



# @ease

# Express

November-December 2010



[Click here](#) to see more about the Wisconsin National Guard's role in a tribute to veterans at Lambeau Field. Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Jon LaDue



# @ease Express

2009 Keith L. Ware Award winner  
2009 Thomas Jefferson Award winner  
November-December 2010

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Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays. As you would expect in a nation as diverse as ours, the holiday season is many things to many people. Many celebrate Christmas and this is our national holiday, while others look forward to Hanukkah and the festival of lights. For some, the celebration is about Kwanzaa, and for others, the winter solstice. It is a season of miracles, and it is a season of gifts.

It was gifts from home that led to the Christmas Truce of 1914. According to one account, the good will nurtured by food, warm clothing and letters from home prompted the Germans in one area of the Western Front to suggest a cease fire on Christmas Eve in order to sing songs and celebrate an officer's birthday. The suggestion came with a chocolate cake. The British forces accepted the invitation and sent tobacco as a return gift. That night, in place of gunfire and artillery shells, soldiers on both sides traded songs and jokes. The next day, in parts of the No-Man's Land between the trenches, Germans and British met and exchanged small gifts and pleasantries. A British major in the medical corps wrote home to his mother about an impromptu soccer match that Christmas Day, with the Germans besting the British by a score of 3-2. The truce did not endure, but it did occur and it remains to this day as a reminder that even those who pledge to fight on behalf of their nation will embrace peace over war.

That selfless service is itself a gift that our Soldiers and Airmen deliver each and every day — since Dec. 13, 1636, when the National Guard began — but it is a gift that we are acutely aware of at this time of year. Almost 15 years ago a young Marine composed a poem based on "Twas the Night Before Christmas" in which St. Nicholas encounters a deployed American warrior. As the jolly old elf reflects on the Soldier's sacrifice, the young man says, in verse: "Santa, don't cry; this life is my choice. I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more; my life is my God, my country, my Corps."

Military families also contribute a gift

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# From the TAG



**Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar**  
The Adjutant General

of sorts to their community and nation when their loved ones serve at home and overseas. November was Military Family Appreciation Month, and there is a simple truth I have learned as the commander of the Wisconsin National Guard — our fine Soldiers and Airmen are really on loan from the greater community of parents, siblings, spouses and children. A military contract obligates the individual and underscores his or her commitment to service, but it also affects the military family.

At this moment more than 700 members of the Wisconsin National Guard will observe the holidays deployed overseas. Let us remember them and their families as we share the season at home with our loved ones.

Another poem that makes the round in military circles this time of year tells of a young boy writing to Santa on how the

only present he wants for Christmas is his father to be home for the holiday. "But if you can't do it, I'll understand," the poem continues. "Since Daddy's been gone, I'm Mom's little man. As you deliver your presents, give a message from me — we gave up Christmas with Daddy so children stay free."

That is too great a gift not to acknowledge, appreciate and honor.

In this era of persistent conflict, today's armed forces are being favorably compared to their counterparts from "The Greatest Generation," those who fought in and endured World War II. I would like to close with messages from two great leaders of that conflict, Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Let the children have their night of fun and laughter," Churchill said during a Christmas Eve address from the White House in 1941. "Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures before we turn again to the stern task and the formidable years that lie before us, resolved that, by our sacrifice and daring, these same children shall not be robbed of their inheritance or denied their right to live in a free and decent world."

President Roosevelt composed this message in 1944:

"The way ahead of us still is arduous and continuance of our utmost effort together with that of our Allies is indispensable until victory is won and a stable peace is established. You, who have done your gallant share and have suffered in the doing, have the Nation's eternal gratitude and assurance of your country's lasting remembrance and appreciation.

Thank you for your service — it is a privilege to serve with you. I ask God's blessings on you all and humbly pray that God will continue to bless our great nation.

# Wisconsin National Guard responds to Arcadia flooding

Thirty Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers and Airmen stepped up to assist three communities — Arcadia, Neillsville and Osseo — Sept. 23-25 following storms that drenched much of northern Wisconsin.

Gov. Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency for Trempealeau County following strong storms that drenched the area with six inches of rain, resulting in flooding. The flooding prompted the

evacuation of downtown Arcadia, which was under as much as three feet of water at one point, and also washed out roads and bridges, downed power lines and damaged infrastructure in Trempealeau County.

“State Emergency Management and DNR officials are already on the ground, working with the National Guard to assist in recovery efforts,” Doyle said.

“This is the core of our mission —

taking care of Wisconsin citizens in times of need,” said Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin. “Our Guardsmen are at the ready.”

The first wave of Guard assistance came in the form of seven Soldiers from a field maintenance shop out of Eau Claire, with two 5-ton trucks, one Light Medium Tactical Vehicle, one Humvee and a heavy equipment wrecker. The Soldiers helped escort families to their homes in areas of Arcadia that were surrounded by up to two feet of water. The FMS Soldiers also assisted law enforcement with checkpoint security.

Lt. Col. David May, deputy director of operations for military support, said the FMS Soldiers, who had to travel about an hour to Arcadia from Eau Claire, did an exemplary job.

“The response time on this is a huge success story,” May said. “To get the right equipment and the right people there in just three hours is amazing.”

As the FMS Soldiers were assisting emergency responders, four Soldiers from Company C, 128th Infantry, 32nd Brigade Combat Team, were busy assisting the American Red Cross with opening a shelter out of their armory. The Red Cross sheltered more than 50 residents, including seven children, in the Arcadia armory.

“We know the armory fits the requirements that we have,” said Heidi Jury, American Red Cross public support specialist. “It’s nice and easy when we need a shelter to just call them up and they’re ready for us.”

Originally expecting another two to three inches of rain that night, 11 more Soldiers from the 32nd IBCT relieved the FMS Soldiers and continued the role of checkpoint security.

Another four members of the brigade delivered 30,000 sandbags — 20,000 to Arcadia and 10,000 to nearby Osseo and Neillsville — in an effort to help the cities posture themselves for additional rain.

Lt. Col. Alec Christianson, incident commander, said his Soldiers were prepared to adapt to worsening conditions by transferring from checkpoint operations to evacuation operations if the weather worsened or water levels continued to rise. Fortunately for Arcadia residents, the additional rainfall never came and the Trempealeau River levels, which had reached more than a foot above “flood stage,” began to hold steady and eventually recede.

“In this case, we were the first ones in and when we were no longer needed, we departed,” said May.

**Staff Sgt. Dallas Gearing and Sgt. 1st Class Peter Urzuablau, both with an Army National Guard field maintenance shop in Eau Claire, assist local authorities by manning a traffic control point near Ashley Furniture in Arcadia.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech Sgt. Jon LaDue

# Aviators prepare for overseas mission

Approximately 30 Wisconsin Army National Guard aviators wrapped up three weeks of training at Fort McCoy in October in preparation for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation New Dawn.

The Soldiers belong to detachments of companies C, D and E of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment and represent flight, maintenance and ground support operations. Co-located in West Bend, they can support three UH-60 Black

Hawk helicopters for medical evacuation missions, but for this deployment they will marry up with their parent units from other states.

The training at Fort McCoy, known as pre-mobilization training, is intended to accomplish some of the mandatory tasks required later at the mobilization station in Texas. Those tasks include 32 Army Warrior Tasks, battle drills, theater-specific tasks, weapon ranges for sidearms

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Approximately 30 members of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, participated in crew-served weapon qualification — such as the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon — Oct. 14 as part of a three-week pre-mobilization annual training at Fort McCoy.

