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ARMY AVIATION is the official journal of the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). The views expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors, not the Department of Defense or its elements. The content does not necessarily reflect the official U.S. Army position nor the position of the AAAA or the staff of Army Aviation Publications, Inc., (AAPI). Title Reg[®] in U.S. Patent office. Registration Number 1,533,053. SUBSCRIPTION DATA: ARMY AVIATION (ISSN 0004-248X) is published monthly, except April and September by AAPI, 755 Main Street, Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468-2830. Tel: (203) 268-2450, FAX: (203) 268-5870, E-Mail: aaaa@quad-a.org. Army Aviation Magazine E-Mail: magazine@quad-a.org. Website: <http://www.quad-a.org>. Subscription rates for non-AAAA members: \$30, one year; \$58, two years; add \$10 per year for foreign addresses other than military APOs. Single copy price: \$4.00. ADVERTISING: Display and classified advertising rates are listed in SRDS Business Publications, Classification 90. POSTMASTER: Periodicals postage paid at Monroe, CT and other offices. Send address changes to AAPI, 755 Main Street, Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468-2830.

ARMY AVIATION

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ON THE COVER

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: The future of our Army—net connected to the soldier, to the commander and to the joint force—will achieve its first flight in July 2008 at The Boeing Company in Mesa, Arizona—on schedule, on cost. The AH-64D Apache Block III. *Caption provided by the advertiser.*

Briefings...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES

2008 Blue Book



ARMY AVIATION Magazine is in the process of preparing our annual Blue Book Directory of Army Aviation related units, offices and organizations for the August/September issue. For details on submissions visit online at www.quad-a.org/BlueBook.htm.



AAPI PHOTO BY JAMES BULLINGER

UAS Center of Excellence Opens

As part of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Aviation branch, the command held a ribbon cutting ceremony April 25 to open the new offices of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence in building 5000 at Fort Rucker, Ala. The USAAWC's Capability Development & Integration Directorate and the Training and Doctrine Command's System Manager for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Systems were part of the team working to establish the new facilities for UASCOE. Pictured here cutting the ribbon are (l to r): retired COL Ellis Golson, director of the CD&ID; MG Virgil L. Packett II, USAAWC commanding general; Congressman Terry Everett (R-AL) and COL Jeffrey Kappenman, the TRADOC Systems Manager for UAVS.

Guard/Reserve Unit Deploys to Afghanistan

The Wyoming Army National Guard is mobilizing 21 Soldiers and 3 UH-60 helicopters from a medical evacuation company in

Cheyenne for a deployment to Afghanistan in October. The order for Co. C, which is part of the multi-component 5th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt., an Army Reserve unit headquartered in Fort Eustis, Va., includes two months of training at Fort Sill, Okla., and a 10-month tour in Afghanistan. Co. C consists of Soldiers from Wyoming and parts of Colorado, Nebraska and Missouri.

CH-47F Production Line Helos Vandalized

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the Boeing Company reported investigating into the tampering of two CH-47F helicopters under production at the Riddle Park, Pa. facility. Workers discovered "irregularities" early May 13, including severed wires on one aircraft and a washer part was found inside a sump pump on another aircraft. "We have determined that this was a deliberate act and not an accident," said DCIS agent Ken Maupin investigating on behalf of the Army. Boeing officials believe the problem is limited to only two aircraft and does not affect any other aircraft. On May 20, a Boeing employee was arrested for allegedly cutting wires on one Chinook. The investigation of vandalism to the second helicopter continues and is focusing on one or more Boeing employees.

Upcoming Awards Deadline Dates to Remember



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Nominations for
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on the AAAA website: www.quad-a.org.



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AAAA President's Cockpit



Passing of Command – A Bright Future

Summer brings changes and this is especially true for Army Aviation this year as we witness many retirements and changes of command. BG Steve Mundt just retired as the director of Army Aviation with the Army's G3 in the Pentagon, and Steve will be back filled by BG Walt Davis later this summer. COL Kevin Magnum relin-

quished command of the 160th SOAR and COL Clay Hutmacher has taken the helm. Kevin is headed to the 10th Mountain Div. where he will continue to provide the outstanding leadership that has marked his career. Later this summer, two of our great aviation leaders will retire – our Branch Chief MG Duz Packett and the Army's Vice Chief of Staff GEN Dick Cody.

Many other battalions and brigades commanders will change out in the next few weeks. Please note this month's "People on the Move" section for some of these highlights. These changes are significant for our branch and our Army, and the details will be captured in our upcoming August/September "Blue Book" issue of the magazine.

Those departing and those changing command helped guide the Aviation Branch through one of the most trying, but yet successful, periods in our history. They made the tough decisions on the future of aviation and they secured the resources to ensure the viability of the branch. They distinguished themselves both on the battlefield and in the halls of the Pentagon. Many lives have been saved by their actions, and we thank them and all who are changing command and responsibilities across our branch this summer for their dedication and service.

We look forward to welcoming our newly designated 12th Branch Chief BG Jim Barkley. Fort Rucker has never looked better and I know Jim is looking forward to his change of command and leading our branch into the future.

And a special congratulations to Tim Crosby, our newest aviation brigadier general, recently promoted in May. I'm sure that Jim Barkley and Tim will see a lot of each other over the next few years.

As we head into summer, please remember our deployed Soldiers and especially their families here at home.

"AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family!"

Jim Snider
AAAA President
jim.snider@quad-a.org

ARMYAVIATION BLUE BOOK

2008 DIRECTORY



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From The Aviation Branch Chief



Summer of Change

By MG Virgil L. Packett II

We are in the middle of the summer relocation season and are experiencing our share of moves. We welcome COL Kelly Thomas and his wife Sue to Fort Rucker.

Coming to us from Fort Bragg, COL Thomas commanded the 82d Cbt. Avn. Bde. and Task Force Pegasus during Operation Enduring Freedom VIII in Afghanistan.

Thomas took over duties as the chief of staff for the Army Aviation Warfighting Center in mid-June.

We expect a replacement for promotable COL Wally Golden to be named soon and have scheduled the Aviation Warfighting Center change of command for July 11 here.

At the end of April we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Aviation Branch.

We hosted GEN Richard Cody, the Army vice chief of staff, as our Celebration Ball guest speaker; along with warfighter and former comman-



ARMY PHOTO BY PFC MONICA K SMITH

Army aviation forces have flown more than 2.3 million combat hours to date, with over 1000 aircraft systems currently deployed across the U.S. Central Command area. Here a trio of UH-60 Black Hawks from Co. A, 4th Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt., maneuver for departure from Camp Buhering, Kuwait, for an April 15 transport mission back up to Camp Bucca, Iraq.



ARMY PHOTO BY JANE ARMSTRONG

GEN Richard Cody, center, the Army's vice chief of staff, helped to celebrate the Aviation branch's 25th Anniversary as the guest speaker at the Army Aviation Warfighting Center's birthday ball on April 24 at Fort Rucker, Ala.

dant panels, cut the ribbon on the new Unmanned Aircraft System Center of Excellence building with Alabama Congressman Terry Everett, and recognized the Branch accomplishments with a grand parade on April 25.

I want to personally thank each of you for your leadership and service these past years.

You all have been a huge part of the success the branch now enjoys.

Key Issue Updates

We recently cut the ribbon on the new Aviation Warfighting Center Headquarters building May 29.

The 55,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility is a much needed replace-

ment for our aging headquarters.

The upgraded capabilities allow us to house the Emergency Operations Center with the command group and headquarters elements in the same facility.

We continue to refine our budget requirements as the POM (program objective memorandum) cycle comes to a close.

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MG Virgil Packett welcomes attendees, including many past Aviation branch chiefs, to the April 25 opening of the new Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence offices collocated with the Air Maneuver Battle Lab at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Our seven aircraft systems are on track and we have a path set for the next 20 years of procurement.

Plans are in motion to extend the life of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior out to 2018.

The new model CH-47F, UH-60M, UH-72A and the Sky Warrior UAS are rolling off the production lines.

The AH-64D Longbow Block III is on schedule, and the path has been approved for final steps to the C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft production.

The ARH-70A armed recon helicopter demonstrations are progressing for this fall as we anticipate the coming second round limit user test (LUT II) early next year.

Good People

Aviation still remains a branch of "choice" and our retention statistics are remarkable as our nation remains at war.

Accessions remain high for our military occupational specialties, with some challenges in the mid-NCO ranks.

The captain retention bonuses have been refined and introduced with more options.

I want to reiterate that the AAAA National Convention was a huge success earlier in April, hosting the Army's chief of staff as the keynoter for the first time this century.

The professional engagement with our congressional delegations and with industry partners proved to solidify aviation's position as a key partner in the War on Terrorism and as we look to full spectrum operations for the future.

Again, thanks for all you do for our troopers and the Branch.

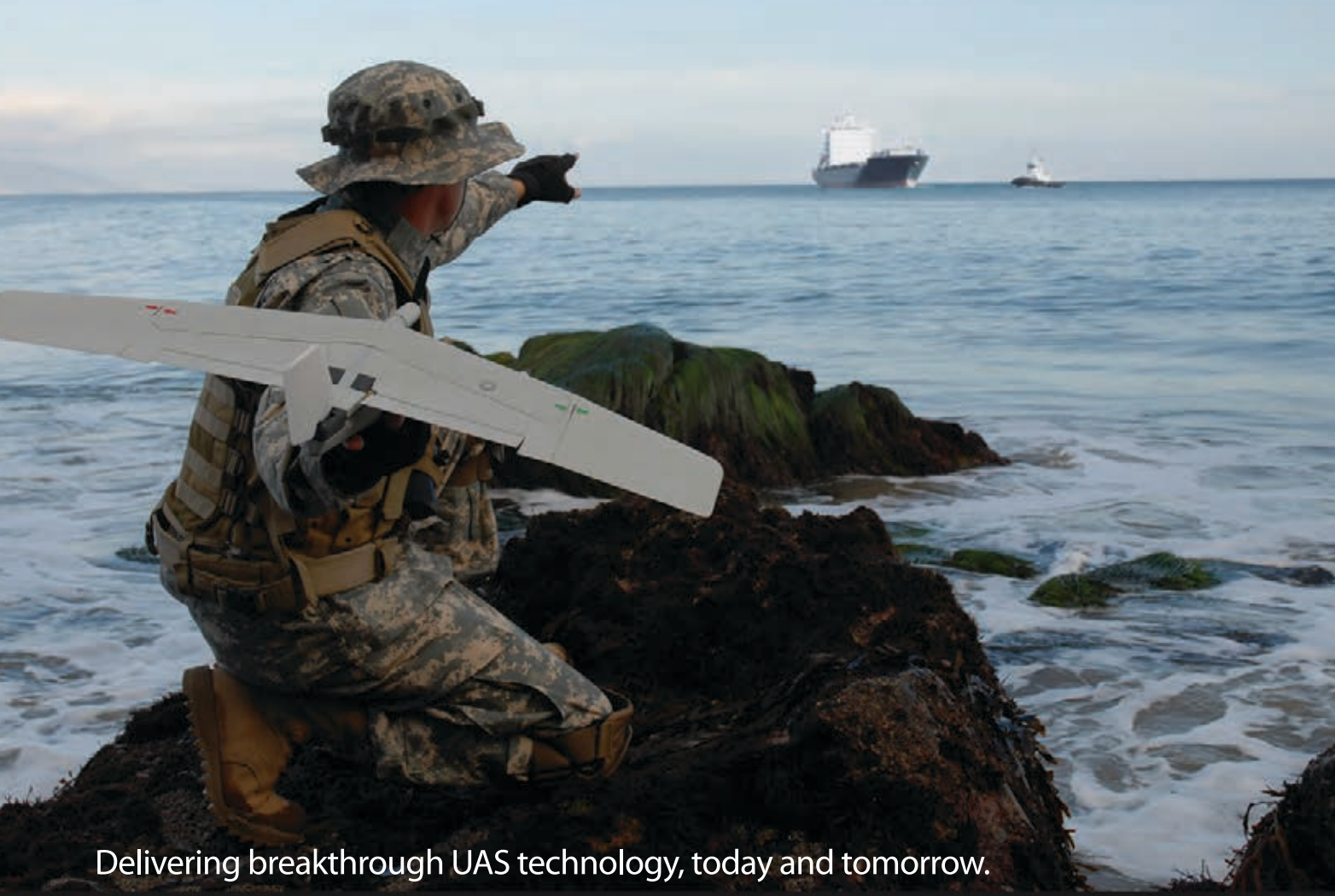
Aviation is the most potent element of our Army's combat power and an indispensable link to our military success in today's fight around the world.

We are inextricably linked to our nation's land power and will remain that way for the future, meeting Soldiers' needs and expanding capabilities.

Aviation Proud and Army Strong!



MG Virgil L. Packett II is the Army Aviation branch chief and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker, Ala.



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Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch Update



Warrant Officer Selection Boards Joining the Aviation Warrant Officers Ranks

By CW5 Randall Gant with LTC Christopher Carlile

The Aviation branch is continually looking for top notch Soldiers to join the ranks of the aviation warrant officer. The aviation warrant officers specialties consists of the 150A, 151A, 153A and 150U (the old 350K).

The process to become a warrant officer begins by submitting a packet with the required forms and information. All application packets are vetted through each warrant officer skill proponent and then forward to the Army's Recruiting Command (USAREC).

The exception to this is for the 153A aviation warrant officer MOS, as these applicants are not vetted through proponent unless they require an age waiver.

USAREC checks the applications for completeness and schedules a selection board with seven commissioned officer board members. These members individually vote the file of each fully qualified applicant using a numerical system.

The cumulative scores from each board member for each file are calculated and an overall order of merit list is developed for all applicants.

Selections are made based on the number of warrant officers who must be selected by specialty during that board.

The authors were recently privileged to serve as members on two warrant officer accession boards. During this experience, we scored nearly 1,500 warrant officer applications.

The sheer number of files limits the amount of time any board member can spend reviewing and making their decision for scoring. Additionally, the quality of most applicants was exceptional, making the scoring process very competitive.

Trends that could be possible discriminators for selection by the board include no recent combat experience



Chief warrant officers Eric Dillman, left, and Zachary Johnson are assigned to Co. B, 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., based out of Fort Hood, Texas, shown here during their deployment to Camp Taji, Iraq, last October. Both have been assigned to the same units since basic training and applying to be warrant officers.

or advancement in rank, and no increase in education levels.

The following is a discussion on a group of tips on how to better prepare an application for success and the pitfalls, or discriminators, to avoid.

Photograph

As with any board, the official Department of the Army photograph of the applicant gives board members their first impression of the Soldier and the military bearing he or she projects.

Numerous applicants did not have a DA photo, and others had only a digital photo taken in their duty uniforms or ACUs. Soldiers should make every attempt to submit a current DA photo with their application packet.

Ensure all your awards and badges are correct and that you are properly wearing the Class A uniform. Get one

of your senior NCOs to critique your photo. Make sure it is perfect to make the best first impression.

Anything less than a DA photo will likely be a discriminator. The current DA photograph policy is staff sergeants (E6) and above can load their photos into the Army's Photograph Management Information System or DAPMIS.

Sergeant (E5) and below can get a print out or download to a disk or drive when applying for an officer producing program.

Letters of Recommendation

The applicant must have two letters of recommendation.

For 150A, 151A and 153A applications, only the company and battalion commander letters are required.

A senior warrant officer letter is only required for the 150U, but an

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ARMY PHOTO BY MAJ ENRIQUE VASQUEZ

The Aviation branch is always looking for Soldiers to apply for warrant officer opportunities within the aviation career field. CWOs Christopher Zimprich, left, and Jared Toppenber with the 4th Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., out of Fort Lewis, Wash., prepare their OH-58D Kiowa Warrior for another mission in northern Iraq on Dec. 16, 2007.

additional letter can only be beneficial for favorable consideration.

If numerous recommendation letters are received, only the two required letters and a senior warrant officer letter are put forward to the board. A general officer aviator letter, in lieu of a senior warrant officer, is permitted.

Ensure letters include strengths and accomplishments of the applicant. Letters that are form-like and provide no real knowledge of the applicant do not bolster the strength of the file.

Another observation was numerous letters from senior warrant officers were completed with little added substance. Additionally, an applicant should seek out an interview with a senior warrant officer for a letter in the field they are applying to be appointed in. This shows the board the detail the applicant went through to prepare the packet.

Make sure your recommender keeps the letter to one page. The shorter the letter, but with substance, the better. Some notes on letters of recommendation:

- No form letters.
- Keep them short and to the point.
- Don't try to dazzle the board with letters from senior officers unless you work directly for them.
- Spend time with the senior warrant officer who interviews you to prevent getting a letter that says little.
- The senior warrant should personally attest to the character, leadership and work ethic of the applicant.

Applicant's Personal Summary

There is a requirement for a personal summary at the end of the applicant's resume on why they wish to be a warrant officer. Keep it short and meaningful. You need to tell the board in a short paragraph why the Army should select you.

If you write more than a paragraph, it is likely not to be read due to the short time the board has for each file.

Write this paragraph and rewrite it. Have others read it and give you constructive criticism. Ensure correct grammar and proper spelling.

Physical Fitness Score

Work diligently on achieving your best physical fitness test score.

As potential future warrant officers, you will be expected to set the standard. Additionally, it shows the board that you have put forth the additional effort.

NCO Evaluation Reports

New changes to the board process include the inclusion of the last 5 years of NCO evaluation reports (NCOER) and form 1059s.

It is helpful to the board if some of your raters or senior raters identify your potential to be a warrant officer on the NCOER. This stands out to a board member.

Do not attempt to omit a "bad" NCOER, as it will most certainly be caught by the USAREC personnel who run the WO Boards, or at least by the board members.



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC JOHN CROSBY

Soldiers interested in becoming warrant officers can visit the U.S. Army Recruiting Command's website to obtain application information. Here, CWO Tom Boise in his OH-58D helicopter with the 4th Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt. provides security and an eye from the sky for ground troops conducting operations April 6 in the Mosul and Ninewa province area of Iraq.

Application Accuracy

Take time to ensure your application is perfect. It should have no misspelled words anywhere within it. Ask someone to read it for you to catch any mistakes.

The authors were amazed at the number of applications which contained gross misspellings, including in the letters of recommendation.

Take time to ensure you make the best impression on the board.

Summary

In conclusion, the applicant must take every opportunity to ensure their packet states their case for selection as an Army warrant officer. Accuracy, completeness, and thoughtful development will pay huge dividends in achieving success.

Above the Best!

For more on selection prerequisites and the application process visit www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/



CW5 Randall Gant is the chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch and LTC Christopher Carlile is the deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

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Command Sergeant Major Update



Changing Aviation NCOES for an Army at War

By CSM Donald R. Sanders and CSM Marlin J. Smith

Non-commissioned officer leadership is evolving and adapting to meet the current challenges associated with the Global War on Terrorism.

Today's NCO must be a leader with the intellectual capacity. Furthermore, an NCO must be able to display the mental agility to adapt to any situation and exercise sound judgment in the absence of senior leadership.

An NCO must be an innovative leader who discovers new ways of performing tasks and missions.

Likewise, he or she needs the interpersonal tact to deal with officers, Soldiers, governmental officials, non-governmental officials, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, and host nation citizens. All of this, while continuing to refine and hone the skills necessary to be master of the domain knowledge within his or her military occupational specialty (MOS).

While the skills listed above are important, there continues to be the timeless need for an NCO to maintain military bearing, be physically fit, resilient, be poised and have a confident outlook to work with subordinate Soldiers.

While we are at it, let's not forget about *character*. Character is showing Soldiers empathy for their situation, living the Army values on a daily basis, and inculcating them in the Warrior Ethos. That said, today's Non-Commissioned Officer Education system is adapting to current operations as depicted below.

NCOES Overview

The NCO Education System is the keystone for NCO development.

NCOES provides leader and MOS skill training in an integrated system of resident and nonresident training at four course levels: the Warrior Leader, the Basic NCO and the Advanced NCO courses; and the



As part of the NCO education system transformation, the Advanced NCO Course will become the *Senior Leader Course* or SLC, incorporating lessons learned from combat deployments, but leadership is the primary focus of the training at this level.

Sergeants Major Academy.

The Army NCOES is undergoing significant changes in order to keep pace with the challenges associated with continuing combat operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Changes to NCOES course structure, lesson plans and delivery methods are required to ensure NCOs receive the training they need – at the right time in their careers – to successfully lead Soldiers in combat.

Additionally, these changes will ensure we keep pace with current technology, train on current equipment, and provide quality training, while reducing time away from home station for Soldiers returning from deployments.

Army Transformation has also resulted in significant changes to the programs of instruction (POI) for BNCOC and ANCOC training.

