A new beginning
Brig. Gen. Orr assumes command of Iowa National Guard
The Iowa Militiaman
Spring 2009

The Adjutant General
Brig. Gen. Tim Orr

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Greg Hapgood

135th MPAD Commander
Capt Tim Mills

Editor
1st Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

Contributors
Capt. Heather Guck
Staff Sgt. Jerald Phippen
Sgt. Matthew McArthur
Sgt. Christina Beck
Sgt. Chad Nelson
Spc. Robert Jones
Spc. Brian Lloyd
Spc. Cassandra Monroe
Pvt. Zach Zuber

The Iowa Militiaman is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published by the Iowa National Guard Public Affairs Office and is printed four times annually.

News and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Adjutant General of Iowa, or the Department of the Army.

Address all submissions to:
The Iowa Militiaman
Public Affairs Office
7105 NW 70th Ave.
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824
or e-mail: paoia@ng.army.mil

Contents

4
Brig. Gen. Tim Orr assumes TAG command by 1st Sgt. Duff E. McFadden

6
Iowans participate in Bataan Death March by Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Fox

8
132nd FW Med Group trains in Puerto Rico by Tech. Sgt. Wendy S. Ohl

M1
Iowa Gold Star
Military Museum Insert

11
ESGR awards presented

14
Buena Vista U. adds ROTC

16
132nd FW trains in Alaska by Lt. Col. Mike McMillian

Regular Columns

4
TAG Sends

12
Through the Ranks

13
From the Education Office

15
Chaplain’s Corner

On the cover -- Brig. Gen. Tim Orr assumes command as the 27th Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard. Iowa Governor Chet Culver passes the National Guard colors on to Orr during the recent Change of Command ceremony at Camp Dodge. (Iowa National Guard photo by Justin Cato)
‘Humbled by the opportunity to serve’

On March 26, 2009, I assumed command of the Iowa National Guard and became its 27th Adjutant General. Twenty-six distinguished leaders have preceded me - well-known stewards of the Iowa National Guard. It is a great honor and privilege to walk in their footsteps. My family and I are humbled by this opportunity to serve the finest group of Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, in Iowa National Guard history.

We look forward to the challenges this position brings, but more importantly to the time we will spend with the Army and Air team. Later this summer, my family and I will move to the Adjutant General’s house on Camp Dodge and establish residency – making the Iowa National Guard our home both literally and physically.

For my first TAG Sends column, I want to share a little of my background with you and talk about what is important to me from The Adjutant General’s fighting position.

My military career started 31 years ago when I enlisted into the Iowa National Guard as a high school senior into a Heavy Weapons Specialist assignment, HHC 2nd Brigade. I spent over eight years in the Brigade, leaving at the rank of Staff Sergeant to attend active component Officer Candidate School.

I am very proud of the fact that both my wife and I served as enlisted Soldiers and Non-Commission Officers before receiving our commissions. I owe a great amount of loyalty to the NCO corps for the encouragement and support I received as I crossed into the commissioned officer ranks. It was with the encouragement of three senior NCOs, that I completed the active duty Officer Candidate School program and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.

I have been fortunate to be mentored by some really great military leaders in the Iowa National Guard. Leaders, who took the time to ensure that I kept my career on track, focused my energy, provided sound guidance through the journey, and ensured I never forgot that we work for Soldiers. That is why, today, I stress to all Soldiers and Airmen, the importance of finding a quality mentor and establishing professional relationships that will assist you in your journey to achieving your goals and ultimately being the “Master of your own ship.”

I have been in command of the Iowa National Guard for three months and my experiences already have been tremendous. I have been working very hard to visit our units at home station, annual training and on overseas deployments to introduce myself and get to know our team and better understand their issues. I call this program my battlefield circulation plan and I intend to execute this program on an annual basis.

I have visited both Army and Air National Guard units at home stations, annual training, and overseas deployments. I had opportunities to see the 734th Regional Support Group in South Dakota, the 2nd BCT in Camp Ripley, Minn., select units on Camp Dodge, and even had the opportunity to travel to Kuwait and Iraq to visit our truck companies, aero medical unit, Air National Guard fire fighters, and individually deployed Soldiers.

I will spend the remainder of this summer visiting annual training sites and preparing to kick-off the Community Covenant program around the state. In the fall, I will again visit units around the state during the week and on
The week of March 22 proved to be a whirlwind of activity for Col. Timothy E. Orr and his family, as well as a momentous period for the Iowa National Guard.

On March 25, Orr became Iowa’s newest brigadier general, following his promotion ceremony at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston. Twenty-four hours later, in a Change of Command ceremony presided over by Iowa Governor Chet Culver, he became the 28th Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard.

Being afforded the awesome responsibility of commanding the Iowa National Guard is truly a humbling experience, Orr noted. “I realize that I have been entrusted with the leadership and care of our nation’s most precious resource – the Soldiers and Airmen of the Iowa National Guard – our Warriors, and their family members.

“Teddy Roosevelt once observed that far and away, the best prize that life offers is the chance to ‘work hard at work worth doing.’ This position certainly fits that description,” he said.

Orr, a 30-year military veteran born in Winterset, Iowa and raised in Earlham and Boone, had been serving as the Deputy Adjutant General, Iowa Army National Guard. Former Ad-
The Iowa Militiaman

The colors are presented during the Change of Command ceremony for The Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard (far left). Lt. Gen. (IA) Ron Dardis presents his farewell remarks during the hour-long ceremony. (Iowa National Guard photos by Justin Cato).
20th Bataan Memorial Death March

‘This march will change you’

(Editor’s Note: After reading “Raider” by Decorah, Iowa’s Galen Kittleson, Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Fox was motivated to take part in the Bataan Memorial Death March with other Soldiers of the 248th Aviation Support Battalion. Sandy Sanderson’s story about Glen McDole in the Des Moines Register prompted them to name their five-person National Guard Light team, Team McDole in honor of him. Their efforts resulted in a third place finish.)

by Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Fox

Last October, we had 15 Soldiers qualify by maxing their physical fitness test, but only nine were able to make the trip to White Sands, N.M.. One of them had done the march two years ago, while the rest of us were greenhorns. I had heard and read about how hard it was, but until you truly experience that 26.2 mile course, there is no way to understand it.

