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JANUARY 31, 2007

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Bruce Alexander
C-17 Modification
and Support



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Paid advertisement. VT Miltope's ruggedized laptop computer expands its U.S. Army Aviation functionality with the integration of the Centralized Aviation Flight Records System (CAFRS). Mitigating mission risk is what it's all about and VT Miltope is proud of its Army Aviation rugged computing legacy that includes Aviation Mission Planning System (AMPS), Maintenance Support Device (MSD), Blue Force Tracking (BFT), Unit Level Logistics System – Aviation (ULLS-A), Aviation Turbine Engine Diagnostics System (ATEDS), and Common Platform Maintenance Environment (CPME) programs. *Caption provided by advertiser.*

Briefings...

LATE-BREAKING NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS NOTES**Top 2006 Aviation Battalions Recognized**

The U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center honored the recipients of the 2006 LTG Ellis D. Parker Awards at an annual awards luncheon Jan. 24 during the Aviation Senior Leaders Conference at Fort Rucker, Ala. Each year the Parker Awards recognize the top aviation battalions throughout the Army for their excellence, leadership, training, maintenance and safety records. The Overall Top Aviation Battalion and winner in the combat service support category is Task Force Freedom, the 277th Avn. Spt. Bn. from Fort Drum, N.Y. The best in the combat support category is the 5th Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., Fort Campbell, Ky. The top unit in the combat category is the 3rd Bn., 101st Avn. Regt., also from Fort Campbell. The top table of distribution and allowances unit is the 1st Bn., 223rd Avn. Regt., Fort Rucker.

C-27J Completes JCA Program Evaluations

According to a Dec. 5 industry news release, the C-27J Spartan offered by the L-3, Alenia North America and Boeing team remains in the running for the Joint Cargo Aircraft program. The C-27J had completed three weeks of Air Force and Army evaluations at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., and Fort Rucker, Ala. Part of the evaluation included: the loading of cargo pallets; roll-on and -off of Humvee; re-configuration of the aircraft for cargo, medevac, troop and combination missions; and take-offs and landings into and out of assault zones and austere airstrips. The other JCA contract contender is the C-295, offered by EADS CASA North America and Raytheon, which completed its evaluation in October. A decision on the JCA is expected in 2007.

Pentagon Partially Faulted for 2004 Afghan Crash

A National Transportation Safety Board report released Dec. 4 indicated the Pentagon was partially responsible for the Nov. 27, 2004 crash of a contracted airplane in Afghanistan that killed six people. The Defense Department was cited with poor oversight of Presidential Airways of Melbourne, Fla., flying military missions in the war zone. The NTSB report stated the agency is "concerned that the unique risks presented by operations in remote overseas locations have not been adequately addressed for civilian contractors that provide air transportation services to the U.S. military." Some of the key findings include: the military requires planes it charts to be equipped with a device that allows the aircraft's flight route to be tracked from the ground. This aircraft did not have one and searchers did not locate the crash site for nearly 24 hours. The pilots were not using supplemental oxygen, a requirement on flights above 10,000 feet for prolonged periods. The NTSB reported the CASA 212 pilots were flying in a remote mountainous region when they entered a tight canyon ringed by peaks as high as 16,580 feet. The aircraft tried to climb over the mountains, but crashed at 14,650 feet. The lack of oxygen at altitude can interfere with a pilot's mental abilities. The NTSB said it found no evidence that the military had tried to enforce the rules. The crash killed pilots Noel English and Loren Hammer, mechanic Melvin Rowe, and passengers LTC Michael McMahon, CWO Travis Grogan and SPC Harley Miller.

Joseph P. Cribbins**Aviation Product Symposium****"Transformation: Technology on the Battlefield"****February 14-15, 2007, Huntsville, Ala.****Visit quad-a.org for more information**

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A New Year . . .

As we enter the dawn of a New Year, I have a couple of significant data points for you.

First, we are at a 13-year high in membership with 15,518 strong.

This is a great tribute to all of you in our 66 chapters who recruit new members, retain the current ones, and provide all the local activities and support that our troops so much appreciate and deserve.

Secondly, we are also at our strongest financial position ever, exceeding even last year's record net revenue of almost \$500,000.

This allowed us to spend \$175,000 on direct grants to our chapters to support numerous "Welcome Home" ceremonies and other events; and to contribute to the AAAA Scholarship Foundation, the Army Aviation Hall of Fame, the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, the Army Museum, and the Fort Campbell Museum as well.

The 2006 end of year results will provide us the funds to support all of these, as well as to help underwrite a book to be distributed to the families of our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery, and support our 50th Anniversary celebrations this year.

Most importantly, these funds will allow us to begin a new AAAA program for our enlisted Soldiers.

This year the AAAA will underwrite the purchase of Army



AAAA Spouse's Corner

I had the pleasure of meeting Kim Larson in December in Arlington, Va.

Her husband is SFC Terry Larson, Platoon Sgt. for the Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems Plt. with Co. A (Fwd), 634th MI Bn., Minn. Army National Guard.

Kim's article (on page 42 of this issue) is appropriate this month as her husband's unit is recognized for being selected as the AAAA UAS Unit of the Year.

We look forward to more articles from our spouses, who truly are the hearts and souls of our Army.

Fondly,
Judy Konitzer
Chairwoman
AAAA Spouse Committee



Look for the 2007 AAAA Convention insert bound in this issue of ARMY AVIATION.

Aviation Crew Member badges to be awarded to all of our future enlisted graduates.

The bottom line is AAAA is bigger and stronger than ever as we enter our 50th Anniversary year.

A copy of the 2007 Convention Registration Packet is bound into this issue of the magazine for your convenience, and is also available online at www.quad-a.org.

As you will see, we have many great events planned in May.

There is an outstanding Spouses' program that includes a family outing to Stone Mountain on Tuesday afternoon, to the same location as the Golf Tournament.



Visit quad-a.org for more information on the Joseph P. Cribbins Product Support Symposium Feb. 14-15, 2007 in Huntsville, AL

Then there is the Hall of Fame Induction dinner on Friday night, the Saturday evening banquet with Darryl Worley as entertainment, and a number of opportunities throughout the celebration to honor our Founders, the Cub Club, and the Hall of Fame members.

I invite all of you, and especially our early AAAA members, to make an effort to attend so we can honor you and what you have accomplished by forming, strengthening and sustaining this great organization.

Finally, we look forward to seeing many of you at the Joseph P. Cribbins Product Support Symposium Feb. 14-15 in Huntsville, Ala. Please see the AAAA website for registration details.

AAAA: Supporting the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier, this is what it is all about!

Tom Konitzer
AAAA President
president@quad-a.org

UH-72A LAKOTA: MADE FOR THE MISSION

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The U.S. Army selected the UH-145 in June 2006 to serve America as its new Light Utility Helicopter and the EADS North America industry team is already delivering. Renamed the UH-72A Lakota at its first delivery in December 2006, the Lakota is an American-built, technologically advanced helicopter that will provide the best value to the Army and the American taxpayer. The Army's new UH-72A: proudly supporting our nation's defense and homeland security for decades to come.

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the Mission.

www.uh-72A.com





Update To Lessons Learned Integration

By MG Virgil L. Packett II

The Army Aviation Warfighting Center is helping with lessons learned integration from ongoing operations around the world. Here a 172nd Stryker Bde. Cbt. Tm. lieutenant speaks with an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot during a joint U.S. and Iraqi army cordon and search operation for hidden weapon caches near Sinjar in the Ninawa Province of Iraq, May 31, 2006.



DOD PHOTO BY USAF SSGT JACOB BAILEY



ARMY GRAPHIC

The *Tactics Division Newsletter* is a bi-monthly publication of the Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

The U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center (USAAWC) continues to make tremendous progress with Lessons Learned Integration or L2I.

In light of all the changes in this area, I felt it important to share with everyone the steps we have taken to help prepare our Soldiers and make sure they are relevant and ready.

Last year USAAWC stood up a Tactics Division and a Lessons Learned Branch within the Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

The concept was to create a better path to provide aviation Soldiers the appropriate information exchange capability required to share observations, insights and lessons, while integrating new lessons learned into our rubric.

Although these organizations are in-

involved in numerous activities focused on L2I, two aspects of their work are increasingly important to the warfighter: the *Tactics Division Newsletter* and the web portal.

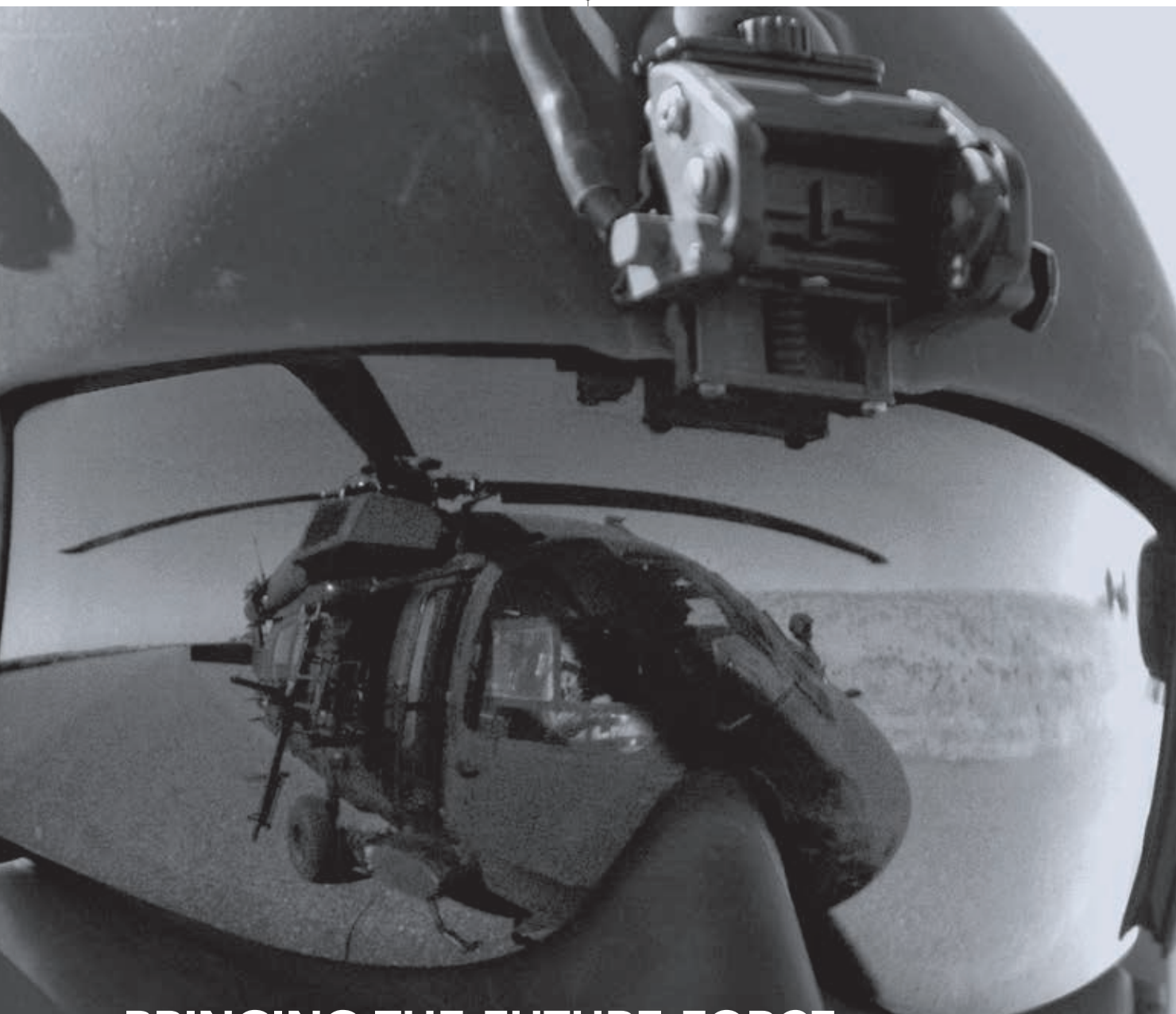
The Tactics Division Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication focused on providing warfighters with timely and relevant lessons learned information.

Written at the unclassified level for widest dissemination, the newsletter contains today's information for tomorrow's fight.

The newsletter is accessible through the USAAWC web portal, Army Knowledge Online, and is also pushed to all the aviation brigade and battalion commanders.

The USAAWC has a classified website at <http://aviation.portal.inscom.army.smil.mil>.

An updated links section of the web portal, including descriptions with each link,



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DOD PHOTO BY USAF SSGT SHANE A. CUOMO

Early lessons and tactics, techniques and procedures developed and learned by other units deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan helped with pre-deployment preparations and training of such units as Co. H, 171st Avn. Regt., a C-23B Sherpa aircraft unit, here unloading Soldiers at an airfield in Iraq, Dec. 16, 2004.

has helped eliminate the guesswork when beginning research for aviation related material.

Additionally, three subject areas have been added to divide documents into pre-deployment, deployment and re-deployment categories to further simplify search efforts.

The goal of the newsletter is to assist Soldiers with research or put them in contact with a subject matter expert who can.

The Lessons Learned Cell's mission is to collect, analyze, manage and disseminate knowledge gained through operational experiences, exercises and supporting activities that enable Army Aviation professionals to achieve higher levels of performance.

They provide information and analysis on emerging issues and trends in support of commanders in the field through various means.

This past year, connecting with the L2I team via the internet has become increasingly popular.



DOD PHOTO BY USN PH2 KATRINA BEELER

A 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., Soldier watches as UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters prepare to land June 15, 2006 to extract his unit after participating in an air assault to conduct a cordon and search operation on a suspected insurgent's home in Ash Shumali, Iraq. It's lessons learned from operations as this one that help to change doctrine and training for Aviation warfighters.

To give a sense of just how much interest has been generated around L2I, the website I listed earlier averages around 800 hits per week.

This clearly demonstrates that our Soldiers have a vested interest in L2I, and this interest is increasing as people become more familiar with the tools and resources of the Lessons Learned Branch and Tactics Division.

The kind of insights and lessons found in the newsletter vary widely, but what follows is a sampling from the October issue concerning effective mission planning from a recently deployed unit.

The best example of centralized, collective mission planning I've observed was 4-101 of the 159th CAB.

This battalion established a system of networked planning stations, shared folders and shared drives.

They used the ATO cycle naming convention for the architecture of their shared folder mission numbers.

The Air Mission Request (AMR) cell would dump the mission in the corresponding folder.

The S-2 would insert a FalconView draw file of the most current threat overlay of the area of operations (AO).

The flight operations personnel would add a blank automated DA 5484-R.

This mission briefing form automatically updated or filled the appropriate fields in the risk assessment, the EPA and the mission communications card.

This is exactly the kind of useful information we want to share with our Aviation Soldiers.

If one organization has found success, we want others to have access to this information to help foster their own accomplishments.

In order to assist the Tactics Division in this effort, the Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) has embedded a representative here with the USAAWC.

He brings improved collaboration abilities with the CALL for sharing, collecting and disseminating lessons learned and support for answering requests for information.

The CALL collects and analyzes data from a variety of current and historical sources, including Army operations and training events, and produces lessons for military commanders, staff, and students.

CALL disseminates these lessons and other related research materials through a variety of print and electronic media, including their web site at <https://call.army.mil>.

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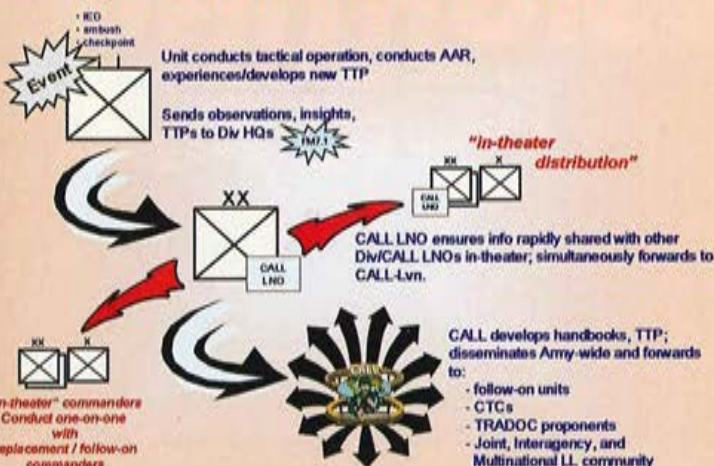
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The Center for Army Lessons Learned (CALL) has a representative embedded with the USAAWC's Tactics Division to help with lessons learned integration. ARMY GRAPHIC

As CALL expands its mission focus and capabilities, they have employed embeds and combined arms assessment teams (CAAT) to the contemporary operating environment.

These initiatives help identify significant issues and insights, provide near real-time situational awareness and tactics, techniques and procedures, and coordinate and collaborate to develop solutions for the warfighter.

We must continue to generate and apply creative solutions faster and more effectively than our enemies can generate adaptive dilemmas and challenges.

Additionally, we must continue to seek ways to enable the decision-making process and our Aviation leadership.

Knowledge refinement, complete use of L2I resources, and dialog with the appropriate subject matter experts at the Aviation Warfighting Center will enable us to generate solutions and capabilities faster and more effectively than our enemy.

This becomes more significant as we look to the future of the global war on terrorism and as we continue our transformation.

Our willingness and effectiveness in sharing lessons learned will enable those warfighters who follow to be more proficient and safer, and to rapidly ensure that Aviation remains ready for any test.

I challenge every commander to ensure your lessons learned and best practices are rapidly inputted into the system.

My promise to you is the information will be incorporated into the schoolhouse and codified in our doctrine, training, materiel and leader development.

Above the Best!



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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Aviation Warfighter Update and Farewell

By CSM Buford Thomas, Jr.

Editor's note: *We are grateful to retiring CSM Buford Thomas for his outstanding commitment to provide timely updates to you the reader. This is his final column. Thank you CSM Thomas for your superb job and leadership, and we wish you and your family all the best in the next chapter of your lives.*

I am honored to be invited to write one last article for this distinguished magazine.

It has been an honor serving our branch with approximately 60,000 aviation Soldiers of which about 32,000 are enlisted Soldiers.

As I transition out of the Army, I reflect on the many challenges and accomplishments we have faced as we here at the Army Aviation Warfighting Center and throughout the Aviation Branch train the world's finest aviators, and air traffic control, operations and aviation maintenance Soldiers.

We have successfully prepared our Soldiers to accomplish their mission, perform their duties with distinction, and fight the global war on terrorism with abilities and talents unlike any others in the world.

During my tenure as your branch CSM, I have seen Army Aviation transform in a way that no other branch has.

Army Aviation is without peer, in its ability to adapt and overcome.

I want to touch on the highlights of the past two years that this great branch undertook and accomplished.