These changes are a direct result of lessons learned from aviation Soldiers deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and the Critical Tasks Selection Boards, consisting of Soldiers assigned to stateside and overseas combat aviation brigades

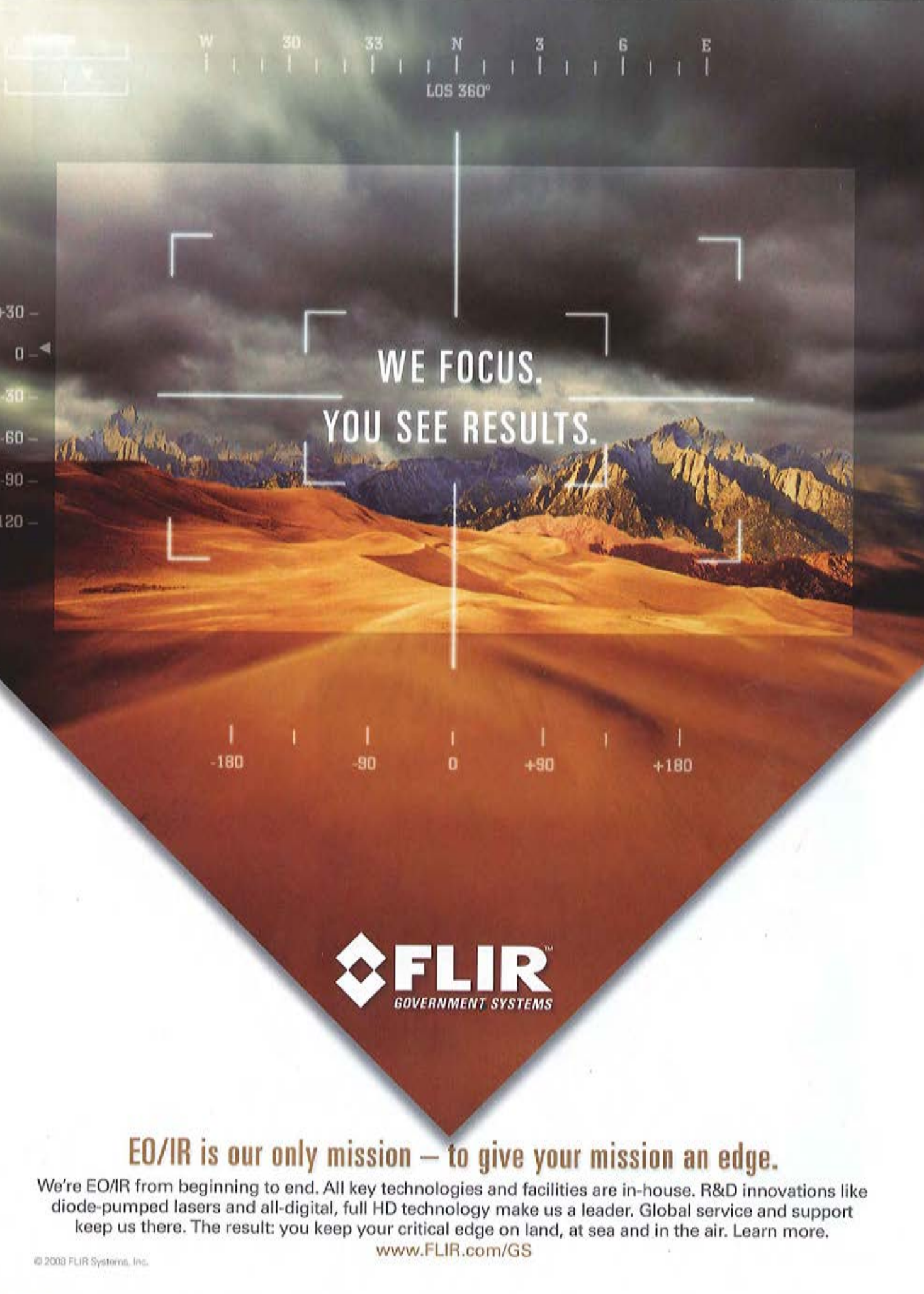
(CAB). There is no better source for input concerning training needs and lessons learned than our aviation warriors returning from the fight.

As part of NCOES transformation, ANCOC will become the *Senior Leader Course* (SLC) and BNCOC will become the *Advanced Leader Course* (ALC). The changes will involve more than just new course titles. The intent of the "train ahead" strategy is to ensure our NCOs have the proper training early enough in their careers to meet the needs of the Army.

Many of the current tasks from ANCOC will migrate down to the ALC (aka BNCOC) course and tasks covered in *Battle Staff* and the *First Sergeant Course* will migrate down to the SLC (aka ANCOC) course.

Train-Ahead Strategy

In the near future the Army will restructure the entire NCOES system to support a "train ahead" strategy. The purpose of the "train ahead" strategy is to train NCOs earlier in their careers on the skills required for future leadership positions.



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ARMY PHOTO BY MAJ ENRIQUE VASQUEZ



NCOs are being promoted faster and the Army recently approved a pilot program for battlefield promotions to the ranks of *sergeant* and *staff sergeant*. Training changes within the Aviation branch NCO education system in transforming BNCOC into the *Advanced Leader Course* (ALC), will benefit NCOs like SGT Gregory Moseley, a CH-47 Chinook flight engineer with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., here conducting an inspection on aircraft survivability equipment March 5 while deployed to Tikrit in northern Iraq.

are being promoted faster and serving in leadership position above their current grades.

We must ensure that NCOES is designed to support an Army at war and not structured under the older legacy Cold War mentality (i.e., in the past NCOs had to achieve a particular rank before attending the corresponding NCOES course). We have to train NCOs early in their careers to ensure they are prepared for the duties and responsibilities at the next level.

Mobile Training Teams

The Army's current operational tempo, including back-to-back 12- to 15-month deployments for most CABs, has resulted in backlogs for NCOES courses. The lengths of cur-

rent rotations result in Soldiers not being available to attend NCOES courses for long periods of time.

One way to elevate the back log is to provide mobile training teams (MTT) to conduct all or a portion of BNCOC at home station locations.

The MTT method allows Soldiers to remain at home with their families while they attend required training.

This is especially beneficial for Soldiers returning from a 15-month deployment. The last thing Soldiers or their families want to see are orders (i.e., more time away from home) for BNCOC or ANCOC as they attempt to reunite after a long separation.

Aviation related MTTs, and Interactive Media Instruction (IMI) and Distance Learning (dL) programs are all methods being used to ensure Soldiers complete required NCOES training without leaving their home station.

The IMI and dL provides Soldiers with the opportunity to complete specific parts of an NCOES course online. This technology reduces the length of required resident courses and gives Soldiers flexibility concerning when and where training is completed.

Currently dL is scheduled for implementation for the 15P BNCOC (ALC) and ANCOC (SLC) POIs in fiscal year 2009. Each course will have approximately 16 hours converted from resident training to the dL format. The 15Q BNCOC (ALC) and ANCOC (SLC) POIs will include dL requirements by not later than FY 2010.

However, it is important to note that the concept of NCOES centers of leadership development and face-to-face interaction with cadre and peers.

The value of resident training cannot be overstated; however, dL and IMI are meant to enhance training, not serve as the primary means of instruction.

Currently, MTT programs are being developed for 15Q, 15P and 15W BNCOCs based on the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School MTT model for maintainer BNCOC, and we expect to initiate the program by the second quarter of FY09.

Our goal is to build the program with the capability to conduct the entire course at the Soldiers' home station.

The MTT course will include technical training on Battle Command Systems, leadership evaluations, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, and meeting height and weight requirements. At the completion of the MTT

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For aviation Soldiers attending the NCO Academy at Fort Rucker, Ala., part of their educational leadership experience includes participating in a field training exercise that focuses on tactics, techniques and procedures developed from lessons learned in combat.

course, Soldiers will receive their academic evaluation report (DA Form 1059) and BNCOC certification, without there being a requirement for follow-on training at Fort Rucker.

This plan will ensure our leaders receive the required NCOES training in a timeframe that supports Army force generation CAB cycles, while reducing time away from families.

BNCOC

As we develop ways to deliver 15P, 15Q and 15W BNCOC training to our Soldiers, we must continue to update our POIs to match the duties and responsibilities of these junior leaders.

These young leaders serve as aviation subject matter experts working within the Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS).

We must ensure we include, and in some areas expand, ABCS training in BNCOC to include: the tactical airspace integration system (TAIS), the command post of the future, the maneuver control system (MCS), and the Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade-and-Below system.

Aviation operation NCOs are being assigned to corps, division and brigade aviation elements (BAE) cells to serve as the liaisons between the ground ABCS systems and aviation assets.

It is critical that these NCOs have the skills and knowledge required for these important duty positions and a full understanding of the ABCS capabilities.

ANCOC

The POIs that support aviation ANCOC training will be reviewed to

ensure we are conducting training that matches current doctrine and supports an Army and a branch at war.

In the near future, ANCOC training will include lessons and tasks from the First Sergeant course to ensure our NCOs are prepared for future duty responsibilities at the next level.

We will continue to train current systems, including: MCS, TAIS, the Aviation Mission Planning System and Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation (Enhanced) in ANCOC, as required for individual MOSs; but leadership is the primary focus of the training at this level.

We will look to add more leadership subjects to each course to ensure aviation NCOs receive leader development, as well as technical training.

Conclusion

Today's aviation noncommissioned officers are dedicated, intelligent, professional warriors who are making a difference in the GWOT.

We must ensure NCOES training is relevant, realistic, and challenging in order to prepare aviation NCOs for increased duties and responsibilities.

Above the Best!



CSM Donald R. Sanders is the command sergeant major of the Aviation branch at the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center. Email: donald.r.sanders@conus.army.mil.

CSM Marlin J. Smith, is the commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Fort Rucker, Ala. Email: marlin.james.smith@us.army.mil

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U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Spotlight



Safety Never Gets A Vacation

By BG William H. Forrester

Summertime is not the time to give safety a vacation. The time between the Memorial Day and the Labor Day weekends marks the period when our Army's troopers, their families and our civilian teammates are traditionally exposed to the year's greatest risk from accidental mishaps and fatalities.

These 101 Critical Days of Summer are when more of us are traveling, participating in water sports and enjoying the numerous outdoor activities and thus, increasing our exposure to potential off-duty tragedies.

Our Army's strides in decreasing on-duty accidents – through proactive leader engagement and the continual use of safety tools and awareness programs – reflect tremendous efforts.

Your actions, working to protect our Soldiers while on duty, must now transfer to impact our off-duty accidents during these upcoming summer months.

We believe the Army's success in decreasing on-duty accidents is the direct result of the continuous oversight and leadership our Soldiers receive.

But commander and supervisor leadership cannot physically be present 24/7.

Therein lies the challenge – how do we modify the lifestyles of our Soldiers to raise awareness and adjust actions, in a positive manner, to achieve our desired results of decreased injuries and deaths?

We believe there are other tools and paths you might pursue to achieve positive goals – those tools are Soldiers' *peers* and *families*.

The Army has always recognized the influence and support families have in the lives of Soldiers.

Families serve as the key founda-



ARMY GRAPHIC BY BLAKE GRANTHAM

tion of our value sets which factor greatly into our decision making process.

That said, it only makes sense to devote the appropriate amount of time and energy to educate families in safety awareness and practices, thereby empowering them so they can then educate our Army force.

Tools such as the *Family Engagement Kit*, located on the USACRC Web site, are developed specifically for this and can stretch to the extended family.

So enjoy your summer, but also take these best practices and recommendations to heart – you are too important not to.

♦ Check to see if your installation has a *Motorcycle Mentorship Program*. These MMPs not only provide great group ride opportunities, but also allow newer riders to hook up with more experienced riders to learn skills and techniques. Our force continues to mirror society in the continuous growth of new riders each year. We welcome our new riders...now let's mentor them.

♦ Remain committed to using the *Travel Risk Planning System* before traveling. Inspect your vehicle and

plan your travel with plenty of stops to ensure you remain attentive while driving. Fatigued driving is a common contributor to vehicle accidents.

♦ Alcohol and water activities never mix. Alcohol affects judgment, motor skills, peripheral vision, depth perception, night vision and balance – all essential skills while enjoying water activities. Enjoy the summer months in the sun but drink responsibly.

♦ Never leave a fallen comrade. A comrade can fall to different types of enemies. If you see a comrade in trouble, step in and engage. Insist your buddy wears a seat belt, purchases the motorcycle that matches their riding skills and understands indiscipline is a killer.

I challenge you to make the right decisions in your off-duty activities during these 101 Critical Days of Summer and never give safety a day off.

Army Safe is Army Strong!



BG William Forrester is the director of Army Safety and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

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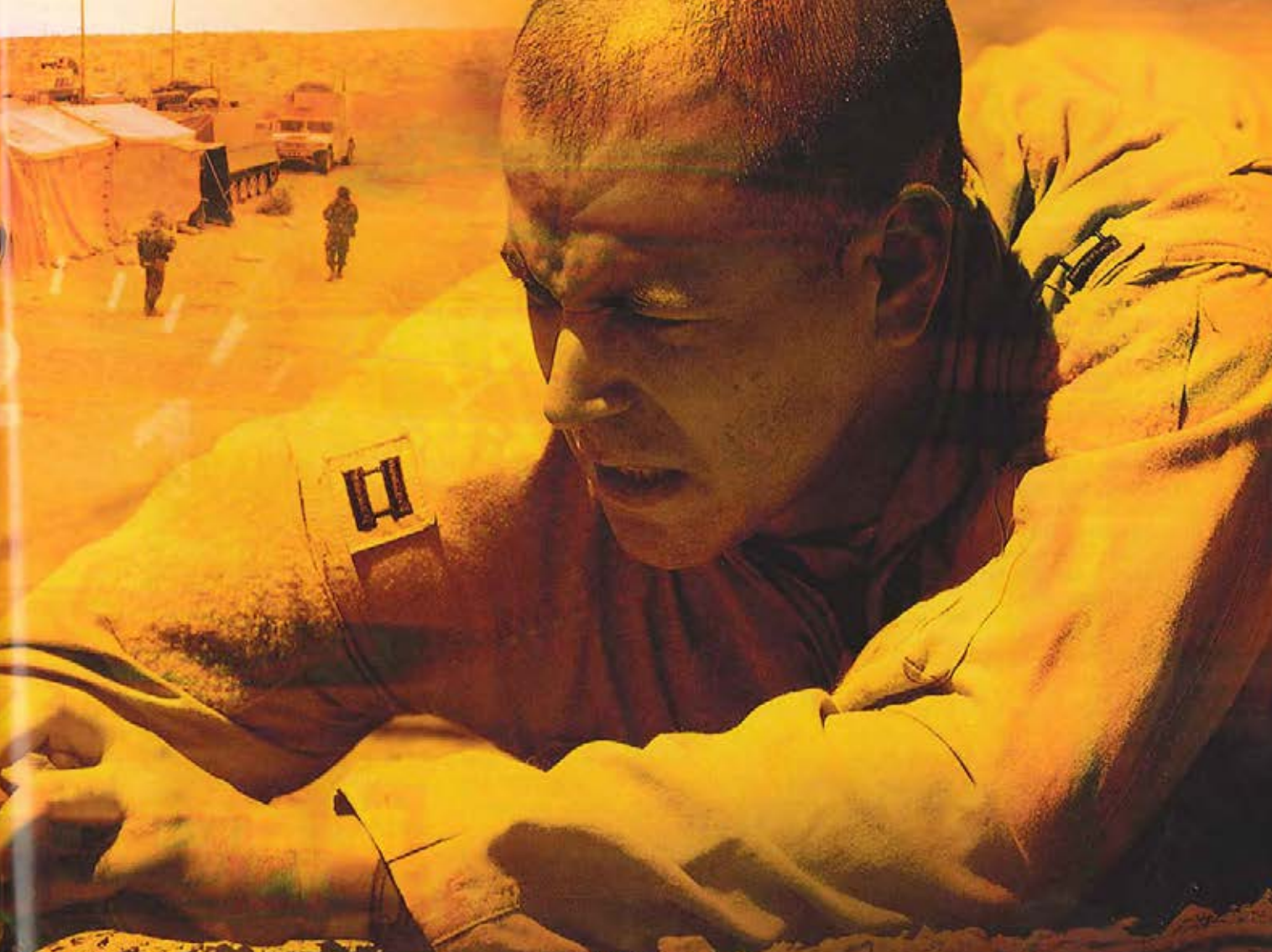
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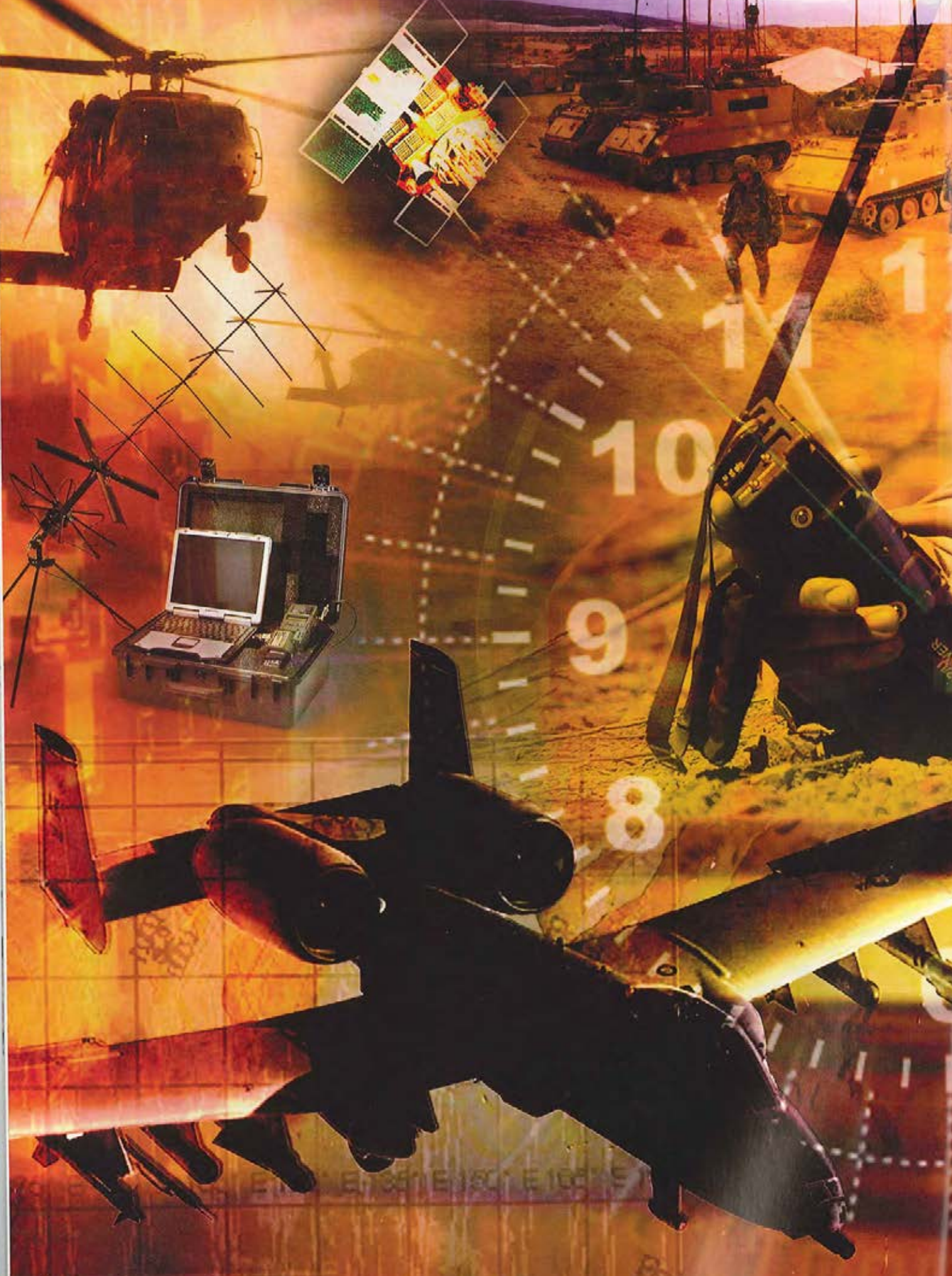
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Progress in Action



The 160th SOAR

By COL Kevin Mangum



Maintenance personnel work on an MH-47 helicopter into the evening hours.

ARMY PHOTO

SPECIAL FOCUS SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION

What a great time to be a Night Stalker! Nearly seven years into the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), business for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) has never been better and demand for our skills and assets never higher.

Our challenges are similar to our conventional force brothers – prepare for combat, deploy, reset, modernize

and transform. However, our task is complicated by the fact that we are executing overlapping iterations of this cycle of tasks simultaneously at regiment level.

We have been deployed and fighting, continuously, at an unprecedented pace since September 2001 and do not foresee any end in sight.

To better support elite special operations forces (SOF), we are modernizing our fleet (fielding new aircraft) and transforming (growing and redistributing) our force.

Executing all of these tasks simultaneously creates competing demands for our people, resources and aircraft.

In order to keep every Night Stalker on azimuth, the regiment's priorities are clearly articulated across the command (in order):

1. Sustain the Fight
2. Modernize the Fleet
3. Transform the Regiment

Sustain the Fight

The regiment's number one priority and primary focus is conducting sustained combat support to U.S. Special Operations Command (USSO COM) forces.

On a typical day, 35 percent of our force is deployed, executing combat or contingency missions. And during a recent surge, we had 50 percent of our force deployed to four different areas of responsibility around the globe.

