



Photo courtesy of Rex McCarty, Scott County Virginia Star

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, presents the Virginia Legion of Merit to Rev. John Sheppard Dec. 9 in Gate City, Va. Sheppard was recognized for providing support to the Guardsmen of the 1030th Engineer Battalion and their families over the past several years.

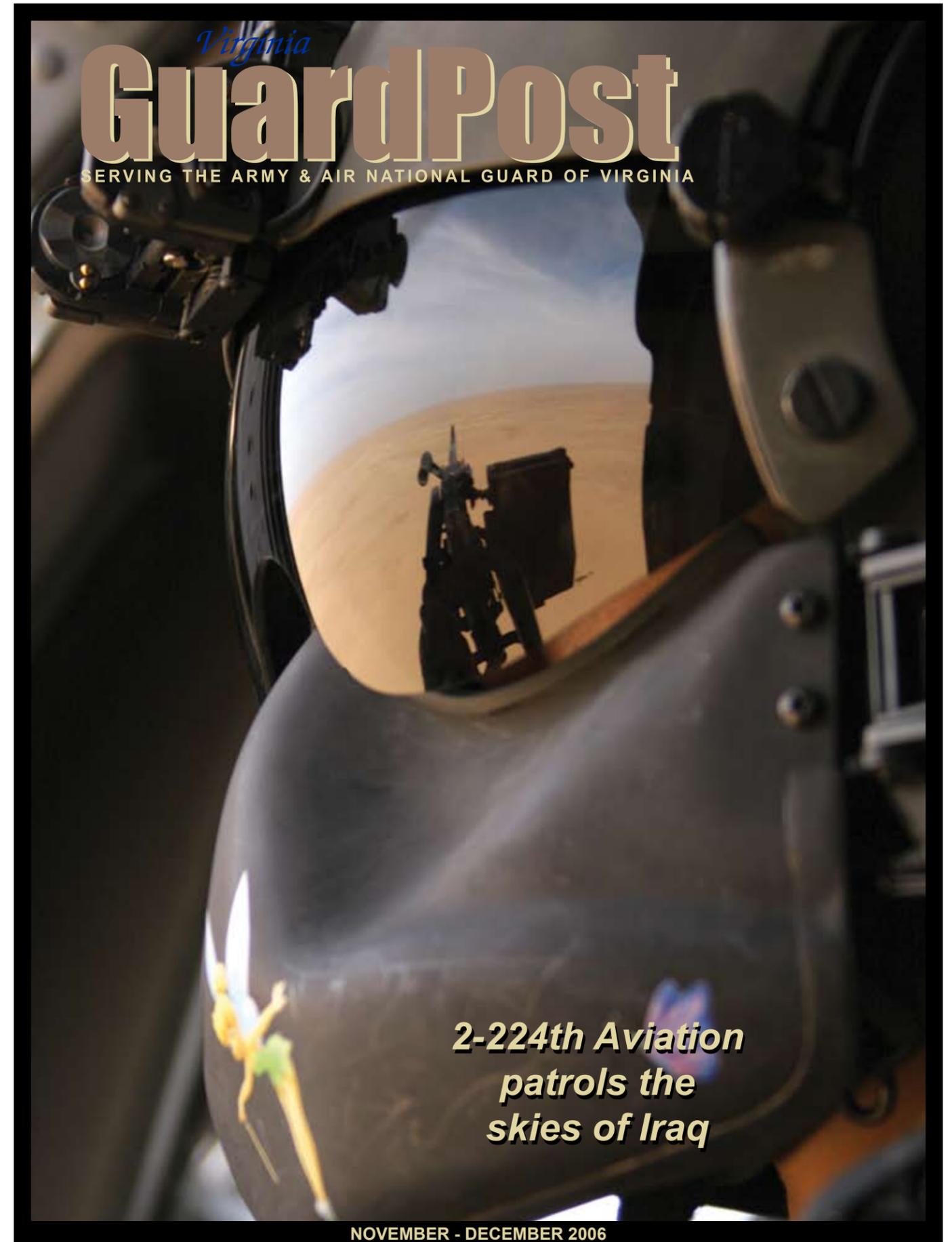
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 SERVING THE ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF VIRGINIA

**2-224th Aviation
patrols the
skies of Iraq**

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2006



FROM THE TOP



2007 - A year of change for Virginia National Guard

By Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr.
Adjutant General of Virginia

Today's Virginia National Guard has dramatically changed from the one many of you knew only a few years ago.

For the past three years we have been at the height of our mobilizations in support of our federal mission. Virginia Army and Air Guardsmen have served around the world in numbers not seen since World War II.

During this same period we successfully responded to traditional state missions such as disaster recovery here in the Commonwealth following Hurricane Isabel in September 2003 and provided unprecedented support to our neighbors in Mississippi and Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina in September and October 2005.

However, we were in a reactive mode; we had not learned to anticipate and plan for potential man-made or natural catastrophic events within the Commonwealth.

In January 2006, when Governor Tim Kaine was sworn in, his expectation for Virginia Guardsmen was to continue to be able to respond to our federal mission and continue to meet our state responsibilities while enhancing the Virginia National Guard's planning and preparation for a multitude of contingencies here in Virginia.

We are making significant progress in meeting the Governor's expectation.

To help us achieve the Governor's order we completed an agency wide survey in the spring of 2006 compiling over 3,400 data points to evaluate strengths, weaknesses and opportunities within the Department of Military Affairs. This effort included interviews with heads of agencies we support as well as Guardsmen.

Based on Governor Kaine's guidance and the result of the survey, we developed strategies, what we call Vision 2007, to fix the critical shortcomings that the survey identified by the end of this year.

We focused on preparedness, caring for our guardsmen, leader development and transformation of the force. This vision



Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr.

is serving as the strategic guide for the Virginia National Guard and providing the nexus for a far reaching vision which will carry the Virginia National Guard through the year 2010.

During 2006 we completed tasks that will provide a tangible return to the citizens of the Commonwealth as well as our Guardsmen.

We moved our agency headquarters to the capitol complex in Richmond, from Fort Pickett near Blackstone, to enhance interoperability with other state agencies.

Senior leaders of the Department of Military Affairs are now able to routinely interact with our counterparts in other agencies such as Department of Transportation, Department of Emergency Management, Virginia State Police, and the Department of Health to name a few.

