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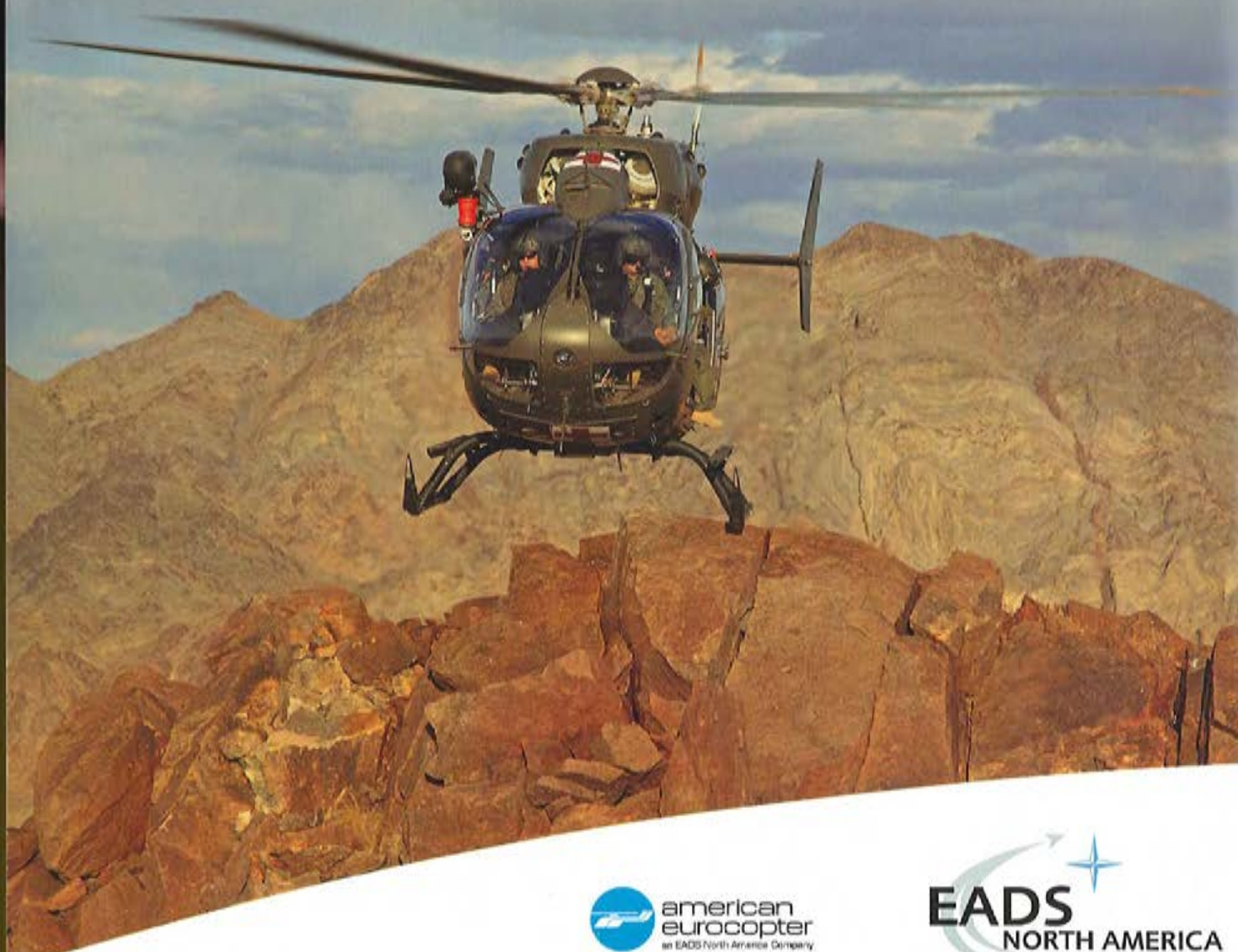

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ON THE COVER

PAID ADVERTISEMENT: ABOUT THE COVER – **The Apache continues to introduce new technologies to the Army. When first introduced, the Apache allowed the Army to "own the night". With the Apache Longbow, soldiers achieved information age digital capabilities, and the Apache Block III will deliver network connectivity for the future. Photo Credit: Bob Ferguson**
Caption provided by the advertiser.

Briefings ...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES

LTG Williams

Aviation Founder Passes

Retired LTG Robert R. Williams, 90, died April 6 at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. A 1974 Army Aviation Hall of Fame inductee, Williams was one of the founders of AAAA, serving as its third national president, and was known as the father of modern organic Army aviation. Additional details will be provided in the June issue. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Guard Unit Completes Kosovo Deployment

The South Dakota Army National Guard welcomed home 21 Soldiers, after a year-long deployment to Kosovo, with a March 9 ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Rapid City Regional Airport. The Soldiers are with Co. C, 1st Bn., 189th Avn. Regt., an air ambulance medical evacuation company with HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, who served at Camp Bondsteel supporting about 15,000 NATO stabilization force troops. The unit mobilized in March 2008 and was attached to the 1st Bn., 106th Avn. Regt. of the Illinois ARNG, which was the aviation command and control headquarters. Co. C has had three deployments to the Balkans since 2002.

Utah Man Charged with Lasing Army Helicopter

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Salt Lake City is reviewing a case to determine if charges will be filed against a Utah man for shining a handheld green laser pointer at an Army Guard helicopter. According to a Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office report, a 30-year-old man from Bluffdale was using his laser pointer to play with his cats, when an AH-64D Apache on a night training flight flew overhead about 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 19. The man told sheriff's deputies he decided it would be neat to aim the light at the aircraft, but he didn't think the laser could actually reach the helicopter about 1,000 feet above. The pilot, CWO Ken Sampson, said at first he thought the glimmer of light was a business advertisement below, but then one of the helicopter's windows was flooded with green laser light. Sampson and his co-pilot circled the aircraft back and pinpointed the laser's source, then contacted the Sheriff's Office. "This is serious business; we have to keep the pilot safe," said Hank McIntire, a Utah Guard spokesman. The Congress outlawed pointing lasers at an aircraft in 2007 and the crime has a potential sentence of five years in prison and a fine.

2009 Blue Book Directory Issue

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 the AAAA website at *www.quad-a.org/BlueBook.htm*.

Alabama Chinook Unit Heads Back to OEF

The Alabama Army National Guard announced March 3 that Co. B, 1st Bn., 169th Avn. Regt. from Birmingham will deploy again in September to Afghanistan for a second tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit with its 70 Soldiers and CH-47 Chinook helicopters will conduct a variety of combat operations to include air assault and air movement operations of personnel, equipment and supplies. Unit members previously served in Afghanistan from Jan. 2004 to April 2005.

Upcoming Awards Deadline Dates to Remember

JUNE 1, 2009
★ Nominations for the Hall of Fame ★

JULY 1, 2009
★ Nominations for the ASE Awards ★
★ Nominations for Avionics Awards ★

AUGUST 15, 2009
★ Nominations for UAS Awards ★

Official nomination forms can be found on the AAAA website: www.quad-a.org.

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Wired – The Army has adopted Telephonics' Secure Digital Intercommunications (***SDI***) system as its Common Digital Intercommunication System (***CDICS***). SDI provides digital audio and digital control, minimizing wiring and enhancing operational and functional capabilities in the UH-60M and M Upgrade Black Hawk, CH-47F Chinook, COMHAWK VIP/ Command and Control Black Hawk and the SOAR MH-60M and MH-47G helicopters.

Telephonics has a strong history with Army Aviation, from supplying the Secure Intercommunication System for the AH-64A Apache and the upgraded OH-58D Kiowa Warrior to the systems for the Ground Control Shelters for the Shadow 200 and the Sky Warrior ER/MP Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Wireless – Telephonics is supplying ***TruLink***® as the Army's Aircraft Wireless Intercommunication System (***AWIS***). TruLink enhances communications and increases operator safety when mobility and communications are critical. Whether you are operating underneath the rotary blades of a helicopter, or near an armored vehicle with engines running, TruLink provides critical hands-free, full-duplex intercommunications.

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Thank You to a Great Team

Welcome to the 2009 AAAA Annual Convention. In this edition you will meet our outstanding award winners, our Soldier of the Year, as well as our Hall of Fame inductees, and you'll find the exhibit hall layout, convention agenda and much more.

We look forward to a great four days together as our Aviation branch gathers again for our national convention. We welcome our Soldier-operators, our research and development and acquisition personnel, training and doctrine folks, and of course all our Army aviation industry team members.

Special thanks to MG Jim Barclay, our branch chief, for the guidance he has provided us to make this event professionally relevant to all.

I'm able to attend a fair number of conventions and association meetings and although I'm clearly a little biased, I feel our event is the most effective in bringing together all the aspects of our professional community and our family support partners. We truly deliver on our goal to "Support the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family."

This year we have pulled the annual business meeting out of the annual luncheon and will make it more of a working meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. All AAAA members are welcome to attend. We will be talking about new programs and getting your feedback on how we can improve. Refreshments are on us – so don't miss it and bring your ideas.

For those who will not be able to make it, I want to give you a brief snapshot of your association.

First, we ended 2008 at record membership levels with almost 18,000 members. Next, in terms of revenue, again we are at an all time high although we did take a bit of a hit in our "emergency fund" investments. This was largely offset by last year's record exhibit sales at the convention.

Bottom line, we are very strong in financial assets and membership, and the 2009 convention will also set attendance and revenue records.

In the near future we will be rolling out our new AAAA website thanks to EDS and their team led by retired LTC Jan Drabczuk. In addition, you will soon be able to go online and access your own AAAA membership record. We are beta testing this feature right now. This will greatly speed your renewal process, eliminate paper and postage, and facilitate communications with you and your chapters.

I'm also pleased to announce that we are going to assume responsibility this year for running the annual Luther Jones Summit in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dates are Nov. 4-6 and we will be sending additional information to you soon.

Finally, as my presidency comes to an end at this convention, let me say what an honor and pleasure it has been to represent you. I cannot think of a finer group of dedicated and patriotic professionals who work every day to make this country a better place and who make such a difference for our other brothers and sisters in uniform.

I wish BG Rod Wolfe, Ret., your new National President, all the best as he assembles his team to continue to support you even more effectively.

On behalf of our family, Marcy and I, thank you for a great two years as your president.

May God bless you all.

Jim Snider
AAAA President
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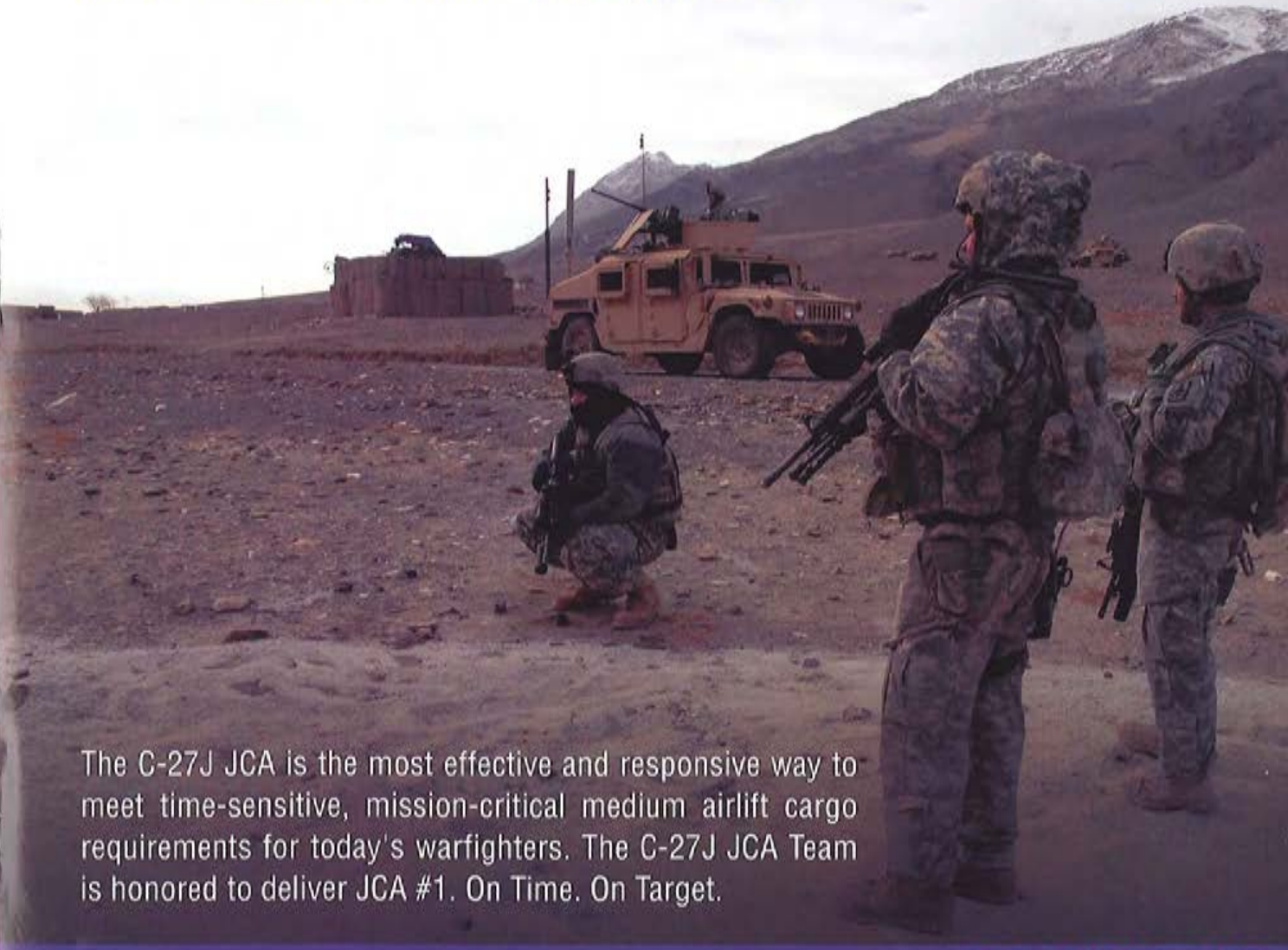

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TRAINING

AAI is a worldwide leader in the design and implementation of military training systems. For Army Aviation, the company's Shadow Crew Trainer provides an ideal solution for developing and sustaining unmanned aircraft system operators and crew.

Other training products for U.S. and international defense customers include maintenance trainers, electronic warfare trainers, mission systems trainers, and air defense trainers. AAI also performs modifications and upgrades to existing systems, and provides logistics support services for installed systems.

LIFE CYCLE ACHIEVEMENTS

In supporting Army Aviation, AAI does more than design and produce its world-renowned RQ-7B Shadow® Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

We also deliver significant life cycle achievements through products and services that support countless Army platforms, systems, and warfighters.

For instance, we invest innovation and imagination into advanced systems design. We craft training programs that instill operational skills. We develop test systems that convey combat confidence for air crews. And we provide logistics support that enhances system readiness and reduces cost of ownership.

Staying above the best! It's a life cycle achievement.

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TESTING

AAI and ESL Defence, our U.K.-based subsidiary, have considerable heritage in developing and producing electronic warfare test and alignment equipment for U.S. Army and allied military rotor-wing and fixed-wing aircraft.

Our ABE® common boresight system aligns the AH-64D Apache Longbow, providing sensor and weapon system accuracy through gyro-stabilized, electro-optical alignment that significantly increases accuracy and repeatability, reduces maintenance time, and lowers operating costs.

SUPPORTING

AAI's Services unit supports Army Aviation with an award-winning performance based contractor logistics program for RQ-7B Shadow Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems. This includes the deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan of skilled AAI field service reps who work shoulder-to-shoulder with military aircraft maintenance personnel.

Moreover, AAI Services delivers a full portfolio of support to Department of Defense aviation depots and air logistics centers, optimizing maintenance processes, sustainment, parts availability, and training while minimizing customer costs.

Your Aviation Branch

By MG James O. Barclay III

As I approach the one-year mark as your branch commander, I think it is appropriate to take this opportunity to champion two important messages in this "Era of Persistent Conflict."

First and foremost, I continue to be amazed at your unwavering commitment to provide our Army with the most capable Aviation force in history.

This amazing team includes not only our Soldiers, but their families, our dedicated civilians, and partners in industry who work every day to achieve these amazing accomplishments.

Second, though we will remain decisively engaged in combat operations, we face many more challenges in the near future.

I look forward to the AAAA National Convention providing us with another professional forum for us to continue our combined efforts to continue the progress we have made in recent months as a branch and member of the combined arms team.

I am absolutely convinced that we possess the talent, expertise, leadership and motivation required to keep aviation moving forward.

We will triumph despite resourcing constraints, shorter dwell times at home station and a continuous demand for aviation as a critical enabler in our Army's mission success.

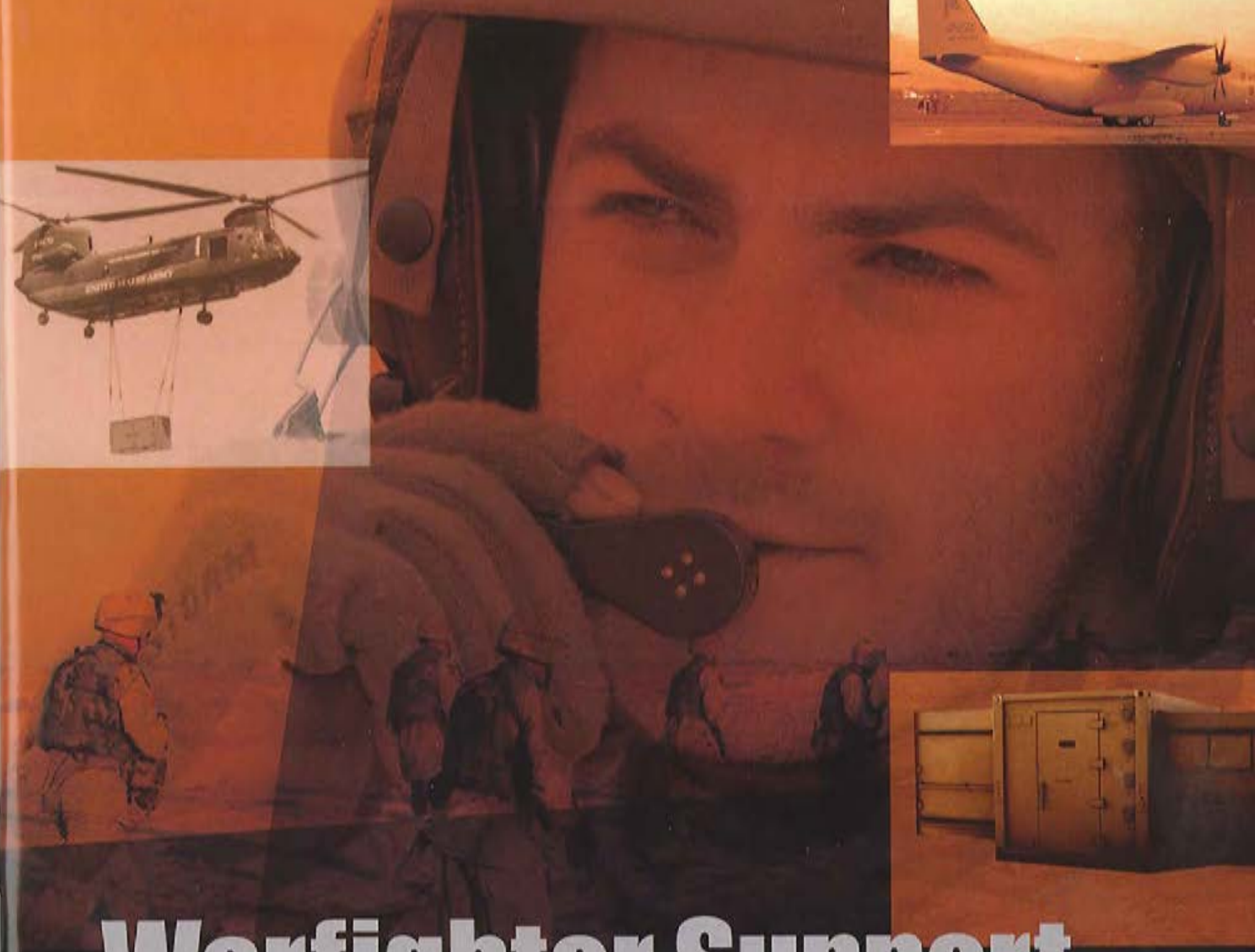
A Record of Success

Since the recommendations of the Aviation Task Force in 2003, aviation has completely transformed its formations into a modular, deployable, lethal and supportable force designed to deliver critical capabilities to our ground maneuver commanders.

While transforming, we continued to modernize our equipment by field-

ARMY PHOTO

The Aircraft Shoot Down Assessment Team from the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker is responsible for investigating downed aircraft incidents. Here, an ASDAT member examines recovered remains, from an aircraft that crashed in Iraq, for forensic evidence that can yield clues to the cause of the crash.



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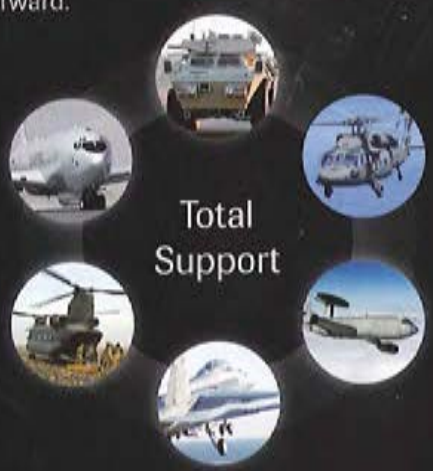

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ARMY PHOTO BY PAUL PRINCE

An AH-64D instructor pilot demonstrates a flight maneuver to students during a "table talk" session before heading out to practice what they are learning in the attack track of Flight School XXI at Fort Rucker, Ala.

ing the UH-60M, CH-47F, UH-72A and the unmanned aircraft systems.

We are upgrading our aircraft survivability equipment, modernizing the AH-64D Longbow Apache, developing the Longbow Block III, and have initiated the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Life Support 2020 program.

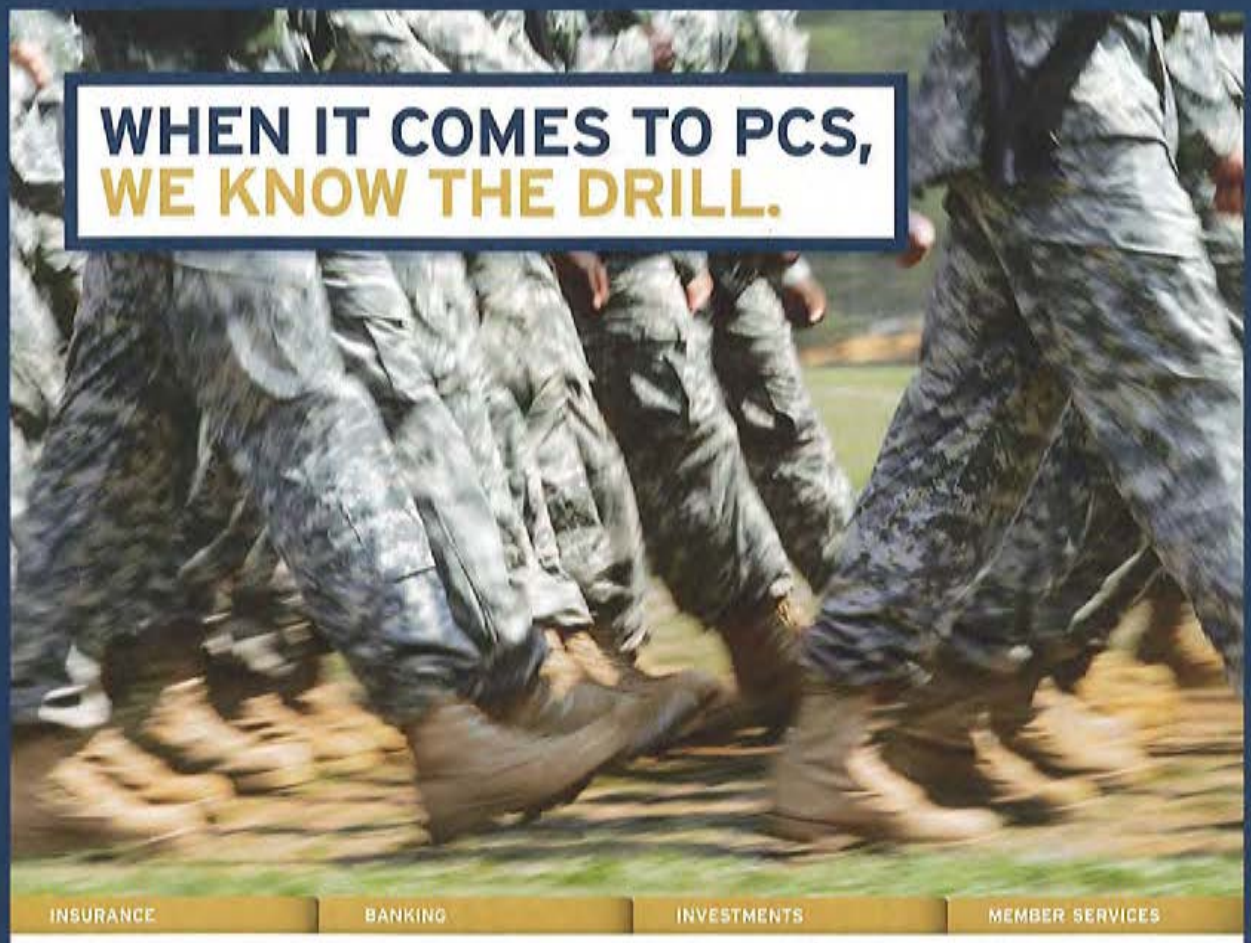
These are but a few of the major programs that get the attention of the press.

Behind the scenes there is a dedicated team of combat developers, program managers, training experts and industry partners who turn concepts into reality in an almost unnoticed, but herculean effort.

We have and continue to improve our sustainment concepts, training programs and expanded family support initiatives and in so doing have become an irreplaceable asset to our combatant commanders.

"Those damned aviators," is a phrase that has been replaced by "Where are my aviators?"

Our Congress and our citizens have invested heavily and entrusted us to make this transformation a success.



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With a brief glimpse backwards, I would tell you that the investment has proven well worth their confidence and trust. I challenge you to remind our Soldiers of that at every opportunity.

The amazing progress we have achieved, unprecedented in the history of the branch, is in great part because of them and is something of which to be immensely proud.

Inside the Wire

Even as we recognize and celebrate our past achievements, we toil everyday to overcome the current and future challenges we face in the complex business of combat aviation.

From my vantage point, those efforts and focus begin right here at the Aviation Center of Excellence.

We are three years into the Flight School XXI program and our combat aviation brigade commanders tell me that the aviators produced here at Fort Rucker are the best they have ever seen. While that is a great accomplishment, we must improve.

While instituting the FS XXI model we simultaneously incorporated our Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) lessons learned and increased the required output of aviators into the operational force.

An unanticipated result was a training bubble for those officers awaiting advanced aircraft flight training.

As an institution, we have identified the resources required and are making changes to reduce the bubble without reducing the high training standards FS XXI has achieved.

We have brought in additional instructor pilots and added combat aircraft to the training fleet.

We are not only carefully monitoring our programs of instruction to ensure we maintain standards, but are scrutinizing even our successful processes to seek out efficiencies that will get quality aviators into the formation sooner.

Our initial entry and professional development courses have also adapted to the ever changing environment.

We routinely incorporate lessons learned into our professional military education (PME) at all levels.

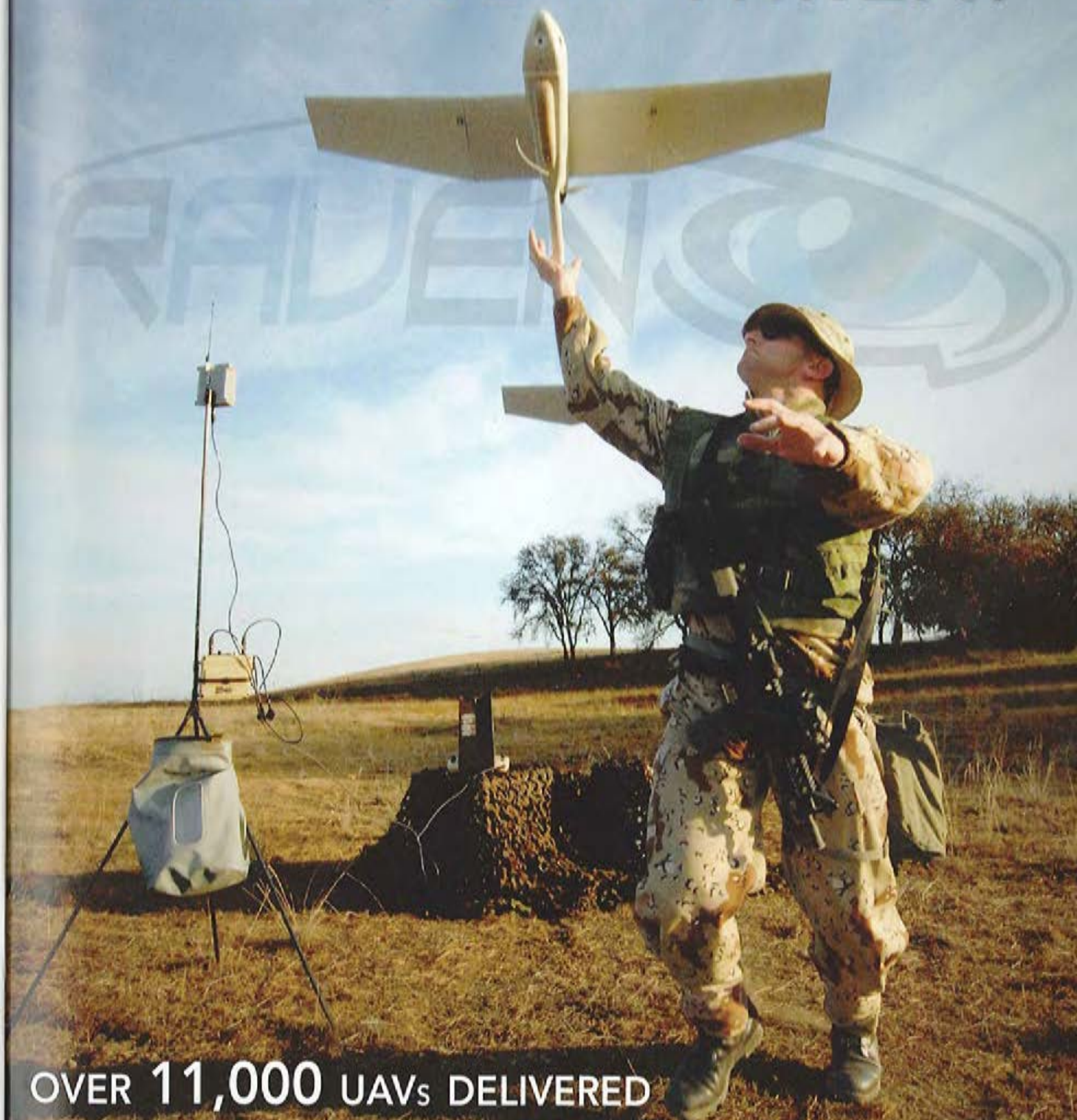
Today's commissioned and non-commissioned officers are the most experienced aviation force we have seen since the Vietnam era.

Their experience supersedes any school house training that the Training and Doctrine Command institutions can provide, so we must ensure that PME is building upon the vast experience of our branch and addressing those base skill sets that have not been exercised due to the nature of the Global War on Terrorism.

These leaders are building the bench strength that will keep aviation in the forefront of the Army's capabilities for decades to come.

We can't talk about transformation without talking about the explosion in the use and procurement of unmanned aircraft systems. This past year we formally established the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Center of Excellence (COE) here at Fort Rucker.

