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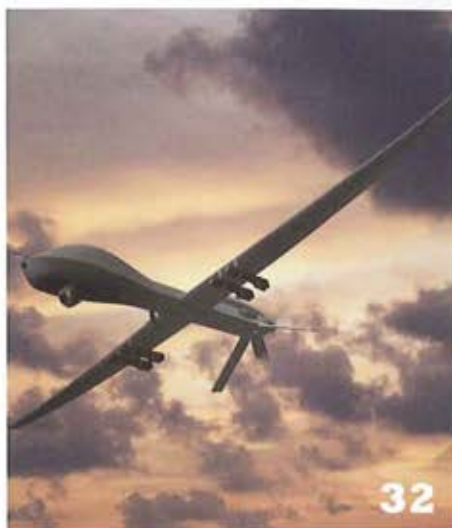
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# Briefings...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES

## Next Aviation Branch CSM Announced

The U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center announced in November that **CSM Buford Thomas, Jr.** will retire and **CSM Donald R. Sanders** will become 15th command sergeant major of the Aviation Center and Fort Rucker, Ala. Thomas retires after more than 30 years of service to the nation and serving as the Aviation Branch's top NCO since January 2005. Sanders departs as the CSM of the 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div., Fort Hood, Texas. A combined change of responsibility and retirement ceremony is set for Jan. 22 during the Aviation Senior Leaders Conference.



CSM Donald R. Sanders

## 2007 Aviation Gunnery Working Group

The Directorate of Training and Doctrine invites all aviation master gunners, door gunner instructors, commanders and S3 operations officers to attend the Gunnery Working Group, Jan. 16-19, at Fort Rucker, Ala. Official information is posted on AKO at the Gunnery and the DOTD Tactics Division web portal. Units interested in presenting a briefing should contact CW4 Vance Paul at (334) 255-2755 or email: [vance.paul@us.army.mil](mailto:vance.paul@us.army.mil). Deadline for briefing submissions and RSVP is Jan. 5.

## 2007 Experimental Test Pilot Training

Commissioned and warrant officer pilots interested in attending the 11-month Experimental Test Pilot Training course at the Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Md., have until Jan. 12 to apply. A selection board convenes Feb. 21 at the Human Resources Command. Contact your HRC assignment officer for details. Test pilots incur a 4-year active-duty service obligation upon completion of training. Commissioned officers will transfer to the Army Acquisition Corps for the remainder of their careers.

## 1-112th Avn. Black Hawks Return from Bosnia

Twenty Soldiers and four UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Bn., 112th Avn. Regt., North Dakota Army National Guard returned home to Bismarck Nov. 21, flying over the state capitol. The 112th was mobilized in July 2005 and deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in December. The crews were credited with more than 500 safe flight hours.

## Warrior UAS Gets Design Review Approval

The Army's Warrior extended range, multi-purpose unmanned aircraft system finished its final critical design review Oct. 27 in San Diego, Calif., making it operational and ready for development. The next step is to complete a rigorous engineering development and pre-production test phase, followed by a user test group and a limited production decision in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008. The Warrior is capable of carrying multiple cameras, four Hellfire missiles and flying up to 30 hours. It is being built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. in San Diego.



GA-ASI GRAPHIC BY STEVE WESSON

## Army Aviation Gears Up for AACU

Army aircrews are now receiving the new digital-camouflage two-piece flight suit, which officials call the *Army Aviation Combat Uniform* or AACU. It looks similar to the regular Army Combat Uniform, but has more pockets that are placed for easy access and to prevent snagging. Over 5,000 air warriors have received the AACU.

## DON'T MISS IT!

### The 2007 AAAA Annual Convention

EVENT INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS

Look for the Convention brochure mailed with this issue!





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**W**e are approaching the 50th Anniversary of the Army Aviation Association of America in May. Through all this time the AAAA has matured, through the leadership of many, to progress to the next level.

Today our business model focuses on ways we can better support the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family.

But we can and need to do much more! We need your help: Chapter Presidents, board members and all our AAAA members to identify better ways to do this.

Some of the current initiatives we are working include:

- BG (Ret.) Mike Burke still pushing hard as chairman of the Compensation Committee on full aviation career incentive pay (ACIP) for the Reserve Components.
- The new Membership Committee, chaired by MG (Ret.) Joe Bergantz, is addressing membership services by each demographic group.
- Mr. Ed Birtwell, chairman of our Industry Affairs Committee, is working on how we can better serve our industry members.
- BG (Ret.) Harry Bendorf, chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, is assisting in mapping out new goals and objectives.
- A new spouses' column in the magazine to focus on the great work you all are doing, especially in the family support groups.

The second Annual Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium took place Dec. 11-13 in Arlington, Va., fostering an exchange of ideas; and more importantly welcoming the UAS Soldiers who are at the cutting edge of the Aviation Branch.

The UAS Symposium will be covered in depth in the next issue, but I would like to thank GEN Dick Cody, the Vice Chief of Staff, who presented the first UAS Soldier of the Year and the first UAS Unit of the Year awards at the banquet.

Congratulations to CPL James Dreiling, our UAS Soldier of the Year, with the 1st Tactical UAV Plt., Co. C, 501st MI Bn., 1st Arm. Div. in Germany.

And congratulations to Co. A (Forward), 634th MI Bn., 34th Inf. Div. (Red Bull), Minn. Army National Guard, our first UAS Unit of the Year, sponsored by AAI.

Don't forget the Joe Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium in Huntsville, Ala. is set for Feb. 14-15. See our website for details: [www.quad-a.org](http://www.quad-a.org).

Finally, make sure you fill out your AAAA Convention registration and housing forms included in the mailing of this issue.

More details on what we are planning for the 50th Anniversary in my next column.

Send me your ideas on how we can better support you and your families!

Tom Konitzer  
AAAA President  
[president@quad-a.org](mailto:president@quad-a.org)



## Care For Our Combat Veterans

by Judy Konitzer

Anyone who's lived with a combat vet who's suffering from traumatic stress exposure knows that preventive care beforehand and better access to care afterward would make a real difference in the day-to-day lives of military parents, spouses and children.

That's going to require us to change military culture to raise awareness and reduce the stigma.

In the 109th Congress, Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) introduced the Psychological Kevlar Act of 2006. Co-sponsored by Rep. Virgil Goode (R-VA), this legislation has bipartisan support and could make a difference to military families. It is scheduled to be re-introduced early next year in the 110th Congress.

The most innovative element of the act is the fact that it focuses on beefing up efforts to prevent the development of mental illness from combat stress exposure.

Studies by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research have shown there's a significant prevalence of mental health problems, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among our returning troops.

Treatment and awareness of war-related mental health issues have greatly improved, but critical research and more preventive efforts to guard against the development of mental health problems are needed.

Our troops are equipped with the best equipment and training, but we need to protect their minds and mental well-being against the shattering experiences of war.

A working group, including the Dept. of Veteran's Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, will be helping the Secretary of Defense and the DOD to implement a plan.

For more information, contact Dominic Nguyen, (202) 225-4911, or your Congressional representative to show your support.

More information on this bill is available at [www.kristinhenderson.com](http://www.kristinhenderson.com).

Fondly,  
Judy Konitzer  
Chairman  
AAAA Spouse Committee



2006 UAS awardees and their family members with GEN Cody at the recent awards banquet.

PHOTO BY BILL HARRIS / AAPI



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# Recognizing A True Aviation Soldier

By MG Virgil L. Packett II



ARMY PHOTO BY SGT RYAN MATSON



A Soldier from the 1st Bn., 327th Inf. Regt., advances towards a town near Kirkuk, Iraq, as an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior from the 2nd Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., patrols the surrounding area on April 14. Lessons learned from such missions helped attendees at the Aviation Transformation Implementation Conference with solutions to various issues raised during the conference.

The Aviation Transformation Implementation Conference held at Fort Rucker Oct. 23-27 discussed many key issues that will have an impact on the Army and Soldiers in such units as the 101st Abn. Div., here conducting an air assault from a UH-60 Black Hawk from Co. A, 5th Bn., 101st Cbt. Avn. Bde., April 14 during combat operations near the town of Al Ruffayah, Iraq.

The U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center continues to prepare for the 2007 Aviation Senior Leaders Conference January 22-26, with the central theme of this year's conference being "ARFORGEN: Preparing the Soldier for the Warfight."

The overall focus for the conference will be on the next two years.

The presentations will review current operation trends in each theater, and include focused briefings by selected ground brigade combat team and combat aviation battalion commanders.

The conference will include both closed and open forum meetings to identify and address key issues.

In light of this important upcoming session, I thought it valuable to look back and share some insight into a recent event held at Fort Rucker that set the stage for the Aviation Senior Leaders Conference.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to cel-

brate the career of one of our own – CSM Buford Thomas Jr., a true Aviation Soldier who will retire at the beginning of the upcoming conference.

## Transformation Conference

From October 23-27, Fort Rucker hosted the Aviation Transformation Implementation conference.

Although this event is organized and coordinated by the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3/5/7, Fort Rucker is a natural meeting place for the nearly 300 aviators in attendance.

More than just a group of people sitting and listening to briefings, this week-long conference is a true working session where many of the key stakeholders come together in the same location and are able to influence change.

The first day consisted mainly of updates from the G-3/5/7, the U.S. Army Forces



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Command and the USAAWC's key staff on a variety of topics ranging from transformation, the Army Campaign Plan, to Army Force Generation and to aviation doctrine.

After these initial overview sessions, the next two days focused on working significant, specific issues that affect all of Army Aviation.

After two days of these intensive working councils, the final day consisted of an out briefing to the senior aviation leadership and touched on many of the topics that will impact aviation in the near future.

Here are the highlights of just a few of the numerous topics that were covered:

### Maintenance

The maintenance working group spent a considerable effort on Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager – Europe and working the personnel bill issues associated with this endeavor.

### Force Structure

The Force Structure working group focused on the Joint Cargo Aircraft and development of the TOE for these organizations.

This group also looked at refining the medical evacuation force structure of the general support aviation battalions.

### Future Systems

The Future Systems working group looked at forming an aviation modernization study to identify critical decision points associated with replacing the current generation of aircraft.

### Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter

The ARH group discussed the transition plan for the new ARH and the collective training issues associated with the new aircraft.

### Theater Aviation Command

This working session discussed the evolving doctrine of the TAC and the on-going efforts to develop a universal task list.

### Army Force Generation

The ARFORGEN group continued an ongoing discussion about the types and levels of certification events for aviation units.

### Training Aids Devices Simulators and Simulations

A large portion of the time with TADSS was spent addressing CH-47F aviation combined arms tactics trainer issues and the status of the instructor and operator (I/O) support funding.

### Air Traffic Services

The main ATS topic centered on the fact that USAAWC remains committed to standing up the 150A course by January 2008.

### Unmanned Aircraft Systems

This final working group addressed Shadow unit TOE shortcomings and future tactical unmanned aircraft system training allocations.

**CSM Buford Thomas** addresses Soldiers during a graduation ceremony in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, Ala.



ARMY PHOTO BY JANE ARMSTRONG

Even without an extensive look into these topics, it should be apparent that a great amount of work was accomplished during this conference.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts in making this a successful event and in ensuring that our path toward the future is sound.

### Thank You for a Job Done Well

I also wanted to use this opportunity to recognize and say "Thank you" to a true aviation Soldier as he retires from the Army.

As most of you know, CSM Buford Thomas Jr., the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and the Aviation Branch, is retiring in January.

Given a choice, CSM Thomas would forego this kind of write-up and recognition, but we would be remiss without mentioning his departure and celebrating his career.

Truly, CSM Thomas' retirement will bring to a close over 30 years of aviation experience and leadership that will be missed in our branch.

If you ask Thomas how long he will have in the service when he retires, he'll quickly tell you "30 years, 10 months, and 2 days...and every one of them in aviation."

When you hear these words from CSM Thomas, you don't get a feeling that he's marking time until he retires, instead, you get a sense of pride that's palpable, a true feeling of a Soldier who has dedicated his career not only to the Army, but to Army Aviation.

A native of Belzoni, Miss., Thomas started his career in 1976 as an OH-58 Scout helicopter repairman.

His assignments have literally taken him all around the globe, with notable stops in Germany and Korea.

A scout by trade, Thomas has since worked in the full array of aviation units, from attack to armored cavalry, to general support and special operations.

Although each assignment held special meaning for Thomas, he attributes his most memorable experiences to his time in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).

Serving two separate assignments in the 160th, CSM



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## From The Aviation Branch Chief

Thomas culminated his time in special operations as the Regimental CSM.

"CSM Buford Thomas is the finest Command Sergeant Major I have ever seen or served with," said COL Kevin Mangum, 160th commander and one of Thomas' former commanders.

"He was, and is, everywhere – taking care of Soldiers, leading, caring, teaching, mentoring. He is always a step ahead of everybody on all of the issues."

"CSM Thomas makes things happen! He sets a great example for us all to emulate," Mangum said, "We'll miss him in our ranks!"

Mangum's words truly speak volumes for Thomas, for during the past two turbulent years of transformation, it would've been easy to focus on aircraft and systems and forget about Soldiers.

However, as the consummate professional, Thomas has never lost focus on mission accomplishment and training Soldiers.

His grassroots focus has ensured a solid foundation for Army Aviation as we move into the future.

Even though Thomas said he will miss the Soldiers and the camaraderie when he leaves the Army, it should be the rest of us that will miss a genuine soldier like CSM Thomas, for he is a true leader and role model for all to emulate.

His legacy will be seen in Aviation for years to come through the lives of the Soldiers he's touched.

CSM Buford Thomas truly is *Above the Best!*



Serving as an observer/mentor, CSM Buford Thomas participates during a November 2005 field training exercise. ARMY PHOTO BY JANE ARMSTRONG



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

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## Operation Warrior Spirit Keeps Rucker Soldiers' Skills Sharp

By CSM Buford Thomas, Jr.

**F**ort Rucker held its annual enlisted field training exercise (FTX), named *Operation Warrior Spirit*, for permanent party Soldiers from Oct. 21 to 27.

This was the second of its kind led by myself and the subordinate command sergeant majors of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center; including CSM Richard Frye of the 1st Avn. Bde., CSM Jerry Clarke of the 110th Avn. Bde., CSM Joseph Moodt of the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and CSM Marlin Smith of the 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt., Air Traffic Services Command.

It is designed to put more than 350 Soldiers into similar combat situations that our American troops are experiencing in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to sharpen their combat skills.

On a cold, wet October night a team of Soldiers prepared to enter an Iraqi village.

Insurgents had taken over one of the homes and were collecting supplies to make explosives.

Personnel had to enter the village and utilize rules of engagement to apprehend and separate the enemies from innocent civilians.

The troops performed radio voice communications including preparing situation reports and spot reports, conducted calls for fire, and medical evacuation requests.

Special situational training included react to direct and indirect fires, both mounted and dismounted; react to unexploded ordinance hazards, move under direct fire; react to contact including visual, improvised explosive devices and direct fire; and how to break contact, how to avoid and react to an ambush, and react to chemical or biological attacks and hazards.

Soldiers also conducted urban operations; performing movement techniques, enter a building, and engaging multiple targets in urban terrain.

Medical training involved evaluating a casualty, performing first aid for an open abdominal, chest and head wound, how to evacuate injured personnel from a vehicle, react to chemical or biological attack or hazard, and how to decontaminate yourself and individual equipment using decon kits.

Individual skills training, such as navigation, included determining locations on the ground based on terrain association, maps and by GPS devices; navigate from one point to another while mounted and dismounted; and move over, through or around obstacles.

Other warfighting skills included combatives (hand to hand fighting), use of visual signaling techniques, security at a halt, dismounting a vehicle, and selecting temporary fighting positions.

In addition to these warrior tasks and drills, M16A2 and M9 ranges were conducted on the second and third day of the FTX.

There were numerous experienced trainers and subject matter experts on hand to conduct, guide and oversee the training being conducted.

Dedicated NCOs like SGM James Parsons, SGM Bobby Reynolds, SGM J.T. Luckie, SGM Johnny Reynolds, SGM David Thompson and SFC Jason Huff



Above: Soldiers learn the tactics and techniques for entering and clearing buildings, much refined from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Right: A team of Soldiers prepare to enter a building as part of their field training exercise.



ARMY PHOTOS BY MICHELLE OWENS



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ARMY PHOTO BY MICHELLE OWENS

Under the watchful eye of their observer/trainer, two Aviation Warfighting Center NCOs conduct a building clearing exercise, a mission they may have to lead someday.

insurgent forces, recovered their casualties and administered first aid to the wounded afterwards. Once everyone had arrived at the FOB, groups moved from one station to the next to practice and learn different skills relating to the ambush scenarios they had taken part in earlier that day, along with the rest of the warrior tasks and drills conducted.