It’s not a marathon with your favorite shoes on flat, even terrain. I’ll now call that a “fun run.” The March is a memorial and tribute to those men who died, or survived Bataan. Only a handful are still alive and about a dozen were at the event. For a modern-day Soldier, to see one of these men is an experience a civilian respects, but will never fully understand.

We who serve, don’t do it for you, the flag, or our country. We do it for the Soldiers standing next to us, and for freedom. On that high desert, I had an opportunity to shake a man’s hand who had survived the brutal reality that was Bataan. I shook the hands of as many of them as I could. Each time I did, I felt a connection with those men, who show up each year, reminding us why we do what we do. Their example gives us motivation and perspective about ourselves that can only be gotten in a few places.

During the opening ceremonies, there was a lot to see and hear that emotionally moved you. The grandstand stood in front of a giant

3rd Place
248th ASH National Guard Team Light Division

Want to join us next year in White Sands, NM?
Ask any of this years participants and start training now!

1942 BATAAN DEATH MARCH

75,000 American and Filipino Pows Marched 60-Miles From The Bataan Peninsula To Prison Camps. The Journey was Filled With Physical Abuse and Murder By Rakovski Starving, beatings, Disembowelment and Starvation. Those Who Could Not Keep Up Were Executed Or Left To Die.

2009 Bataan Memorial Death March

Back Row: IlT Bosheim, PFC Schilling, CSM Fox, MSG Garritty, MSG Gaines
Front Row: CPT Hurst, CPT Morton, Sgt Hefel, Pvt Barker

Start Training Now For March 21st 2010!!!!!!

300 APFT Gets You Into The Selection Pool For The Trip
APFT Conducted in September or October 2009 Only.

The Iowa Militiaman Spring 2009
Thank you for your service, thank you for your service” She said this over and over all the way down the hill.

This was a woman who had a legitimate shot at winning the race, but found it more important to thank every Soldier, Airman, Marine, or Seaman she passed. That’s impressive.

The hardest terrain on the route was just ahead and is appropriately named the “sand pit” or “gravel pit.” A stretch that seems like miles, in reality, it’s only a mile or so uphill. After getting through that, with about four miles to go, there was no doubt I would finish and looked forward to each mile marker as a victory.

At mile 25, we stopped to take one final picture next to the mile sign. I had taken my outer jacket off at mile 10, but it was time to put it back on and finish the race in style. We picked up the pace, running most of the last mile, ensuring we’d come in under eight hours.

As we crossed the finish line, we were greeted by four more Bataan survivors. I immediately removed my headgear and sunglasses, thanking each one of them for their sacrifice. My unit members who already finished greeted me. Our most junior member limped up to me and said “Sergeant Major, Thank you for the opportunity to do this with you.”

I thought, “No, Thank you.” Thank you for being a young American Soldier who took off from college, travelled 22 hours in a cramped van, woke up at 3 a.m. all to do this with me. You are a great American Pvt. 2. Phil Barker! He was not alone – they all thanked me before the trip was through and they are all equally great.

As I look back at my time, I think eight hours may seem slow to those who run marathons. Basically, I think I could have run it faster and next year I will. This year I enjoyed it all, even if some of it was pain that reminded me to enjoy the opportunity to feel a little pain in honor of those who had no choice. It really has nothing to do with the time though. It has everything to do with what we did with that time.

Sound familiar?

It took a full nights rest to wake up and say “I can’t wait for next year!” We got in the van and headed home and everyone agreed we will be back to the Bataan Memorial Death March next year to never forget the Battling Bastards of Bataan.

I hope to see you there.

P.S. - It’s Friday night before drill and I need to get at least six more miles on these week-old blisters before tomorrow.
No vacation for Iowa’s 185th Medical Group

by Tech. Sgt. Wendy S. Ohl
185th Air Refueling Wing

(San Juan, Puerto Rico) -- Car accidents, gunshot wounds, broken bones, stab wounds... these are all things members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) Medical Group don't generally experience on drill weekend. During a recent trip to Puerto Rico, however, 32 members of the Medical Group saw it all.

Centro Medico is located on 22 acres in the heart of San Juan, Puerto Rico and is the third largest level 1 trauma center in the United States and its territories. With a population of over 450,000 people in San Juan alone, they keep busy.

The trauma center sees over 7,400 patients and admits around 1,000 per year. Auto accidents account for 70 percent of these admissions, and if you’ve ever driven through San Juan, you can understand why.

With the number of patients that come through the doors, and the types of trauma seen at Centro Medico, spending two weeks there is an excellent training opportunity for the 185th Medical Group. This is the type of hands-on, fast-paced real life training most military medical personnel don't receive on their normal drill weekend. Working with the trauma patients in the worst of conditions may someday translate to real-world battlefield hospital conditions.

“Centro Medico was an ideal location for this type of training because of the size of their trauma center and the cultural and language challenges to overcome,” stated 1st Lt. Zac Johannsen, Medical Administrative Officer, 185th Medical Group.
"Also in Puerto Rico they have the opportunity to treat outside their credentialed field. This is especially helpful if there is something going on they can just jump in and help out rather than standing by and watching because it isn't 'their field.' This gives our staff the opportunity to do more diverse work."

Sr. Airman Katie Grenier is a nursing student at St. Luke's School of Nursing in Sioux City, Iowa. She was able to practice her everyday nursing skills, such as IV starts, medication administration, and more.