DELIVERING AWARENESS TO EXPOSE THE THREAT



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The UAS COE acts as the principle management agency for the Army's UAS proponent and coordinates with all Army institutional and operational organizations to ensure a unified and integrated approach to UAS requirements development and employment.

It is our critical link and the voice of all of the Army with the Joint UAS COE; the agency that is responsible for developing the Defense Department wide vision and requirements for this fast growing capability.

The UAS COE also acts as the portal for the integration and sharing of UAS lessons learned from Task Force ODIN (observe, detect, identify and neutralize) in both OIF and OEF as we continue to refine our concepts and structures with new and emerging systems and aircraft.

The Future

While there are many uncertainties, we do know that the foreseeable future sees aviation continuing to support Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) by delivering trained, ready and deployable combat aviation brigades.

What Army Aviation brings to the effort will remain in high demand. Thus, this will remain our capstone effort.

As I wrote in my March message, we will continue to evolve in our "Aviation Enterprise" approach to synchronizing our capabilities.

Working closely with the Department of the Army, the Aviation and Missile Command, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, the Forces Command, and the other major commands, it will enable us to provide efficient use of resources and deliver the critical capabilities our commanders require to fight and win on any battlefield.

While our modernization efforts will continue, we'll be competing in what is expected to be a resource constrained environment.

While not easy, our success and the demand for our services by our combined arms partners will ensure we remain capable and relevant.

Our systems are expensive, but they deliver the capabilities our ground maneuver commanders routinely count on to carry the day.

The coming year will see us continue to field those systems already in production.

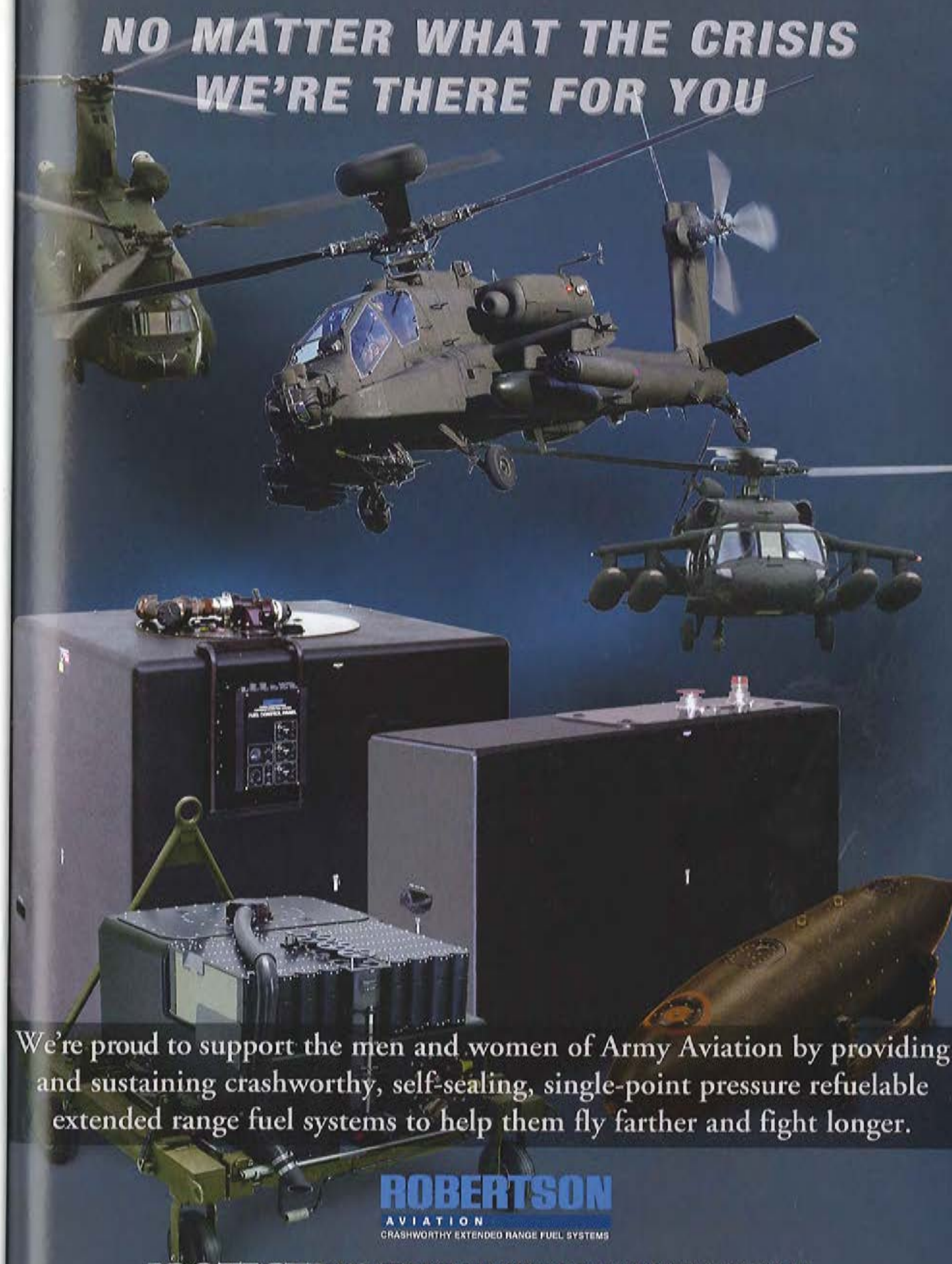
In addition, we will conduct the Longbow Block III limited users test with a recommendation to begin the low rate initial production.

The Sky Warrior UAS will continue to prove itself in combat as we increase its capabilities as a platform and an operational formation.

We will use the knowledge gained from the Aircraft Shoot Down Assessment Team and the lessons learned and shared through increasing knowledge management to make our systems more survivable, our crews safer and our procedures effective.

While we have to remain attentive to the current and

NO MATTER WHAT THE CRISIS WE'RE THERE FOR YOU



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near term fight, we also continue to develop and maintain a long range vision for aviation.

We will invest in science and technology to maintain our technological advantage by studying the potential of a joint theater lift aircraft and also a joint multi-role helicopter, for advanced aircraft survivability equipment, and for improved turbine engine technology.

This investment will keep us on the right footing as we move further into the 21st century.

One Team, One Fight, One Future

This theme is much more than a bumper sticker!

Since taking command of the Aviation Center of Excellence, this is how I've asked the aviation community to do business. Teaming with the other members of the Aviation Enterprise is producing results.

Tapping into all our aviation training resources – such as the Eastern Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (AATS), the Western AATS, and the Fixed Wing AATS and High Altitude AATS – we are able to expand our training opportunities while staying closely tied to our partners in the National Guard and Reserve.

This truly Army-wide effort is evident by the inclusion of standardization, training and even operational formations from Army commands surging resources to support new equipment training and accelerated ARFORGEN requirements. These are not just one aviation team, but are truly "One Army Team" initiatives that are already paying big dividends.

We will stay engaged with our congressional leadership to help them understand the important role we play in the Global War on Terrorism and how they can assist our Soldiers and their families in an Army at war.

Our industry partners need to not only be tied to supporting our current endeavors, but must be linked to our long range vision, not only as a branch, but as an Army.

Synchronized teamwork will enable our branch to invest in future technologies and establish business practices which deliver essential capabilities to the Army.

We have much more to do and I expect even greater challenges ahead.

As we assemble in Nashville, these are the topics and issues we will discuss. While the convention is a great place to socialize, celebrate our successes, relive fond memories and recognize our heroes, I challenge you to also capitalize on this opportunity to maintain our momentum as an extremely professional, capable and integrated force.

I look forward to continuing a legacy of Army Aviation excellence that our ground commanders depend upon every day.

"*One Team...One Fight...One Future!*"

Above the Best!

❖❖

MG James O. Barclay III is the Aviation branch chief and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, Ala.

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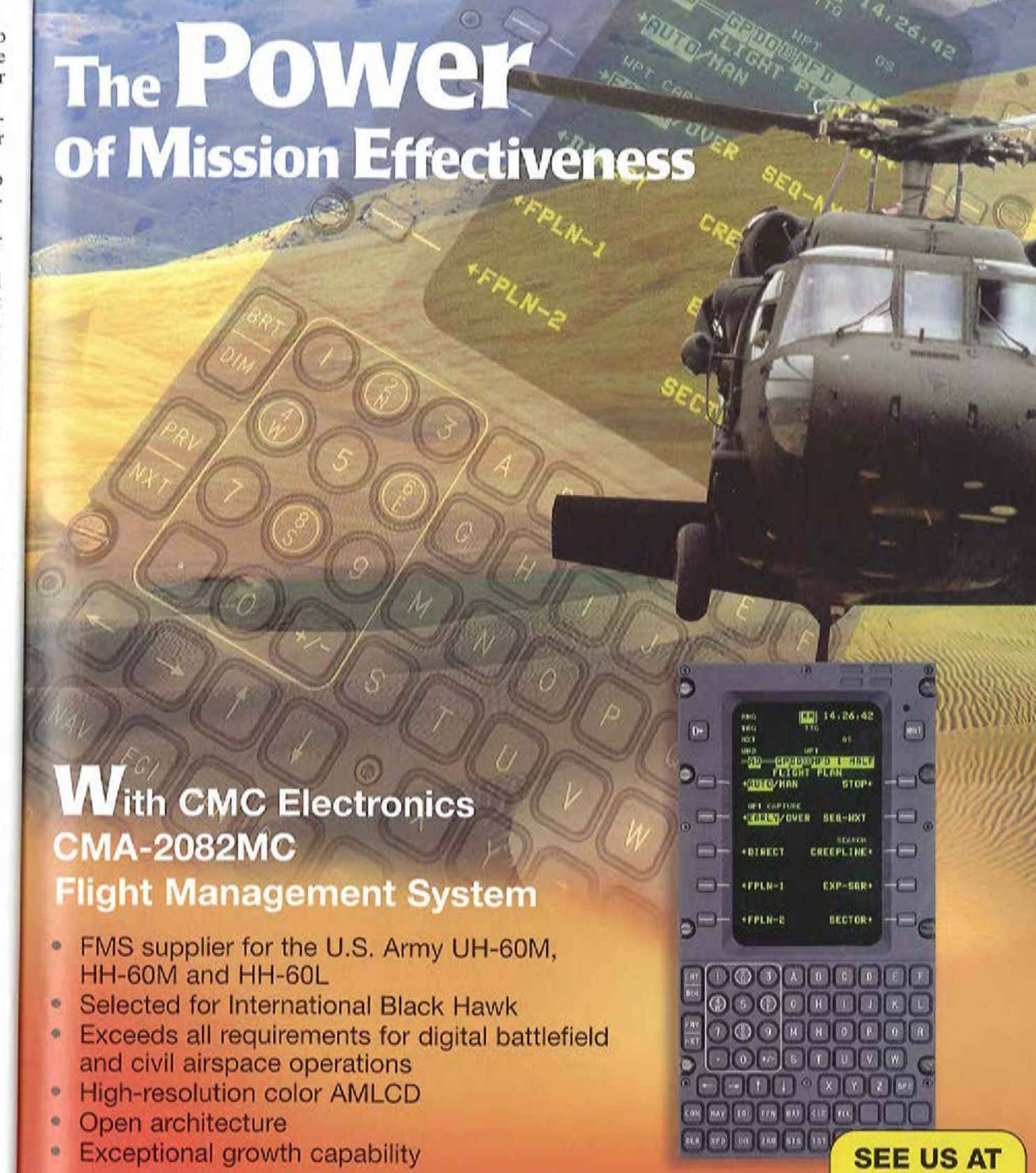

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The Future of Army Aviation Warrant Officers

By CW5 Jeffrey A. Reichard

This year your branch chief, MG James O. Barclay III, determined we will strive to unify our branch with the supporting credo of "*One Team, One Fight, One Future*."

Although we each wear different unit patches on our shoulders, we are all members of the same Aviation Branch team. Therefore, as we become a more modular Army, it is imperative that we take the necessary pains to work in unity not only in our branch, but within the Army as well.

As for the future of the aviation warrant officer, the future looks incredibly bright. Due to the recent quantity of highly qualified applications to be aviation warrant officers, we have the opportunity to provide the Army with an aviator that is truly "Above the Best."

Therefore, the branch chief has provided new guidance to the accessions board, increasing the minimum selection criteria.

However, we have identified some areas requiring improvement in the professional military education (PME) and professional military development (PMD) of warrant officers within our branch, which I will discuss more later in this article.

Raising the Bar

As stated previously, the quality of the applicants screened by the accessions board has never been higher.

Due to the size of the pool of qualified applicants, we felt it is time to increase the minimum selection criteria by which potential aviators are measured.

Although the regulatory prerequisites remain the same, I recommended some changes to the minimum selection criteria, which the aviation branch chief has approved.

MG Barclay signed a memorandum changing the requirements to:

ARMY PHOTO BY SSG LYNETTE HOKE

The current high OPTEMPO supporting the war on terrorism is making it increasingly difficult for warrant officers to attend their respective professional military education courses. As a branch team, we all must work to correct these deficiencies. Here, CW2 Corey Debolt, left, and WO1 Gerard Berthelot, with the 1st Bn., 244th Avn. Regt., Task Force 34, conduct pre-flight checks for a Feb. 27 mission at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

FWAATS

With the acquisition of the new C-27J Spartan as the joint cargo aircraft, and a replacement for the C-23, the FWAATS is looking down the road at training requirements for the Army. In 2005, FWAATS pilots and other personnel were treated to demonstration flights of its short field take off and landing capabilities.

Providing Training to the Total Army Fixed Wing Community

By MAJ Jeffrey E. Urso and 2LT Michael Howard

ARMY PHOTO

The Fixed Wing ARNG Aviation Training Site in Bridgeport, W.Va., provides a vast array of training on the C-12, C-23 and C-26 aircraft for the Guard, Reserve and active duty Army aviators.

The Fixed Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (FWAATS) is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains, within the technology corridor of West Virginia, and has become an increasingly important National Guard training facility.

Located in Bridgeport, it is the only Army training site providing Army aviators of the active duty, Reserve and National Guard with fixed wing airplane flight instruction.

Completed in 1996, the FWAATS training facility consists of over 14,000 square feet of hangar space and over 18,000 square feet of office space.

The facility received its accreditation through the Total Army School System and has been certified as a "School of Excellence" three times by Army Training and Doctrine Command and Fort Rucker evaluation teams.

Premier Flight Instruction

FWAATS provides its students some of the most complex, technically challenging and arduous flight training in the Army in one of three airframes: the C-23 Sherpa, C-12 Huron and the C-26 Metroliner.

Pilot training is comprised of a Fixed Wing Qualification (FWQ), Aircraft Qualification (AQC), Instructor Pilot Qualification (IPQ), Instrument Flight Examiner (IFE), Night Vision Goggle Qualification and Instructor Pilot Standardization (IPS) courses.

The FWAATS is the only training site catering exclusively to fixed wing aviators teaching the instrument flight examiners course in their current airframes. In the past, fixed wing instructor pilots needing to become instrument examiners attended the examiners course at Fort Rucker, Ala.

The fixed wing IFE course here was developed to provide more relevant training to fixed wing instructor pilots, who operate primarily via instrument flight rules environments.

Pilots attending the course first complete an eight day academic phase followed by three separate flight phases with 26 hours of instrument flight instruction.

The initial qualification and FWQ courses offer an expeditious method for military rotary wing qualified pilots, who also hold a civilian commercial multi-engine certificate, to become military fixed wing qualified.

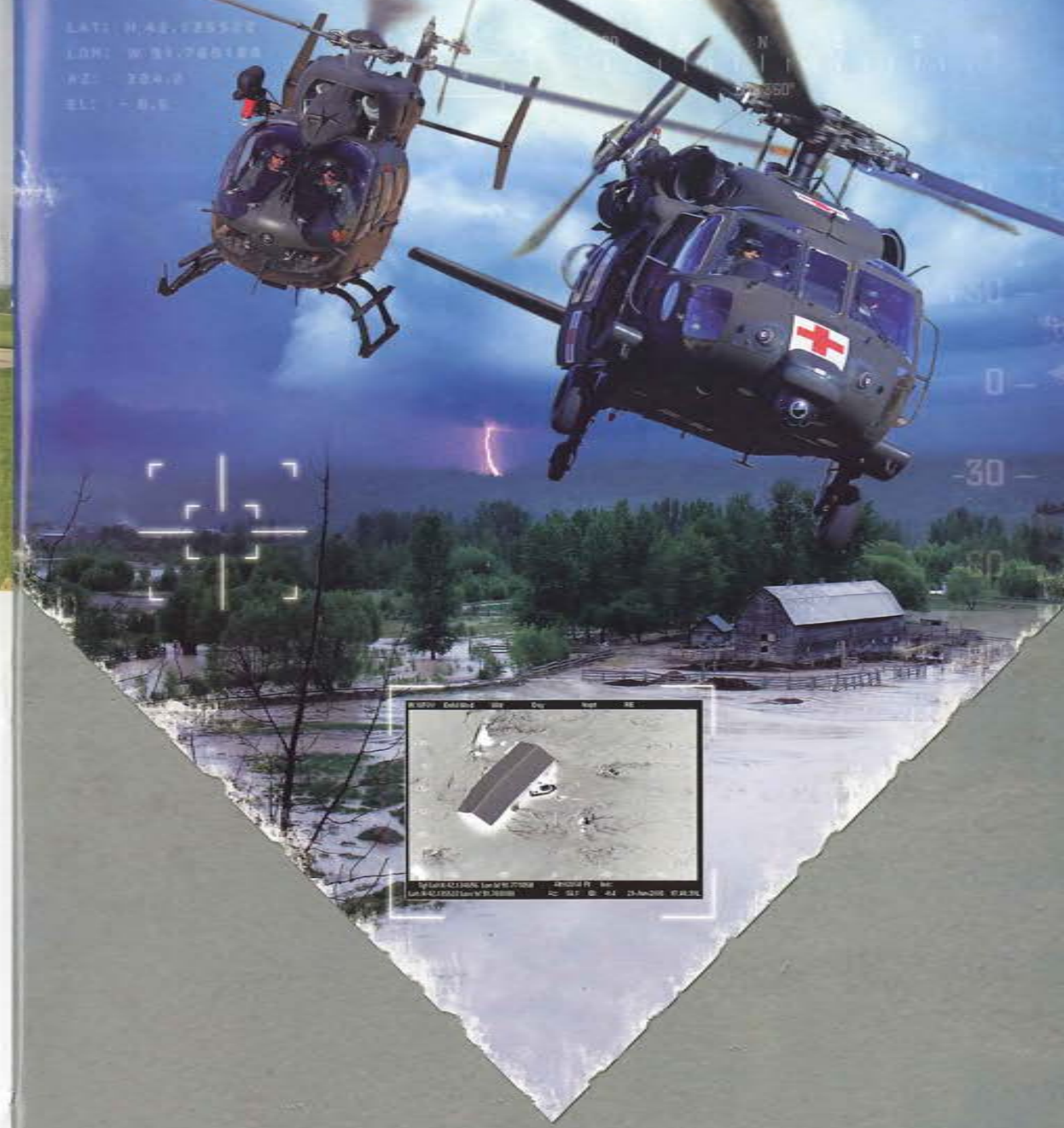
Pilots attend a four week course here in lieu of the three month fixed wing multi-engine qualification course.

Future training programs potentially include the Future Utility Airplane; a Task Force ODIN-A (for observe, detect, identify, neutralize–Afghanistan); and the C-27J Spartan joint cargo aircraft courses.

Additionally, we have a plan developed for training initial fixed wing multi-engine qualifications should future operational tempo dictate a need.

C-23 Sherpa Training

The FWAATS C-23 Section, the current war on terror workhorse, continuously provides classroom and



• 29 years of age or less.
• 8 years active federal service (AFS) or less.
• A minimum GT score of 110.
• A minimum AFAST score of 110.
• Strong letters of recommendation.

We have not only seen an increase in the quality of active duty applicants, but also the warrant officer flight training (WOFT) applicants.

There is a quota for the total number of active duty warrant officers to be accessed each fiscal year. Furthermore, that number is broken down into a 60/40 split, with 60 percent from within the active service, and 40 percent from the WOFT applicants.

Of the most recent applicants I have seen, most possess a four-year college degree, and have scored very high on the AFAST.

The recent selections have yielded the following trend averages:
• Age: 26 years old.
• AFS time: 5 years.
• GT score: 120.
• AFAST score: 131.

Getting Our Professional Education

Although the future of our aviation warrant officers is bright, we have identified an area we must improve. We currently face the challenge of meeting the PME and PMD requirements as warrant officers within the aviation branch.

Due to the current OPTEMPO and the ever changing battlefield, it has become increasingly difficult for warrant officers to attend their respective courses. However, we must encourage our warrant officers to attend warrant officer education system (WOES) courses on time while they are still relevant to the individual attending.

We currently still have CW4s attending the Aviation Warrant Officer Advanced Course (AWOAC).

As a result, the material covered in the course is not seen as relevant by students at the rank of CW4. However, when attended at the appropriate time, the course is relevant. Furthermore, the backlog of aviation warrant officers not attending PME has created an abundance of non-tracked aviators.

We are currently experiencing instructor pilot and maintenance test pilot shortages in the junior warrant officer grades within the branch.

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cation and Structure, dated Jan. 22, 2007, the AWOAC is a prerequisite for aviation safety officer, senior instructor pilot, instrument flight examiner, and maintenance qualifications.

Furthermore, DA PAM 600-3 states, CW3s will attend the AWOAC not later than one year after promotion to CW3. CW4s will attend the warrant officer staff course not later than one year after promotion to CW4. And, CW5s will complete the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course not later than one year after promotion to CW5.

Additionally, I'm proud to announce that aviation warrant officers are now being selected to attend Intermediate Level Education at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. In 2008, we had one aviation branch warrant officer selected, and this year we have two selected to attend in August.

Summary

Quite often, different people see the same subject in different lights; however, we must not be divided. Again, as our Army becomes more modular, we must take the necessary pains to work in unity within our branch and our Army. For our part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, we must be willing to work as *one team*.

We have but one way to judge the future, and that is by the past. We have identified our areas needing improvement and, as a team, we will make the changes to correct these deficiencies.

The wars to come will demand a unified commitment to take the fight to the enemy. The prospect of victory grows bright as our Army unites and adapts to fight as one team committed to victory.

As the Global War on Terrorism rages on, we must ensure we communicate among ranks, and submerge our differences to the achievement of our goals.

Above the Best!

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CW5 Jeffrey A. Reichard is the chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch with the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Combat Deployed

The U.S. Army's Sky Warrior unmanned aircraft are on the job and contributing to battlefield success, providing soldiers with superior situational awareness for even greater combat effectiveness.

Sky Warrior's 30-hour airborne endurance, Lynx SAR, and streaming EO/IR video enable persistent surveillance, swift target identification, and time-sensitive precision strike. Fielded more than a year ahead of Army requirements, the latest aircraft variant is equipped with a heavy-fuel engine for simplified battlefield logistics. Future Sky Warrior versions will expand capabilities to include four Hellfire missiles, TCDL communications, auto takeoff and landing, and control from the Army's One System GCS.

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Branch of Choice

By CSM Donald R. Sanders

I would like to start by saying that we in Aviation are the "branch of choice." The Army routinely exceeds the initial entry accessions rate into our aviation military occupation specialties. Furthermore, as a branch we continually make or exceed our retention objectives.

This can be attested to by the fact we currently have an aggregate fill of 104 percent across all the aviation enlisted ranks. Additionally, aviation noncommissioned officers and Soldiers are routinely selected as the best in their respective commands.

Recent examples are SGT Stanley Black, a 15Q air traffic controller with the 7th Army Multi-national Training Command in Germany, selected as the 2008 U.S. Army Europe NCO of the Year; and SPC Eric J. Kocourek, a 15G aircraft structural repairer with Co. D, 2nd. Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt. in Korea, selected as the 2008 Eighth U.S. Army Soldier of the Year.

Yes, without a doubt, we have the finest NCOs and Soldiers serving as operations specialists, air traffic controllers, unmanned aircraft system operators, flight engineers, crew chiefs, and as aircraft and system maintainers.

ARMY PHOTO

Due to the success of the Basic Non-commissioned Officers Course mobile training team program, the Army Aviation Center of Excellence is working to bring portions of the Advanced NCO Course to Soldiers at their home stations after returning from deployment. Here, Soldiers with the engine shop of Co. B, 601st Avn. Spt. Bn., 1st Inf. Div., prepare to dissemble a CH-47 helicopter engine for repairs at Contigency Operating Base Speicher June 25, 2008 in Iraq.

NCO Education System

In the last year, we have trained and graduated 300 NCOs from the Basic Non-commissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) via the mobile training team (MTT) concept.

Due to the success of this effort, the Aviation Center of Excellence (USAACE) is seeking approval from the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) to conduct MTTs for the Advanced NCO Course (ANCOC).

When formally approved, the plan is for the ANCOC MTT to be conducted at the installation of recently returning units in conjunction with the BNCOC MTT.

Another change is the new addition of the Command Post of the Future system to the 15P ANCOC and BNCOC, and to the 15Q ANCOC.

Soldiers in these courses are taught how to operate the system in order to further enhance their abilities to use digital enablers in the tactical operations center.

Non-Rated Crewmember Training

The Directorate of Training and Doctrine (DOTD) and the Directorate of Standardization, in conjunction with the Aviation Personnel Proponency Office, have staffed a future change to the training and award of the N1 additional skill identifier for the Nonrated Crewmember Instructor Course.

The proposed change to the training requirement will transform the current 6-week and 2-day course for the CH-47 nonrated crewmember and the 4-week and 3-day course for the UH-60 nonrated crewmember to a two part course.

Part I will be an interactive multimedia instruction-based course, which is coupled with part II, a resident portion taught at Fort Rucker (as is currently done).

Flight Uniforms

The Army Uniform Board meets annually and determines the Army's uniform policies. The Board met last December and approved a USAACE DA Form 2028 change request on the Army Aviation Combat Uniform (A2CU) standards for wear. Thus, the A2CU standards will be included in a tentative Nov. 1, 2009 edition of Army

COMBAT PROVEN.
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CLAW

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ARMY PHOTO BY SGT MIKE ALBERTS

The Aviation Center of Excellence works numerous issues on behalf of Aviation Soldiers. One action by the Concepts and Requirements Directorate is to obtain a fire resistant tan T-shirt to replace the current 100 percent cotton green T-shirt, important for Soldiers as those shown here with the 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde., working quickly to refuel and load an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior with rockets during night aerial gunnery fire Feb. 5 at the Pohakuloa Training Area in Hawaii.

Regulation 670-1.

Furthermore, the USAACE Concepts and Requirements Directorate is coordinating with TRADOC on a fire resistant tan T-shirt to replace the current 100 percent cotton green T-shirt.

The intent is so our aircrews can standardize the T-shirt color versus having one color for flight duties and another for non-flying duties.

UAS Training

The first MOS 15W UAS operator ANCOC course was conducted at Fort Rucker last October. Three classes have now been conducted for our newest aviation enlisted MOS.

The 15W ANCOC course includes critical aviation classes such as the Airspace Command and Control and Airspace Management, and the Tactical Airspace Integration System training. The training is further enhanced with the addition of command post of the future systems.

The 15W NCO also receives core aviation training to include UAS aircrew training plans and aviation safety.

The DOTD, in conjunction with the Army Aviation Logistics School and the UAS Training Battalion, is continuing to refine the training strategy for the implementation of another proposed MOS. The 15E UAS maintainer MOS will ultimately maintain the Shadow and Warrior aircraft.

The current system has the 15J10 MOS with three ASI of U2, U3 and U5 (one for each air vehicle), with each ASI having two tracks for a mechanic and a technician.

We are beginning to consolidate both the mech and tech MOS so there are three training classes verses six, ultimately going to one MOS.

Summary

As I visit our Aviation Soldiers in the field, these national treasures of the all-volunteer force stand out with their professionalism and patriotism. They are consistently challenged, whether it is in garrison, or in combat. Yet, these Soldiers are never found lacking.

Army aviation is comprised of teams; and these teams of Soldiers conduct their duties as silent professionals. Thus, these Soldiers expect all of us – whether we are leaders, DA civilians or industry partners – to do our best keeping that team strong.

It is only through addressing the challenges of our branch that we will all emerge to a better place.

We should be very proud of how as a branch we are a world class "learning organization" focused on improving our branch "team."

Above the Best!

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

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U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life-Cycle Management Command Update

One Team, One Fight, One Future

By MG James R. Myles

ARMY PHOTO

As we support the war, the Soldier remains at the core of everything we do. The real strength of our organization is life-cycle management, working together with a world class team of teams: the Program Executive Office for Aviation, the PEO for Missiles and Space, and the Aviation and Missile Research, Development & Engineering Center.

Team Redstone is truly one team committed to the future we all share. We ensure our Soldiers are ready for the fight. We continue to evolve to improve support to our Soldiers.

Specifically, we are expanding our efforts in condition based maintenance and capitalizing on the lessons we've learned thus far. Similarly, our team supporting the training fleet at Fort Rucker, Ala., has assumed new missions and improved our performance on current tasks. We have reorganized internally to better support our below-depot maintenance mission.

We are aggressively attacking obsolescence in our aviation and missile fleets through an innovative partnership with industry. And our depots continue to exceed production and efficiency targets.

The following paragraphs summarize where we are and the way ahead.

Condition Based Maintenance–Plus

Our Condition Based Maintenance program is undergoing a significant transformation and we remain committed to ensuring its success.

Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate serves as single customer and Soldier activity point.

We are moving to CBM "Plus," a predictive, proactive and reliability-centered maintenance program.

Our use of embedded monitoring devices and sensors provides maintainers and flight crews information on the "health" of aircraft systems.

Additional capabilities and infrastructure necessary to make use of this platform-generated information are embodied in the "plus" of CBM+.

This knowledge gives commanders and Soldiers the ability to more effectively support mission requirements via proactive, planned maintenance.

CBM+ has four primary goals: *to*

When you fly into battle at night, it's all about seeing the light of day. That's why aviators rely on the superior technology of ITT night vision. Even in the most difficult darkness scenarios, our Gen 3 Pinnacle tube provides the clearest, sharpest imaging available. We've been refining our night vision goggles for 26 years, setting the standard for reliability and performance that does not decrease over time. For mission success, for aviator survival, choose proven ITT night vision. For more information, please visit us at **itt.com/nv**.