Each night their security was tested by the opposing forces.

Various missions were created and planned using information obtained from the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Soldiers participated in scenarios based on real events that occurred during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

were all instrumental in the planning and execution of this FTX.

On the morning of Oct. 21, the troops deployed to the training site by foot, convoy and air movement to arrive at the forward operating base (FOB).

Each group was met by enemy forces. They defended themselves and drove off the

We used multiple scenarios to drive the staff to work through problems and develop viable solutions, such as downed aircraft and aircrew recoveries, and re-supply missions.

The exercise ended with a closing ceremony at Pratt Hall back on Fort Rucker.

At the closing ceremony BG William T. Wolf, the deputy commanding general of the USAAWC, spoke on the importance of the exercise and future exercises that will follow.

He applauded the Soldiers for their dedication and professionalism in conducting the exercise while still accomplishing the daily garrison mission.

"I have never seen it done before on a training installation," Wolf said, "Soldiers here at Fort Rucker proved once again that they are truly 'Army Strong and Above the Best!'"

CSM Buford Thomas, Jr. is the command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.



CSM Joseph Moodt, commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, leads the Branch Chief MG Virgil L. Packett II on an inspection of the FTX. ARMY PHOTO BY CARLTON WALLACE

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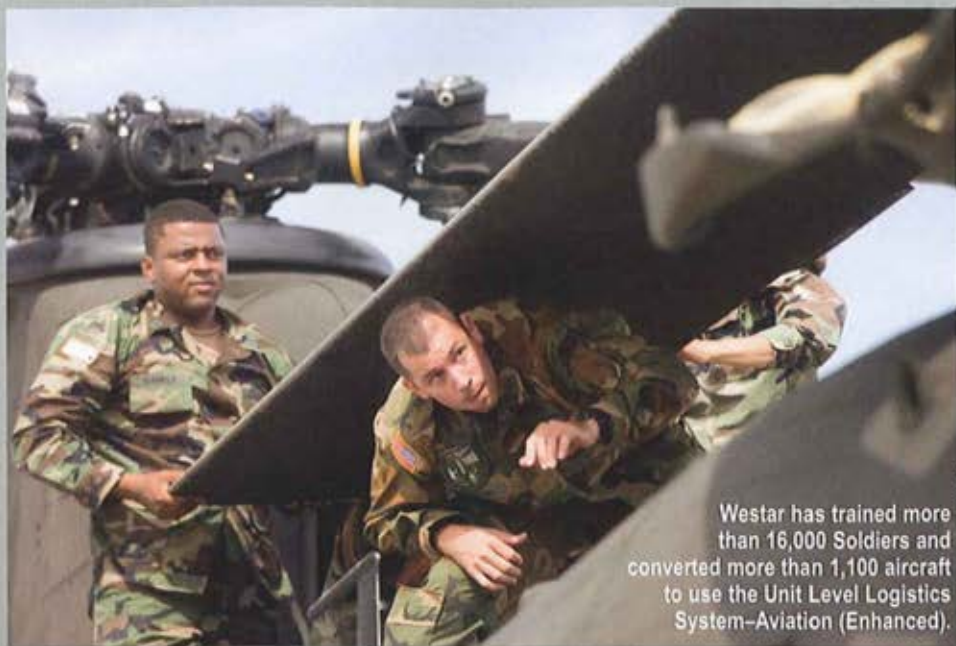
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# WESTAR: A Full Spectrum Partner with Army Aviation

By BG (Ret.) Randal Tieszen



Westar has trained more than 16,000 Soldiers and converted more than 1,100 aircraft to use the Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation (Enhanced).

WESTAR COURTESY PHOTO

One of the biggest challenges Army Aviation faces today is transforming itself into an agile and self-sustaining force while maintaining its versatility and lethality.

Westar Aerospace & Defense Group recognizes the significance of this transformation and faces this challenge head-on by providing exceptional support to a wide variety of Army aviation programs.

## ULLS-A (Enhanced)

With the overwhelming success of the Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation (Enhanced) maintenance software used by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Westar is transforming and integrating a battalion and brigade-level enterprise system for all Army aviation units.

In this massive rapid fielding initiative, ULLS-A(E) delivers a robust capability that helps fight the Global War on Terrorism through maintenance and sustainment savings.

Westar has fielded this networked system to more than one-third of all Army aviation units in the active, Guard and Reserve, including the 4th Inf. Div., 10th Mountain Div., 25th ID, 1st Cavalry Div., and the 36th Cbt. Avn. Bde.

Currently, Westar has trained over 16,000 Soldiers and converted over 1,100 aircraft to ULLS-A(E).

Additionally, Westar is providing software engineering and technical support services to modify ULLS-A(E) with a "platform independent" database for the Army's unmanned aircraft systems program.

This database is capable of tracking

information from several disparate systems with different readiness metrics to a completely automated maintenance and logistics system.

The company's work has helped the Army take the first step toward "sense-and-respond logistics," as well as integrating its supply chain.

## Condition Based Maintenance

With the steadily increasing pace of aviation deployments and missions worldwide, the need for an updated maintenance strategy has never been greater.

Westar leads this effort for Army aviation by developing a method to decrease the maintenance burden on the Soldier, increase platform readiness, enhance safety, and reduce operational and support costs through condition based maintenance (CBM).

The CBM Data Warehouse is at the center of this strategy, fusing multiple data sources from each aircraft and placing them in a data warehouse to be analyzed.

Engineers use CBM-DW to pull raw data and analyze component failure modes.

Comparing vibration analysis of condition indicators in all the various flight regimes and environments to actual maintenance data, engineers are able to provide prognostics to predict component failure.

This eliminates unnecessary time-based inspections, decreases unscheduled and reactive maintenance, and increases unit readiness by enabling the Soldier to order parts and schedule maintenance prior to component failure.

The CBM program is also the voice of Army aviation to the Joint Aviation Logistics Commanders (JALC).

The Army's Aviation and Missile Command's (AMCOM) commanding general is the chair for the joint committee, a position key to determining a structured process for strategic planning and the program objective memorandum development, while increasing the breadth of components analyzed.

The JALC is currently undergoing extensive component mapping and analysis on the UH-60 Black Hawk (the common platform among the services), as a path ahead to creating an integrated joint service process.

Component mapping uses existing Integrated Reliability Centered Maintenance System data from the Navy's Seahawk and compares it to

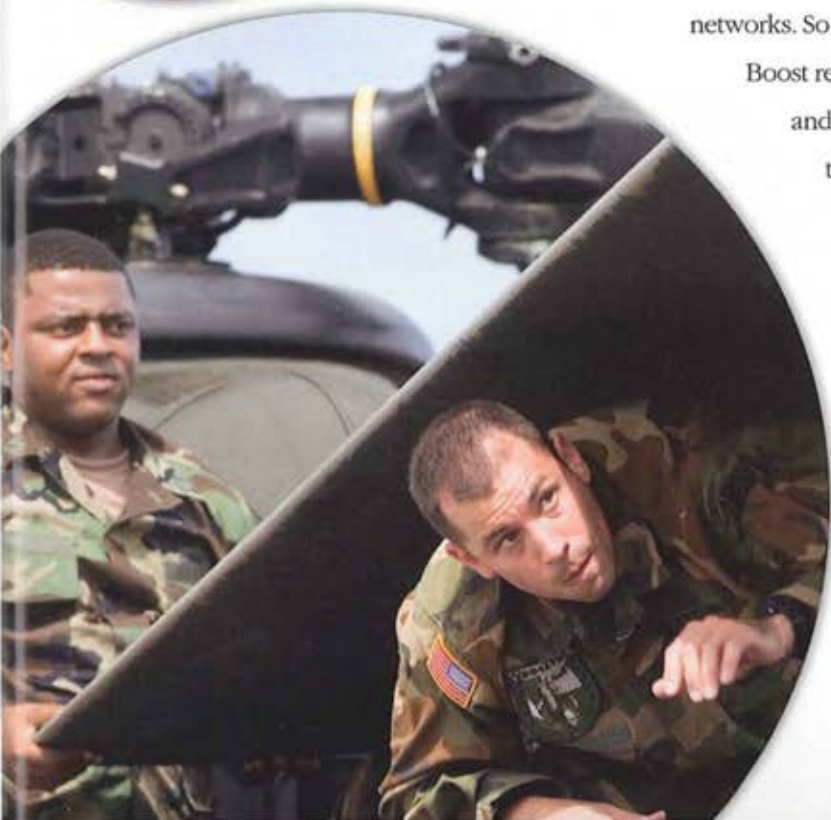




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## SPECIAL FOCUS INDUSTRY PARTNERS



WESTAR COURTESY PHOTO

Westar has been the prime contractor for the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center's Test Support Services, due its 20-plus years of experience in flight testing, evaluation and analysis to help optimize aviation warfighting capabilities and ensure full spectrum dominance of the battlefield for the soldier.

the Army's Black Hawk preventive maintenance requirements to determine potential monitoring solutions.

### Supporting ATTC

Westar supports the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center located at Fort Rucker, Ala., by providing program management, engineering and logistical services support.

Westar personnel currently coordinate and manage approximately 200 test projects, including those for the AH-64D Longbow, CH-47F Improved Cargo Helicopter, subsystems of Air Warrior, the Army Aviation Command and Control System, the Hydra-70 rocket, the M-262 machine gun integration to the UH-60 Black Hawk, and the Joint

Ship Helicopter Interface Program.

During the detailed test planning efforts the test and evaluation master plan or TEMP, the critical operational issues and criteria, and the test directive were drafted to structure each project and provide the test success criterion and the expert personnel to collect data during flight test profiles, and observe real-time test data telemetry.

In addition to the technical engineer support, Westar supports ATTC with logistical expertise, to include Reliability, Availability and Maintainability data services, information technology services, and multimedia support.

### Combat Readiness Center

The transformation from an aviation-centric Safety Center to an Army-wide Combat Readiness Center (CRC) has allowed Westar the opportunity to continue its support of comprehensive safety, loss prevention, risk management, research and analysis, and information technology programs.

Since 1995, Westar has been the prime contractor for the Army Safety Center's Information Technology, Accident Investigation and Risk Management Support, and the Army Safety Program support contracts.

Westar's direct involvement in key CRC programs, such as composite risk management (CRM); the Army Safety Management Information System-2; the accident reporting



Through condition based maintenance, Westar is helping Army aviation transition from its current reactive, fault-based maintenance program to a predictive and reliability-centered approach to maintenance.

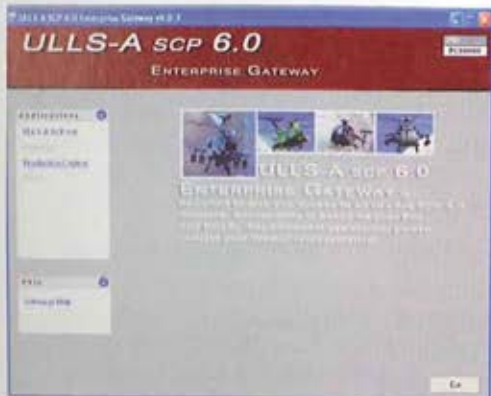
automation system or ARAS; the Army Safe Driver Training; the Army Aviation and Driving task forces; and the development and implementation of the Combat Readiness University or CRU), gives the company a firm foundation on which to support the CRC as it continues to integrate CRM into the Army's organizations, technology, doctrine and culture.

### AMCOM EXPRESS

The objective of AMCOM's Expedited Professional & Engineering Support Services or EXPRESS program is to provide Team Redstone-AMCOM, the Program and Technical Offices for Missiles and Aviation, and its tenet activities—a contractual vehicle to acquire responsive, high-quality, cost-effective advisory and assistance services in a timely and efficient manner.

AMCOM selected Westar as the technical prime, stating that Westar provided "the best overall capability and value to the government."

Westar's technical expertise supports organizations and programs such as the Aviation and Missile



Westar developed the Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation (Enhanced), an exceptional software program and complex database, for total unit maintenance and logistics management.



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**Build combat power.** While warfighters work to win the peace, BURRO+ will take care of emergency resupply; IED avoidance; and support to areas quarantined after nuclear, biological, or chemical contamination.

**The bottom line?** Let the warfighters do what they do best. BURRO+ will do the rest. It's one tough UAS. Only from Kaman.



Research, Development and Engineering Center; CBM and ULLS-A(E), development of the Army's first military standard compliant interactive electronic technical manuals, and the Reliability Improvement through Failure Identification and Reporting system for the Aviation Engineering Directorate.

Westar also has provided mission planning solutions.

Aviators with the Army and the 160th SOAR(A) required an automated system to reduce mission planning time while providing accurate and reliable performance planning and weight-and-balance calculations.

Westar delivered the solution with our Advanced Mission Planning Software.

This software integrates the key elements of flight planning, such as flight performance models (FPM), portable flight planning system (PFPS), automated weight & balance system (AWBS); stores, loading and balance (SLAB) system; and the performance planning card (PPC).



Westar applies its engineering, analysis and technology know-how to support a variety of Combat Readiness Center initiatives, including the Army Safe Driver Training program pictured here.

Additionally, Westar's expertise in supply chain management, process improvement and statistical process control resulted in a 25 percent support-contract cost reduction and more than \$15 million of cost avoidance and savings for the Shadow program in fiscal year 2006.

### Conclusion

As a technology and engineering leader, Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc. continues to meet Army Aviation needs.

Whether it's streamlining aviation safety and operational procedures, or providing front-line support to the unit, Westar sets the standard of excellence.



*Retired BG Randal Tieszen is the executive vice president of Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, in Huntsville, Ala. The author would like to acknowledge the contributions of Rachel Humphrey to this article.*

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This system is a soldier-portable tool kit that is required for soldiers to perform scheduled and unscheduled maintenance tasks on all rotary aircraft in the US Army inventory. This individual tool system maximizes aerospace standards and provides a full complement of tools required in Supply Catalog (SC) 5180-99-CL-B01.

This modern rapid inventory system has significantly decreased inventory time, while improving accuracy and accountability as well as improving Foreign Object Damage (FOD) prevention.

This tool kit was made and designed to replace as well as update the legacy Aviation Aircraft Inspection Tool Kit - LIN: W30812 - with a state of the art rapid inventory system in a rugged individual transit case. This system is a soldier-portable tool kit that is required for certified soldiers to perform technical inspections of all rotary aircraft in the US Army inventory. This individual tool system maximizes aerospace standards and provides a full complement of tools required in Supply Catalog (SC) 5180-99-CL-A09.



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The UH-145's clamshell doors and dual-sliding side doors provide easy access to the unobstructed cabin. High-set main and tail rotors allow full access even while the rotor blades are turning.



# EADS North America Defense Industry Perspective Joining the Team In 2006

By Tom Harrison

**E**ADS North America officially joined the Army aviation community in 2006 when the Army selected the UH-145 to meet the service's new light utility helicopter requirement.

Already a significant provider of U.S. homeland security solutions, EADS North America is now poised to support the defense market with a range of offerings to meet a range of U.S. military requirements.

At the same time, EADS North America is expanding its presence in the United States, establishing new facilities, creating new jobs, and building on its evolving relationships with customers and the communities in which it operates.

## The UH-145 LUH

This year's selection of the UH-145 helicopter to be the Army's new LUH provides the Army with its first major system from EADS North America.

EADS North America is the U.S. business unit of EADS, which is the world's second largest aerospace and defense company, and a major solutions provider to U.S. allies around the world.

The company was selected to produce up to 322 light utility helicopters—building upon EADS' 20-year heritage as a rotary-wing aircraft supplier to American national and homeland security agencies that include the U.S. Coast

Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FBI.

The UH-145 is based on the commercially proven EC145 multi-mission helicopter, used in the United States and worldwide for emergency medical transportation, search and rescue, law enforcement, offshore and utility operations, and corporate transport.



EADS COURTESY PHOTO

On Oct. 26, LTC Pete Smart, the assistant project manager for MEDEVAC with the Utility Helicopter Program Manager's Office, along with SSG Steve Vacula and SGT Michael Wall of the Tenn. Army National Guard, reviewed medical equipment set loading on the LUH demonstrator aircraft at American Eurocopter's facility in Grand Prairie, Texas.





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# UH-145:

## MADE FOR THE MISSION



The U.S. Army has selected the UH-145 to serve America as its new Light Utility Helicopter. The UH-145 industry team will deliver an American-built, technologically advanced helicopter that provides the best value to the Army and the American taxpayer. The Army's new LUH will proudly serve America and support our nation's defense for decades to come.

The American-built UH-145: Made and Selected for the Mission.

[www.uh-145.com](http://www.uh-145.com)





## SPECIAL FOCUS INDUSTRY PARTNERS

EADS PHOTO COURTESY



In June 2006, the Army selected the EADS North America Defense UH-145 for the light utility helicopter program.

