June 2003



Staff Sgt. Thomas Sobczyk

# A Good Call Duty

# *Suddenly, our path changed. History carved a new channel.*

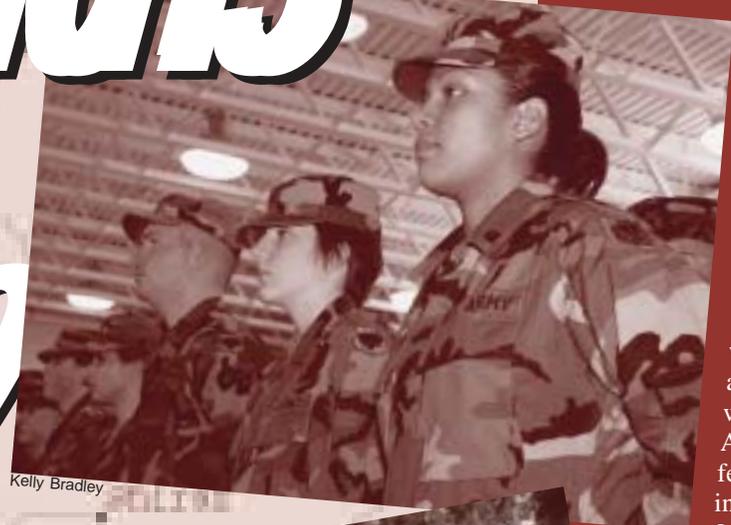


Kelly Bradley  
Photo provided by 147th Aviation Battalion

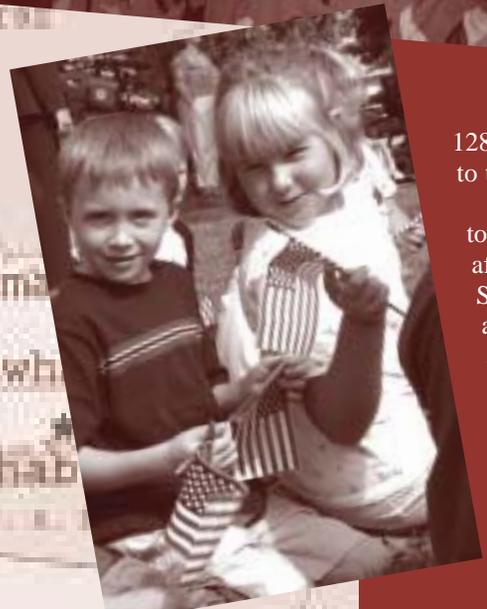


# **Aviation**

# **to Fly**



Kelly Bradley



Kelly Bradley

**Story and unit profiles by Larry Sommers  
At Ease Staff**

Viewing mayhem and death on September 11, 2001, Americans felt the urge to go out and punch something. The understandable first impulse gave way to a time of waiting and brooding. Few civilians flocked to recruiting offices as did their ancestors in 1775, 1861, and 1941.

But for this generation of servicemembers, the call to duty came quickly. Active, Guard and Reserve forces stood up to confront immediate threats and uncertainties.

Then, as the response matured, it shifted into a higher gear. Al-Qaida, the Taliban, and Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime loomed as challenges to our way of life. Wisconsin's military response would be the largest since 1961, when John F. Kennedy mobilized more than 10,000 members of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division in response to Soviet threats against Berlin.

Volunteer aircrews and KC-135 tankers of the 128th Air Refueling Wing were aloft on Sept. 12, the day after the attacks, when virtually all civilian air traffic was grounded by order of the Federal Aviation Administration. They flew three federal missions, refueling fighters on patrol in support of what would soon be dubbed Operation Noble Eagle — the defense of America's homeland.

On Sept. 20, volunteers and aircraft from the 128th moved overseas to support operations relating to the global war on terrorism.

Members of the 32nd Military Police Company took up duties at seven Wisconsin airports on the afternoon of Sept. 27, at the direction of then-Gov. Scott McCallum, within hours of President Bush's announcement that National Guard forces would augment security personnel at civilian airports nationwide.

As military officials assessed the need for increased force protection measures around the world, some 50 members of Milwaukee's 128th Security Forces Squadron, and a like number from the 115th Security Forces Squadron in Madison, were ordered to active duty in the first week of October.



Wisconsin Air National Guard photo

The 115th Fighter Wing, based in Madison, flew combat air patrols over America after the Sept. 11 attacks. The unit continues to be on alert.

The 115th Fighter Wing was an active part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command's full-court press in defense of U.S. airspace, and F-16 fighters from Madison flew a mission for NORAD on Oct. 8 at the request of the FAA. A Chicago-bound commercial airliner reported in inflight emergency over Illinois. The airliner landed safely at O'Hare International Airport. The 115th continues to keep aircraft and crews on strip alert for such contingencies.

Meanwhile, the 32nd MP Company needed to resolve a conflict in assignments. Before the emergency tasking for airport protection, the unit had been scheduled for a rotation to Bosnia. That mission was still on the books, and the MPs could not do both. Maj. Gen. James Blaney, then adjutant general, ordered the creation of Task Force Noble Badger, consisting of volunteers from throughout the

Tech. Sgt. Angela Hoistion weighs a portion of food while Senior Airmen Peter Nelson and Mary Burns look on. The 115th Services Flight was deployed to Saudi Arabia from February through June of 2002 and recently deployed to Southwest Asia again.



115th Fighter Wing

**The Attack on America.** Wisconsin National Guard immediately increases security at all Army and Air Guard installations statewide.

Members of the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Milwaukee, fly as volunteers to support Air Force-tasks missions.

Members of the 128th ARW and several KC-135 aircraft deploy overseas to fly missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Members of the 32nd Military Police Company, Milwaukee and Madison, are ordered to secure airports in Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay.

The first of four rotation groups from the 147th Aviation Battalion, Madison, arrives home from Kuwait and the second rotation leaves.

2001 Sept. 11

Sept. 12

Sept. 20

Sept. 27

October

# Fighter Wing in non-stop action

Unit: **115th Fighter Wing**  
 Date Mobilized: **Since 2001**  
 Number of Airmen: **Many**  
 City: **Madison**

The 115th Fighter Wing has been in the thick of things since Sept. 11, 2001.

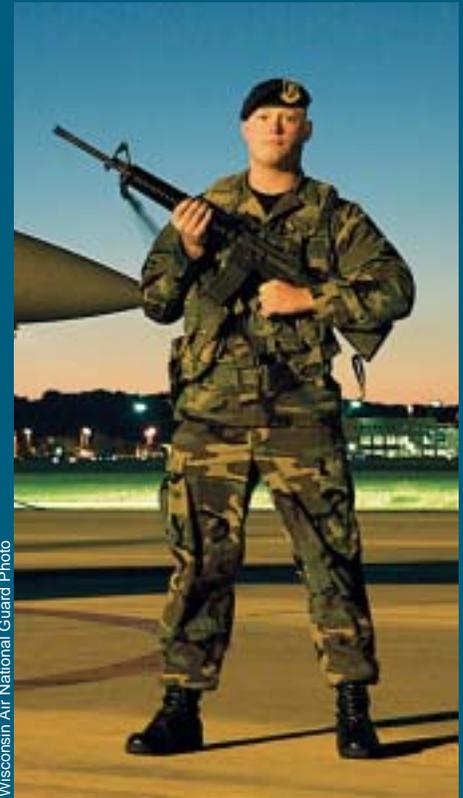
F-16 Fighting Falcons from the wing's Madison headquarters at Truax Field were either aloft or on strip alert constantly in the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks. On October 8, they assisted NORAD with an emergency situation in midwestern airspace. Their role was regularized with the inception of Operation Noble Eagle and the Oct. 23 mobilization of 62 personnel. From February through April 2002, six aircraft and 100 personnel deployed to Langley Air Force Base, Va., to fly combat air patrols over the nation's capitol. The unit's F-16s remain on round-the-clock alert, 365 days a year.

Members of the 115th Security Forces Squadron were mobilized in October 2001 and

sent to Air Force bases in the continental U.S. to support Noble Eagle. The mobilization has since been extended from one year to two. As the tempo of operations for all security personnel continues extremely high, some squadron members have already deployed to bases in the U.S. and worldwide two or three times.

Not only F-16 pilots and crews, and the security forces, but other unit members played roles as well. In January 2002, two members of the 115th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to a Stateside location, and six of the wing's firefighters headed for the CENTCOM area of operations. Six more airmen deployed overseas in March for a 180-day rotation.

As this issue of *At Ease* went to press, 17 security troops from the 115th remained on deployment in Southwest Asia to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Wisconsin Air National Guard Photo

**Staff Sgt. Brian Lutz, 115th Security Forces Squadron, stands guard on the flight line in Madison.**

Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard, to take over the airport security mission and free the MPs for other assignments. The Noble Badger volunteers, not normally security personnel, received mission-specific training and relieved the MPs on Oct. 13. Eventually, the 96 Noble Badger troops would patrol nine airports for approximately eight months — in the process, saving a toddler's life and assisting in the arrest of a suspicious passenger.

On Oct. 17, approximately 75 members of Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Wing were ordered to active

duty to continue the unit's ongoing support of increased worldwide Air Force operations.

In late October, the 128th Air Control Squadron deployed to McHenry County, Ill., to set up a mobile radar site. From there the unit monitored the skies over northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin continuously for a period of almost four months.

At month's end, about 75 members of the 115th Fighter Wing were called up under the president's partial mobilization authority, as had occurred earlier that month at the refueling wing.

In the first two months after the Sept. 11 attacks, Wisconsin's Army National Guard was officially involved only in the airport security mission. That changed in early November, with the mobilization of a dozen members of the 829th Engineer Detachment, mainly plumbers and electricians. They were quickly sent to an undisclosed location overseas. In October, the U.S. had launched a war in Afghanistan, with the Al-Qaida terrorists and the Taliban regime as targets. The vertical construction specialists from Richland Center would spend seven months on deployment —

Fifty members of the 128th Security Forces, Milwaukee, ordered to active duty. Airport security missions expanded to include airports in Appleton, Mosinee, La Crosse and Oshkosh.