Based on the distributed nature of the SOF and GWOT fight, the regiment routinely employs six separate command and control (C2) nodes to prosecute the fight.

Manning these dispersed operations and command posts places our low density specialties (flight leads, intel and maintenance Soldiers) in very high demand, driving increased deployment tempo rates.



A pair of MH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and crew train fast rope insertion techniques with special operations forces in Iraq.

ARMY PHOTO



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A 4th Bn. MH-47 Chinook helicopter conducts environmental training at Mount Rainer near their home base of Fort Lewis, Wash.

A critical task, if not *the* critical task, to sustaining the fight, continuously, throughout this era of persistent conflict, is manning the force – attracting, recruiting, assessing and training world class aircrews.

Both operations tempo and operational pace are significant distracters to this effort.

The combination of deployed aircraft and C2 nodes puts an enormous strain on our ability to train and progress a new generation of Night Stalkers.

The 160th is fortunate to possess very senior and experienced aviators as well as non-rated crewmembers (NRCM). These highly trained and seasoned aircrews are what allow the regiment to guarantee precision operations at an unforgiving pace “on target, +/- 30 seconds, anywhere in the world.”

Currently there are 301 warrant officer aviators assigned to the regiment, 104 of whom are master aviators and 90 who have over 20 years of service.

Although having this kind of experience is truly decisive on the battlefield, it does present challenges with respect to maintaining that same level of maturity and competence into the future.

Critical to setting the force for success in the future is graduating enough new crewmembers, our basic mission qualified pilots and NRCMs, from our training company informally known as Green Platoon.

As busy as adjacent combat aviation brigades (CAB) are today, pulling quality officers and Soldiers from those formations is a difficult task and one that we execute with diligent consideration.

To ensure we continue to recruit and assign the very best people for our force *and* to reduce the impact on adjacent formations, we have instituted a couple of significant changes in our recruiting and assessment procedures.

The first is the manner in which our recruiting trips are announced and coordinated.

Prior to a 160th recruiter visiting an installation, I will personally write a letter to the CAB commander outlining the purpose, scope and timing of the visit. Detailed coordination occurs after that initial contact letter because I want to ensure our visits are properly coordinated and scheduled.

In order to accommodate losing units’ desires to hold on to their super stars through their combat deployment and our desire to have combat seasoned crewmembers, I directed a new methodology for scheduling assessment trips for prospective officers. Under this new policy, we will attempt to assess personnel prior to their combat deployment and assign them to regiment upon their return from theater.

Finally, we are implementing an electronic application process where prospective officers can complete their application on-line and their commanders and references can quickly, easily and conveniently provide us the feedback we need.

Modernize the Fleet

While remaining engaged in continuous combat operations, the 160th SOAR(A) balances the competing challenges of simultaneously mod-

ernizing and growing the fleet to meet future SOF demands.

The regiment is currently reducing the number of different series of aircraft from ten versions to three in a process that began in 2002 and is expected to be complete in 2013.

Modernization of the MH/AH-6 began in October 2002 and was completed in September 2006 with the introduction of the MH/AH-6M model. The largest improvement of the MH/AH-6 fleet was an increase in capability at the high end of the gross weight range, translating into additional assaulters and armament that each aircraft can carry.

The modernization of the MH-47 fleet is an ongoing process of replacing the aging and mixed fleet of MH-47D and MH-47E models with the new MH-47G. The MH-47G fielding within the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions began in January 2005 and is expected to be completed by June 2011.

The modernized and rebuilt MH-47G includes all of the features of the MH-47E with the addition of a new cockpit, selected airframe sections and the introduction of the common avionics architecture system (CAAS) using five multi-function displays.

The regiment currently uses three variants of the MH-60, which will begin modernization to the new MH-60M model in 2010 and be complete in 2014.

The three types of MH-60 aircraft in use today are the MH-60K, MH-60L and the MH-60L CAAS Direct Action Penetrator.

New capabilities of the MH-60M will include a larger engine (the 2,500 shaft horsepower YT 706-GE-700 engine), inclusion of the CAAS cockpit, and the next generation electro-optical sensor.

Currently all MH-60 aircraft are capable of aerial refueling, but only the MH-60K can conduct terrain following / terrain avoidance (TF/TA) radar flights. The MH-60M will expand the TF/TA capability to all 72 MH-60 aircraft within the regiment.

In addition to aircraft modernization, the 160th continues seeking emerging technologies to improve the capability and survivability of our aircraft.

Ongoing improvements to existing aviation survivability equipment capabilities include the introduction of the common missile warning system (with 5 sensors) and the suite of integrated



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ARMY PHOTO



Maintenance personnel work on AH/MH-6 Little Bird helicopters in a Night Stalker hangar.

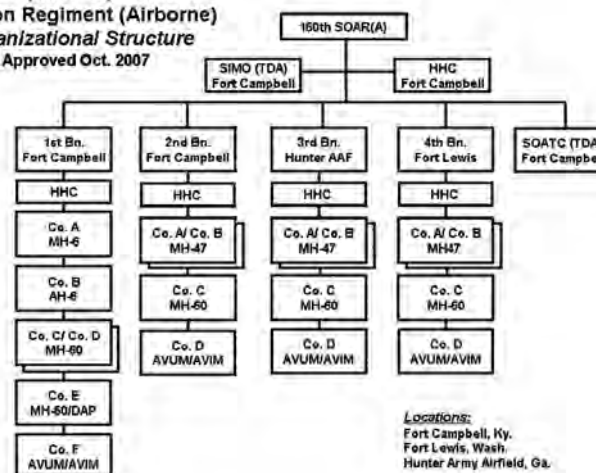
radio frequency countermeasures. Continued improvements will ensure that 160th aircraft remain relevant and can operate anywhere, anytime.

Transform the Regiment

Demand for the capability we provide far exceeds our current capacity to support. The CABs are doing a great job filling the gap in support of SOF missions every day, in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, our capacity for precise, direct assault and direct action capability does not meet the demand. As a result, both USSOCOM and the Army approved growth of the 160th with a new modified table of organization and

160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) Organizational Structure Approved Oct. 2007



The 160th SOAR's new modified table of organization and equipment approved October 2007.

equipment (MTOE) (see Figure 1) that was effective October 2007.

At the end state of our current growth plan, the regiment will have 184 aircraft in its inventory: 51 MH/AH-6M, 61 MH-47G and 72 MH-60M aircraft.

The approved growth also includes an increased crew ratio for both the MH-60 and MH-47 to 1.5, bringing the aircrew authorization to 72 MH-47 crews and 90 MH-60 crews.

In accordance with the new MTOE, the regiment activated a new battalion, providing for a total of four special operations aviation battalions. This new unit was to be strategically located on the West Coast.

In August 2006, the newly formed 4th Bn. (Provisional) began its move and stand-up at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Following an arduous train-up with exercises in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility (AOR) and across the western United States, the battalion deployed within the U.S. Central Command's AOR while still a provisional unit.

The 4th Bn., 160th SOAR(A), officially activated on Dec. 6, 2007. The regiment now sustains operations from three state-side locations: Fort Campbell, Ky., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and Fort Lewis.

We are confident this new force structure will allow Night Stalkers to provide more support to more special operations forces more often.

Conclusion

The regiment remains combat ready – as Night Stalkers have proven every night for the past six and a half years.

Our mission has never been more demanding, yet our Soldiers, civilians, contractors and families rise to the occasion every day to ensure Night Stalkers are on time, on target, anywhere in the world.

It is an absolute honor to be a member of the Army aviation team and part of the most powerful and versatile branch in the Army.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit!



COL Kevin Mangum was the commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), headquartered at Fort Campbell, Ky., when he wrote this. Today Mangum is assigned as the rear division commander for the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, N.Y.

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Night Stalkers Drop a Maintenance on

By MAJ Matthew L. Isaacson and Steve Blasey



ARMY GRAPHIC

SPECIAL FOCUS SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION

Our goal in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) is to end the days of subjective interpretation of maintenance and logistics regulations by developing a system that will provide an accurate, real-time status of both current and projected combat power.

We are on the cusp of fully fielding a system that capitalizes on available technology and maximizes aviation maintenance awareness for Soldiers and their leaders.

A Need for Maintenance Automation Improvements

Aviation Soldiers are accustomed to the tedious documentation requirements of aviation maintenance.

In the expeditionary environment, we need to focus on keeping our aircraft safe and mission-ready more than ever before. Managing an aviation maintenance program successfully is complicated and overly time consuming on a normal day.

With the advent of the electronic logbook automation system and electronic manuals, aviation has taken the

leap into the digital age. Despite dedicated efforts over the years to develop automated logbooks and supply systems, a real-time automated picture of a unit's combat power and maintenance status is not available.

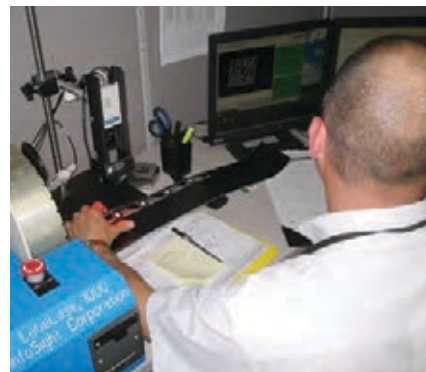
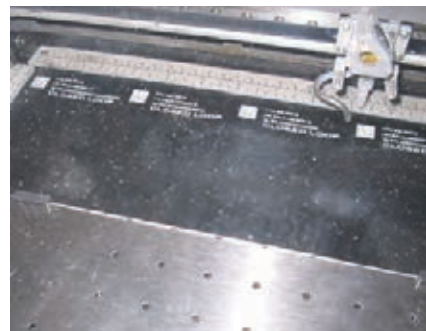
The Army's unit level logistics system-aviation (enhanced), or ULLS-A(E), is an incredible tool for automating our maintenance processes; but is currently limited in its ability to provide proactive management of combat power and fleet-wide management of the unit's maintenance and logistics effort.

DIME History and Methodology

Three years ago, the Regiment's Aviation Maintenance Office began improving maintenance support efficiency and visibility through the use of automation. In an effort to systematically improve each process through automation, we coined the term "DIME" for digitally integrated maintenance environment.

Today, DIME consists of processes linking the Soldier, the machine, unit maintenance and the mission together into one seamless package. While many of these processes are fielded separately, when brought together by DIME, they reduce the Soldier's burden while increasing accuracy and efficiency.

DIME consists of several existing products and simply lets the individual programs do what they do well and ensures all elements work together.



PHOTOS BY MAJ MATTHEW ISAACSON

Based on DOD requirements, the Regiment is marking flight critical aircraft components under the UID Program, allowing accurate management of aviation parts sparing throughout the Regiment and eventually throughout the Army.



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IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE



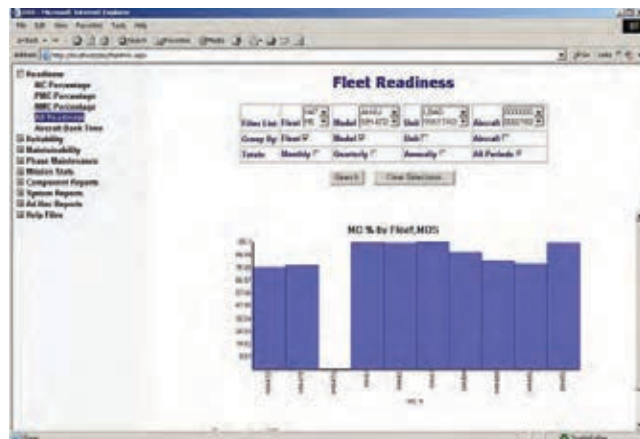
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PHOTOS BY MAJ MATTHEW ISAACSON

The Decision Support System (DSS) data management tool is currently available for maintenance managers to look into fleet maintenance and logistics trends. This is an ideal data management tool for maintenance managers and will become more useful with more real-time data migrations in ULLS-A(E).

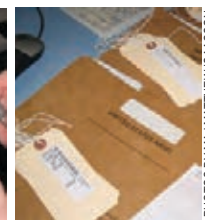
The elements of this digital environment are:

- (1) Maintenance Information Management System.
- (2) Digital Source Collection.
- (3) Real-Time Data Migrations.
- (4) Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals (IETM).
- (5) Automatic Identification Technology (AIT).
- (6) Data Mining.
- (7) Dashboard Information Delivery and Management.

Onboard our aircraft flies the backbone of the condition based maintenance (CBM) system, the health and usage monitoring systems or HUMS. These HUMS, or digital source collection system, continuously monitor hundreds of real-time component condition sensors and electronic built-in tests, and record flight regime recognition data.

Within the Regiment, leaders and managers can capitalize on this data in near real time to determine when it is best to bring an aircraft down for maintenance. In garrison, the maintenance data captured by maintainers and by the aircraft are automatically migrated through a wireless network to key maintenance and supply sections. This wireless network serves as the enabler for all data movements from the aircraft – maintenance, supply, work orders and HUMS – and also serves as the data link for IETMs, historical updates and the HUMS dashboard condition indicator.

The data mining capability for our life-cycle system



PHOTOS BY MAJ MATTHEW ISAACSON



The Regiment is marking other components that will not be in the UID registry with what is known as automated information technology or AIT markings. These are unique labels and associated computer hardware and software that will increase efficiency in logistics management throughout tool rooms, major end item subcomponents, ALSE, etc.



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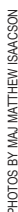


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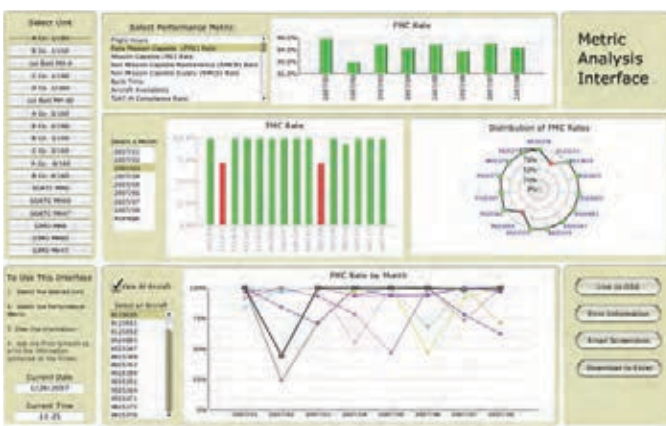


Primary enablers of DIME currently in use within the Department of Defense are the automatic identification technologies (AIT) being exploited by the Joint-AIT Program Office supporting item unique identification,

The key benefit is that a Soldier's pertinent logistical support information exists in one database rather than in many separate ones. For example,

It provides early warning of problem areas prior to reaching a crisis and allows leaders to focus only on those items that need their attention.

Within the coming year, as the DIME becomes fully operational, Night Stalkers will see an increase in



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maintenance capability and efficiency. ALSE, flight gear, tool rooms and other commodity areas will all be linked in one common system.

When a Soldier attends a production control meeting, the issues requiring immediate attention will be presented on a computerized dashboard. The dashboard will always be up-to-date, pushing changes throughout the day.

When the Soldier returns to his work area, he can open a ruggedized laptop running an IETM and updated continuously with the most recent changes.

At the tool room, he will be issued tools by scanning first his CAC (to identify the user) and then the borrowed tool with a handheld reader.

When his maintenance tasks on the flight line are complete, he will enter the required data into the ULLS-A(E) logbook and migrate the data over a wireless connection.

Leaders will see and manage the real effect of changes in maintenance manpower and maintenance assets on bank time at any point in the future.

Bottom line, we will have much greater confidence in the combat readiness of our fleet and our ability to support it.

Summary

In closing, the DIME is a real-time success story. With DIME, there will be one common set of accurate maintenance and logistics data instead of multiple volumes of subjective analyses.

Even while development continues, most elements of DIME are in operation within the unit as we conceptually demonstrated during the 2008 AAAA convention.

The 160th SOAR(A) is actively sharing and developing the DIME and data capitalization concept within the aviation community and looks forward to advancing this concept through open cooperation.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit!



MAJ Matthew L. Isaacson is the regimental aviation maintenance officer and Steve Blasey is the projects lead for the Regiment Aviation Maintenance Office, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Fort Campbell, Ky.



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Eight of the original 40 warrant officers appointed to the Mine Planter Service, here at Fort McPherson, Ga., circa 1922.

The Army Warrant Officer 90 Years of Technical Expertise

By CW5 David P. Welsh, Ret.

Editor's note: This July 22 will mark the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Army warrant officer. Retired CW5 David P. Welsh with the Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation graciously shares this brief history with us.

An act of Congress in 1918 established the Army's Mine Planter Service as part of the Coast Artillery Corps. Implementation of the act by the Army was published in War Department Bulletin 43, dated July 22, 1918.

A total of 40 warrant officers were authorized to serve as masters, mates, chief engineers and assistant engineers on each mine planting vessel.

Although only one rank of warrant officer was authorized by Congress, in effect, three pay rates were created because of the varying levels of pay authorized for masters, 1st mates and 2nd mates, and corresponding levels of marine engineer personnel.

This is also when the official color of the Army Warrant Officer Corps came to be *brown*. The color emanated from the brown strands from burlap bags that the Mine Planter Service personnel wore as their insignia of rank.

The National Defense Act of 1920 provided for warrant officers to serve in clerical, administrative and band leader positions. This act also authorized 1,120 warrant officers to be on active duty. During this time warrant officers were excluded from performing duties from which enlisted personnel were also excluded.

On May 12, 1921, a distinctive insignia was approved for warrant officers. It consisted of an eagle rising with wings displayed, adapted from the great seal of the United States.

The eagle is standing on two arrows, which symbolize the military arts and sciences, and is enclosed within a wreath. Warrant officers of the Tank Corps were the first to wear this new insignia.

In January 1944, the appointment of women as warrant officers was authorized and in March the first six (or seven) female WOs were appointed. Several were band leaders, but others were administrative specialists.

Over the years additional specialties in which warrant officers were appointed increased.

By early 1946, warrant officers were filling some 40 different occupational specialties.

In 1949, the Career Compensation Act brought about two new pay rates for warrant officers. The designations of warrant officer junior grade (WOJG) and chief warrant officer (CWO) were retained, the grade of CWO was provided with pay rates of W2, W3 and W4.

During the 1950s, a study determined a vital need for warrant officers, and proposed that appointment to warrant officer should be based on the needs of the Army and not simply a reward for long and faithful service.

During 1950, approximately 900 warrant officer appointments were made using the 1948 and 1949 lists from competitive examinations.

In 1953, the inception of the warrant officer flight program led to the training of thousands of aviators, who later became helicopter pilots during the Vietnam War. The Warrant Officer Personnel Act of 1954 established warrant officer grades W1 through W4, and officially eliminated the Mine Planter Service.

Over the years, Army warrant officers have served gallantly above and beyond the call of duty. During the Vietnam War, Michael J. Novosel Sr., Lewis R. Rocco, and Frederick Edgar Ferguson were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 1984, an entire new era for warrant officers began when the Army chief of staff chartered The Army Total Warrant Officer Study – the first Army level comprehensive study of warrant officer management across the total Army.

The Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1986 amended Title 10 of the U.S. Code to provide that Army chief warrant officers be appointed by commission. The primary purpose of the legislation was to equalize appointment procedures among the services.

Chief warrant officers of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard had been commissioned for many years.

In 1991, the Warrant Officer Management Act proposal was considered by Congress and it was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1992.

Six key provisions were enacted as signed by President Bush in December 1991, these were as follows:

- A single promotion system for warrant officers.
- Tenure requirements based on years of warrant officer service.

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ARMY GRAPHIC



On May 12, 1921, the "Rising Eagle" became the distinctive insignia of the warrant officers. It consisted of an eagle with wings displayed, standing on two arrows and surrounded within a wreath.

- Establishment of the grade of chief warrant officer five (CW5) with a 5-percent cap on the number of warrant officers on each service's active duty list at any one time.

- Selective mandatory retirement boards for retirement eligible WOs.

From Nov. 24 to Dec. 1, 1991, then-CW3 Thomas J. Hennen made history as the first and only warrant officer astronaut, flying aboard NASA's Orbiter Atlantis as a payload specialist, completing 109 orbits of the Earth.

On July 9, 2004, Army warrant officers were integrated into the branches of their primary occupational special-

ty. They were transferred from management by the separate Warrant Officer Division of the Army Personnel Command, to management by their respective branch of their warrant officer occupational specialty.

The warrant officer Eagle Rising insignia and brown color trim on their dress uniforms were replaced by the branch insignia and colors of their new branch.

According to the Warrant Officer Career Center (as of Sept. 30, 2007), the Army warrant officer cohort was comprised of about 22,000 men and women, serving in 15 branches and 67 occupational specialties on active duty (56 percent), in the Army Guard (32 percent) and the Army Reserve (12 percent).

Army warrant officers today are Soldiers, technical experts, officers and leaders who manage and maintain increasingly complex battlefield systems.

Chief warrant officers are commissioned by the president and have the same legal status as their traditional counterpart commissioned officers.

However, warrant officers remain single-specialty officers whose career track is oriented towards progressing

within their field rather than focusing on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.

There are five grades within the warrant officer corps, with a person initially appointed as a warrant officer (WO1) and then progressing to CW2 after two years.