These missions are closely aligned with those envisioned for the LUH.

A “walk around” of the LUH offers a look at this newest member of the Army’s rotary-wing fleet.

Army aviators will appreciate the modern, night vision goggle-compatible glass cockpit—a product of EADS’ broad experience in developing state-of-the-art, highly integrated flight decks for both rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft.

In addition to four 4x5 inch smart multi-functional displays, the VEMDs (vehicle and engine management displays) integrate and synthesize flight and aircraft system information, significantly increasing the crew’s situational awareness and reducing pilot workload.

The unobstructed main cabin accommodates up to eight passengers and two pilots, and its easily-removable crash-worthy seats provide for rapid conversion from standard passenger to MEDEVAC or logistics configurations, as well as mixed mission layouts.

Large sliding doors on each side of the helicopter and its rear clamshell doors facilitate loading and unloading even when the high-set main and tail rotors are turning.

EADS helicopters are known for their survivability characteristics and high mission readiness, and this LUH is no exception – with fully redundant autopilot, dual GPS navigation systems, VORs, air data computers, and flight control display modules.

Foldable steps on both sides of the aircraft allow easy access to the engines and main rotor.

The hingeless (rigid) rotor system is fully aerobatic, guaranteeing responsiveness throughout the flight envelope, with significant margins for maneuvering during

low altitude flight, in turbulent conditions, and for obstacle avoidance.

Twin-engine safety and performance is provided by the Arriel turbo-shaft power plants, which are known for their ruggedness and durability, with a 3,000 hour time between overhaul.

These engines operate with redundant hydraulic and electrical systems, and the helicopter’s fuel circuit with dual feed sources provides 2.5 hours of mission time, plus 30 minutes of reserve.

The assembly of the LUH, and ultimately full production, will occur at the Columbus, Miss. facility of American Eurocopter, a business unit of EADS North America.

Transition from UH-145 light assembly to full production will take place in a three-phase approach, as the Columbus facility is nearly tripled in size to accommodate the UH-145 program.

EADS North America leads a UH-145 team that will produce, deliver, train and sustain the light utility helicopter.

In fact, the first Soldiers have already visited EADS North America facilities to review medical equipment set loading in the MEDEVAC configuration in preparation for the operational testing scheduled in 2007.

Additionally, UH-145 pilot and maintainer training began in November in preparation for first aircraft delivery before the end of 2007.

EADS N.A. Defense’s LUH program management is located in Huntsville, Ala.

In addition to partners who produce and sustain the aircraft and train pilots and maintainers, a network of leading U.S. subcontractors has assembled for the LUH program.

The LUH, a true non-developmental commercial helicopter purchased by the Army, establishes a new acquisition paradigm in meeting certain military requirements by leveraging advanced technologies initially developed for the commercial market.

With the selection of the UH-145, the Army opens the next chapter in its aviation history and welcomes a new member to the Army rotary-wing aircraft team.



The advanced, night vision-compatible glass cockpit with the vehicle and engine management displays (VEMD) enhances situational awareness while reducing pilot workload. EADS PHOTO COURTESY



## TECHNOLOGY THAT TURNS HITS INTO MISSES.



For more than 50 years, BAE Systems has been a leader in electronic countermeasures, producing more aircraft self-protection systems than any other company in the world. Our combat-proven Common Missile Warning System, the AN/AAR-57, automatically dispenses flares to decoy oncoming missiles. The next-generation Advanced Threat Infrared Countermeasures (ATIRCM) will help protect those who protect us with the most advanced system ever for fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft. Countermeasures: Just one of the ways BAE Systems delivers advantage in the real world.

**BAE SYSTEMS**





Team JCA, a partnership of Raytheon and EADS CASA North America, is offering the combat-proven C-295 aircraft for the Army and Air Force Joint Cargo Aircraft requirement.

EADS COURTESY PHOTO

The system is configured for the testing of T58, T700 and T64 turbo-shaft power plants used on a variety of Navy helicopters, and it is designated to support the new VH-71 Presidential helicopter.

### Supporting Warfighters

In addition to the capabilities of its product offerings, EADS North America is involved in philanthropic activities supporting Soldiers and their families.

EADS North America Defense was pleased to establish a new fund within the AAAA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., with

the first recipient being Megan K. Stewart of Williamsburg, Va., attending Wheaton College.

The company looks forward to continuing and expanding its involvement in the scholarship program, and with AAAA more broadly.

### C-295 JCA

Beyond its role as prime contractor on the UH-145 Light Utility Helicopter, EADS North America is offering another proven, in-production EADS aircraft for a different Army requirement, proposing the C-295 JCA for the Army and Air Force joint cargo aircraft mission in an industry teaming with the Raytheon Corp.

The combat-proven C-295 built by EADS CASA is performing JCA-type missions today in Iraq and Afghanistan for NATO and coalition partners.

The C-295 is FAA certified, and its worldwide in-service fleet is completing the seventh year of logistics and airlift missions with the armed services of Spain, Poland, Brazil and Jordan.

In addition to the aircraft already delivered and in operation, the C-295's active production line will fill new orders for Portugal, Finland and Poland.

The aircraft also has won formal competitions in Australia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

The C-295 benefits from more than a million JCA-type flight hours by EADS CASA's family of C-295/CN-235 military transport aircraft.

The C-295 can carry five pallets or 71 troops and its design is compatible with CH-47 and C-130 systems and can handle standard 463L pallets.

The CN-235, a shorter-fuselage version of the C-295, has been ordered as the U.S. Coast Guard's new *Deepwater* maritime patrol platform, with deliveries of these aircraft to begin this year.

EADS North America capabilities go beyond major platform systems.

### SETI Systems

EADS North America is well positioned to respond to the Army's future ground-based engine test requirements with the Shaft Engine Test Instrumentation (SETI) system.

Produced by EADS's N.A. Defense Test and Services business unit, the SETI is on order as the intermediate-level engine test platform for the Navy's rotary-wing fleet.

To date, four of these systems have been ordered for deployment at various bases.

SETI replaces legacy manual test systems, providing a more cost-effective and flexible aircraft engine testing solution with automated data capture, reporting and transfer.



Retired Navy Rear Adm. David R. Oliver, Jr. (center), EADS North America's executive vice president and chief operating officer, presented a \$35,000 check to retired MG Carl H. McNair, Jr. (left), president of the AAAA's Scholarship Foundation, and to AAAA President retired BG Thomas J. Konitzer during the 2006 convention in Nashville, Tenn. EADS COURTESY PHOTO

With its selection as the LUH solution provider in 2006, EADS North America became a part of the Army Aviation Community.

The Company envisions continuing and expanding its contributions to the service and the Soldier in the future through its range of capabilities and its continued corporate citizenship initiatives.



Retired Army COL Tom Harrison is an EADS North America Defense vice president and the program manager for the Light Utility Helicopter in Huntsville, Ala.



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The Army Improved GNAT Extended Range UAS provides long-endurance, medium-altitude tactical reconnaissance support for troops, flying over 16,000 hours at a planned operational tempo of 120 hours per week since their deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

# GA-ASI

## Teaming with Army Aviation

# Today, Tomorrow and for the Future

By Don Cattell

**G**eneral Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) is supporting the U.S. Army's challenge of "Call to Duty-Boots on the Ground" by providing Soldiers with state-of-the-art unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to assist in the fight in the Global War on Terrorism.

GA-ASI currently has several major UAS programs that are designed to support the Army today, tomorrow and well into the future.

### Army I-GNAT ER

The Army Improved GNAT Extended Range UAS provides cost-effective, long-endurance, medium-altitude tactical reconnaissance support for troops in the Operation Iraqi Freedom combat theater.

Each system is capable of operating an electro-optical and infrared (EO/IR) surveillance camera, a Lynx synthetic aperture radar (SAR), and C-band line-of-sight (LOS) data links.



GA-ASI PHOTOS

Six months from contract signature in March 2004, GA-ASI delivered an I-GNAT ER UAS to the Army that consisted of three aircraft, a ground control station (GCS) installed in a Humvee 788 shelter, associated ground support equipment, spares, and a contractor logistics support team.

A similarly configured follow-on system was delivered in October 2005.

In just 26 months deployed, the first Army I-GNAT ER system achieved a record milestone, logging 10,000 combat flight hours in support of operations.

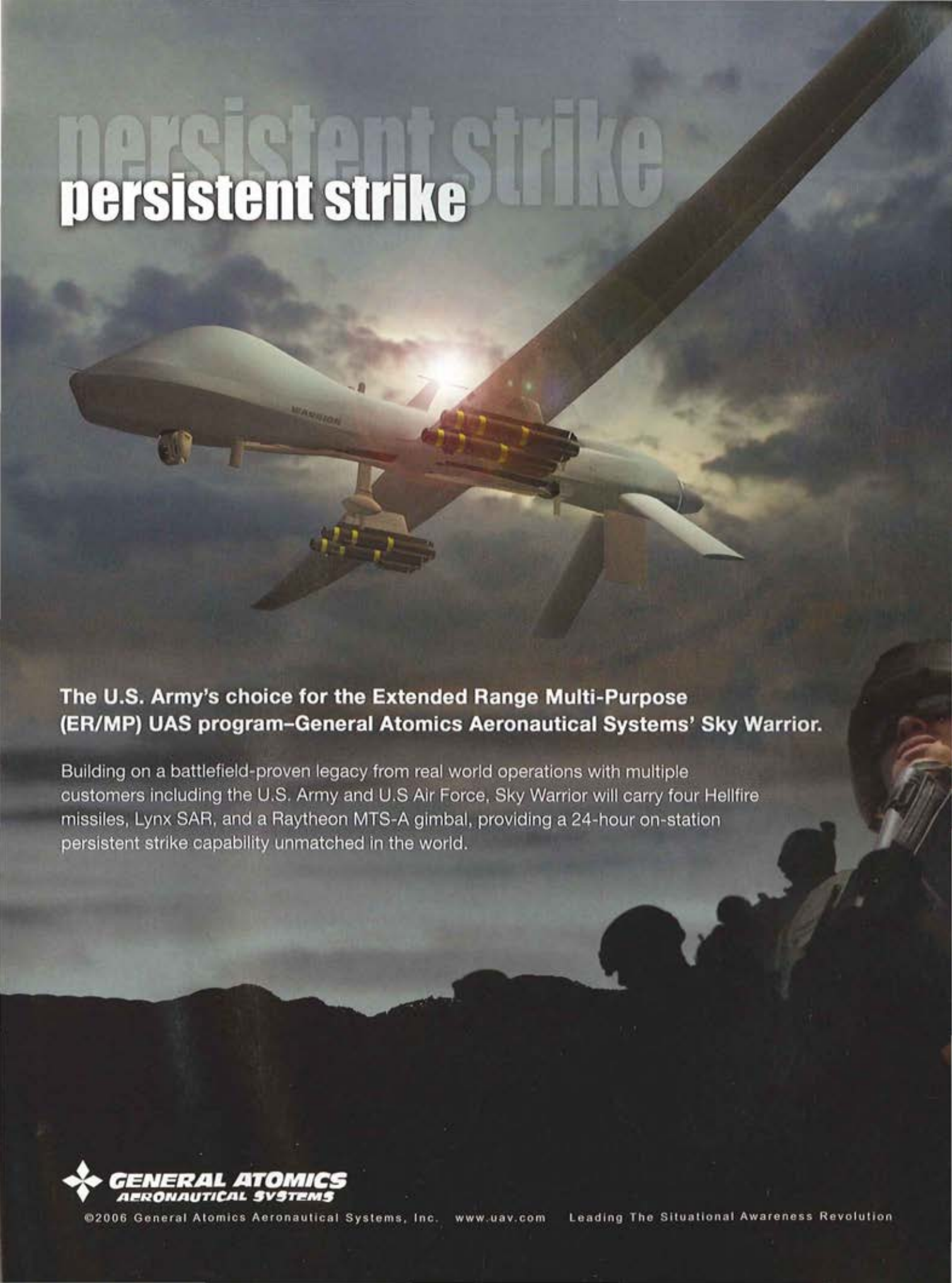
The aircraft demonstrated its combat value when the Army flew over 700 hours per month with just three aircraft.

In March 2006, Army I-GNAT ER aircraft were field retrofitted to conduct Ku-band satellite communications operations—a first for an Army UAS.



# persistent strike

## **persistent strike**



**The U.S. Army's choice for the Extended Range Multi-Purpose (ER/MP) UAS program—General Atomics Aeronautical Systems' Sky Warrior.**

Building on a battlefield-proven legacy from real world operations with multiple customers including the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, Sky Warrior will carry four Hellfire missiles, Lynx SAR, and a Raytheon MTS-A gimbal, providing a 24-hour on-station persistent strike capability unmatched in the world.





In just two-and-a-half years, a single Army I-GNAT ER aircraft accumulated over 5,000 flight hours operating in support of Army operations.

Since theater deployment in March 2004, these aircraft have flown over 16,000 hours at a planned operational tempo (OPTEMPO) of 120 hours per week at each deployment site.

Due to its initial operational success, GA-ASI is in the process of delivering 13 additional aircraft.

The GCS for this configuration has been upgraded to a five-ton truck and an S-280 shelter that includes two redundant operator consoles, as well as a multi-function work station for mission planning, data analysis, and data archiving.

Three additional deployments using this equipment are scheduled to occur by the end of 2006.

As part of GA-ASI's effort to provide a total UAS package, nine Army Soldiers recently completed training at the company's flight operations facility near El Mirage, Calif.

The seven-week class taught these Fort Hood-based Soldiers to be cruise pilots and payload operators.

Following their graduation all deployed with an Army I-GNAT ER system.

This first class served as the vanguard for future classes that will be trained to operate the aircraft.

### **Sky Warrior UAS**

To support the Army of tomorrow, Sky Warrior Block 0 and Block 1 UAS are currently under development.

Designed for the Army's extended-range/multi-purpose (ER/MP) UAS program, Sky Warrior Block 0, a precursor to full production of Sky Warrior Block 1 aircraft, will provide the Army with a long-endurance, persistent intelligence surveillance reconnaissance (ISR) and tactical strike capability in advance of the formal Block 1 program.

Manufacturing and operational lessons learned from the Sky Warrior Block 0 program will be incorporated into Block 1 aircraft.

Under the ER/MP program, four Sky Warrior Block 0 aircraft, one S-280 GCS, associated ground support equipment, and spares will be delivered during calendar year 2007.

These systems will be outfitted with a heavy-fuel (diesel) engine, Ku-band satellite terminals for beyond-line-of-sight (BLOS) communications, EO/IR and Lynx II SAR payloads, and C-band LOS data links.

Each aircraft will be capable of carrying four Hellfire missiles.

The Army will continue to need UAS systems that can revolutionize warfighting.

The Sky Warrior system, a derivative of GA-ASI's successful Predator UAS, was developed for just this purpose.



The Sky Warrior system, a derivative of GA-ASI's successful Predator UAS, will be capable of carrying four Hellfire missiles.

The system will host sophisticated sensors that can pass high fidelity imagery over broadband data links and conduct precision weapons strikes using an onboard targeting system.

In an effort to deliver a system that brings together new and revolutionary warfighting capabilities of high-endurance, long-reach ISR, armed attack with precision strike weapons, and a short sensor-to-shooter kill chain, *Team Warrior*—consisting of GA-ASI, SPARTA, Inc., AAI Corp., and L3 Communications—was formed.

*Team Warrior* brings together experts in all facets of UAS design, development, production and training to provide the Army warfighter with tactical and logistics capabilities far beyond those of current UAS systems.

These include an aircraft that is compatible with the U.S. Army *One System* GCS that can control multiple UAS types.

In addition, Sky Warrior will take advantage of state-of-the-art tactical control data link protocols, providing the warfighter with air data relay and BLOS capabilities.

With a 2,500 nautical mile range, Sky Warrior will be able to self-deploy into and within a theater of operations, conducting reconnaissance while control passes from one Army command to another.

It will have the size, weight and power for three simultaneous payloads, with capacity for growth through an open modular architecture.

This will enable the Army to integrate and install future signals intelligence, communications, and special sensors (e.g. mine detection) independent of other sensor installations.

Featuring a heavy-fuel engine already in use on a number of general aviation aircraft, Sky Warrior will eliminate the need for having aviation gas (AVGAS) in the field, thus reducing the logistics requirement for special fuel.

The aircraft also features two independent and redundant automatic take-off and landing systems, eliminating the need for a dedicated pilot to handle this responsibility.

