

EANGUS **NEW** **PATRIOT**

JOURNAL OF **NATIONAL GUARD** ENLISTED PROFESSIONALS

MAY / JUNE 2011

FRONTIER MILITIA

The beginnings of
Montana's National Guard

REGIONAL NEWS

Fighting fires and floods
in America's heartland

SERGEANT PALAZZO GOES TO WASHINGTON

As the only enlisted Guardsman in Congress, Rep. Steven Palazzo has a unique perspective on the National Guard



EANGUS.ORG



We were there when you landed on the northern coast of France.
We were there when you returned to the Philippine shore.
We were there when you fought in Korea and Vietnam.
We were there when you rolled across the deserts of Iraq.
We were there then. We will always be there.

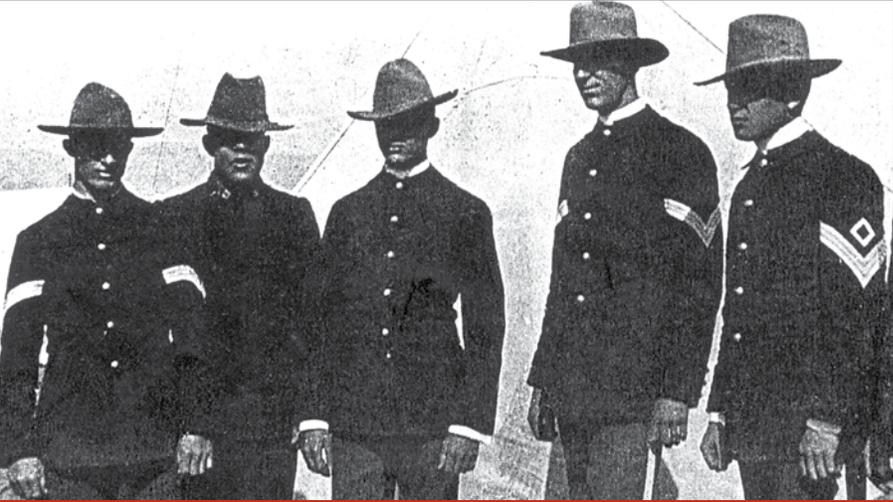
Proudly serving the Military since 1936.

GEICO[®]
geico.com

1-800-MILITARY (1-800-645-4827)

AUTO ★ HOME ★ RENTERS ★ MOTORCYCLE ★ BOAT

Homeowners, renters, and boat coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency Inc. Motorcycle coverage is underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO, Washington, DC 20076. © 2011 GEICO



» FEATURES

16 Frontier Militia

In its territorial days, Montana's men volunteered for the militia that would one day become the state's National Guard



12 Sergeant Palazzo Goes to Washington

Rep. Steven Palazzo is the only enlisted Guardsman in today's Congress

DEPARTMENTS

2 COMMUNIQUÉ
Letters from President Roger Hagan and Auxiliary President Jenny Lainhart

3 MONITOR
National Guard news from around the nation and the world

6 VIEWFINDER
Photos taken by the men and women of the Guard

8 COMMON CENTS
How to shop for the right vehicle for your family

10 WASHINGTON WATCH
Awards, reports and advocacy on Capitol Hill

20 PATRIOT QUARTERS
Regional news from Areas 1-7

24 HEADQUARTERS
EANGUS National Conference preview

26 WE CARE FOR AMERICA
Foundation grants for Soldiers and Airmen

28 THE BEST OF GUNSTON STREET
The lighter side of Guard life

» **COVER PHOTO:** Courtesy of Rep. Steven Palazzo's Congressional office

NEW PATRIOT PUBLICATION STAFF

Managing Editor: Al Garver
Publication Chair: TSgt John R. Oldham (AR)
Editor: Myrna Traylor
Art Director: Eliane Mangoubi

Publication Management Provided by:



1.800.641.3912 | www.glcomm.com

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Caryn Lee Lawton, Washington State University Press.

NEW PATRIOT is published by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, 3133 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305. **800-234-EANG**

COMMENTS, articles and state association news should be forwarded to editor@eangus.org or to **New Patriot** Editor, 3133 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305. Photos may be provided as jpegs with a photo resolution of 300 dpi, or traditional color prints labeled on the back.

ADVERTISING: Go to the EANGUS website under Resources and download our media kit for rates. Individuals wishing to sell advertising at the existing EANGUS rates will be paid 15% commission upon full payment of the ad. Subscription rate is \$12.00 per year and checks should be made payable to the **New Patriot** and mailed to **New Patriot**, 3133 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305.

NEW PATRIOT MAGAZINE is published for all members for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the United States Army or Air Force, the National Guard or official EANGUS positions unless so stated.

COMMUNIQUÉ

» from President Roger Hagan



EANGUS on the Move

*"How do you like me now?
Now that I'm on my way ..."*
are words from country
artist Toby Keith in his
song of the same name.
If your *New Patriot* could
speak, it would be singing
that very phrase. Word

from the membership is our new look is refreshing, welcoming and exciting. It will only get better, so keep reading and sharing this "Journal of National Guard Enlisted Professionals" with your coworkers.

EANGUS has been hard at work for our enlisted professionals. We just completed a very successful State President's Workshop and Conference Site Visit in Charleston, W.Va. Attendance was strong, and I am confident our West Virginia hosts have set the stage for a great conference in August. Be sure to register right away as the registration fee increases July 1.

Our "Legislative First, Membership Always" motto continues to take root. We are making the point that our National Guard is "A Great Value for America." This message is a concerted effort of our sister National Guard Associations, the National Guard Bureau and EANGUS. The National Guard is an integral part of solving our country's fiscal challenges. As professional enlisted Soldiers and Airmen, you must carry this message to our communities. Our website has more information on this theme.

As we move into the summer, please be safe and enjoy yourself. God bless you and God bless America.

CMSGT (RET) PRESIDENT HAGAN

SIDE BY SIDE

» from Auxiliary President Jenny L. Lainhart



*Can you believe it
is June already?*
As the late
spring and
early summer
flowers bloom,
remember
that we can
blossom
like flowers
as we grow
and become

strong. We can do so by committing to each gain one new member. Dianne Williams, our Auxiliary Membership Chair, outlined a membership growth plan in the April *Signal*. You can find the entire two-page letter on eangus.org. We can work side-by-side with EANGUS, and as they grow, we will grow. I encourage each state to work diligently so we can all reach our goals. Without membership, we are nothing. We cannot let our Soldiers, Airmen and their families down by not extending the importance of their membership.

The President's Workshop and Site Visit was held in Charleston, W.Va., May 13-15. I attended the EANGUS Executive Council Meeting, and we had an amazing opportunity to see the facilities, check out restaurants and stores for shopping. I assure you, you will want to attend the conference in Charleston this August. See you there!

Side by Side We Stand with Pride.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT JENNY LAINHART

» VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.EANGUS.ORG



Staff Sgt. Christopher Herndon of 623rd Engineer Company, Task Force Gridley, Nebraska Army National Guard, hands out wooden toys to village children in Paktika Province, Afghanistan on March 9.

(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Anna Rutherford, Task Force Gridley Public Affairs)

Persuasion

TASK FORCE GRIDLEY AIDS VILLAGE IN NEED

Story by Staff Sgt. Anna Rutherford, Task Force Gridley Public Affairs

Members of Task Force Gridley, with air assistance from the 101st Airborne Division and security elements from 1-506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Task Force Red Currahee, delivered humanitarian assistance and materials to build a dam in a small village in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

In March, Soldiers from Task Forces Gridley and Red Currahee hiked into Paktika Province to intercept two large air drops: one net held food and supplies for the impoverished villagers whose agriculture had been devastated by rough winter weather, the other held bags of concrete for a dam that will provide irrigation for the village's agricultural needs.

"It's been a challenge to design this dam, but it's going to be very

rewarding to see it complete and functional," said 2nd Lt. Raymond Jones of Task Force Gridley Civil Military Operations.

Also during the visit, Task Force Gridley medic Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodriguez and physician's assistant 1st Lt. Kenric Craver were able to render first aid for minor injuries and illnesses. Soldiers also found time to hand out toys and candy to the village children.

Task Force Gridley Soldiers have been conducting various civil military operations throughout the province. The mission brought members of the 101st Airborne Division together with the 1249th Engineer Battalion, Oregon Army National Guard, working on infrastructure and sustainability projects throughout Paktika. ≡

OPPORTUNITY

The ARNG Wounded Warrior/Warrior in Transition Section is seeking qualified Enlisted National Guard Soldiers to work as cadre at the Warrior Transition Units and Community-Based Warrior Transition Units throughout CONUS. The Soldiers who are selected will be placed on a Title 10 CO-ADOS PCS tour order for 365 days and receive active duty pay/allowances/entitlements for the length of the tour. Many tours offer the possibility for a one-year extension, dependent upon the Soldier's performance. Positions are available at various locations throughout CONUS. Minimum grade E-5. Grade-appropriate NCOES must be completed.