Aircraft New Starts Systems

The new additional skill identifiers (ASI) will assist in assigning Soldiers to units that have or are being fielded with the new helicopter platforms.

The A9 ASI identifies 15F, 15N, 15T and 15U military occupational skill (MOS) Soldiers qualified on the new CH-47F Chinook and UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

The project development skill identifier, or PDSI, helps to track Soldiers who will receive new equipment training or mobile team training and further identifies them for



As transformation progresses, the Aviation branch is working a series of military occupational skill transitions as new aircraft, such as the ARH-70A, CH-47F, UH-60M and UH-72A, are fielded and older systems are phased out. ARMY PHOTO BY REBECCA E. TONN

future training and/or assignments.

The E6B PDSI identifies the 15F aircraft electrician and 15N avionics mechanics trained and qualified on UH-60M aircraft modernized systems.

The E7B identifies the CH-47F Chinook qualified 15F and 15N Soldiers.

The transition course for the 15F and 15N combines the UH-60M and CH-47F systems.

The Y1 ASI identifies the 15J OH-58D armament/electrical/avionics systems and 15S OH-58D helicopter repairers who successfully complete the ARH transition course.

UAS Personnel Transition

The 96U unmanned aerial vehicle operator will become 15W starting on and after Oct. 1, 2008.

The 33W military intelligence systems maintainer/integrator will become a 15J OH-58D or ARH-70A armament/electrical/avionics system repairer between fiscal years 2008 and 2010.

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The Airframe & Powerplant Certification Program was activated in October to help Soldiers like UH-60 crew chief SGT Shaun Bradley, 3rd Bn., 142nd Avn. Regt., here inspecting connections on his aircraft, to obtain certifications for civilian aviation career opportunities.

As an exception to policy, the U2 and U3 ASI training became available to 15Js last March and these ASIs can be awarded to those who complete the training.

The 52D power-generation equipment repairer becomes a 15B aircraft powerplant repairer or a 15G aircraft structural repairer (for the Hunter UAV only) between FY08 and 2010.

Transfer of those positions will be spread out over a three year period to allow train-up of aviation Soldiers to fill the positions.

The F1B PDSI (indicating a UAS background) is authorized for 96U, 35K and 15W who have completed the advanced non-commissioned officers course (ANCOC), either at Fort Huachuca or Fort Rucker, to track them for future UAS assignments at the E-8 grade for 15Z.

Consolidated Training

The N2 ASI for non-destructive testing training has been absorbed into the 15D aircraft powertrain repairer initial entry training and basic NCO course, with a training start date this January.

The 15H aircraft pneumatics repairer training also started in January at its new home here at Fort Rucker.

The aviation ground power unit training, which transferred from Ordnance to Aviation, is now being taught in both IET and BNCOC.

The last class to go through the Air Force apprentice aircraft pneumatics system specialist course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas completed training on Dec.18.

Aviation Badge

On Jan. 17, 2006, BG E.J. Sinclair signed a proposal to add the 96U, 35K, 15W, 350U, 350K and 150U to the award criteria for the Aviation Badge.

Soldiers who have completed training in one of these MOSs after July 31, 1993 are eligible for award of the basic or a subsequent senior or master Aviation Badge.

Last June this proposal was forwarded to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower & Reserves Affairs for staffing.

Currently this proposal is with the Center of Military History and when complete, this action will return to the Army staff for legal review by the Office of the General Counsel, then approval or disapproval by the Asst. Secretary.

There is no estimated approval date at this time.

15A ALSS Repairer

Currently, the aviation life support equipment (ALSE) maintenance is managed by the Q2 ASI and Soldiers fill positions by assignment only. Over the years the requirements for the ALSE specialist have increased significantly.

The establishment of the 15A aviation life support system repairer will provide units with a full time repairer throughout a Soldier's life cycle and end the ASI assignment dilemma.

This action is currently under review by the Human Resources Command (HRC) and the branch awaits an approval decision.

Professional Development

Aviation Proponency (AP) has worked extensively with the HRC to develop the Interactive Professional Development Models (IPDM), which will enhance the Soldier's capability to make his/her own career decisions by providing vital information at their finger tips.

The new program enables Soldiers to go to their respective MOS, click on links that provide a multitude of information on their MOS, and be able to set themselves up for success in their aviation career.

AP also worked with the Training and Doctrine Command to develop chapters for all 15 series MOS to meet G-1 standards for major duties, prerequisites and developmental goals for all active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers under DA PAM 600-25, Army NCO Professional Development Guide.

Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay

The last HDIP increase occurred in January 1999.

Since then enlisted base pay has increased about 34 percent with no comparable increase to HDIP.

The Aviation Branch has requested that HDIP be raised through a Congressional legislative initiative, which includes an increase for enlisted in the Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

Currently, the Army Incentive Pay Branch at HRC is awaiting DOD to establish a working group to address this action.

Combat Developments

The new M240H machine gun with the high capacity feed system has been fielded for Army aircraft. The weapon is lighter and easier for gunners to operate and place effective fire on targets.

The Army Aviation Combat Uniform (A2CU) design with enhanced fire retardant protection was finalized and is being fielded.

The Soldier as a System (SaaS) accepted the proposed combat laser designator pointer (CLDP) and is undergoing

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ARMY PHOTO BY MSG DOUG SAMPLE

Fort Rucker's NCO Academy is working with the Army Aviation Logistics School to revise the content of training and incorporate maintenance and logistic manager skills for the aviation maintainer NCO courses. This will help benefit the professional development of NCOs like CPL Nate Carter, top, and SSG Christopher Chambers, with the 277th Avn. Spt. Bn., Mississippi ARNG, here installing a CH-47D swash plate April 17, 2006 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

approval. If approved, this finger pointer worn by a pilot or crewmember will increase target identification to ground forces and help reduce fratricide.

The purchase and wear of the all cotton Marine Foliage Green T-shirt for Army aviation was authorized. This shirt does not melt in extreme heat situations, making it suitable for aviation ground forces and aircrews.

Non-rated Crewmember Course

The NRC course is in final stages of development and will standardize training for aviation mechanics and flight engineers with an exportable training package.

AR 600-106, Flying Status for Non-rated Army Aviation Personnel, includes an approval of full crewmember pay for flight platoon sergeants and door gunners serving in UH-60 or CH-47 units.

Door gunners must be assigned to a deployed or deploying tactical unit to an imminent danger/hostile fire area to qualify.

Virtual Helicopter Aircrew Trainer

The VHAT will afford aviation units the opportunity to train crewmembers on crew and door gunnery skills.

It makes the best possible use of on-hand resources, while enhancing gunnery skills without increasing flight hours, or endangering lives or aircraft.

NCOES

The 15K40 ANCOC is the only course with a technical track with the additional skill set of being a production control NCO.

The individual shop training portion had to be revamped to incorporate the Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation Enhanced, logistics operations and unit movements.

The first class to receive the revised course began in October.

Fort Rucker's Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) is working with the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School (USAALS) to revise the programs of instruction for the aviation maintainer ANCOC to incorporate maintenance and logistic manager skills.

A revision of the basic noncommissioned officer course was implemented in June.

Lesson plans now reflect the current operating environment and enhances the technical inspector (TI) skills, with a focus on advanced troubleshooting, diagnostics/prognostics.

Students learn what they need to know in signing-off back shops work outside of their MOS in order to eliminate the limited TI.

Fort Rucker's NCOA is working with the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy to revise the 15P aviation operation specialist and 15Q air traffic controller BNCOC to incorporate battle staff training into courses, and award students with the 2S ASI for battle staff qualification.

A&P Certification Program

The Airframe & Powerplant Certification Program was activated in October and currently has 30 Soldiers enrolled.

Enrollment is easy by downloading and completing the online A&PCP enrollment form and mailing or faxing the form to the program manager as indicated.

Upon receipt of the enrollment form the program manager will verify eligibility, and then send the course materials to the applicant.

The Soldier's chain of command will receive an email acknowledging the Soldier's official enrollment.

The Army Aviation A&P Certification website is still under construction at this time.

All efforts were made to establish an information link to the USAALS intranet website, which is available at <http://www.usaals.army.mil/portal.asp>.

Once the official website is established, the chain of command will be notified and those soldiers that are currently enrolled in the A&P Program will have their information inputted by the A&P administrator with no impact to the Soldier or organization.

Fort Rucker's Education Center and the NCOA are working with Enterprise-Ozark Community College to establish an associate degree program for our maintenance and our aviation operations air traffic controller Soldiers.

Final Farewell Thoughts

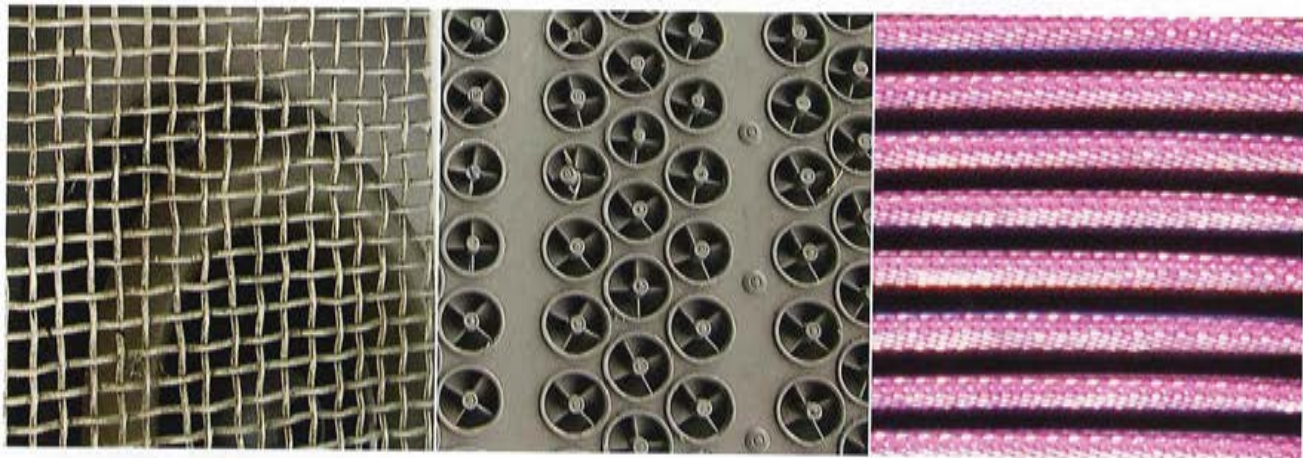
Obviously, as you can tell, the Army is going through significant changes.

These changes and transformations are necessary to enforce and enhance our Soldiers' capabilities and keep up with the ever-changing technologies and applications in our modern world today.

I have been blessed to be a part of this great Army and observe its evolution over the past 30 plus years.

As I say goodbye, I want to give a word of thanks to a few organizations which I have worked with closely to

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NAVY PHOTO BY PH1 BRIAN JHO

The reserve component of Army aviation has an important role in homeland defense and the Aviation Center works in conjunction with the Guard Bureau and Reserves to support issues. Here a Guardsman responds to disaster relief efforts in New Orleans following flooding from Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

accomplish our mission.

First, thanks to the Aviation Soldiers serving around the world for all you do for our great Army.

Second, thanks to the Army Aviation Warfighting Center command team, Directors, U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, the UAS Training Battalion, the two National Guard Training Centers, the Corpus Christi

Army Depot, the Aviation Assignment Branch at HRC, the Aviation and Missile Command, all the retirees, civilians and contractors, and AAAA for your unwavering support to ensure our Aviation Soldiers have the best training, equipment and manning level to take the fight to our adversaries.

On Jan. 22, I passed the reins to CSM Donald R. Sanders, the 15th Command Sergeant Major of the Aviation Branch.

CSM Sanders is more than capable and ready to move the Aviation Branch enlisted programs to the next level.

Our Commanding General, MG Virgil Packett, II, could not have made a better selection to lead our Soldiers of the Aviation Branch in this new era of warfighting.

Again, thank you to all the Soldiers and civilians I have served with during my career.

I will never forget what a unique and powerful group of individuals you are and what each and every one of you do daily in service and protection to our nation.

I am comfortable in the fact our Army is in great hands. Above the Best and God Bless America.

NSDQ!



CSM Buford Thomas, Jr. served as the 14th command sergeant major of the Aviation branch at the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center, Fort Rucker, Ala. He retires after more than 30 years of service to the nation.



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Aviation Ground Support Equipment

Not What We Used To Be

SPECIAL FOCUS PRODUCT SUPPORT

By Bernard Gajkowski and
Roderick Bellows

The hard part of doing the mission is getting there and having the right type and quantity of equipment.

The optempo is very high for units preparing to deploy and the added burden of equipment deficiencies or availability is very frustrating.

The Product Manager for Aviation Ground Support Equipment (PM-AGSE) is working to reduce aviation ground support issues and enhance aviation maintenance capabilities.

PM-AGSE has established a Preset team that visits each unit before deployment in conjunction with a Program Executive Office for Aviation team.

Ideally this would be 180 days prior to a deployment. The AGSE Preset team has several responsibilities.

One is for the team to do a property book inventory of the unit's ground support equipment, to determine table of organization & equipment (TO&E) shortages and/or review unit provided shortage list.

Second, review conditions and status of tools sets, kits and outfits to ensure compliance with aerospace quality and available authorization.

Third, review status and condition of aviation ground support equipment for modification work order (MWO)



Nitrogen Backpack System

compliance, provide electronic copies of updated AGSE manuals and specific maintenance repair procedures for contractor supported items.

After the AGSE Preset Team returns, they will review all TO&E shortages, work with the specific major commands (MACOM) for internal fills, then look outside the MACOM for fills and finally, if AGSE is in a cycle for a scheduled procurement, fill shortages with new buys.

The shortage reviews are managed by each MACOM and are tracked line by line; our goal is to have the deploying unit with 100 percent of their equipment either on hand or theater provided equipment as a suitable substitute.

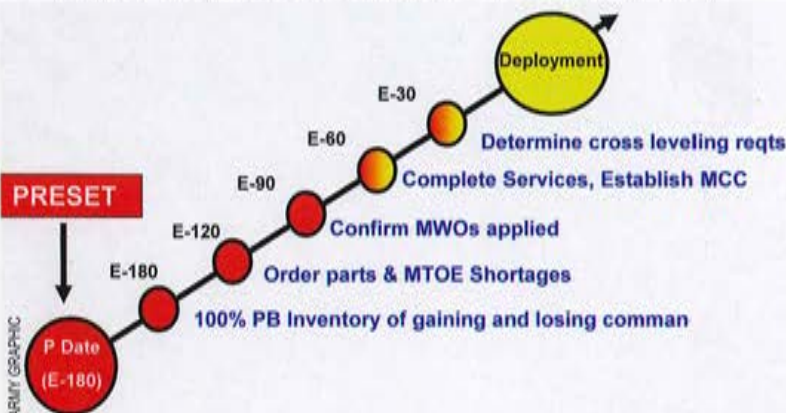
Most AGSE shortages are major items and are not stocked, which would require new buys/orders and is very difficult to meet deployment timelines.

Finally, the AGSE Team begins coordination to set up an AGSE week with the unit, usually 60 to 90 days before deployment.

AGSE will send a contact team to the unit to conduct training with the aviation ground power unit (AGPU), the unit maintenance aerial recovery kit, the generic aviation nitrogen generator, corrosion prevention and control, the non-destructive test equipment, and depending on availability, the digital aircraft weight scales and the aviation vibration analyzer.

In an on-going effort to capture the needs that Soldiers experience while in theater, meet doctrinal split operations requirements, and provide flexibility and mobility on the battlefield, the PM-AGSE is continually reviewing near, mid and long term solutions.

To meet current mission surges and requirements, theater-based AGSE has been positioned to provide support for both Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Warranty Tools Store

The intent is to have commercial-off-the-shelf items provided as interim solutions on the battlefield as we develop long term solutions, using "lessons learned" and site visits into theater.

The theater provided AGSE is supported and maintained by the Aviation and Missile Command's Theater Aviation Single Manager or TASM.

The TASM deploys AGSE contact teams throughout theater to assist units with maintenance and training.

The following are a list of items and quantities provided by PM-AGSE through the TASM:

- Aviation Ground Power Units: 7 repair cycle floats (RCF).
- Generic Aircraft Nitrogen Generator: 3 RCFs.
- Warranty Tools: there is a store in Iraq and Afghanistan to allow Soldiers to exchange unserviceable aviation hand tools on the spot.
- Aircraft Towing System: 60.
- Aircraft Wash System: 20/85.
- Nitrogen Backpack: 80.
- Turbine Engine Wash System: 60.
- Aviation Vibration Analyzer: 7.

Transformation and modularity have generated changes in long range strategic thinking and near term requirements. PM-AGSE has positioned itself to support unit design changes.

Between fiscal year 2007 and FY2010, PM-AGSE is procuring tool kits, maintenance stands, fuel quantity



Aircraft Wash Systems

testers, swaging kits, A92s and several other items to meet the unit equipping requirements.

A bridging strategy to modernization is the current procurement of seventeen A92 (AVUM #2), in 3rd quarter of FY07, which will be sent as theater provided equipment (TPE) to provide a capability for units when they arrive in Theater and meet tooling requirements.

The future is very bright for PM-AGSE and its advances in supporting the Army aviation community.

The PM shop manages over 45 different line item numbers, which includes such items as the aviation intermediate maintenance shop set (AVIM SS), flexible engine diagnostic system (FEDS), the AGPU, standard aviation towing system (SATS) and tool kits.

The AVIM SS is under constant configuration changes due to either product improvements or lessons learned from deployed units.



Aircraft Towing System

In FY07 PM-AGSE developed an Armament Electric Shop to consolidate and replace the armament repair, fire control radar repair and instrument/electric shops; with the new fielding from FY07 to FY09.

Additionally, PM-AGSE is working aggressively to put the AVIM SS on a wheeled vehicle load-handling system to replace the old "dollie sets."

PM-AGSE is working on an anticipated joint SATS buy for an estimated 504 systems from FY07 to FY09.

PM-AGSE is also working with the Directorate for Combat Development (DCD) at Fort Rucker, Ala., to review a joint option on a crane system that meets the requirements for the aviation field.

The AGPU is being reset for all returning units from OIF and OEF and a service life extension program is being applied to all Army aviation AGPUs at Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., from FY07 to FY10.

The priority for replacement and fielding is with OIF and OEF deploying units.

PM-AGSE continues fielding successes with its battle damage assessment and repair kits, digital aircraft weight scales, and is now funded to procure major non-stocked items such as the pitot static tester, fuel quantity tester, swaging kit, jacks, maintenance stands and rail trailers.

These are all shortages that have been creatively managed by the field through either work arounds, reach backs or self procurement.

We continue to receive excellent input from the field requesting improvements, new capabilities or applying real world experiences.