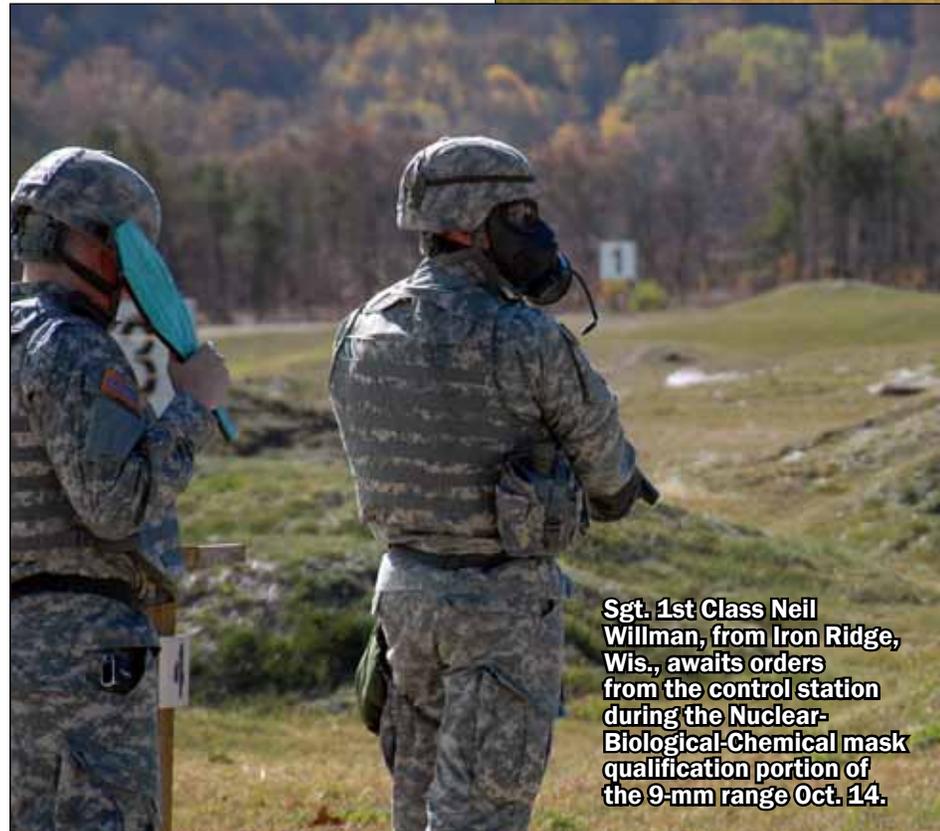
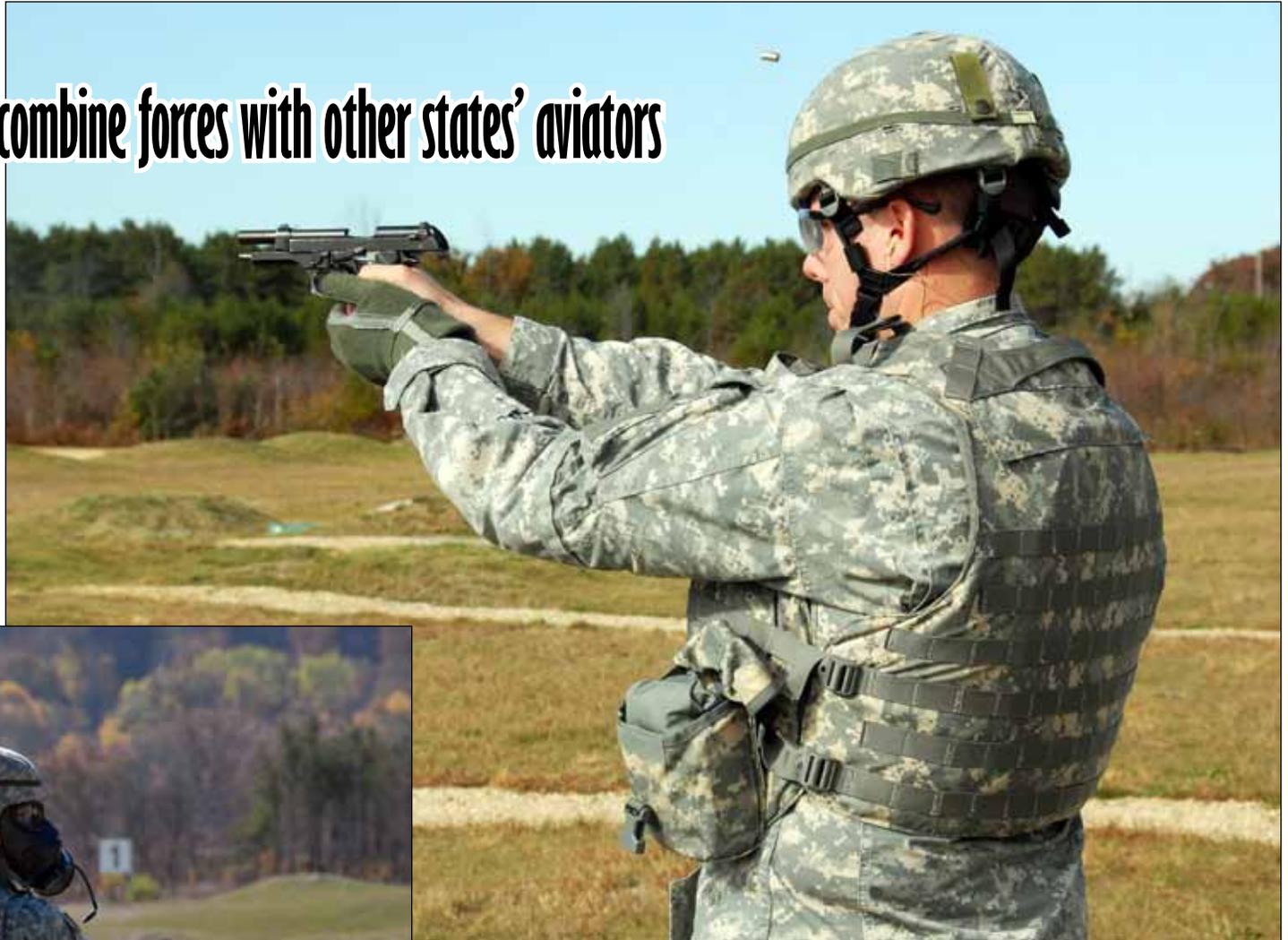
# Wisconsin Guardsmen to combine forces with other states' aviators

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and crew-served weapons, vehicle roll-over drills, convoy operations, Nuclear-Biological-Chemical training, and combat lifesaver training.

"Training has been going well," said Capt. Randall Ramm, a trained helicopter pilot and commander of the detachment Soldiers in Wisconsin. "The rifle qualification went very well. It was just about the first time on the M4 [rifle] for everyone."

According to 2nd Lt. Michael Torre, the training advisor assigned to the detachment Soldiers, some of the pilots who have not qualified with a rifle in several years achieved sharpshooter or expert scores.



**Sgt. 1st Class Neil Willman, from Iron Ridge, Wis., awaits orders from the control station during the Nuclear-Biological-Chemical mask qualification portion of the 9-mm range Oct. 14.**

**Capt. Randall Ramm, from Sun Prairie, Wis., engages his target on the 9-mm range at Fort McCoy Oct. 14. Ramm was among approximately 30 members of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, Wisconsin Army National Guard, to participate in 9-mm and crew-served weapon ranges Oct. 14 as part of a three-week pre-mobilization annual training at Fort McCoy. The select members of Companies C, D and E are preparing for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.** Wisconsin National Guard photos by 1st Sgt. Vaughn R. Larson

The detachment Soldiers utilized the Wisconsin National Guard's Wisconsin Military Academy for meals, lodging and much of their training.

"Being able to eat, sleep and train in the same building has been helpful," Ramm said.

The Soldiers reported to their armory in November prior to a send-off ceremony

Nov. 29 in West Bend. They then linked up with the rest of 2nd Battalion for training at a U.S. Army base in Texas and will deploy overseas in support of Operation New Dawn (formerly Operation Iraqi Freedom).

The mobilization is expected to last about one year, to include time spent training in Texas. 



## West Bend aviators rise to face New Dawn

**Tech Sgt. Jon LaDue**  
*Wisconsin National Guard*

Approximately 30 Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers will support medical evacuation missions in Iraq as the first Wisconsin Guard members to deploy in support of Operation New Dawn.

The West Bend-based members of the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment said goodbye to family and friends at a sendoff ceremony Nov. 29 at their armory. The Soldiers are comprised of three West Bend units — Detachment 1 of Company C, Detachment 2 of Company D, and Detachment 2 of Company E.

Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson,

Wisconsin Army National Guard commander, compared the pride and competency of the Soldiers from the 135th with the many Wisconsin Soldiers who have previously deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I am absolutely confident that you are those same Soldiers ... because of your professionalism, your dedication and what you do in uniform,” Anderson said. “Thank you so much.”

Sgt. Aaron Grudich, 135th crew chief, said his unit has put in a lot of additional training to prepare for the deployment. He said the unit has really bonded during the extra time together and he is looking forward to deploying with his fellow aviation Soldiers.

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Above, Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin, talks with family members during the Nov. 29 sendoff ceremony. Wisconsin National Guard photos by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

# Family, friends bid farewell to West Bend-based aviators bound for Operation New Dawn

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"I'm kind of anxious to leave," Grudich said. "I think it will be a good experience with a good group of people."

June Grabofsky and her husband, Gerald, traveled from Montana to say farewell to her granddaughter, Pfc. Jessica Liebelt, who will report with her fellow Soldiers for mobilization training at Ft. Hood, Texas.

"She's taking it seriously and doing her very, very best," June said of Liebelt's

deployment preparation. "I'm very proud of her."

Command Sgt. Maj. George Stopper, the Wisconsin Army National Guard's top enlisted leader, spoke to the Soldiers. He suggested those Soldiers with deployment experience guide the first-timers through the experience.

"Be a true battle buddy and help them through those tough times," said Stopper. "Aid them in any way that you can."

West Bend Mayor Kristine Deiss attended the ceremony and expressed

gratitude on behalf of the community for the Soldiers' service and sacrifice.

"You have each other to support you when over there," Deiss said. "But you also have family, friends and a community that supports you back here."

Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin, addressed all the friends and family of the 135th. He sympathized with them regarding the challenges they will soon face, but also expressed his appreciation for their service and the mission they will serve.

"I share your pride in these outstanding men and women," Dunbar said. "Because they are truly the best that Wisconsin has to offer."

The 135th will report to Fort Hood, Texas, for two months of mobilization training. From there, they will deploy to Iraq as the first members from the Wisconsin Army National Guard to deploy in support of Operation New Dawn. The Soldiers will deploy with three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to support medical evacuation missions.  

# Milwaukee Airman part of All-Air Force soccer team



**Capt. Jason Park, a fuel tanker pilot with the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee, challenges a member of the Army Soccer team for the ball during an October match at the 2010 Armed Forces Soccer Championship in Destin, Fla. Park's team defeated Army, 2-1.** Submitted photo

**Staff Sgt. Nathan T. Wallin**  
128th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

The Air National Guard is providing Capt. Jason Park with two opportunities to soar.

A pilot for the past six years with the Milwaukee-based 128th Air Refueling Wing, Park is also a team captain — and one of only two Air National Guard members — with the 2010 All-Air Force Soccer Team, which recently competed in the Armed Forces Soccer Tournament, a five-game round-robin tournament against teams from other service branches. The Air Force team finished 2-2-1, defeating the Marine Corps and Army teams, and tying the Navy team. Park, a midfielder, scored the winning goal against Army in the game's closing moments — a header to the back of the net.

Park is in his third season with the All-Air Force team, but acknowledged he has to try out for the team each year. He first learned about the team in 2006 while attending pilot training at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. In 2008 he was selected from 45 other athletes, and has become highly regarded by his coaches. The team consists of 13 officers and five enlisted members. He acknowledged that the conventional military rank structure does not apply on the team — everyone has equal responsibility and equal respect.

“But with subtlety, the higher ranking officers led the team by example,” Park said.

Soccer has been a lifelong passion for the 30-year-old Park, a Fort Collins, Colo., native. He recalls playing soccer as early as age four, and played in the Dallas Cup — the nation's second-largest soccer tournament — in grades 4 through 7.

“That's where the core of my soccer ability and my knowledge of the game took shape,” he said.

Park was captain of the Crystal Lake (Ill.) High School soccer team, played soccer at the University of Illinois in



**Capt. Jason Park dribbles the ball during an Armed Forces Men's Soccer Championship Round Robin match against the U.S. Marine Corps at Morgan Sports Complex, Destin, Fla., Oct. 18.** Air Force photo by Senior Airman Sheila deVera

Champaign, and presently is in his second year as a reserve player for the Milwaukee Wave professional indoor soccer team.