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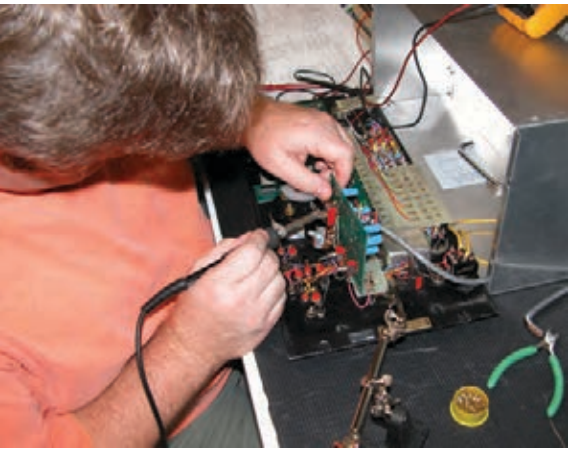
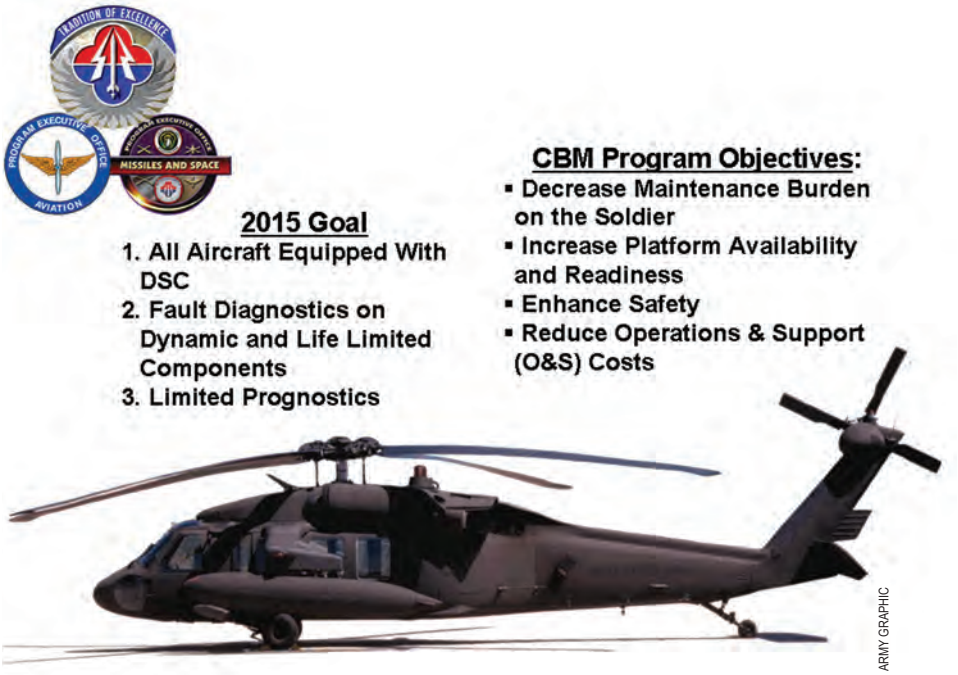


ARMY PHOTO

The Aviation Center Logistics Command works daily to keep schoolhouse aircraft at Fort Rucker in the air and pilots in seats.

ARMY PHOTO

Letterkenny Army Depot leads the efforts for the aviation ground power unit Reset work and is known as the official "Gold Site."



ARMY GRAPHIC

Condition based maintenance is an important focus for AMCOM and the command is working to meet several key goals and objectives.

decrease the maintenance burden on the Soldier, *increase platform availability and readiness*, *enhance safety*, and *decrease operations and support costs*. Today all four goals are being realized in theater.

As of January, we have equipped 24 percent of our helicopter fleet with CBM+ sensors. The data these sensors provide is being exploited on the flight line, in our production control offices, and in our engineering laboratories to give our maintainers more hardware and software tools to better plan and execute maintenance.

Our goal is to equip every deploying unit with CBM+ and complete all manned aircraft by 2015. Additional projects in development to implement CBM+ include our growing fleet of unmanned aircraft systems. Our CBM+ program has made significant, measurable improvements in aircraft safety and readiness.

To date, we have detected impending failures that would have resulted in the total loss of three aircraft and possibly their crews.

We know that an aviation battalion flying with CBM+ in combat is able to generate about 10 to 12 percent more flying hours than a non-CBM+ battalion. We have seen a 4 to 5 percent reduction in non-mission capable, maintenance rates in our CBM+ equipped UH-60 fleet, and a 75 percent reduction in AH-64D maintenance test flight hours.

CBM+ is changing maintenance practices. Maintainers, who now have the ability for post-flight data analysis, have avoided about $24 million in unnecessary T700 engine overhauls.

We have been able to give 25 to 50 flight hour prognostic warning of impending AH-64 nose gearbox chip lights while extending time-between-overhaul and inspections.

Mission abort rates in CBM+ equipped units are dropping to close to zero and units in combat are flying thousands of missions with no maintenance aborts.

In the special operations aviation community alone, the benefit of simplified rotor track and balance has saved enough flight time to equal another operational aircraft. We are only scratching the surface of what this capability can bring to aviation.

We see what CBM+ can do for troubleshooting and unscheduled maintenance. The next step is to go after scheduled maintenance.

How can CBM+ sensor data accomplish critical inspections in lieu of extensive disassembly and visual inspection? We are aggressively reviewing every inspection task where we think we can safely make this happen.

We predict that CBM+ will lead to more efficient maintenance practices and procedures, improved operational availability, and reduced costs associated with smaller logistics footprints. CBM+ is becoming the maintainers' most powerful tool.

Aviation Center Logistics Command

The Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) continues to manage the supply and maintenance of Fort Rucker's training base fleet via the Aviation Center Logistics Command. ACLC's efforts enable Fort Rucker to focus on training our future aviators.

AMCOM accomplishes this mission at Fort Rucker through a support

Thousands of rotary and fixed wing pilots rely on our advanced situational awareness, threat warning and ECM suites. Our EW team digs deep, not just to meet the specs, but to find the best solution to every problem. And the result? Systems that exceed expectations and deliver in a conflict's defining moment. Missions succeed, and pilots come home. To learn more, just visit us at **itt.com/victor.**

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ARMY PHOTO BY RUSSELL MOORE

AMCOM with industry partner Battelle have worked to re-engineer the caution advisory panel (CAP) in the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. The old CAP used light bulbs which burn out, the new solution uses light emitting diode technology.

contract with Army Fleet Support, a subsidiary of L-3 Communications.

Under COL Alan Stull, the ACLC has 118 government employees (63 DOD civilians and 55 military), who provide oversight and management of the aircraft maintenance mission performed by nearly 3,300 contractors across five aircraft fleets at five airfields and 22 staging fields.

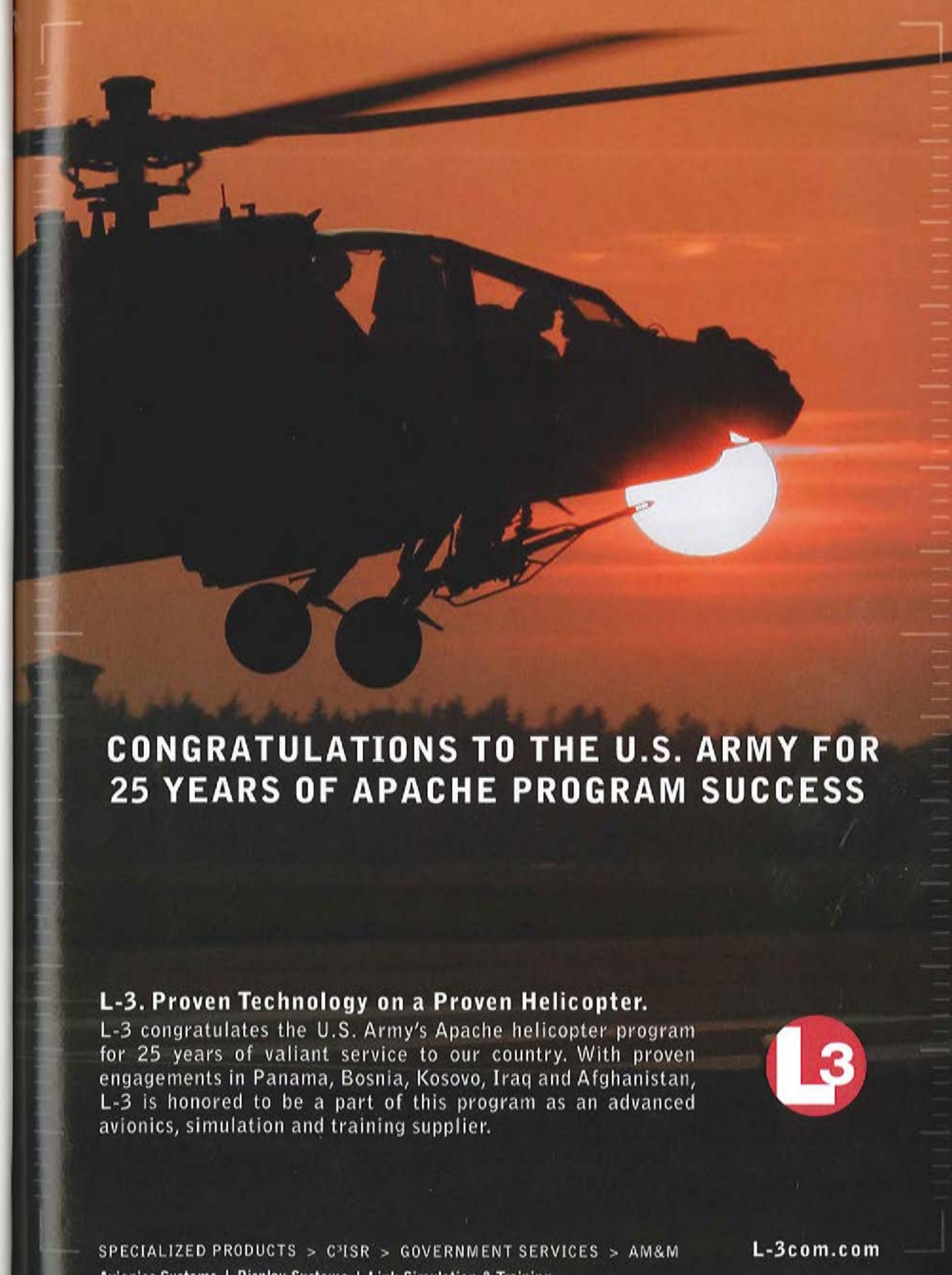
Since 2003, the ACLC has been AMCOM's face to Fort Rucker, providing the contract oversight support necessary to accomplish the mission of keeping aircraft in the air and pilots in the seats.

Since putting this fleet management initiative in place, there have been many successes, including increasing readiness of the Fort Rucker fleet from 42 to 74 percent and reducing the not-mission-capable-supply rate by nearly 25 percent in certain fleets.

By applying Lean Six Sigma principles - better maintenance, troubleshooting, improved phase maintenance procedures, and internal repair of components, the ACLC and the AFS team has been able to return three UH-60 Black Hawks from the training fleet to the operational Army.

In addition, ACLC recently was awarded the Shingo Bronze medallion for its maintenance excellence in an engine repair/overhaul process.

ACLC was so successful using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ARMY PHOTO BY BRIGITTE RODRIGEUZ

Mechanic Sylvia Flores works with other Corpus Christi Army Depot workers on the wiring bundles of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in the recapitalization program.

these improvement principles that their mission recently expanded to support the training fleets and equipment at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Eustis, Va.; and at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

At Fort Bliss, ACLC developed an integrated logistics system to resupply Class IX parts and is in the process of improving the sustainability of 18 aircraft.

At Fort Benning, ACLC operates a $2.1 million maintenance operation for seven aircraft supporting the air mission of the Infantry School. The missions at Forts Eustis and Huachuca are still in the development stage.

ACLC is improving sustainability of the aviation training assets for the Training and Doctrine Command, and is a key partner in the planning efforts underway to meet the increased demands of Flight School XXI.

Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate

In an effort to get our arms around the growing mission of field-level maintenance like *Reset* and the below-depot level maintenance in support of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN), AMCOM established the Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate (AFMD).

This directorate comprises all AMCOM aviation field maintenance activities, including Project OLR, into the AMCOM G3 operations. In addition, we are conducting a comprehensive study to transform the structure and business processes for the Army's aviation field maintenance mission.

The AFMD was formed under the leadership of COL Richard "Al" Evans in October 2008.

The OLR team was brought into the same office as Aviation Reset and the transition to a new directorate began. The goal is one point of contact for all of these missions.

The Aviation Reset mission will take the lion's share of AFMD's effort, but several other missions above the unit-level and below depot-level will be a part of the mission set.

These include: preset; maintenance and accountability of left behind equipment; support to foreign military sales; national maintenance program repair of critical parts and components; mobilization; installation of mission equipment packages and modification work orders; and maintenance support to aviation units (pass back).

By combining OLR and Aviation Reset into the AFMD, some efforts and responsibilities can be combined and economies of scale will be realized. This will ease our ability to get to a "one touch" on the units' aircraft when they enter the ARFORGEN cycle.

All the while we are working to make this transition seamless and transparent to our customers. At the end of the day the Soldier in the field stands to gain the most from this transition.

Continuous Technology Refreshment

At AMCOM, one of our most important missions is to attack obsolescence in our aviation fleet. One of the key tools we use when combating obsolescence is the *Continuous Technology Refreshment* program.

The CTR model allows us to partner with industry in the development of a business case analysis (BCA) that, once approved, can be put on contract.

Initially, we couldn't make the program for modernization of spares for aircraft and missile parts work, because of funding guidelines.

By thinking outside the box and partnering with industry to conduct a technology refreshment of problem parts at their own cost, we can now use that BCA to build a contract requirements package and put those parts on a production contract.

AMCOM's CTR model can take any sustainment challenge, whether it is caused by decreased reliability, high cost, low readiness, diminishing manufacturing sources, obsolescence, or availability, and provide a production solution for a new form, fit and function item.

These technology refreshed parts from the AMCOM CTR process meet all performance requirements and are granted the required air worthiness releases. The CTR parts are qualified, produced and fielded and the government owns the design specifications. To date, we're looking at about $700 million projected savings over 10 years.

These re-designed parts give the Soldier a more reliable part, less maintenance time, lower cost and increased readiness to fight the war.

In the last year, Battelle, our industry partner worked with us to improve readiness and lower cost through CTR solutions for aging platforms such as the UH 60 Black Hawk helicopter. In one instance, Battelle re-engineered the caution advisory panel (CAP) in the aircraft. The old CAP

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uses light bulbs that burn out frequently and the CTR solution provided a second source for the CAP that meets the same form, fit, and function using LED (light emitting diodes) technology.

The new CAP is more reliable and we now have a more capable panel in the cockpits of our Black Hawks.

Truly we are just at the tip of the iceberg. Army regulations now mandate that CTR will be the sustainment strategy to continuously refresh the technology for post production systems.

My goal is to institutionalize this AMCOM CTR model. Eventually, we will conduct a complete weapon system sustainment assessment and use the CTR program to modernize our spares, improve their reliability, increase readiness, and reduce the burden on the fighting men and women in the Army.

Depots

AMCOM's depots have never been more relevant or critical to supporting Soldiers in combat. Both the Corpus Christi and the Letterkenny Army Depots (CCAD and LEAD) perform missions that directly support the generation and sustainment of combat power across the globe.

The CCAD is continuing to partner with Sikorsky, Boeing, General Electric and Honeywell to rapidly and efficiently repair engines, blades and other key components.

CCAD's artisans are also doing extraordinary work in recapping UH-60 aircraft, both A-to-A, and the A-to-L models, and in returning crash and battle damaged aircraft to the fleet.

Repair of critical aircraft components, and remanufacture of critical parts (such as precision bearings), remains a major function at CCAD and a critical element in the sustainment of world-wide readiness.

LEAD continues to support aviation ground power units (AGPU) as the official "Gold Site" for Reset of the AGPU and is seeking possible expansion of the current mission.

LEAD also partners with Lockheed Martin on repairing the target acquisition and designation sight/pilot night vision sensor for the Apache fleet.

These missions are in addition to the work LEAD does in repairing and resetting Patriot missile systems, Humvees and generators, not to mention their work in building the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for our Soldiers in combat.

Our workers at LEAD and CCAD get "it" – their support to our war fighters is critical and essential to the sustainment of the most capable helicopters and unmanned aircraft systems in the world today.

Summary

We are proud of the role we play in supporting Army aviation globally. This life cycle management team embodies our warrior ethos. We will always accomplish our missions and will never quit when faced with the daily challenges.

Our Soldiers never quit and we will be with them every step of the way.

❖❖

MG James Myles is the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life-Cycle Management Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

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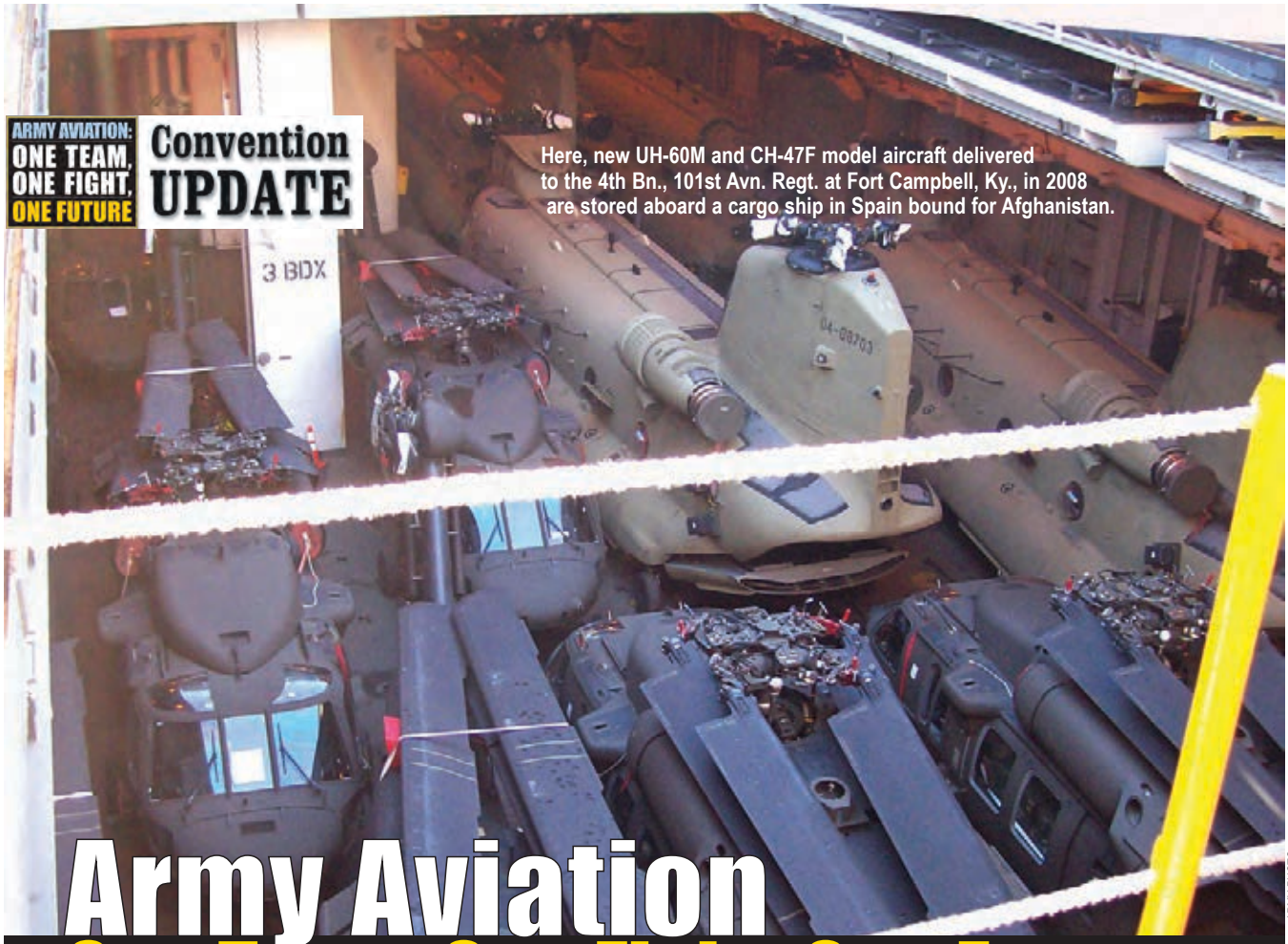

Here, new UH-60M and CH-47F model aircraft delivered to the 4th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 2008 are stored aboard a cargo ship in Spain bound for Afghanistan.

ARMY PHOTO

Army Aviation
One Team, One Fight, One Future

By BG William T. Crosby

Five years ago, *Aviation Transformation* was initiated, with the goals of modernizing our existing aircraft fleet and procuring new, state-of-the-art aircraft for operating more effectively in current and emerging combat environments.

Fixing Army aviation through execution of modernization is critical in light of the extraordinary operational requirements our Soldiers and systems are meeting in theater.

In the past year, our systems have flown approximately 600,000 hours in theater, bringing the total flight hours in support of the Global War on Terrorism close to 2.9 million. Maintaining this pace has taken a significant toll on our systems; and therefore, modernization is a realized requirement.

Aviation is fortunate to have experienced the leadership and professional excellence of Paul Bogosian, who retired in December after serving as the Program Executive Officer for Aviation since July 2004.

The aviation community will salute Paul Bogosian's dedication to the aviators and warfighters, and for his outstanding contributions to Army aviation over an extended career, by inducting him into the AAAA sponsored Army Aviation Hall of Fame in May. I know we all applaud this decision and thank Paul for his years of service.

Readiness & Sustainment

Our maintainers have managed to sustain outstanding readiness rates, based on the extraordinary paces our systems have been operating.

Our operational rates continue to exceed Army standards in every fleet of helicopters. For example, during 2008, the Utility Helicopters Project Office fully outfitted the first unit equipped with 30 UH-60M Black Hawks and deployed key personnel with the unit into theater.

Concurrently, a UH-60A aircraft was recapitalized into a UH-60L model, and 1,966 T701D engines were issued to Army units.

Even in the caustic desert environment, the fleet of Army aircraft is easily surpassing its standard mission capability rate. These statistics are primarily attributable to the aggressive, proactive maintenance accomplished by our personnel deployed world-wide.

Condition based maintenance and Soldier focused logistics are being engaged to ensure timely, accurate maintenance actions and parts availability to keep our aircraft in the fight.

Maintaining our ability to support the Soldier will continue to be our primary focus.

Transformation

Aviation transformation experienced a setback in plans to execute an armed reconnaissance capability this past year. As a result of the Defense Acquisition Executive's decision in October to terminate the ARH-70A armed reconnaissance helicopter contract, a Kiowa Warrior replacement path forward is being pursued.

The Army and Office of Secretary of Defense agree the Kiowa Warrior replacement aircraft requirements remain valid, necessitating development of a new program and a sup-

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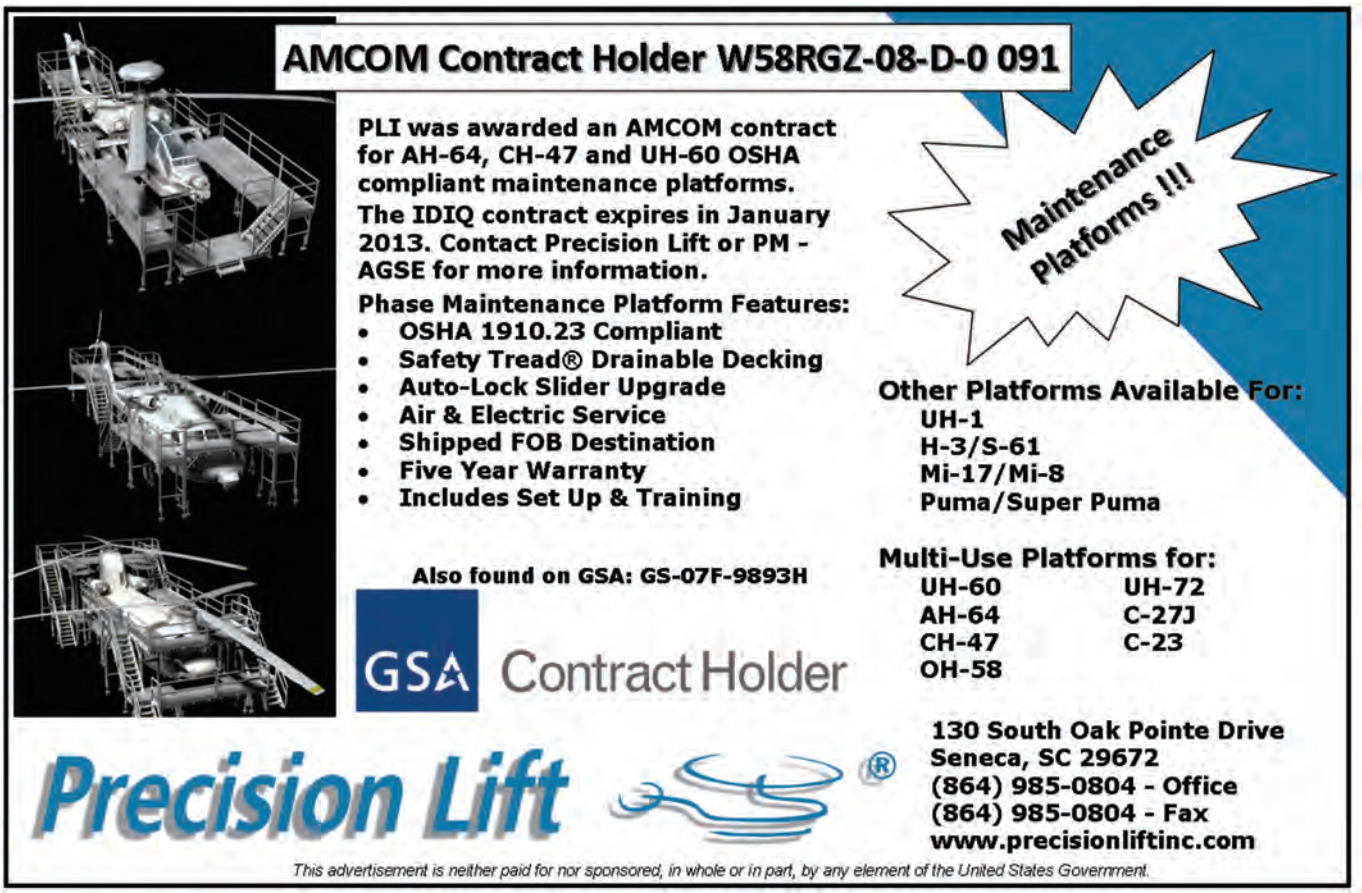

porting acquisition strategy.

In the interim, significant improvements to the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior will enable the Army to sustain the fleet beyond 2020. Fifty new LUH-72A light utility helicopters have been issued to the Army National Guard and to Army units.

Two C-23J joint cargo aircraft have been delivered to the JCA Joint Program Office and qualification testing efforts have been initiated. New AH-64D Apaches, Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks are being delivered to the Army every month.

We are concurrently developing and testing modernized, updated systems that will provide greater protection for our Soldiers and allow them to efficiently maintain and fly their aircraft.

Our air traffic services and tactical airspace control systems have modernized to manage airspace filled with Army, joint, civil and unmanned aircraft.

Evolutions of our digital mission planning and maintenance systems have significantly decreased the burden on our aircrews executing their exceptional mission demands.

In the Year Ahead

The Program Executive Office for Aviation will embark on some significant milestones. In 2009, the Apache Project Manager's Office will field the modernized target acquisition designation sights and pilot night vision sensors, known as M-TADS/PNVS, to 10 battalions. By fiscal year 2011, the entire AH-64D Longbow aircraft fleet will be M-TADS equipped.

The Apache PM implementation of initial fielding of the VUIT-2 system (video from unmanned aircraft systems for interoperability teaming level II) has provided sizable advantages for our aircrews and provided unprecedented combat multipliers to our Soldiers in harm's way.

This revolutionary capability allows pilots to display UAS video in the Apache cockpit as well as transmit Apache sensor video to the ground.

Development of the next generation AH-64D Longbow, the Block III, continues to go well with the completion of its first flight last July, and further user testing on the Block III aircraft is scheduled this November.

The CH-47F program, with the multi-year production contract awarded in 2008, is procuring additional aircraft, and integrating digital source collectors into their fleet to monitor the health of the aircraft and provide better maintenance data.

The UH-60M Black Hawk has already flown two prototype UH-60M upgrade aircraft with fly-by-wire, fully automated digital engine controllers and common avionics architecture system cockpit this past year, with more roll-out ceremonies planned in 2009 and beyond.

The OH-58D Kiowa Warrior will begin to undergo significant improvements this year to sustain the fleet beyond 2020, to include completion of the Safety Enhancement Program, and by fiscal year 2015, a phase-in approach of the Life Support 2020 program to minimize impact to the units.

The C-27J Spartan Joint Cargo Aircraft program will continue to field aircraft and graduate its first aircrew training class this year.

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, in concert with the Secretary of Defense's 2008 Intel-ligence Surveillance Reconnaissance surge, will field two Shadow systems, and provide laser designator capability during 2009.

Unmanned Aviation

Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) continue to transform the battlefield

by performing surveillance and reconnaissance operations without putting Soldiers' lives at risk.

Commanders have effectively employed these systems in over 173,000 flight hours since April 2008 in support of combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Since February 2003, UAS have been in theater and have flown over 613,000 hours in support of both theaters of operation.

As a result of the demand for the capabilities these systems provide, the Army is continuing to develop and procure new unmanned aircraft. Orders for 260 more Raven B small, hand launched aircraft have been delivered and fielded to the Army.

The Extended Range/Multi-Purpose unmanned aircraft has been re-designated an Acquisition Category 1 program and will be known in the future as the "Sky Warrior"; two of these quick reaction capability systems are planned for fielding in 2009.

Summary

The operational environment our Soldiers face is constantly evolving and changing. Meeting Soldiers' needs and modernizing our fleet is essential to remaining in front of a motivated, dynamic enemy.

First and foremost, supporting the Warfighter remains the top priority for the aviation acquisition workforce. Aviation was fortunate to have the leadership and expertise of Paul Bogosian, whose focal point has been on modernization of our weapon systems to meet the fight and focus on one future.

Our disciplined investment in science and technology ensures we will continue to plan, develop and field the finest state-of-the-art components for our aviation weapon systems.

Over the next decade, Soldiers can remain confident that aviation will be where it is needed, at the right time, equipped with capabilities to defend and protect our nation.

❖❖

BG William T. Crosby is the program executive officer for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

ARMY PHOTO BY RONALD MCDONALD

Senior Executive Service civilian Paul Bogosian receives the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from LTG N. Ross Thompson III, military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics & Technology, during his Dec. 12 retirement ceremony at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The award is the highest granted by Secretary of the Army to a career civilian employee for exceptional achievement or service.

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ARMY PHOTO BY SGT DALE SWEETNAM

Since opening aviation to women and allowing them to participate in combat, women have demonstrated they can meet the challenges. Two UH-60 Black Hawk crews flew a historic mission on Christmas Day, 2007 in Iraq – the first time all female Soldiers comprised the mission crews. Not since the days of World War II when female WASP crews helped to ferry aircraft to gaining units, have women manned and flown in combat. The eight women were assigned to the 2nd Bn., 147th Avn. Regt., Minnesota ARNG, with units under the Hawaii (Co. B) and Washington (Co. C.) state Guard.

Making a Difference and Forging Ahead

By MAJ Elizabeth A. Martin

Editor's note: *The following is the final of three articles leading up to the Association's 2009 National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. This year marks the 35th anniversary of women serving in the Aviation Branch. We thank MAJ Elizabeth Martin for her contribution and conclusion to this series.*

As we commemorate the 35th anniversary of women in Army aviation, it is important to reflect on the tremendous impact women have made throughout the branch and the strength they bring to the defense of our nation and the Global War on Terrorism.

Making a Difference from the Start of Aviation

Women have been making a difference in air operations since the early 1900s. The Women's Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASP, were small in numbers, but were instrumental in ferrying aircraft during World War II.

2LT Sally Murphy was the Army's first female pioneer in aviation, graduating from flight school in 1974.

BG Anne Macdonald became the first active duty woman to be selected to general officer from the branch, pinning on her stars Jan. 11, 2006.

CW5 Mary Cara Smalley was the first female pilot rated in the AH-1 Cobra in the late 1970s and first female regular Army warrant officer and aviator to achieve the rank of CW5 in 1995.

CSM Diane Williams was the first female in aviation selected to be a command sergeant major, serving as a battalion CSM for the 1st Bn., 222nd Avn. Regt. at Fort Eustis, Va.; for the 164th Air Traffic Services Group in Korea; and then CSM of the 2nd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt. In 1998, Williams became the first female brigade CSM, serving with the Aviation Training Brigade at Fort Rucker, Ala.

However it would be another two decades from Murphy's 1974 graduation before women in aviation were allowed to perform combat missions due to a federal law restriction.