Each time PM-AGSE investigates solutions to meet modernization of AGSE products, and in conjunction with new developments to meet new requirements, we work closely with DCD to bring Soldiers in to do the fact gathering.

The PM-AGSE visited the Iraqi theater in March and Afghanistan in July of 2006 to see first hand the conditions, maintenance procedures and what the Soldier needs.

PM-AGSE is working with DCD to find and support the requirement for a "Gator" like all terrain vehicle at the aviation support and maintenance company levels.

Additionally, PM-AGSE is re-looking requirements for providing redundancy in tool loads, standardizing the requirement for aerospace standards in tools, and giving the Soldier the flexibility and mobility to meet their mission by air or ground.

A new prototype development for the A92 will be shown at this year's AAAA convention, which has a 5-Ton vehicle with cover and an expandable one-sided trailer, a completely self contained operation.

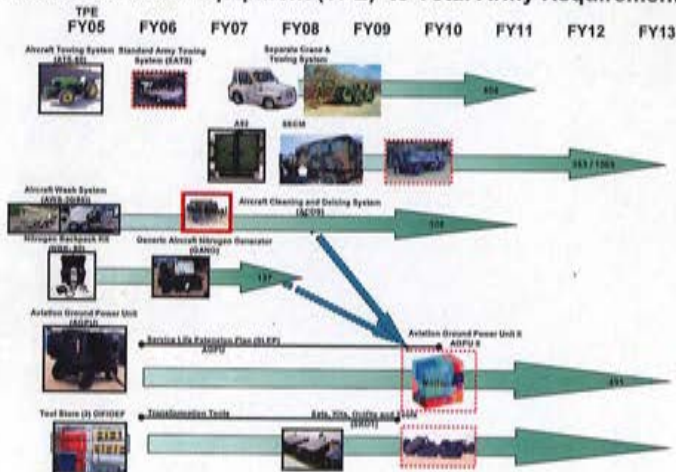
PM-AGSE provides the tools in the hands of Soldiers needed to maintain Army aviation readiness rates for the existing high optempo.

We are visiting the Soldier through preset visits in order to better prepare them for deployment by filling equipment shortages and providing refresher equipment training.

The AGSE procurement plans and budgets for the Program Objective Memorandum years FY08 to FY13 is looking bright.

As a result, the Army will take the lessons learned from previous aviation intensive operations and build on the premise that aviation ground support equipment is a "force

PM AGSE Transition Strategy: Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) to Total Army Requirements



Transition Strategy

multiplier" to Army aviation.

Needed AGSE products will be re-procured to meet aviation transformation requirements and new equipment will be procured to modernize the ground support equipment necessary to meet the on-going requirements to fight the War on Terrorism, anywhere, anytime and anyplace.



Bernard Gajkowski and Roderick Bellows are the product manager and deputy product manager for Aviation Ground Support Equipment with the Aviation Systems Project Management Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

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Centralized Aviation Flight Records System Takes Off

By MAJ Michael E. Rutkowski

The Aviation Branch currently does not have the capability to access aircrew member experience levels, assess environmental qualifications, or assist the commander in evaluating risk levels for flights in a centralized system.

To fulfill this need, the Product Manager (PM) for Aviation Mission Equipment was tasked to field a database that could be accessed by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (CRC) at Fort Rucker, Ala., to aid with risk reduction and summarize individual proficiency levels.

As a result, the Centralized Aviation Flight Records System, or CAFRS, was born to provide leaders visibility over aviation flight operations while addressing ongoing risk reduction efforts.

The CAFRS project began last February as a three-phased initiative.

In looking at ideas for inception, it became clear that Phase I should embark on upgrading the antiquated DOS-based Army Flight Records System (AFRS) with a new Windows-based automated records

keeping program with accompanying ruggedized laptop is currently being distributed Army-wide to aviation battalions.

Phase I of the records keeping program with accompanying ruggedized laptop is currently being distributed Army-wide to aviation battalions.

The increased scope of CAFRS allows aviation leaders, crew members and flight operations personnel the ability to track progression, support deployments, evaluate follow-on assignments, and allow gaining commanders to see pilot experience levels prior to an aviator's arrival at the unit.

They also can plan missions on the AMPS computer which allows for risk reduction with current maintenance and pilot data, permitting commanders to accomplish effective risk management throughout the mission planning process.

Flight records folders and Aircrew Training Manuals will now be paperless.

This effort will increase the overall functionality of Army aviation with mission planning and risk reduction with a fully automated, globally accessible, and secure system.

The 3rd Infantry Division's Cbt. Avn. Bde. was the first unit fielded with CAFRS in November, followed by the fielding to the 82nd Cbt. Avn. Bde. in December.



MAJ Michael E. Rutkowski is the assistant project manager for the Aviation Mission Planning System, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The centralized aviation flight records system will help to manage the training and flight records of pilots and crew members like PFC Jordan Williams, a UH-60 crew chief with Co. B, 1st Bn., 207th Avn. Regt., Alaska ARNG, here participating in an aerial traffic control point mission June 5, 2006 near Tall Afar, Ninawa Province, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DOO PHOTO BY USAF SSgt JACOB N. BAILEY



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Transforming Training Aviation Maintenance Technician Course Preparing Maintenance Air Warriors



The aviation maintenance technician is the unit commander's maintenance manager and planner, ensuring aircraft readiness to meet operational tempo demands. Here Soldiers with Co. B, 935th Avn. Spt. Bn., Missouri ARNG, perform a 250-hour phase inspection on an AH-64 Apache Dec. 14 in Iraq. ARMY PHOTO BY SSG LORIN T. SMITH

By CW5 Mark S. Bechtel

The transformation of the Army constitutes the greatest change in structure and operational philosophy since the Louisiana maneuvers of 1941.

Army aviation is central to transformation and with it aviation maintenance training. Historically, the aviation maintenance technician warrant officer, with the 151A MOS, is a non-commissioned officer who comes from the ranks and goes through the Aviation "bluing" at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Since the days of fan belts and wooden rotor blades, 151As have been seen as the touch stone for technical wisdom and the sage of maintenance knowledge in the units.

This knowledge, however, has generally been gained as a result of on-the-job experience through the "school of hard knocks" instead of through a formal advanced school house curriculum.

Fortunately, the Aviation Maintenance Technician Course, conducted at the Army's Aviation Logistics School (USAALS) at Fort Eustis, Va., has recently undergone a massive makeover.

The revised course focuses on enabling the new 151A to make an immediate positive impact on their unit's maintenance program.



Cadre members for the Aviation Maintenance Technician Course include (l to r): CW4 Edward Bourne, a master instructor and evaluator; CW2 Ronald Smith, an instructor and writer; CW3 Martin Coffman, an instructor and writer; CW3 Israel Sanchez, a senior instructor and writer; and author CW5 Mark Bechtel, chief of the Warrant Officer Training Division.

This is done by giving the aviation maintenance technicians the tools they need right out of school.

The revision began last January with a completely new curriculum

that was initiated with Class 001-06.

The nine-week course length remained the same, but the content and approach to what the 151A needs to make an immediate positive impact on Day 1 has transformed.

Gone are the days when the 151A course was a virtual image of the Shop Supervisor Course for 15K40 NCOs.

The 15K40 training was not bad; it just wasn't the right training. While a 151A needs the technical acumen of the 15K MOS, their job calls for much more in terms of being the manager and advisor to the commander.

The new curriculum prepares the new 151A for his or her role as a maintenance manager and planner.

Based on a foundation of four cornerstones, this new training is both academically sound and technically current.

The *first* cornerstone is the curriculum, which provides graduate level studies in the science and art of maintenance management.

The experiences that a new WO1 encounters throughout their NCO career, coupled with what they are taught at the Aviation Maintenance Manager Course at Fort Rucker, are taken to the next level.

Students are taken from what the

ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES DALGLEISH

book says, to the implementation phase of planning, or how it can or should be done.

For example, given the flow chart model in Field Manual 3-04.500, students will receive training on how to manage the flow chart to achieve the phase flow required to meet the unit's OPTEMPO in garrison, during pre-deployment, or while deployed, etc.

Another critical area of concentration is logistics management.

For four intense days, senior warrant officers and subject matter experts from the Defense Logistics Agency demonstrate how to use multiple search engines from resources as: Asset Visibility, the Department of Defense's Electronic Mall or DOD EMALL, the Army Electronic Product Support or AEPS, and the Integrated Logistics Analysis Program (ILAP), and creative ways to use the Federal Logistics Record or FEDLOG.

Students are taught how to research, locate, requisition, expedite and track any part and get it delivered anywhere in the world.

Getting critically required parts when and where they are needed makes up a big part of what being a successful maintenance manager is all about.

The *second* cornerstone focuses on the talents and rich experiences of senior aviation maintenance technicians who function as instructors and mentors for each class.

These 151As, in the ranks of CW3 through CW5, actually teach many of these subjects, imparting their recent experiences and lessons learned from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Subjects include the latest doctrinal changes in our transforming Army, punctuated by their own relevant personal experiences as to what works for maintenance managers in the field.

The *third* cornerstone is mentorship.

In addition to teaching many of the classes, these same senior warrant officer instructors provide invaluable mentorship to the new 151As while in training, preparing them for their arrival at their first operational unit as newly appointed warrant officers.

This type of mentoring encourages the new 151As to seek out any senior warrant officer, not just a 151A, to share their wisdom.

The way this works is a senior warrant officer instructor is assigned to each class to provide whatever assistance or guidance is necessary

throughout the training.

Three working lunches are scheduled during the course that includes the students, senior WOs, and field grade officer leadership at the school-house.

These professional sessions cover the importance of process management, planning and team building within and between companies, battalions and brigades that include officers, warrant officers and NCOs.

The *last* cornerstone is research, planning, preparation and briefings.

As each student in-processes, they are hand-receipted a laptop computer loaded with all of the required reference materials (i.e. aircraft technical manuals, field manuals, Army Regulations, etc.) and homework for the entire course.

Every night they have a homework assignment that prepares them for what will be taught the following day, or reinforces what has already been taught.

In addition, there are three major scenario-driven practical exercises (PE) that involve real world situations.

One PE involves researching high priority document numbers from Coalition Forces Land Component Command; another PE deals with satisfying the requirements of an active Safety of Flight message; and the third PE requires the student to develop phase maintenance flow plans.

Each PE involves considerable research and preparation time culminating in a simulated battalion or brigade level briefing to senior officers (i.e. COL, LTC and CW5).

As the Army is transforming so is the 151A training.

Thinking outside the box, taking the initiative, and preparing through planning is what this new course is all about.

The U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School is giving the new 151A the tools they will need to make an immediate impact on any unit's maintenance program.



CW5 Mark S. Bechtel is the chief of the Warrant Officer Training Division at the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, Fort Eustis, Va. For more information on the Aviation Maintenance Technician Course, contact him at (757) 878-4497 or DSN 826-4497.

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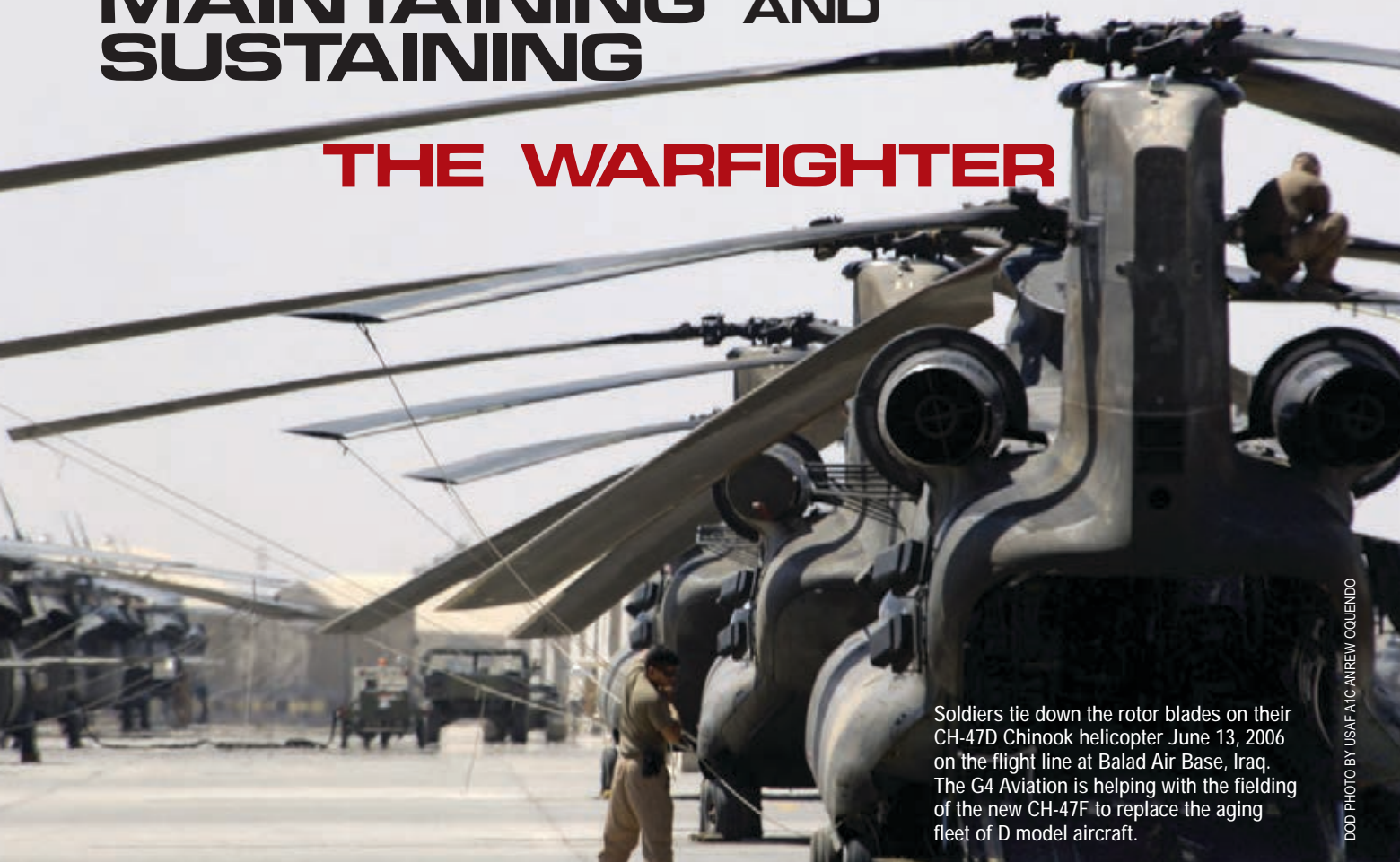
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THE WARFIGHTER



Soldiers tie down the rotor blades on their CH-47D Chinook helicopter June 13, 2006 on the flight line at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The G4 Aviation is helping with the fielding of the new CH-47F to replace the aging fleet of D model aircraft.

DOD PHOTO BY USAF A1C ANREW OQUENDO

SPECIAL FOCUS MAINTENANCE

By COL Samuel S. Evans

This past July, I proudly joined the Army G-4 Aviation Readiness Team.

I fell in on a great group of dedicated professionals whose sole

purpose each day is to support and improve the lives of aviation maintainers in the field and especially those in the fight.

We stand ready from the Pentagon to provide the best support possible, while leaving our 6,000 mile-long screwdrivers in the toolbox.

I'd like to update you on hot issues in G-4 Aviation. This update may not be all positive, but it will be an accurate portrayal of true issues we are working.

ULLS-AE

We are aggressively moving forward to field both the active and reserve component (RC) units with the Unit Level Logistics System-Aviation Enhanced prior to deployment.

In fiscal year 2006, the ULLS-AE system was fielded to the 1st Cavalry Div., the 4th Infantry Div., 10th Mountain Div., 25th Inf. Div., the 36th Cbt. Avn. Bde. (CAB), and other select deploying RC units.

The project director for Tactical Logistics System (PD-TLS) is continually improving the ULLS-AE system software code and hardware architecture to accommodate

emerging warfighter requirements.

Deployed forces using ULLS-AE face challenges ranging from unreliable, facility electrical and physical obstructions interfering with wireless system data migrations, to operator procedural issues resulting from limited system exposure.

In the near term, to mitigate many of these issues, the PD-TLS has technical support personnel embedded with deployed units.

The ULLS-AE technical personnel are there to help Soldiers work through the issues with the system.

The lessons learned from the FY06 fieldings and subsequent deployments helped formulate a strategy to assist in resolving some of these challenges through the FY07 fielding schedule.

The FY07 fielding schedule—consisting of the 3rd and 1st Inf. Divs., the 101st and 159th CABs, select RC units, and select RESET sites—shifts the fielding start date further to the left of deployment timelines.

This fielding shift places the system in the Soldier's hands longer prior to deployment, with the intent to reduce operator procedural errors once deployed.

The shift also provides an opportunity for units to train as they fight with the ULLS-AE system, to include the supporting communication capabilities during their pre-deployment exercises.

Additionally, the new schedule aligns the aircraft RESET timelines with the unit ULLS-AE training schedules to accelerate the overall fielding processes.

The PD-TLS anticipates many of the issues generated by the previous fielding plan to be mitigated with this new strategy.

CBM PLUS

The Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) and the Program Executive Officer-Aviation working with the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center continue to do great work on Condition Based Maintenance-Plus or CBM+.

Currently, over 200 aircraft are equipped with CBM + technology.

Based on the data gathered from these aircraft, six airworthiness releases (AWR) have been issued and the service life of select UH-60 oil cooler fan bearings and AH-64 hanger bearings has been extended.

In addition, required maintenance man-hours have been eliminated on select components, such as AH-64 main rotor swash plates.

Due to these AWRs, the owning units have experienced improvements in readiness, reductions in maintenance man-hours and the potential for significant safety improvement and cost avoidance.

This year we expect to extend the inspections on the Apache's auxiliary power unit clutch, and the aft and forward hanger bearings; the Chinook's forward and aft swash plates and sync shaft bearing mounts; and the Black Hawk's oil cooler bearing, tail rotor gearboxes, and viscous damper bearings.

AMCOM is working on the Army's model for a CBM Data Warehouse (CBM-DW), which received Business System Certification from the Office of the Secretary of Defense in August.

The CBM-DW provides analytical tools for engineering analysis that will allow improved prognostics and diagnostics.

We look forward to continued progress in this exciting area, which promises to decrease the burden on the warfighter.

Aviation Support Battalion Modularity

Recent deployments have assembled aviation task forces that added the AH-64 aircraft to light CABs and the OH-58D to heavy CABs.

Although these heavy-light teams performed well while deployed, it was the Herculean efforts of Soldiers that made the task organization work.

We recognize that the people and tools available in a light CAB did not provide all the necessary skills and equipment to maintain AH-64s and vice-versa.

We are currently developing courses of action to make the ASB more modular in order to allow better support with less task organizing for future operations.