» Send all inquiries to wtu@ngb.army.mil and include up-to-date contact information.

Military kids enjoy a free week of summer camp at the National Military Family Association's Operation Purple Camp.

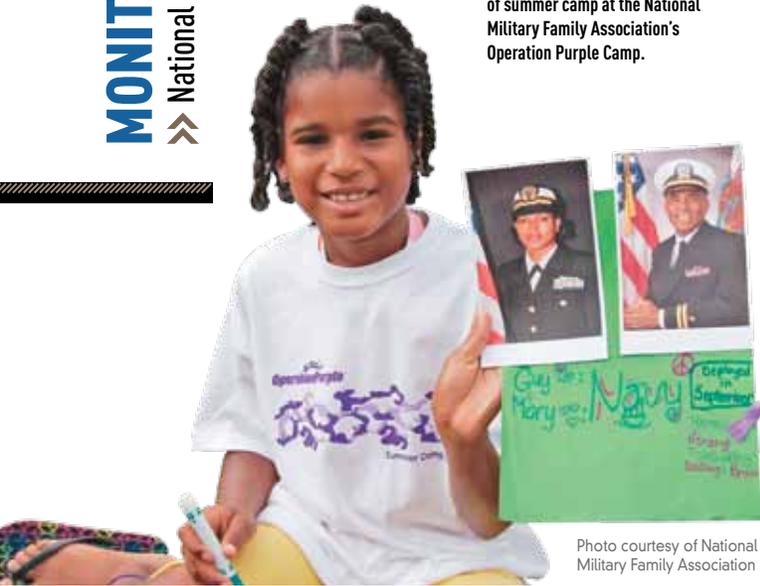


Photo courtesy of National Military Family Association

Green for Purple

FUNDS DONATED FOR
WOUNDED VETERANS' SERVICES

The Mission Continues, a national non-profit organization whose mission is to enable every returning wounded veteran to serve again as a citizen leader, announced a \$20 million partnership funded by Goldman Sachs Gives (GSG), a donor-advised fund. The nonprofit network's objective will be to provide all of the needed support services to help returning veterans continue to serve in civilian life.

As recipients of a \$5 million grant, The Mission Continues offers paid community service fellowships that enable veterans to continue serving their country as civilians. The organization will serve as the entry point to the program and will aid veterans in accessing the additional services they require. The Mission Continues will work with Goldman Sachs Gives and other partners to build a network of nonprofits over the five-year life of the program. Participating nonprofits will largely focus on two types of services: job placement and readiness, and family support and counseling. The inaugural partner in this capacity will be the National Military Family Association, which will receive a grant of \$1 million and offer spaces to 2,500 children of service members for its Operation Purple® camps for military children. An investment of this size in the National Military Family Association will enhance support for the Operation Purple Camp program. ≡

ARMY GUARD, RESERVE SEE INCREASE IN SUICIDES

Suicides nearly doubled in the Army National Guard in 2010 compared with a year earlier, the acting director said during a Pentagon briefing on Army suicides in January.

"For the Army National Guard, we had 112 suicides recorded in [calendar year] 2010, and 11 of those were while on active duty," Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter reported.

Carpenter said the increase in suicides is not necessarily from deployments.

"Over 50 percent of those who committed suicide in the Army Guard in 2010 never deployed, and it is not solely an [economic] problem or a relationship problem either," he said.

"We achieved modest success in reducing the number suicides among Soldiers serving on active duty," Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army, said at the briefing. "We saw a significant increase in suicides among Soldiers not serv-

ing on active duty, including doubling in the Army National Guard."

Active duty means all Soldiers who served on active duty during the calendar year, whether they were Guard, Reserve or [regular Army], he said.

"The challenge in the year ahead," Chiarelli said, "is to build upon the initial progress made in the active component while continuing our efforts to replicate that progress in the Reserve component[s], primarily by expanding the reach and accessibility of programs and services that positively impact the lives of Soldiers serving on active duty."

"This is an all-hands effort to solve this problem [of suicides] and to focus on what we think the problems are and put efforts against each one of those causes," Carpenter said, "so even though it is a complex problem, we are going to deal with it with equal complexity and effort." ≡

»» For help, call the Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or go to www.army1.army.mil/hr/suicide/ for free resources.





Transition Goals

REP. TIM WALZ, CO-CHAIR OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE CAUCUS, PLANS TO SERVE VETS

On March 8, 2011, I had the opportunity to speak at the EANGUS Legislative Workshop. As a veteran and member of EANGUS myself, it was an honor to share my perspective and some of my legislative priorities.

As many of you may know, I served 24 years in the Minnesota National Guard as an enlisted soldier and I

have never been more proud to be a non-commissioned officer. EANGUS is on the front lines of advocating and caring for our enlisted military members and veterans, and I'm glad I have such a strong partnership with this great organization.

I believe we have made some significant progress in the past several years. From increasing Veterans Affairs (VA) funding to meet the increasing costs of medical care, to achieving advanced appropriations for the VA, to revising an already tremendous Post-9/11 GI Bill, to implementing the Post Deployment/Respite Mobilization Absence benefit (PDMRA), together we have made a difference in the lives of many veterans. And those are just a few of our achievements.

However, we still have more work to do and more goals to accomplish. One veteran left behind is one too many and so we have to make sure that soldiers transition seamlessly from DoD to VA. Accomplishing this is going to take members of the DoD, VA, Congress, and the armed services and veterans communities working together to improve seamless transition in a drastic way.

We also have to make sure the men and women who serve our country have access to jobs when they return home. That's why I have introduced the Veteran's Employment Transition Act, which extends and expands

the Work Opportunity Tax Credit for employers. This bill is not only a step forward in tackling veteran's unemployment, it brings in more revenue to our small businesses—the life blood of our economy.

I have also reintroduced the Honor America's Guard and Reserve Bill again this year. As you know, this bill will finally give certain Guard and Reserve retirees the respect and recognition they deserve as veterans. EANGUS has been a very strong advocate for this bill and with your help, I am optimistic we will be able to pass this legislation.

These are only a few of our priorities and we are already working on new ideas to present to you in the coming months. Thank you for your service, both in uniform and out, and for your efforts to improve the lives of those who have served. I look forward to our work together during this session of Congress to ensure that every Soldier and Airman has access to the support and benefits they have earned. ≡

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congressman Tim Walz enlisted in the Army National Guard at the age of 17 and retired 24 years later as a Command Sergeant Major. Before retiring, Walz served overseas with his battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was elected to Congress in 2004 and is the co-chair of the House National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus. Walz is the highest ranking enlisted soldier ever to serve in Congress.

GO LONG

The National Football League and Under Armour have teamed up to help the Wounded Warriors Project (WWP). NFL great Tedy Bruschi, now an ESPN analyst, former Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher, and former Philadelphia Eagles and St. Louis Rams player Chad Lewis and four injured service members are preparing to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania beginning May 13. The climb will raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for WWP, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors including National Guardsmen. WWP is a national, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. To get involved and learn more, visit woundedwarriorproject.org. ≡



Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

VIEW FINDER

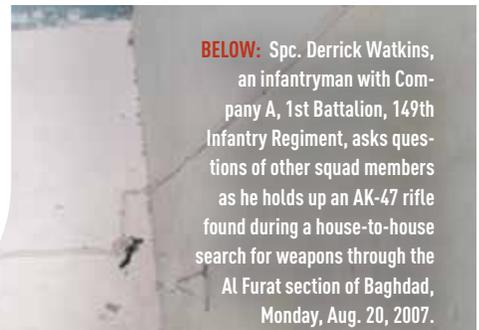
» Photographs by Guard Members



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JON SOUCY

Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy is an award-winning photojournalist assigned to NGB. Prior to coming to the bureau, he was an instructor at the Defense Information School where he taught intermediate photojournalism. He has deployed to, and photographed operations in, Iraq and Kosovo, as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

ABOVE: The shadow of Sgt. Christopher Kingsley, a combat medic assigned to D Company, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, falls across a wall as he patrols the Al Furat section of Baghdad, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007.



BELOW: Spc. Derrick Watkins, an infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, asks questions of other squad members as he holds up an AK-47 rifle found during a house-to-house search for weapons through the Al Furat section of Baghdad, Monday, Aug. 20, 2007.