Fifty members of 115th Security Forces, Madison ordered to active duty.

U.S.-led air strikes begin against al-Qaida terrorist camps and military targets of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Two F-16s from the 115th Fighter Wing, Madison, scramble to intercept a commercial airliner over Illinois after the Chicago-bound airliner reported in inflight emergency. The airliner lands safely at O'Hare International Airport.

Oct. 1

Oct. 4

Oct. 7

Oct. 8

# Plugging the gap at Wisconsin's airports

## Operation Noble Badger

Period Mobilized: **Sept. 20, 2001 - May 31, 2002**

Number of Soldiers: **up to 130**

Airports in: **Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Appleton, Mosinee, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Rhinelander**

Task Force Noble Badger was Wisconsin's way of meeting an immediate need. Members of the 32nd Military Police Company had answered the call on Sept. 27, 2001, when the president and governor sought Guard troops for extra security at civilian airports. On Oct. 1, the MPs' task expanded from three to seven airports in Wisconsin. With a scheduled deployment to Bosnia looming for the 32nd, an innovative alternative was needed.

On Oct. 13, the mission transitioned from "Phase One," an MP mission, to "Phase Two" — the deployment of non-MP volunteers from Army and Air National Guard units throughout the state. The volunteers received training in the airport security mission before deployment. Maj. Gen. James G. Blaney, then adjutant general, named Lt. Col. Todd Nehls to command the Phase Two task force, designated Noble Badger.

**Sgt. Stacey Pfad, left, 32nd Military Police Company, asks for a driver's identification outside the Dane County Regional Airport, Madison.**

In mid-November, two more airports were added to Noble Badger's mission, bringing the total to nine, covered by 96 troops.

Sgt. Brent W. Voelker, an Army Guard infantryman from Bonduel, saved a toddler's life while on duty at Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay. Two-year-old Ashlin Ellis, Iron Mountain, Mich., was turning blue while choking on piece of candy, and Voelker dislodged it. He received the Wisconsin Commendation Medal for this action.

On March 7, 2002, Spc. Brian Pagliaroni, a Kenosha artilleryman, helped capture a suspicious passenger at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee. Ousman Sallih was about to board a flight when Pagliaroni alerted Milwaukee County sheriff's deputies to the many false IDs and large amount of cash he was carrying.

TF Noble Badger closed out its operations in May 2002, after airports' civilian security staffs were increased. All personnel received the Army Achievement Medal or higher award.



Larry Sommers

mostly at Kandahar, Afghanistan — improving and maintaining facilities for U.S. forces fighting there.

In January 2002, six firefighters of the 115th Fighter Wing deployed to the Central Command area of operations to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 32nd MP Company, relieved of airport duty the previous October, deployed to Bosnia in February for their previously scheduled six-month tour of duty as part of the peacekeeping force.

Six F-16s from Madison, plus crews and support personnel, deployed

to Langley Air Force Base, Va., at the end of February, to take a three-month stint flying combat air patrols over Washington, D.C., as part of NORAD's nationwide air defense plan.

Through spring and summer 2002, elements of Wisconsin's Air Guard major commands continued to rotate through duty assignments at various locations in the U.S. and overseas in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Meanwhile, the focus of U.S. national security policy was shifting:

The immediate response to the 2001 attacks had transformed security plans and procedures, and the war in Afghanistan was effectively won. Now the president mounted a broader challenge to terrorists and the states that support them. In his January 29 State of the Union address, he had called Iraq, Iran, and North Korea the "Axis of Evil." It became clear, through the summer and fall of 2002, that Iraq would be the first subject of

Continued on page 12

An envelope received at Dept. of Military Affairs headquarters, Madison, is considered "suspicious." The envelope is removed by a postal inspector and the building is not evacuated.

Oct. 12

MPs performing the airport security mission are replaced by soldiers from other Wisconsin Army National Guard units. 115th Security Forces deploys 13 members in support of Operation Noble Eagle to Langley Air Force Base, Va.

Oct. 13

Seventy-five members of the 128th ARW are ordered to active duty to continue the unit's support of military operations begun on a volunteer status.

Oct. 17

Thirty members of the 128th ARW return from an overseas deployed location. 115th Security Forces deploys 13 members in support of ONE to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Oct. 19

# Standing watch over Midwest skies

Unit: **128th Air Control Squadron**  
 Period Mobilized: **Sept. 20, 2001 - Feb. 20, 2002**  
 Number of Airmen: **50**  
 Base: **Volk Field**

In the 1950s and '60s, the air over the U.S. sizzled with radar emissions from numerous overlapping ground stations. It was the Cold War, and people felt the Russians might try anything at any time.

As the international situation gradually changed in succeeding decades, we became more relaxed about our airspace. So in the weeks after the al-Qaida hijackers demolished our innocence, authorities went scrambling for ways to make sure everything was covered.

Wisconsin's 128th Air Control Squadron, from Volk Field, deployed to a snowy soybean field near Marengo, Ill., in late fall. The unit deployed its long-range TPS-75 radar van, operations module, satellite van and generators in order to provide a

real-time picture of all aircraft near Chicago to the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

NORAD was originally set up to guard our border areas. The concept of keeping continuous watch on all traffic, anywhere in the country, was new. The 128th helped make it happen.

Members of the local community, keenly aware that these Badger airmen were protecting them, stopped by with meals, cookies, doughnuts, and encouragement.

Activated unit members rotated between the Marengo site



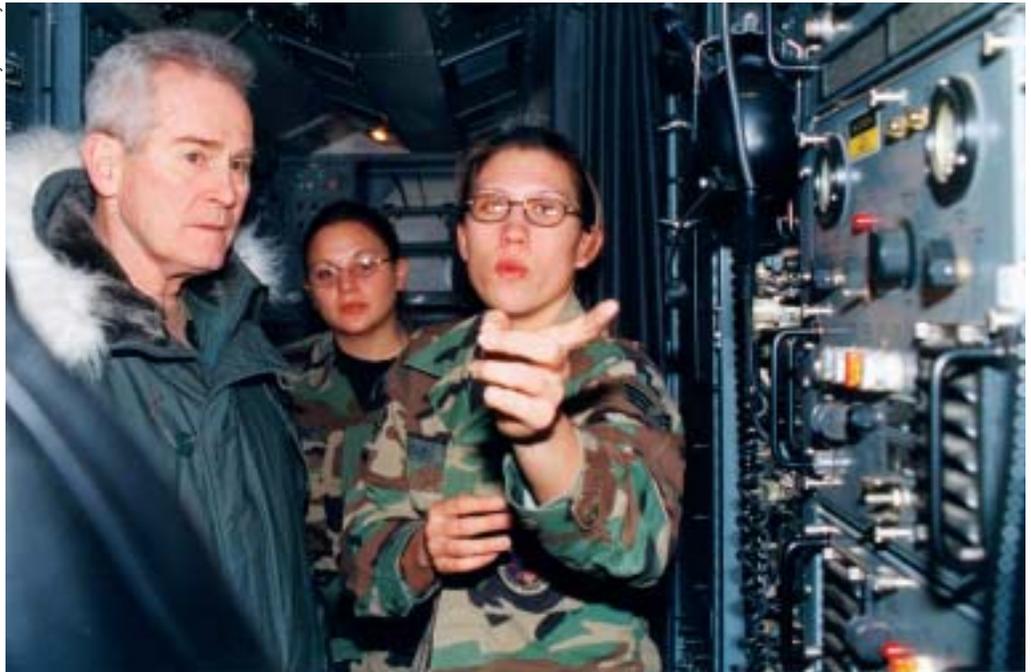
Kelly Bradley

**The 128th Air Control Squadron operated from a beanfield in northern Illinois, in support of Operation Noble Eagle.**

and home station at Volk Field. The 128th maintained its watch for 113 days — from Oct. 23, 2001 to Feb. 12, 2002 — plugging an unintended gap in our nation's air defenses in the new, post-9/11 world.

**Senior Airman Sarah Ebersold, right, and Staff Sgt. Jamie Tratnik show Maj. Gen. James Blaney radar equipment that was used to monitor the skies over the Chicago area.**

Kelly Bradley



Members of the 128th Air Control Squadron, Volk Field, begin setting up a mobile radar site in McHenry County, Ill.

Seventy-three members of the 115th FW are ordered to active duty in support of ONE.

Twelve members of the 829th Engineer Detachment, Richland Center, are called to active duty in support of OEF.

Northern Alliance forces seize Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, and the Taliban is in full retreat.

U.S. forces rescue eight people, including two Americans, being held by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Oct. 24

Oct. 30

Nov. 8

Nov. 13

Nov. 14

# Refuelers: Keeping the Air Force flying

Unit: **128th Air Refueling Wing**  
Date Mobilized: **Since 2001**  
Number of Airmen: **Many**  
City: **Milwaukee**

The tankers of Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Wing are globe-trotters by nature. They cruise the world's far-flung air corridors almost routinely, keeping the U.S. Air Force aloft and on task.

So, when President Bush launched Operations Noble Eagle (homeland protection) and Enduring Freedom (global war on terror), the nature of the tankers' work did not change — only the seriousness, and the operational tempo.

As fighters swarmed into the sky like angry hornets on and after Sept. 11, 2001, the KC-135s from Milwaukee kept them company, cruising in refueling tracks to provide JP-8 jet fuel on demand. By Sept. 20, several of the 128th's aircraft and volunteer crews had already deployed across oceans to support Operation Enduring Freedom.