We welcome input from the field from those units that have already worked through this issue while deployed.

Aircraft Survivability Equipment

Fielding of the Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) continues for units as they deploy to theater.

Full fielding of CMWS was completed for the current deployment rotation and retrofit for the *Improved Fourth Sensor* is ongoing.

The current production and funding schedule will allow for

the Army's fleet to be outfitted with CMWS A-Kits by 2011.

Until that time, legacy ASE such as the M-130 is required for non-deployed aircraft.

Unfortunately, with the loss of aircraft and its associated ASE during combat operations and the subsequent redistribution of available replacement aircraft, we now have some airframes that were never outfitted with ASE and we have no available ASE to give to the owning units.

The production lines that originally produced the legacy ASE are no longer operational and restarting these lines would be cost prohibitive.

Before we consider a course of action involving restarting a production line, it is imperative that we do a good scrub of legacy ASE available in the field.

We are aware that most of the necessary subcomponents required to make up a complete ASE system are in unit shop stocks, authorized stockage lists, prescribed load lists or are possibly in avionics shops used as "float systems."

We no longer have the luxury to maintain replacement components as floats when we have aircraft in the field without systems.

I ask that each unit evaluate the components they are holding and then make them available to fellow units that have urgent requirements.



Soldiers from the downed aircraft recovery team of Co. B, 449th Avn. Spt. Bn., recover a UH-60 Black Hawk Nov. 9 belonging to the 36th Cbt. Avn. Bde. after the helicopter made a precautionary landing in Southern Iraq because of low fluid pressure. The 36th CAB is one of the units receiving the ULLS-AE system software and hardware in FY06.



The G4 Aviation Readiness Team is working to make the ASB more modular to allow better support with less task organizing for future operations. Good news for Soldiers like SPC Rodney Bastow with Co. B, 935th Avn. Spt. Bn., Missouri Army National Guard, here cleaning a 30mm chain-gun Dec. 14 before reinstalling it on an Apache.

This will alleviate the need to direct cross-leveling to prioritized units or even the purchase of new systems.

Contract Field Teams

Most units have grown accustomed to having contract aviation maintainers to supplement their Soldier workforce. However, over time the contract force has become a fixture, without regard to the original justification.

Current budget restrictions have forced all CABs to take a closer look at the true need for contract aviation maintenance.

Additionally, some units have found that their Soldiers do not get the maintenance opportunities they need to fully train on maintenance tasks because of the reliance on contractors.

Our office is working to produce a message that gives Army commands a standardized methodology for calculating requirements for contractors.

The goal is to establish the right mix of Soldiers and contractors to properly maintain your fleet and create a workforce that allows men and women in uniform the opportunity to complete training requirements to keep their maintenance skills sharp.

New Aircraft Fleets

There is great excitement in the Pentagon and throughout Army Aviation about the new aircraft fleets.

We are working diligently to get the new fleets to the field as soon as possible.

We are also working hard to ensure the necessary funding and support is on track to get the armed reconnaissance helicopter, light utility helicopter and joint cargo aircraft into your hands as well as the AH-64D Block III, CH-47F and UH-60M.

These aircraft will fill critical capability gaps and we look forward to seeing them in the air and on your flight lines soon.

Again, my team and I are here to support Army Aviation and aviation logisticians.

We look forward to working with you to keep Army Aviation... "Above the Best!"



COL Samuel S. Evans is the chief of Aviation and Ground Readiness with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, G4, The Army Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.



Two 12th Cbt. Avn. Bde. Soldiers were honored with the presentation of special Army Aviation mission equipment achieving new fielding milestones December 14 in Germany.

BG Mark Brown, the Program Executive Officer for Soldier, and LTC Shannon Womack, the product manager for the Air Warrior program, presented with the 10,000th Air Warrior ensemble to SGT Justin Hutchinson and the 1,000th electronic data manager to CW2 Joshua P. Collins, both with the 236th Medical Evacuation Company.

The ceremony, recognizing the distribution of the 10,000 set of the specialized gear, included the issue of the Air Warrior system to 700 members of the 12th CAB stationed throughout Germany.

Hutchinson, a five-year veteran previously deployed to Kosovo and Kuwait, heads to Iraq in 2007 and says he feels better knowing that... "Anytime I need to leave the aircraft, I'll have the proper gear."

The new Air Warrior kit is a tailorable survival, escape and evasion system that includes the primary survival gear carrier, body armor tailored for maximum cockpit compatibility, signal and communications equipment, a first-aid kit, a survival knife, and a helmet with a maxillofacial protective shield.

Womack said the milestone fielding of the Air Warrior ensemble is significant because it marks the halfway point in the current program to issue 19,000 AW systems to all Army aircrew members.

The AW gear provides Soldiers better protection from bullets, chemicals, the weather and environmental hazards, while improving their mobility inside the cockpit.

Womack described Air Warrior as "an integrated ensemble that provides the Army aviator with all the survival and mission equipment gear needed to execute missions both in the cockpit and on the ground if

ARMY DELIVERS

10,000th Air Warrior and 1000th Electronic Data Manager

By Debi Dawson

BG Mark Brown, Program Executive Officer Soldier, presents SGT Justin Hutchinson, 236th Med. Evac. Co., with a commemorative plaque and coin for being the 10,000th recipient of the Air Warrior system.

the aircraft happens to land or crash in a hostile environment or a remote area.”

When an aircraft does go down, usually the only thing the crew takes away from the cockpit is what they are wearing.

“We give them a personal survival gear carrier that has all the different items considered necessary. It’s got the signaling items, like a mirror, a radio, and a strobe light. It provides the medical gear in case of injury,” Womack said.

“It’s also has an integrated extraction harness this is worn and available if needed. We provide him with a modular holster so he can carry his 9mm defensive weapon with him,” he said.

The electronic data manager (EDM) is a small computer that aviators wear on their leg and is a key component of the Air Warrior.

It features pre-mission route and threat planning, as well as GPS moving map capability, allowing aircrews to quickly plan missions and react to mission changes while in-flight.

Collins, a pilot assigned in support of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, is responsible for the safety of his crew on MEDEVAC missions at home station and away at remote sites.

“I think it’s going to give us an added level of safety, increasing our situational awareness, and having information more accessible,” Collins said. “It appears to be very user-friendly, very simple icons, push button, touch screen, very easy to get to.”

Additionally, the EDM is integrated with the Blue Force Tracking-Aviation (BFT-A) system.

“It gives the aviator a moving map and shows situational awareness information like where buddies are on the battlefield and whether the enemy is,” Womack said.

He explained that if aviators are out of range of the



CW2 Josh Collins, a UH-60 pilot, became the 1,000th Army aviator to receive an electronic data manager in Germany on Dec. 14.

ARMY PHOTOS BY CATHERINE DERAN

radios, they can still communicate through the BFT-A satellite system.

The EDM can also upload technical manuals for referencing if maintenance needs to be done on the aircraft remotely without having to rely on paper manuals. “It takes paper maps and acetate overlays out of the cockpit,” Womack said.

The EDM is fielded to units before they deploy so that they learn how to use the equipment, how to maintain it, how to fit it, and how to service it in the field. “Our goal is to have one EDM per pilot,” Womack said.

The success of the Air Warrior system is interesting to other service customers as well.

“We’re getting indications that the program is so vibrant and effective it may go beyond equipping our own Army,” Brown said. “The Navy has bought the system because they liked it so much, as well as our Australian allies. And there may be more to come.”

Additional information on the Air Warrior program is available at <http://peosoldier.army.mil/>.



Debi Dawson is the public affairs officer for the Program Executive Office for Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va.



GEN Richard A. Cody in the pilot's seat of the UH-72A Lakota.

Touch down following a test flight of the new UH-72A Lakota helicopter, GEN Richard A. Cody, the Army vice chief of staff, sits in the cockpit, with Lt. Col. Patrick Mason at the Golden Triangle Airport in Columbus, Miss.

ARMY PHOTO BY KIMBERLY HENRY

Army Accepts First UH-72A Lakota

Light Utility Helicopter

From Army and EADS-NA News Releases

GEN Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army, and Joe Redcloud, chief of staff of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Lakota Nation, accepted the Army's first UH-72A light utility helicopter, named "Lakota," in a ceremony Dec. 11 at the EADS North America's facility at the Golden Triangle Regional Airport in Columbus, Miss.

"The Light Utility Helicopter, from concept development to material fielding to rapid deployment, is not only serving as a catalyst for change across the Army, it is also accelerating the speed of Army aviation modernization and integration with other services and government agencies," Cody said.

The fielding of the LUH is part of an

ongoing Army effort to transform its aviation capability through the deliberate reinvestment of funds from the canceled 2004 Comanche program.

"The Lakota heralds a new beginning for our Army and for our communities across every state," Cody said.

The Lakota is replacing UH-1 and OH-58 helicopters used by Guard and Army forces Cody said.

"It is our nation's responsibility and the Army's duty to provide our National Guard Soldiers with the tools they need to respond fully and rapidly to homeland security missions and national disasters," Cody added.

LTG Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, said the need for a small, versatile helicopter became more apparent immediately after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when choppers plucked survivors from storm-ravaged areas.

"We're excited about the helicopter," Vaughn said. "This has been a real win for the Army. The Army has certainly listened to the needs of the nation, and the Guard is profiting greatly."

The Army National Guard will receive about 200 of the 322 new aircraft, a number of those in fiscal year 2008, and the remainder will follow through 2016.

EADS North America was awarded a \$2.2 billion contract in July to build the LUH,

which is taking place at their plant in Columbus.

"We are proud to provide the UH-72A months ahead of schedule, an accomplishment that reflects our decision to locate production in Mississippi and our prior investment in this program's success," said Ralph Crosby, Jr., EADS-NA's chairman and CEO.

EADS expected to deliver the second Lakota by the end of December, and 40 more aircraft are in the production cycle for delivery to the Army during 2007 and 2008.

Initial aircraft will be sent to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. for medical evacuation missions beginning in January and will replace UH-60 Black Hawks which will be transferred to the National Guard for operational missions.

Following the ceremony Cody took the first Lakota for an orientation flight with LTC Patrick Mason from the Army's Aviation Technical Test Center around the Golden Triangle Airport.

EADS North America leads a UH-72A team of industrial partners and subcontractors, including American Eurocopter, which is handling the helicopter's production, assembly, delivery and training for the Army; CAE, the supplier of UH-72A cockpit procedural trainers; and Turbomeca USA, which produces the aircraft's Arriel 1E2 engines.

For more, visit the UH-72A program's website at www.uh-145.com



Signing the DD Form 250 acceptance documentation for the formal delivery of the UH-72A aircraft number 1 are (l to r): Ralph D. Crosby, Jr., EADS North America chairman & CEO; Robert Schmitt, director of the Aeronautical Systems Division, Defense Contract Management Agency; GEN Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff of the Army; and LTG Clyde A. Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard.

ARMY PHOTO BY PATRICK SHEAHAN

100th Soldier Reenlists in 1st Air Cav. Brigade

Story and Photo by
SFC Rick Emert

SPC Lolito Dalindin conducts a
pre-flight inspection on a UH-60 Black
Hawk Dec. 2 in Taji, Iraq.

As a teenager in the Philippines, Lolito Dalindin's life was going nowhere.

Poverty and job scarcity made for a bleak future.

But at 18, Dalindin got the opportunity to soar in a whirlwind year that took him to the United States and landed him in the Army.

Now a specialist in the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade serving in Taji, Iraq, Dalindin soars every night as a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief.

And, he'll continue to soar since he chose on Nov. 30 to stay Army and stay Cav. for six more years.

In fact, Dalindin was the 100th Soldier in the brigade to reenlist since the 1st ACB deployed in October.

"We had a lot of reenlisting Soldiers whose primary concern was to stay in the 1st Cavalry Division," said SFC Melissa McNorton, the 'Warrior' brigade's senior career counselor.

Assigned to Co. A, 2nd Bn., 227th Avn. Regt., Dalindin's road to reenlistment in Iraq was a long one.

He grew up in the Philippines, moving to America with his father at 18 and leaving his high school sweetheart, Geralyn Santillan, behind.

His new home was National City, Calif., which Dalindin still calls home – although he has spent the past five years at Fort Hood, Texas.

"The poverty level (in the Philippines) was very bad," Dalindin said. "You could apply for everything and never get a job."

"My dad said he was bringing us to the United States, and I didn't hesitate. There was no future for me in the Philippines. A year later, on May 12, 2001, Dalindin joined the Army.

"I wanted to become a U.S. citizen, and I thought that serving in the mili-

tary would be a good way to do that," he said. "I was excited about joining the Army."

After serving in Iraq from 2004 to 2005, Dalindin went back to the Philippines to marry Geralyn. They now have an 11-month-old daughter named Trishelle.

Geralyn and Trishelle live in the Philippines, but Dalindin is trying to bring them to America, sending part of his \$15,000 reenlistment bonus to them for plane tickets when they are able to make the move, he said.

Five years after joining the Army, Dalindin became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Although he doesn't know if he will make the Army a career, he didn't hesitate when it came to reenlisting for six years – which will take his total service to 11 years.

"He had a plan to reenlist, and he went for it; he stuck with it," said SSG Kirk Williams, Dalindin's platoon sergeant.

"He's a good guy, a hard worker. He may be a little wet behind the ears as a leader, but he is a good Soldier. I'll fly with him any time."

Dalindin is well aware of the Army's detractors, both at home in the U.S. and abroad.

"They are entitled to their opinion," he said. "I don't understand why some people who were born American won't serve or support their country. A lot of them may be afraid to serve in the military. But, here I am; this is not my first country – I am a new American – and I serve it still."

Of course for every detractor is someone who supports the U.S. military and their mission in Iraq.

"When people see you at the airport for (rest and recuperation)



leave, they say: 'Thank you for serving.' That makes all of the effort and the hard work that comes with serving here just disappear, because they are so appreciative of what we do," he said.



SFC Rick Emert is a public affairs officer with the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

ARMY FLEET SUPPORT

PILOTS

Army Fleet Support, the aircraft maintenance contractor at Fort Rucker Ala., is accepting resumes to maintain on file for qualified maintenance test pilots in the following aircraft, AH-64D, CH-47D, UH-60, OH-58D/R & OH-58C. Must have a valid and current FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate with rotorcraft and instrument ratings and be able to pass an FAA Class II flight physical. Resumes are also being accepted for Manager/Chief Flight Safety Standardization Pilot and Standardization Pilots. In addition to the above qualifications, the desired candidate should have a helicopter flight instructor/instrument certificate.

E-mail resumes to afsrecruiting@frmaint.com. Army Fleet Support is an equal opportunity employer.

Honor Eagle Ceremony Recognizes Contributions of the Second Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch

By Marti Gatlin

Leaders lauded CW5 Brent C. Driggers' contributions to the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and to Fort Rucker Soldiers and families during an Honor Eagle Ceremony Dec. 15 at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

Driggers, received the Legion of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious service from June 2004 to October 2006, and the Silver award of the Order of St. Michael from MG Virgil L. Packett II, USAAWC and Fort Rucker commanding general.

Driggers was the second Soldier to serve as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Aviation Branch. In that position, he provided a link to aviation warrant officers and the Aviation Branch, promoted warrant officer issues to the branch, and was a sounding board for the branch's aviation warrant officer corps.

He was reassigned as the standardization instructor-pilot for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Packett described Driggers as a Soldier with remarkable energy and branch advocate.

"He's a people person. He's a get-it-done kind of person. He has made sure that the warrant officer branch is represented at every juncture, in every corner," Packett said.

The commanding general also called Driggers a dedicated leader, great example and tenacious professional. He said Driggers' contributions were exceptional.

Driggers said about his new assignment at Fort Campbell, Ky., that it was his time to serve again with Soldiers who are part of the Global War on Terrorism, some who are serving their third and fourth combat tours.



ARMY PHOTO BY JOHN A. HAMILTON

CW5 Brent Driggers stands with color guard after receiving awards and decorations. Driggers will serve as the division standardization instructor pilot for the 101st Abn. Div. at Fort Campbell, Ky.

He publicly thanked many present and past Soldiers, aviators, civilians and post organizations who have made the Aviation branch better and whose words and deeds inspired him as well as other Soldiers and their families.

"These Soldiers and those on the front lines in harm's way today represent the best of what America is," Driggers said. "It has been a great privilege and highlight of my humble career to serve this branch and its aviation Soldiers. Maj Gen. Packett, Brig Gen. Sinclair, thanks for the opportunity to serve as the Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch."

Driggers said he hoped the legacy he left behind will directly benefit warfighters.

"Everything we do here at Fort Rucker needs to directly contribute to making our aviators successful in combat, allowing them to effectively accomplish their wartime missions

and to enable them to come home to their families, period," he said. "Fort Rucker has been and continues to be a critical player for our Army and this nation. Everything you continue to do here remains vital to our success. Please continue to focus all of your energy on those who pass through our gates."

Retired BG E. J. Sinclair, former USAAWC commander, who selected Driggers for the CWOAB position, described him as one of the best warfighters he has ever known, and who always volunteered to complete the missions.

"He's the type of leader we need in our Army today," Sinclair said. "He's a great man."

CW5 Joe Walsingham, fixed wing branch chief, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, has known Driggers about three years, characterized him as a role model.

"He's just really a great mentor for



ARMY PHOTO BY MARTI GATLIN

MG Virgil L. Packett II presents a Silver award of the Order of St. Michael to CW5 Brent Driggers after presenting him with the Legion of Merit.

other warrant officers and also for the commissioned officers," Walsingham said. "He somebody who knows what right looks like, and he's always willing to listen first and then give advice in a very tactful way. He's a really good sounding board for the leadership and warrant officers here."

CSM Buford Thomas, USAAWC and Fort Rucker command sergeant major, also depicted Driggers as a great warfighter and leader.

"He's been my battle buddy for the two last years going in and out of (combat) theater and all over the

world because we have Aviation Soldiers doing the nation's business. He's well respected by all. The thing that I always remember about him is that he not only worked warrant officer issues, he worked issues for all Aviation Soldiers, enlisted and medevac. He is a true professional by every word, and I am proud to have served with him."



Marti Gatlin is a staff writer for the Army Flier newspaper with the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center's Public Affairs Office, Fort Rucker, Ala.

2007 AAAA ANNUAL CONVENTION

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Second Annual

AAAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium

By William R. Harris

The second annual AAAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium was held Dec. 11-13 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Crystal City, Va. A record 350 people attended, almost a 50 percent increase from 2005.

The event featured one and a half days of professional programs, corporate and government exhibits, and an awards banquet honoring for the first time both the UAS Soldier and the UAS Unit of the year.

The professional program was kicked off Tuesday morning by the Army Aviation Branch Chief, MG Virgil L. Packett II, who was followed by BG Stephen D. Mundt, director of the Aviation Directorate, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7, Department of the Army.