Approved for Combat

It wasn't until April 1993, ten years after the formation of the branch, that Defense Secretary Les Aspin revised federal policy and issued the National Defense Authorization Act. This act was pivotal in aviation history as it authorized women to fly combat aircraft throughout the services.

The change in legislation permitted women like CW4 Gwen Shallow, the first female AH-64 Apache pilot, to make a difference in a combat role.

In 1993, when Aspin changed the legislation authorizing women to

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COURTESY DOD PHOTO

CPT Kimberly Hampton became the first female Army aviator to die during combat operations in Iraq, being shot down over Fallujah Jan. 2, 2004. Hampton was an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot.

serve in many combat arms branches and to fly combat missions, women were 12 percent of the Army active duty force and made up only 2.6 percent of the aviation population.

Women have continued to contribute to the Army in growing numbers over the years. In 2008, women made up 17 percent of the Army's active personnel strength, 9 percent of the aviation branch (all ranks and career fields), and 6 percent of all enlisted aviation Soldiers.

Leading from the Front

No matter the job skill, rank or duty assignment, women have proven to be a vital component of aviation like their male counterparts. They are devoted to support the mission and are focused to execute missions with precision.

The front lines of war are extremely fluid in the current complex, asymmetric fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite a challenging mission, women continue to excel in the air as pilots, air mission commanders, crew chiefs and door gunners. They execute a variety of missions in support of ground forces including: direct fire and attack engagements, air assault and air movement, reconnaissance, medical and casualty evacuations, personnel recovery, and sling-load operations.

Women have strongly led aviation forces at all levels in combat in support of the war on terrorism and other global conflicts.

In a 2007 interview for the Library of Congress, COL Laura Richardson, currently the garrison commander of Fort Myer and a former 5th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, remarked, "Generally, what I've encountered in the Army is Soldiers want competent leaders. It doesn't matter what color your skin is, or what gender you are."

Perspective on Women in Aviation

Retired MG Virgil L. Packett II, who served as the 11th Aviation branch chief, recently provided his perspective on women serving in aviation.

"It is a wonderful thing to see professional passion on the field, in the aircraft or at the front of a formation. That passion is infectious, it builds confidence, and it under-

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ARMY PHOTO

Vice President Richard Cheney presented the Distinguished Flying Cross to CW3 Lori Hill on Oct. 16, 2006 at Fort Campbell, Ky., for her heroism and bravery during combat actions while serving in Iraq.

scores commitment and competence – like no other combat multiplier – that is what I have witnessed over the past 35 years as an Army aviator, and that is what I have seen women bring to the Aviation branch," he said.

"Those pioneers, those brave souls that stepped up and ventured to go into that male dominated culture were few, but, they were mighty. They have nurtured the humanity, fostered the dignity and respect that we all, as human beings, deserve and strive to deliver," Packett said, "Women have carried the burden, shared the sacrifice and have gone the extra mile...just to prove the point. They stand shoulder to shoulder in this brotherhood-of-arms, having earned their position as a proud member of the team."

Valorous Combat Actions

CW3 Lori Hill – Distinguished Flying Cross

In March 2006, CW3 Lori Hill serving with the 2nd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., was piloting her OH-58D Kiowa Warrior in Iraq when the lead aircraft came under heavy fire. Hill drew the fire away, simultaneously providing suppressive fire for the troops engaged with the enemy on the ground.

A rocket-propelled grenade hit her aircraft, damaging the cockpit instrumentation. Instead of focusing on her predicament, she established communication with the ground forces and continued to provide them with aerial weapon support until the Soldiers reached safety.

As Hill turned her attention to her aircraft, which was rapidly losing hydraulic power, her aircraft again received machine-gun fire with a round passing through her ankles.

Despite a damaged aircraft and her injuries, she landed at Forward Operating Base Normandy, saving her crew and aircraft.

For her actions Hill was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross Oct. 16, 2006 by Vice President Richard Cheney at Fort Campbell, Ky.

BG Rhonda Cornum – Gulf War POW

In 1999, then MAJ Rhonda Cornum was serving as a flight surgeon with the 2nd Bn., 229th Avn. Regt. during Operation Desert Storm.

During the last week of February, while performing a

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search and rescue mission for a downed Air Force F-16 pilot, her UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter was shot down by Iraqi forces, killing 5 of the 8-person crew.

Cornum and two other survivors were captured and held as prisoners of war. Her injuries included a bullet in the shoulder, a shattered knee and both arms badly broken. Cornum and fellow POWs were repatriated later on March 6.

Women Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

As we reflect on the past 35 years of women in Army aviation, it is important that we pay respect to those women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in the line of duty.

• Dec. 14, 1990, CW2 Carol L. McKinney, a UH-1 pilot with the 1267th Medical Co. (Air Ambulance), Missouri Army National Guard, died when her aircraft crashed in Texas.

• March 1, 1991, MAJ Marie Rossi-Cayton, commander of Co. B, 159th Avn. Regt. and a CH-47D pilot, died in a crash flying in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm.

During an interview with CNN just days before the ODS ground war began, Rossi-Cayton said, "What I'm doing is no greater or less than the man flying next to me. Personally, as an aviator and a Soldier, this is the moment that anybody trains for, so I feel ready for the challenge."

• May 13, 1991, CPT Sashai Dawn and 1LT Vicki L. Boyd, both UH-1 pilots, and SSG Linda S. Simonds, with the 126th Med. Co. (AA), Calif. ARNG, were killed when their aircraft crashed during a medical evacuation mission in Honduras.

• April 24, 1995, 1LT Jennifer Varney, a CH-47D pilot with Co. B, 2nd Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., died during a maintenance test flight south of Florence, Texas.

• Jan. 31, 1998, SPC Bethany Stewart, a UH-60 crew chief with 1st Bn., 159th Avn. Regt., died during aircraft maintenance operations at Fort Bragg, N.C.

• July 23, 1999, CPT Jennifer Odom, a RC-7 pilot with Co. D, 204th M.I. Bn., died when her reconnaissance plane crashed in southern Colombia.

• Jan. 2, 2004, CPT Kimberly Hampton, commander and an OH-58D pilot with Trp. D, 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., died when her aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire in Fallujah, Iraq. Hampton was the first woman in aviation to lose her life in combat during OIF.

• April 26, 2004, 1LT Candace Voegele-Daniels, a UH-60 pilot with the 1st Bn., 159th Avn. Regt., died when her aircraft crashed during a night training exercise near Dillon, S.C.

• Jan. 7, 2006, 1LT Jaime Campbell, a UH-60 pilot with Co. B, 1st Bn., 207th Avn. Regt., Alaska ARNG, died when her aircraft crashed near Tall'Afar, Iraq.

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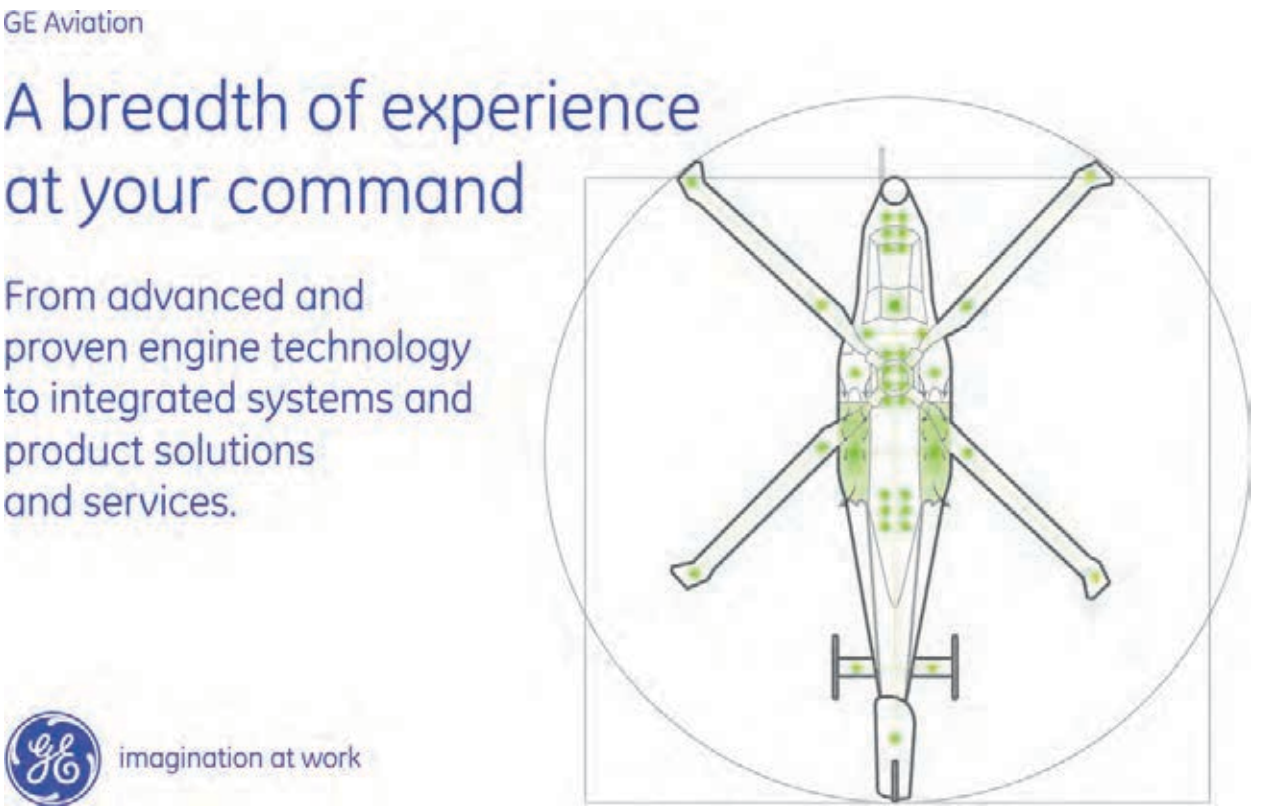
❖❖

MAJ Elizabeth A. Martin is a student at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.



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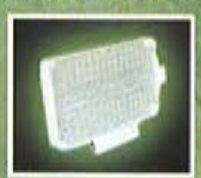

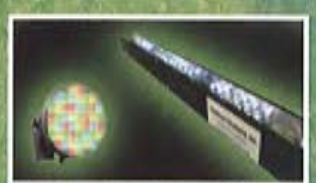

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2009 AAAA Annual Convention

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Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 2, 2009

0700-1800	**Air Assault Chapter Golf Tournament**	Springhouse Golf Links
1300-1700	**AAAA Registration Center Open**	Governors A
1700-1800	**National Awardees Briefing**	Governors C

Sunday, May 3, 2009

0900-1900	**AAAA Registration Center Open**	Governors A
0930-1130	**AAAA National Executive Board Meeting**	Governors C
1130-1300	**National Executive Board Luncheon**	Governors D
1300-1600	**Press Room Open** (Sponsored by EADS North America UH-72 Industry Team)	Ryman Studio ABC
1300-1430	**Annual Meeting:** Election of Officers, discussion of AAAA initiatives. (Chapter Leadership and all AAAA Members are encouraged to attend. Refreshments served - Open Bar & snacks) Membership Awards presented.	Tennessee C
1600-1900	**Early Bird Reception & Opening of Exhibits**	Ryman Exhibit Hall

Monday, May 4, 2009

0700-1500	**AAAA Registration Center Open**	Governors A
0700-0800	**EyeOpener Coffee**	Delta Lobby B
0700-0745	**Speakers & Natl. Awardee Breakfast**	Governors Chamber E
0730-1600	**Press Room Open** (Sponsored by EADS North America UH-72 Industry Team)	Ryman Studio ABC
0800-1100	**Professional Session Opening**	Delta BCD
0800-0830	**Welcome, Presentation of Colors,** **MG James R. Snider, Ret.,** AAAA President	
0830-0845	**Host Command Welcome** **BG Stephen J. Townsend**, 101st Airborne Div	
0845-0915	**Congressional Welcome Parker Griffith, (5th, AL)**	
0915-0945	**Aviation Branch Opening Remarks** **MG James O. Barclay III**, Aviation Branch Chief, CG, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence & Fort Rucker	
0945-1000	**"Year of the NCO"** **CSM Donald Sanders,** Aviation Branch NCO	
1000-1100	**Keynote Address & AAAA Awards** Speaker TBD	
1100-1500	**Exhibits Open** *(continuous PM briefings Booth 1632)*(AATD, Air Warrior, Apache Attack, Armed Recon, Armed Scout, ASE, AVCATT, AVN Sys, Cargo, CATT, Army UAS/COE, JTRS Kiowa, TAPO, UAS, Utility)	Ryman Exhibit Hall
1100-1500	**U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance**	Ryman Exhibit Hall Booth 172
1130-1300	**AAAA Luncheon,** **COL Clayton M. Hutmacher,** Cdr., 160th Special Operation Avn Regt (Abn) Presentation of Scholarship Donations and U.S. Army Aviation Museum Donations	Tennessee C
1400-1530	**Professional Session Breakouts**	
1400-1500	**Warrant Officer Update**: **CW5 Jeffery A. Reichard,** Aviation Branch Chief Warrant Officer	Bayou C
1400-1500	**Enlisted Update**: **CSM Donald R. Sanders,** Aviation Branch Command Sergeant Major	Bayou D
1400-1530	**Company Commander & First Sergeant Panel** Chairman: **COL Richard M. Beckinger,** Cdr, 1st Avn. Bde., Panel: **CSM Roger Kingston**, CSM, 1st Avn. Bde**.,** **LTC William D. "Hank" Taylor,** Cdr**,** 2-17 Cavalry, 101st Airborne Div**, MAJ Letitia Williamson**, Cdr, Co. A/1-145th Avn. Regt.	Bayou E
1400-1630	**AAAA Scholarship Foundation Board Meeting**	Governors C
1500-1630	**Spouse High Tea, Family Readiness Update** **BG Rhonda Cornum,** Director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, G3/5/7	Magnolia Ballroom

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

0700-1500	**AAAA Registration Center Open**	Governors A
0730-0815	**Speakers' Breakfast**	Governors Chamber E
0730-0830	**EyeOpener Coffee**	Delta Lobby B
0730-1600	**Press Room Open** (Sponsored by EADS North America UH-72 Industry Team)	Ryman Studio ABC
0830-1130	**Professional Sessions:**	Delta CD
0830-0900	**Freedom Team Salute**	
0900-0930	**LTG J. D. Thurman,** Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7	
0930-1000	**BG William T. Wolf**, CG Combat Readiness/Safety Center	
1000-1130	**Integrated Warfighting Forum** Chairman: **MG James O. Barclay III,** CG, USAACE; Panel: ***MG Donald M. Campbell,** CG, U.S. Army Armor Ctr. & Sch., ***MG Michael D. Barbero,** CG, U.S. Army Infantry Ctr. & Sch., ***MG Michael L. Oates,** CG, 10th Mountain Div., ***MG Peter M. Vangjel,** CG, U.S. Army Fires COE & FA Sch., **COL James B. Burton,** Brigade Combat Team Commander	
1100-1500	**Exhibits Open** *(continuous PM briefings Booth 1632)*(AATD, Air Warrior, Apache Attack, Armed Recon, Armed Scout, ASE, AVCATT, AVN Sys, Cargo, CATT, Army UAS/COE, JTRS Kiowa, TAPO, UAS, Utility)	Ryman Exhibit Hall
1100-1500	**U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance,**	Ryman Exhibit Hall Booth 172
1200-1330	**AAAA 50 Year Members, Charter Members, & Cub Club Luncheon** (*Invitation Only*)	Governors D
1330-1500	**Army Aviation Hall of FameTrustees Meeting**	Governors C
1500-1600	**AAAA NEB & Chapter Presidents Session**	Governors C
1500-1700	**Cub Club Reunion** (Members/Invitation Only)	G6060
1730-2100	**Army Aviation Hall of Fame Dinner**	Delta DC
	1730-1800 Ticket Pick Up	Delta Lobby B
	1800-1900 Reception	Delta Lobby B
	1800-1900 HoF Inductee Assembly	Delta B
	1900-2100 Dinner	Delta DC
2100-0100	**AAAA Chapters' Reception**	Delta A

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

0700-1600	**AAAA Registration Center Open**	Governors A
0730-0830	**First Light Breakfast** (Invitation only) Speaker: **LTG James H. Pillsbury,** Deputy Commanding General, Army Materiel Command	Delta B
0730-0830	**EyeOpener Coffee**	Delta Lobby B
0730-1600	**Press Room Open** (Sponsored by EADS North America UH-72 Industry Team)	Ryman Studio ABC

Continued on page 56

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Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 *continued*

0830-1200 **Professional Sessions:** **Delta CD**

0830-0900 **MG James Myles**, CG AMCOM

0900-0930 **BG Walter L. Davis**, Director Army Aviation

0930-1000 **BG William T. Crosby**, PEO Aviation

1000-1100 **Future Developments Panel** **Delta CD**
Chairman: **MG James O. Barclay III**, CG, USAACE.
Panelists: **MG James R. Myles**, CG AMCOM, **BG William T. Crosby**, PEO Aviation,**BG Walter L. Davis**, Director Army Aviation, G-3/5/7

1100-1200 **Acquisition Round Table, CEOs and Government Officials discuss top issues**.
Chairman: BG William T. Crosby, PEO Aviation
Panel: **Frank W. Pace,** Exec VP General Atomics, **James Burkhardt,** Pres, L-3 Platform Integration Div, **Philip J. Dunford,** VP & GM Rotorcraft Systems, Boeing, **Gregory S. Churchill,** Exec VP & COO Gov't Systems, Rockwell Collins **Scott Starrett,** Pres, Sikorsky Military Systems

0830 – 1230 **Spouse Program** **Bayou E**
(Continental Breakfast for attendees)

0830-1100 **Islam and Cultural Awareness**
CW4 James Baker, All Source Intelligence Fusion Chief, Fort Rucker, AL

1100-1230 **Army Family Covenant Presentation**
Ms. Lynn McCollum, Director of Family Programs, U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, HQDA

1200-1600 **Exhibits Open** **Ryman Exhibit Hall**
(continuous PM briefings Booth 1632)(AATD, Air Warrior, Apache Attack, Armed Recon, Armed Scout, ASE, AVCATT, AVN Sys, Cargo, CATT, Army UAS/COE, JTRSKiowa, TAPO, UAS, Utility)

1200-1600 **U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance** **Ryman Exhibit Hall Booth 172**

1800-2200 **AAAA Annual Banquet featuring a concert by Wynonna Judd and recognition of Women in Army Aviation**, 35 years after the graduation of first female aviator. **Delta BCD**
(Banquest entertainment sponsored in part by the kind assistance of EADS North America)

1800-1845 Assigned Seat Verification **Delta B lobby**

1800-1845 Reception **Delta B Lobby**

1800-1845 VIP Head Table Assembly **Presidential D**

1900-2200 Banquet and Entertainment **Delta BCD**

NOTE: The AAAA Annual Banquet is assigned seating only. Please bring your voucher for your banquet tickets to the Banquet Ticket Booth located in the Registration area for your seating assignment prior to 1200 noon, May 6.

2100-2400 **AAAA's Farewell Bash** **Presidential CE**
AAAA's Farewell Bash - Say your goodbyes to your friends until next year. Music for dancing and listening pleasure by the "First Flight Band", beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

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Ryman Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall Hours:

Sunday, May 3

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM Early Bird Reception

Monday,May 4

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

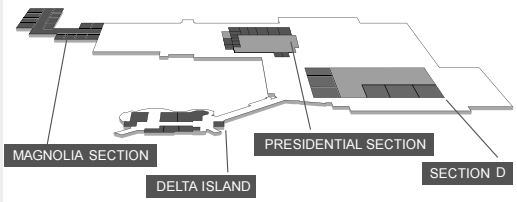
Tuesday May 5

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Wednesday May 6

12:00 PM –4:00 PM

Conference Rooms & Delta Island
Level M Mezzanine



Ballrooms
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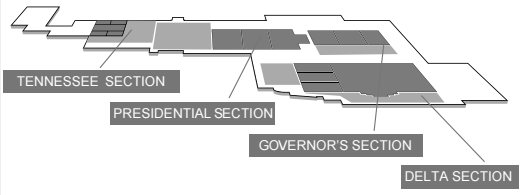

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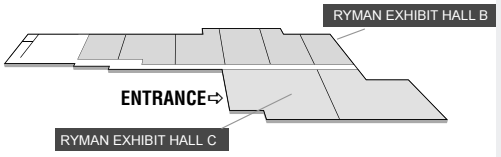

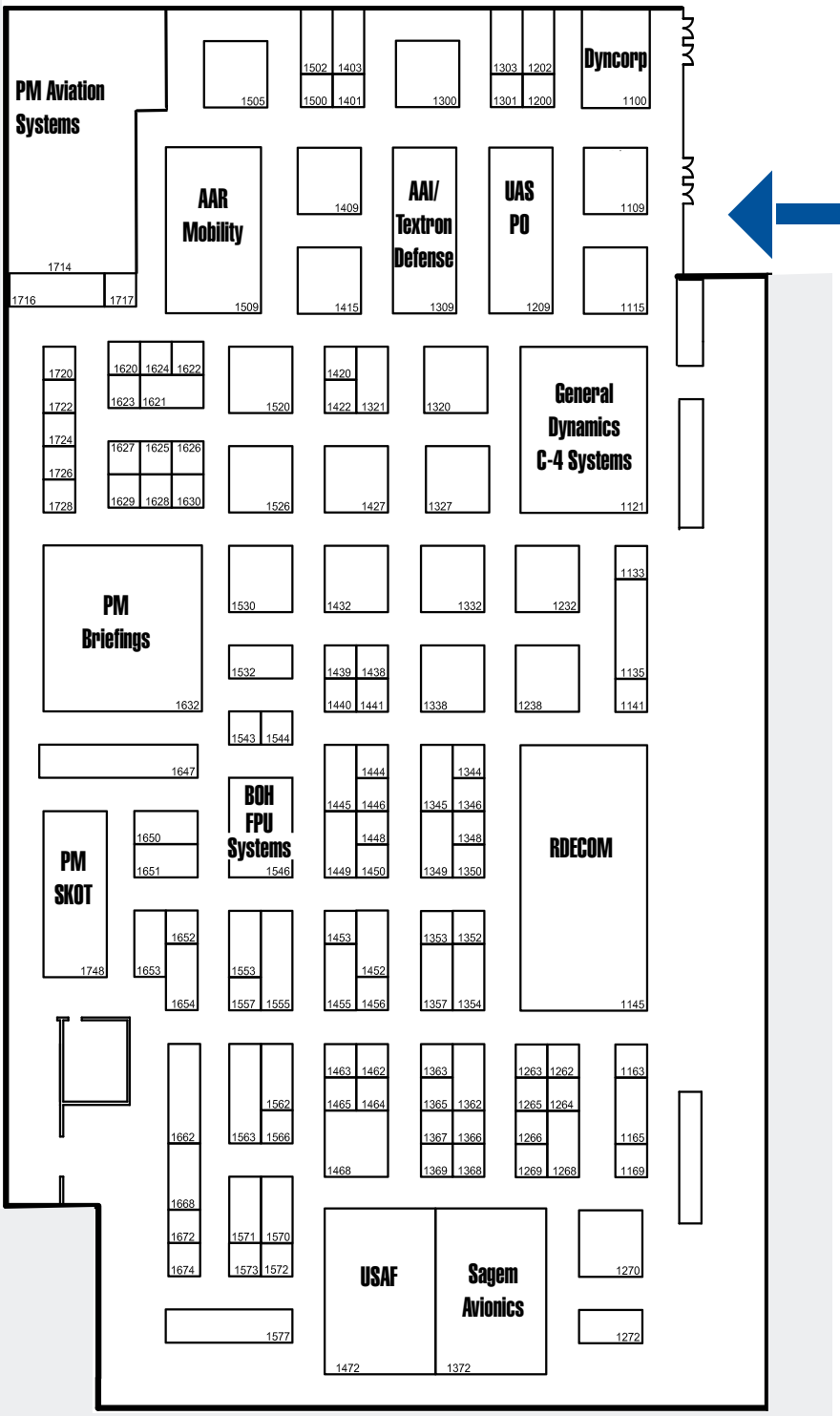

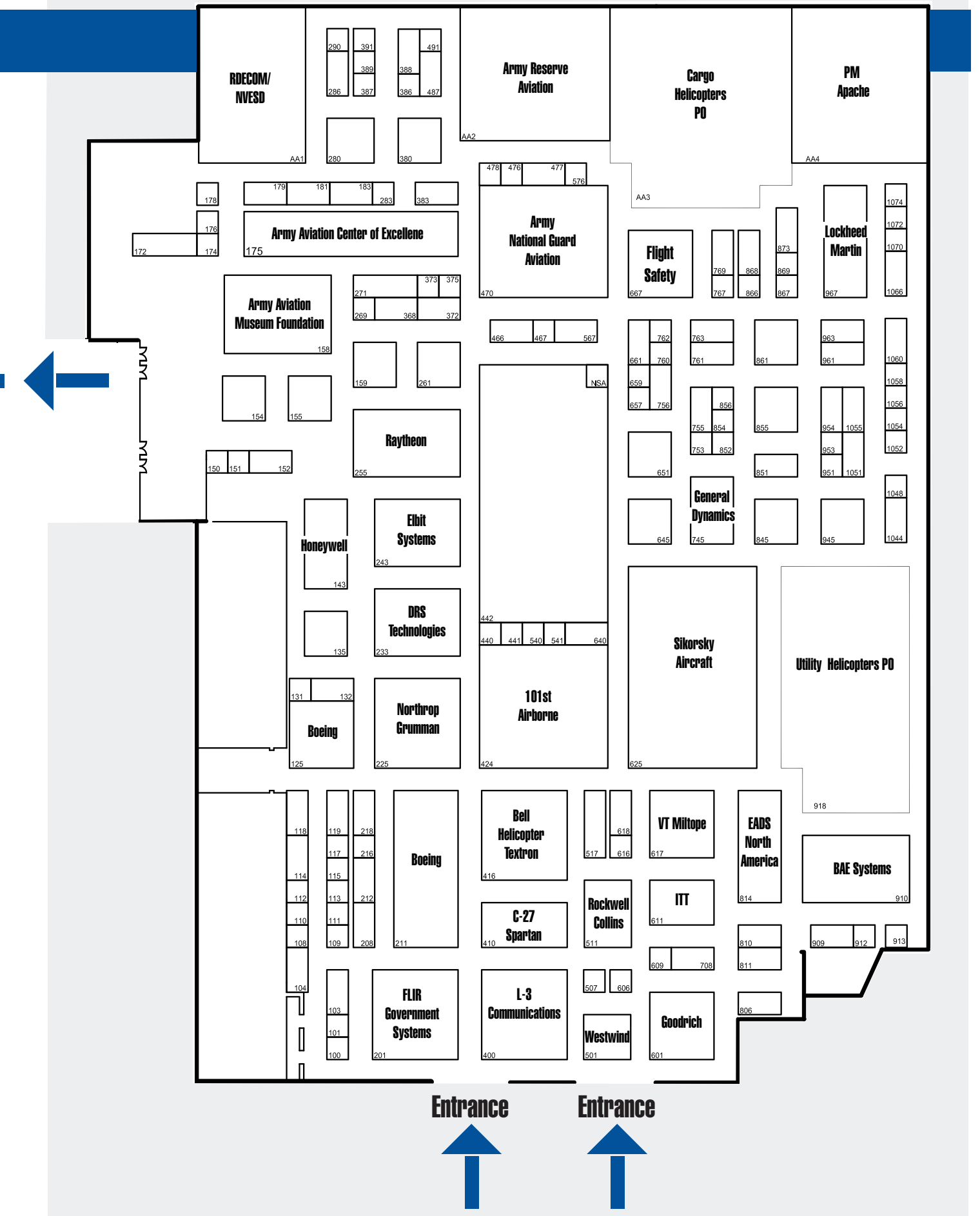
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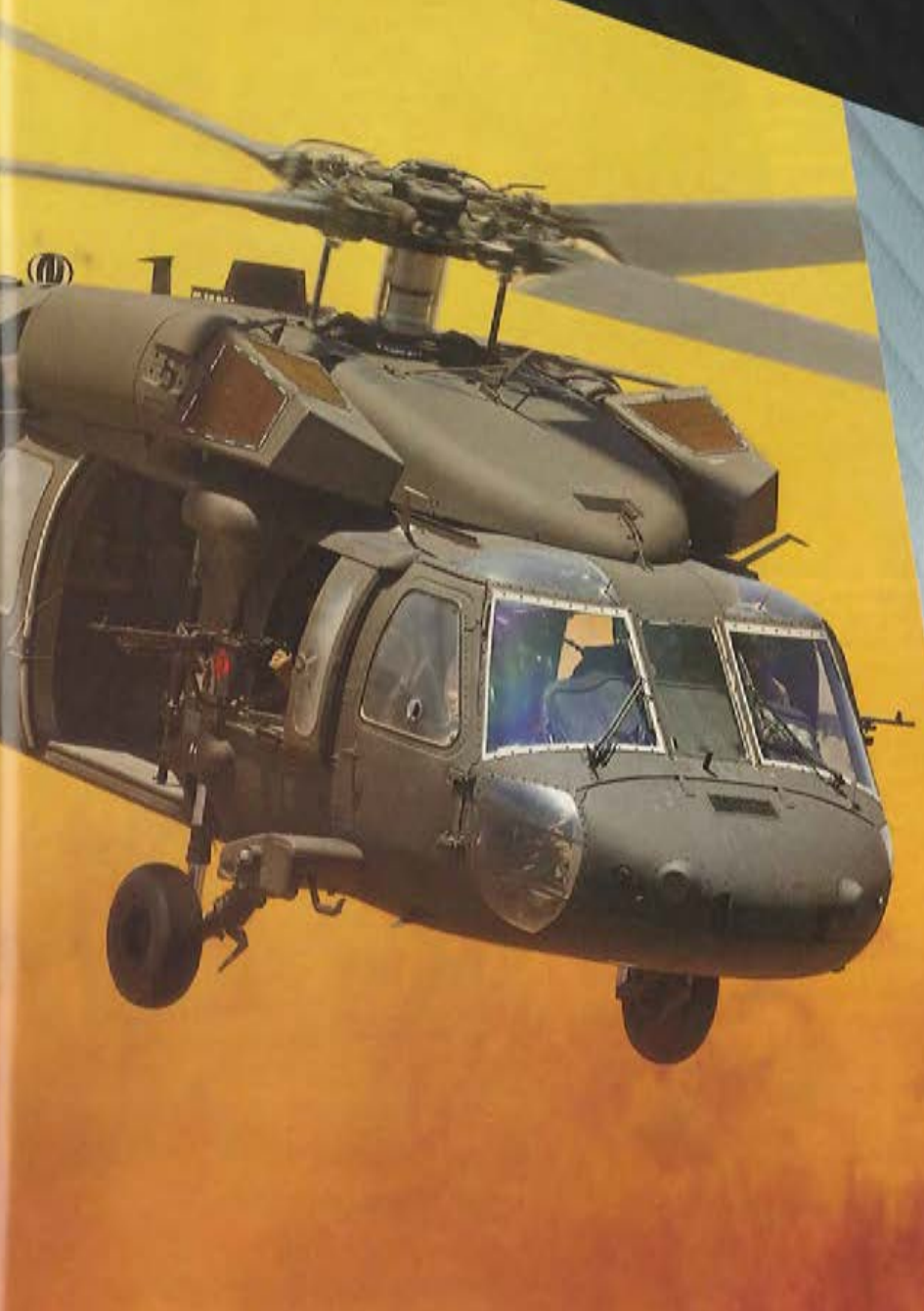

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AAAA 2008 National Award Winners

Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year

Sponsored by the Boeing Company

DAC Brundige

Jason R. Brundige

U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command

Fort Campbell, Ky.