On Oct. 1, approximately 50 members of the 128th Security Forces Squadron were called to active duty, swelling the ranks of MPs and security personnel being pulled

into a nationwide full-court press in order to leave no valuable military assets unprotected. For the next 18 months, the 128th security forces, like their counterparts from the 115th Fighter Wing in Madison, would deploy repeatedly to numerous locations as needed by the Air Force.

On Oct. 17, some 75 other members of the wing were called to active duty. The Air National Guard was settling in for the long haul, providing assets under the presidential reserve call-up authority in place of the more informal volunteer staffing that prevailed immediately after Sept. 11.

From then until now, personnel and aircraft of the 128th Air Refueling Wing have been in constant motion to and from trouble spots, providing aerial refueling, force protection, and other essential services in the worldwide war on terrorism.

As this issue of *At Ease* went to press, nearly 200 unit members were on active duty, fewer than 10 of them overseas.



Staff. Sgt. Thomas Sobczyk

**Maj. Scott Schwark, 128th Air Refueling Wing, holds his 14-month old daughter, Sarah, after returning from a deployment.**



Joe Oliva

**A KC-135 makes a landing approach. The 128th Air Refueling Wing has been on numerous deployments around the world since 2001.**

intense U.S. interest. The administration warned Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to give up his suspected weapons of mass destruction and pressed the United Nations Security Council to pass a strongly-worded resolution on the subject.

As the buildup began for a potential showdown in the Persian Gulf region, Wisconsin Guard units were again front and center; and the Badger State was strongly represented in the military mix as America went to war.

On Sept. 8, 49 members of the 64th Rear Operations Center, Monroe, were activated for Operation Enduring

Continued on page 14

About three-quarters of Afghanistan is now in the hands of opposition forces, while concentrations of Taliban and al-Qaida are bottled up in the cities of Kunduz and Kandahar.

Eau Claire and Rhinelander airports are added to the list of those protected by TF Noble Badger. Ten soldiers are added to handle the extra work.

115th Security Forces Squadron deploys four members to Qatar, then Tajikistan, in support of OEF. American-born Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh is captured by anti-Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

Twelve members of the 829th Engineer Detachment deploy to Afghanistan.

Nov. 20

Nov. 21

Nov. 25

Dec. 12

# ROC runs XVIII Airborne's Ops

Unit: **64th Rear Operations Center**  
 Date Mobilized: **August 14, 2002**  
 Number of Soldiers: **49**  
 City: **Monroe**

On Sept. 11, 2002, the 64th Rear Operations Center rolled into Fort Bragg, N.C. It was the anniversary of America's rude awakening by al-Qaida, and the 49 ROC troops had been four days on the road from their armory in Monroe.

They had been briefed before leaving by Sgt. Maj. Michael Rhude, so they knew what to expect: "World War II barracks, fire ants, two shower heads per floor, and toilets that when flushed cause the water pressure to cascade to zero everywhere else," according to a memo written for *At Ease* by Capt. Thomas M. Jacobi.

Brushing aside the hardships of transition, the Wisconsin Guard members within three days began performing the duties of the active-component counterparts they were assigned to replace.

The ROC's main mission at Fort Bragg was to perform the

duties of the XVIII Airborne Corps's operations cell, now forward deployed to Afghanistan. Various members of the 64th were assigned to the main current operations tasks, and to sub-specialties like plans, training, information management, warehousing and unit status reporting. At the same time, some unit members were quickly enrolled in schools and courses to improve their leadership and other skills; others were sent to Warfighter and other exercises at major army posts; still others were tapped by the Army for critical civilian skills and reassigned elsewhere, including a few sent to hot spots overseas.

"Finally, and most importantly," writes Jacobi, "we want to thank our families, loved ones, and employers for their awesome support."



64th ROC

An oil well, one of only a few successfully torched by the old regime, burns behind Maj. Scott Mistlebauer, 64th Rear Operations Center, in Iraq's Ramalia Oil Fields.

## Timing is everything

Some historians say the first use of synchronized watches to coordinate an attack was by Union general Ulysses S. Grant at Vicksburg. Grant may be smiling as he looks over Sgt. William Hadley's shoulder from a painting, in the accompanying photograph.

In the photo — taken at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Dec. 2, 2002 — Hadley's commander, Lt. Col. Darrel Feucht, 64th Rear Operations Center, administers Hadley's oath of office as a Stephenson County, Ill., supervisor. Hadley, a Freeport, Ill., resident, was re-elected to the Stephenson County Board of Supervisors *in absentia* after he was mobilized and deployed to Fort Bragg

in September 2002. He is serving as motor sergeant in the XVIII Airborne Corps headquarters motor pool.

Illinois officials authorized Feucht to swear Hadley in at Fort Bragg — the first remote oath-taking in the state's history. However, by long-standing Illinois tradition, all county supervisors across the state take the oath at the same moment. Therefore, adjusting for the one-hour difference in time zones, Feucht administered the oath at precisely 10:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on Dec. 2, just as supervisors were being sworn to duty in every Illinois county seat at 9:30 Central Standard Time.

Grant would have been pleased.



64th ROC

On Dec. 2, 2002 Sgt. William Hadley's commander, Lt. Col. Darrel Feucht, 64th Rear Operations Center, administers Hadley's oath of office as a Stephenson County, Ill., supervisor.

A videotape is found in Afghanistan showing Osama bin Laden calmly discussing the Sept. 11 attacks.

Another rotation of personnel and aircraft from the 128th ARW deploys to an overseas location in support of OEF.

Two aircraft and sixty members of the 128th ARW return to Mitchell Field following an overseas deployment in support of OEF.

Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announces that the U.S. military will transport some al-Qaida and Taliban detainees to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

# Truckin' for Special Ops

Unit: **1157th Transportation Company**  
 Date Mobilized: **August 22, 2002**  
 Number of Soldiers: **150**  
 City: **Oshkosh**

"... We've seen the indispensable role [of] special operations forces," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on Jan. 7.

Special operators are the advance guard of military operations. They turn up in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, a silent presence before conventional military action. They use special vehicles and special equipment; they need it to be where they need it when they need it there — even if it takes special handling.

Enter the 1157th Transportation Company.

The Oshkosh-based medium hauling outfit deployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., last September. Since then, they've been carrying goods and people for the United States Army Special Operations Command and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

("dear old USAJFKSWCS," to graduates).

Drivers from the 1157th carry Rangers and Green Berets in five-ton trucks to Fort Bragg's ranges and other nearby training areas, said Capt. Tim Hess, company commander. In the process, they get to see "some interesting things." He declined to elaborate.

Meanwhile, the unit's M-931 tractors haul special operators' equipment to and from various sea and aerial ports of embarkation in the continental United States. It is safe to say the mission is vital.

Since deploying at the end of September, the unit has logged more than 250,000 ton-miles of cargo hauling and 55,000 passenger miles to and from training areas.

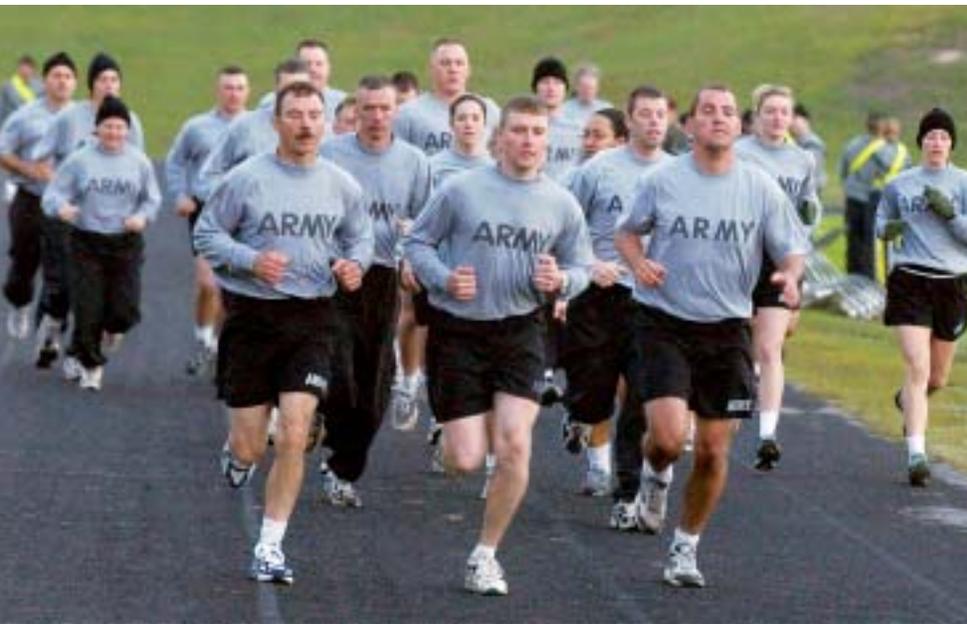
The average unit member is 23 years old and is almost as likely to

be female as male. Of the company's 150 soldiers, 48 percent are women. "In eastern Wisconsin, we're surrounded by infantry units," Hess said. "Where else are they going to go?" Infantry units, like those of other combat arms, are not open to women.

Most of the company's personnel are operating out of Fort Bragg, conducting the unit's main mission, as described above. Around one-fifth of them, however, have been detached to various locations overseas, Hess said, because the Army wants to use their skills acquired in civilian jobs.

Morale is good, he reports, partly because the unit gets time off.

Photos and other information about the 1157th on active duty can be accessed at <http://rollingwheels.us> ("www" is not needed).



Oshkosh Northwestern photo by Joe Sienkiewicz, used by permission

**Staff Sgt. Tom Amundson, Spc. Anthony Helsell and Spc. Dan Lipinski lead the 1157th in the two-mile run during their physical training test at Hedrick Stadium, Fort Bragg, N.C.**

Freedom. They deployed to Fort Bragg, N.C., with some members going on to the CENTCOM area of operations.

They were followed in short order by the 150 soldiers of the 1157th Transportation Company, medium equipment haulers from Oshkosh. They also would be split between Fort Bragg and CENTCOM.