“Training with professionals who know the game gives me the ability to keep my level of play high,” he said. “My coaches with the Wave, Keith Tozer and Mark Litton, push us to the top of our game through strenuous workout and practice sessions. I simply would not be ready to compete for the Air Force Team without the benefit of training with The Wave.”

Park rated the level of play in the Armed Forces Soccer Tournament as professional.

“Most guys had played at the Division One level in college,” he explained.

Seven of eight members of the All-Air Force team who volunteered for the American Armed Forces Team were selected to play international soccer tournaments in South America in November. Park, who had training commitments with the 128th as well as college classes — he is working towards a master's degree in business administration — opted not to volunteer. 

The first of three additional KC-135R refueling tankers has arrived at the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee. The aircraft, which formerly belonged to the Mississippi Air National Guard's 153rd Air Refueling Squadron, has been retrofitted with updated communication and navigation systems. 128th Air Refueling Wing photo by Master Sgt. Ken Pagel



# Milwaukee Air Guard unit welcomes first of three additional aircraft

**Capt. John Capra**  
128th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Maintenance crews from the Milwaukee-based 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, ushered in the first of three additional KC-135 refueling tankers on Nov. 10. The

unit is receiving the additional aircraft as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure 2005, eventually bringing the wing's total number of KC-135s to 12.

Lt. Col. Winston Hainsworth, the 128th's comptroller, said "the financial impact to our wing and community is quite impressive. With the additional

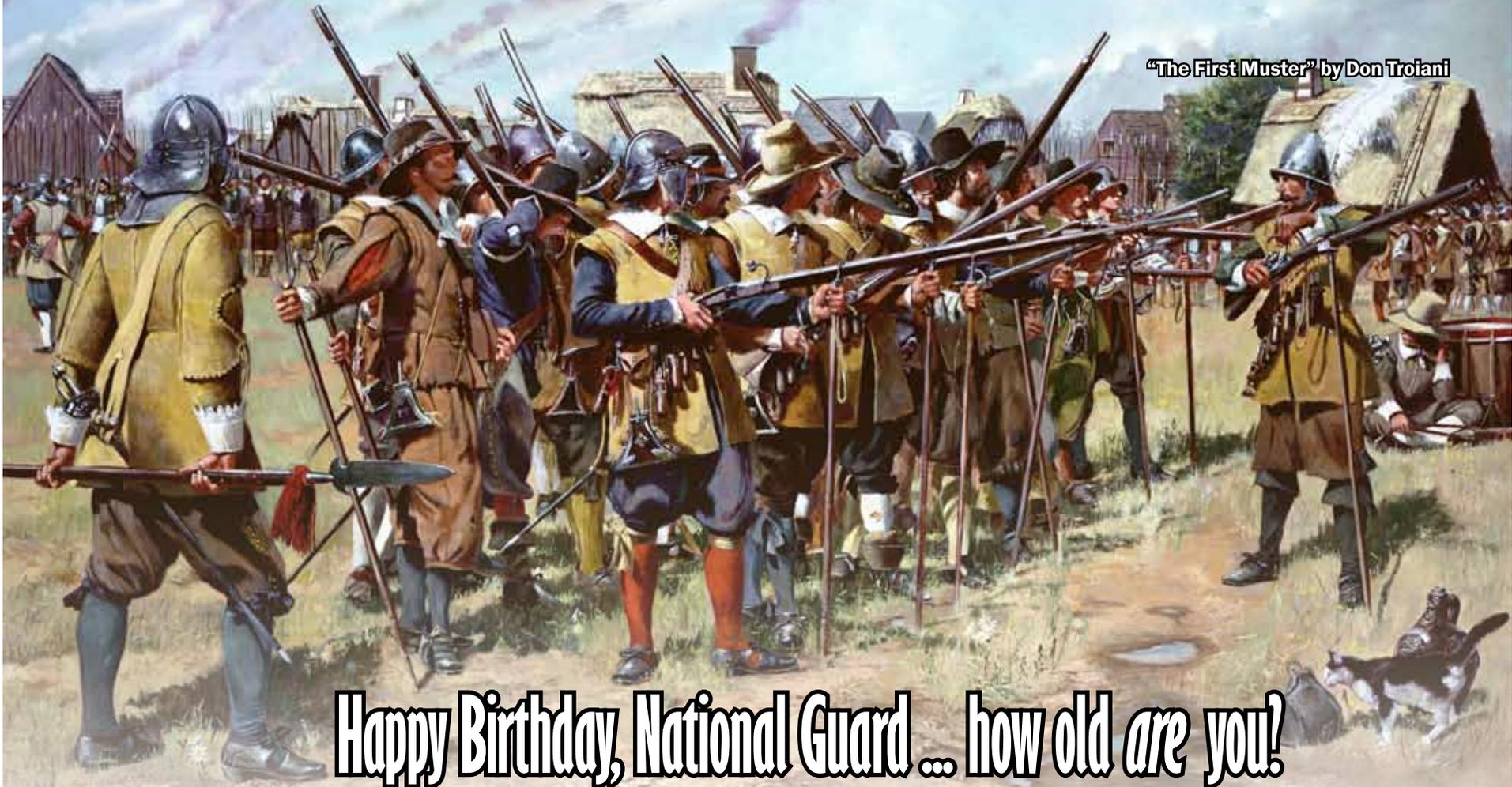
aircraft the wing will add 41 full-time and 41 part-time jobs, and also result in an additional \$5.3 million above the current economic impact of \$71.7 million made to our community."

On its way to the 128th, the first of three aircraft made a two-month stop at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas

to receive KC-135R Block 40 aircraft upgrades. "The upgrades markedly improve the aircraft's avionics," said Maj. Todd Walton, KC-135 instructor pilot, "specifically the navigation and satellite communication systems."

The remaining two additional KC-135s are expected to arrive by February 2011. 

"The First Muster" by Don Troiani



# Happy Birthday, National Guard ... how old are you?

**Bob Haskell**  
NGAUS Magazine

Was Ponce de Leon the real father of the National Guard? Was the Guard's seed first planted on American soil in Puerto Rico?

Should Florida get the credit for having the first militia outfit on what eventually became the United States of America? Does the New Mexico Guard have an older militia heritage than Massachusetts and Virginia? And where do the Dutch, who settled in New York, fit into the picture?

These are some of the questions asked at this time every year as we prepare to celebrate the Guard's birthday Dec. 13.

That date has been accepted as the

official birthday for nearly 30 years, since Guard historian Leonid Kondratiuk determined the day in 1636 that the Massachusetts Bay Colony's Great and General Court ordered the creation of three regiments of militia.

Of course, Massachusetts will give up its claim as the cradle of the Guard about as soon as it will give up John Adams or John Kennedy.

To that end, the Massachusetts legislature last summer designated the maritime town of Salem as the Guard's birthplace because that was where the newly created East Regiment held its first muster during the early months of 1637.

This does not mean, however, that every state believes their Guard roots are in Massachusetts. Officials in Florida,

New Mexico, New York, Virginia and Puerto Rico have their own ideas and documentations about their Guard's origins. They also have their own dates of origin.

Some examples: The Texas Guard is rooted in the militia formed by Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution of 1835-36, with the heroic stand at the Alamo its most famous hour. The Honolulu Rifles, a militia formed in 1854, is considered the Hawaii Guard's earliest forerunner. The Alaska Guard is a 20th century creation grounded in scout battalions organized during World War II.

"There really is no one birthday for the National Guard," says Greg Moore, the Florida Guard's command historian since 2001. "We all have our militia histories

and traditions, and we celebrate them in our way."

Florida, for example, considers Sept. 16, 1565, its Guard's birth date. New Mexico cites April 30, 1598. New York claims May 9, 1640. Virginians claim their Guard history stretches back to May 14, 1607, the founding of Jamestown.

Here's the basic difference in philosophies. Guard historians, such as Lt. Col. Les' Melnyk and Kondratiuk insist that Massachusetts is the birthplace because the North, South and East regiments were created by legislative action and because it can prove its continuous and unbroken existence since 1636.

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# Some states, territories claim earlier militia heritage than traditional date of Dec. 13, 1636

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Others, such as Moore, are equally adamant about tracing their Guard history to when men took up arms as colonist-soldiers to defend themselves and their New World holdings. It doesn't matter, their thinking goes, that these groups were not formally or legislatively created and that the units have not been perpetuated since the 16th century.

There is another basic difference, according to Melnyk and Rick Hendricks, the New Mexico state historian. The militias in the English colonies were standing forces created by the legislative bodies that governed the colonies. The militias in the territories claimed by Spain were not originally created that way and took up arms only during emergencies.

That's why there are so many different Guard birthdays.