Photo of Staff Sgt. Jon Soucy by Maj. Randall Short



U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Dave Wallin, right, assigned to Law Enforcement Detachment 403, steadies a Jacob's ladder as Petty Officer 3rd Class Chris Wimsatt of the same unit boards a cargo ship during a patrol with Iraqi marines along the Khawr Abd Allah River near Umm Qasr, Iraq, Jan. 1, 2008.



Picking the Perfect Ride

7 TIPS TO FIND THE BEST CAR FOR YOU

Separating your “wants” from your “needs” can help you make a practical choice.

LEARN MORE

If you are in the market for a new vehicle, the following websites can help you compare features and costs.

- » usaa.com/bestvalue
- » militaryavenue.com
- » iihs.org
- » consumerreports.org

“If my van doesn’t start, I’m in trouble.”

That might be an understatement coming from Leanne Kocsis, a working mom with four boys and a husband who’s often called away with the National Guard. Like many Americans, the type of vehicle Kocsis drives isn’t a matter of amusement or vanity; it’s a linchpin in her family’s way of life. Not only must it run reliably, it has to accommodate her family of six, keep them safe and get a respectable miles-per-gallon rating. Above all, the loan payments can’t rob the family of their college savings.

“Do your research before you buy,” advises Kocsis, director of research and development for militaryavenue.com, an advice website for military families. As a member of financial services provider USAA, she used car-buying tools available at usaa.com to compare vehicles and find her perfect match.

“The car-buying experience is unique to each person,” said Steve Thompson, assistant vice president in charge of USAA’s Car Buying Service. “We try to help people understand both the cost *and* value of a vehicle—beyond the sticker price—so they can get the right car for their needs.”

Savvy shoppers get the most for their money by weighing all options in

advance. Start your search with these factors in mind.

1. CATEGORY AND CLASS

Most buyers already know if they’re in the market for a family-hauler versus a hot rod, but narrowing it down from there can get more difficult.

“Think hard about your lifestyle and how you’re going to use the car most often,” said Thompson. “Are you off-roading in the mountains or cruising around the suburbs? Separating your ‘wants’ from your ‘needs’ can help you make a more practical choice.”

A glance around the Web with a realistic objective in mind might help you rule out some models right away.

2. USED VS. NEW

The standard advice from consumer advocates used to be that buying “gently used” was the way to go.

“That decision has gotten more complicated,” said Jesse Toprak, vice president of industry trends for truecar.com. “Resale values for used cars have risen in recent years, and now manufacturers are offering very attractive rebates and financing incentives on new vehicles. Combine that with the full warranty of a new car, and in some cases new will be a better deal than used.”

3. FUEL ECONOMY

It's no secret that soaring gas prices at the pump increase the demand for fuel-efficient vehicles. But don't base your purchase on gas prices alone. Consider your driving habits and whether you rack up enough mileage to make fuel economy an important financial factor.

Kocsis, for example, carts her kids all over town and makes five-hour trips to visit family out of state. For her, fuel efficiency was a must-have.

Double-check your math if you're eyeing a hybrid vehicle. Unless you're a road warrior, the increased fuel economy of a hybrid may not pay you back for the higher upfront purchase price.

4. SAFETY

Auto accidents can ruin lives, so safety should play a role in every car-buying decision. Check the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) website at iihs.org for crash-test ratings for most cars.

Most new cars come with safety features such as air bags, anti-lock brakes and crumple zones. You can decide whether additional precautions, such as a rearview camera or a voice-controlled MP3 player, are worth the extra cost.

5. RELIABILITY

That sedan looks great, but will it hold up? Objective research tools at consumerreports.org and truedelta.com offer predictions of reliability based on their own road tests, consumer surveys and other historical data.

To get another hint of whether your car will last, check the used-car listings and compare the vehicle you're considering to others in the same class. If it tends to sell for much less, that might be an indication of poor performance.

For new cars, the reports on reliability are generally positive.

"Extreme competition has led manufacturers to concentrate heavily on quality, and consumers have benefited," said Toprak. "There are no real clunkers."

If reliability is a concern, consider an extended warranty—but do your homework. Lower-end warranties might cover only major mechanical breakdowns; mid-priced contracts may also cover normal wear and tear; and the most expensive contracts are "bumper to bumper," covering all but a few types of repairs.

6. INSURANCE COSTS

Your age, where you live and how you drive all affect your insurance premiums. But your car makes up the other half of the equation. You might pay more to insure a vehicle that has been involved in more accidents, causes more damage, costs more to repair or is stolen more frequently than other models.

"As a general rule, sports cars are more expensive to insure than station wagons," said Phil Leininger, vice president in charge of auto insurance for USAA's Property & Casualty Company.

7. FINANCING

Don't wait until you're at the dealership to start the conversation on financing. You can shop for an auto loan just like you'd shop for shoes, finding the right fit for your budget. A lower annual percentage rate could save you hundreds of dollars over the life of the loan, even if it means passing up a cash rebate from the dealer.

"We got pre-approved for an auto loan from our bank first and gave the dealer the chance to match it," said Kocsis. "They couldn't even come close." ≡

ELIMINATE THE GUESSWORK

With hundreds of models to consider, choosing the right car can be a time-consuming and confusing experience. To make it easier, some service providers do the research for you.

USAA's "Best Value" list, for example, uses quantitative data to recommend one vehicle in each of 16 categories, from SUVs to compacts, as the best overall buy. USAA ranks vehicles by relating the purchase price to factors affecting safety, power, reliability, fuel efficiency, insurance costs and more. The 2011 list is available at usaa.com/bestvalue.

For a wider range of choices, USAA includes honorable mentions on its "Preferred" list of vehicles.

USAA "Best Value" vehicles are those vehicles that ranked highest in each vehicle category, have "Good/Acceptable" crash test ratings from IIHS and have been determined to be the best financial value using a USAA-developed proprietary statistical model. The model relates MSRP to vehicle features (engine type, drive train, electronic stability control, anti-lock brakes, number of airbags, transmission, body additions, curb weight, horsepower-to-curb weight, height and vehicle category), fuel economy, insurance cost, additional warranty cost, depreciation and IIHS Top Safety Pick to determine the value.

USAA "Preferred" vehicles are those vehicles that ranked in the top 40% for each vehicle category and have "Good/Acceptable" crash test ratings from IIHS. In providing these analyses, USAA does not consider factors other than those disclosed.

Recognition Due

SENATOR, CONGRESSMAN RECOGNIZED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL GUARD

By Army Sgt. Darron Salzer, National Guard Bureau



Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), is presented an award by Air Force Lt. Gen. Bud Wyatt, chief of the Air Guard, and EANGUS president Chief Master Sgt. Roger Hagan (Ret.), during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., March 7, 2011. The senator received the award for his significant contribution to the National Guard through his legislation of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.



Left to right: The evening's honorees were Rep. Dave Loebsack, Sen. Daniel Akaka, Kate Fitzpatrick, professional staff for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, and Meagan Linn, Rep. Loebsack's legislative director.

Two elected officials were recognized for reshaping the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which will enable thousands more National Guardsmen to receive education benefits. U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii and U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack of Iowa were recognized with the G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Eagle Award by the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States at the National Guard Memorial Building in March.

"Their efforts in regards to the Post-9/11 GI Bill have been significant," said Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry "Bud" Wyatt, chief of the Air National Guard, presenting the awards.

"Their support to the military institutions of this country and to the National Guard ... has been unwavering, ... and we are extremely thankful for that support," Wyatt said.

"Due to their efforts, our Title 32 Soldiers are now eligible to receive those GI Bill benefits for service to their country."

Wyatt said this equates to about 131,000 additional Guardmembers being eligible for

education benefits. "This is not just an investment in the individual Soldier or Airman, but an investment in the Army and Air National Guard and the defense of this country."

Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery was a World War II and Korean War-era veteran who reached the rank of major general in the Mississippi National Guard. A U.S. Congressman for 30 years, he was instrumental in the creation of the Montgomery GI Bill of 1984.

"It is a great honor to receive this recognition from the National Guard," Sen. Akaka said.

"Because of the National Guard, and the state of Iowa, I chose to serve on the armed services committee," Rep. Loebsack said. "It is a great honor to receive this award." ≡

“Don’t Screw It Up!”

That was the quote everyone in attendance at the March 30, 2011, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, laughed about and will most likely remember. It was uttered—off script, of course—by Gen. Craig McKinley, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, who was testifying about the increasing value of the National Guard to our nation’s defense. According to the official transcript, Gen. McKinley summed up his remarks by stating: “So, we’ve got such a magnificent force today that we really want to work with you, this committee, to make sure we don’t screw it up.” [Laughter from those in attendance.] “Because it’s there; it’s ready; it’s trained. It’s capable and they want to serve.”