In early November, 28 Guard members from the 332nd Rear Area Operations Center, Berlin, were mobilized. Reporting for duty Dec. 2, they were shipped to Afghanistan to help restore that nation to effective self-governance.

The ongoing efforts in Afghanistan, and the buildup for war in Iraq, were not the only items on America's military agenda. Another

Continued on page 17

Thirteen members of the 115th Security Forces return from Langley AFB, Va.

Six firefighters from the 115th FW deploy in support of OEF.

Thirteen members of the 115th Security Forces deploy to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Thirteen members of the 115th Security Forces return to Truax Field from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

Thirty-three members of the 32nd MP Co. deploy to Bosnia. The second group of 147th Avn. Bn. troops comes home and the third rotation goes to Kuwait.

Another rotation of one aircraft and members of the 128th ARW deploy to an overseas location.

One aircraft and members of the 128th ARW return to Mitchell Field following a 45-day overseas rotation.



# Blue assets, green guards

## Task Force Red Arrow

Date Mobilized: **December 30, 2002**

Number of Soldiers: **106**

Air Force Units: **115th Fighter Wing, Air National Guard, Madison; 128th Air Refueling Wing, Air National Guard, Milwaukee; 440th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Milwaukee**

Security has become a growth industry. While we fight rogue regimes abroad and terrorists worldwide, we need to protect our own assets more securely than ever.

The Wisconsin National Guard stood up Task Force Red Arrow on Jan. 30, with 106 soldiers mobilized under U.S. Title 10 for a one-year mission, with the possibility of a second year being added. All 106 are volunteers from the 32nd Infantry Brigade, according to Lt. Col. Fred Falk, task force commander.

The mission is to help the Air Force by beefing up security at its three flying units in Wisconsin.

Last December, U.S. Air Force leaders responded to a global shortage of security personnel by taking strong steps to recruit and train new security personnel, shift airmen from other occupations into security, and explore contracting with civilian security firms.

In the meantime, the Army agreed to provide between 8,000 and 10,000 Guard members to beef up security at Air Force installations. The Wisconsin effort got under way about a month later.

TF Red Arrow's members are not military police but have received training for the mission at hand. They mobilized at Fort McCoy from Jan. 31 through Feb. 7 and then received a week of Air Force-specific security training. They moved into their assigned slots at the three installations in mid-February.

The arrival of the Army Guard contingent was greeted with sighs of relief at each of the three units, where organic security forces have been mobilized in some cases since Sept. 11, 2001, for both local and worldwide security needs.

"The opportunity and ability for Army and Air soldiers to work and train together has reaffirmed the fact that Wisconsin has the best soldiers in uniform," said Falk. "This mission has cemented a true partnership."



Staff Sgt. Thomas Sobczyk

**Spc. Derek Rosheisen, a Wisconsin Army National Guard member working as part of Task Force Red Arrow, waves a car through the main gate at the 128th Air Refueling Wing base in Milwaukee.**



Larry Sommers

**Brig. Gen. Herbert Newton, commanding general of Task Force 218, Operation Noble Eagle II, talks with Staff Sgt. James Wollangk of Task Force Red Arrow at an informal lunch April 30.**

Four members of the 115th Security Forces return from a deployment to Qatar and Tajikistan.

Thirteen members of the 128th Security Forces deploy to Southwest Asia.

One aircraft and personnel from the 128th ARW deploy to an overseas location.

One aircraft and members of the 128th ARW return to Mitchell Field following a 45-day overseas rotation.

The 115th FW completes its mission to provide CAPs over Washington D.C. and returns to Truax Field.

Mar. 13

Mar. 15

Mar. 19

Mar. 20

Apr. 17

# Saving lives in the Great Northwest

Unit: **832nd Medical Company**  
Date Mobilized: **January 17, 2003**  
Number of Soldiers: **44**  
City: **West Bend**

Backfill. Sounds like something builders do with shovels and scoop loaders — not glamorous, but necessary.

That's the story for the 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) of West Bend. The Wisconsin Army National Guard unit deployed six UH-1 Huey helicopters and 60 soldiers in January to Fort Lewis, Wash., where they will backfill for the 54th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), currently providing medical evacuation support in Iraq.

Two helicopters and about 16 troops are from the unit's Delaware detachment; the rest come from Wisconsin.

Since arriving in the Pacific Northwest, the 832nd's medevac crews have performed nine real-life missions, several training missions and many practice runs for aerial rescue missions.

The unit provides medevac service for military personnel at Fort Lewis, Yakima Training Center, and other Washington state installations. Secondly, the Wisconsin aviators

Members of the 832nd Medical Company line up for a briefing. The unit is stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.



832nd Medical Company

provide Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic. "This mission is similar to civilian aeromedical transportation," said Sgt. 1st Class Ted Corsi, the unit's first shirt. "We provide back-up to the civilian helicopters and take missions that they turn down. Examples of missions we would assume are hoisting injured and stranded outdoor adventurers off of the mountains."

Three of the unit's missions thus far have come from military sources and the other six from the civilian world.

"Civilian medevac units may also give us certain hospital-to-hospital transfers, because we can carry more weight in our aircraft," Corsi said.

Even so, the Hueys of the 832nd are small compared with the UH-60 Black Hawks flown by the unit they are filling in for. Each Huey can handle two patients at one time. The flight crew includes two pilots, a crew chief and a flight medic. Besides the six human beings on board, an air ambulance must carry quite a complement of medical equipment: a high-performance hoist, oxygen bottles, defibrillator, litters, various immobilization devices, and medical kits containing bandages, splints and medications. This necessary cargo requires medics and crew chiefs to invent good ways to stow, in a Huey, that which would fit easily into a Black Hawk.

The unit's deployment is expected to last one year.

pressing issue was force protection. Throughout the Air Force, organic security forces — like Wisconsin's 115th and 128th Security Forces Squadrons — were bearing an unusually heavy workload because of the general ratcheting-up of security. In mid-December, the Air Force got help from the Army in the form of an agreement to mobilize up to 10,000 Army Guard members for airbase security duties worldwide. Thus, at the end of December, Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, who had succeeded Blaney as adjutant general of Wisconsin in August, ordered the creation of Task Force Red Arrow. The 106-member task force was charged with providing

Continued on page 19



832nd Medical Company

One of the 832nd's Huey helicopters approaches Tacoma, Wash., from Puget Sound.

One aircraft and personnel from the 128th ARW deploy to an overseas location.

The third rotation of the 147th Avn. Bn. comes home and the last rotation heads to Kuwait.

One aircraft and members of the 128th ARW return to Mitchell Field following a 45-day rotation overseas.

Thirteen members of the 128th Security Forces deploy to Southwest Asia in support of OEF.

Members of the 128th Security Forces "swap out" with other 128th Security Forces personnel who are deployed to a Stateside location in support of ONE.

Apr. 30

May

May 1

May 13

May 15

# Madison aviators back in the sand

Unit: **147th Command Aviation Battalion**  
 Dates Mobilized: **January 26, 2003**  
 Number of Soldiers: **205**  
 City: **Madison**



147th Aviation Battalion

Hunkered in a bunker, members of the 147th Command Aviation Battalion, wait out a Scud missile alert at Camp Udairi, Kuwait, shortly after their arrival there in March 2003.



147th Aviation Battalion

This desert sandstorm, photographed looming over the 147th's Black Hawks, is typical of conditions that assail all Wisconsin National Guard units deployed to locations in Southwest Asia.

Seeking out weapons of mass destruction; conducting aerial reconnaissance over oil pipelines and mass gravesites; supporting the CIA; transporting U.S. troops, enemy prisoners, and Big Names: All in a long day's work for aviators of the 147th Command Aviation Battalion.

Partly because Iraq is California-sized, the UH-60 helicopter pilots and crews have been flying six to eight hours at a stretch, compared with the two-to-three-hour missions more common back home in the Badger State. On a recent mission, outside air temperatures exceeded 125 degrees, according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Leif Mikkelson, an instructor pilot with the unit. "When the air gets that hot," Mikkelson reported in an e-mail, "there is no cooling effect from an open window — it actually burns."

But at least it's familiar. The battalion sent 120 members to Kuwait, in 100-day rotations, between July 2001 and August 2002, flying more than 300 missions in the desert environment.

So most of the unit's 200 deployed soldiers knew the terrain when they stepped on to Kuwaiti sand again March 22, the day after the ground campaign into Iraq was launched. The Scud alerts were new, though.

"Within 30 minutes of its arrival at Camp Udairi, the battalion was running for nearby bunkers and donning protective masks and suits," reported Maj. Russell Sweet, battalion executive officer. "For the next few weeks, Scud missile attacks would generate three to five bunker drills each day."

The unit sustained a casualty March 30 when an Egyptian national drove a vehicle into a group of soldiers. Spc. Patrick McDermott was hospitalized for a knee injury and has returned to Wisconsin to recuperate.

The battalion's primary assigned mission was to support the 75th Exploitation Task Force in its efforts to find evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. After U.S. forces moved into Baghdad, the 147th moved a command element forward to Baghdad International Airport. The unit continues to support the WMD-seeking task force and also flies forensic teams to investigate mass grave sites and pipeline survey teams to inspect sabotaged oil lines, according to Sweet.

Transporting generals and celebrities is also within the mission of the 147th. In recent weeks the battalion carried General Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army chief of staff General Eric K. Shinseki, and flew NBC television personality Conan O'Brien to a series of USO appearances, Sweet said.



Conan O'Brien and Chief Warrant Officer Dan Hart

One aircraft and aircrew from the 128th ARW deploy from one overseas location to another, while other members return home.

115th Security Forces deploys 13 members to Cyprus.

One aircraft and aircrew of the 128th ARW return to Mitchell Field from an overseas deployment.