This facilitates our communication and supports our joint efforts for contingency planning.

Simply stated we are now routinely coordinating with representatives from agencies that we will work with when a catastrophic event occurs in Virginia.

To give you an example of the impact this change has had this past year we had a 400 percent increase in the Department of Military Affairs' presence in the emergency operations center during declared emergencies. This presence had a positive impact on our ability to support emergency operations.

We have formed a true joint staff combining members of the Virginia Army and Air National Guard to create a joint team that leverages the strengths of these great components so the Virginia National Guard, Virginia Defense Force, and the Department of Military Affairs are best postured to support the Commonwealth across the full spectrum of homeland security missions.

We reached out to National Guard Bureau to obtain authorization for the NG CERFP, a specially trained team of Guardsmen that will respond to attacks involving chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. This provides the Commonwealth a significant homeland security capability. Currently only 18 states have this capability.

We were recognized for our stewardship during 2006 when we achieved environmental excellence certification by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. This recognition reflects our commitment to preserve our environment and our way of life for generations to come.

What do these accomplishments really mean?

First, the Department of Military Affairs has a clear strategic road map to follow in achieving the objectives established by Governor Kaine. Our priorities are clear and they are being communicated to the agencies we work with and to our guardsmen.

Second, agencies that we partner with can see that the Department of Military Affairs, Virginia National Guard, and the Virginia Defense Force are ready, relevant, and accessible.

Third, our Guardsmen, from the most senior officer to the most junior recruit, can

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remains in line with its first role as the citizens' Army; and, for the last three generations, the citizens' Air Force.

The American colonies adopted the English militia system, which obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community.

This early militia enforced local laws and battled Britain's enemies in America.

Now, a force of more than 450,000 men and women serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

The continued existence of the colonial militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. Since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard. The first of these laws, passed in 1792, governed the militia for the first 111 years of the country's existence.

The Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the nation's primary organized reserve force.

The National Defense Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard under the National Guard Bureau.

In 370 years and more than eighteen 20-year enlistments, the weapons and technology have changed drastically, but the Guard's contribution to the nation's defense has remained paramount.

Generation seven rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord.

Generation 11 faced off, brother against brother, in the Civil War.

Generation 13 "Remembered the Maine" during the Spanish-American War.

Generation 15 was already on duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked.

Generation 18 will never forget and is still responding to 9/11.

In 1636, the militia's primary firearm was the crude matchlock musket which could take 56 steps to load and fire. Nearly one-third of militia Soldiers carried only a long pole, or pike, into combat.

Today, the Guard's small-arms arsenal includes M-16 and M-4 rifles, and the Squad Automatic Weapon which fires of 750 rounds per minute.

Our colonial ancestors could not have imagined much of what their descendants can use in combat today - jet fighters, tanks, satellite radios, laser-guided munitions, global positioning systems, rocket artillery, and countless other high-tech devices.

Now, after 360 years, what does the future hold for this always ready and reliable force?

Future National Guard generations will continue to employ all of the modern technology at its disposal at home and abroad.

At the core, however, today's National Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their communities a safer and better place.

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see that while we have a federal mission we must also reach out, plan for, and be prepared to respond to events in the Commonwealth.

Finally, we are prepared to make

changestoassureweareproperlypostured and prepared for contingencies.

While 2006 was a year of laying foundations and seeing the way ahead, 2007 will be a year of translating that vision into action down to the unit level.

Although our Guardsmen will see

the same commitment to quality and professionalism in our federal mission that they have seen in the past; they will see more activity and an increase in the dedication to our state mission.

I am excited by the promise that 2007 offers and look forward to sharing it with each and every one of you.

Virginia National Guard Federal Deployments

# *	Unit	Where Deployed	Home Town
130	203rd RED HORSE Squadron	Southwest Asia	Virginia Beach
170	HHC, 29th Infantry Division	Kosovo	Fort Belvoir
294	1st Battalion., 116th Infantry Regiment	Kosovo	Various Locations
24	Company E, 429th Brigade Support Battalion	Kosovo	Roanoke
157	Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 111th Field Artillery	Iraq	Richmond
60	192nd Fighter Wing, 200th Weather Flight and 203rd REDHORSE	Various locations	Sandston and Virginia Beach
55	Various units	Army Guard Readiness Center	
275	2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation	Iraq	Sandston

* All listings for numbers of Soldiers/Airmen are approximate.

News Briefs

Virginia Guard members eligible for discounted license plates

Members of the Virginia National Guard are entitled to two sets of National Guard license plates for their vehicles at half the cost of the normal Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles license plate fee.

New enlisted applicants should complete a DMV VSA Form 14 for each vehicle and AG of VA Form 66, which is available from a readiness NCO, and mail both forms with a check or money order directly to the DMV.

Enlisted personnel who wish to renew their plates should complete both the new registration card and AG of VA Form 66 and mail both with a check or money order directly to the DMV.

New plates are issued every year to generals, field grade officers and chief warrant officers 4 and 5. The Soldiers and Airmen should complete the new registration card and DMV VSA Form 10 and submit them to their unit point of contact no later than Feb. 16, along with a separate check or money order for each vehicle registered. An additional \$10 applies for special plates.

All other officers, warrant officers, command sergeants major and chief master sergeants should also complete the new registration card and send it in with a check or money order to their unit point of contact no later than Feb. 16, 2007. New applicants should complete a DMV VSA Form 10 for each vehicle and submit it with their payment to their unit point of contact by the deadline.

New registration cards will be mailed by the DMV in January 2007.

All DMV VSA forms are available online at www.dmv.state.va.us.

Unit points of contact for license plates are-

Virginia Army National Guard:

- Sgt. Juandrika Allen (primary)- 434-298-6140
- Carolyn Bishop (alternate)- 434-298-6102

Virginia Air National Guard:

- (State HQ) - Beth Simmons 804-236-6014

- (192nd Fighter Wing) - Tech Sgt. Rebecca Shilling 804-236-6368
- (203rd Red Horse Squadron) - Tech Sgt. Jennifer Morrill 757-437-4615
- (200th Weather Flight) - Senior Master Sgt. Steve Gamache 804-236-6585

2007 to bring pay, SGLI and BAH increases

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (NDAA FY07) increases the basic pay monthly rates for members of the uniformed services by 2.2 percent effective Jan. 1, 2007.