"We do shots, blood draws and physicals on a normal basis (at the 185th) so when asked to do them at Centro Medico, I was very prepared," said Grenier. "I also had the opportunity to assist with suturing, chest tubes and surgery, administer meds, suction, and perform wound care."

"The doctors were very helpful and almost all of them spoke English," said Capt. Major Anderson, a critical care registered nurse in Tyndall, S.D. and a nurse with the 185th ARW. "We stuck with them as much as possible. The nurses were good, but not as many spoke English, making it harder to do things with them."

Driving can take up to seven hours to transport a patient from one side of the island to Centro Medico, whereas the helicopter can get a patient to much needed care in an hour or less. Aeromed is a helicopter transport service used by Centro Medico to increase the response time of getting critical care to critically injured and sick patients in Puerto Rico.

"I was surprised how long it takes patients to get from the outlying hospitals or accident scenes to Centro Medico and how long it takes to get them to surgery once they're here." said Anderson. "In one case we were able to unload a patient from the helicopter. He had gunshot wounds in his head, chest and abdomen. Several of us were able to go to the operating room with him."

Gunshot wounds are quite common in Puerto Rico. Approximately 30 percent of the trauma patients entering Centro Medico are gunshot victims. Some patients are brought in and taken to the OR, but others get patched up and sent home.

"A guy came in at 10 a.m. with seven gunshot wounds and was released later that night. He had no surgery done to remove the bullets. They did not suture around the bullet holes, but covered them up with gauze and sent him home," said Grenier.

Maj. Gen. Ray Webster, Air National Guard Assistant to the Surgeon General, was also along for the trip. Webster oversees programs such as this and wanted to get an idea of how things were going.

"This is the 19th group to go through Centro Medico since the program started three years ago," Webster stated. "Things aren't going as smoothly as I'd hoped, but we'll get the bugs worked out. We have Rudy assigned full-time to the program now to see that things get done."

Rudy, or Sr. Master Sgt. Rudolpho Davila, is the Air National Guard liaison for the program. Davila was on call for members of the U.S. military to a civilian hospital, throw in a few cultural and procedural differences, top it off with a language barrier and you're bound to hit a few bumps.

However, the experience gained, and the knowledge received was invaluable.

Dr. Juan Angel Nazario, is the head of Centro Medico, the "go to guy" for anything that goes on at the hospital and university.

"We are a teaching hospital. If you wish to stand back and watch, that will be fine. But if you want to jump in and work hands-on with the patients, you will be allowed and encouraged to do this, too." said Nazario during the Medical Group's in-brief

"We'd like to plan more trips like this in the future," Johannsen said. "We need to train in all the areas of our Readiness Skills Verification Program (RSVP). Going to Puerto Rico was a very good training opportunity and we look forward to more trips like this."
Credit Union changes hours

The Greater Iowa Credit Union, located on Camp Dodge, has new hours for its lobby and drive-up services. The new hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Credit Union will be closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Tax law changes

You may have noticed an increase in your take home pay the last several weeks, attributable to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). However, it also could mean you’re not having enough withheld to cover income tax liability and will owe money at tax time.

The Making Work Pay provision of ARRA provides a tax credit of up to $400 for working individuals and $800 for married taxpayers filing jointly. If you have two jobs (technician and M-Day) each job will withhold as if it's your only job – each job might withhold $400 less, with you having had $800 less withheld and only getting a $400 credit on your tax return.

Brighter tax news

For qualifying, first-time home purchases between Jan. 1, 2009 and Nov. 30, 2009, taxpayers can qualify for a refundable credit of up to $8,000 ($4,000 for married filing separately) and generally do not have to repay the credit.

A credit for energy efficient improvements to your personal residence can net you 30 percent of costs, up to a maximum credit of $1,500. This is applicable to windows and doors, insulation, roofs (metal and asphalt), HVAC, water heaters (non-solar) and biomass stoves. Homeowners should be aware the energy efficiency standards are higher than what they were in 2007.

Also, the American Opportunity Tax Credit makes temporary changes to the education credits (also known as Hope Credit). A portion will be refundable.

Guard ‘Tweet’s, Tube and Flickr’s’

Social networking has hit the military, as the Air National Guard has its own channel on You Tube, while the Army National Guard has a presence on You Tube, Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. Although one goal is to bring in new recruits, having a presence on these sites has other benefits as well. “This is the first time people have been able to interact so directly and immediately with what we are doing in the Guard,” said Rick Breitenfeldt, who oversees new media initiatives for the National Guard Bureau.

“Our NGB (social media) sites don’t focus on recruiting as much as they do on telling our joint story and letting people who support the Guard have a place to share their opinions and connect with others who are in the same boat,” he added.

Guard joins Helmets to Hardhats

The Army National Guard has joined the U.S. Army Reserve’s partnership with a nonprofit program that pairs servicemembers with construction careers. Helmets to Hardhats is a free, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty servicemembers with construction training and careers.


Summer safety message

All of you – Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and our families – are our most valuable resource and it’s paramount we adhere to a “Back to the Basics” approach to safety. It’s incumbent upon us as leaders to stress the importance of using proper judgement when engaging in off-duty activities.

While there is no shortage of hazardous, off-duty activities, please give special emphasis to: Boating and watercraft safety; motorcycle safety awareness; click-it-or-ticket driving safety; driving under the influence and fatigue; grilling and food preparation; heat injury prevention; water and swimming safety; camping and hiking safety; adverse weather; and extreme sports.

Safety is extremely important to us and we ask you to make it a focus at every level. It is our responsibility to remain safety-focused.