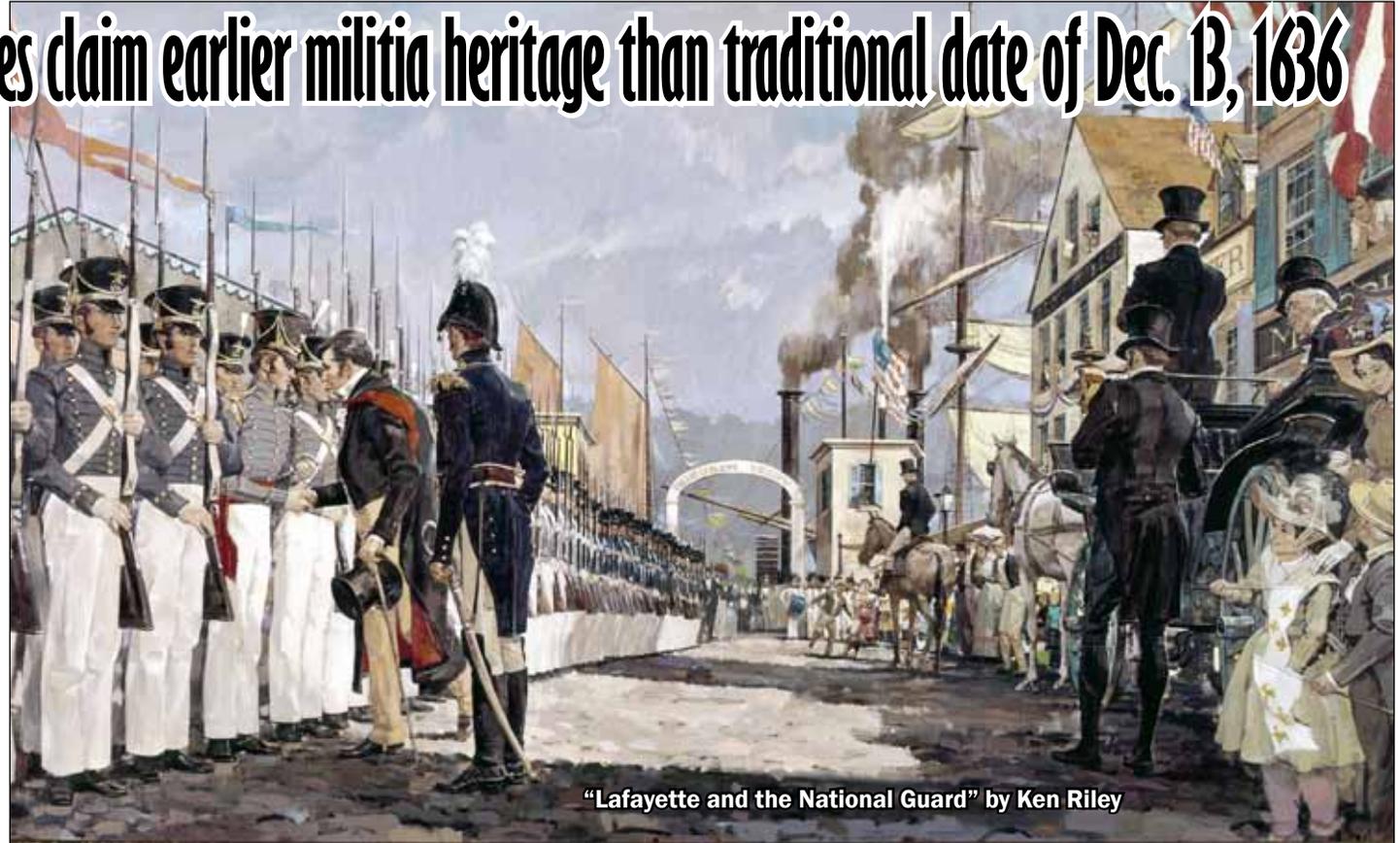
**Puerto Rico** claims Don Juan Ponce de Leon, legendary seeker of the Fountain of Youth in Florida, as its first militia commander.

Its Guard birth date could arguably be March 2, 1510. That's when Spain's King Ferdinand signed a royal decree appointing Ponce de Leon "Captain of Land and Sea" for the island, according to a National Guard Educational Foundation report.

**Florida** feels equally strong about its Spanish militia legacy. So much so that, in September, about 100 people from the Florida Department of Military Affairs gathered in St. Augustine to mark the 445th anniversary of what is believed to be the first muster of militia on what has become the United States.

They paid tribute to the estimated 50 male settlers who assembled Sept. 16, 1565, to defend the presidio town while its garrison of regulars marched north to drive out the "usurpers of Spanish land," as Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the governor, referred to the French Huguenots.

**New Mexico** considers April 30,



"Lafayette and the National Guard" by Ken Riley

1598, its Guard birth date. That's when explorer Don Juan de Onate y Salazar led an expedition from Mexico across the Rio Grande in the vicinity of what is now Juarez and took possession of El Nuevo Mexico for Spain, according to a 1995 history report by Lt. Col. Ezequiel Ortiz.

"There were no regular Spanish soldiers assigned to the expedition and none were assigned to the colony during the 17th century up to ... 1680," Ortiz added. "The military requirements were undertaken by the colonist-soldiers in their dual role."

**New York** got started in the militia business a little differently than the colonists in other parts of North America thanks to the Dutch. "The Provincial Council of the Dutch New Netherland colony established a part-time defense force called the Burgher or 'citizens'

Guard" May 9, 1640, Eric Durr, director of public affairs for the New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs, wrote in 2009.

The New York Guard considers May 9 its date of origin.

New York became an English royal colony in 1691, and the new Provincial Assembly established the militia force that became the New York State Militia and National Guard.

A New York militia unit, the 2nd Battalion, 11th New York Artillery, first adopted the title "National Guard" in honor of the celebrated Garde Nationale de Paris led by the Marquis de Lafayette, a Revolutionary War hero, who went to New York while visiting the United States in 1824-25.

**Virginia** clings to its Jamestown militia tradition as the oldest in the English-

settled colonies just as it does to Jamestown as the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

Jamestown, which existed until 1699, had a militia force of 100 colonist-soldiers when settlers landed there in 1607, explains Virginia Guard historian John Listman Jr. Capt. John Smith formed them into two companies and alternated the duty days so that members of one company could work at their civilian tasks while the other company guarded the settlement, Listman says.

**See the entire article at:**  
<http://www.ngaus.org/content.asp?bid=17823>

*Bob Haskell is a retired Maine Army National Guard master sergeant and a freelance journalist in Falmouth, Mass. He may be contacted at [magazine@ngaus.org](mailto:magazine@ngaus.org).*



# Tribute *at the* Tundra

**Wisconsin Army National Guard Capt. Brian Barth and more than 100 Soldiers of the 951st “Sapper” Engineer Company, stand at attention during a halftime ceremony at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Nov. 7. Inset: Jalene Adams, mother**

**Tech Sgt. Jon LaDue**  
*Wisconsin National Guard*

The Green Bay Packers scored a dominating victory over the Dallas Cowboys but possibly earned an even more impressive victory among veterans and patriotic fans during a Veterans Day dedication at Lambeau Field Nov. 7.

The Packers partnered with the Wisconsin Army National Guard and

Oshkosh Defense to host Dr. Joseph Westphal, undersecretary of the Army, several wounded warriors and distinguished guests of the 82nd Airborne Division — including a highly decorated World War II veteran.

The Packers also honored the family of Sgt. Ryan Adams, who was killed in combat last year, on behalf of all of Wisconsin’s service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, along

**of fallen combat veteran Sgt. Ryan Adams, watches the tribute. Sgt. Adams was killed during the 951st Company’s deployment to Afghanistan.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

with more than 100 Soldiers of the 951st “Sapper” Engineer Company from Rhinelander and Tomahawk who deployed with Adams for their year-long deployment to Afghanistan.

“We felt it was awesome what the Packers and the military did,” said Peter Adams, Ryan’s father. “We were so proud to be there, but it’s also wishing we could be looking at him with the other guys — that never goes away.”

Capt. Brian Barth commanded the 951st during their deployment to Afghanistan and led the 951st Soldiers onto the field.

“For me personally, it was kind of surreal,” Barth said. “Getting the guys back together and being recognized in front of that amount of people ... I could see some tears from some guys who are pretty tough Soldiers, which is pretty touching.”

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# Green Bay Packers, Soldiers celebrate Veterans Day at Lambeau Field event

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“I thought it was an amazing event,” said Staff Sgt. Jess Maney, recent combat veteran with the 951st. “It signifies the connection between the troops and the civilians in our country. Everyone is unified in supporting the troops.”

Maney recalled a story of his stepfather returning from his second tour with the 951st in Vietnam and being spit on and heckled by citizens who didn’t support the war. The Packers tribute to veterans increases his joy that times have changed.

“It’s one of the nice things about being a troop in this era — you know you have 100 percent backing from all the people when you get home,” Maney said.

Earlier this year, the Packers also showed their appreciation for veterans as they hosted more than 27,000 Vietnam veterans and patriotic supporters, and honored the Wisconsin veterans who never made it home in an official welcome home ceremony dubbed LZ Lambeau.

Aaron Hart, Packers marketing official, said the Packer organization was thrilled to host the Veterans Day event for the



**More than 100 Soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guard's 951st "Sapper" Engineer Company walk a giant American flag off Lambeau Field prior to the Green Bay Packers Nov. 7 game against the Dallas Cowboys.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

second straight year.

“Your everyday fan doesn’t really get the opportunity to demonstrate their

support all that often,” said Hart. “Helping give our fans [both] a venue and an opportunity to really show their support for

the military is a really good thing to do.”

Several wounded warriors, including two from the 951st, represented all wounded warriors and were also recognized on the field during halftime along with Brig. Gen Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin, and Brig. Gen Mark Anderson, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

The 82nd Airborne Division deputy commander for operations and unit honor guard made the trip to Lambeau Field from Fort Bragg, N.C., to help honor a World War II veteran, Lt. Col. (Ret.) James “Maggie” Magellas, who is the most decorated veteran in the units’ history.

Although the Packers could not bring every veteran in attendance onto the field, they asked for all veterans in the crowd to stand and be recognized.

“I thought the whole experience — not just for my son or the other Soldiers that were hurt — I think the Packers were very, very nice about it,” Adams said. “I think the recognition of troops is being done more now than ever ... and the Packers are a part of that.”

## Deployed Wisconsin Guard aviators provide noteworthy salute for Packers’ tribute to veterans

Not all the service members showcased by the Green Bay Packers at their Nov. 7 game were at Lambeau Field.

Members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment — currently deployed to various locations in southern Iraq — appeared on the Jumbotron prior to the start of the game to sing the national anthem. [\(Click here to see video\)](#) Meanwhile, members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 951st “Sapper” Engineer Company, which returned one year ago from a deployment to Afghanistan, unfurled a large U.S. flag at midfield as the video played.

Capt. James Khile, a chaplain deployed with the 147th, said the battalion was grateful to take part in the

Green Bay Packers’ tribute to veterans.

“The opportunity to provide the national anthem means a tremendous amount to them,” he said. “It’s part of their spiritual resiliency and we appreciate the opportunity.”

Khile said the battalion’s unit ministry team coordinated the choir rehearsals and 1st Lt. Phil Ribiero, a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot with the 147th, directed the 18-member choir.

“So we would not be bored with singing the anthem over and over, we also sang some fun songs,” Khile said — “All Star” by Smashmouth, “Longest Time” by Billy Joel, and a song by Phil Collins. “This helped to keep the practices fun and warmed our vocal chords up.”