Competitive promotion to CW3, CW4 and CW5 occur at approximately 6-year intervals for Aviation warrant officers, and 5-year intervals for those in technical specialties.

Warrant officers enhance the Army's ability to defend our national interests, and to fight and win our nation's wars. They are serving in the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve in Iraq, Afghanistan, around the world, and at home in support of our Army and defense of our National Values.

For more history visit the Warrant Officer Heritage Net online at www.usawoa.org/WOHERITAGE/.



Retired CW5 David P. Welsh is the president and chief operating officer of the Warrant Officers Heritage Foundation, Herndon, Va. He is the author of "WARRANT: The Legacy of Leadership as a Warrant Officer."

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Transforming Aviation Support Battalion Maintenance Times Have Changed

By MAJ Rogers L. Stinson Jr.



This 100,000 square foot hangar at the Baghdad International Airport once housed Iraq Airways jets and Saddam Hussein's personal aircraft. Today, the hangar is used by Co. B, 603rd ASB, and L-3 civilian contract maintenance teams to conduct scheduled repairs and phase maintenance inspections on Black Hawk, Longbow and Chinook helicopters.



ARMY PHOTOS BY MSG STEVE OPET

L-3 Vertex civilian contractor mechanics are a part of the maintenance team supporting phase inspections and repairs with 603rd Avn. Spt. Bn. at the Baghdad International Airport. Here, civilian members work on the aft rotor system on a CH-47D Chinook helicopter.

Top of the morning! It's 0630 and the sun has just risen over the horizon east of the Baghdad International Airport in Iraq.

The sound of a pneumatic rivet gun rings throughout the 100,000 square foot hangar used by Co. B, 603rd Avn. Spt. Bn. The hangar had once housed Iraq Airways jets, as well as Saddam Hussein's personal plane.

A CH-47D Chinook sits parked in the first bay by the door undergoing its 400-hour phase maintenance inspection led by a team of L-3 Vertex civilian contractors.

Parked on the opposite end of the

hangar sits an AH-64D Longbow in the process of tear-down as the staff sergeant phase team leader prepares for a 500-hour maintenance inspection.

Several other aircraft – Black Hawks, Longbows and Chinooks – sit in their assigned maintenance bays, all in various stages of their scheduled inspections, some led by Army “green” maintenance teams and others by entirely L-3 civilian contract “blue” maintenance teams.

Each phase inspection follows its respective P4T3 plan (problem, people, parts, place, tools, time and training) and is tracked hourly throughout the process.

During garrison operations back at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., the line battalion's executed all of their own phase maintenance inspections, relying on Co. B as a pass-back capability when resources required them to do so. Now Co. B is the sole provider of the phase maintenance in the 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde.

Each deployment presents unique challenges that demand units consider all aspect of the mission, enemy, time, terrain, troops and civilians available (METT-TC) when developing courses of action.

Formerly known as the aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) company, Co. B became the 3rd

CAB's aviation support company and aircraft maintenance lifeline throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) V-VI from May 2007 to August 2008.

During this combat rotation, Co. B experienced remarkable successes – consequently the brigade flew in excess of 100,000 combat hours in support of the Multi-National Division-Center.

The Old Days

Under traditional aviation maintenance operations and guided by Field Manual 1-500 *Army Aviation Maintenance Operations*, before 9/11 happened, the aviation unit maintenance (AVUM) company or Co. D exe-



CH-47D aircraft mechanic PFC Thomas J. Nash, left, and phase team leader SPC Ruben D. Frias, both with Co. B, inspect the drive shaft on a Chinook helicopter.

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ARMY PHOTO BY MSG STEVE OPET

SGT Edmund Brock, an AH-64D aircraft mechanic performs service checks on the tail rotor assembly section of a Longbow attack helicopter.

cuted scheduled maintenance commonly known as “phase maintenance” while the AVIM performed phase maintenance on assigned operational readiness float aircraft and the unscheduled “pass-back” maintenance support upon request from AVUM units.

FM 1-500 has since been superseded by FM 3-04.500, and now the AVUM company is doctrinally referred to as aviation maintenance companies (AMC) while the AVIM company is now the aviation support company (ASC).

Doctrinally, the AMC still performs the same functions they did as the AVUM company (scheduled and unscheduled maintenance), while the ASC focuses on AVIM and pass-back AVUM. When the operational tempo (optempo) dictates, line units request back-up support from the AVIM to perform unit-level maintenance.

Each battalion’s AMC executes phase maintenance planning, often with civilian augmentation (both in garrison and combat) and with assistance from the assigned ASC.

Since the pre-deployment phase of OIF V-VI, the 3rd CAB has experienced a monumental shift in the role of the ASC. In the old days of the Cold War era, the AVIM company was assigned to the division support command under the aviation support battalion (ASB) or assigned to the corps as a separate company.

Modularity has reshaped the command relationship and eliminated layers of command while streamlining the planning, preparation and execution processes linking Army aviation and its maintenance lifeline. Under modularity, the ASB is now organic to the CAB.

Today's Fight

Field Manual (interim) 4-90.23 has replaced FM 62-23 as the doctrinal publication for ASB operations.

Prior to OIF V-VI, Co. B served in pass-back capacity and executed scheduled maintenance when the AMCs required assistance.

Since Co. B presented their concept of support to the 3rd CAB com-

mander at home station at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., Co. B’s primary mission was to perform all scheduled maintenance for the CAB and execute pass-back to the AMC when maintenance support requirements exceed the ASC capabilities.

Although this is “doctrinal,” it’s a shift from the traditional method of employing the AVIM companies.

FMI 4-90.23 states, “During fast moving or combat operations, phase inspections / maintenance may have to be done at the ASB / intermediate staging base or even out of country. When the AMCs are entirely absorbed with unscheduled maintenance, recovery, and high optempo, phase or progressive phase maintenance inspections may have to be done entirely by the ASB with augmentation of contractors.”

In order to establish a clear understanding for planning purposes, we defined “scheduled” to be anything greater than a 500-hour inspection on an AH-64D, greater than 200-hour inspection on CH-47D and UH-60A/L phase maintenance inspections 1 or 2.

Each AMC performed all inspections less than the previously described phase intervals. This also allowed each AMC to focus primarily on launch and recovery, and unscheduled maintenance.

The essence of our phase maintenance program was the P4T3 concept developed by then LTC Richard Cody, who is today the Army’s vice chief of staff.

Deliberate planning and anticipat-



ed requirements ensured our aviation maintainers successfully met the demands of 3rd CAB's intense flying hour program.

As of April 14 (at 12 out of 15 months in theater) we completed 157 phases, averaging 13 per month for all airframes (UH-60A/L, CH-47D and AH64D).

While the production control section directed the overall effort, the sheer number of phases performed was a combination of using either the green or blue phase teams, and at times combining blue and green phase teams (about 320 Soldiers and 148 civilian contractors).

Almost immediately upon our arrival at the international airport, L3 contract maintenance personnel performed scheduled maintenance while our Soldiers received our equipment and set up command and control nodes and work areas.

If it had not been for civilian contract maintainers augmenting our company, we would have faced significant challenges during the occupation phase of the deployment.

Recipe for Success

The creed "leadership, standards and discipline" was the cornerstone of our operation, according to LTC William D. McGarrity, 603d ASB commander.

Our aircraft maintenance officers and noncommissioned officers executed superbly, asserting leadership at the decisive points during operations to sustain maximum combat power.



ARMY PHOTO BY MSG STEVE OPET

SPC Joseph A. Volz, an aircraft mechanic with Co. B, 603rd ASB, performs a pre-flight check on one of the 701C engines of an AH-64D Longbow attack helicopter.

Standards across all maintenance operations, regardless if military or contract teams, remain an essential ingredient in the quality maintenance the aviation battalions expect and deserve from their combat support units. There should be no distinction in the quality of maintenance by Soldiers or civilians.

The axiom "training is maintenance; maintenance is training" applied during our deployment. Every procedure was a training event and an opportunity to improve. We exercised discipline in our maintenance practices and at times, raised the standard.

Developing, capturing and sustaining effective maintenance practices to facilitate safe and efficient maintenance were all vital to our success.

Commanders had to know they were getting a quality product...for the air crews who pilot the aircraft, as well as

the Soldiers they support, deserved it.

It's a Technique

This article illustrates one technique for deploying an ASB to a combat environment, but is not the only means for success.

Our employment of the 603rd ASB in Iraq proved successful; however, each unit must consider METT-TC and determine the appropriate course of action given their resources.

In the end, our greatest resource and center of gravity was our talented and dedicated Soldiers. They are truly the ones who made it happen.



MAJ Rogers L. Stinson Jr. is the Co. B commander with the 603rd Avn. Spt. Bn., 3rd Cbt. Avn. Bde, currently serving in Iraq in support of the 2007 troop surge. His unit is scheduled to return in August.



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Ready to Respond At Home and Abroad

The 2008 Army National Guard Aviation Leaders Conference



By LTC Patrick Weber

More than 200 Army National Guard aviation leaders from across the country gathered in April for the annual ARNG Aviation Leaders Conference (AALC) at the Gaylord National Conference Center in National Harbor, Md.

The attendees included each of the state ARNG aviation officers (SAAO), the combat aviation brigade commanders, senior warrant officers and senior aviation NCOs, as well as

representatives from the Guard aviation training sites and the theater aviation sustainment maintenance groups.

Representatives from Army's Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker, the ARNG Aviation and Safety Division, and the Guard and National Guard Bureau (NGB) staffs provided informational briefings to the attendees.

The AALC had a dual purpose and this year's theme "Ready to Respond—At Home and Abroad" drove the agenda with presenters offering infor-

BG Alberto Jimenez, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, gives an update on Guard aviation missions to conference attendees.



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC JIN JOHNSON

mation and guidance on building and maintaining readiness for both domestic events and wartime requirements.

The second purpose of the conference gave us an opportunity to honor the 36th Cbt. Avn. Bde. (Texas ARNG), selected as AAAA's 2007 Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year.

To open the conference and prior to his comments, BG Alberto Jimenez, the special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, promoted COL Garrett Jensen, chief of the Aviation and Safety Division with the ARNG Readiness Center, in front of the gathered senior attendees.

COL Jensen followed with remarks that set the tone for the rest of the AALC that it was a "roll up your sleeves" working conference.

Additional briefers presented information on the mobilization strategy for the upcoming year, as well as lessons learned, to ensure success during pre-mobilization and throughout mobilization station training.

One highlight was a warfighter panel moderated by COL Roy "Clay" Brock, the 34th CAB commander (Minn. ARNG).

As the next Guard CAB commander to deploy, Brock led the discussion with representatives from the 36th CAB, including their S3 and many of its battalion commanders.

The shared lessons learned and the sage advice will assist currently mobilizing units in excelling at their mission. The panelists covered mobilization issues and shared their experience on tactics, techniques and procedures refined through a year in combat, as well as the standing operating procedures they used.



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BG Alberto Jimenez, special assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, promotes COL Garrett Jensen, with the assistance of Jensen's wife CPT Lydia Jensen.

Attendees used the opportunity to pick the panel's brains on issues across the mobilization and deployment spectrum affecting readiness. As a result, everyone received many salient pointers to ensure their future mobilization success.

In the session focusing on Homeland Defense and Security missions, the presentation on the Security and Support Battalion organization and doctrine led the way.

COL Bill Carle, chief of the NGB Counterdrug Division, spoke on ARNG aviation support to the counter-drug fight.

COL Mitchell Medigovich and COL Robert Harington, the respective SAAOs for California and Nevada, gave a first hand account of aviation's response and assistance to the 2007 California wildfires.

COL Louis H. Jordan, commander of Arizona's Task Force Raven, and LTC Mark Weiss, TF Raven's operations officer, rounded out the session with a presentation on "Operation Jump Start" and Guard aviation operations within Arizona.

Overall the professional sessions proved to be very productive with cogent discussions on support to the ARNG Defense Support to Civil Authorities mission.

The attendees received further briefings throughout the AALC on subjects such as manpower and authorization documents, individual training, and aviation personnel management.

These breakout sessions followed the general briefings with detailed working groups focused on issues ranging from national level and overseas exercise support, to hurricane preparedness, to new equipment fielding challenges.

Other distinguished briefers included: COL Neil Thurgood, the project



COL Garrett Jensen, right, presents MG David Rataczak with the MG Francis S. Greenlief Award for his contributions to Army aviation.

manager for Utility Helicopters; COL Robert Mitchell, the deputy director of MEDEVAC Proponency; Roger Yates, director of Policy, Plans and Programs for the Army's Aeronautical Services Agency; Al Abejon, the program manager for Blue Force Tracker; and BG Stephen Mundt, the director of Army Aviation with the G3/5/7 – all presenting information to assist in focusing and refining ARNG aviation operations.

Other general officers joining the AALC included MG Fred Rees, the Adjutant General of Oregon, who chaired a panel including BG

Terry Council, the assistant AG of Oklahoma, on the subject of operational employment of Guard aviation.

Also, COL Jensen was proud to present MG David Rataczak, the AG of Arizona, with a *MG Francis S. Greenlief Award for Aviation Excellence* for his contributions to Guard aviation.

There is no doubt that this conference presented information which will enhance the readiness of ARNG Aviation. Participants overwhelmingly provided positive comments on the content and productivity of the conference and left with many tasks to complete within their own formations.

Thanks to the aviation Soldiers from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia who provided outstanding support.

The 2008 AALC mission was met, the 36th CAB received multiple honors, and National Guard aviation is clearly better prepared and ready to respond at home and abroad.



LTC Pat Weber is the branch chief for Aviation Operations and Training for the Aviation and Safety Division, Army National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, Va.

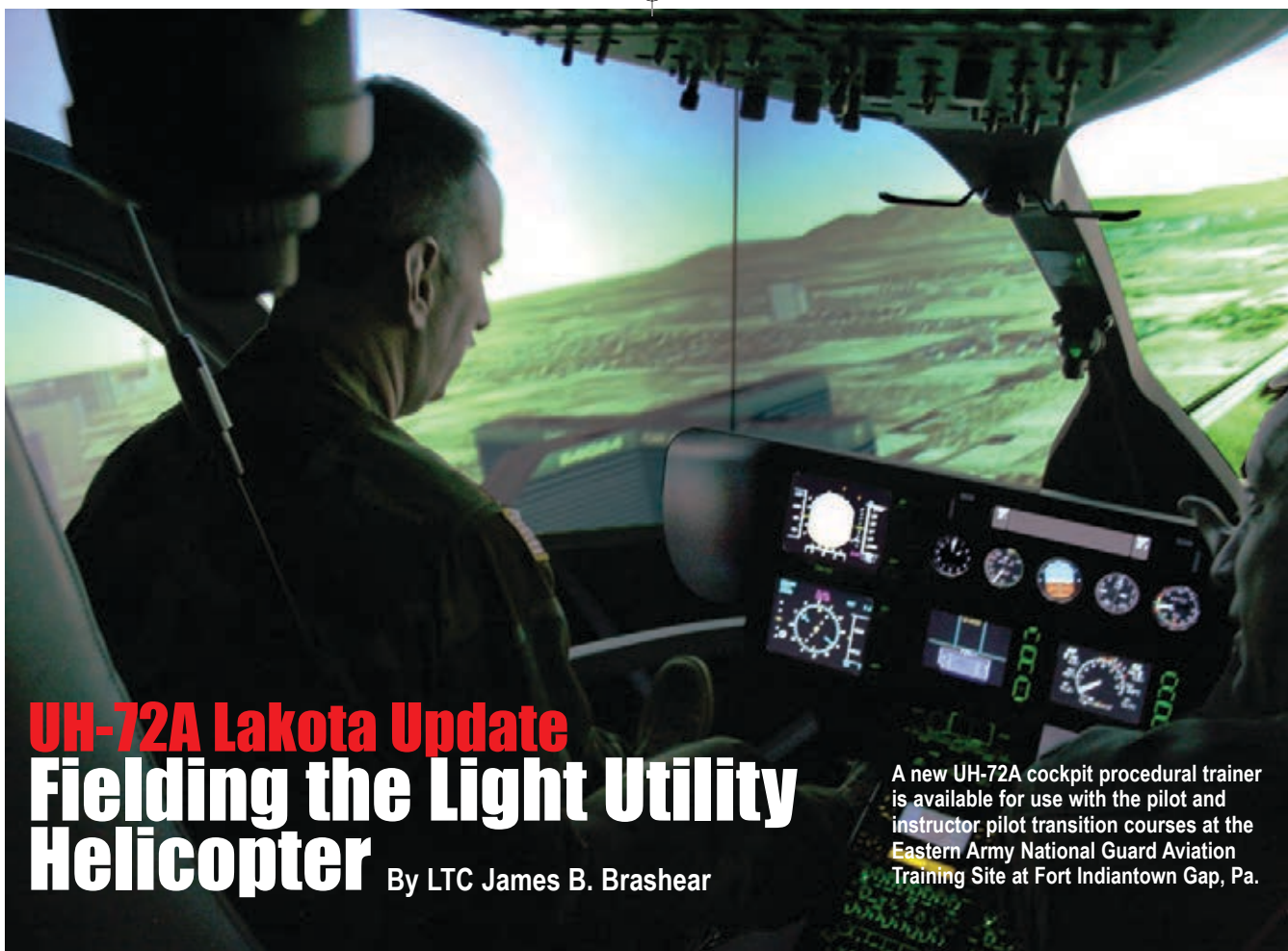


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UH-72A Lakota Update Fielding the Light Utility Helicopter

By LTC James B. Brashear

A new UH-72A cockpit procedural trainer is available for use with the pilot and instructor pilot transition courses at the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

EADS/NA PHOTO BY JESSE DRAKE

Army aviation's new UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopter (LUH) continues to break fresh ground as an affordable, operationally effective and immediately useful aircraft to expedite the replacement of the OH-58A/C Kiowa and UH-1 legacy aircraft.

The LUH program has two distinguishing elements: rapid introduction of a commercially available aircraft; and, the life-cycle positive implications of adhering to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certifications to ensure all aircraft and sub-system configurations remain commercially equivalent.

The immediate benefit of FAA certification allows the Army to participate in the global parts pool eliminating the need and cost for separate and unique Army spares stockage.

To retain FAA certification, the aircraft must be produced, operated, maintained and when required, modified in accordance with FAA standards and practices.

The Lakota program functions under the concept of a centralized flying hour program and centralized configuration management.

The funding for spares and maintenance support is provided to the LUH

product manager and placed on a single contract supporting each unit.

The LUH product office verifies the monthly flight hours and fully mission capable (FMC) rate and provides payment for hours flown to the contractor under a performance based logistics construct.

This check-and-balance system ensures the Army accurately forecasts the flying hours and ensures the operationally available rate is met each month.

The funding for petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) is provided to the units by the Department of the Army through the major commands.

Aircraft configurations are controlled by the Army staff through the director of Army Aviation with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (G-3/5/7).

The G-3 Army Aviation office ensures aircraft modifications include expected changes to the cost of sustainment, fielding schedules and the overall fleet capability.

When the aircraft are placed on contract, the fielding schedule and the configuration for each aircraft is conveyed to the prime contractor to facilitate support when the aircraft are fielded.



UH-72A fieldings are on schedule. Already in service, one of the Joint Readiness Training Center's Lakota aircraft flies a support mission at Fort Polk, La. ARMY PHOTO

Full Rate Production

The LUH program was competitively selected and awarded a firm fixed price contract to EADS North America with nine option years.

Each fiscal year options are exercised in the 1st quarter that reflects the aircraft quantities and desired configurations.

The program is now well into the 3rd option year and all cost, schedule



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The LUH program was approved for full rate production Aug. 23, 2007. Here UH-72A aircraft are in final assembly at EADS North America's production facility in Columbus, Miss.

and performance metrics are being met.

The Army executed its 3rd year option Dec. 12, 2007 for the purchase of 43 more Lakotas, bringing the total program buy to 85 aircraft.

The program is a remarkable acquisition story in that only 14 months elapsed from the Milestone C decision (for the low rate initiate production) until the Army Acquisition Executive approved the full rate production (FRP) buy on Aug. 23, 2007.

Entry into FRP was supported by a well planned and executed production readiness assessment, and production has gradually stepped up since the first aircraft was delivered.

The Army received one aircraft per month from Nov. 2006 until Aug. 2007, and received two aircraft per month from last September through April.

The deliveries have increased to three per month since May. The rate of future deliveries is dependent on the

number of aircraft placed on contract.

The Army contract permits the procurement of up to 53 aircraft in FY08 and 55 aircraft per year thereafter.

Each aircraft is delivered in either a "standard" utility or a MEDEVAC configuration.

Additionally, the Army has ap-48 proved four mission equipment packages (MEP) to satisfy capabilities requested by the user community.

These MEP configurations (under development) are tailored for the security and support battalion, combat training centers (opposing force and observer-controller), and VIP missions.

Changes to the Army approved configurations require organizations or units to submit an operational needs statement in accordance with Army Regulations 71-9.

Upon approval, the Army Staff work groups will translate the needs statements into specifications, contracts and logistics support.