The National Guard thanks you for your service and challenge each one of you to make this summer season the safest in National Guard Bureau history.
Museum hosts annual Memorial Day celebration at new Freedom Center Armory

By Col. (Ret.) Russell Bierl

Over 3,000 people visited Camp Dodge for the Memorial Day Museum Open House and S.O.S. breakfast hosted by the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum and the Iowa National Guard. Visitors began arriving well before 5 a.m. for the “Same Old Stuff” breakfast at the new Freedom Center Armory.

According to museum officials, “This is the largest crowd we have hosted in the past three years of Memorial Day events. At one time the mess line stretched from the drill hall, down the corridor, to the front door of the Freedom Center.”

Van Hardin, of WHO Radio’s Van and Bonnie Show, broadcast their Memorial Day program live from the Freedom Center drill floor, from 5 to 9 a.m. Visitors were also treated to a large military vehicle display, including a World War I Liberty Truck, World War II Jeep and Weapons Carrier, Korean War Jeep and ¾ Ton Truck, Vietnam-era M151 Jeep and modern Armored Security Vehicle, (ASV) currently operated by the 186th Military Police Company.

Continued on page M2
Memorial Day
Continued on page M2

Brig. Gen. Timothy Orr, Adjutant General of the Iowa National Guard, and his family partook of the S.O.S. breakfast and enjoyed visiting with the Soldiers and area residents in attendance. Orr fired the 105mm Howitzer in a salute to our fallen veterans at the close of the day-long program.

The large crowd also enjoyed a flyover by a National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and the privately-owned WWII-era Army PT-19 trainer, flown by Brig. Gen. Tim Griffith, former Iowa Air National Guard Chief of Staff and co-piloted by Iowa Gold Star Military Museum Curator, Mike Vogt. The day’s events were coordinated by Col. (Ret.) Robert King.

Representative Tom Latham presented six, long-overdue service awards to Army Spc. Richard Corey, from Dexter, Iowa, during an awards ceremony conducted at the Freedom Center drill hall. Corey earned these awards, which included the Army Commendation Medal and the Iraqi Service Ribbon, for service with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq.

Bob Holliday, president of the Iowa National Guard Memorial Association, thanked the gathered volunteers, Soldiers and re-enactors supporting the Memorial Day Museum event, who all assisted in making this open house memorial event a grand success.

As Holliday noted, “We invite all of our Iowa Gold Star Military Museum friends to come and visit us again next year in our new museum building addition which will be completed in December 2009.”
Missing In America Project memorializes eight Iowa vets

by Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl

The Iowa National Guard and Iowa National Guard Memorial Association supported the Missing In America Project at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter, on April 24. More than 2,000 people attended the memorial service for eight Iowa servicemen who had no one to claim their remains after their passing.

The Missing in America Project supports the burial of the cremains of veterans who have been forgotten in mortuaries and state hospitals across the country. The MIA Association found the remains of eight unclaimed Iowans, which included three Vietnam veterans, three Korean War veterans, and two World War II veterans.

The American Legion of Iowa and the Old Guard Riders were the main sponsors of the event. Chaplain Jeff Clark gave the eulogy and final service for the veterans at the committal shelter of the cemetery. An Iowa National Guard Color Guard, Firing Squad, and 34th Army Band bugler supported the ceremony under the leadership of Sgt. Maj. Timothy Perkins.

Other Iowa National Guard attendees included Air National Guard Chief of Staff Col. Derek Hill, Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Selof and Col. (Ret.) Russ Bierl.

The mission of the MIAP project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect.

The impetus for this program began in November 2006, after the Idaho State Veterans cemetery interred 21 cremains of forgotten veterans, with full military honors and the dignity these fallen heroes so richly deserved.

The second phase of the MIA Project will be the creation of a network of individuals working with local funeral homes, state, and national agencies to ensure, from now on, the cremated remains of any unclaimed veteran will be identified, claimed and interred in a timely manner. This ongoing project will most likely be a cooperative effort between many voluntary service organizations.

This lengthy project will require many man-hours to ensure we have done our utmost to discover every forgotten veteran and procure each a dignified resting place. This will also be a labor of love, a task of redemption, for a debt of service that can never be repaid.
Iowa ESGR hosts employer awards

On May 2, the Iowa Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) held its annual Employer Awards Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines.

This event, which recognizes employers from around the state of Iowa for their continued support of employees who serve in the military, recognized 22 companies for their support.

The State Chair Award is presented by the Iowa ESGR State Chair, Barry Spear, to employers that show continued support of their employees who serve in the Reserve Components. This year, three companies received this award.

The “Above and Beyond” Award honors the employers of Reserve Component members who have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Twenty-one Iowa employers have been selected to receive this award, which is the second-highest award the Iowa ESGR can confer.

The Pro Patria award is the highest honor a state ESGR Committee can give to employers. It is given to the employer(s) in the state who has provided the most exceptional support of our national defense through leadership practices and personnel policies that support their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserves.

This year, three companies received this honor: Decker Truck Lines of Fort Dodge; The Printer, Inc., of Des Moines; and Iowa State Patrol Post #14, of Ottumwa. All three companies showed exceptional support for not only their employee, but for others who are in the military, as well.

For more information about the Iowa ESGR program, visit www.iowaesgr.com.