Department of the Army civilian Jason R. Brundige distinguished himself during 2008 by exceptionally meritorious service and outstanding achievement as a logistics assistance representative (LAR) for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command while assigned to the 1st Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. (Task Force No Mercy) supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Brundige was a primary advisor for logistics and technical support to the task force commander, responsible for covering all unit AH-64D, OH-58D, UH-60A and UH-60L, and CH-47D aircraft at Forward Operating Base Salerno in the Khowst Province of Afghanistan. Through his persistent efforts, TF No Mercy saw an across-the-board reduction, by 21 percent, in the time spent waiting for critical components to complete phases for all assigned aircraft. He regularly fielded questions from other LARs and worked closely with item managers, engineers, product managers and technical representatives–effectively saving the Army supply system in excess of $1 million. As a result of Brundige's instruction and training of unit personnel, the uncommon parts requests – which were nearly impossible to complete at the beginning of the deployment – are now commonplace and submitted appropriately by the unit. Throughout his tour, which was one of many Brundige has completed, his command of the maintenance posture and purpose-driven decisions in an austere wartime environment have left an everlasting and tangible impact on the Task Force's ability to fight the battle. Brundige's professionalism clearly identifies him as AAAA's 2008 Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year.

James H. McClellan Aviation Safety Award

Sponsored by GE Aviation

CW4 Ganz

CW4 Gregory A. Ganz

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment

Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

CW4 Gregory A. Ganz's performance for the past year was outstanding. Not only did he fly over 900 combat hours as a dual seat pilot-in-command and an air mission commander, but as the battalion's aviation safety officer, he worked tirelessly to ensure his unit trained and operated safely in combat. Prior to deployment, Ganz developed and executed a comprehensive aviation training plan which fully incorporated composite risk management with incredible results. Once deployed to Iraq, Ganz successfully integrated and synchronized the battalion's efforts to support the four brigade combat teams of Task Force Marne operating throughout the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys. His efforts resulted in no reported Class A, B or C aircraft incidents due to maintenance or human errors. This herculean effort resulted in over 27,000 accident free hours flown, of which 16,200 or 60 percent were flown at night – equating to over 2,900 successful combat missions. Ganz also had safety oversight of the unmanned aircraft systems company, which flew over 20,000 flight hours during more than 3,500 missions. His actions helped to reduce the UAS accident rate from 35 incidents during Operation Iraqi Freedom III to only 6 incidents during OIF V – an 83 percent reduction. All this was possible because of Ganz's stellar performance and superior leadership as the safety officer. A proven leader and mentor to all, Ganz has truly earned the honor of AAAA's 2008 James H. McClellan Aviation Safety Award.

Henry Q. Dunn Crew Chief of the Year

Sponsored by Robertson Aviation

SGT Young

SGT Daniel J. Young

Company A, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment

Army National Guard, St. Paul, Minn.

SGT Daniel J. Young distinguished himself as a premiere crew chief for Co. A, 2nd Bn., 147th Avn. Regt., throughout his deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. As part of an assault helicopter battalion, Young flew 957 accident-free combat flight hours in one of the most demanding and adverse environments in the world. He routinely flew over intense hostile and hazardous regions delivering mission critical supplies and ammunition, and personnel to austere locations and forward operating bases throughout the area of operations. He ensured the safe and timely transport of hundreds of Soldiers, tier-one passengers and Defense Department civilians; potentially saving their lives by avoiding lengthy and dangerous ground convoys. In addition to flying assigned unit missions, Young was integrated into the battalion's support of the Other Coalition Forces-Iraq operations on both air assault and resupply missions. He was selected from 90 non-rated crew members to perform a seven-month rotation with the OCF-I's special operations aviation element. Throughout his attachment with the special ops element, he received numerous accolades regarding his performance, knowledge and abilities from the unit's leadership, which ultimately led to his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions during one of his missions supporting their sensitive operations. Young's dedication and outstanding duty performance has earned him the distinction of being AAAA's 2008 Henry Q. Dunn Crew Chief of the Year.

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AAAA 2008 National Award Winners

Aviation Soldier of the Year

Sponsored by Bell Helicopter Textron

SPC Bailey

SPC Daniel N. Bailey

Company D, 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
Fort Campbell, Ky.

SPC Daniel N. Bailey has displayed an uncommon prowess in the realm of aircraft maintenance and maintenance management. He flawlessly executed his duties and those of ranks far above his own. As a private first class, Bailey successfully accomplished his first complete UH-60 aircraft rig using inexperienced mechanics and with no input from the maintenance platoon's non-commissioned officers – no small accomplishment on this complex aircraft. His mentorship abilities also surfaced early in his career as he was always answering questions from his peers and explaining tasks in an easy to understand manner. Bailey's ability to understand routine and complex aircraft maintenance tasks, his impeccable listening skills, and his unrelenting drive earned him early promotion to specialist. He was subsequently selected over all other platoon members to be a maintenance platoon shift leader. Bailey became responsible for the scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, and the phase maintenance for nine UH-60L and six UH-60A helicopters; and for a downed aircraft recovery team – a daunting task for any Soldier of his rank and age, but at which he excelled. In just over a year, Bailey's understanding of Army aviation surpassed all the expectations of his leaders, making him critical to the success of his platoon and earning him the recognition as AAAA's 2008 Aviation Soldier of the Year.

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year

Sponsored by Lockheed Martin Corp.

SFC Clary

SFC Christopher T. Clary

Company D, 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
Task Force Eagle Assault, Fort Campbell, Ky.

As the production control non-commissioned officer in charge for Co. D, SFC Christopher T. Clary was responsible for directing both aviation unit maintenance (AVUM) and aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) level support for all assigned UH-60, AH-64, OH-58 and CH-47 helicopters of a multi-functional aviation task force in Afghanistan. Clary established 24-hour AVUM and AVIM operations with quality-driven shops during Operation Enduring Freedom IX. He supervised aircraft buildup teams which returned 10 OH-58D and four UH-60 aircraft to flyable status expeditiously upon arrival at Kandahar Airfield. Clary directed scheduled and unscheduled maintenance for eight OH-58Ds, four CH-47Ds, four AH-64Ds and 15 UH-60A/L helicopters. As a result of his leadership and management skills, the unit achieved an 84 percent overall operational readiness rate, allowing its aircrews to fly over 18,000 aircraft flight hours in a one-year period. He significantly contributed to Task Force Eagle Assault's ability to provide the 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde. and the 101st Airborne Div. with the required aviation assets to conduct combat operations against anti-Afghanistan forces. Clary's leadership, dedication and accomplishments mark him as truly worthy of recognition as AAAA's 2008 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

Michael J. Novosel Army Aviator of the Year

Sponsored by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

CW4 Marshall

CW4 Ronald D. Marshall

Headquarters Company, 6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment
Task Force Shadow, Fort Campbell, Ky.

CW4 Ronald D. Marshall is a pillar in the 6th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., and the CH-47 Chinook community at Fort Campbell, Ky. He has been a tremendous asset as a standardization officer since reporting to the battalion in early 2005, having served at both the company and battalion task force levels. Marshall has exceeded all expectations during the battalion's deployment as Task Force Shadow to Afghanistan in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom IX. He successfully completed hundreds of missions, flying over 400 accident-free combat flight hours, more than half under night vision goggles. Marshall was the pilot-in-command for 20 deliberate air assault missions, and as a pilot-in-command and an air mission commander for numerous combat resupply missions. He also served as the PIC on five combat aircraft-recovery slingload missions, including one to lift a CH-47 that was shot down in northern Afghanistan, which earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross for his skills. He also earned the Bronze Star Medal for service and was awarded two Air Medals for achievement. Marshall's recognized accomplishments during his deployment merely scratch the surface of his years of training and dedication to Task Force Shadow and the 101st Airborne Division. Marshall's selfless commitment to the Army and aviation clearly marks him as the AAAA's 2008 Michael J. Novosel Army Aviator of the Year.

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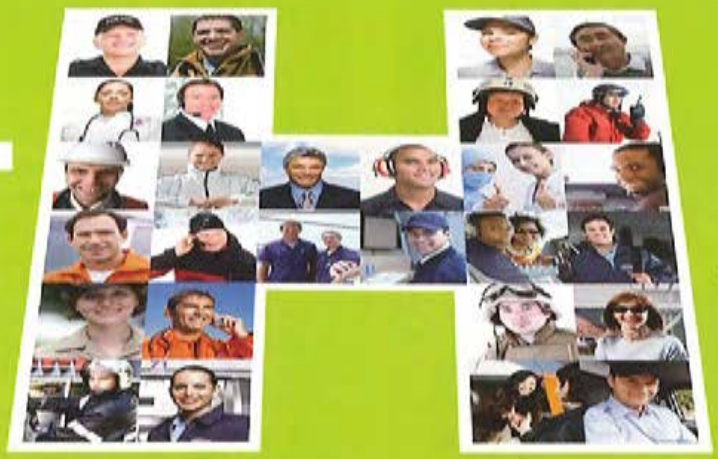

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AAAA 2008 National Award Winners

SES Bogosian

Robert M. Leich Award

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Paul Bogosian

Program Executive Officer for Aviation
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

As the Program Executive Officer for Aviation, Paul Bogosian has managed a complex and diverse organization with a global workforce of over 1,700 employees, including 90 plus military personnel, and an annual budget of over $5 billion. For 12 years, Bogosian was the single most significant Department of the Army senior executive service civilian leader supporting Army aviation. Upon the termination of the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter program, Bogosian intensively managed the reinvestment of the program's $14.6 billion back into the execution of the Army's largest aviation acquisition programs requiring Secretary of Defense and congressional approval and oversight. These programs – including the upgraded CH-47F cargo helicopter, the new UH-60M enhanced utility helicopter, the AH-64D advanced attack helicopter, plus such new start programs as the armed reconnaissance helicopter, the UH-72A light utility helicopter, the C-27J future cargo aircraft and the multitude of new unmanned aircraft systems – are revamping the aviation force to reflect the newest threats and new warfighting concepts of an Army at war. The significance and lasting results of these reprogramming efforts were not only unprecedented, they defied conventional practices in every instance of similar undertakings. He truly led Army aviation into a new age of rapid system enhancements and acquisitions, automated logistics and condition-based maintenance. Bogosian's outstanding, long-term contributions to aviation unequivocally merits his selection as a co-recipient of AAAA's 2008 Robert M. Leich Award.

COL Knapp

SGM Reynolds

Robert M. Leich Award

Sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corp. ESSS

Directorate of Training and Doctrine

U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence
Fort Rucker, Ala.

The Directorate of Training and Doctrine of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence has made significant and sustained contributions to the Aviation branch over the past decade. Across all aspects of aviation related training, doctrine, education and simulation, the DOTD continues to ensure that Aviation Soldiers have the right tools and training to perform in today's high operational tempo joint and coalition operations. Their advancements in aviation institutional and unit training strategies, the conversion from legacy flight training to Flight School XXI, contributions to Aviation Transformation, developing of new systems training and integrating lessons learned from combat operations – have provided the venues for the Directorate to excel and produce the required professionals for the world's best aviation force. DOTD's impact across aviation is monumental. Without a doubt, the Directorate has provided the critical solutions for evolving combat, enemy threats and asymmetrical warfare; and has made substantial positive impacts on the advancement of our aviation formations and the branch, while setting a standard for the rest of the Army. The contributions of the Directorate of Training and Doctrine to aviation unequivocally merits their selection as a co-recipient of AAAA's 2008 Robert M. Leich Award.

LTC Resler

1SG Mendoza

Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by Honeywell International

244th Theater Aviation Brigade (Forward)

Task Force Hawk,
Fort Dix, N.J.

The 30 Soldiers of the 244th Theater Avn. Bde. (Forward), as Task Force Hawk, distinguished themselves while deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-08. During their 12 month deployment, TF Hawk flew approximately 11,448 hours, conducted 2,378 combat missions with 10,918 sorties, delivered 15,086,274 pounds of supplies, and transported 44,781 Soldiers and senior leaders throughout the battlespace, setting new records for the theater on all counts. As the first command and control slice element to enter into this rotation at only one-third of the manning for previous rotations, TF Hawk surpassed all preceding success rates for personnel and equipment moved in theater. The C-12, C-23 and UC-35 aircraft of TF Hawk moved 47 percent more personnel and 34 percent more cargo, and flew 13 percent more hours than the next "highest" prior rotation, all while maintaining a 94 percent operational readiness rate. The unit conducted simultaneous combat and combat service support operations 24/7 from Balad to more than 15 different airfields in theater, and made multiple mission trips to locations throughout the Mideast and Europe – never missing a single emergency resupply, critical cargo or special operations mission. TF Hawk executed over 100 high visibility VIP movements, consisting of senior U.S. State Department and Iraqi government officials, and numerous celebrities. The outstanding achievements by the Soldier-Citizens of 224th TAB clearly identifies them as AAAA's Army Reserve Aviation Unit of the Year for 2008.

MAJ Hummer

1SG Kecken

Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by Honeywell International

Company B, 3rd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment

Maryland and New York Army National Guards
Edgewood Arsenal, Md.

The accomplishments of the "Kong" Soldiers of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th Avn. Regt., during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom can best be described by their successes in mission execution, adaptability and maintenance. With their 12 CH-47 Chinook aircraft, Co. B conducted operations throughout Afghanistan from three locations at Forward Operating Bases Bagram, Salerno and Kandahar, ranging over 400 miles apart. They flew in excess of 5,500 flight hours, moving 16,714 passengers and more than 5.8 million pounds of internal cargo, and over 2.3 million pounds of equipment by external slingload throughout the area of operations. The "Kong" took the lead on the largest air assault mission in Afghanistan since the 2002 Operation Anaconda, helping to capture 13 high value targets. Co. B also provided critical continuity during the relief-in-place between the going 3rd Bn., 82nd Avn. and the 6th Bn., 101st Avn., by conducting missions with 10 of its 12 assigned aircraft for a two-week period. At each of their FOBs, they adapted to the situation and established maintenance teams and flight operations, ensuring the supported ground commanders received mission critical supplies only accessible by helicopter, while pushing their aircraft to the limits against challenging environmental conditions. Co. B was the first unit to establish a CH-47 phase team at FOB Salerno. The quickest and most efficient CH-47 phases were completed by the "Kong," and they demonstrated their ability to complete 400-hour phases in only 9 days, 15 days less than the in-theater standard. For their outstanding achievements, the Soldiers of Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th Avn. have earned them the title of AAAA's Army National Guard Aviation Unit of the Year for 2008.

AAAA 2008 National Award Winners

LTC Mele

CSM Wood

Active Aviation Unit of the Year Award

Sponsored by the L-3 Communications Integrated Systems Group

1st Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment Task Force Gunfighters,

Fort Riley, Kan.

Immediately upon arrival in theater to support Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, the "Gunfighters" of the 1st Bn., 1st Avn. Regt., became well known as the most lethal and agile attack force in the Multi-National Division-North. Deployed as Task Force Gunfighters, they took the commanding general's guidance of "be there" to a new level. They implemented a flying quick reaction force, leaving nothing in reserve, and dominated the battlespace over Iraq. The call for "any Longbow" and their subsequent quick response instantly changed the dynamics of the fight, providing unprecedented protection for ground forces and executing surgical-like precision engagements against a determined enemy. Through 15 months of combat operations, the Gunfighters flew over 28,500 AH-64D and over 12,000 OH-58D flight hours, all accident-free, while executing split-based operations. The Gunfighters remained a team-of-teams synchronizing the operations of 24 AH-64D Longbow and 10 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aircraft with unmatched maintenance rates and an impeccable safety record, while providing strong and effective leadership for the rear detachment. This cohesion made the Gunfighter team the most capable and effective aviation force on the battlefield of Iraq. For their outstanding achievements, the Soldiers of 1st Bn., 1st Avn. Regt. – Task Force Gunfighters – are honored with being AAAA's Active Army Aviation Unit of the Year for 2008.

COL Farrington

CSM Wallace

Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year

Sponsored by the Boeing Company

Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division

Fort Riley, Kan

The Cbt. Avn. Bde. of the 1st Inf. Div. served as the Army's largest aviation brigade deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 and in support of the Multi-National Division-North. During 15 months of combat operations, the 1st CAB sustained an astonishing operational tempo rate flying over 160,000 hours on 156 helicopters, 51,000 hours on unmanned aircraft systems, and 27,000 hours on their fixed-wing fleet. Their tremendous success was directly attributable to a well-organized maintenance program which accomplished 226 phase inspections and maintained bank times of 55 percent on all aircraft fleets. Throughout tough combat conditions, its Soldiers sustained an overall accident rate below the Army average, with no Class A or B incidents. The brigade developed an outstandingly effective air-ground counter-insurgency team of highly trained UH-60, OH-58D and AH-64D aircrews working in combination with ground forces and achieved a kill or capture of over 100 high value individuals. Additionally, the CAB refined the sensor-to-shooter process by integrating ground assets with intelligence sources and unmanned aircraft systems. The results were the defeat of improved explosive device networks and greatly improving the safety of the roads throughout northern Iraq. For their heroism and bravery in combat, the CAB's aircrews were awarded one Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, 35 Air Medals with Valor, 14 Army Commendation Medals for Valor, and many other awards. The outstanding achievements of the 1st Cbt. Avn. Bde. have clearly identified them as AAAA's Outstanding Aviation Unit of the Year for 2008.

Top Chapter of the Year

Sponsored by AAAA National

Washington-Potomac Chapter

Washington, D.C.

Chapter President: MG (Ret.) Rudolph Ostovich III

Serving our membership in the Nation's capital, the Washington-Potomac Chapter has earned the distinction of AAAA Top Chapter in 2008 by providing outstanding service to aviation Soldiers and their families of the active Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve, and its aviation industry members and area retirees. Their 2008 achievements include hosting the annual AAAA National Convention, running one of the most successful golf tournaments in convention history, and planning and conducting an outstanding combined chapter reception. The chapter also helped organize and participated in the Army's "Centennial of Military Flight" program marking the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first demonstration flight of the Wright Flyer as an Army aircraft. The Centennial celebration events at Fort Myer, Va., included hosting a formal dinner and manning a recruiting and educational exhibit on behalf of AAAA. The Washington-Potomac Chapter continues to increase the number and dollar value of its scholarships awarded each year. It funded four endowed perpetual scholarships and 12 annual scholarships totaling $26,500; more than 10-percent by dollar value of all AAAA scholarships awarded in 2008. Chapter members support AAAA National efforts with service on numerous Association boards and committees. At the local level, the Chapter hosts a very popular monthly "Final Fridays" social event, continuing the tradition of AAAA by promoting fellowship among its members. The event has grown in popularity and attendance over the past five years, which helped increase chapter membership in 2008 by 8.5 percent. This master chapter now has more than 1,200 members. The chapter processed 23 awards of the Order of Saint Michael and established a chapter website linking it to the internet for better communications with its members. It also supported Freedom Team Salutes for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and community based events such as honoring wounded warriors recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Washington-Potomac Chapter continues to build on its many successes and has earned the distinction of being AAAA's Top Chapter for 2008.

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AAAA Hall of Fame Inductees

SES Bogosian

Paul Bogosian

Starting as a Training and Doctrine Command intern in 1976, Paul Bogosian has devoted his life to the Army, and particularly to Army aviation.

He rose to the highest levels of civil service as a member of the senior executive service, holding SES rank for over 15 years.

As the acting Program Executive Officer for Aviation in the 1990s, Bogosian emerged as the principal architect of the move of the new Program Executive Office for Aviation from St. Louis, Mo., to Redstone Arsenal, Ala., under the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

He subsequently served as the deputy PEO for Aviation under two general officer PEOs before becoming the fully fledged PEO for Aviation himself in 2004, where he served with distinction managing a global work force of over 1,700 employees and a budget of over $5 billion until his retirement in January 2009.

Bogosian's defining skills were in developing consensus decisions by the top leadership of the Army when heartfelt conflicting views and opinions about modernizing aviation were the order of the day.

Bogosian helped lead the Army to its decision to terminate the controversial RAH-66 Comanche aircraft program, and use the subsequent funds released from the termination to aviation's best advantage.

Through his diplomacy and calm demeanor, Bogosian took the remaining Army aircraft inventory of UH-60, AH-64 and CH-47 through a remarkable "born again" cycle, with virtually no recrimination or controversy inside or out of the Army.

His focus on success got the projected 10-year job of establishing the remanufacture and upgrade of the three existing fleets – as well as the initiation of four new-start programs, including the new mission area of unmanned aircraft systems – done in less than five years.

He efficiently and professionally turned mere briefing charts into hardware.

Bogosian's outstanding leadership contributions have resulted in never before achieved and sustained aircraft operational tempos in the midst of today's Global War on Terrorism, with its two major theaters of operation, and around-the-clock combat engagements. As one commentator observed, "At no time since Army aviation became an Army branch has it been better postured to fulfill its mission than it is today."

Bogosian was a key part of that success and his efforts have paid untold dividends to our Soldiers in combat, on the ground and in the air, around the world and in some of the harshest conditions in which we have ever fought. His impact cannot be overstated.

GEN Cody

General Richard A. Cody, Ret.

Retired GEN Richard "Dick" A. Cody is a "Soldier's Soldier" and an "aviator's aviator."

Receiving his commission as a 2LT on June 6, 1972 from the U.S. Military Academy, Cody served with distinction until retiring from active duty as the Army's 31st Vice Chief of Staff on Aug. 4, 2008.

During these years, Cody served the nation around the world, commanding Soldiers, including the famed "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault).

Cody spent 27 of his 36 years in troop assignments, commanding at all levels, including key assignments as the commander of Co. E (aviation intermediate maintenance), 24th Inf. Div. (Mech.); commander of Co. B, 229th Avn. Regt.; commander of the 1st Bn.(Attack), 101st Avn. Regt.; commander of the 4th Bde., 1st Cav. Div.; commander of the 160th Special Operations Avn. Regt. – the famed "Night Stalkers"; deputy commanding general of Task Force Hawk; and the commanding general of the 101st Abn. Div.

As a lieutenant colonel, Cody led his Apache battalion into Iraq to fire the first shots of Operation Desert Storm to eliminate two critical enemy radar sites prior to the air war campaign.

With over 5,000 flight hours, Cody is an Army master aviator rated in UH-1, OH-58, AH-1, AH-6, AH-64A Apache and AH-64D Longbow, and the MH-60K.

Never was his contributions to the Army greater than during the period following Sept. 11, 2001, when as the G-3/5/7 and then the Vice Chief of Staff, Cody led the most sweeping transformation in the Army and the Aviation branch since the dawn of mechanized warfare.

His actions provided the Army with the best prepared, trained and equipped force in the world, introducing the most technically capable, modernized fleet of aircraft, including the UH-60M, the Apache Longbow Block III, the CH-47F, the UH-72A, the C-27J Spartan and several unmanned aircraft systems.

Cody's numerous awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with numeral 3 device, and the gold medallion of the Branch's Honorable Order of St. Michael.

No individual has had a greater impact on the Army and the Aviation branch in the 21st century than GEN Richard Cody.

BG Hesson

Brigadier General James M. Hesson, Ret.

A decorated leader in war and peace, from enlisted Soldier to general officer, an expert logistician and acquisition manager, and a tireless advocate of the enlisted, warrant and company grade officers – there is no doubt that BG James "Jim" M. Hesson has lived his entire life the AAAA mission statement of "Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family."

In 1947, Hesson enlisted in the National Guard as a private at age 16. Thirty-six years later this quiet professional retired as a general officer, having earned his undergraduate degree at night and achieving a master's degree.

A veteran of three combat tours in Korea and Vietnam, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving as the commander of an aircraft maintenance and supply battalion.

As a major, he was also awarded the Legion of Merit for his efforts to identify the source of CH-47 parts – whose critical shortage was degrading combat capability – resulting in improved methods of management and supply.

Hesson became the first project manager for the CH-47D helicopter, delivering this transformational research and development program on-time and under-budget in the late 1970s, in an era of double-digit inflation.

Through his personal, direct and unorthodox efforts, he was pivotal in directing innovative procurement and coordinating modification of aircraft and equipment that eventually led to the formation of the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the famous "Night Stalkers," following the unsuccessful 1980 "Desert One" operation to free the Iranian held American hostages.

Hesson was one of the key behind-the-scenes leaders providing support that gave special operations aviation a "kick start," leading to the 160th SOAR becoming the world's premier combat aviation unit.

Just as significant as his accomplishments in uniform were his contributions as the national president of both the AAAA and the association's Scholarship Foundation. As president from 1989 to 1991, Hesson expanded the National Executive Board to include representation by company grade, warrant officer, and enlisted members, and significantly improved membership retention.

His AAAA and scholarship initiatives have improved the lives of hundreds of Soldiers and families and greatly improved both organizations.

There is no doubt Hesson has made the quiet, professional, and sustained impacts on our warfighters and their families, which will pay rich dividends for Army Aviation and the AAAA for decades to come.

LTG Petrosky

Lieutenant General Daniel J. Petrosky, Ret.

LTG Daniel J. Petrosky has been a driving force in Army aviation throughout his active duty military career and continuing in retirement to this very day.

His service to Aviation is hallmarked by his commitment and dedication to Soldiers and their families.

Petrosky began his aviation career as a platoon leader flying Cobra helicopters in Vietnam in 1969.

He commanded the 2nd Cbt. Avn. Sqdn., 2nd Armored Cav. Regt. during the height of the Cold War from 1984 to 1987, and also commanded the 4th Bde., 1st Armored Div. from 1990 to 1992 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

His keen insight in combined arms operations resulted in his selection as the assistant division commander of the 101st Airborne Div. in 1993, where his skill in aviation proved critical to the restructuring of the division.

This same multi-faceted expertise made Petrosky the logical selection for assignment as the deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker from 1994 to 1995, where his leadership again was instrumental in ensuring the Aviation Branch was poised to meet the challenges of the future fight.

After a tour as deputy chief of staff for Operations with the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Petrosky returned to Fort Rucker in 1996 to become the seventh Aviation Branch Chief, where he continued to move aviation forward as a fully integrated member of the combined arms team.

He was the driving force to develop aviation simulations into a more effective enabler for training the force.

Petrosky subsequently commanded the Eighth U.S. Army in Korea from 1998 to 2000 and culminated his active duty career as the chief of staff for the U.S. European Command in Germany from 2000 to 2002.

Since retirement, he has continued his support to the Army and aviation as a senior observer and a senior mentor for major units deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo.

He serves as an advisor to the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, as well as the president of the Army Aviation Museum Foundation's board of directors, and serves as the national secretary for the Army Aviation Association of America.

Petrosky is a "Soldier's Soldier" who has made a significant impact on Army aviation for over 40 years, influencing its doctrine, determining innovative ways to use and manage aviation on the battlefield, and providing unbridled inspiration to all with whom he has served.

CW4 Yoakum

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Yoakum

CW4 Keith Yoakum was an extraordinary man who loved to fly and loved to lead. He earned his private pilot's license as a teenager in his native California by scraping together money from odd jobs.

During his 18 years of service, he rose from the rank of private to CW4, and became a skilled master aviator, an expert maintenance officer, a courageous leader with integrity, who left an indelible mark on all who served with him.

Yoakum completed the initial rotary wing course in 1992 at Fort Rucker, Ala., and over the next 15 years amassed nearly 5,000 flight hours in rotary and fixed-wing aircraft during deployments to Korea, Germany, Bosnia, Albania, Egypt, Kosovo and Iraq.

He earned ratings as an instructor and maintenance pilot in numerous aircraft, as a glider pilot and parachutist, and earned the air assault badge.

Maxing every physical fitness test he ever took, Yoakum was twice selected below the zone for promotion to CW3 and CW4.

In April 2006, at the pinnacle of his career and as a testament to his skills and unblemished record, he was chosen to fly for the Army's "Golden Knights" Parachute Team at Fort Bragg, N.C.

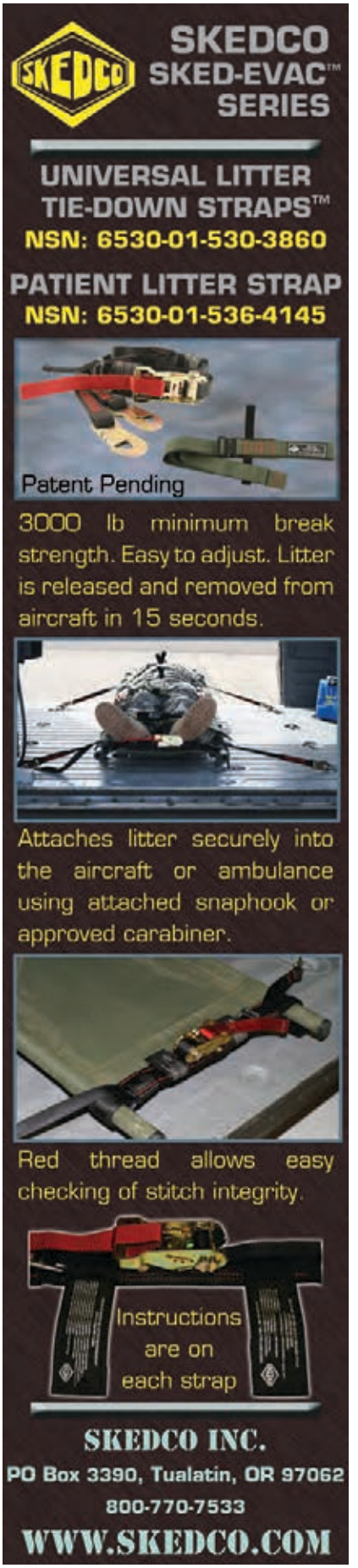
After a few months, however, Yoakum felt that he could better serve his country as an attack pilot and by leading Soldiers in combat.

He selflessly elected to return to combat in Iraq as an AH-64 maintenance test pilot with Co. A, 1st Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div.

On Feb. 2, 2007, while on a combat reconnaissance patrol along the Tigris River near Taji, Yoakum's aircraft was seriously damaged by enemy heavy machine-gun fire, which by aviation standards required him to land immediately.

Without regard for his own safety and to protect his comrades, Yoakum chose to remain with his wingman to destroy the enemy. With his main gun inoperable, his only option was to climb in altitude and then dive his Apache while firing rockets. Ultimately, the aircraft succumbed to its battle damage and crashed.

For his courage and gallantry, Yoakum became the first Army aviator since Vietnam to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for extraordinary heroism.



TVC Hosts Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium

By LTC Jason L. Galindo and MAJ M. Reese Hauenstein

All Photos By Joseph Ramirez

LTC George Hamontree III and CSM Jorge O. Soriano accepted the Outstanding Logistics Support Unit of the Year Award on behalf of the 412th ASB, here with AAAA President James Snider.

The AAAA and the Tennessee Valley Chapter hosted the 35th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium Feb. 11 and 12 at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Named in honor of the former special assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and the chief of the Aviation Logistics Office, the theme of this year's Cribbins symposium was "Maintaining Aviation Excellence in a Wartime Environment."

The symposium was extremely successful with over 450 attendees, and 72 industry and government partners hosting booths in the exhibit hall.

The keynote speaker was retired GEN Bryan D. "Doug" Brown, former commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command, who reminded the audience that Army aviation is an extension of the ground force.

Brown emphasized the importance of speed in the next generation of aircraft and highlighted the impact of unmanned aviation in the war, pointing out how UAS have fundamentally changed doctrine by allowing commanders to get inside the decision cycle of the enemy, remaining one step ahead of them.

MG James R. Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, provided an aviation maintenance update. He discussed the implementation of an aviation field maintenance transformation that focused on the Soldier and extensively leveraged condition based maintenance programs. "CBM allows us to put an EKG on every aircraft and allows commanders and maintenance personnel to take an aircraft down when they want to," Myles said.

Retired MG James Snider, the director of Aviation Science and Technology (and AAAA's president), discussed science and technology aviation opportunities.