Instead, a trained 15W Army aviation Soldier will be





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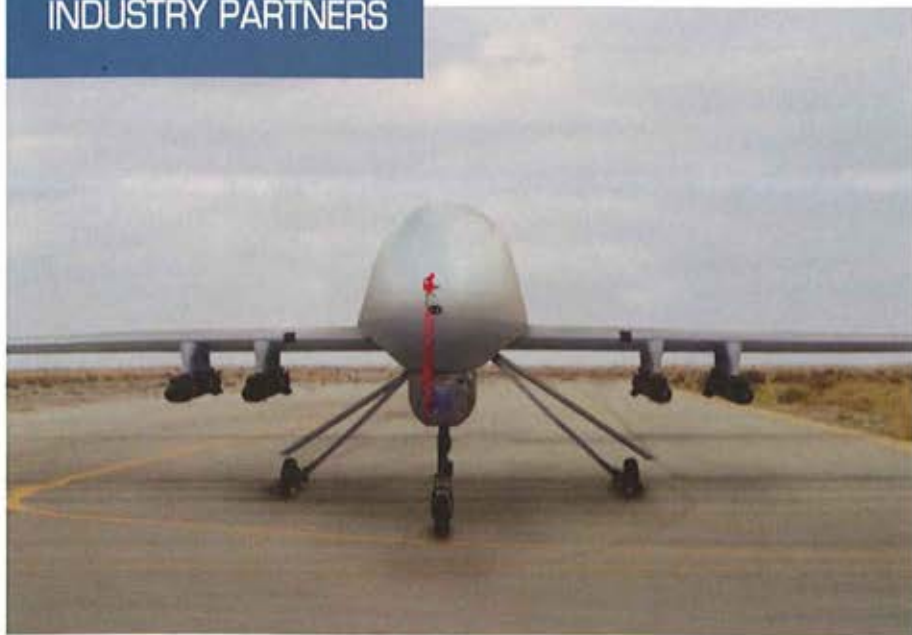
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GA-ASI PHOTO

The Sky Warrior with its 2,500 nautical mile range can self-deploy into and within a theater of operations while control passes from one Army command to another.

able to preplan and confidently control entire missions autonomously, from take-off to landing.

Seventeen Sky Warrior aircraft will be delivered during the system design and development phase of the ER/MP program, along with seven *One System* GCS from AAI.

Various critical design reviews have been conducted, with the first Sky Warrior aircraft now in production.

One of the highly sophisticated sensors that Sky Warrior will carry is GA-ASI's Lynx II SAR.

Lynx II SAR goes beyond visual range for all-weather kill-chain precision performance, providing a wide range of benefits for the Soldier, including:

- High-resolution SAR imagery of 0.1 to 3.0 meter in spotlight and striplight mode.
- Wide-area, long-range surveillance.
- Pinpoint 3-D targeting.
- Coherent Change Detection and Amplitude Change Detection.
- Automated man-made object detection.
- Ground Moving Target Indicator with 0.1 to 10 meter resolution.

Lynx II SAR allows the warfighter on the ground to find, fix, track, target, engage and assess—all key elements of the kill-chain.

The Sky Warrior system will be integrated fully into the Army battlefield.

The ultimate scenario is for a Sky Warrior company to be fielded to each of the Army's ten divisions, providing the division commander with an immediate and lethal targeting capability.

High OPTEMPO, BLOS ISR operations—operating day and night and in adverse weather—will be the norm, denying the enemy cover and exposing opposing forces to armed attack by Sky Warrior's targeting sensors and precision weapons.

Using forward pass or satellite data link, the Sky Warrior aircraft will provide sensor data and telemetry to various Soldiers on the ground, be they conventional or Special Forces.

Through the use of manned/ unmanned teaming, targets will be attacked by manned aircraft, with Sky Warrior providing battlefield commanders real-time damage assessment.

The aircraft can also be operated via air data relay from another Sky Warrior UAS operating in the area.

Building on a battlefield-proven legacy from real world operations with multiple customers, Sky Warrior will provide the U.S. Army with a 24-hour on-station persistent strike capability unmatched in the world, helping to ensure that there is nothing stronger on this earth than the Army Soldier.

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*Don Cattell is the director of Army Programs for the Aircraft Systems Group with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.*



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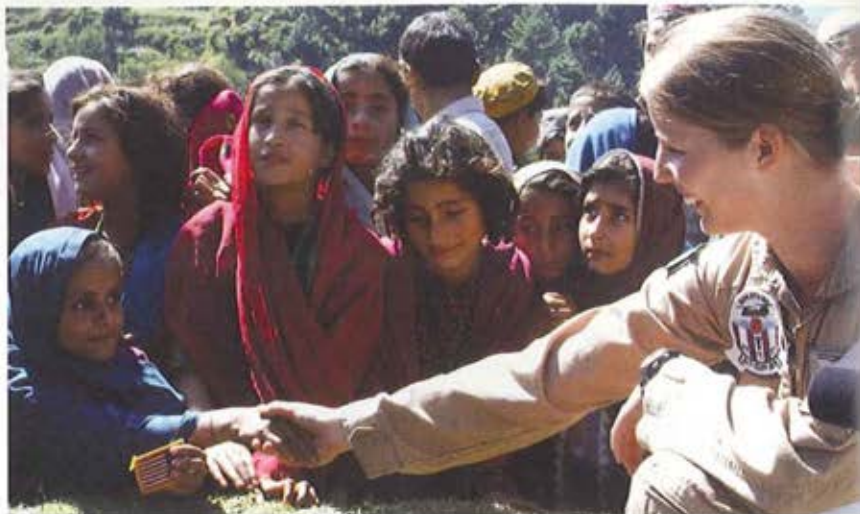




# Pakistan Holds Special Memory for Chinook Pilot

1LT Betty Pina, a USAR CH-47D Chinook pilot, greets local children from the Allai Valley in Pakistan Oct. 6. Pina returned back to the area for another humanitarian mission a year after her first deployment following a massive earthquake that devastated the region.

DOO PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN J.G. BUZANOWSKI



From a Story by Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski

For as long as she can remember, 1LT Betty Pina wanted to be a pilot.

And for years, people told her she couldn't do it — her grades weren't good enough, it was too expensive, not something a woman could do. That was all it took.

Today, Pina is an Army Reserve CH-47D helicopter pilot with Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt. And in her civilian job she's a flight instructor, no less.

Recently in October the Medicine Lodge, Kan., native deployed with a 50-person team for Operation Promise Keeping — a mission that had her and her fellow "Spartans" flying three Chinooks into northeastern Pakistan.

The area was ravaged by a 7.6 magnitude earthquake Oct. 8, 2005.

Pina and most of the crew were in Pakistan just after the disaster a year ago, flying relief supplies to the people in the remote villages.

"When we were here last year, there was such devastation," she said. "That was the beginning of our tour, so to come back here and finish our deployment by helping these people again is just amazing."

In addition to the flying, the lieutenant also had the chance to visit with many of the villagers and was a guest speaker at a girls' school in the village of Dadar.

"We didn't land at many of the villages last year, just dropped off supplies and went back for more," Pina said.

"It's so much more rewarding to get out and speak with some of the people this time. One woman came up to me and kept thanking me, saying we saved her family's lives. That had me in tears."

"And getting to speak at the school was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," she added.

"Half the girls said they wanted to be doctors, the other half said they wanted to be pilots. They reminded me of me when I was their age, so I told them to never give up and one day they very well might be doctors and pilots. If determination could work for me, it sure could work for these girls."

Pina loved her time in Pakistan and has "tremendous amounts of respect for the people here."

"After what they've been through, all they want is to get back to their lives," Pina said.

"For us to be here and help them is very rewarding. They call us 'angels of mercy' when they see our Chinooks coming. They see our helicopters as a symbol of hope."

When she wasn't flying, she was drawing flight paths and coordinating with volunteers. When she wasn't doing those things, she was sleeping.

"These people need supplies for the winter and our whole crew really worked hard to make these missions happen," she said.

Overall, Pina said she's been fortunate, but never giving up her dreams has helped make them happen.

"I get so excited when I fly, I know I'm grinning from ear to ear under my helmet," she said. "Combine that with getting to help these people, who are so polite and gracious and this is something I'll never forget."

Pina and her unit returned to Kansas in October.



Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski is an Air Force public affairs specialist with the Combined Joint Task Force 76 Public Affairs Office in Afghanistan.

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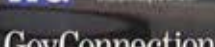
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# Freedom Soldiers Awarded CAB for June Firefight

By SGT Stephanie van Geete

Task Force Freedom Soldiers were awarded the Combat Action Badge recently for their actions during a June 28 firefight in Afghanistan.

LTC Dean Heitkamp, TF Freedom commander, presented the badge to 13 of the awardees during a Sept. 29 ceremony at Bagram Airfield.

"We are here to honor and congratulate these warriors for their actions – actions which can be summed up in four simple, but powerful, sentences: 'I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade,'" Heitkamp said. "Every member of the Team Archon Logistics Patrol is here today because...they lived the Warrior's Ethos."

The Soldiers, part of 277th Avn. Support Bn.'s Team Archon, were providing a gun truck escort for a Team Marauder convoy when they were ambushed approximately 35 kilo-

meters north of Forward Operating Base Price.

The detonation of an improvised explosive device initiated the attack, and was followed by intense rocket-propelled grenade, mortar and small-arms fire.

Team Archon Soldiers immediately returned fire on the enemy and, according to open source estimates, killed 12 enemy combatants during the four-hour firefight that ensued.

Two Archon personnel were wounded while extracting people from a kill zone, but there were no U.S. deaths.

PFC Cynthia Melendez, one of the convoy drivers, recalled a close call she had during the firefight.

"I was trying to look out the window, and that's when it got shot out," Melendez said. "So after that, I didn't try to look anymore. It was crazy." Melendez said she never thought she would see combat, but when she did, "all the training we received just came back automatically."

"A natural survival instinct kicked in – that 'I want to stay alive' instinct," she added. "I have a four year old at home, and I kept thinking



ARMY PHOTO BY SGT STEPHANIE VAN GEETE

TF Freedom Commander LTC Dean Heitkamp pins the Combat Action Badge on PFC Cynthia Melendez Sept. 29 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

"I've got to make it out of here."

CW3 James Eldridge, a 277th ASB maintenance technician, credits his Soldiers' success to the convoy training they received before the mission.

"We trained up in Kandahar for a few days before the convoy," Eldridge said. "It was hot, dusty and dirty, and we didn't want to be out there training all day, but we did it because it was necessary."



*SGT Stephanie van Geete is a public affairs NCO with the Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Office at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.*

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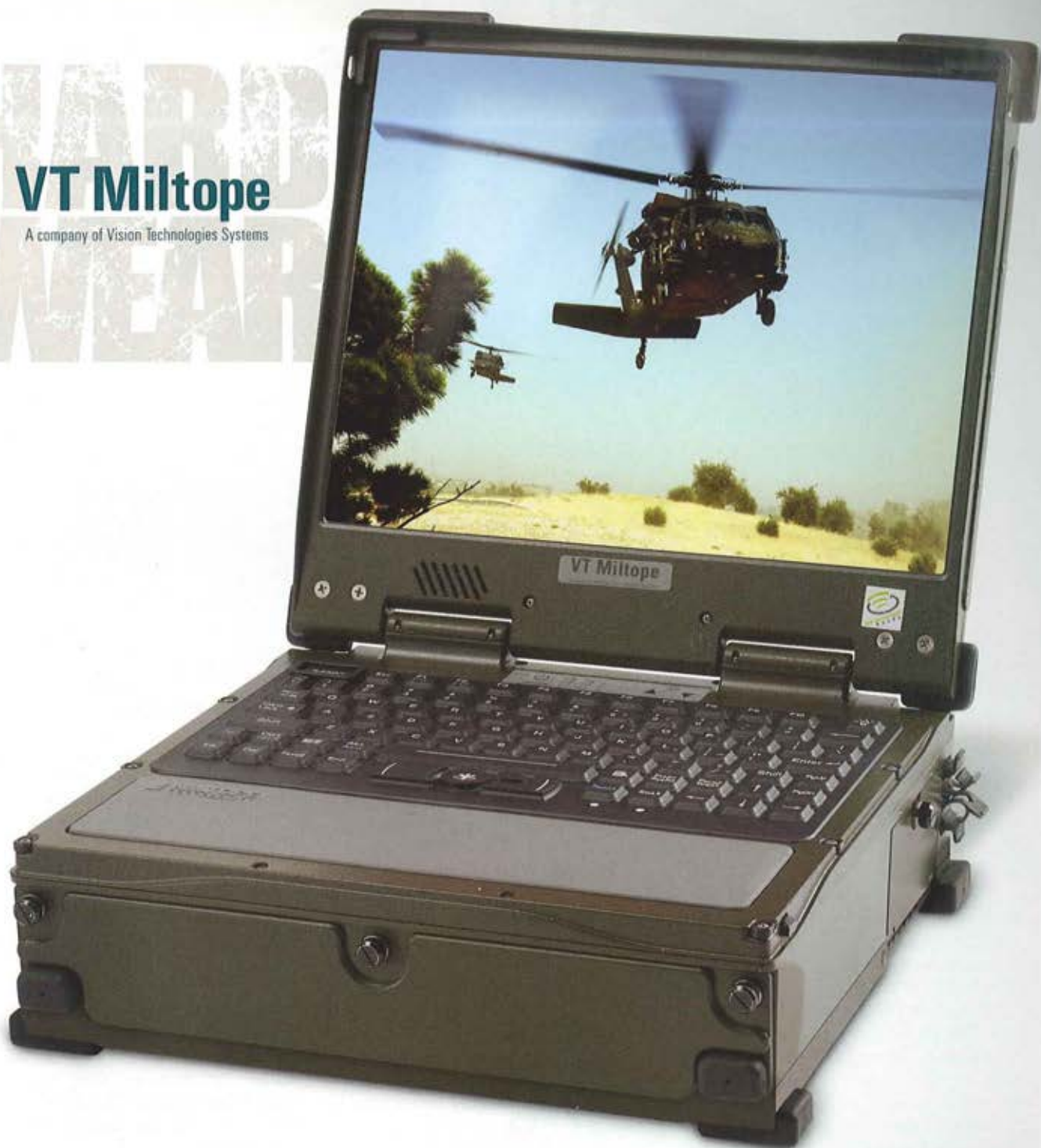
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# 160th SOAR Night Stalkers Celebrate 25 Years

By Kimberly T. Laudano

ARMY PHOTO BY RUTH FARWELL

**N**ight Stalkers past and present traveled from near and far for three days commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne).

Night Stalker leadership from the past 25 years along with key leaders from the special operations community held a conference and celebration October 12-14 at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Attendees discussed the successes and challenges that defined the organization to ensure that lessons learned and opportunities for enhancement are not lost.

Leaders also discussed where special operations forces are in the fight today, how SOF will be engaged in the future, and how the 160th fits into the long-term war-fighting picture.

Current and former Night Stalkers and their families had an opportunity to visit the Regimental compound at Fort Campbell to see the latest in special operations aviation aircraft and technology during an open house.

On Oct. 13 more than 70 founding Night Stalkers were present for a recognition ceremony in their honor

on the unit's compound.

In total, 86 living founders and family members representing 3 fallen founders were on hand for the celebration.

These men represent the beginning of the unit's history and the foundation of the Night Stalker legacy.

Founders were met by a crowd of more than 250 current and former Night Stalkers, employees, families and friends.

COL Kevin Mangum, commander of the Regiment, welcomed back the founding Night Stalkers.

He said the ceremony was a time to pause and reflect on where the regiment came from and to recognize 25 years later those who blazed the trail to make the world's most capable helicopter unit possible today.

"The regiment today hardly resembles the 160th of old," Mangum said.

He explained the 160th's growth in personnel and aircraft, and its presence now on the East and West coasts.

What remains the same is the regiment's commitment to service, excellence and sacrifice.

"Innovation is still a hallmark of

A Night Stalker family member learns about the M-134 "mini-gun" mounted on an MH-60 Black Hawk during the 160th open house in conjunction with the Regiment's 25th anniversary.

Night Stalking," he said, "Our Systems Integration and Maintenance Office is working nearly 200 active projects."

"These projects range from small enhancements to the 160th fleet like improved seats for all of the unit's aircraft to multi-million or billion dollar programs like the new MH/AH-6M Little Bird, the MH-47G Chinook and the future MH-60M Black Hawk."

"Green Platoon has come a long way as well," Mangum added. "Our Special Operations Aviation Training Company provided world class training to over 500 Soldiers last year in 23 separate programs of instruction."

He said that while the work of SMIO and SOATC are impressive, they field the most capable systems and Soldiers for the regiment to accomplish its most important task – warfighting.



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Today, several hundred Night Stalkers are currently deployed in support of multiple joint task forces in multiple locations in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility.

"They accomplish more real world operations in a night than many a Night Stalker performed in their entire career," Mangum said.

"The precision and bravery of these crews is inspiring. Watching them would make your eyes water."