Pro Patria Recipients
Decker Truck Lines, Fort Dodge
The Printer, Inc., Des Moines
Iowa State Patrol, Post 14, Ottumwa

‘Above & Beyond’ Award Recipients
Eaton Corporation, Shenandoah
Shaw Electric, Dubuque
Hawkeye Concrete, Mediapolis
Tri-City Electric Company, Davenport
Dr. Pepper Snapples Group, Davenport
Eaton Corporation, Belmond
Evergreen Packaging, Inc., Cedar Rapids
Heidman Law Firm, Sioux City
Iowa Highway Patrol Post 13, Mt. Pleasant
City of Bettendorf Police Department
Pella Corporation, Pella

State Chairman’s Award
GKN Offhighway Systems, Armstrong
Van Meter Industrial, Cedar Rapids
Winnebago Industries, Forest City
For the first time since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on our nation, the Iowa Army National Guard is focusing on Annual Training periods. We currently are experiencing the lowest number of Soldiers deployed from the State of Iowa since the airport security missions immediately began after the attacks and when the 194th Field Artillery Battalion was mobilized for Operation Noble Eagle in 2002.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team headed to Camp Ripley, Minn., in late May with all its battalions, except for the Brigade Support battalion and the Field Artillery battalion. The 334th Brigade Support Battalion accomplished annual training at Camp Dodge in May, concentrating on technical and staff training. The 1st Battalion, 194th Field Artillery will head for Camp Grayling, Mich. in late August for new equipment training.

The 734th Regional Support Group and the bulk of their subordinate units headed to South Dakota to participate in Operation Golden Thunder in early June. Last year, the 734th and the rest of the Iowa units on the ground were the first units in the history of the Iowa Army National Guard to be recalled from annual training to assist the citizens of Iowa during the terrible floods of 2008.

We also have some companies doing annual training in locations such as Fort McCoy and Volk Field, Wisc.; Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.; as well as in the state of West Virginia. Our Officer Candidate Classes will again train in the state of Washington.

A final footnote...Our new Adjutant General is a fantastic, energetic leader. He has taken the time to evaluate where we are as a state and is slowly making changes that are needed for our organization to be successful in the future.

One of his first changes is that he would like to refer to those we now refer to as retirees as “alumni.” Alumni continue to serve and many of you who have chosen to retire do just that.

Whether it’s in support of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or for those who just check in with their local armory or air base from time to time, your care and concerns are appreciated.

The benefits you enjoy as a retiree were earned and are far better than we could have ever imagined. So, your support of the change in terms would be greatly appreciated. It really does express the sentiment that our current leadership team wants to portray.

As I said earlier in this article, we are currently at a lull in the number of Soldiers and Airmen deployed.

However, as long as our Nation is at war, we need to stand ready to help support the military initiatives that our country’s leaders order the Department of Defense to undertake.

“However, as long as our Nation is at war, we need to stand ready to help support the military initiatives that our country’s leaders order the Department of Defense to undertake.”
Welcome to Sgt. 1st Class Bullock

The Education Office would like to welcome a new member to the Education team. Sgt. 1st Class Brian Bullock was hired as the Montgomery GI Bill Manager in January 2009. Bullock’s duties include GI Bill responsibilities, kicker actions, education assistance and control number requests. Bullock also serves as a senior instructor for Company H, Recruit Sustainment Program in Cedar Rapids. Welcome aboard Sgt. 1st Class Bullock!

New post-9/11 GI Bill

As many of you are aware there will be a new Post 9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33 starting Aug. 1, 2009. Applications are now being processed online at www.gibill.va.gov. To learn more about this benefit, visit the VA website. Remember, this benefit may be used only for educational purposes and is an irrevocable decision if you decide to participate. To become eligible for Ch 33, Soldiers must have at least 90 aggregate days of Active Duty, or serve 30 days continuous with a service-connected disability.

Website to use CAC access

Starting May 8, 2009, the National Guard Benefits website located on the iowanationalguard.com website will only allow Common Access Card (CAC) access. This is the website all National Guard Soldiers (except AGR) will use to apply for Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance. Soldiers will need to purchase a CAC reader, or go to their local armory to apply for Fed TA. After Soldiers apply for Federal TA, they will receive two emails. If you do not receive either email within five to 10 business days, please contact the education office. Maj. Donald Enright will be the point of contact for your FTA questions while Spc. Lisa Langel-Cordes is on deployment. This is a first-come, first-served benefit.

Deadline upcoming

Deadline for the National Guard Assistance Program (NGEAP) online application is August 31 for the fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester. If you apply late, and must enter a code, you can either contact your VA certifying official or the Education Office.

Once Soldiers have applied for NGEAP and the State Tuition Assistance Manager has received the application, the manager will determine if the Soldier is eligible for the tuition assistance. Remember that each Soldier/Airman will receive two emails when applying for NGEAP. The first email will tell them if the Education received the application. The second will tell them if they have been approved.

From the Education Office

Upon receiving the second email, take it to your college or university financial aid office and they will request the tuition assistance. For spring 2009, we had over 1,200 Soldiers/Airman use this benefit. Remember, this is a first-come, first-served tuition assistance.

ACT available for Soldiers

Another important test is the ACT, for Soldiers that are serving. This free test is offered at JFHQ in Johnston. Many need this test for college acceptance. If interested in taking the ACT test, contact educationia@ng.army.mil. They will set up an exam date and results may take up to 4-6 weeks.

Contact your VA Certifying Official

If a Soldier is in school, they must contact the VA Certifying Official (VACO) at their college or university, to obtain GI Bill benefits. The MGIB-RC, CH 1606 went up to $329 on Oct. 1, 2008. Once the paperwork is sent to the VA in St. Louis, or any other Regional VA, it may take 10-12 weeks to process the claim, so try to start the process early. If you are applying for CH, 1606 and need to obtain your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), it may be found in your iPERMS Soldier file. Also, provide your kicker contract if you have one. Don’t forget your end-of-month verification, by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or the W.A.V.E. program online.

When applying for Ch 1607, for those who have deployed, you need to submit your mobilization orders and DD 214 to the VA certifying official at your college. Don’t forget to do your end of month verification for this benefit, by calling 1-877-823-2378. For those who have a kicker, it also needs to be submitted with the application. All documents can be

Education Office continued on page 19
Faculty and students are excited for the opportunities the new Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program is bringing to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. The faculty is excited because it coincides with the mission of the university: Leadership, hands-on learning and student development. It will bring new ideas, expand the student base and be incorporated into the existing leadership curriculum of the university.