The Wisconsin National Guard's airport security mission is complete and soldiers demobilize. Twenty-six members of the 115th Security Forces return from a deployment to Bahrain.

Six firefighters return to Truax Field from a deployment.

May 16

May 19

May 26

May 31

Jun. 7

**A Black Hawk helicopter of the 147th Aviation Battalion, Madison, flies past Kuwait City in 2001. The unit did a year of three-month rotations from 2001-2002 and has been deployed again to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**



147th Aviation Battalion

security for Wisconsin's three Air Force flying units — the Air Guard's 115th Fighter Wing and 128th Air Refueling Wing, and the 440th Airlift Wing of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. TF Red Arrow members, volunteers from the 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Brigade, reported for duty Jan. 30, 2003, and went to work at the three bases after a short period of Air Force-specific security training.

In mid-January, 44 members of the West Bend-based 832nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) mobilized for deployment to Fort Lewis, Wash., where they replaced a similarly-missioned unit headed for CENTCOM.

**Gen. Tommy Franks greets Spc. Patrick McDermott of the 147th Aviation Battalion. McDermott was injured when an Egyptian national rammed his truck into a line of soldiers at Camp Udairi, Kuwait.**



U.S. Navy photo by Gary P. Bonaccorso

All members of the 147th Avn. Bn. return from Kuwait after doing three-month rotations starting July 2001. Members of the 32nd MP Co. return from Bosnia.

Forty-nine members of the 64th Rear Operations Center, Monroe, are called to active duty.

115th Security Forces deploys five members in support of OEF to Oman.

One hundred fifty members of the 1157th Transportation Company, Oshkosh are called to active duty.

Thirteen members of the 115th Security Forces return from a deployment to Cyprus.

The 107th Maintenance Company of Sparta, Viroqua, and Sussex — a unit that had mobilized a dozen years earlier in the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War — got its orders Jan. 22, with just four days to its report date, as the pace of mobilizations accelerated and lead times shrunk. Unit members soon learned that this time around, the 107th would remain Stateside, tasked with servicing vehicles and equipment passing through Fort McCoy en route to the Middle East.

On Jan. 26, 205 members of Madison's Black Hawk helicopter unit, the 147th Command Aviation Battalion, were ordered to active duty with just six days' mobilization-to-report time. After a brief training and shakedown period at Fort McCoy, they shipped out for Kuwait. The unit was familiar with the terrain, having completed a year's deployment to Kuwait (undertaken in four three-



Spc. Dustin Roberts, 829th Engineer Detachment

Members of the 829th Engineer Detachment throw themselves into a volleyball game at a unit cookout at Fort McCoy. The engineer utility team was mobilized in February 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom and spent three months at the post, training and staying fit while awaiting deployment orders, which came in late May.

Continued on page 22



Kelly Bradley

Members of the 829th Engineer Detachment celebrate after coming home from Afghanistan in June 2002. The unit has been called to active duty again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 64th ROC deploys to Fort Bragg, N.C.

115th Security Forces deploys 13 members in support of OEF to Oman.

The 1157th Trans. Co. deploys to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Twenty-eight members of the 332nd Rear Area Operations Center, Berlin, are called to active duty.

Five members of the 115th Security Forces return from a deployment to Oman.

Late Aug.

Sep. 19

Sep. 27

Nov. 2

Nov. 21

# Building on experience

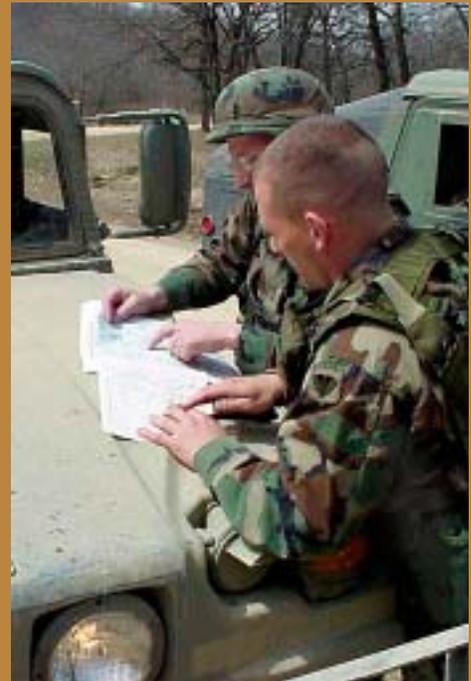
Unit: **829th Engineer Detachment**  
 Date Mobilized: **February 6, 2003**  
 Number of Soldiers: **57**  
 City: **Richland Center**

**By Capt. Kurt Geilfuss**  
*Commander of the 829th*

*EDITOR'S NOTE — The 829th Engineer Detachment mobilized for Operation Iraqi Freedom in early February. Like other mobilized units, the engineer utility team from Richland Center used its time at Fort McCoy for training and preparation. Unlike many mobilized units, the 829th spent more than three months at McCoy, waiting for deployment orders. In mid-May, Capt. Kurt Geilfuss, the unit's commander, wrote the following summary for At Ease, telling how one Guard unit was attempting to maintain fitness, efficiency and morale during the long hurry-up-and-wait.*

About us: We are an Engineer Utilities Team. We have sections instead of platoons. We have Operations, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing and Equipment Sections. Our main mission is constructing and maintaining base camps. Our unit stays very active in the local community and around the world. On drill weekends, we keep busy with local community construction projects (Elroy Bike Trail Bridge, Woodman Center Boy Scout Camp, Krouskop Park Pavilion). We have also traveled to Panama, Germany, Nicaragua, and the Marshall Islands to do base maintenance and perform humanitarian missions. In late 2001, we were partially mobilized (12 soldiers) for Operation Enduring Freedom and served in Kandahar, Afghanistan for six months. This is our second mobilization since 9/11.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Kromm, wearing helmet, and Sgt. Wesley Rego, check their convoy route on a Mounted Land Navigation exercise at Fort McCoy. The exercise was part of ongoing training for the 829th, which was mobilized in February 2003.



Spc. Dustin Roberts, 829th Engineer Detachment

We have spent the last three months preparing for deployment overseas. This included combat task training in first aid, Nuclear/Biological/Chemical protection and decontamination, and marksmanship. Upon our arrival here, we focused on getting the equipment needed to deploy, like chemical protective overgarments, desert uniforms, flak vests, and construction tools. We went through soldier processing to get soldiers' finances, family needs, medical checkups and immunizations taken care of.

We also fielded the new M-1075 Concrete Mobile Mixer system and sent our Equipment Section to train on its operation and maintenance.

On a daily basis, we train on our carpentry, plumbing and electrical tasks by maintaining the facilities here on Fort McCoy. They're getting a lot of work out of us. We are refurbishing building 452, a bachelor officers' quarters, and executing work orders for other maintenance problems assigned by the Fort McCoy public works office.

We try to maintain a balance of occupational specialty training with soldier tasks to keep the troops both trained and motivated. We had a competition between the sections to determine who was the best at

mounted land navigation. They had to find points based on grid coordinates and report back to Operations. Sections would drive Humvees throughout Fort McCoy North and South Post, sometimes through rough terrain, to identify markers. All the sections did an outstanding job, so it came down to a tie-breaking, timed land navigation event. Eventually, the Plumbing Section was victorious and earned a night out at McCoy's sports bar. Other training events include night convoys, night vision goggle familiarization, and combat lifesaver training.

*After more than three months at Fort McCoy, the 829th deployed to Southwest Asia May 30.*

The 332nd RAOC deploys to Southwest Asia.

115th Security Forces deploys four members to Kuwait.

115th Security Forces deploys 13 members to Kuwait.

Thirteen members of the 115th Security Forces return from a deployment to Oman.

One-hundred-six members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard are called to active duty for Task Force Red Arrow. All soldiers are from the 32nd Infantry Brigade.

Early Dec.

Dec. 12

Dec. 14

Dec. 19

Dec. 30



Kelly Bradley

The 106th Quarry Team, shown here at Annual Training last summer, has been mobilized for active duty. They deployed to Fort Lewis, Wash., in mid-May.

month rotations) only the previous July.

On Feb. 4, the 166-member 229th Engineer Company received its alert notice and mobilization order within minutes of each other, with orders to report to Fort McCoy on Feb. 7. Things were starting to get intense. But the 229th, like all other Wisconsin National Guard units to date, reported in full strength and met all deadlines.

The mobilization of the 229th, a horizontal construction unit, was followed in quick succession by three other Wisconsin Army National Guard engineer outfits: The 106th

Continued on page 24

# A quick pivot

Unit: **106th Engineer Detachment**  
 Date Mobilized: **February 6, 2003**  
 Number of Soldiers: **53**  
 City: **Ashland**

It's tempting to say the mobilization of 2003 has been a rocky road for the 106th Engineer Detachment — but it would not be kind.

The 54 members of the Ashland quarry team, established in September 2000, have become accustomed to hearing they've got rocks in their heads and that each Annual Training is a crushing experience for them. It's not easy being a soldier in a unit that makes big rocks into little ones.

But at least, members thought when they were mobilized on February 10, they would get a chance to put their gravel-making skills and equipment to use in the service of America's great aims. They would go to Kuwait or Iraq and produce construction materials to pave the way for success in the war on Saddam Hussein and his minions.

They moved to Fort McCoy on March 6, ready for the challenge. But then the war started and ended so quickly that the Army decided not to use the 106th in the Central Command area of operations.

So the mission was changed, according to Sgt. 1st Class Julie Oppelt, the quarry team's NCO commander, and the unit traveled in mid-May to Fort Lewis, Wash., to provide engineer support for the Army's ROTC Advanced Camp.

ROTC Advanced Camp is an intensive five-week training experience, the culmination of studies for Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from across the nation. Small unit tactical training is the vehicle for evaluating cadets' potential as commissioned officers.