Other speakers included COL Newman Shufflebarger, the acting deputy Program Executive Officer for Aviation; BG Walter L. Davis, director of Army Aviation on the Army Staff; and COL James Richardson, recently the commander of 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde.

During lunch, MG James O. Barclay III, Aviation branch chief and commander of the Army Aviation Center for Excellence, explained that Army aviation must balance two over-arching missions – one to support Army Force Generation, and a second to posture for the future – by using an "enterprise" approach.

The approach recognizes the need to incorporate strategic partnerships in order to be successful.

Panel discussions were held which focused on current and future issues impacting the transformation of the Army's Total Aviation Force.

This year's panel included for the first time PEO Missiles and Space with discussion and briefings regarding aviation rocket and missile programs and initiatives.

A major symposium highlight was keynote speaker retired GEN Richard A. Cody, the former Army vice chief of staff, providing a senior leader perspective of aviation's role in the ongoing war on terrorism.

Kirt Brown accepted the award for a Contribution by an Industry Team on behalf of the Boeing Field Service Support Team at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas.

Stanley Watson, of L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace, was the recipient of the Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by an Individual Member of Industry, here with MG James Myles.

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Dean Ertwine accepted the Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by a Major Contractor on behalf of his company Battelle of Columbus, Ohio.

Hawk Enterprises LLC of Huntsville, Ala., was the recipient of AAAA's Contribution by a Small Business Organization award. Here, William G. Tripp, HE owner and president, accepts the award.

ALL PHOTOS BY JOSEPH RAMIREZ

To top the evening off, Cody assisted Myles, Snider, and TVC Chapter President Bill Weaver, in presenting the 2008 AAAA Functional Awards for Logistical and Material Readiness.

The ***Outstanding Logistics Support Unit of the Year*** was the **412th Avn. Spt. Bn.**, 12th Cbt. Avn. Bde., in Germany. LTC George Hamontree III and CSM Jorge O. Soriano accepted the award on behalf of their unit.

The ***Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by an Individual Member of Industry*** was awarded to **Stanley Watson**, of L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace.

The ***Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by a Major Contractor*** was a two-way tie this year and presented to **Battelle** of Columbus, Ohio, and to **L-3 Communications' Vertex Aerospace Contract Field Team**. Dean Ertwine accepted the award on behalf of Battelle and David Carothers accepted on behalf of L3 Vertex.

The ***Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by an Industry Team, Group or Special Unit*** was awarded to **Boeing's Field Service Support Team** at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas. Kirt Brown accepted the award on behalf of Boeing.

And the final ***Materiel Readiness Award for a Contribution by a Small Business Organization*** went to **Hawk Enterprises, L.L.C.,** of Huntsville. Owner and President William G. Tripp accepted the award.

The symposium also provided an opportunity to spotlight the great work of the AAAA Scholarship Foundation. Through the generosity of AAAA members and the attendees, the TVC received over $13,000 in scholarship donations, which is greatly appreciated.

The award for a Contribution by a Major Contractor was a two-way tie and accepted by David Carothers on behalf of the L-3 Communications' Vertex Aerospace Contract Field Team.

The opportunity for members of the aviation community, industry, government and academia to come together and in open dialogue candidly share information and ideas regarding the support of the current and future Aviation Force is both unique and invaluable.

Next year's symposium will be held again in Huntsville and everyone is invited.

❖❖

LTC Jason Galindo is the Tenn. Valley Chapter vice president for Publicity and a frequent chapter contributor to ARMY AVIATION, and MAJ M. Reese Hauenstein is a TVC member and volunteer. Both reside in Huntsville, Ala.

Photo: Department of Defense

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Aviation Safety Update

By LTC Scott Kubica

For the first quarter of fiscal year 2009, Army aviation fatalities are down 33 percent and Class A-C accidents are down 53 percent compared to the same period last year. This reduction, in part, can be attributed to engaged leadership. Leaders must be involved in all aspects of the mission planning process.

Your active involvement is a vital key to identifying and mitigating hazards. Relying on your experience and training – ask the tough questions when reviewing mission plans or approving mission execution.

Emphasize the importance of communication throughout the organization to the success of the mission. Enforce standards and discipline throughout the organization and encompassing the full spectrum of operations.

A proactive safety environment that brings these elements together cultivates mission accomplishment while exposing crews to the lowest level of risk possible.

Iraq Accident

Late last year, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior collided with a tall tower resulting in the deaths of two aviation Soldiers and the loss of the aircraft.

The aircraft was flight lead on a night route reconnaissance and security mission.

The planned mission altitude for the lead aircraft was below the height of a known hazard.

Additionally, the combat mission was also a local area orientation flight for one pilot of the lead aircraft.

The circumstances surrounding this accident show symptoms of overconfidence, indiscipline and complacency.

These symptoms were reflected in aircrew workload during the mission, the crew coordination and the premission planning.

As leaders, we tend to rely heavily on our experienced crewmembers and they take pride in the confidence shown in their abilities.

ARMY PHOTO BY SGT RICHARD RZEPKA

With that said, crew workload and crew dynamics must be carefully considered during the mission planning process and adjustments made accordingly.

All mission contingencies must be included in your evaluation.

"Can this crew's workload be reduced to a manageable level by placement within the formation?"

If not, adjustments to the mission or crew assignments must be made.

Planning Key to Success

The successful accomplish of quick reaction missions, especially in urban environments, require a significant amount of planning.

As much information about the area of operations must be gathered and analyzed during mission down time.

General hazards must be identified and addressed before the next mission is received.

Once the mission is received, planners can concentrate on mission execution actions because the known hazards have been addressed previously.

In this environment the mission planning and hazard identification process never ceases, allowing you to execute your missions swiftly and violently while minimizing the risks to success.

Stay Engaged

Leader engagement is key to a prevention-based safety culture, both on and off duty.

Please continue to teach and incorporate applied risk management into every aspect of our ever-changing operating environment.

Take advantage of information gathering and sharing resources such as the Army Readiness Assessment Program and the Battle Command Knowledge System.

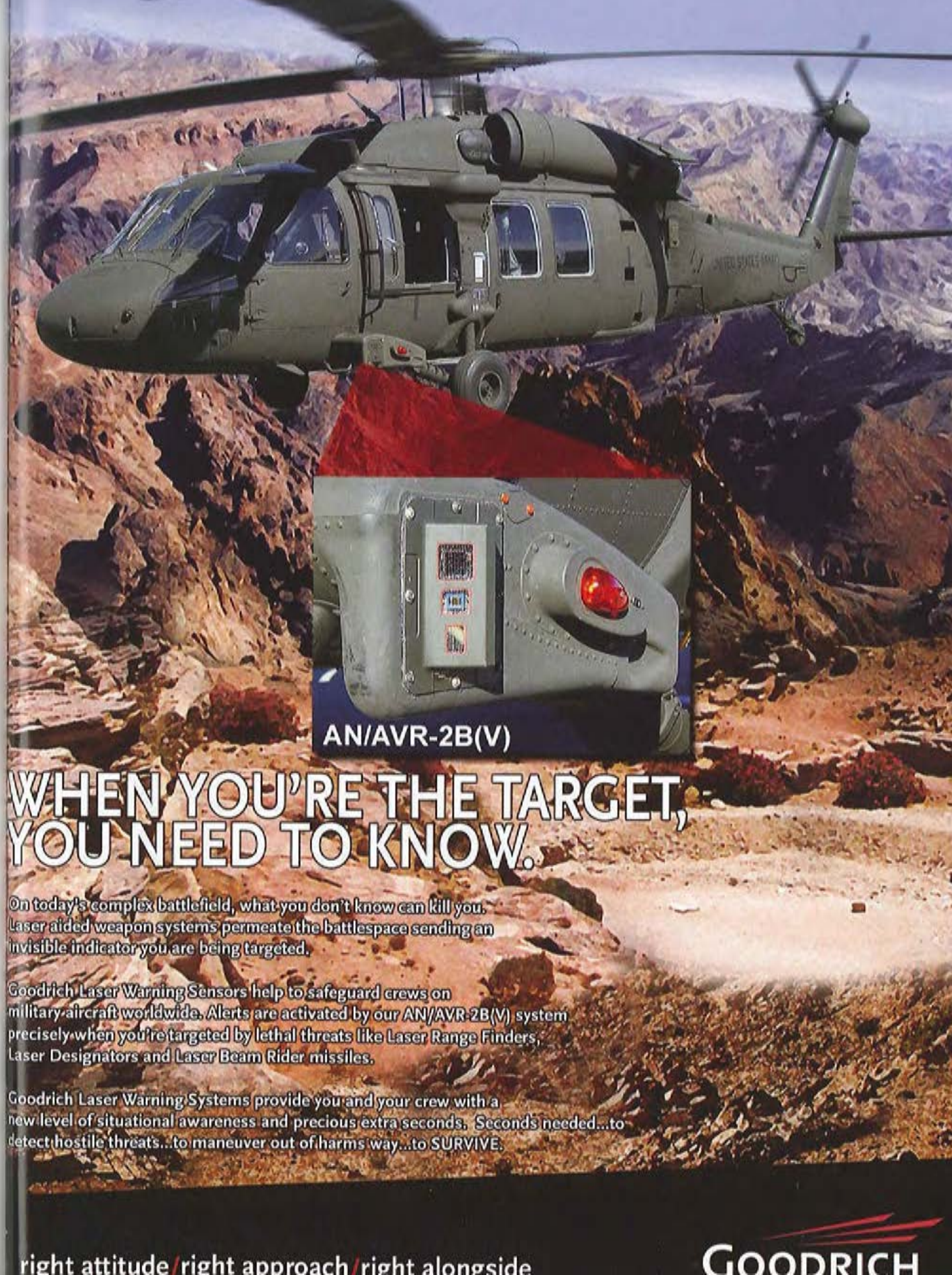
These Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center tools provide leaders valuable insight to the safety climate in their commands and facilitates the flow of knowledge throughout the command.

Safety begins with awareness and as leaders we should never "give safety the day off."

Army Safe is Army Strong!

❖❖

LTC Scott Kubica is the director of the Air Task Force with the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.



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ARMY AVIATION presents the 2008 Photography Contest Winners

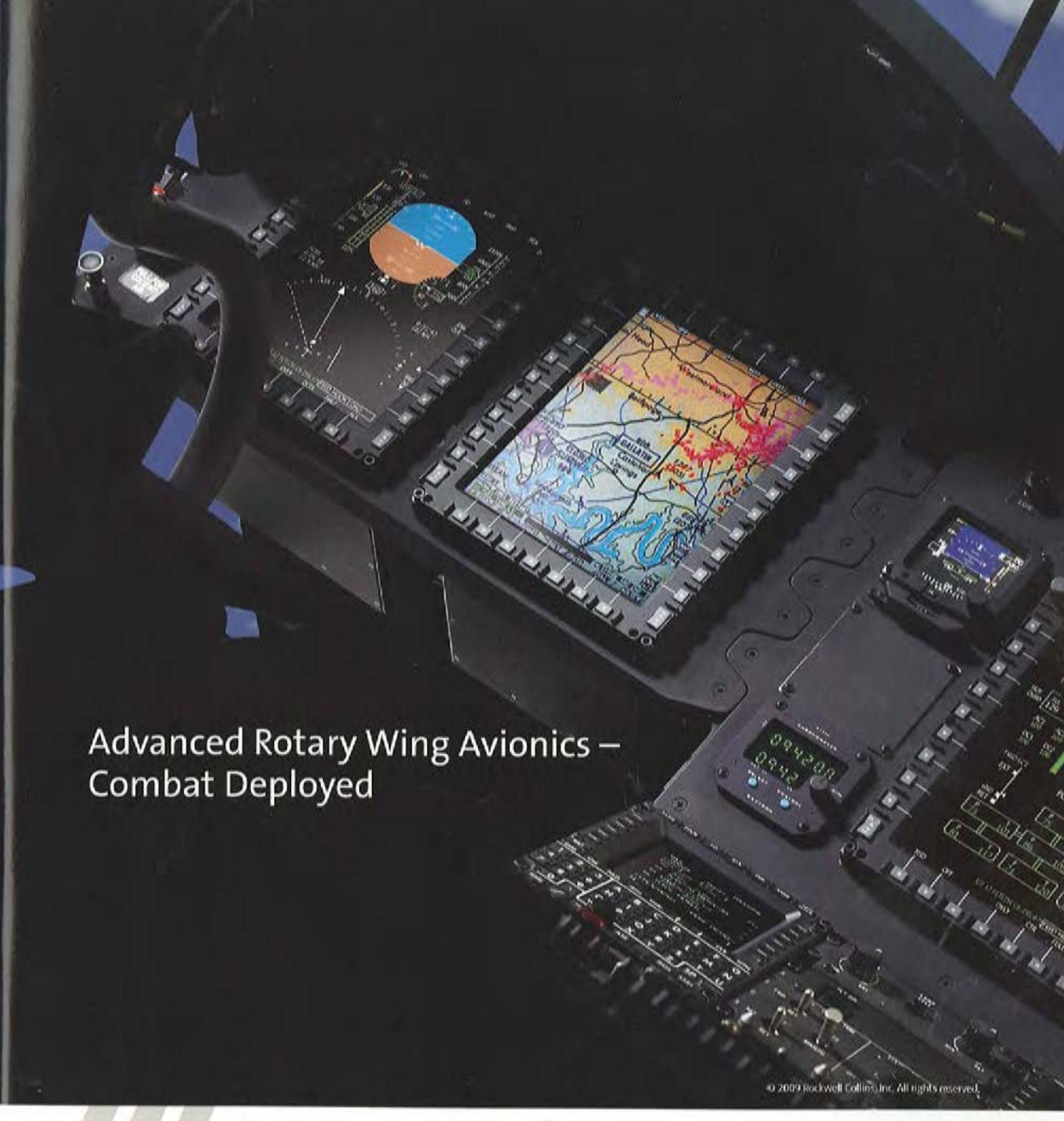
ARMY AVIATION Magazine is proud to present the winners of our fourth annual photography contest. Sixty-three qualified AAAA members, submitting 145 Army aviation related photographs taken during 2008, competed for the top 12 places. We congratulate the winners and thank all of the contestants for their efforts and service. We invite all AAAA members to participate in our 2009 contest. Visit the AAAA website for details and submission requirements.

Bill Harris
Publisher

1st Place

"Not Quite a Winchester"
by Collin F. Magonigal
U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.
Oct. 21, 2008; Fort Rucker, Ala.

An OH-58D Kiowa Warrior conducts live-fire testing of the M-134 mini-gun at Matteson Aerial Gunnery Range to determine the weapon's compatibility for possible use with the aircraft.



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2nd Place

"Formation Flying"
by Sean F. Entrekin
U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.
Aug. 29, 2008; Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz.

A Yuma Test Center jumper appears to be flying in formation with a UH-72A Lakota helicopter after exiting the aircraft.

3rd Place

"Flying VFR on Top"
by CPT Eric R. Fritz
Co. B, 3rd Bn., 126th Avn. Regt., Rochester, N.Y.
April 5, 2008; Kwost, Afghanistan

Instead of trying to navigate through cloud covered valleys, a CH-47D Chinook flies by visual flight rules (VFR) over the clouds back to Forward Operating Base Salerno following a resupply mission.

4th Place

"Fireworks in the Sky"
by CPT Daphanie R. Davis
HHC, 4th Cbt. Avn. Bde., Fort Hood, Texas
Nov. 13, 2008; over Baghdad, Iraq

Two aviation Soldiers sitting on the lower ramp of a CH-47F Chinook are silhouetted by flares that have been activated by the aircraft's defensive countermeasures system during a combat resupply mission.

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Honorable Mention

"Easy Money"
by CW4 Rick E. Dillenbeck
Co. C, 2nd Bn., 149th Avn. Regt., San Antonio, Texas
Sept. 13, 2008; Crystal Beach, Texas.

San Antonio Fire Department rescue swimmer Ricky Baring, left, helps bring up a victim of Hurricane Ike off a house in a flooded neighborhood by hoist into a National Guard HH-60 medevac helicopter.

Honorable Mention

"Foggy Night in Iraq"
by CW2 Mitchell J. Wiese
Co. C, 2nd Bn., 10th Avn. Regt., Fort Drum, N.Y.
Dec. 1, 2008; Contingency Operations Base Speicher, Iraq.

A UH-60 Black Hawk on the flight line is cloaked by a very strange night time fog in the desert of Iraq.

Honorable Mention

"Brand New Chinook"
by Nick Van Valkenburgh
Cargo Helicopters Project Manager's Office, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.
April 10, 2008; National Harbor, Md.

A new CH-47F Chinook climbs up into blue skies as it departs from a convention center after being on exhibit during the 2008 AAAA National Convention.

Honorable Mention

"Apache Block III Takes Flight"
by Collin F. Magonigal
U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.
July 9, 2008; Mesa, Ariz.

The Army conducted its first flight of new AH-64D Block III Apache Longbow at the Boeing Company's facility in Arizona, here piloted by GEN Richard A. Cody, front seat, and CW5 Rucie J. Moore.

Further on.

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Honorable Mention

"A Hunter Over the Desert"

by Richard S. Gill

Northrop Grumman Technical Services, Herndon, Va.

Nov. 5, 2008; Sierra Vista, Ariz.

An MQ-5B Hunter unmanned aircraft participates in a test flight over the desert of Arizona during engineering trials.

Honorable Mention

"Final Preparations"

by Cadet Garet R. Cooper

HHC, 1st Bn., 211th Avn. Regt., West Jordan, Utah

Aug. 18, 2008; Dugway, Utah.

A crew chief stands by to assist, as the pilots of an AH-64A Apache attack helicopter review their checklist for aircraft engine start during annual training.

Honorable Mention

"Over the Alps"

by CW2 Seth A. Mendel

Co. C, 1st Bn., 189th Avn. Regt., Rapid City, S.D.

June 18, 2008; In the Italian Alps.

A formation of South Dakota Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters traverse the Alps during their deployment, via Germany, to Kosovo, ever vigilant to the presence of menacing clouds.

Honorable Mention

"Dusty Troop Formation"

by CW3 Kyle R. Sylvester

Troop B, 3rd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

June 30, 2008; Baghdad International Airport, Iraq.

A dust storm could not stop an end-of-tour awards ceremony for a troop of air cavalry warriors serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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The Military Child Education Coalition Focusing on the Future

By Laura Campbell and Judy Konitzer

With almost two million U.S. military-connected children all around the world, moving on average 6 to 9 times during their educational careers, more and more schools are recognizing the unique challenges this outstanding group of kids face as their parents serve in the military.

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, has worked hard during the past 10 years to create programs, provide training, publish materials and resources, and conduct research – all with these students in mind.

One of these efforts is MCEC's Student-2-Student (S2S) program, currently in 185 high schools around the world. This unique program trains a team from a school campus to provide leadership for training other students on methods to support students who are transitioning to or from their school. The focus is student-centered, and is student-led, with adults serving as advisors.

The program at Daleville High School in Alabama, which has a solid mix of both military and civilian kids, was highlighted in the April 2008 edition of ARMYAVIATION. Students here serve as ambassadors to welcome newcomers and support them when they are transitioning in or out of their school.

Daleville High's program is supported by 18 students, some of whom have had direct training with the MCEC, which they pass on to other students at DHS.

One of those thriving students is Kevin Phipps, a 16-year-old junior and the son of promotable COL Warren and Sylvia Phipps at Fort Rucker. Last fall, Phipps attended the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program, a program established to identify exemplary young people through their participation in the MCEC's S2S program.

It provides specialized training to nurture and develop students' leadership skills, their patriotism and commitment to selfless service, and their intellectual and problem-solving capacity.

COURTESY PHOTO

Here, COL Ed Manning, garrison commander, reads "How to Bake an American Pie," with the assistance of his daughter Emily holding the pages, during a "Tell Me A Story" event held in 2008 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Phipps brought his experiences from this program, as well as those from the 2008 MCEC Annual Conference and an S2S regional conference, to his fellow DHS students.

"While at the annual conference, I attended many seminars and lectures about wounded warriors and military leaders, and we also were building and practicing our own presentation on the power of marketing and education," Phipps said. "Daleville High students were chosen to speak to the other S2S kids on that topic. We also learned a lot of leadership information and got new ideas on how to improve our program."

"I have moved the most out of everyone, 11 times, and so I know how it is to be the new kid," he said. You can be really into it [the move] or you don't really care – and we have to be ready to reach both kinds of kids," he said.

"We focus on making the best situation for them. There are 18 kids to be friends with – or we can go to other kids that may not be in S2S but would be a good match, like they do the same kinds of stuff, and introduce them," he explained. "As members, we know our peers, and we can take them around school to do that. In that way, our S2S gets the whole school and the whole community involved."

MCEC also provides the following innovative programs.

Finding Support Through Literature

The "Tell Me A Story: Making Connections and Finding Support through Literature" (TMAS) program was created to empower military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience, strong peer and parent connections, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and a caring community.

Each TMAS event features a provided selected book, focused on children ages 4 through 12. Parents and

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PHOTO BY CAROLYN MOORE

A Fort Rucker based student, Kevin Phipps, was one of many participants in the annual MCEC's conference for the Student 2 Student program in 2008. Here, Phipps is joined by other representatives from his Daleville High School in Ala., from left, Margie Treadwell, sponsor; Arianna Davis, student; and Jan Robertson, sponsor.

children sit together to hear the story, and then break into small groups for a discussion with a trained facilitator, where potentially difficult topics, such as family separation, deployment, moving, grief and crisis are explored.

Recently, "Tell Me A Story – For Younger Children" (tmas-fyc) was developed in an effort to address the needs of children up to age 4. It mirrors the mission of TMAS, but uses picture books, allowing attending children and parents to create their own story as they flip through the pages.

At the end of 2008, almost 10,000 family members had attended TMAS and TMAS-FYC at military installations around the world.

Bringing Sunnier Days to Military Children and Families

Four years ago, *Sesame Workshop*, the nonprofit educational organization behind *Sesame Street*, launched a groundbreaking bilingual (English/Spanish), multimedia initiative for young children and their military families called "Talk, Listen, Connect (TLC)."

The workshop sought out experts to help design a program that could respond to military children's challenges using the power of media and the beloved *Sesame Street* Muppets.

Leaders in child development, mental health, and programs supporting military families came together to guide the outreach initiative, including MCEC's Executive Director Dr. Mary Keller and board members: retired MG Charles F. Bolden Jr. and Patricia K. Shinseki.

In 2006, "Talk, Listen, Connect: Helping Families during Military Deployment" launched with the free distribution of 500,000 multimedia bilingual kits worldwide.

MCEC provided funding toward the creation of the TLC kits and the project's website, and promoted awareness of the kits throughout military communities.

These efforts paid off: a summative study revealed that the TLC materials helped military parents and kids feel better during deployment, and helped them to be emotionally prepared for the deployment process.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to the first kit, Sesame Workshop collaborated again with MCEC and other partners to launch a second phase in April 2008, entitled "TLC: Deployments, Homecomings and Changes."

In the summer of 2008, Sesame Workshop and the United Service Organizations completed 106 free traveling *Sesame Street* live shows at 42 military installations across 23 states. These live performances reached approximately 76,000 children and adults.

Recent activities included a 30-minute family program called "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change," which aired April 1 on PBS and featured Queen Latifah and John Mayer. The show tells the stories of service members returning home with injuries—both visible and invisible—and explores the heroic struggles their families face on the path to finding a "new normal."

During summer 2009, Sesame Workshop will launch "Sesame Street Family Connections," a website that will enable deployed or injured Soldiers to interact more easily with loved ones when distance or disability makes everyday communication difficult.

A third phase of the project in development will be designed to help with one of the hardest challenges faced by military families and their young children: when a parent or an immediate family member doesn't come home.

Finding MCEC Online

MCEC's website *www.MilitaryChild.org* contains programs, student initiatives, registration for training sessions and the annual conference, and easy links to member favorites like "Aunt Peggie" (Peggie is a senior MCEC researcher who answers transition-

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Finding Help and Other Options to Suicide

By Dr. (COL) John P. Albano
with Dr. (MAJ) Nicole Powell-Dunford

Q: *The Army has a suicide problem how has Army Aviation been Impacted?*
FS: Suicide rates in the Army have recently exceeded the rate of combat deaths. During March through June, units are holding safety stand-down days across the Army to increase awareness of this serious problem. Combat aviation brigades over the past few years have lost crew members ranging from pilots to medical personnel, both before and during deployments. Although rates for aviation may differ from the Army as a whole, even a single suicide is one too many.

Q: *Who is at risk and what are the signs that a fellow Soldier might be in trouble?*
FS: Soldiers who may be at high risk for suicide include those with work, financial and family problems, as well as those abusing alcohol and drugs – which can lower inhibitions. Although a Soldier with no apparent risk factor may take his or her life, most will do or say things to cry out for help. An individual who contemplates suicide usually suffers from major depression. Signs of depression include problems with sleep, energy, concentration and appetite, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, feelings of guilt and sadness. Sometimes when a decision for suicide is reached, a Soldier will give away valued possessions, and/or appears uncharacteristically happy–despite weeks of sadness–once a plan for suicide is finalized.

Q: *What should I do if I suspect someone may be suicidal?*
FS: The Army currently trains Soldiers on the "ACE" technique: Ask, Care and Escort. Don't be afraid to directly *ask* if a buddy is thinking about suicide. Asking about suicide will not "put it into the individual's mind" or increase the risk for suicide. On the contrary, failure to ask about suicide may result in the very last lost opportunity to intervene before a final action. *Care* enough to remove any means, such as a weapon, that can be used for the act. Finally never leave a Soldier alone who has stated an intent or desire to kill themselves – *escort* them directly to a chaplain or medical professional. Suicidal Soldiers left unattended even for a few minutes while a buddy seeks help have gone on to kill themselves in the few minutes they were left alone.

Q: *Where can I turn for help if I or someone else is thinking of Suicide?*
FS: There are a number of resources for all components of the Armed Services, veterans and retirees. Several 24-7 suicide hotlines are available. Here are some "Life Lines:"
· Emergency – 911
· National Suicide Hotline – (800) 784-2433 (SUICIDE)
· www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org – (800) 273-8255
· Army Well-Being Liaison Office – (800) 833-6622
· Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline – (800) 984-8523
· www.armyfamiliesonline.org – (800) 833-6622
· www.militaryonesource.com – (800) 342-9647

Q: *Is my future in Aviation completely over if I seek help?*
FS: Suicidal thoughts are obviously not compatible with flight duties, but they do not always preclude a return to flight duty after the condition has been resolved. Do not hesitate to obtain assistance and involve your flight surgeon – you are too important to the Army family to become another statistic.

Question for the Flight Surgeon?
If you have a question you would like addressed, email it to *AskFS@quad-a.org.* Depending on the questions we receive, we'll try to address it in the future. See your unit flight surgeon for your personal health issues. As always, fly safe!

The views and opinions offered are those of the author and researchers and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless otherwise stated.

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Dr. (COL) John Albano is a flight surgeon and the Army associate director to the U.S. Navy Aerospace Medicine Residency Program, Pensacola NAS, Fla. Dr. (MAJ) Nicole Powell-Dunford is also a flight surgeon and a resident in aerospace medicine.

Spouses Corner

Continued from page 92

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Every week, the MCEC board and staff members post new information on their blog: *www.voiceforthemilitarychild.org* – and would appreciate your feedback.

Another avenue is *twitter.com/militarychild,* where you can sign up to follow MCEC and receive daily updates.

At the website: *www.youtube.com/militarychild,* you'll find videos and interviews from the 2008 annual conference; and there is also a "FaceBook" page, "Military Child Education Coalition."

The MCEC firmly believes in reaching out through social media and encourages you to join the conversation for the sake of the child. Additional questions for MCEC can be addressed to Joyce Hodson at 254-953-1923 or *joyce.hodson@MilitaryChild.org*.

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Laura Campbell is the media specialist with the Public Relations, Marketing, and Project Development office of the Military Child Education Coalition. She resides at Fort Hood, Texas. Judy Konitzer is the family readiness editor for ARMYAVIATION; questions and suggestions can be directed to her at judy@quad-a.org.

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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.*

SIKORSKY PHOTO BY STU WALLS

Army Receives 100th New Production UH-60M

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., celebrated the 100th new production UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter with the March 25 delivery to the Army at their Stratford based facility. BG Walter Davis, director of Army Aviation on the Army's staff, and COL Neil Thurgood, the project manager for Utility Helicopters, were on hand to accept the aircraft. "The UH-60M Black Hawk has been warmly received by our Soldiers who appreciate its performance, durability and robust design," said Thurgood, who spent time with Stratford plant employees, thanking them for the important part they play in America's defense. Here, Davis, with white helmet in cockpit, takes an opportunity to fly the 100th UH-60M aircraft.

"Sandblaster" Demonstrates Safer Helo Landings

Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., announced March 12 the successful demonstration of technology designed to enable safer helicopter landings in blinding conditions including brownouts. Sikorsky and its "Sandblaster" project teammates (**Honeywell Intl.** and **Sierra Nevada Corp.**) performed the demonstrations with the Army's Aeroflightdynamics Directorate at Moffett Field, Calif. Flying the RASCAL JUH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Jan. 12 to 14 with the prototype Sandblaster system, the pilots executed landing approaches to a variety of terrain, including slopes containing potentially dangerous obstacles to safe landings. With only a few hours of familiarization with the system, guest pilots executed the approaches safely. The demonstration included three Army pilots, and ground observers from several Army, Air Force and Marine Corps' technology development offices.

Contract to Enhance Warfighter Capabilities

CACI International, Inc., Arlington, Va., announced March 2 it was awarded a new $40 million (in value) task order under the U.S. Army's strategic services sourcing contract vehicle. The contract, for one base-year with two option-years, supports the Product Manager for Forward Looking Infrared and the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate. CACI will provide engineering, logistics and business operations support for the development, manufacture and sustainment of FLIR systems; and work closely with the NVESD to identify, invest in, develop, and transition technologies and systems that show the most potential for enhancing the effectiveness and survivability capabilities of the warfighter.

82nd CAB Gets 1st CH-47F Under Multiyear Contract

The Boeing Company, Ridley Township, Pa., announced Feb. 26 the delivery of the first renew build CH-47F model Chinook, manufactured under a 5-year Army contract awarded last August, to the 2nd Bn., 82nd Avn. Regt., 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde., at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 2-82nd Avn. is the fourth unit scheduled to be equipped under the Army's ongoing Chinook modernization program. Under the contract, Boeing will deliver 24 aircraft in 2009, and then begin a graduated delivery rate through successive years, culminating in 2015. The multi-year contract also contains priced options for an additional 24 aircraft, for a total of up to 215 aircraft.

ARMY PHOTO

DC Guard Gets First MEDEVAC Lakota

The Army National Guard in the District of Columbia held a March 12 rollout ceremony for the delivery of the first three of six UH-72A Lakota medical evacuation helicopters at the D.C. Guard Armory. This marks the first delivery of medevac version Lakotas to the ARNG. The 121st Medical Co. (Air Ambulance) based at Davison Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir, Va., are replacing their legacy UH-1 aircraft. The 121st Med. Co. are slated to get their remaining three UH-72A aircraft in April. Two UH-72A utility model aircraft are to be fielded in 2012 to the DC Guard's 1-224th Security and Support Detachment also based at Davison. Here, crewmembers with the 121st Med. Co., prepare their Lakota for towing to the ceremony at the armory.

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

L3 Communications Aerospace LLC, Madison, Miss., was awarded March 13 an $11M time and material contract for aircraft production support performed at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas. Estimated completion date is Jan. 8, 2010.

Contrack International Inc., McLean, Va., was awarded March 13 a $23.1M contract for the design and construction of an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance ramp at the Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan. Work is to be completed by December 23.

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc., San Diego, Calif., was awarded March 12 a $33M contract to support the extended range multi-purpose (ERMP) unmanned aircraft system development and demonstration. Work is estimated to be completed Jan. 15, 2010.