A force ready, willing and able to accomplish missions others can't do, don't do, or won't do is the founders' legacy.

"That, gentlemen, is your legacy. Those of us serving today owe you a huge debt of gratitude for your service and for forging a standard of excellence for us to emulate."

Representing the founders with remarks was the first Task Force 160 commander, retired COL Jacob B. Couch.

He recognized the men who helped build this organization from nothing and who set the standard for others to carry on.

ARMY PHOTO BY RUTH FARWELL



He acknowledged the importance of the mission for today's generation of Night Stalkers.

His simple concluding remarks spoke to the heart of every man and woman formerly and currently in the 160th, "Night Stalkers Don't Quit."

A formal marked the celebration's conclusion on Oct. 14 as an opportunity for current and former Night Stalkers to spend time with family and friends.

The guest speaker for the evening was GEN Bryan "Doug" Brown, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and former 160th regimental commander.

He offered reflections from personal experiences in the early days of the unit and his observations of the unit from his current position.

Brown said the failure to rescue hostages in Iran during Operation Desert One grew the incredible special operations force this Nation owns today.

"That failure was the genesis of the creation of the 160th. For the first time in history, America had a real special operations helicopter force. I am constantly reminded that what we thought was tough, dangerous duty in 1980 is now considered routine for today's Night Stalkers," he said.

"The distances, the altitudes, the illumination and the challenges we faced you conquer nightly."

Even with extreme heat and unbelievable dust, Brown said the Night Stalkers make it look easy, every time, night after night.

"Words truly cannot describe your feats of valor, bravery and dedication."

Brown also recognized the sacrifice and support from Night Stalker families.

"No decision to deploy your family members is made without considering the impact on the families," he reassured.

"I know the support you give and the sacrifices you make, and I thank each and every one of you. You are magnificent."

Memories of the 160th's 75 fallen Night Stalkers were with all who participated in the events.

## Commemorating the First 25 Years

To commemorate the first 25 years of Army Special Operations Aviation, the Night Stalker Association (NSA) commissioned renowned military and aviation artist James Dietz to visually tell the Night Stalker story.

"With the 25th anniversary coming up we thought it was appropriate to commission an artist to capture the spirit of the organization across the spectrum from beginning to present," said NSA President, retired CSM Donnie Calvery, Jr.

"Jim Dietz's reputation for military art was well known and had been used throughout the special operations community with outstanding results. We felt he was the right one to capture the essence of Night Stalking."

Dietz said documenting the Night Stalkers' 25th Anniversary is pretty important to him, personally and professionally. "I've looked forward to doing a job with the 160th for a long time," Dietz said.

"One of the gentlemen I worked with at the (Command and General Staff College) some years ago had worked at the 160th."

Over the years, he asked when Dietz was going to do a painting for the 160th.

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Founding Night Stalkers stand to be recognized during an Oct. 13 ceremony in their honor during the 25th Anniversary conference.

"Now I can tell him, in a very nice way, that I have."

Dietz's goal was primarily to capture the professionalism of the unit which he did through stance, gesture and composition in the painting.

The NSA wanted to ensure he captured the history of the unit including the equipment, look and unit's organization which he did through pieces of equipment and flight gear. Dietz believes he captured all of the above in his painting. "What I think will come out of the painting will be the

pride in the unit and the pride in what they do."

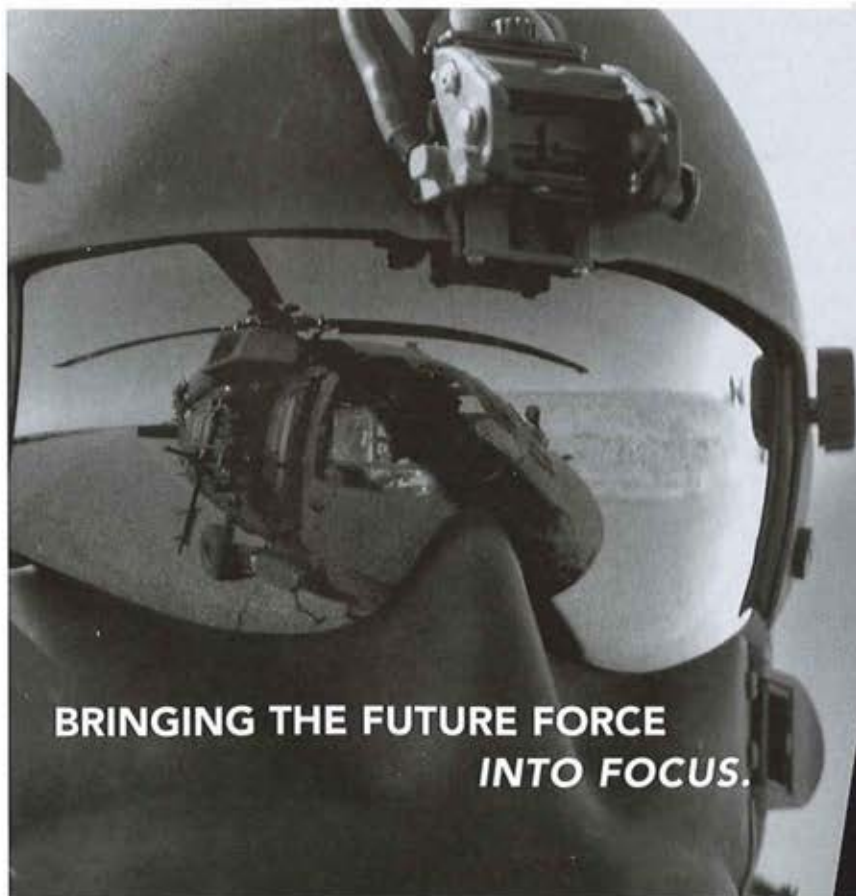
Having only read and heard about the 160th before this project, Dietz believes that meeting current and former Night Stalkers while he was researching this project gave him a better perspective on the organization itself and the Soldiers who define it.

"I think being there with your feet on the ground teaches you more about the men and women in the unit than I would have known otherwise," he said.

"The one thing I did learn was about the training and years of dedication it takes to make a crew man or a pilot and the kind of devotion it takes to continue on that path for this very specialized elite part of helicopter ops in today's military."



*Kimberly T. Laudano is the regimental public affairs officer for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky.*



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THE RESPONSIVE ADVANTAGE





ARMY PHOTO

## Army Reserve Chinook Unit Heads Home After Award-Winning Deployment

By MSG Doug Sample

A Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt., CH-47D Chinook helicopter made use of a tight landing zone during a Jan. 6, 2006 humanitarian relief flight to a remote Pakistan village.

Hand shakes, high fives and goodbye hugs were handed out Oct. 16 along with the Bronze Stars, Meritorious Service and Army Commendation Medals awarded to the Soldiers of Co. B, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt. in a farewell ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

After a year-long deployment, the Army Reserve Chinook unit from Olathe, Kan., was heading home.

The unit had gone from flying relief operations to earthquake victims in Pakistan, to air assaulting troops and supplies in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

COL Michael Rose, 10th Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander, said he was inspired by the unit's dedication and professionalism in support of aviation operations in theatre.

"Each Soldier in this great unit should take tremendous pride and comfort in the contributions they have made in the nation's long war on terrorism. Whether flying relief supplies to earthquake victims or conducting air assaults into enemy strongholds, your professionalism, your excellence, and your aviation prowess were awe inspiring," Rose said. "As commander of Task Force Falcon, I could not have asked for a better team."

To support Operation Lifeline, a humanitarian relief effort into earthquake-stricken Pakistan, the unit, which was comprised of units from 12 different states, mobilized within days to transport more than 18 million tons of relief supplies and evacuate hundreds of injured Pakistanis to medical treatment facilities.

Afterwards, the unit contributed to the success of offensive Operations Mountain Thrust, Mountain Fury and Medusa by transporting troops and supplies in some of the harshest conditions for aviation operations.

In early October, the unit returned to Pakistan for Operation Promise Keeping, which marked the one-year anniversary of the earthquake.

During the operation, the unit transported construction materials and supplies to help with the continued efforts to rebuild parts of the still devastated country.

In all, the unit flew more than 4,700 hours without accident, while returning all Soldiers home safely.

"This achievement was a true testament to the technical, tactical and professional excellence of the unit," Rose said.

The company was also applauded for its mission readiness, which Rose said is among the best in Army aviation.



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While deployed, the unit's CH-47s maintained an 80 percent readiness rate, 5 percent above the Army standard of 75 percent.

"I always knew I could count on the 'Patriots' to have the right number of Chinooks ready to execute the mission they were given. I never worried about their combat readiness," Rose said.

LTC Mark Patterson, Task Force Knighthawk commander (2nd Bn., 10th CAB), told the Soldiers in formation to "stand proud" of their service.

"Our grateful nation and the Afghan people appreciate what you did here," he said. "One day, you can look back on this deployment, and your time spent here, and tell your grandchildren that you did your part in the War on Terror."

After the ceremony, LTC Walter Bradley, B/7-158th commander, praised his troops for their success.

"We were given a mission and we executed it to perfection," Bradley said. "We put a team together, we made it happen, and we took it to them."

"It took every single one of us to do that, and to get every single one of us home alive," he added, eliciting a resounding "hooah" from his troops.

"I feel absolutely wonderful today," Bradley continued. "This unit is an absolute class act. We are ready to go home, and our families in the rear have supported us all the way. Our race is run, we did our job, now it's time to go home."

Bradley's Soldiers agreed with that sentiment.

SPC Jonathan Bettendorf said he can't wait to get home to see his family and fiancé, whom he plans to marry soon.

"I believe we've made a difference in the world," Bettendorf said. "Seeing the Pakistanis giving us hand



BG Anthony Tata, deputy commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-76, presents the Bronze Star Medal to LTC Walter Bradley, B/7-158th commander, on Oct. 16.

shakes every time they saw us and welcoming us with open arms made me feel they appreciated everything we did; but at the same time, I'm happy to be going back to my family."

"It's hard to explain how I feel about what we've done," added SFC Johnny Samaniego, a maintenance platoon sergeant. "It was a very long year, and we've been to so many places, met so many people. We completed the mission, and our time has come to an end. It's exciting to be on our way home."



MSG Doug Sample is the public affairs officer for Task Force Falcon at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

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MG Joseph F. Fil Jr., right, 1st CD, LTG Peter W. Chiarelli, center, commanding general of Multinational Corps-Iraq, and MG James D. Thurman, 4th ID, salute during the National Anthem at Camp Liberty.



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC RODNEY FOLENTE

# 4th Inf. Div. Passes Baghdad Reins to 1st Cav. Div.

By SPC Karl Johnson

**U**nder the clear, morning skies of a promising new day in Baghdad, the 1st Cavalry Division took the reins for Multinational Division-Baghdad from the 4th Infantry Div. during a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 15 at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

The ceremony honored the hard work and sacrifices of the departing "Ironhorse Division," and looked forward to future challenges and successes to be garnered by the "First Team."

Presiding over the ceremony was LTG Peter W. Chiarelli, commanding general, Multinational Corps-Iraq, who commanded the 1st Cav. Div. during its first rotation to Iraq.

"It seems like only yesterday that I led the 'First Team' here," Chiarelli said. "I know you will build on the exceptional success of the 4th Inf. Div. I have complete confidence that you will make the difference."

Chiarelli said all 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers should be proud of what they accomplished during their tenure in Baghdad.

He said the Soldiers had a direct, positive impact on the Iraqi people's day-to-day lives, including increased electricity, improved sewage systems and a monumental increase in trained Iraqi security forces.

MG James D. Thurman (foreground) assists CSM Ronald T. Riling, right, with casing the 4th ID colors during the Nov. 15 transfer of authority ceremony for the Multinational Division-Baghdad to the 1st Cav. Div.



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC RODNEY FOLENTE



"This is the decisive period in the campaign for Iraq," said MG James D. Thurman, 4th ID commanding general to an audience of Iraqi and coalition leaders, looking back on a year's worth of successes and sacrifices by his forces.

"Fighting side by side with Iraqi security forces, we have become brothers in arms, seeking a common goal," he said.

"Since Jan. 7, the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines of the coalition forces, standing side by side with the 'jundis' (soldiers) and 'shurtas' (officers) of the Iraqi security forces, have courageously faced a determined enemy," Thurman said. "They have fought the terrorists in the streets, farmlands and deserts of four provinces: Baghdad, Babil, Karbala and Najaf.

"Our combined efforts enabled a new, democratically elected government to form and begin leading the Iraqi people, living in a free nation," he said.

With the colors of his division cased and ready to accompany him home, Thurman's thoughts were focused on the efforts of his soldiers and on the support of their families.

"Our families and friends wait for us in the United States," he said. "They have been patient and have supported us unflinchingly. We return to our homes and families proud of our contribution to bettering the lives of the Iraqi people."

MG Joseph F. Fil Jr., 1st CD commanding general, uncased his colors and assumed command of the mission as the two divisions' colors changed position in the honor guard procession.

"The First Team is committed to continue to improve the security situation, to build upon the work of the 'Ironhorse Division,' to work hand in hand with our brothers in the Iraqi security forces, and to support those Iraqi forces as they move to the lead to assist the Iraqi people in achieving a more prosperous and peaceful future," Fil said.



*SPC Karl Johnson is assigned to the 363rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (USAR) from St. Louis, Mo., deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

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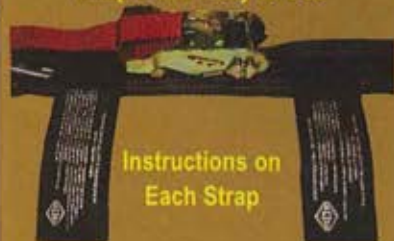
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## UH-60 Maintainers Get Added Safety

The Project Manager for Utility Helicopters, in concert with Hawk Enterprises of Huntsville, Ala., and Habco, Inc. of Glastonbury, Conn., unveiled a new protection cage and safety device for servicing aircraft tires on Oct. 15 at Redstone Army Airfield, Ala.

This team used the spiral development model to redress unnecessary injuries and deaths caused by the over-inflation of aircraft tires. The effort led to the development of a portable inflation and safety cage for on-aircraft servicing of both main and tail wheel tires.

Compatible with current Army servicing equipment, the tire cage features an in-line relief valve to prevent over-inflation of the tire if the first two safety devices are breached.

The cage has proven capable of containing the debris from an explosion in the event of a catastrophic failure of all the preventative measures.

In August, the engineering tests proved the cage provided two-additional levels of protection for



The new protection cage and safety device for servicing aircraft tires.

Soldiers, and sufficiently contained the debris from an exploding wheel. Use of the tire cage is now a requirement in the "Warning" portion of the main and tail wheel maintenance.

The tire cage national stock and part numbers are: NSN: 4920-01-545-0763 and PN: SK2000TC-6. The GSA schedule number is: GS-07F5787P 6.

Additional information is available from Martin Charlier, a UHPO senior technical specialist at [marty.charlier@us.army.mil](mailto:marty.charlier@us.army.mil), or (256) 955-9735, DSN: 645-9735.

—From a Program Executive Office for Aviation news release.

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## ARMY AVIATION INDUSTRY PARTNERS DIRECTORY

**T**he Army Aviation Industry Partners Directory is a paid advertising section of Army Aviation's world-wide, year-round reference of individuals and organizations engaged in the overall field of U.S. Army Aviation listed by the following categories:

- 1) Manufacturing;
- 2) Maintenance/Repair/Overhaul;
- 3) Consultants/Special Services; and
- 4) Educational.

Any firm that wishes to be included in next year's directory should contact Bob Lachowski at Army Aviation Publications, Inc., 755 Main St., Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468-2830; Telephone: (203) 268-2450 ext. 131; FAX: (203) 268-5870.

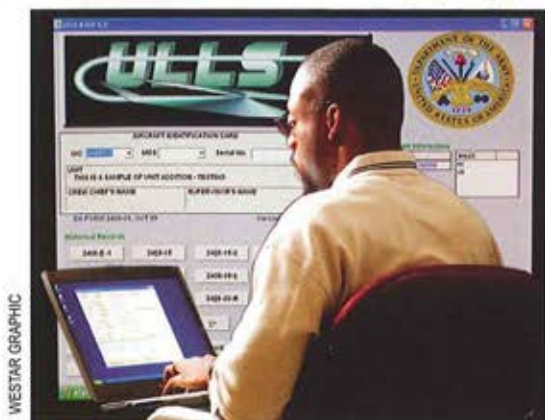


**Editor's note:** Companies can send their Army Aviation related news releases and information to [editor@quad-a.org](mailto:editor@quad-a.org).

## Contract Awarded for UASPO Support

**EDO Corp.** of New York received Nov. 20 a 5-year task order to provide programmatic support to the Army's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The task order, valued up to \$37 million, is to provide UASPO with services such as strategic planning; acquisition support; analyzing costs, training, and testing; and logistics planning in support of the Raven, Shadow, Hunter, Warrior and future forces Class I-IV UAS.