On April 1, 2007, officers in pay grades O-6 through O-10, warrant officers in pay grades W-4 and W-5, and enlisted members in pay grades E-8 and E-9 will have their basic pay increased for service longevity from a maximum of over 28 years to a maximum of over 36 years.

In addition to the longevity increase, a targeted pay increase will occur for certain warrant officers and enlisted members.

NDAA FY07 also increases from \$150,000 to \$400,000 the amount of coverage under the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) that the services are required to fund for all members of the armed forces serving in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) effective Nov. 1, 2006.

In addition, NDAA FY07 provides the military services authority to pay a second Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) entitlement for certain reserve members who are in support of contingency operations.

This legislation authorizes a second housing allowance for Reserve component members who are without dependents and are called or ordered to active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 139 days when government-provided housing is not available.

When a member is authorized the second BAH at the gaining command, the first BAH would enable the activated Reservist to maintain their primary household during the time of mobilization, while the second BAH would enable the Reservist to establish a household at the

gaining command.

This gives the military services the option to either pay per diem or Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at the gaining command (member will be paid whichever is more advantageous).

This was implemented to ensure Reservists who are in support of contingency operations are able to financially maintain two households.

Guardsmen encouraged to nominate employers for Employer Support Freedom Awards

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, announced nominations will be accepted at the ESGR website for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards.

The nomination process opens on Jan. 8, 2007 and will conclude on Feb. 28, 2007.

To nominate their employers, National Guardsmen, Reservists, or their family members should visit the ESGR website at www.esgr.mil and complete the 2007 Freedom Award nomination form.

The award publicly recognizes employers for exceptional support above the requirements of the USERRA Law.

This prestigious award is the highest in a series of Department of Defense employer support awards that include the Patriot Award, the ESGR Above and Beyond Award and the Pro Patria Award.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was expanded in 2004 from five recipients to now recognize up to 15 outstanding employers annually.

The 2007 recipients will be honored in Washington, D.C., at the 12th annual Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award ceremony hosted by ESGR on Sept. 12, 2007.

More information about ESGR Employer Outreach Programs and volunteer opportunities are available at www.esgr.mil, or by calling the National Committee Office at (800) 336-4590.



Virginia GuardPost



SERVING THE ARMY AND AIR GUARD OF VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2006

On the Cover



A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew chief from 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, looks out on the desert during a flight in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. (Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing)

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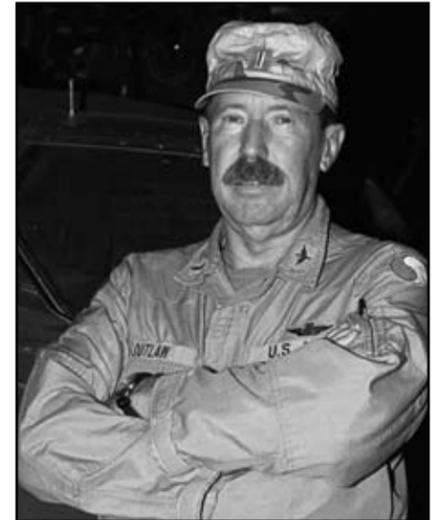
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Virginia GuardPost

The Virginia GuardPost is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense, and the Virginia Army and Air National Guard. It is published bimonthly and in accordance with AR 360-1, Army Public Affairs and AFI 35-101, Public Affairs Policies and Procedures. Contents of the GuardPost are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army, the Department of the Air Force or the Virginia Department of Military Affairs. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Officer. Printed by a private firm under exclusive written contract with the Government Printing Office and the Virginia National Guard in no way connected with the U.S. Government. Printed circulation: 9,000.

116th IBCT troops ordered to active duty

From Staff Reports

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, announced that 177 Soldiers of the Virginia Army National Guard will enter active federal service at their home armories on Jan. 4, 2007. The Guardsmen are currently scheduled to travel to their mobilization station, Fort Dix, N.J., after a short period of duty at their home armories.

These Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers are being ordered to active federal service for 18 months beginning Jan. 4,

2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Secretary of the Army may extend this period up to a total of 24 months based on operational needs or other requirements of the service.

Units affected by this mobilization are:

- HHC, 116th Brigade Troops Battalion (Fredericksburg)- 10 Soldiers
- A Co., 116th Brigade Troops Battalion (Fredericksburg)- 101 Soldiers
- C Co., 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry (Leesburg)- 66 Soldiers

20 Va. Soldiers awarded Combat Action Badge

By Capt. Tim Brooke
116th IBCT Public Affairs

A long awaited day finally came in a gymnasium at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton for 20 Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Soldiers received the Combat Action Badge, one of the most recent awards approved by the Department of the Army, in recognition of their individual efforts during a deployment to Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, Virginia Army National Guard from July 2004 through September 2005.

With family and friends watching the ceremony, Col. James M. Harris, commander of the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stated that "during Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom there is no such thing as a non-combat soldier. There are no safe havens, no rear areas, every morning these soldiers woke up in a combat zone, they endured rocket attacks, small arms fire and IEDs. This drives home the fact that we must always train for the worst case scenarios.

That is exactly what these soldiers did and it is with great pride and honor that we bestow on them today the combat action badge for their outstanding service and duty to Commonwealth and country."

Maj. Gen. Arthur Wyman, commander of the 29th Infantry Division, described the Combat Action Badge to all in attendance relating the symbols of the badge to the virtues demonstrated by the Soldiers receiving the award.

Following his comments, Wyman awarded each Soldier the coveted Combat Action Badge.

The ceremony ended with a prayer from the brigade chaplain Maj. Edward Barnett.

The Army Chief of Staff approved the creation of the Combat Action Badge on May 2, 2005 to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage, or are engaged by the enemy, during combat operations.

The badge is described as silver in color, two inches in width overall, consisting of an oak wreath supporting a rectangle bearing a bayonet surmounting a grenade. Stars are added at the top to indicate subsequent awards; one star for the second award, two stars for the third award and three stars for the fourth award.