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Aeronautical Radio Inc., Annapolis, Md., was awarded March 7 an $80.6M contract for the procurement and delivery of 22 Mi-17CT helicopters in support of the Iraqi Government. Work will be performed in Warner Robins, Ga., (15 precent), United Arab Emirates (20 precent), and Russia (65 precent) with an estimated delivery by Aug. 31, 2010.

Longbow Limited Liability Co., Orlando, Fla., was awarded March 4 a cost plus fixed fee contract for the procurement of special test equipment and limited user testing support for the radar electronics unit and unmanned aircraft tactical common data link assembly program. Work is to be completed by Sept. 30, 2011.

Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc, Hurst, Texas, was awarded Feb. 27 a 3-year $18.5M contract for the upgrade of 27 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aircraft control display systems (ver. 2) to the current version 4 configuration. Work is to be completed by Feb. 28, 2011.

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., San Diego, Calif., was awarded Feb 26 a $35M contract to acquire 8 Extended Range Multi-Purpose, quick reaction capability, unmanned aircraft systems and associated support equipment. Work is to be completed by Jan. 15, 2010.

POTM
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE

DOD PHOTO

The ***Honorable Robert T. Hastings***, principal deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs steps down March 13 after a year of being the Pentagon's lead spokesman. Hastings, a retired Army master aviator with more than 20 years experience, became the principal deputy on March 10, 2008. President George W. Bush later nominated him to be the assistant SECDEF for Public Affairs, but the nomination never reached the Senate. He was one of the Bush appointees asked to remain at his post during the transition and for the first several months of President Barack Obama's administration. Following retirement from the Army in 1999, Hastings served as chief of staff and vice president of Communications for BAE Systems, Inc. He returns to the private sector.

CHANGES OF COMMAND

The following changes of command within the 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde. occurred during February at Fort Campbell, Ky.

LTC John M. Scott relinquished command Feb. 23 of the 1st Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. to ***LTC Scott A. Hasken***. Scott commanded the unit since September 2006. Hasken recently served as the Senior Leader Development Resource Manager in the office of the Army Chief of Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

LTC Christopher Wolfe relinquished command Feb. 24 of the 96th Avn. Spt. Bn. to ***LTC William Ferguson***. Wolfe departs after commanding the Bn., since November 2006. Ferguson recently served as deputy CJ3 (operations) for the Combined Joint Task Force-101 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

LTC John M. Lynch relinquished command Feb. 25 of the 2nd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt. to ***LTC William "Hank" Taylor***. Lynch had commanded the squadron since December 2006. Taylor had served as the chief of Current Operations for the Combined Joint Task Force-101 supporting OEF in Afghanistan.

LTC Thomas Stauss relinquished command Feb. 26 of the 5th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt. to ***LTC John D. Kline***. Stauss leaves after commanding since November 2006. Kline served as the deputy commanding officer of the 101st CAB.

ARMY PHOTO BY SPC GEORGE WELCOME

COL James M. Richardson relinquished command Feb. 27 of the 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde. to ***COL William K. Gayler***. Richardson departs after commanding the unit since December 2006. Gayler previously served as the director of Reset Operations for the 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault). Here, Gayler receives the brigade colors and command advice from BG Steve Townsend, right, deputy commanding general of the 101st AD.

COMBAT AWARDS

ARMY PHOTO BY SSG TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.

Cav Earns Combat Streamer

COL Michael Lundy, right, 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander, assisted by LTC Kenneth Hawley, commander of the 2nd Sqdn. "Lightning Horse," 6th Cav. Regt., and CSM Keith Hunter, center, squadron command sergeant major, add a Meritorious Unit Citation streamer to their unit colors during a March 5 ceremony at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii. The Lightning Horse squadron earned their MUC during their last rotation to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

HONORS

ARMY PHOTO BY SSG LYNETTE HOKE

AMEM Honors Aviator for Disaster Response

The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers recognized ***LTC Eric Waage*** with the presentation of its 2008 President's Award. Waage, who commands the 834th Avn. Spt. Bn. (Minn. ARNG) at Joint Base Balad in Iraq, received the award in February for providing military support to civilian authorities in his previous positions as the deputy commander and commander of the 55th Civil Support Team of the Minn. ARNG, and his position as the chief of Interagency Operations. Waage was instrumental in coordinating the National Guard disaster and homeland security response in Minnesota. He was also awarded the Minnesota Medal for Merit on March 13, 2008 for his actions and leadership. Waage and the 834th ASB are a part of Task Force 34; they replaced the 412th ASB Sept. 7 to provide support to Multi-National Corps—Iraq.

PHOTO COURTESY AVIATION WEEK

Longbow VUIT-2 Wins Laureate Award

The Army's team working the Apache Video from unmanned aircraft systems for Interoperability Teaming-Level 2, or VUIT-2, received the coveted Aviation Week's Laureate Award on March 3 in Washington, D.C. The

POTM
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Laureate Awards were conceived more than 50 years ago to recognize the extraordinary achievements of individuals and teams in aerospace, aviation and defense. VUIT-2 is a rapid prototype program which went from concept to unit fielding in 8 months. The VUIT-2 team is comprised of members from the Project Manager (PM) Office for Apache Attack Helicopter, the PM for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate (AATD); and industry partners: Lockheed Martin, L3 Communications and AAI Corp. Above, LTC Robert Johnston, Apache Longbow Program Manager from Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; and LTC Charles Walls, chief of Flight Test with the AATD, Fort Eustis, Va., accepted the Laureate Award on behalf of the VUIT-2 team.

COURTESY ARMY GUARD PHOTO

Aviation Family Named Family of the Year
An aviation family has been named the North Dakota Army National Guard's 2008 Family of the Year. The Simek family – ***SGT Jeffrey, Annette, Tryston*** and ***Michael*** – received the prestigious honor Feb. 15 for their years of support and dedication to military members and families at the State Combined Associations Conference in Bismarck. SGT Simek serves in Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 112th Avn. Regt., based in Bismarck. It's his latest assignment after 19 years in the N.D.Guard. His wife, Annette, has been active with the Guard's family readiness groups for the past 13 years. In recognition of the Simeks' years of support – including the couple's sons Tryston, 12, and Michael, 9. – the family received an eagle statue, flower arrangement, certificate of appreciation and personal letters of gratitude from the state's Adjutant General, Deputy Adjutant General and the state's senior enlisted Soldier.

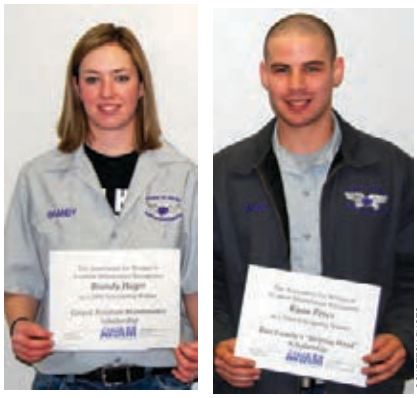
PHOTO BY ALLIN THOMAS

VFW Honors Local Hero
Almost three months since he helped assist in the rescue of an injured motorist from a burning vehicle Dec. 31 in Killeen, Texas, ***SPC Ryan Frushour*** was recognized for his heroism with a life-saving award by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Harry Munn, commander of the VFW Post 6008 in Hewitt, presented Frushour with a certificate of achievement and check for $100 during a March 6 ceremony at Fort Hood. Frushour helped pull the victim from his burning car and assisted with treating a protruding compound fracture injury. After reading about Frushour's actions, Munn sent the article to his state VFW headquarters, who then passed it on to the national headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., which subsequently approved the award. Frushour is a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief in Co. B, 3rd Bn., 227th Avn. Regt. with the 1st Air Cav. Bde.

SPOTLIGHT

ARMY PHOTO BY SFC STEVEN PETIBONE

Altitude Chamber Training
Four New York and 10 Virginia Army Guard aviation fixed wing Soldiers got a taste of high-altitude flying in Afghanistan Feb. 25 without leaving the United States. The Afghan-bound members of Operational Support Airlift participated in high-altitude training at the U.S Air Force oxygen chamber at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Here, SFC Michael Judge, left, and SPC Brad Provost, C-12 crew members from Detachment 20 in Latham, N.Y., connect their breathing apparatus to an emergency air tank during training up to 25,000 feet. Judge and Provost are among 10 N.Y. Guardsmen who deployed in mid-March to be a part of Task Force ODIN (observe, detect, identify and neutralize), an aerial intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission.



COURTESY PHOTO

Guard Aviation Troops Receive Scholarships
The Association for Women in Aviation Maintenance presented two Kansas State University at Salina students, who are both Guardsmen, with $500 scholarships each March 3. ***SGT Brandy S. Hager***, a junior in professional pilot and aviation maintenance, received the Girard Aviation Maintenance Technician School Scholarship. ***PFC Ryan K. Perez,*** also a junior working on a bachelor's in aviation maintenance and an A&P avionics maintenance certificate, received the Rice Family Helping Hand Scholarship. Hager is a qualified UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter mechanic with Det. 2, Co. A, 935th Avn. Spt. Bn. in Salinas and holds a private pilot's license. Perez is a 15P aviation operations specialist in Co. B, 1st Bn., 108th Avn. Regt. and recently earned a $2,500 scholarship from the Helicopter Foundation Intl.

Attention AAAA Members

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POTM
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

WARRANT OFFICER CANDIDATE SELECTIONS

The warrant officer accessions board met in March at Fort Knox, Ky., to select 241 enlisted members to attend the Warrant Officer Candidate Course at Fort Rucker Ala. The selection includes 55 Soldiers designated for aviation related specialties. Upon completion of the six-week course candidates will be appointed Army warrant officers and then attend specialty training. Details about the warrant officer accessions program and application procedures are online at *www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/.*

Air Traffic Control Tech. 150A

SSG	Jonathan Braun
SSG	Robert Kilpatrick
SSG	Eric McKnight
SSG	Lester Reed
SFC	Theodore Rogers
SFC	Lorena Ruiz *

Nonrated Avn. Maint. Tech. 151A

SFC	Reginald Crowell
SSG	Judson Culp
SSG	Abraham Garcia
SFC	Rudolfo Gonzalez
SFC	Rodney Miller
SFC	Jorge Parrarios

Rotary Wing Aviator 153A

SPC	Brian Ahn
SSG	Edwin Anderson
SSG	Hermann Bautzmann
SSG	Donald Burrell
SGT	Todd Chaput
SSG	Scott Chelf
SGT	Michael Clagg
SSG	John Delia
SPC	Jonathan Dodson
SSG	Matthew Dower
SPC	Adam Epley
SPC	Joel Faulkner
SPC	Chad Fogler
SGT	Jakob Fritz
SPC	James Ginocchio
SSG	Patrick Harris
SPC	Garrett Haury *
SPC	Benjamin Holladay
SSG	Michael Holland
SPC	Alessandro Janitschek
SGT	Cory Joslin
SGT	Jeffrey Keiper
SPC	James Kim
SPC	Cory Krogmeier
SPC	Kenneth Laseur
SSG	Steven Martin
SGT	Brian McDonell
SSG	David Miller *
SSG	Phillip Pakizer
SSG	Anthony Phillips
SSG	Christopher Randazzo
SGT	Patrick Reger
SSG	Anthony Reibly
SGT	Daniel Rhodes
SGT	Andrew Rich
SGT	Christopher Scharff
SPC	Drew Schloderer
SGT	James Shively
SGT	Robert Stalberger
SPC	Casey Stallings
SPC	James Tellen
SGT	Ryan Verhoef
SGT	Kevin Wikstrom

PROMOTION SELECTIONS

The Army Human Resources released the 2009 Sergeant First Class, Army Reserve selection board results March 30. AAAA congratulates the following three aviation NCOs (with MOS and sequence number).

Chad M. Smith
Dean M. Wehr II
Vaughn M. Wyer

The fiscal year 2008 Captains, Reserve Components, promotion board results were released March 12. AAAA congratulates the following 58 aviation branch officers.

Alexander, Andrew C.
Allen, Austin D.
Anderson, Joel F.
Bagwell, Andrew C.
Barbee, Jonathan D.
Barrera, Mathew D.
Bechdel, Jacquelyn
Bryant, Ronald J. *
Chamberlin, Eric J.
Chapman, Kenneth P.
Cole, James M.
Cox, Desiree R.
Cuevas, Emma A.
Cullinan, Joseph L.
Culverwell, Justin
Dalton, Jeremiah G.
Douglas, Christina *
Douglas, Justin C. *
Douglas, Kurtis N.
Fitch, Thomas D.
Fuller, Charles S.
Gladish, Stephen G.
Griffin, Aaron W.
Griffin, Dustin S.
Haker, Brett J. *
Jackson, Matthew S. *
Jendzio, Robert M. *
Kunkel, Glenn E.
Lee, Justin V.
Maxwell, Jeffery T. +
McClain, Markus E. *
McKenzie, Bryan W.
McNamara, Dennis B. *
Meztista, Edward C.
Mutchler, Eric G. *
Nance, Timothy M.
Needle, Michael L.
Norton, Aaron A.
Oliver, Justin P.
Palma, Diego A.
Palma, Jaime H.
Paulette, James R.
Phillips, Brady A. *
Pixler, Ryan C.
Rogers, Michael W.
Ruff, Christopher
Sandona, Bradley B. *
Silvan, Shawn P.
Simon, Jonathan J.
Sims, Anthony L.
Steele, Nicholas A.
Szymanski, Matthew
Tennimon, Victoria *
Trevino, Joseph E.
Wells, James D. *
Wiebe, Dennis R.
Williams, Matthew D.
Wilson, Keith B.

The fiscal year 2009 Sergeant First Class, Army competitive category selection board results were released March 24. Congratulations to the following 388 Aviation non-commissioned officers selected for promotion.

NAME	RMOS	SEQ#
Abraham, Charles D.	15Q4	10
Acosta, Hector Jr	15Y4	12
Adkison, Jason C.	15K4	68
Aguirre, Randy	15Q4	29
Ahmann, Joel D.	15R4	13
Allen, Dexter J.	15Q4	28
Alvarado, Edgar A.	15T4	79
Anderson, Salvador	15K4	70
Ashby, Mark W.	15J4	1
Austin, Kevin J. *	15S4	7
Avant, Mark E.	15K4	62
Bailey, Lester	15R4	2
Balve, Ernest J.	15T4	78
Barratt, Kevin W.	15K4	15
Barrett, Omar B.	15S4	5
Baugh, Caleb T.	15U4	22
Beauchamp, Nicholas *	15K4	64
Becerra, Faustino J.	15T4	46
Belcher, Robert D.	15U4	9
Bell, Ian P. *	15K4	84
Benitez, Marcelino	15K4	77
Bennett, Bryan K.	15S4	13
Bennett, Kelly D. *	15J4	5
Berg, Brent W. *	15R4	33
Boehning, Kelly C.	15W4	14
Bohanon, Jerry D.	15K4	83
Bone, Earlie	15T4	38
Bonilla, John R.	15R4	17
Bonilla, Juan M.	15K4	53
Borders, Rusty L.	15T4	8
Boyd, Joe H. Jr	15R4	28
Briggs, Farmarris K.	15R4	21
Brisco, Xavier E. *	15Q4	27
Brito, Reyes J.	15K4	82
Brodin, Ryan D.	15T4	83
Brown, Bryon W.	15U4	14
Brown, Clyde T.	15R4	1
Brown, David B.	15K4	87
Brown, Marvin Jr	15J4	11
Bruce, Clinton P.	15T4	61
Brumley, Brett L.	15U4	16
Buckwalter, Russell	15T4	6
Bullock, Shannon J. *	15T4	52
Bultron, Torres L.	15R4	30
Burney, Nicholas D.	15R4	12
Bush, Bobby W.	15K4	5
Butler, Christopher	15R4	20
Cabanvale, Eduardo	15Q4	26
Cabrera, Daniel J.	15T4	49
Cabrera, Janoi	15R4	7
Calinawan, Sean A.	15Q4	32
Campbell, John M.	15U4	28
Campbell, Scott B.	15Q4	22
Caraway, Keith A.	15P4	27
Carlson, Kevin D.	15U4	2
Carr, Benjamin E.	15U4	24
Carroll, Robert J.	15U4	27
Carty, Lauren O.	15K4	63
Casillas, Edward P.	15K4	61
Casper, Brandon R.	15J4	14
Castaneda, Jaime E.	15W4	11
Castillo, Matthew M.	15P4	7
Castillo, Ricardo N.	15S4	10
Cave, Keith A.	15T4	3
Chacon-Velasco, Benj.	15R4	31
Childers, Toby A.	15T4	16
Cisco, Bryan M.	15W4	13

* = AAAA Member
\+ = Life Member

POTM
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Clancy, Bryan E.	15R4	32	Gay, John S.	15K4	86	Johnson, Thomas D.	15K4	30
Clark, Gregory R.	15Q4	2	Gibbons, Shawn A.	15K4	18	Jones, Bob	15T4	47
Cobo, Jorge H.	15K4	73	Godoy, Nicolas H.	15U4	15	Jones, Dallas M.	15P4	28
Coffman, Timothy E.	15U4	5	Goins, Ollie	15Q4	1	Jones, Jimmie L.	15J4	8
Coker, Robert D.	15P4	16	Gomez, Jaime C.	15K4	25	Joseph, Kirk A.	15J4	3
Combs, Jason S.	15R4	26	Gonzalez, Alejandro	15Y4	9	Juriasingani, Sunil	15K4	42
Conaghan, John P.	15T4	40	Gorham, Joshua P.	15Q4	41	Kas, Derek A.	15W4	1
Conrad, John M.	15U4	21	Gorham, Thomas G.	15K4	26	Kelley, Quirjara L.	15Q4	35
Corbin, Michael L.	15R4	19	Gouge, Patrick S.	15T4	56	Kelly, Reubon E.	15T4	54
Corder, Cris A.	15U4	4	Graham, Grant J. *	15T4	68	Kendrick, Angela S.	15K4	45
Courtney, Burt D.	15U4	10	Gray, Kenneth M.	15Q4	14	Kennedy, Anthony *	15T4	64
Covington, Craig R.	15T4	73	Greiner, Kerry L.	15K4	29	Khadaran, Richard S.	15T4	53
Crawford, Randall L.	15T4	26	Grice, Roger D.	15K4	43	Khoonsrivong, Alex	15K4	21
Crolla, Anthony S.	15T4	17	Griffin, Antoine T.	15P4	2	Kilpatrick, Robert	15Q4	30
Crutchfield, Joseph	15K4	31	Grimmer, Jason A.	15T4	50	King, Allen D.	15T4	20
Cruz, Frank J.	15K4	58	Grimsley, Robert	15K4	20	King, Joseph C.	15S4	8
Cull, Brian K.	15Q4	8	Grissett, Benjamin	15Q4	39	Kyne, James H.	15K4	12
Culp, Judson D.	15R4	29	Guerrero, Beltran R.	15T4	48	Laga, Jaye T.	15K4	60
Cyrus, Theron H.	15Q4	15	Guyette, Eugene C. *	15K4	49	Langley, Anthony S.	15Q4	43
Damico, James A.	15T4	22	Halbach, Michael L. *	15K4	17	Leblanc, Jeremy S.	15W4	10
Davenport, Terrence	15Q4	20	Hallett, William G.	15P4	22	Lee, James M.	15Y4	11
Davis, Brian A.	15P4	20	Hamren, William P.	15Q4	23	Leger, Chadwick P.	15U4	11
Davis, Kenneth D.	15T4	14	Hanson, Justin D.	15T4	80	Lemieux, Raymond R.	15K4	44
Day, Jeffrey M.	15T4	29	Harrington, Michael	15S4	4	Lewis, Clenten C.	15U4	17
Dejesus, Leonard *	15P4	1	Hash, Thomas A. Jr.	15T4	70	Lightford, Monraye	15P4	24
Delashmit, Matthew	15K4	75	Hatcher, Gerald W.	15K4	11	Lilly, Robert L.	15W4	6
Delzer, Patrick C.	15K4	78	Hatfield, Robert A.	15Q4	24	Lindsey, Damon J.	15K4	76
Dennison, Glen T.	15T4	18	Helman, Duane A.	15K4	50	Lis, Waldemar	15K4	22
Derk, Robert K.	15U4	30	Hemion, Rick J.	15Q4	45	Loftin, Shonn D.	15Q4	37
Detommaso, Richard	15U4	8	Henriquez, Rosendo	15K4	28	Lopez, Aaron	15K4	51
Dickerson, Jason M.	15K4	14	Hernandez, Gerald A.	15K4	90	Lovelis, Shawn E.	15R4	6
Eastman, Harvey W.	15T4	13	Hernandez-Guzman, W.	15R4	10	Lowery, James E.	15U4	31
Edsall, Michael H. *	15T4	9	Hill, Donald F.	15K4	1	Loyd, Jeff R. *	15J4	6
Edwards, Jonathan D.	15P4	30	Hinton, Jeremy W.	15R4	23	Lucas, Terrence	15P4	15
England, Andrew C.	15R4	24	Hockstedler, Reece	15T4	55	Lumgair, Ian K. *	15R4	3
Evans, Ernest L. *	15T4	51	Holland, Jason D.	15T4	82	Luna, Efrain	15T4	42
Fayville, Jerome A.	15P4	11	Holmes, Eric A. *	15T4	57	Mack, Lecallur	15Q4	3
Feaster, Chad A.	15K4	89	Horn, Robert A.	15K4	72	Martin, Garfield K.	15Q4	46
Fejeran, Zachary A.	15Q4	21	Hostetter, Chad A.	15T4	72	Martinez, Lesley A.	15P4	26
Fields, David L.	15S4	2	Houston, Michael L.	15W4	16	Martinez, Miguel Q.	15Q4	44
Floreno, Steven A.	15R4	39	Howard, Paul D.	15K4	48	McClinton, Robert A.	15Y4	14
Flores, Michelle *	15P4	13	Howe, Steven R.	15U4	20	McClure, Becky L.	15P4	4
Ford, Robert B.	15T4	62	Howell, Christopher	15T4	41	McCormick, Gregory	15Y4	13
Forward, Todd A.	15J4	9	Hudson, Jeremiah M.	15K4	39	McDonald, John R.	15T4	59
Frazier, Fredrick O.	15Y4	3	Huff, Michael L.	15T4	28	McDonald, Ralph J.	15T4	32
Freese, Ryan K.	15K4	27	Hughes, William P.	15T4	19	McFadden, James C.	15T4	76
Friend, John A.	15U4	1	Humphrey, Donald R.	15T4	24	McGee, Jeromy K.	15K4	85
Frost, James L.	15K4	56	Hunter, Michael J.	15Y4	6	McKee, Richard P.	15T4	2
Galbraith, Jesse A.	15T4	75	Hurd, Carlesta D.	15R4	11	McLean, Rashad T.	15Q4	17
Garcia, Abraham	15R4	27	Hurley, Kort L.	15K4	74	McMillan, Matthew C.	15U4	18
Garcia, Dallas M.	15K4	59	Huzzie, Jason W.	15W4	2	McNealy, Darrell R.	15Q4	31
Garcia, Jesus	15S4	11	Ingalls, Joseph M.	15Q4	6	Mendez, Rudy R.	15T4	23
Garciaaponte, Roque	15T4	44	Irizarry-Fernandez	15P4	14	Mendoza, Luis A.	15S4	12
Garrett, Brandon T.	15J4	13	Jackson, Anthony	15Q4	40	Mercado-Torres, C.	15Q4	18
Garrett, Gene A.	15Q4	34	Jackson, Saulman	15W4	12	Millard, Robert J.	15T4	45
Gates, Rocky D.	15K4	40	Jenkins, Keith A.	15Y4	15	Montgomery, Cordale	15P4	12
Gawarecki, Timothy	15K4	9	Johnson, Jerry L.	15T4	1			

ARMY PHOTO

160th Opens New Aquatics Facility

The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment's newest simulation training facility was officially opened for business March 9 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The state-of-the-art Aquatic Training Facility, which took about an eight-year period to design this one-of-a-kind facility, provides initial water survival qualification and realistic training for the Night Stalkers. Training in underwater egress simulators is conducted in exact replicas of the unit's MH-47 Chinook (shown here), MH-60 Black Hawk and the A/MH-6 Little Bird helicopters. The Regiment currently conducts three programs of instruction for their flight crews, which includes a two-day basic dunker course, a one-day dunker refresher course and a HEEDS (helicopter emergency egress device – a breathing apparatus) refresher course. Future training concepts include hoist operations, caving ladder and extended sea survival training.

POTM

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Montgomery, Robert	15K4	35
Moody, Victoria	15K4	13
Morris, Jared P.	15R4	41
Mullins, Nathan D.	15T4	69
Negronorozco, Jayce	15W4	3
Nelson, Chasitie S.	15P4	19
Nettles, Michael S.	15T4	30
Newcombe, Aaron M.	15T4	60
Newell, Bryan K.	15K4	69
Nichols, John A.	15P4	21
Niederriter, Kevin	15W4	5
Norseworthy, Kevin *	15R4	16
Ocampo, Pedro Jr	15K4	71
O'Connell, Timothy J.	15T4	25
Oden, Brandon A.	15S4	1
Oliver, Gerald W.	15U4	12
Olsen, Ronald K.	15Y4	1
ONeal, James R.	15K4	2
Ortiz-ONeill, Enrique	15T4	10
Pagan, Felix.	15S4	6
Pantalone, Michael	15W4	4
Paresa, Apelila N.	15Q4	13
Parry, David A.	15W4	8
Paton, Timothy J.	15K4	41
Petrus, Edwin K.	15K4	4
Pfund, Brian.	15K4	57
Pimentel, Jovanni	15Y4	7
Pitts, Marcus R.	15P4	10
Porter, Jeremy B.	15U4	26
Pratt, Charlton J.	15U4	23
Price, Robert A.	15Q4	33
Price, Robert W.	15T4	5
Priest, Lee D.	15R4	5
Rader, Preston V.	15T4	67
Radford, Eric D.	15K4	88
Ras, Richard J.	15U4	25
Reichard, Ryan C.	15S4	15
Reichhart, Gregory	15Y4	4
Renteria, Raul	15K4	65
Reynolds, John C.	15U4	13
Rhinehart, Larry M.	15T4	71
Rice, Kevin F.	15W4	17
Rivera, Freddy *	15T4	39
Rivera, Victor M.	15K4	81
Robinson, Marc	15P4	9
Rocha, Mark E.	15K4	38
Rodriguez, Alejandro	15U4	29
Rodriguez, Antonio	15W4	15
Roesel, Stephen J.	15J4	4
Rogers, Terrance E.	15T4	66
Ross, Matthew R.	15R4	14
Rudolph, Christopher	15R4	22
Russell, Phillip M.	15R4	4
Ryan, Jason D.	15K4	66
Rychetsky, Brian M.	15K4	8
Rykaczewski, Timothy *	15P4	29
Sagen, Dominic B.	15K4	52
Sanabria, Luis A.	15K4	46
Sanchez, Domingo A.	15Q4	16
Saunders, Germaine	15U4	32
Sawyer, Kevin D.	15Q4	11
Sayles, Kevin A.	15K4	10
Scarbrough, Drew J.	15J4	10
Schweigert, David D.	15T4	33
Scibelli, Phillip A.	15W4	9
Scott, William F.	15T4	37
Scull, Carlos	15T4	11
Seeley, Wayne P.	15T4	27
Selkowitz, Eric J.	15R4	40
Sellers, John F.	15R4	37
Setliff, Jason T.	15T4	34
Shelton, Joseph A. *	15K4	55
Shiffer, Scott C.	15Q4	7
Shifflett, Adam J.	15T4	65
Simmons, Courtney R.	15K4	36
Singletary, Jeffery	15K4	24
Skinner, Terrence A.	15J4	12
Smith, Jeramy W.	15R4	36
Soberalski, Chad B.	15U4	19
Sparks, Howard E.	15K4	23
Speights, Lee	15Q4	5
Spitzley, James M.	15Y4	8
Spooner, Jamie B.	15R4	15
Spruill, Carlos J.	15Q4	42
Staggs, Richard P.	15T4	63
Starkey, James R.	15T4	35
Starling, Benjamin	15S4	17
Steele, Luke C.	15Y4	16
Stephan, Timothy S. *	15T4	36
Stewart, Carlos C.	15Q4	36
Stewart, Oneil A.	15K4	32
Stover, Ted H.	15T4	77
Stright, James R.	15T4	31
Stubbs, Thurman C.	15P4	18
Sutovich, Timothy A.	15W4	7
Tackett, Etchel L * .	15K4	79
Taylor, Ty L.	15K4	34
Templeton, Timothy	15P4	25
Tengel, John B.	15T4	74
Testa, Carlos A.	15K4	33
Thomas, Larry D.	15S4	9
Thomas, Marcus C.	15K4	7
Thompson, Anthony G.	15R4	8
Thompson, Nicholas	15R4	18
Thurston, Robert E.	15K4	3
Tijerina, Joseph A.	15T4	15
Tilton, Verle R.	15Q4	25
Todd, Shawn M.	15P4	3
Torres, Benito	15K4	16
Torres, Luis M.	15T4	81
Tramble, Patrick C.	15Q4	12
Trost, William C.	15S4	16
Troutman, Jerald L.	15P4	23
Turpin, Thomas W.	15T4	58
Underwood, Ernest K.	15R4	25
Underwood, Sherri L.	15Y4	2
Vachon, Scott M.	15U4	6
Valentin-Rivera, Hip	15K4	80
Vann, Christopher J.	15U4	33
Vargas, Jorge E.	15Y4	5
Vasquez, Carmelo	15R4	34
Vega, Ruby L.	15J4	7
Victorino, Eric T.	15T4	4
Virgil, Shelby J.	15R4	38
Wagoner, Cameron L.	15K4	47
Wallace, John T.	15K4	54
Walters, Willie L.	15U4	3
Watkins, Jelani	15P4	6
Watts, Gregory C.	15R4	9
Webster, John M.	15T4	7
Weekes, Clay C.	15Q4	19
White, Robert L.	15Q4	38
Wiedeman, Brad H. *	15K4	37
Wietzema, Adrian D.	15Y4	10
Wiley, Michael L.	15R4	42
Willett, Jesse A.	15Q4	4
Williams, Gary J.	15S4	14
Williams, Lowell C.	15T4	12
Williams, Robin M.	15P4	8
Williams, Stewart I.	15T4	21
Willingham, Michael	15P4	5
Wilson, Darrack A.	15S4	3
Wolsifer, Christopher	15U4	7
Woodall, Samuel J.	15K4	67
Woodrum, Kevin *	15J4	2
Wyatt, Jason D.	15R4	35
Yelvington, Brett L.	15K4	6
Young, Clint B. *	15P4	17
Yuille, James K. *	15Q4	9
Zaragoza, Trenton L	15T4	43
Ziegler, Michael J. *	15K4	19

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 09-09, 49 Officers, Graduated March 5

ABOLC

LT Patrick J. Dubois *	DG
LT Brian E. Hernandez *	HG
LT Scott W. Heaward	HG
LT Sidney L. Baker *	HG
LT Jill L. Hoops	HG
LT Brian E. Adkins *	
LT Grant A. Betz *	
LT Cherith A. Boycan	
LT Colton F. Brauer *	
LT Dennis J. Edwards *	
LT Brian D. Ehrenheim	
LT Nathan W. Fifer *	
LT Zachary G. Foster *	
LT Peter Gerboth *	
LT Jeffrey A. Godfrey *	
LT Joseph D. Hall *	
LT Craig A. Hermiller *	
LT George A. Navarro	
LT Jeffrey A. Paul *	
LT Kelsey J. Riise *	
LT April D. Searcey	
LT Johnny W. Sokolosky *	
LT Benjamin S. Taylor *	
LT Thomas R. Wagner *	
LT Derrick J. Zantt	