Other briefers included Mr. Dyke Weatherington, deputy secretary for the UAS Planning Task Force, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense; BG Walter Davis, commander of the Joint UAS Center of Excellence, Creech AFB, Nev.; COL John Burke, director of Unmanned Systems Integration, G3/5/7; COL Donald Hazelwood, project manager for UAS; COL Jeff Kappenman, TRADOC System Manager for UAS; Lt. Col. Jay Mullin,

USMC Materiel Capabilities Officer and Lt. Cmdr. Chuck Stuart, NAVAIR PMA-263; and CSM Buford Thomas, Aviation Branch Command Sgt. Maj.

The Tuesday evening awards banquet featured an address by the Army's Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard A. Cody and the presentation of the inaugural UAS awards.

The first winner of the AAAA UAS Soldier of the Year is CPL James Dreiling, 1st Plt., Co. C, 501st MI Bn., 1st Armored Div., Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the standardization operator for 1st Plt., Dreiling developed, implemented and managed an outstanding standardization program recognized as one of the best such programs in the Army.

His platoon achieved the highest initial safety record of any Shadow UAV unit in the Army, with nearly 3,000 flight hours without an incident.

Their record nearly doubled the previous record-holding platoon's initial safety record.

CPL Dreiling's unit flew 620 sorties, totaling over 3,100 combat hours, with no operator-caused incidents.

The AAAA UAS Unit of the Year award was presented to Co. A (Forward), 634th MI Bn., 34th Inf. Div. (Red



BG Stephen Mundt discusses transformation issues with UAS.



COL Jeffrey Kappenman briefs on TSM-UAV actions his organization is working.



MG Virgil Packett provides an update from the Aviation Warfighting Center.



Bull), Minnesota Army National Guard.

The award was accepted on behalf of the unit by 1LT Ryan J. DeChaine, the Shadow platoon leader, and SFC Terry S. Larson, platoon sergeant.

Mr. Fred Strader, president and CEO, represented the award sponsor AAI Corporation.

Co. A set a new standard of excellence for Shadow UAS operations during their one year deployment in support of OIF-III/IV from Sept. 4, 2005 to Sept. 3, 2006.

The overwhelming success of the "Red Bull" was based on teamwork and attention to detail.

The unit flew 1,060 combat missions for a cumulative total of 5,485.4 flight hours.

In addition, they executed 5,086 mishap-free flight hours, establishing a new Shadow UAS safety high mark.

After the awards ceremony, AAAA President BG (Ret.) Thomas Konitzer asked CSM Buford Thomas to come forward and draw the name of the new corporate sponsor for the UAS Soldier of the Year award from among the companies expressing interest present at the symposium.

General Atomics is the new sponsor of the award.

Thanks to all our corporate members for their support and to the briefers from throughout the Army and the Defense Department.

It was especially rewarding to see all the Soldier-operators who shared their insights, lessons learned and challenges for the future with the key decision makers in the Army and with the congressional staffers in the audience.

The briefings are available on the AAAA web site, www.quad-a.org

Dates for the 2007 symposium will be released in the coming months as AAAA continues its mission to "Support the U.S. Army Aviation Soldier and Family."

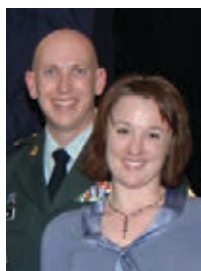


Bill Harris is the executive director of the Army Aviation Association of America, Monroe, Conn.

Presentation of the UAS Soldier and Unit awards (l to r): parents Steve and Diann Dreiling and CPL James Dreiling (UAS Soldier); GEN Richard Cody; 1LT Ryan DeChaine, CSM Buford Thomas (in background); SFC Terry and Kimberly Larson; and COL Michael J. Huddleston, Minn. ARNG state aviation officer.



GEN Richard Cody gives a salute after his remarks, and BG (Ret.) Tom Konitzer.



SFC Terry and
Kimberly Larson

Family Readiness

An Army National Guard Spouse's Perspective

“I am going to be deploying very soon.” Those are probably the most dreaded words to hear if you are a military spouse. I heard them from my husband early in our dating relationship.

Looking back, I can think of four positives that were instrumental in getting me through this time:

family, friends, faith and the Family Readiness Group!

We had been dating for a little over a month when he told me that he would be leaving soon for two years.

First one year in pre-deployment training and then the next in Iraq.

We were married during Terry's stateside deployment.

The reality of being a military spouse sunk in when we were married on Saturday and he left to return to Arizona on Sunday evening.

Being a military veteran myself, I never thought that I would be on the “other side” of a deployment.

Usually, I was the one leaving.

This was all new to me, but I have always looked upon myself as a strong individual.

I thought I was a step ahead of other military spouses since I was familiar with the deployment experience.

I quickly learned that I would need more than just my military background to help me get through.

Looking back, I can think of four positives that were

instrumental in getting me through this time: *family, friends, faith* and the *Family Readiness Group*!

Fortunately, I have a rather large family and we are all very close.

I knew that they would be there for me at any time I needed them.

I also have an amazing group of friends that were willing to help out in any way.

One of Terry's good friends organized getting a group together once a month at a local restaurant for dinner, cocktails and discussing care package ideas.

We came up with a bi-weekly schedule for sending care packages to Terry.

I shared the idea with our FRG leader (who lives five hours away) who implemented it herself, since her husband is also deployed.

There is nothing that a deployed soldier likes more than getting packages!

My faith in God played the largest part in Terry's deployment.

I grew up in a home where my mom ensured that we were given every opportunity to grow in our faith and strengthen our love for God each and every day.

Our church and parish priests were very supportive from day one.

They knew Terry and kept him in their daily prayers.

Just knowing this brought a sense of calm to my worried nerves.

I also became more active in our church by volunteering and with prayer.

Devoting my time to Christ not only helped me through Terry's absence, but also helped me be a better wife, daughter and friend.

I feel very fortunate that I had a tremendous support group in my family, friends and church community.

I do know that this is not the case for every spouse of a deployed Soldier.

Not only does the spouse have to worry about their loved one's safety and well-being, but he or she also has a household to take care of.

Children, finances, chores, other family commitments, and finding time for oneself can be overwhelming for a single parent household.

Not having a strong support group around you can make all these tasks seem impossible.

Our military has recognized this and has made great strides to help family members of deployed Soldiers by implementing a family readiness group leader/office.

Most, if not all, larger active duty military installations have an office located on post making it easy to reach out to spouses of deployed Soldiers.

However, many National Guard Soldiers and their families do not have an FRG office readily available.

Soldiers and families often live in different areas of the states they serve and many ARNG units only have one individual assigned to be the FRG leader to coordinate over very long distances.

It is disheartening to know that there are many ARNG and Army Reserve spouses in every state that are not getting the support and resources that other active duty spouses are entitled to.

I feel very fortunate to live in a state that has recognized this problem and has taken steps to rectify it.

Our First Lady of Minnesota, Mrs. Mary Pawlenty, holds a special place in her heart for military families.

During the governor's first term, she spent numerous hours working in support of our Soldiers and their families.

She implemented the Military Family Care Initiative and has worked feverishly to make it successful.

Part of this initiative is to ensure our Soldiers are re-integrated back into civilian life.

Our state is one of the first in the nation to implement full re-integration training for our Guard soldiers.

The current program "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" ensures that each deployed service member has the tools he or she needs to adapt back to civilian life.

It includes many of the same seminars that are given to current active duty soldiers.

First Lady Pawlenty has given the Minn. National Guard the tools and resources needed to ensure the safety and well-being of not only our Soldiers, but their spouses too.

I can honestly say that her efforts and determination are truly appreciated.

Going through the deployment process as a spouse is difficult and will test you as an individual, wife and mother.

However, please keep in mind the four "Fs" of *Family, Friends, Faith and FRG!*

They are all here to help you make deployments a more positive experience.

To learn more, visit these FRG related websites:
Military Family Care Initiative: www.firstlady.state.mn.us/initiatives_militaryfamily.html
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon: www.minnesotanational-guard.org/returning_troops/beyond_yellow_ribbon.php



Kimberly Larson is the wife of Army National Guardsman SFC Terry Larson and resides in St. Paul, Minn.

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\$1,145.00**

- Engineered to meet or exceed:
LIN W49283
NSN 5180-01-375-6928
SC5180-99-B13
- Provides the necessary components for use by Aircraft Powertrain Repairers

Industry News

And Announcements Related to Army Aviation Matters

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

GoldenEye 80 UAV Uses Guidestar for First Flight

Athena Technologies, Warrenton, Va., announced Dec. 6 its *GuideStar* flight control and navigation system contributed to the successful first flight of *Aurora Flight Sciences'* GoldenEye 80 unmanned aerial vehicle. At 65 inches tall and weighing about 150 pounds, the UAV takes off and lands vertically, but transitions to horizontal



COURTESY PHOTOS

flight using wings. The *GuideStar* 111m, about the size of a cell phone, enables the GE-80 to fly completely autonomously, avoiding the need of a pilot. The flight also marked an industry milestone as the first ducted fan UAV to fly under the power of a heavy fuel engine.



COURTESY PHOTOS

CAE to Develop UH-72A Trainers

EADS North America, the prime contractor for the Army's UH-72A program, awarded CAE of Tampa, Fla., a contract Dec. 4 to design and manufacture the first UH-72A cockpit procedural trainer. The CPTs will be used to support pilot transition and proficiency training for the Army. CAE will also build a second UH-72A CPT for American Eurocopter's training centre in Grand Prairie, Texas.

DRS Provides EO/IR Systems for FCS

DRS Technologies, Inc., Parsippany, NJ, announced Nov. 28 it was awarded a new \$7 million contract by *Northrop Grumman Corp.'s Integrated Systems* sector to produce lightweight electro-optical/infrared sensor systems for the Army's Future Combat System program Class I unmanned aircraft systems. The sensors will provide imagery during reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition missions. NGC is the airborne systems integrator on the FCS program. For this award, DRS will develop and provide emulators and prototypes of an EO/IR system for the FCS Class I UAS.

NGC Selected for UH-60M Fly-by-Wire Upgrade

Northrop Grumman Corp., Woodland Hills, Calif., was selected Nov. 28 by *Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.* to supply a high reliability fiber-optic inertial measurement unit for navigation information for the UH-60M Black Hawk fly-by-wire-upgrade program for flight control computers. The program upgrades the Army's current fleet of UH-60 A and L models into the UH-60M configuration. NGC will deliver three inertial measurement units for each of the 90 helicopters covered in the contract. The first inertial measurement unit will be delivered in May. NGC projects future orders will exceed 1,200 domestic helicopters.

BAE to Supply Army Additional Refueling Systems

BAE Systems of Ontario, Calif., received a \$31.6 million order from the Army for 119 more advanced aviation forward area refueling systems (AAFARS). It is the 14th order in a production run that now totals 362 units. The portable refueling system has a 240-gallon-per-minute pump that can fuel four aircraft simultaneously at a rate of 55 gallons per minute each. Over the past two years, the Army has fielded more than 200 AAFARS units in Iraq and Afghanistan, Europe, Korea, and Central and South America. Deliveries from this order begin in October and conclude in December 2008.

NGC Led Industry and Army Team Receives Award for UAS Efforts

Northrop Grumman Corp. and teammates *Boeing*, *Lockheed Martin* and the U.S. Army were honored Nov. 15 during the Heli-Power Show in London as the winner of the 2007 Integrator of the Year Award by Shephard Group, publisher of *Defence Helicopter and Unmanned Vehicles* magazine. NGC and the team won for its work on an advanced concept technology demon-

stration (ACTD) involving a Hunter Standoff Killer team. The ACTD involved the integration of a manned-unmanned trio of an RQ-5A Hunter UAS, an AH-64D and a UH-60 A2C2 helicopter in April at Fort Hood, Texas, and the live fire resulted in direct hits by four Hellfire missiles launched from a Longbow.

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

The Boeing Co., Ridley Park, Pa., was awarded two contracts Dec. 19 for work in Philadelphia. A \$650.2M contract for CH-47F remanufacture, which is to be completed by Dec. 31, 2009; and a \$406.4 contract for new build CH-47F helicopters, which are to be completed by Dec. 31, 2012.

General Electric Aircraft Engine, Cincinnati, Ohio, was awarded Dec. 18, a \$189.1M contract for the overhaul and repair effort of the entire T700 family of engines. Work will be performed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and should be completed by Dec. 30.

General Atomics Aeronautical System, San Diego, Calif., was awarded Dec. 18 a \$63.1M contract for system development and demonstration for the Extended Range/Multi-Purpose unmanned aerial vehicle. Work should be completed by Aug. 31, 2009.

The Boeing Co., Mesa, Ariz., was awarded Dec. 20 a \$36.7M contract for acquisition of performance based logistics for AH-64D unique components, which should be completed by Oct. 31.

The Boeing Co., Mesa, Ariz., was awarded Dec. 20 a \$26.4M contract for overhaul, repair and recapitalization of AH-64 weapons systems. Work will be performed in Corpus Christi, Texas, and should be completed by Oct. 31.

General Atomics Aeronautical System, San Diego, Calif., was awarded on Dec. 18, 2006, a \$13,807,439 modification to a cost-plus-fixed-fee contract for contractor logistics support in support of IGNAT Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operations. Work will be performed in San Diego, (65 percent), Adelanto (5 percent), Palmdale, Calif. (5 percent), and Salt Lake City, Utah (25 percent), and should be completed by Aug. 31, 2009.

Boeing Sikorsky Aircraft Support is awarded a \$52.3M contract for rotary wing aircraft Life Cycle Contractor Support to the U.S. Special Operations Command. Work will be performed at Fort Campbell, Ky., and is expected to be completed by Dec. 31.

BAE Systems Information and Electronic Systems Integration, Inc., Greenlawn, N.Y., is awarded a \$8.4M contract for the procurement of 186 AN/APX-118(V) transponders, 53 C-12664/APX-RCU remote control units, 14 MT-722/APX-MT mounts, 50 AN/APX-123 transponders, 50 AN/APX-123 warranties, 2 Mode 5 kit warranties and 2 RCU Mode 5 upgrades. Work should be completed by Nov. 2008.

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Aviation General Officers

The following general officers retired as of Jan. 1:

MG Kenneth J. Quinlan, Jr. culminated more than 33 years of service as commandant of the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va.

BG William M. Jacobs culminated more than 34 years of service as director of the Joint and Futures, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8, Washington, DC.

BG Daniel J. Keefe culminated more than 29 years of service as director of the Officer Personnel Management Directorate, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Va.

BG Joseph A. Smith culminated more than 31 years of service as commanding general of the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center and director of Army Safety, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Change of Command

COL Richard Enderle relinquished command of the U.S. Army Aviation Center Logistics Command to **COL Alan M. Stull** on Dec. 14 at Cairns Army Airfield, Fort Rucker, Ala. Enderle retires after 29 years of service and plans to reside in Huntsville, Ala. Stull served as the chief of the Transformation and Force Structure, Standardization and Safety Division, Aviation Directorate, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3/5/7, Washington, D.C.

Combat Awards

Four aviation Soldiers with the 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., serving with 25th Inf. Div. in Iraq, received combat awards Nov. 30. COL A.T. Ball, 25th Cbt. Avn. Bde. commander, and CSM Roger Kingston, 25th CAB CSM, presented the awards. The Air Medal was awarded to **CW2 Jeffrey A. Hodnett**, a Kiowa Warrior pilot with Troop A, for his meritorious actions during combat on Sept. 13. Hodnett regained control of his OH-58D aircraft after the pilot and commander of Troop A, CPT Matthew Mattingly, was mortally wounded by enemy small arms fire while providing supporting fire for ground forces engaged by anti-Iraqi forces. Hodnett piloted the aircraft safely back to his forward operating base in Mosul. Three Soldiers were presented the Combat Action Badge for being engaged by enemy forces. Ball presented the CAB award to **LTC Michael D. Pyott**, the 1-17th Cav. Regt. commander, and **CW3 Frederick J. Bundy**, the safety officer for Headquarters and HQs Troop, for their taking appropriate actions when engaged by enemy fire while conducting an aerial patrol over Mosul Sept. 26. **SGT Jonathan E. Mosebrook**, an OH-58D armament repairer with Troop D, received the CAB following an Aug. 19 mortar attack in which an 82-millimeter mortar round struck within 50 meters of his location at his forward operating base in Mosul.



CW2 Jeffrey A. Hodnett



LTC Michael D. Pyott



CW3 Frederick J. Bundy



SGT Jonathan E. Mosebrook

ARMY PHOTOS BY SFC MICHAEL MONTELO

Promotion Selections

The calendar year 2006 Reserve Component and Active Guard Reserves CSM/SGM and Sergeant Major Course selection board results were released Dec. 7. Congratulations to **MSG Joseph R. Kenney, Jr.**, a 15P, on his selection for promotion and attendance at the Sergeant Majors Course.

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 07-04, 44 Officers,
Graduated Dec. 14
ABOLC

2LT Eric J. Shanley * DG
2LT Christopher B. Gerbas HG
2LT Laura E. Pangallo HG
2LT Jonathan M. Romaneski HG
2LT Stephen R. Abrams *
2LT Michael D. Bokma *
2LT James D. Brooks
2LT Douglas N. Bruner III *
2LT Michael A. Chen
2LT Philip M. Haemmerlein
2LT Benjamin J. Hirsch
2LT Ryan J. Langhammer

2LT Erin H. Leach *
2LT Sarah B. Moore *
2LT William C. Pyant
2LT Ross M. Ridge
2LT Benjamin W. Saad *
2LT Kimberly J. Strom *
2LT Janice V. Tapay
2LT Harold E. Turner *
2LT Rebecca A. Vaninwagen *
2LT David L. Winter

AWOBC

WO1 Christopher M. Quill * DG
WO1 Justin B. Bielss * HG
WO1 Anthony M. Kinney * HG
WO1 Edward A. McCaskey HG
WO1 Brian D. Allison
WO1 Aaron W. Assad
WO1 Jason A. Browning
WO1 Casey D. Clark
WO1 Luke F. Connolly
WO1 Ricardo Gutierrez *
WO1 Raymond J. Herring *
WO1 Raymond J. Illman
WO1 Thomas O. Malone
WO1 Travis E. Maus
WO1 Joshua D. Norris
WO1 Abraham Ontiveros
WO1 David A. Piccinini
WO1 Jesse A. Powell
WO1 Larry F. Sarmiento

WO1 Kevin N. Shoulders
WO1 Anthony J. Weeks *
WO1 Jeffrey S. York *

The fiscal year 2008 Lt. Col., Army competitive category, command and key billet selection board results were released Dec. 14. Congratulations to the following 38 officers.