The symbols of the badge are in keeping with the spirit of the Warrior Ethos. The bayonet and grenade are associated with active combat. The oak wreath symbolizes strength and loyalty.

The Combat Action Badge may be awarded by any commander delegated authority by the Secretary of the Army during wartime or the commanding general, U.S. Army Human Resources Command



Photo by Capt. Tim Brooke, 116th IBCT PAO

Maj. Gen. Arthur Wyman, 29th Inf. Div. commander, awards the Combat Action Badge to 20 Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers.

and will be announced in permanent orders.

The requirements for award of the Combat Action Badge are not dependent on duty and occupation.

Assignment to a Combat Arms unit or a unit organized to conduct close or offensive combat operations, or performing offensive combat operations is not required to qualify for the Combat Action Badge.

However, it is not intended to award all soldiers who serve in a combat zone or imminent danger area.

Pilot's career spans 40 years, two major conflicts

By Lance Cpl. Geoffrey P. Ingersoll
I Marine Logistic Group PAO

CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq - Despite his name, Chief Warrant Officer William J. Outlaw doesn't make a habit of defying any laws. Except for gravity.

Newton and his laws have pursued Outlaw across four decades, through the jungles of Vietnam and over the deserts of Iraq.

"I love to fly," said Outlaw, a 60-year-old battalion tactical operations officer for the Virginia National Guard's 2nd Aviation Battalion of the 224th Regiment, attached to Marine Air Group 16, 3rd Marine Air Wing (Forward).

Outlaw loves to fly so much that he has logged over 10,000 flight hours. He started in 1966 and kept right on going from Vietnam to present day Operation Iraqi Freedom. He even flies helicopters in his civilian occupation as an instructor pilot for the National Guard.

"We don't do a lot of tactical work, it's a non-tactical environment," said Outlaw about his civilian job, where he flies the Blackhawk and the Huey; both multipurpose helicopters capable of completing many different missions in the Iraq conflict.

During the Vietnam conflict, helicopter pilots flew a variety of combat missions, from troop insertions and combat assaults to medical evacuations. With a history of piloting Hueys in Vietnam, where the lifespan of a Huey door gunner under fire was only 20 seconds, it's no surprise that a man like Outlaw makes a distinction between tactical and non-tactical.

Combat-zone piloting runs in Outlaw's family, beginning with his father's service first with the Army Air Corps in World War II and then with the Air Force during Korea.

"He flew fixed wing (airplanes)," said Outlaw.

He said that it was his father's career in aviation that compelled him to enlist in the Army. And when Outlaw signed those papers, his father was there to swear him in to what would end up becoming a life-long service. Now he flies helicopter missions in a U.S. military that, like him, has gone through 40 years of change.

"Things were a little more basic (in the sixties)," said Outlaw. "We didn't have as sophisticated a set of weaponry then as we have now."

One difference between the conflicts stood out the most to Outlaw.

"I was 20 years-old then, I'm 60 now."

"(I'm retiring) as soon as I get home," added Outlaw, who will continue flying helicopters as a civilian for a few more years.

Outlaw is straightforward in everything he says. His reputation for well-placed honesty has not missed the attention of the junior service members working with him.

"If you were not accustomed to the military, you would definitely take his deliberate or gruff nature personal," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bert Stover, who also explained how Outlaw is recognized across the battalion for his 10,000 flight hours, pilot instructor status, and 40 years of service.

"When he says do something, the law has been laid," said Stover, a 30-year-old Virginia National Guard pilot in A Company, 2-224th.

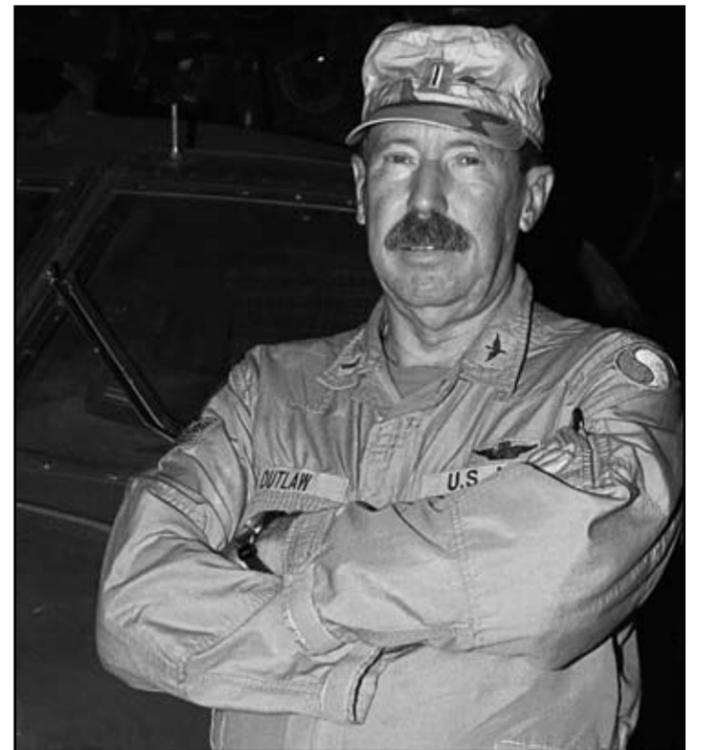


Photo by Lance Cpl. Geoffrey P. Ingersoll, I Marine Logistic Group PAO

Chief Warrant Officer William J. Outlaw has logged over 10,000 flight hours since his military career began in 1966. He is currently serving with 2-224th Aviation in Iraq.

"(But) I never once heard him raise his voice in the cockpit," said Stover from White Stone, Va.

"He's very calm, cool, collected," said 1st Lt. Larkin G. Scott, a Virginia National Guard pilot and platoon leader in A Company, 2-224th.

"The few (situations which) had the potential to get hairy," said Scott about Outlaw's missions, "he did whatever had to be done and kept on going with the mission.

"He flies very conservative, however, when the situation warrants it, he can fly as aggressively as anybody needs to," said Scott, a native of Providence Forge, Va.

Both of the younger pilots described Outlaw as deliberate in the sky and easy going on the ground, unless you're in between him and his purpose.

And from what the other featured guardsmen have said, Outlaw always has a purpose.

"There's one thing I learned from him," said Scott, "always have a plan."