While many students choose not to attend private universities due to high costs, faculty feel this program will give more students the opportunity to attend.

"Offering a ROTC program was a great match for the mission of the university and a great opportunity to help students attend," said Dr. David Evans, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty.

The ROTC program is expected to have a positive impact on recruitment of new students who have a special interest in a military career, he said. The BVU program will be the only one offered in western Iowa and will be a branch of the ROTC program at Iowa State University (ISU).

"This program will make it economically feasible for more students to attend BVU, and will provide those students with excellent leadership training and career opportunities," Evans said. "It also allows BVU to have a role in educating the next generation of military leaders, and thus to have the university's values and ideals represented in the officer corps."

ROTC pays for tuition, which is $25,540 per year for full-time status. The program also allows the additional benefit of a GRFD scholarship to pay for room and board the last two years of attendance. Soldiers who are members of the Simultaneous Membership Program can also collect the Montgomery G.I. Bill, along with a stipend of $350-$500 a month. ROTC adds an additional $350 per month kicker to the G.I. Bill.

The G.I. Bill can provide up to $1,300 per month tax-free with the addition of a kicker, if the student had deployed, or was eligible for Chapter 30. There is also a tax-free stipend of $1,200 a year for books. Soldiers in the program are non-deployable, which allows them to finish their education without interruption.

While ROTC brings many financial benefits to the table, its greatest benefit is in the personal development, teamwork and leadership opportunities the program provides. It will provide students at BVU an advantage to succeed within the university and in roles outside of the university as well.

1st Lt. Jared Gledhill is excited to help develop the BVU ROTC program. "Our program is a great opportunity for the Iowa National Guard's men and women to go to a great private university for little to no cost for the soldier," Gledhill said.

With input from BVU, the Army has started the process to hire an ROTC instructor. The instructor will be employed by the Army but have faculty status. Other ROTC programs in Iowa are offered by the University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Drake University, University of Dubuque and Coe College.

For more information about ROTC, the final 2009 Officer/Warrant Officer Symposium will be held at the Freedom Center (Building S70) on Camp Dodge, August 15, beginning at 8 a.m.
The question is: What’s in a name?

In his classic play about human love, William Shakespeare has Juliet ask the question, “What’s in a name?”

As she thinks about Romeo, Juliet asks: “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call’d,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes.”

Juliet’s whole idea, of course, is since their families are enemies, if his name were something else, then all would be well.

Names are an interesting thing. On the one hand, they can have very little meaning. But, on the other hand, there are certain names that have a great deal of meaning. Have you ever had to tell your kids when they keep asking for things, “Look our name is not Rockefeller.”

I have a little problem with names, as my first name is Alton. I have always gone by Jim.

One time I applied for a job at Huffman’s Welding. The interview was really not going well, so when Bob Huffman looked at the application and said, “Well Alton, what do they call you, Al?”

Since I knew I wasn’t going to get the job I said, “Sure, everyone calls me Al.”

Then he said, “So Al, can you start on Monday?” I worked there three years and everyone called me Al.

However, sometimes names are very important. In Psalm 91, we see some names that are given to God and these names of God tell us something of Himself.

In verse one, God is called the “God Most High.” It suggests the exaltedness and overwhelming majesty of God, signifying the supremacy of the deity. God is seen here as the God of power and might. He is God most high. He is the God who is above all other Gods.

God is the only one in the universe that doesn’t have to answer to someone else. God is completely sovereign and totally in control. There is no higher power than God.

Also, in verse one, he’s called “the Almighty,” or “the all-powerful.” We see here both his position: “Most High;” and power: “Almighty.”

Next, he’s called “Lord.” This is the personal name for God. In Exodus 3:13, when Moses asked God what his name is – this is the name God gives to Moses. It means, “I am that I am, or I will be what I will be.” It carries the idea of God’s self-sufficiency.
One Red Air MiG aircraft had already been splashed and another group of adversaries were avoided altogether. This kept Blue Air strike aircraft untargeted so they could deliver bombs into the command bunker directing the surface-to-air missile system engaging them.

As the threat warning system audio blared in their ears, pilots of the Iowa National Guard’s 132nd Fighter Wing “Hawkeyes” dispensed chaff in an attempt to break the lock of the surface-to-air missile system’s radar.

Finally, after a minute that seemed more like 10, the surface-to-air missile system’s radar dropped lock long enough for the pilots to deliver their weapons squarely into the heart of the bunker. All that was left was their 80-mile dash for home through the mountains of Alaska, at 500 feet and 540 knots.

Scenarios like this one played out 114 times for the 132nd Fighter Wing, as they tested the limits of their tactical flying abilities in the Red Flag North exercise at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, from April 15 to 2 May 2.

Red Flag-Alaska, a series of Pacific Air Forces commander-directed field training exercises for U.S. forces, provides joint offensive counter-air, interdiction, close air support and large force employment training in a simulated combat environment.

It provides U.S. and allied pilots, aircrews and operational support personnel the opportunity to train and improve their air combat skills in preparation for a myriad of worldwide operations.

Conducted on the Pacific Alaska Range Complex, the largest training range in America at more than 65,000 square miles, air operations are flown out of Eielson Air Force Base, in Fairbanks and Elmendorf Air Force Base, in Anchorage. Units are organized as an air expeditionary wing at Eielson, with a subordinate air expeditionary group at Elmendorf.

Near the conclusion of the Vietnam War, it was determined if a pilot could survive his first 10 flying missions, the chances of being shot down during the rest of the year-long tour dropped dramatically.