COMBAT ARMS

4ER-Avn Strategic Spt
LTC Myers, Ronald G.
MAJ Thompson, Garry L.
4ET-Avn Training
MAJ Ash, Mikael R. *
MAJ Prickett, Shawn T. *
MAJ Wilson, Robert E.
4K-Avn Recon/Attack (OH-58D) Opns
MAJ Bell, Charles S. *
MAJ Blackmon, Jimmy F. *
LTC Ratliff, Abe R. Jr. *
MAJ Serota, Brian K. *
4L-Avn Recon/Attack (AH-64) Opns
MAJ Berry, Kevin L.
MAJ Dillon, Brian E. *
MAJ Hasken, Scott A.
MAJ Musiol, Michael J. *
MAJ Slocum, Michael J. *
MAJ Torza, Vincent H. *
4M-Avn Assault (UH-60) Opns
MAJ Altieri, Jayson A. *
MAJ Ault, Robert T. *
MAJ Bentley, Michael K. *
MAJ Lewis, Matthew R. *
MAJ Metzger, Jeffrey M. *

MAJ Shepherd, William L. III *
4N-Avn General Spt (UH60/CH47) & Spec Msn (MH60/MH47) OPS

MAJ Baker, Gregory A. *
MAJ Blackwell, William W. *
MAJ Cristy, William R. *
MAJ Drew, Thomas R. *
MAJ Hertzendorf, Michael J.
LTC Lentze, Hugo F.
MAJ Peitz, Kelly J. *
MAJ Prather, Christopher C.
MAJ Smedley, Thomas J. *
2TX-Branch Immaterial (01A)-Installation
MAJ Chronis, Chris W.

COMBAT SUPPORT ARMS

5E-Aerial Exploitation Opns
MAJ Foss, Daryl D.
COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT
6H-Avn Maint Opns
MAJ Bentley, Erskine R. II *
MAJ Erbach, James G.
MAJ Magras, Krista M. O. *
MAJ Morris, Steven L. *
MAJ Rigole, Julius A. *
6HT-Avn Maint Training
MAJ Brewer, Christopher J. *

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



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ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AWARDS

ARMY PHOTO BY JOHN A. HAMILTON



Army Aviation Center Chapter

The Silver award of the Order of St. Michael was presented to departing Chief Warrant Officer of the Aviation Branch *CW5 Brent C. Driggers* during an Honor Eagle ceremony Dec. 15 in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, Ala. MG Virgil L. Packett II, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center and Fort Rucker, made the presentation. Driggers was honored for his accomplishments as the second CWOAB over the past two years since assuming the duties in 2004. Today Driggers is serving as the senior standardization instructor pilot for the 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.



PHOTO BY JACOB HALE

Frontier Chapter

Retired LTC *Richard K. Eissler* was presented with the Bronze award of the Order of St. Michael Nov. 9 by retired LTC Richard Adkison, left, chief of the Command Post Division, TRADOC System Manager for Battle Command, and LTC Charles Carter, the product manager for the Army Airborne Command and Control System (PM-A2C2S), in Huntsville, Ala. Eissler, currently serving as the acting deputy PM for A2C2S, was honored for his more than two and a half decades of dedication to the Army and Army Aviation. He served on active duty from January 1980 to February 2002 in numerous jobs, including maintenance test pilot, production control officer, program management officer, aviation maintenance manager, and as a brigade logistics officer and an executive officer. After retirement, Eissler continued to have an impact on Army aviation working for the Command Post Division, TSM-BC, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. He recently moved to PM-A2C2S and resurrected the program as it was being considered for termination. Today the A2C2S program is one of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army's top priorities for fielding in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PHOTO BY LEE ANN SMITH



Aviation Center Chapter

The Bronze award of the Order of Saint Michael was presented to *COL John Campbell* during an induction ceremony Nov. 29 at the Fort Rucker Silver Wings golf clubhouse, Ala. BG William Forrester, commanding general of the Army's Combat Readiness Center, officiated over the ceremony to induct Campbell, the command surgeon for the USACRC. Campbell, a master flight surgeon, was honored for his years of dedication to aviation medicine including service as the dean of the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine. Now as the USACRC command surgeon he is directly involved with all the aviation accident investigations and continues to review the human factor aspects of each case to help commands and individual aviators learn from others. Pictured here with Campbell are his daughters Katelin (left) and Kristine (far right), and wife Tish.



PHOTO BY CW4 RAYMOND A. QUINONES

High Desert Chapter

HDC President LTC Pedro Almieda, left, presented *MAJ Richard Campbell II* with the Bronze award of the Order of St. Michael at his change of command ceremony Dec. 19, at the Barstow-Daggett Airport, Calif. Campbell was honored for his 18 years of aviation service as both an enlisted man and an officer, upon his departure of command of the National Training Center Aviation Company at Fort Irwin. He had also served with the NTC Operations Group as an observer and controller. Campbell will next attend the Operational Research and Systems Analysis (ORSA) course at Fort Lee, Va.

CLOSE OF THE 109TH CONGRESS

Early morning Dec. 9 the House and the Senate completed the legislative session of the 109th Congress.

Later on Dec. 9, President Bush signed the final bills which included tax items, Medicare and TRICARE provisions, and veteran's benefits, including the passage of the Defense and Home Land Security authorization acts.

A Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) was passed allowing the government to operate in those departments at the 2006 expenditure rate until Feb. 15.

Press reports suggest that the Democratic Party is planning to operate those departments under the CRA for the remainder of FY 2007 as a cost reduction measure.

START OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

On Jan. 3 new and returning congressional members were sworn in during House and Senate ceremonies.

Beginning Jan. 4, the Democratic Party House leadership planned to enact a number of their major party campaign pledges into passed legislation during the first 100 working hours of the session.

To address their agenda and to attack the backlog of bills, the House leadership is instituting a 5-day congressional work week with votes beginning after 6:30 p.m. on Monday and ending before 2 p.m. on Fridays.

NEW DEFENSE SECRETARY

On Dec. 6, the Senate confirmed Dr. Robert M. Gates' nomination for Secretary of Defense after a unanimous recommendation by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A former CIA chief and a Russia expert who served with four presidents, Gates departed his position as president of Texas A&M University to serve.

The 63 year old Gates was sworn in as the Defense Secretary on Dec. 18.

ARMY FACES 2008 CASH CRUNCH

The Army, after requesting \$25 billion more for their 2008 budget from the Office of



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

COL Curtis J. Herrick (Ret.)

AAAA Representative to The Military Coalition (TMC)

Management and Budget, received an additional \$7.5B for a total \$121.5B.

Additional funds available to the Army in 2007 include \$44B of the \$70B bridge supplement approved with the 2007 Authorization Act through Feb. 2007 and the expected \$49B from the next supplemental to address war time needs.

A Dec. 11 Wall Street Journal article emphasized that the current budget, which is twice the amount of FY2000, does not cover the costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

CONGRESS KEEPS PAYMENTS TO TRICARE DOCTORS

AAAA as a member of the Military Coalition helped with the successful urging of Congress to maintain Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors at 2006 levels.

This legislation bypassed a 1997 mandate to cut payments to doctors by 5.1 percent a year.

The legislation approved on the last day of the 109th Congress is expected to encourage doctors across the country to accept and maintain more active and reserve component TRICARE dependent patients.

The success was achieved by large letter and e-mail writing campaigns to congressional offices, visits with congressional members and staffers, and the united efforts of TMC member presidents.

EQUITABLE ACIP SOUGHT FOR RESERVE COMPONENT

The AAAA and related TMC organizations are seeking to gain Congressional approval to implement the Reserve Component's Air Career Incentive Pay at the same level as the active Army beginning in 2008.

This improvement is equitable on the basis that non-deployed RC aviators must achieve and maintain the same readiness levels as active duty aviators, to be ready for planned and emergency flight duty activations.

In addition, comparable aviation career incentive pay is expected to enhance retaining more of the experienced RC aviators needed to meet RC manning levels for the future.

TMC SUPPORTS NEW DOD COMMISSIONS

In response to the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, the Defense Department has established a number of commissions to study and report on designated issues that are of interest to the TMC member organizations.

TMC members are often able to actively participate by performing research, providing information and presenting testimony.

Examples of the new commissions are:

- The Commission on the National Guard and Reserves.
- The DOD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care.
- The DOD Task Force on Mental Health.

Additionally, outside the Congressional requested efforts, an independent and privately funded commission on the Future for America's Veterans had its first meeting on Nov. 8.

This commission is focused on visualizing veteran's needs in 20 years during this period of rapid change and recommending ways forward so that our country may properly prepare.

One of the commissioners is Mr. Ray Boland, a former Army aviator and a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army from Wisconsin.

New Chapter Officers

Embry-Riddle Eagle Chapter
MAJ Benjamin S. Jones, President

New AAAA Order of St. Michael Recipients Bronze

CW5 David Masterson
Herbert J. Turner
John P. Sondag
LTC Kevin J. Burke, Ret.
Rodney L. Sangsland
CW5 Jimmy Robinson

CW5 Louis Wilson
CW5 Laurin Kaasa
BG David Anderson
MAJ Kevin McKay
1SG(P) Mickey Somers
1SG(P) Rigoberto Hernandez
CW4 David S. Proctor
MAJ Mary J. Bell
CW3 Larry F. Johnson
CPT Maurice Wilson
CW4 Roy Gambino
CW5 Larry Barry
CW5 Kenny Ley
MAJ Erich R. Then

Aces

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

SSG Dean D. Dolan
LTC Kris E. Durham
COL Terry A. Ethridge
SFC Wesley L. Tankersley

Volunteer Chapter
Tammy H. Tuttle
Corpus Christi Chapter

New Industry Partners
Coolspace
Matco Tools

Red Barn Machine, Inc.
Seabird Aviation America, Inc.

New Life Members

COL Edward C. Gruetzemacher, Ret.
COL John H. Moorman, Ret.
COL John M. Stoen, Ret.
CPT Ashley F. Thames

In Memorium

Daniel L. Hill
COL Hugh W. Ketchum, Ret.
LTC Gerald R. Worthington, Ret.

In Memoriam



CSM Robert Lee Page
Retired
CSM

Robert Lee Page, 61, of Clarks-ville, Tenn., died Nov. 27 at Van-derbilt Medical

Center. Page was born Jan. 1, 1945 in Williamson, W. Va., and enlisted in the Army in 1963 at age 18. A veter-
an of the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm, Page

retired in 1993 after a distinguished 30-year career including numerous aviation assignments including service in the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). In retirement, he was a senior instructor for the unit level logistics system – aviation (ULLS-A) with Westar, working in support of the 160th SOAR at Fort Campbell, Ky. He is survived by wife of 40 years, Frankie L. Page; sons Robert L., James and Steven Page; daughters Darlene Page and Hope Clark (Page); 10 grandchildren; and 6 sisters and 2 brothers. Interment was in the Kentucky Veteran Cemetery (West), Hopkinsville, Ky.

LTC Steven A. Knapp

Retired LTC Steven A. Knapp, 51, of Olney, Md., died Dec. 12 from a heart attack. Knapp was born Nov. 16, 1955 at Fort Campbell, Ky. He was the beloved husband of Deborah Dalton Knapp; father of Michael Knapp, Army 1LT Ryan Knapp, Alexandra Knapp, Kelly Knapp and Patrick Dalton Knapp; son of Anneliese Knapp and the late Leonard Knapp; brother of Annagret Wild and grandfather of Lauren Knapp. Interment was Jan. 24 at Arlington National Cemetery with full honors. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AWARDS



ARMY PHOTO BY TS/SGT MARK OLSEN

Monmouth Chapter

Five Army National Guardsmen were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael on Dec. 9 during a change of command ceremony for the 1st Bn. (Air Assault), 150th Avn. Regt., at the Army Aviation Support Facility #2 in West Trenton, N.J. MG Glenn K. Rieth, the adjutant general of the New Jersey National Guard, presented Bronze awards to LTC Mark Preston, LTC Daniel Dreher, CW4 James DenHartog, CW4 Christopher Millevoi and CW4 David Taurino for their faithful service to Army Aviation throughout their careers. Preston relinquished command of the 1-150th Avn. after having led the unit during a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and moves to become the executive officer of the 57th Troop Command. Dreher takes command of the 1-150th Avn. DenHartog was the 1-150th standardization instructor pilot and Millevoi was the battalion aviation maintenance officer. Both move to work in the State Army Aviation Office at the Joint Force Headquarters, with DenHartog serving as the state standardization officer and Millevoi becomes the training officer. Taurino remains as the SIP for Co. A., 1-150th. Pictured above are (l to r): DenHartog, Taurino, Millevoi, Dreher, Preston and Rieth.



PHOTO BY CW5 HOWARD SWAN

Washington-Potomac Chapter

BG Stephen Mundt, the director of the Army Aviation Directorate, inducted COL Alan M. Stull into the Honorable Order of St. Michael during his farewell party Nov. 30 at a restaurant in Pentagon City, Va. Stull, Mundt's chief of the Aviation Transformation Division of the Army Staff, was presented with the Bronze award of the OSM and honored for his long career in aviation, including his recent work on many projects that led to the current redesign of the Army force structure along with aviation standardization, simulation and aviation safety. Stull assumed command Dec. 14 of the Aviation Center Logistics Command at Fort Rucker, Ala.

CHAPTER NEWS

COURTESY PHOTO



Black Knights Chapter

Class of 2007 Branches 105 Aviation

Of the 1,016 cadets of the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2007 being assigned branches, 105 cadets (9.7 percent of the class) branched aviation. The cadets assembled Nov. 5 in the Eisenhower Hall theater at the West Point, N.Y., academy. The official party included BG Robert Caslen, commandant of the USMA; COL Peter Curry, director of the Department of Military Instructions; and retired MG Richard "Dick" Stephenson, Class of 1957 and an AAAA past president. Cadets rank order their branch preferences, which are then assigned, based on their order of merit class standing as determined by their academic (55 percent), military (30 percent) and physical (15 percent) performances from the previous 40 months of work and effort. At the commandant's command of "Class of 2007, open your envelopes," the cadets unseal the envelopes they are issued containing their branches. This event is held in November of a cadets' senior year, allowing time to prepare cadets for service in new career fields, schedule attendance at follow-on basic officer leadership training courses, and link-up cadets with USMA staff and faculty from their respective branches for additional mentorship and guidance. Approximately a third (35) of the cadets are members of the AAAA *Black Knights* chapter. Pictured above (l to r) are: cadets Gustavo Aponte, Amelia Wierschem, Justin Thomas and Elizabeth Verardo after receiving their Aviation branch assignments and insignia. AAAA congratulates the following 90 men and 15 women of the Class of 2007 selected for Aviation:

Alexander, Joseph M.
Allen, Chaz E.*
Aoyagi, Steven J.
Aponte, Gustavo A.*

Ashcraft, Timothy A.
Ballmann, Michael C.
Bartlett, Austin M.*
Becker, Lisa M.

Beigh, Matthew J.*
Bender, Robert L.*
Berger, Jay R.
Betz, Grant A.*
Bowen, James C.
Boycan, Cherith A.
Brooks, Marcus S.*
Brown, Derek P.*
Brown, Matthew L.*
Castelli, Michael F.
Chimchirian, Jason C.
Clark, Edward A.
Clawson, Matthew R.
Clonch, Travis R.
Cobb, Heather L.
Collins, Shaun A.
Delcuadro-Zimmerman, David*
Difrancesco, Joseph C.
Dougher, Kenneth R.
Dubois, Patrick J.
Duester, Tanja C.*
Edwards, Dennis J.
Ehrenheim, Brian D.
Feudo, Aaron C.
Flaherty, David M.
Flurry, Jared T.*
Foley, Justin R.
Foster, Zachary G.
Galgano, Daniel F.*
Gangaram, Gerald D.*
Gerboth, Peter
Gilles, Brandon B.
Godfrey, Sean T.
Hancock, Daniel W.*
Hermiller, Craig A.
Hill, Michael J.
Honeychurch, Ronson P.
Hoops, Jill L.*
Hunter, Darin K.
Imbriaco, Joseph J.*
Jablonski, Michael T.
Jensen, Erin M.
Knight, Jonathan D.
Knutson, Sara M.*
Koenig, Justin J.
Kuhni, Steven M.
Lewis, Jennifer L.
Mansbach, Melanie A.*
Marchant, Gavin J.