Outlaw's plan right now is to retire from the military and eventually from aviation, leaving behind the fight in the sky for a more easy-going nature on the ground.

"(When I retire,) I'm going to farm," said Outlaw, who already owns a livestock farm.

With his only son hoping to pilot commercial airliners, it looks like the Outlaws will no longer take to the tactical skies.

Then again, he did mention something about having five grandchildren.

329th RSG ready for duty

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton
Virginia Guard Public Affairs

As the Virginia Army National Guard continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of America's fighting force, Soldiers stand ready to meet the challenges that these changes pose. This was demonstrated as the 329th Regional Support Group (RSG) held its activation ceremony at Fort Pickett Nov. 19, when over 200 troops came out to support this momentous occasion.

Among those on hand for the event were Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, Adjutant of Virginia, Brig. Gen. Eugene Stockton, assistant adjutant general for Army, Brig. Gen. Frank Betts, Deputy Commander, Joint Force Headquarters - Virginia, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton White, state command sergeant major.

Now under the command of Col. Janice G. Igou, the 329th Regional Support Group was established to provide combat service support to a designated geographical theater communications zone. The 329th provides command and control over the full spectrum of logistical units and missions. Within the state's chain of command, it serves as one of the major subordinate commands, controlling specialized non-divisional units



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton, Virginia Guard Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia, Brig. Gen. Eugene Stockton, assistant Adjutant General for Army, and Col. Janice G. Igou, commander of the 329th Regional Support Group, salute the colors during the 329th RSG activation ceremony.

throughout the commonwealth.

The 329th was first established in April 1963 and served Virginia with distinction until it was deactivated in October 1996. The 329th, headquartered in Virginia Beach, has reemerged as one of the highest priority units in the state.

According to Igou, the 329th was reactivated to assist with today's combat mission.

It has been tasked to become a leaner and swifter fighting force, which necessitates the ability to resource Soldiers on the ground in the most expedient and efficient way she said.

Both operationally and strategically, the 329th is set up to meet those needs, according to Igou.

The units making up the 329th Regional Support Group are the 1030th Transportation

Battalion, (comprised of the 1032nd Trans. Company, the 1173rd Trans. Co., and the 229th Chemical Co.), the 529th Combat CSSB, (comprised of the 1710th Trans. Co., the 3647th Maintenance Co. and the 183rd Personnel Service Detachment) and the 329th HHD.

The activation ceremony is a symbolic event that is rich in tradition. The highpoint of the ceremony is the uncasing of the colors, which symbolizes the heartbeat of the unit, bringing it back to life. The colors represent the lineage and honors of the unit as well as the loyalty and unity of its Soldiers. The colors are a symbol of the commander's authority and represent her leadership and responsibility for the unit.

Igou said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve in such a significant way, but says it is the dedicated Soldiers that make things happen.

She said it was an honor to have been given such an awesome responsibility, but commanders could not carry out the mission without the dedicated men and women in uniform--our Soldiers.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton, Va. Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers from units that make up the new 329th RSG stand at attention during the activation ceremony.

Kaine reemphasizes support for state National Guard and Reserve

ESGR Press Release

Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine signed the "5 Star" Statement of Support for recognizing the Commonwealth's unquestioned commitment to aiding state employees who serve in Virginia's National Guard and Reserve on Nov. 10.

The Governor was joined at the signing by members of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) as well as guard and reservists and their families.

The statement confirms that the Commonwealth of Virginia has reviewed its human resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).

ESGR's "5-Star" statement program also promotes training for managers and supervisors to effectively manage employees who serve in the Virginia Guard and Reserve.

"Today, many employers, including the

Commonwealth of Virginia, go above and beyond the requirements of USERRA to support our state employees that also serve in the National Guard and Reserve," said Kaine.

"In a time of war, it is critical that we fully provide for those who serve in our armed forces. The Commonwealth continues to do this through expanding medical benefits and closing pay imbalances for employees and their families while they serve both Virginia and our nation."

Earlier this year, Kaine enacted policies, backed by the General Assembly, on behalf of the Virginia National Guard to ensure tuition funding for Guardsmen, a \$2,000 state reenlistment bonus and a \$500,000 appropriation for the Military Family Relief Fund.

"Governor Kaine's signature on the ESGR statement and his policies have demonstrated that he and the Commonwealth of Virginia stand proudly with its Guard and Reserve employees," said Dr. Charles Quillen, state chair of Virginia ESGR.



Photo courtesy of ESGR

Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall and Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia, were among those on hand for Gov. Tim Kaine's signing of the "5-Star" Statement of Support for state employees serving in the Virginia National Guard.

"We are grateful to Governor Kaine and the Commonwealth for continuing its tradition as an employer willing to support the strength and readiness of the National Guard and Reserve."

For more information on outreach programs and volunteer opportunities with ESGR visit www.esgr.mil.

DOL Soldier stars in National Guard commercial

By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton
Virginia Guard Public Affairs

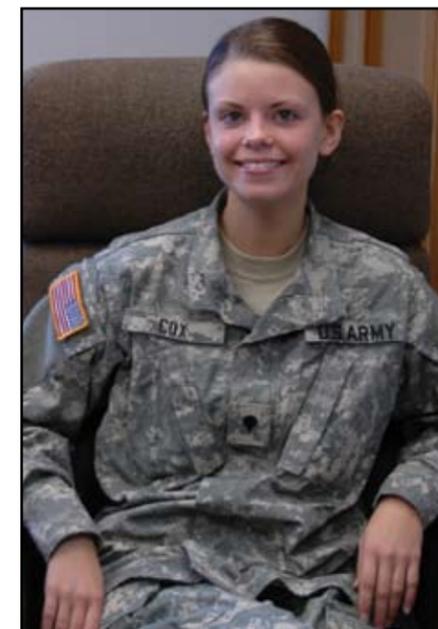


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton, Virginia Guard PAO

Spc. Jennifer Cox currently stars in a National Guard ad campaign airing nationwide.

Walk around the Directorate of Logistics (DOL) at Fort Pickett during a drill weekend and chances are you will see a familiar face. That's because Spc. Jennifer Cox, a unit supply specialist who is assigned to the unit, is featured in one of the National Guard's newest ad campaigns entitled "In Their Own Words."