New Cockpit Procedural Trainer

The Army took delivery of the first UH-72A cockpit procedural trainer (CPT) April 18 at the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site (EAATS), Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

This modern training device exactly replicates the flight controls, instrumentation, avionics, circuit breakers and switches in the Lakota's cockpit.

The CPT is a non-motion device, but does provide cockpit visuals that simulate aircraft flight and allows pilots to train aircraft start-up, shut-down, and all ground and flight emergency procedures – which enhances training and reduces the requirement for aircraft flight time in the pilot and instructor pilot transition courses.

There is no requirement for an external operator or support crew, as the device can be controlled either from the cockpit or from an operator's console inside the trainer.

The system can be operated continuously with no scheduled services or planned down time.

In the event of an unscheduled maintenance issue, the system is repaired by the original manufacturer as part of the contract logistics support agreement covering the maintenance. The UH-72A CPT is designed to minimize operations and sustainment costs.

FAA Aircraft Maintenance

The UH-72A will be maintained in accordance with FAA policies and procedures.

The Army National Guard will maintain its fleet using a "hybrid" maintenance concept in which selected military personnel performing maintenance will be FAA certified airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanics.

Unique to the active Army, Guard Soldiers must be certified A&P mechanics to complete services on LUH aircraft.

To ensure units are adequately staffed, the Aviation and Safety Division of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the LUH Product Office are designing a partnership to support civilian school training requirements for the A&P certification.

Unit commanders are responsible for identifying personnel that meet the maintenance training and experience requirements for FAA A&P certification.

Candidates meeting requirements must have their credentials verified by an FAA inspector from the regional Flight Standards District Office that supports the area where the unit is located.

Each applicant for an airframe or powerplant mechanic rating has to meet one of two criteria.

They either have to have at least 18 months of practical experience with the procedures, practices, materials, tools, machine tools and equipment generally used in constructing, maintaining or altering airframes or powerplants appropriate to the rating sought.

A second option is at least 30 months of practical experience concurrently performing the duties appropriate to both the airframe and powerplant ratings.

Following verification, the unit commander submits a request for training and testing support for the candidate to the NGB Aviation & Safety Div.

Once approved, the candidate attends classes and completes testing requirements at an FAA approved testing center.

The LUH Product Office funds this A&P certification program, including the tuition, testing fees and travel expenses for the candidates; but A&P trained and certified mechanics must be placed against a UH-72A personnel authorization.

The program has now produced 10 certificated A&P mechanics from two UH-72A units.

Summary

Acquisition of the LUH has been astounding with regard to the timeliness and cost effectiveness.

The achievement is primarily due to communication and cooperation between the combat development, materiel development and test communities and the Army Staff.

The LUH Team anticipates continued success as we increase production, incorporate modifications, train Soldiers, and field to the designated Army units stateside and overseas.

LTC James B. Brashear is the product manager for the UH-72A Lakota light utility helicopter program, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The "Soldier-Maintainer"

What's in a name? It's always good to understand what we are talking about!

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¹Encarta Dictionary, English No. America

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Family Support Drives Achievement of AAAA Aviation Awardees

Freedom Team Salute Commendations Honor Parents and Spouses

By David Thompson

During the 2008 AAAA National Convention in April at the Gaylord National Convention Center, the Army's Freedom Team Salute program took the opportunity to recognize and honor the family members of the AAAA 2007 National Aviation Award winners.

The following vignettes highlight the support, sacrifices and love of the spouses and parents of the awardees.

Clifford Richmond Sr. and Linda Richmond

Retired CW5 Clifford J. Richmond III, from Fort Shafter, Hawaii, was recognized as this year's Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year.

Richmond gives the credit for his success to his wife and father, and honored them with Freedom Team Salute (FTS) commendations at this year's AAAA Convention.



Retired CW5 Clifford J. Richmond III, center, with his father Clifford and his wife Linda Richmond.

According to Richmond, his father **Clifford Richmond Sr.** set the example and gave him the core values growing up that continue to serve him well today.

"Dad worked two jobs for over 40 years in the same two machine shops—five days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and until noon on Saturdays – and never complained," Richmond said. He said besides work ethic and loyalty, his father defines integrity and morality.

Richmond says his wife **Linda** has also played a major role in his career.

During training exercises and even more so during deployments, it is left to the spouse to be both mother and father, to get the kids off to school, help with homework, bandage their bruises, clean the house, keep up with the yard, pay bills, change the oil, rotate the tires, provide security at night, and write to the deployed spouse – often expecting only sporadic replies.

Richmond says his wife has done it all and still remains his strongest supporter and champion.



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Winner of the 2008 Joseph A. Cribbins Product Symposium Award



Yulia Smith with her husband CPT Sean Smith and MG Virgil L. Packett II, commanding general of the Army Aviation Warfighting Center.

Yulia Smith

CPT Sean T. Smith with Co. A, 1st Bn., 82nd Avn. Regt., at Fort Bragg, N.C., earned AAAA's prestigious designation as the 2007 Michael J. Novosel Army Aviator of the Year. As a platoon leader in an attack recon battalion, Smith participated in over 150 direct-fire engagements, personally eliminating more than 200 enemy troops while deployed with Task Force Wolfpack in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Smith said if anyone should receive an FTS commendation, it must be his wife **Yulia**. "Yulia's sup-

port and presence was essential throughout the unit field training at Fort Hood, prior to my deployment to Iraq," Smith said.

He added that while deployed, being able to call home and talk with his wife was always a morale booster and on redeployment, Yulia made re-integration surprisingly easy. "On a daily basis, her support makes my life easier which allows me to focus on my job."

He said they met thanks to the Army, and because of that, Yulia has always carried a positive attitude and outlook that makes his work easier.

Sherri Judd

CW4 Johnny W. Judd received this year's James McClellan Aviation Safety Award from AAAA. He distinguished himself as the safety officer of the 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., enabling his unit to conduct over 4,000 combat missions, flying more than 27,000 combat hours without a single Class A accident in Iraq.

During the battle of Najaf in January 2007, he remained on station to protect his downed wingman despite having two of his aircraft weapons systems rendered inoperable – being awarded the Air Medal for Valor.



AAAA President MG (Ret.) James Snider, with CW4 Johnny and Sherri Judd, and MG Virgil Packett.

Judd believes his wife **Sherri** makes the difference in his desire to excel and recognized her with an FTS commendation.

"Sherri has been a constant strong and loving wife through 24 years of active military service," he said and adding that an Army wife is the toughest job in the Army.

He reveres Sherri for being a patriotic spouse who provides him with unmatched inspiration through her selfless service, sacrifice and dedication to the extended family – the Army community.

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Parents James and Jenny Haynes join their son SGT Corey Haynes on stage during the FTS certificate presentations.

James and Jenny Haynes

SGT Corey Haynes received the Crew Chief of the Year Award from AAAA. Haynes, of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., served with distinction as a UH-60L crew chief flying 800 combat hours with TF Diamond Head during a 15 month deployment in support of OIF from 2006 to 2008.

Haynes said how he carries himself in battle and his overall conduct as a Soldier goes back to his mother and father, **Jenny** and **James Haynes**.

"My parents raised me to always do the very best that I can do in everything," he said.

"I have been in the Army for about five years, most of the time overseas or at war. The most comforting thought I have is knowing how much love and support I can always count on from my mom and dad. That's why I wanted them to receive an FTS commendation."

He believes the simplicity of glancing at a picture of the ones you love after returning from a long day's mission in combat was always a quick reminder of why you put it all on the line as a Soldier each day.

"Even though I am usually more than eight thousand miles away from home, my parents are always there for me, regardless if I call at 0300 on a Monday morning and interrupt their sleep."

Zaida Vega-Torres

AAAA's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year is SGT William Vega-Rondon, an AH-64D Longbow crew chief who exemplifies the Army values of selfless service and duty.

Vega was the senior crew chief of two Soldiers responsible for two attack helicopters in Iraq from 2006 to 2008.

On June 23, 2007, Vega demonstrated personal courage and selfless service after an enemy indirect fire attack extensively damaged seven of the



Zaida I. Vega-Torres is recognized for her support of her husband SGT William Vega-Rondon.

unit's eight aircraft. Despite the risk of follow-on attacks, Vega was one of the first Soldiers to reach the flight line, taking charge. His leadership over the next 48 hours was exceptional.

Vega said his strength comes from his wife **Zaida Vega-Torres** and therefore, sought recognition for her through FTS. "Spiritually, Zaida always kept me in her prayers and made sure I never lost sight of the most important things in life," he said, "My wife was my rock and she made sure anything I needed was put into a care package and mailed to me." Vega said Zaida was always there when he called and needed someone to talk to and that she always maintained a positive outlook and kept his spirits high.

"In my absence, she cared for our children—playing the role of father and mother. All the while, she made sure that the children knew how hard dad was working to help keep their world safe."

Honor Your Loved Ones

Through a simple process, Freedom Team Salute allows all Soldiers to recognize their parents, spouses and employers (of Guard and Reserve Soldiers) with a commendation thanking them for the value they bring to the Army family. The program also allows anyone to honor an Army veteran for his or her service to the nation – no matter where or when he or she served, or for how long.

The process is quick and easy, simply fill out the online form at the program's Web site: www.freedomteamsalute.com.



David Thompson is the media relations manager for the Army's Freedom Team Salute Program based in Alexandria, Va.

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AAAA Spouses' Corner

2008 AAAA Convention

Family Readiness Panel Highlights

By Judy Konitzer

At the 2008 AAAA Convention, I was privileged to chair the Family Readiness Panel and be joined by four distinguished panelists.

Here are highlights from their presentations during the panel.

Sheila Casey

Sheila Casey is the wife of Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey Jr. She reminded everyone that, "These seven years of war have made perfectly clear to civilian and service members alike, that the strength of our Army depends on the strength of its service members and the strength of its families."

"You recruit the Soldier, but you retain the family," she said, "We know too well that if our family members are not ready, then our service members cannot remain ready."

Her philosophy is "the strength of our families depends on achieving balance in personal, professional, and military life. With so many demands being placed on each of us, taking care of ourselves, physically, spiritually, and emotionally is critical."

The choices that you and your spouse make about managing expectations that you have placed on yourself, and those expectations that people have placed upon you, are a matter of personal choice. To achieve balance, they only have to work for you and your family."

Casey stressed not neglecting the most important things in our lives. "Carving out a piece of time daily to communicate with our spouse is a way to take care of ourselves emotionally." She reminded us, however, that our families are very committed, and morale in general is good; but communication is more difficult because of the deployments – adding to the stress and strain on all.

Accomplished in her career, Casey is the chief operating officer of "The Hill" newspaper in Washington, D.C., which reports on the Congress.

Skeptics along her road have voiced that she'd not be able to balance her

career with the responsibilities of being a "senior military spouse." She acknowledges it hasn't always been easy.

It has forced her to pick and choose the important things and those that are most meaningful to her; for example: traveling with her husband worldwide to meet with families, to determine their needs firsthand in their surroundings (Army Family Covenant has evolved from this endeavor). When traveling, her laptop and Blackberry keep her abreast of office responsibilities.

She reported good news that the Army budget has allocated \$1.4 billion in 2008 and \$1.7 billion in 2009 for improving existing or implementing new family programs. Congress is "family friendly," and local communities are supportive or at least looking for avenues to get involved, she said.

In her closing, Casey thanked everyone for "...everything you have done and will continue to do, this is such important work!"

BG Alberto J. Jimenez

BG Alberto Jimenez is the special assistant to the Director of the Army National Guard in Arlington, Va.

He shared his experience as a young Soldier returning from the Vietnam War with the panel attendees. "I was 21 years old, our nation told us to go to war – but our nation was not at war," he said. "I never saw a flag or a ribbon to welcome us home."

As Citizen-Soldiers with a commitment to the Army, their employers and their families; those serving in the Guard today support state and federal missions in four key areas: homeland security, catastrophic events, traditional warfare and the Global War on Terrorism. No longer is there enough time for all, when they serve in one of these four areas everyday.

By 2004-2005, Guard retention numbers were shrinking; but today, with an increase in educating the family, the numbers are over 357,000.

"In those early years," Jimenez said, "my parents and my wife didn't



Sheila Casey



BG Alberto Jimenez



COL Elspeth Ritchie



Dr. Larry Moehnke

ARMY PHOTOS BY REINE BIDEZ

even know what the Army was. We have learned our lessons and are trying everything humanly possible to incorporate into our construct everything a family needs to know."

Jimenez thanked the Army leadership for their "...unprecedented support to making all the programs work, and their commitment to helping all Soldiers and families regardless of their component."

The *Yellow Ribbon Program* – an instructional program for pre-deployment, during deployment, and reintegration – was initiated in Minnesota when the 1st Bde. Cbt. Team of the 34th Inf. Div. was extended in Iraq for the surge. This extension caused tremendous turmoil, especially for employers and self-employed Soldiers. Every state has now adapted this program to meet their needs.

With family readiness groups, virtual readiness Web sites and hot lines; no Soldier or family should ever be without someplace or someone to turn to when they need help.

Jimenez acknowledged, "From time to time and with the massive numbers and areas we are dealing with, something could fall thru the proverbial 'crack'." If there is no response locally, the national number to call is 800-343-6701

Dr. Larry W. Moehnke

Dr. Larry Moehnke is the chief of staff for the Military Child Education

Coalition, a non-profit organization established in 1997 in Harker Heights, Texas, to serve all military children from each branch of the military services, to include the Guard and Reserve.

"Everything the MCEC does is for the sake of the child and therefore the family benefits," Moehnke said. He also explained, "'Living in the New Normal' is MCEC's latest initiative helping children deal with deployments and grief."

Another program "Tell Me a Story" was created to empower military children through literature and their own stories. Currently TMAS events are being planned at installations nationwide. Moehnke encouraged participants to become involved, allowing MCEC to continue making a difference.

A review of MCEC programs is in the March/April issue of ARMY AVIATION. Call (254) 953-1923 or visit www.militarychild.org.

COL Elspeth Ritchie

COL Elspeth Ritchie is a psychiatry consultant to the Army's Surgeon General Office in Falls Church, Va.

She briefed that all wars produce some type of psychological reaction, but today more attention is being given to the mental needs of our Soldiers and their families. Ritchie acknowledged, "We are not able to meet all these needs, but we are getting there."

Mental Health Advisory Teams have been in theater five times, and with support from Army leaders and Congress, changes are occurring and progress is being made. The MHAT studies show that repeated exposure was stressing the force, depicting the need to increase dwell times, and 15 months in theatre was too long. It also showed that PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) is a normal reaction to combat and we need to recognize it early.

Ritchie reported that mental health professionals are adequate in theater and providing immediate care in forward operating areas. The goal is to provide intervention and treatment in a timely manner in order to get the Soldier back on the job.

Ritchie reported a shortage of mental health professionals in our country; and the hiring of 275 professionals to backfill military system vacancies has been slow (170 hired to date).

Work was ongoing to encourage providers to become TRICARE providers, as many have been unwilling to accept it. "Training the Soldier in a variety of forms, from basic to "battlemind," reintegration, and materials on the Web, etc., is a success story," Ritchie said.

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A Special Thank You

MSG John Clyons, (above & below far left), served in the U.S. Army from February 1943 to February 1946. Currently, John has been the official supplier of AAAA memorabilia for over 30 years.

AAAA Executive Director, Bill Harris (near left), recently discovered that John had actually been in flight training with L4

Cubs during the war until all prior ground force troops were washed out and returned to the ground forces for D-Day. John was initially assigned to the 86th Infantry Division prior to flight school at the University of Tennessee. He was assigned to the 86th Armored (Black Hawk) Division after flight school and participated in the invasion of Germany.

At AAAA Headquarters in April this year and as a token of the Association's appreciation, Bill recently surprised John with a presentation of a WWII era M1 carbine from the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) similar to the one John carried in the war.

Thanks John for all your service to the nation and AAAA! ❖

Training family members and extended families—to include girlfriends, fiancées, grandparents, siblings, etc. — and providing treatment if necessary, especially for children, is the challenge.

All families need to know who they can talk to if they are concerned about their Soldier, whether deployed or at home station. Sometimes a family member notifies their congressman about a problem, and by then it is too late to provide immediate and effective care. A high risk group is the "warrior in transition" and their families, and Ritchie is proud of the programs initiated for this group.

At the headquarters level, "we have a variety of programs, but if at anytime the system isn't working, we need to identify it," she said.

ADVD of the FRG panel presentation is available from the AAAA National Office, email your request to aaaa@quad-a.org or call (203) 268-2450.



Judy Konitzer is the family readiness editor for ARMY AVIATION; questions and suggestions can be directed to her at judy@quad-a.org.

Industry News

And Announcements Related to Army Aviation Matters

Editor's note: Companies can send their Army Aviation related news releases and information to editor@quad-a.org.



PHOTO BY GREG L. DAVIS

ARH Moves to Production Line

The ARH-70A armed reconnaissance helicopter recently surpassed 1,200 flight hours in April and the production line is warming-up with the expected delivery in May of the first aircraft cabin to **Bell Helicopter's** Army production and delivery facility in Fort Worth. Testing continues at Bell's XworX facility by a joint test team lead by the Army's Aviation Technical Test Center. Lot 1 will produce 10 aircraft as part of the initial low rate production. "We continue to execute our program with the backing from our customer and their confidence in us," said Bob Ellithorpe, Bell/Textron's executive director for the ARH program.

AATD Contracts Enhanced Rotor Blade

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., announced May 20 an agreement with the Army's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate to develop a new enhanced helicopter rotor blade. Under the \$11.4 million contract, Sikorsky will research and provide a solution that increases rotor blade life in erosive environments, provides a reliable and maintainable ice protection system, and includes an improved methodology for assessing and repairing battle damage. The 42-month program could yield significant cost savings as well.



BOEING COMPANY PHOTO

A160T Hummingbird Flies for 18 Hours

The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Mo., successfully flew its A160T Hummingbird unmanned rotorcraft for 18.7 hours. The flight at the Army's Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona began May 14 at 8:55 p.m. and ended when the A160T landed with a 90 minute fuel reserve May 15 at 3:36 p.m. The turbine-powered aircraft carried a 300-pound internal payload at altitudes up to 15,000 feet. Boeing suffered an earlier setback to the A160T program when a Hummingbird crashed Dec. 10 near their Victorville test facility in California. Boeing claims an unofficial world record for UAV endurance in the 500 to 2,500 kilograms weight category.

Guard KWs Enter Safety Program

Bell Helicopter, Fort Worth, Texas, began modifications May 16 to the first of 27 OH-58D aircraft that are entering as part of Lot 11 of the Kiowa Warrior Safety Enhancement Program. The program includes upgrades to improve engines and computer control systems to keep the helicopter safe and mission effective until it is retired. The \$30 million contract awarded April 30 calls for 3 aircraft to be completed in 2008, and the remaining 24 KWs to be delivered in 2009. All aircraft are from the 1st Sqdn., 230th Cav. Regt, Tenn. National Guard.

ITT Receives Helo Protection Contract

The Army's Special Operations Command Technology Applications Program Office awarded **ITT Electronic Systems**, White Plains, N.Y., a \$57.2 million contract on May 1 for full rate production of the AN/ALQ-211(V)6 self-protection system for the MH-47 helicopter. Under the contract, 25 systems with spares and lay-in material will be delivered to the 160th Spec. Opns. Avn. Regt.

Northrop Gets Radar Payload Contract

The Army Communication-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command awarded the **Northrop Grumman Corp.**, El Segundo, Calif., a \$42 million contract April 28 to provide its multi-functional, lightweight STARlite synthetic aperture radar and ground moving target indicator sensors for the MQ-1C Sky Warrior and MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned aircraft system programs. Under the terms of the initial contract, NGC will deliver 10 STARlite systems.

Army I-GNATs Achieve 10,000 Hours

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., San Diego, Calif., announced April 7 two Army Sky Warrior unmanned aircraft systems have each reached record 10,000 flight hour milestones. The extended range aircraft, I-GNAT AI-001 and AI-1005, each achieved the 10K records within days of each other while performing combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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ARMY AVIATION Magazine is in the process of preparing our annual Blue Book Directory of Army Aviation related units, offices and organizations for the August/September 2008 issue.

We print key leader photographs in color. We request current color photos of commanders and senior NCOs from units at Battalion level and higher, and from senior or key individuals in charge of non-tactical major organizations or offices. Photos will be published subject to space availability.

Please respond whether or not your listing has no changes.

Deadline is July 11, 2008

Additional Information can be found on-line at www.quad-a.org/BlueBook.htm.

Industry News *Continued from page 57*

Army Completes 2nd New CH-47F Fielding

The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Mo., reported April 7 they have completed fielding of the new CH-47F model Chinook helicopter to a second Army unit. Company B of the 2nd Bn., 4th Avn. Regt., 4th Cbt. Avn. Bde. at Fort Hood, Texas, is operational with 12 of the heavy lift aircraft.