To support this training, the 106th Engineer Detachment will be doing "a little bit of everything — repairing roads, clearing engineer lanes, post detail, manning the main gate," said Oppelt. Everything except crushing rocks: The unit had to leave its 150-ton rock crusher at Fort McCoy.

The 106th Quarry Team expects to demobilize directly from Fort Lewis around Sept. 1, having shown its flexibility and its readiness to serve the Army's needs. As far as doing its main mission in a war zone, the opportunity was just a stone's throw away.



Kelly Bradley

Cousins Amanda Ochsenbauer and Roberta Vickroy showed up at the Ashland armory to show their "rocking" support for their neighbor, David Henneman of the 106th Quarry Team.

Forty-four members of the 832nd Medical Company, West Bend, are called to active duty.

One hundred ten members of the 107th Maintenance Company from Sparta, Viroqua and Sussex are called to active duty. They will remain at Ft. McCoy.

Two hundred five members of the 147th Aviation Battalion are called to active duty.

In his State of the Union address, President George W. Bush announces that he is ready to attack Iraq even without a U.N. mandate.

The 832nd Medical Company deploys to Fort Lewis, Wash.

# Fix it up and ship it out

Unit: **107th Maintenance Company**  
 Date Mobilized: **January 22, 2003**  
 Number of Soldiers: **110**  
 Cities: **Sparta, Viroqua, Sussex**

All the vehicles and military hardware you see on TV, dashing around the desert — somebody's got to make them run, right?

That would be the 107th Maintenance Company, Wisconsin Army National Guard. The 107th deployed to the Persian Gulf for operation Desert Storm in 1990-91. This time around, the unit is deployed locally: At Fort McCoy, where they work in the Installation Materials and Maintenance Activity, repairing and refurbishing all the equipment that deploying units are taking with them to the Central Command area of operations.

The maintenance company from Sparta, Viroqua and Sussex received its mobilization orders Jan. 22, with a report date five days later. They knew from the start that they would be providing installation support at Fort McCoy, rather than going overseas, said Sgt. Julie Meyer, an automated logistical specialist working in administration during the McCoy deployment.

"We maintain anything — vehicles, flak vests, goggles. I'm amazed at some of the things our people fix," said Meyer.



Larry Sommers

Mobilized troops of the 107th Maintenance Company receive a visit from Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton April 9, as they repair a truck bound for the Iraqi desert. Brig. Gen. Kerry G. Denson, deputy adjutant general for Army, second from left, accompanied Lawton.

All of it is intended for shipment with units deploying to the CENTCOM theater. The 107th was activated for that specific mission. Since mobilization, the unit has completed more than 5,000 work orders, according to Spc. Benjamin Wyman, a power generator repairman. The greatest tasking so far came in February, March and April, at the height of the war effort. However, the effort will be even greater when overseas units come back home.

"When they went over, we only fixed major identified problems," said Spc. Emily Yttri, a wired equipment repair specialist in the unit. "That was about 20 percent of equipment. When they come back, we need to inspect 100 percent of the equipment and put it in good condition."

The members of the 107th, most of whom live not far from Fort McCoy, have also had time to take part in community activities. They raised nearly \$1,000 for Special Olympics by means of a "Polar Plunge." On the last weekend in February, some 15 unit members swam in the frigid waters off Black River Beach in La Crosse.

About 110 soldiers of the 107th are deployed at Fort McCoy. Morale is good, partly because unit members are near home. Since mobilization, two soldiers got married and two others became fathers.

The unit blended smoothly with McCoy's other active-duty personnel, and its members are considered permanent party while mobilized. In fact, Spc. Tracy Oswald was named Fort McCoy's Soldier of the Year for 2003 (See "People in the News," p. 31).



107th Maintenance Co.

Members of the 107th Maintenance Company took part in the Polar Plunge to raise money for charities.

One hundred sixty-six members of the 229th Engineer Company from Platteville and Prairie du Chien are put on alert and mobilized all in the same day.

Feb. 4

Fifty-three members of the 106th Engineer Detachment from Ashland are called to active duty, as are 57 members of the 829th Engineer Detachment from Richland Center.

Feb. 6

Four hundred ninety-five members of the 724th Engineer Battalion from Hayward, Superior, Spooner, Chippewa Falls, Medford, Tomahawk and Rhinelander; 182 members of the 32nd MP Co.; and 299 members of the 1158th Transportation Co. from Tomah, Beloit and Black River Falls are called to active duty.

Mar. 15

All diplomatic efforts cease when President Bush delivers an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq within 48 hours or else face an attack.

Mar. 17

# Operation “Desert Rerun”

Unit: **229th Engineer Company**  
Date Mobilized: **February 4, 2003**  
Number of Soldiers: **160**  
Cities: **Prairie du Chien, Platteville**

It could have been 12 years ago: The Platteville armory was packed with members of the community, glad to see their hometown Guard unit and wanting to show their support. Det. 1, 229th Engineer Company could have been coming home from the Persian Gulf region. This time, however, the unit was headed out.

They united with their parent unit, the 229th Engineer Company, out of Prairie du Chien, and headed for Fort McCoy.

The 229th has a history of involvement. Not only in wars, like the first Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Storm — but also in humanitarian projects like Joint Task Force Chontales, an

infrastructure improvement project in Central America.

This time, the unit mobilized at Fort McCoy on extremely short notice in early February, then underwent more than three months of in-processing and training, awaiting deployment.

Patience pays off, however. The 229th, commanded by Capt. Robert Pruitt, deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom on a Sunday afternoon, May 25. As the United Airlines 747 stood on the tarmac, preparing to depart, unit members looked out the plane’s windows at the green terrain surrounding Volk Field.

“It’ll be a while before we see trees again,” one soldier said.

**Members of the 229th Engineer Company board a United Airlines 747 at Volk Field May 25. The unit, based in Prairie du Chien and Platteville, sent 160 soldiers to Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom.**



Tim Donovan



Master Sgt. Steve Olson

**Sgt. Anthony Farmer, left, and Spc. John Schwanbeck repair a telescoping light pole at Annual Training in 2001.**

Quarry Team, a 54-member engineer detachment from Ashland; the 829th Engineer Detachment a 57-member unit from Richland Center that only recently contributed a dozen plumbers and carpenters to the Afghanistan mission; and the 724th Engineer Battalion, a 495-member unit with companies spread across northern Wisconsin. On March 1, the 724th became the largest Wisconsin Army Guard unit to receive a mobilization order since 1961.

Also ordered to mobilize March 1 were the 32nd Military Police Company of Milwaukee and Madison and the 1158th Transportation Company, with armories in Tomah,

Beloit, and Black River Falls. The 1158th, like the 107th Maintenance Company, the 229th Engineer Company and the 32nd MP Company, was mobilized for Desert Storm. And the MPs, just back from a six-month tour in Bosnia after pulling two weeks’ airport duty following the 9/11 attacks, might be forgiven for feeling a bit dizzy.

The Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard are engaged in a response greater than that called forth by the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf Crisis. Some 2,300 Wisconsin Army and Air Guard members have been mobilized, and more than 200 others

Continued on page 26

Two 2,000-pound bombs are dropped on a target in Baghdad. The strikes were aimed at “leadership targets.”

Marines begin advancing into Iraq; British forces start on to Basra; “Shock and Awe” bombing campaign starts in Baghdad.

The 147th Aviation Battalion deploys to Kuwait.

The 507th Maintenance Company out of Fort Hood, Texas, takes a wrong turn in Iraq — some members are killed, others captured.

U.S. troops strive to keep momentum in push to Baghdad. Apache helicopter shot down — 2 more U.S. prisoners of war. Coalition takes over 3,500 Iraqi prisoners.

Mar. 19

Mar. 21

Mar. 22

Mar. 23

Mar. 25

# Ready to restructure Southwest Asia

Unit: **724 Engineer Battalion**

Date Mobilized: **March 15, 2003**

Number of Soldiers: **495**

Cities: **Hayward, Superior, Spooner, Chippewa Falls, Medford, Tomahawk, Rhinelander**

They will go just about anywhere and do just about anything: The 724th Engineer Battalion, a 500-soldier unit operating out of seven armories in northern Wisconsin.

“Over the past few years, the 724th’s mission has included such tasks as road construction and maintenance, airstrip construction, vertical construction, survivability positions for personnel and equipment, bridge construction, and demolitions,” according to Capt. Steven R. Ramm, battalion adjutant.

The unit has trained in Germany, Panama, the Marshall Islands and Nicaragua, including humanitarian missions in which it built schools and medical clinics in the Marshalls and Nicaragua. The battalion also has a history of picking up the pieces when Wisconsin is hit by disasters such as the 1993 Baraboo flood and last year’s Ladysmith tornado.

When the 724th mobilized in mid-March for Operation Iraqi Freedom, it became the largest Wisconsin Army Guard unit to be mobilized as a unit since the 32nd Division mobilization for



724th Engineer Battalion

**Capt. Eric Leckel, Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion, prepares to depart on a mission in Kuwait.**



724th Engineer Battalion

**Staff Sgt. Tucci of Company B, 724th Engineer Battalion, descends from the top of the rappel tower at Fort McCoy.**

the Berlin Crisis of 1960-61. (The former 13th Evacuation Hospital, which mobilized over 400 troops for Operation Desert Storm in 1990, runs a close second.)

Soldiers reported to their armories March 15. After a few days of “issuing new equipment, packing, and other preparations,” said Ramm, they convoyed to Fort McCoy. There they immediately started training and kept training until they flew out for Southwest Asia on May 10 and 12.

Training for the unit included firing weapons on Fort McCoy’s ranges; night vision driving training; the NBC (Nuclear/Biological/Chemical) chamber, and first aid, among other skills. After the battalion was validated for deployment, it continued to train — scheduling urban combat training, rappelling, and other drills.

Upon deployment, the battalion was transported to a place known as Camp Virginia in Kuwait. At this writing, the unit was collecting its equipment and looking forward to receiving taskings from higher headquarters.