After testimonies by Lt. Gen. Harry Wyatt, director

of the Air National Guard, Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, and Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, it was time for the committee chairman to respond. U.S. Representative C.W. “Bill” Young (R-FL), before opening it up to the other committee members for questions and answers, responded with an amicable smile: “Well, General, thank you very much. We’ll do the very best we can to help you not screw it up.”

The good-natured comments and laughter around those remarks were indicative of the positive atmosphere at the hearing. Each of the other committee members, in turn, asked probing questions of the four general officers, and all seemed genuinely satisfied



Left to right: Gen. Craig R. McKinley (Chief of the National Guard Bureau), Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter (Acting Director of the Army National Guard) and Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz (Chief, Army Reserve), confer during the FY-2012 HAC-D hearing.

(Photographer: Tech. Sgt. Johnathon Orrell (NGB-PA))

with the answers. It was clear that the committee members held the National Guard in very high regard, and each had a story to tell about their state’s Guard units. It is highly likely that FY-2012 funding needs for the National Guard will be given top priority by the committee. ≡

EDITOR’S NOTE: EANGUS Executive Director Al Garver and Legislative Director Randy Jennings attended the hearings on March 30, 2011, in the U.S. Capitol. For a full transcript, go to eangus.org.



Command Sgt. Maj. Gipe is the senior enlisted advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. Chief Master Sgt. Jelinski-Hall is the senior enlisted leader for the National Guard Bureau. Command Sgt. Maj. Burch is the command sergeant major of the Army National Guard. CMSgt. Jelinski-Hall is wearing a lei presented by Hawaii National Guard members in attendance.

Two-Way Street

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER PANEL ADDRESSES ADVOCACY

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gipe, Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Burch answered questions at an EANGUS Legislative Workshop held on March 7, 2011. Sixty EANGUS leaders from 42 states converged on Washington, D.C., for two days of training on how to advocate at the state and federal levels to advance issues important to the enlisted force. The opportunity for EANGUS leaders to engage directly with senior Guard leadership was invaluable. ≡

SERGEANT PALAZZO GOES TO WASHINGTON

ENLISTED GUARDSMAN ELECTED TO CONGRESS

By Al Garver, Executive Director, EANGUS

There are 412,000 enlisted Soldiers and Airmen currently serving in the Army and Air National Guard, and the vast majority of them have a civilian career. But there is only one who has the distinction of currently serving as an elected member of the U.S. House of Representatives: Sgt. Steven M. Palazzo (R-Mississippi). That also means he is the only congressman—out of 535 in the House and Senate—who is concurrently serving as an enlisted member of the National Guard.

Sgt. Palazzo enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve during the Christmas holidays in 1988. He broke the news to his family, wondering how they would respond. It was only then that he realized his grandfather and one of his uncles were Marines. His father and brother were Navy reservists. “I actually got off the bus at Parris Island on January 19, 1989, and started getting screamed at by a

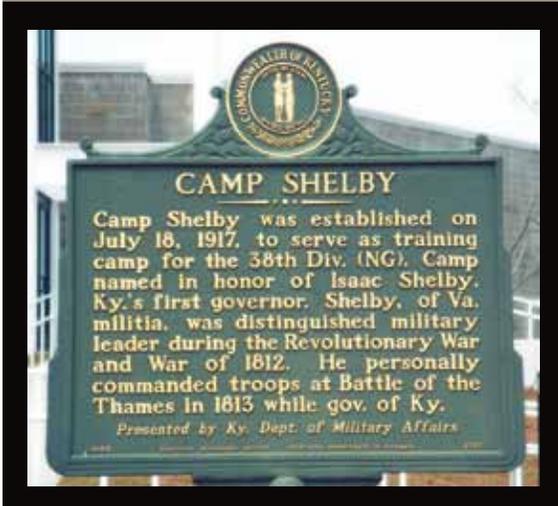
Marine Corps drill instructor,” Palazzo recollected with a laugh. “That was the start of it all.”

Upon completion of basic training, he was assigned to 3rd Force Recon, Mobile, Ala., and served as a regular drilling reservist for nearly two years while pursuing an accounting degree at Mississippi State. His unit was mobilized in November of 1990, and on Christmas Day 1990, he found himself flying to Saudi Arabia with his unit for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He initially was sent to Camp Gray as part of Marine Central Command. When the ground war began, he conducted listening and observation missions near the Al Wafrah oil field in Kuwait, supported forward operations, assisted rapid response teams and apprehended enemy prisoners of war. Upon his return from the Persian Gulf in the late spring of 1991, he resumed typical reserve duties and



EARLY SERVICE

The historical marker (below) provides some of the legacy of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, the nation's largest state-owned reserve component training site, covering 136,000 acres. At right, then-USMC Reservist Palazzo takes a break during his deployment for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991.



school. In 1996, he transferred to the Mississippi National Guard, 155th Mechanized Infantry, McComb, Miss., as an 11-Mike (mechanized infantryman).

ALWAYS ON THE MOVE

In 1997 Palazzo moved to Texas to work for an oil-and-gas drilling company as a fixed asset accountant and transferred to the 1st of the 23rd Marines, assigned to a scout sniper platoon. No sooner had he transferred than his civilian work took him back to Mississippi, where he transferred back into the Guard, this time to 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group out of Jackson, Miss., which slotted him to be a 96-Bravo (intel analyst). He had just finished his security clearance paperwork when he received an offer he couldn't refuse: working as a civilian defense contractor in Hungary to support our peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and all the neighboring Balkan countries. He worked on financial services and provided local national payroll and other life-cycle support service missions that freed up war-fighters for active missions.

He returned to Mississippi in 2000 and rejoined 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, Mississippi National Guard at Camp Shelby. In 2001, he started Palazzo & Company, PLLC, a certified public accounting firm specializing in tax filing for Americans living abroad. In 2002, he then served a second overseas tour as a civilian defense contractor in Uzbekistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While there, he set up the country office to support Department of Defense contracting operations and developed business relations with the Republic of Uzbekistan. In June of 2004, his unit was activated to Camp Shelby to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served on active duty for one year utilizing his civilian accounting skills in the Directorate

of Resource Management (DRM) as a budget analyst and internal auditor, due to the influx of funds from the war for mobilization missions.

When discussing Camp Shelby, Congressman Palazzo brightens, explaining: "Camp Shelby is an awesome unit; it is a premier mobilization platform. In fact, while a lot of the National Guard mobilization centers were tasked to be shut down, Camp Shelby's mission has only grown. The cadre and the Soldiers really want to take care of the mobilized troops. We mainly focus on heavy brigades, but if it's 10 people or 10,000, we can handle them. It's just a great training center."

CAREER CHANGE

In 2006, Palazzo decided to run for office in a special election for the Mississippi House of Representatives 116th District and won. Concerned by the direction of our country, in 2010 he decided to run for Mississippi's 4th Congressional District, which is made up of the Mississippi Gulf Coast (Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Laurel and Hattiesburg). He took on Congressman Gene Taylor, who had served 21 years in that position. Ironically, Taylor was known as one of the staunchest allies of the National Guard in Congress. Palazzo won the election in November of 2010 with 52% of the vote, while Taylor garnered 47%.

Sgt. Palazzo is enjoying his new service role in Washington, D.C., and is proud to be doing it while still serving as an E-5 at Camp Shelby. When asked about his enlisted rank, length of service and plans for retirement, he answered, laughing, "You know it would help to be in a billet that has my MOS. I haven't held a billet for promotion since 2000. But you know it's not uncommon to see a 20- or 25-year E-5. I'm proud to be an NCO... proud of the rank that I've earned... it hasn't been given to me. As long as I'm doing the mission

the National Guard wants me to do and they're happy with my service, I'm content."

When asked about why he has served this long as an NCO with bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting, he responded by stating, "A lot of pressure has been put on me over the years to pursue a direct commission, due to my various qualifications and my education, but I'm getting a little old for that now, so it comes down to what the National Guard wants, not what I want."

A LEGISLATIVE COMMITMENT TO THE GUARD

With five months of service under his belt as a congressman, his views on the National Guard as it relates to the DoD budget are clear: "I can only see National Guard and Reserve roles increasing. We've seen where we've gone from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. The Global War on Terror would not be nearly as successful if not for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve forces. In this budget climate we are likely to see a drawdown of active duty forces, but we can't make the same mistakes—like cutting down the training of the National Guard—like we did in the first Gulf War. I don't see the Guard ever going back to a strategic reserve."