The anthem video shows different formations

of Soldiers singing in Basra, Taji and Contingency Operating Base Adder — or more accurately, lip-synching with the choir — as well as footage of helicopters in flight over Iraq. According to Lt. Col. Marty Pond, battalion commander, the 147th supports southern Iraq from the southern region of Baghdad to the southern tip of Basra near the border with Kuwait. Battalion missions include command and control, quick reaction force, troop movement and general support.

“Overall, it was a great experience for the 147th,” Khile said, “providing an opportunity to connect with our families and friends back home — and support the Packers!” He said LTC Pond supported the project from start to finish.

# Wisconsin Guard partners in \$2M tradesmen training program



**Spectators witness a welding demonstration Nov. 17 at Camp Williams following a ceremony announcing the beginning of a new partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Wisconsin National Guard and United Association.**

Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

A new program that will launch in January at Camp Williams, a Wisconsin National Guard training site in central Wisconsin, will offer Wisconsin veterans free training and certification as second-year apprentices in welding, steam fitting, plumbing and piping — as well as transition training from military to civilian life, and guaranteed job placement.

Sixteen veterans will take part in the first class — a 20-week, 720-hour training program called Veterans in Piping. The United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Industry (UA) began the initiative in August 2008 with the Washington National Guard and the Washington State Veterans Affairs. The following year a similar program at Camp Pendleton, Calif., saw its first graduates. Both programs combined have graduated more than 180 students

The campus at Camp Williams is the third such partnership, and the first in the Midwest. A memorandum of understanding was signed at Camp Williams Thursday (Nov. 18) by the UA, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and the Wisconsin National Guard.

Tech. Sgt. Adam Hackett, of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Control Squadron, has already taken machinery and welding classes at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He was interviewed by a six-person board before being accepted into the program. He said he was excited to gain additional training in a field that is always looking for skilled tradesmen.

"It's a great setup for veterans," Hackett said. "It's just a great opportunity."

According to Kenneth Grant, director of the office of veterans services at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, job centers across the state are notifying service members of this program and will assist in the eligibility process.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for

our returning veterans, who have given so much to our nation," said Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin. "I commend the United Association and the Department of Workforce Development, and we are proud to be part of a partnership aimed at helping National Guard and federal Veterans develop new skills for new career opportunities.

"These veterans bring leadership, experience, and a strong Midwest work ethic to this new opportunity," he continued. "Their future employers will find them an incredible asset."

"We see this as a great day to open the doors, for not only Guard members, but for all of our sibling veterans as well and give them an opportunity to direct a new career path," said Col. Kenneth Koon, chief of staff for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, representing the adjutant general at the signing ceremony. "We're very, very honored to be a part of that."

"We are so pleased to be the first state in the Midwest to get a VIP program," DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman said. "Our goal is to give Wisconsin veterans a head start."

Gassman said training skilled laborers will help combat Wisconsin's unemployment rate.

"We are putting Wisconsin back to work and we look forward to seeing that rate go down and down," she said.

The plan for a Wisconsin campus calls for initial infrastructure costs exceeding \$2 million, including two 53-foot welding labs, a two-story rigging structure with catwalk, and training materials. Additional costs include utilities to support the welding labs, salary and living expenses for two full-time instructors, expendable equipment and supplies, certification and testing fees, training materials and administrative expenses.

"We're not just giving them a job — we're giving them a career," said William Hite, UA general president. "I want my jobs to be filled by Americans, here in America."



This architectural rendering shows the new Armed Forces Reserve Center in Madison, a state facility managed by the Wisconsin National Guard that will house units from all reserve components. The energy-efficient building is expected to be completed next summer.

# Wisconsin National Guard going for Silver in green movement

The Wisconsin Army National Guard — which has invested more than \$8 million recently to make its armories, many of which are more than 50 years old, more energy and water efficient — is in step with a new Army policy memorandum to improve high-performance green buildings standards, according to Col. Jeffrey Liethen, construction and facilities management officer for the Wisconsin National Guard.

“We’re already doing many of the things [Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment] Katherine Hammack is promoting in her memo,” Liethen said.

The “Memorandum for Sustainable Design and Development Policy Update,” released Oct. 27, changes the way the Army will approach efficient design of Army facilities. Requirements throughout the planning, programming, budgeting, design and building stages will strengthen the Army’s sustainability, energy security, and energy independence through more responsible consumption and planning. The goal is to reduce water and energy consumption, optimize energy efficiencies

and performance, and reduce negative impacts on the natural environment through strategies such as siting, cool roofs, solar water heating, storm water management and water efficiency.

More than \$8 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funds have been used to retrofit every Army National Guard building in the state with T8 fluorescent lighting, a brighter and more efficient rod that fits current fixtures. The retrofit project also included replacing windows and aging steam traps, and insulation improvement. Liethen said the retrofit projects will save the Wisconsin Army National Guard an estimated \$500,000 per year in energy costs.

New building projects must meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver criteria, which essentially means the building meets up to 60 percent of potential efficiencies in categories such as sustainability, energy and water conservation, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. The new maintenance facility to be built in Wausau and the Armed Forces Reserve Center

under construction in Madison will meet or exceed Silver criteria, Liethen said, and recent projects such as the U.S. Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) at Camp Williams, Wis., demonstrate what that standard looks like in practice.

Steve Biedermann, a full-time energy manager with the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, said he hopes that geo-thermal energy will prove to be cost-effective for a new building project at Wausau. The 115th Fighter Wing’s headquarters building in Madison is expected to complete a [geothermal system retrofit](#) in November.

Most of the National Guard armories in Wisconsin are at least 50 years old, Liethen noted, so efficiencies must be gained through modifications. Solar panels and solar water heaters are being considered for the Joint Force Headquarters building in Madison, which is nearly 20 years old.

“Whenever we have heating or air-conditioning replacements, we use the highest efficiency units available,” Biedermann said. “The cost difference is negligible, but the savings are great.”

Biedermann is responsible for reporting total energy and water consumption by Wisconsin National Guard facilities to the National Guard Bureau, which evaluates the data before sending it to the Army Energy and Water Reporting System.

The Wisconsin National Guard is also required to comply with the state’s energy policy Conserve Wisconsin. Biedermann said it is similar to mandates from the National Guard Bureau and the Army.

Biedermann also conducts energy audits at Guard facilities across the state, averaging one per week. The audit involves visiting the site, inspecting the boiler room, speaking with the facility manager and gauging energy use practices on site.

“It’s about education, instilling a mindset,” Biedermann explained. “If lights and radios are left on in rooms that are not being used, that’s something we need to change.”

Liethen agreed.

“Our agency is committed to complying with the new guidelines,” he said. “We’ve shown great progress in doing so.”

# Green, Gold and Guard interface at Lambeau Field

**Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue**  
Wisconsin National Guard

Approximately 25 Wisconsin National Guard Soldiers — along with a few deployed Soldiers in Iraq and Southwest Asia — got the chance to meet and play video games with four Green Bay Packers at the Lambeau Field Atrium as part of a Pro vs. GI Joe event Oct. 15.

Green Bay Packers' kicker Mason Crosby, linebacker Brad Jones, offensive lineman Marshall Newhouse and wide receiver Brett Swain all participated in the second annual event that brought pro football players and Soldiers together to play the popular video games *Call of Duty* and *Rock Band*.

Crosby has scored 77 points in field goals and extra points this year for the Packers, but he couldn't manage to score a victory against the Soldiers in *Call of Duty*.

"I was getting destroyed," Crosby said. "Some of these guys are pretty good."

Crosby lost to the likes of Cadet Lonnie Roy Lonnie, Marinette, who attends school at the University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh and is assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry.

"I won both games ... it was too easy," Roy joked. "It was fun not only just to meet him, but to play a game against him."

Crosby appreciated the experience as well.

"I feel like it's really important, for the troops overseas and here at home," Crosby said.

With the help of the United Services Organization (USO), troops overseas were able to participate as well. Soldiers from Basra, Iraq, played *Rock Band* and a few deployed Soldiers from Fort Drum, N.Y., played *Call of Duty* against Wisconsin Soldiers and Packer players.

Greg Zinone, [Pro vs. GI Joe](#) co-founder, said the non-profit organization

**Continued on Page 17**

**Master Sgt. Greg Backes, Wisconsin National Guard Recruiting and Retention Command, plays *Guitar Hero* with Green Bay Packers offensive lineman Marshall Newhouse at the Lambeau Field Atrium Oct. 15 as part of the second annual Pro vs. GI Joe event.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue



**Green Bay Packers linebacker Brad Jones signs autographs for Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers at the Lambeau Field Atrium Oct. 15. A few deployed Soldiers, including at least one from Green Bay, were able to play *Rock Band* and *Call of Duty* with Packers players via satellite.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

## Wisconsin Soldiers, Packers compete in second annual event

**Continued from Page 16**

was created in 2007 in order to “do a little for those who do a lot.”

“We appreciate all the sacrifices you’ve made and we want to say thank you for your service,” Zinone said.

Aaron Hart, Green Bay Packers marketing, attended the 2009 event and helped coordinate this year’s event. He said it’s a tossup who wins in this situation.

“I don’t know who was more excited — the Soldiers to play with the players, or vice versa,” Hart said.

**Officer candidate Lonnie Roy competes against Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby in a game of *Call of Duty* Oct. 15 at the Lambeau Field Atrium.**

1st Lt. Johnny Simmons, Wisconsin National Guard recruiting and retention command, helped coordinate the event. He said regardless of whom appreciates the experience more, the event is a win-win situation.

“Venues like this are a great way for the Packers to show appreciation for the men and women in uniform,” Simmons said. “It acknowledges that people appreciate what we’re doing as service members.”

Likewise, Simmons and his fellow Soldiers are grateful for the event.

“I can’t say enough about the Packers and the outreach they’ve done to appreciate Soldiers,” Simmons said. “You can tell by the huge smiles on these Soldier’s faces ... this means a lot.”

# Counter Drug program part of national take-back initiative

The Wisconsin National Guard's Drug Control program was among 80 state agencies to take part in a national collaborative effort sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency to collect and dispose of potentially dangerous expired or unused pharmaceutical drugs.