LM Awarded Follow-on Contracts

The Army awarded **Lockheed Martin** of Orlando, Fla., a \$172 million follow-on production contract April 7 for the "Arrowhead" target acquisition designation sight and pilot night vision sensor (TADS/PNVIS) for the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters. The Lot 5 agreement authorizes production of 126 Arrowhead kits and/or equivalent unit spares and ground support equipment. In addition, LM received a performance based logistics follow-on contract April 9 to support the TADS/PNVIS systems, including spares planning, procurement, repairs, maintenance, modifications and inventory management of fielded systems. The contract has a potential value of \$76.6M for 2008.

MEDEVAC Hawks Get FLIRS

FLIR Systems, Inc., Portland, Ore; announced April 17 it has received a contract award for its Star SAFIRE class stabilized, multi-sensor systems to be used on Army HH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters. Deliveries will begin in July and be completed by the end of the year.

Army Awards Rucker Flight Training Contract

URS Corp., San Francisco, announced April 29 that the company's EG&G Division was selected again by the Army to support the Rotary Wing Flight Training Services program at Fort Rucker, Ala. Under the terms of this re-compete \$240 million 5-year contract, URS will train all Army and U.S. Air Force undergraduate rotary wing students.

Contracts -- (From various sources. An "*" by a company name indicates a small business contract)

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, San Diego, Calif., was awarded May 19 a \$5M contract for development and demonstration for the extended range/multi-purpose unmanned aircraft systems.

AAI Corp., Hunt Valley, Md., was awarded May 8 a \$45.3M contract for two Shadow unmanned aircraft systems and associated support equipment. Deliveries are expected by May 15, 2010.

Honeywell International of Phoenix, Ariz., was awarded May 6 a \$48.9M contract for engine and maintenance support for the T55-GA-714A engines and components used on the MH-47G helicopters. Work will be performed in Greer, S.C., and will end by Dec. 31, 2012.

Astronautic of America, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., was awarded April 30 a \$5.8M contract for attitude indicators for the CH-47 helicopter. Contract is to be completed by Sept. 30, 2013.

AAI Corp., Hunt Valley, Md., was awarded April 30 a \$14.5M contract for contractor logistics support on one system remote video terminal and mobile directional antenna system. Work will be performed in Hunt Valley, Md., and is expected to be completed by Apr. 30, 2009.

Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., Hurst, Texas, was awarded April 30 a \$30.3M contract for supplies and services for application of safety enhancement lot program into the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aircraft. Work will be performed in Hurst, Texas, and is expected to be completed by Feb. 28, 2010.

Telford Aviation Inc., Bangor, Maine, was awarded April 30 a \$26.3M contract for continued multi-sensor airborne reconnaissance surveillance system support. Work will be performed in Iraq and Afghanistan and is expected to be completed by Jan. 31, 2009.

Kipper Tool Co., Gainesville, Ga., was awarded April 24 a \$9.8M contract for aviation maintenance armament and electrical shop set. Work will be performed in Gainesville, Ga., and end by April 30, 2011.

AAI Corp., Hunt Valley, Md., was awarded April 15 a \$127.5 contract for the full rate production buy for 14 Shadow unmanned aircraft systems and associated support equipment. Work is to be completed by March 15, 2010.

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, San Diego, Calif., was awarded April 14 a \$38.4M contract for the acquisition of 8 extended range multi-purpose quick reaction capability unmanned aircraft systems and assorted support equipment. Work is to be complete by May 15, 2009.

AVIATION GENERAL OFFICERS



ARMY PHOTO BY MOLLIE MILLER

Simmons Retires

MG Virgil L. Packett II, Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker commanding general, hosted a ceremony May 9 to honor and bid farewell to retiring **MG James E. Simmons** at the Army Aviation Museum in Alabama. Simmons returned in March from Operation Iraqi Freedom after serving nearly five years as the deputy commanding general of the III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, and as the deputy commander of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq since July 2003. LTG Raymond Odierno, commanding general of the III Corps, joined Packett to present the Distinguished Service Medal to Simmons for his 24 years of outstanding service to the nation, along with congratulatory letters from President George Bush and Army Chief of Staff GEN George Casey. Simmons also served as the director of Army Safety and was the commanding general on the Army Safety Center from July 2001 until June 2003.



PHOTO BY MAJ DARREN COX

NGB Honors Mundt with Eagle Award

During a May 13 retirement dinner in Alexandria, Va., members of the Army National Guard Bureau Headquarters took an opportunity to thank retiring **BG Stephen D. Mundt**, the director of Army Aviation on the Army Staff for his service and support of ARNG aviation.

COL Garrett Jensen, chief of the NGB's Aviation and Safety Division, and his deputy chief Robert Godwin, presented the Guard's "Eagle Award" (also known as the "Chief's Award") to Mundt for his superior achievement and support of the Guard. Mundt made significant contributions to the equipment modernization, modular reorganization, and improved readiness of the Army National Guard Aviation force from 2003 to 2008. The ARNG benefited from over 500 recapitalized aircraft and new aircraft procurements, including the UH-72A light utility helicopter, AH-64D Longbows, and the RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aircraft systems. Within the next year the Guard will field the new UH-60M assault and HH-60M MEDEVAC helicopters and the C-27J Spartan cargo aircraft. Above, Jensen applauds as Godwin, right, presents Mundt with the "Eagle."

CHANGES OF COMMAND



ARMY PHOTO

Night Stalkers Get New Commander

COL Clayton M. Hutmacher accepted responsibility for the 160th Special Ops. Avn. Regt. (Abn.) from outgoing commander **COL Kevin W. Mangum** during a May 27 ceremony at Fort Campbell, Ky. Hutmacher most recently commanded the 1st Bn. of the 160th SOAR(A) and has served in various special operations assignments spanning the past 19 years. This is his third tour with the regiment. Mangum was recently nominated by President Bush for promotion to brigadier general and is now assigned as the rear division commander for the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum, N.Y. Above, Hutmacher, left, receives the 160th SOAR colors from LTG Robert W. Wagner, Army Special Operations Command commanding general, as Mangum, right, observes.

The following changes of command recently occurred at the U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, Ala.



AAPI PHOTO BY JAMES BULLINGER

COL James S. McGhee relinquished command May 30 of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory to **COL Joseph F. McKeon**. McKeon previously served as the operations director at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center and was the aviation medicine consultant to the Surgeon General. McGhee retires after 27 years of service and plans to reside in Enterprise, Ala. Above, McKeon, left, accepts the USAARL guidon from COL Jonathan Jaffin, deputy commander of the Army's Medical Research and Materiel Command.

LTC Thomas J. Trossen relinquished command June 11 of the 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt. (Air Traffic Services), to **LTC Garry L. Thompson**. Thompson previously served as the chief of current operations for Operations Team 3 with the National Airborne Operations Center at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Trossen is now the executive officer of the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group at Fort Rucker.

LTC Lawrence H. Madkins III relinquished command June 17 of the 1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt., to **LTC Shawn T. Prickett**. Prickett previously served as the deputy director of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization with Aviation Warfighting Center. Madkins is now serving with the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Baghdad, Iraq.

COMBAT AWARDS



ARMY PHOTO BY SFC JEFFREY LEDESMA

Posthumous Silver Stars Awarded

The parents of two former Longbow Apache pilots accepted posthumous Silver Star medals, the nation's third-highest combat award for valor, on behalf of their sons killed in combat. **CPT Mark T. Resh**, 28, of Fogelsville, Pa., and **CW3 Cornell C. Chao**, 36, of Orange City, Calif., died Jan. 28, 2007, of injuries when their helicopter crashed after being shot down by hostile fire while supporting combat operations.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

near Najaf, Iraq. BG Vincent Brooks, center, 1st Cav. Div. commanding general, presented the posthumous awards March 26 to Chao's stepfather Glen Crowl and mother Jasmine Crowl, pictured on the left, and to Resh's parents Charlie and Carol Resh, pictured on the right. Resh was with HHC and Chao was with Co. B, 4th Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde., at Cooper Army Airfield, Fort Hood, Texas.

AWARDS & HONORS



ARMY PHOTO BY SGT. NATHAN J. J. HOSKINS

Cavalrymen Earn Spurs

"Cold Steel" Soldiers from the **615th Avn. Spt. Bn.**, 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div., proudly hold up their gold spurs after their combat spurs ceremony March 8 at Fort Hood, Texas. The 615th ASB recently returned from a 15-month deployment to Iraq, providing logistic services and support to U.S. and coalition forces. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6008 of Hewitt sponsored the spur ceremony for the cavalrymen, as well as supported the 615th ASB while deployed with phone cards and care packages. Cold Steel pumped nearly 6 million gallons of fuel and its Co. F was AAAA's top Air Traffic Control Unit of the Year for 2007.



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC BROOKS FLETCHER

Alaska MEDEVAC Awarded

An aeromedical evacuation company from Fort Wainwright was honored April 5 during a conference held in Fairbanks, Alaska. Members of **Co. C, 1st Bn., 52nd Avn. Regt.** were presented with the 2008 Service of the Year award during the 14th Annual Emergency Medical Service Symposium held by the Interior Region EMS Council, Inc., at the Princess Riverside Lodge. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a first responder above and beyond their normal responsibilities. Over the

year, Co. C Soldiers responded to a wide variety of emergencies, providing critical support to ground and air ambulance services, rescue squads and mass casualty incidences. They are the only medical helicopter service capable of responding to recreational emergencies throughout interior Alaska. Here, Co. C members pose with Scott Learned, chairman, and Daniel Johnson, executive director of the Interior Region EMS Council.



COURTESY PHOTO

KATUSA of the Year

SGT Park Soo Hyun was named as the Korean augmentee to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) of the Year March 21 and presented with a framed trophy at Camp Eagle near Wonju, Korea. LTC Cory Mendenhall, left, and CSM Richard Santos, senior leaders of the 1st Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., honored Hyun for his overall outstanding duty performance during the past year. AAAA's Morning Calm Chapter helps to sponsor this award.

SPOTLIGHT



NASA PHOTO

Army Astronaut Named to ISS Mission

NASA and its international partners announced May 13 the assignment of two crew members to the Expedition 20 International Space Station mission. Army astronaut **COL Timothy J. Creamer** and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Soichi Noguchi will launch on a Soyuz spacecraft in Russia in November 2009. Creamer makes his first trip into space;

Noguchi is a returning space veteran. Both men will join the Expedition 20 mission in progress and remain aboard the ISS for six months as flight engineers, with Creamer also serving as a science officer. Expedition 20 continues the assembly of the ISS, as well as outfitting it with spare parts and supplies. The other members of Expedition 20 have yet to be named. Army astronaut **COL Douglas H. Wheelock** was named as one of the backup crew members.

PROMOTION SELECTIONS

The FY08 Chief Warrant Officer 5 selection board results for the Aviation and Technician career fields were released May 1. AAAA congratulates the following 92 officers.

AVIATION

| SEQ# | NAME |
|------|------------------------|
| 26 | Apple, Michael K. |
| 11 | Armstrong, Mark W. |
| *91 | Ashworth, Olin R. * |
| 13 | Beck, Glenn A. + |
| 63 | Beidler, Max K. |
| 58 | Bissett, Wayne M. * |
| 70 | Blank, John J. |
| 62 | Bridgforth, Joseph |
| 53 | Burpee, Paul T. |
| 31 | Campbell, Clare L. |
| 16 | Cash, Guy William J. * |
| 46 | Chandler, James E. * |
| 71 | Clark, Thomas E. |
| 76 | Cook, James P. |
| 86 | Crager, Derrick H. |
| 78 | Cross, Ralph H. |
| 23 | Cuthbert, Michael E. |
| 84 | Day, Todd J. |
| 19 | Degolyer, Troy A. + |
| 54 | Dewey, Delmar D. |
| 87 | Dodson, Donald A. |
| 30 | Dodson, Gregory A. |
| 36 | Dowling, John M. |
| 49 | Etter, Kevin A. |
| 28 | Feathers, Timothy J. |
| 29 | Ferguson, Michael W. |
| 72 | Ferrell, Ralph E. * |
| 32 | Finley, Rex A. |
| 18 | French, Timothy J. |
| 5 | Galbraith, Gary C. |
| 9 | Gilpin, Sean F. * |
| 47 | Godfrey, Allen R. * |
| 51 | Gollmyer, Alan J. |
| 67 | Greenlund, Dwight L. |
| 85 | Gregg, Richard J. * |
| 15 | Gribensk, Arthur J. * |
| 1 | Gugliotta, Samuel J. * |
| 55 | Ham, William E. |
| 37 | Harder, Michael S. |
| 88 | Hardy, Michael W. |
| 64 | Haslett, Bryan J. |
| 42 | Hayes, Jarrod D. |
| *92 | Henry, Leslie S. |
| 41 | Hood, James O. * |
| 12 | Israel, James M. * |
| 44 | Johanson, Arthur L. * |



PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 45 | Jones, John W. * | 50 | Bartling, Scott A. |
| 80 | Kilgore, Steven E. * | 76 | Bell, Fred Jr |
| 24 | Kim, In Yeoul * | 65 | Betts, Guy H. |
| 66 | Klupenger, Britt T. * | 40 | Biddulph, Kenneth G. |
| 21 | Knigge, Michael K. | 31 | Bielau, Marcus O. * |
| 22 | Kuhr, Paul E. | 23 | Bilardi, Kristin D. |
| 81 | Lane, Jon M. + | 52 | Binkowski, Edward S. |
| 83 | Larson, Christian A. | 19 | Bohlken, Patrick M. |
| 48 | Larson, Todd A. + | 112 | Boise, Thomas B. |
| 20 | Legaspi, James E. * | 95 | Bowen, Barry P. |
| 43 | Logwood, Clinton G. * | 107 | Boyer, Charles R. |
| 68 | Macdonald, John W. | 32 | Brown, Gary P. |
| *90 | Mack, Alan C. | 62 | Bryant, Paul K. |
| 34 | McFadden, Brian K. | 114 | Buchanan, William G. |
| 35 | McKinstry, Ronald J. * | 115 | Bules, Brandon M. |
| *93 | McLendon, William S. | 47 | Burton, James P. |
| 33 | Messersmith, David * | 111 | Chance, Earnest T. |
| 77 | Miller, Charles A. * | 97 | Chudy, Frank A. |
| 74 | Morse, Kenneth S. | 44 | Cook, Kevin J. |
| 79 | Nistico, Anthony C. | 88 | Crownover, Jeffery * |
| 65 | Pacwa, Dale V. | 118 | Doig, David R. |
| 56 | Parks, Keven R. | 12 | Dombi, Michael J. |
| 10 | Patterson, Brian C. | 4 | Dotson, Johnell C. |
| 60 | Phillabaum, John E. | 39 | Draper, David R. |
| 27 | Phillips, Alan D. | 9 | Drozd, Leanne R. |
| 40 | Redmond, Timothy G. | 80 | Duffany, Jason H. |
| 52 | Schweikart, Bobbie * | 105 | Dunn, Ronald L. |
| 3 | Sebren, Bobby C. | 86 | Dye, Gary W. |
| 14 | Sinkfield, Andre L. | 49 | Escalanti, Curtis L. |
| 39 | Smith, Joel D. | 38 | Evans, Kenneth W. |
| 61 | Sorensen, Melvin J. | 36 | Fauth, Jason A. |
| 38 | Stoner, Brian K. | 64 | Fenner, Chad C. |
| 2 | Taylor, Mark H. | 22 | Fernandez, Joseph A. |
| 69 | Terry, David W. * | 100 | Garcia, Emanuel L. * |
| 25 | Toribio, Leonel D. | 37 | Gaudette, Eric J. |
| 75 | Tucker, Michael W. | 55 | Gehres, Shawn E. |
| 8 | Twigg, Brian K. | 66 | Geisler, Christopher |
| 17 | Walker, Christopher | 110 | Gladden, Jeffrey L. |
| 73 | Wallace, Charles N. | 14 | Graham, Timothy P. * |
| 4 | Walters, Bruce J. | 54 | Gray, Joni N. |
| 6 | Wells, Jeffrey M. | 69 | Haase, Steven A. |
| 7 | Wheeler, Craig S. | 2 | Harris, Randall S. |
| 59 | Wiggins, Charles C. | 77 | Hastings, Matthew D. * |
| 89 | Wilson, John D. | 72 | Hathaway, Steven T. * |
| 57 | Wright, James J. | 82 | Herrera, Scott L. |
| * Below the Zone | | 27 | Hopkins, Michael J. |
| | | 99 | Houston, Terry R. |
| | | 8 | Hurda, Richard G. |

TECHNICAL

8 Broxterman, Mark

The FY08 Chief Warrant Officer 4 selection board results for the Aviation and Technician career fields were released May 1. AAAA congratulates the following 136 officers.

AVIATION

91 Ashe, Christopher L.
106 Barr, Peter E.
71 Barry, Brian D.

46 Lund, Daniel K.
103 Lyons, David A.
43 Martin, Tyler J.
94 Marvin, Robert A.
3 McCarthy, Timothy P.
98 McCormick, Sean C.
68 McGettigan, Bobette
96 McGurk, Patrick J.
15 McIntosh, Marc S.
109 Menold, Thaddeus A.
16 Mestre, Mark C.
24 Miller, Thomas A.
7 Montgomery, Jerry J.
84 Moore, Scott E. *
48 Morales, Julio
102 Moroschak, Joseph S.
93 Mosman, Thomas M.
104 Mucci, Brian L.
45 Napoli, Stephen S. *
75 Nichols, Rickey L.
1 Norquist, John S.
101 O'Donnell, Todd M.
74 O'Neal, James D.
30 Palomarez, John H.
90 Perrier, Kyle J.
18 Pool, John E.
73 Poole, John F.
10 Pukis, Martin C.
61 Risler, James L.
92 Robb, Eric T.
83 Senefeld, Robert W.
85 Shetler, Paul C.
33 Siegrist, Glenn P.
78 Siler, Michael J.
119 Sizemore, D.
28 Skaar, Steven R. *
5 Smith, Robert E.
79 Sorrell, Trina L.
20 Stanford, Gerald E.
21 Teegarden, Malia S.
108 Tucker, Scott A.
25 Tulley, Sean P.
42 Turinsky, Frank A.
89 Umstead, Brian K.
113 Wagner, Robert M.
26 Walker, Edward P.
117 Ward, Graham
116 Webb, Chris A.
57 Wellinghurst, Matthew
70 Wiggins, Trevell L.
51 Wiley, Dorothy A.
34 Wilson, Christopher *
67 Wilson, Louis N.
81 Woodall, Jeffrey C.
59 Wuensche, John A.

TECHNICAL

348 Beatty, Brett C.
176 Butler, Michael L.
9 Coffman, Martin D.
185 Daniels, Jonathan H. *
350 Dunning, Willie D.
262 Frazier, James C.
150 Garza, Carlos Jr
358 Haseltine, Charles
218 Hernandezayala, Gerald
105 Hochheimer, Alexander
10 Johnston, Geret J.

45 Kavanagh, Jamie A.
170 Leikam, Charles E.
180 Powell, Norville N.
46 Russell, Steven N. *
151 Ware, David A.
207 Williams, Kimberly

COMMAND SELECTIONS

The FY09 Army competitive category principals Colonel command and key billet selection list results were released April 10. AAAA congratulates the following 12 officers.

D02R-Cbt Arms- Strategic Spt
COL Gehler, Christopher
JTF Bravo (Honduras)

DV0P-Avn Operations

LTC Almeida, Pedro G. +
10th CAB (Drum)
LTC Gayler, William K. *
101st CAB (Campbell)
LTC Muth, Frank M. *
159th CAB (Campbell)
LTC Reist, Paul K. *
1st ID CAB (Riley)
COL Viola, James A. +
Task Force 49 (Alaska)
COL Williams, Daniel E. *
4th ID CAB (Hood)

DV0R-Avn Strategic Spt

COL Lamb Morgan M. *
21st Cav Bde (Hood)

DV0T-Avn Training

LTC Biland, Kenneth J. *
1st Avn Bde (Rucker)
LTC Stinger, Russell *
110th Avn Bde (Rucker)

DV6T-Avn Maint Training

COL Reeves, Terence W. *
Avn Log School (Eustis)

Z01X-Installation

LTC Kilroy, Patrick J.
USAG Humphreys (Korea)

The FY09 Army competitive category principals Lt. Colonel command and key billet selection list results were released April 10. AAAA congratulates the following 42 officers.