## Westar to Provide UAS ULLS-A(E) Support



The Army awarded **Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc.**, a \$2.3 million contract Nov. 14 for the development, testing, integration and sustainment of a maintenance and logistics management system for Unmanned Aircraft Systems into the Army's unit level logistics systems-aviation (enhanced) database program, known as ULLS-A(E). The new system will provide improved access to maintenance and logistics management information, including decision-support capabilities for UAS maintenance planning, execution and record keeping, as well as for flight operations management, quality assurance, supply chain management, readiness reporting, and other functions relating to logistics.

## Army Places 2nd LUH Order

**EADS North America**, Arlington, Va., announced Nov. 9 the Army has ordered 34 additional UH-145 light utility helicopters, a \$170 million value, bringing the total number of aircraft purchased to 42. The Army also placed orders for 6 additional external hoist kits and 6 MEDEVAC "B-kits," for the UH-145, so the LUH can quickly reconfigure for medical missions. All UH-145s will be assembled and delivered from EADS's facility in Columbus, Miss. The LUH program requirement is for 322 aircraft with a life-cycle value of over \$2 billion.

## Next Generation IDM Awarded

The Army awarded Nov. 13 a \$6.5 million contract to **Innovative Concepts** of McLean, Va., for the develop-

ment of the next generation of the improved data modem and Army operational flight program software version 9.0 for network centric warfare operations. The Army uses the IDM V303 and IDM V304 to provide digital connectivity among airborne and ground platforms using existing radios and crypto equipment. The IDM is a lightweight, six-channel tactical modem/router which will be installed on all aircraft, including the Longbow, Kiowa Warrior, Chinook, Black Hawk, and the new armed reconnaissance helicopter.

## Kuwait to Receive Longbows

Kuwaiti officials announced Oct. 8 the Kuwait Air Force will receive 16 AH-64D helicopters by the end of the year, making it the first Arab country to fly the Longbow. Jeffery Johnson, vice president of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems Middle East, said the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, both AH-64A Apache operators, are in line for possible upgrades to the AH-64D, while Egypt is working to upgrade its 35 Apaches to the AH-64D. Kuwait made the \$1.2 billion Longbow purchase in Sept. 2002.

## Raven UAS Given Full Speed Ahead

The U.S. Army's Raven B small unmanned aircraft system was approved Oct. 5 for full rate production. The Program Executive Office for Aviation made the announcement in conjunction with the Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The approval accelerates the integration of small UAS into the force as a key component of the Army's aviation strategy. About 380 Raven A models are currently fielded, with half of them to be replaced with the Raven B early next year.

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

**General Atomics Aeronautical System**, San Diego, Calif., was awarded Nov. 7 a \$20M contract for system development and demonstration for the extended range, multi-purpose unmanned aircraft system. Work will be performed in San Diego (43 percent), Adelanto (14 percent) and Palmdale, Calif. (8 percent), in Salt Lake City (18 percent), Hunt Valley, Md. (14 percent), and Huntsville, Ala. (3 percent), and should be completed by Aug. 31, 2009.

**General Electric Aircraft Engine**, Cincinnati, Ohio, was awarded Nov. 6 a \$30.1M contract to the Corpus Christi Army Depot in their overhaul and repair of the entire T700 family of engines. Work will be performed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and should be completed by Dec. 30.

**The Boeing Co.**, Ridley Park, Pa., was awarded Nov. 1 a \$163.3M contract for new build CH-47F helicopters.



### Aviation General Officers

The President nominated **MG James D. Thurman** on Sept. 25 for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as commanding general of V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army in Germany, and the Senate confirmed the nomination on Sept. 29. Thurman is the commanding general of the 4th Inf. Div. (Mech.) and recently returned from a one-year deployment with his division, serving as the commanding general of the Multi-National Division-Baghdad in Iraq.

### CWO Heads to OCS

A chief warrant officer is among 60 Soldiers selected in November to attend the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. **CW2 Roushel T. Cousin**, with Co. A, 2nd Bn., 52nd Avn. Regt., in South Korea, will attend OCS Class 07-004 beginning Feb. 11. Upon completion of the 14-week course Cousin will be commissioned as a 2LT in aviation.

### Re-Enlistments



ARMY PHOTO BY SPC CREIGHTON HOLUB

### Army Couple Re-Ups In Combat

For two 4th Inf. Div. Cbt. Avn. Bde. Soldiers serving together as comrades in arms in Iraq, and who happen to be husband and wife, the decision to re-enlist together was easy. With an option to move the family to Hawaii and enjoy the palm trees and beautiful beaches or turn down the opportunity to reenlist and return to Fort Hood, the Scott's decided to re-up. On Oct. 26, CW3 James Ewing (above) administered the oath of reenlistment to **SSG Derek Scott** and **SGT Dawana Lynch-Scott** in the CAB conference room at Camp Taji. The Scotts met during a previous deployment to Iraq during OIF-I, hit it off and eventually married on July 5, 2005. Derek is a career counselor in the CAB's Headquarters Co., and Dawana is a supply sergeant in Co. C, 404th Avn. Spt. Bn. They report to Schofield Barracks in March.

## Industry News *continued*

Work will be performed in Philadelphia and should be completed by Dec. 29, 2009.

**EADS North America Defense**, Arlington, Va., was awarded Oct. 31 a \$170.5M contract for MEDEVAC B kits, Hoist B kits, student pilot and maintainer training, and a procedural training device for the light utility helicopter. Work will be performed in Columbus, Miss. (97 percent), Grand Prairie, Texas (1 percent), and Tampa, Fla. (2 percent), and should be completed by June 30, 2016.

**McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co.**, Mesa, Ariz., was awarded Oct. 30 a \$151.9M contract for war replacement AH-64D Longbow aircraft. Work will be performed in Mesa and should be completed by Nov. 30, 2009.

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DRS Technologies	23	Rockwell Collins	5
EADS North America	26, 27	Sikorsky Aircraft	43
Embassy Suites Huntsville	36	SKEDCO	60
Fastening Systems International	16	Thales	49
General Atomics Aeronautical Sys.	33	USAA	15
Global Military Aircraft Systems	56	Westar Aerospace & Defense	19
Goodrich Hoist & Winch	25	Westwind Technologies	40
Honeywell Aerospace	31	Wulfsberg Electronics	51
ITT Nightvision	37		



## Promotions

The fiscal year 2006 Active component Colonel Selection Board Results released Nov. 15. Congratulations to the following 44 aviation officers

### OPERATIONS (AV)

Aid, Michael C. \*  
 Almeida, Pedro G. \*  
 Ambrose, Paul J. \*  
 Brandon, James M. \*  
 Brown, Jeffery D. \*  
 Burns, Stephen T. \*  
 Carroll, Carolyn A. \*  
 Diaz, Brian J. \*  
 Doerer, Robert C. \*  
 Galli, Donald N. \*  
 Goodsmith, Jon P. \*  
 Hutmacher, Clayton \*  
 King, Grady S. \*  
 Koucheravy, Richard \*  
 Lamb, Morgan M. \*  
 Lopez, Orlando \*  
 Mathias, Steven D. \*  
 Mooney, William K. \*  
 Murray, Paul J.  
 Pavek, Douglas J.  
 Petrik, Gregory D. \*  
 Reeves, Terence W.  
 Richardson, Mark D. \*  
 Roberts, Joel E. \*  
 Rotte, Randolph R. \*  
 Smith, Stanley O. \*  
 Swanson, Michael J.  
 Toney, Gary W.  
 Tonner, Sheri L. \*  
 Viola, James A. \*  
 Vogler, Louis A. \*  
 Webb, Grant A.  
 Williams, Robert D. \*

### INFORMATION OPERATIONS

Jumper, Charles A.  
 Kopra, Timothy L.

### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Bentz, Randall M.  
 Crawford, Bobby G. \*

### OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Cavalier, Michael P. \* AC  
 Lunn, Robert H. \* AC  
 Openshaw, Shane T. \* AC  
 Pelczynski, Anthony S. \* AC  
 Rombough, Douglas H. \* AC  
 Schodowski, Michael \*  
 Thurgood, L. Neil \* AC

## 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 07-02, 43 Officers, Graduated Nov. 16

#### ABOLC

2LT Aaron K. Smith \* DG  
 2LT Jacob T. Johnson \* HG  
 2LT Kevin T. Riley \* HG  
 2LT Dane J. Heikes \* HG  
 2LT Paul J. Milas \* HG  
 2LT Darryl L. Brown, Jr. \*  
 2LT Jennifer L. Combs  
 2LT Adam B. Creel  
 2LT Robert J. Domitrovich III  
 2LT Matthew A. Heisey  
 2LT John P. Kurtzweil  
 2LT Forest J. Lightle \*  
 2LT Lisa M. Livingston  
 2LT John C. Lodes \*  
 2LT Jared M. Marinos  
 2LT Emilygrace Mate  
 CPT Tyler B. Partridge \*  
 2LT David G. Rodriguez \*  
 2LT Christopher P. Rossi \*  
 2LT Robert M. Sedlak \*  
 2LT Balint Simsik  
 2LT Steven K. Souza II  
 2LT Andrew N. Stillwell \*  
 2LT Matthew D. Williams \*

#### AWOBC

WO1 James T. Trizzino, Jr. DG  
 WO1 Paul A. Van Loan \* HG  
 WO1 Travis M. Wilson \* HG  
 WO1 Austin J. Crumley \* HG  
 WO1 James A. Collins \*  
 WO1 Charles B. Denson \*  
 WO1 Shawn R. Ferris  
 WO1 Ryan R. Heuel \*  
 WO1 Nicholas A. LaPlante  
 WO1 Richard L. Livingston  
 WO1 Michael L. Luna \*  
 WO1 Thomas A. Neuman \*  
 WO1 Robert J. Smith  
 WO1 Robert J. Tackett  
 WO1 Justin J. Thompson \*  
 WO1 Paul M. Todd  
 WO1 Travis M. Vreeland \*

## Retirements

### L.A. Honors California Guard Crew Chief



PHOTO BY WANDA MORRIS

A retiring California Army National Guard crew chief was recently recognized for his service to the nation. Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl presented **SSG Christian Shaw** with a city certificate of recognition for his 21 years of distinguished military service during a fund-raiser for a nationally known veter-

an's association on Nov. 27. Shaw has logged over 2,200 flight hours as a crew chief on Navy and Army helicopters during his career, working on the UH-60L Black Hawk with his final unit, Co. B, 1st Bn., 140th Avn. Regt., at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. Shaw is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and of a 12-month tour near Tikrit in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom-III. "It was sort of cool being in Hollywood and on the rooftop pool area of the Bel Age Hotel. The crowd's reception was very warm," Shaw said. "I am so grateful that I have returned home in one piece and that I'm with my loved ones during the holiday season." Today, Shaw is back at his job of 11 years as a police officer with the West L.A. Patrol Division of the LAPD.

WO1 Tonie A. Wycoff  
 WO1 Carlos O. Martinez

### Class 07-03, 36 Officers, Graduated Nov. 30

#### ABOLC

2LT Daniel M. Lawrence \* DG  
 2LT Brandon M. Spence \* HG  
 2LT Adam C. Keller \* HG  
 2LT Michael G. Tully \* HG  
 2LT Brian G. Lutz \* HG  
 2LT Thomas R. Alexander  
 2LT Geoffrey E. Anderson \*  
 2LT Nicholas J. Cahill \*  
 2LT Michael J. DeCheck  
 2LT Paul R. Flanigen  
 2LT James B. Hickey \*  
 2LT Carole A. LeMoulec  
 2LT Matthew E. Mazar \*  
 2LT William C. Morris  
 2LT Russell J. Nelson  
 2LT Daniel A. Pickett  
 2LT Bryan C. Reid  
 2LT Eric S. Schlieber  
 2LT Melissa H. Shipman \*  
 2LT Renaldo D. Simoni \*  
 CPT Amanda M. Violette \*  
 2LT Ryan P. Welch  
 2LT Alan K. Wood, Jr. \*

#### AWOBC

WO1 Peter M. Klein \* DG  
 WO1 Josh A. Ford \* HG  
 WO1 Brandon D. Seay \* HG  
 WO1 Jaime J. Aguirre, Jr. \*  
 WO1 Mark D. Bovyer  
 CW2 Richard S. Dix  
 WO1 Samuel C. Garcia  
 WO1 Richard A. Lawson \*  
 WO1 David L. Lewis  
 WO1 Philip M. Louis  
 WO1 Michael P. Saenz  
 WO1 Jami L. Tatso  
 WO1 Richard W. Turpin  
 WO1 Keith A. Welch \*

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



## ELECTION OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

The 2006 elections are over, with the exception of a few close House races.

The Democratic Party gained control of both houses of Congress with the Senate at 51 to 49, and the House with at least 229 of 435 seats, with 10 remaining in contention.

Of the seven Iraq war veterans running for Congress, only Democrat Patrick Murphy for Pennsylvania's 8th District won.

Other elected veterans include Representatives: Joseph A. Sestak (D-PA), Chris Carney (D-PA), Phillip G. Hare (D-IL), and Timothy Waltz (D-MN), and Sen. James H. Webb (D-VA).

The Congress had the typical power shift that the last six two-term presidents experienced in their second mid-term elections.

The small margin gained by the Democrats will require them to work with the Republicans and the executive branch to pass legislation.

Meanwhile both parties worked to complete their "Lame-Duck" session of the 109th Congress.

The new legislators had their indoctrination the third week of November.

When the new Congress convenes on Jan. 3, the Democrats will chair all of the committees and the Republicans will provide the ranking members.

## SASC SEN. WARNER STEPS DOWN

In compliance with the Senate tenure rules and the recent elections, Sen. John Warner (R-VA) stepped down as the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman at the end of the 109th Congress. A World War II Navy veteran and a Marine veteran of the Korean War, he rose to be Secretary of the Navy, and then became a senator in 1979. During his 8-year tenure, Warner oversaw the most significant period of military compensation and benefit improvements in more than 50 years.

Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) is the new SASC chairman.

## ARMY ASKS FOR MORE 2008 FUNDING

With Defense Department approval, the Army's Secretary Dr. Francis Harvey and Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoomaker visited the White House Office of Management and Budget to seek an additional \$25 billion for 2008.

According to an Oct. 30 U.S. News & World Report article, the funds are reportedly needed for logistics, additional Soldiers,



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)

AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

and other Army service-level mission requirements.

The source of the funds is a concern, since a plus up to the overall \$462B Defense budget would enhance the Army's traditional share over the other services.

Other news releases suggest the Army will have to settle for less than they request, although the current defense share of the gross domestic product is just 4 percent, compared to the peak levels of other wars as WWII at 14.2 percent and Vietnam at 6.2 percent.

## ARMY MEETS 2006 RECRUITING GOAL

The Army met its increased goal of 80,000 recruits in FY2006 with use of additional recruiters, widening the selection criteria, and expanded bonus incentives provided by Congress.

The Army National Guard obtained 99 percent and the Reserves had 95 percent of their increased goals, increasing their performances from 2005.

A reminder that members of the Army, ARNG and USAR, retirees and DA civilians (less JROTC administrators and instructors) may aid recruiting and earn a \$2,000 bonus for each recruiting referral that completes basic and advanced individual training.

## 2007 RETIREE COLA INCREASES

Retirees will get a 3.3 percent cost of living allowance increase to retirement pay effective Dec. 1, and it appears in their Jan. 2 payments.

The increase is lower for those who entered service on or after Sep. 8, 1980 and retired in 2006.

Retiree COLA and military pay raises are based on different adjustment standards, the Consumer Price Index and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index, respectively.

## COMMISSION GIVEN MORE RESPONSIBILITY

The independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, launched in March, was given new responsibilities by the

2007 National Defense Authorization Act that include examining the advisability and feasibility of implementing two bills, S.2658 and H.R.5200, introduced by the 109th Congress.

The new tasks range from making the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to examining the adequacy of the DOD processes for defining the equipment and funding necessary for the National Guard to meet its statutory responsibilities.

## MEDICARE/TRICARE PAYMENT CAPS NEED ACTION

AAAA with TMC continued to press Congress to waive the Medicare and TRICARE payment caps to doctors by the end of 2006.

Due to a 1997 congressional miscalculation, doctors must secure a waiver each year to prevent a cut in reimbursement rates.

The concerns are that the expected 5.1 percent cuts in 2007 will cause doctors to accept fewer new TRICARE patients in urban and remote areas.

## MORE PROVISIONS OF FY07 DEFENSE BILL

- *Military Severely Injured Center:* Requires DOD to create a MSIC and database to provide case management and support programs for severely injured members.