Martel, Matthew C.
McBride, Sean P.
McCary, William D.*
McConnell, Megan P.
McCray, James S.
McNamara, Daniel M.
Meyer, Michael J.
Mikula, Christopher P.*
Miller, Matthew L.
Morgan, Andrew R.*
Morgan, Rachel L.
Morrison, Ian S.
Murray, Kyle R.*
Myers, Julius S.
Nelson, Curtis B.
Oliver, Zachary J.
Owsley, Travis N.
Palmer, Daniel P.*
Peper, Nathaniel A.
Potaszniak, Maxwell I.*
Power, Kevin M.
Rankin, Brandon J.*
Rigney, Jeffrey M.
Riise, Kelsey J.
Roberts, James L.
Rykken, Jacob T.*
Scott, Kerney M.*
Simmons, Timothy F.
Small, Robert E.
Sommer, Ryan C.*
Stack, Daniel J.*
Staples, Michael F.
Stark, Aaron W.
Steliga, Theodore J.*
Stoinoff, Chris F.
Storjohann, Kyle R.
Thach, Jiajing*
Thomas, Justin S.
Thomas, Walter D.*
Verardo, Elizabeth S.
Vetter, Scott J.
Wagner, Thomas R.
Walters, Robert A.
Wempe, Andrew J.
Wierschem, Amelia J.*
Wlasniewski, John F.*
Yancey, Isaac D.
Yolic, Zachary P.
* = AAAA member

PHOTOS BY LOIS CONTRERAS



Corpus Christi Chapter

The CC Chapter made its annual *Operation Christmas Spirit* visit Dec. 12 to the River Ridge Nursing Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Chapter President COL Tim Sassenrath led about 30 members, including a group of musicians, employees from the Corpus Christi Army Depot, to bring Christmas cheer and hand out gifts and cards to the residents. The annual event was started by two CCAD employees who noticed that some residents did not receive visitors or gifts at Christmas. They raised money to purchase gifts for the nursing home residents who had no family. The word spread amongst other CCAD employees and *Operation Christmas Spirit* was born. It has grown to eight nursing homes in the area, and provides gifts for each resident, regardless of family status. The CC Chapter adopted the River Ridge Nursing Center in 1999. Pictured (ABOVE LEFT) Santa Claus (played by SGM Charles Beckman) shares a hug with two of the lovely residents during the "Operation Christmas Spirit" visit. (ABOVE RIGHT) COL Sassenrath, left, wishes Robert Hutchins, a World War II veteran and resident at the center, a Merry Christmas.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. John R. Brightman Ms. Whitney K. Brown CW4 David L. Buck Mr. Joe Buffington WO1 Camara T. Clayton Ms. Gretchen S. Collins CW3 Jonathan H. Daniels CPL James Dreiling Mr. Doug Fox Ms. Jeanette Hale Mr. Michael R. Hale Mr. Jason Hammond Ms. Donna C. Heinz 1SG Edward C. Laboda PFC Michael A. Nowak, Jr. Mr. Vince A. Nulk, Jr. MAJ Michael R. Pandol, Ret. Mr. Ralph E. Parker Mr. Nick Reilly COL Russell J. Smith Mr. Allen E. Weh CW3 Matt T. Willey AIR ASSAULT CHAPTER FORT CAMPBELL, KY SSG Kevin L. Doheny, Jr. SGT Roger L. Henson CW4 Terry M. Jones SFC Mark H. Lynn CW4 Timothy S. Offutt ALOHA CHAPTER HONOLULU, HI CW2 Hector R. Aponte SPC Corey A. Haynes SPC Christofer J. Pawley CPT Jonathan K. Shaffner CPT Brian C. Steele ARIZONA CHAPTER MESA, AZ Mr. Walter D. Widney AVIATION CENTER CHAPTER FORT RUCKER, AL WO1 Elvin M. Alvarez 2LT Amy L. Bauer 2LT Daniel R. Brown 2LT Ryan D. Bruner CPT Marina L. Cobbs 2LT Kiera P. Connerty CPT Voyed D. Couey 2LT David R. Crigger WO1 Nicholas J. 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Scott III WO1 Webster Stubbs 2LT Benjamin F. Summers CW4 Stuart B. Swanson WO1 David B. Swisher WO1 Gregory D. VanHorn WO1 James M. Vinson SFC Donald A. Williams WO1 Jason P. Williams Mr. Charles L. Wineland 2LT Isaac J. Wisniewski 2LT Cory J. Wroblewski BAVARIAN CHAPTER HOHENFELS, GERMANY Mr. Burt W. VerHaar, III BIG RED ONE CHAPTER FORT RILEY, KS SGT David S. Bell CPT Daniel J. Burton SSG John E. Corder WO1 Jeremy D. Cruz SGT Derek M. Czerniak CW2 Darren E. Embry CW3 Morgan M. Fowlard SFC Scott E. Fussell SPC Emil J. Garafola SSG Keith A. Gerebies SSG Francisco C. Green SSG Jerame E. Johnson CW5 Stacy T. Keith MAJ Tommy L. Knobel SPC Collin Kokesh SPC Christopher Lara CW3 Scott A. Macke SGT Jonathan Mejil CW4 Charles A. Miller SPC Brandon R. Pacheco SFC Sonny L. Palmer CW2 Joel C. Pierce Mr. Aric J. Raus 1SG Don A. Rosado SFC Antonio R. Ruiz SPC Jesse R. Sandhorst 1SG Owen N. Simmons CPT Eric V. Tee SSG Dale F. Voiroz PV2 Codi A. Walker SSG John C. Ward	LTC Brian C. 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ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL AWARDS

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN MYERS



Aviation Center Chapter

Three Army Fleet Support employees from Fort Rucker were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael on Dec. 5 in Enterprise, Ala. COL Richard A. Enderle, commander of the Aviation Center Logistics Command, assisted by retired COL Thomas Green, general manager of AFS, presented Bronze awards to retired CW5 George T. Anderson, retired CW4 William D. Parsons and Jerry D. New. Anderson is the AFS maintenance manager, Parson is the Knox Field manager and New is the manager of the aviation maintenance support shops. These gentlemen were honored for their years of support to Army Aviation. All are involved in the continuous improvement of the Aviation Warfighting Center's fleet of aircraft. Over the past two years, the operational readiness rates have risen from 43 percent to 75 percent. Pictured above are (l to r): Enderle, Anderson, Parsons, New and Green.



PHOTO BY MSG DONALD K. SKIDDS

Rhine Valley Chapter

LTC Brian J. Diaz was presented with the Bronze award of the Order of St. Michael by COL Kevin G. Scherrer, assisted by Diaz's wife Heather, on Dec. 16 in Heidelberg, Germany during a unit reunion party following a tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Diaz was Scherrer's deputy when he was the C3 Air director with the Multinational Corps-Iraq in Baghdad. Diaz was honored with the OSM for his outstanding service to the aviation community and his duty performance during his year-long deployment. Diaz is now serving as the C3 Air for the V Corps in Heidelberg.

PHOTO BY LEE ANN SMITH



Aviation Center Chapter

The Bronze award of the Order of Saint Michael was presented to William F. Rhode during an induction ceremony Nov. 29 at the Fort Rucker Silver Wings golf clubhouse, Ala. BG William Forrester, commanding general of the Army's Combat Readiness Center, officiated over the ceremony to induct Rhodes.

PHOTO BY LEE ANN SMITH



Aviation Center Chapter

Retired CW5 James J. Holmes was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael and presented with the Bronze award by retired BG Joseph Smith, now the chief operating officer for Navigator Development Group Inc. Holmes, a 31 year veteran of the Army and now a subject matter expert in special operations training with NDGI, participated in an induction ceremony Nov. 29 at the Fort Rucker Silver Wings golf clubhouse, Ala.



PHOTO BY SFC LORENA BLACKWELL

Volunteer Chapter

Two Tennessee Army National Guard aviators on the occasion of their retirement after a combined total of 76 years of service were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Michael Nov. 4 at the Army Aviation Support Facility #1 in Smyrna, Tenn. BG David Greer, the assistant adjutant general, with COL Terry Ethridge, state army aviation officer, presented Bronze awards to CW5 Lewis D. Braswell and CW5 Phillip E. Hill. Braswell, a Vietnam veteran with 1450 flight hours during that conflict, retires after 37 years of aviation service and a total of 8,000 flight hours. Hill retires after 39 years of service and last serving as the state aviation safety officer. Pictured above (l to r) are Ethridge, Braswell, Hill and Greer.

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- 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 Annual Reunion**, Phoenix, AZ
- Jul 20 **AAAA Scholarship Executive Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA
- Jul 21 **AAAA Scholarship Selection Committee Meeting**, NGRC, Arlington, VA



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Are you a former AAAA member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what year did you join? _____

Chapter Affiliation Preferred _____

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In the Beginning of AAAA - Fifty Years Ago

Army Aviation Hall of Fame

■ The 2007 Inductees New Award Induction

■ June 15, 2007 Deadline for 2008

By MG (Ret.) Benjamin L. Harrison

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a forthcoming article by retired MG Ben Harrison, a past AAAA president and chairman of the Board of Trustees, on the founding of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. Watch for this article in the 50th Anniversary Special Edition of ARMY AVIATION magazine in the spring of 2007.

As historians began to document the many battles of the Vietnam War, it became known as the *Helicopter War*. Battlefield operations became heavily dependent upon Army aviation, especially helicopters.

Acts of bravery, flying skills and battle leadership became commonplace, but by no means ordinary.

Of course there were awards and decorations, but the leadership of the Army Aviation Association, at the recommendation of COL Ted Crozier, concluded in 1973 that an AAAA sponsored Army Aviation Hall of Fame should be established to honor those persons who have made an outstanding contribution over an extended period or a truly exceptional achievement and to record such acts for posterity.

But it was not just for flying heroes of the Vietnam War; the Aviation HOF honors commissioned and warrant officers, enlisted Soldiers, and civilians, both government and industry, from all areas of Army aviation.

Initially, only AAAA members with at least five years could vote for candidates for induction from specific eras.

In 1974 the first people inducted by eras were:

Prior to 1942: Igor I. Sikorsky
1942-1949: LTG Robert R. Williams and Frank N. Piasecki
1950-1959: LTG George P. Seneff and LTG William B. Bunker
1960-1969: GEN Hamilton H. Howze and LTG Harry W. O. Kinnard



On July 17, 1976, the National Executive Board created the HOF Board of Trustees with GEN Howze as its chairman.

This board selected seven individuals to be honored with induction into the HOF in June 1977 at Fort Rucker, Ala., and also decided to select and conduct the induction ceremonies on a three-year cycle during the annual AAAA conventions.

Retired LTG Robert R. Williams served as HOFBOT chairman for the 1992 and 1995 inductions and retired MG George W. Putnam, Jr. conducted the 1998 and 2001 inductions.

As time passed, the five-year AAAA membership requirement was eventually reduced and finally eliminated in 2001. Over the years, AAAA membership participation in the voting process declined.

A complete review was conducted in 1999 and then again in 2005, which resulted in the current 2007 induction process.

Now, all 68 AAAA chapter presidents and the 45 members of the AAAA National Executive Board carefully evaluates all the nominees, not just voting for their top six choices out of a ballot of 20 to 25 nominees.

The National Office develops three order of merit lists. One for the chapter presidents, one for the members of the NEB, and another for the HOF Board of Trustees.

Each member of the three separate evaluating groups rates each of the

nominations on a scale of 0 to 10 points, with 0 being the lowest. Additional "center of mass" instructions were given to insure a valid distribution.

The final results this year showed an excellent degree of correlation between the three groups.

We are pleased to announce the 12 Hall of Fame inductees for 2007:

- COL James C. Adamson
- MG Ronald K. Andreson
- BG John C. Bahnsen, Jr.
- COL Norman M. Bissell
- CW5 Robert Ray Fladry
- MG Joseph N. Jaggars, Jr.
- CW5 Stephen T. Knowles, II
- MG James H. Patterson
- SGM Kenneth G. Rich
- CW5 Mary Cara Smalley
- BG Robert L. Stewart
- BG Rodney D. Wolfe

Going forward, the HOF Board of Trustees has decided that induction into the Hall of Fame will become an annual event.

The intent is not to increase the number of people inducted, but to focus more attention on the HOF each year and on the induction of the three selectees.

This will encourage more nominations, especially from our current generation of warfighters; allows for acceptance speeches (not done since 1989); and provides an opportunity for pictures and videos of the inductees.

The members of the Board of Trustees—CW5 Randolph W. Jones, CW4 Donald R. Joyce, COL (Dr.) Hal Kushner, COL John W. Marr, LTG Ellis D. Parker, MG George W. Putnam, Dr. Harry S. Robertson, MG Richard E. Stephenson and CSM Willy Wilson—join me in expressing our most sincere appreciation for the unfailing support from the AAAA National Executive Board.

Send in your nominations now for the 2008 cycle, the deadline is June 15. Move Out!

Army Aviation Hall of Fame

The Army Aviation Hall of Fame sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, Inc., recognizes those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Army aviation. The actual Hall of Fame is located in the Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, Ala., where the portraits of the inductees and the citations recording their achievements are retained for posterity. Each month Army Aviation Magazine will highlight a member of the Hall of Fame. The next induction will occur in the spring of 2007. Contact the AAAA National Office for details at (203) 268-2450

Lieutenant Colonel Spurgeon H. Neel, Jr. Army Aviation Hall of Fame 1976 Induction

(Inducted to represent the 1950-1959 period)

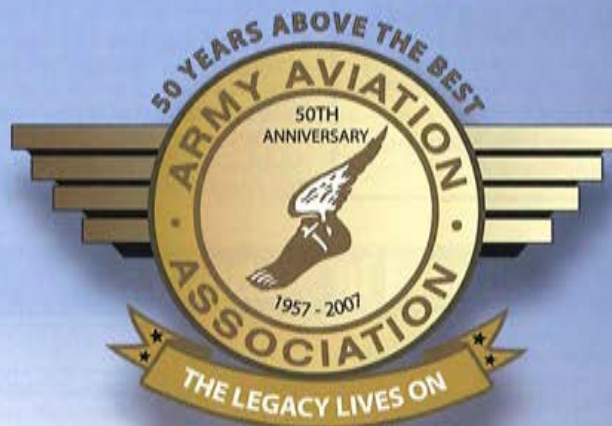
Lieutenant Colonel (later Major General) Spurgeon Neel was a pioneer in the development of the principles of aeromedical evacuation of battlefield casualties, having chaired a board which tested, evaluated, and recommended the use of the helicopter in medical evacuation (MASH) (MEDEVAC) roles. His recommendations were put to use during the Korean War and, based on further experiences during this war, he developed medical evacuation MEDEVAC policies, procedures, and organizations which are the foundation of current aeromedical operations.

In 1954, Major Neel became the Army's first aviation medical officer and in 1955 he served on the Department of the Army board which conducted a design competition to select the new standard Army utility helicopter, which ultimately became the UH-1. The same year he established flying status for aviation medical officers and was the first aviation medical officer to receive flying status.

In 1956, he established the Aviation Branch within the Office of the Surgeon General and became its first chief, later designing the Aviation Medical Officer Badge and becoming its first recipient. Further, he established a formal program for board certification of Army medical officers in aviation medicine and laid the groundwork for the Army's aviation medical training and research program.



The 2007 AAAA ANNUAL CONVENTION



Georgia World Congress Center ■ Atlanta, Georgia
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By Facsimile - Refer to the appropriate facsimile number for the hotel of your choice and fax the reservation directly to the hotel.

By Mail - You can mail this Housing Form directly to the hotel of your choice. Hotel addresses are provided below.

Book your room on-line at www.quad-a.org
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ZIP

(OR COUNTRY)

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☐ \$124 Single + Tax ☐ \$144 Double + Tax

INDUSTRY/CIVILIAN: Return this page directly to the hotel!

Atlanta Marriott Marquis (Headquarter Hotel)

265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303 ■ (404) 521-0000

■ FAX: (404) 586-6247 ■ Web link for Atlanta Marriott Marquis:

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/atlmq?groupCode=aaaaaaa&app=resvlink>

☐ \$124 Single + Tax ☐ \$134 Double + Tax

Hyatt Regency Atlanta

265 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303 ■ (800) 233-1234

■ FAX: (404) 460-6444 ■ Web link for Hyatt Regency Atlanta:

<http://atlantaregency.hyatt.com/groupbooking/atltra2007army>

☐ \$179 Single + Tax ☐ \$189 Double + Tax

Hilton Atlanta

255 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30303 ■ (404) 221-6328

■ FAX: (404) 221-6301 ■ Web link for Hilton Atlanta:

www.atlanta.hilton.com

☐ \$169 Single + Tax ☐ \$169 Double + Tax

Please Check One Box: ☐ Single Occupancy ☐ Double Occupancy ☐ Other: Require more than one room:

Print or Type the Names of All Persons Sharing Your Room Excluding Yourself:

1.

2.

3.

Please Check One Box: ☐ King Bed ☐ Two Double Beds ☐ Handicapped Accessible

NOTE: Bedding Preference cannot be guaranteed. Confirm your preference at check-in.

Please Guarantee My Reservation with the Following Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express ☐ Diner's Club ☐ Other (Specify):

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature of Cardholder

☐ **Please Guarantee My Reservation with the enclosed check equal to one night's stay.**

RETURN THIS FORM DIRECTLY TO HOTEL



The 2007 AAAA Annual Convention



Executive Director's Message

It is hard to believe it's been 50 Years since the Army Aviation Association of America, (AAAA) was created. Please join us for a celebration of this remarkable organization and the accomplishments of its members since 1957 during the AAAA Annual Convention May 9-12, 2007 in Atlanta, GA.

It has been more than ten years since we have brought the convention to Atlanta and I want to bring you up to date. First we are in Concourse "C", a new concourse of the Georgia World Congress Center,

(GWCC). Unlike past years everything is co-located right in the immediate area of the building. It is still a big place but exhibits, food, and pro-

fessional programming are all in the same immediate area. The Headquarter Hotel is the Marriott Marquis which is between the other two co-HQ hotels, the Hyatt Regency and Hilton. Take a look at the map and you will see all three are across the street from one another. It is a long walk to the GWCC so we have set up a busing route to get you to and from the hotels for your convenience.

This year is also a Hall of Fame induction year. The dinner will take place on Friday night and feature 12 new inductees.

Finally, the 50th Anniversary banquet will honor our founding members, include a video presentation of the past 50 years, and feature country music star Darryl Worley. What a great supporter of our troops and what a terrific show he put on for us at the 2006 convention.

Bottom line...you don't want to miss the 2007 Convention. See you there!
Bill Harris/Executive Director

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

- 0900 AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter Golf Tournament
- 1000-1700 Family Day at Stone Mountain
- 1300-1700 AAAA Registration Center Open
- 1800-1900 National Awardees Briefing

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

- 0800-1900 AAAA Registration Center Open
- 1000-1230 AAAA Scholarship Foundation Board Meeting
- 1230-1400 National Executive Board Luncheon
- 1300-1700 Press Room Open
- 1400-1630 AAAA National Executive Board Meeting
- 1430-1630 NEB High Tea (Invitation Only)
- 1700-1900 Early Bird Reception & Opening of Exhibits

Thursday, May 10, 2007

- 0700-1600 AAAA Registration Center Open
- 0730-0830 Eye-Opener Coffee
- 0730-0830 Speakers Breakfast
- 0730-1700 Press Room Open
- 0830-1100 Professional Session Opening
- 0830-0900 50th Anniversary Welcome, The Legacy Lives On. Presentation of AAAA Membership Awards.
- 0900-0930 BG Thomas J. Konitzer, Ret., AAAA President Aviation Branch Opening Remarks
- 0930-1100 MG Virgil L. Packett II, Aviation Branch Chief, CG, U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center & Fort Rucker Keynote Address & Presentation of Individual Awards:
- 1130-1630 *GEN Richard A. Cody, Army Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Spouse Tour – CNN, Coca Cola & Lunch
- 1130-1230 Professional Session Breakouts
- 1130-1230 Session I Breakout
- 1130-1230 Warrant Officer Update:
- 1130-1230 *Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch Session II Breakout
- 1130-1230 Enlisted Update: *CSM Donald R. Sanders, Aviation Branch Command Sergeant Major
- 1100-1600 U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance
- 1100-1600 Exhibits Open (Continuous PM Briefings in Hall)
- 1300-1500 Cub Club Reception (Members/Invitation Only)
- 1400-1500 AAAA NEB & Chapter Presidents Session
- 2100-0100 AAAA Chapter Receptions

Friday, May 11, 2007

- 0730-0830 Eye-Opener Coffee
- 0730-0830 Speakers Breakfast
- 0730-1600 Press Room Open

- 0730-1600 AAAA Registration Center Open
- 0830-1130 Professional Sessions:
- 0830-0930 *GEN Bryan D. Brown, Commander, U.S. SOCOM and presentation of Unit of the Year Awards
- 0930-1015 Warfighters Panel
- Chairman: MG Packett, CG, USAAWC
- Panelists: Brigade Commanders (Joined by Senior NCOs and Warrant Officers)
- 1015-1100 Company Commander & First Sergeant Panel
- Chairman: *BG William Wolf, DCG, USAAWC
- 1100-1200 Senior Leaders' Panel
- Chairman: *GEN Richard A. Cody, VCSA,
- 1000-1500 Spouse Tour – Simply Southern & Lunch
- 1130-1600 U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance
- 1130-1600 Exhibits Open (Continuous PM Briefings in Hall)
- 1800-2100 Hall of Fame Reception & Dinner
- 2100-0100 AAAA Chapter Receptions

Saturday, May 12, 2007

- 0730-0845 First Light Breakfast (Invitation only)
- Speaker: *Hon. Claude M. Bolton Jr., Asst. Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology
- 0730-0900 Eye-Opener Coffee
- 0730-1500 AAAA Registration Center Open
- 0730-1600 Press Room Open
- 0900-1030 Family Support Panel, Chairman: Mrs. Judy Konitzer
- 0900-0930 Presentation of Industry Donations to: AAAA Scholarship Foundation, and Army Aviation Museum Foundation, Fort Rucker, AL
- 0930-1000 *MG James Pillsbury, CG, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command
- 1000-1030 *Mr. Paul Bogosian, PEO Aviation
- 1030-1100 *BG Stephen D. Mundt, Director, Army Aviation, ODCS, G-3/5/7
- 1130-1300 AAAA Annual Meeting Luncheon
- Speaker: MG J.D. Thurman, CG 4th ID
- 1200-1600 U.S. Army HRC Career Guidance
- 1200-1600 Exhibits Open (Continuous PM Briefings in Hall)
- 1800-1845 AAAA Banquet Reception
- 1900-2200 AAAA 50th Anniversary Banquet and Entertainment by country recording artist, Darryl Worley
- 2200-0100 50th Anniversary Goodbye Bash
- DJ music, dancing and more. Informal.