He mentions discussions he's had with other congressmen about the unique role of the Guard. "Everybody points to the border problem. So when you look at that... [U.S. Representative] Ted Poe from Texas has come up with a plan to send 10,000 Guardsmen down there, so people ask me if Guardsmen really want to be doing that. So I tell them if we would just give

the Guard the mission to control the southern border, and didn't micro-manage them, between the engineers, the MPs and all of the other specialties, they would fix the problem overnight. It's just that simple."

"I like to tell the story of a Mississippi National Guard unit that went in and cleaned up Abu Ghraib prison in the aftermath of that scandal. I had their commander come out here and give a talk at one of our conservative caucus meetings and no one wanted to leave. Col. Robert Thompson was scheduled to speak for 30 minutes, but kept getting asked questions for another hour and no one wanted to leave."

"I definitely think my experiences as an NCO put me in a position where I can be on the lookout—especially from a policy perspective—because I know what impacts our war fighters at home and abroad. I know what a mobilization—be it CONUS or overseas—can do to a National Guardsman. I also know the impact it can have on communities, small businesses and families... the heartache and hardships they go through."

When asked his thoughts about the efforts of EANGUS to impact policy, Congressman Palazzo concluded by saying, "With EANGUS's assistance, I look forward to having a constant flow of information so we can make sure our Guardsmen and their families are taken care of. With only 1% of the population currently serving in the military now, we've got to keep our promises to them." ☐

SWIFT RESPONSE

"Editorial: Steven Palazzo's freshman faux pas in Pascagoula

Published: Monday, April 04, 2011, 5:55 AM

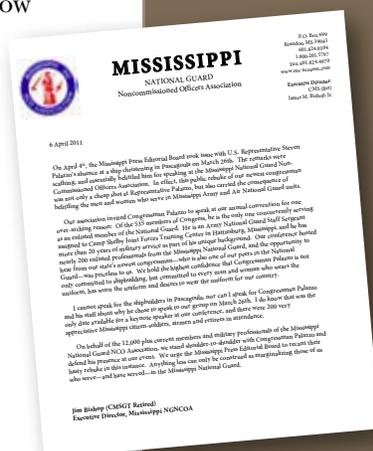
If it's not in the handbook for serving as the 4th Congressional District representative, it should be: Never miss a ship christening at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula."

That is how an editorial in the *Mississippi Press* began, calling Rep. Palazzo on the carpet for not attending a ship christening. Instead, Palazzo had elected to speak at the Mississippi National Guard Non-Commissioned Officers Association conference in Natchez.

Jim Bishop (CMSGT Retired), the executive director of the Mississippi NGNCOA, took exception to the editorial and in a written response (left) defended Palazzo's choice to speak at their event.

"In effect, this public rebuke of our newest congressman was not only a cheap shot at Representative Palazzo, but also carried the consequence of belittling the men and women who serve in Mississippi Army and Air

National Guard units," wrote Bishop. "On behalf of the 12,000-plus current members and military professionals of the Mississippi National Guard NCO Association, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Congressman Palazzo and defend his presence at our event. We urge the Mississippi Press Editorial Board to recant their hasty rebuke in this instance. Anything less can only be construed as marginalizing those of us who serve—and have served—in the Mississippi National Guard."



Photos Courtesy of Rep. Steven Palazzo's Congressional Office

FRONTIER

Montana National
Guard NCOs at their
summer encampment
near Helena,
circa 1898.

(Montana Military History
Museum)



THE ORIGINS OF MONTANA'S NATIONAL GUARD

MILITIA

By Al Garver,
Executive Director,
EANGUS

Acquired as a territory as part of the Louisiana Purchase, settlers in Montana in the post-Civil War era made their living in ranching, mining and in small businesses that supported the other two pursuits. As they pushed farther west into the region that would become the western half of the state, the inevitable conflict with Native American tribes arose as traditional hunting grounds were taken.

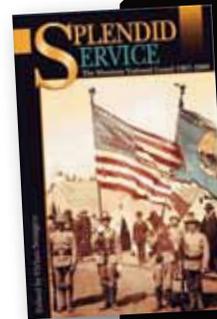
Matters came to a head in 1866–1867 when territorial governor Sydney Edgerton left Montana to travel to Washington, D.C., in order to sort out political and budgetary crises. He left secretary of the

territory, Thomas Francis Meagher, in control.

Meagher responded to—and perhaps sometimes encouraged—fears of Crow and Blackfoot attacks along supply routes into and out of the territory. He repeatedly asked for federal monies to support the mustering of a militia. He was eventually successful and the volunteer force that would form the basis for the state of Montana's National Guard began to coalesce.

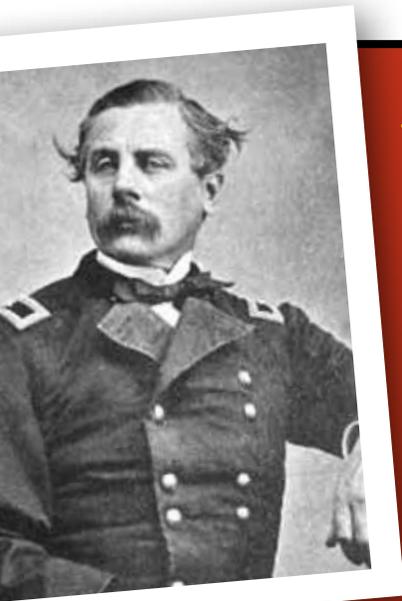
In the pages that follow are selected photographs related to the first decades of Montana's militia and Guard.

LEARN MORE



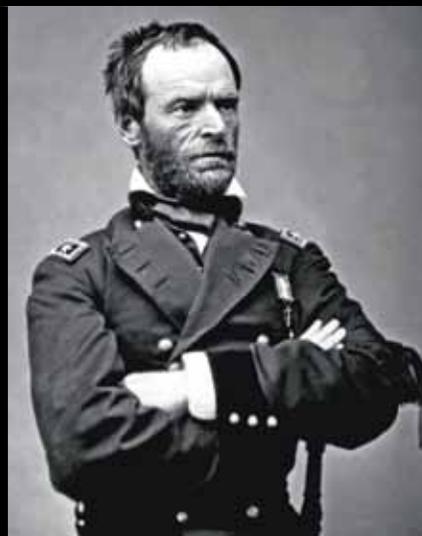
The history of Montana's militia and National Guard has been captured in *Splendid Service: The Montana National Guard, 1867–2006*. Edited by Professor Orlan J. Svingen and published by Washington State University Press, it is a compilation

of master's and doctoral papers of Dr. Svingen's students. To obtain a copy, visit wsupress.com.



The Montana National Guard can largely credit its creation in 1867 to a flamboyant Irish-American named Thomas Francis Meagher (pronounced "Mar"). During the U.S. Civil War, Meagher was appointed commander of New York's Irish Brigade, which lost 920 of 1,200 men in the Battle of Fredericksburg (Dec. 11–15, 1862). After the war, Meagher secured an appointment to become Secretary of the Montana Territory. When Montana's territorial governor departed for Washington, D.C., on business in 1865, Meagher was left in charge. He immediately began

petitioning Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, Commander of the Division of the Missouri, for more U.S. Army troops to keep frontier citizens safe.



General Sherman largely dismissed Meagher's exaggerated claims of imminent threats by Native Americans. But the murder of John Bozeman in April of 1867 escalated fears to the point where Sherman authorized the mustering and equipping of 800 militia troops—at federal government expense—in the Gallatin Valley. By the time the troops were recruited, equipped, trained and garrisoned at the end of that summer, they were summarily mustered out since

the U.S. Army determined there was no imminent threat. Five years later, the final bill to the U.S. Government for that unnecessary muster tallied \$513,343.10—a staggering sum for that era.

FRONTIER MILITIA



In June of 1876, nearly all troops in Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry were killed in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in the Montana Territory. This resulted in a new wave of citizen anxiety and subsequent creation of local militia units throughout Montana.

In July 1877, Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce entered Montana from Idaho and encountered a military blockade at Lolo Pass. The warriors simply went around the blockade and thus began a series of pursuits and skirmishes with the U.S. Army and Montana Militia troops for more than 1,000 miles, until Chief Joseph surrendered in northern Montana near the Canadian border on October 5, 1877.