- *Prohibition on Increases in Certain Health Care Costs for Members of the Uniformed Services:* The DOD is not to increase the premiums, deductibles and co-payments for TRICARE Prime, or the TRICARE Standard copays for outpatient care until Dec. 31, 2007; and premiums for Ready Reserve members until Oct. 1, 2007.

- *Expanded Eligibility of Selected Reserve Members Under TRICARE:* Provides TRICARE Standard coverage for all members of the SELRES and dependents at a premium that is 28 percent of the DOD determined cost. Repeals the three tiered cost share TRICARE program for Reserves established by

*Continued on page 72*



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*continued*

the FY06 National Defense Authorization Act.

- **Chiropractic Services:** Requires DOD to study the cost, feasibility, benefits and savings of providing chiropractic coverage for all active duty, Reserve members and families, and retirees and families, and to provide a report with a plan by March 31, 2007.

- **Health Care Options for Families of Mobilized Reservists:** Requires DOD to conduct a study by March 31, 2007 on the feasibility of allowing family members of reservists mobilized in support of a contingency operation to continue their civilian health coverage. Assess the numbers with special care needs; who do not have access to TRICARE providers; who would benefit from such continuity; the feasibility of reimbursing a member for coverage and the recommended reimbursement.

- **TRICARE Pharmacy Copays:** Dropped a proposal to mandate use of mail-order pharmacy for all refills of maintenance medications. Maintained a cap on retail pharmacy copays for formulary drugs not to exceed \$3 (generic) and \$9 (brand) for FY07.

- **Mortuary Affairs in Combat Theater:** Requires expanded transportation and escort/honors considerations for members who die in a combat theater, and requires DOD to report to Congress after comprehensive review, including methods at forward locations and improving assistance to survivors.

- **Assistance for Dependents in Local Schools:** Authorizes \$30 million to schools comprised of at least 20 percent military dependents, provides \$10 million for schools with significant negative or positive shifts in dependent attendance due to force structure changes, and authorizes \$5 million aid for elementary and secondary schools with severely disabled children of military members.

- **Physical Evaluation Board Reform:** Requests DOD to establish regulations to improve timeliness and consistency of PEB results for all services, and improved communications for members on PEB decisions and rationale.



## ABOVE THE BEST

AAA Unmanned Aircraft System  
Unit of the Year

### Company A (Forward), 634th Military Intelligence Battalion, 34th Infantry Division (Red Bulls), Minnesota Army National Guard

Between September 2005 and June 2006, this unit's RQ-7B Shadow 200 tactical UAS systems supported U.S. and allied warfighters in Operation Iraqi Freedom with 1,060 combat missions, nearly 5,500 flight hours, and 95 percent operational readiness.

We salute you.



aaicorp.com

### Jimmy Doolittle Chapter

Two retiring South Carolina Army National Guard master aviators, **CW5 James B. Robinson** and **CW5 Louis B. Wilson**, were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael on Nov. 5 at the Congaree Armory, Eastover, S.C. Deputy Adjutant General of the SCARNG and JDC President BG Lester D. Eisner presented Bronze awards and certificates after pinning the Legion of Merit on each officer for their service to the nation. Robinson, the standardization (SIP) officer for the 51st Avn. Group, retires with over 36 years of aviation service;

serving as an SIP during an Operation Iraqi Freedom III deployment with responsibility for training over 700 Soldiers. Wilson, the command warrant officer for the SCARNG, retires after 28 years of aviation service; including tours in Vietnam and Kuwait; serving as an aviation safety officer in numerous battalion and brigade level assignments. Picture above (l to r) are Eisner, Robinson, Wilson, and colonels Christopher T. Eaker, 51st Avn. Group commander, and Robert L. Scoggins, SCARNG state aviation officer.



PHOTO BY DONALD T. MUNTSCH



## CHAPTER NEWS

PHOTO BY BILL HARRIS/AAPT



### Air Assault Chapter

The Silver award of the Order of St. Michael was presented by AAAA President BG (Ret.) Tom Konitzer to **MG Thomas R. Turner II** on Nov. 9 at Fort Campbell, Ky. Turner was honored for his efforts and contributions in support of the Army aviation community during his career. Turner had commanded the 101st Airborne Div. for the past two years, returning from a year-long deployment in Iraq in November. His efforts greatly contributed to the transformation of the 101st and 159th Cbt. Avn. Brigades, improving their warfighting capabilities, force protection, and risk management. Turner, who is slated to take command of the Fifth U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, relinquished command of the 101st to MG Jeffrey J. Schloesser.

PHOTO BY BILL HARRIS/AAPT



### Air Assault Chapter

AAAA President BG (Ret.) Tom Konitzer inducted **Susan Turner** into the Honorable Order of Our Lady of Loreto during an awards ceremony held just before her husband's change of command Nov. 9 at Fort Campbell, Ky. Turner, spouse of MG Thomas R. Turner II, was honored for her service, support and sacrifices as an Army spouse over the years. Her many contributions include support of Soldiers, civilians, and their families; actively leading family readiness group programs, support to local civic and community organizations, and assisting in charity and fund raiser activities. Turner received the OLL certificate and lapel pin.

PHOTO BY CMS MARY COLEBURN



### Washington-Potomac Chapter

**CW5 Brian D. Middleton** was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael on Nov. 9 during his farewell party at a restaurant in Alexandria, Va. LTC Robert Doerer, chief of the Aviation Branch at the Human Resources Command presented Middleton with the Bronze award and certificate. Middleton served as the chief of Aviation Warrant Officer Assignments at HRC and was honored for greatly contributing to the Army force structure and positively influencing thousands of Soldiers' lives and careers over the course of his career in the personnel field. Middleton is now working in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems field.

PHOTO BY CPT VIRGINIA SEIGEL



### Griffin Chapter

GC President COL Timothy J. Edens inducted **MAJ John H. Cochran** into the Honorable Order of St. Michael and presented him with the Bronze award on Nov. 3 in Steinach, Germany. Cochran, who served as the adjutant (S1) of the 12th Cbt. Avn. Bde., was recognized for his years of service to Army aviation, including his four and a half years in Germany, during which he held company command and deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Today Cochran is attending the Army Command and General Staff College's intermediate-level education program at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.



## FALLEN HEROES

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

### Operation Iraqi Freedom



**CW4 Priestner**

Two 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. pilots died Nov. 6 in Balad, Iraq, of injuries suffered when their AH-64D Longbow helicopter crashed during a combat air patrol. Both Soldiers were assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn. (Attack/Recon), 82nd Avn. Regt., Fort Bragg, N.C., and deployed to Iraq in July.

Killed were:

**CW4 John Richard Priestner**, 42, of LeRaysville, Pa.  
**CW2 Miles Parker Henderson**, 24, of Amarillo, Texas.

A spokesperson for the Priestner family stated the military said the crash was not related to hostile fire. The incident is under investigation as an accident.

In lieu of flowers, Priestner's wife Teresa would like to honor her husband's legacy by bringing a United Services Organization to Fort Bragg.

Donations to the USO effort are being accepted via the "John Priestner Memorial Fund," 153 Harborview Drive, Sanford, N.C., 27332.



**CW2 Henderson**

(Information from Defense Department news releases and other media sources.)

## IN MEMORIAM

### William L. Stewart

Retired Captain William L. Stewart, 88, a resident since 1954 of Williamsburg, Va., died Oct. 25. Stewart, born in Trenton, N.J., served 23 years in the Army, including service in the Army Air Corps as a pilot flying L-4 Piper Cubs and helicopters in Germany, the Philippines, Japan and Korea. He finished his service in the Transportation Corps, retiring in 1960 at Fort Eustis, Va. Stewart then entered civil service and taught aircraft maintenance at the Transportation School at Fort Eustis until his second retirement in 1980. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy P. Stewart, and his son, William L. Stewart Jr. He is survived by his sons, James A. Stewart and David R. Stewart of Williamsburg. Stewart was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

### New Chapter Officers

**Morning Calm Chapter**  
CSM Ronald Andrews, VP  
Enlisted Affairs

**North Star Chapter**  
COL Michael Huddleston,  
President; CW5 Charles M.  
Barr II, Ret., Senior VP  
COL Matthew C. Brockway,  
Treasurer; MSG John W.  
Morris, Ret., VP Programs;  
Paul Kibbe, VP Industry  
Relations; SFC Scott  
Galleazzi, VP Membership  
MAJ Michael Taff, VP  
Chapter Awards; MAJ  
Matthew Spiess, Secretary

**Thunder Mountain Chapter**  
LTC Ronald G. Meyers,  
President; LTC Angelia D.  
Farnell, Senior VP;  
COL Clifford E. Letts, Jr.  
Ret., Secretary; Mr. Jose A.  
Perez, Treasurer; CSM  
Raleigh L. Matthews, VP,  
Membership Enrollment;  
CPT Kyle E. Duncan, VP,  
Programs; Mr. Luis Zamudio,  
Ret., VP, Scholarship

**Volunteer Chapter**  
CW4 Steve Bennett, Vice

President; SFC, Lorena  
Blackwell, Secretary;  
SSG Billy Sanford, VP,  
Scholarship

**Soldier of the Month**  
*A Chapter Program to Recognize  
Outstanding Aviation Soldiers  
on a Monthly Basis.*

**E3 Tessa L. Baptista**  
December 2006  
(Narragansett Bay Chapter)

**E-4 Andy J. Morris**  
October 2006  
(Aloha Chapter)

**SPC Laura Steckly**  
October 2006  
(Aloha Chapter)

**SGT Dulce Lizeth Wilson**  
October 2006  
(Aloha Chapter)

**SGT James M. Eppley**  
October 2006  
(Keystone Chapter)

**SSG John R. Mueller**  
November 2006  
(Oregon Trail Chapter)

**SGT Carrie L. Jackson**  
December 2006  
(Oregon Trail Chapter)

### Aces

*The following members have been  
recognized as Aces for signing up  
five new members each.*

**Mr. John H. Bae**  
**SSG Nathan J. Curland**  
**CW5 Mark W. Grapin**  
**CPT Michael A. Marchetti**  
**SGT Jesse L. Travis**

### New AAAA Order of St. Michael Recipients Bronze

CW3 Jeffrey T. Crownover  
CW4 Terry L. Worstall  
CW5 D.K. Taylor  
CW4 Samuel L. Fetty  
CW4 Bradley E. Anspaugh  
CW4 Mark P. Fields  
LTC Thomas A. Tadsen  
CW4 John R. Haas  
CW3 David M. Taurino  
LTC Mark A. Preston  
CW4 Christopher Millevoi  
LTC Daniel J. Dreher  
CW4 James J. den Hartog  
MAJ James Corcoran  
CW5 Scott Howell  
CSM Charles Beckman  
CPT James McLean  
Patricia A. LaClair

Mike Bulkley  
Norb Lutz  
Alfonso Nunez  
CW5 Robert Fritz  
CW4 Joe Wiesen  
1SG Charles Macrelli  
Dallas L. Bowers  
CW4 Larry L. Larkin, Ret.  
CW5 William F. Rhode, Ret.  
Jerry D. New  
CW5 George T. Anderson, Ret.  
CW4 William D. Parsons, Ret.  
MAJ Jay P. Gautreaux  
Donald J. Darrah

**New Life Members**  
LTC Charles T. Climer  
COL Gerald L. Crews, Ret.  
LTC Daniel A. Cutshall  
CW2 Michael J. Davis, Ret.  
CPT Frank J. Fair  
MAJ Dorsey N. Horne, Ret.  
MAJ Al Marron  
CW4 Robert A. Mayer, Ret.  
MAJ Garret K. Messner  
CPT Martin A. Payne

**New Industry Partners**  
Florida Turbine  
Technologies, Inc.  
Hontek Corporation  
M7 Aerospace LP



## NEW MEMBERS

SGT James Armagost  
 CPT Don L. Baker  
 Mr. John C. Bennett  
 PFC Durwood Blackmon  
 Mr. Donald L. Cunningham  
 Mr. John E. Detraz  
 Mr. Mark M. Harris  
 CW4 Jack E. Johnston  
 Mr. Jon R. Jones  
 Mr. Duane A. Manning  
 CW4 James W. Mason, Ret.  
 SGT Miles C. Miller, Jr.  
 CW4 Mark A. Prosser  
 CW3 Anthony H. Villier  
**AIR ASSAULT CHAPTER  
 FORT CAMPBELL, KY**  
 SGT Ryan L. Crawford  
 MAJ Jason M. Halloren  
 CW5 George M. James  
 MAJ Eric A. McEldowney  
 SGT Denver P. Steele  
**ALOHA CHAPTER  
 HONOLULU, HI**  
 SGT D'Mario J. Anderson  
 1LT Lucas R. Anderson  
 SGT John S. Avila  
 SGT Robert Bronson  
 SFC Rodney E. Calamese  
 SGT James A. Cornett  
 SPC Ronald W. Coyne  
 CW2 Khanh D. Dang  
 SGT William Dubois  
 SGT Joanna M. Ellenbeck  
 SSG Anthony W. Ettleman  
 PFC Jordan J. Feldpausch  
 CPT Francisco J. Figueroa  
 CPT Joseph E. Fitts  
 SSG Erwin H. Gray  
 SSG Courtney D. Griffin  
 SFC Nathan E. Hollis  
 CW2 Matthew W. Honea  
 SPC Andy J. Morris  
 SPC Vincent E. Mundonedo  
 SFC Jimmey L. Mygatt  
 SGT Maxso Nomura  
 SPC Gabriel A. Noxon  
 SPC Thomas B. Provinzano  
 PFC James W. Russell  
 SGT Cody H. Smithson  
 SPC Laura Steckly  
 PFC Robert C. Warensford  
 SPC Chandal D. Washington  
 SGT Ryan C. Wattles  
 SGT Dulce L. Wilson  
 MSG Norris C. Wrenn  
**AMERICA'S 1ST COAST  
 CHAPTER  
 JACKSONVILLE, FL**  
 COL James F. Mulvehill, Ret.  
**AVIATION CENTER CHAPTER  
 FORT RUCKER, AL**  
 WO1 Jason L. Arsenault  
 WO1 Michael D. Bailey  
 WO1 Issac W. Barnhart  
 WO1 Brandon L. Bennett  
 WO1 Matthew D. Blackwell  
 WO1 Kenneth R. Bochat

WO1 Jeffrey R. Brinley  
 WO1 Daniel J. Brown  
 WO1 Rex A. Clark II  
 WO1 Anthony J. Fisher  
 2LT Scott W. Fixmer  
 WO1 Zachary S. Hartmann  
 WO1 Dustin N. Hayes  
 WO1 Mathew C. Heffelfinger  
 Mr. Robert P. Hill  
 WO1 Joshua K. Kepple  
 WO1 Clint C. Lopez  
 WO1 Christopher M. Mackey  
 WO1 Darick Majka  
 WO1 John D. Martin  
 WO1 Michael C. McCurdy  
**MAJ Douglas Miller**  
 WO1 Joseph N. Muller  
 WO1 Brian M. Pavia  
 WO1 Barry W. Pfeifer  
 WO1 Peter J. Porter  
 WO1 Jameson R. Quaine  
 CW2 Scott J. Rackley  
 WO1 Mark C. Reed  
 2LT Seth W. Russell  
 WO1 Thomas W. Scott  
 WO1 Matthew P. Siegel  
 2LT Matthew A. Smalley  
 WO1 Anthony R. Smith  
 WO1 Marlon D. Stewart  
 WO1 Benjamin L. Strong  
 WO1 Luke T. Teel  
 WO1 Daniel I. Thompson  
 WO1 Thomas A. Underwood  
 WO1 Voltaire S. Valbuena  
 WO1 Jonathan R. Vollink  
 WO1 Robert A. Weber  
 Ms. Kelly Widener  
**BAVARIAN CHAPTER  
 HOHENFELS, GERMANY**  
 SFC Jamie A. Schull  
**BLACK KNIGHTS CHAPTER  
 WEST POINT, NY**  
 CDT William D. McCary  
**CENTRAL FLORIDA  
 CHAPTER  
 ORLANDO, FL**  
 Mr. Robert Abascal  
**COLONIAL VIRGINIA  
 CHAPTER  
 FORT EUSTIS, VA**  
 SPC David S. Hanson  
 1SG Eric L. Ivey  
 Mr. Paul W. Kylander  
 SFC Geoffrey L. Puppel  
 CW4 Kris A. Rogers  
**CONNECTICUT CHAPTER  
 STRATFORD, CT**  
 Mr. Shek C. Hong  
**CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPTER  
 CORPUS CHRISTI, TX**  
 Ms. Betsy Kay Hickman  
 Ms. Graciela T. Ramos  
 Mr. James A. Wagner  
**DELAWARE VALLEY  
 CHAPTER  
 PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
 MAJ Pete A. Ross