The one-day effort, held Sept. 25, collected more than 4,400 pounds of pharmaceuticals in Wisconsin. The project also emphasized pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse and misuse as well as keeping pharmaceuticals out of the water system.

In the past, local government agencies have offered similar prescription drop-offs, but this Take-Back program is the first at the national level.

"This event took a tremendous amount of planning and partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement in Wisconsin, as well as with community groups," said James Bohn, assistant special agent in charge, DEA Milwaukee.

Discarded pharmaceutical medications were collected at De Forest, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Spooner and Wausau on Sept. 27 and taken by the Wisconsin National Guard's Drug Control Program, under law enforcement escort, to the Milwaukee DEA office.

Drug Control Program and DEA personnel transported the discarded medication to Indianapolis on Sept. 28 using a Wisconsin National Guard transportation company vehicle. The DEA incinerated the medications Sept. 29.

"The Wisconsin National Guard provided much needed manpower and equipment to assist in the collection and transportation of several tons of collected pharmaceuticals from around the state," Bohn added. "Their commitment to the mission was instrumental to the success of the overall program and communities all around Wisconsin."

"The Drug Control Program



**1st Sgt. Tom Krueck of the Wisconsin National Guard's Drug Control Program assists Drug Enforcement Administration agents during their Pharmaceutical Take-Back Initiative,**

**which gave citizens the opportunity to discard potentially dangerous pharmaceutical drugs in a safe manner.** Wisconsin Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Thomas J. Sobczyk

appreciates the opportunity to support DEA in their efforts to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our state's medicine cabinets," said Col. Mark

Greenwood, Wisconsin's Counterdrug coordinator.

DEA will evaluate the program's results nationwide to determine if the

effort should be established on a more permanent basis.

*Spc. Megan Burnham contributed to this report.*



**Maj. Matthew Strub of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, prepares to head out on a recent mission in Iraq. The Madison-based UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter unit has been in Iraq since September in support of Operation New Dawn.** Photo courtesy 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment

# Wisconsin, Michigan Soldiers provide lift for Operation New Dawn

Despite a significant drawdown of American forces in Iraq, more than 400 Soldiers — approximately 300 from the Madison-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment — arrived in country in September and are conducting flying operations in support of Operation New Dawn.

The Soldiers are responsible for all aviation operations, including troop and cargo movements, medevac and attack missions in United States Division —

South, which covers nine governorates — or provinces — of Iraq, including the area south of Baghdad.

Maj. Max Brosig, executive officer for the 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation, said Wisconsin and Michigan Soldiers have integrated well and in some locations are even flying together. Brosig said the battalion has hit the ground running, and is already averaging 15 missions per day.

“We’ve only been doing it for a little more than three weeks, but it feels like it’s

been three months so far,” Brosig said of the unit’s accomplishments.

The recent troop drawdown leading up to the transition to Operation New Dawn will challenge the 147th Aviation during its deployment, Brosig said, as demand may exceed manpower.

“We’ll do our best to try and adjust the [operation] tempo as we can,” he said.

The Soldiers have also had to adjust to a different climate, as temperatures have

exceeded 120 degrees across portions of Iraq.

“That temperature takes a toll on people so we, as leaders, make sure they’re afforded the appropriate amount of time to rest,” Brosig said. “They’re long days, but they’re doing good.”

The battalion reported for active duty June 17 and trained for six weeks at Fort Hood. Pond said the battalion racked up 1,200 hours of flight time and 260 hours of flight simulator training. 



**Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar pins a Wisconsin Meritorious Service Medal on the lapel of Stevens Point Mayor Andrew Halverson during a city council meeting in Stevens Point Sept. 20.** Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

# Guard leaders thank Stevens Point officials

**Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue**  
*Wisconsin National Guard*

Wisconsin National Guard leaders expressed gratitude to Stevens Point officials and other Wisconsin Army Guard supporters before a packed City Council meeting Sept. 20 for the city's role in the "Back from The Sand" celebration held in downtown Stevens Point in July.

The homecoming event featured more than 3,200 Soldiers marching through Stevens Point, down streets lined with community and family members, to a staging area that included static equipment, food, entertainment — including two national-level country artists — and no shortage of patriotic fans.

Every aspect of the event took a lot of planning, approval, coordination and execution. For that, Brig. Gen. Donald Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin, Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson, Wisconsin Army National Guard commander, and leaders of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team presented awards to many of the event's key players — including Stevens Point Mayor Andrew Halverson.

"Our citizens were honored to have been the host community for the welcoming," Halverson said. "It was a complete success and made the citizens feel so proud to have such wonderful Soldiers serving and sacrificing for them. It was the citizen's way of saying thank you."

Anderson acknowledged the significance of the city's willingness to open its gates for such a large and prestigious event.

"It really did make our job a lot easier," Anderson said. "The city of Stevens Point absolutely came through and I want to say thank you for that."

Halverson admits the two-way relationship has blossomed throughout the entire process.

"Our relationship has become one of complete friendship and complete support of one another," Halverson said.

"Communities need to be there for the Wisconsin National Guard, just as much as the Wisconsin National Guard needs to be there for the communities. It is truly a complete partnership."

Dunbar presented the Wisconsin Meritorious Service Medal to Halverson and Larry Frostman, honorary chairman of the Point Committee, for their integral roles in seeing the event through fruition.

"I have never been more proud or more humbled, as a non-military person, then to have the adjutant general of Wisconsin pin that medal on my chest," Halverson said. "I, in fact, told my wife that evening that should I pass away, I want that medal in my casket with me. That medal meant more to me than any award or recognition I have ever received."

Frostman, a Vietnam veteran, came up with the idea for a homecoming event. He proposed the idea to Halverson, who endorsed it. Halverson created a committee to coordinate the event.

Other key players recognized for their contributions were Tom Schrader, director of parks and recreation; Tom Barrett and Sara Brish of the planning committee; four members of the Stevens Point Police Department; the Civil Air Patrol Stevens Point Composite Squadron; Stevens Point Convention and Visitor's Bureau; American Red Cross of North Central Wisconsin; Portage County Veteran's Services, and Sentry Insurance.

Dunbar said everyone, from the volunteers and committee members to the citizens of Stevens Point, really made this event possible. To have a welcome home like that is uniquely American, Dunbar said.

"We will always be thankful for what you did," Dunbar said at the meeting.

Col. Martin Sieffer, 32nd Brigade commander, also gave his appreciation to the council.

"It was a special moment for the Brigade and it was a special moment for us," Sieffer said.

# Wisconsin National Guard News Digest

To see the complete version of these stories and for archived news stories about the Wisconsin National Guard, see <http://dma.wi.gov>

## Wisconsin employer honored by DoD

A Wisconsin firm was among 15 U.S. companies nominated by their employees to receive Defense Department awards Sept. 23 for outstanding support to the Guard and Reserve members they employ.

Don Weber, chief executive officer for Logistics Health Inc. of La Crosse, met with Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Robert Gates along with executives from other companies that received the 2010 Secretary of Defense Employment Support Freedom Award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a defense agency.

“As an organization, we decided long ago that no employee of LHI who is called to active duty should ever have to worry about their job back home,” Weber said in July when the award was announced. “We want them to know we are behind them 100 percent — that their seniority, salary and benefits will not be compromised in any way while they are in service to our country. Simply put, we do it because it is the right thing to do.”

Dennis M. McCarthy, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, was keynote speaker for the event. He said most employers receiving the Freedom Award tell him they’re just doing the right thing.

“Well, you are doing the right thing ... [but] you’re doing it at a higher level, and

that’s why we’ve singled you out for this very singular honor,” he said.

Weber recognized employees for their role in creating a corporate atmosphere that sets a national standard for the respect and honor due to Service men and women. “This national award is directly attributed to the hard work and the vibrant corporate culture at LHI, which inspires us to give back to the men and women of the military in exchange for their tireless sacrifice.”

The national award comes in the wake of ESGR state awards. LHI was one of nine recipients of the Wisconsin “Above and Beyond” awards as well as the top prize winner in the state with the “Pro Patria” award. Both were presented to LHI this spring. Weber addressed the crowd at the Wisconsin ESGR award ceremony, encouraging other employers to embrace the call to support Service members who are called to active duty.

“The cost of freedom cannot be borne entirely by our Soldiers — the debt must be carried by all of us,” he explained. “We have the power to ensure that they can focus on war when they are warriors, peace when they are peacemakers, and civilian life when they are civilians.”

*Karen Parrish of American Forces Press Service contributed to this report.*

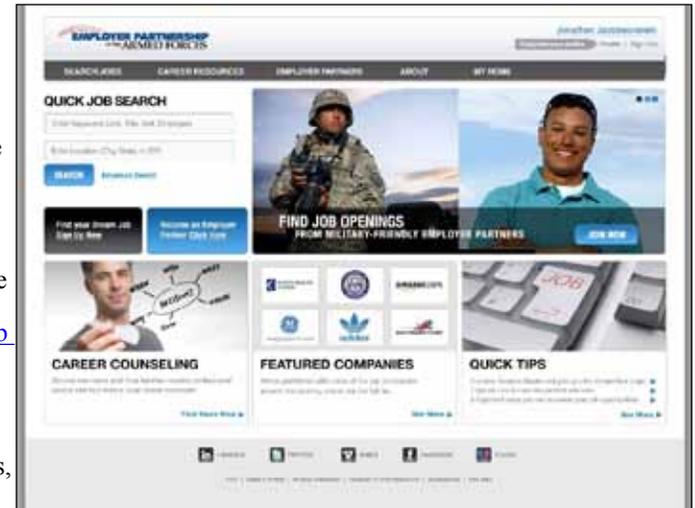
## Job search tool for service members now online

Right in the middle of Wisconsin’s “[Hire a Veteran Week](#),” the Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces unveiled a new website that promised to make it easier for service members to look for jobs and employers across the nation to hire service members.

A state-of-the-art [job search portal](#), which launched on Veterans Day, will offer reserve component service members, their families, veterans and wounded warriors increased

options when searching for employment. The portal also improves access to skilled candidates for the program’s approximately 1,200 employer partners.