Red Flag was then created to give Air Force pilots a chance to get those first 10 critical missions under their belt before encountering the real thing. To achieve the level of realism needed to simulate flying in an actual major conflict, Red Flag North deploys up to 14 Red Air (Bad Guys) aircraft and 19 surface-to-air threat systems, with most of those being actual adversary systems manned by live operators.

To adequately counter the threat, Blue Air (Good Guys) launched 30-plus aircraft packages covering the full spectrum of combat capabilities; E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), KC-135 tankers, EA-6B jamming aircraft, F-15 air-to-air fighters and F-16 multi-role fighters all working together to degrade the enemy’s air-to-air and air-to-surface defenses to successfully put bombs on target.

The 132nd FW supplied six multi-role fighters in each of these 30-plus aircraft packages.

Faced with the most realistic and difficult major conflict training profiles flown anywhere in the world, the “Hawkeyes” of the 132nd FW excelled.

And thanks to the hard-working 132nd FW Maintainers, the unit was the only fighter squadron at Red Flag North to launch all scheduled sorties, as well as the most lines configured with live or heavy-weight inert ordnance.
Tech. Sgt. Oscar Sanchez and Tech. Sgt. Brian Cox, from Sioux City's 185th Air Refueling Wing, recently took home several awards in the 2008 Air National Guard media contest. Cox was awarded first place in the “Portrait/Personality Photo” category, while Sanchez received a first place nod for his “Feature Photo” entry, second place finishes in the “Pictorial Photograph” and “Picture Story” categories and a third in “News Photography.” Judges scored 200 entries, a 75 percent increase in total submissions.
Are you ready for retirement?

courtesy of Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- As an Army National Guard Soldier, you are often quick to respond, “Yes, I’m ready.”

But, are you ready to retire? Have you taken the time to plan for your future? And, more importantly, do you know the Army has a retirement program that’ll help you and your family prepare for and support you after retirement?

Retirement is a process, not an event, and it is a complex and life-changing one. Knowing where to go for assistance will help you and your family in preparing for retirement.

For Guard Soldiers and families, support comes from your State G-1 Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) offices, State Joint Force Headquarters and state Military Personnel Management Officers (MPMOs).

For all components, Retirement Services Officers (RSOs) at Army installations worldwide (listed at http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/rso.asp) support retiring and retired Soldiers and families.

There are two types of retirement points earned towards non-regular retirement: Inactive Duty (IDT) points and Active Duty (AD) points.

IDT Points may be earned by:
- Inactive Duty Training/Unit Drill
- Equivalent Training (ET)
- Additional Flight Training Period (AFTP)
- Additional Unit Training Assembly (AUTA)
- Jump Proficiency Additional Unit Training Assembly
- Funeral Honors Duty (FHD)
- Junior Leader/Civil Disturbance Leadership Training
- Training Preparation Assembly
- Annual Training Assembly (ATA) Individual Use Other
- Mobile Conduct of Fire Trainer (MCOFT)
- Management/Support Assembly

Each full anniversary year will earn a Soldier 15 membership points (partial years will earn partial points).

Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP) awards one point for every three credit hours completed, provided the Soldier is not in an active duty status at time of completion.

Originally established by law in 1949, the maximum number of IDT points a Soldier could earn was 60 points. The points allowed depend on the time of service:

Before Sept. 23, 1996 = 60 points
From Sept. 23, 1996 until Oct. 30, 2000 = 75 points
Since Oct. 30, 2007 = 130 points

You can find more information and specific guidance in Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1215.7 (http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/121507p.pdf).

Next, you need to know how many points you have earned. RPAM, formerly known as Retirement Points Accounting System (RPAS) provides an automated method to ensure timely recording and verification of all retirement points earned during your career.

Soldiers must receive an NGB Form 23A and A1 (Annual and Detailed Point Statement) every year. If not, contact your unit readiness NCO or state JFHQ RPAM. If you find a problem with your points statement, contact one of these offices for a correction.

When a retirement date is set, the state JFHQ will transfer the Soldier to the servicing Transition Center (a list is at: http://www.militaryconnection.com/army_trans.asp) for final processing, discharging the Soldier from state-only (or federal recognition from the State ARNG, for officers) for assignment to the Army Reserve and placement on a retired list.

State MPMO/G-1 or other designated staff members conduct pre-retirement briefings during the 18th or 19th year of service. At your briefing, you’ll learn about Reserve Components Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP), retirement benefits, medical care, discharge procedures, and the retired pay application process. Spouses should also attend these briefings.

One of the most important decisions you’ll make for your family is Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) election. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is the only way retired pay continues after death of the retiree. Retirees cannot elect SBP coverage after retirement.

Before Sept. 23, 1996 = 60 points
From Sept. 23, 1996 until Oct. 30, 2000 = 75 points
Since Oct. 30, 2007 = 130 points

You can find more information and specific guidance in Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1215.7 (http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/121507p.pdf).

Next, you need to know how many points you have earned. RPAM, formerly known as Retirement Points Accounting System (RPAS) provides an automated method to ensure timely recording and verification of all retirement points earned during your career.

Soldiers must receive an NGB Form 23A and A1 (Annual and Detailed Point Statement) every year. If not, contact your unit readiness NCO or state JFHQ RPAM. If you find a problem with your points statement, contact one of these offices for a correction.

When a retirement date is set, the state JFHQ will transfer the Soldier to the servicing Transition Center (a list is at: http://www.militaryconnection.com/army_trans.asp) for final processing, discharging the Soldier from state-only (or federal recognition from the State ARNG, for officers) for assignment to the Army Reserve and placement on a retired list.

State MPMO/G-1 or other designated staff members conduct pre-retirement briefings during the 18th or 19th year of service. At your briefing, you’ll learn about Reserve Components Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP), retirement benefits, medical care, discharge procedures, and the retired pay application process. Spouses should also attend these briefings.