**FLYING TIGERS CHAPTER  
 FORT KNOX, KY**  
 CDT Terry A. Horn  
 CW4 Joseph R. Jennings  
 Ms. Susan S. Matsubara  
 CW4 Anne M. Sprute  
**GREATER ATLANTA  
 CHAPTER, ATLANTA, GA**  
 SFC Rafael G. Belardo, Ret.  
 MAJ Samuel F. Driver  
**HIGH DESERT CHAPTER  
 FORT IRWIN, CA**  
 CW3(P) William R. Liller  
 SSG Armando Ocon  
**IRON MIKE CHAPTER  
 FORT BRAGG, NC**  
 MAJ Jeffrey J. Dudley  
 SFC Alan S. Guardado  
 WO1 James R. Suggs, Jr.  
**JACK H. DIBRELL/ALAMO/  
 FORT SAM HOUSTON, TX**  
 Mr. Ron Blickley  
 Mr. Joe Bloom  
 Mr. John Bubacz  
 Mr. Steve Leland  
 Mr. Mike Newton  
**LINDBERGH CHAPTER  
 ST. LOUIS, MO**  
 Mr. Daniel White  
**MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES  
 CHAPTER  
 GRAND LEDGE, MI**  
 WO1 Rick J. Grimes  
**MIDNIGHT SUN CHAPTER  
 ANCHORAGE, AK**  
 CW3 Steven C. Henslee  
**MONMOUTH CHAPTER  
 FORT MONMOUTH, NJ**  
 Mr. Gene Carmenini  
 LTC Reed F. Young  
**MORNING CALM CHAPTER  
 SEOUL, KOREA**  
 LTC Anthony K. Cruz  
 CW3 Larry D. Macey  
 CPT Martin B. Mendez  
 CSM Franz J. Philippe  
**NORTH COUNTRY CHAPTER  
 FORT DRUM, NY**  
 Mr. Clint Gessner  
 SSG Glen W. Loving  
**NORTH STAR CHAPTER  
 ST. PAUL, MN**  
 SGT Guy Johnson  
**NORTHERN LIGHTS  
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 FORT WAINWRIGHT/  
 FAIRBANKS AK**  
 CW4 John S. Adcock  
 LTC Manley R. Alford  
 1SG Keith V. Cooper  
 CPT Andrew J. Dzus  
 MAJ Michael M. Gill  
 CW4 James R. Griffith  
 SFC Todd W. Haight  
 CW4 Ruston W. Henderson  
 CSM Timothy Johnston  
 MAJ James A. Jones

MAJ Joel L. Kain  
 CW2 John M. Lyons  
 MAJ Cheryl L. Martinez  
 CW2 Brian M. Smith  
 CW3 Randy L. Welcher  
**OLD TUCSON CHAPTER  
 MARANA, AZ**  
 Mr. Paul F. Nelepovitz  
**OREGON TRAIL CHAPTER  
 SALEM, OR**  
 SGT Carrie L. Jackson  
 SSG John R. Mueller  
**PHANTOM CORPS  
 CHAPTER, FORT HOOD, TX**  
 CW4 Ronald G. Ingram, Ret.  
**PIKES PEAK CHAPTER  
 FORT CARSON, CO**  
 Dr. Scott E. Gilles  
**RAGIN' CAJUN CHAPTER  
 FORT POLK, LA**  
 SFC Juan M. Pena  
**RHINE VALLEY CHAPTER  
 HEIDELBERG, GERMANY**  
 Mr. Greg L. Davis  
 LTC Patrick B. Day  
**SINAI CHAPTER  
 SINAI, EGYPT**  
 Ms. Kendi E. Williams  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
 CHAPTER  
 LOS ANGELES, CA**  
 Mr. Grady J. Eakin  
 MSG John H. Page Jr.  
**TARHEEL CHAPTER  
 RALEIGH, NC**  
 CW2 Garry D. Perry  
**TENNESSEE VALLEY  
 CHAPTER, HUNTSVILLE, AL**  
 Mr. Austin W. Boyd  
 LTC Charles A. Carter  
 Mr. Kevin J. Cook  
 Dr. Susan E. Cunningham  
 Ms. Betty Grymonprez  
 Mrs. Paula J. Hamblin  
 CW5 Jack B. Lawton, Ret.  
 Mr. Anthony J. Mance  
 CW5 J.L. Nance, Ret.  
 MAJ Al M. Niles, Jr.  
 Mr. David M. Rumney  
 COL Laura J. Sampsel  
 LTC John S. Womack  
**THUNDER MOUNTAIN  
 CHAPTER  
 SIERRA VISTA, AZ**  
 SFC Emanuel Hazel  
 PFC Jena C. Jones  
 1SG Krista M. Munyon, Ret.  
 Mr. Kenneth F. Sampson  
**UNIV OF NORTH DAKOTA  
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 GRAND FORKS, ND**  
 CDT Luis J. Marti  
 CDT Joshua D. Swedberg  
**VOLUNTEER CHAPTER  
 SMYRNA, TN**  
 1LT James E. Abernathy  
 SGT Claudia D. Adams

PFC Ronald J. Atchley  
 SSG Nina J. Carroll  
 SSG Michael L. Cauley  
 PFC Nicholas P. Chapin  
 SSG Daniel L. Cole  
 CW3 Michael L. Cole  
 CW5 Dimas Deleon  
 PFC Daniel C. Doan  
 SPC James M. Dutton  
 COL Many-Bears Grinder  
 PFC Jason P. Gustafson  
 Mr. Steve Hammer  
 CPT William T. Hill  
 MSG Patricia L. Hotovec-Copen  
 CPT Joseph J. Jenkins  
 SPC Justin T. Johnson  
 SSG Henry L. Lane  
 MAJ Beason T. Layne  
 SSG Michael E. Little  
 SFC Michael D. Mills  
 PFC Charles J. Overlay  
 2LT Michael A. Roybel  
 SSG Mike T. Russell  
 SSG Billy J. Sanders  
 LTC Michael Z. Sanyer  
 SFC Wesley L. Tankersley  
 SGT Michael P. Tigert  
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 1SG Gregory A. Patin  
**WASHINGTON-POTOMAC  
 CHAPTER  
 WASHINGTON, DC**  
 Mr. Gregory T. Foscue  
 Mr. Vance King  
 Mr. David R. Schwark  
 Mr. Theodore J. Wieworka  
**WRIGHT BROTHERS  
 CHAPTER  
 COLUMBUS, OHIO**  
 CPT William Chadwick  
  
**LOST MEMBERS**  
 Alexander, Paul J., CAPT, Ret.  
 Almodovar, A. R., Mr.  
 Baker, Cameron A., 2LT  
 Baker, Richard B., WO1  
 Barker, Franklin T., 2LT  
 Bishop, Kevin R., LTC  
 Bonasera, Charles A., LTC  
 Bovo, Troy L., 2LT  
 Brown, Doug, Mr.  
 Browne, Stephen, CPT  
 Bush, Vince, Mr.  
 Carroll, Jessica C., CDT  
 Connors, Paul H., WO1  
 Cope, Doug, Mr.  
 Dillo, James M., WO1  
 Engelson, Alex S., 2LT  
 Farrer, Judson W., WO1  
 Feezor, Alisha E., 2LT  
 Gilbert, Daryl T., CPT  
 Gonzales, Isaias, Mr.  
 Hamilton, Matthew R., CPT  
 Hansen, Robert J., CW2  
 Henderson, Nils D., 2LT  
 Herkenhoff, Bernie, Mr.  
 Hill, Jacob J., WO1



## CHAPTER NEWS



ARMY PHOTO BY LTC WILLIAM THURMOND

### Army National Guard

Soldiers from Grand Prairie Texas' 2nd Bn., 149th Avn. Regt. (ARNG), hold the nation's flag for the pre-race National Anthem prior to the start of the NASCAR Dickies 500 Nov. 5 at the Texas Motor Speedway.



### Jimmy Doolittle Chapter Memorial Fund Helps Children of Fallen Pilot

The Jimmy Doolittle Chapter, the Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 151st Avn. Regt., numerous Friends and Family, and the Munsch & Company Aero-mechanics have joined together to support the **CW4 Patrick Leach Memorial Fund**, an educational fund to help Leach's five children. Leach, a veteran pilot of Desert Storm, and 1LT Andrew C. Shields, were members of Co. A, 1-151st Avn., killed in a UH-60 accident in Mosul, Iraq on Dec. 9, 2004. The JDC and Munsch & Company will donate 100 percent of all proceeds from the sale of "Iraqi Highway Patrol-Aerial Enforcement-Can Do Easy" merchandise sales to the fund. For more information contact the Munsch & Co. Aeromechanics, 3708 MacGregor Dr., Columbia, SC 29206 or email: [donmunsch@bellsouth.net](mailto:donmunsch@bellsouth.net).



PHOTO BY CPT NICHOLAS UTZIG

### Big Red One Chapter

The BRO Chapter hosted its first annual golf tournament and membership drive on Sept. 27 at the Colbert Hills Country Club in Manhattan, Kan. The chapter recently moved from Germany to Fort Riley and merged with the Mid-America Chapter. The event was a great success drawing over 60 participants and many new AAAA members. Pictured above, Kansas Lt. Governor John Moore shares a golf cart with BRO Chapter President COL Bob Johnson. Many thanks to AAAA National for help with support funding for this outstanding event.



ARMY PHOTO BY SSG KEVIN DOHENEY

### Air Assault Chapter Welcome Home

Thirty-one UH-60 Black Hawks from the 4th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., 159th Cbt. Avn. Bde., returned home Nov. 17 to Sabre Army Heliport at Fort Campbell, Ky. The aircrews arrived after flying all day from Jacksonville, Fla., where the aircraft were off loaded from ships and reassembled back to flying condition. This event marked the end of the battalion's year-long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# ARMY AVIATION

## Upcoming Special Focus:

### JANUARY ISSUE

**Product Support  
Maintenance**

### FEBRUARY ISSUE

**PM Hardware Updates**

**Contact: Bob Lachowski  
Advertising Director**

Tel: (203) 268-2450 x131

E-mail: bob@quad-a.org

## Upcoming Events

### JANUARY 2007

- Jan 17-19 **AUSA ILW Aviation Symposium & Exhibition**, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- Jan 22-26 **Aviation Senior Leaders Conference**, Fort Rucker, AL
- Jan 24 **AAAA National Functional Awards Dinner**, Fort Rucker, AL
- Jan 26 **AAAA Scholarship Executive Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA
- Jan 27 **National Awards Committee Selection Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA

### FEBRUARY 2007

- Feb 14-15 **Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium**, Huntsville, AL

### MARCH 2007

- Mar 1-3 **HAI Heli-Expo 2007**, Orlando FL
- Mar 7-9 **AUSA Winter Symposium**, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### MAY 2007

- May 1-3 **AHS 63rd Annual Forum & Technology Display**, Virginia Beach, VA
- May 9-12 **AAAA 2007 Annual Convention & 50th Anniversary Celebration**, Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA

### JULY 2007

- Jul 4-7 **VHPA 24th National Reunion**, Phoenix, AZ
- Jul 20 **AAAA Scholarship Executive Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA
- Jul 21 **AAAA Scholarship Selection Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA



## ARMY AVIATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (AAAA)

755 MAIN STREET, SUITE 4D, MONROE, CT 06468 • PHONE (203) 268-2450 • FAX (203) 268-5870

Please check one:  Change of Address  New Membership Application

I wish to join the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA). My past or current duties affiliate me with U.S. Army Aviation and I wish to further the aims and purposes of the AAAA. I understand that my membership includes a subscription to AAAA's official magazine *Army Aviation*, and that my membership will start on the subsequent first of the month. Contributions or gifts to AAAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments may be deductible by members as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

Rank/GS Grade	First Name	MI	Last Name	Sex
Mailing Address				
Mailing Address				
City	State		Zip + 4 Code	
Active Duty or Civilian Job Title and Unit or Firm name			E-Mail	
Area Code	Office Phone	Area Code	Residence Phone	Area Code FAX
Consent: <input type="checkbox"/> I do <input type="checkbox"/> I do not consent to the publication or release of the above information to third parties.				
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Citizenship	Nickname		Spouse's Name	
Date of Birth (Mo/Yr)				

### AAAA ANNUAL DUES

Applications other than those listed below:  
 ( ) 1 yr, \$26; ( ) 2 yrs, \$47; ( ) 3 yrs, \$70  
 Full-Time Students; Enlisted; WO1s; GS-8 DACs & Below;  
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 ( ) 1 yr, \$15; ( ) 2 yrs, \$27; ( ) 3 yrs, \$39  
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- ( ) Army Active Duty ( ) Defense Industry
- ( ) ARNG ( ) AGR ( ) Foreign Military Service
- ( ) USAR ( ) AGR ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) DAC \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Army Retired ( ) Former \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) Other US Military Service \_\_\_\_\_

Check (✓) Your Professional Qualification: /

Are you a former AAAA member?  Yes  No

If yes, what year did you join? \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation Preferred \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Recruiter \_\_\_\_\_





# In the Beginning of AAAA Fifty Years Ago

## Army National Guard Aviation, AAAA and the Total Force Policy

By Dr. Michael D. Doubler

*Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a forthcoming article by Dr. Mike Doubler on AAAA's relationship with the Army National Guard and support for the citizen-Soldiers. Watch for this article in the 50th Anniversary Special Edition of ARMY AVIATION magazine in the spring of 2007.*

Since 1636, the National Guard has provided a wide range of capabilities in support of the nation's defenses. This has never been truer than with the development of the Army National Guard (ARNG) aviation force.

An important aspect of that story has been the close ties between AAAA and ARNG aviation. This relationship has flourished under the Total Force Policy, a Department of Defense program that relies upon citizen-Soldiers just as much as active duty personnel to defend the country.

The ARNG aviation program was born in 1948, almost a full decade before the start of AAAA in 1957.

The same year AAAA was organized ARNG aviation included only 1,154 qualified pilots with an inventory of 640 fixed wing aircraft and 107 observation helicopters.

No one has been more responsible for the development of ARNG aviation than retired COL John J. Stanko. A member of the Army Air Corps in World War II, he became a light aircraft pilot in the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1954.

Since the day he volunteered, Stanko loved serving with the Guard until his civilian retirement in 1993 as chief of the ARNG Aviation Division.

By the time of his retirement, ARNG aviation was arguably the largest, separate military aviation

force in the world, consisting of 2,800 helicopters, 150 fixed wing aircraft, and 6,800 aviators.

Advocacy of AAAA was a constant theme of Stanko's long aviation career. Stanko is quick to point out a unique aspect of AAAA's founding; of the 45 charter members, 13 were Guard state aviation officers.

MG Raymond F. Rees, the current Adjutant General of Oregon, personified the close cooperation between ARNG aviation and AAAA in the 1980s and 1990s. Following a combat tour in Vietnam, he became rated in the OH-58 and AH-1 during a tour of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division.

In addition to multiple tours as the Adjutant General of Oregon, Rees' most recent senior assignments include: director of the Army National Guard; vice chief of the National Guard Bureau; and chief of staff of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command.

All through these key assignments, Rees has advocated the important role of AAAA to ARNG aviation.

"AAAA is very helpful and supportive for the Total Force Policy, not just superficial things, but real substance," Rees said.

When the Army began the planning and execution of the Army Aviation Modernization Plan in the 1990s, Rees served as the chairman of a Guard task force to consider the program. As a result, AAAA proved helpful in insuring that Guard aviation assets were equally distributed across the country.

In recent years, retired COL Robert E. Godwin has come to the forefront as a citizen-Soldier aviator who has strengthened the ties between the Guard and AAAA while advancing the Total Force Policy. Under Godwin's leadership, ARNG aviation and AAAA have collaborated to promote simulations technologies for all of Army aviation.

A clear example of the Total Force Policy in action came with the can-



Alaska Army National Guard troops from a Long Range Surveillance Detachment rappel from a UH-1H helicopter during winter training in 1996.

cellation of the Comanche, when the Guard and AAAA worked together to provide funding for recognized ARNG shortfalls.

Today, as many as 20 AAAA chapters have a majority membership of Guard aviators.

With the war on terror, the ARNG aviation community can clearly declare, "We are there!"

Whether flying high altitude missions in Afghanistan's eastern mountains, conducting combat and support missions over Iraq's urban centers, or rescuing American citizens from Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters; ARNG aviation has indeed proven that it is a full partner in the Total Force.

If the last fifty years are an indicator, ARNG aviation and AAAA will certainly enjoy a supportive and mutually beneficial relationship in the decades to come.

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Dr. Michael D. Doubler is a historian and the author of "Civilian in Peace, Soldier in War: The Army National Guard, 1636-2000" and resides in Alexandria, Va.