Instead of re-entering basic personal information for each search, the user simply logs in and the system can continue any previous activity. A user may now set up a personal profile to save searches, search parameters and individual job announcements within their own “dashboard.” By activating the alert option,



seekers will be provided with a notification whenever a desired position is posted.

The portal offers some useful features. The Resume Builder allows users to create and keep their resumes available within the system. This provides employers with the opportunity to search the portal for resumes of qualified candidates, even if the candidate has not applied for the job opening. The Program Support Manager feature offers career counseling and resume assistance.

Employers can also enter job vacancies directly into the portal and track those jobs, applications and views through their company dashboard.

Wisconsin boasts more than 417,000 veterans, of which more than 40 percent come from the National Guard and Reserves. Beginning with the Vietnam War, the state has gained more than 180,000 veterans.

The Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces is a no-fee program which connects Service members, their Families and veterans with employment opportunities.

## Wisconsin Army National Guard names new chief of staff

Col. Kenneth Koon of Waunakee, a 28-year veteran of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, was named chief of staff for that organization Nov. 15.

In his new duty, Koon will serve as the chief advisor and principal assistant to the Assistant Adjutant General - Army, also the commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. He will be responsible for directing, supervising, training and coordinating the staff, as well as assisting

the assistant adjutant general - Army in deploying and coordinating programs, policies and plans affecting the more than 8,000 members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

According to Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, Koon was selected from a field of highly qualified candidates.

Koon replaces Col. Kevin Greenwood, who is retiring as chief of staff following

28 years in the military.

Koon recently served as commander of the 426th Regional Training Institute at the Wisconsin National Guard’s Military Academy at Fort McCoy, overseeing a dramatic expansion of field artillery and other military courses. The field artillery school was named a center of excellence during his tenure. He also recently served as director of manpower and personnel for the Wisconsin National Guard’s joint staff.

# ARNG LEADER'S GUIDE



# SOLDIER RESILIENCE

## New guide can help Wisconsin Guard members build resiliency

The Wisconsin National Guard's Service Member Support Division is incorporating an in-depth leader's guidebook to Soldier resilience — recently published by the Army National Guard's Soldier and Family Support (SFS) division — into its effort to bring resilience training to every unit in the Wisconsin Guard.

"It's another tool in the toolkit," said Capt. Kristin Boustany, a master resilience trainer with the Wisconsin National Guard. "The first 47 pages are a phenomenal overview of resilience concepts."

The book can be used to both help build resiliency at the individual and the unit level, and includes strategies to help mitigate suicidal behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic abuse and child maltreatment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch, the Army National Guard's top enlisted Soldier, said that even though suicides are a major concern, "these other issues have been identified as potential risk factors that could compound suicidal ideation and risky behaviors."

"With the Guard being a cross-section of society, issues that are problematic in the civilian world are sometimes carried over into our organization," Burch continued. "As leaders, we need to help Soldiers and families to overcome these other not-so-desirable behaviors."

Boustany cautioned that the guide should not be considered the final word on resilience.

"I can teach you 15 different coping skills and you may only use one, but that one that works for you may not work for the next person," she said. "We can give

guidelines, but not specific answers. There isn't necessarily a flow chart."

Boustany said the individual nature of resilience skills underscores the importance of getting the training to the lowest levels of the Wisconsin National Guard's command structure, "so that leaders who know individual Soldiers can recognize what coping skills would be most effective."

The guide teaches battle drills to help identify an event, identify the emotions tied to it, and how to develop coping measures to get through the event and identify how to be stronger once the event is over, said Army Sgt. Maj. Jim Moore of the SFS division.

"It's designed for first-line leaders to use one-on-one," he said, "but larger groups, such as squads, can go through the battle drills to learn how to help each other identify and get through issues," he said.

Moore said National Guard members face additional concerns compared to their active-duty counterparts — civilian jobs, geographic disbursement, lack of access to active-duty support facilities.

"It is very important to create that resiliency support network during and away from the drilling environment," he said.

Boustany agreed. "The problems a person is going through at home will affect them when they are in uniform," she said.

The Service Members Support Division presented information on resilience and available resources to Wisconsin Army National Guard commanders and senior enlisted leaders in November.

*Sgt. Darron Salzer of the National Guard Bureau contributed to this report.*

# Wisconsin adjutant general contributes to congressional security report

Wisconsin's Homeland Security Advisor — Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin — joined several of his peers in homeland security and emergency management recently in developing and presenting an independent report to Congress that identifies challenges and gaps in the nation's preparedness efforts and offers recommendations to improve those efforts.

Last spring, the Department of Homeland Security appointed Dunbar to the national advisory group. Dunbar was one of 36 members representing a diverse cross-section of governmental leaders working in homeland security and emergency management, and the only adjutant general named to the group.

"It was a privilege to serve on this task force and work with leaders from all levels of government — local, tribal, and state," Dunbar said. "We collaborated with DHS and FEMA leaders and heard from various experts on key issues affecting homeland security and emergency management. We focused on three main areas — policy, capability assessment, and grant administration — and also included some overarching strategic concepts. If Congress concurs and these recommendations are adopted, I believe the existing preparedness system will be significantly improved."

Congress authorized the Local, State, Tribal, and Federal Preparedness Task Force to evaluate the nation's preparedness efforts and provide recommendations on how to improve and enhance current programs and policies.

After several months of meetings and reviews, the task force recently presented to Congress the report entitled, "Perspective on Preparedness: Taking

Stock Since 9/11." The report reflects members' consensus opinion about where America stands today in terms of preparedness for natural disasters, acts of terrorism and other hazards. Bold, innovative improvement ideas are offered in conjunction with carefully considered refinements to the existing preparedness landscape.

Some of the suggestions include:

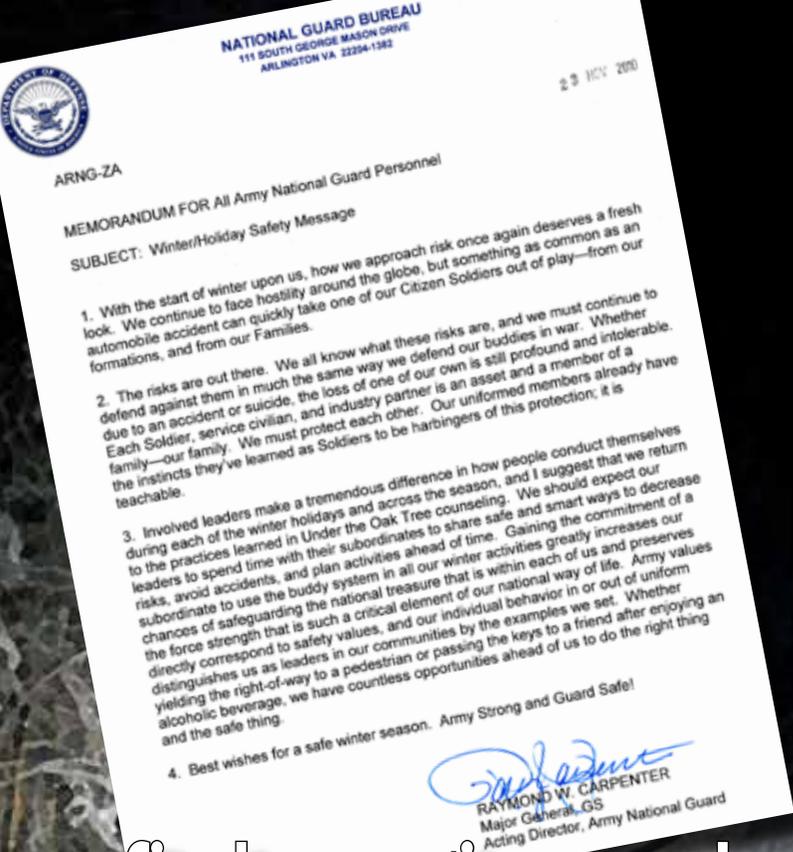
- Based on the belief that a well-educated citizen should understand basic preparedness tenets, we should entrust our Nation's teachers to incorporate preparedness concepts into existing school curricula which would dramatically increase citizen preparedness in one generation
- Expand the reach and connect existing national and regional advisory bodies to form a tightly coupled preparedness policy advisory system by realigning the National Advisory Council (NAC) and the existing Regional Advisory Councils
- Ensure national cybersecurity efforts address local, state, tribal, and territorial preparedness implications
- Implement a preparedness assessment framework utilizing a three year time frame, with yearly benchmarks, to institute a NIMS-typed resource inventory system, conduct Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessments (THIRA) at all levels of government, and link future grant investments to assessed risk and needed capability
- Improve grant coordination among federal agencies and improve visibility at the state, local, and tribal level for all grant programs

The report is available at <http://www.fema.gov/preparednesstaskforce/>



**Sgt. Jonathan Shufflebotham, 1157th Transportation Company, plots his course in the red glow of his flashlight prior to beginning night land navigation Nov. 5. Soldiers from the 64th Troop Command Brigade, the 426th Regional Training Institute and the Joint Force Headquarters competed in the Soldier of the Year event Nov. 4-7 at Fort McCoy. Tasks on Nov. 5 included the zero range, M-4 rifle range, stress fire range, hand grenade course, day land navigation and night land navigation.**

112th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment photo by Sgt. Carlynn Knaak



# Simple precautions can reduce winter weather hazards

Wisconsin National Guard members are urged to prepare for the hazards posed by Old Man Winter as seriously as they would threats posed by insurgents overseas.

“The risks for National Guard members during the winter season are no different than for anyone else,” said Col. Shirley Kubiak, safety and occupational health manager for the Wisconsin National Guard. “The one thing with Guard members is they often have to travel great distances to attend drill.”

Kubiak said Guard members are trained to use the composite risk management process, which tallies various hazards connected with a particular event, incorporates measures to reduce those hazards, and calculates the remaining risk.

She said the Wisconsin Army National

Guard also offers the inactive duty training (IDT) lodging program for Soldiers on drill status. This program provides commercial lodging for drilling Soldiers who reside outside the commuting radius from their unit.