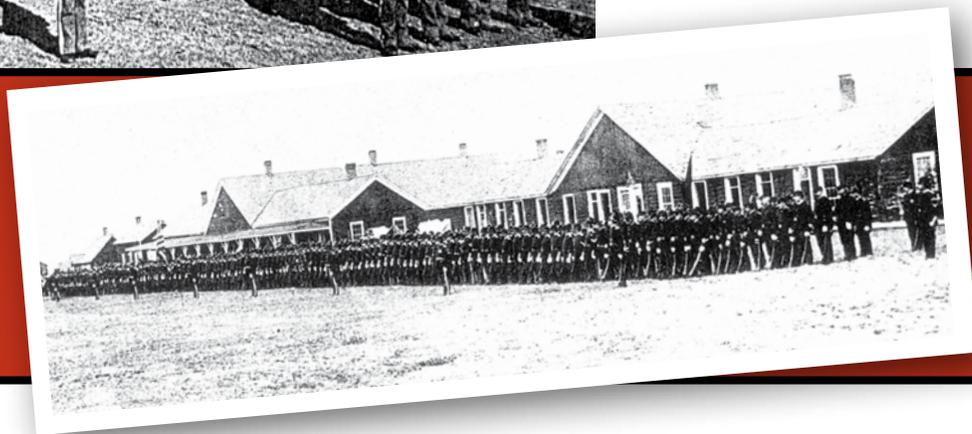
NMAI E-Newservice, Courtesy of Pendleton Woolen Mills



In 1885, the Montana legislature officially created the Montana National Guard, and in the summer of 1888, the first encampment was held at the fairgrounds in Helena, a year before statehood. This photo depicts Company D in the former territorial capital of Virginia City, circa 1892.

Montana Military History Museum

By the mid-1890s, National Guard summer camps were being held near Bozeman at Fort Ellis, which had been abandoned by the U.S. Army in 1886.



Montana Historical Society Collection

In 1898, the call was put out to the states to muster 125,000 volunteers for the Spanish-American War. Montana's quota was 419, but they mustered 1,058 for the Philippines, and another 304 were headed to serve in one of the three "Rough Rider" regiments destined for Cuba. These numbers meant Montana mustered the highest number of militia, per capita, of all the states. The war in Cuba was over before the Montana troops could serve, but the 1st Montana

Regiment saw five months of combat in the Philippines and was gone for a full year. When they returned to a heroes' parade in Butte in 1899, it was clear that citizen-soldiers were becoming central to our nation's ability to project power outside our nation's borders. ≡

THE AUTHOR: Senior Master Sgt. Al Garver served eight years in the Montana National Guard, including three years as joint force historian.



USAA is proud to be the
Exclusive Provider
of Banking and Investment Products for the Enlisted
Association of the National Guard of the United States



**EANGUS endorsed,
ready to serve.**

Honesty. Integrity. Loyalty. Service. Like the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, USAA's core values mirror those of the U.S. military. We believe those who honorably serve deserve a higher level of service, and our commitment to serving the financial needs of the military, veterans who have honorably served, and their families is without equal.

**We know what it means to serve.
Let us serve you.**

usaa.com/eangus | 877-498-3264



USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies.

Use of the term "member" does not convey any legal, ownership or eligibility rights for property and casualty insurance products. Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. EANGUS receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. © 2011 USAA. 130443-0511



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Eric Harris (Released)

AREA 4

TEXAS

AREA 2

NORTH CAROLINA

AREA 3

FLORIDA

AREA 6

WYOMING

AREA 7

CALIFORNIA

Texas Ablaze

NATIONAL GUARD RESPONDS TO TEXAS WILDFIRES

Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill of the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Col. Susan A. Romano of AFNORTH and the North Carolina National Guard contributed.

HEAVY DUTY
Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Tschacher, 153rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Wyoming Air National Guard, directs a C-130H Hercules equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System, or MAFFS, to start engine two in preparation to fight wildfires burning in Texas.

In mid-April, National Guard units from four states are supporting civil authorities battling more than 30 wildfires threatening lives and property in Texas. Drought conditions led to a reported 32 uncontrolled wildfires burning there.

Under the direction of the Joint Forces Air Component Commander for Air Forces Northern at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., four C-130 Hercules aircraft equipped with firefighting capabilities are responding to the wildfires plaguing South Texas.

Texas National Guard Soldiers already are supporting civilian authorities with personnel and four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters using buckets to drop water in multiple counties, Guard officials reported.

The C-130s are basing their operations at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Two of the four aircraft are from the California Air National Guard's 146th Airlift Wing; a third is from the Wyoming National Guard's 153rd AW

and a fourth is from North Carolina's 145th AW. California and North Carolina also are providing additional support aircraft, Guard officials reported.

At the time of this report, all were slated to assist in firefighting operations.

The Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS, is a self-contained, reusable aerial firefighting system loaded into the cargo bay of a C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft, which effectively turns these airplanes into aerial firefighting tankers.

The system can discharge 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area one-quarter of a mile long by 60 feet wide. Once the load is discharged, it can be refilled in less than 12 minutes. Typically, the aircraft will spray along the leading edge of a fire in order to check its advance. The fire retardant has fertilizer mixed in, in order to promote regrowth in a burned area. ■

AREA 7

OREGON | GUAM | HAWAII | WASHINGTON | CALIFORNIA | ALASKA

Reintegration and Resiliency

OREGON NATIONAL GUARD USING MODEL APPROACH TO CARE FOR VETERANS

By Kim L. Lippert, Public Affairs Specialist, Oregon Military Department, and Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs

After he was seriously wounded in an IED blast in Iraq in 2004, Master Sgt. Vince Jacques was sent home to recover. Jacques said adjusting to life after the deployment was tough. "I felt like we were just dumped off and had to fend for ourselves," said Jacques. "I spent three weeks looking for a doctor who could help a fellow soldier who lost his arm in combat."

Weeks later, Jacques met with several fellow soldiers to discuss how to help others with post-deployment adjustment. Within days, they met with Brig. Gen. Mike Caldwell, deputy director of state affairs for the Oregon Military Department, and Col. Scott McCrae, who had lost his son in Iraq during the same deployment in which Jacques had served.

In February 2005, the Oregon National Guard Reintegration Team was formed, one of the first of its kind in the nation. The team became a force to help returning Guardsmen with needs that may arise after a deployment. "We are, in effect, a highly networked 'help desk' where we act as 'traffic cops' to direct Soldiers and Airmen to the right place," said McCrae.

The Oregon National Guard has taken a proactive approach with their Reintegration Team and became the first state to receive the Resilience Training Assistance Course from master resilience trainers. The RTA training was held at the Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth, Ore., March 14–16, 2011. Approximately



LEARNING HOW TO HELP

Members of the Oregon Army National Guard in front of the Oregon Military Academy in Monmouth, Ore., March 16, 2011, after graduating from the Resilience Training Assistant Course. The two-day course was taught by master resiliency trainers from the Soldier and Family Support Division of the Army National Guard, March 14–16.

(U.S. Army photo by Cory Grogan, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs)

40 Oregon National Guard Soldiers took part in the course, which focused on coping skills that can be used both on and off the battlefield.

"Soldiers are the epitome of self-reliance, and we need to help get rid of the stigma that often comes with asking for help," says Jacques. ≡

The program is available to any Oregon Guardsman or family member. For information about the Oregon Reintegration Program, call the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-688-2264.

AREA 4

TEXAS | KANSAS | MISSOURI | OKLAHOMA | ARKANSAS | MISSISSIPPI | LOUISIANA



MAKING HISTORY

After a 10-month stint in Afghanistan, the Missouri National Guard's smallest unit returned home after helping make history. The four-man team crisscrossed southeastern Afghanistan collecting the stories of soldiers, mostly from the famed 101st Airborne Division. Following a tradition established during World War II, the unit is gathering information to be used to help write the official U.S. Army history of the war. ≡



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Lipp

AREA 5

NEBRASKA | NORTH DAKOTA | SOUTH DAKOTA | MICHIGAN | WISCONSIN | MINNESOTA | ILLINOIS | INDIANA | IOWA

Damage Control

NORTH DAKOTA GUARD RESPONDS TO FLOOD

BAGGING IT

Staff Sgt. Donald Clarke operates a skid-steer loader as he and members of a North Dakota National Guard quick response force (QRF) team move sandbags into place April 14 near Kindred, N.D. The QRF is responding to a request from a farm resident, living along the Sheyenne River, for sandbag assistance to create a flood levee barrier to rising water around his house.

Heavy snows and early spring rains contributed to flooding along the Sheyenne and Red Rivers in North Dakota in March and April.

When releases from the Baldhill Dam were expected to hit record levels, folks throughout Valley City scrambled to reinforce levees that were initially high enough to withstand the predicted crest. Within days, however, residents were warned of a second crest that eventually reached 20.5 feet—and the Baldhill Dam upped its flow to at least 7,000 cubic feet per second, exceeding its previous record level of 6,800 cfs.