Heavy bombing rocks Baghdad. Saddam’s Republican Guard amassing south of Baghdad, ready to defend the city.

An Egyptian national drives into a group of soldiers waiting in line at the Post Exchange at Camp Udairi in Kuwait. Spc. Patrick McDermott, 147th Avn. Bn., is injured and hospitalized with a knee injury.

U.S. forces rescue POW Pvt. Jessica Lynch from a hospital in Baghdad. 4th Infantry Division “weeks away” from being in Iraq. Several Iraqi Generals captured.

U.S. forces within 30 miles of Baghdad. City of Najaf close to being contained. British continue siege of Basra. Allied forces control western desert.

Baghdad defenders prepare for last stand. 2,500 Republican Guards surrender to Marines.

Mar. 28

Mar. 30

Apr. 1

Apr. 2

Apr. 4

have received alert notifications for possible future mobilization.

Our units have been chosen for their specialized skills; some are putting their skills to use in the CENTCOM area of operations, while others backfill in the continental United States for other units deployed to the Gulf. All are serving the nation's interests.

After a two-month waiting period, units mobilized in early March are in motion.

The 32nd Military Police Company departed Thursday, May 8, headed for an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

32nd Military Police Company



Members of the 32nd Military Police Company rush to rescue damp clothes from a sandstorm in Kuwait.

# Memo to MPs: Restore order

Unit: 32nd Military Police Company

Date Mobilized: **March 15, 2003**

Number of Soldiers: **182**

Cities: **Milwaukee, Madison**

Note from a group of Baghdad merchants to a U.S. military police commander:

*"We ask you to protect this area from the after-Saddam bandits who are hurting the people freely and destroying their properties. We think that who was able to destroy the regime of the greatest dictator in history and its gangsters is able to finish those who roam in the streets stealing, burning and destroying. Our so much thanks in advance."*

— Los Angeles Times, May 20, 2003

Can U.S. forces police Iraq effectively? A lot rides on the outcome.

The 32nd Military Police Company, fresh from Wisconsin, steps into a pressure cooker. They arrived at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, in early May.

"After just over a week of hot weather acclimatization," reported Capt. Scott Southworth, company commander, "we began training on

MP tasks we expect to carry out when we move in a few weeks, likely to someplace in Iraq. Notably, we expect to conduct convoy and critical site security, as well as law and order operations. We may even get the chance to work directly with Iraqi civilian police officials."

The environment presents its own set of obstacles: Daytime temperatures of over 120 degrees, dropping only to the 80s at night, and sand storms capable of destroying a camp.

"Although our vehicles have not yet arrived into the port," Southworth said, "we keep busy by assisting our higher headquarters, performing guard duties here at our base camp, studying Iraq, training on specific MP tasks related to our expected mission, and doing PT. We also drink a LOT of water!"

With morale high, the 32nd MPs — who have recently seen duty patrolling Wisconsin civilian airports and keeping the fragile peace in



Kelly Bradley

Sgt. Scott Wood, a member of the 32nd Military Police Company, and his wife, Megan Tellijohn, spend every last minute together before the unit's March 18 send-off ceremony in Madison.

Bosnia — are ready to tackle the challenge of Iraq.

"Of course, we're looking forward to the day when we finish our mission and get back to the U.S. in order to reunite with family and friends," Southworth said. "We want to thank our supporters for their prayers, love, letters, and friendship."

First U.S. aircraft lands at Baghdad airport. U.S. seize buildings in center of Baghdad.

Saddam targeted in Baghdad bombing attack. U.S. troops storm presidential palace. Crowds welcome British troops in Basra.

Allied strikes pound Tikrit, Saddam's hometown. Saddam statue toppled as crowd cheers in Baghdad. Celebrations and looting break out in Iraq.

U.S. issues most wanted Iraqi list. Pentagon says no major Iraqi forces remain. U.N. inspectors discover eleven undeclared empty chemical warheads in Iraq.

POWs found alive. POW Pvt. Jessica Lynch back in U.S. U.S. has Saddam's DNA.

POWs return to Fort Hood and Fort Bliss Texas.

Apr. 6

Apr. 8

Apr. 9

Apr. 11

Apr. 13

Apr. 19

# Ready for the long haul

Unit: **1158th Transportation Company**

Date Mobilized: **March 15, 2003**

Number of Soldiers: **299**

Cities: **Tomah, Beloit, Black River Falls**

Their armories are in Beloit, Tomah, and Black River Falls.

They drive the 40,000-pound HET — the Army's M-1070 Heavy Equipment Transporter. The unit has 96 of the behemoths and some 300 soldiers to make them go.

They convoy long distances or short distances, carrying heavy Army equipment and weapons systems up to and including the 80-ton M-1A1 Abrams tank. In the summer of 1998, they transported the 57th Field Artillery Brigade's equipment from Fort McCoy across the Mackinac Straits Bridge to Camp Grayling, Michigan. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-1991, they became familiar with the desert sands of the Persian Gulf Region.

With this level of experience and training, members of the 1158th Transportation Company were not surprised to be mobilized March 15, during the buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The surprise was that they were not deployed soon after reporting to Fort McCoy.

A shortage of transportation delayed the unit's overseas deployment; meanwhile the war was won, and the need to transport main battle tanks receded, in record time. The 1158th was left waiting at its mobilization station, Fort McCoy.

As this edition of *At Ease* went to press, the 1158th continued training at Fort McCoy, awaiting a decision from the Army about possible alternate missions.



Kelly Bradley

Emma Watkins gets a taste of the American flag as she helps send off her grandpa, Chief Warrant Officer Tim Simonson, and uncle, Pfc. Josh Simonson. Tim is in the 724th Engineer Battalion, Josh is a member of the 1158th Transportation Company.



Wisconsin National Guard Photo

The HETs driven by the 1158th Transportation Company, are so large that the driver looks down on regular-sized semi-trucks.

The 724th Engineer Battalion deployed from Fort McCoy on May 10 and 12, also headed for Southwest Asia, where they are expected to put their full array of engineer skills to work. The 229th Engineer Company and 829th Engineer Detachment deployed to Southwest Asia May 25 and May 30, respectively.

Events on the ground in Iraq outran the 1158th Transportation Company's mobilization processing. Currently the unit is waiting at Fort McCoy while the Army considers using them elsewhere.

Stay tuned. ■

Talks begin for some Iraqi control to resume.

President Bush lands aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln and addresses the nation. "Major combat operations in Iraq have ended," Bush declares. "The United States and our allies have prevailed."

The 106th Engineer Detachment is deployed to Fort Lewis, Wash.

The 32nd Military Police Company is deployed to Kuwait.

The 724th Engineer Battalion is deployed to Kuwait.

The 229th Engineer Company is deployed to Southwest Asia.

The 829th Engineer Detachment is deployed to Southwest Asia.

Apr. 24

May 1

May 1-12

May 8

May 10

May 25

May 30

# A YEAR IN THE GUARD

This chart shows 2003 annual basic pay received by Wisconsin National Guard members for 12 weekend drills and 15 days annual training. It does not include allowances, special pay, or income received by Guard members who perform additional duty.

	Years of Service														
	< 2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
<b>Commissioned Officers</b>															
O-9												22,183	22,502	22,964	23,771
O-8	15,696	16,210	16,551	16,647	17,071	17,784	17,949	18,624	18,818	19,400	20,241	21,018	21,537	21,537	21,537
O-7	13,042	13,648	13,929	14,152	14,554	14,953	15,414	15,874	16,335	17,784	19,007	19,007	19,007	19,007	19,007
O-6	9,666	10,619	11,316	11,316	11,360	11,846	11,911	11,911	12,588	13,785	14,487	15,189	15,189	15,189	15,189
O-5	8,058	9,078	9,707	9,824	10,216	10,451	10,967	11,346	11,834	12,582	12,939	13,291	13,291	13,291	13,291
O-4	6,953	8,048	8,586	8,705	9,204	9,739	10,404	10,922	11,282	11,489	11,609	11,609	11,609	11,609	11,609
O-3	6,113	6,930	7,480	8,155	8,545	8,974	9,252	9,708	9,945	9,945	9,945	9,945	9,945	9,945	9,945
O-2	5,281	6,015	6,928	7,162	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310	7,310
O-1	4,585	4,772	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768	5,768
<b>Commissioned Officers with more than four years as Enlisted or Warrant Officer</b>															
O-3E				8,155	8,545	8,974	9,252	9,708	10,093	10,313	10,614	10,614	10,614	10,614	10,614
O-2E				7,162	7,310	7,542	7,935	8,239	8,465	8,465	8,465	8,465	8,465	8,465	8,465
O-1E				5,768	6,160	6,388	6,620	6,849	7,162	7,162	7,162	7,162	7,162	7,162	7,162
<b>Warrant Officers (Army National Guard)</b>															
W-5												10,855	11,227	11,601	11,976
W-4	6,317	6,795	6,991	7,183	7,514	7,840	8,171	8,493	8,827	9,147	9,475	9,795	10,127	10,454	10,788
W-3	5,768	6,010	6,256	6,337	6,596	6,891	7,281	7,519	7,920	8,222	8,522	8,823	8,959	9,254	9,550
W-2	5,074	5,364	5,617	5,802	5,960	6,285	6,611	6,854	7,090	7,253	7,517	7,782	8,045	8,310	8,310
W-1	4,481	4,847	5,093	5,252	5,591	5,842	6,065	6,314	6,478	6,727	6,973	7,159	7,159	7,159	7,159
<b>Enlisted Personnel</b>															
E-9							7,485	7,654	7,868	8,120	8,373	8,779	9,123	9,463	9,990
E-8						6,248	6,428	6,596	6,798	7,018	7,413	7,613	7,953	8,142	8,608
E-7	4,343	4,741	4,922	5,099	5,284	5,602	5,782	5,960	5,279	6,439	6,591	6,683	6,996	7,198	7,709
E-6	3,718	4,089	4,270	4,445	4,628	5,041	5,202	5,380	5,537	5,592	5,690	5,690	5,690	5,690	5,690
E-5	3,413	3,640	3,816	3,997	4,277	4,518	4,697	4,794	4,794	4,794	4,794	4,794	4,794	4,794	4,794
E-4	3,155	3,317	3,497	3,673	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830	3,830
E-3	2,849	3,028	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,210	3,084	3,084	3,084	3,084
E-2	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,709	2,603	2,603	2,603	2,603
E-1	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,416	2,322	2,322	2,322	2,322

Annual pay rates are rounded down to the nearest whole dollar.