AV0R-Avn Strategic Spt

MAJ Gordon, Richard H. *
3rd Bn, 58th Avn ATC (Giebelstadt)
LTC Moore, Thomas G. *
1st Bn, 58th Avn ATC (Rucker)

* = AAAA Member
+ = Life Member

MAJ Vanweelden, Doug. *
12th Avn Bn (Belvoir)
LTC Watson, Richard G.
214th Avn Bn (Mannheim)

AV0T-Avn Training

LTC Ash, Mikael R. *
1st Bn, 145th Avn (Rucker)
MAJ Burns Michael F. III *
1st Bn, 212th Avn (Rucker)
MAJ Halverson, Scott J. *
Unslated Principal
MAJ Matthew, Joseph C. *
1st Bn, 223rd Avn (Rucker)

AV1P-Recon/Attack (AH-64) Opns

MAJ Bowery, Charles R. +
1st Bn, 4th Avn (Hood)
MAJ Brockhard, Douglas *
4th Sqdn, 3rd ACR (Hood)
MAJ Cyrulik, John M. *
1st Bn, 82nd Avn (Bragg)
MAJ Hosie, Michael P. *
1st Bn, 2nd Avn (Korea)
MAJ Hynes, Roderick *
3rd Bn, 101st Avn (Campbell)
MAJ Thompson, Jeffery
4th Bn, 4th Avn (Hood)

AV2P-Recon/Attack (OH-58D) Opns

MAJ Cheeks, Jeffery
1st Sqdn, 17th Cav (Bragg)
MAJ Klaus, Jay F. *
Unslated Principal
MAJ McCurry, Michael
6th Sqdn, 17th Cav (Alaska)
MAJ Taylor, William D. +
2nd Sqdn, 17th Cav (Campbell)
MAJ Voneschenbach, Th. *
3rd Sqdn, 17th Cav (Drum)

AV3P-Avn Assault (UH-60) Opns

MAJ Albus, Christopher *
4th Bn, 101st Avn (Campbell)
MAJ Hines, Kelly E. *
2nd Bn, 25th Avn (Hawaii)
MAJ Kline, John D. *
5th Bn, 101st Avn (Campbell)
MAJ Lukow, Ronald G. *
3rd Bn, 4th Avn (Hood)
MAJ Wagen, Carey M. *
2nd Bn, 82nd Avn (Bragg)
MAJ Wendt, Lars A. *
2nd Bn, 10th Avn (Drum)

AV4P-Avn Gen Spt (UH60/CH47) & Spec Msn (MH60/MH47) Ops

MAJ Gerblich, Darren S. *
7th Bn, 101st Avn (Campbell)

MAJ Herrera, Salome *
1st Bn, 228th Avn (Honduras)
MAJ Howe, Robert F. MS *
5th Bn, 158th Avn (Illeshim)
MAJ Keepers, Kirk E.
3rd Bn, 160 SOAR (Hunter AAF)
MAJ McKernan, Dennis +
3rd Bn, 10th Avn (Drum)
MAJ Ninness, T. Bradley *
6th Bn, 101st Avn (Campbell)
MAJ Rude, Erik G. MS
3rd Bn, 2nd Avn (Korea)

AV5P-Aerial Exploitation Opns

MAJ Brucker, Todd E.
204th MI Bn. (Bliss)
MAJ Colbrook, Mark A.
224th MI Bn. (Hunter AAF)
MAJ Levine, Mark S.
3rd MI Bn. (Korea)

AV5T-Aerial Exploitation Training

MAJ Jones, Monroe C. +
305th MI Bn. (Huachuca)

AV6P-Avn Maintenance Opns

MAJ Ferguson, William
96th ASB (Campbell)
MAJ Hopkins, Woodard *
Unslated Principal
MAJ Kliethermes, Ken. *
412th ASB (Katterbach)
LTC Rigole, Julius A. *
602nd ASB (Korea)
MAJ Smith, John L.
563rd ASB (Campbell)
LTC Stiller, Albert H. *
277th ASB (Drum)

MS = Medical Service Corps

GRADUATIONS

U.S. Military Academy Aviation Graduates

AAAA congratulates the new Aviation second lieutenants of the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2008. Of the 965 cadets graduating May 26 at West Point, N.Y., 95 are commissioned in the branch.

David R. Addams
Andrea L. Alexander
James R. Antonides
Justin L. Astroth
Daniel L. Ball
Christopher R. Beckwith *
Jacob B. Blakeslee



AAPI PHOTO BY JANIS ARENA

AAAA Top USMA Cadet

The AAAA's Outstanding U.S. Military Academy Cadet of the Year for 2008 was presented to **Cadet Steven J. Wax** of Bethel, Conn., May 11 at West Point, N.Y. Wax was the top rated cadet to branch Aviation. Executive Director Bill Harris presented Wax, a scholar-athlete who ranked 15th overall in his class standings, with a trophy and certificate of outstanding achievement. Today 2LT Wax is assigned to Fort Rucker, Ala., for his officer basic leadership and flight school training. AAAA's Black Knights Chapter hosted its annual sendoff of graduating future aviators, treating cadets and assigned aviation officers to a golf tournament, dinner, an aviation leaders panel and briefings. Pictured here following the presentation are (l to r): fellow USMA cadet Jennifer Rocque, sister Megan Wax, brother Gregory Wax, sister Sarah Wax, Steven Wax with little sister Caroline, parents Julie and Keith Wax, with Bill Harris in back.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----|
| Tatiana R. Blanc * | Victor A. Kareh * | |
| Edward J. Boeddiker | Christine C. Kawoczka | HG |
| Thomas J. Boehm | Adam T. Kenyon | |
| Brian J. Borkowski | Nathan A. Klein | |
| Andrew J. Brennan | Craig S. Kormannshaus * | |
| Anthony L. Bulaciac | David G. Krueger | HG |
| Joshua A. Caldwell | Christopher D. Landers | |
| Richard M. Camacho | Nicholas K. Lee | |
| Harrison G. Carmody | Tad A. Lefler | |
| John H. Chamberlin | William H. Liggett | |
| Randall B. Chasten | Timothy B. Light | |
| Scott C. Covington | Randall C. Markham * | |
| Michael J. Duda | Kyle T. Markle * | |
| William R. Dula * | Fernando E. Martinez | |
| Nicholas S. Dunn | Patrick M. McDonald | |
| Joel S. Duque-Estrada | Timothy J. Mendoza * | |
| Nathan B. Dyer | Jeffrey E. Miller | |
| Kyle C. Eberly | Christina M. Monmonier | |
| Jeffrey L. Epps | Victor A. Munoz * | |
| Jeremy T. Evans | Daniel H. Nordin | |
| Ky R. Fehlbaum | Katheryn M. O'Konsky * | |
| Gregory M. Foley * | Mary K. O'Rourke * | |
| Emma C. Free | Amit V. Patel | |
| Andrew T. Freeman | Wesley W. Paulsen | |
| David R. Galbreath * | Grant T. Peterson | |
| Brett W. Geib | Mark A. Phillips * | |
| Jared C. Graham * | Andrew C. Poler * | |
| Jeffrey D. Gray | Zachary H. Porter | |
| James P. Hart | Wesley J. Pritchett | |
| Brian W. Hewko | Andrew T. Richard | |
| John M. Joyce | Anne M. Rockeman | |
| Nicholas E. Kalitka * | Daniel J. Romaneski | |



PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Jeffrey S. Salem *
Mark L. Salvati
Gerard G. Sapienza
Nicholas A. Shamrel *
Gregory T. Sievers
Matthew A. Skinner
Nathaniel H. Stickney
Kyle R. Stramara
Anthony K. Tankiewicz
Teresa M. Theobald *
Hugh B. Thornton
Kiel J. Towns
Benjamin T. Townsend
Jennifer M. Vanecek * HG
Antony V. Vargas *
David M. Volz *
Steven J. Wax DG
Daniel E. Westcott *
Kyle J. Wilhelm *
Justin D. Williams
Whitney B. Winchester HG
James T. Wolfe
Kenneth A. Wolfe
Jennifer D. Woods

FLIGHT SCHOOL GRADUATES

AAAA congratulates the following officers of the Aviation Basic Officer Leadership and Warrant Officer Basic Courses, U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center, Fort Rucker, Ala. AAAA provides standard aviator wings to all graduates and sterling silver aviator wings to the distinguished graduates of each flight class.

Class 08-13, 44 Officers, Graduated April 30

ABOLC

LT Sean T. Pearl * DG
LT Jared M. Howell
LT Brian C. Karhoff
LT Alicemary M. O'Hara *
LT John E. Taylor

AWOBC

WO1 Orville E. Skogen * DG
WO1 Benjamin B. Boyd * HG
WO1 James C. Johnson Jr. * HG
WO1 Joshua M. Roberts * HG
WO1 Stephen J. Smith II HG
WO1 Jonathan M. Cline CLG
WO1 Joseph C. Harris * CLG
WO1 James I. Pitman CLG
WO1 Brian D. Ayers
WO1 Eric Boben
WO1 Jason T. Boutwell *

WO1 Levis A. Castie
WO1 Brandon D. Dailey *
WO1 Christopher D. Denson *
WO1 Anthony J. Fisher *
WO1 Jason P. Garland *
WO1 Richard V. Ginn
WO1 Nicholas L. Gross
WO1 Edgardo Guzman-Morales *
WO1 Kerry J. Hall *
WO1 Michael S. Inabinet
WO1 Clayton E. Kelley
WO1 Ernesto L. Kelley *
WO1 Michael S. Kelly
WO1 Colin B. Kernaghan
WO1 Zachary J. Klein *
WO1 Seth C. Large
WO1 Michael Linzer
WO1 David J. Milliman
WO1 Ryan M. Monts *
WO1 Alexander Muksunov
WO1 Bryan J. Nichols *
WO1 Elizabeth M. Pool *
WO1 Katie J. Rosales *
WO1 Ryan E. Sannicolas *
WO1 Stephen B. Stone *
WO1 Johnny L. Waters II
WO1 Robert J. Wilson *
WO1 Justin K. Worstall

Class 08-14, 47 Officers, Graduated May 14

ABOLC

LT Christopher B. Shaw * DG
LT Donald C. Graham * HG
LT Brian F. Groshon * HG
LT Matthew L. Garrard *
LT Jason M. Hall *
LT Garrett J. Hoelzel
LT John M. McQuilliams
LT Aaron M. Orange *
LT Paul E. Pease *
LT Brett S. Perry
CPT Michael M. Pollak *
LT Janeann E. Robinson
LT Noah J. Truax
CPT Samuel L. Wigley *

AWOBC

WO1 Neil M. Romans * DG
WO1 Nicholas N. Nenoff HG
WO1 Scott B. Renteria HG
WO1 Jason M. Brown HG
WO1 Kevin J. Bjurman HG
WO1 Justin W. Porter CLG
WO1 Shawn D. Rodgers CLG
WO1 Waldez B. Bailey
WO1 Eric S. Beckham
WO1 Russell C. Chandler *
WO1 Kyle T. Cheeseman *
WO1 Steve M. Coker

WO1 Vincent J. Costanza *
WO1 James M. Crandall *
WO1 Brandon E. Durham
WO1 Nathan R. Dziadosz
WO1 Adam M. Erickson
WO1 Aaron W. Fisher
WO1 Joshua Grogan *
WO1 Jay A. Henderson *
WO1 Owen R. Kelsch *
WO1 Joshua K. Kepple *
WO1 Matthew J. King *
WO1 Adam J. Kozel
WO1 Lloyd J. Nail *
WO1 Kyle K. Ortman
WO1 James S. Otto
WO1 Ramon L. Perez
WO1 Jason L. Sillasen
WO1 Evelyn O. Tanner
WO1 Gregory D. Vanhorn *
WO1 Michael S. Walker
WO1 Brian A. Wimmer *

UAS OPERATOR GRADUATES

AAAA congratulates the following graduates of the Shadow 200 (RQ-7B) Unmanned Aircraft System Operator Course, MOS 35K/15W, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Class 08-001 and 08-002 Graduated April 17

SPC Nils Becker HG
SPC DeWitt Landers
CPL Chad Pohl
PFC Zachary Gravitt
PFC Chandler Kahawai
PFC Brian Krem
PFC Kevin Luhmann
PFC Christopher Montoya
PFC Lewis Rivera
PFC Casimir Vital
PV2 Zachery Barrett
PV2 William Blassingame
PV2 Brandon Dupuis
PV2 Dakota Fisher
PV2 John Fox
PV2 Jacob Honeycutt
PV2 Danita Laudenslager
PV2 Dylan Merry
PV2 Jason Olomon
PV2 Albert Tran
PV2 Stephen Westrich
PV2 Justin Yarnell
PVT Alex Odendahl

Class 08-912 and 08-522 Graduated March 20

PFC Josiah A. Prunty HG
SFC Stephen J. Kelley
SFC Rex D. Phipps
SFC John E. Yankowski
SSG Gustavo E. Siliezar
SGT Michael P. Delisle
SGT Richard A. Martinez
SPC John W. Owings

SPC James F. Pegg
PFC Heather M. David
PFC Brian E. Frias
PFC Sarah J. Hart
PFC Joseph L. Headlee
PFC Shaun M. Sorensen
PFC Mark D. Umpenhour
PFC Michael G. Wood
PV2 Ricardo H. Cargill
PV2 David A. Melson Jr.
PV2 Jeremy S. Milliken
PV2 Andrew Moore
PV2 Skylar M. Sanders
PV2 Stephen E. Schuurmans
PV2 Jakob M. Stavenau
PV2 Timothy W. Watson
PV2 Matthew J. Wood
PVT Joshua M. Bradner
PVT Angus J. Murdoch
PVT Daniel R. Smith
PVT Andrew J. Willems
PVT Charles M. Woodard

Class 08-911 and 08-521 Graduated Feb. 4

SGT Andrew R. Majors HG
SGT Harold F. Renneberg HG
SSG Matthew D. Carson
SSG A'Troy D. Davis
SSG Gregg N. Peterson
SSG Lance D. Skinner
SGT Cuthbert A. Burton
SGT David N. Elwell
SGT Matthew E. Harless
SGT Earl L. Hecker
SGT Jacksby J. Sewell
SGT Anthony D. Simpson
CPL Joseph E. Blosser
SPC Jeremiah N. Beene
SPC Aaron M. Byrne
SPC Jonathan E. Latta
SPC Jonathan R. Nesbitt
PFC Terrence D. Baker
PFC Jerome T. Brock
PFC Rocco J. Church
PFC Michael A. Giggard
PFC Sabrina M. Phillips
PFC Ryan B. Rogers
PFC Michael D. Smith
PFC Brandon A. Villarreal
PV2 Benjamin Aleksander
PV2 Jacen E. Bernal
PV2 Daniel F. Grumbach
PV2 Nasseem Isho
PV2 Steven J. Pfeiffer
PV2 Tommie L. Roberts
PV2 Ryan T. Steelman
PVT Paul D. Hamilton

DG = Distinguished Graduate
HG = Honor Graduate
CLG = Commandant's List Graduate
* = AAAA Member
+ = Life Member

AAAA News

FALLEN HEROES

AAAA is saddened to announce the loss of the following Soldiers with Aviation units serving in support of the global war on terrorism.



SPC Cerfus

Homeland Defense

An aviation Reservist from Fort Lewis, Wash., was killed in a training accident during annual training May 5 at the Canadian Military Training Center in Alberta.

SPC Joseph Michael Cerfus, 25, of Marysville, was a member of Co. A, 5th Bn., 159th Avn. Regt., and worked as a custody officer for the Skokomish Sheriff's Office. Cerfus was participating as a member of a CH-47 sling load hookup team.



SPC Tsinigine

Homeland Defense

Military and civilian authorities are investigating the death of an 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. Soldier who died from a gunshot wound at a Fayetteville residence early on May 4.

SPC Tavis Earl Tsinigine, 23, of Phoenix, Ariz., was a UH-60 helicopter crew chief with Co. C, 2nd Bn., 82nd Avn. Regt., Fort Bragg, N.C. He had recently returned from a year long deployment in Afghanistan. A unit memorial service was held May 8.

Both deaths are under investigation by local law enforcement and Army officials.

IN MEMORIAM



CHASE FAMILY PHOTO

LTC Jean L. Chase

Retired LTC Jean L. Chase, 86, an AAAA Life Member and 50-year pin recipient, died Feb. 11 in Portland, Ore.

Chase was the noted author of "The Grasshopper That Roared," his personal story about flying Piper Cub aircraft during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. Chase recounts his experiences in New Guinea and the Philippines as part of General Douglas MacArthur's "return" to the islands. At one point, Chase emptied a Thompson machine gun from the back seat of his Piper Cub on a Japanese outpost that had had the audacity to fire on another Cub.

Chase entered the Army in 1940 and received a 2LT Field Artillery commission in 1942. He earned his wings in Liaison Pilot Class #44 in 1943 and then graduated from the Artillery Liaison Pilot Class (#61) in 1944, being the 16th person to receive this honor, followed by promotion to captain and deployment to the Pacific. He was so good at adjusting artillery fire from his Piper Cub, he was assigned to an aircraft carrier in route to the Philippines invasion. On D-Day, he was the first off the carrier at daybreak, adjusting all of the naval gunfire for the opening invasion.

After the war, Chase served as the provisional division aviation officer for the Tactical Command in Austria, as an aviation advisor to the Mississippi Army National Guard, and as the aviation officer for the 1st Cav. Div. in the Far East.

He was rated in the L-5, L-17, L-19 Birdog, L-20 Beaver and the OH-13 Sioux; and he was the first person at Fort Bragg, N.C., to receive the Master Army Aviator Badge. Chase retired at age 39 as a LTC in Air Defense Artillery after serving 20 years, serving last as the commander of Simmons Army Airfield at Fort Bragg.

His awards include the Silver Star, the Air Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, The American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation WW II Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal with 2 Bronze Star devices, and the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1999, Chase received entitlement to be awarded the Navy Presidential Unit Citation for WWII service.



US GOVERNMENT PHOTO

Honorable William L. Dickinson

Congressman William L. "Bill" Dickinson, 82, died March 31 after an extended battle with cancer at his home in Montgomery, Ala. He served as the representative for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District for 28 years from 1964 to 1992.

A native of Opelika and a former city, county and state judge before election to congress, Dickinson came to Washington in 1964 as part of the Goldwater sweep of the South and gained a reputation as a formidable legislator and a strong conservative voice for southeast Alabama. He served during a time of momentous change, from civil rights movements and political upheavals of the 1960s, through Vietnam, Watergate, the Reagan Revolution, to the defense build-up of the 1980s – which helped to bring down the Soviet Union.

Dickinson, a Navy veteran, was a stalwart in national defense and was President Reagan's point man on the House Armed Services Committee, where he was ranking member for over a decade.

Dickinson saw Aviation become a permanent full-fledged Army branch and Fort Rucker become the permanent home of Army Aviation. He secured federal funding to help construct the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, which was dedicated May 25, 1990. In 1992, AAAA inducted Dickinson into the Honorable Order of St. Michael, presenting him with the Gold medallion. Dickinson is survived by his wife Barbara and their children, Christopher, Michael, Tara and William Jr.

The family requests memorials are made to either the Disabled American Veterans or The Smile Train, an international charity providing free cleft surgery to underprivileged children. He was buried April 5 in Rosemere Cemetery in Opelika.

AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family

CONFLICT OVER DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

The House and the Senate missed completing the Defense Supplemental Budget legislation for the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars by Memorial Day and produced omnibus spending bills with controversial additions contrary to repeated administration guidance.

The \$96.6 billion supplemental for the rest of fiscal year 2008 is linked to the popular \$52B (over 10 years) New GI Bill, the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act, and the \$65.9B for initial FY 2009 supplemental funding until the new elected Administration sets war policy in the spring.

The House approved their supplemental bill May 15 without war funding, but with additions including a "Patriot Tax" or surtax to fund the New GI Bill, and placed limitations on the President's ability to conduct the war.

The Senate approved May 22 their \$165B supplemental, plus the New GI Bill, many additional items and no conduct of the war limitations.

Pentagon officials requested congressional permission for the Army to borrow funds from the Air Force and Navy budgets since the Army's personnel accounts will run out of money after the June 15 pay cycle and the operations and maintenance account will be depleted by July 5.

Pundits predict this supplemental may be the last major funding bill passed by the Congress before the November elections.

CONGRESS NEGOTIATES ARH PROGRAM CUTS

The House Armed Services and Land Forces subcommittee authorizers have cut \$165 million from the Army's 2009 \$438.9M armed reconnaissance helicopter program request, while the Senate took \$75M. The smaller Senate reduction will still allow the planned acquisition and outfitting of the first ARH-70A battalion by 2010, to replace aging OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aircraft.

The funding difference will be resolved by the House and Senate Joint Conference Committee.

ANOTHER AVIATION BRIGADE NEEDED

BG Stephen Mundt, director of Army Aviation, told reporters in May that the Army needs another combat aviation brigade to sustain the high operational tempos and the protracted deployment schedules required in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

Of the Army's 11 CABs (one in Korea), 10



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)

AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

are available for the rotation to maintain the force requirements and airlift needs required by coalition ground forces in both countries.

The ongoing Total Army Analysis process that is prioritizing requirements and strategy will present recommendations this summer to Army leadership concerning the number and structure of the CABs.

BATTLEFIELD NCO PROMOTIONS

Active and reserve component junior enlisted Soldiers may qualify for a battlefield promotion to the rank of SGT (E5) or SSG (E6) based on extraordinary performance of duties while serving in combat or under combat conditions in Iraq or Afghanistan. The details of the 1-year pilot program are available in the April 1 military personnel message to the field.

SURTAX PROPOSED TO FUND NEW GI BILL

A surtax was approved, according to the House "pay-as-you-go" rule, to fund S. 22 bill, the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, a \$52B over 10 years program.

The surtax called the "Patriot's Premium" will raise the tax rate by half a percent on incomes of about \$500,000 for individuals and \$1million for couples.

CONGRESS WORKS TO CLOSE PAY GAP

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees voted to extend the military pay increase by half a percent (.5) above the president's request of 3.4 percent to 3.9 percent to reduce the military pay gap with the private sector.