Volunteers, contractors, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the North Dakota National Guard all stepped up efforts in response. About 160 fresh Guard members were added to the 120 already working.

First to activate was the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company out of Bismarck, N.D.

About 70 Soldiers reported, got their trucks ready and headed to Fargo, where 400,000 sandbags awaited transportation to Valley City. Right behind the 957th were 56 reinforcements from the 817th Engineer (Sapper) Company from

Jamestown, N.D. They threw down about 4,000 sandbags to reinforce a dike at one location and then moved on to another, where they expected to put down another 4,000.

“We put down 50 pallets so far, and there’s about 84 sandbags per pallet,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Varberg, NCO in charge of the group.

Following a flood response briefing from local officials on April 17, Gov. Jack Dalrymple and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple visited with Guard members working to build up the levees along the Sheyenne River. Dalrymple said he was very impressed with the progress made in the past few days and said communities always appreciate the help of the National Guard.

A new flood fighter, Army Spc. Donovan Dobler, was patrolling a dike with flood veteran Sgt. Clay Broadwell one afternoon near one of the many closed bridges in the “City of Bridges.” Battling the rising floodwaters is in his blood, he said. “I joined to help the people, but mostly joined for family,” Dobler said. “The rest of my family’s been in the Guard. They’ve been flood-fighting, so I figured I better join, too.” ≡

AREA 7

OREGON | GUAM | HAWAII | WASHINGTON | CALIFORNIA | ALASKA

Heading Out

OREGON AIRMEN DEPLOY ON MIDDLE EAST MISSION

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nick Choy, Oregon Military Department Public Affairs with significant contribution by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Airmen from the 116th Air Control Squadron, Oregon Air National Guard are deploying to the Middle East in support of Air Forces Central (CENTAF), where they will perform air battle management missions for four months.

U.S. Congressman David Wu, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber (greeting troops, below), and Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, adjutant general, Oregon, along with other city, local, government and business officials, attended the deployment ceremony.

Governor Kitzhaber thanked the Airmen for their service and sacrifice, and thanked their families for theirs.

"I want to share with your families and your neighbors, and with the entire State of Oregon, that we are proud of your dedication and your willingness to put service above all else," he said.

The Airmen are joined by three members of the 270th Air Control Squadron, based at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Ore., one from

the 133rd Test Squadron, Iowa Air National Guard, and two from the 141st Air Control Squadron, Puerto Rico Air National Guard.

Pre-mobilization training was accomplished at Camp Rilea, in Warrenton, Ore., and at Camp Adair. Airmen utilized the in-theater system, Battle Control Center-CENTAF, or BC3, as well as other pre-deployment ancillary training to prepare them for the mission.

Lt. Col. Gregor Leist, 116th ACS Commander, said the team is excited about their opportunity to participate in coalition efforts supporting overseas contingency operations. "It is a great opportunity to apply our extensive training during support of meaningful real-world operations," Leist said. "We deeply appreciate the sacrifices our families and employers will make during our absence, and we look forward to returning to our families and getting back to work in our civilian careers after our overseas tour is completed." ≡



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hughel, 142nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs



Staff Sgt. Stephen Zarger greets his wife Shannon and their seven-month old twin daughters Lauren and Paige as the CT ARNG returns. (Sean D. Elliot/The Day)

AREA 1

RHODE ISLAND | NEW YORK | NEW HAMPSHIRE | NEW JERSEY | VERMONT | MAINE | MASSACHUSETTS | CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT UNIT IS HOME

The 247th Engineer Detachment, (Well Drilling) returned to Connecticut in March, arriving at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) in Windsor Locks, Conn., as announced by Maj. Gen. Thaddeus Martin, adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard.

The detachment specializes in well-drilling and heavy equipment operations. While in Afghanistan, the unit conducted well-drilling operations, water resource assessments and humanitarian and civic assistance.

The detachment was mobilized and departed Connecticut in March 2010 and traveled to its mobilization station at Camp Shelby, Miss., for training and validation. Once validated, the unit departed Camp Shelby and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This was the second deployment to South-west Asia for the detachment, which previously served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March 2003 to April 2004. This unit has also previously participated in humanitarian missions in Central and South America.

The 11-person detachment is headquartered in Norwich and led by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Collins of Middletown. ≡

HEAD QUARTERS

» Inside EANGUS



Meet Up In the Mountains

EANGUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 13-17 AUGUST, 2011



"ALMOST HEAVEN—TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN" | CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA



C-SMACKed

EANGUS Executive Director Al Garver stands with members of the Command Sergeant Majors Advisory Council on Feb. 23, 2011. The council is made up of the command sergeant majors of each state and meets quarterly to discuss issues of significant importance to the enlisted force in the Army National Guard. Al Garver traveled to Monterey, Calif., to brief the group on the many new initiatives at EANGUS and to get their feedback on what can be done better.

(Photo by CSM Brian Sann, Maryland NG)

West Virginia Army and Air National Guard Enlisted Association (EANGWV) will host the EANGUS National Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, welcoming Soldiers, Airmen, Retirees and their families from all 54 states and territories.

Activities during the conference will include:

- Professional development training for junior Soldiers and Airmen
- Welcome Night Social at Appalachian Power Park (home stadium of the WV Power minor-league baseball team, an affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates), lots of great food, fun and entertainment, including a softball tournament
- A golf tournament with numerous prizes from sponsors
- An open evening Monday night at the Clay Center (including interactive science exhibits and much more), the WV Cultural Center and other exciting venues

- All States Night (Pin Night) at Haddad Riverfront Park with a cookout and car show on the boulevard

- The conference will conclude on Wednesday with a formal banquet and awards ceremony. Many area businesses will offer discounts to conference attendees for products and events such as discounted rafting trips, restaurant dining, etc. A listing of such businesses will be provided to attendees at check-in.

CALL TO ACTION:

Help EANGWV raise money to host the 1,500–2,000 Soldiers and Airmen plus their friends and family. Contact them if you or someone you know can serve as:

- Corporate sponsors—with option to rent booth space
 - Community donations—organizational and individual
 - Community events—dinners, raffles, gift baskets, etc.
 - Volunteers
- See the contact information at right. ≡

SIGN UP



REGISTER

To pre-register for the 2011 EANGUS National Conference, go to eangus.org and, at the top navigation bar under “About EANGUS,” click on “Events,” then select the “EANGUS 40th Annual Conference.”



ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF WEST VIRGINIA

For further information, to make a donation or to sponsor an event, please contact EANGWV at eangwv.org/contact-us.

Also, be sure to follow us on twitter.com/eangwv and facebook.com/eangwv to receive the latest updates!



CHARLESTON

Also feel free to visit the Charleston Convention and Visitor’s Bureau website for area attractions including dining, shopping, events and more.

Photo of the Capitol by Steven J. Shaluta. Additional photos courtesy of the Charleston WV CVB



SPC JoAnne Cordona, New York National Guard

by Heather Stevens, Administrative Asst., EANGUS

FIERY SILENT NIGHT
Christmas Day festivities nearly ended in tragedy when a fire broke out in the apartment of Spc. JoAnne Cordona and her family last December. Everyone escaped the blaze, but all the family's belongings were lost. Fortunately, an EANGUS We Care for America grant has helped the family regroup.

(Photos by Jeff Couch)

Spc. JoAnne Cordona, assigned to the 42nd Infantry Division, NYNG, had a Christmas she couldn't imagine. After a wonderful Christmas Day with her family, Christmas night nearly turned into tragedy when their home caught fire. Cordona (who was seven months pregnant at the time), her husband, Joshua, and their two children, Secelia (3 years old) and Joshua Jr. (1 year old), had to evacuate their home in a rush.

The Cordonas lost everything they owned, including all of their Christmas presents. Without any renters insurance, JoAnne did not know where to turn. Since the family had to start from scratch, they stayed with her mother-in-law for a month until they could find an apartment. Spc. Cordona's unit encouraged her to apply for the EANGUS "We Care for America" grant. She did so, and her family received the maximum amount of \$500. With the the help of the EANGUS grant, JoAnne, Joshua and their three children are doing well in a new apartment. Spc. Cordona said, "Thank you so much to the EANGUS We Care for America Foundation. We are extremely grateful for the support!" ≡



HONOR. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

NATIONAL GUARD MEMORIAL MUSEUM

One Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
703.789.0031 | www.ngef.org

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001, the National Guard Memorial Museum will unveil a permanent exhibit to honor the service and sacrifice of our Guardsmen from 9/11 through today.

The gallery will detail the National Guard's heroic response to the devastating terrorist attacks through photographs, personal stories and objects, and highlight the Guard's ever-expanding domestic and global roles.