Schedule of Events subject to change

* Speaker not yet confirmed

See you next year in Washington, DC, April 6 – 9, 2008



2007 AAAA Annual Convention Event Registration Form

May 9-12, 2007 Georgia World Congress Center Atlanta, GA

The Advance Registration Deadline is **FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007**. Registration forms received after April 13 will be held for Onsite Registration. Advance Registrations will not be processed unless accompanied by full payment of fees. I understand that I may receive a full refund of my registration and function fees if requested by phone call or written notification to AAAA made on or before **MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007**. Government fees apply only to Active Army and DAC personnel and to those Reserve Component and retired AAAA members who are **NOT** in the current employ of defense contractors or suppliers on a full-time, part-time, or consulting basis while attending the AAAA Convention. I understand that if I select the Government category and am not eligible, I will be charged for the difference in fees.

RANK/GS GRADE NAME (FIRST, MI, LAST)

HOME MAILING ADDRESS OR NAME OF COMPANY, FIRM OR UNIT

STREET ADDRESS OR P. O. BOX NUMBER ARE YOU A U.S. CITIZEN? ☐ YES ☐ NO

CITY STATE ZIP (IF U.S.) (OR COUNTRY)

OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER FAX TELEPHONE NUMBER

JOB TITLE AND AFFILIATION

E-MAIL IS YOUR UNIT OR FIRM EXHIBITING? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Badge Information

NAME AND RANK TO APPEAR ON BADGE

UNIT OR FIRM NAME TO APPEAR ON BADGE

CITY & STATE (& COUNTRY IF NOT U.S.)

SPOUSE'S NAME (IF ATTENDING)

***If You're not an AAAA member,
JOIN AAAA NOW* & PAY THE MEMBER RATE!**

	Day of Event	Gov't AAAA Member Or Spouse	Industry AAAA Member Or Spouse	Gov't Non Member Or Spouse	Industry Non Member Or Spouse	Item Total	Office Use
① FAMILY DAY AT STONE MOUNTAIN AAAA's one day all attractions pass offers unlimited admissions to the Summit Skyride, Scenic Railroad, 4D Theater, The Great Barn, Treehouse Challenge, Riverboat, Pedal Boats, Mini-Golf, Antebellum Plantation & Farmyard, Discovering Stone Mountain Museum, Antique Car & Treasure Museum and Waterslide Complex.	TUES	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	\$ _____	
② BADGE FOR PROFESSIONAL SESSIONS	THU-SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20②	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60②	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50②	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90②	\$ _____	
③ HALL OF FAME DINNER	FRI	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	\$ _____	
④ AAAA ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Speaker: LTG J.D. Thurman	SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$28	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	\$ _____	
⑤ AAAA BANQUET Entertainment: Darryl Worley	SAT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45⑤	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75⑤	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75⑤	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85⑤	\$ _____	4
SEATING REQUEST							
AAAA ANNUAL DUES (IF JOINING NOW) *\$15 rate for Full-Time Students, Enlisted, WO1s, GS-8 DACs & Below, Wage Board 12 DACs & Below		<input type="checkbox"/> \$26*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26*			\$ _____	11

METHOD OF PAYMENT ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express ☐ Diners Club ☐ Personal Check ☐ Business Check TOTAL \$ _____
(Make checks payable to "AAAA")

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ SECURITY CODE _____

CARDHOLDER NAME AND SIGNATURE _____

② Spouse Badge for Professional Sessions is complimentary; ⑤ Reserved Seating; Formal/Black Tie; Military Blues/Mess Jacket. Seating requests cannot be guaranteed.

Return this form to the AAAA National Office by April 13, 2007

AAAA, 755 Main Street, Suite 4D, Monroe, CT 06468 (203) 268-2450 FAX (203) 268-5870 aaaa@quad-a.org



Fifty Years Above The Best - The Legacy Lives On

2007 AAAA Annual Convention - General Information

DOD APPROVAL: The Department of Defense, "finds that the business portions of this event meet the minimum regulatory standards for official attendance by DoD employees. This finding does not constitute a blanket approval or endorsement for attendance. Individual DoD Component commands or organizations are responsible for approving or disapproving official attendance of its DoD employees based on mission requirements and DoD regulations. The propriety of attendance by DoD employees in their personal capacities at incidental social portions of this event shall be determined by the individual DoD employee's Ethics Counselor based on standards of conduct and community relations requirements."

REGISTRATION & FEES: A Registration Form must be completed by each individual (excepting spouses) who wishes to attend the professional sessions or social functions. Badges for admission to the Professional Sessions for the spouses of attendees are complimentary. AAAA members, nonmembers, guests, and their spouses who only wish to attend the exhibits or social functions need not pay the Professional Session or Membership fees. **Admission to the Exhibit Hall is complimentary and will be by Badge. Photo ID is required.** Function fee refunds will be made if notification is received at the AAAA National Office by phone or mail on or before **Monday, April 23, 2007**. Individuals may pick up their badges and function tickets at the AAAA Registration Center in the Convention Center. See "SCHEDULE OF EVENTS" for hours of operation.

HOUSING: The cut off date is **April 13, 2007**. You may make a reservation through the AAAA website, by telephone, facsimile, or mail.

To make your reservations by Internet, visit the AAAA website at www.quad-a.org and click on the appropriate Hotel Reservation link. To make your reservations by telephone, call the hotel of your choice directly. To make your reservations by Fax, complete one form for each room needed and fax to the hotel of your choice before Friday, April 13, 2007. To make your reservations by Mail, complete one form for each room needed and mail to the hotel of your choice before Friday, April 13, 2007.

Government/Military/DAC room rates apply only to Active Army and DAC personnel and to those Reserve Component and retired persons who are NOT in the current employ of defense contractors on a full time, part time, or consulting basis while attending the AAAA Convention. The AAAA will review all reservations made prior to the cut off date to determine rate eligibility. If you have made a reservation at the Government/Military rate and it is determined that you are ineligible, the rate will be changed to the Industry/Civilian rate if rooms are still available. Please do not make reservations at the Government/Military Rate unless you are eligible.

DRESS CODE: The AAAA suggests the following attire:

- Setup and Early Bird Reception - Casual Attire
- Thursday & Friday: Daytime - ACU/BDU/Coat & Tie
Hall of Fame - Coat & Tie
Chapter Receptions - Casual Attire
- Saturday: Daytime - ACU/BDU/Coat & Tie
Banquet - Dress Mess/Dress Blues/Black Tie

RENTAL CAR SAVINGS: Call Hertz, AAAA's official Rental Car Company for outstanding discounts. Call **Hertz Toll Free at (800) 6542240** or **SailAir Travel TOLL FREE at (800) 759-5800**. Please cite **Hertz Meeting Number CV# 022Q3031** when making reservations.

TRAVEL RESERVATIONS: Sailair Travel has been selected as AAAA's official travel agency. Sailair Travel offers:

- 5% off all fares on American (Except promotional fares)
- Special "zone" fares on Continental Airlines. No Saturday night stay requirement.
- \$100,000 flight insurance at no cost.
- Toll free telephone number to reserve airlines and car reservations
- Will record frequent flyer miles
- Offers discounts on Rental Cars

Call **Sailair Travel** at **(800) 759-5800** from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (Monday-Friday) Central Time or Fax to (615) 297-9200. Please make every effort to use **Sailair Travel** to make your travel arrangements for the AAAA Convention. If this is not possible, arrangements have also been made with American Airlines to serve as the official air carrier for the AAAA Annual Convention. Please cite the **American Airlines Group File Number: A3557AH** or **Continental Airlines Z Code: ZV6H**

AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter GOLF TOURNAMENT: The AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter is sponsoring a Golf Tournament on Tuesday, May 8, two (2) morning flights are scheduled. See attached Golfing form. Corporate Sponsors for holes and prizes are also being sought. For more information, contact Mr. Jack Sondag at (770) 703-6776; E-mail: 07aaaagolf@comcast.net

FAMILY DAY: While your loved ones are at the AAAA Annual Golf Tournament at Stone Mountain Golf Club, bring the rest of the family out to the Stone Mountain Memorial Park to enjoy a great day of fun. Stone Mountain Memorial Park, a 3,200 acre state park, features the largest work of sculptured art in existence bearing the memorial carving of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis. Other attractions include a Swiss cable car ride which brings onlookers within yards of the massive carving, "Scarlett O'Hara" an authentic paddle wheeler, "The General" a reproduction of the Civil War steam locomotive, and the 1870's town of "Crossroads" where glassblowers, candle makers and blacksmiths will demonstrate their craftsmanship.

SPOUSE PROGRAMS: The AAAA invites spouses to participate in planned activities on Thursday and Friday, May 10 and 11. See tour details in the Spouse Tour Registration Form.

Thursday May 10 - Atlanta, Behind the Scenes Tour and Lunch: Buses will depart from the GWCC at 11:30 AM for our visit to the **World of Coca-Cola**. Lunch will be at the **City Grill**, an architectural treasure built in 1912. After lunch we will tour the **CNN World Headquarters**. Tour will return to the Marriott Marquis Hotel at 4:30 PM.

Friday May 11 - Simply Southern Tour and Lunch: Buses will depart from Marriott Marquis front entrance at 10:00 AM for our tour of the new **Atlanta History Center Museum** and visit to the 1928 **Swan House**. Lunch will be served at **Swan Coach House**. After lunch we will tour **The Tullie Smith House and Farm**. Tour will return to the Marriott Marquis at 3:00 PM.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS: The AAAA Top Chapter and Membership Awards will be presented Thursday morning, May 10 by BG (Ret) Thomas J. Konitzer. The AAAA's National Individual Awards will be presented after the keynote address Thursday morning, May 10, by GEN Richard A. Cody, VCSA. The National Unit Awards will be presented Friday morning, May 11, by GEN Bryan D. Brown, Commander, U.S. SOCOM.

ARMY AVIATION HALL OF FAME DINNER: AAAA Invites all to attend the Army Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on Friday, May 11, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Twelve new candidates will be inducted this year. See the Schedule of Events and Registration Form.

PROFESSIONAL SESSIONS: The Professional Sessions taking place **Thursday, May 10** through **Saturday, May 12** at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC), will be of special interest to all AAAA members. Admission to the Professional Sessions under the theme of "50 Years above the Best - the Legacy Lives On" will be by Badge.

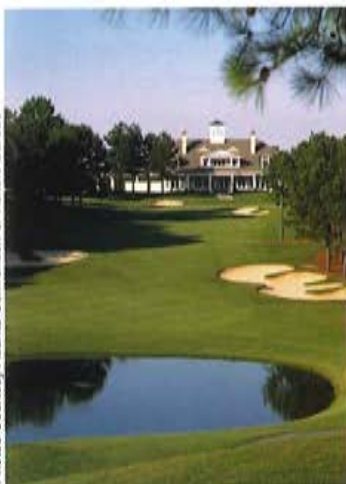
AAAA CHAPTER RECEPTIONS: AAAA Chapter Receptions are a most important and unique part of every AAAA Convention and will be held on Thursday and Friday evenings at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel.



2007 AAAA Annual Convention Golf Tournament

GREATER ATLANTA CHAPTER "CAPTAIN'S CHOICE" GOLF TOURNAMENT TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007, 0900 HOURS

Photos Courtesy Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau



STONE MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

The Greater Atlanta Chapter as the host and the Georgia Army National Guard as the co-host has arranged a Captain's Choice Golf Tournament for the morning of Tuesday, May 8, 2007 in conjunction with the AAAA "Golden" Anniversary Annual Convention, 9-12 May 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Arrangements have been made with Stone Mountain Golf Club, which is a popular tourist stop within Stone Mountain National Park for a Captain's Choice - two golf course tournament. Only one flight is scheduled at 0900, utilizing both the Stonemont and

Lakemont Courses. Each golf course will support a maximum of 144 golfers each. The cost for this year's tournament is \$95.00 per player, which includes green fee, cart, range balls, foursome photos, guest amenities, and prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd, longest drive, closest to pin for each course), including a \$10,000 Cash Prize or automobile for a hole-in-one. The Award/Prize Ceremonies will follow at the Marriott Resort Center located on the Stone Mountain grounds. Space availability will be on a firstcome, first filled basis. Please note that Stone Mountain Golf Club is a spikeless facility and enforces a strict dress code policy of collared shirt, NO Denim, Bermuda length shorts are allowed. Stone Mountain Golf Club will have nonmetal spike conversions for a \$10.00 fee, please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to tee time to allow the exchange of spikes. Rental Clubs (Callaway X-18's), will be available at \$50.00 per set, which also includes two free sleeves of golf balls.

Nestled at the foot of Stone Mountain and just minutes from downtown Atlanta, Stone Mountain Golf Club offers two championship courses that provide the perfect challenge for any skill level. These two golf courses - Stonemont and Lakemont serpentine through a forest of Georgia pines and around the Stone Mountain Lake. Stonemont was designed and built

by the Father of Modern Golf, Robert Trent Jones consisting of Bermuda grass and gently rolling and cantered fairways with immaculate bent grass greens. Lakemont was designed by John LaFoy with the front 9 playing immediately around Stone Mountain Lake. Both golf courses offer incredible views of the world's largest exposed granite mountain along with the famous Confederate Memorial carving featuring Robert E Lee, Jefferson Davis, and Stonewall Jackson on horseback. They offer breathtaking views and wonderful, natural rock formations that will make your round of golf truly a memorable one.

Signature holes have water in play and various rock outcroppings. Both layouts are tests of accuracy and offer possible distractions due to

the overwhelming and surrounding beauty. There are four teeing areas on each hole of Stonemont Course allowing a course as long as 6863 yards and three teeing areas on each hole of the Lakemont Course allowing a course as long as 6444 yards of outstanding golf.

Your earliest possible response is greatly encouraged to ensure tournament success. The first 288 paid responses will be accepted. Please include your established handicap or, if none is established, please include your normal score for 18 holes.

Sponsor packages are available: **Title Sponsor** (limit 1) includes two

foursomes, four hole sponsorships, special recognition, company logo on the beverage carts and Logo on AAAA banner at opening; **Platinum Sponsorship Package** (limit 2) includes 2 foursomes, four hole sponsorships, special recognition, and company Logo on sponsorship banner on each course. **Gold Sponsorship Package** (limit 2) includes one foursome, four hole sponsorships, and sponsorship banner; **Silver Sponsorship Package** (unlimited) includes one foursome, two hole sponsorship, and company Logo on sponsorship banner. **Award Banquet Sponsorship Package** (unlimited) includes one twosome and Logo on AAAA Banner at the awards banquet. Individual hole sponsorships (unlimited) are available for a nominal fee.

Your reply is requested before, but not later than **March 1, 2007**. Payment is due with the application and is fully refundable until 1 March 2007. Please return this application with your check, payable to the **AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter**, and return to: **Mr. Jack Sondag, 2779 Birdie Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236 or Mr. Cliff Evans, PO Box 72377, Newnan, GA 30271**. Those interested in a sponsorship package, sponsoring a hole at the tournament, or for general sponsorship information, contact **Mr. Jack Sondag, VP Scholarship and Awards, Greater Atlanta Chapter**, at (770) 703-6776, email: 07aaaagolf@comcast.net



"Captains Choice" Golf Reservation Form

Detach and return to the above address no later than March 1, 2007

Yes, I would like to play in the 2007 AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter Golf Tournament.

I prefer: ☐ Stonemont Course ☐ Lakemont Course ☐ No preference

My handicap is _____. No handicap, but my general score is _____

☐ Yes, I would like information about sponsoring a hole during the Golf Tournament.

☐ Yes, my local AAAA Chapter would be interested in information about sponsoring a hole and providing a Chapter Team to compete against other Chapters for a "Chapter Golf Championship".

If you have already formed a team please list the other members (and handicaps): _____

AAAA Chapter Name: _____

Are You Entering a Chapter Team for Chapter Competition:

☐ Yes: ☐ No

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Telephone (including Area Code): _____

FAX: _____

Email: _____

Club Rentals \$50 per set: **Mens** ☐ Right-handed ☐ Left-handed
Ladies ☐ Right-handed ☐ Left-handed

Bus Transportation: (We highly recommend use of the buses as it will allow better movement of players and provide safe transportation to and from your hotel)

☐ Yes: ☐ No: **Total Number of Passengers:** _____

Copy this page and return by March 1, 2007 directly to:

Mr. Jack Sondag, 2779 Birdie Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

Make Checks payable to: AAAA Greater Atlanta Chapter





2007 AAAA Annual Convention - Atlanta Area Map



Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Headquarters Hotel
265 Peachtree Center Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 521-0000



Hyatt Regency Atlanta
265 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
(800) 233-1234



Hilton Atlanta
255 Courtland Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 221-6328



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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.				
Signature			Date	
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; Wage Board 12 DACs & Below:

() 1 yr, \$15; () 2 yrs, \$27; () 3 yrs, \$39

Add \$5 per year if you have a foreign, non-APO address.

Add \$15 if your check is drawn on a foreign bank.

☐ Check enclosed payable to "AAAA" or charge to
☐ AMEX ☐ Diners Club ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA

Card No.

Amt \$ Exp. Date 3 Digit Sec.Code

Signature:

Date:

() 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