AWOBC

WO1 Charles M. Synnott *	DG
WO1 Tyler N. Johnson *	HG
WO1 Matthew L. Fitzmayer	HG
WO1 Robert F. Chattin	HG
WO1 Matthew J. Sandbothe *	HG
WO1 Michael B. Argus	
WO1 Willie K. Billups *	
WO1 Bryon L. Capouch *	
WO1 Brendan J. Coleman	
WO1 Jacob G. Deck *	
WO1 Michael F. Digre *	
WO1 Skyler J. Gray	
WO1 Harry F.H. Haskins *	
CW2 David E. Horning	
CW2 Phillip R. James	
WO1 William D. Knight	
WO1 Brendon C. Murphy *	
WO1 Paul A. Osburn	
WO1 David R. Powell *	
WO1 Calvin J. Rieb *	
WO1 Max D. Schaefer	
CW2 Peter J. Sopczak	
CW2 Christopher Walker *	
WO1 Robert E. Zeller *	

Class 09-10, 49 Officers, Graduated March 18

ABOLC

LT Sean T. Godrey	DG
LT Megan P. McConnell *	HG
LT Matthew L. Miller *	HG
LT Forest P. Woodbury *	HG
LT Rebecca L. Beatte	
LT Wyatt A. Britten *	
LT Jeremy E. Carlile *	
LT Jason C. Chimchirian	
LT Nathan S. Christiansen *	
LT Todd C. Cooper *	
LT John N. Holcomb	
LT Ronson P. Honeychurch	
LT Markus H. Jarvis	
LT Scott A. Lathrop	
LT William D. McCary *	

POTM
PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

LT Daniel M. McNamara *
LT Michael S. Poling *
LT Steven P. Seigler *
LT William R. Young *

AWOBC

WO1 Nathan K. Maier *	DG
WO1 Bryan K. Blair *	HG
WO1 Daniel R. Booher	HG
WO1 Daniel S. Hainje *	HG
WO1 Walter R. Jones	HG
WO1 Troy M. Brainard	CLG
WO1 Todd B. Cordova	
WO1 Raul A. Delgado *	
WO1 Matthew F. Duggan	
WO1 Jeremy N. Edler *	
WO1 Joseph A. Galbraith	
WO1 Gregory A. Gibson *	
CW2 Daniel Gonzalez	
CW2 Wilfredo Gonzalez-Pagan *	
WO1 Joseph G. Haire	
WO1 Bryan A. Harris *	
WO1 Jason A. Hodge	
WO1 Brandon M. Jessup	
WO1 Allen P. Jones	
WO1 Everton M. Joseph *	
WO1 Jeffrey B. Mackay	
WO1 Adam J. Rideau	
WO1 George E. Sammur *	
WO1 Jason D. Shull *	
WO1 Nathan B. Spaulding *	
CW2 Michael W. Spencer *	
WO1 James J. Toquero	
WO1 Cedric L. Vaughan	
WO1 Kenneth S. Welch	
WO1 Eric T. Willett *	

UAS OPERATOR GRADUATES

AAAA congratulates the following graduates of the Warrior-A Unmanned Aircraft System Operator Courses, MOS 15W, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Warrior-A Operator
Class 09-002, 9 Graduates
Graduated Feb. 27

PFC	William E. Adcock
SFC	Reginald Clark
SGT	Joshua Dillingham
SFC	Thomas D. Finch
SGT	John G. Maldonado
SGT	Aaron Mikel
PV2	David Rodriguez
PV2	Nicholas Van Houten
SGT	Bryan P. Welch

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

Shadow Operator
Class 09-014, 10 Graduates
Graduated March 19

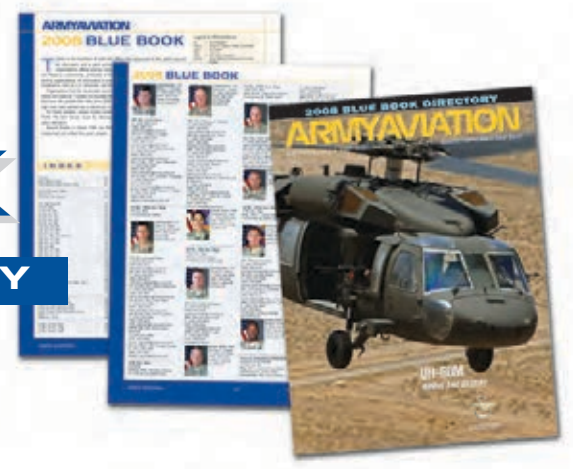
SSG	Michael R. Gray	HG
PFC	David L. Baldwin	
PV2	Brian K. Hardy	
PFC	Terrence C. Johnson	
PVT	Anthony M. Jones	
PVT	Uziel T. Lopez	
SGT	Steven R. Martindale	
SGT	Alicia R. Schmidt	
SPC	Neil D. Worthington	
PFC	William E. Teets	

Shadow Operator
Class 09-572, 13 Graduates
Graduated March 19

PVT	Nels C. Anderson
PFC	James T. Barnes
PVT	Cameron K. Corle
SGT	Rahashim I. Embil
PFC	Ronald W. Henney
PVT	Kyle T. Foley
PV2	Kacy R. Gilbert
PV2	Jamonte R. Little
PV2	Weston E. Irr
SPC	Dennis J. Manwell
PV2	Joseph R. Nastruz
PV2	Jeffery T. Naumann
PVT	Matthew A. Rush

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

ARMYAVIATION
BLUE BOOK
2009 DIRECTORY



Organizations, Commands and Individuals in the Army Aviation Community

YOUR PRESENCE IN THE BLUE BOOK IS IMPORTANT.
Don't Be Left Out!

Deadline for Data Submissions is July 10, 2009
Complete Information Available Online at www.quad-a.org

Telephone: (203) 268-2450 E-Mail: aaaa@quad-a.org

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL and OUR LADY OF LORETO AWARDS

Bluegrass Chapter

ARMY PHOTO BY DAVID ALTOM

The BGC honored an old warrior with induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael March 7 during a Kentucky Army Guard Aviation Dining Out held in Lexington. BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III, assisted by Kentucky Congressman Geoffrey C. Davis, presented the Silver medallion and certificate to retired ***CW4 William H. "Harold" Canon Jr***. Canon, who retired from the Ky. Guard in 1980, was recognized for his 40-plus years of service in uniform. At the rank of master sergeant, at the point when most Soldiers retire, Canon accepted an appointment to CW2. He went on to help with the development and implementation of critical aviation maintenance programs, training and systems. He helped shape the maintenance and maintenance training programs for every aircraft in the KYARNG fleet. Canon was instrumental in the practical implementation of flight simulators for many of these platforms, providing invaluable expertise in converting live instrument systems to synthetic applications. A highlight of his career includes a record-setting cross-country flight in the OH-23 in 1962, during which his expertise was credited with saving the aircraft and mission. Canon continues enjoying his retirement in Frankfort. Pictured here, Davis, Canon and his son, COL Robert I. Canon of the Texas ARNG.

Bluegrass Chapter

ARMY PHOTO BY DAVID ALTOM

The spouse of a U.S. congressman was honored with induction into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto March 7 during a Kentucky Army Guard Aviation Dining Out held in Lexington. BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III, assisted by Rep. Geoffrey C. Davis of Kentucky's 4th Congressional District, presented the OLL pin and certificate to ***Mrs. Patricia A. Davis***. Davis, a homemaker and community volunteer in Hebron, was recognized for her distinguished service and support to aviation units and installations. Rep. Davis, the only former Army aviator seated in Congress, recounted many stories of his wife's participation in family readiness groups and hours of personal time devoted to keeping families updated on news within the local military structures and for passing along news and photos from their troops abroad or during military exercises. On many occasions, she provided direct assistance to family members in arranging child care, transportation and travel for such things as identification cards and doctor appointments. Today, she continues those efforts by supporting the families of deployed service members and returning veterans.

Bluegrass Chapter

ARMY PHOTO BY DAVID ALTOM

The BGC honored one of their spouses with induction into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto March 7 during a Kentucky Army Guard Aviation Dining Out held in Lexington. BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III, assisted by Congressman Geoffrey C. Davis, Kentucky 4th Congressional District, presented the OLL pin and certificate to ***Mrs. Sheri E. Lewis***. She is the wife of MAJ Gary Lewis, the assistant S3 operations officer for the 63rd Theater Avn. Bde. Lewis distinguished herself during three deployments of the 63rd TAB and its subordinate units. She was a key point of contact for family readiness groups, working untold hours of personal time to keep families abreast of news and information concerning the units and Soldiers. On several occasions, she assisted local family members by arranging child care, travel and transportation to obtain identification cards and attend medical appointments. Pictured here are Davis and the Lewises.

Bluegrass Chapter

PHOTO BY CWI DEAN E. STOOPS

BGC President COL Benjamin F. Adams III honored ***CW4 Dale L. Chrisenberry*** with induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael and presentation of the Silver medallion during the Kentucky Army Guard aviation safety stand down March 7 in Lexington. Chrisenberry is the former commander and currently the unit instructor pilot for Detachment 3 of Co. H, 171st Avn. Regt., in Frankfort. As an aviator, Chrisenberry has logged over 23,000 flight hours, nearly 20,000 are in Army aircraft. He is among the last of the Vietnam era veterans serving, and has flown in wars spanning to our current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan during his 40 years of uniformed service. He was instrumental in the fielding and improvement of the C-23 Sherpa to the Army National Guard, and has been front-and-center for nearly every tactic, technique and procedure developed for use by the Sherpa in combat theaters of operation. Chrisenberry reaches his mandatory retirement date in June; however he has requested a waiver to extend his service for another 12 to 24 months.

Greater Atlanta Chapter

PHOTO BY CWS REGINALD HAMILTON

CW3 William T. Coleman was honored for his career and service with induction into the Order of St. Michael March 10 at Fort McPherson, Ga. Sam Seetin, the GAC's treasurer, assisted COL John Williams, the deputy chief of staff for Operations (G3) for the U.S. Army Central, with presenting Coleman with a framed OSM certification and the Bronze medallion. Coleman, the aviation readiness officer with the office of the DCS for Logistics (G4), was recognized for his contributions to aviation maintenance and logistics support to ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tennessee Valley Chapter

PHOTO BY TONYA GALINDO

TVC's V.P. for Publicity LTC Jason Galindo, assisted by retired LTC Michael McClellan, V.P. for Operations, honored ***Janice Sanders*** with induction into the Honorable Order of St. Michael March 5 at the Officers and Civilian's Club at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Sanders, an aviation analyst with VT Aepco and a contractor supporting the Program Executive Office for Aviation, received the Bronze medallion and a framed certificate. She was recognized for her extraordinary support of Army aviation and the PEO-Aviation over a period of 25 years. Her major contributions include support of the RAH-66 Comanche project, the AH-64D program, the UH-60M product line, the UH-72A Lakota product line, and the movement of the Army to the T701-D engine. Sanders has also served as a logistics coordinator for the annual AAAA Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Support Symposium.

Morning Calm Chapter

PHOTO BY CW2 JOE MAX FOOR

COL Joseph Bassani, left, 2nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander, assisted by LTC Cory Mendenhall, commander of the 1st Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., inducted ***CPT Joseph M. Odorizzi*** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael Feb. 23 at Camp Eagle in Wonju, Korea. Odorizzi, the departing Co. C commander with the 1-2nd Avn., received the Bronze medallion in recognition of his aviation service over the past 8 years. A veteran of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, Odorizzi led his troops under fire with distinction. An AH-64D pilot, he has flown over 1,100 hours incident-free in combat and training. He has led Co. C for two years and was considered to be a top company commander. Today, Odorizzi is an observer/controller for attack operations at the National Training Center in Calif.

Morning Calm Chapter

PHOTO BY CW2 JOE MAX FOOR

LTC Cory Mendenhall, commander of the 1st Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., inducted three senior Soldiers into the Honorable Order of St. Michael Feb. 20 at Camp Eagle in Wonju, Korea. The Bronze medallion was presented to ***CW4 Kirk Jones***, ***CW3 Michael Maine*** and ***SFC Fritzgerald Verella*** in recognition of their more than 40 years of Army aviation service. Jones is a maintenance test pilot with Co. C, 1-2nd Avn. Maine is an instructor pilot and an instrument examiner with 4th Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt. Verella is the first sergeant of Co. C, 1-2nd Avn. Pictured here, from left: Verella, Maine, Jones and Mendenhall.

Order of St, Michael Recipients

Silver
CW4 Dale L. Chrisenberry
CW4 William H. Canon Jr., Ret.

Bronze
MAJ James Naylor
CPT Jason Yenrick
COL Gerald Lord
CW3 Forrest Sims
CW5 Thomas A. McGee
CW4 David D. Bramel, Ret.
MW4 Carl R. Brown, Ret.
COL David M. Neuenswander
MAJ Everett Spain
LTC Christopher Boetig, Ret.
LTC Steven F. Miller
Vernon C. Atkinson

New Chapter Officers

Aloha Chapter
COL David P. Brostrom, Ret., Senior Vice President; LTC Ramsey Bentley, VP Scholarship; LTC Gregory Baker, Chapter Historian

Bluegrass Chapter
LTC Willoughby S. Goin, Ret., Senior Vice President

Central Florida
Mike Garretson, VP Programs; John Sullivan,VP Industry Affairs; Stan Aronberg, VP Membership Enrollment; Jerry Gout, Chapter Historian

Corpus Christi Chapter
Rita Burke, VP Scholarships

Griffin Chapter
COL Robert Doerer, President; LTC Jack Bone, Senior Vice President; CW4 Dennis Seymour, VP Programs; CSM Lee Kennedy, VP Enlisted Affairs

Idaho Snake River Chapter
CPT Granger Amthor, VP Programs; MAJ Charlie Moore, VP Scholarships; SFC Tammi Mitchell, VP Enlisted Affairs; CPT Chris O'Leary, VP Industry Affairs

Iron Mike Chapter
CPT Alicia Stahlberg, VP Programs; MAJ Luis Remigio, VP Membership; SFC Robert Macko, VP Scholarships; Paul Mullen, VP Industry Affairs; MAJ John Litvin, Secretary

MacArthur Chapter
CW5 James Freeman, President

Northern Lights Chapter
LTC Michael C. McCurry, Senior Vice President; MAJ Chris Chapman, VP Programs; CSM Richard Mitchell, VP Membership; CPT Brendan Taylor, Secretary; LTC Kelly Peitz, VP Scholarship; MAJ DeAnna Bridenback, Treasurer

Pikes Peak Chapter
CPT Charn McAllister, Secretary; CPT Charn McAllister, Treasurer

Rio Grande Chapter
1LT Veronica Finch, Secretary; David Torres, VP Programs

Southern California Chapter
LTC Tom Lasser, Senior Vice President; LTC John Hendrickson, VP Programs; COL William Ward, VP Scholarships

Continued on page 107

Legislative Report

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)
AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

2010 DEFENSE BUDGET CRUNCH

The $533.7 billion defense budget announced by President Barack Obama in February appears on the surface to provide a 4 percent increase, until considering the difference of the moving war funding from the supplemental budget to the base budget.

The result is about a $50 billion shortfall from the $580B draft 2010 budget, which requires Defense Secretary Robert Gates to make some hard choices in preparing the April budget for submission to Congress.

Choices will have to be made among weapons acquisition, force structure, maintenance and personnel programs, including pay, dependents and health.

Concerns are that the budget, which is being reduced to 3.7 percent of the gross domestic product, will be the beginning of a trend during the present period of Persistent War to "trade guns for butter."

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL SIGNED

On March 11, President Obama signed the Omnibus $410 billion catch-all spending bill for the nine 2009 remaining federal departments not completed by Sept. 30, 2008.

Obama declared the about 8,570 earmarks (pet congressional projects priced at $12.8B) or 1 percent of the overall bill were last year's business and that in the future he would hold Congress to a higher standard.

Now many congressional members are attempting to re-brand the earmarks as good government.

The bill included $524 million for defense earmarks not requested by the Defense Department.

Some critics are concerned that the government will be unable to efficiently issue and effectively oversee the spending of the $787B stimulus, the $700B targeted asset relief program and the $410B omnibus bills this year.

ACQUISITION REFORM

On March 4 in response to program overruns, delays and critiques, President Obama announced a new administration priority of improving the Pentagon's procurement system.

Obama signed a memo directing a number of improvement steps for government acquisitions, to include requiring a review of all defense contracts that are wasteful, inefficient or otherwise not likely to meet agency needs.

Recommendations are required by July 1 on which contacts can be modified or canceled.

Obama supports legislation proposed by senators Carl Levin (D-MI) and John McCain (R-AZ) to reform the government's acquisition process.

Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, is expected to issue new federal guidelines by the end of September in the areas of public procurement and contracting practices.

The White House forecasts that the new reforms save about $40 billion in annual costs, with a major portion of the funds coming from the Defense Department.

PAY INCREASE EXPECTED

In early March congressional sources agreed they would probably increase the Obama Administration's 2010 proposed 2.9 percent military pay raise to 3.9 percent.

The Military Coalition is pressing a 3.4 percent raise that adds .5 percent toward closing the pay gap defined by the Employment Cost Index between the military pay and that in the comparable civilian community.

Congress in the last 9 years has closed this pay gap from 13.5 to 2.9 percent for the all- volunteer-force.

IRAQ TROOP WITHDRAWAL

The U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq was set in motion by the Iraq Security Pact signed Jan. 1 that requires non-Iraqi combat forces to be based outside the cities by June and to have all the coalition forces removed from Iraq by the end of 2011.

Two U.S. brigade combat teams of about 12,000 troops are to depart Iraq by September leaving 12 BCTs supporting operations.

President Obama has said that all the combat forces, less a residual of up to 50,000 troops, are to depart by September 2010.

Iraqi officials signaled in mid-March that in order to sustain the security gains of last year some of the withdrawals will be based upon the situation.

The residual U.S. Special Forces and training forces are expected to need at least two combat aviation brigades to achieve a successful transition.

The fledgling Iraqi Air Force has goals having 6,000 personnel and a mixed fleet of about 90 aircraft ranging from light fixed wing, to various helicopters and C-130s by the end of 2009.

BAD VA HEALTHCARE PLAN OVERTURNED

On March 10, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki testified to the Senate VA Committee concerning the developing 2010 VA budget to be submitted with the president's budget to Congress in late April.

Shinseki proposed: a 15 percent increase in the VA budget to $112.8 billion (the largest increase ever), the gradual lifting of what remains of the ban on concurrent receipt for both military retirement and VA disability compensation for retirees, and the plan to enroll 284,000 more Priority Group 8 veterans for a total of 550,000 by 2013.

However, the committee provided strong and discordant feedback during Shinseki's plan for the VA to collect reimbursement from veterans' personal commercial health insurance to pay for portions of their service connected injury or ailment care.

On March 16, President Obama met with representatives of a number of veteran organizations to learn of their strong views concerning the administration's third-party payer healthcare scheme.

On March 18, TMC advised the president that veterans had earned their service connected VA care and asked to drop the plan to save $540 million by using veterans' personal health plans to pay for a part of the VA care.

Also on March 18, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that the president had decided that veterans should not be billed through their insurance policies for combat related injuries.

In response to the about-face, veteran groups thanked the president and gave bipartisan praise to Congress.

CONGRESS HEARS TMC'S GOALS

On Feb. 25, three representatives of The Military Coalition testified their joint organizations' agreed upon legislative goals and priorities before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee.

Each year in the fall, the 33 TMC organizations coordinate, harmonize and prioritize their goals in preparation for each new budget year and for joint testimony before Congress.

Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), the subcommittee chair, said they are receptive but expressed concern at the growing pressures on the defense budget and asked the witnesses to prioritize their most important goals.

The TMC testimony is online at: *www.themilitarycoalition.org/testimony.htm*.

In Memoriam

AAPI PHOTO BY RENE BIDEZ

LTC Radspinner Jr.

LTC Frank Hanly Radspinner Jr.

Retired LTC Frank H. Radspinner Jr., 72, of Azle, Texas, died Feb. 23 after battling pancreatic cancer. Radspinner was a Charter member and a life member of AAAA, and served on the AAAA Scholarship Foundation's Board of Governors for more than 30 years.

Born April 26, 1934 in Darlington, S.C., Radspinner began his love of aviation when he piloted his first flight at age 11 and continued it throughout his life. He graduated from The Citadel of South Carolina in 1955, receiving his Army commission in the Ordnance branch.

During his 21 year career, he served in Asia and Europe; and in the Antarctic, where he flew the first U.S. helicopter flight to the South Pole. As a captain, Radspinner commanded a helicopter detachment supporting the U.S. Geological Survey Topographical East-West party that surveyed the Antarctic in 1962-63. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Antarctica Service Medal for his service in this harsh environment.

A master aviator with over 4,300 flight hours, he served over 30 months in Vietnam, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, seven Air Medals, the Vietnam Service Medal (seven campaigns), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the National Defense Service Award and many other related honors and awards.

Radspinner was the Army liaison with Bell Helicopter, participating in the development of the AH-1 Cobra gunship helicopter.

After retiring in 1976, he joined Bell's international marketing department, where he continued his love of flying and helicopters in Asia and Europe.

In addition to his AAAA service, he also served with The Citadel Foundation Board and as the chairman for the Class of 1955.

Survivors include his wife of 30 years Diana Braiden-Radspinner; daughter Lisa Ann Radspinner; daughter and son-in-law Nina and Michael Johns; and grandchildren Dean "D.J." Rose and Natalie Ann Johns.

He was preceded in death by his parents and son William D. Radspinner. Interment was at the Pickwick-McAdams Cemetery in Graford, Texas

The family respectfully requests any memorials be made in Frank's name to The Citadel Foundation, Class of '55; 171 Moultrie St.; Charleston, S.C. 29409; or to the AAAA Scholarship Fund.

New Chapter Officers

Continued from page 105

Tarheel Chapter
LTC Todd Hunt, President;
LTC Jeff Copeland, VP Programs

Thunder Mountain Chapter
LTC Patrick Sullivan, Senior Vice President

Volunteer Chapter
CW4 Steve Bennett, Senior Vice President; LTC Robert L. Whitaker, President

Soldier of the Quarter

SPC Soraima Bergantino
1st Quarter 2009
Aviation Center Chapter

Soldier of the Month

SPC Susan Singer
February 2009
Empire Chapter

SFC Bruce D. Talley
October 2008
Idaho Snake River Chapter

SSG Farin C. Schwartz
November 2008
Idaho Snake River Chapter

SSG Donny C. Coleman
December 2008
Idaho Snake River Chapter

SGT Amanda J. Barnes
January 2009
Idaho Snake River Chapter

SGT Michael M. Heberling
February 2009
Idaho Snake River Chapter

SGT Bernard Smith
January 2009
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter

PFC Bobo Aye
January 2009
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter

SPC Jonathan R. Leonard
February 2009
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter

PFC David J. Rhodes
February 2009
Jimmy Doolittle Chapter

SPC Jonathan Tellovelasquez
February 2009
Northern Lights Chapter

SSG Neftali H. Bonilla
February 2009
Northern Lights Chapter

SGT Katherine Pirkle
March 2009
Tennessee Valley Chapter

NCO of the Quarter

SSG Justin A. Gooding
1st Quarter of 2009
Aviation Center Chapter

ACES

CPT Randy P. Lefebvre
Aloha Chapter

CW2 Genaro M. MataRising
Sun Chapter

CW4 John S. McConnell
Volunteer Chapter

LTC Terrance L. Reininger, Ret.
North Texas Chapter

New Lifetime Members

CW5 Thomas L. Adkins, Ret.
Marsha G. Bailey
COL Greggory R. Cluff
Robert G. Dodd
CW4 Tommy L. Dorris
CW5 John R. Dougherty, Ret.
CW4 Anthony A. Fridelle
CW5 Ralph A. Gilgenast Jr.
COL Harry Haroldson
Brian D. Hawn
PFC David B. Jackson
CW3 Kevin L. Jackson
COL Robert D. Mitchell
MAJ Mark E. Pickett
CW4 Lance E. Nation Sr.
CW3 Eric R. Ridilla
2LT Bradford F. Ritzel
CW4 James R. Rogers
LTC Kenneth T. Royar
CW4 Edward J. Sanderlin
COL Harvey E. Stewart, Ret.
LTC James E. Ward
H. Fritz Welsch Jr.
CPT Bradley M. Williams

New Industry Partners

ADACEL Systems Inc.
Aerial Surveillance Systems, Inc.
Aerotech Acrylic Concepts, Inc.
Chandler/May, Inc.
Corsair Engineering, Inc.
DME Corporation
EDMO Distributors, Inc.
Geotest-Marvin Test Systems, Inc.
Handling Systems, Inc.
LESCO
Million Air
MonoSol LLC
Sandel Avionics
Scientic, Inc.
Tribal Solutions, Inc.
Westone Laboratories, Inc.

In Memoriam

COL Nicholas G. Psaki Jr., Ret.

NEW MEMBERS

Air Assault Chapter
Dr. Kurt W. Belawske
CW5 David F. Cooper
CW4 Wade J. Fox
CW4 Michael B. Martin
CW4 Thomas Miskowiec, Ret.
SGM Joel D. Neppl
CPT Mark J. Scherbring
Aloha Chapter
SGT Christopher D. Rognrud
America's 1st Coast Chapter
Clark E. Scarborough
Arizona Chapter
CW4 Curtis D. Millsap, Ret.
Armadillo Chapter
LTC David W. Wilkinson
Aviation Center Chapter
WO1 Kristopher M. Ahrens
Fred L. Alcorn
WO1 Denise Alonso
WO1 Nicholas G. Anderson
WO1 Curtis J. Bartholomew
WO1 Edward W. Benedict
WO1 Christopher A. Bennett
SPC Soraima Bergantino
WO1 Charles R. Berry
2LT Michael D. Bruce
CW3 Richard R. Burkart, Ret.
2LT Nicholas B. Dason
WO1 Christopher M. Ducote
2LT Wesley C. Emery
WO1 Michael G. Fransioli
WO1 Grant T. Gille
SSG Justin A. Gooding
2LT Jeffrey D. Gray
WO1 Jesse G. Griffin
WO1 David S. Hayes
WO1 Benjamin K. Hickman
WO1 Jeffrey L. Jones
2LT Christina C. Kawoczka
WO1 Jason P. Kempfer
2LT Ryne L. Klauer
1SG Tad A. Lefler
WO1 William E. Lucas III
2LT Reuben J. Mabry
CW2 Brian M. McGraw
WO1 Erik J. Mikkelborg
WO1 Brent N. Mitchell
WO1 Nicholas A. Mitchell
CW5 Julia L. Mosman
WO1 Alexander F. Moss
WO1 Ryan G.L. Muller
WO1 Nathaniel R. Neal
WO1 Joseph A. Pastorek
WO1 Bobby J. Pitts
WO1 Christopher J. Reynolds
WO1 Kristopher J. Schaaf
2LT Matthew D. Slukhuis
WO1 Robert O. Smette
WO1 Andres G. Snow II
2LT Amanda D. Staly
WO1 Aaron L. Stone
WO1 Gabriel A. Tatom
WO1 Kevin R. Wettschreck
2LT Paul K. Wiles
2LT Chase B. Yarbrough

Bavarian Chapter
CW2 Jeremy L. Hoffman
CW4 Dale P. Moczynski
Big Red One Chapter
COL Paul J. Ambrose
Black Knights Chapter
2LT Frank A. Czerniakowski
CDT Christina J. Fenstermaker
Davidson K. Fisher
CDT Richard D. Kubu
CDT Bryan D. Lee
2LT Jeremy D. Paquin
CDT Paul A. Proios
2LT Eric R. Rathbun
2LT Brett A. Shaffer
CDT Joseph R. Snoke
CDT Philip Y. Sohn
CDT Gregory S. Stoner
2LT Thomas J. Terry
CDT Hunter M. Thornal
CDT John T. Wetzel
Bluegrass Chapter
WOC David J. Burnett
SPC Erik J. Hanson
PFC Jordan T. Magedanz
PFC Steven W. McCane
CPT Christopher A. Skapura
Central Florida Chapter
LTG Thomas L. Baptiste, Ret.
COL Wellsford V. Barlow, Ret.
LTC Herb Burgess, Ret.
2LT Nathaniel W. Edwards
Kristopher D. Houston
Catherine Margopoulos
Stephen Rivera
William C. Rodriguez
Kevin P. Roney
Cherylynn Sagester
Marcia L. Thompson
Colonial Virginia Chapter
Robert L. D'Agostino
SSG William C. Durfey
CPT Allison C. Hambrecht
SSG Joseph D. Hickey
LTC Robert A. Price, Ret.
CW3 Richard W. Stewart, Ret.
Connecticut Chapter
Steve Eldredge
Raymond Trent
Corpus Christi Chapter
Ahad A. Khan
Edwardo O. Lopez
Delaware Valley Chapter
LTC Frank J. Fahr, Ret.
Empire Chapter
1SG Michael F. Burrow
2LT Brandon B. Reynolds
Greater Atlanta Chapter
MAJ Jose A. Alonso Jr., Ret.
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MAY 2009

May 27 – 29 **AHS Annual Forum,** Grapevine, TX

JULY 2009

July 24 **AAAA Scholarship Executive Committee Meeting,** NGRC, Arlington, VA

July 25 **AAAA Scholarship Selection Committee Meeting,** NGRC, Arlington, VA

AUGUST 2009

Aug 10 – 13 **AUVSI's Unmanned Systems North America,** Washington, DC

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sept 11 – 13 **NGAUS General Conference,** Nashville, TN

OCTOBER 2009

Oct 5 – 7 **AUSA Annual Meeting,** Washington Convention Center, DC

Oct 5 **AAAA Scholarship Board of Governors Meeting,** Washington Convention Center, DC

Oct 5 **AAAA National Executive Board Meeting,** Washington Convention Center, DC

Oct 6 **AAAA Hall of Fame Trustee Meeting,** Washington Convention Center, DC

NOVEMBER 2009

Nov 2 – 6 **U.S. Army Warrant Officers Assoc. (USAWOA) Annual Meeting,** Salt Lake City, UT

Nov 9 – 11 **ASE Symposium,** Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville, TN

ARMYAVIATION

UPCOMING SPECIAL FOCUS:

June

- SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION
- CONVENTION RECAP

July

- SIMULATION AND TRAINING

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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.

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Simultaneous MemberShip Form 600-DS (Fill-in) (Revised May 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 June 1, 2009.

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

Medal of Honor

Major Edward W. Freeman

Army Aviation Hall of Fame 2004 Induction

MAJ Edward "Too Tall" W. Freeman distinguished himself on Nov. 14, 1965, while serving with Co. A, 229th Assault Helicopter Bn., under the 1st Cav. Div. in the Republic of Vietnam.

As a flight leader and second in command of a 16 UH-1 helicopter lift unit, he supported a heavily engaged American infantry battalion at landing zone "X-Ray" in Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley.

The infantry unit was almost out of ammunition, fighting off a relentless attack from a heavily armed enemy force.

When the U.S. infantry commander closed the helicopter landing zone due to intense enemy fire, Freeman risked his own life by repeatedly flying his unarmed helicopter through a gauntlet of enemy fire to deliver ammunition, water and medical supplies to the besieged battalion.

After the pilots of the medical-evacuation helicopters refused to fly into the area because of the intense enemy fire, Freeman flew 14 rescue missions, evacuating some 30 seriously wounded Soldiers.

All flights were made into a small emergency landing zone within 100 to 200 meters of the defensive perimeter where heavily committed units were perilously holding off the attacking enemy elements.

Freeman's selfless acts of great valor, extraordinary perseverance and intrepidity were far above and beyond the call of duty or mission.

For these actions, Freeman was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Editor's note: *Retired MAJ Freeman died last Aug. 20 at age 80 and was laid to rest in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise.*

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