"In their Own Words" is a series of television spots designed to appeal to viewers in a particular state featuring Soldiers from that state. Soldiers tell their story of why they joined the Guard, while sharing their experiences gained from Guard membership.

Cox was one of 100 Soldiers selected from the ranks of National Guard units across the country to be featured in the 90-second spots which began airing earlier this year. Cox, who joined the Virginia Army National Guard in 2003, said it was a great honor.

"At first I really didn't know what to expect but as time went on, I became really comfortable with the cameras, lights and all the photo shoots" Cox said. "In the end, I had a great time and realized that I was doing something important."

"It caused me to revisit the reasons why I joined in the first place," she added.

Cox, a junior at Virginia Commonwealth University, found out about the opportunity while working as a recruiter aid in Powhatan last fall. She had to complete a questionnaire and tell a little about herself.

Once selected, she headed to Washington, D.C., for a week of filming and photo shoots.

Cox has become a familiar face all over the state and although she gets plenty of haggling from her friends, she takes it all in stride.

"I am really grateful for the opportunity to represent the guard and my state in such a meaningful way."

See the video at www.1800goguard.com/VA/index.php

Earhart, 29th Inf. Div. take command of KFOR Multi-National Task Force (East)

By Maj. Cotton Puryear
MNTF (E) Public Affairs

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo-Brig. Gen. Douglas B. Earhart took command of the Kosovo Force's Multi-National Task Force (East) in a ceremony held here Dec. 6.

The Transfer of Authority Ceremony recognized Earhart's assumption of command from Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, as well as the transfer of authority of the MNTF(E) mission from the 36th Infantry Division to the 29th Infantry Division.

"Today is a great day in the lives of Soldiers and Airmen at Camp Bondsteel," Earhart said. "Some of us are going home to friends and families, while others have completed training and preparation to assume authority of MNTF(E). Every member of this task force is excited about the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Kosovo."

The United States is the lead nation for MNTF(E), which also has units from Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. The deployment to Kosovo is the second to the Balkans region for the 29th Division. The unit served in Bosnia in 2001.

"The U.S. Soldiers of Multi-National Task Force (East) wear the patch of the 29th Div., and this patch can serve as a symbol of hope to the people of Kosovo," Earhart said. "It represents the blue and gray – the North and South – two cultures with divergent perspectives and beliefs. There was a time when it seemed these two groups would never settle their differences, but they now work together towards a common good in the United States."

Earhart explained that two of the units in the task force, Task Force Red Dragon and Task Force Patriot, have battle streamers on their flag staffs that indicate they were on opposing sides during the American Civil War.

"Today they are united and free, working together towards the common goal of peace in Kosovo," Earhart said. "The process of coming together is not easy; it takes commitment, diligence and patience from all citizens, but the reward is great."

Owens, the outgoing MNTF(E) commander, said that now is a time of hope for a better future for the people of Kosovo and a time of thankfulness for a job well done by the Soldiers of the 36th Div.

"The future of Kosovo is in the hands of those individuals who will continue to dedicate themselves to peace and to a free



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, MNTF(E) Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Douglas B. Earhart, commander of Multi-National Task Force (East) and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert D. Jenks Jr., command sergeant major of MNTF(E) unfurl the colors of the 29th Infantry Division signifying the 29th assumption of the MNTF(E) mission at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo Dec. 6.

democratic society for all citizens," Owens said. "I am confident in the fact that those citizens who believe in the rights of all and that follow the principals laid down in the 'Cowboy Code' will make Kosovo a safe place to live, to raise a family and to have a prosperous future.

"Remember that peace must be achieved; it cannot be bestowed, and requires hard and diligent work, along with the belief in your heart that it will be a reality. Never let disappointments temper your resolve for peace; tomorrow can be better than today if you make it so."

German Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, commander of the Kosovo Force, welcomed Earhart and stated that the job in Task Force East's area of responsibility was not yet finished.

"Much work remains to be done and now it is up to you to take the lead as MNTF East moves forward, operating in the crucial final lap of status, a period of utmost importance and interest for the international community and for all the people of Kosovo," he said.

Kather also stressed the importance of working with regional and local authorities to help build self-confidence in their ability to gradually take over responsibilities currently in the hands of the international community and KFOR.

"Continue to do everything possible to support the amiable people of Kosovo on their way to a prosperous future," he said.

The 29th Div. is scheduled for a 12-month rotation in Kosovo.

Virginia National Guard ready to act in case of disaster

By Maj. Deb Magaldi
Virginia Air Guard Public Affairs

After the attacks of 9/11 through 2005, the Virginia National Guard's primary operational focus was meeting federal and National Guard Bureau contingencies and mission needs. But lessons learned after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005 caused the Virginia National Guard to reexamine and redefine its priorities.

Over the last year, Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General, initiated a shift in mindset and put into action a plan to strengthen and improve the Virginia National Guard's ability to respond effectively and efficiently to disaster situations within the Commonwealth.

The Virginia National Guard has rewritten its Commonwealth Mission Statement, developed an organizational structure to manage disaster response activities undertaken by the Guard, beefed up its staffing in the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) from five to 50 during declared emergencies, reached out to become a partner with other State Public Safety agencies, and become fully integrated in state emergency planning activities, according to Col. Robert H. Simpson, director of the Joint Staff, Virginia Army and Air National Guard.

Early this year, at the direction the Adjutant General, the Virginia National

Guard stood up three Joint Task Force (JTF) headquarters (HQ) to serve the Commonwealth in a range of disaster-response scenarios.

A Joint Task Force is composed of assigned or attached elements of two or more services and constituted by appropriate authority for a specific or limited purpose, or missions of short duration.

Virginia National Guard JTF headquarters are:

- *JTFHQ-NOVA*: is led by Maj. Gen. Art Wyman, commanding general of the 29th Infantry Division. It will respond to any major disaster that might hit the Washington, D.C., region; and has a primary focus on responding to terrorism.

- *JTFHQ-Tidewater*: is led by Brig. Gen. William S. Busby, Assistant Adjutant General for Air, and will respond to major requests from the Virginia Tidewater region and has hurricane response as its primary focus.