Congress is working to increase military pay based on the comparison with the Economic Consumer Index rather than the recent 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation recommendation to DOD with a new and lower-paying comparison.

In this regard, the AAAA signed The Military Coalition's letter in support of the bill

recently initiated by Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) that pro-

poses to extend the pay raises for members of the armed forces by .5 percent above the ECI from 2010 to 2013.

ARMY EXCEEDS APRIL RECRUITING GOAL

In April, the Army recruited 5,681 new Soldiers – 101 percent of the monthly goal.

The Army responded to an inquiry by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) that the felony waiver program which rose from 249 recruits in 2006 to 511 in 2007 is working well.

Earlier this year Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey Jr. said the Army thoroughly reviews every potential waiver.

Although Soldiers who need special waivers to get into the Army because of bad behavior have about .7 percent more court-martials, they earn more valor medals, are promoted faster and re-enlist at higher rates according to an internal Army study.

VA LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS CUT

Thanks to improved investment earnings and a reduction of non-combat claims, the life insurance premiums for military personnel and veterans' policies managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs will be reduced on July 1, specifically:

- The premiums of Service members Group Life Insurance will be reduced by 7 percent a month to 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance, which is \$28 to \$26 for a \$400,000 policy.
- The premiums on Veterans Group Life Insurance for veterans age 30 to 64 years will be reduced on a scale by between 4 to 12 percent.

COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION EXPANDED

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act expanded combat related special compensation eligibility to include certain medical retirees with less than 20 years service and a combat-related disability rating of 10 percent or greater.

Retired veterans must provide documentation that shows a relationship between a current VA disability and a combat-related event.

Continued on page 69

AAAA News

Order Of St. Michael & Our Lady Of Loretto Awards



PHOTO BY MALSON P. VO

Iron Mike Chapter

IMC President COL Kelly J. Thomas presented **CSM Andrew J. Nichols** with the Silver medallion of the Order of St. Michael April 3 for his continued outstanding service to the Aviation branch at Fort Bragg, N.C. Nichols, who is the CSM of the 122nd Avn. Spt. Bn. under the 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde., was honored during the 122nd ASB's dining out commemorating the unit's recent return from both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Nichols has over 20 years of aviation service, to include deployments in support of Operation Just Cause in Panama, and OIF in Iraq and OEF in Afghanistan. He plans to retire in August. Pictured here (l to r) are: Mrs. Carla Nichols, Nichols, Thomas and Mrs. Sue Thomas.



COURTESY PHOTO

Phantom Corps Chapter

Two first sergeants with the 1st Bn., 227th Avn. Regt. were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael Feb. 22 at Fort Hood, Texas. The Bronze medallion was presented to **1SG Joseph Wilgeroth**, left, of Co. B, and **1SG James Combs** of Co. C, for their distinguished contributions and combined 38 years of selfless service to the Army and the Aviation branch. Both leaders recently returned from a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.



PHOTO BY TOM GOERTEL

AAAA National Convention

During the annual AAAA convention at the Gaylord National Convention Center, **MG Richard Sherlock** was honored April 7 with his induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael. BG Matthew Matia, 11th Avn. Command commander, and COL Alvin Foshee, the senior V.P. of the Greater Atlanta Chapter, presented Sherlock with the Bronze medallion for his three decades of service and support of Army Aviation. Sherlock is the deputy director for Operational Planning with the J-3 on the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C. In addition, Sherlock was presented with a framed memento featuring all Army Reserve aircraft for his support of Reserve aviation warfighters.



PHOTO BY JOHN BAYLEN

Wright Brothers Chapter

WBC President COL Stuart Driesbach inducted retired **COL Lynn V. Coriell** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael April 5, presenting him with the Bronze medallion during a chapter meeting in Columbus, Ohio. Coriell, a former state Army aviation officer for the Ohio National Guard, was recognized as being a standard bearer during his career before retiring in 1993.



PHOTO BY JOHN BAYLEN

Wright Brothers Chapter

Retiring **CW5 Charles A. Adkinson III** was honored with induction into the Order of St. Michael on April 5 in Columbus, Ohio. WBC

President COL Stuart K. Driesbach presented Adkinson with the Bronze medallion for 40 years of aviation service, including combat tours in Vietnam and Iraq. Adkinson, a fixed wing rated pilot with Detachment 21 of the Operational Support Airlift Command, plans to next fly as a corporate pilot with the American Electric Power company.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN CLARK

Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter

Retired LTG Wayne Marty, the JDAC's senior aviator, inducted retiring **CW4 Edwin H. Woollven** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael during a chapter celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Aviation Branch April 11 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Woollven served as a standardization instructor pilot with the Texas Army National Guard from 1969 to 2007, finishing his career after a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Silver medallion was presented to Woollven for over 38 years of Army aviation service including tours in Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN CLARK

Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter

CW4 Billy Wayne Burfiend was inducted into the Order of St. Michael on the occasion of his retirement during JDAC's 25th Anniversary celebration of the Aviation Branch April 11 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Retired LTG Wayne Marty presented Burfiend with the Silver medallion for his 38 years of Army aviation service including tours in Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq. Burfiend served as a standardization instructor pilot with the Texas National Guard from 1969 to 2007. He recently completed a tour in Iraq, as well as served tours in Vietnam and Bosnia during his career.

AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family



Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter

Retired LTG Wayne Marty, center right, the JDAC's senior aviator, helped to honor one of the chapter's long time patrons **Anne Dibrell** with induction into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto during the chapter's celebration of the Branch's 25th Anniversary April 11 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Dibrell, widow of chapter namesake COL Jack Dibrell (who was an AAAA regional president), was honored for her 50 years of continuous support of Army aviation, Soldiers and families, the Army, and of AAAA and its scholarship program. On hand to witness the presentation of the OLL certificate and lapel pin to the first lady of the chapter are Dibrell's sons (l to r): retired COL Jack Jr., retired MAJ Mark Dibrell and Harry.



Bluegrass Chapter

A former first lady of the Kentucky Army National Guard was honored with induction into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto March 15 during the state Aviation dining out held in Versailles, Ky. **Mrs. Monica L. Storm**, spouse of retired MG Donald C. Storm the former Kentucky Adjutant General, humbly accepted the OOLL lapel pin and certificate for her long standing support of the state's Aviation Soldiers and families. Pictured here (l to r) are retired MG Donald and Monica Storm, and COL Philip Miller, BCG V.P. for Awards.



Aviation Center Chapter

Department of the Army civilian **Gordon "Lee" Oxford** was inducted into the Order of St. Michael April 17 at Fort Rucker, Ala. LTC Robert Hutson, commander of the 1st Bn., 212th Avn. Regt., presented Oxford with the Bronze medalion for 45 years of aviation service. Oxford, a UH-60 instructor pilot with Co. E, entered the Army in 1963 as a flight ops specialist before becoming a warrant officer and pilot in 1966. He became the Army's first UH-1 instructor-pilot as a WO1, and was later one of the original three instructors who helped to stand up the special operations aviation regiment in Operation Honeybadger, also known then as the 158th Avn. Bn. – today the 160th SOAR. During his service, Oxford earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, 22 Air Medals (one for valor), the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.



Morning Calm Chapter

LTC Cory Mendenhall, commander of the 1st Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., inducted **CW4 David D. Kapsa** into the Order of St. Michael May 9 at Camp Eagle in Korea, presenting him with the Bronze medalion. Kapsa, who was the Co. C standardization instructor pilot, was honored for his 30 years of service, 22 years as an aviator with master wings and over 3,300 flight hours. During this time he has served with the South Dakota and Nebraska Army National Guard, had three tours to Korea, and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. Kapsa is now serving as a company commander and an SIP at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. Pictured above are (l to r): MAJ Jason Lewallen, 1-2nd Avn. executive officer; Mendenhall, Kapsa, and CPT Joseph Odorizzi, Co. C commander.



Washington-Potomac Chapter

GEN Richard Cody, Army vice chief of staff, recognized the service of two Department of the Army civilians with induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael for their support of Army Aviation. **Patty S. Robertson** and **Lewis S. Steenrod** were each presented with the Bronze medalion April 16 at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Robertson serves as the budget officer for the Aviation Division on the Army's G8 staff. She ensures the proper scheduling and placement of aviation resources in the Army's annual budget. Steenrod serves as the director of Resources with G8 staff, overseeing the execution of Aviation resources through the budget process and has been instrumental in orchestrating and protecting resources from the termination of the RAH-66 Comanche program. Both recipients have been instrumental in protecting and resourcing Aviation's modernization programs.

The New Member, Lifetime Member, and Industry Partner listings will resume in the July issue of ARMY AVIATION due to the implementation of a new computer system at the National AAAA office.

AAAA Chapter News



PHOTO BY CW2 JARED JONES

New Utah Chapter

The AAAA has established two additional new chapters this year for a total of 72 chapters worldwide. On March 16 the Utah Chapter in West Jordan held their inaugural meeting with a great turnout. The UC has 71 members comprised of members of the 1st Bn., 211th Avn. Regt. (ARNG), Army Reserve aviators from Fort Douglas, retirees and industry partners from Robertson Aviation and L-3 Communications. The Cowboy Chapter in Cheyenne, Wyo., stood up March 13 and has 15 members. Pictured here are some of the UC officers (l to r): LTC James Bledsoe, president; CW4 Fabian Salazar, V.P. for Membership; COL Scott Robinson, state aviation officer; and LTC Bill Cluff, secretary. LTC Lamar Blair is the vice president and CW5 Tim Thompson is the treasurer.



COURTESY PHOTO

Black Knight Chapter

The BKC hosted their annual Aviation Branch "Send-Off" festivities May 11 for the graduating senior cadets branching Aviation at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. The day long activities included a golf tournament, aircraft static display, guest speakers and award presentations. The Class of 2008 has 95 cadets receiving 2LT commissions in Aviation on May 31. Here participants take a time out from golf to check out the AH-64D Longbow attack helicopter from the 8th Bn., 229th Avn. Regt. (USAR), Fort Knox, Ky., on display at the 4th hole.



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO BY JONATHAN CLARK



PHOTO BY CW3 MATTHEW T. WILEY

Bluegrass Chapter

BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III presented **SGT Jerry A. "Alan" Gootee** with the Support Soldier of the Year award April 17 at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Frankfort, Ky. Gootee, an aviation ground support equipment repairer with the 63rd Theater Avn. Bde., was presented with the coveted "Kentucky Sippin' Stool." Gootee distinguished himself throughout the year by providing substantial services to unit mechanics with little-to-no supervision, and substantially contributed to the unit receiving commendable comments on management of AGSE during each of the last three major command inspections.

Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter

The JDAC celebrated the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Aviation branch on April 12 with the gathering of members spanning five decades of service at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Retired LTG Wayne Marty, a former Texas Adjutant General and the chapter's senior aviator was the special guest of honor. Here, Marty, right, is joined by Mrs. Anne Dibrell, widow of the chapter's namesake, and Cadet Jonathan Clark, the JDAC's youngest member, for the cutting of the anniversary cake.

Jack H. Dibrell/Alamo Chapter

As part of the JDAC's celebration of the Aviation Branch 25th anniversary on April 12 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, two AAAA Charter members were honored for their 50 years of membership with AAAA. Retired LTG Wayne Marty, the chapter's senior aviator, presented "50-year" membership pins to life members LTC (Ret.) Stuart McLennan and LTC (Ret.) Joseph Hely. The JDAC is home to 13 members who proudly wear the 50-year pin. Above Marty, left, with McLennan and Hely, right.



**Become
a member
today.**



AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family

NEW AAAA ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL RECIPIENTS

BRONZE

CW4 Brock A. Tedrick
CW4 Scott E. Traynor
MAJ Christopher S. Cutler
MAJ Daniel S. Mettling
MAJ Mark Gillespie
MAJ Blaise Gallahue
LTC James Baker
CW4 Michael Jones
MAJ Ronald C. Black
LTC John R. Evans
CW3 Abimael Hernandez
DAC Edmundo J. Miranda
COL Barry D. Bowden
CW4 Luis A. Lampon
CW4 Dennis E. Hosmer
CPT Timothy J. Bracken
MAJ Jason G. Wilson
CPT Keith A. Haskin
CW4 Jay L. Sanders
CW4 Lawrence J. Castageto
CW4 Charles C. Blankinship
CW4 Clare L. Campbell
SFC Julio E. Ascencio
CW4 Richard F. Ferguson
MAJ Andrew McIntyre
CW4 John Tew
CW4 Sheri Tew
MSG Henry Champlain
MAJ Thomas J. Lesnieski
DAC Marvin A. Pinckeney
DAC Denise M. Aylesworth

DAC Gregory M. Damms
1SG Timmy G. Clubb
DAC Alfredo Lopez
MAJ Luis M. Fontanez
CW4 David Spooner
MAJ William Fitzgerald
CSM David McFerrin
CW5 Thomas Goff
MSG Sharon S. Newby, Ret.

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Air Assault Chapter
CPT Joseph McCarthy,
Treasurer

Aloha Chapter
LTC Ramsey Bentley, Senior
VP; CPT Randy P. Lefebvre,
Secretary; MAJ Thomas Lewis,
Treasurer; LTC Kenneth A.
Hawley, VP Membership;
LTC David J. Francis, VP
Programming; LTC Gregory
Baker, VP Scholarship; CSM
Allen R. Haynes, VP Asst
Membership; CW4 Joe
Roland, VP Asst Membership;

Cowboy Chapter
CW3 Shane Mickelson, VP
Membership

Griffin Chapter
SGM Samuel Tyre, Secretary

Idaho Snake River Chapter
COL Michael Garshak,
President; LTC Ralph Myers,

ARMY AVIATION



Upcoming Special Focus:

JULY

- Simulation and Training

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Blue Book Directory
- AAAASFI Scholarship Winners

Contact: **Bob Lachowski** Advertising Director

Tel: (203) 268-2450 x 131

E-mail: bob@quad-a.org

Senior VP; CW4 Brian Fox,
Secretary; CPT John Jacobs,
Treasurer; MAJ Charles
Moore, VP Membership;

Winged Warriors Chapter
SFC David T. Kearney,

Treasurer, SGT Jad N.
Abousoud, VP Membership;
1LT Heidi J. Beekman, VP
Special Projects; CPT John G.
Osterson, VP Awards;

Legislative Report

Military retirees who are eligible to receive CRSC must apply to their own branches of service using DD Form 2860, Claim for Combat-Related Special Compensation.

SBP PREMIUMS END FOR PAID-UP RETIREES

Beginning on Oct. 1, Survivor Benefit Plan participants who have reached the age of 70 and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in a "paid-up" status.

Once eligibility is met, the Defense Accounting and Finance Service will automatically stop deducting SBP premiums from qualified accounts beginning with the Nov. 1 pay deposit. The 1999 NDAA establishing the Paid-Up SBP does not allow refunds of payments before Oct. 1, 2008.

Retiree Account Statements beginning in December will include a Paid-up SBP payments premium counter based on DFAS records to aid monitoring status.

FIX NEEDED FOR TRICARE DOCTOR FEES

Congress needs to extend the half year waiver by June 16 for the rest of 2008 for the 1997 law that would otherwise cut the 2008 Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors by 10.6 percent.

The purpose is to maintain the current rate structure to encourage doctors to continue treating their military patients, to accept new patients particularly in outlying areas, and to avoid the administrative work for the many that would be adversely affected by a late fix.

After finding only enough funds under the House's "pay-as-you-go" rule to fix this annu-

al problem for just the first 6 months of 2008, Congress should fix the rest of 2008 and permanently correct the 1997 law.

HOUSE SUPPORTS FAMILY ISSUES

The House Armed Services Committee completed H.R.5658, its draft FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill, with items supporting military families, to include:

- Adding \$15M for family support programs.
- Including \$65M in education aid for schools attended by military children.
- Authorizing 200 pounds of professional book/equipment shipping allowances for spouses.
- Providing tuition assistance and training for spouses seeking portable careers.
- Authorizing transportation of 2 family pets from overseas locations if evacuated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2008

- July 2-6 **VHPA 25th National Annual Reunion**,
San Antonio, TX
- July 18 **AAAA Scholarship Executive Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA
- July 19 **AAAA Scholarship Selection Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA

AUGUST 2008

- Aug 10-13 **AUVSI**, Washington Convention Center., DC

SEPTEMBER 2008

- Sept. 6 **"Centennial of Military Aviation" Celebration**, Fort Myer, Va.
- Sept 20-22 **NGAUS 130th General Conference**,
Albuquerque, NM

OCTOBER 2008

- Oct 6-8 **AUSA Annual Meeting**,
Washington Convention Center, DC
- Oct 6 **AAAA Scholarship Board of Governors Meeting**, Washington Convention Center, DC

- Oct 6 **AAAA National Executive Board Meeting**,
Washington Convention Center, DC
- Oct 20-24 **USAWOA Annual Meeting**, Aberdeen, MD

DECEMBER 2008

- Dec 8 - 10 **AAAA UAS Symposium**,
Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

JANUARY 2009

- Jan 7 - 9 A **USA Aviation Symposium**, Hyatt Regency
Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- Jan 23 **AAAA SFI Executive Committee Meeting**,
NGRC Arlington, VA
- Jan 24 **AAAA National Awards Committee Meeting**,
NGRC Arlington, VA
- Jan (TBD) **Aviation Senior Leaders Conference**,
Fort Rucker, AL

FEBRUARY 2009

- Feb 12 - 13 **Joseph P. Cribbins Product Support Symposium**, Huntsville, AL
- Feb 22 - 24 **Heli-Expo 2009**, Anaheim, CA



ARMY AVIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

755 Main Street, Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468-2830
203-268-2450, Fax 203-268-5870, Web www.quad-a.org

UNITED STATES ARMY WARRANT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



DUAL/SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP FORM

AAAA Membership Place "X" in appropriate box

☐ New ☐ Rejoin ☐ Renew ☐ Data Change ☐ Life

USAWOA Membership Place "X" in appropriate box

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PURPOSE: To maintain organizational records. Used by national, region, and chapter officers, office staff and members (when approved) to generate mailing lists, chapter and region rosters, etc. Failure to furnish information may result in members not receiving the Monthly Magazine, ballots, letters and other correspondence of importance to the membership. Incorrect information may result in erroneous computation of statistical & financial reports and/or credit for prior membership.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE INFORMATION

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(Last 5 digits of SSN is used to identify you & is used for your member number. It is not released to anyone for any purpose)

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(*AKO - us.army.mil preferred)(If both military and civilian are used, place preferred one first)

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☐ Active Army ☐ ARNG* ☐ USAR* ☐ Retired ☐ Former Warrant Officer
☐ Associate (all others) *AGR please check ARNG or USAR ☐ Male ☐ Female

CERTIFICATIONS Place "X" in appropriate box

☐ I HOLD a Warrant issued to me by the Secretary of the Army
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☐ I AM ☐ I AM NOT entitled to wear several National Defense Medals

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP Place "X" in appropriate box - only one dues category please

☐ INITIAL ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP FOR WO1s ONLY AT NO COST
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☐ 3 Yrs \$150 ☐ 5 Yrs \$250
☐ RETIRED MEMBER DUES ☐ 1 Yr \$37 ☐ 2 Yr s \$74
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☐ Check or Money Order for dues is enclosed, made out to "USAWOA".
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CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS (Check one)

☐ Please affiliate me with the chapters near my home.
☐ Affiliate me with the _____ Chapters
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Applicant's Signature and Date _____ Optional Sponsor or Recruiter (rank & name) _____
Simultaneous MemberShip Form 600-DS (Fill-in) (Revised March 2008)

Army Aviation Hall of Fame

The Army Aviation Hall of Fame sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, Inc., recognizes those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Army aviation. The actual Hall of Fame is located in the Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, Ala., where the portraits of the inductees and the citations recording their achievements are retained for posterity. Each month Army Aviation Magazine highlights a member of the Hall of Fame.

Nominations are currently being requested for the 2010 induction.

The deadline for receipt of 2010 nominations is May 1, 2009.

Contact the AAAA National Office for details at (203) 268-2450.

MEDAL OF HONOR

MASTER SERGEANT ROY P. BENAVIDEZ

ARMY AVIATION HALL OF FAME 2004 INDUCTION

MSG Roy P. Benavidez saved a Special Forces unit in combat during the Vietnam War in spite of a broken jaw, 37 bullet and bayonet puncture wounds, while assigned to Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group.

On May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces reconnaissance team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam. The team met heavy enemy resistance and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy fire.

Then-SSG Benavidez volunteered to assist in another extraction attempt.

He jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Despite severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, Benavidez carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft.

Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and the helicopter crashed.

Benavidez made his way back to the wreckage and helped the wounded out of the overturned aircraft and formed a defensive perimeter. He was wounded again just before another extraction helicopter landed. Upon reaching the aircraft, Benavidez spotted and killed two more enemy soldiers.

With little strength left, he made one last trip to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did Benavidez allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft.

His refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds saved the lives of at least eight men.

President Ronald Reagan presented Benavidez with the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions on Feb. 24, 1981.



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