## Wisconsin Guard members on active duty

As this magazine went to press in late May, more than 2,300 members of the Wisconsin National Guard were serving on active duty — receiving active duty pay and benefits.

Compensation for active duty service — as with Guard pay — is based on rank and time in service. These are some examples of active duty basic pay for one year's service:

- Army Specialist or Air Force Senior Airman (E-4) with four years of service — \$20,991.
- Army Staff Sergeant or Air Force Tech Sergeant (E-6) with 12 years — \$30,746.
- Army Master Sergeant or Air Force Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) with 22 years — \$45,450.
- Chief Warrant Officer 3 (W-3) with ten years — \$41,608.
- Captain (O-3) with eight years — \$51,282.

Guard members on active duty are also eligible to receive non-taxable allowances for subsistence and housing.

Based on the U.S. military's historic custom of providing room and board (or "rations") as part of a service member's pay, Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) is meant to offset the costs for service members' meals. BAS is currently \$167.20 a month for officers. Enlisted personnel receive \$242.81 each month — or \$262.50 per month if rations-in-kind are not available.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is an allowance to offset the cost of housing when service members do not receive government-provided housing. Individual BAH rates depend upon location, pay grade and whether or not a service member has dependents.

Pay and benefit charts are available online at [dod.mil/militarypay](http://dod.mil/militarypay).

# Youth Camp '03

Volunteer and camper applications for the 2003 Wisconsin National Guard Youth Camp are available. The camp will be held August 8-10 at Volk Field.

Applications are available on the Family Program website at [www.wingfam.org](http://www.wingfam.org) or by contacting the Family Program office. The camp is intended for children, between the ages of 8 and 17, of Army and Air National Guard members.

Volunteers can choose from a variety of positions such as counselors, activity support, administrative support, public affairs, logistics, security, cooks, fund raising, and medical.

Volunteers are desperately needed for this year's Youth Camp due to the high rate of deployments.

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.

Early application is encouraged as space is limited. Children of volunteers are guaranteed a spot at camp.

Questions can be directed to the state Family Program office, (800) 292-9464 or (608) 242-3480.



Wisconsin National Guard Photo

Children play tug-of-war at the Wisconsin National Guard's annual Youth Camp. This year's camp will be held August 8-10 at Volk Field.

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## Useful websites for the National Guard Community

### Wisconsin National Guard

[www.state.wi.us/agencies/dma/index](http://www.state.wi.us/agencies/dma/index)

### Wisconsin National Guard Family Program

[www.wingfam.org](http://www.wingfam.org)

### Army National Guard

[www.arng.army.mil](http://www.arng.army.mil)

### Air National Guard

[www.ang.af.mil](http://www.ang.af.mil)

### Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services

[www.redcross.org/services/afes](http://www.redcross.org/services/afes)

### Defense Finance and Accounting Service

[www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil)

### myPay

<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>

### U.S. Department of Defense

[www.defenselink.mil](http://www.defenselink.mil)

### TRICARE Information

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

### Legal Assistance

[www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/Legal)

### U.S. Dept. of Defense News About the War on Terrorism

[www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil)

### Army and Air Force Exchange Service

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

### National Guard Family Program Online Community

[www.guardfamily.org](http://www.guardfamily.org)

### National Military Family Association

[www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)

### Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

[www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org)



Larry Sommers

**Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, the adjutant general of Wisconsin, views an old flight jacket that he donated to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, now on display in the National Guard Gallery.**

## Wisconsin Guard Gallery now open

When the Wisconsin National Guard Gallery and Veterans Museum Research Center opened to the public on Veterans Day, 2002, the debut was impressive.

The gallery features exhibits arranged chronologically from the establishment of Wisconsin's first militia unit in 1837 through the current war on terrorism. Several displays highlight Wisconsin leaders who played prominent roles in the Guard's growth and evolution, such as Charles King, a soldier, novelist and historian who was appointed a colonel in the Wisconsin National Guard in 1882, and Maj. Gen. William Haan, who commanded the 32nd Division in World War I.

In addition to the gallery, the museum's new research center houses the Wisconsin National Guard archives of manuscripts, photographs, maps and posters, transferred recently from the Guard museum at Volk Field. The research center also includes a military history library, oral history collections, and other items pertaining to state veterans and their organizations.

For more information, call the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center at 608-267-1790 or visit the museum Web site at <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>. The Guard gallery and research center are located on the third floor of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 W. Mifflin St., across the street from the Capitol. Hours of operation are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## New tax scam aims at military families

The Internal Revenue Service reports a new scam targeting families of those serving in the armed forces. The IRS warns consumers to beware of any variation of a scenario in which a telephone caller posing as an IRS employee tells a family member he is entitled to a \$4,000 refund because his relative is in the armed forces and then requests a credit card number to cover a \$42 fee for postage. The scammer provides an actual IRS toll-free number as the call-

back number to make the call seem legitimate.

However, the scammer then charges unauthorized purchases with the victim's card.

People who believe they are victims of this scam can contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) by calling the toll-free fraud referral hotline at (800) 366-4484, faxing a complaint to (202) 927-7018 or writing to the TIGTA Hotline, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington D.C. 20044-0589. To learn more about protecting your credit card against scams, see <http://www.military.com/credit>. — From *Military.com news service*

## Guard Events

### Fighter Wing Family Day

The 115th Fighter Wing will have its Pig Roast and Picnic on Saturday, June 28, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Truax Field. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. Events will include games with prizes, social activities and watching the Rhythm & Booms fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Fighter Wing members can call 1-800-438-3489, ext. 4654, with questions.

### Red Arrow Reunion

The 32nd Division will hold its 84th annual convention and reunion Sept. 11-15 at the Best Western Hotel in Janesville. Events will include a golf outing, a boat tour, a luau, business meetings, a pig roast, a memorial service, a tour of the Veterans Museum in Madison, and the annual banquet. To register call Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Charles Scharine at (608) 883-8220 or Col. (Ret.) Mike Williams at (608) 755-3030. Call the Best Western (1-800-334-4271) for room reservations.

# people in the news

## FUSA Soldier/ NCO named

Spc. Daniel R. Jackan, a forward observer in Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, has been named National Guard Soldier of the Year in First U.S. Army West. Jackan, an Appleton resident, prevailed in soldier-of-the-year boards at company, battalion, major command and state levels before traveling to Camp Grayling, Mich., to

compete with the best Guard soldiers from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota. As the selected National Guardsman, he represents some 70,000 soldiers in seven states, and will compete in Atlanta, Ga., with active Army and U.S. Army Reserve counterparts for the title of First Army West Soldier of the Year.

Jackan will also receive an expense-paid week in Washington, D.C., meeting top Army NCOs



Spc. Daniel Jackan, right, 120th Field Artillery, was named National Guard Soldier of the Year in First U.S. Army West. Staff Sgt. Robert Thomas, left, 126th Field Artillery, was first runner-up.

## Williams earns Bong Award

Master Sgt. Del Williams, first sergeant of Headquarters, 128th Air Refueling Wing, is the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 2003

recipient of the Richard Bong Award.

The award is presented annually to one member from each reserve component of the Wisconsin military community. It is named for Maj. Richard I. Bong, a Poplar, Wis., native who was the leading air ace of World War II and a Medal of Honor recipient. Bong was killed in 1945 while test flying the P-80 experimental jet fighter.

The award recognizes outstanding members of the military for their achievements, contributions, personal growth, qualities of leadership, military bearing and appearance.

The award was presented in Milwaukee on May 12.



Master Sgt. Del Williams

and touring the Pentagon and other military sites in the nation's capital, according to Command Sgt. Maj. John Hauschildt, senior enlisted advisor for the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Staff Sgt.

Robert C. Thomas, a gunnery sergeant in Battery A, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, was first runner-up in the seven states' NCO of the Year competition, also held at Camp Grayling in early April.

## Soldier and Airmen of the Year chosen

Spc. Tracy Oswald of the 107th Maintenance Co. was named Fort McCoy Soldier of the Year.

Tech. Sgt. David Kind, a medical technician with the 128th Air Control Squadron, was chosen as the 2002 Wisconsin Air National Guard state NCO.

Staff Sgt. Nicole Crivello, a personnel specialist; Tech. Sgt. Donald Strickland, a boom operator; Master Sgt. Michael Day, a crew chief; and Master Sgt. Del Williams, headquarters first sergeant were selected as the 128th Air Refueling Wing's Outstanding Airmen of the Year.



Spc. Tracy Oswald



Master Sgt. Michael Day



Staff Sgt. Nicole Crivello



Tech. Sgt. Donald Strickland



On May 15, 2003, Staff Sgt. Curtis Patrouille of the 332nd Rear Area Operation Center, Berlin, Wis., plays a game of "Patty Cake, Patty Cake..." with a young Afghan girl in a tent camp near Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Soldiers assigned to the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Syracuse, N.Y., were in the area delivering cases of Humanitarian Daily Rations. The tent camp is used as temporary shelter by Afghan locals whose village was washed out due to heavy rains and flooding. The soldiers are attached to the Coalition Joint Task Force 180 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. For a profile on the 332nd RAOC and all units called to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001 turn to page 6. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jerry T. Combes.

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