- *JTFHQ-Support*: is led by Brig. Gen. Frank Batts, Joint Force Headquarters - Virginia Commander and staffed by the Troop Command. JTF-Support handles troop movements, Joint Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration, (JRSOI), assists the other two JTFs, and would take the lead in responding to events such as a pandemic flu outbreak.

Each JTF HQ is capable of responding to all hazards, however each has functional priority. They fall under Virginia's Joint Force Headquarters and report to The Adjutant General. They respond to requests

placed through the Virginia National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC), which coordinates with the VDEM EOC. These JTF HQs don't have units or resources assigned to them until provided them by the JFHQ after being tasked by the Governor. The JTFs HQs began standing up in April 2006. They came on quickly and are now considered operational, according to Simpson.

By the end of October each team had developed a response plan, exercised their plan internally as well as with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and in some cases, responded to real contingencies.

"The Virginia National Guard is here to support the Commonwealth 24/7, 365 days a year. We are now better prepared to respond to and meet emergency needs for the Commonwealth," Simpson notes. "Our new capabilities are reflected in our updated mission statement, which reflects our daily mission as well as our response mission."

The mission statement states- "*The Department of Military Affairs will plan, coordinate, maintain situational awareness, and employ forces for homeland security and homeland defense in order to respond to any incidents within the Commonwealth. On order of the Governor, DMA will provide capabilities to assist civil authorities in protecting life and property, preserving peace, order and public safety, and relieving suffering.*"



Photos by Master Sgt. Carlos Claudio, 192nd Communications Flight

Staff Sgt. Craig Pennison accepts an urgent call from an armory being "attacked" by civilians looking for bird influenza vaccine during a training exercise in October.



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos Claudio, 192nd Communications Flight

Brig. Gen. Frank Batts, commander of JTF- Support, and Col. Janice Igou, deputy commander, review data arriving by computer during a pandemic exercise.

TAG visits with 192nd FW troops

By Maj. Debbie Magaldi
Virginia Air Guard Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia, was all smiles Dec. 3 as he served holiday meals in the 192nd Fighter Wing dining hall, ate lunch with unit members and visited work sections across the base.

All along the way, Newman reached out to talk with personnel: Airmen, officers, senior leadership, and everyone in between.

He was happy to be visiting his Virginia Air Guard roots, enjoyed reminiscing about his days flying the A-7 Corsair and F-16 Falcon with the 192nd FW, and complimenting the work currently underway at the base.

"I want our Airmen to know that senior Virginia National Guard leadership cares about them and their families. We are here to support our people," he said between shop stops.

"This has been a challenging and busy



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos Claudio, 192nd Communications Flight

Maj. Gen. Robert Newman (center) shares a holiday meal at the 192nd Fighter Wing's dining hall on Dec. 3 with (left to right) Airman 1st Class Joseph Daniele, Staff Sgt. Evan Hanks, Staff Sgt. Asha Lee Gibbs and Senior Airman Terrell Bailey.

year for the Virginia National Guard. We currently have three units (Army and Air) deployed and will have more units deploying in 2007.

"Today gave me the opportunity to talk with some of our outstanding younger Airmen and tell them 'thank you' for their

work and sacrifices. We have so many incredible individuals doing great work," he continued, "such as Senior Airman Tim Carpenter, security forces, who recently returned from a deployment to Kirkuk, Iraq."

Newman thanked personnel for their dedication and hard work in support of the fighter wing's integration at Langley Air Force Base and acknowledged the hard decisions and challenges the unit is working through.

"I appreciate your efforts," he said. "I know these are tumultuous times, but the integration and the move to Langley will benefit us in the long run by giving the 192nd a strong, viable future."

As Newman stopped to visit the medical group, wing operations, intelligence, life support, aircraft maintenance, the propulsion section, civil engineering and wing headquarters, he also urged everyone to relax and spend time with their families over the holidays.

"With the operations tempo many are keeping, it is critical to enjoy your down time; spend time with your loved ones and support them," Newman said. "Make sure your family knows that the Virginia National Guard is here to support them, too."

"And," he added, "while safety is paramount all year long, please use your good common sense to travel, play and enjoy the holiday season safely. We want everyone back safely in January."



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos Claudio, 192nd Communications Flight

Newman serves holiday meals to Virginia Airmen. A number of the wing's officers and senior enlisted NCOs volunteered to serve the holiday meal at the base dining hall to say "thank you" to their personnel for a busy, productive year.

National Guard celebrates 370 years of service

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); a lot older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turned 370 years young Dec. 13.

It all started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.



While other English colonies like Virginia and Spanish colonies like Florida and Puerto Rico had individual towns

with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the first place in the New World where the population was large enough to justify organizing companies into regiments for command and control. These regiments became a kind of military "family" for members.

Although their names have been changed and individual companies have come and gone, the three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard.

In retrospect, a string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and 18 are countless.

Yet, even as the National Guard has transformed many times, it

See Birthday on Page 15

TowneBank presents Virginia National Guard Foundation with \$35,000

Courtesy of TowneBank

This year's TowneBank Foundation Golf Tournament supported the Virginia National Guard Foundation. At the post-tournament reception, Bob Aston, TowneBank chairman and chief executive officer, presented a \$35,000 check to Brig. Gen. of the Militia (retired) John Zyndron, director of the Virginia National Guard Foundation. This is the largest single contribution ever received by the organization.

"TowneBank is pleased to support the men and women in uniform, who proudly serve our country," said John Fruit, director of the tournament.

Created in 1984, the Virginia National Guard Foundation provides financial assistance to National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families in times of crisis. The foundation primarily provides interest-free loans to those in need, but can also assist with outright financial support in the event of unforeseen emergencies.

Since 9/11 many of Virginia's 7,500 Soldiers and 1,200 Airmen have served, or are serving, on active federal duty around the world. Often families suffer a significant loss of income when a member is called to duty.

Zyndron is very appreciative of the TowneBank Foundation's gift.



Photo courtesy of TowneBank

The TowneBank Foundation provided the Virginia National Guard Foundation with a check for \$35,000.

"The active duty armed forces have their own relief fund to assist their personnel," said Zyndron. "Unfortunately, these funds are not available to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen until they are called to federal duty. Since our mission is both state and federal, there are many times that aid is not available. The foundation tries to fill that void."

The Virginia National Guard Foundation receives all funding through private donations, and these funds are managed by a board of directors. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, please visit www.vangfoundation.org.