“The purpose of the program is to reduce Soldier fatigue,” Kubiak said, “in order to combat an ongoing safety concern — personal vehicle accidents where fatigue is known to be a frequent accident cause or contributor.”

Kubiak acknowledged that the Wisconsin National Guard has experienced vehicle accidents in previous years, but “fortunately, no [winter] fatalities.”

But being fortunate is no substitute for being vigilant, said Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard.

“Something as common as an automobile accident can quickly take one of our Citizen Soldiers out of play, from our formations and from our families,” he said in a Nov. 23 [memorandum](#). “Army values directly correspond to safety values, and our individual behavior in or out of uniform distinguishes us as leaders in our communities by the examples we set.”

The December issue of [Knowledge](#) magazine contains information on [cold-weather injuries](#), [winter car preparation](#) and [holiday safety](#).

The [Ready Wisconsin](#) website provides information on [vehicle winter survival kits](#) as well as [safe holiday travel](#).

Kubiak also directed Soldiers to a program on the [Combat Readiness](#) website called Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) to learn more about travel risks. 

# Social networking can put Soldiers, Airmen, civilians at risk

Internet social media is changing how we communicate — and also how we put ourselves, family members and jobs at risk.

Computer incidents are on the rise at work, and network security devices cannot save us from ourselves. E-mail, phishing, viruses, identity theft and loss of personally identifiable information (PII) are becoming a fact of life that can devastate personal lives and well-being. Social networking sites are now being used as a delivery tool for these threats.

Always remember OPSEC when using and visiting social networking sites — it is the user who is responsible for all actions during these sessions, and no security device can stop those transactions.

The latest scam typically involves a service member who does not have a Facebook account, suddenly discovering that someone has created an account in their name for the purposes of defrauding others for financial gain. The scam artist typically befriends individuals online in chat rooms or via email, while posing as the National Guard member. They then attempt to ensnare long-time acquaintances of the service member, who unwittingly “friend” the scam artist posing as the Soldier or Airman.

The fake Facebook pages typically have enough correct personal information obtained online (to include photos) to convince strangers and acquaintances alike that they are viewing the service member’s real Facebook site. The con artist may also claim to be deploying/redeploying and be in need of financial assistance, seeking romantic engagements (to lure in their prey), or having suffered the recent loss of a loved one to play on the sympathy of others.

The potential scenarios are unfortunately far too numerous to list, but no less disturbing. Typically the service member will not become aware of the



Suggest to Friends

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Welcome to the Wisconsin National Guard's Official fan page where you will find the most recent news stories, videos, photos and pictures from the Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard.

#### Information

Location:  
Joint Force HQ- 2400 Wright Street  
Madison, WI, 53704  
Phone:  
(800) 335-5147

## Wisconsin National Guard

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Wisconsin National Guard #WING passing on Thanksgiving greetings from the Chairman.



Chairman's Corner: Happy Thanksgiving

dma.wi.gov

Chairman's Corner: Happy Thanksgiving

16 hours ago · Like · Comment · Share

5 people like this.



Bobbi Prescher Leitsch Happy Thanksgiving right back at ya!

16 hours ago via Facebook Mobile · Like · Flag

Write a comment...



Military Travelus Happy Thanksgiving to all of the men and women in the MILITARY who provide for all of us. We are thinking of you and your families. Have a safe holiday and THANK YOU!

Yesterday at 10:40am · Like · Comment

Create an Ad

Facebook Pages



Facebook Pages help you discover new artists, businesses, and brands as well as connect with those you already love.

More Ads

con until an acquaintance or a suspicious victim contacts the member’s unit, family, or other sources to confirm elements of the ruse. Therefore, if it comes to your attention that you may be the victim of this type of Internet fraud, you may contact Facebook and report the abuse at the following website: <http://www.facebook.com/help/?topic=security>

In addition, you should report identity theft to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>. The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), and the Bureau of Justice

Assistance (BJA). IC3 accepts online Internet crime complaints from either the person who believes they were defrauded or from a third party to the complainant.

It may also be in your best interests to contact your credit card company to submit a fraud alert. You should also contact the three credit bureaus, <https://www.experian.com>, <http://www.transunion.com>, <https://www.alerts.equifax.com> who by law are required to provide you with one free credit report each per year. These credit bureaus also have separate fraud alert services available for active duty military personnel.

Another good source of information for those who wish to educate themselves

about online scams is the U.S. Federal Trade Commission internet fraud website: <http://www.econsumer.gov/english>

Each service member must be vigilant of the risks of using social networking sites, as well as the multitude of other threats to their personal and financial well-being such as identity theft, internet scams, phishing attempts, virus attacks, spyware, and the unwitting voluntary disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII).

The ARNG POC for any questions related to above, is Mr. John C. Hair, ARNG IAPM, (703) 607-7483, DSN 327 Secure Tel: (703) 607-5815 SIPR Email: [john.hair@us.army.smil.mil](mailto:john.hair@us.army.smil.mil)

# Veterans, Families, Retirees

## Free Tricare vaccinations

TRICARE covers the seasonal and H1N1 flu and age-appropriate doses of vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Beneficiaries can visit participating TRICARE retail network pharmacies to receive seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and pneumonia vaccines at no cost. This expanded coverage is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries eligible to use the TRICARE retail pharmacy benefit. To find a participating pharmacy, visit TRICARE's Express Scripts webpage or call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303. TRICARE regularly adds coverage for new vaccinations based on CDC recommendations on the CDC website.

For more information on immunizations, visit the Military Health System Immunization Awareness page at <http://www.health.mil/Themes/Immunization.aspx>.

For more on military health benefits, visit the Military.com Benefits channel at <http://www.military.com>.

## University conducting post-deployment study

Researchers at the University of Illinois are conducting a study about the experiences of military couples following reunion after deployment. (The current project builds on two studies conducted earlier this year involving 479 participants living in 33 states. For a summary of the findings, please see <https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/knobl/www/military.html>).

A grant from the University is offering \$120 in gift cards to military couples who complete an online survey once per month during the first three months following reunion. The surveys take approximately 30-45 minutes to complete, and they ask about people's communication patterns now that they are reunited. The results will provide important information

to help couples have more satisfying relationships.

Please reply to Dr. Leanne Knobloch to let them know (a) whether any units will be returning home by mid-summer, and (b) whether you would be willing to circulate information about the study to families in those units. Also, we would welcome any ideas you have on how to advertise the study.

Thanks again for supporting military families!

Click here for more information about the study: [study flyer](#)

Dr. Leanne Knobloch  
Department of Communication,  
University of Illinois  
email: [knobl@illinois.edu](mailto:knobl@illinois.edu)

## Toolkit for coping with deployments offered

Philanthropist Paul G. Allen's independent film production company – Vulcan Productions – recently unveiled a handbook and video for the family and friends of those serving in the United States Armed Forces. The resource was produced in consultation with medical, mental health and military family experts. More than 200,000 handbooks will soon be distributed to friends and family of U.S. service members around the country through the combined efforts of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) and corporate donors.

"The Handbook for Family and Friends of Service Members will help loved ones of military personnel prepare for the emotional challenges before, during and after deployment," said Allen, co-founder of Microsoft.

This resource was created so those close to service members can better understand what to expect during all phases of deployment, to build the skills to strengthen or repair relationships and to gain the tools to keep the service member's personal community strong

throughout the duration of the separation and during the return home.

"This handbook meets a great need, especially for the parents of young men and women in military service for whom there is little support currently available," said Interim Director of DCoE, Michael E. Kilpatrick, M.D. "We are hopeful that other federal agencies and private sector organizations will help ensure we can get this valuable resource in the hands of every family affected by a deployment."

"As many members of our Armed Forces begin the difficult process of reentry after deployment, we must work together across the public and private sectors to continue to provide our military families with the knowledge and support they need to keep their family strong," said A. Kathryn Power, M.Ed., lead for SAMHSA's Military Families Strategic Initiative and Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

The contents of the handbook are specifically designed to help families and friends: Become aware of the stressors and feelings they may encounter throughout deployment. Develop skills to become more resilient despite these stressors and feelings. Improve their overall quality of life and satisfaction. Identify outside resources that may be useful to them throughout deployment.

The first 198,000 handbooks will be distributed by DCoE, the Real Warriors Campaign ([www.realwarriors.net](http://www.realwarriors.net)) and Military OneSource. The University of Phoenix has also made more than 25,000 copies available through its website ([www.phoenix.edu/veterans](http://www.phoenix.edu/veterans)).

"Just as military members of our Armed Forces make great personal sacrifices to proudly serve our nation, so too do the families and loved ones who support them," said Glenn Welling, Executive Director for DoD's Yellow Ribbon Program. "Families and friends bear the burden of that sacrifice, often enduring great hardship, in order to make their service possible."

## VA launching new personalized handbook

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is piloting new, personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbooks. The handbooks are tailored to provide enrolled Veterans with the most relevant health benefits information based on their own specific eligibility. In essence, each handbook will be written for the individual Veteran.



"These handbooks will give Veterans everything they need to know and leave out everything that doesn't apply to them," said Secretary of Veterans

Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Our Veterans will now have a comprehensive, easy to understand roadmap to the medical benefits they earned with their service."

In addition to highlighting each Veteran's specific health benefits, the handbook also provides contact information for the Veteran's preferred local facility, ways to schedule personal appointments, guidelines for communicating treatment needs and an explanation of the Veteran's responsibilities, such as copayments when applicable.

"Enhancing access isn't just about expanding the kinds of services VA provides. It also includes making sure we do everything we can to ensure Veterans have a clear understanding of the benefits available to them so they can make full use of the services they have earned," Shinseki said.

The new handbooks will initially be available only to certain Veterans in Cleveland and Washington, D.C., areas. Following the pilot phase, full implementation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2011 for across the country.

For additional information, go to [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility) or call VA's toll-free number at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

# Parting shot

1st Lt. Mark Sier, of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, holds his 5-week old baby girl, Carolyn, before a sendoff ceremony Nov. 29 in West Bend. Sier and 30 of his fellow Soldiers are departing for Fort Hood, Texas, for two months of mobilization training before deploying to Iraq as part of Operation New Dawn supporting medical evacuation missions. Wisconsin National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Jon LaDue