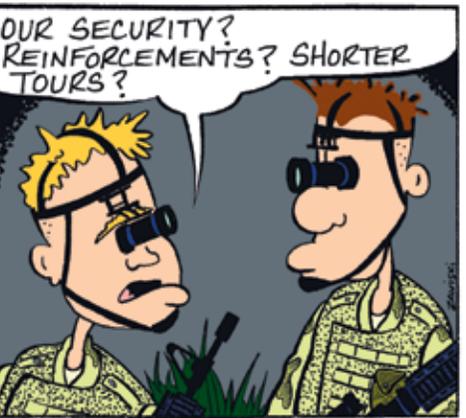
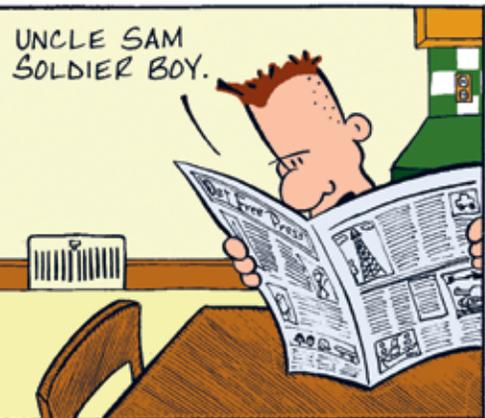
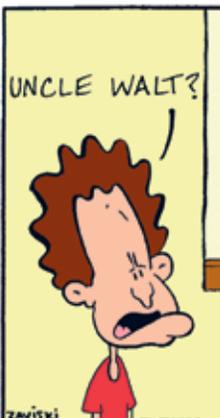
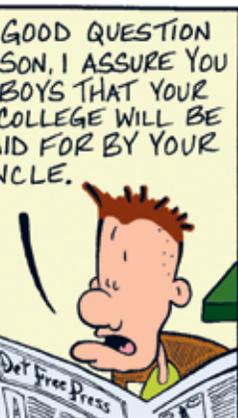
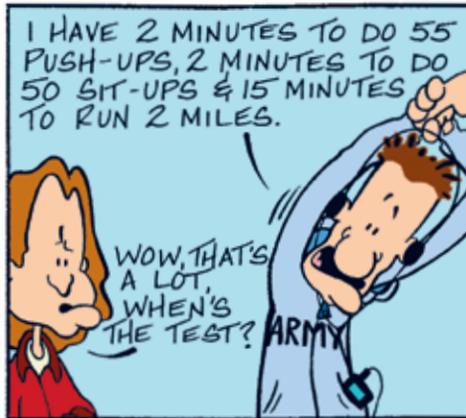
Learn more about how you can contribute to this memorial gallery and be part of preserving history.

www.ngef.org/the911EraGallery

The National Guard Memorial Museum is the country's only museum dedicated to America's National Guard. Visitors experience the Guard's rich heritage and centuries' long evolution from its colonial roots to an indispensable, modern force serving at home and around the world.

GUNSTON ST.
by ZAVISKI

ILLUSTRATED BY: BASIL ZAVISKI



GUNSTON STREET

Gunston Street is created, written and drawn by Basil Zaviski, who has served more than 15 years in the Michigan Army National Guard as an Airborne Infantry Soldier with Michigan's Co.F 425th Airborne Infantry Long Range Surveillance Unit, serving 13 months in Iraq. To see more of *Gunston Street*, visit Gunstonstreet.com.



USAA is proud to be the
Exclusive Provider
of Banking and Investment Products for the Enlisted
Association of the National Guard of the United States

Get the card that answers the call for you and EANGUS.

The **EANGUS USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard®** is the only credit card that offers:

- Direct financial contributions to EANGUS with every new account opened and each time you make an eligible purchase with the card
- No annual fee
- USAA Rewards points that you can redeem for cash, travel and more¹
- Rates as low as 9.9% APR on purchases, balance transfers and cash advances (This rate will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate.² Rates and fees subject to change. Contact us for current information.)

Apply today.

usaa.com/eanguscc | 877-498-3264



Get 2,500 rewards points

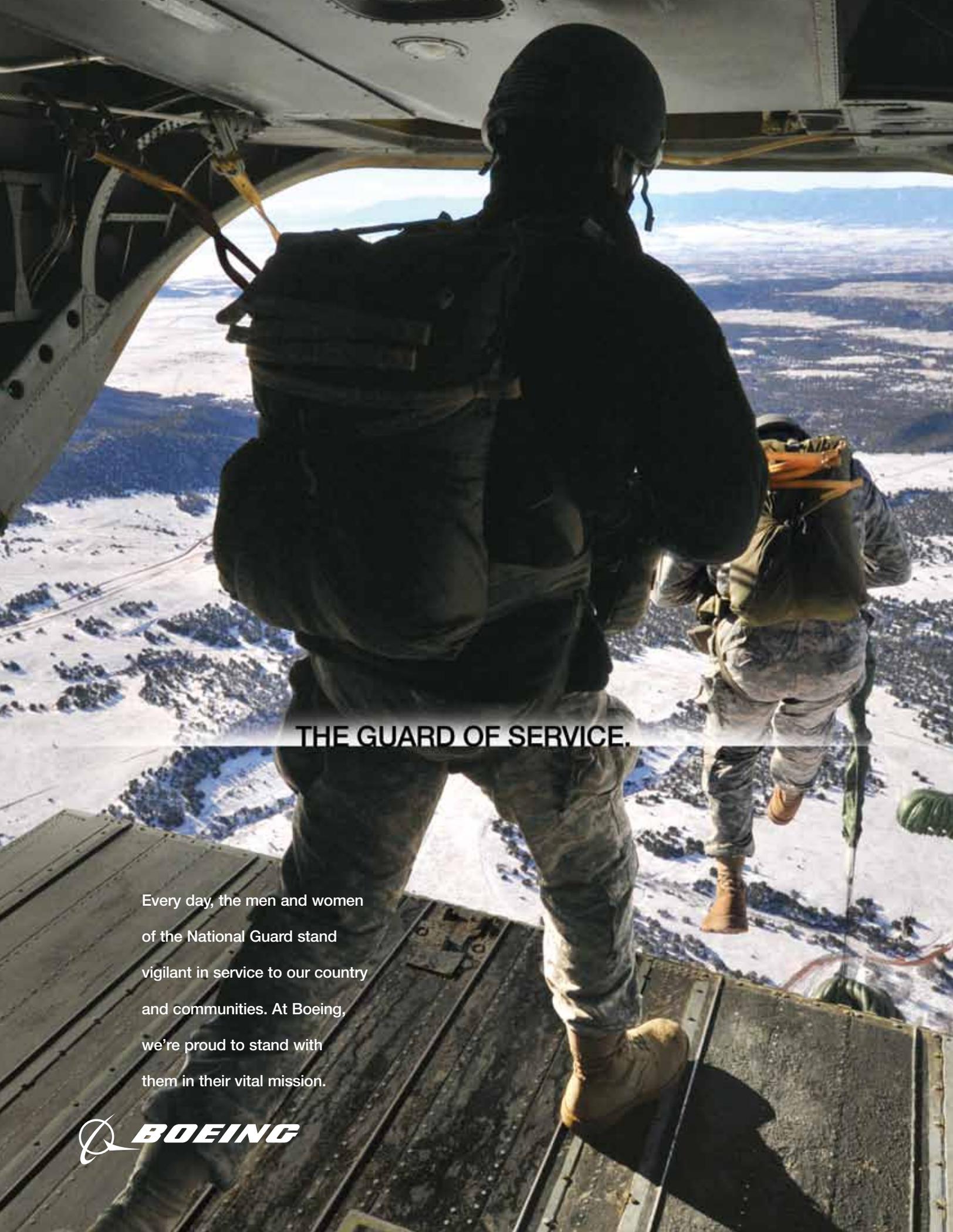
after your first purchase with your EANGUS
USAA Rewards World MasterCard.¹



We know what it means to serve.®

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies.

¹Rewards points terminate if account is closed, delinquent or program ends. Earn 1 point for every \$1 in credit card purchases. Other restrictions apply. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. ²Offer subject to approval. As of April 1, 2011, APRs are 9.9% to 25.9%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs will vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances (\$75 maximum on balance transfers and convenience checks) and 1% on foreign transactions. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any legal, eligibility or ownership rights. Availability restrictions apply. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. EANGUS receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2011 USAA. 130442-0511
No government agency or DoD endorsement.



THE GUARD OF SERVICE.

Every day, the men and women of the National Guard stand vigilant in service to our country and communities. At Boeing, we're proud to stand with them in their vital mission.

 **BOEING**