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter flies above the Euphrates River, Iraq. The helicopters are operated by pilots and crew chiefs with the Virginia National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment and are a unique asset for Marine forces in Iraq.

Blackhawk helicopter crews fly right in Iraq

ALASAD, Iraq - The tasking is constant, and the daily flight schedule is packed with missions for one Army helicopter squadron flying with the Marine Corps in Iraq. A group of highly skilled pilots and crew chiefs are the reason for success.

The Virginia Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), Blackhawk crews are a unique asset for Marine forces here, and these crews have been carrying out their tasking for more than 10 months with exacting proficiency.

Planning and communication are the keys to successful missions for UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crews in Iraq, and both begin before the aircraft engines are started on the ground.

"We'll usually come in, get a brief on what mission we're doing, find out our destinations and where we're going," said Chief Warrant

Officer 3 Marvin R. McKenney, a pilot with 2/224. "We also receive an intelligence brief of any significant threats, anything going on that has changed."

Once the pilots receive the day's mission and intelligence briefs at their headquarters, one pilot goes with the crew chiefs to prepare the helicopter for the mission, while the other plans out the details of the mission ahead.

"One of the pilots will do the flight planning, which includes the route planning, how long it will take to get there, how much fuel is required and things like that," said McKenney, a Richmond, Va., native. "At the same time, the other pilot is checking out the aircraft with the crew chiefs."

With their route planned and the aircraft inspected and ready to go, the air crew gets together for a last set of briefs.

"We'll do our individual briefs, one for the stick (a two-aircraft section). Then, we'll

brief with our aircraft's crew," said Staff Sgt. Troy G. Patterson, Blackhawk crew chief and door gunner. "After that we'll get our weapons and ammo, conduct our combat checks and take off on the mission."

In the briefs just before takeoff, the crew reasserts the importance of their continuous communication.

"There are a couple of things we brief every time before we fly: advocacy and assertion," said McKenney. "Advocacy meaning, that if we're flying along and you're not saying anything then it means you're fine with everything going on. Assertion meaning, if you're thinking something's wrong speak up and say so."

While in flight, the Blackhawk air crews have separate responsibilities as left and right side door gunners and pilot and pilot-in-command. They use an internal communications system to coordinate their actions in flight and most importantly, during



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

A UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crew from the Virginia National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment conducts a preflight brief at Al Asad, Iraq.

landings and takeoffs.

"The Army calls it aircrew coordination. In the civilian sector, it's cockpit resource management," said McKenney. "What it means is all the crewmembers have an equal say in what's going on. It encourages everybody to speak up if something's bothering them."

"Both pilots do the same thing in flight. One has pilot-in-control duties, and the other has the pilot-not-in-control duties, which include the radios, navigation, and everything but flying the aircraft," said McKenney. "However, they switch back and forth, and since there isn't a lot of room up front to move around, it gives the one flying a chance to stretch because his feet are on the flight controls."

With the pilot-in-control focusing on flying the aircraft, he may not see a danger to the aircraft approaching, so the squadron has a procedure in place to prevent any potential mishaps.

"We have the two challenge rule that the pilots use up front," said McKenney. "If I say, 'hey do you see that tree up front,' and the other pilot doesn't answer, I say again 'do you see that tree up front,' and if he still doesn't answer, then I am going to take the controls so we avoid hitting it."

Avoiding hitting deadly objects -- a task made more difficult by potential blinding dust kicked up by the helicopters' turning blades -- is especially important when the helicopter is coming into a landing zone, according to McKenney and Patterson.

"Before we even take off and during the crew brief, we're going to talk about some of the obstacles," said McKenney. "Once you go past 10 O'clock and 2 O'clock off the nose of the aircraft, the crew chiefs

are the pilot's eyes back there. We can't see anything. When we're coming into the landing zone, the crew chiefs will call out the obstacles: trees, stumps, rocks. Once we're clear of the obstacles, one of the crew chiefs will start calling out the dust cloud to let us know that we need to find something inside the rotor disk that's not going to move, so we can land the aircraft."

"As a crew chief and door gunner, our primary job is airspace surveillance and obstacle avoidance," said Patterson, a Chesapeake, Va., native. "We don't want anything to hit us, and we don't want to hit anything. Of course, we're there for the protection of the crew, passengers and aircraft, but it's seldom that we are used as an offensive weapon."

One advantage the 2/224 has over other units operating in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, is the fact that many of the pilots and crew chiefs have been flying together for years.

"We have a great relationship with the pilots," said Patterson. "We're national guardsman, so we've been flying with some of the same guys for more than ten years."

"I've been with a lot of these crew chiefs since I started flying Blackhawks in 1996," said McKenney. "About 30 percent are new and all of them are hard workers and really professional at their job."

Despite being a tight-knit group and having a cutting edge aircraft, Patterson credits the unit's predeployment training for their mission's success.

"We had to adjust as crew chiefs in terms of the different missions," said Patterson.

"Going through Exercise Desert Talon in Yuma, Ariz., helped us out a lot. Any unit that is coming out here, especially to work with the Marines should go. It was an outstanding exercise. We learned a lot from it, especially Marine Corps terminology. They use acronyms for everything. We use them, too, but theirs are different. We built a really good relationship with everybody we came out here with, while there."

With their deployment coming to a close soon, Patterson believes their mission with the Marines has been a complete success thus far.

"Our missions can be anything around here, especially with the Blackhawks," said Patterson. "It could be a detainee lift, a raid or a VIP flight. That's a result of the aircraft being a medium-sized bird, and it has a ton of power for its size. It's dependable. I don't think we've ever been late and have only dropped one or two missions in ten months."

For McKenney, the deployment has been a summit for a long-time flyer, challenging his skills and surprising him at times.

"When we first got out here, it was the most demanding flying I've done in my life," said McKenney. "The first two months in country were purely night-vision goggle flying. It definitely took time getting used to; I think all the pilots out here would sing the praises of the heads up display inside the goggles. It has everything that's on the instrument panel that I need to know. I learned to expect the unexpected. Dust storms can pop up out of nowhere, and I was lucky to get caught up in only one."



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

A Blackhawk helicopter lands at Al Asad, Iraq, Dec. 11.