One of the most important decisions you’ll make for your family is Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) election. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is the only way retired pay continues after death of the retiree. The primary purpose of SBP is to provide survivors with a portion of a retired Soldier’s pay. Retired pay stops when a retiree dies – survivors do not receive any monthly payment unless the retiree elected some level of SBP coverage before he/she retired. Retirees cannot elect SBP coverage after retirement.

RC-SBP allows RC Soldiers who have received Notification of Eligibility for Retired Pay at age 60 to continue a portion of future retired pay entitlement to their enrolled
beneficiary(ies) if they die before receiving retired pay at 60. There are three Options:

Option A (Decline to Make an Election Until Age 60) (No RC-SBP Participation). If you choose this option and die before 60, your beneficiaries won’t receive any portion of your future retired pay entitlement. If you are married at the time of election, your spouse must concur with the election not to enroll in the RC-SBP.

If you have no eligible dependents when you make your RC-SBP election and you later marry, or acquire a dependent, you have one year from the date of the marriage or acquiring the child to make an election. That election becomes effective upon the first anniversary of the marriage or acquiring the dependent child.

Option B (Deferred Annuity). If you die before your 60th birthday, your beneficiary is entitled to an RC-SBP annuity on the day you would have reached 60. If you die after 60, the annuity is payable immediately. Option B becomes your SBP election at age 60. If you are married when you make this election, your spouse must concur.

Option C (Immediate Annuity). Under this option, annuity payments to designated beneficiaries begin immediately upon your death, whether you die before or after age 60. Option C becomes the Soldier’s SBP election at 60. The spouse must concur if the retiring Soldier elects to cover less than full retired pay.

What happens if your spouse doesn’t concur with your SBP election? You’re automatically enrolled in RC-SBP Option C, covering full retired pay.

You must complete the DD Form 2656-5, Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RC-SBP) Election Certificate, 90 days from receipt of the letter for an RC-SBP election.

For National Guard Soldiers and Families, military retirement is a two-part process. Before reaching age 60 and the start of retired pay and medical care, you are in the “gray area.”

As a “gray area” Reserve retired Soldier, you will have some benefits – you can use commissary, Exchange, and installation facilities and space-available travel (for you, not your spouse until you reach age 60).

In the “gray area,” you have the option of purchasing coverage in both the non-subsidized retiree dental plan and the federal long-term insurance program. You will also start receiving the Army Retirement Services bulletin, “Army Echoes.” To receive Echoes and get back issues by e-mail, go to http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/echoes.asp.

If you choose to resign from the Guard until age 60, you are not eligible for these programs or benefits. You must keep the Human Resources Command-St. Louis informed of your address and status both for mobilization purposes and to ensure they have your address when it’s time to mail your retirement packet at 1-800-318-5298, ext. 4.

To learn more about the retirement process, contact your Unit Readiness NCO or JFHQ Retirement Points Accounting Management (RPAM) office representative, Sgt. Joshua Eberly, at (515) 252-4499.

Education Office continued from page 13

found in your iPERMS Soldier file.

If you need to know how to use iPERMS, contact your unit. For those applying for programs other than college, contact the VA or visit www.gibill.va.gov to apply for the GI Bill.

Remember, if you have been deployed 90 days to one year, you can receive 40 percent of the Active Duty GI Bill. If deployed one to two years, you can get 60 percent, and for 2 continuous years, or multiple deployments that add up to 36 months, you can receive 80 percent. Chapter 30 MGIB is $1,321.

MGIB-AD eligibility

For those Soldiers who became eligible for MGIB-AD, Chapter 30, you will need to submit your DD2366, or DD 2366-1 (if available) and a copy of your mobilization orders to your VACO. These forms can be found in your iPERMS Soldier file if you bought into the Chapter 30.

You still need to do your end-of-the-month verification by phoning 1-877-823-2378 or the W.A.V.E. program online. The rates can be found on the www.gibill.va.gov web site.

Need help choosing a degree?

If you are struggling choosing a degree, the Education Office has updated the Career Counseling tab, on the iowanationaguard.com website. This will allow you to do an online application and the Education Support Center will provide you with a degree plan. The best way to contact the Education Office is educationia@ng.army.mil, or call 1-515-252-4468.
To those family members whose Soldier is currently at Basic Combat Training or Advanced Individual Training --
Thank you! Your son or daughter left Iowa a citizen and will return as a Citizen-Solder. You have reason to be proud
and we are grateful to have you as part of the National Guard Family.

- The Recruiting & Retention Force

Guard Recruiting Assistant Program (G-RAP)
http://www.guardrecruitingassistant.com

G-Rap is one of the best force multipliers in the history of the National Guard. We need the efforts of the entire team to
build readiness within our ranks and G-RAP creates and rewards ($2,000 for enlisted accession; up to $7,500 for officer
accession) to those who participate. The following individuals are eligible to participate in G-RAP: M-Day officers and
enlisted Soldiers; AGR enlisted Soldiers; Currently mobilized enlisted Soldiers; Soldiers assigned on ADOS orders (not
assigned to Recruiting and Retention) and ARNG Retirees with 20+ years of verified service. If a person has signed a
contract as a traditional M-Day Soldier, they are eligible to submit an application. An applicant is not required to com-
plete BCT to be eligible to participate. Talk with your unit recruiter about this program.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Officer/Warrant Officer Symposium - The third information briefing
on officer and warrant officer opportunities for 2009 will take place on
Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Freedom Center (Building S70). Contact Maj.
Amy Price (Basic Branch Officer) at (515) 252-4136, or amy.price@
us.army.mil; or Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeff Lee (Warrant Officer)
at (515) 252-4596, or Jeffrey.leel@us.army.mil to register for more
information. Please come see how you can take the next step in your
military career and take advantage of the outstanding opportunities in
our “leadership academies.”